



Project Status Update April- June 2013

1. Project Information

Project Title:		Project Numbers:	
Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme		UNPFN / PBF:	PBF/NPL/A-2
		MPTF Office:	00085964
1`		PBF Result (if applicable):	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)		Result-1.1: Security sector reform and judiciary system put in place and providing services that reinforce rule of law	
Primary Project Contact Person:		UNPFN Funding Round Strategic Outcome(s):	
Laura Nelson, Programme Officer UNDP, UN House Kathmandu Phone: +977-1-5523200 Ext. 1011 Email: laura.nelson@undp.org		SO2: Citizen confidence in the judiciary and criminal system has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal diverse society.	
Laxmi Maya Rai, Programme Officer, [UN Women, Thapathali Phone: +977-1-4255110/4254899 Ext: 107 Email: laxmimaya.rai@unwomen.org		UNPFN Cluster: D: Security	
National Partners(s):		NPTF Cluster:	
Supreme Court of Nepal; Ministry of Law and Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction		3: Security and Transitional Justice	
Total UNPFN Funding:	US\$ 2,200,000	Project Start Date:	15 March 2013
		Original End Date:	14 March 2015
Funds spent to-date by the project:	US\$ 0	Revised End Date (if applicable):	
Funds spent as percentage of budget:	0 %	Total Project Duration:	24 Months

2. Project Executive Summary

This project contributes to the implementation of the 'Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal' Programme (ROLHR). The project mirrors UNDAF outcome 4 (to propagate the principle of the rule of law, justice and human rights as the essential foundation for sustainable peace, human rights, and human development) and UNDAF outcome 8 (to work with national institutions to address the post conflict needs of victims). The overall focus of the ROLHR programme is to consolidate sustainable peace by creating the conditions for systemic changes in the justice sector, by way of increasing citizenry's confidence in the justice sector as a whole. UNDP and UN Women will accomplish this by supporting sector-wide strategic planning and coordination; developing a 'single door' policy and implementation mechanisms for a free and comprehensive legal aid system; and enhancing mechanisms of accountability, in part by supporting the Nation Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and transitional justice issues, strengthening the criminal justice systems' capacity to address the needs of conflict victims, including women victims of GBV. The specific components of the ROLHR project strengthens the capacity and service delivery of the justice sector to better address society's needs and build confidence and trust in institutions; ensure participatory access to justice for women and other vulnerable groups and conflict victims;

increase their participation in the legal profession to build more responsive and representative institutions; implement the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 (specifically, the parts on protection and prevention); develop linkages between formal and informal justice system; and, ensure that informal justice mechanisms are operating in conformity with international human rights standards.

3. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges during this quarter

Project Outcome(s)	Progress delivered and/or challenges during this quarter
1. Improved efficiency of courts and increased delivery of judicial services to the women and vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToR for the baseline and perception survey to assess the confidence of people towards the court system drafted. • The recruitment of a consultant to develop a methodology has been forwarded for the process • Action plan developed to establish orientation and information desks in selected districts • Procurement process initiated to procure necessary goods and equipment for the JSCC and information desks • A steering committee has been formed to guide to the expert team for the study on judgment execution. Hiring process of a consultant is underway to conduct a study on judgment execution. • Conduction of the survey is pending final approval of the Supreme Court. • ToR to strengthen In-camera hearing in 5 district has been drafted and is in the process of seeking inputs from UNDP
2. Women and vulnerable groups have better access to legal aid services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high-level steering committee has been formed at Ministry of Law and Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs (MOLJCAPA) to provide strategic guidance for effective implementation of legal aid component of the ROLHR Programme, endorse policy level activities under the Programme and ensure continued coordination between all stakeholders. • A concept note has been finalized on clinical legal education programme and discussed with MOLJACAPA • Concept note to establish legal aid centres in different selected districts have been developed and submitted to the MOLJCAPA • Mapping exercise to determine on-going interventions and partnerships in the field of gender justice initiated. • A TOR is being developed to establish law scholarship and internship scheme for greater professional inclusion of women and vulnerable group
3. Criminal justice system is more responsive to conflict victims, and female victim/survivors of GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept note is being developed to organize a training on conflict sensitivity • Annual Work Plan is drafted and will be finalized shortly. • Mapping exercise to determine on-going interventions and partnerships in the field of Gender sensitive Transitional Justice initiated. • Recruitment of programme implementation staff initiated.

Project Management: key activities and/or challenges during this quarter

Project Management: The Supreme Court of Nepal (the national execution party) signed the project document in April 2013.

a. Meetings between UNDP and UN Women

A series of meetings have taken place between UNDP and UN Women to discuss and finalise the implementation modality for the project. As of 15 July the following key action points have been identified :

- UN Women will enter into MOU with NJA to revise the existing in-camera hearing guideline and support its implementation in 5 districts
- An MoU with an attached Annual Work Plan will be signed between UNDP and UN Women to govern the joint implementation of Outcome 3 (transitional justice), including funding and modalities of implementation with external partners, has been drafted.
- The existing service agreement will be used as the basis for transfer of funds covering the two programme staff members to be hired under NEX, the baseline survey and the evaluation costs from UN Women to UNDP.
- A modality of weekly meetings between UNDP and UN Women as well as joint consultations with external partners has been agreed to.

b. Recruitment of project staffs

UNDP has recruited the following positions

- Legal Aid Coordinator
- Project Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Legal aid Officer
- Programme Assistant
- Driver
- AFA

The legal aid coordinator, Legal aid officer, AFA, and driver are already on board and monitoring and evaluation officer, programme assistant and project officer have accepted the offer and would assume the task soon.

The recruitment process for National Project Manager is underway.

UN Women has finalized the ToRs for different following positions:

- Access to Justice/Rule of Law Analyst
- Project Officer (legal)
- Gender and Social Inclusion Officer
- Programme and Finance Associate
- Driver

The Gender and Social Inclusion Officer and the Programme and Finance Associate were agreed in the project document to be placed in the project office. In recent meetings with UNDP regarding staff, it was discussed that as both of these staff will be working with other staff in the NIM Project, it is very necessary to have same contract modality to ensure similarity in benefits for all staff working under the project. Therefore the TORs were revised using the appropriate UNDP format for NIM modality. It was also agreed that the vacancy announcements for these TOR will to be processed by UNDP. The revised ToRs have been forwarded to the UNDP Human Resource Department for further process.

c. Revision of joint work plan

A flexible approach between UNDP and UN Women has been established to undertake planning and discuss implementation gaps, challenges and the way forward. A meeting between UNDP and UN Women was held to review the joint work plan to better synergize results - an annual as well as detail quarterly work plan have been prepared to facilitate smoother corporation and better monitoring of progress.

d. Initiation of baseline and perception survey of the project

It has been agreed that it is beneficial and cost-effective to have the project baseline and perception survey

undertaking jointly and a combined ToR has been developed for this purpose. The conduction of the surveys is pending final approval from the Supreme Court, which has caused some delay.

e. Final selection of programme districts

Surkhet, Kalikot, Kailali, Achham, Bajhang and Doti districts have been selected however the final confirmation is yet to be made by the implementing partners.

Challenges:

The project has not experienced any major implementation challenges yet, set aside the challenges in determination of implementation modality.

Under this project, during the design of the project document, the funds were split and allocated to both UNDP and UN Women for the same activities (e.g. baselines, M & E etc.). UN Women and UNDP is undertaking series of consultations, to resolve this challenge.

UN Women has usually programmed under the DIM modality. The ROLHR programme is, however, employing the NIM modality. This has been a learning experience for UN Women, which posed some minor challenges. As a result programme implementation has been slightly delayed..

4. Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Results Framework

<i>PBF Level</i>			
<i>UNPBF PMP Result(s) (if applicable):</i>	Result 1.1: Security sector reform and judiciary systems put in place and providing services that reinforce rule of law.		
<i>UNPBF PMP Result Indicator(s) (if applicable):</i>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
Communities use justice systems to resolve conflicts without recourse to violence, ensuring human rights of women/girls in particular.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1400 (2012) • 800 (2012) • 11% prison sentences enforced and 8% increase in the civil decisions enforces • % of court users from women and vulnerable groups in 5 districts (To be decided by the baseline survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4000 disputes resolved in five districts • 2000 victims of GBV received legal aid in districts • 25 % increased • % of court users from women and vulnerable groups in 5 districts increased 	Project still in initial implementation phase, no measurable progress yet.
<i>UNPFN Level</i>			
<i>UNPFN Strategic Outcome:</i>	SO.2: Citizens confidence in the judiciary and criminal system has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse society.		
<i>Project Peace-Building Impact:</i>	Nepal's peace making process is facilitated by enhancing legal services and access to justice of women, vulnerable and poor.		
<u>Impact Indicator(s)</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
% of women, vulnerable and poor increased who have received legal and judicial services in the courts	TBD by initial assessment	% of legal aid and court services	Project still in initial implementation phase, no measurable progress yet.
<i>Project Level</i>			
OUTCOME 1:	Improved efficiency of courts and increased delivery of judicial services to the women and vulnerable		
<u>Outcome Indicator(s)</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
a. # of backlog cases decreased in selected district courts	a. Number to be determined	a. 30%	Project still in initial implementation phase, no measurable progress yet.

b. % increase in gender responsive decisions that are aligned to human rights standards in select district courts	by a baseline survey b. Number to be determined by a baseline survey	b. % of quality decisions	
OUTCOME 2:	<i>Women and vulnerable groups have better access to legal aid services</i>		
<u>Outcome Indicator(s)</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
<i># of women and vulnerable groups received legal aid services from the legal aid centres in selected districts</i>	a. 700 women and vulnerable received legal aid services (2012)	a. 2000	Project still in initial implementation phase, no measurable progress yet.
OUTCOME 3:	<i>Criminal Justice System is more responsive to conflict victims, and female victim/survivors of GBV</i>		
<u>Outcome Indicator(s)</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
a.# of conflict affected victims benefited from relevant information regarding redress through the victim support dialogues	a. TBD	a. 3000 conflict victims	Project still in initial implementation phase, no measurable progress yet.