

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

October to December 2010

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| Participating UN Organization: | UNICEF/OHCHR | UN Fund cluster and Nepal PBF Priority area: | Strengthening State Capacity for Sustaining Peace |
| Project number: | <i>UNPFN/A-8 (PBF/NPL/E-2)</i> | Funding round Strategic Outcome: | <i>Strengthen the monitoring, reporting and protection of children affected by the conflict, in line with UNSCR 1612 and 1882.</i> |
| Title: | Monitoring, reporting and response to conflict related child rights violations | | |
| Total approved project budget: | USD 2,332,421 USD 548,193 (OHCHR) USD 1,784,228 (UNICEF for monitoring and reintegration) | | |
| Funds committed: | USD 254,041.88 (OHCHR) as of 31.12.2010 USD 468,469 (UNICEF) as of 31.12.2010 | % of approved: | 46.34% (OHCHR) 26 % (UNICEF) |
| Funds disbursed: | USD 212,041.88 (OHCHR) as of 31.12.2010 USD 466,913 (UNICEF) as of 31.12.2010 | % of approved: | 38.68% (OHCHR) 25% (UNICEF) |
| Forecast final date: | December 2011 | Delay (months): | |
| Anticipated total project duration: | Two years | | |

| Outcome | Progress: achievements / results / outputs delivered | % of planned |
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| 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 approximately 80 cases out of which 20% are referred to service providers. However, most of the documented cases do not fall within the scope of UN resolution 1612; Already reported in the last quarter | 100 % planned |
| 1.1.1 Provide orientation to the UN monitoring teams on discharge and | Already reported in the last quarter | 100% activities planned |

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| <p>rehabilitation process and training and technical guidance to 1612 Task Force members on monitoring, documenting, verifying and reporting on grave violations</p> | | |
| <p>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> <p>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</p> | <p>Regional monitoring teams continued to monitor and verify the compliance of the Action Plan mainly through the interview of verified minors and other reliable sources in various districts.</p> <p>Regularly updated the monitoring database to capture the findings by the regional monitoring teams on compliance with the Action Plan;</p> <p>Meetings were conducted between the national monitoring team and the UCPN-M at the central level to discuss and raise concerns with regard to compliance with the Action Plan. Based on the findings of the regional monitoring teams the national monitoring team is preparing a report covering a period of 12 months to be submitted to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC).</p> <p>The Security Council Working Group for children and armed conflict (CAAC) undertook its first field visit to Nepal from 21 to 26 November 2010 with the objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, which was signed by the Government, the UCPN (Maoist) and the UN on 16 December 2009; • Assess remaining challenges and issues for monitoring and reporting under Security Council resolution 1612; • Interact with Government, child protection activists, NGOs, political parties and obtain first-hand knowledge of the situation of children affected by the conflict in Nepal, with special attention to those who were discharged from the Maoist army or are a part of the broader group of children who have been otherwise affected by the conflict; • Assess challenges and opportunities for sustainable long-term opportunities for these minors. <p>2 global horizontal notes prepared and submitted to the OSRSG-CAAC. 1612 data maintained and regularly updated.</p> | <p>100% of the activities planned</p> |
| <p>1.1.4 Identification of trends and patterns</p> | <p>The 1612 task force database indicates that</p> | |

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| of child rights violations committed in the 58 districts covered by the 1612 Task Force including violations by armed groups in the Terai; | most of the cases documented are isolated in nature. The cases documented in the Terai are criminal in nature. | |
| 1.1.5 Review the strategies of 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism | | |
| OUTCOME 2: Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities (reintegration component) | | |
| <p>Number of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) (informally and self-released) and CAAC receiving reintegration support, (disaggregated by gender/caste/ethnic group and type of support)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Number of child protection partners trained in reconciliation and peace building activities to support the social reintegration of CAAFAG</p> <p>Number of CAAFAG/CAAC receiving psychosocial support</p> <p>Number of community stakeholders trained on issues related to children affected by armed conflict</p> | <p>UNICEF was able to identify 7,500 CAAFAG in 34 districts (38% Janjati; 26 % Brahmin/Chhetri; 24% Dalit; 2% others) through the CAAFAG network. During the reporting period, the Peace Trust fund (UNPFN/A-7) was utilized to support the reintegration of CAACAG and CAAC in three districts (Dhankuta, Dhading and Dolakha) in which 146 CAAFAG (58% Male; 42% Female) and 275 CAAC (44% Male; 56% Female) were supported.</p> <p>Around 200 successfully reintegrated cases (CAAFAG/CAAC) have been closed in UNICEF supported districts during the reporting period.</p> <p>Training of youth leaders and IPs: Training was provided to 82 youth leaders (including CAAFAG) and implementing partners on peace building, peace civic/education and life-skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide knowledge on peace building and reconciliation • civic education eg. rule of law etc • life skills (leadership; HIV/AIDs) <p>UNICEF has been providing psychosocial support, which includes individual and group counseling, including, family/community mediation in all programme districts through trained community social workers. The same network has been providing psychosocial support to the discharged verified minors and late recruits.</p> <p>UNICEF has been supporting initiatives to raise awareness against child recruitment and misuse of children for political and violent activities through district implementing partners. Interactions with political parties, community groups (child clubs and child protection committees) were organized in the 19 districts (some terai and eastern hilly districts) to generate support among relevant stakeholders. As a result, political parties, in 10</p> | 100% |

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| | programme districts, have signed commitment to stop misuse of children for political and violent activities. | |
| 2.1.1 Technical assistance to Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) and Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW) for effective implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action for Children Affected by Armed Conflict | UNICEF supported Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to finalise the National Plan of Action for reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict. The NPA was approved by the cabinet in December 2010. UNICEF will be supporting the government to implement the NPA. | 50% |
| 2.2.1 Training of psychosocial workers to support CAAFAG and CAAC. | <p>UNICEF have established a network of trained psychosocial workers to provide psychosocial support to CAAFAG. The same structure is also providing structural support to VMLRs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts: In 56 districts, there is a network of around 350 para-psychosocial workers to deliver psychosocial support at district and community level. • Referral System: A referral mechanism has been established through which cases can be referred from district to regional or to central level for specialized and clinical interventions. • Supervision and support to districts: Psychosocial counselors visited targeted districts for regular monitoring and technical support based on the need. • Around 150 social workers and community facilitators received refresher training on psychosocial counseling. <p>Social integration of CAAFAG is supported by community based social workers through regular follow-up and counselling.</p> | |
| 2.2.2 Training of community stakeholders in 34 districts on issues relating to children affected by armed conflict | Community stakeholders, including child/youth clubs, child protection committees, school management committee have been mobilized to support the integration of CAAC/CAAFAG in their community. | 100% |
| 2.2.3 Technical support to child protection partners in 34 districts to integrate gender mainstreaming in reintegration support programme | UNICEF developed a practical manual on gender assessment. Training was provided to implementing partners of 19 districts in eastern, central, western and mid/far western regions. Based on the training, implementing partners are currently conducting gender assessment exercises to identify and respond to gender specific issues. | 75% |
| 2.3.1 Provision of community based reintegration services, including access to formal and non-formal education, vocational training, income generating activities and social reintegration support to CAAFAG and CAAC | UNICEF was able to identify 7,500 CAAFAG in 34 districts (38% Janjati; 26 % Brahmin/Chhetri; 24% Dalit; 2% others). During the reporting period, Peace Trust fund (UNPFN/A-7) was utilized to support the reintegration of CAAFAG and CAAC in three of the 34 programme districts (Dhankuta, Dhading and Dolakha). In these three districts, 139 CAAFAG, out of the total 146, are enrolled in school while the rest (6) are receiving vocational training. In addition, 269 CAAC, out of the 275, are enrolled in school, | 100% |

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| | and 6 have received either training or income generating support. | |
| 2.4.1 Regular update and analysis of CAAFAG database and production of regular analytical reports | UNICEF has been producing analytical reports on CAAFAG using the inter-agency database on regular basis to be shared with CAAC WG and international community supporting the programme. UNICEF is currently in the process to fill in the vacant post of database associate. | 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 with the visiting 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 | Training of youth leaders and IPs: Training was provided to 82 youth leaders (including CAAFAG) and implementing partners on peace building, peace/ civic education and life skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge on peace building and reconciliation • civic education e.g. rule of law etc. • life skills (leadership; HIV/AIDs) | 75% |
| 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 | This activity will be initiated once a strategic approach to support MoPR, in relation to children's participation in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process, is determined. UNICEF is currently engaging with relevant agencies (ICTJ, Advocacy Forum etc.) to identify areas of intervention, relevant to TRC implementation. | 25% |
| 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. | Trained youths are currently organizing community peace building activities, engaging CAAFAG and CAAC in the process. 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 currently engaging with MoPR and relevant agencies (ICTJ) to identify areas of support in order to facilitate children's participation in the TRC process based on international guidelines and practices. Major activities related to the children participation in transitional justice will be carried during mid and later part of 2011. | 25% |

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results and any challenges

UN monitoring mechanism

Achievements

The monitoring team has developed working documents for the implementation of this mechanism. The team continued to refine its methodology to assess compliance with the Action Plan. Among others it entered the data collected through interviews of verified minors in a database according to identified key indicators. The database allows the extraction of basic statistics on level of compliance by the UCPN-M on the basis of defined criteria. Weekly reports of regional monitoring teams are compiled and analyzed. The compiled analysis serves to provide the trends of the compliance with the Action Plan. It also facilitates for revision of the existing methodologies for monitoring. Reports are submitted to the OSRSG - CAAC through global horizontal notes and periodic UN monitoring reports.

The visit of the Security Council Working Group (see above) was successfully prepared and conducted, and used as leverage to increase the pressure on UCPN-M to comply with the Action Plan. Further information was obtained about links maintained between verified minors and the Maoist Army.

Challenges

- To maintain the 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 under pressure by the Maoists and increasingly frustrated with the UN and facing serious socio-economic challenges;
- To maintain the existing human resources if the monitoring period extends due to lack of funds.

Monitoring of 6 core violations through the 1612 task force

Regular reports on grave child rights violations have been submitted to the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General – Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC) through 2 global horizontal notes.

Challenges

Though there has been a significant decrease in grave violations committed against children, new protection challenges are emerging in the current transitional context. The emergence of groups using force for political and often for criminal motives and the growing ‘culture’ of strikes and disturbances as a method of protest have increased children’s vulnerability to violations. Armed criminal groups, operating primarily in the southern Terai districts, continue to have a serious impact on the overall security situation, with killing and abductions of the members of the business community, local authorities, and political parties, including children, for ransom. The emerging protection threats against children have been a serious concern, however, the actual nature and type of violations remain unclear. Anecdotal evidence and information on patterns and trends indicates, however, that most of the allegations in the Terai and the Eastern Hills are criminal in nature.

1612 Monitors expressed concern over the increased risk monitors could face in monitoring and verifying cases in the Terai and the Eastern Hills.

No progress has been made to address impunity for past and present violations and abuses.

Sexual violence is very difficult to monitor, verify and report due to the Nepalese culture of silence, victims’ feelings of re-victimization, fears of retaliation and poor response from the authorities. Lack of capacity to provide response is a major obstacle in monitoring sexual abuse.

UN monitoring mechanism

For reasons related to confidentiality of the findings of the monitoring activities, only limited information can be provided to the broader group of stakeholders. Periodical national monitoring team reports are submitted to the OSRSG- CAAC to keep the office informed on the UCPN-M compliance with the Action Plan in view of the delisting process of UCPN-M under UNSC Resolution 1612.

For general progress please refer to the above matrix.

Protection of children affected by the conflict:

Achievements

UNICEF and CAAFAG Working Group have been able to identify and provide reintegration support to 7,500 children associated with armed forces/groups. Around 63% are enrolled in schools, 20% received training and 16% received income generating support.

During 2010, successfully reintegrated cases were closed based on guidelines developed by the CAAFAG Working Group. During the reporting period, around 200 cases have been closed in the three districts supported by the UNPFN.

The Government of Nepal has finally approved the National Plan of Action for the reintegration of children affected by conflict. In addition to advocating for its immediate implementation, UNICEF will be providing technical assistance to the government to support its implementation.

The community based structure, established by CAAFAG Working Group, remains an important component in the UNIRP project to provide education and psychosocial support to VMLRs and also to facilitate community based activities to facilitate their social reintegration.

Challenges:

Coverage and accessibility of CAAFAG:

Monitoring of the programmes and follow up of each individual beneficiary remains a challenge because of the wide coverage area and difficulty in accessing some of the remotest locations. This is coupled with the limited time within which programme implementation is expected to occur. There is a critical need to allow for longer support with greater benefits to children.

Linkage with employment:

Nepal has a high unemployment rate and it has remained a challenge throughout the programme period to link all vocational trainees with the job market. Around one third have obtained employment upon completion of their vocational training. It has been especially difficult to find employment options in suburban and rural areas. UNICEF's implementing partners have received training on economic reintegration to help them assess the labour market and develop strategies for linking vocational trainees with employment opportunities.

Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Monitoring and Evaluation framework

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