



## Regional Knowledge Forum

Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Sustainable Development Goals in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

14-15 September 2017  
ICIMOD Headquarters  
Kathmandu, Nepal



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# Executive Summary

The Regional Knowledge Forum “Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Hindu Kush Himalayas” was held between 14 and 15 September 2017 at the ICIMOD headquarters. The overall aim of the Regional Knowledge Forum was to explore ways to **mainstream human mobility in national policies** regarding climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and sustainable development goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on preparing actionable recommendations for countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH). The Regional Knowledge Forum was co-organized by the Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS), the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) of the Government of Nepal, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). This Regional Knowledge Forum brought together 26 government representatives from five HKH countries, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE FORUM

The specific objectives of this Regional Knowledge Forum were:

- to **bring together policymakers and experts** from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan with the aim to **mainstream human mobility in national policies** regarding climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development goals, with a particular focus on preparing actionable recommendations.
- to **share best practices and lessons learned** across the region.

## EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE FORUM

The expected results of the Regional Knowledge Forum were, through a consultative process between participants, to jointly:

- take stock of the integration of human mobility in current discussions and policies related to CCA, DRR, and SDGs;
- build a shared understanding regarding various forms of human mobility and their implications for policy-making among different government institutions;
- recognize the key mobility pathways (e.g. displacement, labour migration, and resettlement) in the context of climate change; map key actors and mandates, including overlaps between the mandates of different government institutions; identify knowledge and capacity gaps and opportunities for inter-ministerial collaboration; and
- identify areas within programs on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development goals, where human mobility could be mainstreamed.

As a result of the Regional Knowledge Forum, each participating country team developed a ‘model’ framework on human mobility to foster a better understanding of human mobility across different policy domains.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

The participants of the Regional Knowledge Forum - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan - developed a number of country-specific, multi-sectoral and cross-cutting recommendations in the course of the two day meeting. The following are the common key recommendations across the five countries.

### ❶ Improve inter-agency coordination

- Establish relevant coordination mechanisms to bring together ministries and line agencies to discuss cross-sectoral issues related to human mobility, CCA, DRR, and SDGs.
- Where coordination mechanisms already exist, they need to be used more frequently and with better participation at all levels.
- Invest in awareness-raising among government and non-government actors.

### ❷ Data management

- Increase data collection, research and analysis related to human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters.
- Develop and maintain databases and increase data accessibility.
- Invest in usability and standardization of existing and new data.

### ❸ Policy development and implementation

- Mainstream human mobility into existing CCA, DRR and sustainable development policies rather than formulating new policies.
- Allocate resources to the implementation of policies and frameworks.

### ❹ Enhanced resources and funding

- Mobilize financial resources and make budgetary allocations to address human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters at the local, regional and national levels.
- Ensure availability of human resources and explore opportunities for training and capacity building.
- Increase partnerships amongst government agencies and also with non-governmental organizations and donors, including the private sector.

### ❺ Design and develop programmes related to:

- Community based rural development (reducing regional disparities) as a means to increase resilience and reduce disaster displacement risks, including through strengthening and diversifying livelihoods.
- Disaster risk reduction including early warning systems and disaster resilient infrastructure and awareness raising.
- Integration of relocated communities with host communities.

### ❻ Regional platform to share good practices amongst different countries

- Leveraging existing platforms such as this Regional Knowledge Forum that bring together the various actors within the HKH region with the actors of the larger international community, including donors, scientists and experts.

# The Regional Knowledge Forum

The adverse impacts of environmental shocks and stressors will be disproportionately high in developing countries, especially among the poor and vulnerable populations. People will respond to these impacts with a combination of in-situ and ex-situ strategies, including mobility. **Human mobility as a response to environmental shocks and stressors manifests in various forms** (e.g. displacement, migration, and resettlement) in communities affected by disasters and climate change. The loss of place of residence or economic disruption due to extreme weather events may result in displacement of population, which is largely temporary in nature. Though most of the people displaced by disasters remain within their country, some persons may move across borders to a neighbouring country or beyond. In addition, migration for work is considered to be a household strategy to diversify risks of environmental stressors. Remittances are important for the households that adopt migration as a strategy to spread risks, seek employment, increase income, and accumulate investment capital. Moreover, a circulation of ideas and practices between the destination and origin communities is facilitated by migrants. Some governments are considering planned relocation/resettlement as a potential strategy to address observed climate changes and projected changes in resource productivity and displacement risks.

The relationship between human mobility and climate change remains in the fringe of the policy discourse in most of the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries, where migration itself exists in the periphery of the policy discourse. **Mainstreaming human mobility in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development goals remains a work in progress.** Past research in this region has suggested that most of the migrants from communities vulnerable to extreme weather events and environmental change are likely to move to a destination within the country of origin. However, internal migration is often perceived as a challenge to development planning and ignored in adaptation and disaster management planning.

**The mandate for addressing human mobility remains fragmented within different government institutions,** which have little opportunity to jointly discuss the relevant issues and synergize their responses. Generally, different government institutions represent the country in different global policy processes (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Global Forum on Migration and Development, and Sustainable Development Goals). The government position on human mobility is seldom synergized between different government institutions in the context of these global processes. **There needs to be a shared understanding and common approach regarding human mobility among different government agencies** that are part of the aforementioned processes. Recently, there have been some positive developments in this region. For example, the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) of the Government of Nepal (GoN) is developing a Climate Change and Migration Strategy for Nepal through a consultative mechanism that engages relevant government stakeholders. In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has supported the development of a National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement. For a better integration of these policy domains, there is a fundamental need for the various narratives on these themes to converge and support multi-stakeholder fora at the national level to discuss approaches for such integration.



# Opening Remarks

The programme started with opening remarks from key dignitaries. **David Molden**, the Director General of ICIMOD, officially opened the Regional Knowledge Forum and called for a regional mechanism where countries could come together and **share best practices and learn from each other**. For this, he maintained that the Regional Knowledge Forum could help to develop a **common understanding of human mobility** among government actors. **Andreas Roettger**, First Counsellor/ Head of Coordination at the European Union Delegation to Nepal, reiterated the EU's commitment to working towards incorporating aspects of human mobility alongside lessening the impacts of climate change. Similarly, **Roland Schaefer**, the German Ambassador to Nepal, presented on their chairmanship of the PDD and highlighted that one of the objectives of the Regional Knowledge Forum was to share good practices and lessons learnt and engage in **policy dialogue within and across countries**. Representing the Government of Nepal, **Ram Prasad Lamsal**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment, stressed that a shared understanding and common approach regarding human mobility among different government agencies was vital. He also mentioned the Climate Change and Migration Strategy of Nepal, where a consultative mechanism has been established involving 14 different ministries for better coordination and synergies in the human mobility domain. **Paul Norton**, Chief of Mission, IOM Nepal, recommended that **human mobility should be included in relevant national and global policies**, to ensure that those who are either forced or choose to leave or to stay are considered in future interventions.

## **MILESTONE 1: REACHING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (CCA), DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR), AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

### **How has human mobility been integrated into different global processes and policy areas?**

🗨️ **Sarah Koeltzow**, Policy Officer, Coordination Unit, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

Sarah Koeltzow explained that human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change is a phenomenon cutting across several policy areas. Over the past years, **progress has been made in including human mobility in important global processes**: migrants are mentioned in the preamble of the Paris Agreement and to avert, minimize and address displacement is a priority for Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); there is explicit recognition of displacement as one of the devastating impacts of disasters in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the Human Rights impacts of migrants and persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change. She stressed that there is a **need to send regional messages** to the ongoing negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the (UNFCCC)/COP23, but also **step up efforts to implement these frameworks** at the national level and achieve the SDGs. She further highlighted that translating these global goals into national policies and sub-national action is a challenging task that requires dedicated resources, partnership, and cross-ministerial collaboration.



## Climate change induced migration and development approaches in Bangladesh

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● Md. Warishul Islam, Assistant Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

Md. Warishul Islam highlighted that an estimated 135 million Bangladeshis were directly affected by disasters, including their permanent and temporary employment. Mr. Islam informed that the Bangladesh government has taken proactive measures to face these challenges. One of such best practices is the Char<sup>1</sup> Development and Settlement Project where coordinated work was done between various ministries and departments. He also informed that the 2012 Disaster Management Act combines prevention, emergency response and post-disaster recovery; community disaster preparedness, training advocacy and public awareness and disaster resilient villages in the coastal areas.



## Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Myanmar

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● Thin Thin Khine, Deputy Director,  
Relief and Resettlement Department, Government of Myanmar

Thin Thin Khine presented the work the Myanmar government has been doing on DRR. Ms. Khine highlighted that the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) works towards providing relief for victims of disasters to ease their suffering; and takes precautionary steps so as to minimize loss of life and property of the victims of disasters. She also talked about the National Framework for Community Disaster Resilience and the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR). The Action Plan focuses on assessing the risk of disasters and extreme events and creating public awareness on DRR in Myanmar; strengthening disaster risk governance to reduce and manage risk; mainstreaming DRR for resilient development; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and resilient recovery.



## Climate Change and Migration Strategy of Nepal

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● Dr. Ram Prasad Lamsal, Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Population and Environment, Government of Nepal

Dr. Ram Prasad Lamsal talked in detail about the Government of Nepal's effort to address migration in the context of climate change. Dr. Lamsal called for multi-stakeholder engagement on this issue and noted that they are working towards government approval of a Climate Change and Migration Strategy. He considered engagement and approval as necessary for swift implementation of this strategy. He informed that there are 14 ministries involved in the consultative process of developing the strategy, highlighting the fact that the process is cross-sectoral. Dr. Lamsal discussed the challenges in identifying lead actors in implementation and also highlighted the limited availability of resources.



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<sup>1</sup> Land made barren artificially or naturally on the banks of rivers.

## Key concepts regarding human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change

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🗣️ **Sabira Coelho**, Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Officer,  
IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Sabira Coelho explained that in the absence of universally agreed definitions related to human mobility in the context of climate change, there are some working definitions aimed to provide conceptual clarity on the topic. She highlighted that **the decision to move is complex** and is affected by a number of different drivers including environmental change. The human mobility outcomes arising from environmental factors are context-specific, and may fall within the spectrums of temporary or permanent, forced or voluntary, and internal or international. She highlighted that populations may sometimes be ‘trapped’ or unable to move, which may increase vulnerability. In such cases, planned relocation, although a complex process, may be considered as a last resort. In conclusion, Ms. Coelho stated that **human mobility can save lives, reduce risks and increase resilience**, if appropriate public policy support and action is provided. As challenges in collecting accurate data on environmental migration and other types of human mobility impede a sound policy and programmatic response, Ms. Coelho called on governments to acknowledge the nexuses and move forward with innovative ways to address these challenges.

## Human mobility in the context of disaster and climate change in Bhutan

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🗣️ **Pema Thinley**, Deputy Planning Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan

Pema Thinley stressed that internal migration in Bhutan is increasing and occurs primarily from rural to urban areas, whereas international migration is minimal and comprised mostly of students studying abroad. Although Bhutan shared commonalities with other countries in the region with regard to its vulnerability to climate change, Mr. Thinley reported that its migration profile remains unique as it does not experience high rates of international migration. He also highlighted that human mobility in the context of climate change has not received the attention it deserves at the policy level and within the development sector in Bhutan. He also suggested a need for more scientific research towards better understanding of the climate change, disaster and human mobility nexus in Bhutan.

## Labour migration and remittances: Lessons from Gilgit-Baltistan

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🗣️ **Zubair Ahmad Khan**, Assistant Director, Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority,  
Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

Zubair Ahmad Khan highlighted that the Gilgit-Baltistan region is important for both the Hindu-Kush Himalayas and the Karakoram mountainous region. Mr. Khan stressed that the 1.4 million people living in the region are highly vulnerable to climate change. He also mentioned that although there is no large-scale migration in the region, the phenomenon still exists there.





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🗨️ Babar Khan, Head Sindh-Balochistan Office, WWF Pakistan

Babar Khan explained that the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pakistan is conducting an action research in collaboration with ICIMOD to examine the role of gender-sensitive training and community-level extension services in enhancing adaptive capacity of migrant-sending households in flood-affected rural communities of Gilgit Baltistan. In the intervention areas in Hunza and Nagar districts, WWF Pakistan had organized training on financial literacy, flood preparedness, and livelihood diversification for women in migrant sending households. He shared that the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan had incorporated key learning from this action research into the Gilgit-Baltistan Climate Change Action Plan 2017. He also informed that Karakoram International University has developed a course module on migration as an adaptation strategy.

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### **Resettlement policy for earthquake affected settlements**

🗨️ Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Member, National Reconstruction Authority, Government of Nepal

Nepal has experienced large-scale internal displacement after the April 2015 earthquake, particularly to district headquarters, Kathmandu, or nearby cities. The Government of Nepal (GoN) established the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to coordinate the reconstruction efforts. Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha highlighted that resettlement raises some specific questions that need to be addressed. These are:

- How can resettlement plans ensure that the beneficiary receives land that is equal or at least comparable to the land prior to resettlement?
- How can resettlement plans ensure livelihoods of the resettled people?

Dr. Shrestha further noted that availability of land in the Himalayan region is scarce, which makes relocation to fertile river valley areas in the vicinity of affected areas a serious challenge.



## Developing model frameworks of action

### **MILESTONE 2 AND 3:** MAPPING MOBILITY DYNAMICS AND RELEVANT NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND IDENTIFYING GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY AND POLICY

#### **Group exercise 1:** Mobility dynamics, key actors, and gaps in knowledge, capacity and policy

The first group exercise expected each country team to **map major types of human mobility**, identify main actors, and identify gaps in capacity, knowledge, and policy in addressing human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change. The country teams were provided necessary guidelines and templates to **map mobility dynamics**, identify relevant actors and identify gaps (cf. Annex IV).

#### **Group exercise 2:** Thematic dialogue on good practices

In this session, participants convened around thematic issues, to exchange and share their experiences across the region. Disaster Risk Reduction specialists exchanged on challenges in the **implementation of the Sendai Framework**, including the need to align national DRR laws, policies and strategies with the Sendai Framework, by 2020. The development experts discussed next steps and how to overcome obstacles in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** and linking migration with the respective goals and targets. The Climate Change experts from participating countries discussed the upcoming climate change conference in Bonn, Conference of Parties 23 (COP23), opportunities for engagement therein as well as the **Task Force on Displacement** under the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism (in which IOM and PDD are members).





**MILESTONE 4:** IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS AND NEXT STEPS;

**MILESTONE 5:** PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ‘MODEL’ FRAMEWORKS OF ACTION

**Group exercise 3:** Identification of strategic goals, objectives, and interventions

Conclusions from the thematic dialogues fed into the country-level group work for the **formulation of national ‘model’ frameworks of action**. Following national level activities supported by ICIMOD and IOM, Bangladesh and Nepal had already developed national level strategic frameworks prior to the Regional Knowledge Forum.<sup>2</sup> These country teams focussed their discussions on prioritizing activities for the way ahead. The teams from Bhutan, Myanmar and Gilgit-Baltistan identified strategic goals, objectives and possible interventions to develop such frameworks of their own.

The following paragraphs elaborate on what the country teams presented during the Knowledge Forum.

### **National ‘Model’ Framework of Action: Bhutan**

In this group work, the Bhutan team developed three objectives. The first objective was to **make rural livelihoods physically and economically attractive**. To achieve this, basic infrastructure and facilities need to be installed; opportunities for off-farm activities are to be created; and farm drudgery would have to be decreased through farm mechanization and adoption of new agriculture technologies; and service delivery needs to be enhanced. Their second objective was to **reduce the risk of disaster displacement**. The key implementation activities for achieving this objective are: mapping and zoning of disaster prone areas; establishing early warning systems; making communities safe and resilient to live in; and strengthening the relief and response system. The third objective was to **strengthen legal and institutional capacities for better governance**. For reaching this objective, the team proposed to develop institutional and human resource capacity; enhance research and development; promote education and awareness; mainstream displacement in the context of climate change into the national plans and policies; promote networking and partnership; and mobilize resources.

<sup>2</sup> Since 2015, ICIMOD and IOM have been providing technical support to various ministries of the Government of Nepal to address climate change and migration. Following a project implemented by IOM in South Asia, entitled “[Assessing the climate change, environmental degradation and migration nexus in South Asia](#)”, model plans for action were developed in Nepal and Bangladesh based on consultation with government officials and other partners.

## **National ‘Model’ Framework of Action: Myanmar**

The team from Myanmar suggested **increasing coordination** among line agencies and relevant ministries; **mainstreaming human mobility** into existing policies; developing implementation guidelines; raising awareness and advocating for **political commitment** at higher level; holding national and local level **consultations** to link global and regional agendas; conducting stakeholder assessments; establishing a **working group** to help integrate human mobility holistically into the themes of climate change, DRR and SDGs; training and capacity building; and allocating resources.

## **‘Model’ Framework of Action: Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan)**

The Gilgit-Baltistan team proposed four different objectives. The first objective was to help develop **coherent policies for addressing human mobility challenges during disasters**. For this, they suggested generating evidence based scientific knowledge on human mobility and disaster related issues; developing various knowledge products targeting policy and decision makers in the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GoGB); training and engaging policy champions from relevant government departments (to incorporate human mobility and disaster related issues into mainstream policy dialogue and development of planning processes); and engaging local media (print and electronic) to foster awareness among the general public. The second objective was to **strengthen institutional capacities to manage and address human mobility challenges in disaster contexts**. The key implementation strategies to meet this objective were to develop an integrated and interactive Disaster Information Management System (inclusive of human mobility and environmental migration) in local government; conduct a rapid training needs assessment of relevant departments/stakeholders; develop/implement a training plan for early and mid-career professionals; provide education /training opportunities to staff of relevant departments (new knowledge and skills); introduce a module on “human mobility & environmental migration” in local schools, colleges and universities; and organize awareness sessions for students and faculty at Karakoram International University and other universities. The third objective was to **improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation** in Gilgit-Baltistan by establishing a Coordination Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary for Environmental Migration; establish a technical working group (chaired by the Secretary Home) of relevant agencies/stakeholders for science and policy discourse concerning human mobility and disasters; and notifying focal persons for communication and coordination. The fourth objective was to **mobilize financial resources to strengthen capacity** to address human mobility issues. They planned to achieve the objectives by organising partner and donor meetings on a regular basis, e.g. donor evenings/conferences; establishing human mobility and disaster networks (for lobbying); and ensuring budgetary allocations for human mobility and disasters in relevant sectors.

## **Priorities in the implementation of the existing model framework: Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh team worked on a way forward regarding the implementation of their existing framework. For this they suggested **coordinating among various government organizations and NGOs**; reducing regional disparities; arranging **employment** for displaced people within and outside the country; arranging **skill development programs** targeting the affected people and addressing their specific needs; ensuring smooth **integration of relocated people** within host communities; and devising “exit plans” for the projects and transformation into a permanent system.

## **Priorities in implementation of the climate change and migration strategy: Nepal**

The Nepal team formulated points for better implementation of the Climate Change and Migration Strategy. They proposed **community involvement** and empowerment; capacity enhancement and better use of human resources at the ministerial level; establishing **Emergency Response Centres** at the community level; using **technology** to make DRR better, for example, early warning systems; working with the **private sector** and International and Non-Governmental Organizations (I/NGOs); resource mapping and **resource mobilization** at the local government level; evidence based policy formulation and implementation with a focus on research and **disaggregated data** and stressing on education, training and knowledge sharing; enactment of a **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** and Climate Change and Migration Strategy; and enactment of a **Local Governance Act** according to the new federal structures.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

The participants of the Regional Knowledge Forum - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan developed a number of country-specific, multi-sectoral and cross-cutting recommendations at the end of two days. The following are the common key recommendations across the five countries.

### ❶ Improve inter-agency coordination

- Establish relevant coordination mechanisms to bring together ministries and line agencies to discuss cross-sectoral issues related to human mobility, CCA, DRR, and SDGs.
- Where coordination mechanisms already exist, they need to be used more frequently and with better participation at all levels.
- Invest in awareness-raising among government and non-government actors.

### ❷ Data management

- Increase data collection, research and analysis related to human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters.
- Develop and maintain databases and increase data accessibility.
- Invest in usability and standardization of existing and new data.

### ❸ Policy development and implementation

- Mainstream human mobility into existing CCA, DRR and sustainable development policies rather than formulating new policies.
- Allocate resources to the implementation of policies and frameworks.

### ❹ Enhanced resources and funding

- Mobilize financial resources and make budgetary allocations to address human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters at the local, regional and national levels.
- Ensure availability of human resources and explore opportunities for training and capacity building.
- Increase partnerships amongst government agencies and also with non-governmental organizations and donors, including the private sector.

### ❺ Design and develop programmes related to:

- Community based rural development (reducing regional disparities) as a means to increase resilience and reduce disaster displacement risks, including through strengthening and diversifying livelihoods.
- Disaster risk reduction including early warning systems and disaster resilient infrastructure and awareness raising.
- Integration of relocated communities with host communities.

### ❻ Regional platform to share good practices amongst different countries

- Leveraging existing platforms such as this Regional Knowledge Forum that bring together the various actors within the HKH region with the actors of the larger international community, including donors, scientists and experts.





## Closing Remarks

**Soumyadeep Banerjee**, Migration and Population Specialist at ICIMOD, presented a summary of conclusions of the Regional Knowledge Forum. **Eklabya Sharma**, the Deputy Director General at ICIMOD, commended the Regional Knowledge Forum for bringing together all the participating member countries and the resulting mutual sharing of ideas. He highlighted that governance and capacity building issues were important not just at the national and subnational level, but also at the regional level, and that ICIMOD would be pleased to host a regional dialogue between the countries in the region. On behalf of the MoPE, **Shiva Raj Neupane** thanked the government representatives and experts from the various countries for their participation in this Forum. He further highlighted that there is much more effort needed to mainstream the issues of labour migration, climate change, SDGs and disaster displacement in national legal frameworks, and stressed that Nepal will always seek to learn about best practices from other countries and also share its good practices with other governments. **Sarah Koeltzow**, Policy Officer at the PDD, stressed that the Regional Knowledge Forum has shown the need for closer cooperation across ministries at the national level but also knowledge-sharing at the regional level to ensure better protection of disaster displaced persons. She further noted that the recommendations and next steps elaborated at the occasion of the Regional Knowledge Forum could be taken forward at the national level by forming a technical working group or a steering committee, enabling greater coordination and implementation of the recommendations. On behalf of the co-organizers, **Sabira Coelho** of IOM and **Ganesh Gurung** of NIDS thanked the participants for making the Regional Knowledge Forum a success.

All presentations and materials as well as background reading were made available to meeting participants and can be accessed through the co-organizers.



