

Coordination Meeting on Current Crisis in Middle East Asia and Its Impact on Nepali Migrant Workers

19 May 2026

NRNA Meeting Hall

Background

Under the MiRiDeW Phase II Project, NRNA in collaboration with ILO, organized a coordination meeting to discuss the ongoing crisis situation in the Middle East region and its possible impact on Nepali migrant workers residing in GCC countries and nearby regions.

The meeting aimed to facilitate coordination, share country-level updates, discuss challenges faced by migrant workers, and strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms among concerned stakeholders.

Participation

The meeting was attended by representatives from:

- * Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)- West Asia Division
- * ILO
- * Migration experts and consultants
- * Civil society organizations and development partners
- * NRNA ICC and Secretariat
- * NCC representatives from Middle East countries (virtual participation)

Program Proceedings

The meeting was chaired by Khagendra Neupane, Chief and Vice-Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Employment, NRNA. The program started with opening remarks by Mr. Badri K.C.; Past President of NRNA, followed by a brief overview presentation on MiRiDeW Phase II Project.

The discussion session focused on:

- * Updates from NCC representatives from Middle East countries - Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain
- * Impact of the current crisis on Nepali migrant workers,
- * Government and embassy preparedness,
- * NRNA coordination and support mechanisms.

Major Discussions and Key Issues Raised

1. Situation Updates from Middle East Countries

NCC representatives shared country-specific updates regarding the present situation and concerns observed among Nepali migrant workers. Participants highlighted:

- * fear and uncertainty among workers,
- * possible travel disruptions,
- * concerns related to employment security,
- * emergency preparedness needs,
- * and communication challenges.

2. Government Preparedness and Emergency Coordination

During the meeting, Mr. Ramkaji Khadka, Joint Secretary of the West Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, briefed participants on the initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Nepal. He shared that the Government of Nepal has remained fully alert regarding the evolving crisis situation in the Middle East countries. The Ministry has been continuously monitoring developments through Nepali diplomatic missions in the region and collecting regular updates regarding the status and safety of Nepali citizens.

It was shared that Nepali missions have maintained close coordination with concerned authorities, security agencies, and Nepali communities in destination countries. Based on information received so far, Nepali nationals residing in the affected countries, including those using transit airports, were reported to be safe.

Participants were also informed that an Emergency Response Team (ERT) had been formed under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen rapid, coordinated, and effective response mechanisms. Discussions emphasized the importance of timely communication, preparedness, and inter-agency coordination during crisis situations.

3. Policy Gaps and Institutional Preparedness

Participants highlighted that while certain policy provisions related to emergency response and migrant protection have already been incorporated into national policy frameworks and annual plans, implementation capacity remains a major challenge.

Concerns were raised regarding:

- * Poor Management in migrant database management,
- * limited logistics support during emergencies,
- * gaps in rescue preparedness,
- * and insufficient reintegration planning for returnee migrant workers.

It was emphasized that further policy-level research and evidence-based studies are required to develop practical and immediately applicable recommendations for crisis response and migrant protection.

Participants also stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral diplomatic coordination with destination countries and studying international best practices, including rescue and protection mechanisms adopted by other labor-sending countries during crisis situations.

4. Mental Health and Psychosocial Concerns

Participants discussed the growing psychosocial impact of the crisis, including stress, fear, anxiety, and uncertainty among migrant workers and their families.

The importance of timely counselling support, mental health awareness, and community-level support mechanisms was emphasized.

5. Information Dissemination and Communication Systems

The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening verified information channels and outreach mechanisms to avoid misinformation and panic among migrant workers and their families.

Participants emphasized:

- * stronger digital communication systems,
- * improved coordination among embassies, NCCs, and migrant networks,
- * and community-based information dissemination mechanisms for maximum outreach.

The need to strengthen leadership skills and crisis management capacity among migrant community networks was also discussed.

6. Coordination and Long-Term Preparedness

The meeting emphasized the importance of:

- * rapid communication systems,
- * coordinated emergency response,
- * rescue and evacuation preparedness,
- * information verification,
- * and stronger institutional coordination mechanisms.

Participants also stressed the need for long-term preparedness, contingency planning, and stronger migrant support systems at both policy and operational levels.

- * Strengthen coordination among NRNA, embassies, and relevant government agencies.
- * Enhance rapid response and emergency communication systems.
- * Continue mental health and psychosocial support initiatives for migrant workers.

- * Improve dissemination of verified information through digital platforms and NCC networks.
- * Strengthen migrant database systems and crisis preparedness mechanisms.
- * Conduct policy-level research and evidence-based studies for practical recommendations.
- * Develop long-term contingency and reintegration support mechanisms.

7. NRNA's Emergency Response and Coordination Efforts

Chairperson Dr. Hem Raj Sharma emphasized the need for effective collaboration among the Government of Nepal, Diplomatic Missions of Nepal in Middle East countries, and relevant stakeholders. He recalled the effective role played by NRNA during the COVID-19 pandemic through its RRR (Relief, Repatriation & Rehabilitation) program in rescuing, supporting, and rehabilitating Nepalese from Middle East and other countries.

He stressed the importance of establishing an immediate emergency coordination mechanism through high-level coordination among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and social security, Department of Foreign Employment, Foreign Employment Board, Welfare Fund, and NRNA. He further stated that NRNA is ready to take immediate initiatives in rescue, safe relocation, and relief management either in coordination with the Government of Nepal or through its own mechanisms.

Conclusion

The coordination meeting served as an important platform for dialogue, information sharing, and collaborative preparedness regarding the current Middle East crisis and its impact on Nepali migrant workers.

Participants expressed commitment toward continued coordination, collective response mechanisms, and strengthened support systems for Nepali migrant communities abroad.

Annexes



