COVID-19 Announcement for SNGP Web Portal

“Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus. The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing. It spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.”

The Strategic Partnership between The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and The Asia Foundation (the Foundation) to Support Subnational Governance in Nepal is cognizant of the more than 16,000 lives claimed by COVID-19 worldwide as of March 25, 2020. The pandemic continues to take a massive toll not only on global health systems but on several aspects of everyday life. As countries try to control its spread, they are introducing unprecedented measures at significant social and economic costs – closing schools and businesses, cancelling sporting events and asking people to stay home and stay safe1.

The Foundation commends the decision taken by the Government of Nepal (GoN) in line with Infectious Disease Control Act, 2020 to initiate a lockdown from March 24 to March 31, 2020. We have not dealt with a disease like COVID-19 in over 100 years3. In the case of Nepal, given the global scenario, it is only a matter of time before more cases are identified. We neither have the diagnostic capacity, nor the intensive care infrastructure to handle a potential outbreak. Given the observed speed with which COVID-19 spreads, it is prudent to acknowledge limitations in Nepal’s health systems4. As these capacities are not built overnight, we must expect the worst and act accordingly.

While the world continues to figure out how to address the pandemic, the Foundation is taking extra precautions heeding the advice from public health officials and health experts. The Foundation’s office in Nepal has been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 globally, and we have been following guidance from GoN, our Headquarters in San Francisco and local health authorities to ensure we have the right plans and resources in place to safeguard our health and well-being. As health and safety of all our staff and stakeholders remain to be of primary concern, the Nepal office has activated mandatory work from home policy from March 23, 2020 until further notice.

We have reached out to our valued consultants, sub-grantees, and contractors providing clarification on our altered mode of operations and have stressed the importance of complying with GoN guidelines, calling for utmost precaution and halting of any activities requiring a gathering of people, including travel from March 22 – April 3, 2020 that may not be deemed “essential services” under the Essential Services Operation Act, 2014. Beyond that, until new updates emerge, partners, as responsible locally registered organizations, are required to ensure that its

1 https://www.who.int/
3 The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is the most serious respiratory virus since the 1918 Spanish Flu: Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID19 mortality and healthcare demand, Also see Responding to Covid-19 — A Once-in-a-Century Pandemic?
4 In total it is estimated that Nepal has 27,000 hospital beds in total. Investment Board Nepal, Health Sector Profile pg 5. Which cites the World Bank development indicators 2014.
Should a need arise to contact the Foundation regarding the pandemic, you can reach Mr. Samarjeet Singh Thapa, Communications Officer at +977 - 9808266675.
लागि आवश्यक भएमा कार्यक्रमको तोकिको नलिजा, कृनै यात्रा र अन्य गतिविधीहरुमा आवश्यक
संशीधन गर्न, स्थगित तथा रटू गर्न अधिकार राखेको व्यवहार पनि जानकारी गराइएको छ।

साम्बोधन संशोधन, तपाईको संध्या तथा सह साम्बोधन अन्य निकायाको आवद्ध कृनै कम्चारी वा व्यक्तिमा
कोमिड-19 पुष्टी हुने कृनै लक्षण देखेको फाउंडेशनको सम्पर्क व्यक्तिको तल्का सम्पर्क गर्नुहुनै र
नेपाल सरकारले तोकिको अनुसार रोकथाम वा नियन्त्रणको उपयुक्त सांख्यिकीय कदमहरू चालनुपर्न बिदिने
छ। यसका अतिरिक्त फाउंडेशनले तपाईको संस्थासङ्ग गरेको सम्मिलन उल्लिखित सबै शर्तहरू यथावत
लागू रहनेतर पनि यहाँको ध्यानाकर्षण गराइएको छ। यस जानकारीका लागि कृपया यहाँको संस्थासङ्गको
सम्मिलन उल्लिखित विषयहरू शर्त तथा नियमहरू हेतु नष्टो।

कोमिड-19 साग सम्बन्धित मानवीय सहायताका लागि बजेट परिमार्जनको सम्भाषण, यहाँहलाई अवगत
भएका छ कि हाम्रो सम्मिलन व्यक्तिको सबै कार्यक्रम तथा बजेटहरू दातू निकाय र नेपाल सरकारीको
अगाडि भएको सहमति र स्वीकृति व्यक्तिको सम्भाषण गर्नु हुने हो। अगाडि स्वीकृत त्यस्ता कार्यक्रमहरू मानवीय
सहायतासङ्ग प्रयुक्त सम्बन्धित हुन भएका वा नष्टो पनि सक्छ। तस्यथा, कार्यक्रम व्यक्तिको बजेट सम्मिलना
तोकिके व्यक्तिको उद्देश्य प्रतिको बिट्टिसी कार्यक्रममा मात्र खर्च हुने सुनिश्चित गर्नुहुनेको छ।
यदृढ़, कोमिड-19 को विषय परिस्थितिको यसको रोकथाम तथा नियन्त्रणका लागि नगरी नष्टो अवस्थाको
पुर्वसाङ्गीको सार्वजनिक, सेवा र आपूर्तिको क्षेत्रमा कार्य गर्न पनि अनिवार्यता उत्पन भएमा
फाउंडेशनको सम्बन्धित सम्बन्धको पदाधिकारी/कम्चारीको पुर्व स्वीकृत लिए केही बजेट परिमार्जन गर्न
सकिन्छ।

यसका साथै, सम्भव भएमा यहाँको संस्था अन्तर्गत विभिन्न महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयहरू गर्न र सज्जा सम्पर्क
गर्नको लागि संस्थाको उच्च नेतृत्वको सम्बन्धित आपूर्तिको उद्देश्य गठन गर्न सुभाष
गर्नेछ। यो समय अलमोक रहन मिल्दैन र सम्बाजावट हुने यसको लागि सुनिश्चित गर्नन गर्न सुभाष
गर्नेछ। यस सम्बन्धमा यदि तपाईको कृनै यस फ्राइश अथवा जिज्ञाशाहरू छैन भने कृपया
यहाँसङ्ग निर्मिति सम्बन्धको रहनु भएका फाउंडेशनको कम्चारीसाङ्ग सम्बन्ध गर्नु हो।

धन्यवाद

Useful Links and References:

Emergency Numbers:

COVID-19 Toll Free Hotline (6am – 10pm): 1115
For questions on diagnosis (8am – 8pm): 9851255834, 9851255837, 9851255839
Nepal Ambulance Service: 102

Useful Nepali Resources:

● Health Emergency Operation Center: (COVID-19)
● Nepal COVID-19 Daily Updates (नेपालीमा)
● COVID-19 Audio Visual Content (नेपालीमा)
● COVID-19 Poster (नेपालीमा)
● COVID-19 Nepali Sign Language Video
● www.covidnepal.org

Global Resources:

● WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak
● WHO Situation Reports
● Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Map, GitHub Dataset
● Coronavirus: Why You Must Act Now

Medical Journals:

Most medical journals are providing COVID-19 related research articles for free:
● New England Journal of Medicine
● The Lancet
● Journal of the American Medical Association