

## UN Cares Nepal on “Zero Discrimination”

5 December 2013



UN Cares members with UN RC and UCC

UN Cares Inter-Agency Team Nepal (UN-IAT) with the support of UN RC and UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Nepal and Bhutan led the observance of World AIDS Day with a series of events for staff members and families. The event also provided an opportunity for UN Cares to reach to our families and increase their awareness and understanding on the new facts related to HIV and AIDS.

The events were participated with enthusiasm by the children and spouses of UN staffs.

On 30 November 2013, an Interactive session for children was organized focussing this year's message of "Open up reach out, zero discrimination and transform". 50 Children participated in the interactive sessions designed separately for children aged 10 and younger and the other group comprising of adolescents above 10 years. The session was more focused for adolescents with activities such as face painting, quiz, jigsaw, artwork, story telling and poem writing on HIV. Children drew beautiful paintings and wrote inspiring poems to express their understanding about stigma and discrimination and very well linked their ideas with the butterfly which is the theme of WAD 2013. In order to ensure that children could come out of their shyness and open up, session was facilitated by a young staff member with lot of experience on dealing with young people.

On the same day, orientation for parents/spouses on HIV was simultaneously organized. Around 50 parents participated in the orientation session facilitated by the master trainer. They were very happy to participate as most of them had participated for the first time in such an orientation. It was amazing to see the parents opening up and talking freely about sex and sexuality together with their spouses.

On 5 December, UN-IAT coordinated and organized World AIDS Day event for all UN staff. Around 250 UN staff with 7 heads of agencies including UN RC and UCC participated. The whole event was celebrated under the aegis of butterflies symbolising transformation and reaching out.

United Nations' Resident Coordinator Jamie McGoldrick shared this year's World AIDS Day message from the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, which highlighted that "If we want AIDS free generation we will need continued investment, commitment and innovation"



Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, UN RC delivering key notes

Dr Ruben F. del Prado, UNAIDS Country Coordinator to Nepal, represented the UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe, who called on all to remember friends and families who have lost loved ones to AIDS, yet also to rejoice in incredible hope for the future. He emphasised that – Ending AIDS will surely mean celebrating birthdays instead of attending funerals.



Dr. Ruben Frank del Prado, UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Nepal and Bhutan delivering UNAIDS EXD message

It was also great to have the Government representative Dr. Naresh Pratap KC, Director of NCASC who delivered key message and appreciated UN's continued support to this year's independent, external review of Nepal's national HIV programme; the facilitation of national and regional consultations to craft the future of HIV in Nepal, and the UN's prominent participation in the government, community, and external development partners' dialogue. He emphasised that "Vision is looking beyond the obvious. Success is doing something about it"



Dr. Naresh Pratap KC, Director, NCASC delivering key remarks on behalf of government

Chair UN Cares, Ms. Anu Paudyal Gautam, thanked Heads of agencies for their support and all staff and UN Cares team for their active participation to make this event a grand success. She also thanked Ministry of Health and Population for supplying condoms regularly to UN Offices, which is essential for continuation of services in prevention of HIV and also one of the standard of 10 minimum standards set by UN Cares.



Ms. Anu Paudyal Gautam, Chair, UN Cares delivering vote of thanks

A short video capturing the activities of Children's Interactive HIV Session, HIV Orientation for parents, UN Cares and UN staff's participation in the national observance of WAD was shown in the - the programme and was applauded by the viewers. Membership certificates to the UN Cares members were handed by the UNRC for recognition of their hard and crucial work. The art works of children on HIV was showcased at the end of the programme which was the main attraction of the event. Zero discrimination global video message of Ms. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was shown at the beginning and end of the programme. UN Cares booklet "Living in a world with HIV", red ribbons, butterflies with messages, ID card holders & pens (with UN Cares sticker), condoms and other HIV information were distributed to the participants.

A press release was also issued by UN Cares on the same day, and news article was published in national daily newspaper highlighting the work of UN Cares and captured the observance of WAD for UN staff.

A touching poem written by one of the young participant of the interactive session entitled "A world Free of Discrimination" marked the closing of the ceremony which brought the crowd to a roaring applause.

### Some highlights of the interactive event with Children on 30 November 2013



Children getting their face painted with butterfly



Adolescents participating on quiz contest on HIV



Children receiving information on UN Cares



Adolescents involved in game during interactive session



Children receiving information of life cycle of Butterfly



Adolescents engaged in discussion on HIV



Adolescents being prepared for art work



Adolescents engaged in an interactive session



UN Cares members raise their hands for zero discrimination

Some highlights of observance of World AIDS Day with Staff.



Art work of children and adolescents



Information material on distribution



UN Cares member receiving membership certificate from UNRC



Heads of agencies showing solidarity against zero discrimination



Art work of children and adolescent



UN staff collecting red ribbons, butterflies and batches



UN staff attending the WAD 2013



HIV orientation session for parents