RUNO ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT   **TEMPLATE 4.4**

PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Nepal
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2014

Programme Title & Project Number
Programme Title: Increasing the Safety of Journalists Programme Number *(if applicable)* PBF/NPL/A-3 MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[1] PBF/NPL/A-3

Recipient UN Organizations	Implementing Partners
List the organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	List the national counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Press Council Nepal, Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), Freedom Forum, Sancharika Samuha, Association of Community Radio Broadcasters(ACORAB), Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Nepal International Media Partnership (NIMP), Jagaran Media Centre (JMC), Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Journalists (FONIJ), Media Advocacy Group (MAG), Human Rights journalists Association (HURJA), Madheshi Journalists Association (MJA), Media Accountability Foundation (MAF)

Programme/Project Budget (US$)	Programme Duration
PBF contribution (by RUNO) **USD 566,000**	Overall Duration *(months)* 30 months Start Date[2] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* 16/03/2013
Government Contribution *(if applicable)*	Original End Date[3] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* 15/03/2015
Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)*	Current End date[4]*(dd.mm.yyyy)* 15/09/2015

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[1] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to "Project ID" on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[2] The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[3] As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

TOTAL:	USD 566,000

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	**Report Submitted By**
Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach* ☒ Yes ☐ No Date: Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach* ☒ Yes ☐ No Date:	Name: Laxman Datt Pant Title: Project Coordinator Participating Organization (Lead): UNESCO Email address: ld.pant@unesco.org

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[4] If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed.

PART 1 – RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1   Assessment of the current project implementation status and results

For PRF projects, please identify Priority Plan outcome and indicators to which this project is contributing:

Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing. Citizen's confidence in security sector institutions has increased as a result of these institutions becoming more capable, accountable and responsive to Nepal's diverse society
Priority Plan Outcome indicator(s) to which project is contributing. 1. Decrease in practice of self-censorship on reporting of sensitive cases and topics in project districts. 2. Media professionals believe there is increased freedom of expression because of diminishing security threats in project districts

For both IRF and PRF projects, please rate this project's overall achievement of results to date: on track

For both IRF and PRF projects, outline progress against each project outcome, using the format below. The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes.

> **Outcome Statement 1:** 1. The national human rights institution and professional associations are able to establish and efficient framework to protect journalists.

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1: The NHRC has revived, elaborated and garnered support from the media sector, state agencies and civil society, including political parties, to implement concept note to establish mechanism to investigate violence against freedom of expression. Indicator 2: The NHRC established mechanism effectively investigates violence against journalists	Baseline: NHRC unable to implement original concept developed in 2012 to establish a mechanism for the protection of journalists. The current concept note for the mechanisms includes protection only for journalists Target: The concept note elaborated to by applying recommendations of the national and regional consultations. The new revised concept note also includes human rights defenders and other key civil society actors as target groups to be protected Progress:Stakeholders including NHRC, members of the NIMP and national partners reached an agreement on the framework of the Rapid Intervention task Force (RITF) in a consultative manner and committed to a continued coordination to improving monitoring, documentation among various actors.

Indicator 3:	Baseline: 0 cases received by the mechanism, 0 cases investigated by the mechanism and 0 cases recommended for persecution by the mechanism Target: All cases received by the mechanism, 50% of the registered cases be investigated by the mechanism and 50% of the investigated cases recommended for persecution by the mechanism Progress:Stakeholders communicated and agreed about the their possible role in functioning of mechanism .The Terms of Reference prepared and agreed by NHRC with support from NIMP representative and Freedom Forum discussed among the partners and circulated among those who could not join the consultation Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

> Ttraining sessions for National Human Rrights Commission conducted, common charter on a national protocol and safety standards for journalists and the free expression developed, national outreach strategies and campaign tools to target journalists developed, a structure of the rapid intervention task force (RITF) with its functions, roles and responsibilities drafted

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?

Stakeholders including NHRC, members of the NIMP and national partners reached an agreement on the framework of the Rapid Intervention Task Force (RITF) in a consultative manner and committed to a continued coordination to improving monitoring, documentation among various actors. Stakeholders communicated and informed about the their possible role in functioning of mechanism. The Terms of Reference prepared by NHRC with support from NIMP representative and Freedom Forum discussed among the partners and circulated among those who could not join the consultation.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

Outcome Statement 2: The capacity of state authorities, including security sector institutions and the courts, to better protect journalists is enhanced with the support of civil society, political parties and the public at large

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1: Courts conduct impartial, speedy and effective hearings of cases of impunity of violence against journalists in project districts	Baseline: 6 of cases of court hearing of alleged acts of violence against journalists in project districts, Average time to complete hearing of cases is protracted Target: 25% increase of court cases hearing allegations of alleged acts of violence against journalists and 50 % reduction in time to conclude hearing of cases Progress: The Local level members of the executive and judiciary have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in this context and agreed to look into the cases of threat against journalists by speedy trials. They Regional level seminars with Justice sector institutions in Biratnagr, Dhankuta, Hetauda and Janakpur held among 150 officials from such institutions. The participants including judges, police officials and prosecutors stated that democracy cannot sustain without free press and independent judiciary.
Indicator 2: Police provide pro-active preventive measures to protect journalists from potential violence in project districts	Baseline: 5 district level FIRs and cases registered with police in different districts of Eastern hills and central terai, 1 investigation into alleged cases in project districts, 0 of monthly security meetings with media stakeholders amd 0 of measures taken by police to prevent violence against journalists Target: 25% increase of district level FIRs and cases registered with police, 25% increase of district level police investigations into alleged cases, 25% increase of monthly security meetings with media stakeholders, 25% increase in

	measures taken by police to prevent violence against journalists
Indicator 3: 25 % of journalists from project districts are better enabled to access fair and effective security and justice institutions (UNDAF 4.2)	Progress:Consultations on national and international instrumnets concerning Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists organized The Local level security institutions have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in this context. Regional and national level seminars with security sector institutions in Kathmandu, Birgunj, Biratnagr, Dhankuta, Hetauda and Janakpur held among 200 officials from such institutions. The participants including senior officers from the Nepal Police agreed to create a safe environment for the journalists. Baseline: 0 of journalists satisfied with the courts, police and prosecutors (Pre-Assessment 2014/UNESCO) Target: 25% increase of journalists satisfied with the courts, police and prosecutors Progress: The Local level members of the security sector and judiciary have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in this context

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

> Security sector institutions sesitized, training bodies for police and judges capaciated to deliver knowledge and skills related to the safety of journalists, members of the security sector and judiciary have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in addressing impunity in the cases of media rights violations

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?

The Local level members of the executive and judiciary have a good understanding of the importance to enhance the safety of journalists and their role in this context. Regional level seminars with Justice sector institutions in Birgunj, Biratnagr, Dhankuta, Hetauda and Janakpur held among 350 officials from such institutions. The participants including judges, police officials and prosecutors stated that democracy cannot sustain without free press and

independent judiciary. They also agreed to create a safe environment for everybody, aberrations seen in different professions must be corrected.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

Outcome Statement 3: 3. Journalists and media houses have enhanced capacity to protect themselves

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1: Journalists implement personal safety measures	Baseline: 80% of the journalists in project districts feel unsafe in general while reporting news (Self-Protection Capacity Study/UNESCO, 2014 Target: 50% decrease in journalists from project districts reporting they practice self-censorship
	Progress: Study on self-protection capacities of the journalist The self-protection capacity of the journalists does not meet the international standard. The journalists in project districts are very weak in terms of their self-protection capacity. 80% of the journalists do not feel safe in general while reporting news. 92% of the journalists do risk assessment on any reporting assignment. The journalists employ precautionary measures when they assess that the forthcoming assignment is dangerous. (Study Report Self-Protection Capacities, 2014) There is general awareness among the journalists that there are some legal mechanisms pertaining to journalists' safety. However, they admitted that they do not know which clauses of these acts are related to journalists' safety, and how to use them.
Indicator 2: Women Journalists have gender specific approaches to protect their safety	Baseline: 90 % of women journalists in project districts have limited access to information sources than male counterparts and socio-cultural structure is unfriendly towards women journalists. Such

	discrimination is prevalent specifically in Terai region (Study on Safety needs of Women-journalists/UNESCO-2014) Target: 50% increase in access for women journalists in trainings on regular basis and effective measures be taken on gender related threats such as sexual harassment at workplace and with news sources Progress:Assessment on the safety needs of women journalists : Limited access to information, lack of media houses' gender policy, minimal family support and societal and cultural challenges are the major attributes behind women journalists' problems. Similarly, financial insecurity, inadequate knowledge of safety and security, lack of training of their capacity building are other concern related to their safety. A total of 57.5% women journalists in the project districts were either pursuing or completed their Bachelor's degree of education who are normally in their early carrier do not have professional level of knowledge and experience in the field.
Indicator 3: Media houses understand and protect their female/male staff	Baseline: No systematic involvement of media owners so far Target: Media owners are aware of the issue and have tools to contribute to increase the security of journalists. Progress:Discussion with IPs on organizing consultations among media owners. Consultations/dialogues will take place in 2015.

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.
General awareness among the journalists via consultations and interactions on employing precautionary measures such as abiding by professioinal ethics, avoiding danger zones, informing authorities , key national and international instrumnets concerning safety of journalists such as UN Plan of Action and role of journalists in peace-building

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?

A study on self-protection capacities of the journalists carried out. The study reveals that the self-protection capacity of the journalists in nepal does not meet the international standard of media practices. The journalists in project districts are very weak in terms of their self-protection capacity. 80% of the journalists do not feel safe in general while reporting news. 92% of the journalists do risk assessment on any reporting assignment. The journalists employ precautionary measures when they assess that the forthcoming assignment is dangerous. (Study Report Self-Protection Capacities, 2014). There is general awareness among the journalists that there are some legal mechanisms pertaining to journalists' safety. However, they admitted that they do not know which clauses of these acts are related to journalists' safety, and how to use them. Orientation on UN Plan of Action on the Safety Journalists and regional level seminars organized to discuss the role of medi in peace building including dealing with hostile situation.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

Outcome Statement 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome: Please select one

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

1.2 Assessment of project evidence base, risk, catalytic effects, gender in the reporting period

Evidence base: What is the evidence base for this report and for project progress? What consultation/validation process has taken place on this report *(1000 character limit)*?	
Funding gaps: Did the project fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)*	Yes, this project has contributed to build the capacity of key stakeholders including NHRC, Nepal Police, judiciary, owners of the media houses and journalists for whom the journlaists' security issues were not a priority.
Catalytic effects: Did the project achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unblock/ accelerate peace relevant processes? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)*	This project has been catalytic in reviving the proposal of establishing a nationally owned mechanism to protect free expression in Nepal. Due to the efforts of this mechanism the proposal which has been inactive for the last two years is now in a stage of being implemented with the agreement that it will be housed in the National Human Rights Commission.
Risk taking/ innovation: Did the project support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result? *(1500 character limit)*	The project is sufficiently having positive impact on peace building by reminding the key stakeholders of the Nepal's peace process i.e. security sector institutions responsible for addressing the cases of murders, threats, abduction, assault and other attacks upon journalists during the conflict. Additionally, the extensive discussions among district and regional level judicial structures (courts) have made them vigilant on the cases of impunity against journalists. Their efficient actions to prevent violations against journalists and timely interventions in case of attacks against journalists certainly help to increase faith of general people on the rule of law. The agreement among stakeholders to establish a nationally owned mechanism under the leadership of NHRC with Nepal Police and Ministry of Information and Communications on board is also a strong proof that the project is having positive impact on peace-building. Extensive discussions with political interest groups are also underway.
Gender: How have gender considerations been mainstreamed in the project to the extent possible? Is the original gender marker for the project still the right one? Briefly justify. *(1500 character*	The project has duly considered gender sensitivity of all materials designed and delivered. Following the recommendation made by the mid-term review of the project additional partners were identified to achieve a better gender, inclusion and regional balance. The special security threats and safety needs that women journalists face have been identified.

limit)	The training package for women journalists will be delivered on the basis of this finding.
Other issues: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that should be shared with PBSO? This can include any cross-cutting issues or other issues which have not been included in the report so far. *(1500 character limit)*	N/A

PART 2: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

2.1 Lessons learned

Provide at least three key lessons learned from the implementation of the project. These can include lessons on the themes supported by the project or the project processes and management.

Lesson 1 *(1000 character limit)*	A large stakeholders discussions need to be carried out to select implementing partners. For example, it was important to get engaged with stakeholders with extended national presence because the project will have impact beyond the selected districts via its mechanism to protect free expression. With this realization the project has now partnered with six more human rights and media advocacy groups.
Lesson 2 *(1000 character limit)*	The inception context analysis is instrumental in assessing the overall safety situation of journalists. It also substantiated the problem at hand by providing conflict analysis, analyzing the state of inclusion of journalists at the district and regional levels and analyzing past and on-going actions and institutions addressing this issue. The preliminary results framework of the project consists of extensive delineation about outcome indicators, baseline, target, and means of verification as well as key assumptions and risks related to each outcome expected by the project. The analysis identified a need for revision and reorientation of the preliminary results framework of the project.
Lesson 3 *(1000 character limit)*	
Lesson 4 *(1000 character limit)*	
Lesson 5 *(1000 character limit)*	

2.2 Success story (OPTIONAL)

Provide one success story from the project implementation which can be shared on the PBSO website and Newsletter as well as the Annual Report on Fund performance. Please include key facts and figures and any citations (3000 character limit).

PART 3 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

3.1   Comments on the overall state of financial expenditure

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, slightly delayed, or off track: on track

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters maximum):

Please provide an overview of expensed project budget by outcome and output as per the table below.[5]

Output number	Output name	RUNOs	Approved budget	Expensed budget	Any remarks on expenditure
Outcome 1: The national human rights institution and professional associations are able to establish and efficient framework to protect journalists					
Output 1.1	An independent mechanism for safety of journalists and free expression evolves to be an efficient node or umbrella for dealing with issues related to the safety of journalists and impunity, and to investigate violations of freedom of expression in a gender sensitive way		81,500	46,500	
Output 1.2	Professional institutions have the capacity to enhance the safety of journalists and		40,000	22,000	

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[5] Please note that financial information is preliminary pending submission of annual financial report to the Administrative Agent.

	deal with cases of impunity				
Output 1.3					
Outcome 2: The capacity of state authorities, including security sector institutions and the courts, to better protect journalists is enhanced with the support of civil society, political parties and the public at large					
Output 2.1	Security sector institutions and courts have increased capacity to enhance protection of journalists and prosecute violence against journalists in a gender sensitive and inclusive manner		65,000	55,000	
Output 2.2	Key representatives of civil society including political parties/political interest groups take action to reduce the number of threats and violence, determined by public demands for freedom of the press and the progress in the peace process		40,500	10,000	
Output 2.3	The public at large is sensitized to the importance of safety of journalists for a free and independent press.		37,500	27,500	

Outcome 3: Journalists and media houses have the capacity to enhance their protection					
Output 3.1	Journalists have means at hand to enhance their personal protection		74,000	18,000	
Output 3.2	Women journalists have gender specific approaches regarding their personal safety		30,000	5,000	
Output 3.3	Media owners are better enabled to protect the security of both, their female and male staff		25,000	0	
Outcome 4:					
Output 4.1					
Output 4.2					
Output 4.3					
Total:					

3.2 Comments on management and implementation arrangements

Please comment on the management and implementation arrangements for the project, such as: the effectiveness of the implementation partnerships, coordination/coherence with other projects, any South-South cooperation, the modalities of support, any capacity building aspect, the use of partner country systems if any, the support by the PBF Secretariat and oversight by the Joint Steering Committee (for PRF only). Please also mention if there have been any changes to the project (what kind and when); or whether any changes are envisaged in the near future (2000 character maximum):

This project participated in the joint monitoring mission of the UNPFN and the government's Nepal Peace Trust Fund which was apprecated by the donors working in the area of peacebuilding in Nepal. The project has identified additional partners active in the areas of media advocacy and human rights to achieve a better gender, inclusion and regional balance.