

Fourth Annual Report Web Update

GTF170 Search for Common Ground (SFCG)

In its multi-nation, episodic drama *The Team*, Search for Common Ground has merged the global appeal of soccer/football* with soap opera to help transform social attitudes and diminish violent behaviour in countries grappling with deeply rooted conflict. The television series addresses the very real divisive issues facing societies in a dozen African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries, using sport as a unifier to surmount barriers. Each production of *The Team* follows the characters on a football team who must overcome their differences – be they cultural, ethnic, religious, tribal, racial or socio-economic – in order to work together to win the game.

The Team rings true for viewers, given that all of the series are created and produced locally. Actors and scriptwriters, who have experienced violent conflict and divisions firsthand, are drawn from local populations in the countries in which we work. Local production companies and technicians take the lead, with additional technical assistance and support from Common Ground Productions. Inspired by worldwide passion for football, *The Team* sparks in viewers a sense of belonging to a whole that transcends often narrowly-defined identities. In this reporting year, the series was broadcast for the first time in Angola, Burundi (radio) Indonesia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe with ongoing projects in Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo and Kenya.

For more information about The Team, please visit:

<http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/cgp/the-team.html> <http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/cgp/the-team-funding-report.html>

<http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/cgp/the-team-articles.html>



Tim Bui: *The Team*, Indonesia : Agus Koncoro, seen in the middle, won the Best Actor award in May 2012 at the Bandung Film Festival for his portrayal of Agung, the prison guard who is the peacemaker. The series was nominated in 8 categories including Best Drama



“Seema”, the controversial lead character of *The Hamro Team*, Nepal as played by Richa Sharma.