

A Report on assistance to IDPs Returnees of Dailekha Jajarkot and Dadeldhura

Background: People who were compelled to leave their home town due to various reasons were known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Generally people become IDPs due to the natural disaster and manmade disasters i.e armed conflict and development activities. According to statistics of various UN agencies more than 20 million people across the globe are being IDPs due to these three reasons (i.e. conflict induced IDPs, disaster induced IDPs and Development induced IDPs). Nepal can't be exception to this problem. According to statistics of INSEC, 50 thousand people were displaced due to decade long Maoist insurgency, while the number of displaced people due to conflict and other reason ranges up to six hundred thousand. All the IDPs are living in a miserable condition across the country. A short assessment of INSEC in 24 districts of Mid and Far western in August 2007, reveals that a total 5,839 people of 1034 household have been found in the place of displacement at the district headquarter and adjoining places. To resolve the problem of rehabilitating IDPs and to extend them support the Nepal government have been formulated 'A policy on IDPs 2063 BS' and is also mulling to announce an integrated rehabilitation package. In the same manner, human rights organization INSEC and Nepal Red Cross Society have been running assistance to IDP returnees project in 24 districts of Mid and Far western Region with technical support of Save the Children US and financial support from USAID.



IDPs going in the place of origin by bus

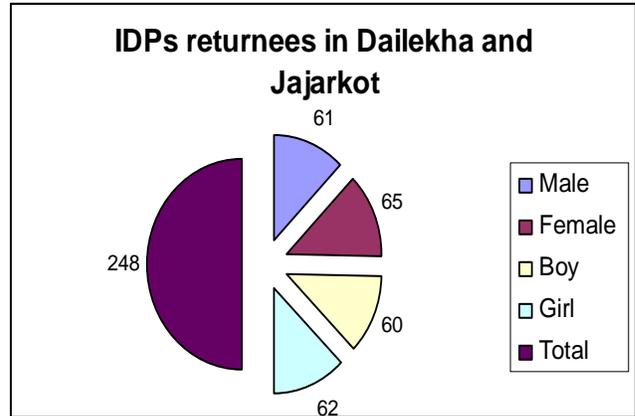
According to the study Dailekha Jajarkot and Dadeldhura are also the most conflict affected district in the mid west and far west region in Nepal respectively. Due to Maoist insurgency many general people as well as the politicians and professionals were displaced from their own home town and compelled to live in the district headquarter and adjoining district headquarter like Surkhet and Banke. Some of them were also crossed the border and went to INDIA only for the security point of view. After signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) on 5 November 2005, IDPs were encouraged to return back in the place of origin and a total 248 IDP (including 65 female 60 boy and 62 girl) of 46 households from Dailekh and Jagarkot districts had returned to their place of origin from Surkhet on 30th December 2007 at the mediation of INSEC and financial and technical support from USAID and save the Children respectively. Of the returnees, 142 people were of Dailekha and 106 of Jagarkot

Surkhet is a regional headquarters of Mid western development region, which is considered as the origin of decade long Maoist insurgency. Due to lack of proper shelter to displace people they were scatter here and there and some of them were went INDIA Himanchal Pradesh too to survive and worked as daily wage laborers.



IDPs of Jajarkot going on the way to in origin places

Similarly, displaced people of Jumla, had already returned to their places of origin at the mediation of INSEC, while some of them returned voluntarily. However the exact data of displaced people and returnees is not available yet. That's why INSEC launched an assessment to identify IDPs through the interview in the mid and far western region in the place of displacement. A total of 5839 people of 1034 families were found living as IDPs in the place of displacement. Among them 534 people of 70 households were found in the place of displacement at Surkhet district. They were living at Surkhet being displaced from Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekha, Rolpa and Kanchanpur districts. During their displaced life, IDPs themselves had installed some small enterprises i.e. tea shop, small shop, hotel and labour in the community as well as working as daily wage earners. It is difficult to say that all conflict induced IDPs would return in the place of origin even after restoration of peace as they have poor economic condition and they generated some sort of enterprise for their livelihood. Therefore we have to classify the IDPs into three groups. One is settled IDPs in the place of displacement, and second is returnees and next one rest of people, who wants to return in the place of origin. Therefore, we have to know how many people were displaced during the conflict from each district and analyze the status of IDPs. Similarly, the government and other line agencies should launch the rehabilitation program in the need base of IDPs to rehabilitate or repatriate IDPs in proper manner.



**INSEC's Activities:
Farewell program**

A public program was organized on 30th December 2007 at Birendranagar of Surkhet to bid farewell to the IDPs of Dailekha and Jajarkot respectively. Speaking at the program former minister and UML leader Mr. Yam Lal Kandel said that political parties should be honest to fulfill

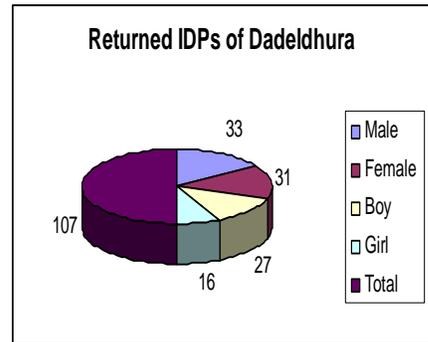


people's rights and requested to Maoist to respect peoples rights honesty. He also expressed commitment to help for

rehabilitation of IDPs. Like wise regional coordinator of INSEC Mr. Bhola Mahat said "it is the ongoing program of INSEC and many of IDPs already going back their origin in Rolpa, Jumla and others districts and congratulated them for being able to return to their place of origin. Mahat also requested to the political parties and other government authorities to be honest on the government policy and program to fulfill the people's rights. Similarly, In charge of Maoist, Mr. Krishna Dhamal (Gambhir) congratulated to the returnees IDPs and requested to believe to Maoist and he also promised to make conducive environment to the IDPs. Similarly, Mr. Dhurba Devkota Program manager of save the children US announced the package from the help through the Red Cross and role of INSEC to rehabilitate IDPs and congratulated IDPs for being able to return to their places of origin safely. Likewise, Mr. Nawa Raj Rawat, UML secretary,

Shyam Bharati, Secretary NC, Moti Lal Poudel Chairmain of FNJ Surkhet and Krishna Murari Ghimire NRC Surkhet also address the program .As the same Indra Lal Giri , Jaya Bahadur Singh and Dal Badr. Khadka addressing the farewell program and requested all concerned organizations to provide support to IDPs immediately to make conducive environment for their return. A total 300 people including representative of Political parties, Journalist, representative of NGOs/INGOs and civil society members as well as IDPs had participated in the program conducted by Puskar Nath Pandey, protection coordinator of Assistance to the IDPs returnees in Nepal program.

Similarly, a public program was organized on 7th January 2008 at Kanchanpur and 8th January 2008 at Dadeldhura district headquarter to bid farewell to the IDPs of Dadeldhura to return their place of origin. A total 107 people of 20 households returned to their place of origin. Of the total returnees, 31 were female, 27 were boys and 16 were girls. Most of them were Brahmin Chettri family. Among them 5 family returned from Kanchanpur district after being



displaced from Dadeldhura due to decade long Maoist insurgency. In the farewell program, Coordinator of INSEC far western regional office, Khadak Raj joshi, Coordinator of Campaign for peace program Mr. Devendra Adhikari , Chief district officer of Dadeldhura Mr. Dill Bahadur Ghimire and Mr. Sher Bahadur Dhat-from Nepali congress, Pathan Sing Bohora From UML, Lokendra Dhami from CPN Maoist, Gajendra Sing, former president of DDC Dadeldhura, Hari Kumari Gurung from Save the Children US and others human rights activists and journalist had participated the farewell program and gave best wishes to the IDPs to go back in the place of origin. Leaders of all the political parties expressed their commitment to support IDPs on their way to their place of origin. DAO distributed relief fund to the IDPs returnees as per the national policy and directives on IDPs. As well as Nepal Red Corss society of Dadeldhura was distributed NFI (noon food Item) to the IDPs returnees to make their livelihood easy. INSEC had arranged transportation facility for

the departure of IDPs to their places of origin.

Reconciliation meeting:

Reconciliation programmes were organized in places of origin of IDPs. Local Maoist leaders, representatives of other political parties, local community members as well as conflict victims had participated in such reconciliation programmes. The key stakeholders including



Maoist renewed their commitment in the local level to abide by the commitments expressed in district level. Such reconciliation meetings were held in Salleri, Chauratha and Bindrasaini in Dailekha district and Thalaha, Talegoun, Khalanga and

Rokaya Goun of Jajarkot district. Nearly five hundred people had participated in the program. The reconciliation program helped to sensitize the local level stakeholders to be responsible for fulfillment of commitment to the IDPs returnees.

Local and national media and journalists were mobilized to spread the commitment of the key stakeholders at the national and local level. The programme received wide media coverage in local as well as national media.

Preparations are and monitoring Nepal governmental representatives of civil society in district



underway to form a IDP returnees follow up committee comprising representative of the Government, representatives of non organizations working in the field, seven political parties and members of the the respective district Dailekha and Jajarkot

Problems findings in the place of origin:

- Due to geographic difficulties of hilly region and dishonesty of government authorities they have been facing difficulties to get support from government's side in time. Government authorities have not made proper plan and proper mechanism according to IDPs policy and directive to release government relief package in time.
- Most of the houses of IDPs have to be renovated and maintained.
- Lack of clothes, utensils as well as agriculture tools.
- Lack of food and most of the cultivate land have found changing into fallow land.
- Lack of school support to the children
- Problems to reintegrate small children in the place of origin who were born in the place of displacement. They are unhappy to go to the remote places
- Most of the IDPs have difficulties to left place of displacement due to causes and connection of their some professional activities during the period of displacement. So that they have to move in the place of displacement frequently.

Achievements:

- The district level stakeholders including Maoist and others political parties, non governmental agencies became positive and optimistic to create conducive environment to the returnees IDPs.
- A total 248 IDP (including 65 female 60 boy and 62 girl) population of 46 households among them 142 of Dailekha and 106 of Jajarkot, who had been living in miserable condition at Surkhet were able to go back to their residential places. Likewise a total of 107 IDPs of 20 households of Dadeldhura able to go back in the origin places.
- The local Maoists and villagers welcomed to the IDPs people and team putting tika and playing drums.
- All political parties of Dailekah district promised to provide relief from the VDC expenditure inviting VDCs council meeting in Salleri, Chauratha and Bindrasaini VDCs.
- Redcross Dailekha and Jajarkot had provided non food Item to the IDPs.
- DAO Dailekh had promised to call an emergency meeting of 7 political parties and others key stakeholders to provide support to the returnees.

Following process were taken to return IDPs in their origin places:

- Assessment of IDPs
- Meeting with District level Stakeholders
- Held meetings with political parties

- Held meetings and orientation with IDPs
- Held meeting between political parties and IDPs
- Organized public program and media campaign
- Mobilized political parties and human rights activists
- Organized reconciliation program and interaction at community level
- Door to Door visit and fact findings
- Developing follow up mechanism

Government had formed a national policy and directives on IDPs and declared a relief package to the IDPs returnees, who were displaced due to the decade long Maoist insurgency. As per the provision of directives and policy, IDPs have to register in CDO office as IDPs and have to get identity card from the district verification committee. They will be able to get the government announced package as IDPs when they get registered in CDO office in the place of displacement. But in the most of districts, IDPs are still unable to get the relief package due to lack of proper mechanism and different perception of Chief district officer (CDO). Some, chief district officers are denying to register IDPs and they are discouraging IDPs and conflict victims. The IDPs of Dailekha and Jajarkot, who were living in Surkhet as IDPs went in the CDO office Surkhet and applied for registration as IDPs but CDO of Surkhet denied receiving applications. He discouraged to the IDPs to go back in the place of origin even though they went in the place of origin from the support of INSEC. But unfortunately the IDPs of Dailekha and Jajarkot have deprived from the government support and now they are fighting to get relief package in the place of origin.

Instead that, the IDPs of Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura and Rolpa got government support as per the provision of IDPs directives and policy and were encouraged to go back in the place of origin

Learning:

- The activities should match with government activities and planning. Unless and until matching activities with government activities the campaign will not be effective.
- The package of rehabilitation program should launch simultaneously at community level for the support or reparation of others conflict victims.
- Local level dialogue, negotiation and counseling should launch with the community level, teachers, local level leaders as well as conflict victims and women youth and government personnel to change them as the need of new Nepal. We have to practice new idea as well as new behavior at local level as well as national level to realize the loktantra (democracy) to the people in grass root.
- IDPs need counseling support to encourage them good communication and collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders is most to rehabilitation of IDPs.

Conclusion:

To return conflict induced IDPs in their origin places is a very challenging job. The civil and political rights of the people were violated after they became displaced. Unless and until all the displaced people were able to return to their places of origin they could not be able to enjoy their fundamental rights. To make favorable environment for IDPs to return to their places of origin, a reputed organization and human rights activists could play vital role as a mediator and they could sensitize the stakeholders on these issues. Both protection and material support should be provided immediately to the IDPs to make their daily life easy. Follow up teams

should be mobilized to ensure protection of IDPs and ensure the proper utilization of support materials provided to them.

Recommendations:

The team of human rights activists and journalists have recommended to the key stakeholders to make favorable condition to the IDPs for safe and sustainable return.

Recommendation to the government of Nepal

- Immediately formulate necessary policies and announce relief package not only to the IDPs but also other conflict victims like family of killed persons, family of disappeared people. It also helps to fulfill the necessities of victims and they also contribute to integrate IDPs in society, otherwise the social confrontation may arise in the local community.
- Provide support to the leading human rights organizations to facilitate as a mediator to make conducive environment to the returnees IDPs and rehabilitation of others conflict victims.
- Immediately provide appropriate compensation on the basis of loss of property to the IDPs and others conflict victims for their reparation in the society.
- Make special arrangements for enrolment of child returnees to the schools at their places of origin.

Recommendation to the CPN Maoist

- Give orientation to local cadres about the policy and principles of IDPs as well as comprehensive peace accord and provision of interim constitution.
- Always be ready as a watchdog to monitor the situation.
- Hold dialogue with IDPs and conflict victims to find the shortcoming of IDPs
- Organize reconciliation programs between party cadres and IDPs and others conflict victims to ensure their protection.
- Immediately released all captured properties of IDPs and others conflict victims.

Recommendation to the others political parties

- Start political activities in the remote villages as well where the vulnerable communities are living in the critical situation.
- Hold numbers of meetings between political parties and others stakeholders to resolve any political deadlock and other problems.
- Assess to the conflict victims without discrimination.

Recommendation to the UN agencies and others INGOs

- Organize close monitoring in the vulnerable communities where as the IDPs and others conflict victims are living in the difficult situation and discuss with concern stakeholders to pressurize the government to make conducive environment to the IDPs.
- Contact local human rights organization to monitor in the vulnerable area and to work as local mediator.
- Provide assistance to the IDPs and others conflict victims as per their requirements.

Recommendation to the human rights organization and civil societies:

- Work with strong commitment to facilitate and make conducive environment to returnees IDPs.
- Coordinate and mediate between IDPs and others stakeholders.
- Work as watchdog to avoid probable conflict in vulnerable areas.
- Provide counseling service to rehabilitated people and other conflict victims

- Massively organize reconciliation programmes with knowledge about human rights and humanitarian laws at the community level.
- Work as bridge between service providers and conflict victims

Case Study 1:

"We can live in our home and village"

Pabitra Khadka-35 of Sallaeri -4 Dailekha was displaced on 2060 BS due to Maoist insurgency. Maoist wanted to join her husband as combatant but he was reluctant to join the party. Khadka fled from the home town to Dailekha Narayan Municipality on 2060 Kartik 11 to save their life from Maoists. Maoists threatened her that if her husband could not join he will die in Maoist attack. That's why they compelled to leave her home town and living as IDPs in Dailekha. After living in Dailekha for a month they moved at Himanchal Pradesh in INDIA with family and survived 14 months after doing hard labor before returning back to Surkhet and engaged in a small tea shop.

During her displaced life, she faced a lot of problem like food for family, shelter and others social problems. She has depression and anxiety to leave her property. Now they went her home town 4 years back in the mediation of INSEC. She is getting NFI, tools and seeds for better livelihood. Her farms was uncultivated and have become bushy, her house ruined due to lack of care and have to maintenance. After returning her home town on 15th December 2007, she is happy with her family members and said "now we can live because we are in own house and village"

Case Study 2

Jaya Bahadur Singh-45 of Tale Goun VDC Jajarkot was a member of CPN UML of that village. He was beaten, threatened and humiliated by Maoists for not supporting their ideology. Not only this, he was charged around one hundred thousands rupees as donation, when he rejected to help Maoists to take 15 persons youth in the Maoist party and denied to supply 150 meter Army cloths for PLA. He was abducted by Maoists and kept him in Maoist custody for 5 days. Singh was a member of community forest, and Maoists blame him of corruption only because of political reason. Following the incident, he was displaced along with members at chhinchu of Surkhet. Then, he went INDIA and became labour for survival and his wife also started supplying local alcohol at local market at INDIA during her displacement life. Then they returned again at Chhinchu and started a small fruits shop. After 9 years they were able to return at their home town and became happy.

Not only Jay Bahadur Singh, Hemanta Bohara, Hansa Bahadur Rokaya, Dal Bdr Sing, Nar Bahadur Shahi, Ram Bahdur Shai, Chandra Sunwar, Ratana Adhikari, Khamba Prasad Rokaya and Pampha Devi Kahatri of Laha VDC were also shared same torture and pain from the Maoists and displaced from their place of origin only to save their life.

Case study: Devi Thapa returned her origin place Gakheth Dadeldhura

A 35 years old Devi Thapa was a women health volunteer when she was displaced by Maoists on the charge of making dollors on the name of people. As a health worker, she used to go to the headquarter Dadeldhura for her office work but Maoists had charged her of spying against them and threatened to kill. Therefore she left her house Kimad Gakhet and displaced at Dadeldhura headquarter on 2061.

During her displacement, she was compelled to do hard labor for her family. Her husband is blind and son and daughter are small kids, so she is solely responsible for earning bread and butter to her entire family. She had paid 800 house rent at displaced place. Due to lack of proper support of government, during the displacement period she had to stay with empty stomach for some days when she failed to earn for their livelihood. On 8th January 2008, she went back her home town with others displaced people. After being able to return to her village she said now our miserable days had gone and we are happy to be back in our place of origin.

