

News Release

## **Nepal, ADB Sign \$5 Million Grant for Prevention and Control of COVID-19**

**Kathmandu, 29 July 2021** - The Government of Nepal and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$5 million grant for Prevention and Control of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) through WASH and Health initiatives in Secondary and Small Towns, today.

The signatories were Mr. Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary and Chief of International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of Nepal; and ADB Country Director for Nepal Mr. Arnaud Cauchois, who signed for ADB.

“We thank the Government of Japan and ADB for its support to Nepal towards improving local governments’ capacity to respond better to the COVID-19 pandemic and similar health emergencies in the future.” said Mr. Sharma. “This project will support the Government’s plan to strengthen our public health systems of the local governments.”

“ADB remains fully committed to supporting Nepal in this challenging time and will continue to work closely with the Government in strengthening the capacity of local governments and communities in secondary and small towns of Nepal to respond better to COVID-19 pandemic and similar health emergencies in the future,” said Mr. Arnaud Cauchois, ADB’s Country Director for Nepal.

Prevention and Control of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) through WASH and Health initiatives in Secondary and Small Towns Project is funded by the Government of Japan through Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction COVID-19 Window financing. The total cost of the Project is estimated at \$5.50 million with \$0.50 million Government contribution.

The Project will support the construction of at least 20 multi-purpose community shelter which will be equipped with fever clinics and oxygen-related equipment with gender, age, and person with disability friendly design features. Similarly, it will support the selected local governments in establishing and operating health desks, and procurement of GESI responsive mobile toilets, among others. The project will follow a long-term approach into project design for the sustainable operation of the created facilities.