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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**  
स्वीस सरकार बिकास सहयोग एसडिसि

## PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Switzerland has agreed to provide a grant assistance of CHF 18.12 million (equivalent to approx. NPR 2 billion) to Government of Nepal (GoN) to continue its successful cooperation in the field of labour migration through the third phase of Safer Migration Project (SaMi III). The proposed phase is planned from 16 September 2018 to 15 July 2022.

In view of the importance of foreign employment for Nepal's economy and for its people, Switzerland has been supporting the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, GoN, since 2011 through the Safer Migration project. Based on the successful past collaboration between the two governments and the recent changes in the governance structure, this phase will support the GoN at all levels to address the need of Nepali labour migrants leaving for foreign countries.

The project will focus its support on the local governments to deliver migration related services, as elaborated in the Local Government Operations Act. Such services include the provision of relevant and accurate information to aspiring migrants and their families, vocational skills trainings, legal support, financial literacy to migrants and their families as well as psychosocial counseling to families in distress.

At the federal level, the project will closely work together with the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) for the continued upgrading of the Foreign Employment Information Management System and its adaptation to the federal system. It will also support DoFE to strengthen the complaint handling mechanism at different levels.

Similarly, the project will work together with the Foreign Employment Promotion Board to develop a National Resource Centre for Migrant Resource Centres, with the aim to develop relevant information material and to update municipalities about relevant developments in the destination countries as well as changing government rules on foreign employment.

The project will be implemented in 39 selected districts from all provinces, selected on the basis of criteria of more than 5,000 migrants per year, approved by DoFE, on an average of last three years. Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation will continue to provide technical assistance to the project.

The Agreement to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. Elisabeth Von Capeller, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal and Dr. Rajan Khanal, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of their respective governments on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for this grant assistance and the continued support to address labor migration issues of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu

Swiss Agency for Development and  
Cooperation SDC,  
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