

PROMOTING ACTION FOR DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE AND WORKING TO ACHIEVE PREPAREDNESS FOR RISK REDUCTION THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN NEPAL – PARIWARTAN



LEAVING NO LOCAL LEVELS BEHIND



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Disclaimer: The data collection for this case story was conducted till November 2022. The context, findings and reflections hence refer to till this date. Any interventions or changes to the situation after this period are not reflected in this collection.

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Contents

Background	5
DRRM localization training becomes a milestone for setting up Disaster Management Fund	9
Local elected representatives are now confident in carrying out DRRM activities	11
Think Preparedness: A stitch in time saves nine	13
Rising through rewriting and rebuilding	15
A lesson on coordination and collaboration	17
Focusing on 2Bs: Budgeting and building capacities	19
Chandragiri Municipality gears up to systematize local emergency operation centre	21
Dakshinkali widens its scope of work on DRRM	23
Kalika Municipality learns, tries and applies	25
Management committee moves forward in Melamchi	27
Far from distant, but not far for exercising the right on DRRM	28



Capacity Building of Local Government on Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual

Chandragiri Municipality, Bagmati Province

17 June 2022



BACKGROUND

The project “Promoting Action for Disaster Risk Governance and Working to Achieve Preparedness for Risk Reduction through Technical Assistance in Nepal” (PARIWARTAN), funded by United States Agency for International Development/ Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), officially commenced from 15 August 2019. This project was designed to build upon the activities carried out by IOM through its first phase disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) initiative that contributed to the Government of Nepal’s effort in implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017. The main objective of the project is to contribute to improved federal, provincial, and local disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) legislative regulatory framework to ultimately build a resilient community.

One of the main components of the project is capacity building of local governments on DRRM. PARIWARTAN Project reached out to 702 of the total 753 local governments through DRRM localization trainings based on the Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual which was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and formally endorsed on 1 December 2020. Among the remaining 51 local governments, 14 were covered by IOM’s first phase DRRM initiative, and 37 by other IOM project and USAID funded projects implemented by different organizations.

The objectives of the two-day training were to enhance the understanding of all government elected representatives and

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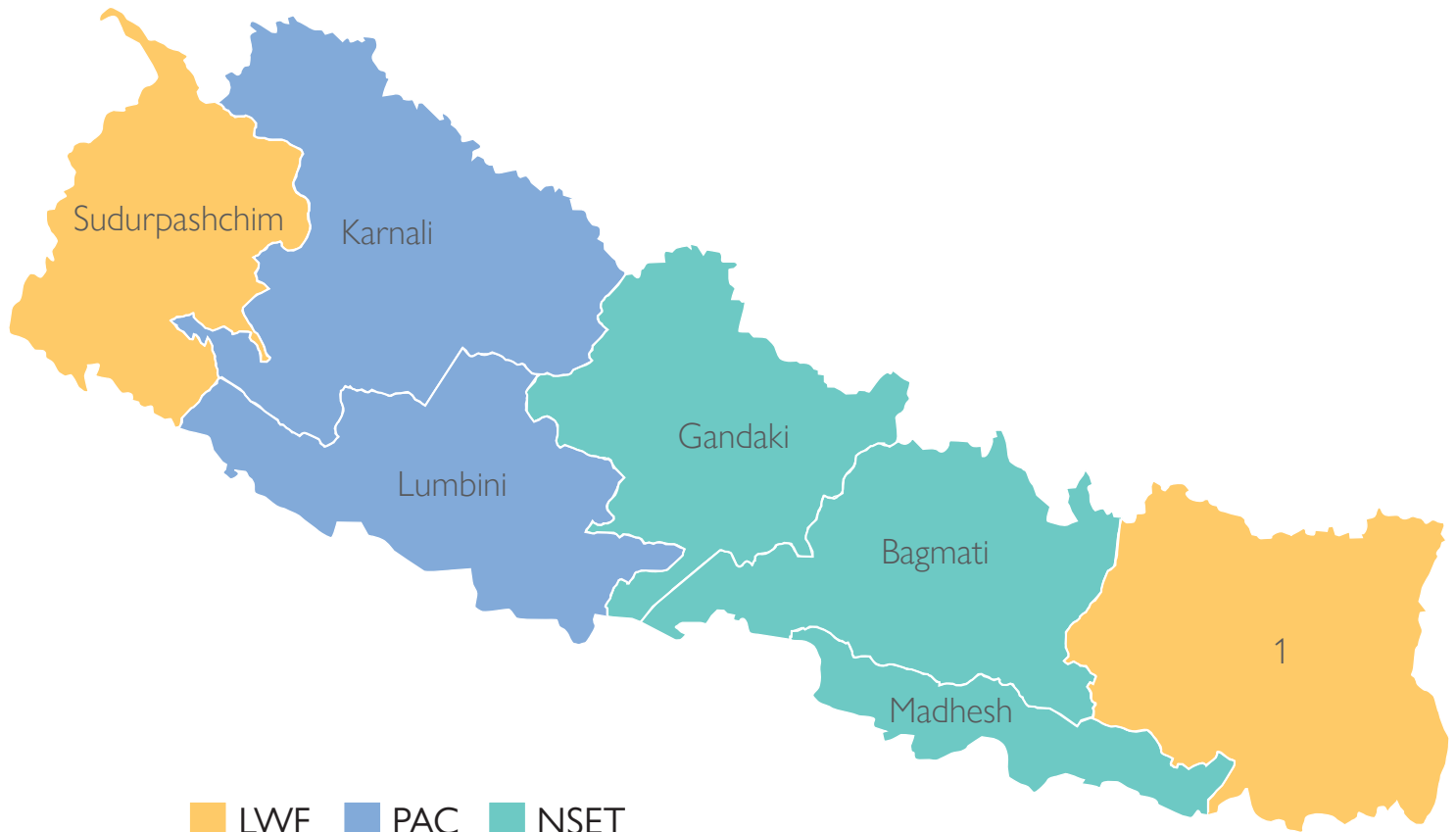
officials on DRRM and build their capacity to contribute in the development, drafting or revision of local DRRM Acts and/or strategic action plans in the local context. Altogether Over 18,000 local government elected representatives and government officials from 702 local governments benefited from the training. The project partnered with a consortium of National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) – Nepal, Practical Action Consulting (PAC) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal for the implementation of the training component. Before the start of the local level trainings, provincial level trainings of trainers (ToTs) were conducted in all seven provinces of Nepal to develop government master trainers. Government officers from various local governments, district coordination committees and district administration offices participated in the provincial ToTs. Each local level training was facilitated by a provincial master trainer

and another DRRM trainer from the partner consortium. The project coordinated with National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal (NARMIN) and Municipal Association of Nepal (MUAN) as well for smooth implementation of the trainings.

A total of 16 sessions were delivered in each training focusing on DRRM topics ranging from SPHERE standards to early warning systems and the roles and responsibilities of local governments. Participants of the local level training included mayor/ chairperson, deputy mayor/ vice-chairperson, chief administrative officer, ward chairpersons, members of municipal executive committee members and government employees of the local government. During each training, participants and facilitators had a comprehensive discussion on DRRM legislative framework and how local governments could act to strengthen their DRRM mechanism. At the end of the training, each local government prepared an action

plan based on the gaps and challenges in their respective local government identified during the training. While it is too early to see the impact of the trainings, many local governments have already started acting on their action plans. This document attempts to capture some of their actions.

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Provincial coverage of partner organizations

USAID IOM

विपद् पूर्वतयारी तथा प्रतिकार्य योजना
Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP)

NSET



Disaster Management

विपद् पूर्वतयारी तथा प्रतिकार्य योजना

DRRM localization training becomes a milestone for setting up Disaster Management Fund

Marsyangdi Rural Municipality, which lies in Lamjung District of Gandaki Province, was established after merging erstwhile seven Village Development Committees (VDCs), namely, Ghanapokhara, Khudi, Targhing, Ghermu, Bhulbhule, Bahundada and Simpani. Altogether 31 people benefitted from the DRRM localization training held in Marsyangdi Rural Municipality on 14 and 15 October 2022.

Since rural municipalities in Nepal are newly established after the state restructuring in 2015, some of the tasks mandated by the state policies relating to DRRM are yet to be accomplished. The situation is similar in Marsyangdi Rural Municipality as well. During the training, the participants agreed to expedite the remaining work. Per the commitment made during the training,

a meeting of Executive Committee of Marsyangdi Rural Municipality was held on 20 October 2022 which decided to form a Disaster Management Fund by allocating NPR 8,000,000 and an Emergency Fund by allocating NPR 5,000,000. According to Mr Arjun Gurung, disaster risk reduction (DRR) focal person of Marsyangdi Rural Municipality, the meeting has also allocated NPR 1,000,000 to the wards for emergency relief. "With the formation of the Disaster Management Fund, cash and other supports can be handed over to disaster affected people as an immediate relief in case of any disaster at the local level," said Mr Gurung.

Besides the Disaster Management Fund, the participants have expressed their commitment to complete a number of DRRM activities such as formation of ward

level Disaster Management Committee, establishment of Emergency Response Team, prepositioning of search and rescue materials, development of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP), and development of Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Disaster Management Fund by mid-January 2023.

With the formation of the Disaster Management Fund, cash and other supports can be handed over to disaster affected people as an immediate relief in case of any disaster at the local level.



Group Photo after Training. © 2022 IOM Nepal

Local elected representatives are now confident in carrying out DRRM activities

Bannigadhi Jayagadh Rural Municipality in Achham District of Sudurpashchim Province formed their Municipal Disaster Management Committee in July 2022. A few months later, DRRM localization training was organized by PARIWARTAN Project. Vice Chairperson of Bannigadhi Jaigad, Ms Bindu Rawal observed that the timing of the training was perfect and said “Thanks to the training, the newly elected local government representatives in our municipality are now more confident to work in DRRM and allocate budget for DRRM”. She further added, “This training was an eye-opener to

all of us about our roles and responsibilities and the scope of local government on DRRM. We have realized that the reason our relief distribution process was so complex despite having a disaster management fund was because we didn't have relevant guidelines and relief distribution standards”.

The Rural Municipality formally decided to develop a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, Relief Distribution Standard, and Disaster Management Fund Mobilization Guideline and implement them during the training.

We have realized that the reason our relief distribution process was so complex despite having a disaster management fund was because we didn't have relevant guidelines and relief distribution standards.



Think Preparedness: A stitch in time saves nine

Lekam Rural Municipality is a remote village in Darchula District of Sudurpashchim Province formed by merging four VDCs. Mr Ramdatt Joshi, Chairperson of Lekam Rural Municipality, informed that it was the first time any organization had reached out to them offering training on DRRM. He claimed that the rural municipality had till date only focused on disaster relief and appreciated the training for providing insight on how preparedness works before any disaster could significantly reduce the expenses incurred after a disaster.

“This training has made us realize that we have a lot to do in disaster management. In the coming days, we will work on

formulating a disaster management plan and determining the responsibilities of all concerned agencies. This training has taught us that more can be achieved by dividing work among thematic areas and making every thematic team responsible while also increasing their capacities through appropriate capacity building activities”, said Joshi.

Lekam Rural Municipality has developed an action plan with focus on disaster preparedness, legislative framework development and capacity building and has been working on its effective implementation.

This training has taught us that more can be achieved by dividing work among thematic areas and making every thematic team responsible while also increasing their capacities through appropriate capacity building activities.



Elected Women Representatives at Training, Gaidahawa Rural Municipality. © 2022 IOM Nepal

Rising through rewriting and rebuilding

Bedkot Municipality of Kanchanpur District in Sudurpashchim Province is highly vulnerable to disasters, particularly floods. The municipality had been focusing on disaster relief only. After the two-day DRRM localization training, Mayor of the municipality Mr Bhojraj Bohara thanked the organizers for bringing disaster preparedness to their attention.

During the training, participants noted many issues where some amendments in existing municipal policy documents could unlock opportunities for positive change and bigger actions related to DRRM. “We have developed the Disaster Management Act and we will work to amend it immediately

based on the new insights gained during the training. We will also amend the disaster management fund guidelines and widen its scope for not only disaster response but also disaster preparedness”, said Mr Bohara.

The training also focused on collaborating with wider stakeholders for improved DRRM and adapt the approach of “leave no one behind”. Agreeing to this principle, Mr Bohara informed that the municipality would collaborate with other stakeholders. The municipality is already planning to collaborate with Needs Nepal Kanchanpur to prepare its local disaster and climate resilience plan (LDCRP).

We will amend the disaster management fund guidelines and widen its scope for not only disaster response but also for disaster preparedness.



A lesson on coordination and collaboration

Gharapjhung Rural Municipality, nestled in Mustang District of Gandaki Province, is a naturally and culturally rich village but also vulnerable to climate change and disasters. Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality Mr Gauri Prasad Acharya was one of the master trainers who participated in the provincial ToT organized before commencing the local level trainings. After participating in the provincial ToT, he worked as a trainer in many DRRM localization trainings. Learning from the provincial ToT, he advocated for resource mapping in the municipality by consulting with the Local Disaster Management Committee Chairperson and the Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers (OCMCM). Through a 60/40

budget partnership program with OCMCM Gandaki, Gharapjung Rural Municipality has been able to receive an innovation fund on disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation. An expert team has already started hazard and risk mapping. The rural municipality plans to establish a local emergency operation centre (LEOC) soon after completing hazard and risk mapping. Necessary procurement process has already begun.

“The training made me realize that disaster preparedness can really make a difference and that I can actually coordinate around and make things happen”, said Mr Acharya. He added, “I raised the issues of policy revision, resource leveraging, and fund allocation for better preparedness

and response within our Local Disaster Management Committee. Eventually, we consulted with the provincial government and applied for an innovation fund and were fortunate enough to receive it.”

“The training made me realize that disaster preparedness can really make a difference and that I can actually coordinate around and make things happen.” - Mr Gauri Prasad Acharya, Chief Administrative Officer



Focusing on 2Bs: Budgeting and building capacities

Gaur Municipality is situated in Rautahat District of Madhesh Province. The municipality is highly affected by flooding and inundation every year as it is bordered by Bagmati River in the east and Bakaiya river in the west. DRRM localization training was conducted in Gaur Municipality on 22 and 23 September 2022. Immediately after the training, a meeting of executive committee was held which decided to carry out numerous DRRM activities with focus on capacity development and budget allocation. Plans on capacity building includes

trainings on simulation, medical assistance in disaster context and initial rapid assessment (IRA). Inspired by the training presentations, the municipality has also decided to develop an SOP by December to manage their DRRM fund.

Besides that, the meeting has decided to form a hazard and disaster monitoring committee in all wards to carry out further DRRM work. The executive committee is also exploring other ways to grow the capital in its DRM Fund.

Immediately after the training, a meeting of executive committee was held which decided to carry out numerous DRRM activities with focus on capacity development and budget allocation.



Capacity Building of Local Government on Risk Management Localization Manual

Chandragiri Municipality, Bagmati Province

17 June 2022



Chandragiri Municipality gears up to systematize local emergency operation centre

Chandragiri Municipality, the largest municipality of Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, was declared a municipality in December 2014 by merging 11 erstwhile VDCs. After eight years of its establishment, the municipality has finally approved an SOP for establishing LEOC owing to a comprehensive discussion during the DRRM training held from 18 to 19 June 2022.

“During the training, we realized that setting up LEOC is one of the basic tasks of local governments as mandated by the constitution and other Acts in Nepal. Therefore, we drafted an SOP in line with the sample SOP drafted by MOFAGA

and got it endorsed at a meeting of the Municipal Executive Committee held on 23 June 2022,” said by Ms. Bhadra Aryal, DRR focal person, Chandragiri Municipality.

According to Ms Aryal, the SOP has been published on the official gazette as well. She thanked everyone involved in organizing the DRRM localization training.

“With the publication of SOP on the official gazette, we are gathering necessary tools and equipment including communication device for the LEOC. In the meantime, we are also seeking help from donor agencies in this regard. We will soon inaugurate the office amidst a formal program once the

necessary administrative procedures are completed,” reported Ms Aryal. Per the SOP, the LEOC will be in operation 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

With the publication of SOP on the official gazette, we are gathering necessary tools and equipment including communication device for the LEOC.



Dakshinkali widens its scope of work on DRRM

Dakshinkali Municipality, which lies in southern part of Kathmandu District of Bagmati Province, was declared a municipality on 10 December 2014. Being a new institution, it has yet to set up a fully functioning DRRM mechanism. In this context, DRRM localization training was held in the municipality on 21 and 22 July 2022. The training was conducted at Dakshinkali Village Resort due to unavailability of appropriate space within the municipality premise for the training. Considering the budgetary implication of conducting the training at a resort, the municipality happily sponsored the two days' lunch considering it as an important event for the municipality as well.

The two-day training inspired Dakshinkali Municipality to expand its scope of DRRM activities in comparison to previous years and allocate appropriate budget. “The DRRM Localization training was a great learning platform for us. It has enhanced our understanding and transformed our perspectives regarding DRRM”, said Mr Deepak KC, DRR focal person, Dakshinkali Municipality.

Following the training, the municipality has unveiled new plans by earmarking budget for various DRRM initiatives: development of policy regarding risk sensitive land use plan (NPR 200,000), training on search and rescue (NPR 200,000) risk assessment and

risk mapping (NPR 100,000), preparation of SOP for LEOC (NPR 60, 000), flood mitigation through bio-engineering (NPR 60,000) and construction of pond for fire response (NPR 60,000) among others.

Following the training, the municipality has unveiled new plans by earmarking budget for various DRRM initiatives.



मैवाखोला गाउँपालिका
३ नं. वडा कार्यालय
सैव, ताप्लेजुङ
१०२

मैवाखोला गाउँपालिका
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मेसमिलाप केन्द्र
सैवोला-३, ताप्लेजुङ

USAID IOM
Capacity Building of Local Government on
**Disaster Risk Management
Localization Manual**
Municipality/Rural Municipality: Maukhola
Venue: Maukhola-3, Sairwola
Date: 3-4 August 2022
NSET

Group photo after training, Maukhola Rural Municipality. © 2022 IOM Nepal

Kalika Municipality learns, tries and applies

Kalika Municipality in Chitwan District of Bagmati Province was established in 2015 by merging Jutpani, Padampur, Shaktikhor and Siddhi VDCs. As a newly established local government, the municipality is taking baby steps in systematizing DRRM mechanism. The DRR focal person of the municipality Mr Prakash Paudel is one of the master trainers who participated in the provincial ToT organized by PARIWARTAN Project. As a master trainer, Mr Paudel conducted over five trainings in various local levels of Chitwan District. Mr Poudel informed, “Visiting different local governments in the district to provide DRRM localization training was a great learning experience for me, which has also inspired me to do better”. He added, “I learned that all local

governments are at different stages of DRRM localization and doing their bid to strengthen the system. For instance, Bharatpur Metropolitan City has come a long way in DRRM and already established LEOC but is trying to seek support from other agencies to manage related materials and services as well update their inventory. Ichchhyakamana Rural Municipality, on the other hand, has just started its work on DRRM and is currently formulating relevant DRRM policy documents and thus, seeking guidance from other local governments.”

As for Kalika Municipality, the DRR focal person is currently spearheading its LEOC establishment process. The municipality organizes regular internal meetings in this

regard and has recently, right after the DRRM localization training, sought help from federal government authorities to add high frequency sets in its LEOC.

Right after the DRRM localization training, the municipality sought help from federal government authorities to add high frequency sets in its LEOC.



Spider-web Game Session on Roles and Responsibilities, Nagarjun Municipality. © 2022 IOM Nepal

Management committee moves forward in Melamchi

Melamchi Municipality in Sindhupalchowk District of Bagmati Province has not forgotten the devastating flood of 2021 in Melamchi River that affected almost 300 houses, displaced 600 people and damaged public infrastructures mainly road networks, bridges, electricity transmission and other structures. In fact, a DRR focal person was appointed right after the flooding incident. DRR focal person of the municipality Mr Sujan Dulal observes that the municipality's movement of strengthening its DRRM mechanism has gained significant momentum following the DRRM localization training conducted by PARIWARTAN Project.

“The active participation of elected representatives in the recent municipal disaster and climate resilient committee was

very encouraging”, said Mr Dulal. He further informed that thanks to the committee's planning and coordination, the process of LEOC establishment is progressing in collaboration with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) and the LEOC will be formally inaugurated soon after the November 2022 elections. The municipality has already procured furniture, smart LED TV, phone, trolley speaker among other things, for the said LEOC. Furthermore, the municipality plans to deploy a full-time staff with expertise on GIS to work in LEOC.

The municipality is also planning to formulate community disaster management committees. In the first phase, areas prone to flooding such as wards 6,7,8,9,10,11,12 and 13 will be targeted. The municipality

has initiated talks with a local NGO, Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum (CDECF), to support in training and mobilizing these community disaster management committees.

The process of LEOC establishment is progressing. The municipality plans to deploy a full-time staff with expertise on GIS to work in LEOC.

Far from distant, but not far for exercising the right on DRRM

Chankheli is one of the seven rural municipalities of Humla district in Karnali Province. There are seven wards out of which few wards are larger than other local levels and even some districts in Nepal. It also falls as one of the areas without any connectivity to mainline road network.

Ms Hajari Sira, one of the participants of the two days DRM localization training and is the executive member of Municipal Council informed that there are many hazards in their palika, the most serious being earthquake, landslides and fire. Ms Sira comes from ward no. 6 and to attend the training organized in the municipality office she had to walk almost a day. She was invited to join the event on behalf of Rural Municipality Executive Committee. She was then offered to stay back to avoid long distance walking and attended the second day as well.

She further shared, the group work and discussions were really enlightening, and she contributed in the mapping exercise of social resource map. This was something she did for first time and amazed to put those resources her surrounding, various institutions in the map as part of Vulnerability and Capacity assessment mapping process. She also learned the importance of communication and early warning systems in saving the lives of women, children, and the elderly in her community. She realizes that the Palika should have locally built community messaging systems as well as volunteers in case of fires and landslides as part of the community's warning systems.

The most significant thing takeaway from the training was the discussion and messaging on indigenous and community-led early warning and early intervention in the community to effectively save the lives of her community's people. She added 'We

should all be well prepared in advance for the disasters. We need to lessen the risks of disasters. For effective preparedness, we must be united and collaborate not only with the government and Palikas, but also with our neighbours and communities'. Further she mentioned 'no one should be left out during the DRRM planning process, as well as during preparedness and response activities on an onset of disasters.' -"kasailai aakha and kasailai pakha garna hudaina'

She highlighted that Chankheli Rural Municipality has established DRR fund, but it has not been able to utilize the fund properly mainly on disaster preparedness activities such as community events on DRR. Despite, being a member of municipal committee, our voices are often not heard, and I thank the organizers for inviting us and giving the opportunity to broaden our understanding on DRRM. We can now put forward our opinion sternly, says Ms Sira.





INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION NEPAL

768/12, Thirbam Sadak, Baluwatar-5,

P.O. Box 25503, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 | 4426250 Fax: +977 | 443522

Email: iomnepal@iom.int/ | URL: <http://nepal.iom.int/>

Facebook: [@iomnepal](#) | Twitter: [@IOMNepal](#) | Instagram: [@iomnepal.unmigration](#)