

# LMN News

ISSUE 74 | MARCH 2022



*Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society*



## Dear friends



**DHANA LAMA**  
Executive Director

Greetings !

We would like to present the first issue of UMNews of 2022 with great delight. We are very grateful to God for sustaining us and providing all the resources through our faithful supporters and friends to address the needs and challenges throughout the COVID pandemic. All of UMN's offices are now functioning normally and physically from the workplace.

As I write this, my heart is filled with gratitude, humility, and joy for we recently had the privilege to celebrate the 68th Anniversaries of UMN and United Mission Hospital Tansen, Okhaldhunga Community Hospital's 60th Anniversary and the 112th International Women's Day. We have experienced God's faithfulness in all these. So, this issue focuses on UMN's Anti Human Trafficking work that we have wrapped up and UMN's Gender work, as March is devoted to celebrating achievements of women and seeking and promoting gender equality. As you read, you will see how closely the issues of human trafficking and gender equality are linked. I would like to encourage you to meet some of the women from the communities we serve through the great



stories illustrating our work in these areas and also take a look at UMN's Gender Appeal to support the gender-related works planned for the future.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Joel Hafvenstein for leading and managing UMN for more than five years and also for encouraging me - I wouldn't be here without him. We will miss him sorely but his humility, integrity, leadership qualities, courage and servitude will always be in our hearts. We are also grateful to Fiona and their children for being there to support him and allowing him to serve us. I pray and trust that he and his family be favoured by our loving God.

Thank you for your support and solidarity for gender equality in Nepal.

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# PRESSING ON IN *hope!*

Having worked in the development sector for 18 years with different Nepali communities in the Terai and the hills, I can say that I enjoy doing what I do and am excited to serve the disadvantaged people in poorest communities, to bring change and transformation. One of the six values of UMN is 'special concern for poor and marginalised people'. I stand strongly behind this value which motivates me and gives me a purpose in life. Witnessing an excluded minority group make his/her own decision, get access to better education, health, better income, secure livelihoods, and become resilient to disaster in the most remote communities makes me believe it is worth being part of this organisation.

After taking over Dhana Lama's former role as Programme Partner Team Leader in October 2021, I have been entrusted with the responsibility to provide leadership to UMN's cluster offices. My goal is to build their capacity and equip clusters and partners in efficient project, financial and disaster management, with a focus on building resilient communities.

In 2020 and 2021 our work was greatly affected by the first and second waves

of the Covid pandemic, but less so by the third wave in early 2022. UMN actively supported the provincial, district and local governments to strengthen their health service capacity by providing essential medical equipment and health and safety items.

Our focus in 2022 will be on capacity building of clusters and partner staff on existing projects and financial management, strengthening the systems on project impact monitoring, new project design, disaster management and integral development. We will also be focusing on submitting three provincial-level long-term (five-year) Project Agreements to be signed by the Nepal Government, which is vital for us to serve in Nepal legally. We need your earnest prayers for the approvals.

I stay hopeful and positive this year and look forward to seeing some projects in Mental Health, Climate and Child Rights starting up. We may face challenges as we initiate new projects and ideas in communities, but I believe that's where opportunities are hidden for us to unfold paths of hope and abundance for the communities.

**BISHAL BABU SHRESTHA**  
Programme Partner Team Leader

“ One of the six values of UMN is 'special concern for poor and marginalised people'. I stand strongly behind this value which motivates me and gives me a purpose in life. ”



# UMN TACKLES

## *Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT)*



Nepal has become the source, transit hub and destination for various forms of human trafficking. The National Human Rights Commission report 2017 estimated that roughly 23,200 persons were trafficked or attempted to be trafficked in Nepal in 2017. Migrant workers to India and Gulf countries are especially susceptible to human trafficking and forced labour.

UMN started its AHT project in Rupandehi District in 2017 for five years in two rural municipalities, finishing in December 2021. This area is just 5km from the Indian border, making the poorer communities and migrant workers and their families living there vulnerable and at high-risk of falling into the trap of trafficking. In these five years of working with the duty bearers (local government) and the community, we have many achievements to be proud of and many happy stories to share. However, even after decades of efforts through many organisations and activists, trafficking of Nepali girls and women still remains a big challenge.

**SAGAR GAUDEL**

Thematic Lead - Peace and Protection

## WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?

Cases of human trafficking are higher in societies where social discrimination and incidence of poverty and violence is high. In Nepal, including our working area, we see these causes of HT:

- ➔ **Gender discrimination and domestic violence:** Women and girls who have lower levels of education and literacy and who experience other forms of gender discrimination at the household and community level, including domestic violence, are more vulnerable to being abused and trafficked. Alcoholism also contributes to domestic violence and an unpleasant home environment, making leaving more attractive.<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ **Poverty and migration practices:** Most of the trafficked women and girls who migrate are from very poor families which have no other alternative for their livelihoods. It is also cheaper for women to migrate - men need to pay a high fee and pay it in advance, whereas women usually don't.
- ➔ **Caste discrimination:** So-called lower caste people are discriminated against, marginalised and excluded in society, particularly from socio-economic opportunities, thereby increasing their vulnerability to trafficking.
- ➔ **Lack of awareness on trafficking risk** amongst those at risk.
- ➔ **Poor capacity and commitment to stop trafficking** by duty bearers (government officials) leading to weak enforcement, despite having relatively good laws and policies against human trafficking.

## CHALLENGES IN BRINGING CHANGE:

- ➔ The cycle of poverty – those who are most at risk need to spend the whole day working to provide two meals for their families, so it is difficult to work with them. They are easily lured to opportunities to earn more and false promises by agents.

It was not easy to receive support and cooperation from local leaders due to:

- ➔ Indifference – for those in power, human trafficking does not directly affect them and their family members, so they haven't taken ownership of it.
- ➔ Reluctance shown by the government authority – since the project questioned and addressed their inability to work against HT, government officials felt that the project was against them especially.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ➔ Informed and organised rights holders (community people): we developed more than 108 community people who are now working as local-level campaigners against HT and its causes.
- ➔ Developed community-based protection systems where neighbours look out for possible cases of trafficking and alert the police.
- ➔ Increased accountability of duty bearers<sup>2</sup>.
- ➔ Developed local-level civil society forums: more than 178 community people have been active as civil society members. The project has trained them about social issues including the issues related to HT, gender-based violence, rights-based approach, and advocacy skills.
- ➔ Increased capacity of a local-level civil society organisation, UMN's local partner, to work against HT. The entire community will benefit from their skills in the long run.

<sup>1</sup> Nepal's National Human Rights Commission report 2017 revealed that gender discrimination has significantly contributed to the problem of human trafficking in Nepal.

<sup>2</sup> Those in power who have responsibility to ensure laws are followed and people receive their rights.





## YOUTH PROMPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION



Dhusuwa is a less developed area of Rupandehi District where most citizens are from ethnic minority communities. More than 70 % of the households there are dependent on labour for survival, either in or outside Nepal. UMN's partner SCDC-R\* assessed the village's situation before starting a community group of the Anti-Human Trafficking Project in 2017. They then formed an adolescent group.

The members of the adolescent group attended training on leadership development, advocacy skills, a Rights-Based Approach and regular meetings on human trafficking issues in their community, following their mobilisation manual. This group work helped enhance the young people's understanding of the causes and effects of human trafficking, Rights-Based Approach, and advocacy skills. This further helped to boost their coordination and connections, including with the local government of the rural municipality (RM). After this, they campaigned or the RM to help reduce human trafficking in their community and became actively engaged in organising public awareness rallies and interaction programmes to reduce human trafficking problems.

In January 2018, the group approached the local government and urged them to provide support for out-of-school girls in vocational training. The adolescent group members shared, "We gave the RM's authority the reasons why it is needed and why adolescent girls should be selected. We shared about the problems of poor people and the likelihood of trafficking of girls from those houses."

The RM authority promised to support their group, and, after a month, they received a notice that four girls from their community were selected for three-month's of vocational training support. Sita Balami, a member, shared: "When we got a message from the RM, we felt like we won a war. I felt confident and powerful for the first time." After completing handicraft-making training, those four girls shared, "The skill we learned is the most important for us. We have already started to use our skills." The girls are encouraged by this achievement and are working jointly for their community's betterment.

\* Sungabha Community Development Centre (SCDC-R)

# RESHMA REACHES SCHOOL INSTEAD OF INDIA

Reshma\*, 16, is an orphan who lives with her aunt in Rupandehi District of Nepal. Unable to afford education, she dropped out of school after Grade 6. Her aunt also faced financial problems so Reshma started helping with the household chores to support the family.

A lady from a neighbouring area met Reshma's aunt and informed her of a job providing care for a baby in India. Reshma was then inspired and indirectly forced by her aunt to go to India and the lady started preparations to take her.

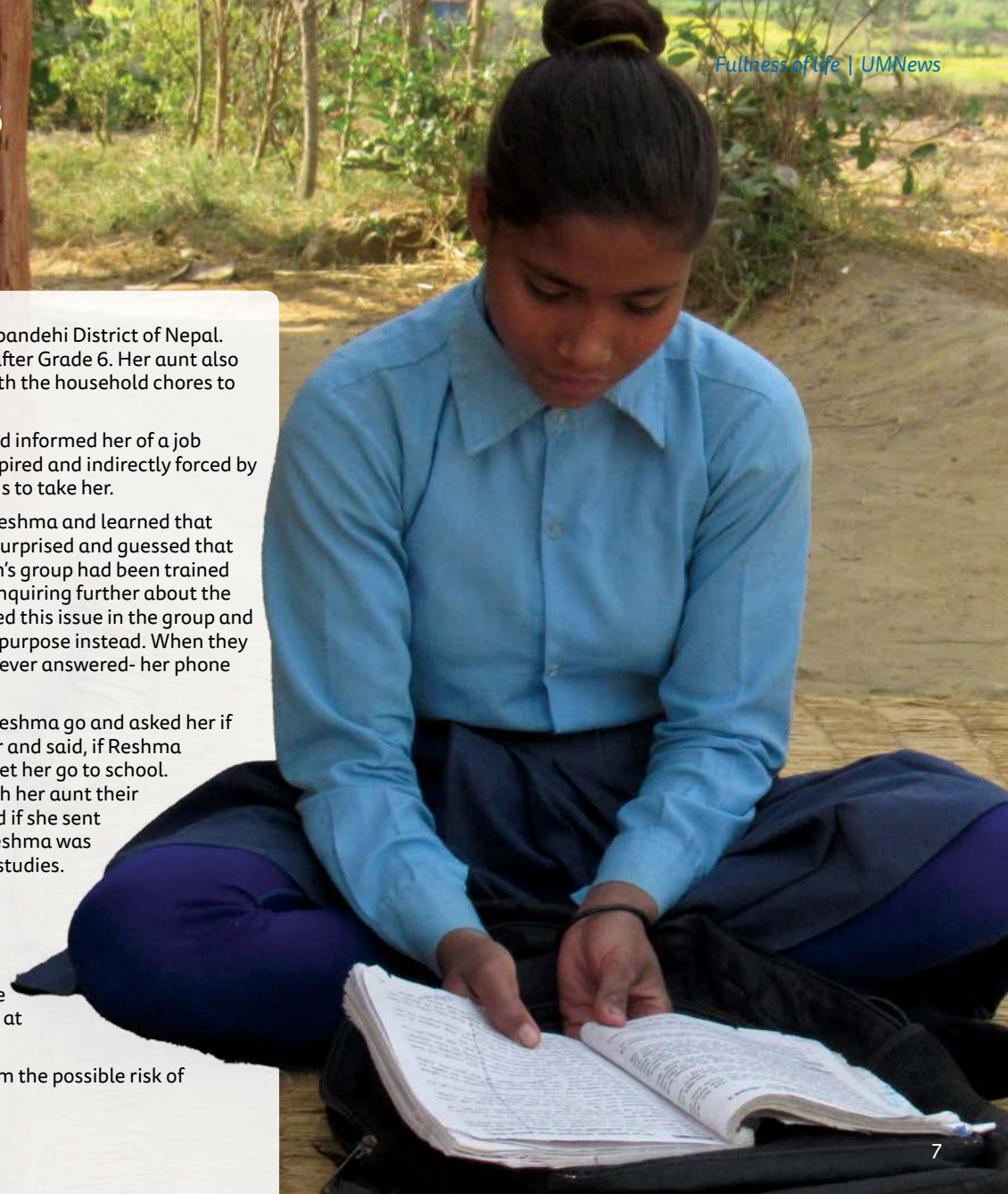
When a group facilitator of Ekta Women's Group met Reshma and learned that she was soon leaving for India to take the job, she was surprised and guessed that Reshma might be at risk of being trafficked. The women's group had been trained through UMN's Anti-Human Trafficking project. After enquiring further about the job promised to Reshma, the group's facilitator discussed this issue in the group and they identified that Reshma might be used for another purpose instead. When they tried to meet that lady who had proposed the job, she never answered- her phone was always switched off.

The group members concluded that it was risky to let Reshma go and asked her if she wanted to rejoin school. They offered to support her and said, if Reshma agreed, they would talk to her aunt and request her to let her go to school. Following this discussion with Reshma, they shared with her aunt their assessment of the likelihood of Reshma being trafficked if she sent her off for the job. The aunt then realised the danger Reshma was in and agreed to let her stay with her and continue her studies.

The Ekta group coordinated with a school for Reshma's admission and requested the school provide her with a subsidy, which the school did. UMN's partner SCDC-R provided the school uniform, bag and required stationery. Reshma is thankful for the great support she has been shown. The women's group members monitor at her school regularly.

Through this wonderful joint effort, a girl was saved from the possible risk of being trafficked.

\* name changed







The possibility of human trafficking, rape, alcoholism and other crimes was high in most areas of Kanchan and Gaidahawa in Rupandehi, where UMN's AHT Project was first introduced in 2017. Landless families, especially women and girls, are vulnerable to such risks because of their temporary settlement. Their guardians often travel for work, causing them to be less well cared for when they settle in a new place.

Kanchan Rural Municipality initiated supporting the landless people at Beldanda village by constructing 10 houses for 10 families to make their communities secure through permanent settlement. UMN and its partner SCDC-R prepared 20 windows for 10 households and provided awareness to the newly settled families on AHT causes and how to stay safe, showing an effective co-operation between local government and local stakeholders. After completion of their new homes, the locals are now confident enough to share their needs and problems with relevant duty bearers and local organisations.



## ADOLESCENT GROUPS AS CHANGE AGENTS

**Geeta Bhujel** is a member of Milizuli adolescent group, which was formed in 2017 under the AHT Project. Initially, she was very shy and lacked self-confidence and purpose. But since then she gained a lot by participating in capacity-building and AHT awareness training, which, shaped her career and made her a social campaigner. The local community now recognises her as an active member of AHT groups which advocate about AHT, domestic and gender-based violence. She is currently working as a social mobiliser and even worked as a programme presenter at the local FM Radio.



**Suryamukhi** - another adolescent group - is now known as the change agent in its community. The majority of the 25 group members are from the ethnic communities who are less privileged. AHT Project has provided the group with a wide range of support, such as awareness-raising on AHT issues leadership development and networking with the stakeholders. With the project's support, they have gained a good rapport with the local-level civil society leaders and have been working to address human trafficking issues and challenge gender discrimination, as well as approaching duty bearers to claim their rights.



# CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME - a husband!



Fullness of life | UMN News

Prakash Chandra Kewat, a gender champion of UMN's Gender Equality Project, once thought that women were meant to stay at home and cover all the household work. Since childhood, this was what he saw and learned. As he grew up, he never saw his father engage in any household chores nor did he see any men in his neighbourhood do housework.

"Until a year ago, washing clothes, doing dishes and cooking as the head of the family was a matter of shame for me. Helping a wife in her daily chores would cause social gossip and a disgrace among men. But now, cooking for my wife and my children is a privilege for me. It is a joy to be able to serve them," shared Prakash, who is a resident of Nawalparasi District with his wife Sunita, two daughters and a son.

Prakash joined a couples' group formed by UMN's project a year ago. Throughout the year, he attended gender equality training sessions and took part in participatory action-reflection sessions. During one participatory action-reflection training, they were asked to reflect on "what would make us different from other men?". This reflection was eye-opening and awakening. Prakash shared, "I got a chance to challenge my bad gender stereotypes and

Prakash: "We don't accept mistreatment and gender-based violence!" (left)

Sunita: "Let's start from the home – let's forbid violence against women!" (Right)

superstitious beliefs. I had a strong realisation that I would not be able to change the world around me without changing myself in the first place!"

Prakash's sisters were married at a young age and were given dowry. "Having witnessed this while growing up, I held a belief that it was a rewarding thing to be able to receive as much dowry as one could. But after I became a member of the couples' group, I learned many things about gender stereotypes and inequalities, women's rights, the dark sides of dowry systems and the importance of girls' education. Now I realise that my thoughts toward gender roles were very debilitating," shared Prakash.

UMN's gender equality project's review and reflection sessions have helped Prakash to be a change champion for gender equality in his family, group and community. He now helps Sunita, his wife do household chores, attends meetings with her and raises awareness about gender equality in his group and community. He has committed to providing his two daughters with an opportunity to study in higher education instead of giving them dowry and gifts. He wants an educated daughter-in-law for his son instead of dowries.

# QA

with **Kabita** and **Surendra**:  
Gender Workshop Facilitators

Bringing change and achieving gender justice is a long process. Kabita and Surendra share their experiences from the ground...

The Stronger  
'SHE'



**Kabita Gurung** is a Project Manager - Peace and Protection in UMN Nawalparasi Cluster Office. She is passionate about bringing changes in the community, especially with the new generation of women and girls. Kabita is also a facilitator of the gender workshops run by UMN. Currently she is working with 40 women's groups.

**What according to you are the three main causes of gender inequality in the community that you work in?**

- The socially constructed roles of women and men, with men exercising power and control over women.
- Women not aware of existing laws and their rights.
- Dowry is a common practice in the community where I work. Parents choose to save money for their daughters' marriage (and dowry) rather than in their education and enabling them to be independent.

**In your work to bring gender justice, what have you been most encouraged about lately?**

- The personal commitment of group members to save money for their daughter's education rather than for dowry.
- Seeing some local religious and community leaders take the initiative locally to raise awareness against dowry practices.

**What are the biggest challenges you have seen /faced while working with local groups in gender issues?**

- Though the male members of our groups are aware and want to break the gender stereotypes, the societal customs, culture and expectations make it difficult for them to start taking action and be different. (e.g. helping with household chores, caring for children, involving wives in family decisions).
- It is a challenge to involve the daughters-in-law in our groups and programmes. It is considered disgraceful or inappropriate for them to leave the house and be engaged outside. As a result, they are not allowed to join, so sometimes their mothers-in-law instead have been attending the group meetings.





**Surendra Rai** is the gender focal person in UMN's Doti Cluster Office and is actively involved in facilitating Participatory Action Reflection process workshops in the communities. He believes that men and women should have equal power and opportunities in all aspects of life.

### What according to you are the three main causes of gender inequality in the community that you work in?

- There is still a strong tendency in our communities to give more preference, value and opportunities to men (sons). Women still seem to be treated as second-class citizens in the society.
- Poor awareness on gender issues and rights in rural communities. Women are mostly expected to be involved in household/domestic work and men are found to be involved in social activities and earning. This makes women less powerful.
- Since many men from the communities go to India and other countries as migrant workers, women are left to take care of the household alone. This not only adds workload to women but also leaves them with less opportunities to participate in social activities.

### In your work to bring gender justice, what have you been most encouraged about lately?

- Through the workshops that I facilitate, I have seen group members actively discussing and analysing gender discriminatory behaviours and also organising awareness activities, which they lead by themselves, in their communities.

### What are the biggest challenges you have seen /faced while working with local groups in gender issues?

- Belief and adherence to traditional harmful practices.
- Poor presence of men in the community due to migrant work/employment.
- Poor knowledge among local government (elected leaders, and other personnel) of existing policies and guidelines for gender equality and poor implementation of these.

# Support our GENDER APPEAL! 'SHE'

Help us achieve UMN's gender-just goals through workshops like those facilitated by Kabita and Surendra.

### These gender workshops:

- Help **community groups** identify and address issues related to gender justice and equality.
- Help **staff and partners** to own and implement their gender policies.

We still need **USD 25,000** to complete all the workshops we have planned! Can you help?

**For USD 118 Sponsor a participant for a seven-day workshop** (covers stationary, travel, accommodation and food for one participant).

**For USD 17 Sponsor a participant to attend one day of a workshop** (USD 3 a week over Lent)

Or maybe you could run an event and share some stories of change and freedom?

**Join us** in creating happier homes and communities!

See here:

<https://www.umn.org.np/content/genderappeal>



for more details and stories of change.

## HOW TO DONATE:



- Make out a cheque or postal order payable to United Mission to Nepal. Make a note indicating how you would like your donation to be used (e.g. Gender Appeal). Post it! (to: UMN, PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal)
- To give online or arrange a bank transfer please go to [www.umn.org.np/give](http://www.umn.org.np/give)

# THE LATEST FROM OUR HOSPITALS TANSEN AND OKHALDHUNGA

## UNITED MISSION HOSPITAL TANSEN

During the third (Omicron) wave in January and February the hospital isolation ward was busy again. This time fewer patients required high flow oxygen support, but at the height of the wave around 50% of patients who needed hospital treatment for other illnesses tested positive for COVID-19. So our isolation beds were well used with 118 admissions from the start of this wave. In three months we delivered the babies of eight COVID positive mothers and performed emergency surgery on some COVID positive patients. We experienced the high transmissibility of this variant: 119 staff contracted the virus in this wave and 75 staff were in home isolation at one point which challenged our ability to keep the hospital staffed. We are grateful that no staff became seriously ill. The hospital was made a COVID vaccination centre again and during the last 1.5 months to date we have been able to give 2,174 doses (first, second and booster doses).

We reached another milestone as we welcomed our 50th batch of skilled birth attendant (SBA) trainees in February. These are nurses who work in remote birthing units, district hospitals and primary health centres. The hospital has been involved in this kind of training for 25 years. It pioneered midwifery training in the late 1990s with the precursors to the present SBA training, running the post basic year-long course and midwifery refresher course for several years. This training equips midwives to provide safe delivery services in rural areas.



50th batch of SBA trainees, and their coordinator Deepawali Shakya with Renske van Veen (visiting this year) who pioneered the training and had trained Deepawali in a year-long course in post-basic midwifery.

Want to read more stories and news from our hospitals? Our 2022 editions of Friends of Tansen and Friends of Okhaldhunga magazines are out now and available on the UMN website!







## OKHALDHUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The mental health project in Okhaldhunga Community Hospital (OCH) has started this year. All the recruitment has been finalised. The renovation work of the psychiatric ward will be completed soon. Staff were sent for a mental health care exposure visit to Rhythm Neuro Psychiatric Hospital and Research Center, Kathmandu. Doctors and paramedical staff are already trained to run mental health programmes in OCH, and a weekly mental health awareness radio programme is being broadcast from three radio stations in Okhaldhunga and one radio station in neighbouring Ramechhap District (to reach the western part of Okhaldhunga), ensuring full coverage of Okhaldhunga District.

First and second year examinations for nursing students are going smoothly. CTEVT\* officials came to visit our nursing college for the annual inspection. They appreciated our hospital services and were impressed by our college examination system.

There are no COVID positive patients admitted in the hospital at the moment.

Okhaldhunga Community Hospital celebrated its 60 years of service on March 15. They had a short and sweet celebration in the presence of two chief guests: the Mayor of the local Siddhicharan Municipality (who is the Chairperson of Hospital Advisory Committee), and the Chief District Officer of Okhaldhunga (who is also on the Hospital Advisory Committee). For more news and photos of the celebration [www.umn.org.np/news/1057](http://www.umn.org.np/news/1057)

\* Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training





## PRAY

- Pray for the young lives you have read about in this edition of UMNews. Pray protection and a better future.
- Pray that Police, Government authorities and organisations like UMN will gain greater success in stopping the evil of human trafficking.
- Pray for schools and community groups who can do so much to provide help and better opportunities for children and young people.
- Pray for the ongoing work of UMN through Hospitals, Cluster Offices, projects and staff as we bring hope for life in all its fullness.



## JOIN US

UMN's cross-cultural teams provide opportunities for suitably skilled expatriates to work with Nepali colleagues, sharing technical skills and demonstrating God's loving concern for all people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

Expatriate team members do not receive a salary or remuneration from UMN directly, but are self-supported volunteers, or supported by a sending mission or church in their home country. If you are interested in any of these positions or if you would like to ask about other opportunities for service in UMN, please contact Sandra Chinnery at [expat.recruitment@umn.org.np](mailto:expat.recruitment@umn.org.np) to learn more. Send your CV or resume with your email.

### PRIORITY NEEDS

**HOSPITAL SERVICES DIRECTOR – KATHMANDU BASED:** Strategic oversight and management of UMN MDT's hospital work.

**EXPATRIATE SUPPORT ADVISOR – KATHMANDU BASED:** From April 2022.

**FUNDING MANAGER:** for Hospitals.

**DOCTOR FOR UNITED MISSION HOSPITAL TANSEN:** One Obstetrician/Gynaecologist needed long-term from July 2021 and Pathologist.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER:** For United Mission Hospital Tansen – start 2022 Teaching different school levels for tutorial group.

**DOCTORS FOR OKHALDHUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:** One GP with rural experience, one Orthopedic Surgeon and one Obstetrician/Gynaecologist. General Practitioner/Pediatrician. General surgeon, Anaesthetist

Diagnostic and imaging specialist

Maintenance advisor

Expat support advisor role starting April 2022

Medical superintendent starting 2023

For all doctors, flexibility, the ability to work in a resource-limited setting and an interest in teaching and mentoring junior Nepali doctors are required.





## Women unite for a cleaner village

Imagine a women's group in a remote village in Nepal uniting to submit a strong memorandum to the local government! The document urged the local government to look at the plastic pollution in some areas of their village and arrange proper waste management.

We are proud of the Chebang Women's Agricultural Group of Taka village in Rukum who submitted the memorandum to the Chairperson of Putha Uttarganga Rural Municipality on 24 February 2022.

Well done UMN Rukum Cluster, our local partner MIC-Nepal and kudos to the strong ladies who have taken this important issue forward.



## UMN turns 68!

UMN's staff gathered to have a warm celebration at Thapathali garden (UMN headquarters) with sharing of key achievements this year followed by fun quiz and games.

We are ever thankful to our supporters, staff, volunteers and God who have made it possible for UMN to come this far as we work to bring about fullness of life for many in Nepal.

## Asbjørn Voreland, Home with the Lord!

We are very sad to inform our friends in Nepal and around the world about the passing of Asbjørn Voreland on 16 February 2022.

Asbjørn Daju (older brother) was indeed a dear brother for so many people in Nepal and touched many lives as he and his wife Mia spent over 30 years together in Nepal as missionaries. The Vorelands arrived in Nepal from Norway in 1964 with their 18-month-old daughter Hilda. They had travelled overland in a landrover with eight other people – a six-week trip, during which they took turns driving night and day with no stops!

The Vorelands started their mission work as teachers in UMN's Gorkha Project. They were in Nepal for many years serving in various roles. They also served in KISC (Kathmandu International Study Centre) as hostel parents. Later, Asbjørn Voreland returned to Nepal in 1997 as the director of International Nepal Fellowship (INF), a sister mission in Nepal. Mia passed away in August 2018.

We will always remember Asbjørn for his passion and love for the people of Nepal and for the unique contributions he made to take the work of development forward in Nepal.

Our heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.



## Bikash Adhikari – champion of people affected by disabilities

We are deeply saddened that Bikash Adhikari, the director of Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa (SDSS), passed away on 4 March 2022 at age 37, after extended suffering following COVID. He was a warm, joyful champion of people with disabilities and their families.

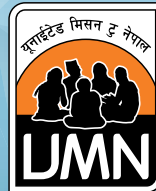


Each year, UMN sends over 120 children to Kathmandu for treatment. SDSS help in their assessment, provide accommodation and food, post-operative care and counselling plus some travel costs as well as 'patient navigation' to connect them with the best treatment. Patients come for several weeks or months from remote areas and are accompanied by a family member who also stays at SDSS during the treatment period.

Bikash's early death brings huge sadness for many affected by disabilities in Nepal as well as for his family, friends and all who knew him. But we believe he has left a long-lasting legacy of hope and rehabilitated lives for hundreds with disabilities and their families. Please give thanks for his life and work and pray for those who grieve including his wife Bijata, children aged 8 and 4, and parents.

"THEREFORE, WHOEVER **POSITION** OF THIS  
TAKES THE LOWLY **CHILD**  
IS **THE GREATEST** IN **THE KINGDOM**  
OF **HEAVEN.** WHOEVER **WELCOMES**  
ONE **SUCH** CHILD **IN MY NAME** WELCOMES  
ME.

Matthew 18:4-5



*Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society*

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