

PRESS RELEASE

The Management Committee of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative has agreed to provide a grant assistance of US\$120 million (equivalent to NRs 8.6 billion) to the Government of Nepal for improving access to and quality of school sector education. An agreement to this effect was signed today between the Government of Nepal and the World Bank in the Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu.

This grant will support the on-going sector wide approach (SWAp) in education called the School Sector Reform Program (SSRP) that is funded jointly by the Government of Nepal (GON) and over 13 external Development Partners (DPs). Nine of the development partners pool their resources with the GON, while the remaining support the program directly. The SSRP became effective last year and has been implemented since July 2009/10. The programme development objective of the SSRP is to increase access to and improve quality of school education (grade 1-12), focused particularly on basic education (grades 1-8) and especially for children from marginalized groups.

This grant is financed by the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) through its Catalytic Trust Fund, and will be pooled with the resources nine development partners and will support the overall program. The Development Partners have identified the World Bank as the Supervising Entity for this grant.

The grant agreement was signed by Mr. Rameshore Prasad Khanal, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nepal and Ms. Susan Goldmark, Country Director, The World Bank, Nepal Country Office on behalf of the Bank. The Government of Nepal has expressed its appreciation to the SSRP pooled development partners and the World Bank for this support as part of their continuous support to education sector in Nepal.

Ministry of Finance
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu
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