

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

October-December 2010

Participating UN Organization:	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO	UN Fund cluster and Nepal PBF Priority area:	Cantonment and Reintegration
Project number:	UNPFN/A-7	Funding round Strategic Outcome:	
Title:	United Nations Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)		
Total approved project budget:	US\$ 9,349,660		
Funds committed:	US\$ 9,349,660	% of approved:	100%
Funds disbursed:	US\$ 2,800,997	% of approved:	30%
Forecast final date:	May 2012	Delay (months):	None
Anticipated total project duration:	24 Months		

Outcome	Progress: achievements / results / outputs delivered	% of planned
Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLRs) participants are supported in their socio-economic rehabilitation	<p>Individual Rehabilitation Option Packages (ROPs) are prepared and made available to participants:</p> <p>A set of four sectoral rehabilitation packages including options for vocational skills training (VST), micro-enterprises (ME), education and health training are offered to VMLRs through an interagency setup UNDP (vocational skills training and microenterprises), UNICEF (education) and UNFPA (health training). Contracts of the Principal Service Providers (PSPs) of VST have been revised according to the new financial agreement and all PSPs of VST have signed the revised contract effective January 2011. Under the new contract, the PSPs will charge the programme on per capita basis.</p> <p>Micro Enterprise (ME) package delivery through MEDEP was reviewed and based on a decision taken by UNDP senior management, new arrangements for service delivery under ME package have been agreed and being implemented. Under this new modality the Interagency Rehabilitation Programme has taken over all financial and administrative responsibilities and MEDEP will continue facilitating technical support in the implementation and management of the package.</p> <p>Out of the 56 participants, 48 participants who were enrolled in health related training and education package successfully completed their preparatory classes. As a result of good coordination with the Center for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) all the participants passed through the national entrance exam and have successfully enrolled in official health training classes. 43 participants have enrolled in the 15 months long Community Medical Assistant (CMA) courses, 3 in the 18 month</p>	46%

Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) courses and 2 in the 15 months Lab Assistant (LA) Course. All the participants are smoothly participating in the health related rehabilitation package programme in 6 Technical schools located in Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj, Bharatpur and Dang respectively.

Access to employment and livelihood opportunities promoted:

A draft report on socio-economic mapping in relation to the 4008 discharged Maoist combatants is prepared and submitted to the programme. The report aims to support the development of a more comprehensive strategy for post-training support including linking the participants graduated from rehabilitation training to employment opportunities and micro-finance institutions for self-employment. Finalization of the strategy is in process.

A set of comprehensive monitoring tools is being developed to enhance monitoring of the programme implementation and to feed into the broader programme dynamic M&E strategy.

In collaboration with I/NGOs, International Alert, GIZ and Saferworld, the objectives of the UNIRP, including the necessity of job creation support to ex-combatants, has been presented to the representative institutions of the private sector (e.g. National Business Initiative-NBI, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries-FNCCI) and improved liaison for exploration of collaborative modalities has been developed.

Participants received career and psychosocial counseling:

So far, 58% of the 4008 verified minors and late recruits (VMLRs) have made first contact through the toll-free phone number. Of these, 46% VMLRs have been provided with detailed career counseling and are being referred to service providers for training / education.

Psychosocial support mechanisms have been continuously strengthened, including the establishment of a regional referral system for long-term and intensive support. Two female psychosocial counselors are located in each of the five regional offices to handle the psychosocial aspects of the rehabilitation programme. By the end of 2010, nearly 615 VMLRs have been assessed and provided with various level of psychosocial support from regional and district level psychosocial counselors. Out of the 615 VMLRs 171 cases did not show any symptoms of psychosocial problems when assessed, 303 VMLRs (179 Male, 124 Female) were assessed to be experiencing mild psychosocial problems, 109 (53 male, 56 Female) with moderate problems and 32 (16 Male; 16 Female) with severe psychosocial problems. Appropriate levels of psychosocial support were provided to all cases through regional and district counselors. In addition, 10 VMLRs were referred to Kathmandu for psychiatric and clinical intervention.

Simultaneously, verified minors and child/youth clubs have been actively engaged in community based peace building activities to support their social reintegration. To date, several peace-building events have been organized with the participation of VMLRs in rehabilitation programme and

youth from the communities. This is proven extremely useful in the social rehabilitation and psychosocial well-being of the programme participants.

The programme is continuously working to provide targeted psychosocial support to the VMLRs during the counseling at the regional offices, in the training centers and follow up support even after their graduation from the training courses.

Specific Gender needs of VMLRs are met:

Women and girls constitute 55% of the total participants engaged in the Micro Enterprise package, of these, more than 30% are women with special needs (pregnant women, lactating mothers and women caring for young children under five). As per the interagency gender matrix, these women have been provided with special support that includes: nutritional support for pregnant women and lactating mothers, one to one childcare support, special baby food for infants and meals for children under-5 years of age. As a result, these women smoothly participated in the training and most of them have completed their training or have established their own micro enterprise. **Thus the provision of special support to women participants has increased participation of women in the rehabilitation programme.**

The programme has made arrangements to provide similar support to women with special needs under the education, vocational skills training and health packages.

Special support in the form of additional financial support to cover food and lodging has been provided to female participants of education package who had to study school away from their families.

The programme has also maintained one to one counseling of female participants by female counselors to identify protection concerns and gender specific needs. Also measures have been taken at regional offices for taking care of accompanying children to facilitate uninterrupted career counseling to women participants.

Individual rehabilitation packages are implemented:

As mentioned earlier, the rehabilitation support services including four sectoral packages are made available to all 4,008 VMLRs.

Of those 2348 (58%) VMLRs who have made initial contact with UNIRP through its toll-free phone number, 1856 (or 46% of the total number) have already received individual career counseling in one of the five regional offices and have been referred to specific service providers to undertake training/ education programme.

Of these 1856 VMLRs, 1252 (or 31% of the total VMLRs) are receiving or completed training / education in one of the four rehabilitation packages.

To date, 470 participants have completed training programmes in vocational skills training and microenterprises. Three months after the commencement of graduations, the rate of employment is 26% of the total

	<p>470 graduates and 45% of those that have been monitored. Considering a national youth employment level of close to 15% (ILO) and the supply driven nature of job placement for this difficult caseload, these figures are encouraging. The UNIRP socio-economic mapping and placement support team are consistently making efforts by close liaison and collaboration with the private sector to improve placement levels and explore possible employment and microcredit linkages for programme graduates.</p> <p>Monitoring of the programme implementation and post-training including implementing partners is regularly conducted.</p>	
<p>Communities were engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants</p>	<p>Public Sensitization and Information Campaign designed and implemented:</p> <p>UN interagency communication working group has been meeting regularly to support implementation of the UNIRP programme communication and public information strategy. The following are key achievements during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Public Service Announcements each for 15 days period were made through 120 FM radio stations across Nepal. The aim of PSAs was to inform the communities about the rehabilitation programme and encourage VMLRs to participate in the rehabilitation programme. • Press Meetings with national media were organized to brief media on programme updates and strategies. • The programme has been sending out text messages via mobile phones to support direct dissemination of programme information to VMLRs including SMS messages regarding the deadline for the enrollment in the rehabilitation packages were sent to all VMLRs. As result of these text messages more VMLRs are contacting the programme to show their interest, share their problems and feelings and get more information regarding the packages available. • A detailed Communication Action Plan has been developed with an objective to implement the Communication Strategy. • Communication documents i.e. information brochure, FAQ, fact sheets etc. were revised and re-printed. Facilitation for media access (both national and international) to training sites and updated information was provided. UNICEF CAAFAG network and 1612 monitoring team were actively engaged in tracing of discharges at the community level and sharing information about the rehabilitation support. • Lessons learned from the rehabilitation of 4,008 VMLRs and global best practices have been presented to the National Technical Committee on Integration and Rehabilitation of the 19,000+ Maoist army personnel and the government of Nepal. • Women’s Rehabilitation Centre with the support of Consortium for Women’s Rights organized two 5 days training to 49 women who represented women’s organizations and local peace committees on providing support to conflict affected women and girls. 	

Broader community assisted in addressing socio-economic rehabilitation of VMLRs:

UNICEF, with support from UNDP and other UN partners, has been engaged in community peace building and sensitization activities as mentioned below:

- Training provided to 82 youth leaders (including CAAFAG and VMLRs) on peace building, peace civic/education and life-skills.
- One review and advance youth leadership and peace building training was organized for 31 participants for youth group representatives and VMLRs.
- Training provided to 51 implementing partner's staff to help them design and manage community based peace building programmes.
- Inclusion of peace and civic education with life skills in partners training manuals.
- Planning workshops, among representatives of UNIRP, UNICEF, service providers, implementing partners and youth groups was facilitated in all regions where youths and VMLRs developed plans for peace building and reconciliation activities.
- Altogether 14 community based peace building activities were organized by youth groups and VMLRs in the five regions which brought together around 200 VMLRs and 280 community youths. The activities which were jointly organized and participated by community youths and VMLRs included outdoor games, cultural programmes, interactions, orientations on civic education etc. These activities were also used as entry point to access VMLRs enrolled in training centers for psychosocial assessment and interventions.
- Structural support is provided to community based schools that have enrolled VMLRs under the education package.

Capacities of Vocational Training service providers to deliver demand driven training enhanced:

Two training workshops targeting principal service providers and service providers were conducted in Nepalgunj and Kathmandu by the ILO. The first training workshop has identified the organisational development needs and the training needs of TTPs. Building on the outcome of the first workshop, the second training workshop has enabled the TTPs to deliver community-based and community –relevant services focussing on three main topics:1/importance of close links with the community, especially employers, as the key to successful community based training; 2/strategies to build sustainable relationships with local employers; and 3/approaches to supporting employment outcome of trainees by offering appropriate support before, during and at the conclusion of training.

Special gender considerations within the broader community associated with the process are prioritized:

The interagency gender support matrix was presented to the government of Nepal during UNIRP project board meeting for approval. The ideal two years budget envisaged by the programme was recommended to be

	<p>minimized to the level of available budget. As a result, the programme adjusted within the urgent activities to be taken forward in order to address the immediate needs of the female participants.</p> <p>In a broader context of socio-economic rehabilitation following key provisions stipulated in the matrix are planned to be implemented during first quarter of 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of UNIRP core team, implementing partners/service providers (IPs/SPs) and UNIRP regional offices by UNFPA on 1325, 1820. • Training and orientation of IPs/SPs on gender mainstreaming, integration of gender into M&E and joint monitoring and assessment of programme from gender perspective. • Linkages of women to micro-credit groups, cooperatives and employment. • Sensitization of women federation /cooperative leaders to support return of the VMLRs into the communities. • Referral of women to special health and legal support including special support to GBV cases. • Social reintegration including family and community counseling, mediation and psychosocial support. • Empowerment of the community and VMLRs to participate in social and economic activities, by organizing Peace/Civic education to youth leaders to replicate the knowledge back to communities/youth groups. 	
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Qualitative achievements against objectives and results and any challenges

Key Achievements:

- A national rehabilitation Steering Committee (SC) meeting convened in January 2011 chaired by Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) recognized the relative success of the UNIRP and promised greater national support and collaboration.
- Through a different meeting, Maoist representatives promised that obstruction to the UNIRP would cease and that regional commanders would be instructed to support the rehabilitation programme accordingly.
- The provision of individual career counseling and referral services has risen to 1856 VMLRs from 1646 in the last quarter.
- Rehabilitation support training and education was provided to 1015 VMLRs. *(refer to page 3 for details)*
- Women with special needs have been provided support through specific activities as outlined in a robust interagency gender matrix.
- Immediate and basic health needs of the participants during the training programme have been addressed. Several health cases where participants got sick during training in ME, VST and health trainings were provided with the support to ensure their smooth participation in training programme. Small children of female VMLRs were also provided with health support on case by case basis.

- Monitoring aspects of the programme is being continuously strengthened at regional and central levels, supported by the development of a unified reporting system.
- Programme communication strengthened (Revision of related documents, database for SMS, facilitation of media access to information and training programme).
- UNIRP Central and Regional Offices have been strengthened from logistics and staffing perspectives. Programme HR capacity has been strengthened by hiring key positions as per the UNIRP organogram. Eastern Regional Office has moved to its new building (previously OHCHR office), Bharatpur office has shifted to its new annex constructed alongside UNICEF zonal office and Far Western RO has taken over the OHCHR regional office.
- Efforts have been made to strengthen coordination with the GoN and UCPN-M at central and local levels.
- Collaboration with key actors (Nepal Institute for Policy Studies-NIPS, GIZ, International Alert, Saferworld, National Business Initiatives-NBI and Helvetas) to engage industrial, private sector and microfinance institutes to support employment and micro-credit.
- Psychosocial support elements of the programme have been continuously strengthened.
- Community and peace building activities have been implemented in all regional offices.
- A five day interagency rehabilitation review workshop with the participation of key staff from regional offices was organized from 09 to 13 November 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen programme implementation at field level by reviewing programme status and key challenges, review experiences and the lessons learned and develop strategies to overcome key issues and challenges. Understand the Do No Harm concept and framework and analyze local context by applying DNH tools and techniques to lead the programme in generating programmatic adjustments for more conflict sensitive planning and implementation.
- The employment rate stands at 26% for a total of 470 graduates and 45% of those that have been monitored. This is as a result of various initiatives with the business community and continued engagement.
- The comprehensive Rehabilitation Information Management System (RIS) has been developed and will be officially launched by February 2011. The RIS will be widely accessible by regional offices and UN partners.

Major Challenges:

- Inadequate political leadership by the GoN to facilitate access of the participants to public services.
- Lack of support from UCPN-Maoist at central and local levels to facilitate access to rehabilitation programme.
- Artificially high expectation of the VMLRs regarding the rehabilitation programme creates obstacles to implement the Programme.
- Providing rehabilitation to all the 4008 discharges remains a challenge because of UCPN-M's official position on the rehabilitation packages (UCPN-M has not agreed to the rehabilitation packages) and the continuation of the existing link between the Maoists (party and PLA) and verified minors/late recruits.
- The imposed ceiling by the Government of Nepal on the Value of rehabilitation packages (NRs. 100,000 or US\$1400) has challenged programme flexibility.
- In a poor and limited job market situation, employment after completion of training including

linkages to micro-credit support for self employment.

- VMLRs are scattered in large geographical area which makes monitoring and follow up extremely difficult.
- A large number of VMLRs are suffering from injuries and different forms of disabilities that require support beyond the life and capacity of the programme. Lack of special provision to fulfill the long term health support to war wounded and people with disability will seriously challenge smooth rehabilitation of these individuals.
- Many of those who have graduated are in remote areas and difficult to reach of post-training follow-up, monitoring and mentoring. This has implications for their ability to find sustainable livelihood options.