

United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) Project Status Update

1 Jan to 31 Mar 2011

1. Project Overview

Participating UN Organization:	UNICEF/OHCHR	Cluster Area (PBF Priority area):	Cantonment and Reintegration (Strengthening State Capacity for Sustaining Peace)
Project number:	UNPFN/A-8 (PBF/NPL/E2)	Funding round Strategic Outcome:	Strengthen the monitoring, reporting and protection of children affected by the conflict, in line with UNSCR 1612 and 1882.
Title:	Monitoring, reporting and response to conflict related child rights violations		
Total approved project budget:	USD 2,332,421 <i>USD 548,193 (OHCHR)</i> <i>USD 1,784,228 (UNICEF for monitoring and reintegration)</i>		
Funds committed:	USD 543,694.40 (OHCHR) as of 31.3.2011 USD 646,699 (UNICEF) as of 31.03.2011	% of approved:	99.18% (OHCHR) 36 % (UNICEF)
Funds disbursed:	USD 303,469.33 (OHCHR) as of 31. 3.2011 USD 600,704 (UNICEF) as of 31.03.2011	% of approved:	55.36% (OHCHR) 34 % (UNICEF)
Project start date:	Jan 2010	Original end date:	Dec 2011
Revised end date (if applicable):	NA	Anticipated total project duration:	2 years

2. Overview of progress to-date against project outcomes

Outcome	Progress: achievements / results / outputs delivered	% of planned
OUTCOME 1: Strengthened capacity of child protection actors, including state entities, to monitor, document, verify and respond to grave child violations		
Number of verified and documented cases that have been responded to through established referral mechanisms. Number of child protection actors oriented on 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism, including UN monitoring mechanism. UN monitoring mechanism established and operational.	The 1612 task force on monitoring and reporting mechanism documented 43 cases of violations involving children out of which 20% were referred to service providers. However, there were no cases of violations falling under the scope of UNSCR 1612. Already reported in the previous quarter. Based on Action Plan signed between the Unified Communist Party of Nepal -Maoist, the government and the United Nations on 16 December 2009, a UN monitoring mechanism	100 % planned

	is established to monitor the UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan. The teams have been downsized from 3 to 2 members in each team as team members have found more stable jobs. Since the mechanism has been systematized, the reduction in staff does not impact the implementation in a negative manner.	
1.1.1 Provide orientation to the UN monitoring teams on discharge and rehabilitation process and training and technical guidance to 1612 Task Force members on monitoring, documenting, verifying and reporting on grave violations.	Already reported in the previous quarter.	100% activities planned
1.1.2 Report, document and verify the compliance with the Action Plan on discharge and rehabilitation of disqualified Maoist Army personnel, including through verification missions to different districts.	<p>Under the supervision of the national monitoring team, regional monitoring teams in four regions of the country (Far-Western, Mid-Western, Central/Western and Eastern regions) have undertaken field monitoring. The regional monitoring teams interviewed relevant actors to verify compliance by the UCPN-M with the Action Plan. The verified minors and their immediate families are the most relevant sources, as well as interlocutors working on issues related to the rehabilitation of the verified minors. The information collected during interviews of verified minors is recorded and analyzed according to key indicators to assess compliance with the Action Plan.</p> <p>Based on the findings of the regional monitoring teams, the national monitoring team has drafted a report covering a period of 12 months and submitted to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC). Feedback and comments on the report from the OSRSG's is still awaited.</p> <p>Continued to regularly update the monitoring database to capture the findings by the regional monitoring teams on compliance with the Action Plan.</p> <p>The national monitoring team continued meeting with the UCPN-M at the central level to discuss and raise concerns with regard to compliance with the Action Plan.</p>	Continuous activity
1.1.3 Report, document and verify core child rights violations for submission to the UN Security Council 1612 Annual and Horizontal reports, including through fact finding missions on violations which require in depth verification	1 global horizontal note (progress update) prepared and submitted to the OSRSG-CAAC during the reporting period. Continued updating the 1612 database to document the 6 grave violations against the children maintained and regularly updated.	
1.1.4 Identification of trends and patterns of child rights violations committed in the 58 districts covered by the 1612 Task Force including violations by armed groups in the Terai;	The 1612 task force database indicates that most of the cases documented are isolated in nature. Armed criminal groups operating in the Terai districts continue to have a serious impact on the overall security situation and have created new protection risks for children, increasing their vulnerability to violations, most seriously through abductions: however, no consistent pattern of violations can be established and perpetrators often remain unidentified.	Continuous activity
1.1.5 Review the strategies of 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism	The strategic review of 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism will take place in the next quarter.	Continuous activity
OUTCOME 2: Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities (reintegration)		

component).		
Number of CAAFAG (informally and self-released) and CAAC receiving reintegration support, (disaggregated by gender/caste/ethnic group and type of support).	UNICEF has continued providing reintegration support to over 5,776 of these in 34 districts. During the reporting period, the Peace Trust fund was utilized to support the reintegration of CAAFAG and CAAC in two districts (Makwanpur and Dhading), in which 175 CAAFAG (96 Male, 79 female) and 184 CAAC (76 male; 108 female) were supported.	100%
Number of informally and self-released CAAFAG and CAAC cases closed due to successful reintegration as per the criteria established in the monitoring sheet for assessment of individual cases.	Implementing partners will be re-accessing individual cases based on which cases to be closed or to be supported in the new project cycle (May 2011-May 2012) will be identified.	
Number of child protection partners trained in reconciliation and peace building activities to support the social reintegration of CAAFAG.	Coaching and follow-up workshops were organized in the five regional centers for CAAFAG Implementing Partners, youth clubs and service providers. The workshops were held in Dhangadhi, Nepalganj, Butwal, Kathmandu and Lahan. The purpose of the coaching was to assist the participants to put the theoretical knowledge into practice, and to develop their confidence and skills as youth and peace-building programmers.	
Number of CAAFAG/CAAC receiving psychosocial support.	UNICEF has been providing psychosocial support to CAAFAG/CAAC in all programme districts through trained community based social workers. The same network has been providing psychosocial support to the discharged verified minors and late recruits.	
Number of community stakeholders trained on issues related to children affected by armed conflict	Child clubs in all UNICEF supported districts were supported to conduct child rights and peace building activities with the participation of CAAFAG and CAAC from their respective community.	
2.1.1 Technical assistance to MoPR and MWCSW for effective implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action for Children Affected by Armed Conflict	The NPA was approved by the cabinet on December 2010. UNICEF supported the printing and launching of the National Plan of Action and is currently supporting the ministry to develop guidelines for its implementation.	50%
2.2.1 Training of psychosocial workers to support CAAFAG and CAAC.	Over 350 social workers received refreshers training on psychosocial support. Referral systems have been established in 56 districts through which critical cases can be referred for clinical and long- term psychosocial intervention from district to region or to Kathmandu depending on the severity of the cases. A mapping of psychosocial workers, trained through CAAFAG reintegration and other development programmes, was done to identify district level resources.	PSS counsellors has been completed. The referral is a continuous activity.
2.2.2 Training of community stakeholders in 34 districts on issues relating to children affected by armed conflict.	This activity was completed in previous quarters.	100%
2.2.3 Technical support to child protection partners in 34 districts to integrate gender mainstreaming in reintegration support programme.	Implementing partners from 13 districts in central, western and mid/far western regions have conducted gender assessment of CAAFAG and VMLR using the assessment tool developed by UNICEF. All district partners are expected to finish analysis of data followed by development of action plan to respond to identified gender specific needs of individual CAAFAG/VMLR by August 2011.	70% %
2.3.1 Provision of community based	<i>As above:</i> UNICEF has continued providing reintegration	100%

reintegration services, including access to formal and non-formal education, vocational training, income generating activities and social reintegration support to CAAFAG and CAAC	<p>support to over 5,776 of these in 34 districts. During the reporting period, the Peace Trust fund was utilized to support the reintegration of CAACAG and CAAC in two districts (Makwanpur and Dhading) in which 175 CAAFAG (96 Male, 79 female) and 184 CAAC (76 male; 108 female) were supported.</p> <p>A total of 168 CAAFAG and 183 CAAC received education support. Additional 7 CAAFAG and 1 CAAC received advance vocational training.</p>	
2.4.1 Regular update and analysis of CAAFAG database and production of regular analytical reports	UNICEF has been upgrading the Inter-agency CAAFAG database with technical assistance from CAAFAG Interagency team from New York. Online training to UNICEF staff and CAAFAG implementing partners on the upgraded version is planned to take place in July 2011.	100%
2.4.2 Development and implementation of inter-agency advocacy strategies against misuse and recruitment of children by armed groups in Terai and eastern hill districts	Inter-agency position paper on misuse and recruitment of children by armed groups in Terai districts were discussed and presented during the visit of the Security Council WG on CAAC, in November 2010. A rapid assessment is being planned to be conducted to further assess the situation of Terai districts from the perspective of child rights violation, following which, a strategy paper will be proposed.	50%
2.5.1 Training of child protection partners in peace building and reconciliation activities, including key concepts of transitional justice, to support social reintegration of CAAFAG	Coaching and follow-up workshops were organized in the five regional centers for CAAFAG Implementing Partners, youth clubs and service providers. Youth clubs were supported to conduct peace building activities in Dolokha and Rautahat engaging community youths, CAAFAG. CAAC and some VMLRs too.	Continuous activity
2.5.2 Dissemination of child friendly transitional justice toolbox and training of children and young people to raise awareness on transitional justice issues in child networks	UNICEF will be supporting the government (MoPR) to develop guidelines and processes to ensure the engagement of children in the transitional justice process, based on international standards. This activity is expected to begin in August/Sept 2011, after the approval of TRC Bill by the Cabinet.	0%
2.5.3 Support to child clubs in 34 districts to mobilise for the social reintegration of CAAFAG/CAAC and implement peace building and transitional justice activities.	As reported in the previous quarterly report, UNICEF supported MoPR to organize children's consultation on TRC and to get their views and comments on the TRC bill. Children's feedback on the TRC bill was presented to MoPR.	100%
2.5.4 Develop and support cooperation agreement between CAAC Working Group and TRC to ensure the protection and safe participation of children in transitional justice processes	UNICEF is engaging with ICTJ and other relevant I/NGOs to support safe participation of children in transitional justice processes. Major activities related to the children participation in transitional justice will be carried out after the approval of TRC Bill by cabinet.	25%

3. Overview of project activities and results in this quarter

UN monitoring mechanism and Monitoring of 6 core violations through the UNSCR 1612 task force

Achievements

The monitoring team has continued to refine methodologies and strategies with regard to the implementation of the UN monitoring mechanism. Based on defined indicators, data has been collected and documented in the database for analysis of trends of the compliance with the Action Plan. This is done based on daily and weekly reports from the regional monitoring teams as well as the database.

The findings of the compliance with the Action Plan and information related to six core violations against children are submitted to the OSRSG - CAAC through global horizontal notes and periodic UN monitoring reports.

Challenges

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism:

- To maintain a regular dialogue with the UCPN-M who are not always available due to the current political context;
- To maintain relationships with reliable verified minors who are increasingly frustrated with the UN may be reluctant to tell monitors for verity of reason including fear of consequence and facing serious socio-economic challenges;
- To monitor children used by Terai and Eastern Hills groups that have unclear agendas which appears to include a mix of political and criminal objectives;
- Implementing monitoring and reporting mechanism in the post conflict situation due to lack of adequate guidance and guidelines.
- Though the MRM is identifying cases of children's involvement in political rallies/demonstrations, including violent political activities, it is unclear whether these fall within the scope of the MRM. This activity is also being done by a wide range of political parties, not only the UCPN-M.

Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities:

- The majority of the 5,776 CAAFAG, currently supported by the programme, will be needing continued supervision and other follow-up support. Link them up with other long-term development programmes run by the Government or other national and/or international organizations remains a challenge.
- The Government has recently approved the National Plan of Action for the reintegration of children affected by conflict. UNICEF and CAAFAG Working Group have been advocating and supporting the government for its immediate implementation. Due to the changing political scenario, including minister and key government officials at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the implementation of NPA, has not happened at the desired speed.
- UNICEF has supported the CAAFAG implementing partners to conduct gender assessment in 19 districts. Preliminary findings indicate that CAAFAG girls in particular, still face a range of social and economic problems in their community/family. In the absence of long-term strategic interventions and limited resources within the CAAFAG programme, addressing all the gender related issues can remain a challenge.