

Communications Working Group assigns new Coordinator & Co Coordinator: Meeting held on 5 January appointed Prerana Marasini, Media & Communications Coordinator from Oxfam and Richa Uprety, Advocacy and Communications Manager as the Coordinator and Co Coordinator for 2018. Former Coordinator Ayush Joshi Shrestha was appreciated for his leadership and accomplishments made in 2017. Communication Group aims to strengthen media ties in coordination with the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, FNJ as one of their key objectives for 2018.

AIN Chair's meeting with SWC Vice-chair, 5 Jan: AIN Chair Dr. Shibesh Regmi met with Mr. Nil Mani Baral, Vice-chair, SWC to discuss the challenges and difficulties that INGOs have been facing, including delays in getting their project agreements done on time and the way out to streamline the lengthy bureaucratic process.

Safety and Security Meeting, 5 Jan: The meeting nominated Rema Singh Maharjan, Office Manager of BBC Media Action as the Co- Coordinator of Safety & Security Working Group to work in coordination with Coordinator Chandra Bahadur Pun, Security Focal person for Act Nepal in LWF. The Country Director of BBC Media Action Mona Laczo shared about their programs and activities and welcomed interested AIN Members who need any kind of training in regard to media and communications.

AIN SC Meeting, 9 Jan: SC reviewed new membership application from Johanniter International Assistance for Plenary endorsement. SC agreed to host Development Dialogue with Political Parties in early March after the formation of new Government. A Sub Committee comprising of Douwe Dijkstra, Joel Hafvenstein, Tripti Rai and Ujjwal Pokhrel was formed to explore the possibilities of forming AIN Policy Working Group and prepare a TOR for the same. The group also took the responsibility of the hiring AIN Policy Analyst in the near future.

Education Working Group, EWG 10 Jan: New Coordinator Prem Aryal and Co Coordinator Dipak Dulal convened the 1st EWG meeting of 2018 to review the accomplishments of 2017 and prepare new plan of action. The meeting was attended by SC representative for EWG Ujjwal Pokhrel and SC Member Sven Coppens. Deputy Director, Department of Education (DOE) Ramakanta Sharma had attended the meeting as a Guest Speaker, to share about the changes in policy and practices in the education sector in the onset of the new Federal structure. EWG Members agreed to do a workshop on new education policies and procedures to the Rural / Municipality elected chair and co-chair.

Disability Working Group, DWG appoints new Coordinator and Co Coordinator for 2018: DWG Meeting held on 12 January nominated Shiva Acharya, Project Manager from Handicap International and Laxmi Pathak, Project Manager from Plan International as the Co- Coordinator to lead the group. The meeting agreed to follow up on the Disability Inclusion survey amongst AIN members and try to promote 'One INGO One person with disability' Campaign through the larger AIN network. Former Coordinator Soni Pradhan reviewed the activities & accomplishments of 2017. DWG members acknowledged Soni for her contributions as a Coordinator.

Meeting with FHI CS: MAP team, 17 Jan: A meeting was held between SC Members Dr Shibesh Regmi, Lora Wuennenberg, Joel Hafvenstein, Lucky Gurung and CS Map Team Prem Raj Ojha, Tanka Aryal and Zachery Lampell to discuss on the findings from the study on the legal and policy framework for CSOs and media in Nepal in 2017. FHI 360 is implementing the USAID-funded project CS-MAP along with NGO Federation and Federation of Nepalese Journalists as their main civil society and media partners. As a next step a panel discussion has been planned for 20 February Plenary on the topic “Changing Legal and Policy Environment for Civil Society in Nepal.”

National Stakeholders Workshop and launch of campaign ‘Sahi Ho, 17 Jan: AIN Program coordinator Reshma Shrestha attended the event organized by Equal Access and UN Women. The interactive event for celebrating, supporting and promoting women’s economic empowerment & leadership in Nepal was followed by a panel discussion on ‘Women Empowerment – Affirmative Actions and Policy Gaps for Substantive Equality’ by eminent speakers Hon. Mohna Ansari, Commissioner NHRC, Radhika Aryal Joint Secretary MOWCSW, Dr Pukar Malla Founder & Executive Director, Daayitwa and Bharati Silwal Giri GESI Expert.

UNDSS Basic First Aid Training: UN Clinic in coordination with UNDSS conducted one day Basic First Aid Training (BFAT) on 17 January at UN House. They have provided 2 seats for AIN Members and this time it was attended by Mission East and NDI. The training is conducted every month.

Health Working Group, HWG nominates new Coordinator and Co Coordinator: HWG meeting held on 19 Jan at UMN nominated Jagadishwor Ghimire, Health Program Coordinator of CARE Nepal and Shira Goldstein, Country Director of IsraAid as the Coordinator and Co Coordinator for 2018. The meeting thanked Taranath Acharya Coordinator of 2017 for his leadership and representation in JAR meetings.

Meeting with SWC Member-Secretary, 22 Jan: AIN Chair Dr. Shibesh Regmi met with Mr. Dilli Prasad Bhatta, Member-Secretary, SWC to discuss the challenges and difficulties that INGOs have been facing, including the M&E fees charged to INGOs and the complaints received from USAID regarding the M&E fees to be paid by the projects funded by them. The meeting decided to hold a meeting with all INGOs to discuss the matter and find out way out to resolve it. Accordingly, SWC called a meeting to discuss the same issue on February 5, which, unfortunately, however, was later cancelled by SWC.

HCT Meeting on Flood Response Gap analysis on 22 January: AIN Treasurer Lora Wuennenberg attended the HCR meeting that was called to validate information from the various clusters to look at gaps between targets in the Joint Response Plan (details in the following link <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepal-flooding-response-plan-august-2017-february-2018>) and the actual response as reported through the clusters. The cluster leads updated reported figures for actual numbers of people reached. The updated gap analysis will be used for follow up discussions with the government.

Handicap International unveils its new brand name and logo, 26 January: AIN Secretariat staff Lucky Gurung and Reshma Shrestha attended the event hosted by Handicap International to discover its new name ‘*Humanity and Inclusion.*’ Handicap International has effortlessly worked towards ensuring the essential needs of people with disabilities and other vulnerable people for the

last 35 years. In order to communicate more effectively on the diversity of their activities, they have changed their international network's operating name. Heartiest Congratulations to Willy Bergogne and HI team. Entire AIN was invited in the event.

National Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, 30 January: AIN Chairperson Dr Shibesh Regmi attended the workshop organized by the Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University that had undertaken a comprehensive study on the "State of Social Inclusion in Nepal (SOSIN)." The primary objective of the research project was to generate empirical data and furnish rigorous analysis on the state of social inclusion in contemporary Nepal. The study is expected to help the promotion and monitoring of the progress on social inclusion as both a desired outcome, and required strategy, for sustainable growth and inclusive democracy in Nepal. Along with AIN, representatives of key stakeholders from government, academics, and civil society were invited to discuss and provide inputs on the research methodology design for further refinement & finalization.

AIN SC meeting, 30 January: AIN SC Members Lora Wuennenberg, Joel Hafvenstein, Ujjwal Ghimire, Nirmala Sharma, Tripti Rai, Govinda Neupane, Sven Coppens along with Chair Dr Shibesh Regmi called an urgent meeting at Room To Read to prepare and discuss on AIN position for the 5 Feb Meeting called by SWC regarding USAID's concern over M & E fees. As an outcome of the meeting a letter was prepared based on AIN member's inputs and circulated for their information.

Child Protection Working Group, CPWG: The CPWG meeting held on 31 January nominated Jiyam Shrestha Program Coordinator of Terre des Hommes as the Coordinator and Eloise Jha, Country Director of Planet Enfants et Developpement as the Co-coordinator. SC representative for CPWG Sven Coppens who had attended the meeting appreciated CPWG for functioning in a coordinated way to envision Child Protection in solidarity. CPWG has stood as a valuable forum to share and exchange information where members come together to focus on common agendas and create pressure on pertinent protection issues. The meeting appreciated former Coordinator Anju Pun for her excellent coordination and supportive role in 2017.

Task Group on Disaster Management, TGDM: The TGDM meeting held on 31 January nominated Dinesh Gurung DRR, Climate Change & Humanitarian Response Coordinator of Action Aid Nepal as the Coordinator and Krishna Karkee, Regional Programme Officer – Humanitarian Response from Dan Church Aid as the Co- Coordinator for 2018. TGDM Members thanked and appreciated Geeta Pradhan for her dynamic leadership in 2017.

AIN meeting with Federation of Nepalese Journalists, FNJ: A second meeting was held between AIN and FNJ on 31 January at IPAS Nepal Office. The meeting was attended by FNJ President Govinda Acharya, Rajesh Mishra, Harihar Singh Rathaur, Bhuwan KC, Hiranya Joshi, Bipul Pokharel, and Ramesh Bista. From AIN side Chairperson Dr Shibesh Regmi and SC Member Mona Sherpa along with Communications Coordinator Prerana Marasini, Amit Pyakurel and Reshma Shrestha were present. The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen relation between AIN & FNJ and explore areas for joint collaborations and initiatives. A sub- committee was formed from both sides to work together in the coming days.

Joint Annual Review Meeting, 31 Jan: AIN Health Working Group members attended the Joint Annual Review JAR Meeting called by the Ministry of Health. On behalf of AIN HWG, Coordinator Jagadishwor Ghimire made a presentation on the topic “Learning from project implementation during transition amidst challenges.” The presentation was prepared through combined efforts and inputs provided by HWG members. SC Member Nirmala Sharma had attended the JAR meeting to represent AIN.