

United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)

Project Status Update

For the period of *[July-September 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):	NA	Anticipated total Project duration:	24 Months

Total approved project budget:	US\$ 9,349,660		
Funds committed and spent to-date by the project:	Committed: US\$ 9,349,660	As % of approved budget:	100%
Funds spent to-date by the project:	US\$ 6,140,988	Project delivery rate:	65.68%

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>1.1. Individual Rehabilitation Option Packages are prepared and made available to participants</p> <p><u>Vocational Skills Training:</u> The 2-year Long-Term Agreement (LTAs) with three Principal Service Providers (PSPs) concluded on 18 August 2011 that was initially signed on 18th August 2009. The programme has secured No Cost Extension with two of the PSPs (UCEP and Alliance Nepal) to maintain smooth completion of training for 27 participants whose training period goes beyond the LTA period within the project duration. In addition, to maintain effective implementation of the rehabilitation trainings, improve the contracting modality by reducing layers of contracting after closure of LTAs and resource transfer to the participants, the programme has arranged direct contract with qualified skills training providers including regional public and private schools.</p> <p><u>Micro-Enterprises Trainings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of services including skills training, start-up support and refresher training for UNIRP five regional offices is under process. <p><u>Education training:</u> Contracts have been renewed with CAAFAG partners to continue smooth implementation of this option.</p> <p><u>Health Related Trainings:</u> The first batch health participants (47) have completed their in-house courses and are sitting for final exam in last week of September. 44 of them will be joining On-the-Job training by mid Oct until Jan 2012 while 3 will join in January and will complete by April 2012. Also, to facilitate smooth and secure payment of monthly stipend and stationary allowance for participants under health training, local bank accounts were opened</p>	54%

for them to receive their allowances.

A new batch of 11 health participants appeared for the entrance exam organized by CTEVT on July 30th 2011. Out of the 20 participants who were selected based on their education requirement and eligibility for health related options, 11 of them participated in the entrance exam and passed and are being enrolled into the respective institutes.

1.2. Access to employment and livelihood opportunities promoted:

UNIRP regional offices physically monitor the participants to confirm their self/employment after the graduation and for remote cases they use regular contact through telephone or physical assessment done through partner agencies. At the end of September 2011, 930 participants have graduated from different trainings and out of them 533 have gained self/employment, which represents 57% overall employment rate of the graduates. Compared with previous quarter, the employment rate has increased by 9% from 48% to 57%. In terms of those physically monitored by regional offices, by June 2011 the employment rate was 57% whereas by end of September 2011 it has increased to 70% (including those who had refused decent employment), which is representing 13% increment. At the end of September the combined average of employment increased to 63%.

To further enhance and ensure effective and efficient implementation of the socio-economic support activities by the regional offices in support of the employment linkages: i) a comprehensive socio-economic support guidelines has been developed to support the regional offices in their efforts for job placements. ii) A two day workshop on "The role of public/private organizations in socioeconomic rehabilitation of the ex-combatants" aiming to support on the possible employment linkage, microcredit provision and gender support was conducted in collaboration with Dang Chamber of Commerce & Industry Dang. Participants of the workshop were from wide range of local actors such as local businesses and employers, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), local government offices, partners and Local Peace Committees (LPCs) made commitments for employment opportunities, mentoring, micro-credit facilities and other relevant support for the socio-economic reintegration of the ex-combatants. The regional offices and socioeconomic opportunity mapping team will be regularly following up with them to benefit from the commitments made.

Additionally, UNIRP socio-economic team, regional offices and implementing partners are in constant efforts in mapping of potential employers and microfinance institutions for the provision of microcredit and employment linkages for the graduates.

1.3. Participants received career and psychosocial counseling

By September 2011, a total of 2,460 or 61% of the total 4,008 VMLRs have contacted UNIRP and have been provided with detailed career counseling and further referred to one of the five UNIRP Regional Offices. It's worth mentioning that this figure represents the closing date of 31st July 2011. Besides, participants also receive continuous career counseling during the training programmes either by UNIRP regional offices and/or service providers.

Continued psychosocial counseling support is being provided through regional psychosocial support mechanisms including referral system for clinical support. Total of 253 (137 M 116 F) were assessed who visited in the UNIRP office in this quarter and total of 115 (39 M 76 F) cases were followed up in the training centers through regional psychosocial counselors. 97 participants (44 M 53 F) 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 16 families were visited for the follow up purpose and 10 group sessions were conducted consisting of 33 (12 M 21 F) participants in different training centers. Group common problems were discussed in the group sessions. Total of 23 orientations on basic psychosocial were provided in different training centers in the SIYB. There were 139 participants (94 M 45 F) participated in those SIYB. Basic introduction of psychosocial, psychosocial problems, stress and its management were common content in the orientation. One new case of mental illness was referred for the specialized service to Kathmandu and other 7 cases that have undergone through this specialized care were followed up on their current situation.

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

Building on the learning of year-1, UNIRP initiated a more integrated gender specific support for the year-2 of the programme with the financial support of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IWAG) on DDR, UN/HQ. In advancing social reintegration of VMLRs, issues of masculinities

which cater also for male gender specific needs, have been included into the gender specific support elements which are mainstreamed into the programme including its peace-building activities.

Increased gender specific support¹ to participants and their children has enhanced the delivery of the rehabilitation options. To date, 384 female ex-combatants involved in the various training options were identified with special needs and have received gender specific support; 135 pregnant women and lactating mothers received nutritional support and 152 children were benefitted with childcare grant and childcare support. The programme has maintained one to one counseling of all female participants by female counselors to identify protection issues and gender specific needs.

Under the education package, female participants who have protection concerns or cannot join community based schools have been supported with extra financial support (NRs. 2,200) on top of the two-year NRs. 1,800 monthly stipend to facilitate their participation in education. Out of a total of 164 females enrolled in the education program, 65 female participants who are studying away from home have received additional stipend to enable them to continue with their education.

Further, 150 participants including UNIRP staff, Implementing Partners and Service Providers received training on SCRs 1325, 1820 and gender mainstreaming and referral mechanism in all five regions of Nepal. 117 participants including UNIRP staff and SPs/IPs received orientation on gender specific support.

Besides, to ensure social reintegration and rehabilitation of the participants, recreational activities have been facilitated for all participants of vocational skills training, micro-enterprise and health options during training programme. UNIRP Regional Offices have been implementing a range of recreational and sports initiatives as extracurricular activities to create conducive training environment, boost learning abilities, improve psychosocial well-being with the participation of youths from the community where possible. All participants in training centers receive sports and gaming equipment and materials to organize recreational events after training hours. Participants have also organized their football and volleyball teams to organize friendly matches and sport events with the youth from community.

1.5. Individual rehabilitation packages are implemented:

The rehabilitation support services including four sectoral options, Vocational Skills Training, Education (non/formal), Micro-Enterprise and Health Training have been made available to all 4,008 VMLRs.

- As of September 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.
- Of those VMLRs, 2,460 or 61% of the 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.
- Of these, 2,149 enrolled in one of the four rehabilitation packages. As of 30 Sep 2011, 1,146 or 29% of the VMLRs are currently participating in one of the four rehabilitation packages. Of the total enrolled, 73 (2%) VMLRs are counted as dropped out who could not complete their training/education.
- As of 30 September 2011, 930 participants or 23% have completed training programme in Vocational Skills Training and Micro-Enterprise packages. Of these, 533 or 57% are employed or have established own businesses.
- There are 311 participants who have received counseling but not enrolled in the packages plus 229 ex-combatants who have called the Toll-Free but not visited UNIRP regional office. These participants have lost the chance to benefit from the packages as deadline for enrollment has passed.

Monitoring of the programme is mainstreamed into all aspects of programme implementation through dynamic evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative information / data gathered

¹The 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

	through an integrated data collection system which includes, routine reporting in collation with management information system. This includes rigorous physical monitoring of the participants during and after training in close liaison with implementing partners.	
Communities were engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants	<p>2.1 Public Sensitization and Information Campaign designed and implemented:</p> <p>In the absence of national ownership and considering strong political sensitivities, public information and beneficiaries’ expectation management has been a challenge. Drawing on the institutional strengths of UNICEF and dedicated communications staff of UNIRP, the programme communications committee has developed and implemented communication strategy utilizing multimedia approach including, newspapers, television and direct text messages to beneficiaries to deliver programme messages.</p> <p>2.2 Broader community assisted in addressing socio-economic rehabilitation of VMLRs:</p> <p>UNICEF with support from UNDP and other UN partners has been engaged in community peace-building and sensitization activities. During the reporting period, two Peace-building trainings “Training of Trainers on outdoor and Experiential Learning in Peace-building and Youth Leadership for Peace-Building” were organized for implementing partners’ staff from different regions. There were two groups in Training of Trainers on Outdoor and Experiential Learning in Peace-building where 50 participants (43M7F) from around 39 districts participated the training among them three were VMLRs. All together 28 staff (16M 12F) participated Youth Leadership for peace building program. The trainings were intended to enhance technical skills of implementing partners to help them work with youths and to design and implement community based peace-building activities.</p> <p>UNICEF implementing partners with the support of youth clubs and regional teams are planning for new round of peace-building activities that is planned to be implemented during second year of the programme.</p> <p>A number of peace-building activities were organized to promote social reintegration, harmony and reconciliation amongst communities and the ex-combatants. Peace building activities like drawing and essay completion, friendship football match and orientations program were organized through the Youth club. These activities have helped the youth in involving them in the peace building activities in their community so that they leave positive message in their community.</p> <p>2.3 Capacities of service providers for VST enhanced to deliver demand driven training:</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 effected 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>	

<p>4. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges in this quarter</p> <p>Key Achievements</p> <p>UNIRP in this quarter has achieved remarkable results in the following aspects of the rehabilitation programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The final enrollment number is 2,149 being 54% of the total 4,008 VMLRs. The programme engaged in a range of different media events and mobilization of the network of CAAFAG partners to reach out to the participants in the most remote areas of Nepal in order to encourage them to join the rehabilitation programme prior to 31 July deadline. – As a result of close coordination with the business community both at the central and regional levels, the employment rate for this quarter has increased by 9% on that of the last quarter. Some progress has been made and the programme will continue its efforts to establish understanding with MFIs and the business community in facilitating linkages to employment and micro-credit opportunities. – UNICEF with the support of its implementing partners conducted a longitudinal study of the impact of psychosocial support on the VMLRs and another study to trace entitled VMLRs who have not presented for the programme, in all five development regions of Nepal and to learn how they are currently living. This has been a very important study to find out the patterns of obstacles and opportunities for the successful socio-economic rehabilitation of the participants. The data and information is being analyzed and the report will be presented soon. – The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Information Management System (CRIMS) initially built on the UNDP DREAM DDR information management software took it forward many generations and is recognized as a significant contribution to the field of DDR by the information management team at UNIRP Nepal. UNIRP Information management team has further

strengthened the system with addition of an M&E database.

- The programme has focused on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity based on “Do no Harm” principles into day to day planning and implementation of the rehabilitation programme. During the reporting period, several conflict sensitivity workshops were implemented in regional offices of UNIRP. In these workshops, situational analysis of the programme including analysis of potential ‘dividers’ and ‘connectors’ and impact of the programme over these ‘dividers’ and ‘connectors’ were made. As a result, in identifying opportunities for improvement, new programming options were developed for necessary adjustments and enhancement of the programme. For example, male participants were included in the gender support to reduce tension between male and female participants, direct contracting was established with local public schools and qualified training providers/vendors to diminish the number of cash transfers and chain of service delivery, included youth from community in peace-building and recreational activities to improve relationships and facilitate social reconciliation and connect VMLRs and youth from community and etc. The Interagency Conflict Prevention Programme and Interagency Support Unit on ‘DNH’ has identified, UNIRP as exemplary project of best practice in the area of mainstreaming conflict sensitivity/Do No Harm practice.
- During the reporting period, the programme facilitated several high level visits to UNIRP regional offices and training projects including important visits by the Secretary (Mr. Sharma) and Joint Secretaries (Mr. Pathak and Mr. Sapkota) of the MoPR. The high level officials were surprised by the complexities of the environment and impressed by the delivery capacity of UNIRP. Visits were also undertaken by UNDP CO Senior Management and Donors to the UNPF and NPTF to UNIRP central and regional offices.
- Capacity development of UNIRP staff has been a key objective during this reporting period. Seven UNIRP staff participated in ‘Do No Harm’ training organized by PBRU, 3 staff members attended a Certified Procurement training organized by UNDP HQ and 3 staff members in training on 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.
- A round of review missions was conducted to four regional offices of UNIRP by the management staff to assess the status of programme implementation, identify weaknesses and challenges and develop appropriate solutions. As a result of this, the programme implementation has been further enhanced. The support mission assisted the regional offices to identify core issues and develop SMART action plans to address weaknesses and further strengthen positive aspects of the programme.
- The programme has further enhanced gender specific support and psychosocial support. As 35% of the ex-combatants are female, support is offered for those suffering gender based sociocultural and domestic constraints. Also, Issues of masculinities prevalent in Nepali society are taken into account.

Major Challenges:

- The scattered and sparse geographical spread of VMLRs has seriously affected the capacity of the programme for monitoring and post-graduation follow-up. Many of those graduated live in remote areas. This has also implications on their ability to find sustainable livelihood options. This is being addressed by increased outreach 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.
- Artificially high expectations of the VMLRs about the rehabilitation programme often create obstacles to smooth implementation of the rehabilitation programme. This is addressed initially through the counseling process and is also mitigated through the dissemination of good news reports in the media, particularly regarding the successful job placement results for graduates.
- Significant levels of stigmatization exist (particularly among inter-caste married couples) for VMLRs returning to their communities, limiting resettlement choices and adversely reducing the potential for reunification of families. This is particularly so for female VMLRs. Further, reintegration into feudal community structures and traditional cultural roles is complicated by the broadened life experience of the VMLRs.
- Delay in approval of budget for the second year of programme implementation could seriously impact programme operation and achievement.
- After the 31st July 2011 deadline for enrollment in training/education, 1,859 individuals have lost the opportunity to enroll in the programme. It represents 46% of the total 4,008 VMLRs including those who have visited the regional offices and received career counseling but did not enroll in training programmes. As per the information collected from the field, a large number of these individuals are still under direct influence of the party and were continuously discouraged to enroll in the rehabilitation programme. Importantly, there is no alternative support offering potential livelihood sustainability.

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

<p>civilian communities with suitable livelihood options and inline established global standards Communities engaged in supporting the rehabilitation of VMLR participants The UN is a strategic partner to the GoN that plays key role in providing rapid response to cantonment management, registration & verification, discharge & rehabilitation of Maoist army Personnel</p>	<p>2.7 % of VMLR participants enrolled in rehabilitation programme received psychological support</p> <p>2.8 % of VMLR engaged in constructive livelihoods six months after the completion of the rehabilitation training (disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>2.9 Communities perception of the local impact of the rehabilitation process</p> <p>2.10 % of VMLR participants who report being rehabilitated in their families & 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%² 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 40% of those counselled (2384) assessed by Sep 2011. Of these, 255 cases are in follow-up by counsellors and community psychosocial workers</p> <p>2.8 930 out of 2149 VMLRs completed their training</p> <p>2.9 Continues interaction at community level with peace-building activities, collaboration with CAAFAG partners & targeted public information</p> <p>2.10 Results of evaluation expected by mid-Dec.</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 & meetings at senior level at regular interval where the UN Monitoring Team also attends.</p>
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² 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)