

Press Release

The Government of Switzerland has agreed to provide a grant assistance of Swiss Francs 1.2 million (approximately Rs. 101.2 million) for the Safer Migration Project (SaMi) Pilot Phase (Phase I). An agreement to this effect was signed between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland, today, at the Ministry of Finance.

The overall objective of the Safer Migration Project is to contribute to safer and more beneficial migration for men and women. It also supports the effective implementation of Nepal's Foreign Employment Act and other policies related to migration. Furthermore, the Project initiatives are expected to provide women and men with appropriate and relevant information on migration with a view to facilitate their decision making related to foreign employment, and also protect them from the fraudulent practices and exploitation. Two Information Centers, one in Khotang and the next in Terai region, shall be established. Skill Training, and legal and paralegal services will also be provided. Women returnees of all over the country, who are victims of violence and exploitation, will get access to shelter and support facilities. In this phase, around 5,000 interested persons, migrants and their families is expected to be benefitted. The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MoLTM), which is the Executing Agency, chairs the Steering Committee of the Project. The Implementing Agency of the Project is Helvetas Nepal in partnership with local service providers working in the area of safer migration. This Phase of the Project is expected to be completed by 31 January, 2013.

The agreement was signed and exchanged between Mr. Lal Shanker Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland, Kathmandu on behalf of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland, respectively.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the people and Government of the Switzerland for this assistance as well as for their continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu
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