

PARTNERPLAN

Joel Githinji - Nepal December 2010

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I thank God for his continued blessings and protection of my family here in Nepal. I have had a busy schedule, especially supporting new UMN staff that need more technical support to help partners implement HIV/AIDS activities. The partners have developed one year plan that received funding. The activities focused on HIV prevention work and mitigation of its impact

I facilitated HIV training for 18 students of Maranatha Mission College. The training was an eye opener and one student said "a little knowledge is dangerous". The students declared that they will transfer the knowledge to their community on HIV and encourage churches to become agents of change in addressing stigma and ensuring support to those infected. I also facilitated HIV training for 20 youths from churches, local NGOs and from the community at Bethel Youth Centre Kathmandu.

It was encouraging at national level meeting to hear the commitment of the Government how it will address issues such as HIV and migration through mainstreaming HIV education into other sectors. This was also re-emphasized by the executive chairman of Nepal HIV/AIDS Board

The World AIDS day celebration was conducted in 8 Districts where UMN works. It was a good opportunity to raise issues affecting children infected by AIDS. There were various activities such as essays and a quiz on HIV/AIDS in Bible schools, candle lighting, rallies, a football match, sharing of experiences by adults and children affected by HIV/AIDS etc. In Kathmandu 10 Christian organizations celebrated World AIDS Day in Patan Church and UNAID Nepal Country Representatives attended. The theme was Universal access and human rights.

I visited UMN HIV partners who are working on peer education, care and support programmes in Rupandehi. It took 8 hrs from Kathmandu by bus! The partners have established good networking relation with District and Village Development Committees. It was encouraging to see partners engaged in implementing the activities and discussing how to sustain the ongoing work for maximum impact.

I was elected as the Co-coordinator of Association of international NGOs HIV working group for a period of one year.

Please pray for:

- Renewal of the UMN agreement with the Government of Nepal
- Nepal Christian leaders as they work in remote areas
- UMN staff as they work with development partners,
- Renewal of expatriate visas in Nepal

Blessings

Joel

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