

## **Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) in ACTION-Nepal**

### **Authors:**

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### **Background:**

The idea that personal experiences of people living with HIV (PLHIV) could and should be translated into helping to shape a response to AIDS epidemic was first voiced in 1983 at national AIDS conference in USA. It was formally adopted as a principle at Paris AIDS Summit in 1994, where 42 countries declared the Greater Involvement of PLHA (GIPA) to be critical to ethical and effective national responses to the epidemic. In Nepal around 2001 a group of PLHIV discussed to form a national association to ensure their rights of treatment and care through collective efforts. Subsequently in 2002 they established National Association of PLHIV-Nepal (NAP+N) with a support from United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

### **Methods:**

Around 2005 with the support from UNDP NAP+N brought the funding called “Challenge Fund” to support grass-roots PLHIV organizations for their establishment. Through “Challenge Fund” program NAP+N supported small-grant projects to 40-50 grass-roots organizations of PLHIV across the country. SATHI SAMUHA (SATHI) was one of those PHIV organizations established with the support from “Challenge Fund” program.

### **Result:**

Established in February 2006, SATHI is a community-led organization of PLHIV with an aim of advancing and advocating for treatment, care and support programs for its constituencies. In 2009, SATHI was selected as a sub-recipient of Global Fund round-7 HIV & AIDS program in Kathmandu district. At that time, SATHI was probably the first organization of PLHIV to receive such huge grant from Global Fund. Currently SATHI is continued to implement the Global Fund Single Stream of Funding (merge of round 7 & 10 programs) program until the end of 2015 and has employed total 32 paid staffs. There are more than 95% of PLHIV staffs in the project.

### **Conclusion:**

SATHI and other PLHIV organizations in Nepal have proved that GIPA principle really works and Government with other funding agencies should encourage and promote GIPA principles for effective response from PHIV community in the fight against HIV & AIDS.

### **Disclosure Statement:**

Nothing to disclose.