RESULTS MONITORING SURVEY (RMS) & SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

UNHCR Nepal March 2023

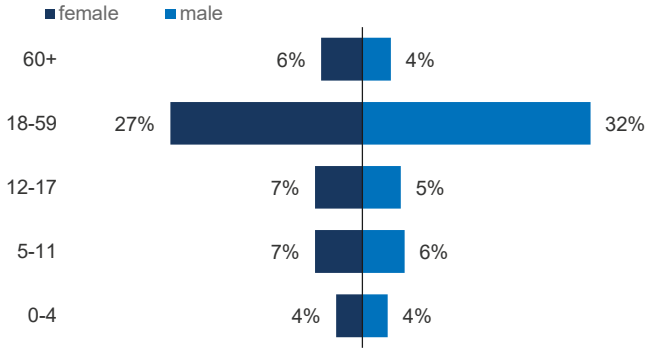
UNHCR's Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Nepal facilitates and streamlines survey-based data collection and monitors impact and outcome level results as part of Nepal's Multi-Year Strategy 2023 – 2027. The primary objective of the RMS is to provide quality and timely data to enable UNHCR Nepal to improve its evidence–based planning and programming, allocate resources more effectively, demonstrate accountability, and inform communications and advocacy efforts.

UNHCR developed a standard RMS questionnaire which in Nepal was integrated into the Socio-Economic Assessment (SEA) survey in 2022. Both surveys were conducted in Jhapa, Morang and Kathmandu districts with information collected from 350 refugee and asylum-seeker households (240 in Jhapa, 71 in Morang and 39 in Kathmandu).

Background Characteristics

8 per cent of the household population were under 5 years and around 32 per cent were 17 years and below. People aged 60 and above accounted for 10 per cent of the population. Almost half of the household population are married (44 per cent). The average household size was 4.8 persons and about two thirds of household heads were male.

Demographics of RMS Respondents | 2022



Note: figures do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
Source: UNHCR Nepal RMS
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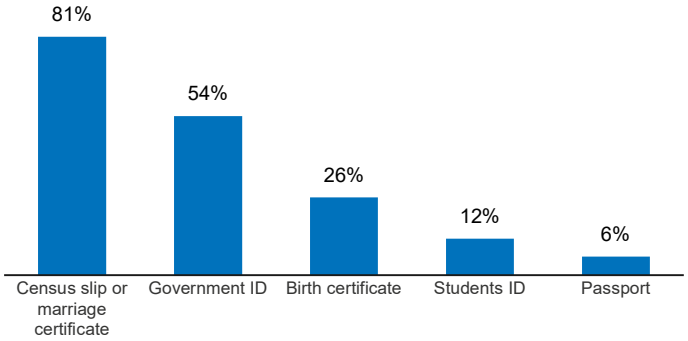
Identity Credentials

81 per cent of respondents aged 5 and above hold government of Nepal census slips or marriage certificates, 54 per cent hold civil/government of Nepal issued ID cards, 26 per cent have birth certificates[1], 12 per cent hold student ID cards issued by a school/college while 2 per cent do not possess any documentation that could establish their identity. The

Figure 2

Percentage of respondents holding types of ID



Source: UNHCR Nepal RMS
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[1] *This may include birth certificates issued by a civil registry office in Nepal or elsewhere, and birth notifications by hospitals*

population holding government of Nepal census slips or marriage certificates is in Jhapa (89 per cent) and Morang (91 per cent) because Bhutanese refugees were issued census slips by the government.

87 per cent of refugee children under 5 years had birth certificates from a hospital/health facility and 47 per cent of births were registered with civil authorities; none owned passports or any other legal document to facilitate travel. 7 per cent of refugee children under 5 years had no legal proof of their identity.

Access to Health Services

100 per cent of refugee children in Morang and Kathmandu and 82 per cent in Jhapa have vaccination cards with their immunization records. 97 per cent of refugee children received measles and rubella vaccines. Around 81 per cent received two doses of the measles vaccine and 19 per cent one dose.

23 per cent of household members visited a health centre or consulted a health practitioner in the past 30 days[2]. Health care was sought mostly due to illness (63 per cent) and for general check-ups (39 per cent). No child was born at home – almost half (47 per cent) of deliveries took place in public health facilities, another 47 per cent in private health facilities and the remaining 6 per cent in other locations.

48 per cent reported they usually sought health care assistance from UNHCR-supported health partners whenever family members fell ill. This was particularly the case in Kathmandu (85 per cent). 21 per cent rely on private clinics/hospitals and 15 per cent on pharmacies.

Around two thirds said they use public transportation (70 per cent) to visit health care facilities. The refugee population in Morang (89 per cent) and Kathmandu (82 per cent) use public transportation more than those in Jhapa (62 per cent).

Education (5 – 24 years) and Community Activities

97 per cent of household members aged between 5 and 24 years attended school. Of this figure, 77 per cent are currently attending school or college and 62 per cent have certificates confirming they completed the previous school year.

Approximately two thirds (65 per cent) of students currently attending school are at the primary level, 23 per cent are currently enrolled at the secondary level, 7 per cent in early

[2] *Results referring to a specific time frame should be understood from the time of surveying*

childhood education or pre-primary and 4 per cent at the tertiary level. The proportion of the household population currently enrolled at the primary school level is the highest in Kathmandu (85 per cent).

In Jhapa, Morang and Kathmandu, more than half (57 per cent) attend government schools or colleges and 41 per cent attend private schools or colleges. However, in Kathmandu most students attend private schools or colleges (61 per cent) while 39 per cent are enrolled in government schools or colleges.

31 per cent stated that they did not attend school or college because of fees, 27 per cent were unable to cover other school-related costs, 17 per cent had to work at home or elsewhere, and 12 per cent because of marital obligations. [3] The reasons associated with school fees and other costs were cited more frequently in Kathmandu (57 per cent).

In Jhapa, Morang and Kathmandu, nearly two thirds of household members aged between 5 and 24 years completed primary level education (64 per cent) and 25 per cent secondary level education. 10 per cent had some early childhood education/religious/informal education.

Among the household population aged between 5 and 17 years, around 38 per cent participated in community activities in the last month. Of this figure, 96 per cent participated one to four times in the last month and 100 per cent said the place where those activities took place was physically safe.

Economic Activities (18-64 years)

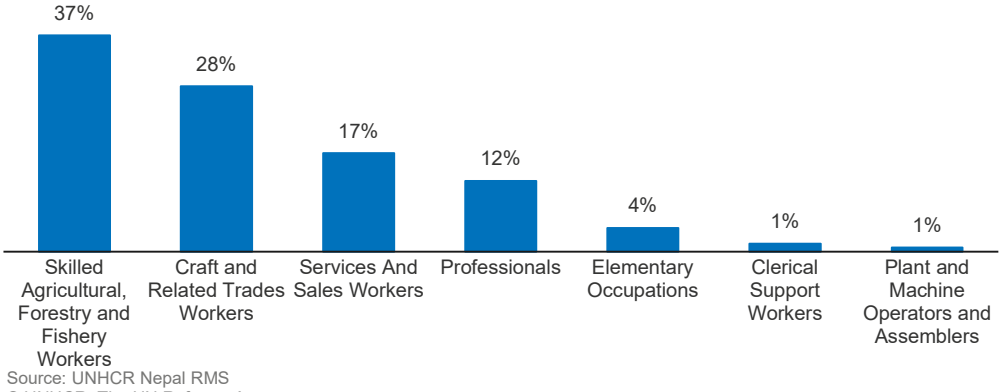
44 per cent of respondents worked in the past seven days, 28 per cent worked for pay, 14 per cent worked in their own businesses, farming, or other income generating activities, and 10 per cent helped in family businesses or farming.

In terms of primary job in the past seven days, 37 per cent of respondents worked as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, 28 per cent as craft and related trades workers, 17 per cent in services and sales, and 12 per cent as professionals. 54 per cent worked inside the refugee settlement and 45 per cent outside the settlement. (see below figure 3).

[3] *Public schools are either free of charge or with nominal amounts covered by UNHCR CBI education allowance.*

Figure 3

Percentage of working age respondents engaged in professions | 2022



Source: UNHCR Nepal RMS
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Slightly more than one third (37 per cent) of respondents said the main activity of their employer was in agriculture, forestry, fishery, and livestock industries; 23 per cent in services; 22 per cent in construction and 11 per cent in wholesale or retail trade.

40 per cent are paid as part of their own business, 32 per cent as incentive workers[4], 19 per cent as paid employees, and 3 per cent each as paid apprentices, volunteers, or helpers. 48 per cent worked more than 40 hours a week with the highest proportion in Kathmandu (78 per cent). Only 4 per cent worked less than 10 hours per week.

Among those currently employed, 14 per cent sought additional or other work in the past four weeks. The proportion seeking additional work was higher in Kathmandu (50 per cent) and almost two thirds (64 per cent) expressed their willingness to work more hours if they were paid.

Among those currently unemployed, 51 per cent said they wanted to work at present, but only 15 per cent were taking the initiative to find a job or start a business. 62 per cent were engaged in household or family responsibilities, 15 per cent were affected by a long-term illness, injury or with a disability, 9 per cent were studying or training, 5 per cent were engaged in farming or fishing to cover household expenses, and the remaining 2.5 per cent were engaged in unpaid voluntary, community, or charity work.

[4] *47 respondents stated they work as incentive workers. UNHCR pays 24 incentive workers through implementing partners. Respondents working as incentive workers mostly stated they work in farms (11 respondents) and private businesses (33 respondents).*

Migration of Household Members and Relatives

37 per cent of all respondents said their household members migrated as a coping strategy. More than 90 per cent of respondents in Jhapa and Morang reported having relatives who have settled abroad. This corresponds to the large-scale group resettlement programme for Bhutanese refugees between 2007 and 2016. Among respondents whose family members were resettled abroad; 91 per cent were resettled in the United States of America.

Expectation Related to Livelihood Assistance

Around half of respondents (48 per cent) agreed with the statement "*I cannot access livelihood opportunities in Nepal and need assistance finding work through livelihood support*". This hints towards a lack of sufficient livelihood opportunities and need for support.

Most respondents (62 per cent) said they can afford fewer goods and services compared to the same time last year. 35 per cent said they can afford the same while a small number (3 per cent) said they can afford more.

Ownership of Bank Account and ATM/Debit Card

Almost two thirds (61 per cent) of respondents have an account in a bank or financial institution. Having an account was much more common in Kathmandu (85 per cent) compared to Jhapa (61 per cent) and Morang (49 per cent). Although 51 per cent said they have ATM/debit cards in their own name, 2 per cent said they used mobile phones to make payments, buy various items, or send and receive money in the past 12 months.

Safety and Security

18 per cent of all respondents indicated they felt very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (16 per cent for men and 19 per cent for women), 33 per cent fairly safe (40 per cent for men and 28 per cent for women), 21 per cent felt a bit unsafe (20 per cent for men and 22 per cent for women) and 28 per cent felt very unsafe (23 per cent for men and 31 per cent for women). Most respondents in Kathmandu and Morang said they felt very safe or fairly safe compared to Jhapa, where only 40 per cent felt safe or fairly safe. There were small variances in safety perceptions between age groups. Respondents aged 50 – 59 and 60+ were less likely to feel very safe (15 per cent in both groups). The age group most likely to feel very unsafe is 50-59 with 38 per cent saying they felt very unsafe.

Most respondents said they know how to help a person who has experienced gender-based violence seek medical care (81 per cent) and safety/security (87 per cent). Fewer respondents knew how to help GBV survivors access services related to psycho-social support (39 per cent) and legal assistance (43 per cent).

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

CONTACT US

UNHCR Nepal

Dhara Marga-1, Anil Kuti, Maharajgunj,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel.: +977 1 441 4724
Email: nepka@unhcr.org

UNHCR Asia-Pacific, Data, Identity Management and Analysis Unit
Capital Tower, 87 Wireless Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Tel.: +66 (0) 2 407 3000
Email: rbapdima@unhcr.org