**United Nations Peace
Fund for Nepal**

नेपालका लागि संयुक्त
राष्ट्रसंघीय शान्ति कोष

Project Status Update
April to June, 2013

1. Project Information

Project Title:		**Project Numbers:**		
Increasing the Safety of Journalists		*UNPFN / PBF:*	PBF/NPL/A-3	
		MPTF Office:	00085992	

Name of PUNO(s):	**PBF Result** *(if applicable)*:
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Security sector reform and judiciary system put in place and providing services that reinforce the rule of law

Primary Project Contact Person:	**UNPFN Funding Round Strategic Outcome(s):**
Laxman Datt Pant Project Coordinator UNESCO Office Kathmandu Sanepa-2, Lalitpur, Nepal +977-1-555-4396 Ext. 30 ld.pant@unesco.org	Strategic outcome 1 : Citizens' confidence in security sector institutions has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse needs
	UNPFN Cluster:
	D: Security

National Partners(s):	**NPTF Cluster:**
Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	3:Security and Transitional Justice

Total UNPFN Funding:	US$ 566,000	**Project Start Date:**	16/03/2013
		Original End Date:	15/03/2015
Funds spent to-date by the project:	US$ 689	**Revised End Date** *(if applicable)*:	
Funds spent as percentage of budget:	0.12 %	**Total Project Duration:**	24 months

2. Project Executive Summary

 The project aims at improving the security situation of journalists and media professionals in Nepal on three different levels. A national level independent mechanism is to be established that provides an appropriate framework to tackle the issues of endangered journalists and the impunity of the perpetrators.

Furthermore, security sector institutions will have the capacity to play their role to protect journalists, and political stakeholders and the public at large will acknowledge the importance of security of journalists for freedom of the media and subsequently Nepal's peace and development process, and will act accordingly.

In addition, male and female journalists will be trained on how to encounter cases of threats towards journalists and individual security strategies, respectively.

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

Project Outcome(s)	Progress delivered and/or challenges during this quarter
1. The national Human Rights Institution and professional associations are able to establish an efficient framework to protect journalists	• Held consultations with NHRC that fixed date for meeting with IPs
2. State Agencies, civil society organizations Including political parties/political interests groups and the public understand the importance of safety of journalists for freedom of expression and freedom of the press and back the independent mechanism for safety of journalists and free expression.	• Initiated p for Interaction programme on safety situation of journalists in the regions with judicial and security bodies
3. Journalists and media houses have the capacity to enhance their protection	• Visited Implementation partners for possible partnership , consultations with local chapters of FNJ and other partners to develop concrete activities to be carried out in the next quarter

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

- A national level kick-off meeting organized on June 7, 2013 to inform the stakeholders and the media about the project's strategies and implementation modality
- The major challenge faced in this period is NHRC's delay in responding to the request of UNESCO to chair the steering committee

4. Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Results Framework

PBF Level

UNPBF PMP Result(s) (if applicable):	Security sector reform and judiciary system put in place and providing services that reinforce the rule of law		
UNPBF PMP Result Indicator(s) (if applicable):	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Current / Final Status**
1 National armed forces/police perform their duties, addressing security concerns of target populations 2.1.2 Communities use justice systems to resolve conflicts without recourse to violence	• Presently no sufficient and reliable performance of security sector institutions and police regarding security of journalists • Lack of trust in the judiciary within communities; instead resort to informal conflict solutions	• A functioning judiciary system in place to encourage public trust and journalists' confidence	• Conducted kick-off meeting where security institutions were present

UNPFN Level

UNPFN Strategic Outcome:	1. People's confidence in security sector institutions has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse society		
Project Peace-Building Impact:	The project will mainly contribute to the achievement of Strategic Outcome1 by addressing the issue of impunity of violence against journalists at the levels of the police thereby increasing citizens' confidence in security sector institutions.		
Impact Indicator(s)	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Current / Final Status**
Balanced and impartial coverage of sensitive cases and topics in a safe environment	a. Presently high likelihood of biased reporting and self-censorship	a. Environment and culture in which speaking out on critical issues does not bring (threat of) insecurity	a. Conducted discussion programme among journalists during kick-off meeting
Timely and efficient investigations into violations of journalists' rights	b. State organs' actions unpredictable and not necessarily in accordance with the laws in place	b. Reliable judiciary actions in n response to journalists' rights violations	b. No concrete actions taken, more works will be carried out next quarter
Media professionals with improved confidence in the judiciary system and thus reflected in their reporting	c. resort to informal remedies due to perception of unreliability	c. Trained officials and procedures in place to standardize official responses to rights violations	c. Conducted discussion with judicial bodies during kick-off meeting

Project Level

OUTCOME 1:	The national human rights institution and professional associations are able to establish and efficient framework to protect journalists.

Outcome Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Current / Final Status
a. National mechanism established increasing the safety of journalists	a. No national mechanism existing	a. A sustainable mechanism ensuring the safety of journalists	a.Follow up to NHRC and other national partners in establishing mechanism including steering committee, ToR drafted for functioning of steering committee
b. Professional associations contribute jointly to the efficient functioning of the mechanism	b. Scattered approaches by a variety of professional association's to deal with media safety issues	b.Professional associations have a joint approach to enhance safety of journalists in cooperation with the NHRC established	b. Stakeholders communicated and informed about the their possible role in functioning of mechanism

OUTCOME 2:	State Agencies, civil society organizations including political parties/political interests groups and the public understand the importance of safety of journalists for freedom of expression and freedom of the press and back the independent mechanism for safety of journalists and free expression.		
Outcome Indicator(s)	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Current / Final Status**
a. Stakeholders have greater awareness of the implications of the safety of journalists and the need to strengthen the rule of law regarding prosecuting media rights violations on freedom of expression and the peace process	a. Insufficient level of understanding	a. Due to increased awareness stakeholders actively participate in addressing the issue of safety of journalists	b. National level kick-off meeting organize to sensitize stakeholders on the safety of journalists project
c. Mechanism recognized and supported as key to enforce security of journalists by all stakeholders and the public at large.	b. As mechanism is not yet in place, the support structure is to be established	b. Mechanism embedded in a supportive environment	b. Request letter to NHRC to chair steering committee, meeting in process

OUTCOME 3:	Journalists and media houses have the capacity to enhance their protection		
Outcome Indicator(s)	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Current / Final Status**
a.) Journalists will be better equipped to increase their personal safety	a.) Journalists are insufficiently equipped to deal with the high number of security threats	a.) Journalists have capacity and tools to protect themselves against threats	a.) National level kick-off meeting organized, regional meetings on state of safety planned, financial activity contract with AMARC on to present a session on recent state of journalists safety during its regional conference on radio
b.) Women Journalists have gender specific approaches to protect their safety	b.) No comprehensive gender specific approach to increase the safety of women journalists, but a variety of individual	b. Women journalists have access to gender-specific techniques and approaches to protect their safety	b. Discussion with Implementation partners including Sancharika Samuha on safety mechanism and training

	training initiatives		
c.) Media houses understand and protect their female/male staff	c.) No systematic involvement of media owners so far	c.) Media owners are aware of the issue and have tools to contribute to increase the security of journalists.	c.) Discussion with IPs on organizing consultations among media owners.