

United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)

Project Status Update

For the period of July to September, 2011

1. Project Overview

Participating UN Organization(s):	UNFPA and UNICEF	UNPFN Project number:	UNPFN/E-5
		UNPBF Project number (if applicable):	PBF/NPL/B-4

UNPFN Cluster area:	E. Rights and Reconciliation
UNPFN Funding round Strategic Outcome:	<i>Improved participation and protection of women, and the delivery of services to conflict affected women strengthen inclusive elements of the Nepal peace process in line with UNSCRs 1325, 1820 and 1612.</i>
UNPBF Priority area (if applicable):	PBF Nepal Priority Area 3: Conflict prevention and reconciliation
UNPBF PMP Result and indicator (if applicable):	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 1.2 RoL: # of PBF supported programmes where communities use transitional justice systems to resolve conflicts/disputes without recourse to violence ensuring respect of Human Rights of women and girls in particular

Project Title:	Ensuring recognition of sexual violence as a tool of conflict in the Nepal peace building process through documentation and provision of comprehensive services to women and girl victims/survivors		
National Partners:	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Women and Children, Department of Education		
Project start date:	4 June 2010	Original Project end date:	29 April 2012
Revised end date (if applicable):	N/A	Anticipated total Project duration:	2 years (22 months)

Total approved project budget:	Total \$2,100,000 (UNICEF- \$ 717,940; UNFPA- -\$1,382,060)		
Funds committed and spent to-date by the project:	\$ 1,784,874	As % of approved budget:	84.99%
Funds spent to-date by the project:	\$ 683,392.02	Project delivery rate:	32.5% ¹

2. Description of project goal and strategy

To support sustainable peace by improving access to transitional justice and other peace building activities for survivors of sexual and gender based violence in most conflict affected districts. The project aims at addressing the culture of silence around the sexual violence during the conflict and its aftermath in order to ensure recognition in the Nepal peace process. The provision of reproductive health services will be used as the entry point in order to identify and document incidences of violence. Survivors will also be supported to access justice and rehabilitation, and to be empowered to participate in transitional justice and other peace building activities.

3. Overview of progress to-date against project outcomes

Project Outcome(s)	Progress: achievements/results/ outputs delivered to-date	% of planned
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¹ The 3rd quarter expenses have not been recorded in the financial system. The figure reflects as of the end of the second quarter.

Identify and document incidences of sexual violence against women and girls during the time of conflict and post conflict in Nepal	643 cases of sexual and gender based violence were documented in 14 districts, out of which 196 cases were identified for livelihood support.	Difficult to set quantitative targets since no comprehensive baseline on sexual violence exists and the SV cases differ from district to district. Therefore, the reported cases collected during the project will be considered as baseline by the end of 2011. Based on the analysis of the trend of cases reported during the Reproductive Health camp, it varies from 2 to 52 cases, which indicates that it is difficult to set a target.
Support access to reproductive health care and psycho-social counseling for victims of sexual violence in target areas.	3410 clients/survivors received psychosocial counseling in total. 339 clients were referred to regional counselors and community psychosocial workers for further psychosocial counseling. Community psychosocial workers and regional counsellors regularly follow up the referred cases in their respective region. Reproductive health (RH) services including general health services were provided to 27,461 women and girls to date and uterus prolapse surgery completed for 492 women.	N/A For general /RH services, the target has been reached by 137%
Promote recognition of the incidence of sexual violence in Nepal peace process through access to justice for victims of sexual violence, including through participation in transitional justice processes.	759 women/ survivor received legal counseling in total. Out of 759 cases, 283 cases were referred to Nepal Bar Association and other concerned organizations for further legal counseling and legal support.	Policy level discussion is on-going to include survivors of sexual violence in the government future reparation programme by advocating for the recognition of SV during the conflict.

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

During the period of July to September 2011, 12 mobile reproductive health (RH) camps were conducted in 6 conflict affected districts, out of which 8 were follow-up camps. In this quarter, the first round of RH camps has been completed in all 14 project districts.

In the follow-up camps, a one-day orientation was organised for the village development committee (VDC) with concerned stakeholders such as village development secretary, paralegal committee members, female community health volunteers, teachers, area police officers, and members of youth clubs. The orientation aims at informing local stakeholders with regards to the RH camps, asking them to publicize the camps in the community and requesting their support for follow-up of cases.

As planned, each of the first round RH camp was conducted for 6 days, 2 camps per district and 4 days for the follow-up camps. The main purpose of the follow-up camps is to bring back the clients who have come to the first camp for further treatment or service. However, many new clients also benefitted from the follow-up camps. The data on new and returning clients will be provided in the annual report.

During this period, 6793 women received general and reproductive health and gynecological services, and 200 went through a uterus prolapse surgery. Similarly, 121 new cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) were documented, out of which 5 took place during the conflict. 788 clients received psychosocial counseling and 156 women/ survivors received legal counseling. RH services included gynaecological, obstetric& laboratory diagnostic service, treatment of reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infection, voluntary counselling and testing related to HIV/AIDS, reproductive health counselling, family planning services among others.

Strengthening referral continues to be one of the focuses of the project to ensure sustainability. Among those who received services at the camps, 63 women were referred for further psychosocial counseling to community psychosocial counselors and regional counselors within their respective regions, and 95 clients were referred to

other legal services in their district for follow-ups. Referred cases are followed up by district or regional staff of implementing partners. Additionally, 16 SGBV survivors benefitted from a livelihood support.

Seven focus group discussions were conducted in the three districts with 87 women. The FGDs helped the teams to identify the problems and cases related to GBV from the conflict and post conflict period. It also provided an opportunity to disseminate message to the GBV survivors for further legal assistance, if deemed necessary. Information and accounts collected from the FGDs will be incorporated in the report to analyze the conflict related sexual violence which will be compiled in 2012.

During the reporting period, awareness raising and advocacy activities were initiated along with RH camps.

A four-episode tele-serial against sexual violence, titled as *ASHMITA* was broadcasted through Nepal Television. The first two episodes dealt with sexual violence in schools like eve teasing, sexual abuse by teachers and sending nude photos through multimedia messages. Subsequent episodes were based on rape. The contents of the tele-serial were gathered from experiences of young girls who participated in the second National Girls Child Consultation² in 2010. It highlighted the issues of sexual violence experienced by young girls as well as its impacts and implication in their future development. Several legal provisions, reports and journals were reviewed and the production team collected feedbacks and suggestions from stakeholders like lawyers, teachers, journalists, students and local level stakeholders during the pre-screening of the serial. The viewers of Nepal Television throughout the country highly appreciated the serial and commented that it portrayed the realities and delivered messages on how individual, community, schools and law enforcement agencies can play a positive supportive role to prevent and respond on sexual and gender based violence.

Similarly, research was carried out on sexual violence in the conflict and post conflict periods for a radio drama, *Gulabi's Tale*, and five episodes were written and recorded. Each episode includes a drama and a magazine component, which is interviews with SV survivors and service providers, such as counselors and lawyers. Two of the episodes have been edited and they are ready for broadcast starting on October 28, 2011 through 113 radio stations across the country. It is estimated that the radio programs will reach 3.1 million people³.

Another component of the project produced and aired a total of 25 episodes of weekly radio programme on Radio Kantipur, which covered a wide range of news related to SGBV including implementation of the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820, different subjects within SGBV such as witch accusation. The radio program also included interviews with different SGBV actors, such as woman activists and a Constituent Assembly member. Radio Kantipur has more than 17 million listeners and is accessible to 65 districts of Nepal. The impact will be reported annually by implementing partners, and they are based on anecdotal evidences.

The first Project Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held on July 13, 2011 at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction chaired by the Joint Secretary, Sadhu Ram Sapkota with a representative from Department of Women and Children (DWC), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Department of Education (DoE). At the meeting a presentation was made on the overview of the project, and the term of reference of the committee was finalized. All members committed their full support to the project.

Subsequently, a lessons-learned workshop was organized in Kathmandu on 4 and 5 August 2011 with the participation of both central and district levels partners and government representatives (SC members). This workshop reviewed the progress made so far and shared lessons, challenges and good practices in order to improve project implementation. Better coordination with local stakeholders and thorough follow up of cases were recommended. It was also acknowledged that linkage with the peace process should be strengthened and justice and relief need to be ensured for the survivors. A range of recommendations and strategies were developed, and project members started implementing them immediately.

Two members of the Steering Committee, namely Divakar Devkota, Director General of DWC, Saradha Pandey, Senior Administrator of MoHP, UNFPA, UNICEF and its implementing partners conducted a joint monitoring visit to one camp on 21-23 August 2011. The team met with the local camp coordination committee members, Women and Children Office and other relevant stakeholders. The team monitored the district level orientation and observed the RH camp. The visit helped to deepen SC members' understanding of the project and increased their support and ownership to the project, and they also provided technical support to improve the operation of the camps. RH camps were regularly monitored by Kathmandu and district staff of UNFPA and UNICEF, and feedbacks were shared with partners. Overall, camps were successful in reaching out to women and girls in targeted communities and providing quality services. The camp setting was well organized as per the project guidelines and modus operandi to ensure safety and confidentiality of clients.

Another Project Steering Committee was organized on 1 September 2011 to discuss various agenda items, such as brief updates of the project activities, highlights of the lessons learnt workshop, joint monitoring mission

² The consultation was organized by Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (Himrights) December 18 to 21 2010 in Kathmandu.

³ This is projection based on a survey conducted by BBC World Trust Service in June 2010 with 4000 respondents.

report and budget revision of the project.

The Project made some headway in the transitional justice (TJ) and peace building area, as this was identified as one of the action points in the lessons learnt workshop. A more in-depth analysis of documented sexual violence cases was conducted, and 53 cases of conflict related sexual violence were identified as being qualified for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), since they have sufficient details. UNICEF and UNFPA started engaging with other UN agencies working on TJ and reparation related issues and provided inputs to the framework on gender sensitive reparation policy to OHCHR. Reparation will be an integral component for TJ, and reparation for SV survivors will not be possible unless it is recognized to have been used as a tool of the conflict. The documented cases will be used as an evidence for policy advocacy.

Additional questions were developed to solicit the views of conflict related SV survivor as to what they wish to see in a future reparation programme. The questions are being used at documentation sessions at camps, and when this is compiled, it will be shared with other organizations working on reparation issues for policy consideration. Moreover, a checklist was created to ensure that documented SV cases contain necessary information for the submission to the TRC once it is established. Translation of cases from Nepali to English has been on-going, which will be compiled as a separate report in 2012.

Based on observations from monitoring and recommendations made at the lessons learnt workshop, many changes were made and new systems were instituted at the camps. For instance, lack of an adequate referral system identified in the previous quarter was addressed by developing referral slips and setting up a better mechanism, such as conducting a de-briefing meeting with local stakeholders after camps in each district. It was observed that coordination with WCO has improved by involving them in the camps and engaging community social mobilizers who are WCO volunteers as camp volunteers. Cross-visits between two parallel camp teams were also conducted to learn good practices from each other to integrate them in their camps.

The project has been implemented through a trial and error process, and it collectively works to find a way to deal with challenges.

Project implementation is on track and the RH camps are expected to complete by the end of February 2012, and all reporting will finish by the end of April 2012.

Problems/challenges

- In follow-up camps, it is hard to track down non-RH clients from previous camps, particularly the sexual violence survivors, since reaching them by telephone was a challenge. To address this issue, it was agreed that community psychosocial workers will be mobilized to track them by visiting each client from door to door to the extent possible in addition to telephoning them.
- For one of two camp teams, the quota for UP surgeries has been already filled, and there is no more fund to conduct further surgeries from remaining districts. We have made arrangements for other mobile RH camps funded by other projects to take some clients for surgeries.
- Determining eligibility for financial and other forms of compensation for conflict related sexual violence survivors is complex for reparation. It has been also observed that during the period of the insurgency and after the conflict, there was an increase in incidents of sexual and gender based violence not strictly linked to the conflict (perpetrated by civilians). Giving priority to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence over other victims of sexual (and gender based) violence raises ethical issues. All survivors equally suffer from similar consequences of violence, and they require support. The project is trying to research any precedents for this type of assistance. Reparation for SV survivors is still a new area and it is difficult to determine the policy. Normally reparation will only target conflict related SV cases, therefore, the national system (health care, legal and other rehabilitation services) should support the rest of victims. However, there is lack of national capacity, and it takes a long time to develop their capacity.
- The establishment of TRC is still pending. Within the project duration, it is not likely to be set up. Therefore, the project will not be able to submit the cases. One of the project implementing partners will be the custodian of the conflict related SV cases, and once the TRC is established they will submit the cases.

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

UNPFN PRIORITY CLUSTER E. Rights and Reconciliation

Intermediate Objective: Supported effective and inclusive transitional justice, information and services to the conflict affected

(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 1.2 RoL: # of PBF supported programmes where communities use transitional justice systems to resolve conflicts/disputes without recourse to violence ensuring respect of Human Rights of women and girls in particular

Strategic Outcome	Contributing Outputs	Verifiable Indicators	Baseline (by year)	Milestones and Target (by year)	Current / Final Status
9. Improved participation and protection of women, and the delivery of services to conflict affected women strengthen inclusive elements of the Nepal peace process in line with UNSCRs 1325, 1820 and 1612.	<p>Incidences of sexual violence against women and girls during the conflict and post-conflict in Nepal are identified/documented and victims gain access to justice through participation in transitional justice processes</p> <p>Promote recognition of the incidence of sexual violence in Nepal peace process through access to justice for victims of sexual violence, including through participation in transitional justice processes</p> <p>Reproductive health services and psycho-social and legal counselling provided to women and girls in conflict-affected 14 districts</p>	9.1 Report on the use of sexual violence during the conflict in Nepal and the current status of the victims is developed to advocate for recognition	9.1 Lack of legal awareness on legal provision on SGBV victims	9.1 * 70 focus groups discussion (FGDs) held * # of cases of sexual violence documented by 2012 * Report developed * High level participation in the launch of the report by 2012	9.1 83 FGDs held with 1,005 women and girls to identify SGBV issues and the extent of impact of conflict on them; 643 SGBV cases documented, out of which 86 are conflict related SV; FDGs and documented cases analysis is on-going and the report will be completed in 2012.
		9.2 Number of incidents of sexual violence addressed through the formal justice system or transitional justice processes.	9.2 0 (Apr 2010)	9.2 NA	9.2 Among 86 conflict related SV cases, none has been filed in the formal justice system due to time lapse since the incident ⁴ . The TRC establishment has been also delayed; 53 cases have been identified to be submitted to future TRC, and follow up documentation is on-going to ensure all necessary details are included in the case to be eligible for TRC submission. Collaboration with other UN agencies to advocate for the inclusion SV in the government

⁴ Sexual violence cases cannot be filed after 35 days after the incident. This is why conflict related cases and many other SV cases cannot be addressed through the formal justice system.

					future reparation programme has been initiated.
		9.3 Number of women and girls in 14 target districts who have received reproductive health services and psychosocial and legal counselling	9.3 0 (Apr 2010)	9.3 20,000 women provided with reproductive health services and legal counselling (2011);	9.3 In 14 districts, 27,461 women and girls have received reproductive health services, out of which 3,410 women and girls received psychosocial counselling; 759 were provided with legal counselling. First round of RH camps has been completed. The project, however, has not been able to document impact or actual improvement of life for camp participants, as such at this point. Hope to address this in the final project evaluation.