



TEMPLATE 4.4

PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTRY: Nepal
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2013

Programme Title & Project Number
Programme Title: Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Children Affected by Armed Conflict
Programme Number (if applicable) PBF/NPL/D-2
MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00085967

Recipient UN Organizations
List the organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNICEF

Implementing Partners
List the national counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction; Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare; Central Child Welfare Board; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Industry; Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal (TPO-Nepal)

Programme/Project Budget (US\$)
PBF contribution (by RUNO) 1,500,000
Government Contribution (if applicable)
Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) US\$ 200,000
TOTAL: 1,700,000

Programme Duration
Overall Duration (months) 24 Months
Start Date (dd.mm.yyyy) 15/03/2013
Original End Date (dd.mm.yyyy) 15/03/2015
Current End date (dd.mm.yyyy) 15/03/2015

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach
Yes No Date:

Report Submitted By
Name: Virginia Perez
Title: Chief, Child Protection Section

1 The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to "Project ID" on the MPTF Office GATEWAY
2 The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY
3 As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.
4 If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed.

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date:

Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF

Nepal

Email address:

PART 1 – RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1 Assessment of the current project implementation status and results

For PRF projects, please identify Priority Plan outcome and indicators to which this project is contributing:

<p>Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing. Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in line with the National Plan of Action on Children Affected by Armed Conflict</p>
<p>Priority Plan Outcome indicator(s) to which project is contributing.</p> <p>a. Process, procedures and NPA-CAAC implementation guideline developed and approved and implemented by relevant ministries.</p> <p>b. Verified Minors, included as beneficiary group in the NPA-CAAC implementation guideline, to ensure their access to reintegration services through NPA-CAAC implementation.</p> <p>c. Children affected by armed conflict are reintegrated through the government established identification, reporting and reintegration mechanism.</p>

For both IRF and PRF projects, please rate this project’s overall achievement of results to date: on track

For both IRF and PRF projects, outline progress against each project outcome, using the format below. The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes.

Outcome Statement 1: Government and non-governmental agencies provide holistic socio-reintegration support to children affected by conflict.

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

<p>Indicator 1:</p> <p>a. NPA implementation guideline and reintegration packages endorsed by government meet international standards and guideline</p>	<p>Baseline: NPA implementation guideline is in the process of being drafted.</p> <p>Target: NPA implementation guideline is finalized and endorsed</p> <p>Progress: Detailed guideline for (multi-sectorial) implementation of NPA-CAAC is developed and endorsed by government following a series of consultations with district and regional government and non-government stakeholders.</p>
<p>Indicator 2:</p> <p>b. Relevant ministries and their district line agencies (MWCSW, CCWB, MoE, MoI, MoPR) have developed programmes and mobilised resources to plan and provide reintegration services to CAACs</p>	<p>Baseline: Programme and services for CAAC not developed by relevant agencies due to lack of guideline and resources mobilization plan.</p> <p>Target: Line agencies (MWCSW, CCWB, MoE, MoI,) deliver services to identified CAAC as per approved implementation guideline and project document in all districts.</p> <p>Progress: Line agencies (MWCSW, CCWB, MoE, MoI) have developed reintegration</p>
<p>Indicator 3:</p>	

	<p>packages (services) for CAAC as per approved implementation guideline and project document.</p> <p>Baseline: Target: Progress:</p>
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Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

Inter-ministerial guideline for implementation of NPA-CAAC, specifying roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and defining services as per international practices, was developed and endorsed by government in September 2013.

Relevant ministries have developed and submitted three project proposals to NPTF to leverage resources for implementation of NPA-CAAC.

Livelihood training packages have been developed by the Ministry of Industry and await resources for their implementation.

In order to prevent children's involvement in the election process, as well as misuse of schools, and eventual violence against children, UNICEF engaged with NHRC, CCWB and other I/NGOs to raise awareness about preventing the misuse of children among political parties and civil society, and to monitor the implementation of the election code of conduct in 75 districts. In total, 441 incidents of child rights violations were recorded during the election.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

UNICEF supported an inter-ministerial team (led by MoPR and MWCSW with CCWB) to develop the NPA-CAAC implementation guideline. Specifically, UNICEF provided technical support and advice in clarifying roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders; defining services for CAAC as per country context and aligned with international standards. Following a series of regional and national consultations with government and non-government stakeholders, the implementation guideline was finally endorsed by the government in September 2013, ensuring multi-sectorial ownership. The guideline has broadened its scope to include Verified Minors (released from the Maoist cantonments in 2010) among the beneficiaries, to address their emerging needs and facilitate their successful reintegration into society.

On the basis of the implementation guideline, technical assistance was provided to relevant ministries (MWCSW/CCWB; MoE, MoI) to develop project proposals which have been submitted to NPTF for mobilization of resource. Main interventions proposed in the proposals include strengthening of the identification, documentation and referral system of

children affected by conflict in all districts and delivery of socio-reintegration services, including education, vocational training/income generating support, and relevant services to address gender and protection concerns of children affected by conflict. The project proposals are currently under review by NPTF.

Separate advocacy with the Ministry of Industry has resulted in MoI taking ownership in developing a livelihood package for CAAC. According to the project design, service providers (training institutes) will be responsible for ensuring job placement to the trainees. Provision of training through MoI is expected to begin as soon as resources are mobilized through NPTF.

Activity related to engaging young people in peace building activities (Output 1.4), will be implemented in 2014. However, the project supported monitoring of the misuse of children and young people by political parties. As a result of UNICEF's joint advocacy with UNDP Election Support Project, provision to prevent misuse of children and schools during the 2013 CA election was included in the Election Code of Conduct. UNICEF issued joint press statements with NHRC Commission (NHRC) and CCWB to sensitize media and political leaders against misuse of children. UNICEF also supported CCWB's effort to monitor compliance with the election code of conduct, vis-à-vis the misuse of children and schools. Monitoring reports compiled from 70 districts reported 441 incidents of child rights violations during the election where 12,429 children were found to be used by political parties. One child was reported to have died and 16 were injured by IEDs used by unidentified groups. The election monitoring report was shared with major political parties, who accepted the violations and pledged to protect and prevent misuse of children and schools in future.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

MWCSW/CCWB, MoE and MoI have submitted their respective project proposals to NPTF to leverage resources for the implementation of NPA-CAAC. Finalisation of proposals has taken more time than expected due to which actual delivery of reintegration services to CAAC through government mechanisms has been delayed. This risk was foreseen in the risk matrix. In order to address this challenge, UNICEF has intensified coordination meetings between relevant ministries and NPTF to expedite the proposal review and finalisation process by the NPTF Board.

Outcome Statement 2: Government and non-government agencies respond to protection concerns of children affected by conflict through the child protection systems approach, providing dividends to the community as a whole.

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

<p>Indicator 1:</p> <p>Government developed and implemented standardized tools for identification, reporting, rescue and reintegration of CAAC through standardized process/tools, establishing a common case management system for other forms of vulnerable children too.</p>	<p>Baseline: Child rights agencies lack standardised process and procedures for identification, referral and rescue of vulnerable children and CAAC.</p> <p>Target: Case-management guideline developed and endorsed by government to standardize process and procedures for identification, referral and strengthening of vulnerable children and CAAC</p> <p>Progress: Case management guideline, defining roles and responsibilities of government and non-government agencies has been finalised and approved by government for implementation.</p>
<p>Indicator 2:</p> <p>Districts in the country have a functioning referral mechanism and a comprehensive CP database system for documentation, analysis and reporting of information related to CAAC and all forms of protection cases.</p>	<p>Baseline: Government do not have established comprehensive CP database system, to support effective monitoring, planning and reporting</p> <p>Target: Government have established comprehensive CP database system, to support effective monitoring, planning and reporting at national and 50% districts.</p> <p>Progress: Government doesn't have standardised electronic system to compile and analyse CAAC data. CCWB and MWCSW have taken official decision to establish comprehensive Child Protection Information System, to also include information on CAAC, and finalise concept note by March/April 2014 and develop the information system by July 2014. The database will give special attention to compilation and analysis of information with gender and inclusion considerations.</p>
<p>Indicator 3:</p>	<p>Baseline:</p> <p>Target:</p> <p>Progress:</p>

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

With UNICEF's technical and coordination support, CCWB and MWCSW finalised the case management guideline in August 2013 and have approved its implementation in 75 districts.

UNICEF supported training of Women Development Officers and Child Rights Officers from 75 districts (65% female), including municipality officials and NGOs from 8 municipalities, on case management.

With UNICEF's support, CCWB collected information related to CAAC, currently residing in children's homes, from 20 districts. 195 CAAC have been documented. Compilation of data from other 25 districts ongoing. Reunion of these children, with their families, to begin by June 2014.

Inter-ministerial Steering committee, chaired by MWCSW, is developing an Alternative Care guideline, the first draft of which is being reviewed for finalization.

MWCSW, CCWB have agreed to finalise a concept Note for the establishment of integrated Child Protection database within March/April and complete its development by July 2014

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

UNICEF supported the Government in standardising case management practices and ensuring a continuum of care for all vulnerable children, including children affected by conflict. With UNICEF's technical support, MWCSW, including CCWB finalized the case management guideline and officially approved it in August 2013. Following the approval, UNICEF supported the training of Women Development Officers and Child Rights Officers from all the 75 districts in the case management processes and procedures. In addition, municipal officials and NGO representatives from eight municipalities were also trained. Implementation of the guideline in the districts has begun in 2014. As per agreement with CCWB, UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Working Group will be providing additional support to implement the case management process and tools at district level. The implementation of this protocol by all actors involved in child protection and welfare will greatly increase the efficiency of services provided, helping to reach more children and ensuring a proper reintegration of CAAC and other vulnerable children. The case management guideline is intended to be brought into practise in the districts in 2014.

Baseline data on CAAC from 20 districts is expected to be compiled by CCWB by June 2014. The baseline data, along with the CAAFAG Working Group data on CAAC will be initially compiled by CCWB in an excel spreadsheet. However, in order to ensure sustainability and broaden the project's impact on the strengthening of overall child protection system, MWCSW and CCWB have agreed to establish an integrated Child Protection Information System, in which a database related to conflict affected children will be one component. The Concept Note for the establishment of a comprehensive child protection database will be finalised by March 2014 and development of the database (version 1) is expected to be completed by July 2014.

Almost eight years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, an unknown number of children affected by conflict are still residing in government and non-government run children's homes around the country, thereby, depriving them of love and care from their parents and family members. The project intends to identify such children residing in children's home around the country, document their records and support their rescue and reunion with their parents and family members. In doing so, the activity will pilot and set

procedures for the deinstitutionalization (rescue and reintegration) of thousands of other children, currently residing in children’s home throughout the country.

With UNICEF’s support, CCWB has completed compiling CAAC information from children’s home in 20 districts. Around 195 children affected by conflict have been documented in these 20 districts, who need to be released from the children’s homes and reunited with their parents and family members to ensure peace dividends to these children.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

Outcome Statement 3:

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

Outcome Statement 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

1.2 Assessment of project evidence base, risk, catalytic effects, gender in the reporting period

<u>Evidence base</u> : What is the evidence base for this report and for project progress? What consultation/validation process has taken place on this report (1000 character limit)?	Implementation guideline, related tools and documents for the implementation of NPA-CAAC, are available as evidence and are official documents, developed and approved by government. This annual report is shared with relevant ministries, including MoPR, MWCSW and CCWB, who are members of the NPA-CAAC steering committee.
<u>Funding gaps</u> : Did the project fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? Briefly describe. (1500 character limit)	By endorsing the NPA-CAAC in the Cabinet, government has shown commitment to address concerns of CAAC and ensure peace dividends. However, due to limited internal resources, relevant ministries (MWCSW/CCWB; MoE; MoI), are relying on the mobilization of NPTF funding for the implementation of NPA-CAAC and have submitted project proposals (to NPTF) to

	<p>mobilize resources. As the project proposals, submitted to NPTF, are still under review, this project has filled in the critical gap and has laid the ground, in terms of preparing guidelines, developing services packages and, compiling baseline data, and training stakeholders. More importantly, this project managed to ensure ownership by relevant government actors for the implementation of NPA-CAAC. In addition, components of this project are considered to be supporting the strengthening of child protection system, which aligns with the government's child protection policy and priority.</p>
<p><u>Catalytic effects:</u> Did the project achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unblock/accelerate peace relevant processes? Briefly describe. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>As mentioned above, ministries responsible for implementation of NPA-CAAC (MWCSW/CAAC; MoE; MoI), have submitted project proposals to NPTF in order to leverage resources. This project is expected to support government agencies in developing implementation guidelines, defining services, collecting baseline data and preparing identification referral mechanisms, following which the government is expected to mobilise other resources to fund services for CAAC.</p> <p>In order to address the emerging problems of Verified Minors, the project was able to lobby with the government to include them as beneficiaries in the NPA-CAAC implementation guideline, making them eligible for the reintegration support to be offered by the government.</p> <p>A series of interaction with verified minors and late recruits, who were released from Maoist cantonment in 2010, revealed growing dissatisfaction among this group of young people, as a result of emerging reintegration challenges, such as sustaining their education, economic hardship, lack of support for their growing siblings, including health and psychosocial problems. As the support they were benefiting from through a UNPFN joint project (UNIRP) has come to an end (with the exception of education support to be offered until end 2014), verified minors and late recruits now have no support to rely upon, thereby translating into frustration and disenchantment with the government, political parties, and the overall peace process.</p>
<p><u>Risk taking/ innovation:</u> Did the project support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The project took a strategic decision to: (i) implement NPA-CAAC through different ministries; (ii) link project activities with the overall child protection systemic approach to ensure broader project impact.</p> <p>(i) Even though the project faced initial challenges to coordinate and mobilise different ministries, some of them who had never worked for children (MoI, MoPR), key ministries have now taken up the ownership, have produced project documents and are trying to leverage resources for services.</p> <p>(ii) National Children's policy and plans in relation to child protection emphasize the strengthening of a child protection system in the country. Therefore, linking NPA-CAAC</p>

	<p>implementation activities to the overall systemic approach was viewed positively by the government as it not only addresses challenges of conflict affected children but is expected to contribute to the strengthening of components of the welfare system. However, it requires more time and special technical support. The proper implementation of procedures (case management guideline) requires further building the capacity of all stakeholders involved. Moreover, the establishment of comprehensive child protection database and deinstitutionalisation (family reunion) of children affected by conflict from children's homes is expected to directly contribute towards systems strengthening, thereby broadening project impact.</p>
<p>Gender marker: Is the original gender marker for the project still the right one? Have gender considerations been mainstreamed in the project to the extent possible? Briefly justify. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>Gender assessment tools, initially developed for use by the CAAFAG programme, have been adapted and used to assess gender specific challenges. The gender assessment tool was piloted to assess gender specific issues among VMLRs and CAAFAG in the Mid-Far Western region in late 2013. Encouraged by the findings from the workshop held in Mid-Far Western region, an additional two regional workshops have been planned, to assess gender specific challenges. Findings from these workshops will be used to influence the review and update the NPA-CAAC implementation guideline and to advocate for more appropriate gender specific responses in order to address emerging challenges.</p>

PART 2: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

2.1 Lessons learned

Provide at least three key lessons learned from the implementation of the project. These can include lessons on the themes supported by the project or the project processes and management.

<p>Lesson 1 (1000 character limit)</p>	<p>The NPA-CAAC has envisioned an inter-ministerial response plan, as issues related to conflict affected children cut across several sectors, requiring multi-sectorial responses. However, mobilising relevant ministries and influencing them to give priority to children's issues has been a challenge. This is compounded because of frequent turn-over of staff. Constant and consistent advocacy and orientation of relevant new staff was necessary to ensure ownership of the project and development of project proposals by respective ministries.</p> <p>The project has an inter-ministerial technical team chaired by the Joint Secretary of MoPR, to review and provide technical guidance on the implementation of the project. In order to expedite technical level preparation, a technical level working team, which can meet at regular intervals, is recommended. This will be proposed in the mid-term project review exercise.</p>
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Lesson 2 (1000 character limit)	The NPA-CAAC implementation guideline is based on the framework set by the NPA-CAAC which was endorsed in 2010. Recent workshops organised with CAAFAG and verified minors revealed emerging reintegration challenges which may not be fully addressed by the project. This is because the profile of beneficiaries has changed since 2010. For instance married CAAFAG and verified minors have offspring to feed and take care for their children while many seem to be facing legal hurdles to register their marriage and children. Given the limitation of the project, it is clear that the project cannot address all their needs. Therefore, it is important to adopt a flexible approach and liaise with other ongoing projects in order to effectively address their emerging needs either through referrals or direct services. Moreover, specific needs of female beneficiaries require special attentions - and special needs assessment methodologies and referral mechanisms must be emphasised.
Lesson 3 (1000 character limit)	The implementation of certain projects, especially the delivery of services through government sectorial ministries, relies solely on their access to NPTF. Since the project proposals, submitted to NPTF by respective ministries, are still under review, delivery of services to CAAC has yet to begin. In the new government fiscal year, 2071 (2014/15 AD), efforts will also be made to include services for CAAC in the sectorial annual plan to mobilise internal resources.
Lesson 4 (1000 character limit)	Assessment of CAAC in residential care by CCWB has been carried out in officially registered centres only. Anecdotal and field evidence strongly suggest that the number of residential care facilities non-registered within the government are in greater numbers to those registered; therefore the number of CAAC children in residential care across the country is likely to be much higher. In order to properly identify - and reintegrate - all CAAC children, significant efforts and resources will be needed
Lesson 5 (1000 character limit)	

2.2 Success story (OPTIONAL)

Provide one success story from the project implementation which can be shared on the PBSO website and Newsletter as well as the Annual Report on Fund performance. Please include key facts and figures and any citations (3000 character limit).

PART 3 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditure

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, slightly delayed, or off track: on track

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters maximum):

3.2 Comments on management and implementation arrangements

Please comment on the management and implementation arrangements for the project, such as: the effectiveness of the implementation partnerships, coordination/coherence with other projects, any South-South cooperation, the modalities of support, any capacity building aspect, the use of partner country systems if any, the support by the PBF Secretariat and oversight by the Joint Steering Committee (for PRF only). Please also mention if there have been any changes to the project (what kind and when); or whether any changes are envisaged in the near future (2000 character maximum):

The inter-ministerial technical team, chaired by MoPR and represented by MWCSW, CCWB, DWC and CAAFAG WG has proved a useful platform to discuss technical matters and guide implementation.

The project has benefited from the partnership with CAAFAG Working Group members, chaired by UNICEF, whose technical support remained valuable in developing the NPA-CAAC implementation guideline. Moreover, the Working Group has been mobilising their national and regional level networks and other stakeholders to participate and contribute in various consultation and interaction programmes related to the implementation of NPA-CAAC.

The coordination that exists between the Central Child Welfare Board and Child Protection Inter-Agency Working Group has been instrumental in linking the project activities to the overall strengthening of the child protection system, and in the capacity enhancement of government staff on protection issues.

Moreover, consistent support from UNPFN team, especially in quality assurance of proposals, reports and in disseminating experiences across the various UNPFN supported projects, remains crucial.

In addition to providing technical support to relevant sectorial ministries, UNICEF has been facilitating the government's coordination with non-government agencies and networks (CAAFAG Working Group; Inter-Agency Working Group on Child Protection) allowing exchange of technical expertise and knowledge on issues related to CAAC.

The mid-term review of the project is planned in April 2014, in order to review progress and challenges. Actual date will be confirmed in consultation with government partners. Among other issues, the challenge to mobilise resources will be discussed during the mid-term review. In the case of continued delay in mobilising NPTF resources for services, alternate means will be sought.