



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UN PEACE FUND FOR NEPAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Purpose: Strategic review of the implementation status of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP)
Start date of PPP: June 2012
Original end date of PPP: June 2014
Current end date of PPP: June 2014
Year of reporting: 2013
Date of reporting: 11 December 2013

Approved by the UNPFN Executive Committee Chair and UN Resident Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick:

Signature of Chair:

Date: 11 Dec 2013

PART 1 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS

1.1 Status of budget allocation and expenditure of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP)

Date of this financial estimate: 30 September 2013

PPP Outcomes ¹	PPP approved funds by outcome	PPP allocated funds by outcome (from MPTF to RUNOS)	PPP expended funds by outcome (RUNO financial delivery)
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 society	US\$ 566,526	US\$ 566,526	US\$ 41,728 (7.3%)
Outcome 2. Citizens' confidence in the judiciary and criminal justice system has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse society	US\$ 2,200,000	US\$ 2,200,000	US\$ 112,532 (5%)
Outcome 4. Nepal's leaders are prepared to develop a national transition plan for implementation of land reform and property return	US\$ 1,224,662	US\$ 1,224,662	US\$ 50,327 (4%)
Outcome 6. An inclusive and gender-representative culture of dialogue and conflict transformation is expanded and strengthened, contributing to conflict prevention and social cohesion during Nepal's transitional peace-building process	US\$ 2,500,000	US\$ 2,500,000	US\$ 609,208 (24%)
Outcome 8. Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in line with the National Plan of Action on CAAC	US\$ 1,500,000	US\$ 1,500,000	US\$ 68,122 (6%)
Total:	US\$ 7,991,188	US\$ 7,991,188	US\$ 731,590 (9%)

1.2 Comments on the state of financial allocation and expenditure

From the latest Priority Plan of \$8,000,000, at total of \$7,991,188 was allocated to five new projects in February 2013 and transferred in March 2013. A total of US\$ 731,590 of this allocation was estimated to have been expended in the first six months of project inception (as of 30 September 2013--final expenditures for 2013 will be detailed the 2013 annual project financial statements).

Some cost-efficiencies in the projects were achieved through the re-allocation of assets from closed UNFPN funded projects to new projects (including cars and communications equipment) to new projects.

Additional efficiencies were achieved by the UNFPN Support Office providing capacity-building support from existing resources, including orientations on the Basic Operating Guidelines (a statement of principles by signatory development partners aimed to protect operational space for development) through the BOGs Secretariat and orientations on gender and UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 to all UNFPN projects (jointly with UN Women and UNDP).

As all five current PBF Funded projects were initiated in March 2013, projects are just emerging from their 'inception phase'. Core inception phase activities (such as staff recruitment, finalisation of work plans, opening of field offices, identification of implementing partners and establishment of Steering Committees) have been accomplished in all projects. With a focus on inception

¹ Outcome 5 of the Priority Plan was not funded as no adequate applications were received. Outcomes 3 and 5 were funded through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal with bilateral funding.

activities, significant implementation of 'substantive' project activities began to accelerate towards the end of 2013, explaining low expenditure rates. The one project (PBF/NPL/D-3) that is a 'second phase' project from a previously implemented UNPFN pilot project has a relatively higher expenditure rate.

PART 2 – RESULTS PROGRESS

2.1 Assessment of the current implementation status and results of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan

NB. The indicators and results in the below assessment are based upon those reported in project quarterly reports (as of 30 September) and follow-on consultations—they do not yet represent the full programme accomplishments for 2013, which will be fully reflected in the 2013 annual narrative progress report that will be formulated in 2014 according to the standard annual reporting cycle.

PPP Overall Vision	Progress score ²	Key results	Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures
The Strategic Outcome areas selected for the second Nepal Priority Plan will ensure that the UN is catalytic by 'breaking the ice' on some of the most politically sensitive issues (e.g. planning for implementation of land reform, planning for state re-structuring; security sector and justice transformation) of the peace-building agenda. Equally important, the provision of niche technical, policy, coordination and advocacy support will help increase momentum on government-owned initiatives for crucial issues (e.g. Implementation of the NAP on UNSCRs 1325/1820 and the NPA on Children Affected by Armed Conflict; supporting the piloting of psycho-social to conflict affected people; local conflict prevention and peace-building dialogue) that have so far not received adequate attention. Therefore, interventions deriving from the Priority Plan are designed to complement catalytic efforts of government as well as catalyze action in new areas by applying technical and financial inputs where there are critical gaps.	2	Funds were transferred to participating UN agencies to implement projects approved under the Priority Plan in March 2013. It remains too early in the Priority Plan cycle to assess the overall impact of the Priority Plan on the peace process. The overall assessment of progress is that all projects are 'On Track'. Overall, it is the assessment of the UNPFN Executive Committee that there remains a need for continued peacebuilding efforts in Nepal, and the contribution of the UNPFN/PBF in this realm remains relevant, valuable and catalytic.	Towards the latter half of 2013, implementation partly slowed due both to the traditional Nepali festival season (from October to November) and by preparations for the 19 November national election (including certain restrictions on programme activities of development partners set by the elections code of conduct).
PPP Outcomes	Outcome indicator	Indicator baseline (B), target (T), progress (P)	Progress score
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 society	Indicator 1: Balanced and impartial coverage of sensitive cases and topics in a safe environment	B: Presently high likelihood of biased reporting and self-censorship T: Environment and culture in which speaking out on critical issues does not bring (threat of) insecurity P: Ongoing inception activities—main results expected in 2014	2
	Indicator 2: Timely and efficient investigations into violations of journalists' rights	B: State organs' actions unpredictable and not necessarily in accordance with the laws in place T: Reliable judicial actions in response to journalists' rights violations P: Ongoing—inception activities	Key results
			Revival of a faltering process to establish a national mechanism to protect journalists at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), that had previously been entirely dysfunctional for two years. The mandate of this mechanism was successfully expanded to go beyond protecting only journalists to also now including human rights defenders and other civil society actors working in the field of freedom of expression (e.g. writers and artists). A national and regional consultation process was conducted on the draft ToRs of the mechanism ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders (including journalists, human rights defenders and the Nepal Police) provided input into the process for the
			Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures
			One of the key implementing partners, the NHRC, has been without Commissioners since the retirement of all its top officials (including the chairperson) that were not replaced in September 2013, effectively leaving the NHRC with little decision-making power. The envisioned national level independent mechanism to tackle issues of threats to journalists and the impunity of perpetrators is meant to come under the NHRC. The project has been working closely to ensure the participation and ownership of the project by central and regional level NHRC representatives to mitigate the effects of the

² Provide an score for the PPP progress and progress under each outcome area as follows: (1) off-track; (2) on-track; (3) on-track and significant contribution to peacebuilding

Outcome 2. Citizens' confidence in the judiciary and criminal justice system has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse society	Indicator 1: No of disputes resolved Indicator 2: No of prison sentences and civil decisions enforced Indicator 3: % of women and vulnerable group court users	B: 1400 nationally (2012) T: 300 in five districts P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014 B: 11% prison sentences, 8% civil decisions enforced T: 25% increase (by 2015) P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014 B: Unknown—baseline survey to be completed T: TBD—after completion of baseline survey P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014	2	As a first step towards strengthening sector-wide coordination, a key mapping of socio-legal aid centres was completed in the five project districts. This has identified gaps, which are necessary for developing a "single door" legal aid and access policy and implementation of a comprehensive legal aid system.	absent NHRC commissioners.
Outcome 3. Media professionals with improved confidence in the judiciary system and thus reflected in their reporting	Indicator 3: Media professionals with improved confidence in the judiciary system and thus reflected in their reporting	B: Resort to informal remedies due to perception of unreliability T: Trained officials and procedures in place to standardize official responses to rights violations P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014		establishment of the mechanism.	
Outcome 4. Nepal's leaders are prepared to develop a national transition plan for implementation of land reform and property return	Indicator 1: Confidence of political leaders that the commitments to land reform outlined in the CPA can be implemented peacefully through a participatory, fair and inclusive process (national level)	B: No shared agenda, understanding and confidence on implementing land reform T: Agreed agenda, understanding and strategy on peaceful and participatory implementation of land reform P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014	2	A groundbreaking study on the evolution of positions on land issues and developing a typology of challenges and disputes related to land in Nepal was commenced, in order to lay groundwork for initiating dialogue on land issues. On the technical side, relevant international best practices on land use planning, management and its implementation have been identified on which to build project activities. Similarly, technical, managerial, financial and institutional capacities of the land offices in Kathmandu were assessed and	The 19 November elections environment has made it challenging to engage district officials on such a contentious issue. However, the project has adjusted by focusing efforts on completing necessary desk reviews and research. In addition, the project has analysed contending political party campaign manifestos on land issues in preparation for their future engagement on the same.

<p>Outcome 6. An inclusive and gender-representative culture of dialogue and conflict transformation is expanded and strengthened, contributing to conflict prevention and social cohesion during Nepal's transitional peace-building process</p>	<p>Indicator 2: Mechanisms that can eventually facilitate reform and the resolution of issues on land and property established in three districts</p>	<p>B: District committees to facilitate land and property restitution do not exist T: Establishment of mechanisms that can facilitate and support reform and resolution of land issues P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>capacity assessments in project target districts at the field level were initiated.</p>	<p>Implementation processes have been slower than expected owing to the political situation. Protests, strikes and bandhs (shut-downs) organized by different agitating political parties, both at district and national level, have been a major challenge for the implementation of activities at the district level from September to November 2013. For instance, participatory context analysis workshops and inception meetings that had been planned in four districts (Banke, Bardiya, Kanchanpur and Kailali) could not take place as planned due to bandhs and strikes. Also, the Ministry of Home Affairs withheld permission for certain activities that clashed with the final week of candidacy filing for the Constituent Assembly election. District and local level government officials and political parties were also heavily involved in elections operations and campaigning during these months, constraining their participation in some project activities.</p>
<p>Indicator 1: Number of disputes resolved, conflicts managed and shared agendas implemented, and extent to which national cohesion is enhanced through the application of Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue process</p>	<p>Indicator 2: % reduction in the armed violence and security incidents (including incidents of gender based violence)</p>	<p>B: Low national and district level capacities to manage disputes and forge consensus on peacebuilding activities T: At national level and in targeted districts, multiple key disputes are resolved through dialogue processes P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014</p> <p>B: Unknown in target districts—baseline survey to be completed T: 20% reduction of armed violence and security incidents (including incidents of gender based violence) in targeted districts P: Ongoing—inception activities completed, key results expected in 2014</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Several introductory collaborative leadership and dialogue workshops were conducted with the participation of a wide array of stakeholders (political parties, government officials and civil society), developing appreciation and skills for dialogue and leadership, building bridges and identifying innovative solutions at the district level. Participant testimonies reflect an appreciation of this technique and approach for engagement. District committees that have been formed as a result of these workshops have begun working locally to address local contentious conflict issues (such as identity). Joint assessment missions, participatory context analysis workshops and inception meetings were conducted to support evidence based decision making in the selection of target villages for program implementation, and to develop a sophisticated analysis of the triggers of conflict and work with communities to identify possible interventions to help reduce tensions in target areas. In the lead-up to the 19 November elections, a series of measures promoted a 'violence-free elections' (e.g. all-party dialogues, including those parties boycotting the elections) and supported youth activities to promoting a 'non-violent elections'. With these measures, the UN helped contributed to the least violent elections in Nepal's democratic era, with no political party youth wings engaging in systematic violence (unlike during the 2008 elections, when youth wings were widely used for violence and intimidation). Also, series of 'Youth Violence Prevention' workshops were held with the participation of local government agencies, media and civil society (youth clubs, human rights,</p>	<p>Implementation processes have been slower than expected owing to the political situation. Protests, strikes and bandhs (shut-downs) organized by different agitating political parties, both at district and national level, have been a major challenge for the implementation of activities at the district level from September to November 2013. For instance, participatory context analysis workshops and inception meetings that had been planned in four districts (Banke, Bardiya, Kanchanpur and Kailali) could not take place as planned due to bandhs and strikes. Also, the Ministry of Home Affairs withheld permission for certain activities that clashed with the final week of candidacy filing for the Constituent Assembly election. District and local level government officials and political parties were also heavily involved in elections operations and campaigning during these months, constraining their participation in some project activities.</p>

Outcome 8. Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in line with the National Plan of Action on CAAC	Indicator 1: Children affected by armed conflict are reintegrated through the government established identification, reporting and reintegration mechanism.	B: 5000 CAAFAG/CAAC received support from the CAAFAG Working Group in 2012, in 30 districts. (Total number of CAAC is yet to be determined in all 75 districts. Baseline data will be compiled by MMCSW/CCWB through NPTF funded project. UNICEF will provide technical assistance) T: .50% of identified CAAC (not all identified CAAC may need reintegration support) P: 550 young people formerly associated with armed groups are receiving reintegration services	2	women's rights, and Dalit rights groups, etc) actors at the district level to map out existing program on youth violence prevention, gaps, and to develop a comprehensive approach to address youth violence and related risk factors.	The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MMCSW), including Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), finalized and officially approved processes and procedures for the identification, rescue and referral of vulnerable children, including children affected by conflict in August 2013. The inter-ministerial National Plan of Action (NPA-CAAC) implementation plan was finalized and approved by the government in September 2013. The NPA-CAAC implementation guideline is expected to facilitate a multi-sectoral response for children affected by armed conflict. As a result of UN advocacy efforts, provisions against the misuse of children and schools were included in the final Elections Code of Conduct promulgated by the government for the 19 November elections.	In follow-up to the adoption of the NPA-CAAC, UNICEF has supported three ministries to develop project proposals for its implementation, which are meant to be financed by the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF). However, the NPTF has not been able to review and process the submitted proposals. Delays in processing these proposals have resulted in delays to the completion of the baseline and the actual implementation of services for children in all districts. UNICEF has increased consultation with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and NPTF officials to expedite the processing of project proposals related to conflict-affected children.
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2.2 Assessment of PPP efficiency, coherence, risk, catalytic effects, value for money and PBF/PBC synergy

Coherence/ coordination: Did the PPP contribute to better coherence and coordination of UN and/or Development Partner support in peacebuilding in the country? How?	The second Nepal Priority Plan was formulated through a process of extensive consultations and a joint prioritisation process with government, UN and donor participation in order to identify strategic areas requiring support in line with UN comparative advantages (as well as in complementarity with ongoing national and international efforts). This joint process also contributed to stronger strategic planning by the Government's Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) as it prepared its project pipeline for 2011-12. Project proposals were reviewed by sectoral cluster meetings with government, donor, INGO and UN participation, convened by the Government, to enhance project design and coordination—this led to greater engagement of PBF funded projects with other actors working in the same priority areas. The wider scope of the Priority Plan has permitted a wider number of UN agencies to participate (6 agencies currently having projects), promoting UN development agencies to become more strongly involved in peace-building and enabling the PBF to harness the different expertise required for peace-building. Overall, the PBF (through the UNPFN) provides a portal for the UN family in Nepal to coordinate more coherently as one on peace-building in its engagement with national and international partners.
Funding gaps: Did the PPP fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? In which area?	Several development partners have reduced or are reducing their funding to peacebuilding activities in Nepal, despite the reality that numerous peacebuilding priorities still require attention before Nepal's transition to a sustainable peace can be ensured. In this

	<p>context, PBF funding is an important contribution to keep key priorities on the agenda and maintain engagement where gaps have appeared. PBF funding is focusing on some of the most intensely contentious issue areas but with the potential for realising important catalytic results, including: land reform, impunity, inclusive and equitable access to justice and local conflict prevention. Relatively modest PBF funding for UN technical support has ensured that national plans for children affected by armed conflict have emerged and that national capacities emerge to achieve national targets.</p>
<p><u>Value for money:</u> Did the PPP provide value for money, that is, is the level of outcomes proportionate to the level of investment? What is the evidence?</p>	<p>It is too early in the Priority Plan programme cycle to yet comprehensively assess value for money.</p>
<p><u>Catalytic effects:</u> Did the PPP achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unlock/accelerate peace relevant processes? How?</p>	<p>It is too early in the Priority Plan programme cycle to yet comprehensively assess catalytic effect on the peace process in Nepal.</p> <p>However, PBF funding for Rule of Law and Human Rights project accelerated the design, consultations and national ownership of the wider UNDP Rule of Law programme. With PBF 'seed funding' and a fully elaborated programme design in place (including specific peacebuilding results), the UNDP Rule of Law programme has successfully mobilised an additional US\$12 million in bilateral funding.</p>
<p><u>Risk taking/ innovation:</u> Did the PPP support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result?</p>	<p>It is too early in the Priority Plan programme cycle to yet comprehensively assess the results of 'risk taking'.</p> <p>However, the PBF is believed to be supporting 'innovative' and/or 'risky' activities in at least three areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The <u>Catalytic Land Support project</u> is working to find entry points for instigating national dialogue and technical systems for land reform ('scientific land reform' is a crucial commitment in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement—the CPA). However, land reform is significantly 'politicised' and lies at the crux of the previous internal armed conflict and new emerging local conflicts in many parts of the country (as well as being linked with CPA commitments for the return of property seized during the conflict). 2) The <u>Rule of Law and Human Rights project</u> is working at the national level and in local target districts to scale-up inclusive and equitable access to justice, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. The project is also working to establish capacities for the criminal justice system to address the issues of conflict victims. The issues of inclusion, justice, impunity and empowering women and the vulnerable to claim their rights are high 'politicised' and are core issues of contention as Nepal works to redefine its social contract through its continuing peacebuilding process. 3) The <u>Building Peace in Nepal: Ensuring a participatory and secure transition project</u> is working directly at the national level and in local target districts to prevent conflicts and improve security while increasing the participation of women in these decision-making processes. While the CPA committed leaders to progressive agenda, the political landscape is characterised by struggles for power and positioning; in this context, supporting institutions and mechanisms to defuse tensions at the national and local levels and generate shared agendas for action on contentious issues (particularly ensuring the participation of women and vulnerable groups) remains very risky.

<p><u>PBF/PBC synergy:</u> How did the PPP promote the synergy between PBF support and PBC engagement? Did the PPP support the PBC to achieve its commitments in the country?</p>	<p>N/A—Nepal is not on the agenda of the UN Peacebuilding Commission</p>
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PART 3: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

3.1 Lessons learned

Lesson 1	<p>Greater national ownership and feeling of consultation was achieved by putting UNPFN draft project documents through the government's Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) technical sectoral cluster meetings. These sectoral clusters, chaired by the NPTF and with the participation of government, donor, INGO and UN specialists, used UNPFN project assessment criteria to interrogate projects, supply technical feedback for improving the design and ensure greater coordination of UN efforts with other stakeholders (including avoiding duplication). Feedback from the sectoral clusters has to be addressed before projects are submitted for final review and approval, so stakeholders can have a direct impact on project design. The process is felt to increase ownership, accountability, complementarity and coordination of PBF funded efforts.</p>
Lesson 2	<p>Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity from the outset of project design is crucial. Improved and robust project design and assessment guidelines are one step. However, it is also important to ensure that projects have access to technical resources and themselves build financial resources into project design so that conflict sensitivity considerations and capacities are integrated throughout project implementation. Much of this was possible in Nepal due to the inter-agency initiative on conflict sensitivity supported by UNDP, UNICEF and the UN RC's Office.</p>
Lesson 3	<p>Organising a gender and UNSCRs 1325 / 1820 orientation (delivered by UN Women, UNDP and the UNPFN Support Office) for all projects ensured that all project managers have a common basic awareness of gender issues related to peacebuilding in Nepal and the relevance of these issues in their projects.</p>
Lesson 4	<p>The management of joint projects between multiple agencies can often present administrative, operational and management challenges. In addressing these issues, one of the current joint projects implemented by UNDP and UN Women organized a half-day work project planning session to clearly define joint implementation approaches and strategies and to create further synergy and complementarity between the two agencies' work at the district and local levels within the project. Since then, follow up discussions have been held and areas of mutual interest and support have been identified and integrated into the quarterly and annual work plans.</p>

3.2 Success story

Promoting dialogue and collaboration in Kailali District – Success story from the “Building Peace in Nepal: Ensuring Participatory and Secure Transitions” project (PBF/NPL/D-3)

Political turmoil in May 2012 during the lead-up to a deadline for adopting a new constitution led to intense protests and counter protests regarding the disputed models of federalism in Kailali District, where a mixed population of ‘Tharus’ (a local indigenous community) and ‘Pahadis’ (people originating from the hill regions outside of the district) reside. The communities were sharply divided with conflicting demands for a ‘Tharuhat province’ (seen to be representing Tharu interests) and an ‘Undivided Far West (UFW) province’ (seen to be representing Pahadi interests). The growing tensions resulted in direct clashes, shutdowns and violence between political activists from both sides of the identity divide. Although the situation became notably calmer after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly on 28 May, underlying tensions remained unresolved and many feared that political or other developments might spark new confrontation. There was ample potential for violent confrontation along these lines in the lead-up to the 19 November 2013 election to the second Constituent Assembly.

Local stakeholders in Kailali were clearly concerned about the situation and anxious to find ways of addressing the tensions in order to prevent any escalations that might lead to violence. They were, however, unable to take initiative on their own and needed an external and impartial entity to bring the parties together and create the foundations for constructive dialogue. Recognizing the “urge for dialogue”, the Ensuring Participatory and Secure Transition (EPST) project (commenced by UN Women and UNDP in March 2013 with funding from the global UN Peacebuilding Fund) embarked on an engagement to initiate a dialogue process while helping to rebuild the strained relationships and prevent potential violent conflict in the district.

The EPST organized a workshop with key district level stakeholders in April 2013. Through the workshop, the social and political party leaders developed a clearer understanding of and appreciation for dialogue, as well as the kind of leadership that supports bridge-building and innovative solutions through dialogue. Moreover, this workshop succeeded in bringing together political party and social leaders from all parts of the political spectrum and initiated an environment of greater trust and mutual confidence amongst them. EPST very consciously chose not to raise the issue of federalism and ‘provincial boundaries’ in this context, instead opting for first working towards creating a positive and conducive dialogue environment among local leaders.

The April workshop and further consultations led to a formation of a six-member “Political Party District Coordination Committee” (PPDCC), which has taken forward the concept and practice of dialogue and collaboration in the district. The PPDCC brought together student leaders in May 2013, media leaders in June 2013 and social leaders representing the UFW and Tharuhat movements in August 2013. It has also carried out dialogue to resolve local problems in the district; in particular, the promotion of a ‘violence-free elections’ through engagement with the political parties, local government and youth and student groups in the district. The multi-party dialogues involving district level heads of parties (including those boycotting the elections) and electoral officials, government officials, youth politicians focused on the causes and measures to address local electoral violence. The dialogue events led to the formation of constituency level coordination mechanisms that could quickly respond to cases of violent activities. They also laid foundation for a follow-up dialogue among local stakeholders to prevent malpractices during the elections. It was observed that, compared to the 2008 Constituent Assembly election, there was a significant decline in inter-party violent confrontation and intimidation during the November 2013 election. In particular, there were no reported incidents of identity-based or communal violence and no systemic use of political party youth wings for violence in Kailali District during the election process. The dialogue events are believed to have contributed in some part to the 19 November elections probably being the most peaceful in Nepal’s modern democratic history.

As the PPDCC has become more established, and the leaders more comfortable engaging one another on issues, a space has begun to emerge to discuss the more difficult and polarizing issue of federalism and boundaries. Importantly, the EPST project is exploring ways to gradually support these developments without destabilizing the forum and process as the new Constituent Assembly is being formed to negotiate and draft a new constitution.
