



Press Release

Nepal and ADB Sign Two Agreements; USD 200 Million Concessional Loan Agreement to Support the School Education Sector Plan and USD 12 Million Grant Agreement to implement Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project

The Government of Nepal and Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a concessional loan agreement amounting to USD 200 million (equivalent to Rs. 26.51 billion) for supporting the first five years of the School Education Sector Plan (2022–2030) and a Grant Agreement of USD 12 million (equivalent to Rs. 1.57 billion) to implement the Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project.

The agreements were signed by Ishwori Prasad Aryal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Saugata Dasgupta, ADB Officer-in-Charge for Nepal on behalf of the Government of Nepal and Asian Development Bank respectively.

The proposed assistance will support the implementation of the government's School Education Sector Plan in a sector-wide approach supported by eight development partners, including ADB under the Joint Financing Arrangement. The program will enhance learning provisions for basic and secondary schools; strengthen teaching and learning skills in schools; accelerate the recovery from learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and improve the capacity of local governments in education planning, monitoring and reporting.

“Nepal has done significantly well in terms of improving access to education in the past decades. However, much more needs to be done to further improve equity of access and the quality of education. The program will be crucial to operationalizing Nepal’s holistic approach in improving the overall learning outcomes,” said Mr. Aryal. *“This agreement is a key part of ADB’s overall efforts to help Nepal accelerate reforms and transform the country’s education system to develop human capital, reduce social inequity, and attain sustainable growth. The plan is designed towards eliminating inequities in access and participation in school education, and improving quality and resilience of school education,”* Said Mr. Dasgupta.

Similarly, Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project will benefit survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) across Madhesh, Lumbini, and Sudurpaschim provinces through the establishment of long-term rehabilitation centers, development of survivor-friendly facilities for the Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Centers within selected district and area police offices and strengthening of survivor-friendly services in these provinces. The project will also build a new national long-term rehabilitation center in Bhaktapur.

“The Project will help strengthen the government’s response to GBV in Nepal by filling the gaps in survivor-friendly infrastructure and long-term rehabilitation services,” said Mr. Aryal. *“The project will help GBV survivors’ to get access to gender-sensitive infrastructures and services to ensure their safety and well-being, and also build capacity of service providers to offer long-term support to help GBV survivors reintegrate into society to lead a productive and self-determined life”,* said Mr. Dasgupta.

Ministry of Finance
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu
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