

Catalytic Support on Land Issues in Nepal

Despite the political and democratic progress since the end of the armed conflict between the Maoists and the Government in 2006, Nepal continues to face multiple land issues and land related disputes. Many of these are deeply entrenched in Nepalese society, having been one of the major drivers of the 10-years conflict. Additional problems regarding land ownership and land access have been caused by the large-scale displacement and subsequent land grabbing during the conflict period.

Resolving land disputes remains a significant challenge for Nepal and their resolution, which are highly sensitive, lie at the core of Nepal's peace process. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement strongly emphasizes the urgent need for a comprehensive land reform.

IOM has been appointed lead implementing agency for the "Catalytic Support on Land Issues" project conducted in partnership with UNDP and UN-Habitat and funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The project, which is being piloted in the districts of Surkhet, Nawalparasi and Morang, contributes to the revision and amendment of the existing land policies and acts in Nepal, including identifying contradiction, overlaps and duplications.

IOM maps the existing situation of land and land disputes in the three districts, engages stakeholders in dialogue and enhances institutional capacities of district land offices. Building on the work and systems already put in place by the Government of Nepal, IOM further supports the evolution and strengthening of future land reform and renders technical assistance and implements land dispute resolution

mechanisms in each of the three selected districts. Of particular priority is the inclusion of vulnerable groups and women in project activities. IOM provides particular support to women leaders in Nepal to enable them to meaningfully contribute to land-policy discussions and land reform process. Through capacity-enhancement initiatives, IOM engage women to take an active role as agents of change in order to guarantee their equal rights and access to land are part of policy-debates in general.

In addition, IOM is conducting an assessment of a computerised land administration system—Solution for Open Land Administration (SOLA)—as a way to help roll out SOLA in the districts to the degree possible.

In order to facilitate a holistic future land reform in the country, IOM works in close partnership with the Ministry of Land Reform and Management, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, local Peace Committees, district land offices and engages extensively with members of affected communities.

During 2014, IOM has focused particularly on resolving the issue of landlessness and land occupancy issues in the country.

For more information, kindly contact lpr@iom.int