

# United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)

## Project Status Update

For the period of [October - December 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):	NA
UNPBF PMP Result and indicator (if applicable):	NA

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):		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\$ 7,692,510	Project delivery rate:	82.28%

### 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
1. Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMRLs) participants are supported in their socio-economic rehabilitation	<p><b>1.1. Individual Rehabilitation Option Packages are prepared and made available to participants</b></p> <p><b>Vocational Skills Training (VST):</b> The programme is providing VST to the last batches of participants through direct contracts with qualified public skill training providers and regional private schools. The number of VST participants has remained low during this reporting period. This is due to the nature of this option that is designed for employment after completion of training. Participants who completed VST experienced a gap between their expectation and available jobs in the market. For example, graduates of Indian Cook in Kathmandu were offered jobs with salaries ranging NRs. 5,000 to NRs. 6,000 which were not up to their expectation. At the same time, over half of these graduates were still engaged in political activities and were receiving monthly allowances due to which they were not enthusiastic to accept job offers.</p> <p>Participants under this option receive institutional and On-the-Job-Training (OJT), monthly stipend and 3 times meal per day and at the end of institutional training they also receive a set of related toolkits. All graduates are provided with post training support of linkage to employment and micro-finance and up to six months follow up and regular mentoring and career counselling.</p> <p>As of December 2011, 564 VMRLs have been referred to VST option of which 485 participants were enrolled (2% Female). There are 435 participants in training or have completed VST while for various reasons, 50 participants have dropped out of the training programme before completion of their training – this is the highest rate of dropout in comparison to other options. The UNIRP regional offices are making efforts to trace and provide counselling to assist dropouts to re-join either their training options or where possible, to avail themselves of other suitable options.</p>	54%

To date, 396 participants have completed institutional training and OJT out of which 141 are employed while 55 individuals have refused job offers that were facilitated by the programme. Through a dynamic process of M&E, the programme has been bringing constant adjustments to improve quality, duration of training, supports and mode of delivery. This also includes development of implementation guidelines and modus operandi.

**Micro-Enterprises Development (ME):** This option has remained the most attractive choice with more than 50% of the total caseload enrolled in this option. Due to gender friendly nature of this option, where participants can open their Micro Enterprises in the areas of their choice, including their own communities, out of total participants under this option, 50% are female. The flexible nature of this option and various stages involved for participants' self-employment has attracted more participants into this option.

Under this option, participants receive Business Induction Training called 'Start and Improve Your Business' (SIYB), Skills Training, Business Start-up Support in kind, Business Promotional Support in the form of refresher training or second round capital support in kind, monthly stipend and 3 times meal a day during the training period. Participants under this option are also provided with regular monitoring and follow-up, business mentoring and linkages to micro-finance institutions to help them sustain and improve their business.

The programme has entered into professional contract with Training Center Nepal (TCN) and F-SKILL to provide ME services to participants. The two new Service Providers are providing skills training, business start-up support and business promotional support to participants in all five development regions of Nepal. The programme also conducted detailed orientation programmes at central and regional levels for the new service providers to brief them on all contractual obligations and the nature of programme in order to ensure effective implementation of the ME option.

As of December 2011, 1,256 VMLRs (50% female) are referred to ME option, of which 1,172 participants are enrolled into the programme. Of these, 1,150 are either in and/or completed ME training while 22 participants have dropped out of the programme before completion of their training. The UNIRP regional offices are making efforts to trace and provide counselling to assist the dropouts to re-join their training options.

To date, 643 participants have completed ME skill training and have received Start-up support of which 425 or 66% have successfully established their own microenterprises. Over a 100 entrepreneurs have completed the full ME cycle of training by receiving business promotional support in the form of either refresher skills training or second round capital support for the expansion and sustainability of their enterprises. The programme is bringing constant adjustments to better facilitate sustainable self-employment of the participants.

Further, in this quarter various documents were developed to ensure smooth implementation of ME option at the field level i.e. Business promotional support guidelines, micro-enterprise development manual, division of roles and responsibilities between UNIRP regional offices and service providers, curriculum for entrepreneurship, life skill & civic education among others which as a whole contribute to a comprehensive operational guide.

**Education:** During the reporting period, 429 VMLRs received Education support (40% female). Out of the total enrolled, 16 % are studying in the lower-secondary level (grade 6-8), 43% in secondary level (grade 8-10) and remaining 40 % in higher-secondary level (grade 11-12). 1% have completed grade 12. The VMLRs receiving education support are enrolled in 254 different schools in 49 districts across Nepal. Through a separate programme, UNICEF is supporting reintegration of around 3,563 Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) and Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) in 30 districts, with support from UNPFN. The VMLR rehabilitation programme under UNIRP capitalizes on the support network established for the CAAFAG Working Group's network and district level capacity supported by UNICEF.

Of the total female participants receiving education support, 50% are receiving special education support (additional stipend of NRs 4,000) as they happen to be living away from their family members. In addition, 36% of female participants are receiving gender specific support, including child grant, nutritional grant, child care, etc.

**Health Related Trainings:** Out of 60 VMLRs enrolled in two separate batches under this option, the first batch of 47 health participants have completed their in-house training and are receiving On-The-Job Training which is scheduled to continue till January 2012. Three participants in Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) training will have their final exam in January 2012 and will then join an OJT until April 2012. Further, 10 participants of 2<sup>nd</sup> batch who had passed the entrance exam during July 2011 are continuing with their institutional training with three participants

dropped out from both the training groups. There are 12 service providers rendering health related training and education to these participants.

The programme is planning to identify potential employers both in formal and informal sectors to link these participants with job opportunities upon their graduation. So far, three institutes have expressed their willingness to accept health graduates for possible employment.

#### **1.2. Access to employment and livelihood opportunities promoted:**

At the end of December 2011, 1,040 participants had graduated from different trainings, out of which 567 have gained employment or self-employment. This represents 55% of the total graduates. Compared with the preceding quarter, the employment rate has fallen by 2%. This is due to higher ratio of graduates together with a lower employment rate and an increased rate of job refusal by graduates of VST (5% in total). According to anecdotal evidence, one reason for job refusal is that the graduates maybe in receipt of a stipend from the UCPN-Maoist which may be greater than potential salaries. Further, we understand that some of those who left their job in this quarter either joined their families for agricultural harvesting or joined political activities.

The programme has been continuously tracing and providing follow-up support to graduates particularly those who are not in job and/or have not established their microenterprises. An employment and microcredit needs assessment matrix has been developed to identify appropriate needs of the graduates matched with the employment and microcredit market realities to facilitate successful linkages to opportunities. Similarly, UNIRP regional offices and implementing partners are continuously mapping potential employers and microfinance institutions at the local levels for possible linkages.

#### **1.3. Participants received career and psychosocial counseling**

Participants receive career counseling during and after the training programmes provided by UNIRP regional offices and service providers.

Psychosocial counseling support is provided through regional psychosocial teams that includes referral to clinical support to severe cases. Compared to August-previous quarter there has been 46% increase in the number of cases requiring psychosocial support. This may be attributed to increased outreach and follow-up of individual cases. A total of 28 new cases (16 male and 12 female) requiring psychosocial counseling were assessed who visited UNIRP offices during this quarter and a total of 151 (55 male and 96 female) cases were followed-up in the training centers by the regional psychosocial counselors. Three participants were referred to the implementing partners of UNICEF for the follow-up on their psychosocial needs through the district psychosocial counselors and community based psychosocial workers.

In addition to this, regional psychosocial counselors assisted in the peace-building and outdoor activities conducted by UNIRP through regional centers.

UNICEF Partners in 7 districts, contracted by World Education for facilitation of education services, which have comparatively less resources for psychosocial services, were regularly supported by Kathmandu based Center for Victims of Torture (CVICT) and Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) supervisors. For this, supervisors visited 22 districts with the objective of mentoring social workers, community psychosocial workers and psychosocial counselors. Supervisors also assisted them in following up the cases directly in the field. Most of the participants visited by the supervisors showed symptoms of anxiety and conversion problems. Supervisors met a total of 47 (22 male and 25 female) individuals who were having psychosocial problems.

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

Participation of women has been a key indicator of success for UNIRP with over 2,100 participating in the rehabilitation programme; women and girls represent 38% while the ratio of women in the total 4,008 VMLRs is 30%. Out of the 1039 participants who have completed trainings, 35% are female while 42% are self/ employed. Among the participants who have established their own microenterprises, 55% are women. This reflects the improved delivery of gender specific support in the programme. In addition, the programme is addressing gender specific needs of male participants to create a positive

	<p>training and education environment.</p> <p>The UNIRP increased the delivery of gender specific support<sup>1</sup> including regular needs assessment of the participants. By December 2011, 477 participants (48 male and 429 female) involved in the various training options were identified with a form of gender specific needs and have accessed this support. Further, 301 pregnant women and lactating mothers including spouse of men participants received nutritional support and 360 children of both male and female participants benefitted from the 12-month childcare grant and childcare support; 112 women received reproductive health support; 21 women and two men received maternity/paternity allowances.</p> <p>Under the education option, female participants who are deemed to have protection concerns or who could not join community based schools continued to receive extra financial support (NRs. 2,200) on top of the two-year NRs. 1,800 monthly stipend to facilitate their participation in education. Of a total of 164 females enrolled in the education program, 65 who are studying away from home have received additional stipend to enable them to continue with their education.</p> <p>During the reporting period, 112 participants including VMLRs, representatives of service providers and implementing partners received a 5-day training course on Reproductive Health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS. The training courses were organized in five development regions with the aim to create a network of ‘champions’ who will replicate the information to the local communities. These trainings were organized in close coordination with the Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare and District Administration Offices.</p> <p>Gender specific monitoring and mentoring visits are being conducted on regular basis. More than 300 women participants with young children below 5 receive continued gender specific support after graduation through targeted monitoring and follow-up support.</p> <p><b>1.5. Individual rehabilitation packages are implemented:</b></p> <p>The rehabilitation support services including four sectoral options, Vocational Skills Training, Micro-Enterprise, Education (formal and non-formal) and Health Training/Education have been offered to all 4,008 VMLRs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As of December 2011, of the total 4,008 VMLRs originally identified and discharged from the Maoist army, 2,689 or 67% have made initial contact with the UNIRP through its toll-free phone number.</li> <li>○ Of these VMLRs, 2,460 or 61% of the total VMLRs have already received individual career counseling in one of the five regional offices 2,384 of which have been referred to specific Service Providers to undertake training/education options, but 76 VMLRs are yet to show up.</li> <li>○ Of these, 2,149 enrolled in one of the four rehabilitation options. By December 2011, 1,029 of the VMLRs were still participating in one of the four rehabilitation options, with 1,040 having graduated. Of the total enrolled, 80 (2%) VMLRs have dropped-out.</li> <li>○ As of December 2011, 1,040 participants or 48% of enrolled participants have completed training programme in Vocational Skills Training and Micro-Enterprise options. Of these, 567 or 55% are employed or have established their own businesses.</li> <li>○ There are 311 participants who have received counseling but not enrolled in the programme and 229 VMLRs who have called the Toll-Free but not visited UNIRP regional offices. These participants have lost the chance to benefit from the programme.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring of the programme is mainstreamed into all aspects of programme implementation through dynamic evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative information / data gathered through an integrated data collection system. This data includes, daily, monthly and quarterly reports, monitoring field visit reports, regional reviews and information gathered through the CAAFAG network, CVICT, TPO, service providers and implementing partners. This is collated in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Information Management System (CRIMS) a dedicated IT resource which was considerably strengthened during the last quarter.</p>	
<p><b>Communities were engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR</b></p>	<p><b>2.1 Public Sensitization and Information Campaign designed and implemented:</b></p> <p>Reflecting on the need to strengthen the relationship with the MoPR, public information material on UNIRP, including documentaries and fact sheets, have been shared on the MoPR website (<a href="http://www.peace.gov.np">www.peace.gov.np</a>).</p> <p>National and international media have referred positively on the programme through good news</p>	

<sup>1</sup>The programme considers gender specific needs of both male and female participants such as Nutritional Support to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers, Child Care facility in training centers and within communities, Childcare Grant, Maternity/Paternity Allowance, specific psychosocial and health support to victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Special Reproductive Health support and many other services available

<p><b>participants</b></p>	<p>stories. Direct communications have been established with the clients through direct SMS texting on key rehabilitation information. In addition, the programme has created video documentaries on various elements of the programme that were shared with various stakeholders – Please refer to <a href="http://www.peace.gov.np">www.peace.gov.np</a> and <a href="http://www.undp.org.np">www.undp.org.np</a></p> <p>During the reporting period, the programme was honored with the visit to the field by the Crown Prince of Norway and the UNDP Administrator. The high level delegation visited UNIRP Mid Western Region programmes and visited training centers and interacted with programme trainees and graduates. The visit was an excellent opportunity for UNIRP to demonstrate the important work being done for the peace process in Nepal. Both the Administrator and HE Crown Prince were impressed by UNIRP's work.</p> <p><b>2.2 Broader community assisted in addressing socio-economic rehabilitation of VMLRs:</b></p> <p>UNICEF is supporting 132 child and youth clubs through the CAAFAG district implementing partners. These child/youth clubs received peace building and leadership training and further submitted project proposals for community based peace-building and reconciliation activities covering 26 districts. Implementation of these activities has begun in the majority of the districts and has seen the active participation of CAAFAG, VMLRs and other conflict affected children/young people. So far, around 215 community based peace building events were organised by youth clubs, including VMLRs in five regions, through the mobilisation of 112 youth/child clubs. The major goal of these community based activities is to facilitate social harmony and reintegration of CAAFAG/VMLR in the community.</p> <p>In addition, UNICEF with support from UNDP and other UN partners has been engaged in community peace-building and sensitization activities. During the reporting period, Advance Youth Leadership for peace-building orientation programme was conducted for 2 groups of 48 (36 male and 12 female) participants in total. 38 of these participants were CAAFAG and VMLRs.</p> <p><b>2.3 Capacities of service providers for VST enhanced to deliver demand driven training:</b></p> <p>Four capacity building workshops were conducted for service providers on Institutional Training Management in Biratnagar and Kathmandu. There were 50 participants from various training institutes and partners. Further, training on computer application was conducted in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj for SPs, where 60 participants from different training institutes and partners attended.</p> <p>The capacity building of vocational skills training institutions including UNIRP service providers has been supported through the activities of ILO, based on local market assessment by socioeconomic team and regional offices of UNIRP. This was implemented through liaison by ILO with services providers and training institutes and subsequent conduct of four regional workshops and the training of trainers. 30% of participation in capacity building workshops was women.</p>	
----------------------------	---	--

**4. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges in this quarter**

**Key Achievements**

In this quarter, the following results have been achieved:

- The final enrollment number is 2,149 being 54% of the total 4,008 VMLRs.
- Further enhancement of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Information Management System (CRIMS) by including Monitoring and Evaluation Module, Psychosocial Module and the refinement of the reporting tools.
- During the reporting period, the programme facilitated several successful high level visits to UNIRP regional offices and training programmes including visits by UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark, HE Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and Transitional Support Strategy Donors.
- Provided basic technical support in the form of orientation to the Secretariat for the Special Committee for Supervision, Integration and Rehabilitation of Maoist army on the use of UNIRP DREAM database to assist them in the preparations for regrouping of the Maoist army combatants in the cantonments.
- Upon the request from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, data on Regular Members of the Maoist army Personnel (19,000+) was provided in the form of soft and hardcopies as well as online access to both MoPR and the Secretariat for the Special Committee on I&R to equip them with required information to facilitate verification and regrouping of the 19000+ Maoist army combatants.



**Major Challenges:**

- Geographical spread of the client load continues to offer a major challenge for outreach activities. This is being addressed by increased outreach efforts by regional offices staff now liberated from induction tasks and by improved collaboration with working partners that have a reasonable reach to many districts as well as CAAFAG partners present in remote districts.
- Sociocultural problems leading to the stigmatization of the caseload including gender specific issues are remaining as a key challenge. The programme is working to address the challenge through targeted programme provisions including family counseling and peace-building activities in the community.
- The increase in the rate of dropouts may be generated by the instability associated with raised expectations of potential financial support to VMLRs. This increased expectation is linked to the financial award made for the voluntary retirement option to combatants remaining in the cantonments.
- The issue of the progress of the Integration and Rehabilitation (IR) process for combatants remaining in cantonments is also leading to increased agitation by the newly emerging representative organizations of VMLRs. This may impact on the levels of security in the programme.



## 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:** NA

**Indicator:** NA

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
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>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>	2.1 # of registered personnel verified as qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria	1.1 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)	2.1 19,602 legitimate personnel verified (Dec 2007)	2.1 Registration accomplished during Jan-Feb 2007
		2.2 # of registered personnel verified as not qualifying for cantonment in accordance with agreed criteria	1.2 0 out of 32,250 registered (Dec 2006)	2.2 4008 verified as minors and late recruits (Dec 2007)	2.2 Verification accomplished during Jun-Dec 2010
		2.3 Rapid commencement of discharge and rehabilitation activities further to final agreement on discharge	1.3 16 Dec 2007, agreement on discharge is signed	2.3 Timely start of the discharge process	2.3 A team of almost 60 UN personnel was deployed to Sindhuli cantonment on Jan 06, 2010.
		2.4 % former combatants (VMLRs) successfully discharged with UN support.	1.4 0 out of 4,008 registered VMLRs in Dec 2007	2.4 4008 of VMLRs registered and discharged by 23 March 2010	2.4 The discharge process began on 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 and completed on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010.
		2.5 A timely offer and start of the rehabilitation assistance to discharged combatants	1.5 No rehabilitation programme (Dec 07)	2.5 Effective start date of the rehabilitation prog. (08 Jan 2010)	2.5 A toll-free line as first line of contact for VMLRs & five regional offices were opened on 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 & closed in Aug 2011.
		2.6 % of VMLRs participating in the rehabilitation programmes offered by the UN (disaggregated by gender)	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 & girls (2011) % of the women combatants	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)	2.6 54% of VMLRs enrolled and supported for rehabilitation by end of 2011

<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 supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants</p> <p>The UN is a strategic partner to the GoN that plays key role in providing rapid response to cantonment management, registration &amp; verification, discharge &amp; 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 &amp; communities without stigmatization</p> <p>2.11 The UN provides and deploys quick and strategic assistance and support to the GoN</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%<sup>2</sup> 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 o the cantonment, discharge, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army</p>	<p>2.7 41% of those counselled (2,384) assessed by Dec 2011. Of these, 151 cases are in follow-up by counsellors and community psychosocial workers</p> <p>2.8 1,040 out of 2,149 VMLRs completed their training with 60% of them employed or have started own business</p> <p>2.9 Continues interaction at community level with peace-building activities, collaboration with CAAFAG partners &amp; targeted public information</p> <p>2.10 38% living with friends, 31% living with parents, 15% living with spouse, 4% living with siblings/other relatives, 9% living alone and 3% unknown.</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 4,008 Verified Minors and Late Recruits. *There are weekly coordination meetings among partner agencies on technical issues &amp; meetings at senior level at regular interval where the UN Monitoring Team also attends.</p>
---	--	---	---	---

<sup>2</sup> 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)