



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIN in solidarity and taking actions to support the Government of Nepal in responding to Coronavirus pandemic

[Kathmandu, Nepal, 29 March 2020]

Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) expresses solidarity to one and all in this most difficult of times emerged in wake of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. AIN wants to share the present impact of COVID-19 on the works of members and our position on supporting Government of Nepal (GoN) in the pandemic response. There are short-term and long-term implications of this crisis on the people we work with every day; many of who may not have the access to reliable and basic facilities to stay safe from or get treatment for COVID-19. In wake of the crisis, our members have started assessing COVID-19's impact on their existing projects and understanding how the risks can affect delivery of ongoing projects and on the communities associated. While associated INGOs are coping with the circumstance by rolling out contingency business plans, many are preparing and taking actions to join hands with GoN to develop local solutions.

AIN Steering Committee is in close communication with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) to seek guidance and support to facilitate AIN member's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response activities for implementation through relevant identified mechanisms in line with GoN's policies and procedure. AIN Steering Committee and some INGOs members are also actively participating in coordination meetings led by the GoN with other International Development Partners Group (IDPG) to ensure all AIN members' support are aligned with the national priority of COVID-19 Preparedness and Response programs.

As principles, AIN advises the following to its INGOs members:

1. COVID-19 related awareness messaging by INGOs shall be in line with the National Health Education Information and Communication Centre (NHEICC) under Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP).
2. For all efforts undertaken relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Response, AIN will contribute in GoN's efforts at best interest of the most vulnerable groups.
3. The nature of the support by INGOs is determined by government priority as well as thematic and business capability which are organization specific.
4. In regard to work modality, member INGOs should follow the government directives and stay updated on guidance as the situation unfolds.

AIN Coordination Office is also now assessing the overall preparedness and response plan of its members in supporting the GoN's National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan. So far, 44 AIN members have immediately responded with COVID-19 activities in coordination with and to support the GoN, and many other members are finalizing their plans. The current



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and evolving plan of AIN members' COVID-19 initiatives are updated through COVID live page which can be streamed through this link: <http://covid19.hrrpnepal.org:8000/covid-19-live-updates/>.

As the nation is facing such grave crisis, AIN would like to urge all to stay strong. We would also like to urge one and all to abide by GoN's decisions and notices released in public interest. AIN alongside the NGO Federation, are in solidarity to support all efforts undertaken by the GoN to support COVID-19 pandemic Preparedness and Response.

If you have queries for AIN media engagement, please reach out through AIN Coordinator Ms Reshma Shrestha at 9841555363, or email reshma@ain.org.np.