



Project Status Update For the period of [July to September, 2014]

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\$ 379,425.30	Revised End Date (if applicable):	15/09/2015
Funds spent as percentage of budget:	67 %	Total Project Duration:	30 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
<p>1. The national Human Rights Institution and professional associations are able to establish an efficient framework to protect journalists (Outcome levels and activities undertaken within them)</p>	<p>a. NHRC officials discussed on international experiences of such mechanisms with technical support from Nepal International Media Partnership (NIMP) and Freedom Forum . The stakeholders agreed that the Rapid Intervention Task Force (RITF) will be an integral unit of the independent national mechanism and be always accountable to the mechanism. It can mobilize human rights defenders, human rights cell of Nepal police, media persons and other professional organizations/person. It can only function as a status update, but not issue report. It, however, provides inputs to the independent mechanism for detailed report. In view of the lack of filing of FIR case on FoE violation and journalists' safety issues, the RITF encourages journalists, and prods/presses police and prosecutors to file FIR, so that police and the judicial body work actively to bring the culprits to book and minimize impunity in the sector of FoE violations. (See attached report on RITF)</p>
<p>The capacity of state authorities, including security sector institutions and the courts, to better protect journalists is enhanced with the support of civil society, political parties and the public at large</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sub-contracts established and activities carried out due to lack of budget as the extension and budget adjustment request is pending. No activities changed or added. Need for budget line adjustment only as requested via HoA.
<p>2. Journalists and media houses have the capacity to enhance their protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two separate studies carried out : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a.) The study on 'self-protection capacities of journalists in the project districts ' assesses self-protection capacities and provides a comparative description and analysis of the self-protection capacities of journalists with Journalists' Safety Indicators based on the UNESCO's Media Development Indicators. It also studies the status of 'hotlines' that are maintained by different press freedom protection organizations; b.) The study on 'safety needs of women journalists' assesses the safety needs of women journalists in the project districts and recommends to design a training package aimed at addressing the needs of women journalists. (See reports attached) •
<p>Project Management: key activities and/or challenges during this quarter</p>	
<p>Delay in response from the UNPFN Executive Committee in the project extension and budget revision request has delayed the sub-contracting of activities with partners. Hence the project may need more time to complete.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A functioning judiciary system in place to encourage public trust and journalists' confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations held with security sector institutions in 6 districts, reached to the officials from Nepal Police via assessments, sensitization seminars and workshops. The discussions and dialogues increased understanding among the stakeholders especially on the issues concerning freedom expression and the importance of the safety of journalists
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
Decrease in practice of self-censorship on reporting of sensitive cases and topics in project districts	a.) 100% of journalists from project districts who say they practice self-censorship	50% decrease in journalists from project districts reporting they practice self-censorship	Regional and district level extensive consultations on "minimizing self-censorship" will take place in 2015 to address the root causes of self-censorship, role of authorities in creating safer environment for journalists so as to avoid self-censorship . The consultations will be focused on decreasing self-censorship
Media professionals believe there is increased freedom of expression because of diminishing security threats in project districts \	b. The lack of knowledge about basic techniques and principles of journalism put them to security threats (ICA, 2013). 50 % of journalists believe there is high likelihood of biased reporting due to their own political affiliation	50% of journalists in the project area are capacitated in basic techniques and principles of journalism 25% decrease in journalists believing in likelihood of biased reporting due to their own political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> project activities under this outcome Process.....

		affiliation	
Media professionals have improved confidence in the police and courts to provide security and protection in project districts	90 % journalists resort to informal remedies due to perception of unreliability of courts and police Journalists and judiciary in the districts project districts do not communicate regularly	25% decrease in journalists who resort to informal remedies due to perception of unreliability of courts and police Journalists and judiciary in the project districts meet quarterly	c. Discussions /dialogues in districts increased trust among journalists in addressing impunity

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. The NRHC has revived, elaborated and garnered support from the media sector, state agencies and civil society, including political parties, to implement concept note to establish mechanism to investigate violence against freedom of expression	NHRC unable to implement original concept developed in 2012 to establish a mechanism for the protection of journalists The current concept note for the mechanisms includes protection only for journalists	The NHRC establishes mechanism for protection of journalists The new revised concept note also includes human rights defenders and other key civil society actors as target groups to be protected	a. Stakeholders including NHRC, members of the NIMP and national partners reached an agreement on the framework of the Rapid Intervention task Force (RITF) in a consultative manner and committed to a continued coordination to improving monitoring, documentation among various actors.
b. The NHRC established mechanism effectively investigates violence against journalists	0 cases received by the mechanism 0 cases investigated by the mechanism 0 cases recommended for persecution by the mechanism	50 already identified cases received by the mechanism 50% of the registered cases be investigated by the mechanism 50% of the investigated cases recommended for persecution by the mechanism	b. Stakeholders communicated and informed about the their possible role in functioning of mechanism .The Terms of Reference prepared by NHRC with support from NIMP representative and Freedom Forum discussed among the partners and circulated among those who could not join the consultation ,

OUTCOME 2: The capacity of state authorities, including security sector institutions and the courts, to better protect journalists is enhanced with the support of civil society, political parties and the public at large

Outcome Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Current / Final Status
<p>a. Courts conduct impartial, speedy and effective hearings of cases of impunity of violence against journalists in project districts</p>	<p>6 of cases of court hearing of alleged acts of violence against journalists in project districts (Average time to complete hearing of cases is protracted</p>	<p>25% increase of court cases hearing allegations of alleged acts of violence against journalists</p>	<p>a. The Local level members of the executive and judiciary have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in this context. Regional level seminars with Justice sector institutions in Biratnagr, Dhankuta, Hetauda and Janakpur held among 150 officials from such institutions. . The participants including judges, police officials and prosecutors stated that democracy cannot sustain without free press and independent judiciary. They also agreed to create a safe environment for everybody by addressing the impunity via court trials and encouraging journalists to register cases taking places gainst journalistic activities , aberrations seen in different professions must be corrected.</p>
<p>b. Police provide pro-active preventive measures to protect journalists from potential violence in project districts</p>	<p>5 district level FIRs and cases registered with police in different districts of Eastern hills and central terai ?</p> <p>1 district level police investigations into alleged cases in Dhankuta?</p> <p>0 of monthly security meetings with media stakeholders</p> <p>Nepal Police as an institution proactively educates its staffs on media rights</p>	<p>25% increase of district level FIRs and cases registered with police</p> <p>5 distrcit level registered FIRs are investigated by the Nepal Police</p> <p>12 monthly security meetings with media stakeholders held in a year</p> <p>Nepal Police reprints and distributes 50 thousand copies of 'UN instruments on protection of Human Rights and Journalists Safety' to its staff members</p>	
<p>c. 25 % of journalists from project districts are better enabled to access fair and effective security and justice institutions (UNDAF 4.2)</p>	<p>0 of journalists satisfied with the courts, police and prosecutors (Pre-Assessment 2014/UNESCO</p>	<p>25% increase of journalists satisfied with the courts, police and prosecutors</p>	<p>Discussions for organizing consultations and workshops with police, courts and journalists underway.</p>

OUTCOME 3:	Journalists and media houses have the capacity to enhance their protection		
<u>Outcome Indicator(s)</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Current / Final Status</u>
a. Journalists implement personal safety measures	80% of the journalists in project districts feel unsafe in general while reporting news (Self-Protection Capacity Study/UNESCO, 2014)	50% decrease in feeling of threats among the journalists in project districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a.) Study on self-protection capacities of the journalists The self-protection capacity of the journalists does not meet the international standard. The journalists in project districts are very weak in terms of their self-protection capacity. 80% of the journalists do not feel safe in general while reporting news. 92% of the journalists do risk assessment on any reporting assignment. The journalists employ precautionary measures when they assess that the forthcoming assignment is dangerous. (Study Report Self-Protection Capacities, 2014) There is general awareness among the journalists that there are some legal mechanisms pertaining to journalists' safety. However, they admitted that they do not know which clauses of these acts are related to journalists' safety, and how to use them. (See attached reports)

<p>b.) Women Journalists have gender specific approaches to protect their safety</p>	<p>90 % of women journalists in project districts think they have lesser access to information sources than male counterparts specifically in Terai region</p> <p>20 % of women journalists think they have lesser access to professional training in comparison to their male counterparts</p> <p>25% of female journalists say they have experienced workplace harassed (Study on Safety needs of Women-journalists/UNESCO-2014)</p>	<p>25 % increase in access to information sources for women journalists in the project districts</p> <p>50% increase in access to professional training for women journalists in the project districts</p> <p>50% decrease in workplace harassment in the project districts</p>	<p>b. Assessment on the safety needs of women journalists : Limited access to information, lack of media houses' gender policy, minimal family support and societal and cultural challenges are the major attributes behind women journalists' problems. Similarly, financial insecurity, inadequate knowledge of safety and security, lack of training of their capacity building are other concern related to their safety. A total of 57.5% women journalists in the project districts were either pursuing or completed their Bachelor's degree of education who are normally in their early carrier do not have professional level of knowledge and experience in the field. (See attached report)</p>
<p>c.) Media houses understand and protect their female/male staff</p>	<p>No effective implementation of Working Journalists Act, (2051) in media houses</p> <p>Media houses are not aware of journalists safety measures</p>	<p>Media owners oriented on Working Journalists Act (2051)</p> <p>Media houses are oriented on journalists safety measures including gender sensitivity in newsroom, media development indicators and UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists etc.)</p>	<p>c.) Discussion with IPs on organizing consultations among media owners. Consultations/dialogues will take place in 2015.</p>