



People Power

The Advocacy Project strengthens community-based advocacy



Peace Fellow Giorgia Nicatore, center, helped Sini Sanuman, a prominent Malian advocacy group, to empower survivors of war rape in Mali. The program trained 60 survivors to make soap, clothes and embroidery with funding from Zivik in Berlin.

THE ADVOCACY PROJECT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

www.advocacynet.org

People Power – 2014

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1. Mission and Vision

A Voice for the Voiceless

The Advocacy Project (AP) has a human rights mission. Our goal is to help marginalized communities around the world take action against the root causes of their disempowerment - in a way that benefits society as a whole and produces social change.

We do not initiate partnerships, but try to respond to requests – particularly when they come from small groups that lack allies and urgently need to raise their profile. We believe strongly that those who are directly affected by social injustice are best equipped to take action. Information is their first and maybe their greatest need.

AP works through graduate students and young professionals who volunteer with our partners as Fellows for Peace and give generously of their time and talent. We view Fellows as a valuable resource and are committed to encouraging international service on behalf of human rights. AP was registered as a 501c3 organization in July 2001 and is registered in Washington DC.

Snapshot of 2014

- AP worked with 12 marginalized communities
- AP supported 13 community-based organizations
- **Telling the story:** AP produced 11 bulletins (9,590 reads); 118 blogs; 32 videos (68,873 views); and 1,576 photos (116,424 views). 23,317 visited the AP website. Our online products received a total of 218,174 visits or views in 2014
- **IT support:** AP trained 5 “accidental techies” in partner organizations
- **Outreach:** AP quilts were displayed at the Noyes Museum in New Jersey and the Westmoreland Church in Washington DC
- **Fund-raising:** AP helped to raise \$317,166 for partners
- **Campaigns:** AP supported campaigns on war rape in the DRC; accessible sanitation in Uganda; Agent Orange in Vietnam; and child labor in Nepal
- **Peace Fellows:** AP recruited 10 Fellows from 8 universities
- **Staff and volunteers:** 41 individuals worked for AP in 2012.

2. Letter from the Executive Director

Advocacy is not an abstract activity and in 2014 we made a big push to help our partners – expert advocates – to produce tangible benefits for their members and stakeholders. Chapter 9 of this report provides detail. Let me offer a few highlights.

Sexual violence in Africa: After five years of close partnership with *SOS Femmes en Danger* in the DRC, we exported SOSFED’s model to Mali where our Malian partner, Sini Sanuman, opened two centers for survivors of war rape. Zivik, in Berlin, provided funding and will also fund the program in 2015.

Agent Orange in Vietnam: We helped our partner, AEPD, to survey 500 families in Quang Binh province that are stricken by Agent Orange. Now that we have a sense of their needs, we can help AEPD to raise money for families.

Child labor in Nepal: We worked with two new NGO partners that specialize in child labor – SWAN, which rescues girl domestic servants; and CONCERN, which takes children out of the brick kilns. They identified 20 working children, and we raised money to put the children in school.

Accessible sanitation in northern Uganda: Using funds raised by past Fellows, we upgraded the famous Bus Park toilet in Gulu and identified three primary schools that need accessible toilets.

We helped launch other programs in 2014, but these four are particularly good examples of what we call the “AP model.” All were initiated by the partner, with help from one of our Peace Fellows. All seek to protect the rights of the disempowered. All seek change at the community level. Having these programs clearly in front of us gives us a solid work plan for the future and fundraising targets. Last year alone, we raised \$317,166 for partners.

With the plan in place, we took two major steps to make AP more efficient. First, we launched a new website containing information on partners and advocacy quilts, and an archive of past newsletters, photos and videos. Second, we professionalized the five services we offer to partners (IT, NGO management, fundraising, videography, and working with the media). We also upgraded our training, so that Peace Fellows would go out better prepared and come back more fulfilled.

Let me end with a heartfelt thanks to Karin Orr, who left AP after four years of dedicated work. Many other friends gave generously to AP in 2014. They included the 10 American quilters who helped to assemble quilts from Peru, India and Mali; past Peace Fellows like Mathew Becker, Rebecca Scherpelz, Dane Macri and Susan Craig-Greene, who continued to support their former host organizations; our six 2014 interns; and the more than 250 organizations and individuals who funded our work last year. We were truly fortunate to work with them all.



Iain Guest, Executive Director

3. The Challenge of Marginalization

Marginalized communities have been disempowered by conflict, poverty, discrimination and racism. Most of all they lack a voice. AP helps them to tell their story, take action and remove the cause of their disempowerment. We give priority to communities that have few other allies.

AP worked for 14 communities in 2014:

- **Africa:** a) Survivors of sexual violence in East Kivu, DRC; b) Survivors of sexual violence in Mali; c) People with disabilities in northern Uganda; d) Women recyclers in Uganda.
- **Asia:** a) Persons with disabilities in Vietnam; b) Girl domestic workers in Nepal; c) Child workers in the brick kilns of Nepal; d) Tribal women and transgender people in India; e) Women with uterine prolapse in Nepal; f) River Gypsies of Bangladesh.
- **Latin America:** Relatives of those who disappeared between 1980 and 2000.
- **The Middle East:** Weavers from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.
- **Europe:** The Travellers of Dale Farm in the UK.

The Faces of Marginalization

New communities: We responded to requests from four new communities in 2014: women who survived armed sexual violence in Mali; child workers in the brick kilns of Nepal; child domestic workers in Nepal (*kamlaris*); and relatives of those who disappeared in Nepal's civil war.

- **Conflict:** 5 of the 12 communities supported by AP were affected by conflict; women in DRC and Mali; relatives of the disappeared in Peru; victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam; children in the former war zone in northern Uganda.
- **Women:** Survivors of war rape in DRC and Mali; survivors of uterine prolapse in Nepal; tribal and transgender women in India; recyclers in Uganda; girl domestic workers in Nepal; weavers in Morocco.
- **Children:** Girl domestic workers and child workers in the brick kilns of Nepal; River Gypsy children in Bangladesh;
- **Environmental protection:** The recyclers of KIWOI are fighting massive plastic pollution in the Kinawataka slum of Kampala.
- **Disability:** Victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam, and people with disabilities in Uganda.

4. Partnering with Community-based Advocates

In 2014 AP worked with the following community-based organizations:

- **Africa:** a) SOS Femmes en Danger (DRC); b) Sini Sanuman (Mali); c) Gulu Disabled Persons Union (Uganda); d) Kinawataka Women Initiatives (Uganda).
- **Asia:** a) Subornogram Foundation (Bangladesh); b) Backward Society Education (Nepal); c) Vikalp (India); d) The Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Vietnam) photo below; e) SWAN (Nepal); f) CONCERN (Nepal); g) NEFAD (Nepal).
- **Latin America:** the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (Peru).
- **Middle East:** the Ain Leuh Weaving cooperative (Morocco).
- **Europe:** Dale Farm Housing Association (UK).



Pressure on AP partners: Several AP partners received threats and intimidation during 2014. In the DRC, Marceline Kongolo, the founder of SOSFED (photo left) was detained by Congolese soldiers and accused of “defaming the government” for protecting survivors of war rape. This appears to have been part of a sustained campaign against civil society by the government of President Joseph Kabila. Marceline was forced into hiding for several weeks.

Shahed Keyes from the Subornogram Foundation left Bangladesh for Hong Kong after being attacked and severely beaten in 2013. Both programs continue but will be severely affected by the absence of their inspiring leaders. It is a sobering reminder that human rights defense can be dangerous and requires much courage.

Left: Under threat: Marceline Kongolo, the inspiring founder of SOS Femmes en Danger.

5. Telling the Story – Producing and Disseminating Information

AP helps partners to profile their work through blogs, videos, press release, photos, and Tweets.

News bulletins: In 2014 AP produced [eleven bulletins](#) and two [blog digests](#) from material provided by Fellows. These were distributed to 6,300 email contacts and opened 9,590 times:

- *Village Chiefs Join the Campaign against War Rape in the Eastern Congo*, December 2, 2014
- *Students with Disability Face Bullies and Inaccessible Toilets in Uganda*, November 19, 2014
- *Survivors of War Rape in Mali Find Solace in Soap and Sewing*, November 15, 2014
- *Agent Orange Lives on in Vietnam, Poisoning Children and Ruining Lives*, September 2, 2014
- *Recyclers Confront the Plastic Peril in a Kampala Slum*, August 8, 2014
- *Innovative Field School in the Andes Revisits Peru’s Dirty War*, July 29, 2014
- *Care Women Nepal Rescues Women from Prolapse Misery*, July 14, 2014
- *River Gypsies of Bangladesh Speak to New Jersey through Quilting*, June 24, 2014
- *Peace Fellows to Take on Agent Orange, War Rape and Plastic Pollution*, June 6, 2014
- *Give a S#*T for Accessible Toilets in Uganda!* April 1, 2014
- *First Reburial of War Victims in Somaliland Makes a Case for “Posthumous Rights”*, March 11, 2014

Blogs: Fellows produced 118 blogs in 2014, and used their blogs to explain and complement their work in the field. Kathryn Dutile, Uganda, used her blogs to provide context for her project work (on accessible toilets in Uganda) and posted illustrations by students with disability that depicted bullying by other students. Seth MacIntyre, in Vietnam, also posted strong blogs that profiled families suffering from dioxin poisoning caused by Agent Orange. **Videos:** AP produced 32 videos in 2014, compared to 5 videos in 2013. **Photos:** Fellows produced 1,576 photos in 2014, compared to 826 photos in 2013. **Social media:** Fellows posted to their Facebook pages and produced tweets, which were picked up and retweeted by AP. AP’s Facebook page received 630 new likes in 2014.

Website: The new AP website went live on May 30, 2014. Thanks to Andrew Bowen (VertigoVisual) designer; Laura Jones, Natalya Ghurbanyan, Allison Maggy and Karin Orr, all of whom helped produce and upload content. AP produced new partner pages for three partners: CONCERN, Care Women Nepal and KIWOI in Uganda.

IT support and dissemination by AP on behalf of partners:

- **IT training:** Fellows trained 5 “accidental techies” at CWN, GDPUI, Ain Leuh, KIWOI AEPD.
- **Partner websites:** AP Fellows helped to develop 2 partner websites (Ain Leuh and KIWOI) and upgrade two other websites.
- **The AP web site:** 23,317 visitors visited the AP website.
- **Youtube:** 68,873 people viewed videos on the AP YouTube site, bringing the total number of views to 465,880 (end 2014).
- **Flickr:** 116,424 viewed photos by Fellows on AP’s Flickr site.
- **9,590** readers opened and read AP bulletins.

6. Quilting Tells a Story

New quilts: Three Peace Fellows - Gisele Bolton, TJ Bradley and Giorgia Nicatore - helped their hosts produce squares for advocacy quilts in 2014. All three described their experience in their blogs.

In Peru, TJ Bradley visited two villages in Ayacucho (Sacsamarca and Hualla) and organized art sessions with some 40 relatives of those who had disappeared. The artists used wool on bright backgrounds to commemorate their lost relatives.

In India, Gisele spent several days in Chhotadaipar, where her host organization Vikalp arranged for artists from the gay and transgender community to produce colorful paintings in the shape of hands. They were led by Mukesh, a gay man who was pressed to marry by his family and seeks comfort at Vikalp.

In Mali, 60 survivors of sexual violence produced embroidered squares, as part of a larger program of training and rehabilitation funded by Zivik. The program recruited two trainers, purchased cloth and material (needles, thread), and taught the women how to sew. Two local artists were then brought in to help the women with designs. Half the women depicted acts of violence. The remainder depicted gentle scenes of the life in the north that they had left behind.

Assembling the quilts in America: AP met with several quilting guilds in 2014 and asked for volunteers to help assemble the new squares from Peru, India and Mali. The PM Fiber Arts Group in Bethesda Maryland agreed to take on the two Mali quilts under the leadership of Helen Blumen, an experienced quilter who also knows Mali. Merry May and Elizabeth Ohlson, two quilters from Atlantic City, offered to work on the Peruvian quilts. Nancy Evans teamed up with quilter John Anderson in Columbia Maryland to work on the Vikalp quilt. The quilts will be completed in 2015.

Exhibitions: By the end of 2014, AP was managing over 30 quilts on behalf of partners. AP staff showed the quilts at several events and hung two quilts in the AP office. AP also created a new section on the new AP website to showcase every quilt and profile the artists. Over 300 artists from the Global South are now profiled on the AP site, with their permission.

AP organized two major quilt exhibitions in 2014. On June 6, the Noyes Museum in New Jersey launched an exhibition of 17 advocacy quilts. The Noyes exhibition received coverage in the local press (New Jersey Shore News Today) under a strong headline: 'The Beauty of Advocacy Quilts Reflects brutality Against Women and Children.' Several quilts carry graphic images and the museum staff decided it best to cover up one of the Congo quilts during a visit by schoolchildren. The Noyes exhibition ran until September 11. Iain Guest, from AP, closed the exhibition with a presentation at Stockton College and used the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks to explain how quilting can serve as a form of therapy and remembrance. His presentation was filmed and will be available on video in 2015.

Three weeks later, on September 28, another quilt exhibition opened at the Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, in northwest Washington. The church occupies a prominent place on Massachusetts Avenue and parishioners are deeply committed to social justice. The invitation to show quilts came from Sarah Craven, a parishioner whose daughter, Anna, has raised funds for AP' partner in the DRC. Iain Guest introduced the exhibition during the Sunday service, at the invitation of the Reverend Timothy

Tutt, and spoke later at a reception. He was joined by Karin Orr from AP and Sarah Craven. Marge Harvey, from the church arts committee, organized the event and managed the sale of greetings cards.

AP inspired a third quilt exhibition in 2014, in Canada. During his 2012 fellowship in northern Uganda, Dane Macri had organized a session of embroidering with members from the Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU). Dane brought the squares back to Windsor, Canada, and worked with an enthusiastic group of quilters to assemble the squares into a large quilt. Several of the quilters had a disability. Dane posted [a Facebook page](#) on his project. The Windsor Star also published a strong article about the project, entitled [Fabric of the Foresaken](#). This was the first time that a partner of AP had produced a quilt independently of AP. Our thanks and congratulations to Dane for showing that advocacy quilting can be scaled up!

One-off quilt presentations: AP staff showed quilts at several meetings in 2014:

- AP showed the Ahadi (promise) quilts from the DRC at an April 17 briefing at the World Bank on the work of AP's Congolese partner, SOSFED.
- AP exhibited the Butonde (nature) quilt from Uganda during a visit to Washington by Benedicta Nanyonga, the founder of KIWOI, in March. KIWOI made the quilt from 10,000 recycled straws in 2011. During her Washington visit, Benedicta showed the quilt to the Plastic Pollution Coalition, at the Busboys and Poets café, and to delegates at a meeting of the International Alliance of Women, which gave Benedicta an award.
- AP showed the Gulu Disability Quilt and the Vietnam Disability Quilt at a conference on disability at the University of Maryland. Iain Guest from AP sat on a panel.
- AP showed one of the Mahalako Swastha (women's health) quilts, at the annual scientific meeting of the American Urogynecologic Society and International Urogynecological Association (AUGS) in Washington, between July 22 and July 216. The quilt squares were painted in Nepal by survivors of uterine prolapse.



Tranquil setting: Seventeen advocacy quilts went on show at the Noyes Museum in New Jersey in the summer of 2014. The River Gypsy Quilt from Bangladesh, pictured on the right, was shown for the first time in public. AP's director Iain Guest closed the show with a presentation at Stockton College on quilting and remembrance, on September 11.

7. Building an International Constituency

- March 17. AP hosts Benedicta Nanyonga, the founder of KIWOI, when Benedicta received an award from the International Alliance of Women in Washington. Benedicta also appears on a panel at Georgetown University.
- March 27. Iain Guest participates in a panel discussion on disability rights at the University of Maryland with officials from the State Department. He spoke about the work of the GDPUI in Uganda and the AEPD in Vietnam.
- April 17. Iain Guest briefs World Bank officials on the work of SOSFED in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- April 19. Former Peace Fellow Rebecca Scherpelz raises \$2,642 for accessible toilets in Uganda, through the *Do Good Challenge Campaign* at the University of Maryland.
- June 5. Before leaving for India, Peace Fellow Gisele Bolton promotes the work of her host, Vikalp, in a front page interview for her local newspaper, the Chippewa News.
- June 17. Peace Fellow [Katie Baczewski](#) and her host, Indira Thapa from Care Women Nepal, meets with Prime Minister Shushil Koirala in Nepal, to discuss Indira's work on uterine prolapse.
- June 19. The [2015 US Foreign Aid Bill](#) (page 41) directs USAID to "support efforts to prevent and treat uterine prolapse, a debilitating disease that afflicts thousands of poor women." This is the third year that the Senate has asked USAID to take action on prolapse, at AP's urging.
- June. Playwright Luigi Laraia consults AP for his play about sexual violence, *Neda Wants to Die*, which premieres at the World Bank on June 30.
- July 2. The 2013 [annual report](#) of the Foreign Ministry of Liechtenstein features an article on the SOSFED-AP program in the DRC.
- July 15. An exhibition of AP advocacy quilts opens at the Noyes Museum in New Jersey, drawing praise from the local media.
- July 22. The Women's Health Quilt from Nepal is displayed at the first-ever Scientific Conference of the [American Urogynecologic Society \(AUGS\)](#) in Washington. The quilt illustrates some of the risk factors behind uterine prolapse. The [AUGS conference](#) attracts over 2,000 participants.
- August 5. The plastic pollution coalition Facebook page features the launch of the KIWOI website and AP bulletin on plastic pollution in Uganda, attracting over 600 likes.
- August 26, 2014. The recyclers of KIWOI, in Kampala, are [profiled in the Daily Monitor](#), one of east Africa's largest dailies.
- September 11, 2014. Iain Guest gives a lecture on *Quilting and the Art of Remembrance* at Stockton College, New Jersey, rounded off a successful 3-month exhibition at the Noyes Museum.
- November 25, 2014. The [Voice of America interviews Mariam Seck](#) in Mali about the Sini Sanuman-AP program to support survivors of SGBV.
- December 10, 2014. Dilli Chaudhary, the president of [BASE in Nepal](#), accompanies Kailash Satyarthi to receive the 2014 Nobel peace prize in Oslo.

8. Fundraising for Partners

AP supports partner organizations financially, by raising funds, channeling funds from benefactors, and sub-granting funds. AP also raises funds by sending fellows, who are free of charge to partners. **During 2014 AP raised \$317,166 for partners.** The bulk of this money was raised for partners in Mali and the DRC, but AP also launched appeals for other partners through the AP website which yielded seed money for programs to come.

Direct: AP raised \$308,166 for partners through donations and sub-grants:

- Sini Sanuman (Mali) - \$170,000 (UNICEF and Zivik)
- Ain Leuh Women's Cooperative (Morocco) – \$2,027
- AEPD (Vietnam) - \$13,767
- *SOS Femmes en Danger* (Democratic Republic of the Congo) - \$67,780 from Zivik and \$30,000 from the Government of Liechtenstein
- Gulu Disabled Persons Union (Uganda) - \$10,731
- SWAN (Nepal) - \$1,242
- CWN (Nepal) - \$1,782
- CONCERN (Nepal) - \$1,000
- Subornongam (Bangladesh) - \$ 6,987
- Vikalp (India) \$600
- KIWOI (Bangladesh) \$2,250.

Indirect: AP raised \$9,000 through the cost of recruiting, training and deploying Peace Fellows:

- Vikalp - \$1,500
- CONCERN – \$1,500
- CWN – \$1,250
- BASE – \$1,000
- KIWOI – \$1,250
- Ain leuh – \$1,250
- EPAF – \$1,250.



Shanti Chaudhary, 10, was one of 11 girls from poor families in western Nepal who were rescued from domestic labor and placed in school, with money raised by AP. Peace Fellow Sugam Singh identified the girls with help from his host organization SWAN, a new AP partner.

9. Taking Action for Social Justice

After one or two years of providing short-term services, we ask partner organizations to develop long-term programs with clear goals, expected outcomes and a budget. Typically, these programs will seek to: a) identify beneficiaries; b) provide a service, with tangible benefits; c) advocate for a long-term change; d) strengthen the partner organization; and e) build an international constituency. During 2014, we supported 11 programs and launched six appeals through the AP website. While the actual amounts were small, we hope that the funds will serve as seed money for larger proposals and strengthen the partnerships.

9.1 Responding to War Rape in the Congo

This important program has been described in previous annual reports and is also [profiled on the AP website](#). AP's Congolese partner, *SOS Femmes en Danger*, provides support for women who have suffered war rape in Fizi Territory, South Kivu province. SOSFED runs two centers, in Mboko and Fizi Town, where rape survivors spend three months before returning home to be reunited with their husbands. SOSFED repatriation officers accompany the women back to their villages, with help from the village chiefs.

AP has supported SOSFED since 2009, securing funding from Zivik in Germany, from the government of Liechtenstein, from Diane Von Furstenberg, and from the National Endowment for Democracy. On January 1, 2014 AP handed over management of these donor relations to SOSFED, although AP continued to raise funds for SOSFED and undertook an evaluation mission of the program in October 2014.

This evaluation ran into serious logistical and security problems. The team was able to visit one of the two centers, at Mboko, but was not able to visit the larger Fizi Center. The project vehicle broke down on the road between Mboko and Fizi, and the driver fell ill in Baraka. In addition, the project team was threatened along the road by militia.

While this prevented the team from completing a full evaluation, the team heard that both centers were taking in beneficiaries and providing full services. The team visited the Mboko water well and met with beneficiaries: remarkably, the well had not broken down once since its installation in 2011. In 2014, it served an estimated 4,000 families. The two wells, at Fizi and Mboko, are central to the strategy of risk reduction, which seeks to reduce travel by women. Many rape victims are attacked when they go out alone to fetch water and cooking fuel.

SOSFED also rented 40 acres of land in 2014, where women could cultivate together and in security. This, too, is part of SOSFED's "risk reduction strategy" because it reduces the pressure on women to cultivate alone, far from home. This remains a popular component of the program and the AP team met with several women who had continued to use the rented land after leaving the SOSFED center and returning home. They had set off early in the morning from their village – which had been the scene of recent fighting. While it took them several hours to reach the fields and return home, they travelled in a group and said that this gave them added security.

Perhaps the most encouraging development in 2014 concerned justice. Using funds from NED and Zivik, SOSFED contracted a well-known local lawyer, Maitre Daniel, to provide human rights training to village leaders and civil society members. The trainees then returned to their villages and encouraged women to report any attacks. By October, when the AP team visited, ten rape victims had come forward. Several of their attackers had been arrested and were in jail. (This success was [described in an AP bulletin](#)).

Unfortunately, other components of the program were less successful. The Mboko manioc mill had been damaged by stones that were left in manioc that had been brought for cleaning. The brickette press, which produces cooking fuel

from agricultural waste, had also broken down. As noted above, the AP team was unable to visit the second center, at Fizi. SOSFED managers still found it difficult to write and communicate in English, as required by Zivik.

But these challenges paled in comparison with the problem of security. In December 2014, the Congolese authorities began a furious campaign of denunciation against Marceline Kongolo, the founder of SOSFED, and other civil society leaders. Government soldiers briefly arrested Marceline when she was collecting data for a report. On return to Uvira, she went into hiding.

Marceline and her program manager, Amisi Mas, have remained in hiding. Unfortunately, this has prevented SOSFED from submitting final reports or proposals for 2015. The whole episode is a shocking reminder of the dangers that face civil society leaders in the DRC and of the importance of SOSFED's work. AP remains committed to this important partner and was reviewing options as this report was being drafted.

9.2 Combating Sexual Violence in Mali

In 2014, AP helped Sini Sanuman, the Malian partner, to launch a program for survivors of sexual violence that is modeled on the work of SOSFED in the DRC. One of the centers, at Bourem, is near Gao in the north, the second center is in Bamako. The program is funded by Zivik in Berlin.

The program aims to help survivors of sexual violence recover their confidence by learning skills and interacting with women. With this in mind, the program deployed 9 “animators” to reach out to women in the suburbs, and identify survivors of SGBV. The animators held 495 meetings in Bamako and Bourem in 2014 and identified 60 survivors who were particularly in need. Thirty survivors entered the Bourem center in August, and another thirty entered the Bamako center soon afterwards. AP recruited Peace Fellow Giorgia Nicatore, a graduate student at Georgetown University, to work at Sini Sanuman and support the program.

Sini Sanuman organized three training programs at the centers - in embroidery, soap-making and clothes-making. The program hired six trainers and set a series of targets, all of which were met. The soap training proved to be the most successful. After several experiments, the two centers produced 780 bars of high-quality hand soap from *beurre de carite*, a local oil, along with 75 liters of cleaning soap. The women were able to sell the soap in the local market. All of the women produced wearable clothes by the end of the program.

The women also produced about 50 embroidered squares for advocacy quilts. Initially, many were unsure what designs to use. Giorgia worked with Mariam Seck, one of the leading animators, to explain the concept and hired two local artists to help. Thus inspired, the women in Bamako produced graphic descriptions of their ordeal, modeled on the Ahadi quilts from DRC. The women of Bourem chose more gentle designs, of camels, canoes and village life. Giorgia brought the squares back to Washington in December. In early January 2015, Iain Guest from AP and Giorgia handed the squares over to quilters from the PM Fiber Arts group of Bethesda, Maryland.

The program received valuable support from two important sources in 2014 – UNICEF and the German embassy in Bamako. Peace Fellow Giorgia built a strong relationship with the embassy and arranged for handicrafts from the

centers to be shown at a Christmas fair organized by the embassy in December. This generated \$350 in income, and much good will.

In October 2014, Iain Guest from AP visited Mali on an evaluation mission under the terms of the agreement with Zivik. His 31-page report is available on request.

9.3 Building Accessible Toilets in Uganda

During 2014, AP helped the Gulu Persons Disabled Union make significant progress towards their goal of providing accessible water and sanitation to persons with disabilities.

This program began in 2011, when Peace Fellow Rebecca Scherpelz wrote a powerful blog lamenting the fact that there were no accessible toilets in public buildings. The following year, Peace Fellow Dane Macri worked with a team from Handicap International to build an accessible toilet at the Gulu Bus Park. The toilet was almost ready for use by the Fall but it was left to John Steies, the 2013 Peace Fellow to complete the work with \$2,500 donated by Dane and Rebecca. The toilet was opened by dignitaries in September 2013.

Unfortunately, the toilet had again fallen into disrepair during the spring of 2014. AP decided to invest in the bus park toilet one more time and resumed fundraising. Dane succeeded in finding a generous Canadian donor and Rebecca raised over \$2,500 through a crowd-sourced campaign at her University (Maryland). Rebecca's program was aptly named "Give a S#*T for Accessible Toilets in Uganda!" Together, these two donations generated over \$10,000 – more than enough to repair the bus park toilet and launch a serious pilot project.

AP was lucky in the choice of Peace Fellow. Kathryn Dutile, who succeeded John as the GDPU Peace Fellow, had studied development at Manchester University and visited Uganda to study water and sanitation in Uganda. She was thus well suited for the fellowship and her enthusiasm shines through in a short video. Kathryn's first task was to analyze the problem afflicting the bus park toilet. She found that the toilet was not connected to city water and the private contractor did not foresee enough profit from usage. (Users

were charged a small service fee). Without water, there would be no customers. Kathryn invested \$700 in a water tank and by the end of July the toilet was again ready for use, complete with running water. It was, said Kathryn, the best equipped toilet in northern Uganda.

Kathryn Dutile, left, studied water and sanitation while at university in the UK. She applied her knowledge to her fellowship at the GDPU in Uganda and developed a program to bring accessible toilets to primary schools in Gulu district.



GDPU, meanwhile, had decided to broaden the project, to focus on [installing accessible latrines in primary schools](#). With Kathryn's help, GDPU surveyed ten leading schools near Gulu and found that none had adequate facilities. Either they had no accessible toilets, or the toilets (and water tanks) had been vandalized. What was worse, the team found that children with disability were being bullied mercilessly. The two strands came together at the Tochi school where Ivan Olanya, 14, with a disability from polio, explained how other students had smeared feces along the handrails in an effort to force him out of school.

Iain Guest from AP visited the GDPU in October, and worked with GDPU and Kathryn to design a pilot project in three schools, including Tochi. Working with AP in Washington, Kathryn submitted proposals for the German embassy and the UN Disability Fund. Dane Macri, in Canada, also succeeded in raising another \$1,000 from the Windsor Rotary Club. All of this laid a strong foundation for the 2015 program.

9.4 Supporting Agent Orange Victims in Vietnam

AP has sent Peace Fellows to the Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) since 2008, and all have had a productive experience. In 2014, both partners decided to build on this strong foundation and develop a program on Agent Orange, the lethal herbicide that was sprayed on Vietnam during the war. AO has affected an estimated 3 million Vietnamese, including family members of veterans who were exposed.

AEPD has long been interested in AO. Although Quang Binh province was not directly sprayed, hundreds of veterans returned home after being exposed and spread the condition to their families. AEPD supported them through normal programming but made no special provisions for AO. On AP's side, Jesse Cottrell, the 2012 Peace Fellow, made a fine video on the Phan siblings, three inspiring victims of AO. In 2014, Peace Fellow Kelly Howell conducted research for AEPD and found that the number of AO-affected victims in Quang Bing had been greatly under-estimated. Karin Orr, the deputy director of AP, visited AEPD in late 2013 and drew up an agreement with AEPD that AP would support a specific project on AO in 2014.

The first challenge, clearly, was to identify beneficiaries and determine numbers. Scott Allen, an AP Board member who had been in Vietnam during the war, offered to fund a survey. Rebecca Scherpelz, a former Peace Fellow in Uganda and disability expert, drew up a survey questionnaire as part of a study project at her university. AP recruited Seth MacIntyre, a former Peace Corps volunteer, to serve as the 2014 Fellow at AEPD and help AEPD administer the survey.

The survey produced several unexpected results. Based on the literature and interviews, AP had felt that first aim of any survey should be to identify people with medical conditions most likely caused by AO, and drew up an extensive survey listing all of the medical conditions associated with AO in the US. In the event, the question had already been answered. AEPD and the government kept extensive lists of families that were clearly suffering from AO-related conditions. Whether or not these were actually caused by AO was difficult to ascertain given that some siblings had a condition while others did not. But this hardly seemed to matter.

AEPD selected 500 representative families. Seth helped AEPD to train survey teams and enter data in a database. He also produced supporting material, including powerful profiles and photos. The survey was completed by mid-August.

One problem with this survey was that neither AEPD nor AP was able to supply medical personnel for the survey teams. This made it even harder to identify the medical conditions with precision. On the other hand, the survey was able to collect detailed data on the needs and to understand the challenge of AO as seen through the eyes of victims. This was extremely valuable. It also became clear that compensation offered by the government was uneven and inconsistent.

The project produced one final, unexpected benefit during an extensive debriefing for survey team members, local government, civil society leaders. It was clear that the survey had energized everyone, and focused minds on Agent Orange. Many present also demanded that the list of medical conditions which receive compensation should be expanded to reflect the lost used in the US. This was an unusual statement in a strictly controlled society.

AP and AEPD produced a joint report on the survey, which was still being reviewed at the end of 2014. The focus, clearly, would be on the needs of AO survivors and AP hoped to support a program in 2015 that could begin to address these needs. AEPD was strongly in favor. AP also met in Washington with Chuck Searcy, who advises Project Renew, a Vietnamese project that works with war-disabled in the province of Quang Tri. Chuck expressed interest in collaborating on a proposal to USAID, which has announced a large program to fund disability-related work in Vietnam with special focus on Agent Orange. Overall, AP raised \$13,767 for this project in 2014.



The Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disability (AEPD), a long-time AP partner in Vietnam, is working with AP to develop a program for families affected by Agent Orange. Pham Van Giang, 78, a veteran of the Vietnam War was exposed to Agent Orange in the war. His son Dung (right) has a disability thought to be associated with Agent Orange. Photo by Peace Fellow Seth MacIntyre.

9.5 Recycling Straws in a Ugandan Slum

AP has supported the Kinawataka Women Initiatives (KIWOI) since 2010, when a Peace Fellow in Kampala visited KIWOI's remarkable recycling center, where poor women recycle drinking straws and turn them into bags. The following year AP recruited Scarlett Chidgey, an excellent photographer, to work as a Peace Fellow at KIWOI. Scarlett helped KIWOI to produce an advocacy quilt made from 10,000 straws.

In 2013, Peace Fellow Katie Hoffman helped KIWOI to offer its recycled bags to shopkeepers, in an effort to reduce the number plastic bags that were polluting the environment of Kinawataka. Benedicta Nanyonga, the founder of KIWOI produced 400 recycled bags, which were distributed to supermarkets in the Kinawataka slum. Katie did a survey of shopkeepers and found enormous interest, but left before anything could be finalized. Meron Menwyelet the 2013 Peace Fellow, helped Benedicta to reinforce her income-generating activities and promoted Benedicta's work abroad. One product was an award-winning documentary that featured Benedicta.



Benedicta Nanyonga, left, the founder of KIWOI was named as one of Uganda's 40 most inspiring women. She is seen here with a former Ugandan Minister of Finance.

AP's work with KIWOI in 2014 got off to a strong start when Benedicta visited Washington in March to receive an award. AP

housed Benedicta and together they drew up a strong plan with clear goals for the summer. Benedicta attended a panel discussion at Georgetown university, at Meron's initiative, and AP also introduced Benedicta to the Plastic Pollution Coalition, a California-based network. In May, AP recruited Shannon Orcutt a recent from George Mason University to work at KIWOI in the summer. Shannon had worked on the Sudan campaign and was an expert videographer. AP purchased a machine that attaches straws to tee-shirts, in the hope that it would speed up KIWOI's straw-pressing, and Shannon agreed to take the contraption to Uganda.

Shannon's first task was to produce content, in the form of photos, blogs, and web pages. By July, she and Benedicta posted a new KIWOI website, which was simple but elegant and listed (inter alia) Benedicta's many impressive awards. In 2014 alone, Benedicta was named one of Uganda's 40 most inspiring women, profiled in a leading newspaper, and attended a meeting organized by women ambassadors at the UN in Geneva.

AP followed up by posting new partner pages, Flickr pages, [and a news bulletin](#) on KIWOI. At Benedicta's urging, Shannon returned to the environmental theme. She posted a strong video on the dangers from plastic pollution on the new KIWOI site, and contacted the Plastic Pollution Campaign. Shannon also surveyed shopkeepers in Kinawataka and found – to her surprise – that several were still using the recycled bags that they had received two years before. Working from this, Shannon developed a plan to supply bags to 5 of the main stores in Kinawataka. If all these stores agreed to give the long-lasting recycled bags to their customers, Shannon estimated that over 100,000 straws would be taken out of the environment in just one year.

Unfortunately, neither AP nor KIWOI was able to secure funding for the project. AP extended Shannon's stay at KIWOI for four months, but even this failed to generate funding. AP remains enthusiastic about the partnership and the environmental plan, but conventional donors have yet to be convinced. In addition, KIWOI has yet to solve the technical challenge of pressing the large number of straws that will be needed to produce 400 bags. AP purchased a pressing machine for KIWOI in 2014, but this failed to produce the desired effect and the problem remains unresolved.

9.6 Curbing child domestic labor in Nepal

During 2014, AP worked with two community-based organizations in central Nepal, the Social Welfare Action Network (SWAN) and Backward Society Education (BASE) to put child domestic workers (known as *kamlaris*) into school.

AP has sent Peace Fellows to BASE for several years. BASE is an advocate for the Tharu ethnic group and has developed several innovative approaches to child protection, including the “child-friendly village” that are described at length on the AP website. BASE led the national movement to eliminate bonded labor and is led by Dilli Chaudhary. (Dilli has remained president of BASE while rising to a position of prominence in Nepali society. He was elected to the National Assembly in 2014 and accompanied Kailash Satyarthi, the 2014 Nobel Peace prize winner, to Oslo for the Nobel ceremony on December 10.)

BASE uses education to rescue children from coercive labor, and past Fellows have played an active role in this inspiring mission. In 2013, Emily MacDonald helped BASE to publicize a violent attack by the police on a group of young women – themselves former *kamlaris* – who protested against the death of a 12 year-old *kamlari*, Srijana Chaudhary. During her fellowship, Emily also met with the head of SWAN, an organization that established a center for rescued *kamlaris*. The head of SWAN, Krishana Chaudhary, asked for a Peace fellow in 2014.

Against this background, AP decided to send Fellows to BASE and SWAN, and focus on the challenge of rescuing *kamlaris*. We selected two Nepalis who were studying in the US, Sugam Singh and Richa Adhikari. Working at SWAN, Sugam identified 11 girls in poor families who would certainly enter domestic service if they were not sent to school. Back in the US, AP was contacted by a small family foundation, the Aliza Family Fund, which expressed interest in funding the project. Sugam profiled the 11 girls, and developed a program and budget with his hosts at SWAN. AP transferred \$1,242 to SWAN in August to cover the cost

of the girls' education, and all 11 girls were in school by the end of the year. AP hoped that this promising outcome would open the way to a larger program to prevent child labor.

Richa, the Peace Fellow at BASE, had a more difficult assignment. With Dilli Chaudhary busy in Kathmandu, Richa found it difficult to get the attention of her hosts at BASE, who handle a number of different grants and projects. She did manage to profile a number of *kamlaris* but was unable to develop a program.

9.7 Eliminating child labor in the brick kilns of Nepal

Parallel to working on child domestic labor in central Nepal (Dang), AP also began a new fellowship with CONCERN, a well-known Nepali nonprofit that works to eliminate child labor in the brick kilns of Kathmandu valley. AP was introduced to CONCERN by BASE and recruited Peace Fellow Katerina Canyon, from Tufts, to work at CONCERN in 2014. Towards the end of August, we asked Gisele Bolton, who was then working at Vikalp in India, if she would join Katerina and stay on after Katerina left.

In the event, Katerina remained until Christmas, before returning to the US. This allowed AP and CONCERN to develop a strong friendship and also focus on the brick kilns. Tens of thousands of children are drafted into the kilns with their families. The season begins in the late spring. Poor families are drawn by the prospect of work, but unable to leave their children or put their children in school. Towards the end of September, they leave for the Kathmandu valley where they are given a pile of bricks to construct a dwelling. They work six days a week and are paid by the number of bricks they haul. This provides a strong incentive for the children to carry bricks as well. The work continues until May.

Over the years, CONCERN has taken hundreds of children out of the kilns and placed them in schools. CONCERN also provides services in the kilns, including health services and day care. Finally, CONCERN has developed close contacts with the employers, who will have to be a part of any long-term solution. Unfortunately, CONCERN was diverted from this excellent work by a fundraising crisis throughout most of 2014. The crisis was triggered by a decision from CONCERN's principal donor, Save the Children International, to abandon CONCERN in favor of another local NGO. Save the Children gave no reason for this decision and compounded the damage by using material developed by CONCERN in its own fundraising. After CONCERN protested, Save the Children sent an internal investigator to Nepal, who did not talk to CONCERN. AP intervened with Save the Children at CONCERN's request, but was told that due procedures had been followed. The dispute was outstanding at the end of 2014.

Throughout these discussions, AP Peace Fellows worked hard to help CONCERN find new donors. They took the decision to focus on seven large kilns in the valley and developed an omnibus proposal that could be tailored to individual donors. Katerina contacted several embassies and arranged meetings for Dr Sainju. By the end of the year, CONCERN had an extensive database of donor contacts.

Gisele arrived in September, just as work in the brick kilns was starting. Using the model developed by SWAN in Dang district, Gisele identified and profiled eleven working girls, and AP pledged an initial \$1,000 to place them in school. CONCERN also urged its network of employers to develop a code of

conduct, which was ready by the end of the year. By the time Gisele left, the partnership between AP and CONCERN was on a firm footing and agreed on the outlines of a long-term program.

9.8 Combating Uterine Prolapse in Nepal

AP has worked with partners in Nepal to curb uterine prolapse since 2008. Prolapse happens when a woman's uterus is dislodged and affects 600,000 Nepali women. It is caused by a number of different factors, including hard work, bad birthing practices and domestic violence. Mary Louise Cohen, an AP Board member, has generously funded AP's work on this issue.

In 2013, AP was approached by Care Women Nepal, a small nonprofit that refers women with prolapse to local hospitals in the eastern district of Dhankuta. Two Peace Fellows in Nepal at the time – Emily and Suchita – met with Indira Thapa, the founder of CWN and agreed on the goals for a 2014 partnership. AP recruited Katie Baczewski, a former Peace Corps volunteer, to work at CWN in the summer of 2014.



Care Women Nepal organized a health camp for rural women in the district of Dhankuta, with help from Peace Fellow Katie Baczewski. AP raised over \$1,800 for CWN, enabling 34 women to receive surgery for third-degree prolapse.

CWN takes a different approach to that of the Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP), another AP partner that works on prolapse. Drawing on Indira's wide network, CWN organizes reproductive health camps in Dhankuta for village women. Over 3 to 4 days, the women are screened by doctors and nurses who volunteer their time. Women with third degree (extreme) prolapse are then transported to the hospital by CWN for treatment, and escorted home by CWN after the operation.

CWN had organized two camps by 2014, and asked AP to put this important program on a more sustained footing. AP launched an appeal for \$1,600 through the AP site to cover all costs of the Dhankuta health camp except for the surgeries, which were paid for by the government. This produced \$1,782, and allowed

CWN to hold a health camp in the village of Sindhuwa, Dhankuta. Over 250 women attended and 34 were referred to the hospital in Biratnagar for surgeries.

AP also distributed a [news bulletin on the camp](#) and posted new CWN partner pages on the AP site, drawing on material and photos submitted by Katie. AP's lobbying also paid off on June 19, when the new US federal aid bill was published with a request that USAID support a program on prolapse in Nepal.

Indira and Katie tried to keep up the momentum in Nepal. They met with the director of the UNFPA office in Kathmandu, who expressed concern that AP had criticized the government of Nepal. They also met with USAID, which refused to commit to working on prolapsed, as requested by the US Foreign Assistance bill. Katie also helped CWN design an ambitious proposal for more health camps in 2015. While much remained to be done, this constituted a very successful first year of partnership.

9.9 The Ain Leuh Weaving Cooperative in Morocco

AP helped the weavers from Ain Leuh to strengthen their organization and consolidate their business in 2014, building on the work of three former Peace Fellows. During her stay at Ain Leuh, Fellow Laura McAdams (2012) had produced web content and a spectacular quilt which has since featured at several exhibitions in the US. Benan Grams and Mohamed Alshubruni (2013) raised over \$3,000 for the cooperative and helped the weavers to make small investments (including new dyeing pots, roadside signs) which increased their productivity and income.

The 2014 Peace Fellow, Silvia Irace, helped the weavers to focus on their organization and transition from a loose, for-profit association to a nonprofit organization. AP had recommended the change, on the grounds that it would open the way to foundation and other financial support. Silvia helped the weavers apply for NGO status in Morocco, which they received at the end of 2014. The weavers also elected officers, decided on a mission statement (protecting Berber women's culture) and chose a new name - *The Association Tifsa for the Preservation of the Local Heritage of Ain Leuh*. Silvia was at their side throughout.

Silvia also worked with the AP team in Washington to design a long-term program that would attract investment to the new organization by turning the weaving workshop into a cultural center where tourists could experience Berber culture (including food), learn the rudiments of weaving, make a small souvenir carpet, and watch the process of weaving unfold – from shearing to working at the loom. Silvia produced several short videos to show what tourists could expect and worked with Hassan, the Association's treasurer, to develop the plan. It was agreed that AP would transfer the remaining money (\$2,027) collected by Mohammed and Benan the previous year, to pay for refurbishing the center. Work would begin the following spring, when the snow disappeared.

9.10 River Gypsies of Bangladesh

AP did not send a Peace Fellow to the Subornogram Foundation in Bangladesh in 2014, because of security. As reported in the 2013 annual report, the founder of Subornogram, Shahed Keyes, was kidnapped by thugs

in 2013 in front of a Peace Fellow. Deeply shaken, Shahed, accepted a fellowship in Hong Kong with the intention of returning to Bangladesh once the dust had settled.

In mid 2014, Shahed reported that a local businessman had offered to sell land on the Mayadip Islands to Subornogram, for the building of a school. Subornogram is known for its innovative education program, which has opened six schools for River Gypsy children. But the schools are cramped and Shahed had been looking for ways to expand. He contacted his former Peace Fellow Mathew Becker (2012), who agreed to launch a fundraiser. Mathew received several pledges and then asked AP to take over. AP posted an appeal on the Subornogram partner page and raised over \$7,000. Apart from one visit, Shahed himself remained in Hong Kong. As 2015 opened, AP was in urgent discussions with Shahed about his future.

9.11. Relatives of the Diaspora in Peru

In 2014, AP helped the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF), a long-time partner, to transition from an active participant in Peru's transition to a global trainer in transitional justice.

When AP first sent a Fellow to EPAF in 2008, the organization was at the forefront of efforts to exhume secret graves and identify the missing. Subsequent Fellows then helped EPAF to produce information, collect ante-mortem data on the disappeared, build EPAF's international contacts, and seek funds. But the Peruvian authorities resisted EPAF's demand to exhume more graves and as the avenues began to close in Peru itself, EPAF began to look abroad. Jose Pablo Baraybar, the director of EPAF, assisted several governments, including Mexico, Brazil and the DRC, to exhume the remains of victims of violence.

EPAF also launched a field school for practitioners of transitional justice. The first school was held in Peru itself. The second took place in Somaliland. [A third school was held in Peru in 2014.](#) In 2014, EPAF asked AP for help in scaling up the field school experiment. AP wrote a bulletin on the Somaliland school and advertised the school to universities through listservs. TJ Bradley, the 2014 Peace Fellow, was asked to attend the field school in Peru, profile participants, and produce a long-term program and budget. TJ also helped relatives of the disappeared in two villages, Sacsamarca and Hualla, to produce knitted squares for an advocacy quilt that carried the names of their dead relatives. TJ brought the 40 squares back to the US and AP delivered them to Elizabeth Ohlson and Merry May, two quilters in New Jersey who had agreed to assemble the quilts.

Late in the year, AP answered a call for proposals from the US State Department, which was seeking to fund work on transitional justice in Nepal. AP approached EPAF and the National Network of Families of the Disappeared and Missing in Nepal (NEFAD), a leading Nepali advocate, about working together in Nepal. The three organizations agreed to collaborate and AP submitted a concept paper at the end of the year. Early in 2015, the State Department asked for a full proposal, indicating some interest in the program idea. Regardless of the outcome of this proposal, the three partners will work together in 2015. This, it is hoped, will enable EPAF to open a field school in Nepal.

9.12 Transgender People in India

One important 2014 goal for AP was to help the Vikalp Women's Group in Gujarat, India, to scale up its inspiring program to make justice accessible to tribal and marginalized Indian women.

AP had sent several Peace Fellows to Vikalp, and selected Gisele Bolton to serve in 2014. Before she left for India, Gisele and Iain Guest, from AP, travelled to New York to meet with Maya Sharma and Indira Pathak, the directors of Vikalp, who were visiting friends. Under their leadership, Vikalp has created two courts, run by women judges, which hear cases involving marginalized and tribal women. They have also turned Vikalp into a refuge for members of the LGBTI community and tribal women in western India.

AP had hoped that Gisele would develop a long-term proposal to expand the courts and build shelters for transgender and other threatened people from the gay community. After initially agreeing, Indira and Maya decided they did not want to invest the time and effort required to expand their program and Gisele terminated her fellowship to work at CONCERN in Nepal. Before she left, Gisele was able to help artists from the LGBTI community to produce striking paintings with a henna design. The paintings were sent back to the US, to be assembled into the *Henna Pride* quilt.

9.13 Also of note

- On May 26, 2014, Soraya Post was elected to the European parliament as a representative of the Swedish Roma. Soraya is the first-ever Roma woman to be elected an MEP. AP first met Soraya in 2003, when AP was helping the OSCE and Council of Europe to establish the International Roma Women's Network. At AP's urging, Soraya assumed the presidency.
- On September 9, 2014, the DWRC, AP's Palestinian partner, took up the case of 750 Gaza health workers who went on strike for wages after working heroically through the recent war. The DWRC called on the Palestinian ministries of Health and Labour to respect agreements with cleaning companies that employed the hospital workers.
- At the end of 2014, the Travellers from Dale Farm remained in exactly the same predicament that they had been in on January 1 - squatting in caravans opposite the remains of their homes, which were bulldozed in October 2011. The Basildon Council had again failed to come through on its promise to find land for the Dale Farm families. AP did not, however, give up on Dale Farm. Throughout 2014, former Peace Fellow Susan Craig-Greene volunteered at the Crays Hill primary school, one of the few schools courageous enough to offer an education to Traveller children.

10. Fellows for Peace

AP recruits graduate students to serve with partner organizations and help to build long-term programs. 264 Peace Fellows have served since the program began in 2003. The 2014 fellowship program was notable for the following:

- Five of the 10 Fellows stayed on until the end of the year (Nepal, Mali, Uganda and Peru).
- AP introduced a new toolkit of services for partners, known as *5x10* (5 services in 10 weeks), and trained Peace Fellows in the provision of these services.
- Security concerns made it impossible to send Fellow to the Middle East for the first time since 2003.

a) Promotion

- AP advertised 11 Fellowships at 5 informational sessions (Tufts, Georgetown, Columbia, NYU, Harvard); and in 50+ online advertisements.
- Applications: 373 applications were received – considerably more than the previous year - and offers were made to 12.
- Financing: AP spent more on direct Fellowship costs (\$74,467) than in previous years because five Fellows stayed on for six months, thus adding to costs. However, income from programs and a grant from Humanity United covered \$42,755. AP covered the remaining \$31,712 from core funds. Fellows also raised \$4,200 through AP and roughly \$10,000 through universities.

b) Training



AP offered partners five services in 2014 (see below) and trained all Fellows in the services at a week of training in Washington in May (**photo, left**). AP invited two outside experts to assist in training, which was extended from 3 to 5 days to do justice to the 5 new services.

Training produced many deliverables: one 166-page Fellowship manual; 6 online training modules (comprising 36 attachments); 54 training sessions; 11 evaluations; and one news bulletin. The evaluations help us to design the next year's training and program.

c) Services

In an effort to create more consistency and measure impacts, AP pulled all services into a new framework, called *5x10* (5 services in 10 weeks). The 5 services were: NGO management; IT and website support; fundraising; working with the media; and photography. AP contacted partners and asked them to choose 2 of the 5 services in advance. 9 partners chose NGO management, followed by fundraising (7), IT support

(4), video and photography (2) and working with the media (1). Several important lessons were learned about service delivery in 2014:

- Some fellows were so busy developing programs and fundraising that they were unable to offer 2 services;
- The number of services offered varied. In some cases only one were provided; some partners received more than 2 (eg AEPD, KIWOI);
- Partners acquired *capacities* from these services that tended to be more specific than *services*. For example, Sini Sanuman acquired the skill of book-keeping, rather than NGO management, per se;
- AP measured the impact of these capacities according to the outcomes or products they produced (eg quilt squares, fund raising proposals etc);
- Fundraising and NGO management were most in demand with partners;
- If a partner wants a new website, the IT service should be the only service offered;
- Services most in demand (ie fundraising) should be prioritized.

These lessons will be incorporated into the 2015 training.

d) Deployment

AP deployed 10 Peace Fellows to work with 10 partner organizations in eight countries in 2015. Gisele Bolton served in two organizations. Libby Jawish was recruited for Palestine but was not deployed owing to the difficult security situation. We also decided not to send a Fellow to BERDO in Bangladesh, again because of poor security.



Left: Katie Baczewski, a graduate at the Fletcher School, Tufts, served in Nepal with Care Women Nepal. She is seen here with Indira Thapa, founder of CWN at the Dhankuta reproductive health camp.

Africa

- Mali: Giorgia Nicatore (Georgetown University) was deployed at *Sini Sanuman*.
- Uganda: Shannon Orcutt (George Mason)) *Kinawataka Women Initiatives (KIWOI)*; Kathryn Dutile (University of Manchester, UK) *The Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU)*.

Asia

- India: Gisele Bolton (University of Minnesota) *Vikalp Women's Group*
- Nepal: Richa Adhikari (Wesleyan College) *Backward Society Education (BASE)*; Sugam Singh (University of Oregon) *SWAN*; Katerina Canyon (Fletcher School at Tufts) *CONCERN*; Gisele Bolton (University of Minnesota) *CONCERN*; Katie Baczewski (Fletcher School at Tufts) *Care Women Nepal*;
- Vietnam: Seth MacIntyre (Brandeis University) *Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities*.

Europe and the Middle East

- Morocco: Silvia Irace (Georgetown) *Ain Leuh Weaver's Cooperative*;

Promotion and publicity: The Chippewa Herald, Minnesota, [published an article on Gisele Bolton](#), before Gisele set off for India.

e) Evaluations and Impact

AP asked all Fellows to complete two evaluations at the end of their fellowship – one on the impact of the fellowship and the second on their deliverables. These are available for review. We asked Fellows to assess the following, on a scale of 1-5 (best) or 1-10 (best):

- Overall experience – 93 out of 110
- Support from AP in the field – 48 out of 55
- Academically enriching – 44 out of 50
- More prepared to volunteer – 43 out of 55
- More culturally sensitive – 48 out of 110
- More confident in general – 43 out of 45.

Feedback from Fellows

- **Giorgia Nicatore (Mali):** “Six months in Mali and I don’t want to leave. I am not tired. I have found wonderful friends and accomplices in this city, in this country; I feel that this project, that I am fortunate to be part of.” Giorgia plans to return to Mali in 2015.
- **Kathryn Dutile (Uganda)** “Sometimes the best moments were when the power went out and all the staff was just chatting about life, politics, relationships, etc. (Also) grant writing at this level and amount was new. (I) gained more technical WASH knowledge - whereas my specialty was more about institutions and behavioral changes.” Katie remained in Gulu after her fellowship ended, working for an NGO.

- **Shannon Orcutt (Uganda)** “I learned so many new skills and it was really rewarding to see the work I was doing make a direct impact on the organization. It was very validating. I had the best experiences when I got to interact with the women and youth the organization worked with.” Shannon remained in Kampala after her fellowship ended, working with another NGO.
- **Seth MacIntyre (Vietnam)** “(This has been) one of the most profound professional and personal experiences I have ever had. AEPD is an organization of exceptional merit, skills, and commitment, and meeting with Agent Orange survivors in the field changed my perspective on many things – (including) the American War.”
- **Silvia Irace (Morocco)** “I have learnt about the legal steps to set up a non profit in the Moroccan legal framework, how to frame an Association mission, as well as video taping, editing, and using social media in a more effective way. I improved my Wordpress and website building skills, and my knowledge of Amazigh and Moroccan culture and language. Finally, I have learnt some handicraft skills, by weaving for advocacy.”
- **Katie Baczewski (Nepal)** “I got to be at the ministry of health, talk to the Prime Minister, speak with UNFPA, leading gynecologists, watch the surgeries take place, tour the hospital, talk to journalists in Dhankuta, attend the health camp, and speak to rural women in their home villages. This really gave me a complete picture. This fellowship (also) built on some of the skills that I had already built during Peace Corps - flexibility, adaptability, and learning how to change directions. I also gained some valuable practice writing grant proposals and developing program outlines.”
- **Katerina Canyon (Nepal)** “I look at the world and children differently. I am now starkly aware of the differences between the U.S. and other parts of the world.”
- **TJ Bradley (Peru)** “It has been an incredible learning experience for me and has left me with many friends. I feel like we have accomplished much and I look forward to seeing all that they will do in the future.”
- **Gisele Bolton on her CONCERN fellowship:** “(It was) enriching both professionally and personally! I always felt very supported and learned so much more about grant writing, fundraising, communications and development. I feel that is an area I'd now like to work in.” After finishing her fellowship with CONCERN, Gisele accepted another job in Nepal.



Silvia Irace, right center, with members of the Ain Leuh weaving cooperative in Morocco. Silvia helped the weavers create a nonprofit association and design a cultural center.

Alumni

The AP team made a major effort to track down past Fellows, with a view to producing a newsletter and doing an analysis of their occupations. The current database contains 252 names and contacts. During 2014, AP write over 50 letters of references for past Fellows, and several past Fellows continued to support the work of their former hosts:

- Matt Becker (2012) raised over \$7,000 for the Subornogram Foundation in Bangladesh
- Dane Macri (2012) continued to raise funds for the accessible sanitation project in Uganda and oversaw the assembly of an advocacy quilt on disability in Windsor Ontario. The squares were made by members of the Gulu Disabled Persons Union in Uganda and assembled by quilters in Windsor.
- Rebecca Scherpelz (2011) helped AP to draft a questionnaire on Agent Orange, for use in the AEPD survey and organized a conference on disability rights at the University of Maryland.
- Susan Craig-Greene (2010) volunteered at the Crays Hill school in Essex, which educates the children of Travellers, and continued to support the Dale Farm Travellers, evicted in 2011.
- Meron Menwyalet organized a roundtable at Georgetown University for her former host, Benedicta Nanyonga, during Benedicta's visit to Washington.

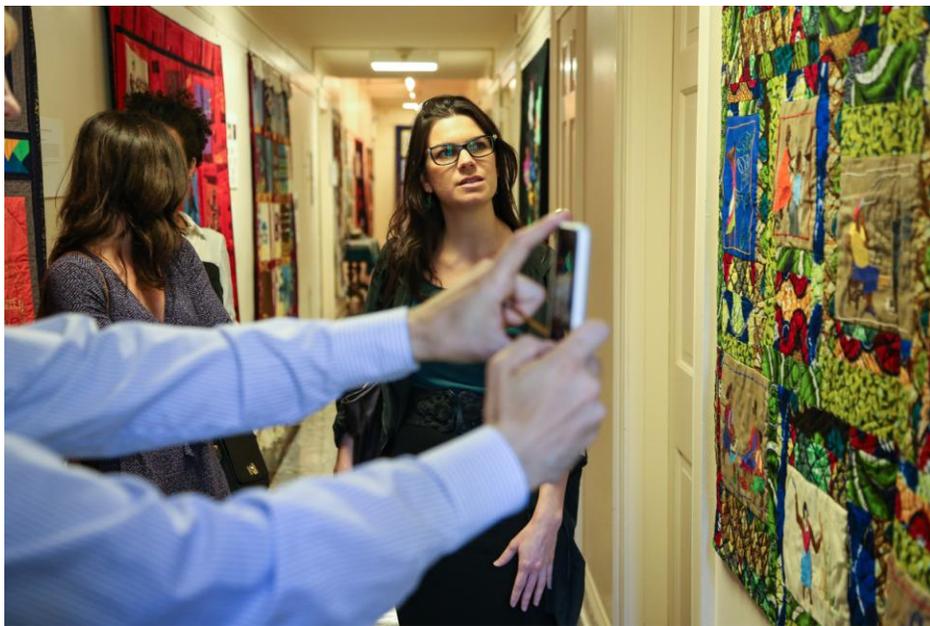


2012 Peace Fellow Mathew Becker, now at the US Department of State, raised over \$7,000 in 2014 for his former host organization, the Subornogram Foundation, which provides schooling for the children of River Gypsies of Bangladesh.

11. People at AP

AP drew on a committed group of 41 staff, board members, and volunteers in 2014:

- **Staff:** Iain Guest, Karin Orr.
- **Interns:** Jonathan Poffley; Allison Maggy; Maria Cuamani; Brittany Wagner; Gabby Samad; Sarah Iskander. Our thanks to California State Fullerton, for supplying an intern – the sixth year of the partnership.
- **Contractors:** Natalya Ghurbanyan served as webmaster to the new AP site; Kevin Miller printed AP's quilt greeting cards; Andre Bowen from VertigoVisual designed the new AP website; Erin Lapham provided IT technical assistance.
- **AP Board:** Mr Scott Allen, HE Claudia Fritsche, Mr Devin Greenleaf, mr Iain Guest, Dr Susan Martin, Mr Soren Jessen-Petersen, Mr Bayo Oyewole, and Dr Cristy West.
- **US quilters:** Seven quilters from the Sisters Choice Quilt Guild (Arlington) and two quilters from the Faithful Circle Guild (Columbia, MD) worked on AP quilts in 2014; Marge Harvey, from the Westmoreland church arts committee, became an honorary member of AP's quilting family.
- **Peace Fellows:** Giorgia Nicatore; Silvia Irace; Seth MacIntyre; Katie Baczewski; Richa Adhikari; Sugam Singh; Katerina Canyon; Gisele Bolton; Shannon Orcutt; Kathryn Dutile.



Karin Orr, Deputy Director at AP since 2010, helped to organize AP's quilt exhibit at the Westmoreland Church in Washington DC, and explain the quilts to visitors.

12. Financials (To be completed in July 2015)

(Year ending December 31, 2014)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Grants	\$ 158,270	\$ 21,375	\$ 179,645
Contributions	0	0	0
In-Kind Contributions	55,500	0	55,500
Rental Income	9,225	0	9,225
Other Income	1,767	0	1,767
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	15,616	(15,616)	0
Total Revenue and Support	240,378	5,759	246,137
EXPENSES			
Program Services	213,142	0	213,142
Supporting Services:			
Management and General	19,821	0	19,821
Fundraising	4,617	0	4,617
Total Expenses	237,580	0	237,580
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,798	5,759	8,557
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - Beginning of Year	(74,815)	2,900	(71,915)
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - End of Year	\$ (72,017)	\$ 8,659	\$ (63,358)

See Independent Auditors' Report and Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

13. With Thanks To:

Foundations and other contributors 2014:

Amazon Smile, The Brimstone Fund, Diocese of London, Edumetrica Inc., Embassy of Liechtenstein, Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club Inc., Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Freddie Mac Employee Funds, Human & Civil Rights Organization of America, Humanity United Fund, Looney's Pub at College Park, The Noyes Museum of Art, Outten & Golden LLP, Rotary Club of Windsor, Schwab Charitable, Sini Sanuman, World Bank Community Connections Fund, Zonta Club of Washington Foundation.

Benefactors 2014:

Fern Abrams, Pramisha Adhikari, Richa Adhikari, Roshan Adhikari, Marisa Ahuja, Tabasum Akbari, Lee D. Alekel, Scott Allen, Erin Aquino, Michael Arntz, Lawrence Barker, John Barnes, John Becker, Karen Berkman, Parminderjit Bhullar, Paul Bishop, Herbert & Mary Ellen Bittner, Fredrick & Joan Bliss, John Boasi, Nicholas Bohannan, Tom Bohannan, CJ Botts, Peter Bross, Mica Brown, Rhondad Brown, Jeanne Buckley, Hannah Budde, Kirsty Callaghan, Scarlett Chidgey, Julie Chobany, Eugene Cohen, Mary Louise Cohen, Sandra Coliver, Allyson Conner, Wynne Cook, Jane Cooper, Sarah Craven, Teresa Crawford, Tiara Darnell, David DeKeyser, Duane Dittman, Kim Donovan, Cynthia Dougherty, Jon Michael Duey, Elizabeth Duke, Brandy Espinola, Kristin Estrella, Patricia Fagen, Isabel Ferro, Emily Flanagan, Judith Fogt, Claudia Fritsche, Sara Gallagher, Giorgia Nicatoro, Gisele Bolton, Christopher Glazner, Laura Godfrey, Polly B. Gordon, Sophia Goulding, Devin Greenleaf, Iain Guest, Kyle P. Haley, Francis & Margaret Harvey, Ale Hejase, Melissa Herman, Monica Hernandez, Elizabeth Hudson, Paige Hulsizer, Ricky Huynh, Ramsey Jabaji, Jordan Jarret, Soren Jessen-Peterson, Erin Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Kristen Johnson, Patrice Johnson, Lawrence Jones, Neal Jones, Lina Joyner, Syed Kamal, Katerina Canyon, Anna Keegan, Kahill Kettering, Mark Kevitt, Alexander Corn, Nathan Kornfield, Deborah Lake, Erin Lapham, Luigi Laraia, Joyce Leader, Robert Lewis, Louise Lindblom, Eric Long, Jonathan Lorenzo, Patricia Macken, Michael Maloney, Kaitlin Mariutto, Martha Randall, Susan Martin, Sean Martinez, Sara McCracken, Amanda McCrum, Barbara McDermott, Colette McDermott, Nicole McDermott, Trindy McDermott, Gayle McIntyre, Laura McNeese, Laura McPhersen, Amanda Milburn, Mia Mulholland, Caryn & Robert Musil McTighe, Judith Newman, Jessica Ngo, Rana Nigon, Bridget OBrien-Young, Jocelyn O'Rourke, Luis Orosco, Megan Orr, Bayo Oyewole, Surendra Pandey, Sujana Panta, Adina Papinchak, Herbert Parsons, Tameaka Pennington, Susan Poston, Valentino ramos, Jennifer Ransberger, Ray Goldman & Heather Dolstra, Shelley Reed, Cale Reeves, Andrew Reighart, Adhikari Richa, Claire Riley, Mark Rivra, Elizabeth Robie, Katheryne Robinette, Mike Rodriguez, Barbara Rothe, Page Ruhsam, James E Runnels, Lauren Ruszyk, Kendra Salois, Jennifer Sass, Helen Scalliet, Catherine Schaefer, Joanne T. Schaefer, JB & Becky Scherpleze & Schneider, Carrie Scherpelz, Ken Scherpelz, R Scherpelz, Rebecca Scherpelz, Arlene Schneider, Shamam, Benjamin Sheridan, Anisha Shrestha, Susan Shuller, Sujata Singh, Johnathan Slack, Luise Smith, Vanessa Smith, Victoria Smith, Stanley Springer, Jennie Stabler, Stevan & Elizabeth Suddaby, Aimee Stone, Jessica Strauss, Aaron Swan, Barbara Thomas, Christopher Tumbull Grimes, David Twitchell, Yangchen Ukyab, Petra Vorwig, Cristy West, Jason Wetzell, Janice White, Wiley Rein LLP, Jarod Wilson.