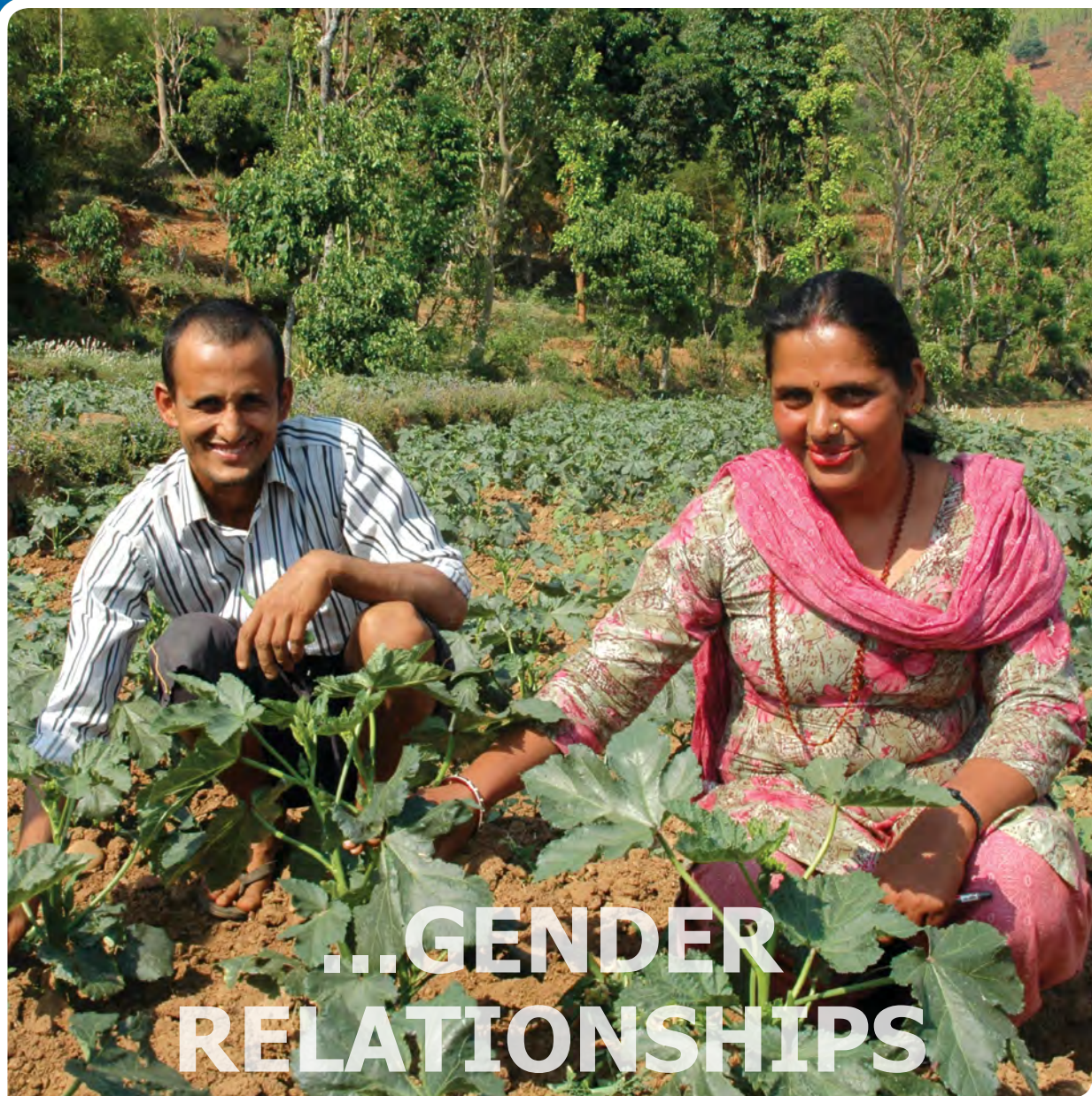




UMN News

Issue 35 | June 2012

Transforming...



...GENDER RELATIONSHIPS



Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of **UMNews**, in which we focus on another of our four cross-cutting issues in our strategy - gender.

As a young Western male development worker, I used to joke that I wanted to be the first male "gender expert". I wondered why gender always seemed to be about women. However, living and working in both East Africa and Nepal, I now know why the focus of gender work is so often on women - more often than not they are the victims of gender discrimination. These statistics from the far west of Nepal make this clear: Girls and women do 70% of rural work, but only make 26% of the decisions and own around 6% of the land. For every 100 working boys under 14, there are 217 girls who work even harder. Girls over ten work as many hours as adult men! These statistics are often driven home for me as I see women and girls carrying loads I could barely lift, sometimes with their brothers or husbands wandering along in front of them, carrying very little.

And yet, as the stories here show, things are changing. Women are taking more control over their own lives - and their communities are benefiting from the huge contribution they can and do make, when they have the opportunity. It is inspiring to see not only the changes occurring through our work, but the key role that women are playing in that work also.

My hope and prayer is that, as you read this **UMNews**, you are not only inspired and encouraged by the stories and impacts of our work, but that you are also challenged to reflect on your own attitudes. Do your attitudes reflect the love that Jesus showed in breaking down the barriers in his society, including those of gender? These issues are as much spiritual as social. Prayer is a key part in bringing about change. Enclosed with this newsletter is a prayer card that we hope you will use regularly to pray for positive change, and for fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society.

Mark Galpin
Executive Director

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Produced by the Communications Team, UMN
Editorial Team: Vijeta Manaen and Lyn Jackson
Design: Phil Rawlings and Ramesh Man Maharjan
Cover Photo: Ramesh Man Maharjan
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‘TEACH A WOMAN AND YOU TEACH A FAMILY’

Development organisations often measure women’s empowerment using statistics - the number of programmes conducted or women’s groups mobilised, or women as core beneficiaries. This gives part of the picture, but there are other aspects to consider. UMN is committed to gender concerns and prioritises work for women - poor and marginalised, traumatised, displaced or disabled, widowed, vulnerable to trafficking - along with children and men.

A widow from Rukum shared how she was healed from her inner wounds and her confidence and self-respect increased through the Single Women’s Empowerment Project. She attended group meetings, even when mourning her mother’s death. A Madhesi¹ flood survivor from Sunsari stood up and confidently gave a speech to a review team - impossible 18 months ago. Her group members even challenged UMN’s partner to hand over the project planning to them, if they could not agree to a common consensus. A woman living with disability from Sunsari passionately shared how she was successful in influencing the district agencies into mainstreaming disability issues. She and her organisation now have District and VDC recognition.

1. Madhesi: The name given to people of Indian ancestry living along Nepal’s southern border.
2. Dalit: A member of the low-caste community.

A Dalit² woman from Dhading joyously shared her experiences of mediating family conflicts and the challenges she faced. A Christian women’s fellowship leader honestly talked about how she was able to help reconcile a broken family.

I was inspired to hear these amazing life stories in the midst of the violence, oppression and discrimination that women have to face in Nepal. Their lives have been transformed because our programmes provided not only their basic needs but recognised the importance of their participation, involvement and input. Valuing women as individuals, giving them equal respect and dignity, has developed self-worth and self-confidence, bringing positive energy to leadership skills. These grassroots women, created in the image of God, cannot change the world, but they can change their world - the lives of their children, family members and the community they live in. The saying “Teach a woman and you teach a family” is true. Investing for, with and by women is investing for the nation, and for the future.

Bal Kumari Gurung
Peacebuilding Team Leader



WINDOWS ON WOMEN'S WORLDS

Being a woman in today's world can be a joy, a challenge, a blessing, or even a curse in Nepal. Being born a girl child can mean being a burden to the family and a disgrace to the mother for not bearing a son. A son brings home a wife who can work; a daughter has to be married away, often at a great cost.

About 60-70% of Nepali women have been subjected to domestic violence, by some estimates. But what is not in the spreadsheets is the humiliation, hurt, frustration and emotional trauma that they experience all their life. It starts when a little girl sees her brother go to school instead of her, or eating healthier food than she does.

You may think that the awareness programs and teaching about women's empowerment and gender equality are meant for the villages of Nepal, where there is poverty and very little development. But let's face it, gender issues face us right here in the cities, in our offices, in our homes.

Times have changed. Women are allowed to study, choose a profession and take on a job in the cities. Traditionally, it was only men who were the providers for the family, women did the domestic work. Many women are working and earning alongside their husbands, or sometimes are the sole breadwinner for the family.

So how is life for urban working women in Nepal? A double burden? Although the constitution offers women equal opportunities, many social, economic,

and cultural factors hinder a woman to actually break free. A woman's status, especially a daughter-in-law's, is tied up with a list of "must do" tasks.

A working woman slogs hard at home, and works even harder to meet her deadlines at the office. She works like a machine round the clock, and does what's expected of her without arguing, caught in a vicious cycle imposed by a patriarchal society. The Nepali ethical and cultural code teaches the wife to protect the family's image in society as if everything were just right inside the house.

She is inundated with conflicting thoughts about how to manage career and personal life, whether she should keep working. A tough decision to make – especially as her income is helping pay household expenses. While she participates in the brainstorming sessions in her office, in the back of her mind she feels the stress of being a mother and a wife.

UMN believes in fullness of life for *all*. Gender equality is something for us all to strive for. We hope that Nepali families will one day be able to enjoy relationships based on equality – sharing the chores, income, child care and the joys of life together.

Here, four of UMN's working women give us a glimpse into the realities of their lives.

Vijeta Manaen
Communications Advisor

Anjana Chitrakar

Programme Officer - Child Partner Communication

Anjana, mother of a two-year-old daughter, gets up at 5:00 every morning to finish her domestic duties before coming to work at 9:00. She thinks that her situation would have been different if she had been in a nuclear family rather than a joint family. "It would be very improper for my husband to be cooking and cleaning in front of my in-laws," she says. "If the wife is present, the husband does not do these things in our culture. However, he does relieve me from taking care of my daughter when I am busy."

Anjana stays positive. "I have very little time for myself. We women adjust and sacrifice a lot for the sake of our families. This has made me discover my strength and is making me a tough and independent woman."



Shashi Ghalan

Cluster Team Leader, Dhading

Shashi looks back at her early profession as a young primary school teacher, a manager, and then as UMN's cluster team leader in Doti. "Women in leadership were very rare in Doti," she says. "The only female in the government sector was in the Women's Development Office. At a regional managerial-level meeting in Doti, I was the only woman out of the 45 present. I had to collect so much more energy and courage than male colleagues to meaningfully participate."

"We women have to do our best in whatever we do, especially in our society where the potential and ability of a woman is doubted. Though challenging, I do enjoy the various 'hats' that I wear as a daughter, wife, mother, daughter-in-law, church leader, and cluster team leader."



UMN HAS TOUCHED AND TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF MANY NEPALI GIRLS LIKE ME.

Bibhu Singh

Funding Management Team Leader

Married for 10 years, Bibhu says: "I have been blessed with a supportive husband and in-laws who don't hinder my professional development. But the time when a girl marries and goes to live with her husband's family is a very testing period."

As a student of Mahendra Bhawan (the first girls' school in Nepal, started by UMN), Bibhu's UMN scholarship allowed her to live in the school hostel from Grade 7. She recalls: "At home, as a daughter, I had to lend a hand with the household work. I wasn't able to give my best to my studies. But my performance improved markedly when I stayed at the hostel."

Bibhu is currently in UMN's Leadership Team. "It is immensely encouraging to see how UMN has transformed the lives of many Nepali girls like me," says Bibhu.



Laxmi Tuladhar

Office Support Team

Laxmi's husband, a former UMN staff member, died of cancer in his second year of marriage. Her in-laws were very unkind and treated her very cruelly. She was even beaten up by her brother-in-law several times.

She was offered a job at UMN right after her husband's death, and she says that UMN has been the best thing in her life. At that time, all her earnings had to go to her mother-in-law, and in return she didn't even get enough to eat. She wanted to escape, but where could she go? After years of struggle, Laxmi now lives with her aunt's family.

She says: "I don't have a land or a house; all I have is UMN and the identity and support it has given me all my life. I save a little every month, which will be useful in my old age."





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ACTION

How can women act as catalysts in their communities, working together with men to bring positive, lasting change?

"We were too shy even to introduce ourselves by name before others, but now we can speak out with confidence."

Traditionally, women in many parts of Nepal have played very little part in community life. They worked at home and in the fields, raised children, carried water, held families together when the men went south to India for seasonal labouring work. But they were never invited to give an opinion, or suggest a course of action.

Now, women's groups facilitated by UMN's partners are changing that. The Women's Health and Empowerment Projects in Magma VDC, Rukum District, are a good example. Women have taken the lead in campaigning for improved sanitation, toilet construction and hygiene. Men have been impressed

by their achievements, and are now joining with the women in working on water resource management. Several women's groups have decided to ban smoking at public meetings and in the home near children, and are urging men to agree. One group of women has even taken on the management of a road construction project in their village, a role that men's groups have traditionally handled.

Where mutual respect between men and women is growing, family tension, domestic violence and divorce are much reduced. Communities are happier and more productive. Men and women can proudly say: "We did this together."

Lyn Jackson
Communications Director



A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!

Jyothika Nepali, Chairperson of the Damachaur Women's Group in Ward 3, has been trained as a community mediator. She has dealt with many marital disputes. When faced with a husband and wife who are not getting on well, she asks them separately: "What do you appreciate about your husband/wife?" before trying to identify the root causes of the conflict. Then she asks them the same question when they come together. Although she is a Dalit (low caste) woman, she is much respected in the community by both men and women.



Sete Bahadur KC and her husband Khadka, of Ward 1, have built a toilet after Sete learned about the health problems of open defecation. They worked together to build a deep, stone-lined pit that will last for many years. As a member of the Pragati Sil Women's Group, Sete is eligible to get a ceramic toilet pan now that the pit and toilet have been built. The groups are campaigning so that every family in the VDC will have a toilet. This will enable them to claim Open Defecation-Free status, and receive a reward from the government.



Water and sanitation improvements lead to **cleaner villages** and **healthier lives**.



Jyothika's mediation work brings **reconciliation** between **husbands and wives**.



When men and women work together, **mutual respect** strengthens relationships and communities.

Man Kumari Khatri's Gauri Gaon Women's Group in Ward 5 have initiated work on a spring-fed water system to ease the difficult task of carrying water from high up a steep ravine down to their village. The men are enthusiastic supporters of the project. Man Kumari's husband knows how important this is for his wife. She has recently had a difficult childbirth and is still not properly recovered. Carrying heavy water pots is not only time-consuming, but very painful for her at the moment.

Lyn Jackson
Communications Director



CLUSTER CONNECTION



BAJHANG

Region: Hilly, Far-Western
Population: 196,277 (census 2011 preliminary report)
Number of Households: 34,787
Human Development Index (HDI): 0.458
UMN Team Leader: Nabin Raj Moktan
Number of staff: 10
Number of Partners: 6

Meet Nabin

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (1 John 4:20)

In September 2012, UMN gave me the opportunity to work in Bajhang as Cluster Team Leader. My major responsibilities are to be a team leader to support my co-workers, to ensure that all cluster activities are focused on the strategic plans and to be responsible for cluster administration, finance and service provision.

Understanding the love and teaching of Jesus about "selfless service" and seeing the needs of poor and marginalized people have motivated and encouraged me to serve and help them to live blessed lives.

The story of Bajhang has touched my heart. People are living with broken relationships, poverty, injustice, traditional beliefs and practices which hold them back in development. Many are poor and sick, lost and lonely.

So living in Bajhang and serving Jesus by serving them is my privilege and joy, although I miss my wife and son who live in Kathmandu.

With the small intervention of UMN in the development of Bajhang, slowly and gradually significant progress has been made in the lives of individuals and communities. These results satisfy and motivate me to work more deeply with them.

Finally, my success is not only because of my own strength and wisdom; it is possible because of my line managers, co-workers and friends' constructive feedback, prayer and support. On top of this, it is possible by the grace of God and his guidance.

Nabin Raj Moktan
Cluster Team Leader



DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:

- Improved livelihoods for people living with food insecurity.
- Employment opportunities.
- Peacebuilding among people living with broken relationships.
- Advocacy and awareness for people living with social injustice.
- Health, sanitation and hygiene.



PLEASE PRAY

- Domestic violence is a big problem in Bajhang. Please pray for women and children who live difficult lives. Pray for UMN partners in Bajhang who are working for the well-being of families.
- Pray for UMN staff in Bajhang, especially for those who are living away from their families in order to work in these remote villages.
- Pray for Nabin as he leads the team in Bajhang.



Listen to Wisdom

My name is Saraswati (Wisdom) Singh and I am a primary teacher at Shanti (Peace) Higher Secondary School (SHSS) in Bajhang. It is the oldest school of Bajhang District, established by the Bajhang King Jaya Prithavi Bahadur Singh decades ago.

We have classes from Early Childhood Development to 10+2 level (senior secondary). UMN's Bajhang team has been working with us to raise the quality of education of this school and its feeder schools for the last three years. Before the partnership, due to poor teaching and management systems in the school, most of the students either repeated the same class or dropped out of school.

During discussions, we primary teachers told UMN staff that we wanted to learn more about classroom management and effective methods for teaching in lower grades. Two weeks later, we were invited to participate in a planning workshop in our school. We have jointly planned to establish child-friendly classrooms in Grade 1 in our school and some feeder schools. UMN has been helping us to implement a Primary Education Strengthening Programme for classroom management, and providing instructional materials.

I had also had the opportunity to participate in a week-long training on Child-Friendly Teaching and Learning Techniques a year before. After that training, we had started a grade teaching approach

instead of subject teaching in Grade 1. Now, I have applied the child-friendly approach in my class. After a week I found it easy to deliver my lesson plans. My students made significant progress within this short period, and I have also noticed that students who were not attending school started to come to the school again.

Because I am focusing on making the class more inclusive, and encouraging parents to be involved to improve children's learning, girls are being encouraged and doing very well. All of us teachers have realised that now our students are enjoying learning. As we are encouraging our students to be responsible citizens, both girls and boys are taking active roles in playing games through learning, cleaning the classroom and school, managing shoes in the shoe racks, sharing news from the community and wishing peace to each other.

In the past academic session, all of my students performed very well, compared with the situation before we implemented child-friendly teaching and learning approaches in my school. Now, I am proud of being a trained female teacher. Thanks, UMN, for this transformation!

Saraswati Singh
Shanti Higher Secondary School, Bajhang

NEWS



This year's UMN's Expat Retreat in Dhulikhel was a great time of refreshment for expat staff. There were great worship times, challenging Biblical teaching from special guest David Shenk, a terrific children's programme and lots of opportunities to catch up with friends.

Interfaith Sunsari

Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims from Morang, Dhading and Rupandehi met together in Sunsari in April. At this second nation-wide meeting of UMN's Interfaith Networks, stories were shared of the major impact the networks are having in managing conflicts.

Keynote speaker David Shenk from the US shared from his lifetime of international experience of working with Muslims and Christians, promoting tolerance and peace through dialogue. Future visits to each of the districts for mutual support and learning are planned.

The Country

Normal life in Nepal was obstructed with numerous strikes during May, called by various ethnic groups demanding ethnicity-based federalism in the new constitution. Vehicles were off the road and most shops, including educational institutions and industries, remained shut. UMN's offices in Doti and Bajhang clusters in the far west had to close at various times, and UMN staff travel was severely curtailed.



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Masterchef Ranmamaikot

Remember those amazing scenes of improved cooking stoves in Ranmamaikot, from UMN's **Fullness of Life** DVD? UMN staff member Hiralal Shrestha reports that almost all the stoves are still operating well. The photo shows Sharu Gharti, who has been using her stove for a year now. Her wood consumption has halved, and her kitchen is much cleaner. Sharu cleans her stove with a little cooking oil each month. "This keeps it shining and prevents it from getting stained, so it will last," she explained.



The Kingdom Story

It's on again!

This year's combined UMN and INF Nepal Conference will be held at the Beziningscentrum Emmaus (Emmaus Reflection Centre) in Helvoirt, The Netherlands, from 26-28 October, 2012. Keynote speaker, Palan Ramasamy, from Malaysia, lived and worked in Nepal for some time, and will bring his unique perspective to the conference.

This is a great opportunity to connect with friends in both missions, and hear first-hand how God is working here in Nepal. Amongst other things, we are promised a birthday cake for 200 people, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the church, and of INF, in Nepal.

More details on the conference will be available on the UMN and INF websites soon.

Tsering Minjam's Request

In **UMNews** #1, we invited donations for a hostel for teenaged girls from the Tibetan border area in Mugu to stay in while attending secondary school at Mangri High School. So far, about USD 1,778 has been given. On behalf of Tsering Minjam and her friends, thanks so much!

High Altitude UMN

What to wear when climbing very high mountains? A UMN T-shirt! Ryan Galpin models his at Gokyo Ri, in the Everest Region, in April this year. Send your photo of someone wearing a UMN T-shirt to us at communications@umn.org.np



Who's Who?

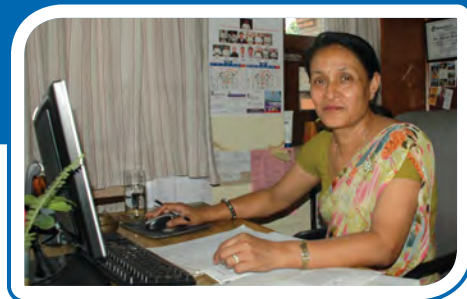
Rajanee Nyachhyon
Snr. Funding Management Officer

If you have given a donation to UMN in the last 22 years, the chances are you've received a receipt and a thank-you note or email from Rajanee. Here is her story.

I was born in 1959 into a middle-class family as the tenth child of my father. I am proud to be my father's daughter, as it is because of him that I am what I am today. He always encouraged us to study and be self-dependent. In my time, this kind of encouragement was very rare, especially for girls. My education was in an ordinary government school, but I learnt a lot at home from my father's stories and the knowledge he passed on to us as children. It was because of his encouragement that I joined UMN in May 1990 as an administrative assistant. It was a really tough time for me to manage all the household work, take care of two little children (a son, 2 months, and a daughter, 20 months) and my 87-year-old grand-mother-in-law, and at the same time manage my new job at UMN. Twenty-two years from then, I am still at UMN, as a Funding Management Officer.

These long years at UMN have been a time of learning and growth for me. I have learnt about the basic poverty and development issues of the country, and I feel great to be a part of this organisation, which always strives to solve the issues and bring transformation. I have loved working at UMN because of the family-like environment at work, and because of all the encouragements and love I have received from my supervisors. In these 22 years, I have had the opportunity to work with many generous donors, whose support has benefited many needy people of Nepal. Such generosity and support have also encouraged me to stay with UMN, and serve the country by the work that I am doing in funds management.

I live with my family of two beautiful grown-up children, a loving husband and an aging mother-in-law, and they are all proud of my association with UMN.





JOIN US

UMN strives to help all Nepalis, women and men, achieve a fuller and more satisfying life. There are many opportunities for expatriates from different countries to contribute their professional skills. If you would like to explore the possibilities of working with UMN, contact Anne Penn at expat.recruitment@umn.org.np to learn more. Please send your CV or resumé with your email.

There is an on-going need for **TECHNICAL ADVISORS** to work in our four areas of work.

EDUCATION

The team work to eliminate barriers, enabling access to relevant education and recognising its value.

- Teacher trainers with experience in formal and/or non-formal education are needed.

PEACEBUILDING

The team works with our partners to heal divisions and reduce discrimination and marginalisation. This includes work in the areas of anti-human trafficking, domestic violence, trauma counselling and encouraging gender sensitivity.

- Practical experience of working in a post-conflict situation would be helpful.
- Enquiries from social workers and counsellors with relevant experience are welcome.

HEALTH

We work to improve the health of poor people in Nepal primarily through involvement in community health programmes including HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

- Health professionals with community or mental health experience, midwives, and social workers would all have a suitable background.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

UMN works in the areas of Micro-enterprise, Disaster Management, and Food Security to improve the well-being of poor and marginalised communities in some of our poorest regions.

- Agriculturalists, food technologists, nutritionists, animal health professionals can contribute.
- People with disaster management or mitigation experience are also valuable.

OTHERS

- Development professionals with strong advocacy skills.
- Project managers who have a desire to build the capacity of Nepalese staff and local partner organisations.
- Qualified accountants, preferably with experience in the not-for-profit sector.



Advisors are mainly based in Kathmandu with travel to rural areas. They work alongside Nepali technical staff helping and advising local NGOs (non-government organisations) and other partners in specific work to improve the lives of people in their area.

NOTE: Expatriate team members do not receive a salary or remuneration of any kind from UMN directly, but are self-supported volunteers or supported by a sending mission or church in their home country that provides for their financial needs during their assignment.



PRAY

In rural Nepal, women live a life of drudgery and are often subjected to harassment and mistreatment by the family and society. The world is unfair to them; their questions and cries are kept within themselves. Please pray over these issues raised by our Cluster Team Leaders.

DOTI



Generally, the women of Doti work hard to feed the family, while men seem to just gather in tea shops to chat all day long, and don't help the wives with the work.

A woman's work load doesn't get any less during pregnancy. Miscarriages and uterine prolapse are very common here. Many misbeliefs and old practices put women in very vulnerable and risky situations. Being born as a girl is like getting into a trap where you don't question once you are shut in.

Sarina Nepali is one of the 478 women living with HIV in Khirsan, Doti. She is a Dalit (low caste) and also a widow, making her particularly vulnerable. She has faced stigma and discrimination since her husband's death ten years ago. UMN, through its partner, has been working in this village to make life easier for people living with HIV and AIDS. UMN's care and support programme has brought people together into Self-Help Groups, which have both high and low caste people in them. This is a big change in the community.

Sarina has also received goats through UMN's partner, which has helped in income generation.

PLEASE PRAY

- For change in behavior and attitude of husbands towards their wives, that they would start respecting them and their hard work.
- For UMN and its partner organisations that are working for women's empowerment, inclusion and rights.
- For women living with HIV and AIDS, especially those with children to support.

Bishal Shrestha
Cluster Team Leader

SUNSARI



Nirmala's daughter was born with cerebral palsy two-and-a-half years ago. For four months after her birth, Nirmala didn't come out of her house because of the humiliation of bearing a disabled child. She was blamed by her in-laws and neighbours for bringing a curse on the family. Nirmala's poverty made it difficult for her to cover the medical costs for her daughter, as the baby was falling ill very regularly.

Then a friend connected her with Nepal Chelibeti Disabled Women's Society (NCDWS), a UMN partner. Here she received counselling and was referred to a disability treatment centre. NCDWS gave her a loan of NRP 15,000 (USD 175) to start a CD/DVD shop in her house. At the moment, Nirmala does physio-therapy with her daughter regularly and is earning about NRP 10,000 (USD 116) a month. She now feels more confident about life and is able to handle challenges that surround her. Nirmala says: "I don't care what others have to say about me and my child; I'm going to give my daughter the best I can."

PLEASE PRAY

- For the physical, socio-economic, and mental stress that women and children have to go through in the villages of Sunsari.
- For women who struggle to care for children with disabilities, often without family support.
- That the 10% of the government budget allocated for women's development will actually be used for programmes that benefit women.
- For early marriage issues in Sunsari, especially among the Muslim community.

Tanka Maya Limbu
Senior Programme Officer – Peacebuilding



GIVE

Though equal rights are preserved in the constitution, women are treated as subordinate and second-class citizens in most parts of Nepal. UMN seeks to give these struggling women of Nepal a new life of

dignity and hope through various empowerment programmes. You can designate the kind of work you want to support, for example:

- Rehabilitation and HIV programmes (p 13);
- Projects that support women's groups and empower women (pp 6-7);
- Work in a particular cluster, like Bajhang (pp 8-9).

Please indicate your preference when you donate. All undesignated gifts will be used as needed.

DONATE ONLINE

www.umn.org.np

Give via credit or debit card from anywhere in the world. For UK donors, this site offers tax-efficient giving.

INTERNET BANKING & MONEY TRANSFER

Set up a payment or monthly standing order to transfer funds.

UK & EUROPEAN CURRENCIES

Pay to: **United Mission to Nepal**

Sort Code: **60-91-99**

Account Number: **10078177** (Sterling account)
10615512 (Euro account)

US & NEPAL CURRENCIES

Transfer or wire to:

Standard Chartered Bank Nepal Ltd.
PO Box 3990, Nayabaneswar,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Account Number:

Swift Code: SCBLNPKA

01-0488798-51 (USD account)

18-0488798-10 (NRS account)

MAIL DONATIONS

Post directly to Nepal

Make a cheque to *United Mission to Nepal* in Euros, Sterling, Australian, Canadian or USD

Mail to:

Finance Team (35), UMN

PO Box 126

Kathmandu, Nepal

TAX - EFFICIENT GIVING

United States

Make your cheque payable to
"Hospitals Revitalisation Programme
UMCOR #982168"

with a note that it is for UMN.

Mail to:

Cherian Thomas, MD

Executive Secretary, Health and Welfare

Global Ministries U.M.C.

475 Riverside Drive, Room 330

New York, NY 10115

Australia

Mail to:

Mrs. Marlene Stewart

Finance Officer

PO Box 231, Bayswater VIC 3153

17/653 Mountain Hway, Bayswater, Australia

Make your cheque payable to

"Interserve" with a note that it is for UMN.

OTHER OPTIONS

Contact finance@umn.org.np

- For advice on leaving a bequest to UMN
- For instructions for UK tax-efficient giving by post
- To designate your gift for a certain cluster or area of work

Special Funding Request

Education is a key way of opening opportunities for all children, especially girls.

Our Education programme is in need of funds for teacher training, educational materials, and scholarships for needy students. Please consider a donation to our Education work.



TELL OTHERS

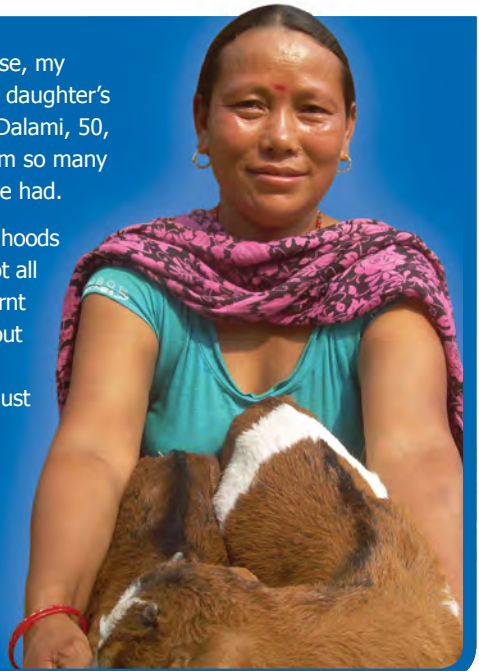
What is a girl's education worth? What price do you put on potential? Parbitra Dalami is paying for her daughter's education in goats!

GOATS FOR A GIRL'S EDUCATION

"When I saw a crowd of children on their way to school near my house, my eyes used to fill with tears. I struggled to collect some money for my daughter's education, but I could get neither money nor support," said Parbitra Dalami, 50, of Daldale village, Rupandehi. Because of poverty, she felt cut off from so many advantages, but she longed that her daughter would not suffer as she had.

When she heard that UMN's partner NASSO was going to launch a livelihoods project focusing on goat farming for marginal people in Daldale, she got all the information she could, and was keen to be part of a group. She learnt about goat breeding, shed management, feed and fodder, and also about goat parasites and diseases. With NRP 15,500 (USD 180) support from NASSO for a goat, an improved shed, and medicines, she started with just two goats. Now, her goat herd has grown from two to 22, and she has earned NRP 40,000 (USD 465) by selling goats, meat and kids.

With this income, she has been able to buy basic requirements for her family of eight. People in her community respect her as a successful woman, a role model for others. She is happy to share her story in her village, where she never forgets to say: "And best of all, I can now provide a quality education for my daughter."



This month's challenge:

- Challenge your friends, your fellowship group members, your church, to think about how much they spend on the education of their daughters. Then share how Parbitra Dalami is raising enough money to educate her daughter.
- Pray for UMN's education work:
 - developing child-friendly learning environments for girls and boys;
 - training teachers to help all children reach their potential;
 - providing scholarships to children most likely to miss out – low caste children, children with disabilities, and girls.
- Raise money for UMN's education work. You could:
 - run a spelling bee;
 - have a quiz night (ask questions about Nepal!);
 - run a second-hand book stall after church;
 - or just take up a collection.

When you send in your donation, mark it "UMN's Education Programme" to make sure it is properly allocated.

GIRLS AND EDUCATION IN NEPAL

Girls comprise

- **44% of primary students**
 - **41% of secondary students**
- 47% of primary-aged girls are not in school.

Youth literacy rates (aged 15-24)

- **Boys – 87%**
- **Girls – 77%**

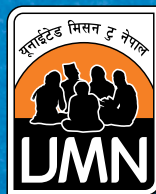
Adult literacy rates

- **Men – 65%**
- **Women – 36%**



THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES,
BETWEEN SLAVES AND FREE PEOPLE,
BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN;
YOU ARE ALL ONE
IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS.

Galatians 3:28



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL

PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: +977 1 4228118, 4268900

Fax: +977 1 4225559

communications@umn.org.np

www.umn.org.np