

**MetLife Foundation and Plan International Nepal provide relief to 40,000 Nepalese in response to the impact of COVID-19 among vulnerable communities**



**Kathmandu, 9 August, 2020**—MetLife Foundation is working with Plan International Nepal (Plan Nepal) to reach the vulnerable groups in communities impacted by COVID-19. Plan Nepal aims to support poor and vulnerable families who have lost their source of income and depend on agriculture, by providing them with seeds and fertilizers for quick cash crops and vegetables to grow at home, as well as offering access to traditional farming tools.

The collaborative program, financed by MetLife Foundation with a US\$44,000 grant, will see Plan Nepal closely coordinating with local government to help identify the most vulnerable families experiencing loss of income and those with limited or no access to alternative sources of income.

Additionally, Plan Nepal will continue to support adolescent girls' specific needs and promote proper handwashing techniques and best practices in communities, as set out by the Government of Nepal. Finally, grants will be provided to help small businesses cope with the damage caused by the pandemic, with the goal of engaging the most vulnerable families. These include female-led households, those migrating back to Nepal as a result of income loss.

**Mr. Nirmal Kajee Shrestha, Vice President and General Manager of MetLife Nepal** said: *"The lockdown caused by COVID-19 has stopped many economic activities. Low-income families and informal workers have been among the hardest hit as they are dependent on daily wages for survival. We are proud to see MetLife Foundation supporting Plan Nepal to help the most vulnerable groups in our society and use the chance to advance gender equality during the crisis."*

**Bhusan Aryal, Deputy Emergency Manager, Plan International Nepal** said: *"Plan International Nepal is happy to serve poor and vulnerable families who are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Banke District, Baijanath Rural Municipality of Nepal. This includes those who lost their source of income from daily wedged labor work and those who returned home after losing foreign work/employment and who are now struggling to survive. We, in close coordination with our implementing partner and local government, will boost awareness and prevention of the negative impact of COVID-19 on 40,000 people from 7,000 households across the project area."*

**About MetLife Foundation:**

At MetLife Foundation, we believe financial health belongs to everyone. We bring together bold solutions, deep financial expertise, and meaningful grants to build financial health for people and communities that are underserved and aspire for more. We partner with organizations around the world to create financial health solutions and build stronger communities, engaging MetLife employee volunteers to help drive impact. MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's long

tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Since its founding through the end of 2019, MetLife Foundation provided more than \$860 million in grants and \$85 million in program-related investments to make a positive impact in the communities where MetLife operates. To date, our financial health work has reached 13.4 million low-income individuals in 42 countries. To learn more about MetLife Foundation, visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).

**About MetLife Nepal:**

MetLife Nepal is a branch of MetLife, Inc. operating in Nepal since 5 December 2001. As one of the first foreign companies to be granted an insurance license in Nepal, MetLife is one of the leading Life Insurance, Accident & Health Insurance, and Employee Benefits insurers in the country, providing attractive insurance protection and benefits at a competitive price.

Our business centers around the heart of local communities, understanding their needs and helping them through our network of agents and institutional partners. We have over 8,000 agents in Nepal who work hard to ensure every one of our customers finds a plan perfectly suited to them.

**About Plan International:**

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Working together with children, young people, our supporters, and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children.

We believe in the power and potential of every child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion, and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected. Working together with children, young people, our supporters, and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children.

We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood. And we enable children to prepare for – and respond to – crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national, and global levels using our reach, experience, and knowledge. We have been building powerful partnerships for children for over 80 years and are now active in more than 75 countries.