

**United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)
Project Status Update
For the period of [April – June 2013]**

1. Project Overview

Participating UN Organization(s):	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO (ILO component ended in May 2012, and UNFPA component ended in Jan 2013)	UNPFN Project number:	UNPFN/A-7
		UNPBF Project number (if applicable):	

UNPFN Cluster area:	Cantonments / Reintegration
UNPFN Funding round Strategic Outcome:	
UNPBF Priority area (if applicable):	NA
UNPBF PMP Result and indicator (if applicable):	NA

Project Title:	United Nations Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)		
National Partners:	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR)		
Project start date:	Jun. 1, 2010	Original Project end date:	May 31, 2012
Revised end date (if applicable):	Aug. 31, 2015	Anticipated total Project duration:	63 Months

Total approved project budget:	\$11,851,717 USD		
Funds committed and spent to-date by the project:	Committed: \$11,851,717 USD	As % of approved budget:	100%
Funds spent to-date by the project:	\$10,670,120 USD	Project delivery rate:	90%

2. Description of project goal and strategy

Following collaborative interagency efforts, a context-specific UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP) was launched in June 2010 to assist in the rehabilitation of the discharged Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLR). In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA), UNIRP was established to contribute to Nepal's peacebuilding process by supporting the socio-economic rehabilitation and smooth transition of the VMLR into civilian life. To facilitate these efforts, UNIRP provided four sectoral rehabilitation options, including vocational skills training, micro-enterprise development, education, and health-related training. The programme was complemented with cross-cutting services, such as gender-specific, health and psychosocial support, as well as individual career counselling, business mentoring, community-based peacebuilding activities, job placement support and life-skills training.

3. Overview of progress to-date against project outcomes

Project Outcome(s)	Progress: Achievements/Results/Outputs Delivered To-date	% of planned
1.Verified Minors and Late Recruit (VMLR) participants are supported in their socio-economic rehabilitation	<p>1.1. Individual Rehabilitation Option Packages are prepared and made available to participants</p> <p>Of the 3,040 VMLRs still living in Nepal, 2,743 (90%) had contacted UNIRP through the toll-free phone number or by visiting the regional offices. Of the 3,040 VMLRs, 2,477 (81%) received career counselling and were referred for training or education. In total, 2,234 (73% of 3,040 VMLRs) enrolled in one of the four rehabilitation options.</p> <p>Originally scheduled to end in January 2013, UNIRP was extended until August 31, 2013 in order to provide follow-up services to 151 'late applicants' who had enrolled in the programme last September. During this reporting period, UNIRP provided them with crucial follow-up support, such as counselling and business mentoring. The six-month extension of the programme has given UNIRP more time to continue with monitoring, address participants' on-going needs and provide them with follow-up support, such as facilitating linkages to affordable loans and employment opportunities.</p>	73%

As of June 2013, of the 1759 of participants who completed the programme, 72% have successfully found employment or established their own business. Of these employed graduates, 38% are female.

1.2. Access to Employment and Livelihood Opportunities Promoted:

During this reporting period, **the VMLR employment rate increased by 2%** as a result of rigorous post-training support, such as career counselling, enhanced support to VST graduates, case-by-case support to ME graduates, as well as tracing and face-to-face monitoring and linkages with micro-credit. Between April and June 2013, seven programs were identified as possible linkages for providing the graduates with enhanced skills training and sustainable enterprises development. Of the 1,759 participants in vocational skills training (VST), micro-enterprise (ME) and health training (not including 28 education graduates), 1,269 (72%) graduates have secured employment or established their own business.

Since January 2013, UNIRP has held a series of information sharing sessions with UNIRP graduates and MFIs as the service providers of YSESEF on the loan processing mechanisms. Following the signing of a MOU with Youth and Small Enterprises Self-Employment Fund (YSESEF) under the Ministry of Finance, UNDP and YSESEF have worked together to help provide financial services to UNIRP participants. The agreement has allowed UNIRP to facilitate linkages with micro finance institutions and local-level cooperatives in order to enable participants to access loans for the purposes of promoting their businesses. The creation of a special YSESEF fund has provided UNIRP participants with access to microcredit soft loans in amounts up to NRs. 200,000 without collateral.

To date, UNIRP has held 14 joint orientation workshops, with six having taken place over the past quarter. Overall, 53 districts have been covered. In total, 738 UNIRP graduates and 920 YSESEF's financial intermediaries and district coordinators participated in the sessions. During this past quarter, UNIRP has also worked to enhance VMLR's accessibility to loans through business mentoring and community-based linkages. As of the end of June, over 195 graduates have either received micro-credit from local banks or financial institutions, or they became members of local saving and credit groups as a way to expand and sustain their businesses. To date, 49 participants have received loans through the YSESEF mechanism while 350 applications are still under review.

For other programme participants, UNIRP prioritized providing follow-up mentoring and developing effective linkages with potential local and national level initiatives and organisations, which included the Federation of Nepalese Cottage & Small Industries and its 32 district's chapters, more than 55 districts with the chambers of commerce and industry, contractor association and its regional and district associations.

For those who did not succeed in establishing their own business, UNIRP helped to provide them with job placement by mapping and contacting institutions and organizations in an effort to create linkages with potential employers at the local level. Specifically, linkages for enhanced training were created with Care International, EVENT and Government of Nepal Ministry of Peace & Reconstruction, the Emergency Peace Support Program, as well as the Helvetas Nepal Employment Fund regional offices.

Participants Received Career and Psychosocial Counselling

Due to the fact that many VMLR spent most of their productive time in conflict, they lacked the skills, education, family support and clear guidance that would lead them to sustainable livelihoods. To support their socio-economic rehabilitation of the VMLR, UNIRP provided career counselling to 2,477 participants who had been referred for the training or education. During the post-training phase, UNIRP maintained post-training career counselling with the graduates through continuous and on-going field visits. The sessions included in-depth needs assessment, conducted with the graduates, as well as monitoring and identifying barriers that preventing them from attaining their objectives. UNIRP then worked with them on developing a career path, which outlined feasible and concrete steps to helping them reach their goals. During this reporting period, UNIRP

offered career guidance to more than 500 participants.

Business mentoring is another cross-cutting support used by UNIRP that helps participants expand their businesses in a sustainable way. Through business mentoring, UNIRP staff provided career guidance on how to develop new skills, link with local markets, mobilize resources, establish customer relationships, access low interest loans, orient on financial literacy and promote their businesses. UNIRP also gave the programme participants an opportunity to observe how other successful participants in similar businesses have managed their problems. In addition, representatives of the District Chamber of Commerce & Industry offered to provide mentoring services to UNIRP graduates and link them with required future support. During this reporting period, UNIRP offered business mentoring services to more than 750 graduates.

As well, 10 participants received psychosocial counselling during this time period.

1.3. Specific Gender Needs of VMLRS Are Met and Special Gender Considerations within the Broader Community Associated with the Process Prioritized

Due to the fact that 38% of the UNIRP participants were female, UNIRP took a gender responsive approach in order to ensure the participation and successful rehabilitation of women, as well as introducing measures to support children and families with specific needs. Most elements of the gender support have ended; however, some programme participants and their dependents have continued to receive child care grants, nutritional support, such as baby food, and maternity allowances for pregnant women. Between April and June 2013, 70 participants have received a form of gender support.

1.4. Individual Rehabilitation Packages are Implemented:

Since UNIRP was established, rehabilitation support has been provided through four sectoral options: vocational skills training, micro-enterprise development, education, and health-related training. To date, all of the training programmes have been completed, and only the education component of the programme has continued. To ensure the continued support of the students, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) has agreed to work with UNICEF to provide continuous support to nearly 90% of the education participants until August 2015.

To sum up the key statistics as of the end of June 2013:

Rehabilitation Option	Total number enrolled by sector	Those currently in training /education	Those who have dropped out	Those who have completed training/education	Those Employed / Started own business
Vocational Skills Training	442 (1% F, 99% M)	0 (0% F, 0% M)	29 (0% F, 100% M)	413 (1% F, 99% M)	252 (1% F, 99% M)
Micro-enterprises	1,325 (48% F, 52% M)	26 ¹ (8% F, 92% M)	10 (11% F, 89% M)	1,289 (49% F, 51% M)	997 (48% F, 52% M)
Education	406 (44% F, 56% M)	358 (44% F, 56% M)	20 (15% F, 85% M)	28 (57% F, 43% M)	-
Health Training	61 (30% F, 70% M)	1 (100% F, 0% M)	3 (0% F, 100% M)	57 (30% F, 70% M)	20 (20% F, 80% M)
Total	2,234 (38% F, 62% M)	385 (42% F, 58% M)	62 (7% F, 93% M)	1,787 (38% F, 62% M)	1,269 (38% F, 62% M)
				Employment Rate (%)	72% (of the total 1,759)²

1.5. Phase-out Strategy and Programme Closure Are Implemented:

As highlighted above, UNIRP is continuing to provide post-training follow up services,

¹ Virtually all participants except those enrolled in education completed their training. These 26 micro-enterprise participants are categorised as 'in training', because they finished training but haven't received business start-up support. Most of them are under foreign employment. UNIRP will consider them either 'spontaneous reintegrated' or 'drop-out' based on their current status through follow-up.

² 1,759 are those who have completed training under VST, ME and Health option. 28 graduates under vocational skills training refused jobs offered, because they receive income from other sources. The employment rate will rise to 74% if these are considered as employed.

	<p>such as face-to-face/telephonic monitoring, career counselling, business mentoring and linkages to potential employers and financial institutions. At the same, UNIRP has been working closely with national authorities to ensure support mechanisms are in place for participants following the programme's final handover. To ensure a smooth and timely transition of the on-going caseloads, UNIRP has coordinated a month-long training session with technical staff from MoPR for database handover. The training on MS SQL Server is ongoing and will take place until August 2013. As part of the operational and financial closure of the programme, a project board meeting and series of follow up meetings have also taken place with government partners to coordinate activities related to inventory items, such as office equipment, furniture and unused supplies. While UNDP-implemented components have ended and the regional offices will close in July 2013, the project management structure will remain in place until the end of August 2013.</p>	
<p>2. Communities were engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants</p>	<p>2.1. Public Sensitization and Information Campaign Designed and Implemented</p> <p>New updates have been added to the UNIRP website, which was launched on January 15th, 2013. The website contains new success stories and photos, as well as information on past programme activities and videos. The site can be found at the following link: www.unirp.org.np.</p> <p>2.2. Broader Community Assisted in Addressing Socio-economic Rehabilitation of VMLRs:</p> <p>As of January 2013, all peacebuilding activities have ended. This component of the programme included various activities and events delivered through UNICEF's CAAFAG networks, NGOs and community-based organizations. Some of the past events included street theatre performances, talent shows, and essay, poem, dance, song-writing and public speaking competitions.</p> <p>2.3. Capacities of Service Providers for VST Enhanced to Deliver Demand Driven Training:</p> <p>ILO completed this component of the programme in May 2012. It provided a variety of capacity development initiatives to UNIRP service providers and partners, which included training on analysis of the labour market, and instruction on necessary computer applications in the areas of training and education through the Training Institute management, ToT (Training of Trainers).</p>	

4. Overview of Project Results, Achievements and Challenges in This Quarter

Additional Achievements

For this quarter, these following activities are additional achievements:

- In anticipation of the programme's closure, UNIRP held a staff workshop in May 2013 to review the final phase-out strategy. The workshop focussed on reviewing and evaluating past activities as well as developing a 70-day work plan, which included setting target dates for the final delivery of ME, VST and health support services.
- To support the phase-out strategy and handover of the files to MoPR, UNIRP has integrated a "Case Closure" module to the Disarmament Demobilization and Rehabilitation Information Management System (DDR-IMS) to ensure data on each VMLR is fully entered before the files are closed.
- During this final quarter of operations, UNIRP also conducted a post-rehabilitation survey to measure the impact of UNIRP on the VMLR. Since the survey was finalized the first week of June, it has been conducted on 103 randomly-selected participants. The results will be presented in the final report.
- To manage the data of the survey, as well as to use it for assessment and analysis purposes, UNIRP has integrated a "Survey Management" module to DDR-IMS. It has been designed in the way that it can be re-used by UNICEF to conduct a future surveys with the participants in the education programme.

Major Challenges:

- In the area of monitoring, it was difficult to track participants residing in remote areas because their contact information was constantly changing.
- Employment and linkages to micro-credit continued to be a challenge because of a poor and limited job market. However, UNIRP staff worked with MoPR and the private sector at a local level to map potential opportunities for the programme participants.

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: NA

Indicator: NA

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
1. <i>The Government of Nepal and Maoist Army have the capacity to meet the CPA and AMMAA commitments for the cantonment, discharge, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army</i>	Third-party UN registration and verification of all cantoned Maoist army personnel in accordance with the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Arms and Armies (AMMAA)	2.1 # of registered personnel verified as qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria	2.1 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)	2.1 19,602 legitimate personnel verified (Dec 2007)	2.1 Registration accomplished during Jan-Feb 2007
		2.2 # of registered personnel verified as not qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria	2.2 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)	2.2 4008 verified as minors and late recruits (Dec 2007)	2.2 Verification accomplished during Jun-Dec 2010
	Improved reproductive health status of cantonment inhabitants (particularly women) and immediate surrounding communities A strategy immediately available to facilitate the Maoist army discharge and provide rehabilitation assistance Orderly discharge of verified minors and late recruits (VMLRs) from Maoist army	2.3 Rapid commencement of discharge and rehabilitation activities further to final agreement on discharge	2.3 Agreement on discharge is signed on 16 Dec 2007.	2.3 Timely start of the discharge process	2.3 A team of almost 60 UN personnel was deployed to Sindhuli cantonment on Jan 06, 2010.
		2.4 % former combatants (VMLRs) successfully discharged with UN support.	2.4 4,008 registered VMLRs in Dec 2007	2.4 4008 of VMLRs registered and discharged by 23 March 2010	2.4 The discharge process began on 8 th Jan 2010 and completed on 23 rd March 2010.
		2.5 A timely offer and start of the rehabilitation assistance to discharged combatants	2.5 No rehabilitation programme (Dec 07)	2.5 Effective start date of the rehabilitation prog. (08 Jan 2010)	2.5 A toll-free line as first line of contact for VMLRs & five regional offices were opened on 8 th Jan 2010 & closed in Aug 2011.
		2.6 % of VMLRs participating in the rehabilitation programmes offered by the UN (disaggregated by gender)	2.6 0% (2008) <i>*100% of VMLRs need rehabilitation support 40% of the 4,008 were absent during the discharge ceremony (discharge database 2011)</i>	2.6 50% of 4008 VMLRs received rehabilitation support (June 2013) VMLRs received rehabilitation support (May 2012)	2.6 2,234 ⁴ VMLRs enrolled and supported for rehabilitation by end of June 2013
		2.7 % of VMLR participants enrolled in rehabilitation	*60% of the VMLRs who	2.7 50% of 4,008 VMLRs with	

⁴ It was previously reported 2231 had enrolled at UNIRP; however, this figure did not include 3 participants who had dropped out of the programme.

<p>cantonments in line with the AMMAA VMLRs are supported in the socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegrated into civilian communities with suitable livelihood options and inline established global standards</p> <p>Communities engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants</p> <p>The UN is a strategic partner to the GoN that plays key role in providing rapid response to cantonment management, registration & verification, discharge & rehabilitation of Maoist army Personnel</p>	<p>programme received psychological support</p> <p>2.8 % of VMLR engaged in constructive livelihoods six months after the completion of the rehabilitation training (disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>2.9 Communities perception of the local impact of the rehabilitation process</p> <p>2.10 % of VMLR participants who report being rehabilitated in their families & communities without stigmatization</p> <p>2.11 The UN provides and deploys quick and strategic assistance and support to the GoN</p>	<p>were absent during the discharge ceremony had gone for foreign employment. Therefore, the number of UNIRP caseloads in the country was 3,040. *30% of the VMLR participants are women & girls (2011)</p> <p>2.7 70% of VMLR participants come with psychosocial needs</p> <p>2.8 0% (2008)</p> <p>2.9 NA</p> <p>2.10 0% (2008)</p> <p>2.11 The UN is seen by the parties as a neutral and strategic partner to support the CPA and AMMAA commitments for the cantonment, discharge, and rehabilitation of the Maoist army (2007)</p>	<p>psychological needs benefited from psychosocial support</p> <p>2.8 70%³ of 1759 VMLRs who are employed after completion of training (June 2013)</p> <p>2.9 70% of communities positive (June 2013)</p> <p>2.10 50% of VMLR participants (June 2013)</p> <p>2.11 Provision by the UN Agencies of quick, neutral and technical assistance along the different steps of the cantonment, discharge, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army</p>	<p>2.7 1,363 or 55 % of those counselled (2,477) were assessed by June 2013.</p> <p>2.8 1,280 or 73% out of 1,759 VMLRs completed their training by the end of June 2013.</p> <p>2.9 Peace-building activities ended in January 2013.</p> <p>2.10 3% living with friends, 30% living with parents, 27% living with spouse, 4% living with siblings/other relatives, 4% living alone and 32% unknown.</p> <p>2.11 Rapid deployment of UN registration team Upon request from Government of Nepal, winter clothing was procured and delivered to cantonment over a period of three months. It involved procurement of goods in China and their shipment to Nepal.</p> <p>A UN Technical and Logistics Team of 60 staff hired, trained and deployed in less than two weeks to conduct the discharge of 4,008 Verified Minors and Late Recruits.</p> <p>Regular coordination meeting with Special Committees (SC), MoPR and partner agencies. Provided technical assistance to MoPR and SC on integration and rehabilitation.</p>
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³ This figure excludes 28 students enrolled in the education component of the program, which runs for a maximum of four years.