



AIN to Engage with External Actors Proactively

AIN has formed External Dialogue and Partnership (EDP) Working Group to engage with key external actors on issues crucial to AIN. In the group's first meeting held on 14th May, it discussed and decided to draft a Terms of Reference and nominate two coordinators for six months on a rolling basis, one representing Steering Committee and the other representing non-Steering Committee members. Brian Hunter, Country Director of Save the Children will be the coordinator representing non-Steering Committee members for the coming six months.

Basing the discussion on the background paper prepared by Vice Chair Dale Davis, the group identified critical issues on which the dialogue should be focused: government policy, mechanism and relations with INGOs, accessing funds earmarked for Nepal and foreign aid policy. Government bodies, the UN, donors, NGO federation, political parties and the press were identified as key actors for dialogue.

The dialogue process will follow five stages of interaction (internal and external consultation and sharing), analysis of the issue (seek external expertise if required), developing key messages for members, take position where necessary and initiate action.

AIN Chair Chij Kumar Shrestha, Vice Chair Dale Davis, Brian Hunter of Save the Children, Bimal Phuyal of ActionAid, Charles Silva of Peace Brigades International and Secretariat staff participated in the meeting. Plenary held on February had identified engagement with external actors the top priority for AIN.

AIN begins Implementing its Communication Strategy

AIN has begun implementing its Communication Strategy this year after it was approved by the Plenary in March. The Strategy, which focuses on strengthening its identity and image and that of its members, contains three categories of activities.

First category contains activities to be implemented by the Secretariat, second category has activities to be implemented in close collaboration with the Working Groups, and third category includes activities that needs close collaboration with member organizations for implementation.

A workshop with member organizations was held on March to discuss the implementation of the Strategy. AIN Secretariat will discuss with Working Groups about its role in implementing the Strategy in the near future.

Website to be Restructured

AIN is restructuring its website in line with the focus of the Communication Strategy. The website will have a database for success stories of the members, separate menu for journalists and a new link that will highlight the efforts of AIN and its members to promote internal transparency and accountability

Code of Conduct for Working with the Press being Developed

AIN is in the process of developing a Code of Conduct (CoC) for working with the Press. The first meeting of the core group formed for developing the CoC was held on May 14th. The meeting identified key and critical issues vis-à-vis press engagement and shared responsibilities for undertaking the task among the members. The CoC is AIN's effort to harmonize and standardize member organizations' practice and approach to working with the Press.

The group includes Sudarshan Shrestha from Save the Children (Coordinator), Alina Shrestha from World Vision International, Puja Singh from Hieffer International, Shreya Singh from LWF, Pravaran Mahat from Family Health International and Mohan Rai from AIN Secretariat.

The draft CoC will be submitted to AIN Communication Focal Person.

MoPR and AIN PWG to Reach out to Conflicted Affected People Together



A roundtable discussion on reaching out to 450,000 conflict affected people in Nepal was organized jointly by Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) and AIN Peace Working Group (PWG) on May 18th. The objectives of the roundtable were to explore and develop joint programmes and resource base being carried out through the MoPR and AIN PWG and identify areas where PWG members' technical resources could be mobilized to support peacebuilding efforts.

After Mr. Durganidhi Sharma, MoPR's Director for the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF), presented the Ministry's Three Year Plan, gaps and expectations, the group work session discussed, identified and presented overlapping work areas of INGOs with that of MoPR, and role of INGOs for addressing the existing gaps on four areas that MoPR has identified for possible INGO programming support for the conflict affected: Education and employment skills, social and psychosocial healing, health, rehabilitation and nutrition, and capacity building and strengthening.

In the closing remark Mr. Durganidhi Sharma pointed out the tremendous potential for synergy among actors and requested AIN PWG to work together with MoPR to support peacebuilding in Nepal.

The roundtable decided to hold next round of discussion very soon to work out the detailed plan of action for collaboration between MoPR and AIN PWG. Officials from MoPR, AIN Chair, Vice Chair, representatives of 11 AIN members, EU and GTZ participated in the roundtable discussion.

Social Audit Guidelines Guiding Statement on Managing Workforce Diversity Finalized

A Social Audit guideline has been developed for members and its partner organizations.

The guideline will help in developing a common understanding of the principles and practices of Social Audit amongst members. This will help them to build up their internal organizational capacity, adopt a consistent and coherent methodology for conducting Social Audit, and encourage and facilitate their partners to work in ways that promotes good governance.

The guideline was developed through a participatory and consultative process.

CBWG organized a series of consultations with the members at Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Chitwan, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi. Suggestions and feedbacks received were incorporated while finalizing the guideline.

The Guideline will be published soon.

AIN Capacity Building Working Group (AIN-CBWG) has finalized Guiding Statement on Workforce Diversity for member organizations.

The Statement has been developed to guide members in managing workforce diversity in their organizations. Commitment to diversity is a key AIN principle and the guideline has been considered an important instrument that will guide towards achieving it.

CBWG also conducted three workshops for members and a special session in the last Plenary to sensitize the members on the need to make their organizations more diverse and inclusive.

A baseline study is also being undertaken by the Group to find out staff composition of member organizations and their existing policies on diversity management.

The Guiding Statement will be published and distributed in the near future.

Health Camp for Urban Poor

AIN Health Working Group (HWG) organized a health camp at a slum settlement in Thapathali on the bank of Bagmati river to observe World Health Day on 7th April 2010.



With more than 30 medical and health professionals mobilized, more than 900 people benefited directly from the camp. They received specialized services from pediatrics gynecologist, dermatologists and dentists.

Free medicines and toiletries were also provided to the patients. IEC materials on health and sanitation were displayed prominently in the stalls in the camp. Dr. Chet Raj Pant, Honorable member of National Planning Commission was the Chief Guest of the event. Around 40 volunteers were mobilized during the camp day. The camp was organized under the leadership of AIN HWG in collaboration with member INGOs, Sagarmatha Foundation, District Public Health Kathmandu, UNICEF and Uni-liver.

Six New Members Join AIN

AWO International, SolHimal France, Health Right International, The Umbrella Foundation, Christian Blind Mission and Forum of Federations have joined AIN as new members.

AWO International works mainly for enhancing social structure and structural development at local level.

Sol Himal has been working in Nepal since 2000 mainly focusing on education, literacy, development of community and improving living conditions of most needy, mainly in Rasuwa and other few districts. Health Right International is a new organization with focus on newborn and maternal health. The Umbrella Foundation works for relieving the impact of poverty and war on children. Christian Blind Mission works for improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. Forum of Federations works to build international network fostering exchange of experience on federal governance and federalism.

Their membership was approved in Plenary held on February and April. With six new members, total AIN membership has reached 94.

Warm welcome to the six members!!

AIN and MoHP Review MDGs



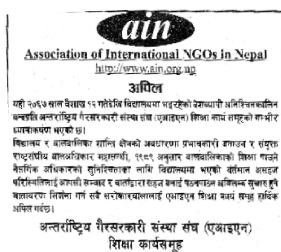
A one-day interaction program to review the current status of health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was organized jointly by AIN and Ministry of Health and Population on February 10 in Kathmandu. The programme was inaugurated by the chief guest Hon. Vice Chairperson of the National Planning Commission (NPC) Dr. Yuvaraj Khatiwada.

Dr. Baburam Marasini, presenting the current status of health related MDGs in Nepal, concluded that Nepal was in the tract to achieving most of the health MDGs except HIV and AIDS where present efforts required additional boost.

Speaking in the program, AIN Vice Chair Dale Davis stressed on the need for multi-sectoral collaboration for achieving health MDGs. She opined that strong partnership between state and non-state actors, mapping of their efforts, and developing concerted multi-sector approach was very crucial. Informing that INGOs had spend NRs. four billion for achieving MGDs, she opined that their role, with their engagement in diverse sectors and reach in almost all districts, was vital for achieving MDGs

More than 60 invitees representing MoHP and its subordinate authorities, AIN members, health sector external development partners (EDPs) and NGOs participated in the programme.

AIN Education Working Group Appeal for Reopening of Schools



across the country since April 25, AIN Education Working Group (EWG) issued a press appeal urging stakeholders concerned to work towards opening of schools as soon as possible by resolving the disagreements through dialogue.

It also urged to make the concept of school and children zone of peace more effective and ensure the fundamental rights of the children to education as per the UN Convention on Child Rights 1989.

The appeal was published in Nagarik National Daily on 28th May.

In view of indefinite closure of schools

Telephone Tree for Emergency

AIN Security Focal Point team has prepared a phone tree for delivering urgent and crucial information via sms during emergency and bands.

The tree will enable members to be aware of the security situation and plan accordingly.

The tree has one personnel from each member organization to whom information will be sent and s/he will have to relay the information to his/her organization.

AIN TGDM participates in 12th National Earthquake Safety Day



AIN Task Group on Disaster Management (TGDM) participated actively in the 12th National Earthquake Safety Day organized in Kathmandu during 16th to 23rd January.

The AIN TGDM stall displayed and distributed various IEC materials on various aspects of earthquake safety besides providing information and explanations to people who visited the stall. The stall was visited by thousands of people including Hon. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, the chief guest of the day and Hon. Home Minister Bhim Rawal. In the exhibition, earthquake safety tools and technology were demonstrated on safe earthquake housing, rescue materials, safe housing materials and technology.

The members also participated in a mass rally in Kathmandu with the slogans “Let’s reduce the risk of earthquake”, “Let’s enhance the security of our community” and “Let’s build safe schools, hospitals and habitats”. AIN TGDM has representation of 20 member organizations.

Condolences

We are saddened by the demise of Mother of Chanda Devi Rai, and Father of Phanindra Adhikary, Steering Committee Members of AIN.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Chandaji and Phanindraji and the bereaved families.

May the Almighty give them the strength to bear the irreparable loss.

AIN Chair and Family

Feedback and comments

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