

United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)

Project Status Update

For the period of [April-June 2011]

1. Project Overview

Participating UN Organization(s):	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO	UNPFN Project number:	UNPFN/A-7
		UNPBF Project number (if applicable):	

UNPFN Cluster area:	Cantonments / Reintegration
UNPFN Funding round Strategic Outcome:	
UNPBF Priority area (if applicable):	
UNPBF PMP Result and indicator (if applicable):	

Project Title:	United Nations Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)		
National Partners:	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR)		
Project start date:	01 June, 2011	Original Project end date:	31 May, 2012
Revised end date (if applicable):	NA	Anticipated total Project duration:	24 Months

Total approved project budget:	US\$ 9,349,660		
Funds committed and spent to-date by the project:	Committed: US\$ 9,349,660	As % of approved budget:	100%
Funds spent to-date by the project:	US\$ 4,777,052	Project delivery rate:	51.050%

2. Description of project goal and strategy

The project aims to support the socio-economic rehabilitation of the 4,008 Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMRLs) through direct support to the individuals combined with the community engagement to support and facilitate their rehabilitation. The project promotes gainful employment and livelihood opportunities for these individuals. The project is intended to contribute to the national peace-building effort, as the rehabilitation of VMRLs forms a key component of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Agreement on the Management and Monitoring of Arms and Armies (AMMAA).

3. Overview of progress to-date against project outcomes

Project Outcome(s)	Progress: achievements/results/ outputs delivered to-date	% of planned
Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMRLs) participants are supported in their socio-economic rehabilitation	<p>Individual Rehabilitation Option Packages are prepared and made available to participants</p> <p>As a regular activity, Principal Service Providers (PSPs) and Implementing Partners for four sectoral packages have been delivering the required services. The programme has further enhanced Vocational Skills Training (VST) and Micro-Enterprises (ME) options in terms of duration, curriculum, mode of delivery, refresher courses as well as second round of start up support. Procurement of longer-term contract for micro-enterprise package related services has been initiated. Direct contracting with the technical institutes offering health related trainings has been initiated. This will enable the programme team monitor the programme more effectively and deliver stipend to the participants timely in the days to come.</p> <p>UNICEF has renewed current partnership for another year with CAAFAG Implementing Partners to provide continued rehabilitation support to VMRLs in the areas of education, psychosocial support and facilitate social-reintegration through community based peace building activities.</p> <p>Three orientation workshops were organized for implementing partners at the regional level to assess challenges, agree on strategies and prioritize major activities up to May 2012.</p>	54%

With the SLC results being out, at the end of June, health service providers, who can provide entrance preparation classes for the entrance examination that has been scheduled for 20 July 2011, were contacted. At the same time approximately 25 potential participants who had earlier shown interest towards the health package programme but had yet opted for any options were contacted both via SMS as well as through telephone.

Access to employment and livelihood opportunities promoted:

, Employment rate has increased to 48% in this reporting period from 32% in March 2011. Latest data shows that since the beginning of the programme, 336 VMLRs out of 730 graduates have been employed. In terms of those graduated and monitored who are employed, at the end of March 2011 this figure was 45% whereas at the end of June it has increased to 60%. Out of 730 graduates, only 594 VMLRs are monitored in the reporting period.

As part of the socio-economic opportunity mapping efforts, eight business-community orientation workshops were conducted in 7 districts, targeting graduates' locations and potential employers. The workshops aimed to strengthen the socio-economic support dimensions of the rehabilitation programme by generating knowledge on local opportunities for rehabilitation, including attitudes of local business people towards supporting rehabilitation process; enhancing understanding and coordination between key stakeholders of government, private sector and UNIRP regional offices to improve employment levels and access to credit of graduates.

A sectoral analysis (attached with this report) of the commitments made by the business community on employment opportunities, microcredit linkages, business mentoring and others (training, credit guarantee, community sensitization, etc.) was conducted. The UNDP and Madhaya Pachimanchal Grameen Bikas Bank Nepalgunj signed an MoU to provide loans to graduates for start up of their businesses. Similarly, UNIRP has also initiated partnerships with Purbanchal Grameen Bikash Bank Ltd. Biratnagar, which has been working in the eastern region, and Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd, which works in districts, for the provision of credit to UNIRP beneficiaries without collateral/security.

As the socioeconomic support to ex-combatants is vital as well as challenging for the successful rehabilitation programme, UNIRP has developed socioeconomic support strategy which has covered Business Mentoring, Monitoring, Employment Linkage and Micro Credit Linkage. Training Institute for Technical Training (TITI) has initiated its first round of linkage programme at the regional level by gathering information on potential employment providers in the health sector.

Participants received career and psychosocial counseling

So far, 2,160 or 54% of the 4,008 VMLRs are provided with detailed career counseling and are referred for training or education. Of these VMLRs, 908 or 23% of the VMLRs are participating in one of the four rehabilitation packages while 156 in microenterprises are waiting to receive the start-up support (in-kind) after completing their business plans. Participants also received continuous career counseling throughout the training programme. Psychosocial support is being provided through psychosocial support mechanism including regional referral system.

In the reporting period, around 100 VMLRs were assessed for psychosocial support which brings up the total number of VMLRs assessed for psychosocial support to more than 900. Altogether, since the programme inception, 15 severe cases, requiring clinical psychosocial support, have been referred to partners for longer-term clinical support. Eight cases referred for clinical support were followed-up. Psychosocial counseling is being provided to the participants during initial career counseling period as well as in training/education period extensively.

Specific Gender needs of VMLRS are met and special gender considerations within the broader community associated with the process, prioritized:

UNIRP has initiated more integrated gender specific support for the year-2 of the programme with the financial support of Inter-Agency Working Group (IWAG) on DDR, Geneva. In this context, a new matrix of gender with greater focus on social rehabilitation of VMLRs, inclusion of male VMLRs into the mainstream of gender specific support and gender specific peace-building activities has been developed. The matrix will be fully operationalized during next quarter of 2011.

Under this component the following major activities include:

- Support to inter-caste marriage cases that are abandoned by their families and original communities.
- Work with community based networks such as Mothers' Groups, social networks, youth clubs and child clubs to support rehabilitation of participants back to community.
- Include concerns & gender needs of male VMLRs into overall gender strategy.
- Organize gender specific peace-building activities within the community of concentration where VMLRs return.
- Linkages of women to micro-credit groups, cooperatives and employment.
- Referral of women to special health and legal support including special support to SGBV cases.
- Social reintegration including family & community counseling, mediation & psychosocial support.

So far 170 VMLRs have received gender specific and health/medical help through matrix of gender support. The support includes nutritional support (pregnant women and lactating mothers), child care provisions in training centers and within community, child care grant, maternity allowance, specific psychosocial and health support to victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, special reproductive health support etc.

UNIRP has started to track progress based on its overall monitoring framework. Concepts and modalities of implementation of activities have been discussed with the key actors and are now being implemented to ensure social rehabilitation. The programme has maintained one to one counseling of female participants by female counselors to identify protection issues and gender specific needs.

Under the education package, female participants who have protection concerns, and therefore, have to admit in schools far from their community for being unable to join community based schools are supported with extra financial support for living expenses (NRs. 2,200) on top of NRs. 1,800 monthly stipend for two years. Out of a total of 164 females enrolled in the education program, 65 VMLRs who are studying away from home have received additional stipend.

Individual rehabilitation packages are implemented:

The rehabilitation support services including four sectoral packages - Vocational Skills Training, Education, Micro-Enterprise and Health Training have been opened to all 4,008 VMLRs.

- As of June 2011, out of the 4008 VMLRs, 2,495 or 62% have made initial contact with the UN Interagency Rehabilitation Programme.
- Of those VMLRs, 2,160 or 54% of the VMLRs 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 VMLRs, 908 or 23% of the VMLRs are participating in one of the four rehabilitation packages while 156 in microenterprises are waiting to receive the start-up support (in-kind) after completing their business plans.
 - Of the total enrolled 77 VMLRs have dropped out the programme so far.
- As of June 2011, 730 participants or 18 % have completed training programme in VST and ME packages. Of these, 320 graduates are employed or have established businesses while 27 graduates refused employment with a salary of at least NRs 4,500/month or NRs 3,000/month with food and accommodation and were within a reasonable distance from their homes; therefore they are also accounted as employed in the overall employment rate. As a result, 347 graduates are considered employed that mounts the overall employment rate to 48%.

Besides, there are 469 participants who have received counseling but not enrolled in the packages plus 335 VMLRs who have contacted but not visited UNIRP regional offices. These VMLRs will have a last chance to enroll in one of the packages before the deadline of 31 July.

Monitoring of programme implementation and rehabilitation packages have been regularly conducted including monitoring of service providers performance and implementation of training curriculum as well as distribution of materials and toolkits i.e. theoretical, practical, in

	house and on-the-job training and post-training monitoring of the graduates.	
Communities were engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants	<p>Public Sensitization and Information Campaign designed and implemented:</p> <p>In order to inform VMLRs who are registered prior 22nd March deadline but not enrolled in the rehabilitation programme, UNIRP has an intensive media campaign and direct calls and tracing by CAAFAG networks to inform those VMLRs who have registered but not yet enrolled rehabilitation programme the approaching deadline of . VMLRs, who have contacted the programme prior to 22 March 2011 deadline, will have a last chance to enroll in rehabilitation programme by 31 July 2011.</p> <p>Radio interview, vox-pops, discussions and narrations have been developed and broadcasted to disseminate updated information on the rehabilitation programme. Further, the communication and reporting action plan was reviewed to accommodate communication needs of the programme and scale-up communication initiatives of the rehabilitation programme for the second half of the year.</p> <p>Broader community assisted in addressing socio-economic rehabilitation of VMLRs:</p> <p>During the reporting period, peace building activities took place in the three regions (Biratnagar, Bharatpur, and Kathmandu) with the participation of 130 youths and VMLRs. Activities were planned and organized by youths and VMLRS which included outdoor leadership camp, cultural activity, including outdoor games.</p> <p>Capacities of service providers for VST enhanced to deliver demand driven training:</p> <p>Several meetings with Principal/Service Providers and workshops were conducted at central and regional levels to identify capacity needs of service providers, future planning for skill and institutional capacity building. Also, carried out capacity building trainings on Labour Market Information and Analysis (LMIA) System for vocational skills training service providers including CTEVT, regional offices; Labor Office and statistics office at Biratnagar and Kathmandu (45 participants attended) to create better understanding of relevant labour market information sources at national and local levels and key LMIA concept and tools to design more effective training package and re-integration programs.</p>	

4. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges in this quarter	
Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report of the Special Review Mission (carried out by the HQs of the UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and ILO) on Interagency Rehabilitation Programme has been received and reviewed, and feedback provided. The recommendations of the report are compiled and in process of implementation. - A contextualized rehabilitation training workshop in partnership with Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden and Interagency Working Group (IAWG), Geneva was conducted from 22- 27 May with more than 50 participants from UN interagency partners and CAAFAG network. The IAWG, Geneva pledged to support gender initiative of the UNIRP by channeling \$155,000 for strengthening Gender specific considerations. The IWAG has recognized UNIRP's Gender Initiatives as a global best practice. - An assessment of psychosocial well-being of 400 VMLRs was conducted in five regions as part of the longitudinal study. The study looked into their current psychosocial status and their coping mechanism. Findings of the assessment are being analyzed and an initial report is expected soon. According to the plan, a follow-up study will be conducted in another 6-7 months to assess the psychosocial status of the respondents (VMLRs) to assess changes. - Similarly a review report on gender specific support of UNIRP was submitted to the recent UNPF review mission to be included in their report and shared with other programmes as a best practice. - Reintegration challenges of married female participants have been reported from many districts. UNICEF is currently compiling information related to married female VMLRs for systematic review of issues and their causes. The review exercise is expected to help in - designing of appropriate responses. - Organized regional workshops on Conflict Sensitive Programming Approach to identify sources of tension (dividers) and local capacities for peace (connectors) and generate programmatic options in order to maximize positive impact of the intervention. - A campaign for speeding up the enrollment of VMLRS, who have contacted and/or received counseling from

regional offices, but still not enrolled in rehabilitation programme is being implemented.

- UNIRP regional offices, with the support from central office, were extensively engaged in the data entry of the rehabilitation programme caseloads. The data entry and clean-up is expected to be completed by early April.

Major Challenges:

- The scattered and sparse geographical spread of VMLRs has seriously affected the capacity of the programme for monitoring and post-graduation follow-up. Many of those graduated are in remote areas. This has implications on their ability to find sustainable livelihood options.
- Artificially high expectation of the VMLRs about the rehabilitation programme often creates obstacles to smooth implementation of the rehabilitation programme.
- Significant levels of stigmatization exist (particularly among inter-caste married couples) for VMLRs returning to their communities, limiting resettlement choices and adversely reducing the potential for reunification of families. This is particularly so for female VMLRs. Further, reintegration into feudal community structures and traditional cultural roles is complicated by the broadened life experience of the VMLRs.
- Delay in approval of budget for the second year of programme implementation will seriously impact programme operation and achievement.
- By 22 March a large number of participants remained not registered with the programme. Additionally, a good number of them who have contacted the programme but not enrolled may lose opportunities to enroll prior to the deadline of 31 July 2011. There may not be alternatives for VMLRs who have refused to participate in the rehabilitation programme under various pretence.

5. Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

UNPFN PRIORITY CLUSTER A. Cantonment/Reintegration

Intermediate Objective: The safe verification, discharge and reintegration of Maoist Combatants

(if applicable) UNPBF PMP Result:

Indicator:

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
<p>1. <i>The Government of Nepal and Maoist Army have the capacity to meet the CPA and AMMAA commitments for the cantonment, discharge, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army</i></p>	<p>Third-party UN registration and verification of all cantoned Maoist army personnel in accordance with the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Arms and Armies (AMMAA)</p> <p>Improved reproductive health status of cantonment inhabitants (particularly women) and immediate surrounding communities</p> <p>A strategy immediately available to facilitate the Maoist army discharge and provide rehabilitation assistance</p> <p>Orderly discharge of verified minors and late recruits (VMLRs) from Maoist army cantonments in line with the AMMAA</p> <p>VMLRs are supported in the socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegrated into civilian communities with suitable livelihood options and inline established global standards</p> <p>Communities engaged in</p>	<p>2.1 # of registered personnel verified as qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria</p> <p>2.2 # of registered personnel verified as not qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria</p> <p>2.3 Rapid commencement of discharge and rehabilitation activities further to final agreement on discharge</p> <p>2.4 % former combatants (VMLRs) successfully discharged with UN support.</p> <p>2.5 A timely offer and start of the rehabilitation assistance to discharged combatants</p> <p>2.6 % of VMLRs participating in the rehabilitation programmes offered by the UN (disaggregated by gender)</p>	<p>1.1 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)</p> <p>1.2 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)</p> <p>1.3 16 Dec 2007, agreement on discharge is signed</p> <p>1.4 0 out of 4,008 registered VMLRs in Dec 2007</p> <p>1.5 No rehabilitation programme (dec 07)</p> <p>1.6 0% (2008) *100% of VMLRs need rehabilitation support 40% of the 4,008 were absent during the discharge ceremony (discharge database 2011) *30% of the VMLR participants are women and girls (2011)</p>	<p>2.1 19,602 legitimate personnel verified (Dec 2007)</p> <p>2.2 4008 verified as minors and late recruits (Dec 2007)</p> <p>2.3 Timely start of the discharge process</p> <p>2.4 4008 of VMLRs registered and discharged by 23 March 2010</p> <p>2.5 Effective start date of the rehabilitation prog (08 Jan 2010)</p> <p>2.6 50% of 4008 VMLRs received rehabilitation support (Dec 2010) 80 % of 4,008 VMLRs received rehabilitation support (Dec 2011) 100 % of 4,008 VMLRs received rehabilitation support (May 2012)</p>	<p>2.1 Registration accomplished during Jan-Feb 2007</p> <p>2.2 Verification accomplished during June-Dec 2007</p> <p>2.3 A team of almost 60 UN Personnel was deployed to Sindhuli cantonment on January 06, 2010.</p> <p>2.4 The discharge process began on 8th Jan 2010 and completed on 23 March 2010.</p> <p>2.5 A Toll Free phone line as first line of contact for discharges and five regional offices were opened on the 8th of January 2010.</p> <p>2.6 54% of discharges supported for rehabilitation by end of June 2011</p>

	<p>supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants The UN is a strategic partner to the GoN that plays key role in providing rapid response to cantonment management, registration & verification, discharge & rehabilitation of Maoist army Personnel</p>	<p>2.7 % of VMLR participants enrolled in rehabilitation programme received psychological support</p> <p>2.8 % of VMLR engaged in constructive livelihoods six months after the completion of the rehabilitation training (disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>2.9 Communities perception of the local impact of the rehabilitation process</p> <p>2.10% of VMLR participants who report being rehabilitated in their families and communities without stigmatization</p> <p>2.11The UN provides and deploys quick and strategic assistance and support to the GoN</p>	<p>% of the women combatants</p> <p>1.7 70% of VMLR participants come with psychosocial needs</p> <p>1.8 0% (2008)</p> <p>1.9 NA</p> <p>1.10 0% (2008)</p> <p>1.11 The UN is seen by the parties as a neutral and strategic partner to support the CPA and AMMAA commitments for the cantonment, discharge, and rehabilitation of the Maoist army (2007)</p>	<p>2.7 30% of VMLRs with psychological needs benefited from psychosocial support</p> <p>2.8 60%¹ of VMLRs which completed training (May 2012)</p> <p>2.9 70% of communities positive (Apr 2012)</p> <p>2.10 50% of VMLR participants (Apr 2012)</p> <p>2.11 Provision by UN Agencies of quick, neutral and technical assistance along the different steps of the cantonment, discharge, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army</p>	<p>2.7 33 % assessed and supported by June 2011</p> <p>2.8 305 out of 2149 VMLRs completed their training.</p> <p>2.9 Information will be collected through various means and shared early 2012.</p> <p>2.10 56 % of the graduates are employed.</p> <p>2.11 *Rapid deployment of UN registration team Upon request from Government of Nepal, Winter clothing were procured and delivered to cantonment over a period of three months. It involved procurement of goods in China and its shipment to Nepal. *A UN Technical and Logistic Team of 60 staff hired, trained and deployed in less than two weeks to conduct the discharge of 4008 Verified Minors and Late Recruits. *There are weekly coordination meetings among partner agencies on technical issues and other meetings at senior level at regular interval where the UN Monitoring Team also attends.</p>
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¹ The rehabilitation support goes for a period two years with except to participants under health and education which goes beyond the life of the programme (max 4 years)

