

# Summary of Interaction on World Health Day



Organized by AIN Health Working Group

5/4/2013



Association of International NGOs in Nepal

## Key Objective

On the occasion of World Health Day 7 April 2013, AIN Health Working Group had organized an Interaction Session on 'Contribution of INGOs in the Health Sector'. The discussion was held in the presence of Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, UNICEF, Media personalities and AIN Members working in the health Sector.

- Understand the role of INGOs and contributions made in the health sector.
- Identify the gaps and challenges faced by Health Sector in Nepal.
- Strengthen AIN ties to build synergy, coordination and cooperation between the media and development actors for creating a more favorable development environment.

## Presence

Ministry of Health and Population: Mr. Kabiraj Khanal, Under Secretary Policy, Planning & International Cooperation Division

WHO: Dr. Giampaolo Mezzabotta

UNICEF: Dr. Asha Pun

Media: Various media houses like Annapurna Post, Karobar Daily, Kathmandu Post, Nepalnews.com, Pradhanta Magazine, National Media Development Centre, CIJ Nepal

AIN: 15 AIN Members working in Health sector

## Welcome remarks

Health Working Group Coordinator Dr. K P Dhakal welcomed the participants by sharing briefly about the key objectives of the interaction and its importance for enhancing coordination and cooperation amongst all development partners contributing in health sector. He also showed his gratitude to the Ministry, UNICEF, WHO, Media personalities and AIN Members for their presence.

## AIN Presentation

SC Member Deepak Raj Sapkota made a presentation on behalf of AIN giving an overview of AIN Member's contribution in health sector, key approaches, priority areas, best practices and lessons learned. Deepak Raj Sapkota remarked that media has been very supportive and as the forth and important organ of the state, it can play a very significant role in the coming days, in terms of reaching out to people throughout the country.

*Presentation attached*

## Remarks from WHO and UNICEF

Dr. Paolo Mezzabotta who had represented WHO briefly shared about WHO's collaboration and coordination with various INGOs. Being a TB Officer, he also mentioned about the Secretariat of TB Control, the network at country level and recommended INGOs for engaging in TB and play complimentary role. Dr. Paolo also shared the message of good wishes from WHO Country Representative Dr. Lin Aung who could not attend the event due to other priorities.

Dr. Asha Pun from UNICEF remarked about the good experiences she had working together with many INGO partners in many areas like child protection, nutrition, WASH and social policies. She added that Health is not a standard sector but is multi sectorial hence it is linked with several other sectors.

## Remarks from Ministry of Health and Population

Under Secretary Kabiraj Khanal appreciated INGO's contribution especially in reaching out the unreached, their service delivery role in preventive and promotive health areas. MOHP also acknowledged INGO's Right Based Approach mainly in maternal health services and involvement of beneficiaries in the same. Under Secretary Khanal applauded INGOs for their professionalism and for setting great examples of transparency by doing social audits. He added that INGOs collaboration and cooperation with the Ministry has enhanced over the years, yet there is still more need to strengthen this relation. There is a need to involve INGOs in the Ministry's periodic programs and policies.

He stressed that Private Public Partnership (PPP) modality has become a very suitable modality but there is a need to exercise more hence need more interactions to discuss the same. He added that PPP in health should be promoted widely. He quoted health Secretary's famous saying "*Health is beyond health*" since it is very hard to segregate health and many sectors are involved in health.

Regarding the weakness of INGOs, Under Secretary Khanal remarked that sometimes INGOs put more focus on the Software like trainings, seminars, capacity building workshops and there is lack of coordination at times. Hence there is a need to check these weaknesses. He appreciated AIN for inviting the Ministry in the interaction,

## Open Floor Discussion

Few queries, recommendations and concerns were raised by Media personalities

- MOHP has appreciated INGOs for their good work. Is it the Ministry who sets priorities and INGOs invest or is it the INGOs who set priority and the Ministry follows them?
  - MOHP clarified that it is the Government who sets priorities and INGOs follow them
  - INGOs are just the extended hands of the Government and the facilitators.
  
- All are focusing on MDGs. What is beyond MDG 2015?
  - One is not yet clear what is beyond MDG. MDG is a global political agenda. WHO and UN Mechanisms are discussing on the same, yet it is too premature to say what comes post MDG. For Nepal a follow up on MDG would be good as there is much more to be done in many areas like nutrition. One has to deal with the issue of non communicable diseases, right to health issues and universal health coverage issues as well.
  
  - Apart from MDG everybody has a role to play, there is much to do and a lot can do done through AIN's incredible network that reaches throughout the country. There is a need to join hands, support each other, share accurate information that supports the key decisions and make services available for the needy people especially for the ones that are living in poverty without any support systems.

- There is Mental Health Policy but it is not implemented completely. Why?
  - MOHP is aware of the Mental Health Policy and one cannot say nothing has been done. MOHP can provide a list of activities that have been done; there are more things to be done as well.
- Media people do not have medical science background hence they do not fully understand health terminologies, yet due to interest many journalists attend and report on health issues. For instance one could not clearly state the difference between Dialysis and diagnosis. Is there any way to empower journalists to enhance the quality on health reporting?
  - UNICEF shared its earlier experience in media sensitization and joint monitoring. Likewise, AIN HWG showed possibilities of conducting training for journalists on health themes to enhance the quality on health reporting.
- Can INGOs reach out to the journalists and build their capacities who are based in remote areas? Many INGOs like CARE Nepal have done orientation and trainings for remote based journalists and are keen to explore possibilities in the coming days in collaboration with other Health Group Members.
- Are Faith based INGOs like UMN promoting Christianity? Why is the manual focused for Christians?

Faith Based INGOs do not promote religion. The manual prepared by UMN was specially designed for the marginalized Christians, like in Kenya the same manual is focused for Muslims. However there are manuals for non Christians as well for needy people in Mugu, Bajhang and Rukkum. UMN has a history of 60 years working in Nepal and it does not promote Christianity clarified the UMN representative.

- Can INGOs ensure to issue/provide Doctors in remotest areas of Nepal? How does INGOs play supplementary role to Government in this regard?
  - INGOs are under Government hence Doctors are issued as per the government's rule. There could be management problems but INGOs can definitely help the government in the same.
- AIN presentation should have been more specific on who is doing what, stating priorities and specific achievements.
  - AIN did a general presentation as it wanted to give a brief overview of more than forty three AIN Members working in the health sector. To get detailed information on who is doing what AIN has done a mapping of its members contributing in health sector. AIN can provide the report to the media.

## Way Forward

Dr. KP Dhakal in his closing remarks appreciated the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and all the media personalities for attending the interaction and assured for regular discussions in the coming days. As a way forward it was opined that there is a need for regular discussion and coordination between the major development partners working in health sector along with the key actors as the Media to have a greater impact at all levels. Media should focus on reporting the positive aspects, reflecting the good things as well since the INGOs do work with good intentions. Media should give constructive feedback and not only focus on creating media sensation.

## Glimpses







## Invitation for an Interaction Session on Contribution of INGOs in the Health sector

27 March 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

On the occasion of World Health Day, we are pleased to invite you for an Interaction Session on 'Contribution of INGOs in the Health Sector'.

The discussion will be held in the presence of Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, UNICEF, media personalities (reporting on health beat) and AIN Members working in the health Sector.

The main objective of this session is to understand the role of INGOs and contributions it has made in the health sector. Furthermore, this will be an opportunity to identify the gaps and challenges faced by Health Sector in Nepal.

There is a need to build synergy, coordination and cooperation between the concerned stakeholders and actors to strengthen health services and system in the country.

### Schedule:

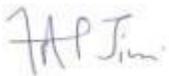
Date: 5 April 2013

Time: 2:30 – 5:00 pm

Venue: Hotel Summit, Kopundole

Hoping for your kind presence and active participation.

Best regards,



Ashutosh Tiwari  
Chairperson  
AIN