

Fairness and Efficiency in Reparations to Conflict Affected Persons in Nepal

Following the decade-long armed conflict between the Government Forces and Maoist fighters, which ended with the signing of the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement; Nepal continues to undergo a complex and prolonged political transition.

During the conflict, thousands of people lost their lives, hundreds disappeared, and many more were disabled, injured, tortured or displaced. Transitional justice is a key element of the Interim Constitution of Nepal and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Both documents commit the Government to provide effective remedies and compensation to the victims of the civil war.

The Government of Nepal has committed to a comprehensive reparations policy to be developed in conjunction with a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has yet to be established. In the meantime, it has initiated several programmes designed to provide interim relief to the victims.

Between May 2010 and February 2012, IOM Nepal implemented the project "Fairness and Efficiency in Reparations to Conflict Affected Persons in Nepal". This project was conducted in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with support from the global UN Peacebuilding Fund through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN).

Key project outcomes included developing a comprehensive reparations policy with accompanying administrative tools; designing a data collection and registration strategy for victims and beneficiaries; and designing standard operating procedures (SOPs)

and guidelines for processing reparation claims.

IOM also engaged in a mapping exercise and gap analysis of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction's (MoPR) ongoing Interim Relief and Rehabilitation Programme. Research findings, analysis and policy recommendations emerged from the exercise covering policy, outreach, intake, processing, registration, delivery, and control mechanisms and monitoring. The findings were shared during a joint IOM and OHCHR organized workshop on "Reparations and Interim Relief to the conflict victims in Nepal", which engaged Government officials from a range of relevant Ministries (September 2010).

IOM staff also delivered training modules on reparations and transitional justice for relevant Government bodies.

IOM continues to provide support to the Government in the implementation of the relief to conflict victims through targeted technical assistance, capacity building and needs assessments. In particular, IOM is providing technical assistance to Nepal's Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to ensure the effective access to the "Victims Assistance Processes". This includes establishing a "Centralized Database for Conflict Affected Persons Assistance (CD-CAP)" on past and ongoing victim assistance programmes.

For more information, kindly contact lpr@iom.int