

Ministry of Finance conducted virtual meeting with Local Development Partners. Discussed COVID-19 Financing gaps and strategy

Ministry of Finance conducted a virtual meeting with local development partners on 3 September 2020. Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division of Ministry of Finance (MOF) chaired the meeting. All together 50 participants, including HE ambassadors, Mission Heads, Resident Representatives, Chief Representatives, Mission Director, Resident Coordinator and other representatives from development partners actively participated in the meeting. Despite being a part of regular dialogue between the Government of Nepal and its Development Partners, this meeting revolved around the theme of Financing for combating COVID-19 in Nepal.

From MOF, Mr. Narayan Dhakal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance presented a snapshot of resources management from the Government of Nepal on top of regular budget allocation and from development partners as captured in the COVID-19 portal of Aid Management Information System (AMIS). From Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), Ms. Yeshoda Aryal, Senior Public Health Administrator presented current COVID situation, details of support received by MOHP from development partners, key gaps in funding, human resources, logistics, infrastructure and risk communication behavior. MOHP also highlighted on its strategy and plan to combat COVID-19 in areas of human resource management, case management, logistic management, quality control and assurances, risk communication and serological study.

These two presentations were followed by interventions from the floor. HE Ambassador of Japan Mr. Masamichi Saigo, HE Ambassador of South Korea Mr. Park Chong-suk, Mr. Faris H. Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Mr. Mukhtor Khamudkhanov, Country Director of Asian Development Bank for Nepal, Ms. Valerie Julliard, UN Resident Coordinator, newly joined USAID Mission Director Ms. Sepideh Keyvanshad, Mr. Nathanael Bevan, Deputy Country Director from DFID and Mr. Marco, head of cooperation of European Union have made comments, informed supplemental supports and shared their thought on COVID-19 financing in Nepal. They have also shared their future strategy to support Nepal in this difficult time. Head and representatives of many other development partner including from UNDP, India, China, Switzerland, Germany, KfW development bank, GIZ, JICA Nepal, WFP, UNICEF, SNV, Finland, ILO were also present in the virtual meeting.

Finally, during his closing remarks, Joint Secretary Mr. Nepal Comments acknowledged suggestions and expressed sincere thanks to all distinguished development partners for their overwhelming participation. Responding to comments, Mr. Nepal also urged all development partners to provide more targeted and directed support in line with MOHP plan and strategy to help fill the gaps in areas of funding, human resources, logistics and infrastructure. He further said- "As pandemic is global public threat, collective efforts would be very effective to fight against this deadly disease. The support so mobilized would be ultimately for the global community." "Current interventions should under no circumstances hamper the regular health services." "Creating additional pool of human resources and effective and transparent communication strategy is one of the most powerful remedies to such the pandemic."- he added.

Ministry of Finance

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