

United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) Project Status Update

For the period of January-March 2012

1. Project Overview

Participating UN Organization(s):	UNICEF/OHCHR	UNPFN Project number:	UNPFN/A-8
		UNPBF Project number (if applicable):	UNPBF/NPL/E-2

UNPFN Cluster area:	Cantonment / Reintegration
UNPFN Funding round Strategic Outcome:	Children and adolescents affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in adherence with international law and guidelines
UNPBF Priority area (if applicable):	Strengthening State Capacity for Sustaining Peace
UNPBF PMP Result and indicator (if applicable):	<p>Result 1: Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at the national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law (RoL)</p> <p>Indicator 1.3 DDR: # of PBF programmes that have successfully integrated ex-combatants into communities</p>

Project Title:	Monitoring, reporting and response to conflict related child rights violations		
National Partners:	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), National and local international and national non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs).		
Project start date:	01 January 2010	Original Project end date:	31 December 2011
Revised end date (if applicable):	31 May 2012	Anticipated total Project duration:	2 years 5 months

Total approved project budget:	USD 2,332,421+ USD 331,674 (Additional) = USD 2,664,095		
Funds committed and spent to-date by the project:	2,516,629	As % of approved budget:	94%
Funds spent to-date by the project:	2,036,981	Project delivery rate:	76%

2. Description of project goal and strategy

The overall goal of the project is to ensure that child protection actors, including state entities, are taking decisive and appropriate actions to prevent and respond to violations of children's rights. Activities will support the stabilization of the peace process by monitoring and responding to violations against children, strengthening child protection systems and by identifying and mitigating factors that increase children's vulnerability to engagement in activities that threaten the peace process.

With the signing of the Action Plan by the Government, UCPN-M and UN regarding the discharge and rehabilitation of disqualified Maoist Army personnel verified as minors, Nepal has taken an important step to comply with the requirement under UN Security Council Resolution 1612 to abolish the use and recruitment of children as soldiers. Similarly, the successful discharge and rehabilitation of the disqualified Maoist Army personnel in line with the UN resolution 1612 will pave the way for the UCPN-M to be removed from the list of parties to conflict recruiting and using children, which is attached to the Annual Reports of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict.

The following complementary components underpin the present project:

Monitoring and reporting on the discharge and rehabilitation process and ongoing violations of children's rights, as mandated by Security Council 1612 and 1882, to support evidence based advocacy to stop child rights violations, seek accountability for these violations and ensure that response interventions are effective and well-

targeted through referral mechanisms.
Continued provision of appropriate **reintegration support for approximately 7,500 informally or self-released CAAFAG and around 3,000 other CAAC** already supported through UNICEF's CAAFAG programme, in order to ensure that they are successfully reintegrated into their communities as well as to ensure parity with the reintegration support that the recently discharged minors and post-recruits are offered. Of the total CAAFAG/CAAC (6,036) supported in 2011/12 by the CAAFAG Working Group. During the same period, 3,563, CAAFAG/CAAC were supported in 30 districts, through UNPFN.

3. Overview of progress to-date against project outcomes		
Project Outcome(s)	Progress: achievements/results/ outputs delivered to-date	% of planned
OUTCOME 1: Strengthened capacity of child protection actors, including state entities, to monitor, document, verify and respond to grave child violations		
1.1.1 Number of verified and documented cases that have been responded to through established referral mechanisms. Number of child protection actors oriented on 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism, including UN monitoring mechanism. UN monitoring mechanism established and operational.	<p>The 1612 task force on monitoring and reporting mechanism documented 520 cases of violations involving children out of which 20% were referred to service providers. However, there were no cases of violations falling under the scope of UNSCR 1612.</p> <p>The activities were completed in the previous quarters.</p> <p>The activity was completed in the previous quarters.</p>	<p>Continuous activity</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
1.1.2 Provide orientation to the UN monitoring teams on discharge and rehabilitation process and training and technical guidance to 1612 Task Force members on monitoring, documenting, verifying and reporting on grave violations.	The activity was completed in the previous quarters.	100%
1.1.3 Report, document and verify the compliance with the Action Plan on discharge and rehabilitation of disqualified Maoist Army personnel, including through verification missions to different districts.	<p>The yearly report of the UN Monitoring team on UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan for the Discharge of the Disqualified Maoist army Personnel and Related Provisions covering the period from 22 February 2011 to 13 February 2012 was sent to the office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC). It was a follow up to the previous report submitted to the Office of the SRSG-CAAC covering the period from 22 March 2010 to 21 February 2011. It provided an update on UCPN-M's compliance regarding the implementation of the Action Plan.</p> <p>The verification of UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan continued through missions conducted in Far Western Region and the Eastern Region as well as through contacts with former combatants. During those missions, the UN team conducted interviews with former combatants living in shared houses and with local political leaders.</p> <p>The UN Monitoring team also met several times with the Deputy of the Maoist army, Chandra Prakash Khanal (Baldev), to address the remaining challenges towards full compliance with the Action Plan.</p>	Continuous activity

<p>1.1.4. Report, document and verify core child rights violations for submission to the UN Security Council 1612 Annual and Horizontal reports, including through fact finding missions on violations which require in depth verification.</p>	<p>The Matrix of UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan was updated and shared with the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian coordinator and the representatives of UNICEF and OHCHR.</p> <p>10 global horizontal notes (progress updates) prepared and submitted to the OSRSG-CAAC.</p>	<p>Continuous activity</p>
<p>1.1.5. Identification of trends and patterns of child rights violations committed in the 58 districts covered by the 1612 Task Force including violations by armed groups in the Terai.</p>	<p>The activity was completed in the previous quarters.</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>1.1.6 Review the strategies of 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism.</p>	<p>The activity was completed in the previous quarters.</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>OUTCOME 2: Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities (reintegration component).</p>		
<p>2.1.1. Number of CAAFAG (informally and self-released) and CAAC receiving reintegration support, (disaggregated by gender/caste/ethnic group and type of support).</p> <p>2.1.2. Number of informally and self-released CAAFAG and CAAC cases closed due to successful reintegration as per the criteria established in the monitoring sheet for assessment of individual cases.</p> <p>2.1.3. Number of child protection partners trained in reconciliation and peace building activities to support the social reintegration of CAAFAG.</p> <p>2.1.4. Number of CAAFAG/CAAC</p>	<p>In 2011/12, UNICEF and CAAFAG Working Group continued providing reintegration support to over 6,036 CAAFAG and CAAC in 40 districts, out of which UNPFN supported 3,563 CAAFAG/CAAC in 30 districts. During the reporting period (Jan-March 2012), the UNPFN fund was utilized to support the reintegration of 1,475 CAAFAG/CAAC (51% Female) in 18 districts.</p> <p>During the reporting period (Jan-March 2012) no additional cases were closed as the ongoing programme is expected to continue up to May 2012 only. However, a detailed assessment of individual cases (CAAFAG/CAAC) has been initiated to determine if the cases are eligible to be closed or if they need continued support. After May 2012, around 800-1000 CAAFAG/CAAC cases will continue receiving reintegration support in selected districts, using resources from other sources.</p> <p>During the reporting period, UNICEF and Search for Common Ground (CAAFAG member agency) organized 4 days training on "Designing, monitoring and Evaluating Peace Building Program" to 31 program managers from different district implementing partners in order to enhance their skill in designing and evaluating peace building program. During the training, Programme Managers received knowledge to help them design and monitoring peace building activities.</p> <p>In the 18 districts supported by the UNPFN fund, about 69 CAAFAG received</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>85%</p> <p>Completed</p>

<p>receiving psychosocial support.</p> <p>2.1.5. Number of community stakeholders trained on issues related to children affected by armed conflict</p>	<p>psychosocial support during the reporting period, of which 39% were female CAAFAG/CAAC. In 2011/12 a total of 280 CAAFAG (54% female) had received regular psychosocial support.</p> <p>In an effort to link human resources and structures supported with government institutions and Child Protection system to ensure sustainability UNICEF, provided 2-day training to CAAFAG implementing partners from 15 western and mid/far western districts. They were trained in skills to prepare social inquiry reports and to understand and respond to psychosocial needs of juveniles, who come into conflict with law, were imparted. The training was organized in response to government's request to facilitate the linkage, between UNICEF supported psychosocial workers and Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee so that CAAFAG IPs can be expected to support the Juvenile Justice District Coordination Committees, including police and district courts, in preparing social inquiry report and providing psychosocial support for juveniles in 42 districts.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>2.1.6. Technical assistance to MoPR and MWCSW for effective implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action for Children Affected by Armed Conflict</p>	<p>UNICEF provided operational and technical assistance to Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to organize 2-day workshop for drafting of NPA implementation guideline. The workshop was attended by representatives from 14 relevant government agencies and members of the CAAFAG working group, with expertise on various aspects of reintegration program. As a result of the workshop, draft implementation guideline has been developed on seven core components related to the reintegration of CAAC (i) Data collection and information management (ii) Education support; (iii) Vocational training and income generating support (iv) Health and psychosocial support (v) Peace Building and reconciliation (vi) Responding to Protection issues. Working team has been constituted to work on the draft guidelines and to finalize them.</p> <p>In addition, UNICEF supported MoPR to draft a concept note for the implementation of NPA, to be submitted to NPTF in May 2012.</p>	<p>75%</p>
<p>2.2.1 Training of psychosocial workers to support CAAFAG and CAAC.</p>	<p>During the reporting quarter no new training were conducted. As in the previous quarters, TPO and CVICT, specialised agencies working on psychosocial interventions for CAAFAG and VMLRs, conducted supervision visits in 10 districts. The objective of the supervision visits</p>	<p>100%</p>

	<p>was (i) to supervise the quality of psychosocial support provided to CAAFAG and other conflict affected children (ii) share/learn experiences and challenges faced by implementing partners (iii) provide additional skills necessary to psychosocial workers to address psychosocial problems at local level (iv) assess the level of client satisfaction.</p> <p>The supervision team worked with CAAFAG district implementing partners to assess psychosocial status of CAAFAG/CAAC and provided mentoring support to district psychosocial workers. During the supervision visit, detailed psychosocial assessments of around 40 cases (CAAFAG) were conducted and reports shared with district implementing partner for follow-up support.</p>	
2.2.2 Training of community stakeholders in 34 districts on issues relating to children affected by armed conflict.	This activity was completed in the previous year.	100%
2.2.3 Technical support to child protection partners in 34 districts to integrate gender mainstreaming in reintegration support programme.	In the 18 supported districts, gender specific support was provided to 15 CAAFAG during the reporting period. In order to facilitate social-reintegration of female CAAFAG, their participation in youth/child clubs and community based activities was facilitated by district implementing partners.	80%
2.3.1 Provision of community based reintegration services, including access to formal and non-formal education, vocational training, income generating activities and social reintegration support to CAAFAG and CAAC.	During the reporting period, around 1,475 CAAFAG/CAAC were supported by UNPFN in 18 districts out of which 1,356 (51% Female) received education support. In addition, 101 CAAFAG/CAAC (61% Female) received Income-generating support (IGA), while 15 CAAFA benefited from vocational training.	100%
2.4.1 Regular update and analysis of CAAFAG database and production of regular analytical reports.	UNICEF is preparing training for implementing partners on use the upgraded 3.1 version of the Inter-agency Child Protection database in end April 2012. Once the training is completed, all information related to CAAFAG, supported by the programme since 2007 will be entered into the database. Discussion is going on within the CAAFAG Working Group and with relevant ministries (Ministry of Women and Children; Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction) on the official handover of the data.	75%
2.4.2 Development and implementation of inter-agency advocacy strategies against misuse and recruitment of children by armed groups in Terai and eastern hill districts.	The report of rapid assessment commissioned by UNICEF, to assess the risk of recruitment and misuse of children in political and armed activities in the Terai and Eastern Hills districts, is currently being reviewed by the Office of SRSR for CAAC.	75%

<p>2.5.1 Training of child protection partners in peace building and reconciliation activities, including key concepts of transitional justice, to support social reintegration of CAAFAG.</p>	<p>In 2011, UNICEF supported 132 child and youth clubs through the CAAFAG district implementing partners. During the reporting period technical staffs from Search for Common Ground (CAAFAG Working Group members) a Kathmandu based organisation, specializing on peace building and conflict transformation, visited implementing partners and provided them with mentoring support. Implementing partners and child/youth clubs received support in designing and implementation of peace building activities in their respective districts.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>2.5.2 Dissemination of child friendly transitional justice toolbox and training of children and young people to raise awareness on transitional justice issues in child networks.</p>	<p>As part of the NPA implementation guideline, MoPR has drafted a framework on Peace Building and reconciliation with transitional justice (for children affected by conflict) with technical assistance from CAAFAG working Group.. The draft guideline emphasises on developing child-friendly process and procedures for the participation of children in the TRC process. In addition, UNICEF is advocating with MoPR to include and consult with other UN and other I/NGOs in the drafting of the child-friendly processes and procedures.</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>2.5.3 Support to child clubs in 34 districts to mobilise for social reintegration of CAAFAG/CAAC and implement peace building and transitional justice activities.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, 30 Child clubs were supported, who organized 32 Peace building activities in 18 districts. Around 203 CAAFAG/CAAC and VMLRs participated in the activities along with other local youths/children from the community. Major theme of the peace building activity was reconciliation and social harmony.</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>2.5.4 Develop and support cooperation agreement between CAAC Working Group and TRC to ensure the protection and safe participation of children in transitional justice processes.</p>	<p>UNICEF is engaging with relevant I/NGOs to support safe participation of children in transitional justice processes. The major activities related to children's participation in transitional justice will be carried out after the approval of TRC Bill by the Cabinet. In the meantime, MoPR has included the provision of developing child-friendly processes in the draft NPA implementation guideline.</p>	<p>25%</p>

4. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges in this quarter

UN monitoring mechanism and Monitoring of 6 core violations through the 1612 task force

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism:

With the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army, the UCPN-M made significant progress towards full compliance with the Action Plan. During the reporting period, the UN monitoring mechanism verified that out of the 7 cantonments only one cantonment did not fully comply with the Action Plan. The main progress has been achieved by one cantonment in the Far Western Region where the

Maoist army commanders have completely severed the links with the verified minors from that cantonment.

Challenges

- With the closure of the four regional UN monitoring offices, the UN monitoring mechanism did not have the same resources to verify information. In addition, as mentioned above, the political situation was evolving very fast and had significant impact on monitoring the UCPN-M's compliance with the Action plan.

Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities:As an exit strategy,

UNICEF had, initially, planned to transfer currently supported CAAFAG/CAAC cases to government supported programme. However, with the delay in the implementation of the NPA for CAAC, UNICEF has been putting extra effort to support the government (MoPR, MoWC&SW) and to expedite the implementation of the NPA. During the reporting quarter, UNICEF was able to support MoPR to draft the Programme Concept Note to be submitted to NPTF. Likewise, UNICEF has been supporting the drafting of the implementation guideline in coordination with CAAFAG Working Group. UNICEF will continue supporting MoPR to finalise the NPA implementation guideline and the drafting of project proposal for NPTF funding.

Challenges

- As leading agency for implementation of NPA on CAAC, MoPR lacks the technical capacity and human resources to lead the process effectively (Upon MoPR's request, UNICEF has hired a consultant to provide technical assistance and overall coordination support to MoPR.)
- The National Plan of Action on CAAC has identified district Women and Children's Office, as the lead coordinating agency for the implementation of NPA in the district. Likewise, according to the draft guideline (which is still in the process of being finalized), basic reintegration services (eg. education, health, vocational training) needs to be provisioned through relevant government line ministry mechanism (eg. MoE, MoH etc)¹. Effective implementation of NPA, therefore, depends on inter-ministerial commitment. Ownership of the NPA by other ministries remains as a challenge.

Box 3 shows that the Outcome 2.5.2 and 2.5.4 have been completed only 10% and 25% of the planned so far. Since the project is closing in two months, i suggest obstacles preventing their implementation be listed as challenges here.

¹ MoE = Ministry of Education; MoH = Ministry of Health

5. Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

UNPFN PRIORITY CLUSTER A. Cantonment/Reintegration

Intermediate Objective: The safe verification, discharge and reintegration of Maoist Combatants

(if applicable) UNPBF PMP Result 1: Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at the national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law (RoL)

Indicator 1.3 DDR: # of PBF programmes that have successfully integrated ex-combatants into communities

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
1. Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in adherence with international law and guidelines	<p>Strengthened capacity of UNSCR 1612 Task Force to monitor, document, verify and report on grave child rights violations and the compliance with the discharge Action Plan</p> <p>Nepali child protection actors, including state entities, have strengthen capacity to monitor, document, verify and respond to grave child rights violations</p> <p>Enhanced capacity of the government to implement the National Plan of Action for the Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict</p> <p>Self and informally released CAAFAG and CAAC develop the skills and capacities that facilitate their effective reintegration into communities</p>	1.1 Grave child rights violations monitored, verified, reported and responded through Global Horizontal Notes and annual reports submitted to the UN Security Council WG on CAAC	3.1 2006-2009: 3 reports (1 report per year)	3.1 Two 1612 annual reports and 6 Horizontal notes	3.1 1 annual report on 1612 Action Plan monitoring and 10 Global horizontal notes submitted
		3.2 Number of functional referral mechanisms set up at district level and responding to child protection issues	3.2 No referral mechanisms in 34 targeted districts	3.2 Set up of referral mechanisms in 34 targeted districts (2012)	3.3 Referral mechanism piloted in 29 districts. Effectiveness of the referral mechanism largely dependent on the role of the WCO. Districts, with proactive WCOs, have a well-functioning referral mechanism through which children with protection concerns have received appropriate support.
		3.3 National Plan of Action on Children Affected by Armed Conflict approved and implemented	3.3 No NPA exists	3.4 NPA in line with international standards approved and implemented (2012)	3.2 NPA drafted by MoPR and approved by cabinet on 29 December 2010. UNICEF and CAAFAG Working Group supporting MoPR to

					develop implementation guideline. Concept note for NPTF drafted and submitted for approval.
		3.4 Number of self and informally released CAAFAG successfully reintegrated into their communities	3.4 0 out of 7,500 self and informally released CAAFAG; 0 out of 3,000 vulnerable children	3.5 5,500 CAAFAG; 3,000 vulnerable children (2012)	3.3 In 2011/12 continued providing reintegration support to over 3,563 CAAFAG and other children affected by conflict in 30 districts. During the reporting period, the UNPFN fund was utilized to support reintegration of around 1,475 CAAFAG/CAAC in 18 districts.