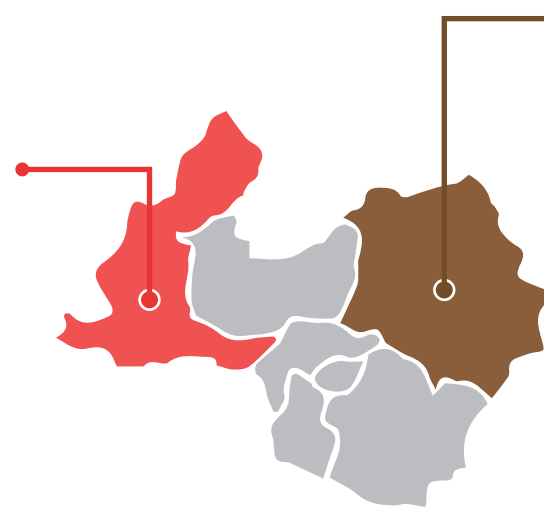


Welcome to the eleventh **Citizen Helpdesks Bulletin**! The Citizen Helpdesks is a group of young volunteers we call Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) who gather and disseminate information on critical issues affecting Nepali citizens- to eliminate information gaps between the government, the media, donor organizations and communities; and improve collective decision-making.

## Concerns

### JWALAMUKHI, DHADING

“We have heard that if the migrant worker runs into any accident and also dies within a year after returning home, the government will provide compensation. From when is it being implemented?”



### SUNKOSHI, SINDHUPALCHOWK

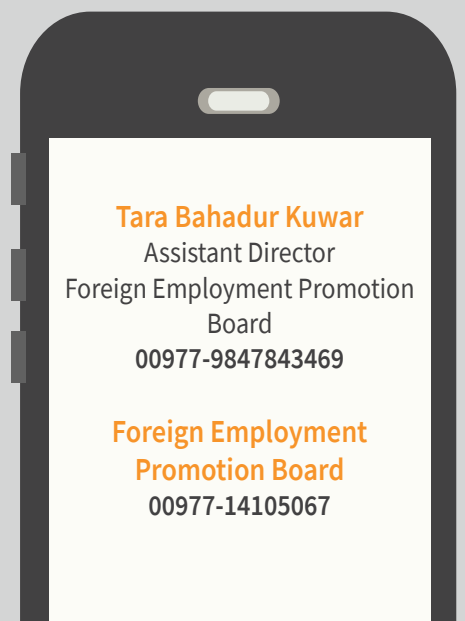
“If the migrant worker dies then will his/her family member receive other financial benefits besides the insurance?”

## Answers

The parliamentary committee has made an amendment in the regulation to be implemented from 31st July 2017. According to the new regulation, if the migrant worker dies within a year after the contract is over, there is a provision for the nearest heir to receive financial support of Rs. 700,000 (Seven Lakhs). The amount is provided by the Foreign Employment Promotion Board from its welfare fund.

According to the amended regulation, even if the death of migrant worker occurs after he/she returns to Nepal, the rule is still applied. But, if the death has occurred even a day before 16th of Shrawan 2074 the heir will not be able to claim that amount according to the new regulation.

Earlier, before 16th of Shrawan 2074, if any migrant worker had died abroad during his contract, there was a provision of his/her heir to receive the financial support of Rs. 300,000.



## Questions

### BIDUR, NUWAKOT

“The financial condition of my household is really poor. It is already difficult for me to raise my family. I am planning to migrate to a gulf country by taking a loan. I haven’t made the passport yet. My friends made their passport in Kathmandu a few years back. Do I still need to go to Kathmandu to make my passport?”



### MANDAN DEUPUR, KAVRAPALANCHOWK

“They say that the District Administration provides counselling about the foreign employment to applicant requesting for passport before providing him/her the passport. What type of counselling is given to the applicant?”

## Answers

At present, the District Administration Office has been assigned the responsibility to provide the passports by the Government of Nepal.

If we look at the data of the people who come to district administration office to get the passport, majority of the youths are ready to go to the gulf countries for foreign employment. Therefore, before the passports are signed and handed to the applicants, the staffs in the District Administration Office have implemented a practice to provide them the counselling session on foreign employment. General information such as country profiles, must-know about the foreign employment, security related concerns and so on are provided during such sessions.

In few districts of Nepal, different governmental and non-governmental organizations have collaborated to provide counselling sessions to different aspiring migrant workers and the victims of foreign employment. However, such organizations are not present in all of the districts.

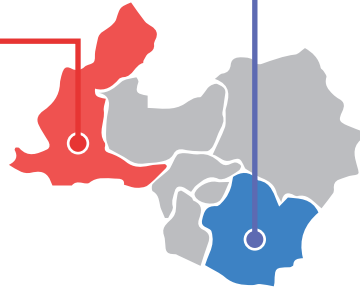
**Shivaprasad Simkhada**

Chief District Officer  
00977-985123777

## Concerns

### SIDDHALEK, DHADING

“I continuously hear on news that women are banned from going abroad for foreign employment, but then also I see a lot of women going abroad for work. Are those women going abroad illegally or has the government lifted the ban again?”



### PACHHKHAAL, KAVREPALANCHWOK

“Is it just women or are men also banned for going to Gulf countries for household work?”

## Answers

The Department of Foreign Employment had issued a notice related to labour permit on 4th April 2017 stating that both men and women are banned from going abroad for household work until further notice.

The notice was issued after numerous cases of female Nepali household workers in Gulf countries who were trafficked and trapped came to light. Both men and women are banned from going and doing household work in the foreign countries with which Nepal has not signed a labour agreement. But the ban is only for household work and does not apply to other work sectors such as security, cleaner, packaging and so on.

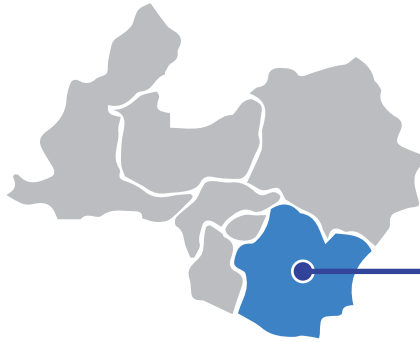
However, since there has been a labour agreement signed between Nepal and Jordan, Nepalis are allowed to go to Jordan for the household work. The labour agreement with Jordan states workplace security, insurance, employment rights and even a salary for household workers.

There is a ban for the Nepali migrant workers to go as household worker to other countries except Jordan.

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# Insights

## Story from the Field



### Gyandwoj Lama

Rosi, Kavrepalanchowk

When Gyandwoj Lama reached Malaysia for work, he was neither given work nor salary as mentioned in his job contract. Resident of Rosi Village Municipality, Kavre which is one of the most earthquake-affected districts of Nepal, Lama had paid Rs 136,000 to the manpower agency but had received a payment voucher of only Rs 80,000.

Although Lama is not the only one holding such ambiguous job contract, he unfortunately met with an accident while at work in a company named Melamet in Malaysia which cost him his eardrums and hearing ability. As per Melamet's policy, a worker is entitled for compensation only if the reason of injury or death is an accident. However, it did not label Lama's incident as an accident and turned away from taking any responsibility for it. So, Lama didn't receive any compensation from his employer although his eardrums was affected by the noise from the machinery while at work. After several futile requests to the employer, he himself compiled Rs 40,000 for his air fare and returned to Nepal.

Sadly, Lama had to spend a lot for medication in Nepal while also being completely unaware of the fact that he was eligible to claim the insurance money in Nepal. Like many other Nepali migrant workers, Lama also had thought that getting the insurance done was just one of the many processes one needs to complete before going abroad for job.

Nevertheless, Lama was clever enough to dial one of the Citizen Helpdesks' field workers in Kavre, Mr Rojan Tamang, after listening to and knowing about Citizen Helpdesks' work on a radio. His case along with the required documents have been forwarded by Mr Rojan to an organization known as Centre for Migration and International Relations (CMIR) that works for the rights of the migrant workers and their families. The progress on this case will be published on the next issue.

## Know Before You Go - the latest Government Decisions

- Must-know information for migrant workers ([Link](#))
- Important roles of the Foreign Employment Promotion Board ([Link](#))

The sources of information, rumours and issues presented here are collected from CFAs, community meetings, development agencies and face-to-face discussions in communities with over 500 people in 4 districts between 1st January – 31st January 2018. The issues highlighted are chosen on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Citizen Helpdesks Bulletin is brought to you by **Accountability Lab** in collaboration with **Local Interventions Group**.

