

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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List of Acronyms

- 1. AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration 2. **BFI:** Banking and Financial Institution 3. CCCM: Camp Coordination and Camp Management 4. CME: **Continuous Medical Education** 5. CPR: **Community Preparedness and Response** CSO: 6. **Civil Society Organization** Disaster Risk Management 7. DRM: 8. **DRRM:** Disaster Risk Reduction and Management 9. **DUDBC:** Department of Urban Development and Building Construction 10. EDCD: **Epidemiology and Disease Control Division** 11. GCC: **Gulf Cooperation Council** 12. GCM: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 13. GCP: Ground Crossing Point 14. GDP: **Gross Domestic Product** 15. GHAP: **Global Health Assessment Programme** 16. **IO**: International Organization 17. **IRIS**: International Recruitment Integrity System 18. LDC: Least Developed Country 19. MECC: **Migration Environment and Climate Change** 20. MGI: Migration Governance Indicator 21. MHAC: Migration Health Assessment Centre 22. MHD: Migration and Health Division 23. **MHPSS:** Mental Health and Psychosocial Support 24. **MiGOF:** Migration Governance Framework 25. **MoFAGA:** Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration 26. MoLESS: Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security 27. MRC: **Migrant Resource Centre** 28. MTO: Money Transfer Operator 29. **NAFEA:** Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agency 30. NFI: Non-Food Item 31. NRNA: Non-Resident Nepali Association 32. PDO: **Pre-Departure Orientation** 33. PDOE: Pre-Departure Orientation and Empowerment
- 34. PE Foam: Polyethylene Foam



- **35. PSEA:** Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- **36. PwD:** Person with Disability
- 37. RECU: Reach, Enter, Circulate, and Use
- **38. SDG:** Sustainable Development Goal
- **39.** TAWG: Thematic Area Working Group
- 40. TB: Tuberculosis
- 41. TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- 42. TWT: Technical Working Team
- **43.** UK: United Kingdom
- 44. UN: United Nations
- 45. UNCDF: United Nations Capital Development Fund
- 46. UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- 47. UNSDCF: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- 48. USA: United States of America



Foreword



Over 2.1 million Nepalese migrants are out of country for higher education, employment, and other purposes. Migration is a major determining factor for socioeconomic development of Nepal. As Nepal strides towards graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by 2026, IOM continues to work with the Government of Nepal and stakeholders on a dynamic landscape to harness the positive development impacts of migration and in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

2023 marked a year of achievements, but also challenges, like the devastating earthquake that struck Karnali province on 3 November, leaving behind destruction across many rural municipalities in western Nepal and claiming several lives. In response, IOM swiftly mobilized its technical capacity, resources and collaborated closely with the Government of Nepal and other development partners to deliver urgent relief to the affected populations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM remained steadfast in its commitment to safeguard public health. Throughout 2023, we sustained comprehensive COVID-19 health coverage. Furthermore, we worked at the Ground Crossing Points (GCPs) with authorities to fortify their response and readiness against the virus.

Our movement support for migrants and refugees in Nepal continued smoothly, underscoring our enduring commitment to humanitarian principles. Additionally, the Migration Health Department persevered in conducting essential Migration Health Assessments for prospective Nepalese migrants, prioritizing their well-being and welfare. Our work under Migration Governance and Migration and Development continued in various forms: in shaping the migration policy; in supporting the initiatives which the country committed to in global and regional; and in assisting migrants in vulnerable situations with return and reintegration support. IOM remained steadfast in advocating for ethical recruitment practices for migrant workers, fostering collaboration with governmental and private entities. Moreover, we contributed to enhancing evidence on migration and bolstering the migration governance capacity through the launch of the first ever Migration School, thereby advancing the sustainable development agenda.

Recognizing the critical intersection of migration, environment, and climate risk reduction, IOM provided vital support to the Government of Nepal (GoN) in bolstering its capacity in Disaster Risk Management and Governance, aligning with our commitment to building resilience in vulnerable communities.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the GoN, our donors, and partners for their unwavering support. Equally, I commend the dedication and resilience of our team at IOM Nepal, whose tireless efforts have made these accomplishments possible.

Finally, I sincerely thank all the individuals and organizations who have contributed to IOM Nepal's mission, with a special acknowledgment to the communities we serve. Together, we continue to forge a path towards a safer, more prosperous future for all.

-Helene Fors, Chief of Mission-

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About IOM

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Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners.

IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM Nepal

Nepal became a member state of IOM in 2006. The following year, the GoN and IOM entered into a Cooperation Agreement aimed at fostering collaboration and enhancing service delivery within Nepal, a nation serving as both an origin, transit, and destination for migrants. Initially, IOM's focus centered on the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees, which has been one of the highly successful programmes with over 113,000 refugees resettled in 9 different countries. Since then, IOM's operations in the country have expanded across various programme areas.

Through the promotion of national ownership and in close collaboration with the Government authorities, United Nations (UN) agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, civil society and local communities, IOM Nepal contributes to uphold the rights of people on the move by offering migration management services in the following areas:



Moreover, IOM is committed to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and delivers trainings and awareness sessions to staff, vendors, consultants, secondees, hourly personnel, beneficiaries, and implementing partners in a cross-cutting manner throughout the programmatic areas.

IOM's Nepal work is rooted in the principles and priorities of international and regional frames such as:

- » The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023 2027
- » The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- » The GCM
- » The IOM Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)
- » The IOM Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2020 2024

Finally, IOM's Nepal interventions align with the strategies and objectives of the Government, the donor community, and other key actors in the sphere of migration.



IOM Nepal in 2023









Key Achievements in 2023







1100 Sets of winterization clothing distributed



270 Polyethylene foam (PE-Foam) distributed



310 Double beds distributed



5

Sets of house type big tent distributed



Open spaces mapped in municipalities in Karnali Province



Necessary medical equipment support provided



Necessary medicine support provided



Movement Assistance



78 People resettled



Migration and Health



87

treated

46,979 Medical assessments undertaken



993 Covid-19 vaccines administered



8,845 Beneficiaries vaccinated



Migration and Development





Migrants identified with active Tuberculosis (TB) cases



1 Government Knowledge exchange visit to the Philippines on ethical recruitment



People supported with Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)



169

Stakeholders trained on International Recruitment Integrity System Standard (IRIS)





Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



107

IOM staff members provided with PSEA training



27

IOM partners provided with PSEA training



12 IOM security guards provided with PSEA training



58 Government officials at local level provided with PSEA training



10

IOM housekeeping personnel provided with PSEA training



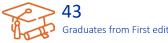
Migration Governance



100

1

Stakeholders participated in the 1st High-level National Dialogue on Strengthening Population and Migration management



Graduates from First edition of Migration School



Cross border mobility survey conducted between Nepal, India and China



Development of the Gandaki Provincial Migration Profile



Migration Environment Climate Change and Risk Reduction



1 Accessibility assessment of selected evacuation shelters



2 Provincial trainings in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces on localization of Disaster Risk Governance, with 58 participants from local government



7

Community Preparedness and Response (CPR) trainings in all provinces to 169 participants from local governments



2

Intergovernmental coordination platforms in Sudurpaschim and Karnali provinces to support knowledge sharing and learning amongst the agencies working on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)

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Western Nepal Earthquake Response



Western Nepal Earthquake Response-

Overview:

On 3 November 2023, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 hit Karnali Province, severely impacting the districts of Jajarkot and Rukum West. 62,011 houses were damaged (either fully or partially damaged), affecting a total of 250,000 persons. The earthquake took 154 lives (84 females and 70 males, including 81 children) and injured 366 people.

IOM'S RESPONSE:

IOM swiftly mobilized internal funds and ensured the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs), ranging from family tents to winterization items like Polyethylene foams (PE foams), blankets and winter clothing to support the GoN meet immediate needs and protect earthquake-affected populations, including families of migrants and internally displaced persons who faced harsh winter conditions.

In relation to the cluster coordination mechanisms, support was provided to the lead of Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development, in organizing regular coordination meetings with the cluster members, information management for better response and in identifying open spaces in the affected local levels. IOM implemented Open Spaces Mapping activities in the following municipalities in Karnali province: Jajarkot's Kuse, Nalgad, Bheri, Rukum-West's Aathabisakot and Sani Bheri. Open Spaces are identified and mapped with the aim to strengthen emergency preparedness and to support the initial response planning framework of the government and humanitarian partners to provide life-saving assistance to those in immediate need of support, including to displaced populations, in case of an earthquake. Some of the identified open spaces

were used for multiple purposes including distribution of relief materials, provision of refuge to the earthquake-affected and displaced populations, and establishing temporary offices for the collection of information on relief supplies.

In collaboration with the Province Health Logistic Management Center, IOM extended critical health support and accessible medical equipment, including disability-friendly portable toilets, wheelchairs, assistive devices and necessary medicines to the hard-to-reach areas. In addition, first aid kits were provided in the earthquake-affected areas to ensure the safety and well-being of local health workers and volunteers involved in debris clearance during crucial recovery efforts in the earthquake-affected community.

SECTOR	ITEMS & SERVICES	
HEALTH		Necessary medical equipment support
		Necessary medical support
SHELTER & NFIs/CCCM		Emergency transitional shelters
	AAA	NFIs- Blankets, PE foams, winterization clothing
		Open space mapping

Table 1: Relief items and services provided by IOM.



Table 2:Details of relief items distributed by IOM

SECTOR	רו	EMS	DETAIL OF RELIEF ITEMS
	Necessary Medicine Equipment Support		 6 Oxygen Cylinders 6 Pulse Oximeters 6 Automatic BP Machines 30 Oxygen Masks 72 Pairs of Examination Gloves 180 Disposable Face Shields 1200 Surgical Masks 100 First Aid Box
Health			Image: 1000 Diclofenac InjectionsImage: 2000 ORSImage: 2000 ORSImage: 2000 Roll BandageImage: 2000 Roll Bandag
Shelter/	Winterization		1100 Set Winterization Clothing (jacket, socks and caps)
-	_	cy transitional helter	6 House Type Big Tent
	NFIs	Sleeping Mattress	270 PE Foam
		Blanket	310 5*6 Double Bed







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Achievements by Programmatic Area



Movement Assistance

Overview:

IOM commenced movement assistance operations with the Bhutanese Resettlement programme, launched in 2007, which addressed the prolonged refugee crisis in Eastern Nepal. Led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the GoN, IOM, and various resettlement countries, it sought to provide durable solutions for refugees. Over 113,000 Bhutanese refugees have been resettled. In 2023, IOM Nepal, in collaboration with government authorities and other relevant stakeholders, continued to provide movement support to migrants and refugees.

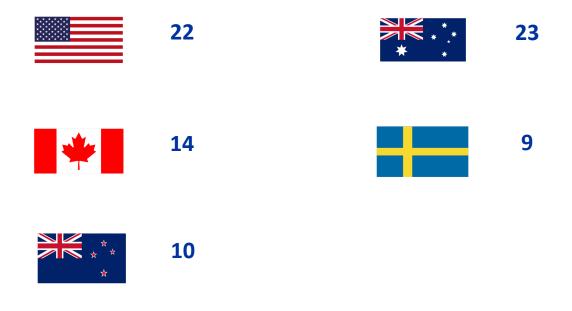
RESETTLEMENT:

Resettlement is a protection tool and a durable solution for refugees, providing them with the chance to begin life anew. IOM Nepal continues to provide its support to Bhutanese nationals and individuals of other countries, through a comprehensive package of services, which include: i. Facilitation of Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) sessions, to provide refugees with information on travel date, transit time and luggage allowance; ii. Cultural orientation sessions on costumes, life and facts in destination countries (done for Australia and USA); iii. Migration health assessments and travel health assistance; iv. Support in obtaining exit permit; and v) Departure assistance at the airport.

In 2023, IOM provided movement support to 78 individuals.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION:

Upon request, IOM Nepal has been providing family reunification services to the relatives of the Bhutanese refugees who have received resettlement support.





Migration and Health

Overview:

IOM, through its Migration and Health Division (MHD), offers pre-migration health services through its two Migration Health Assessment Centres (MHACs) located in Kathmandu and Damak.

IOM's Global Health Assessment Programme (GHAP), in collaboration with various partners and government agencies, provides critical health examinations and consultations for prospecting migrants.

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS:

In 2007, when IOM Nepal started its operations, the Migration Health Assessment Programme primarily served Bhutanese refugees in Nepal resettling to different countries based on the request of member states. However, IOM has now diversified its services to prospective migrant beneficiaries traveling to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom (UK) and USA. In 2023, IOM Nepal conducted 46,979 health assessments and successfully treated 87 migrants identified with active TB cases, vaccinated 8,845 beneficiaries through its wellequipped MHACs, TB Laboratory and radiology units in Nepal.

COVID-19 RESPONSE:

IOM continued to provide a holistic COVID-19 health coverage, ensuring the health and safety of UN personnel. In 2023, IOM Nepal administered 993 vaccines against COVID-19. IOM also provided teleconsultations for COVID-19 and dengue cases, influenza vaccines, non-covid laboratory tests, chest x-rays and health screenings for other UN agencies.

Furthermore, to curb COVID-19, the GoN, while maintaining open the GCPs, established health desks for screening and testing for COVID-19 for migrants. IOM supported the government through handing over semi-permanent health desk structures with WASH facilities to the EDCD at Gaddachauki and Gauriphanta GCPs in Sudurpaschim province, as well as technical equipment for the functioning of the health desks. To showcase the achievements of the initiative and share best practices and lessons learnt, IOM held a closing event in Kathmandu amongst government representatives, health desks and development partners.

HEALTH EDUCATION:

IOM Nepal continued the Continuous Medical Education (CME) activities routinely at MHAC, to foster lifelong learning, maintain high standards in medical exams, and keep the medical team updated with the latest guidelines. Moreover, IOM conducted multiple health education and awareness programs, marking World Health Day and World No Tobacco Day, for staff of International Organisations (IOs), including UN.

OTHER HEALTH SERVICES:

In 2023, IOM provided additional health services to UN staff of other agencies: measurement of height and weight; vision test; BMI calculation; blood sugar test; renal function test; liver function test; thyroid function test; and urine test.









Migration and Development

Overview:

In 2023, IOM cooperated with the GoN, Private Recruitment Agencies (PRAs) and other stakeholders to promote ethical recruitment practices, also by delivering trainings on IOM's flagship initiative: the IRIS standard. IOM also supported the socioeconomic reintegration of returnees, including victims of trafficking. Given the importance that remittances and the diaspora play for Nepal, IOM marked the International Day of Family Remittances, conducted a mapping exercise on Nepalese diaspora in 16 countries and worked closely with the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA).

ETHICAL RECRUITMENT:

To foster ethical recruitment for migrant workers, IOM organized IRIS standard trainings, workshops and round table discussions for 148 representatives from the Government, CSOs, MRCs, returnee migrant's networks, migrant community, NAFEA Board Members and PRAs. IRIS is IOM's flagship multi-stakeholder initiative to promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers. It supports governments, civil society, recruiters and employers to adopt ethical recruitment practices.

Moreover, IOM supported 4 GoN officials in a knowledge exchange visit to the Philippines on ethical recruitment, with the aim of learning about industry improvements in attaining ethical recruitment practices. The visit to the Philippines served as an invaluable opportunity for collaboration and the exchange of knowledge to contribute to the advancement of ethical recruitment practices within Nepal's labour migration landscape.

REINTEGRATION:

IOM implemented a reintegration programme on financial literacy, entrepreneurial training, grant disbursement and supply chain networking for 221 labour migrant returnees in Koshi province. Thanks to the support received, the beneficiaries succeeded in starting a business, and in October 2023, IOM organized a reintegration fair where returnees showcased their products and services. IOM organized a two-day training on an "Integrated Approach to Return and Reintegration and IOM tools of Monitoring and Evaluation of Reintegration Programmes" in Kathmandu, to strengthen the capacities of 21 government and CSO stakeholders involved in reintegration at the individual, community and structural levels.

To achieve greater horizontal and vertical coherence in sustainable reintegration programmes, IOM held a Consultation on Migration and Sustainable Development, involving the three tiers of Government, which saw the participation of 40 stakeholders.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR):

IOM Nepal has been providing AVRR to vulnerable migrants, building on experience and a worldwide network of offices and partners since 2007. As part of this initiative, IOM Nepal provided return support in 2023 to 122 AVRR cases, (103 males and 19 females), including victims of trafficking, who returned from various countries. The services included: i. Protection, in the form of case counseling, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), provision of medication and treatment; ii. Safe return; and iii. Reintegration, including the provision of seed-funding to start a business, business trainings, household investments and the possibility of commencing or continuing technical education or school and academic studies.



REMITTANCES AND DIASPORA:

Migrant remittances play a vital role for Nepal's economic development, equivalent to, on average, 25 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Marking the International Day of Family Remittances, on 16 June 2023, IOM, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), organized a joint event bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including Money Transfer Operators (MTOs), Remittance Service Providers (RSPs), Banking and Financial Institutions (BFIs), regulators, private sector representatives, and members of the migrant and diaspora communities, to leverage expertise and resources for effective solutions that enhance the well-being of migrant workers and their families in Nepal.

Given the importance of the Nepalese diaspora in terms of the country's socioeconomic development, IOM conducted a survey exercise, in cooperation with the NRNA to gain insights into the diaspora's socio-economic profile. Moreover, IOM supported the NRNA in the organization of the 3rd NRNA Global Knowledge Convention, with participants coming from more than 50 countries. During the event, IOM held a session on foreign employment and the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).





Migration Governance -

Overview:

In 2023, IOM supported the GoN and relevant stakeholders in various areas, such as fostering evidence and knowledge on migration management and governance and supporting the participation of the Government in regional and international fora. IOM started to support the GoN in developing the Migration Governance Indicator (MGI). Nepal is a GCM champion country and, in 2023 IOM, organized an Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Migration Governance and GCM to discuss the implementation of the strategic framework of the GCM. Notably, in cooperation with the Government and Tribhuvan University, launched the Migration School, to foster understanding of migration issues.

ENHANCING EVIDENCE ON MIGRATION:

Enhancing evidence on migration is at the core of IOM's work. IOM conducted a cross-border mobility survey between Nepal, India and China, highlighting migration trends, vulnerabilities and data gaps. The survey report, which is in its finalization stage, stresses the need for a multifaceted and robust institutional framework for migrants, emphasizing protection, health and development, and suggests ways to move forward to support the establishment of evidence-based policy.

IOM supported the Policy and Planning Commission of Gandaki Province in the development of the Provincial Migration Profile, to provide evidence for policy making. Stakeholders' trainings in Kathmandu and Nagarkot to strengthen data management and policies were organized. At the federal level, IOM held a high-level National Dialogue on Strengthening Population and Migration Management, which saw the participation of 100 representatives among government, including the Minister of Health and Population, civil society and IOs.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATOR:

IOM Nepal has been supporting the government of Nepal in the drafting of the MGI report, which will be finalized in 2024. Under the leadership of the MoLESS, a Technical Working Team (TWT) was formed to support the process. The MGI is an IOMdeveloped tool used to support governments in the assessment of the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, and to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

MIGRATION SCHOOL:

IOM launched the first ever Migration School in cooperation with the MoLESS and Tribhuvan University, to foster dialogue, partnership and understanding of migration, governance and sustainable development. Forty- three students (16 women) spanning from government, civil society and academia graduated.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA:

IOM supported the GoN in the preparation and participation in regional dialogues, including the Colombo Process Pre-Departure Orientation and Empowerment (PDOE) Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG), the Asia-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Senior Officials' Dialogue and the SDG Summit.

With regards to the implementation of the GCM, for which Nepal is a champion country, IOM organized the "Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Migration Governance and GCM Implementation," led by MoLESS, to collaboratively discuss migration complexities and the national implementation of the strategic framework of the GCM. The strategic framework was developed through a series of consultations, incorporating whole of Government and whole of society approaches, along with stakeholder feedback.









MIGRATION ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISK REDUCTION

Overview:

Migration, climate change and environment are interrelated. In Nepal, the adverse impacts of climate change on livelihoods, food security and water availability are likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase overall levels of migration. IOM works to address the need in a holistic manner, integrating migration within the broader climate change framework in Nepal.

In 2023, IOM provided humanitarian services in the case of disasters, as it happened for the earthquake in West Nepal and continued to support the GoN in Disaster Risk Management and Governance.

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

IOM Nepal initiated the implementation of the project "Nepal: Promoting a Human Security and Gender Equality Based Approach to Migration and Adaptation to Climate Change." The project will support the GoN's efforts to respond to challenges along the Migration Environment and Climate Change (MECC) nexus in a human security-centred and gender responsive manner. In this context, IOM will support in conducting research on human security centred and gender responsive migration, environment and climate change in Nepal.

ENHANCING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CAPACITY:

Improving the capacity of local stakeholders in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is a key intervention of IOM Nepal. By January 2023, an IOM-developed training manual on DRM, endorsed by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), was rolled out to all 753 local levels, delivering training to 19,904 participants, including government and elected representatives. The manual aimed at building the capacity of the local governments for effective disaster preparedness and response. IOM also delivered a Community Preparedness and Response (CPR) training to 169 local level officials in all provinces.

In Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces, IOM established two inter-governmental coordination and sharing platforms to support knowledge sharing and learning amongst the agencies working on DRM.

Monthly platform meetings are organized, where different agencies working on disaster management come together in sharing and exchanging best practices while avoiding effort duplication. Additionally, IOM delivered capacity building trainings on localization of Disaster Risk Governance in both provinces, to 58 government officials.

DISABILITY INCLUSION:

Internal displacement due to disasters disrupts the lives of the most vulnerable populations. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are most affected due to physical, attitudinal and systematic barriers. IOM as a co-lead of the CCCM Cluster under the leadership of the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) conducted an accessibility audit of selected evacuation shelters. During the on-site assessment phase, tools such as checklists and rating scales were utilized to systematically evaluate various aspects of accessibility based on the principles of Reach, Enter, Circulate, and Use (RECU). This comprehensive approach ensured that entrances, pathways, signage, communication systems, facilities and emergency procedures were thoroughly examined.

The detailed report, including a set of recommendations, will be submitted to DUDBC for better integration of disability and inclusion issues in disaster preparedness and response.









Our Donors and Partners

















Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC





BUSINA





Save the Children













Practical ACTION



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