



PEACEBUILDING FUND

[Nepal]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY 2013 – JUNE 30, 2013

Project No & Title:	Programme Number: PBF/IRF-54 (83648) Project Title: Gender Responsive Recovery for Sustainable Peace (GRRSP)		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UN Women, FAO and ILO		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc)	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR); Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW); Local Bodies; Local Peace Committees (LPC) & Selected NGOs		
Location:	Kavre, Ramechhap and Sindhuli districts		
Total Approved Budget²	PBF: US\$ 898,800 (UN Women 340,260, FAO 265000.48, ILO 293539.5)		
Funds Committed³	USD 24000 (UN Women) ⁴ FAO 0 ILO 13784	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	UN Women 7.05% FAO 0% ILO 4.69%
Expenditure⁵:	USD 42237.36 (UN Women) USD 36 944.00 (FAO) USD 19310.01 (ILO)	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	UN Women 12.41% FAO 13.94% ILO 6.57%
Project Approval Date:	30 July, 2012	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	
Project Start Date:	1 October , 2012		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	Formal letter regarding the end date of the project awaited from PBF		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget should be the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations.

⁴ UN Women is in the process of signing the contract with Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group (WHR). The documents have already been endorsed by the Regional Programme Appraisal Committee (RPAC) in Regional Office in Bangkok. The total budget of the partnership contract is US \$ 57,452.

⁵ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

<p>PBF Outcome Area⁶</p>	<p>Outcome Area (from Priority Plan or Project Document):</p> <p>PBF priorities area 2:Promotion of co-existence and peaceful resolution of conflict</p> <p>PBF Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBF Outcome 8: Women are empowered—conflict affected women and their families are recovered from psycho-social hardships • PBF Priority Area 3: Early economic recovery and immediate peace dividends • PBF Outcome 11: Communities affected by conflict—Gender responsive community based economic recovery initiatives are designed and implemented <p>Project Outcomes:</p> <p>Outcome 1: Conflict affected women and their families are recovered from psycho-social hardships</p> <p>Outcome 2: Gender responsive community-based economic recovery initiatives are designed and implemented</p>
<p>Qualitative assessment of achievements and challenges</p>	<p>The project was approved and signed by the Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) on 30 July 2012. The project officially commenced implementation on 1 October, 2012.</p> <p>The project is in the early stages of implementation. Key accomplishments between 1 January, 2013 and 30 June, 2013 are detailed below.</p> <p>Project Steering Committee (SC) Meeting</p> <p>The first Project SC meeting took place on 30 January, 2013. The objective of the SC is to provide strategic guidance and to monitor the progress of the project.</p> <p>The SC is chaired by the Joint Secretary of MoPR and co-chaired by UN Women. The other members include representatives from other relevant ministries, such as MoWCSW, Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Department of Women and Children (DWC). The SC also includes representatives of the Project partner agencies, such and FAO and ILO.</p> <p>The first SC meeting focused on sharing information about the project with the SC members.</p> <p>The key issues discussed during the meeting included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN agencies should regularly update the respective Ministries about the progress of the project in order to ensure government ownership. • UN Agencies need to facilitate joint field visits between UN Staff and Government officials periodically in order to assess the progress of the

project.

- The project should give importance to enhance the institutional capacity of District Coordination Committees (DCCs) to implement and monitor the NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. According to the NAP document, DCCs have the responsibility of implementing the NAP in the districts. The DCC is chaired by the Chief District Officer (CDO) and co-chaired by the Local Development Officer (LDO).
- The project should provide tangible benefits to the ultimate beneficiaries of the project i.e. conflict affected women and girls, former women combatants and other vulnerable women.
- The project should avoid duplication of efforts and strengthen linkages with ongoing work by other agencies. The project should ensure linkages with ongoing government initiatives in relation to the implementation of the NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

Recruitment of the Project Team

The recruitment of the Project Team from all the participating agencies has been completed. UN Women has recruited a Project Manager and an Administration and Finance Assistant, who joined the office in the first quarter of 2013.

FAO has recruited a Livestock Expert and Agriculture Expert.

ILO has recruited a Gender and Employment Specialist as provisioned under the Project.

Joint Visit to the Districts

The joint field visit by all the three agencies took place in the first week of February, 2013. The purpose of the visit was to share information about the project with the district level stakeholders, identify the Village Development Committees (VDCs) to be covered in the three districts, and establish district level project coordination mechanisms.

The major output of the joint visit was the finalization of the VDCs to be covered under the project by the district level stakeholders based on the criteria presented by the project Team. In this context, 13VDCs and three municipalities were selected to be covered under project. Their names are Meche, Bhimkhori, Pokhari Chauri, Madan Kudari, Kusha Devi, Banepa Municipality (in Kavre) Doramba, Daduwa, Deurali, Tilpung, Manthali Municipality (in Ramechap) Amle, Mahadevsthan, Ranichuri, Bhadra Kali and Kamala Mai Municipality (in Sindhuli).

During the consultations, the stakeholders also established that the DCC will be the key body to coordinate the project related activities in the districts. The other key issues discussed during the joint visit included following:

- The need to include a representative from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) in the SC at the central level to ensure that the linkages and coordination between the relevant ministries is maintained. This initiative will also support the Local Development Officer (LDO), co-chair of the DCC (who falls under the MoFALD) to actively participate in the project related meetings in the districts.
- The need to allocate some funds for communication and coordination for the

DCC members.

- Address or respond to the needs of actual conflict affected people.

Meeting between the Heads of Agencies of the three implementing Agencies

A meeting between the Heads of Agencies of the three implementing agencies—UN Women, FAO and ILO – took place on 3 April 2013. The focus of the meeting was to discuss progress made by the project, including challenges and opportunities at the field level.

The key issues discussed during the meeting included the following:

- Regarding the start date of the project, it was noted that even though the GoN signed the Project Document in July, 2012, the implementation started only in October, 2012. However, the project starting date (1 October, 2012) has been agreed with the donor in email correspondence. The meeting suggested communicating with the donor regarding receiving the formal signed letter with a clearly states the final end date of the project.⁷
- The establishment of an office was discussed. The project aimed to establish an office at the district level, but because of the cost associated with UN MOSS compliance and other administrative management issues, the project has had to operate from the central level with frequent coordination with DCC members in the districts.
- The causes of the delay in the project implementation were shared, and suggestions on how to recover the delayed time by accelerating implementation of the project activities were provided to the Project Team by the Heads of Agencies
- The main criteria of the selection of VDCs were discussed. The project Team explained that the criteria were based on the number of people affected by conflict in all three districts. The criteria were also shared with the DCC members during the district visits, and agreed upon by the members.
- In the meeting, it was agreed that activities should focus on the selected VDCs/municipalities as far as possible. However, some activities, such as psycho-social services, awareness raising and capacity development activities, will be implemented beyond the selected VDCs to the extent possible. A suggestion was also made to mobilize VDCs' resources allocated for the agricultural sector for the benefit of the target groups.
- Several possible options for developing a better coordination mechanism with DCCs, the focal points for the project coordination at district level, were discussed. It was decided that DCCs should be brought on board in order to coordinate project related activities in the districts. It was also proposed and agreed that organizing visits of the higher level concerned officials from the line Ministries to the field will create an enabling

⁷UN Women has shared this issue with Mr. Patrice Chiwota, Senior Programme Officer, PBF/PBSO, UN Secretariat, New York, USA. UN Women is yet to receive an officially signed letter from the donor regarding the end date of the project. Till date, UN Women only has an email approval from the donor stating that the start date of the project can be October 2012.

environment for the implementation of the project.

- Another suggestion that came up during the discussion was to include the MoFALD in the SC. It was suggested that this would help in coordinating the project work of the various government agencies focusing on the targeted beneficiaries, given that the MOFALD is responsible agency for endorsing development activities that take place in the districts. It was decided to discuss this issue in the second SC's meeting.

Baseline Study Report

The baseline study report was finalized in the second quarter of 2013. The baseline study established the project districts' needs regarding financial support, physical facilities, trained human resources, refresher training in the areas of gender auditing and gender budgeting, capacity development training for staff, and clarity regarding implementation modalities. The study detailed the issues with the economic situation in the three project districts, including the range of issues in agriculture and Micro and Small Enterprises, and the impact of the conflict on the households. The study also highlighted the state of social harmony and security in the surveyed communities. The implementation of substantive project activities will begin by the third quarter of 2013.

The report provided information on the particular issues the targeted Project beneficiaries faced in the districts. It highlighted, for instance, that conflict affected women and girls face exertion in the three surveyed districts. Orphans of the conflict lack nurturing, education, and other basic needs. Single women, victims of SGBV and displaced persons lack support for livelihood and effective reintegration. The report also revealed that current rehabilitation and reintegration programs run by the government are insufficient.

According to the report, the economic situation of all three districts is affected by rugged terrain and poor transportation infrastructure, which has increased production costs and limited access to market centers. Access to finance is limited, and lack of training and skills have affected modernization of agriculture and livestock farming. The above situation could be alleviated through the provision of a wide variety of needs based training, in which the surveyed households have already expressed interest.

The report revealed that maoist conflict has significantly affected the lives and economy of the surveyed households. A large proportion of conflict affected households have been living in hardship as their economic status has deteriorated after the conflict. The majority of affected households have not received treatment and counseling services because of lack of knowledge about relevant service providers, limited availability of such services locally, and lack of resources to receive such services from other places.

The report found social harmony and security in the surveyed communities to be moderate, while some residues of the conflict still remain. Incidents of SGBV are reported to be low in the districts. Those who do experience SGBV are mainly poor and illiterate women working as housewives, and experience violence from their husbands who are under the influence of alcohol. However, these cases of SGBV are rarely brought to the attention of concerned officials.

The above information is alarming as it appears to indicate that domestic violence is still confined to the private sphere in the project districts. Similarly, the minimal availability of counseling services in the districts reveals inadequate initiatives taken

up by the duty bearers to heal the wounds of the conflict affected women.

Overall, the baseline study report will be crucial during the mid- term and final evaluations of the project in terms of monitoring and tracking of the progress being made after the intervention of the Project in three districts.

Project Coordination Meetings with District Level Line Agencies

After the baseline study, project coordination meetings (two times in each project district) with concerned district level government line agencies were organized. These agencies included District Administrative Office (DAO), District Development Committee (DDC), District Women and Children Office (DWCO), District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and District Livestock Services Office (DLSO). The coordination meetings were organized in the three project districts on different dates with the aim of:

- Sensitizing the district level stakeholders on project objectives, outcomes, and its working modalities;
- Ensuring stakeholders' commitment and involvement in coordination, cooperation/collaboration, and support in the process of planning (group formation, need identification and activity designing), implementation (management of production inputs and technical backstopping), and project participatory monitoring and building community level ownership;
- Linking and coordinating project activities with the government's regular programme; and
- Avoiding duplication and strengthening programme effectiveness and synergy.

The project coordination meetings were useful in sensitizing the local stakeholders on the project and build the local level ownership.

Village Development Committee (VDC) Level Project Inception Meeting

Project inception meetings were organized in each VDC of three districts with the participation of the targeted beneficiaries identified in each VDC by the baseline survey and existing coordination structures and mechanisms adopted by local bodies Local Peace Committee, VDC Secretary, party leaders representing all political parties, representatives of DADO, DLSO, DWCO, and other relevant local stakeholders. These project inception meetings were organized with the aim of:

- Orienting the stakeholders on the project objectives, outcomes, and implementation modality as well as internalizing their advice and guidelines, and representation in group formation, needs identification, and activity design and implementation;
- Verifying and getting consensus on the targeted households identified by the baseline survey;
- Soliciting needful coordination, support, and building community level ownership on group formation, need identification, activity design, and monitoring; and
- Acquiring information and establishing collaboration mechanisms with other current or future initiatives implemented in their VDCs through the government, civil society and other development partners.

Group Formation, Need Assessment and Activity Design

During the VDC level meetings, the target beneficiaries identified by the baseline survey were categorized in different groups on the basis of their geographical

locations. The number of members ranged from 18 to 32 in each group. The prime objective of the forming the group was to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the project activities. Altogether 38 groups with 796 members have been formed in 13 VDCs of three selected districts. A brief summary of the groups is provided below.

Ramechhap- 14 groups in four VDCs (304 members)

Sindhuli- 12 groups in four VDCs (220 members)

Kavre- 12 groups in five VDCs (272 members)

An executive committee was formed in each group followed by an orientation meeting to each group. Specific needs of each group were identified and the identified needs were prioritized considering the project budget and opportunities available to the group.

A participatory approach was adopted while forming groups and assessing their needs. During the group formation process, roles and responsibilities of programme implementing partners were shared so as to maintain the transparency at all levels including the implementation levels.

These meetings were useful in making the group members aware of their roles and responsibilities to be performed, and for exploring further areas of works. It also provided an opportunity to analyze the limitations of the project in the respective settlements. The meetings were able to ensure the direct and meaningful participation of the local stakeholders. Overall, the meetings were productive in terms of internalizing stakeholders' advice, guidelines, and representation in needs identification of different groups.

Needs assessment for designing economic recovery initiatives has recently been completed in two of the target districts - Ramechhap and Kavre. The activity will be completed in the remaining district (Sindhuli) by late July, 2013. Also, formal consensus has been established among the group members of the two above districts on the identified needs and required support (knowledge, skills, and other production inputs) for designing and implementing activities in their respective groups.

Scoping of Potential Business and Income-generating Opportunities

A team of consultants has been conducting scoping study/review of potential business and income-generating opportunities for conflict-affected women through participatory rapid market survey in Kavre, Ramechhap and Sindhuli districts. The scoping exercise will identify the gap between the demand and the supply for labour market and assess products, services and sub-sectors with high potential for developing and/or creating business linking with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and large firms or self-employment. The comprehensive scoping analysis will provide information on opportunities and identifying/deepening of specific business opportunities with interested companies, large firms and Medium and Small Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), including selected sub-sectors; determine the challenges and opportunities that currently exists in terms of entrepreneurship and vocational skills in the identified sub-sectors; and recommend interventions, partners and strategies that may be needed to unlock the business potential and/or self-employment opportunities for selected number of conflict affected women in target three districts.

The study will ultimately help in identifying interventions focusing on delivering business services, training, productive employment opportunities, and empowerment through quick-impact job creation approaches for the conflict affected women in the

three districts.

Selection of Project Partners

UN Women prepared two ToRs for the competitive review process. Out of these two, one initiative is focused on carrying out capacity development activities at the local level, and the other on providing psychosocial counseling services to conflict affected women and girls in the project districts.

The call for proposals was announced in the second quarter of 2013, and UN Women is now in the process of finalizing the selection of partner organizations to carry out the above mentioned activities in the districts.

Challenges

The key challenge faced by the project was in identifying the project beneficiaries. During the joint field visit, district level stakeholders wanted all conflict affected people in the three districts to be covered, which was not possible with the existing financial resources of the project.

This challenge was mitigated by convincing the stakeholders about the limited available resources. The Project Team also gave the stakeholders the responsibility for selecting the VDCs as per the established VDC selection criteria. This provided the stakeholders a sense of ownership, as they provided the names of the selected VDCs and municipalities.

The Project Document was signed at the end of July 2012. However, the project officially commenced from 1 October 2012. As October is the festive season in Nepal, only few coordination efforts could take place during this month. This delay was mitigated by the expediting the process of selection of the partner to conduct the baseline survey in December 2012.

Next Steps

The Project Team is in the final stages of selecting the implementing partners to carry out the capacity development initiatives and psychosocial counseling services. The selection process is scheduled to be finalized by the first week of July 2013.

Call for Proposals for the selection of implementing partners to implement the entrepreneurship training, vocational training and business development services will be announced in the third quarter of 2013.

Capacity development of implementing partners, employers and workers against discriminatory practices at workplace (related to pay, sexual harassment, hiring and firing and possibly others) and awareness raising on gender equality will also be undertaken from the third quarter of 2013 s.

It is expected that the implementation of project activities will accelerate from the next quarter. The three partnering UN agencies expect to be able to report against the project outputs and indicators in the next six monthly report at the end of 2013.

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the Programme Results Framework from the Project Document - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Risks
Outcome 1 ⁸	Indicator			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline survey completed • Work plan prepared by the three UN agencies • Joint field visits by the three UN agencies undertaken • Steering Committee meeting organized • Project Team on board • Meeting of Heads of Agencies of three partnering UN organizations held • Project Coordination Meetings with district level line agencies undertaken • Group formation in the selected VDCs of the project districts completed • Scoping of potential business and income-generating opportunities underway 	The project only commenced from October 1, 2012	

⁸ Either country relevant (from the Priority Plan or Project Document) or PMP specific.

Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1					
	Indicator 1.1.2					
Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1					
	Indicator 1.2.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1					
	Indicator 2.1.2					
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1					
	Indicator 2.2.2					