

MetLife Foundation Partners with CSD Nepal to Support Women Entrepreneurship in Nepal



Kathmandu, 6 April 2023 – MetLife Foundation has collaborated with Center for Self-Help Development (CSD) Nepal for strengthening the financial conditions and transferring digital knowledge to women entrepreneurs affiliated to various microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Nepal. As part of this initiative, CSD will work closely with prominent women entrepreneurs from different MFIs to upskill their entrepreneurial competencies through extensive trainings, mentorships, and networking opportunities.

This partnership aims to develop an inclusive business environment for emerging women entrepreneurs in Nepal. A support of total US \$50,000 shall be utilized to uplift around 5,000 women entrepreneurs through entrepreneurship and innovation trainings, financial and digital knowledge transfer sessions, access to local and international markets, and development of networking communities around the country. MSC Global Consulting, a boutique consulting firm has associated with CSD Nepal to coordinate this project through various MFIs around Nepal.

MetLife Foundation's support towards Women Led Businesses (WLB) is aimed to boost women's involvement in businesses and protect them through vulnerabilities with the market. An introduction to digital trends and financial expertise shall help these women to overcome their fears and provide them the confidence to make better decisions for a sustainable livelihood. MetLife Foundation pledge to embrace equity through inclusivity and independence as part of this year's International Women's Day within India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Vietnam.

Regarding the initiation of this partnership, Mr. Nirmal Kajee Shrestha, Vice President, and General Manager of MetLife Nepal said: *"MetLife Foundation's support to women entrepreneurs shall provide them the access to necessary resources and help them flourish their businesses through advancement in their technical and digital capabilities along with exposure to local and global marketplace."*

About MetLife Foundation:

At MetLife Foundation, we are committed to driving inclusive economic mobility for underserved and underrepresented communities around the world. We collaborate with nonprofit organizations and provide grants aligned to three strategic focus areas – economic inclusion, financial health and resilient communities – while engaging MetLife employee volunteers to help drive impact. MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to continue MetLife's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Since 1976, MetLife Foundation has contributed over \$900 million to strengthen communities where MetLife has a presence. To learn more about MetLife Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

About Center for Self-Help Development (CSD) Nepal:

Center for Self-Help Development (CSD) Nepal established in 1991, is among the pioneers of microfinance service providers in Nepal supporting the women entrepreneurs through collateral free loan services. Currently, CSD serves the microfinance sector as a national-level level training and research institute of microfinance and cooperatives. It jointly works with microfinance, and cooperatives,

government and non government organizations operating at both national and international scale. It aims to cultivate and strengthen self-help development among Microfinance Institutions (MFI's) and cooperatives and their members through high quality demand-driven affordable trainings for building their capacities to serve the remote and rural markets.