

In the Know

UNDP Nepal Newsletter



Global Fund round seven provides US\$ 12.3 million grant to Nepal

News of the Month

The Government of Nepal has received US \$12.3 million for HIV/AIDS from the round seven grant of **Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM)**. The three principle recipients in Nepal who will implement this grant are Family Planning Association of Nepal; Save the Children (US) and UNDP.

The objective of the grant is to help reduce HIV transmission in Nepal and enhance the quality of the lives of People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the country, mainly in the mid and far-west development regions. The programme targets mainly the mobile population, Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), Men having Sex with Men (MSM) and PLWHA.

Out of the total US\$ 12.3 m, UNDP Nepal will manage US\$ 6.7 million for the period of two years- based on the contract between GFATM and UNDP. During the implementing period, UNDP will focus on further building the capacity of the Government and of civil society to manage and

DFID, UNDP sign additional US\$ 3.2 (£ 2.2 m) MoU for implementation of the national HIV/AIDS in Nepal

The Department For International Development (DFID) and UNDP have signed additional US\$ 3.2 (£ 2.2 m) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to continue supporting the implementation of the national HIV/AIDS response in Nepal in 2009. With this, DFID's total contribution amount since 2005 to the national HIV/AIDS response in Nepal amounts to US\$13.8m (£ 9,400,000). With the additional available resources, UNDP will continue

implement HIV/AIDS activities; expand access and coverage of quality HIV testing and counseling, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnosis and treatment; and strengthen the existing health services to provide quality care and treatment for PLWHA.

HIV/AIDS has the potential to become a national crisis in Nepal. The overall HIV prevalence in Nepal is estimated at 0.49% in the adult population corresponding to about 70,000 people living with

the implementation of comprehensive services for *Most At-Risk Populations* in 2009 and support the institutional capacity strengthening of the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Ministry of Health and Population and HIV/AIDS & STD Control Board. The DFID funding will complement and supplement the Round 7 grant from the Global Fund for AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), ensuring stronger national response on HIV/AIDS.

HIV out of which approximately one in three are women. The *Most At-Risk Populations* have been identified as Migrant Labourers, Commercial Sex Workers and their clients, Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and Men Having Sex with Men (MSM).

In 2008, UNDP continued to partner with the GFATM and DFID to support the Government in the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, 2006-2011 and the National Action Plan 2006-2008.

Development for Peace

Joint monitoring visit to Nepal Peace Trust Fund projects

A joint team composed of staff from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), donor agencies and UNDP's Peacebuilding and Recovery Unit visited Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Nepalgunj and Kailali districts in December to monitor the projects funded by the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF).

This was the first external joint monitoring undertaken by the NPTF secretariat and the donors to evaluate the progress of NPTF projects, to assess the provision of basic services in the cantonments and rehabilitation of IDPs. The visit also provided an opportunity for

the NPTF management to interact with the project stakeholders such as the cantonment authorities, district officials and most importantly, the NPTF projects' beneficiaries.

The team observed the temporary housing, kitchen and toilets, medical health centres, the access roads to the cantonments, the basic utilities (electricity, telephone) and recreational facilities for the combatants. The monitoring team evaluated the project progress as satisfactory considering the limited resources available to the NPTF and the implementation challenges. It strongly recommended that regular monitoring visits be made to ensure the provision of quality services in the cantonment and to build confidence between the programme management, the project implementation agencies,



Health Center in Arun Khola, Nawalparasi- Main Camp



Health Post in Hatikhori, Nawalparasi- Satellite Camp

and the beneficiaries. The team also concluded that the NPTF should continue to support projects related to the cantonment and IDPs, besides other priority areas identified in the NPTF Needs Assessment.



Access Road, Temporary housing in Rasauli, Chitwan- Satellite Camp

Government, UNDP Annual Review Meeting

The Annual Review Meeting between the Government and UNDP was held at the Ministry of Finance on 31 December to review the Programme achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in 2008 and to discuss the key priorities for 2009. The meeting was jointly chaired by the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Krishna Gyanwali and UNDP Country Director, Ms. Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau.

In the meeting, the Country Programme Action Plan (2008-2010) was presented for further discussion on the key areas of UNDP works such as Peace Building and Recovery, Transitional Governance, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihood, Environment, Energy and Natural Disaster Management and Gender and Social Inclusion as a cross-cutting issue in all the areas of work.

The discussion revolved around resource allocation for each of these areas, the need to mobilise resources for some of the successful community livelihood projects and the challenges faced during 2008 in the implementation of some projects. Mr. Krishna Gyanwali stated that the overall performance of the programmes remained satisfactory and that the Government would continue to take leadership and ownership of these programmes.

News From the Field

Solar Tukis— Displacement of kerosene lamps !

The **UNDP/Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)** Nepal has supported the Centre for Renewable Energy (CRE), an NGO to initiate a project on “Displacement of kerosene lamp by low cost white light emitting diode (WLED) based photo voltaic lighting System’— better known as **solar tuki** or **the solar lamp!**

CRE is the pilot project implementer for the ‘Light for All’ movement. The contribution from *UNDP/GEF SGP* Nepal for the project is US\$46,000 while the CRE’s own investment is US\$ 9,500.

The *solar tuki* is an ideal, affordable and immediate alternative solution for lighting houses in rural villages which costs between Rs. 3200-Rs. 3500. Considering that the average size of the rural households in Nepal is about 5.5 persons per family, the 14,500 *solar*

tuki systems that are in use have benefited nearly 79,750 people.

Since the average consumption of kerosene for lighting purpose per household is estimated to be 3 litres/ month, about 42,000 litres of kerosene is being saved every month. In 2008, about 5,500 *solar tuki* sets have been

installed, which has helped to save 198,000 litres of kerosene.

The simple technology of the *solar tuki* allows a person, even without any technical background, to understand the system. The standard three-day training teaches the trainees to assemble and repair *solar tuki* lamps. 65 technicians have been trained so far by the CRE helping to create a new work force.



institutions have also been made aware of the *solar tuki* technology, market, and skills development requirement.

The success of *solar tuki* has attracted a lot of donors including the World Wildlife Fund/Terai Arc Landscape Project. Along with Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), CRE also received grants from *Nepal Development Market Place* and *Global Development Market Place* of World Bank to replicate the *solar tuki* and its distribution process.

The Government of Nepal has also replicated the technology under the name of *Karnali Ujyalo* program to install 60,000 *Solar Tukis* in the far-western districts as the national grid will still take some years to reach there. Likewise Alternative Energy Promotion Centre/ Energy Sector Assistance Programme (AEPC/ESAP) of the Government of Nepal has integrated *solar tuki* in their 2nd phase programme— they are planning to provide subsidy for 250,000 *solar tuki* systems during next five years.



Besides service centre operators, entrepreneurship training is provided to individuals, groups and cooperatives who are interested to set up a manufacturing (assembly) industry in their locality. Several I/NGOs and micro-finance

News From the Field

Open road race for disaster preparedness

An open road race was organised at the Pokhara stadium to raise awareness about natural disaster management and to change the understanding, attitude and practices of the public at large to reduce risks through preparedness.

Several messages were displayed and pamphlets were distributed to the general public. Around 100 people participated in the 21 kms. road race along with school boys and girls participating in the 10 kms. and 5 kms. race respectively. The 1500 meters road race for the handicapped people on wheelchair was the main attraction of the event. Medals and cash prize for the winners and certificates for all the participants were distributed by the Deputy Inspector General Police (DIGP) of the Western Region.



The event was funded by the **Disaster Risk Reduction at the National Level in Nepal (DRRNLN)**, a project supported by the **European Commission Humanitarian Aid department** and **UNDP**. The event was coordinated by **Community Service Nepal**, an NGO.

Strategic assessment of the Micro-enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP)

An independent strategic assessment of the UNDP **Micro-enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP)** was conducted jointly by UNDP and AUS AID. The mission assessed the project with a particular focus on access to microfinance, expansion of programme to new districts and sustainability. A broad range of partners were consulted including the Government, civil society, private sector, the donor communities and other organisations related to **MEDEP**, both at the centre and district levels.

A field visit was also undertaken to interview the micro-entrepreneurs and district level implementing partners to understand their perceptions on the usefulness of the programme and services provided by the project. A detailed report with recommendations to further strengthen the project is expected to be received in Jan 2009.

MEDEP started in 1998 and the third phase is expected to end in 2010. Over 30,000 men and women have become micro-entrepreneurs in the past 10 years. The programme ensures that the poor entrepreneurs get further opportunity to expand their business by linking their products with the markets in bigger cities and the capital.

Study tour on Trade

A high level team representing the Government of Nepal and private sector visited Cambodia recently to learn about the adoption of Trade Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) and associated mechanisms to make it a success. The study was facilitated by UNDP supported **Enhancing Trade-related Capacity Building (ENTReC)** project.

The team was familiarized with the functions of the National Steering Committee (NSC), the inter-ministerial coordination and donor coordination mechanisms, multilateral and bilateral support, government-development partners' dialogue mechanisms and the institutional and human capacity building initiatives associated with the implementation of new Trade SWAp. The team, upon return have submitted their recommendations to the Government, for exploring the possibilities of a trade SWAp in Nepal.

World AIDS Day commemorated

The 20th Anniversary of World AIDS Day was marked by the UN staff in Nepal amidst a programme organised by the 'UN Cares Nepal Team'. The event was addressed by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper. On the occasion, *The National Federation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS* was given the Red Ribbon Award prize money of US\$ 5000. The NGO was selected from over 500 global nominations to be among the 25 winners of the Red Ribbon Award 2008 for innovative and sustainable approach to provide prevention, care, treatment and support to people living with HIV, especially the women. Ms. Nisha Dhaubhadel, President of the NGO received the award on behalf of the Federation.



Nisha Dhaubhadel, president of National Federation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS thanks the UN team

International 16 days of activism to end violence against women

The National Human Rights Commission jointly with the UNDP **Enhancing Access to Justice Project** organised an interaction programme to commemorate **International 16 days of activism to end violence against women**. One of the main objectives of the programme was to create a moral pressure on the Government to endorse the *Anti-Domestic Violence Bill* and to take other administrative and legislative measures to eradicate gender-based violence. The seminar was chaired by the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Honourable Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyaya and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Honourable Kedar Prasad Giri as the Chief Guest.



Workshop on Gender Based Violence

UNDP Enhancing Access to Justice Project and the **National Judicial Academy** jointly organised a three-days training/workshop on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Gender Justice. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize the participants on the GBV concepts, its causes and consequences, and to enhance their capacity to deal with such cases. The workshop also aimed at exploring redress mechanisms and the role of judges, public prosecutors, crime investigation officers, and defence lawyers in addressing the issues and ensuring access to justice for victims of GBV. Altogether 25 persons including judges of the pilot district courts, government attorneys, lawyers and police officials attended the workshop.



Happy New Year 2009 to all the readers !