Minute of the Meeting between NFN and AIN

Date: 3rd April 2020

Participants:

From NGO Federation Nepal (NFN)       From Association of International NGOs (AIN)

Mr. Jit Ram Lama, President          Mr. Acharya Luitel, Chairperson
Ms. Sumitra Sharma, Vice president   Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, Treasurer
Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Secretary General Mr. Govinda Neupane, Member
Mr. Dinesh Chaudhari, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Joel Hafvenstein
Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Chetraj Bhattarai
Mr. Dillu Prasad Ghimire, Secretary Mr. Saroj Pokhrel
Mr. Govinda Shahi, Member           Ms. Sajana Amatya
Ms. Shradha Baskota, Program Manager Mr. Pushkar Khati
Mr. Hum Bhandari, Program Manager    Shiva P, Poudel, AIN Secretariat

Agenda

1. Situation analysis of pandemic COVID-19
2. Sharing of the problems and issues of I/NGO in relation to prevention and response against COVID-19
3. Strategies and way-forward to respond to the problems brought about by this situation
4. AOB

Discussion Points

- The lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and other measures to control the coronavirus has given rise to a humanitarian situation. I/NGOs have no option during nationwide lockdown but wait and see. Finding a way to extend support has been challenging and confusing. Many people in urban areas have been immediately affected. Medical workers are lacking protective equipment. Coronavirus
pandemic will leave serious impacts to society, economy and development in Nepal. But the government has not yet made way and motivated I/NGOs for their support.

- In this crisis, I/NGOs should use their resources, experience and knowledge to work against COVID 19 pandemic. Despite of the willingness of I/NGOs, Central Government is not willing to involve I/NGOs; however, Province and Local Governments are seeking for support and involvement of I/NGOs which need to collaborate with local/provincial governments to provide support to the communities. For this, coordination and advocacy with MuAN and NARMIN will be useful.
- I/NGOs should demand with the central government to allow the I/NGOs to contribute in this crisis, and reach out to the needy. Discussions should be done in policy framework and I/NGOs should look for working environment.
- There is also confusion among I/NGOs particularly those not working on health sector. But if other I/NGOs remain passive in this crisis, they may lose their positive image.
- It is appreciated that SWC and MoWCSC are positive towards I/NGOs' support and have provided some leverage for engagement of civil society, I/NGOs. SWC has agreed to divert 20% of INGOS' fund into COVID-19 response and if necessary the percentage may be extended up to 50% in the future. It is also ready to approve projects that support the program against COVID-19 within 3 days.
- It was analyzed that the international aid and support may be scarce for Nepal as the countries that support funds are going through a huge crisis. It will also affect the implementation of other ongoing programs.
- The poor/ daily wage workers should be supported with cash rather than goods; this will revive the local markets and vendors; this will also reduce possibilities of corruption; and also help prevent infection by avoiding large crowds.
- I/NGOs and representatives should promote the sharing of authentic information on the social media; this will avoid unnecessary panic and stress in general public.
- Prompt action is necessary from I/NGOs, with plans for immediate response as well as longer term relief support, and delay can harm the reputation. In the longer term, I/NGOs should focus in building livelihood of people living in poverty.
- Although governments opt for cash contribution, INGOs are not mandated to contribute cash in government’s basket fund.

**Action Points**

2. Deliver message and hold dialogues in order to create space for civil society, CSOs and INGOs so that they can support the government and communities in prevention, relief and response against COVID-19.

3. I/NGO will continue to extend support through Province Governments and Local Level mechanisms by capitalizing on their need for and willingness for partnership with I/NGOs.

4. Cash transfer is deemed to be more appropriate way to support the affected households.