

## **MetLife Foundation Supports Pourakhi Nepal with \$50,000 to Build Financial Resilience and Health Among Women-Led Businesses**



**Kathmandu, 5 February, 2023** – MetLife Foundation is partnering with Pourakhi Nepal to build the health and financial resilience of women entrepreneurs who are potential migrants, existing migrants, or returnee migrants. Under this program, Pourakhi will work to strengthen the efforts of these women to build their financial health to sustain their livelihoods.

The support, totaling US \$50,000, will be used across four key pillars: Entrepreneurship, Access to financial services, Linkage to markets, and Peer-to-peer learning. Pourakhi will drive these efforts on the ground in Kathmandu, Chitwan, and Makwanpur districts to support around 15,000 women. This project is being coordinated with MSC Global Consulting, a boutique consulting firm that has been working towards meaningful, financial, social and economic inclusion activities for past 20 years.

Mr. Nirmal Kajee Shrestha, Vice President and General Manager of MetLife Nepal said: *“Women entrepreneurs in countries like Nepal face numerous challenges in improving their financial health while establishing and managing their businesses. These women need support to build their ventures and enhance their income, create digital footprints, and access a variety of financial services. This support from MetLife Foundation will make a difference in the lives of these women entrepreneurs by helping them build a sustainable living and a more confident future.”*

As part of MetLife Foundation’s support for Women-Led Businesses (WLB), the foundation will work with partners like Pourakhi to build the capacities of WLBs with mentoring and provision of financial services which will help them overcome their respective problem areas. In support of this year’s International Women’s Day (IWD) theme of embracing equity, MetLife Foundation’s program aims to

build better livelihood opportunities for WLBs thereby enhancing their financial health in India, Nepal, and Vietnam.

**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](http://www.metlife.org).

**About Pourakhi Nepal:**

Pourakhi Nepal is a pioneering organization of women migrant workers in Nepal, established in 2003 with the objectives of ensuring the rights of women migrant workers in the entire process of labour migration – Pre-employment, pre-departure, employment stage, post arrival support programs. It is a member-based, human rights defender organization and run by returnee Nepali women migrants. Since 2009, Pourakhi Nepal has established an emergency shelter home to respond to the immediate need of those women migrant workers who have been exploited and abused while at countries of employment.

**About MSC:**

MicroSave Consulting (MSC) is a boutique consulting firm that has, for 25 years, pushed the world towards meaningful financial, social, and economic inclusion. With over 200 staff of different nationalities and varied expertise, MSC has worked in over 68 developing countries. MSC partners with participants in financial services, enterprise, agriculture and health ecosystems to achieve sustainable performance improvements and unlock enduring value. MSC’s clients include governments, donors, private sector corporations, and local businesses.