



ANNUAL PROGRAMME - NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

Programme Title & Project Number

Programme Title: Monitoring, reporting and response to conflict related child rights violations.

- Programme Number: UNPFN/A-8 and PBF/NPL/E-2
- MPTF Office Project Reference Number: ID00078539 and ID00074749

Country, Locality(s), Thematic/Priority Area(s)

Country/Region: *Nepal*

UNPBF Thematic/Priority: PBF Nepal Priority Area 1:
Strengthening State Capacity for Sustaining Peace.
UNPBF PMP result 1 / Indicator 1.3

UNPFN Thematic/Priority: Cantonment and Reintegration
UNPFN Strategic Outcome: 'Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in adherence with international law and guidelines'

Participating Organization(s)

- UNICEF and OHCHR

Implementing Partners

- National counterparts: Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), International and national non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs).

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

MPTF/JP Contribution:
USD 2,664,095

Agency Contribution

- *by Agency (if applicable)*

Government Contribution
NA

Other Contributions (donors)

*French Government US\$ US\$ 308,699
(for Response to Conflict related Children's rights violations only)*

TOTAL: USD 2,972,794

Programme Duration

Overall Duration: 29 months

Start Date: 01/01/10

End Date: 31/05/12

Operational Closure Date:
31/05/12

Expected Financial Closure Date:
31/07/12

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Report Submitted By

- Name: Will Parks
- Title: Deputy Representative
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF
- Email address: wparks@unicef.org

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

During the decade long conflict, children and young people were among the primary victims of instability in Nepal. They suffered in many ways, in the midst of armed conflict and in its aftermath. As silent victims of conflict, children were killed, maimed, made orphans, abducted, displaced, deprived of education and health care and were made to witness the loss of their loved ones often leaving a deep scar. At a time when the support system existing for children had either corroded or weakened, children fell vulnerable to various child protection risks. Their vulnerability made them easy recruits for armed groups, while many found it a means to vent their frustration and hatred against adults.

In the past four years Nepal has made considerable progress in bringing the decade-long conflict to an end. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement¹ ending the decade-long conflict in Nepal ensured the protection of children associated with armed forces and armed groups by committing to their immediate release and rehabilitation. In addition, the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies² reiterates the principles and actions.

UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group have been supporting the reintegration of self and informally released CAAFAG who were primarily identified in the community. Since 2007, UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group have been able to identify and provide reintegration support to over 7,500 children and young people, formerly associated with the armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) in 34 districts in addition to supporting over 3,000 other conflict affected children.

In addition, the verification process led by UNMIN in 2007, with participation from UNDP and UNICEF, identified 2,973 minors among the 4008 disqualified Maoist combatants in the cantonments. Though the Comprehensive Peace Agreement called for the immediate release of children, the minors were finally released in Jan-Feb 2010. This category of minors who were identified as minors by the UN verification team are referred to as 'verified minors'. UNICEF, as part of UNIRP, has been supporting the reintegration of the verified minors and late recruits, managing the education and psychosocial components of the UNIRP project.

The overall purpose of the project is to ensure that child protection actors, including state entities, are taking decisive and appropriate actions to prevent and respond to violations of children's rights. Activities are intended to support the stabilization of the peace process by monitoring and responding to violations against children's rights, strengthening child protection systems and by identifying and mitigating factors that increase children's vulnerability to engagement in activities that threaten the peace process.

The objective is to monitor and report on the discharge and rehabilitation process and ongoing violations of children's rights, as mandated by Security Council 1612 and 1882, as well as to provide appropriate services for informally or self-released children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) and other children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) to ensure their successful reintegration into their communities.

The project has adopted four major strategies for its implementation:

National ownership

The focus of the project was to give more ownership and responsibility to government institutions at national and district levels, not only in implementation but also, and more importantly, in the planning, management and coordination of the programme. This programme recognizes the State as the ultimate duty-bearer in relation to the targeted beneficiaries and is designed to ensure that the State is able to fully discharge its responsibilities in this regard. To this effect, UNICEF will support the government in implementing the National Plan of Action for CAAC.

¹ November 2006

² Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies 28 November 2006, 1.1 Principles

Capacity development

Nepal's decade long conflict has given rise to large capacity gaps in the public sector, and the national child protection system has not been exempt from this dilapidation in any way. This clearly presents a tremendous challenge for all child protection actors in Nepal. The project focuses on capacity development to reinforce the national child protection system, by enhancing the capacity of government and non-government actors at both district and community level. The programme seeks to link community based child rights actors, supported by the project, to existing government and non-government institutions for sustainability and, also, to establish/strengthen community based mechanisms to ensure the rights and protection of children.

Coordination

The programme makes use of three extensive networks of partners from the government, civil society, and UN agencies. These networks also include community-based grassroots structures, ensuring that the programme will have not only wide coverage but will also maintain direct contact with its beneficiaries. Owing to the wide-ranging networks that the programme embraces, it will bring a large proportion of Nepal's child protection actors into one forum. This will ensure that partners are able to effectively draw upon each other's comparative advantages, avoid duplication, and ultimately deliver faster and better services to the children who need them the most. A strong network of response services and referral pathways will be developed with other service providers including State and government institutions.

Community participation

Communities can play a critical role in supporting the successful reintegration of CAAFAG/CAAC. In order to facilitate community's participation in the programme, various interaction programmes were conducted with community members in the early phase of the programme (2007-2008). In addition the programme supports other vulnerable children (in addition to CAAFAG) in the community so as to minimize further stigmatization of CAAFAG and garner community's participation in the programme.

The following complementary components underpin the project:

- **Monitoring and reporting on the discharge and rehabilitation process and ongoing violations of children's rights**, as mandated by Security Council 1612 and 1882, to support evidence-based advocacy to stop child rights violations, seek accountability for these violations and ensure that response interventions are effective and well targeted through referral mechanisms.
- **Continued provision of appropriate reintegration support self-released CAAFAG and other CAAC** to ensure that they are successfully reintegrated into their communities as well as to ensure parity with the reintegration support that the recently discharged minors and post-recruits are offered.

B. OUTCOMES

The Programme has two key outcomes:

- 1) Strengthened capacity of child protection actors, including state entities, to monitor, document, verify and respond to grave violations (monitoring component).
- 2) Children are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities (reintegration of CAAFAG).

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The total initial allocation for the project is as follows:

(i) Monitoring:

<i>UNICEF:</i>	<i>US\$ 826,381</i>
<i>OHCHR:</i>	<i>US\$ 512,330</i>
<i>Sub-Total:</i>	<i>US\$ 1,338,711</i>

(ii) Reintegration support:

<i>UNICEF:</i>	<i>US\$ 841,122</i>
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(iii) Indirect Support cost (7%): *US\$ 152,588*

*(iv) **Total (I+II+III):*** ***US\$ 2,332,421***

(v) Additional amount received in 2011 for monitoring the UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan : US\$ 331,674

A critical component of the project (output 1.1) is to monitor, document, verify and report on grave violations and on the compliance with the action plan regarding the discharge and rehabilitation of the disqualified Maoist army personnel. Included in this component is UN monitoring that provides evidence to determine whether the UCPN-M remains listed in the UN Secretary General annual report on children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) as party to the conflict that recruits and uses children. However, the UCPN-M remains listed in the UN Secretary General's 2010 annual report. Therefore, it was required to ensure that the 1612 monitoring mechanism, funded by this project, remains in force till May 2012 to enable the Security Council to make a determination on whether the UCPN-M should remain listed or not for the 2011 annual report. This will also require follow up to complete all the reporting and response needed for the Secretary General's 2011 annual report.

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: 2,664,095

During the reporting period, US\$ 1,405,506.44 from UNPFN were utilized to support the implementation of the project. Of the total amount, US\$ 885,348.84 were utilized for the monitoring component while US\$ 520,157.6 of the UNPTF were utilized to support the rehabilitation component of the project. In addition, the reintegration component (response to conflict related children's rights violations) was partially supported by the French Government (US\$ 308,699).

Human Resources:

For the Monitoring component:

- National Staff: Two child protection officers, one project assistant and eight consultants;

International Staff: four international UN Volunteers and one consultant. For the reintegration component:

- National Staff: Three regional monitors, one national project officer and one project assistant have been supporting the implementation of the project. Out of this, one national project officer and one project assistant are supported by the UNPFN.

UNICEF has adopted the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) process for financial management, orientation programmes were organized by UNICEF for all implementing partners on HACT. In addition, UNICEF's Finance Section has designed a financial training package for financial staff of implementing partners to enhance their knowledge on international financial standards. This training will be conducted for implementing partners in the early part of 2012 and complement the training already received. In addition, an assessment of all financial management systems of implementing partners was conducted in March/April 2011. Accordingly, recommendations were provided to the individual partners to further strengthen their financial management system as per international financial/auditing norms. A follow-up assessment will be conducted in 2012 to monitor if the recommendations provided with regard to enhancing the financial management system, have been implemented by the partner.

OHCHR: As per the agreement between UNPFN and OHCHR, UNPFN transfers the funds to OHCHR Geneva Office. Based on the approved annual cost plan, OHCHR Geneva Office sends financial authorization to OHCHR Nepal through UNDP on a quarterly basis. Thus, all the payments for the project take place through UNDP upon OHCHR Nepal's request. For the financial reporting, OHCHR Geneva prepares the financial report after receiving all inter office vouchers (IOV) from UNDP Nepal. This process is very time consuming.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

a) Monitoring Component:

Monitoring the compliance with the action plan under the UN SC Resolution 1612: Based on the Action Plan on the discharge of disqualified Maoist army personnel and related tasks (hereafter the 'action plan'), signed on 16 December 2009 between the Government of Nepal, the UN and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M), four UN regional monitoring teams were deployed in four regions of the country (Far-Western, Mid-Western, Central/Western and Eastern regions) under the supervision of the UN national monitoring team. The teams monitored and verified the compliance, mainly through interviews with verified minors and other reliable sources in various districts, including with Maoist army senior leaders and Maoist political senior leaders. The information collected during interviews was recorded and analyzed according to key indicators specified in the action plan.

Regular meetings were conducted between the UN national monitoring team and the UN regional monitoring teams to review the implementation of the action plan, refine methodologies/strategies and define priorities for future action.

Monitoring of the six core violations as mandated by the UN Security Resolution (UNSCR) 1612: UNICEF supported the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism in 46 out of Nepal's 75 districts through its implementing partners (Advocacy Forum (AF), Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), and Partnership for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict Working Group (PPCC) who are also members of the Country Task Force (CTF)³. Regular review meetings were conducted to identify challenges and discuss strategic directions to implement the monitoring mechanism.

³ The Country Task Force was established in November 2005 and operates with the participation of, and in cooperation with, relevant United Nations agencies and international and national NGOs. UNICEF and OHCHR are co-chairs of the CTF. The members include: UNHCR, Save the Children in Nepal, Advocacy Forum, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN), HimRights, Informal Service Sector Centre (INSEC) and Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict (PPCC).

The overall goal of the 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism is to prevent violations against children and to provide appropriate responses in line and in collaboration with other concerned stakeholders. The specific objectives are:

1. to monitor and document violations against children;
2. to compile and to analyze information from a variety of reliable sources;

b) Reintegration Component for self-released CAAFAG and other CAAC:

UNICEF is implementing the reintegration programme through the Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Working Group (CAAFAG WG), a network of civil society organizations established in 2006 with the objective to provide a forum to analyze protection issues; establish and coordinate comprehensive and harmonized responses for the release, return and reintegration of CAAFAG; and design common advocacy strategies with relevant stakeholders. The CAAFAG Working Group is chaired by UNICEF and currently has participation from 17 different agencies which meet regularly to plan and assess the achievements and obstacles in the implementation of the programme.

The CAAFAG programme is building on globally recognised good practices for reintegration of CAAFAG. Based on the Paris Principles Guidelines⁴, an inclusive programming approach has been adopted to also support other vulnerable young people in the communities in order to avoid further stigmatization of children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups. It focuses its efforts on broader system development rather than targeting single manifestations of child protection as global experience has shown that building systems, as opposed to trying to address symptoms of problems in isolation, is not only more effective, but also tends to yield more sustainable results.

Table: 1. CAAFAG/CAAC Supported in 2011

	In 40 districts – total number who received continued support through CAAFAG Working Group in 2011		Total number in 30 districts who received continued support (through UNPFN) in 2011	
	CAAFAG	CAAC	CAAFAG	CAAC
Education Support	1983	1905	870	1093
Vocational Training/IGA Support	318	243	126	47
Psychosocial support	341	505	280	481
Cases closed	580	250	229	88

Out of the 30 districts, supported by UNPFN in 2011, UNICEF supported the implementation of the reintegration programme in nineteen districts directly through district based implementing partners (NGOs). The remaining eleven districts were supported through Save the Children and World Education, who are members of the CAAFAG WG. The reintegration programme also benefits from the engagement of other national and international specialized agencies – the Center for Victims of Torture Nepal (CVICT), Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO) and Search for Common Ground – agencies specializing in Psychosocial support and Conflict Transformation respectively. The specialized agencies have been engaged in building capacity of and providing technical back-stop support to district implementing partners.

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3. [to generate practical recommendations for action to the UN agencies, international and national NGOs as well as state and non-state entities to respond to reported violations;](#)
 4. [to produce regular and annual reports ultimately directed to the UN Security Council](#)
 5. [to coordinate with different stakeholders for appropriate responses at the national, regional and district level, in particular with the CAAFAG working group.](#)

4 Complementary to the Paris Commitments to Protect Children Unlawfully Recruited or Used by Armed Forces of Armed Groups (The Paris Commitments), the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles) provide operational guidelines on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all categories of children associated with armed groups for those who are implementing programmes on the ground.

To facilitate district level coordination and referral, district level implementing partners closely coordinated with District Women and Children Offices. At the community level, the programme supports and mobilizes community based organisations such as child/youth clubs, child protection committees, Para-Legal Committees (PLCs) and school management committees, to facilitate the creation of a congenial and secure environment for CAAFAG in the community. The programme delivery mechanism is, thereby, intended to contribute to the consolidation of child protection systems at district and community level.

UNICEF National Child Protection Officers deployed in three regions (Biratnagar, Bharatpur and Nepalgunj), to monitor and follow up CAAFAG programme activities as well as to provide daily technical support to the implementing partners. The Child Protection Officer based in Biratnagar monitors 11 districts in the Eastern Region, Child Protection Officer Bharatpur covers 11 districts in the central and the western regions, while the one based in Nepalgunj covers 8 districts in the mid and far western regions. Frequent monitoring visits by UNICEF field and Kathmandu based staff are conducted to contribute to the monitoring of district-based programmes. In some of the districts, monitoring and/or programme advisory committees have been formed with members from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders such as Women and Children Offices (WCO), District Child Welfare Boards (DCWB), District Education Offices (DEO), District Development Committees (DDC), NGO Federation and UNICEF, which has enabled joint monitoring and follow up.

Additionally, follow up is ensured through regular review meetings with implementing partners during which progress and challenges are reviewed and forthcoming plans are discussed. During the reporting period, one national level and three regional level meetings were organized, in the course of which programmatic and administrative challenges, including strategic shifts and priority actions were discussed with implementing partners.

National level coordination is ensured through regular technical level meetings of the CAAFAG Working Group and with members of the UNSCR1612 Task Force and the Mine Action Team. This is also mirrored at the regional level where members of the CAAFAG Working Group meet at regular intervals to discuss programmatic issues. At the district level, UNICEF implementing partners work closely with District Child Welfare Boards and Women and Children Offices. UNICEF, in its efforts to support the community-based reintegration of CAAFAG and other children affected by conflict, has established an extensive network of community-based child rights organizations at district and community levels.

IV. Results

Outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of child protection actors, including state entities, to monitor, document, verify and respond to grave child rights violations

a) Monitoring the compliance with the Action Plan under the UN SC Resolution 1612

The UN monitoring teams continued to monitor and follow up on the UCPN-M's compliance with the Action Plan. The UN monitoring teams collected relevant information from regular contacts and interviews (as mentioned above). Regular meetings were conducted with the United Nations' Interagency Rehabilitation Programme (UNIRP)⁵ central and field offices. The strong coordination and collaboration

⁵ The UNIRP programme, also funded by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN-A7), focuses on facilitating the socio-economic rehabilitation of 4,008 Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLRs) which were formally discharged from Maoist army cantonments in 2010 in a national process supported by UNMIN and the UN Country Team (UNCT). Both projects (UNPFN-A7 and UNPFN-A8) are part of the UNPFN cantonment and reintegration cluster and their respective activities complement each other to provide inclusive support to children affected by armed conflict in Nepal. For more information please see: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00075366>

between the UN rehabilitation and monitoring teams at national and field level helped carrying out monitoring activities effectively and efficiently.

Information collected and verified by the UN monitoring teams indicated that some progress had been made by the UCPN-M regarding compliance with the Action Plan, e.g. there were no verified cases of return of verified minors to the cantonments during the current reporting period. The UN monitoring teams and the UCPN-M regularly discussed different strategies to reach full compliance with the Action Plan.

Seven meetings were conducted between the UN national monitoring team and the UCPN-M at the central level to discuss and raise concerns with regard to compliance with the Action Plan. The regional monitoring teams held twelve meetings with the seven division commanders (or acting division commanders) from each Maoist army cantonment site. The purpose of the meetings was to advocate with UCPN-M for full compliance with the action plan.

A technical mission from the OSRSG-CAAC was undertaken in coordination with the UN Monitoring Team in Nepal from 12 to 16 December 2011. The purpose of the mission was to advocate with UCPN-M to fully comply with the Action Plan and to assist the UN monitoring team in this regard. The mission met with the UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda”, senior Maoist army leaders, members of the diplomatic community and members of the government. On the basis of the evidence collected through the monitoring activities, a matrix of UCPN-M compliance with the Action Plan was developed and shared with the relevant Maoist leaders to help UCPN-M address the remaining challenges towards full compliance.

Following the visit of the technical mission from the OSRSG-CAAC, a circular (letter) was sent by the UCPN-M Chairman to the seven Maoist Army Division commanders. The circular acknowledged some of the findings of the monitoring team and requested the Division commanders to fully comply with the Action Plan.

b) Monitoring of the six core violations as mandated by the UN Security Resolution 1612

Since the Constituent Assembly elections in April 2008, the number of conflict-related rights violations against children falling within the scope of 1612 have been insignificant. However, the emergence of armed groups operating with political and often criminal motives primarily in the Terai districts (Southern belt of Nepal) and Eastern Hills, has given rise to general insecurity and instability. Public demonstrations, strikes and blockades sometimes involving children, have become a common means of protest. Such acts of violence create new risks for children and increase their vulnerability to violations including abduction for ransom. However, no consistent pattern of violations can be established and perpetrators are often unidentified, given that the situation in the Terai is fluid and different armed groups quickly form, split and disappear. However, there were no cases of violations falling under the scope of UNSCR 1612. The Country Task Force (CTF) documented 336 cases of violations involving children out of which 20% were referred to service providers or services were provided directly by the CTF such as medical and legal aid. Regular reports on grave child rights violations have been submitted to the (OSRSG-CAAC) through five global horizontal notes (progress update).

The Country Task Force, in coordination with the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC) and UNICEF Headquarters, commissioned an independent assessment to better analyze the situation of the Terai and the Eastern Hills. The findings of the assessment indicated that the violations against children in the Terai and Eastern Hills do not fall within the scope of UN Security Council Resolution 1612. However, it recommends continued monitoring and reporting of violations through other potential mechanisms.

During the reporting period, the UCPN-M has made some progress towards reaching full compliance with the action plan but more efforts are required. In order to be de-listed from the Security General's list as party recruiting children (i) the distribution of payments to the verified minors being made through the Maoist army commanders has to cease, (ii) shared accommodations have to be either dismantled or no longer used to maintain a link between the verified minors and the Maoist army, and (iii) the verified minors should not return and live in the. Several meetings were held with the high level UCPN-M's leaders to discuss different approaches/strategies to attain full compliance with the action plan. A technical mission from the OSRSG-CAAC as well as meetings with the Resident Coordinator and heads of the agencies (UNICEF and OHCHR) served as high level advocacy with the UCPN-M to fully comply with the action plan.

In the current post conflict/ transitional situation no cases of 6 core violations have been reported. This indicates that continuing the monitoring of the 6 core violations may no longer be necessary. The Terai assessment equally indicates that the cases related to the Terai do not fall within the scope of 1612.

Outcome 2: Children (CAAFAG and CAAC) are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities (reintegration component)

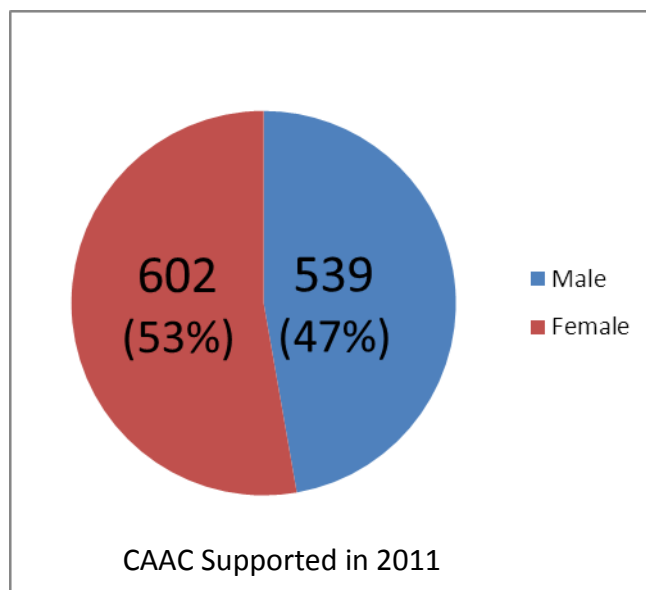
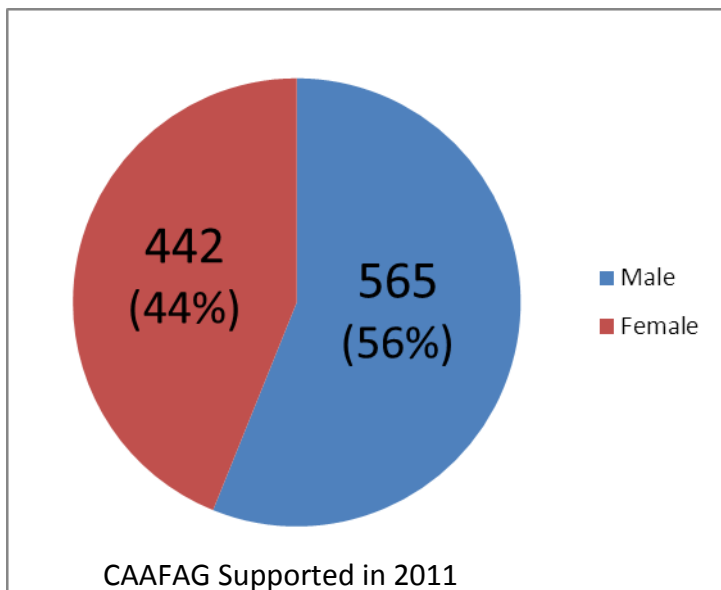
In addition to monitoring and reporting on violations of children's rights, the programme continued to provide reintegration support to CAAFAG and CAAC.

Since 2007, UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group have, so far, identified and provided reintegration support to over 7,500 CAAFAG and 3000 CAAC. Out of this total, 2,642 CAAFAG and 2,653 CAAC received continued support in 40 districts through UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working in 2001. UNPFN supported the reintegration project in 30 of these districts in 2011, benefiting 1276 CAAFAG, in addition to 1,621 CAAC and other vulnerable children as a strategy to minimize further stigmatization of CAAFAG and garner community's participation in the programme. Services for (CAAFAG/CAAC) children and adolescents included education or vocational training, income generating support to children or families, and psychosocial support, in addition to enhancing CAAFAG/CAAC and other children/adolescents' participation in community-based peace building activities.

Reintegration Support to CAAFAG and CAAC

The community based reintegration programme used by the project provides a holistic approach to reintegration. The programme ensures access to services such as education, skill training, income generating activities, and psychosocial support.

As indicated in Table 1 above, in 2011, a total of 2,897 CAAFAG and CAAC received continued reintegration support in 30 districts through UNPFN support. This included 1,276 CAAFAG and 1,621 CAAC. Of the total number of CAAFAG, 4% belonged to the 12-14 age group, 20% to the 15-18 age group and 20% are over 18 years. 43 % of CAAFAG and 52% of CAAC were female. In addition, a total of 317 cases were closed in 2011.



Education Support: With the UNPFN contribution, educational support was provided to 870 CAAFAG and 1093 CAAC or vulnerable children in 2011, corresponding to 68% of the CAAFAG/CAAC receiving reintegration support in the thirty targeted districts. Children's regular attendance to school, academic progress and their participation in extra-curricular activities was ensured through regular follow-up by social workers and in collaboration with teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs). Implementing partners ensured close coordination with the SMC through sensitization programmes to school teachers and students on child protection issues and rights of conflict affected children in particular. Peer support to CAAFAG is facilitated by support from school- and community-based child/youth clubs. Schools have been and continue to be a key community structure for children's successful reintegration, but many of them have an insufficient number of teachers, as well as classrooms and materials. Individual support to CAAFAG is therefore complemented by support for strengthening the infrastructure of the school. However, as the structural support to school is provided only once (Rs. 7000-8000 per every CAAFAG/CAAC enrolled in the school), none of the schools received structural support in 2011 as they had already received it in previous years.

Vocational Skill Training and Income Generating Support: As the majority of CAAFAG belongs to economically disadvantaged families, vocational skill training and income generating (IG) support were offered to support their economic reintegration. With the support from the UNPFN, a total of around 220 adolescents (CAAFAG/CAAC) graduated from vocational skill training since the inception of the project. In 2011, around 173 CAAFAG/CAAC received either vocational skill training or income generating support based on the interest and competency level of the participant (CAAFAG/CAAC), as well as on the availability of training centres in their respective districts. Since most vocational training institutions are privately managed, and are often low-budget institutes, they lack innovativeness and mostly offer traditional forms of training such as tailoring, carpentry, hairdressing, electronic repair, auto mechanics, goldsmith/iron work, etc. Around 30% of the CAAFAG/CAAC who received vocational skill training, since the inception of the project, are currently engaged in economic activities. While the vocational training is offered by relevant technical institutes in the district, follow-up support, vis-à-vis linking them to the labour market and monitoring their progress, is the responsibility of district implementing partners (NGOs).

Income generating support is provided to the poorest and most marginalized families to free the school-going children from economic burden and to keep them enrolled in school. In 2011, around 40 families of CAAFAG and CAAC received income generating support. Various forms of income generation have been

offered, including supporting the establishment of small shops, animal husbandry and agricultural support, candle-making and tailoring. In the majority of the cases, CAAFAG/CAAC, whose families have received income generating support, have been attending school regularly as they are not expected to contribute to family earning.

In addition, district implementing partners have been working closely with District Women and Children Offices and other community based organisations to link CAAFAG/CAAC to savings/credit groups and cooperatives. As a result, around 186 CAAFAG and CAAC (101 female and 85 male) were linked to micro-credit groups or community based cooperative groups to support their economic reintegration. Linkages with savings/credit groups have increased their access to additional loan facilities to support the establishment or expansion of businesses.

Psychosocial support: The psychosocial well-being of CAAFAG depends on the experiences they have gone through and on their individual resilience. A study of Nepal CAAFAG⁶ indicates that, to a certain extent, the type of role held by CAAFAG while in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), does have an impact on their psychosocial well-being. Children who were involved primarily in cultural programmes or used as soldiers had more psychosocial distress than children in other roles. Those used as spies, sentries, and messengers had better well-being. This might be because children used as soldiers were likely to be exposed to more violence and traumatic experiences.

Table:2. Psychosocial support:

	In 40 districts – total number supported by CAAFAG Working Group in 2011		In 30 districts – total number supported by UNPFN in 2011	
	CAAFAG	CAAC	CAAFAG	CAAC
Number of CAAFAG/CAAC who received psychosocial support in 2011	341	505	280	481

Provision for psychosocial care and support (counseling) is made at the community level through community facilitators and social workers who have received various levels of training, enabling them to identify symptoms of psychosocial needs and to provide basic counseling. Cases needing intensive and long-term psychosocial support (clinical) are referred to either district level counselors or to specialized services based at regional or central level.

UNICEF has around 300 community based psychosocial workers, supporting CAAFAG and CAAC in 30 UNPTF supported districts. Since 2007, all community based psychosocial workers have received at least 27 days of (phase-wise) psychosocial training. As part of the capacity building support at the district and community level 60 community based psychosocial workers received refresher training in 2011. These 60 community based psychosocial workers came from programme 20 district supported by UNPFN. In addition, 28 new staff members hired by implementing partners in 2011 received “*Basic Psychosocial Care and Support Training*” enabling them to identify and provide first line psychosocial care to children with problems. During the reporting period, 294 CAAFAG received regular psychosocial support in the 30 districts. Only a few CAAC required family level counseling, while none required regular individual counseling.

⁶ *Psychosocial Support Model for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups in Nepal, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation Nepal, Kathmandu 2010*

Psychosocial support to CAAFAG/ CAAC includes individual and family counseling, as well as mediation at family and community level, depending on the nature of the problem.

Furthermore, UNICEF has mapped existing psychosocial workers, trained through the CAAFAG programme and by other development agencies, in 75 districts. Details of individual psychosocial workers, types of training received, agencies/organisations they are associated with and their contact details were updated mid 2011. Based on the collected information, a draft website containing the list of trained psychosocial workers has been developed and is expected to be finalized by mid-2012. The website (design and content) is currently being reviewed for finalization. The roster is intended to be operationalized by mid 2012, and is expected to provide district and community level information of existing psychosocial workers, for emergency and non-emergency programmes and responses. The mapping of psychosocial human resources will again be repeated in 2012 to update the information.

Closure of successful reintegration cases: District implementing partners have been closing successfully reintegrated cases supported by the programme, based on detailed assessments of individual cases. A case closure guideline has been developed by UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group, to help implementing partners to assess individual cases. Based on the guideline and thorough assessment of individual cases, UNICEF and the CAAFAG WG were able to close around 1500 cases in the 40 working districts since 2008. In UNPFN supported (30) districts, 546 CAAFAG (34% female) and 88 CAAC (64% female) cases were closed in since the inception of the project, out of which 317 cases were closed in 2011.

Table:3: Number of cases closed:

	CAAFAG Working Group (40) districts – total number of closed cases		Total number of closed cases in (30) UNPFN supported districts	
	CAAFAG	CAAC	CAAFAG	CAAC
Number of CAAFAG/CAAC cases closed since inception of project	1500	200	546	88
Number of CAAFAG/CAAC cases closed in 2011	580	250	229	88

Working with child clubs for peace building activities: Looking at the longer-term aspects of successful community reintegration of children affected by the armed conflict and children formerly associated with armed groups or armed forces, the programme aims at restoring social cohesion between reunified and other children in the community. Reconciliation amongst all these groups is perhaps the most fragile and also the most important element of a national peace building strategy. The programme therefore fosters reconciliation amongst these different groups, not only through focused ‘reconciliation activities’, but also by introducing elements of reconciliation in all components of the reintegration programmes.

In 2011, UNICEF-supported implementing partners, in 30 UNPFN supported districts, worked with 55 child clubs and mobilized community young people for peace building and reconciliation activities. In addition, 373 CAAFAG (41% female) and 472 CAAC (42% female) received peace building and life skills training, designed to impart leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution and life skills on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health to CAAFAG and CAAC. The life skills knowledge aims to help the transition of former CAAFAG into civilian life and to encourage their participation in constructive social and peace building activities in their respective communities.

Another objective of peace building activities is to support child clubs in mobilizing young people with messages of peace and social harmony, and to offer them a platform to dialogue and play a meaningful role in their communities, thereby helping them to become positive agents of change in society. In 2011, implementing partners facilitated the formulation of one-year plans for child clubs, in consultation with key stakeholders. In 2011, around 79 of such community based peace building activities were conducted by child clubs in 30 districts. These plans were reviewed by implementing partners, together with UNICEF, following which their implementation was supported. The community based peace building activities have become popular among community adolescents and youths as they provide them with the opportunity to come together and organize themselves for social activities, thereby, earning them community recognition and respect.

Community Mobilization: Promoting the engagement of all community actors and structures for the prevention and protection of children from all forms of violence is an integral support component for the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict. As an integral part of community mobilization, various community based organisations (*Child Protection Committees, Para-legal Committees, women's groups, school management committees, child/youth clubs*) were oriented and sensitized on child rights and protection issues, including those of children associated with armed forces and armed groups, during the initial phase of the programme (2007-2009). As a means to achieve sustainability, efforts were made to consolidate community based organizations by supporting the formation of village child club networks, as well as Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC), and registering them with District Child Welfare Boards (DCWB). Once child clubs and VCPC's are registered with DCWB, they become potential partners for VDC level activities. This also makes it easier for child clubs and VCPCs to access VDC fund, 10% of which is supposed to be sent on children's welfare. By doing so, Child Clubs and VCPCs have been recognized by DCWB as their extension at community level. These Child Clubs and VCPCs constitute advocates for children's rights and protection at community level where government structures and systems to prevent and respond to child rights violations are absent. In addition, VCPCs, in several UNICEF-supported districts, have managed to access block grants to be used for activities related to children.

Coordination: Enhancing coordination among Nepal's child protection actors and bringing them into one forum has remain as a major project strategic approach. Leveraging the network's strengths, UNICEF has been able to establish a district referral mechanism which links diverse service providers with children who may need their services. The district referral mechanism has been established under the leadership of Women and Children Offices (WCO), with technical assistance from CAAFAG implementing partners. Though the effectiveness of the referral mechanism depends largely on the role of the WCO, some districts, especially those with proactive WCOs, have a well-functioning referral mechanism through which children with protection concerns have received appropriate support. In UNICEF-supported districts, efforts have been made to enhance coordination and linkages between WCOs and community level organisations, namely VCPCs and Child Clubs, by getting them registered with DCWB. In addition, specific activities were carried out to link the district level referral mechanism with community-based organisations (CBOs). Information about the district level referral mechanism and service providers was disseminated to CBOs through leaflets and information sheets. To complement the effort, the Central Child Welfare Board, with support from International Organisations including UNICEF, is planning to conduct a comprehensive mapping of service providers in all 75 districts in 2012, to lay the foundation for a more robust referral mechanism to ensure protection responses to all vulnerable children.

Transitional Justice: As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the government of Nepal is obliged to ensure justice to children who may have suffered during the conflict. In the absence of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Bill, which is still awaiting Cabinet approval, the fate of the envisaged Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other transitional justice processes is not clear.

Given that the concerned government institutions lack adequate technical capacity to ensure safe and meaningful participation of children in the Transitional Justice process, UNICEF has been providing technical assistance to the government of Nepal (*Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction* and *Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare*) to enhance government officials' capacity to work with children issues in the Transitional Justice process. In 2010, UNICEF submitted recommendations on the TRC Bill to the government, as a result of which children's participation in the transitional justice process is featured in the draft TRC Bill as well as in the National Plan of Action for children affected by armed conflict. Though the MoPR has agreed to draft an implementation plan to facilitate children's participation in the Transitional Justice process with technical assistance from UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group, work to this effect was not initiated in 2011 as the TRC Bill remains unapproved.

Support to Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLRs) through the CAAFAG programme network:

The UN interagency team (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO) has been supporting the rehabilitation of the verified minors and late recruits since 2010 through another (UNIRP) project also funded by UNPFN. As part of the UN interagency team, UNICEF has been providing education and psychosocial support to VMLRs, in addition to facilitating their social reintegration through community-based peace building activities. By December 2011, 417 VMLRs (44% female) were enrolled for support in 49 districts and over 642 participants had benefitted from psychosocial support provided through regional and district psychosocial counselors. The VMLR rehabilitation programme capitalizes on the support network established by the CAAFAG Working Group at district level, the capacity of which has been strengthened and supported by UNICEF since 2007. District and community level human resources, community based child protection organizations (*eg psychosocial workers, child/youth clubs and district implementing partners*) and networks trained and established by the CAAFAG reintegration programme have proved to be invaluable resources for the implementation of the UNIRP project, to support the rehabilitation of verified minors and late recruits (*former Maoist People's Liberation Army discharged from the cantonment in 2010*).

Support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

One of the major strategic goals is to give more ownership and responsibility to government institutions for the reintegration of CAAFAG and CAAC. This programme recognizes the State as the ultimate duty-bearer in relation to the targeted beneficiaries and is designed to ensure that the State is able to fully discharge its responsibilities in this regard. In order to meet this strategic goal, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) to draft the National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict. The NPA, though approved by the Cabinet in December 2010, was officially launched in March 2011. As an exit strategy, CAAFAG Working Group, expects to hand-over the CAAFAG/CAAC cases, currently supported the CAAFAG working group, to government implemented (NPA) reintegration programme, to ensure continued support until the successful reintegration of CAAFAG/CAAC.

Following the approval of the NPA, the Government established a technical committee, with UNICEF's participation, to support the implementation of the NPA. In addition, MoPR has constituted an inter-ministerial Implementation Committee, coordinated by the Secretary of MoPR, to provide coordination and policy guidance for the implementation of the NPA. To support the process, relevant ministries have nominated focal persons from their respective ministries to provide technical inputs and contribute to the drafting of guidelines for the implementation of the NPA.

Upon MoPR's request, UNICEF has hired a consultant to provide technical assistance and overall coordination support to MoPR. The consultant has been hired for six months and will be supporting MoPR until March 2012.

Towards the end of 2011, MoPR initiated the process of collecting secondary information related to conflict affected children from 75 districts and of mapping out government and non-government organisations supporting children affected by conflict.

Through consistent dialogue and advocacy, MoPR has agreed to mobilise internal resources and resources from Nepal Peace Trust Fund for the implementation of the NPA. Furthermore, UNICEF will be providing technical assistance to MoPR to draft the Concept Note to apply for funding from Nepal Peace Trust Fund.

Under outcome 2(*CAAFAG and CAAC are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated back into their communities*), the major expected result is to provide continued reintegration services to CAAFAG and CAAC in order to ensure their successful reintegration, while ensuring the strengthening of the protective environment around children so as to prevent further violations of child rights, including recruitment of children.

During the reporting period (2011), great stride was made towards the achievement of the intended result as the project was able to support the reintegration of 3,041 CAAFAG and CAAC in 30 districts. Furthermore, the foundation for establishment of functional protective systems has been laid in the working districts, through the strengthening of community based stakeholders, such as Village Child Protection Committees, which have become advocates of child rights at community level. At district level, child rights reporting and response has become effective in many districts through the establishment of a referral system, led by the Women and Children Office, though the results are not consistently remarkable in all the working districts. The referral mechanism is seen to be more efficient in districts where the responsible government agency (Women and Children Office) has taken more ownership.

Despite the government's commitment to implement the NPA on CAAC, major steps are yet to be initiated including the development of an NPA implementation guideline and the submission of a proposal to access the Nepal Peace Trust Fund. In 2012, UNICEF and the CAAFAG WG will continue providing technical support to the government to develop the implementation guideline and to expedite its implementation.

V. Overall Problems/Challenges

c) Monitoring Component

- It has been a continual challenge to maintain regular dialogue with UCPN-M senior leaders and Maoist army commanders who are not always available due to the current political context;
- The main partners and interlocutors for the UN monitoring team are UCPN-M including Maoist army senior leaders whose main agenda at the moment is the reintegration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army personnel and not UCPN-M compliance with the Action Plan;
- Operating the 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism in the post-conflict situation is extremely challenging due to the frequent change in political scenarios;

d) Reintegration Component

- Delay in implementation of the NPA-CAAC: The National Plan of Action for Reintegration of Children Affected by Conflict is yet to be implemented by the government despite continuous advocacy and technical assistance offered by UNICEF and the CAAFAG Working Group. This is due to frequent changes of government officials as well as lack of financial commitment. In the absence of financial assistance beyond May 2012, reintegration support to CAAFAG/CAAC in the

30 UNICEF-supported districts will have to stop until it can be supported again by the government through the implementation of the NPA. In an attempt to expedite the implementation of the NPA, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) to draft the Concept Note for submission to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund . Additional support may be secured through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal. However, while the work around implementation of ‘NPA for reintegration of CAAC’ has been identified as a potential outcome for its next funding round, this support may be secured only after going through a competitive selection process. Ensuring sustainability of support to CAAFAG/CAAC will be a major challenge if the NPA is not implemented in time.

- Female CAAFAG still face stiff reintegration challenges due to various gender-related issues. However, it is not easy to identify gender issues as the participants are not willing to share their problems with the social workers. This problem is compounded by the limited capacity of implementing partners, absence of long-term strategic interventions and limited resources within the CAAFAG programme to address gender-related issues.

VI. Future Work Plan

a) Monitoring Component

UNICEF will continue to monitor the UCPN-M’s compliance with the Action Plan. Focus will gradually shift from intensive monitoring of compliance with the Action Plan to stronger emphasis on advocacy with UCPN-M leadership. The revised approach is based on a discussion with the OSRSG-CAAC, the UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal and Heads of agencies from OHCHR and UNICEF in May 2011. As a result, the structure of the monitoring teams will be changed from 1 January 2012. The four UN monitoring teams deployed in the field will be dismantled and only the UN national monitoring team will remain, including one international staff until 8 May 2012 and one national staff until December 2012. The UN national monitoring team will continue to report regularly its findings to the Resident Coordinator in Nepal and the OSRSG-CAAC.

With the closure of its office in Nepal at the end of March 2012, OHCHR will not be able to continue to support the monitoring mechanism. From 2012, UNICEF will take full responsibility for the implementation of the monitoring mechanism, with support from the UN Resident Coordinator.

The monitoring mechanism will continue until the UCPN-M is delisted from the list of parties that recruit or use children included in the Secretary General’s report on children and armed conflict.

b) Reintegration Component

UNICEF will continue to provide technical assistance to the government to support the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict. UNICEF is currently coordinating with the CAAFAG Working Group members to provide technical assistance for the development of detailed guidelines for the implementation of the National Plan of Action. UNICEF will also advocate with the Nepal Peace Trust Fund as well as with other potential donors, to support the implementation of the NPA by mobilising resources. Efforts will also be made to secure additional resources through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal to complement the implementation of NPA.

Targeted towards enhancing coordination and building capacity of child rights organizations, UNICEF’s efforts have resulted in the establishment of a strong network at district and community levels. This can be further strengthened to establish a functional child protection system that will not only prevent the

recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups and support the reintegration of CAAFAG/CAAC, but also monitor, prevent and respond to other forms of child rights violations.

UNICEF will continue to close successfully reintegrated cases and to link the most vulnerable adolescents, e.g. adolescents from very poor families, married and single girls, to long-term development programmes.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) bill is yet to be approved by the government. Once the TRC Bill is approved, UNICEF will be advocating for the inclusion of children in the envisaged Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other transitional justice processes as they evolve, including ensuring justice to victims of sexual abuse and torture. Advocacy will focus on ensuring safe and meaningful participation of children in line with international standards and best practices from recent experiences in other countries.

VI. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

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 1: Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at the national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law (RoL)

Indicator 1.3 DDR: # of PBF programmes that have successfully integrated ex-combatants into communities

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
1. Children affected by armed conflict are effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities in adherence with international law and guidelines	Strengthened capacity of UNSCR 1612 Task Force to monitor, document, verify and report on grave child rights violations and the compliance with the discharge Action Plan	1.1 Grave child rights violations monitored, verified, reported and responded through Global Horizontal Notes and annual reports submitted to the UN Security Council WG on CAAC	3.1 2006-2009: 3 reports (1 report per year)	3.1 Two 1612 annual reports and 6 Horizontal notes	3.1 1 annual report on 1612 Action Plan monitoring and 10 Global horizontal notes submitted
		3.2 Number of functional referral mechanisms set up at district level and responding to child protection issues	3.2 No referral mechanisms in 34 targeted districts	3.2 Set up of referral mechanisms in 34 targeted districts (2012)	3.2 Referral mechanism piloted in 30 districts
	Enhanced capacity of the government to implement the National Plan of Action for the Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict	3.3 National Plan of Action on Children Affected by Armed Conflict approved and implemented	3.3 No NPA exists	3.3 NPA in line with international standards approved and implemented (2012)	3.3 NPA drafted by MoPR and approved by Cabinet on 29 December 2010. UNICEF and CAAFAG Working Group supporting MoPR to develop implementation guidelines.
	Self and informally released CAAFAG and CAAC develop the skills and capacities that facilitate their effective reintegration into communities	3.4 Number of self and informally released CAAFAG successfully reintegrated into their communities	3.4 0 out of 7,500 self and informally released CAAFAG; 0 out of 3,000 vulnerable children	3.4 5,500 CAAFAG; 3,000 vulnerable children (2012)	3.4 Continued providing reintegration support to over 3,563 CAAFAG and other children affected by conflict/vulnerable children in 30 districts. This includes 1,941 CAAFAG (56% female) and 1,622 CAAC (47% female). CAAFAG implementing partners have also been providing education support to 417 verified minors and late recruits (VMLR) and psychosocial support to 642 VMLRs.

Human Interest Stories and Photos

Story of a former CAAFAG (Dalit Boy named Pravin BK – name changed)

“People know me by my name - Luri BK, but my real name, according to my citizenship certificate, is Shyam Bahadur BK. I reached 18 years this Mangsir [*Nepali month*]. I got associated with the then rebel CPN [Maoist] in 2063 [2006] with the expectation of earning some money during the “People’s War”. I went to the Jutpani camp to join the Maoist army when I heard that they were providing Rs. 3,000 per month. However, I had to work as a porter and guard and I was given only Rs. 500 per month. The amount was only sufficient for me to buy some clothes and daily necessities. I quit the force and returned home as my expectations were not met. I returned back in Falgun 2065 [2008], deserting the party.”

“Some staff from the CAAFAG Working district partner visited my home and talked with my father, mother and older brother. They explained the objectives of the programme and asked me separately about my personal experiences during the armed conflict, as well as my current interest. I became excited. I expressed my interest to participate in driving training. My wish was fulfilled. I was enrolled for driving training at Driving Centre. However, I was not able to find a job after the training. As I could not find a job, my parents requested the NGO [implementing partner] for raw materials [iron] to support our traditional blacksmith business. The organization provided some materials in the form of income generating support worth Rs. 8,000. With the iron, we produced and sold sickles, hoes, tripods, etc. Then, we got the iron workshop registered at the Industrial Buffer Zone. We also received charcoal at a low price from the forest committee. We became members of a saving group and started to save our income, Rs. 50 per month. We have also bought cattle with the income of the workshop. The cow is giving milk which we sell. Similarly, we bought 30 chickens of which 22 survived. We have also maintained our house, although it has thatched roof. The workshop is doing well. We earn around Rs. 300 per day if we work hard.”

“Currently, my parents, older brother and myself do not take the trouble to look for work elsewhere. All members of my family have work to do which provides us good returns. I am really pleased that the rehabilitation programme supports children affected by conflict without any discrimination and also provides some income generating assistance.”

Sita Katwal - former CAAFAG (name changed)

Sita was studying in grade nine until she was enticed to join the Maoist armed group in Panchthar. She was recruited by the “People’s Liberation Army” and transferred from one place to another. This was during the time when the whole country was under the emergency law.

She was arrested by the Nepali Army in Panchthar in 2061 (2004). She recalls: “From that day on, my life became very difficult. I was handed over to the Army Camp. They put me under extreme torture for eight days, taking off my clothes and beating me with nettle bush dipped in ice-cold water [in the cold month of December], unbearable verbal abuse, hitting my feet with a 16 mm polythene pipe, kicking my breast with army boots, and so on. They took me to the Army HQ in a helicopter. There, I was blindfolded and put in a closed room where the Army commander also used to sexually abuse me. After going through such types of physical and mental ordeal, I was put in prison I was often taken to the District Court to extend the period of imprisonment. When I had the chance to meet Human Rights Defenders, I told them that I feared that I would be tortured again. I was able to come out of the prison with the help of a lawyer as my family had taken my case to the Appellate Court. A local Human Rights organization also supported my family. I returned home after being released. I was treated well at home. I received love and affection from family members, because my family members had the same political orientation [Maoist]. After some days, I joined school in grade nine.” She continues: “I faced huge problems to study and make friends at school because I was mentally disturbed. There was no-one to understand my problem and to help me. I found relief only after receiving psychosocial support from a Social Worker of the CAAFAG Working Group district partner. They contacted me in 2064 [2008] and listened to my experiences.”

Sita received emotional as well as rehabilitation support from the implementing partner. The local social workers from the implementing partner interacted and counseled school teachers, family members and community members to create a supportive and caring environment for all conflict affected children. Sita shares: “I again began to feel comfortable in school. I received a school uniform, stationery and tuition support from the NGO [implementing partner]. They took me to a Hospital and supported my treatment as I had problems with my eyes - because of being blindfolded for almost one month and I was not feeling well, maybe due to the torture.”

Sita is currently a member of the Child Club formed at the school and actively participates in the club activities. She takes a lead role in the extracurricular activities organized by the school. She passed the School Leaving Certificate Examination (Grade X) and Intermediate (Grade XII) in Education with first division marks. She is currently studying in First Year of Bachelor of Education.

Programme Photos



Entrepreneurship training for CAAFAG/CAAC



Former CAAFAG self-employed after receiving IGA support



Former CAAFAG in training