

# FROM QATAR'S WORLD CUP SLAVES TO TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS?

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“They treat us like animals.”

Nepali construction migrant worker in Qatar

**Abstract**

The Newest Himalayan Republic is still recovering from the groans and devastations of the recent Earthquake. The deaths and rubbles have to be cleared. The entire nation has to be rebuilt. In fact, most of the country needs to be 'newly-built'. Our proposal is simply a brainstorming of how can we mobilize Nepali migrant's construction expertise in the 'new-building' of Nepal. The construction workers cannot wait to avoid the harsh working condition. minimal pay, and forceful contracts. Their despair of being away from the 'loved ones' further fuels this cause of returning home. However, the missing part of the puzzle is what will they do when they return to Nepal? We propose to change the condition that forced them to leave their homeland in the first place. The Nepali diaspora to developed countries such as the UK can fill this gap through social entrepreneurship in the 'new-building' process by using their financial and managerial expertise to reintegrate the Nepali migrants in Qatar.

*JEL Classifications:*

*Key Words:*

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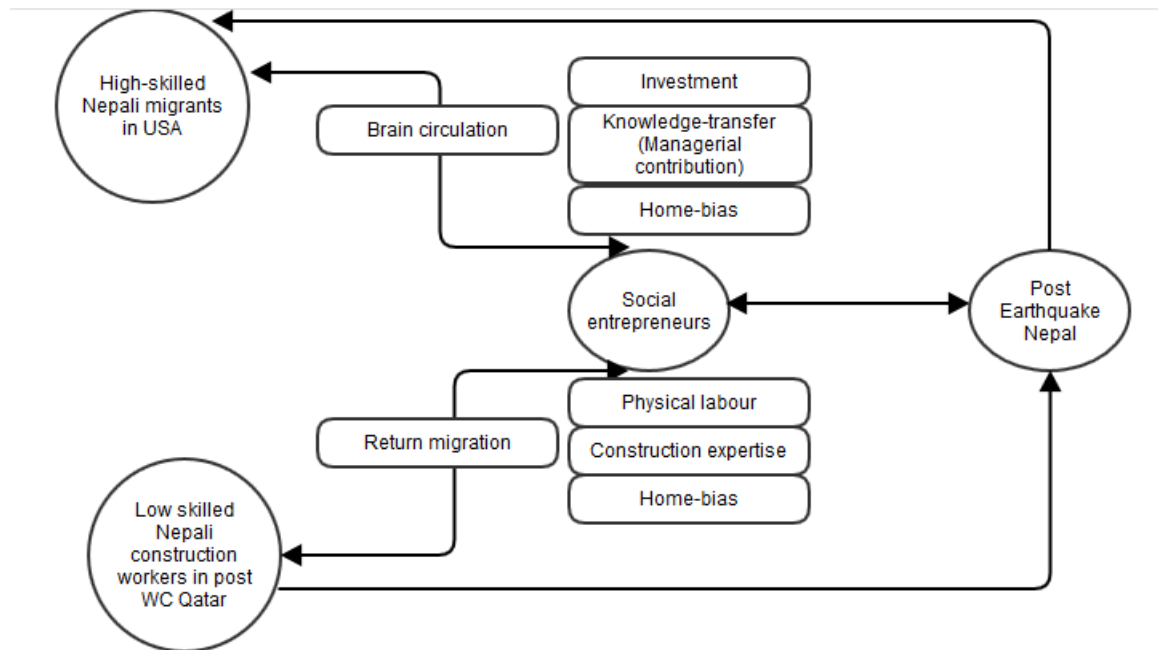
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## 1 Introduction

Not only is Nepal one of the poorest countries but the recent 2015 earthquakes has put further burden on families and the country at large. There is a long road ahead for recovery. Further to the misery, labour migrants from Nepal work under precarious conditions. This is very much the case of Nepali migrants employed in construction sites in Qatar in preparation for the upcoming 2022 World Cup. Even after building the stadiums and additional infrastructure, the Nepali migrants are compelled to return to their home country, as a result of the short-term employment contracts. Moreover, the recent earthquakes have put home at the fore-front of minds as well, not to mention that the demand for low-skilled labour migrants will for sure decline after 2022 World Cup. In order to have a clear picture of the current working conditions of Nepali migrants in Qatar and their desire to return, we conducted interviews through social media. One of our team members from Nepal prepared questionnaires in Nepali and sent it to his friends who are currently working in Qatar. Despite limited internet usage skills upon their receipt of the questionnaires, they filled it out by hand and sent them back to us in pictorial form. After receiving the questionnaires back, the Nepali team member translated the answers into English.

With regard to the earthquake, many Nepali diaspora members through collaboration across borders have pursued opportunities to support their country during this heart-breaking moment. In particular, it is the highly skilled Nepali diaspora communities settled in the West who are involved in such initiatives. We seek to tap into these collaborative efforts, and link that to the overall subject of return migration and development.

Post-earthquake Nepal is in shambles. Many experts and locals alike have raised several voices regarding how Nepal must be 'newly'-built and not just rebuilt. A new building of a nation requires a long-term vision and significant planning. While the government in collaboration with other civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations plans to launch the major rebuilding process of the country starting 5-6 years from now, it is predominantly addressing the immediate living needs through temporary shelters.

**Figure 1:** Our project in brief

As explained in figure 1, we aim our project to be a major component of this rebuilding process by introducing a sustainable solution. For this we want to assist the governmental proposal of rebuilding the country by tapping into the Nepali high-skilled diaspora in the developed countries. Not only do the highly skilled Nepali diasporas pose as source of profound financial and managerial abilities and knowledge, but also there is the innate desire to contribute to the social and economic development of their homeland. The rise in Nepali diasporas in developed countries and their involvement with several diverse entrepreneurship projects is a testament to this. Both the diasporas from Qatar and other developed countries are desperate to contribute their share to ‘newly’ build Nepal. However, physical and visionary distance separates them miles apart.

The low-skilled Nepali migrant workers lack the required investment and their ability to supervise an enterprise while their highly-skilled diasporas lack the devoted workforce. Thus, we aim to unite these diasporas under a common cause. We strongly believe in the great potential of uniting the various diaspora members for the pursuit of a social impact in their home country. As earlier mentioned, our project aims to provide a platform for three actors; the Nepali high skilled diaspora in the developed countries, low-skilled Nepali migrants working in construction sites in Qatar, and the local communities existing post-earthquake Nepal. In focusing on the specificities, it will be the case that we involve two sets of migrants, the high skilled and the low skilled, and in different ways; with the low-skilled Nepali migrants physically returning while the high-skilled migrants in the UK community,

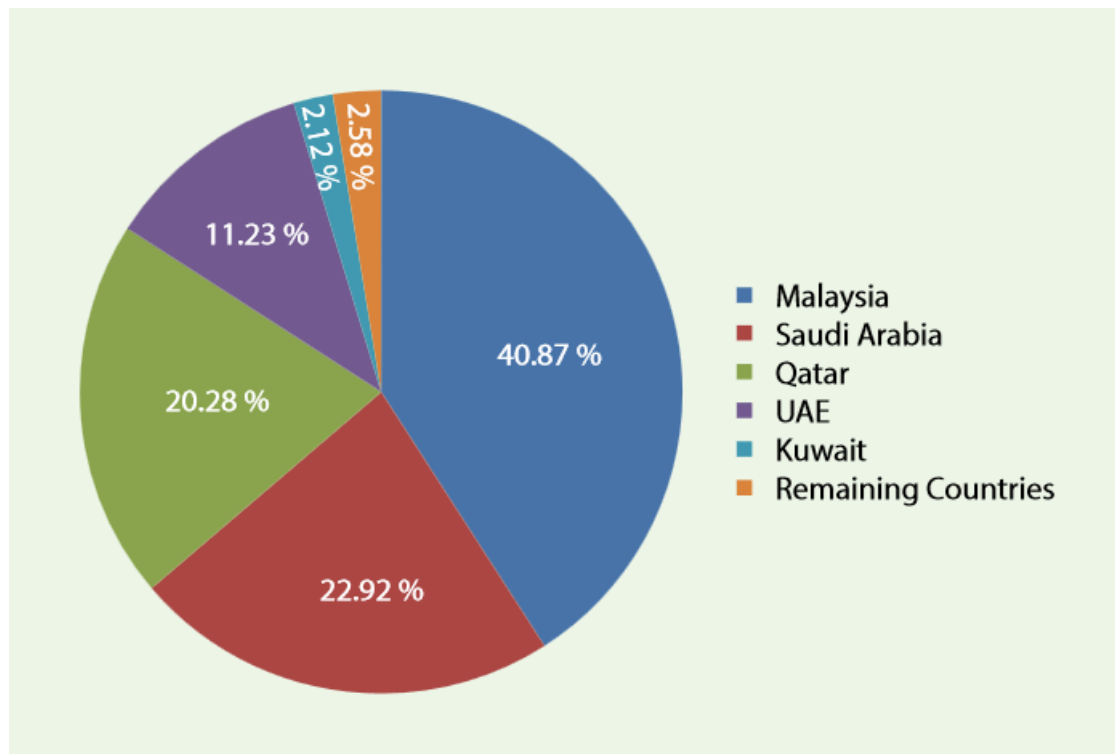


the diaspora community of focus, returning their ideas and resources.

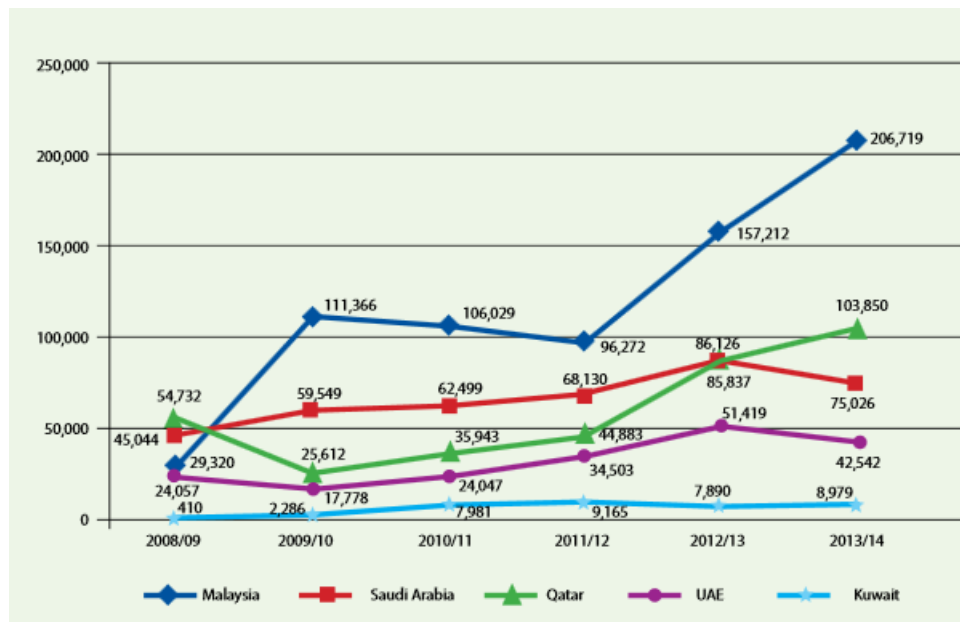
We wish to offer the return migrants employment as a means of sustainable development, which will help in the construction of their broken homes and livelihood after the earthquakes. For this new “reconstruction”, we first propose to generate a perpetual source of income for the low skilled return migrants through investing in a major social entrepreneurship activity. We can only change the face of Nepal by transforming socioeconomic standards of Nepali societies in giving them durable opportunities. Social entrepreneurship poses the ideal solution to not only improve the economic situation of the country but also enhance the social aspects within Nepal. Who can be better social entrepreneurs than Nepal’s own members in the diaspora. By converging both their resources, an immense potential will be unfolded in order to make sustainable changes in the country. Social entrepreneurship can take various forms. In this proposal, the focus will be on hydropower projects as water is one of the most important resource within Nepal. Not only will the return migrant and the close kinship benefit from this promising proposal, but eventually, entire communities in Nepal.

## **2 The Trajectories of Nepali Migrants in Qatar and their Dead-End Return**

Labour migration to the Gulf States makes up one of the largest migration flows in the present world (Gardener 2012: 41). The following diagrams illustrate Gardener’s view. For instance, Figure 2 and Figure 3 show that Qatar is within the top destination countries for migrant workers.

**Figure 2:** Top-five destinations for labour migrants, 2008/09 –2013/14

(a) Source: Department of Foreign Employment borrowed from Labour Migration for Employment A Status Report for Nepal: 2013/2014

**Figure 3:** Trend in the top-five destination countries for all labour migrants (excluding individual applicants), 2008/09–2013/14

(a) Source: Department of Foreign Employment borrowed from Labour Migration for Employment A Status Report for Nepal: 2013/2014

A theme that has emerged within decades of academic analysis is the precarious working

conditions experienced by the poorest labour migrants in Qatar (Gardener 2012: 42). Experience shows that most migrant workers are enduring considerable hardships during their sojourn in the Gulf region (Longva 1999: n.p.). Many migrants receive less pay than they were contractually promised; work longer hours than their contracts originally indicated; do not get paid promised wages ; have their passports typically get confiscated thereby significantly impeding their ability to leave problematic employment situations; live in conditions that are often extremely difficult and these migrants have essential difficulties asserting their basic rights in these foreign states (Gardener 2012: 42-43).

The following statements of the Nepali construction migration workers in Qatar confirm the precarious working conditions in Qatar.

“It’s almost like enslaved labour. We are simply sold for money. [...] For lodging we have shed made by the company which are extremely polluted and unsafe. They treat us like animals”

Krishna Prasad Pokhrel

“For lodging, we have to share a room among five to six people in a single room and make our own food.”

Bishnu Prasad Ghimira

Majority of our respondents echo this view.

Qatar and other Gulf states have been subjected to scathing criticism for various human rights violations endured by migrants throughout the region (Gardener 2013: 8-9).

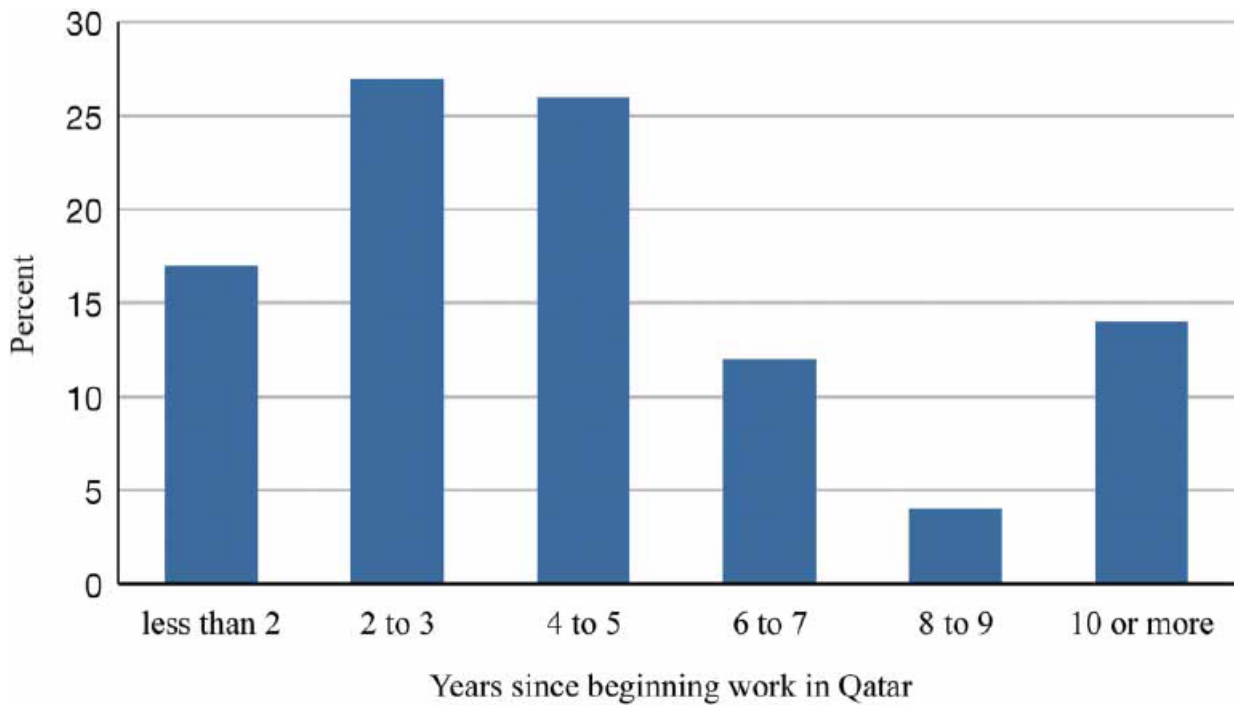
A decision by the Qatari government to increase the number of Nepali migrants in Qatar resulted in a sudden increase of Nepali migration (Endo and Afram 2011: xi). Qatar has become one of the top destinations for Nepali migrant workers (Endo and Afram 2011: 1). Along with Qatar’s continued economic growth, various factors drive migration from Nepal such as poverty, high level of unemployment and slow economic growth (Endo and Afram 2011: xi). Nepal is in general a dominant source of labour migrants to the Gulf region (Pokhrel 2011: 17). Nepalis currently make up the second largest migrant group in Qatar (Endo and Afram 2011: 1). Many of these workers are employed in the construction industries as unskilled laborers (Endo and Afram 2011: xi). Evidently, the largest of low-income workers in Qatar actually originate from Nepal (Gardener et al. 2013: 4).

With regard to the World Cup 2022 to be hosted by Qatar, many Nepali have set off for work. The thousands of these Nepali migrant workers are enduring horrendous work conditions in Qatar’s preparations to host the 2022 World Cup (Pattisson 2013). According

to the ILO, the Nepali migrant workers in Qatar face exploitation that amount to modern-day slavery (Pattisson 2013). Pete Pattisson (2013) even states that ‘there is no longer a risk that the World Cup might be built on forced labour. It is already happening.’ Qatar is not only recruiting workers in view of the upcoming 2022 World Cup, but with its large gas reserves, high growth rates, big construction projects, it inevitably requires a high supply of labour (Endo and Afram 2011: xi).

Economic theories of international migration state that people from underprivileged areas will move to where the money is (Kamrava and Babar 2012: 3). Today, the per-capita income differential between countries is a very significant factor than ever in explaining migration (Alonso 2011: 8). Migration in this framework means movement to a country whose average level of life is much higher and opportunities are greater. In this context, we should not be surprised when people try to overcome international inequalities through personal initiatives, which mean emigrating from places with few opportunities to destinations offering more. That said, for people to decide to migrate, it is not enough that inequalities exist; the probability of access to stable jobs heavily drives migration movements.

Another important characteristic of migration to the Middle East is that it is temporary and for a fixed period of time, because these labour migrants are contract workers (Longva 1999: n.p.). Labor migrants are always contract workers, implying a return to their home country upon the expiry of their contract (Longva 1999: n.p.). As we can note from figure 4, the low-income migrants’ stay in Qatar in 2012 is mostly between two to three years.

**Figure 4:** Duration of low-income migrants' stay in Qatar, 2012

(a) Source: Gardener et al. 2013

Initially the period is limited to one to two years at the end of which the migrants must return home. Any exception to this would be through further renewal of the contract. This is true for all low-skilled migrants in the Middle East (Mahmood 1991: 238). Figure 4 confirms that the low-income laborers in Qatar remain a temporary and transnationally cyclical labour force (Gardener et al. 2013: 5).

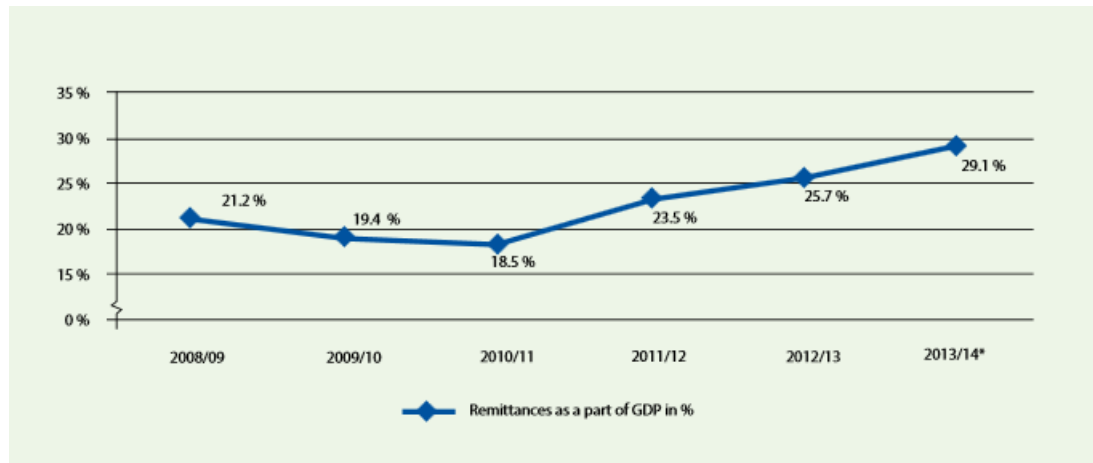
According to Gardener et al. (2013: 5), the average intended stay for Nepali migrants is about 2.6 years. Given this temporary nature, all migrants to this region are eventually destined to return home after their contract expires. While return migration is usually viewed to be insignificant, we consider it to be very impactful. Return is often associated with failure of the migrant in the host country. Cerase (1974: 249) attaches to those who fail to secure an income abroad the term 'return of failure'. The migrant's successes and achievements are evaluated by the society of origin based on the amount of remittances sent back to the family (Cerase 1974: 250). Hence, return migration is not a simple act. Scholars view these kind of return migrants hardly as agents of change (Tiemoko 2004: 158).

Nevertheless, policy makers and practitioners increasingly look at migrants as a tool for development (Olesen 2003: 125). Remittances are predominantly in the forefront within the migration – development debate due to its great dimensions (Kraler and Noack 2014: 31).

## 2.1 Remittance is important to Nepal

Figure 5 demonstrates an increase in remittance trend as one of the major sources of Nepalese income.

**Figure 5:** Remittances as a percentage of GDP, 2008/09–2013/14



(a) Source: Based on data for the first eight months of the FY2013/14, Economic Survey 2014

It is no surprise that remittances attract great political interests, since they often immensely exceed Official Development Assistance (ODA) (Kraler and Noack 2014: 31). Remittance transfers from Qatar to Nepal have also been growing steadily (Endo and Afram 2011: xiii). However, the attention has recently been drawn to the fact that research on migration and development needs to move beyond remittances (Skeldon 2008: 7).

Migrants can play an active role in the development of their own country, apart from sending remittances. Economic opportunities obviously play a key role in the migration of Nepali migrants to Qatar. Nepali migrants hope that their work in Qatar or elsewhere in the Gulf will improve not only their own life situation but also that of their kinship in Nepal (Longva 1999: n.p.). Migration processes are often not only based on individual decisions but rather must be understood in the context of collective strategies (Faist et al. 2013: 30). Migration of family members pose an investment for the livelihood of the whole family left-behind (Faist et al. 2013: 30). This is a very significant trait of migration from Nepal. While the family may or may not have perfect information about the wages and conditions migrants face in Qatar, it is the family who insist upon migration (Gardener 2012: 48). The migrant supports the family from afar by sending parts of the earnings back. Remittances are the most tangible link between migration and development and therefore, predominantly in the forefront of the migration - development debate due to its great dimensions (Kraler and Noack 2014: 31). Not only do families profit from remittances, but also within many

developing countries as a whole, remittances represent a significant proportion of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) (Zachariah and Rajan 2011: 302). Remittance transfers from Qatar to Nepal have also been growing steadily (Endo and Afram 2011: xiii). These cash flows have been playing a major role in Nepal's economy over the past decade (Endo and Afram 2011: 15).

However, the attention has recently been drawn to the fact that research on migration and development needs to move beyond remittances (Skeldon 2008: 7). This subject-matter has emerged as significant area of concern for academia and policy making, as migration from the developing to the developed world can play an important role in the development of countries of origin (Agunias and Newland 2012) such as Nepal. Migrants can play an active role in the development of their own country, and in our context, Nepal. Yet, evidence suggests that return after a relatively short period abroad, especially among low-skilled migrants is unlikely to contribute to development (Nyberg-Sorensen et al. 2002: 22-23). Whether return will benefit local development depends on whether the country of origin provides a propitious social, economic, and institutional environment for the migrant to use their economic and human capital productively (Ghosh, 2000a cited in Nyberg-Sorensen 2002: 23). Upon return in Nepal, the migrants find themselves in the very same situation by facing economic desperation due to continuous unemployment. Repeated migration is therefore a common practice in Nepal (Thieme and Wyss 2005: 69). After a two- to four-year stay in one of the Gulf States, many migrants return to Nepal but migrate again after some months or years, either to the same country or another country (Thieme and Wyss 2005: 69). Return is not necessarily promoted by home governments who may have a more direct interest in continuing flows of remittances than in incorporating returnees in the local labour market (Nyberg-Sorensen et al. 2002:12). Return migrants from Nepal are in need of encouraging prospects upon return, because they pose as influential transnational actors.

Based on this context, this proposal aims to present an overlooked strategy in return migration and development. Our initiative will not diminish the impact of remittances, which the Nepali economy has long relied on but rather provide the return migrants with comparable income sources in their homeland. In this regard, we aim to set the foundation for a successful option for return migrants with spill-over effects in the socio-economic development in Nepal. The focus will be on low-skilled Nepali migrant workers in Qatar who are mainly employed in the construction sites. These workers are equally compelled to return after the expiration of their contracts. The following statements of the respondents show their willingness to return home despite the lack of economic and social opportunities.

“Nothing that Qatar offers can hold me back forever. I belong

to Nepal. That's where my home is. [...] If Nepal provides skill enhancing jobs, decent working conditions and reasonable salaries, I would gladly return to Nepal."

Prem Bahadur Chhetri

"No matter how good the working conditions are it's never easy to work in a foreign land. [...] I would like to return to Nepal. If Nepal government creates employment opportunities in Nepal, I would not like to work in this unwelcoming situation."

Bishnu Prasad Ghimire

Clearly, Nepali migrants have a strong sense of belonging to Nepal and they wish to return. The question of what awaits the migrants upon the return to their home country emerges. Will they face the same situation of unemployment, poverty and political instability, which existed prior to their step of migration?

### 3 Return Migrants as Agents of Change

The growth of a Nepali diaspora community in the West is a relatively new phenomenon (Khanal 2013: 162). In contrast to the unskilled migrants in the Qatar, migrants to the Western European countries and North America can, under certain conditions, acquire resident status and enjoy the option of staying in the host country indefinitely (Mahmood 1991: 238). This doesn't necessarily mean that these migrants won't remain attached to their home country. On the contrary, many migrants serve as crucial facilitators of capital, transferring of know-how and create useful transnational networks for development purposes. The Non-Resident Nepalese Association (NRNA) was established in 2002 by overseas Nepali migrants (Khanal 2013: 162). This association serves as a global network of Nepali migrants mobilizing the diaspora's resources for economic and social development in Nepal (Khanal 2013: 162). The highly skilled Nepali diaspora settled in the West additionally created an organization called 'Nepali Diaspora Volunteering Programme' (NDVP), which seeks on a mere voluntary basis to transmit skills and expertise of overseas Nepali professionals through development programs (Khanal 2013: 163). These networks are good ways to transfer skills and technology to transform the society.

This proposal designs a more cooperative approach between the highly skilled and the low skilled migrants, leveraging on the idea of social entrepreneurship, which will be further explored.



## 4 Engaging the Highly Skilled Diaspora (Himalayan Development International, a UK-based Nepali Community)

There are various Nepalese diaspora networks on a global scale and the aim is to approach them all. To simplify matters, the focus will be on the Himalayan Development International (HDI) of the UK. There are about 57 existing Nepali Networks in the UK. The HDI is a charitable organisation created to help the Nepali diaspora to contribute to the development of Nepal (Diaspora Volunteering Alliance n.d.). HDI encourages Nepali professionals settled in the UK to take advantage of the Nepali Diaspora Volunteering Programme (NDVP) by taking short volunteering placements in Nepal to transfer their skills and expertise by means of training. This organisation is solely focused on volunteering as a philanthropic act.

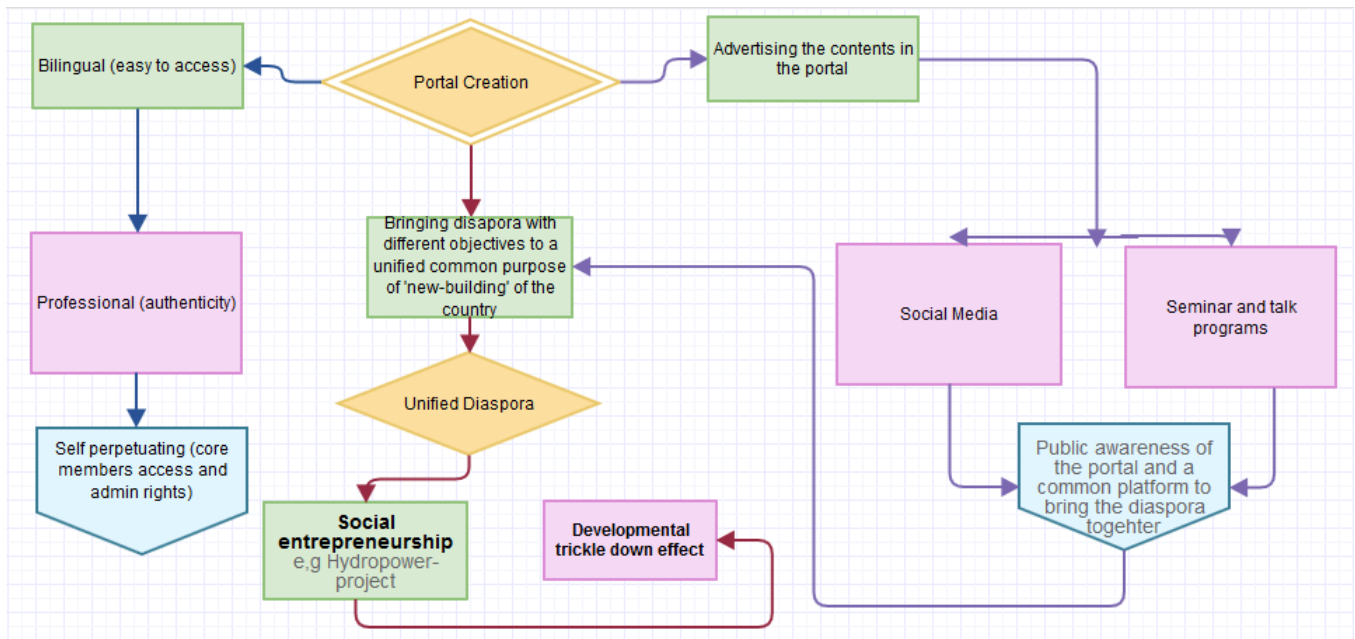
However, our aim is to propose a more sustainable solution for the Nepali community through job creation with trickle down effects on socioeconomic development overall in Nepal. “The Nepali diaspora in the UK is relatively small but is one of the fastest growing groups in the country. A nationwide survey conducted by the Centre for Nepal Studies UK in 2008 determined that over 70,000 Nepalis lived in the UK. It is estimated that the current figure is well over 100,000” (University of Oxford). Having identified this highly skilled Nepali diaspora organisation in the UK, we choose to propose our idea to them, so they can be actors of change in their own country.

In the long run, a worldwide portal will be established to connect the Nepali diaspora from all around the world. Diaspora advocacy has become more immediate and more abundant in the era of electronic communications, as the ease of organizing diaspora members across distances and national boundaries has removed old constraints (Newland 2010: 3). Web sites, discussion groups, and social networks of diaspora members have proliferated, resulting in a multiplication of the organizational potential of groups. For instance, in the immediate aftermath of the first earthquake, social media sputtered with sporadic safety reports and concerns. Facebook activated its Safety Check feature giving quick safety status updates. After two days or so, Facebook and Twitter exploded. With little disaster infrastructure in place, groups of Nepalis, foreign aid workers and academics, and the country’s diaspora, moved swiftly to organise an internet-driven response (Quartz India 2015: n.p.). That effort is still ongoing. This shows the enormous potential hidden in social media as a tool for mobilization of resources.

The ones, interested and willing to invest in this idea will be the initiators of the project. We strongly believe in the ability of Nepalis to transform their own society.

## 5 Integrating Low-skilled Migrants and Diasporas in the Developed Countries through Online Portal, Social Media and Seminars

Figure 6: Connecting diasporas



Both our actors, the low-skilled migrant workers in Post-World Cup Qatar and the high-skilled Nepali diasporas in the developed countries, on their own are very keen on contributing to a newly built Nepal. Due to physical and visionary distances, the return migrants and the highly skilled diasporas in the developed countries are not fully aware of their complementarity. They fail to envision the unfolding of their potential impact in the newly building process, if united. Through an online portal, social media, seminars, talk programs and word-of-mouth persuasion, these diasporas will be unified.

First, we will hire a professional web designer to create an online portal. Keeping in mind that most Nepali low-skilled construction workers in Qatar have minimal education, we want the portal to be both simple and bilingual. A core team consisting of selected representatives of various diaspora networks and international organizations will have administrative access to the portal.

After launching the portal, the project will be advertised to the wider Nepali diaspora community living all over the world. Mainly social media such as facebook will be used for this purpose. The coordination strength of facebook in unifying Nepali diasporas all over the world

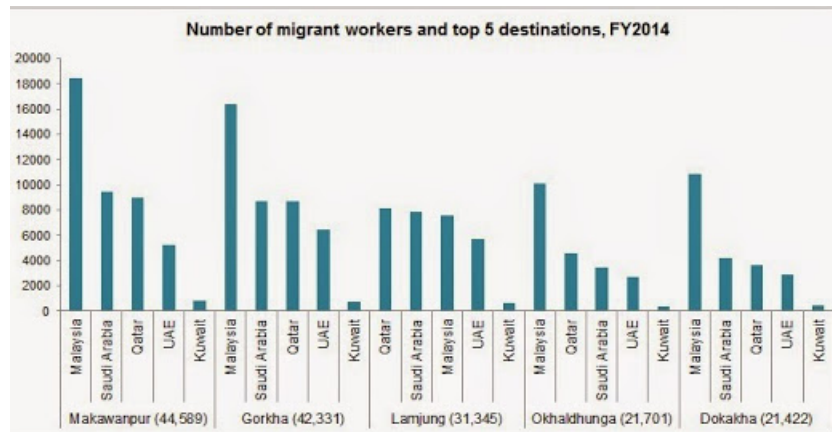
has been brought to light in the wake of the present earthquakes. The core team members will further conduct seminar and talk programs and carry out word-of-mouth persuasions to raise the awareness. We are fully aware that our initiation will start small. Our project functions under the idea of self-selection. Only those diasporas who want to contribute to the new building of Nepal will be a part of it. After all, our project will be self-perpetuating as our most-trusted core members from the self-selected diasporas can assign core membership to other trusted members. Once the diasporas are united for a common cause, using their mutual strengths a social entrepreneurship project will be launched. In fact, our first pilot hydropower project will help to earn credibility and will have developmental trickle down effects of other such projects at different nooks and corners of the country depending on the local need and diaspora presence.

## 6 Post-Earthquake Nepal

As one of the poorest country in the world, Nepal has always been in need of perpetual source of income. After the wake of the present earthquakes which claimed more than 8,000 lives and 160'786 houses, Nepal faces poverty at its worse. Not only should the rubbles be cleared but also the psychological damages should be taken into account. As the popular saying goes, "Out of every crisis comes the chance to be reborn." Therefore, offering a sustainable income with which new houses can be built, hope in the society will be stirred up. As mentioned earlier, Government in collaboration with civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations are considering a temporary reconstruction phase (first 5-6 years) and permanent new building phase (after 5 years) of the country. Therefore, our proposed unified diasporas can significantly contribute to the newly building phase of the country. In the meantime, we propose to spend first 5-6 years to unfold the diaspora potential and complementarity, while launching the pilot hydropower project, which will be explained later on. Backed by our credibility of the hydropower project, unifying diasporas with investment abilities, managerial skills, construction expertise and local communities with needs, we strongly hope that this initiative creates a perpetual and sustainable socioeconomic impact.

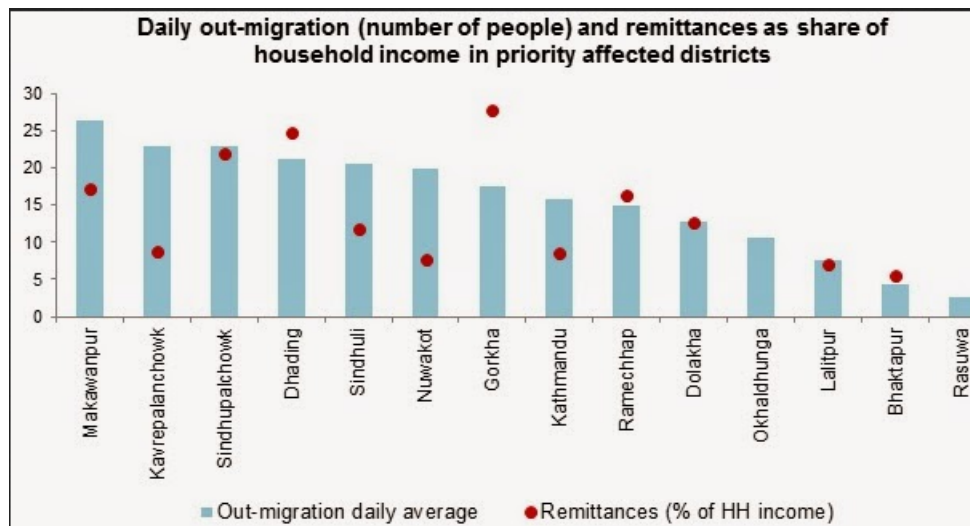
Figure 7 and Figure 8 highlight the migrants involvement in the most affected regions (districts) in Nepal at the wake of Earthquake. Given the affected districts have high reliance on migration, we know there is greater absence of people for reconstruction.

**Figure 7:** Number of migrant workers and top five destinations, FY2014 earthquake 2015 highly affected districts



(a) Chandan Sapkota's blogspot

**Figure 8:** Daily out-migration (number of people) and remittances as a share of household income in priority earthquake 2015 affected districts

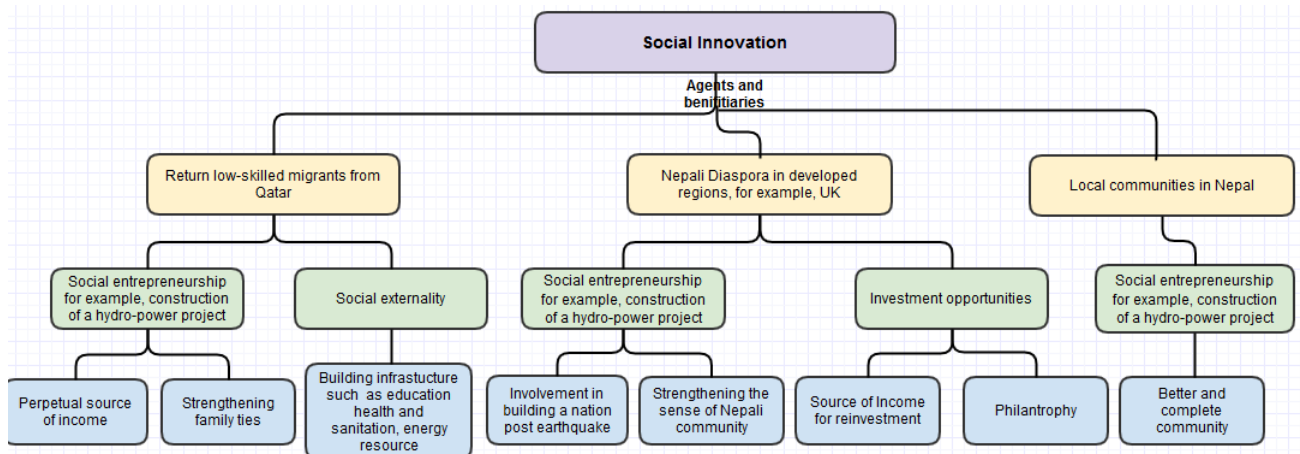


(a) Source:Department of Foreign Employment; World Bank; ADB borrowed from Chandan Sapkota's blogspot

## 7 Social Entrepreneurship

The following flow chart helps us disintegrate our concept of social entrepreneurship.

Figure 9: Inside social innovation



Firstly, the will for engagement on the part of these Nepali diaspora communities shows readiness to be of value to their country. The networks within different countries differ, though. While some are primarily made of high skilled members, it is the case that some communities consist of low-skilled migrants and this is the case in Qatar. The country location as well as available opportunities shapes the nature of groups. The Nepali networks in Qatar serve as a community for support, rather than one heavily invested in supporting the country as a whole. After all, they are barely surviving themselves. If any can make any investment at all, it is primarily indirectly, and through their support for their families left behind; a major motivation for their migration in the first place. Besides, their support is just enough to “protect”/ “stabilize” their families. Their determination causes them to press on, in spite of the precarious working conditions. The prize, which is their earnings, is worthy of that pursuit.

Having identified what drives them in Qatar, and recognizing their personal resilience, we capture these elements as essential in developing a proposal on return migration and how it can influence socio-economic development. We propose a collaboration of highly skilled and low-skilled migrants, giving the low-skilled migrants not only an opportunity to work but also the chance to equally contribute directly to their communities, and eventually, to their nation at large.

Should there be good income generating opportunities at home, some of these migrants might not have left. However, nothing substantial exists, either provided by the state or non-state actors. In asking the question of who will fill this gap, we identify the major constraint of resources, specifically, financial resources. This identification leads to the consideration and actually, proposal of the highly skilled diaspora as the principal financiers but also in the function the main drivers behind social entrepreneurial endeavours. Not only do they have

these resources, but that, they are equally motivated to contribute to the development of their country. Whether highly skilled or low skilled, the migrants wish to see change in their country of origin and by working together more potential can be harnessed.

While some members of diaspora do not go beyond making contributions to existing organizations, to specified or unspecified development activities there are some who dedicate time as well as effort to mobilize community resources, in addition to making personal financial contributions. They are the social entrepreneurs who make a lasting impact by working with the communities, though not all of them are successful (Dhesi 2010).

It is with this background that we propose a social entrepreneurship initiative, involving low-skilled and high skilled migrants. While the Nepali migrants in Qatar will physically return to be involved, the migrant community in the UK will provide support from afar. The return migrants from Qatar present in this case the ideal workforce for the social entrepreneurship pursuit, where they can earn regular income. They can not only continue to support their family, but can return in a dignified manner.

Generally, the proposition holds the tenet that whichever initiative to be undertaken needs to labour-intensive This is principally because, this initiative is supposed to be our constructed labour-market for the low-skilled migrants and the foundation of their return. Equally important is the advocacy and the prominence of decent work for these migrants. The International Labor Organization website (ILO) states that,

“decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men”.

This condition to be emphasized in Nepal is very much contrary to the precarious working conditions in Qatar. A forte of this proposition is that their “haven” in Qatar has essentially been transferred back home – to Nepal. They are still gaining wages and this is the most important factor to them. Further, these migrants involved in Qatar, are not integrated in the Qatari community and so there is no loss of attachment as they leave. A factor which would have been problematic had it been otherwise. There exists a Nepalese Chowk (Nepalese corner) in Qatar, where Nepalese movie broadcasting and artist visit on a regular basis to remind migrants of their home (Brusle 2010). Several cultural programs and Nepalese gatherings provide the feeling of being home away from home, instilling a love for the homeland (Johnson 2001). The following responses from the Nepali migrants justify this experience.

“You don’t get support from family, even when you are sick, you are on your own.”

Krishna Prasad Pokhrel

“It is painful to be away from home. Especially in the wake of this devastating earthquake. I wish I was there for my family.”

Bishnu Prasad Ghimire

“It is almost pitiful to be away. There is nothing more difficult than not being with your family.”

Prem Bahadur Chhatri

Evidently, the Nepali migrants are greatly attached to their homeland and even more so in the event of the earthquake. By engaging with this network as a starting point, the idea of their return as well as the opportunities to be provided can gradually be seeped into the community to prepare them for what will be the big move.

Specifically, given that the Nepali migrants have been involved in construction work in Qatar, in the context the preparation for the 2022 World Cup, we would like to tap into what is their expertise; construction.

In general, by forming transnational diaspora networks among the highly skilled migrants in developed countries who are devoted to realize innovative social changes and facilitate the resources, we seek to identify them as the drivers of the social entrepreneurship initiative. Social entrepreneurship poses the ideal option for return migration and development, because social entrepreneurship stimulates sustainable development through job creation. Through an effective collaboration of the highly skilled Nepali migrants with the low skilled migrants from Nepal, a social entrepreneurial venture can be established. Social entrepreneurs have innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems and drive social innovation and transformation in various fields including education, health and environment (Schwab Foundation n.d.).

## 7.1 Transnational Social Entrepreneurs

More and more scholars have increasingly noted that migrants live their lives across borders and simultaneously maintain ties to their home country, even when their countries of origin and settlement are geographically very distant. To describe this way of life, academia have begun to use the term transnational (Glick Schiller et al. 1992: ix). A transnational perspective

means that migration is an irrevocable process and contains repeated movements and above all, continued transactions such as communications between migrants and non-migrants across borders (Faist et al. 2013: 1). It is important to note that migration cannot be seen as a unilateral movement, as migrants sustain simultaneous social relations that connect together their societies of origin and settlement. Foner (1997) argues that migrants maintain ties on various levels such as familial, political, economic and cultural ties across international borders.

By a sustaining commitment to their home country's norms, values and aspirations, migrants create a single transnational space operating in different places simultaneously while taking roots in the host country (Foner 1997). This provides room for a diaspora in any host country to still be engaged in socioeconomic development efforts in their home country. Migrants' transnational ties are seen as carrying enormous potential to reduce poverty and overcome underdevelopment (Faist et al. 2013: 67). Being embedded in more than one society may put the migrant as enormous resource strength. Transnationalism is a significant foundation for this proposal. The emergence of cross-border knowledge networks of migrants and diasporic groups has contributed to the circulation of skills and expertise (Faist et al. 2013: 66). The commonly known 'brain drain' has been transformed to a 'brain gain' for many developing countries. This way, migrants especially the highly skilled migrants, can serve as a development agent from afar. Many researchers find that diaspora interventions benefit the rural area of emigration by improving facilities for education, health and other civic amenities (Dhesi 2010: 704). For this reason this proposal aims to approach Nepali diaspora networks who will serve as a channel in terms of resources.

However, diaspora face many obstacles in implementing social projects. The main barrier in the way of social entrepreneurial activity is often due to indifferent behaviour of local bureaucracies (Dhesi 2010: 704). Local institutions in many developing countries such as Nepal are largely dysfunctional and elected leaders, generally lacking moral authority, fail to undertake sustainable development efforts (Dhesi 2010: 704). Due to these dysfunctionalities and inefficiencies, a call for morally driven outside intervention is required to stimulate development in the country of origin (Dhesi 2010: 704). Many migrants remain loyal to their country of origin and are considered to be more willing to take risks due to the 'home bias' and settle for less return (Pande 2014: 41) Having identified the afore-mentioned factors of willingness, and recognizing the main barrier of diaspora communities, we propose that the engagement with the local return migrants will afford a relatively sustainable path for engagement.



## 7.2 Concept of Social Entrepreneurship

Foremost, the idea of “social entrepreneurship” means different things to different people, and so can be confusing (Dees 1998). While some have associated social entrepreneurship with not-for-profit organizations starting for-profit or earned-income ventures, others use the term to describe anyone who starts a not-for-profit organization. Also existing among the definition is the reference to business owners who integrate social responsibility into their operations (Dees 1998).

The consensus though is that social entrepreneurs focus on social problems/goals, that is, the desire to benefit society in some way or ways and there is the will to drive social change which is lasting and beneficial (Roger and Osberg, 2002, Alvord et al, 2004, Peredo, 2006). This mission, the primacy of social benefit, is seen as what distinguishes social entrepreneurship from entrepreneurship. (Roger and Osberg, 2002)

Dees (1998) states that social mission is explicit and central to entrepreneurship with mission-related impact being the central criterion, and not wealth creation. Peredo (2006: 60) mentions how Dee’s point of view of social entrepreneurship could include associations aimed at “delivering some social good or service without engaging in any form of exchange, i.e. with no “earned income” activities”. Another view is that “social entrepreneurship necessarily involves “enterprise,” in the sense of some form of income-generating venture; bent, however, not on profit but on social benefits”. (Peredo 2006: 60) Overall, the value of social benefit is what drives our proposal of a social entrepreneurial engagement and more so the economic benefits that overflow as well.

### 7.2.1 Adopted Definition

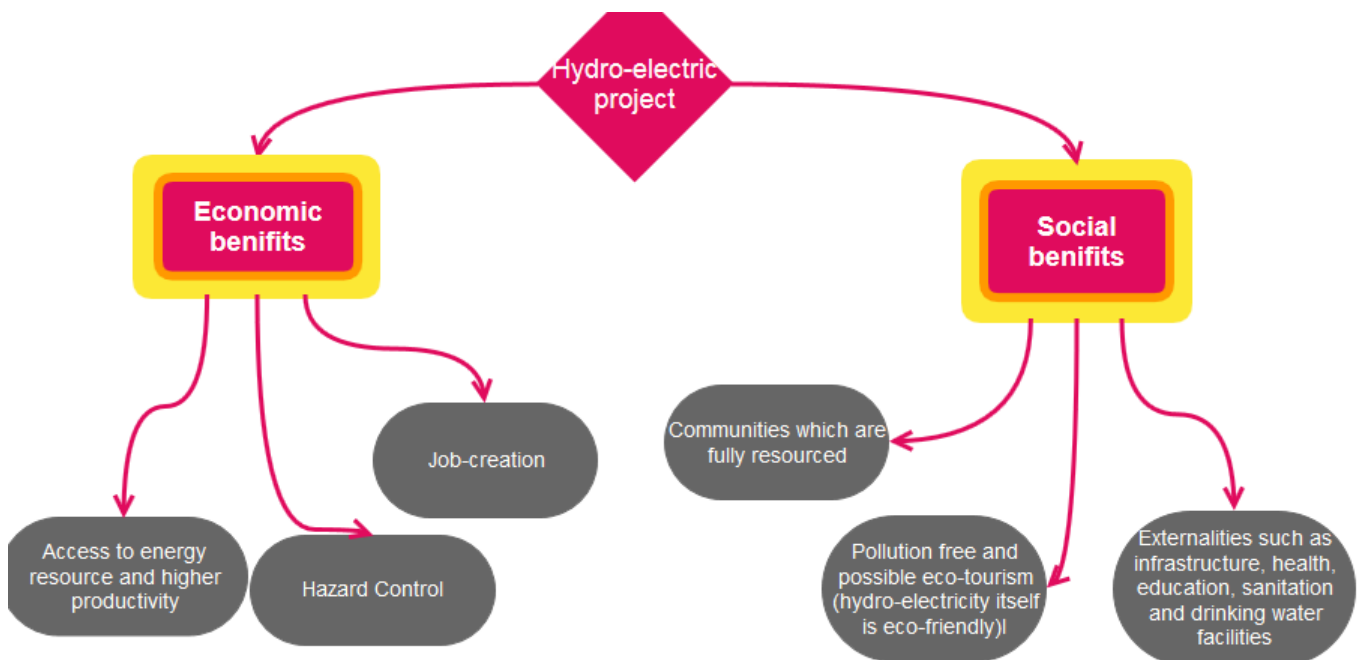
*The adopted definition understands social entrepreneurship as recognizing a gap that causes the exclusion, marginalization, or suffering of a specific group that lacks either the financial means or political clout to drive transformative benefit, creating iterative innovative initiatives (which could be new invention or adapting to other discoveries) and mobilizing resources, and acting without being limited by resources, to respond to the problems. Primarily motivated by the mission of social impact, these initiatives can be earned income, job creating or licensing, ventures undertaken by individual social entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, or non-profits in association with for profits. Social entrepreneurship can cause small changes in the short term that af-*

*fect through existing systems to effect large changes in the longer term (Alvord et al, 2004, Roger and Osberg, 2002, Dees 1998, Peredo, 2006, Ashoka, 2002)*

## 8 Syangja Hydro-power Project as an Example of Social Innovation project

The following flow-chart briefly illustrates economic and social benefits of our proposed pilot Syangja hydro-power project.

**Figure 10:** Social and economic benefits of our proposed hydro-power project



As the second richest country in water resources, Nepal has an immense potential for hydropower. In acknowledging this, we propose that the HDI in the UK invest in the construction of a hydropower project, with the aim of generating hydroelectricity for the local community. This is a renewable energy source.

However, we are also mindful of the possibility of resource exploitation, and will not want such pursuits. Several foreign private and public institutions continually show interest, but have been denied in making investments in this sector by the Nepali government. As the social entrepreneurial actors from our proposal originate from Nepal, their prime objective itself is to improve the living conditions of the Nepalese and to support government in the new building of Nepal in the post-earthquake scenario, much rather than exploiting the locals

through this initiative. In providing electricity, we seek to do so at an affordable cost by the poor local consumers. That implies that the incoming returns will initially be relatively low. We forecast that overtime, as their standard of living increases, costs can proportionally increase.

We acknowledge the role of the government and will engage them to the extent needed.

Local people and communities seek roads, electricity, communication, health centres, local employment, education and market facilities. All these aspects of development are possible through the implementation of a hydropower project in a community. Hydropower requires infrastructure, labour and services for building the infrastructure and the project itself. Therefore, hydropower is the best means to bring in development that the local people aspire for. (Pradhan 2009: 54).

Nepal experiences significant power cuts, and majority of the country do not have access to electricity. At present, 85 percent of Nepalese people live in remote areas with limited access to energy except fuel wood and other biomass for their energy source (Pokharel et al. 2008: 144).

Developing hydropower requires financial, technical and managerial capability. A small hydropower plant can be built with fairly simple technology. As there are already many projects of this category developed or being developed in Nepal, there is sufficient Nepalese experience available. (Pradhan 2009: 54). Being a labour-intensive project, it will adequately house enough of the return migrants. Further, the earnings will be enough to support them economically, raising their standard of living and that of their families as well.

Access to modern forms of energy is vital for the provision of clean water, sanitation and healthcare. It also offers benefits to development through the provision of dependable and efficient lighting, heating, cooking, mechanical power, and transport and telecommunication services. (Jones 2010: 3) It general increases productivity in many activities and lowers hazards.

From the incoming returns of the established hydropower project, the local communities in Nepal will also be simultaneously improved. The hydropower project will produce substantial benefits for the Nepali national economy and local communities nearby. Primarily it will provide jobs for the return migrants from Qatar; the construction workers returning from Qatar with the expertise in building will very much be equipped to build the hydro project and the required infrastructure. An added benefit is that electricity will be provided.

The project will stimulate increased economic activity, producing important socioeconomic benefits for the national community. These construction workers will be employed during

the construction period of the hydro projects. In the long-term, investment in the areas of education, health etc. in local community development will be undertaken. Given that migrants are very much concerned about the welfare of their families, and their children, who happen to the future generation, investment will equally cater to this target group. Youth development facilities can equally be undertaken to well equip these children, and indulge them in relevant after-school initiatives. The future target is to improve education and health care facilities, enhance water supply, promote economic transactions and broadly, have a well-developed community centre.

Investment into the community, will not only support these migrants but equally equip the future generation and develop their human capital, giving them a better chance of engaging in the global economy; a life different from that of their parents.

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## 10 Annex

### 10.1 Proposed budget for pilot project

(Note: All costs are in CHF. Contributions from the core team are made for free.

We want our project to be a 'movement.' As no 'movements' can be budgeted, the following estimation should be taken with a grain of salt. The size and structure will very much depend on the success of the 'movement'.

Our team will be an integral part of this project and we do not expect reimbursements at any point of our involvement during the pilot phase.

**Figure 11:** Team building

#### Team Building

<i>Item</i>	<i>Total price</i>
Word-of-mouth and personal communication	0
Seminar presentations	0
Meeting with the representatives from Diaspora from developed communities	500
Meeting with the representatives from Qatar	1000
Meeting with the representatives from local communities	500

**Figure 12:** Web portal and advertisement

#### Setting up web portal

<i>Item</i>	<i>Total price</i>
Web portal design by a professional	3,000
Contribution of core team members to the website	3,000 (committed by the core team )

#### Advertisement through social media

<i>Item</i>	<i>Total price</i>
Advertisement through social media such as <a href="#">facebook</a>	0
Seminar and talk programs by core team members	4,500
Seminar and talk programs by selected speakers	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>

Setting up a small scale pilot Syangja hydroelectric project that (all the in-

vestments and technical expertise for this section comes from the very willing diasporas from developed countries and the workforce comes from the return migrants from Qatar)

**Figure 13:** Budget for regular projects

**Budget for the project (timeline 5-15 years)**

Particulars	Total price
Other micro projects	10, 000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10, 000,000</b>

## 10.2 Questionnaire

The Newest Himalayan Republic is still recovering from the groans and devastations of the recent Earthquake. The deaths and rubbles have to be cleared. The entire nation has to be rebuilt. In fact, most of the country needs to be 'newly-built'. Our proposal is simply a brainstorming of how can we mobilize Nepali migrant's construction expertise in the 'new-building' of Nepal. On the one hand, the construction workers cannot wait to avoid the harsh working condition. minimal pay, and forceful contracts. Their despair of being away from the 'loved ones' further fuels this cause. However the missing part of the puzzle is what will they do when the return to Nepal? How can we change the condition that forced them to leave their homeland in the first place? Could Nepali diasporas to developed countries such as UK fill this gap by through social entrepreneurship in the 'new-building' process? Can we use their managerial and financial expertise to reintegrate the return construction workers back in their home-country?

Disclaimer: This is simply a research proposal. We do not yet intend to implement our proposal and give it a shape of a 'real project'. We are extremely grateful for your time and support.

Name

Age

Occupation

Permanent Address

Temporary Address

1 How many hours do you work in a day? How is the working condition?

2 Where do you stay ? How is housing and lodging situation?

3 If you were not compelled to return to Nepal, for example, Qatar government agreed to abolish Kafala system and assured to provide job guarantees and improved working condition, would you stay in Qatar for several more years?



4 If Nepal government assured to provide job guarantees and improved working condition, would you return to Nepal?

5 What should Nepal government do to make you return home ? What do you see as a major hurdle?

6 If you were guaranteed a same job from Qatar in Nepal, are you willing to work for a lesser salary?

7 What are you plans after you return to Nepal?

8 In your opinion, what roles can Nepali diasporas to USA play to perpetuate return migration from Qatar?

9 Can you share your experiences of living away from home

10 Would you like to make any final comments