

Dear friends,

New Year has already started in full swing! 19 new changemakers have graduated from kanthari 2 weeks back. It was already the sixth batch and guess what... there are 117 of us now! One-hundred-seventeen!

In this New Year's issue of the *kanthari plus* newsletter you will find how projects from 6 different batches are spicing up their communities and making a change. On the third page you will find news from *kanthari plus*!

A small kanthari can make a HUGE difference!



Tomek Kozakiewicz, kanthari graduate 2013, Poland, www.kanthariplus.org , FB [#kanthariplus](https://www.facebook.com/kanthariplus)

P.S. Content provided by kanthari graduates as part of *kanthari plus* partnership initiative (k+ 2015/1)

2009 kanthari graduate: Yoshimi Horiuchi - Japan

ALWAYS READING CARAVAN - THAILAND

Since almost 5 years, Yoshimi and her team are spreading the joy of reading in Northern Thailand! The NGO she founded provides: a **community library** with around 6000 books (providing services to 600 members), **mobile library services** to around a dozen schools and a bunch of people who cannot come to the library easily, including people with disability, elderly people, mothers with newborn children.

Two **early childhood literacy centers**, serving around 15 children from hill tribe communities. Yoshimi :“ *We have been able to reach roughly 2000-3000 people in the past 5 years. We plan to enrich our mobile library services and literacy centre for hill tribe children in the north, and open another library in the central area.*” For more visit: [website](#) / [FB page](#)



2010 kanthari graduate: Chhitup Lama – Nepal

HIMALAYAN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

After graduating from kanthari, Chhitup started HEAD Nepal mobile blind school, traversed on horseback through the Himalayas in search of blind children hidden in their homes. At present the main project is HEAD Nepal Vision Home which is providing a springboard for 25 visually impaired children. Achievements of last year include: First Graduate of Head Vision Home, Harimaya Upadhyaya, attended the SLC (high school Exam), a greenhouse, Mini-Braille library was constructed and numerous livelihood and awareness programmes were conducted.

To know more or get involved please visit: [website](#) / [FB page](#) / [documentary](#) / [short video](#)





2011 kanthari graduate: Nicholas Kimuyu

VICTORS ACADEMY - KENYA

VICTORS ACADEMY offers Early Childhood Education to children aged 3-8 years. Many of whom have physical, learning disabilities or come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nicholas started the academy in January 2012 with just five children. Over the three years the number has grown to 33. He is now building a school with 2 classrooms and an office on land which is already secured. Nicholas wants to make his project sustainable through microbusiness/ child sponsorships. No website/FB page - [email](#)



2012 kanthari graduate - Afere Lawrence Alaba

SPRINGBOARD NIGERIA

Springboard Nigeria has trained about 50 young people in farming and entrepreneurship skills. 13 trainees got micro credit to start their small businesses and farm. The local government partnered with Springboard to train 5 youth in India in bamboo products making skills. Soon, the government will establish a cluster in the community where these youth will start making bamboo products that will be sold all over Nigeria. Springboard was also able to raise funds to construct a training centre and plantain chips factory. The construction is at the completion stage. The plantain chips factory will provide employment for about 30 young people.

For more visit [website](#) or read [article](#).



2013 kanthari Graduate - Jyotshnarani Das

JANAMANGAL – ORISSA, INDIA

Since leaving kanthari 12 months ago Jyotshnarani has put together a well knit team of 4 women who empower landless and tribal women affected by domestic violence. So far they have carried out several training and sensitization programmes. 30 women were trained in Herbal medicine preparation and marketing. In 2015 they plan to continue the trainings and establish a market outlet for herbal medicines produced by the women. Find out more here: [website](#) / [FB page](#)



2014 kanthari graduate – Owoicho Nelson

READING4CHANGE (R4C) - NIGERIA

Nelson is currently launching a literacy project for children from rural areas. Seeing Nelson's passion, a Nigerian author donated 8 copies of books from his collection and promised to donate more. With 3 core volunteer team members R4C plans to kick off activities in 2015! More on R4C [FB page](#)





kanthari plus short films in the pipeline

In the upcoming month I will be editing the following videos: G Karthikeyan: **Sristi Village** (India), Khom Raj Sharma: **IEC Nepal** (Nepal), Monicah Kaguithia: **Entito Africa Initiative** (Kenya), Harriet Kamashanyu: **Rhythm of Life** (Uganda), Nicholas Kimuyu: **Victors Academy** (Kenya). The videos will be available on kanthari plus [website](#) and [FB page](#).

In the next 2 months I will visit remaining Indian projects. Funds are needed to make all the visits possible. The list includes: John Peter: **Yurton Wheels**, Manglu Sreedhar: **Thalir**, Santhosh MM: **Pest Friendly Farm**, Jyotshnarani Das: **Janamangal** and possibly KR Raja: **GNEquality** and George K Thomas.

kanthari documentary (52" Kenya/Uganda/India/China)

director: *Marijn Poels*, producer: *Tomasz Kozakiewicz*

co-producer: *SolidarityFilmDoc*, Poland / Germany, 2015

The postproduction phase of the first documentary about kanthari is almost over. The final version of the film is now being sent to a sound editor / composer to be finalized. The film explains the kanthari concept of social change through the stories of Paul Kronenberg, Sabriye Tenberken and four kanthari graduates from Africa: Monica Kaguithia, Jayne Waithera, Stephen Onyang and Ojok Simon.



A video success story from Kenya

After watching the kanthari plus video clip about Stephen Onyang's project ([watch here](#)) for HIV orphans in Kenya, two passionate of engineering from Poland: Marek & Adam were inspired to want to make his venture sustainable! After one month of emailing between them and Stephen they came up with an idea to raise funds for a solar powered water pump and electricity kiosk. On January 12th they are setting out to Kenya to implement it!



kanthari online meet ups

Graham Varley (a kanthari catalyst), an experienced social care initiator from England, inspired me to make a pilot of 3 **teleconferences** to see if we, kanthari graduates can get together and share expertise. We will start with a test call on January 19th. In February we are planning to organize 2 group calls: the first: with an expert (probably in community development) and second: about the kanthari plus portal. If you are interested please send an email with your preferred timing.



kanthari plus online portal

The next step for kanthari plus will be to create an **online portal**. There are 2 purposes: 1. to create an attractive online place where people can get to know kanthari graduates and have an opportunity to support them (also financially). Every graduate could be responsible for updating his/her information. 2. a members only page where we could access and share useful resources, links, funding opportunities and best/worst practices. I will share with you a draft specification soon... We will then have to look for a **web developer**...

kanthari plus aims to promote and support projects of kanthari graduates. In order to do so, financial support is needed. Donations can be made to Fundacja SolidarityFilmDoc, Slowackiego 28/18 81-872, Sopot, Poland, Bank: Pekao SA SWIFT: PKOP PL PW PL47124012421978001057728680 – Thank you for your support.