

## **Formation and Mobilization of Spouse Groups are Contributing to Promote Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking**

NEEDS Nepal is implementing a "Enhancing Safe Labor Migration through Capacity Strengthening of the Targeted Beneficiaries in Doti and Kanchanpur Districts Project" from 1st January 2021 with funding support of AWO International/BMZ. It is a 3-year project. Under this project, NEEDS Nepal has formed 10 spouse groups as a social structures including Doti and Kanchanpur districts. The spouse's group has a 20 member's committee with five major positions and the rest of 15 are general members. There are five major positions such as chairperson-1, vice-chairperson-1, secretary-1, vice-secretary-1, and treasurer-1 in the group. Additionally, there is a 3-member advisory committee consisting of respective ward chairperson, a member of elected Dalit women member and a field staff of NEEDS Nepal. The members of the spouse groups mobilize as their role and responsibility. The groups were formed in coordination and consultation with respective municipalities (local government). The advisory committee provides suggestions and support for institutional development and effective function. In total, 200 spouses of migrants have been united in 10 spouse groups. Groups have prepared simple rules/norms for group mobilization. Members of spouse groups have capacitated on safe migration, foreign employment and anti-human trafficking. The members of spouse groups raise awareness on safe migration, anti-human trafficking, and advocacy on social issues like gender-based violence (GBV, domestic violence), etc. The spouse groups conduct meeting every month and review the progress status of the previous month's decisions and prepare the plan for the next month. The spouse groups provide information to potential migrants, returnee migrants, and community peoples on what they do and don't when migrating to India and abroad. Similarly, the spouse groups provide information on the safe migration process, the process of foreign employment, anti-human trafficking, the hand washing process, and preventive measures to be safe from COVID infection. The spouse groups have started micro-saving and credit programs. Each member saves NPR 100 to 200 per month in the group. In total, 10 spouse groups have saved approximately NPR 164 thousand and mobilized the amounts as a loan within the members for livelihood/entrepreneurship development. Groups take a 12% interest rate per annual for the loan. The saving and credit program has been solving the day-to-day difficulties of the members. 161 members of spouse groups are opened bank account out of 200 members from 10 groups for facilitating safer remittance. Additionally, 93 community members are also opened bank account in leading of spouse groups.