**Annex 1**

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**UNITED NATIONS PEACE FUND FOR NEPAL (UNPFN)**

**ANNUAL programme NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2009**

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| ***Submitted by:***  Mary Sack, Programme Officer, United Nations Mine Action Team Nepal (submitted on behalf of UNOPS) email: marys@unops.org |  | ***Country and Thematic Area:***  Nepal – Cantonment/ Reintegration |
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| ***Programme No:*** UNPFN/A-1e and UNPFN/A-1f  ***MDTF Office Atlas No:*** 00055441/ 00067441 and UNOPS Atlas No: 00056189  ***Programme Title:*** Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal |  | ***Participating Organization(s): UNOPS***  Project Manager: Maria-Elena Arias, Portfolio Manager  UNOPS North America Office, 405 Lexington Avenue5th Floor, New York, NY 10174, USA  Telephone: 1 212 457 1252  E-mail: mariaelenaa@unops.org |
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| ***Implementing Partners:***   * Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre (NAMACC), Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) * Activities coordinated with Mine Action activities of UNICEF – Child Protection Unit – and civil society members of the Mine Action Joint Working Group (MAJWG) in Nepal. |  | ***Programme Budget (from the Fund):***  Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal Extensions 1-4  Dates: 01 April 2007 – July 22 2008  Total Budget: $ 2,934,744  Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal Extension 5  Dates: 23 July 2008 – 30 November 2009  Budget: $ 1,145,838  Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal Extension 6  Dates: 01 December 2009 – 30 November 2011 (to be reviewed on June 30, 2010)  Budget: $ 500,000 |
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| ***Programme Duration:***  Start date: April 2007  End date: Projected November 2011  Total Budget: $ 4,580,582 |

**NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT**

1. **Purpose**

*Background:* The ten-year insurgency which ended in November 2006 left Nepal contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance. Minefields had been laid at 53 locations by the Nepal Army (NA) and an estimated 274 areas are contaminated with command-detonated devices (including IEDs) to protect military installations, police posts and infrastructure such as communications sites. A large number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used by the Maoist Army, and to a lesser extent by the NA and armed police also liter the countryside.

*Objectives:* The primary objectives of the Programme ‘Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal’ over the reporting period were:

* Continue to support the development of the Nepal Army mine clearance capacity to fulfil their commitments under the CPA and AMMAA.
* Carry out the destruction of stockpiled improvised explosive devices and other dangerous items held at the seven Maoists Cantonment Sites (MCS) in coordination with the Maoist Army and UNMIN.
* Continue to work directly with the Nepal Government on a broader mine action strategy including clearance activities but support to the other pillars of mine action including victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy.

*Outputs:* The primary output as described in the project document for extension 5 was – ‘*A national demining capacity will be established and consolidated within the Nepal Army and will be able to undertake independent clearance operations of anti-personnel minefields’* and this outputs was to be achieved through activities such as:

* Training and technical guidance of the Nepal Army demining teams, inclusive of female trainees;
* Operational support to the Nepal Army demining teams;
* Additional training and capacity development support to the NAMACC;
* Ensure the continuity of the Mine Action Unit (MAU) to support NA activities.
* Evaluation of this project amendment during the first quarter of 2009 (facilitated and funded directly UNMAS)

With the anticipated end of the UNMIN mandate, the MAU initiated a separation from UNMIN and in late 2008 became part of the UN Country Team and together with the mine action section of United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) formed the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT) in Nepal. This structural and institutional change expanded the objectives of project to include more support the government – specifically the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction – the government focal point for mine action. A letter of request from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in October 2008 for UN support to mine action in Nepal and a Letter of Agreement between the UNMAT and the Ministry of Defense (updated in Sept 2009) on UNMAT support to the Nepal Army define the role of UNMAT in Nepal in mine action.

Project relation to the UNPFN Terms of Reference:

As part of the CPA and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies of 8 December 2006 (AMMAA),the parties agreed upon the safe storage of all Maoist army weapons and ammunition in the seven main cantonment areas under UN monitoring. Both sides also agreed to mark all landmines and booby-traps used during the time of armed conflict by providing necessary information within 30 days and to defuse and remove/lift and destroy them within 60 days. The parties agreed to provide maps and sketches showing current dispositions, including minefields, landmines, unexploded ordnance, standard explosives, improvised explosive devices and the exact locations of such items.

The UNMIN Mine Action Unit (MAU) has been supporting the Maoist army in meeting these obligations of the Agreement. The project entitled “Support to IEDD/EOD operations in Nepal” was approved for funding by the UN Peace Fund in April 2007 and provided support to the destruction of Maoist improvised explosive devises (IED).

Shortly after arriving in Nepal, the MAU realised that the Nepal Army (NA) did not have the necessary skills to undertake safe clearance of its minefields, and would therefore face difficulties in fulfilling its CPA and AMMAA obligations. To rectify this, the MAU proposed development of a national mine clearance capacity through the NA Directorate of Engineers. Starting in September 2007, UNMIN MAU and its contractor, ArmorGroup, provided initial training and capacity building to establish a demining management. The current extension is a continuation of this support in the areas of mine clearance and destruction of stockpiles initiated in the original project proposal. This project, extension V of the “Support to IEDD/EOD operations in Nepal” project, therefore is in direct support of the peace agreement, and is ensuring balanced UN support to both parties to the Agreement.

Mine Action is a priority area for the UNPFN and critical to conflict prevention and reconciliation. Landmines and IEDs continue to injure and kill innocent people in Nepal. More than half of the civilian casualties are children, leaving Nepal with one of the highest rates of child casualties from victim-activated explosions in the world. This project helps mitigate the risk to the people of Nepal, improve security, facilitate compliance with the CPA and AMMAA, and support development in affected areas.

Since the beginning of the Programme in April 2007, ‘Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal’ has been extended six times with the its sixth and final extension projected to end in November 2011. The 12-month reporting period of 01 January – 31 December 2009, includes 11 months of Extension 5 through November 2009 and one month of the sixth and final extension, December 2009-November 2011.

1. **Resources**

*Financial Resources:* The UNPFN is the primary source of funding for mine clearance activities in Nepal. The UNPFN funds have been complemented in this reporting period by funds mobilized through the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action (UNMAS VTF) which has funded the procurement of requisite demining equipment for the Nepal Army and in December 2009 provided bridging funding to the UNFPN. Donations to the VTF for Nepal in 2009 came from the donor governments of the UK, Switzerland and Australia. The bridging funding from the VTF supported the continuation of ongoing activities in the December 2009 period while the first tranche of funding for the project’s sixth extension (December 2009 – November 2011) were secured via the UNPFN.

As of December 2009, the UNFPN has provided funds to the project ‘Support to IED/EOD Operations in Nepal’ totaling $ 4,080,582 through five extensions. The sixth and final extension to the project has an approved budget of $ 1,582,327 which will makeg a total estimated contribution of the UNFPN to mine action in Nepal $ 5,662,909 over the April 2007 – November 2011 period.

*Human Resources:*

International Staff: At the beginning of the reporting period - UNMAT had four international staff: one Programme Manager, one Programme Officer, one Technical Advisor and one QA Officer. This was expanded to five in the April – September period with the addition of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technical Advisor to oversee the final demolition of items at the seven MCS. As of December 2009, there were four with the planned departure of the QA Officer in early 2009 to be replaced by a national QA Officer.

National Staff: At the beginning of the reporting period - UNMAT had seven national staff:

One Logistics Associate, two Quality Assurance Associates and four drivers. A Finance assistant was hired in July 2009 and a third QA officer hired in late December 2009 in anticipation of the departure of the international QA Officer in early 2010, thereby bringing the total number of national staff to 9 at the end of the reporting period.

1. **Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

*Implementation:* The project is implemented under the MOU between UNDP’s Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, as the Administrative Agent of the UN Peace Fund for Nepal, and UNOPS. UNMAT personnel are recruited and contracted as project staff by UNOPS. UNMAT staff maintain regular contact with the UNOPS Mine Action Unit in New York to ensure that the implementation of the project will adhere to all UNOPS administrative and financial rules and regulations and that the procurement done for the project is the best value for money. As a UNOPS implemented project – the use of project funds is eligible for internal and external audit initiated by UNOPS HQ.

UNMAT is responsible for the daily management and directing and coordinating the implementation process of the project. UNMAT facilitates the planning and evaluation of all operations ensuring that a high standard of service is provided to the local communities and national authorities in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). UNMAT provided Quality Control and Quality Assurance of its own procedures.

UNMAT will report to UNMAS for technical matters, which as the UN focal point for mine action is mandated to provide technical support. Technical and management support and monitoring missions from the UNOPS Mine Action Unit and UNMAS Programme Section are foreseen during the course of the Project Amendment.

During the implementation of the project, UNMAT worked and continues to work closely with the NA and the Maoists, under the coordination of the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee (JMCC). Further, close cooperation with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (line ministry for mine action) was exercised during the implementation of the project.

*Monitoring and evaluation:* Headquarter visits to Nepal by UNOPS and UNMAS throughout 2009 played an important role in increasing the comprehension of the on-the-ground realities of operations in Nepal and in verifying UNOPS support to the procurement and administrative processes and UNMAS support for the concept of operations of UNMAT Nepal.

UNMAT reported monthly or on an ad hoc basis to the JMCC and the UN Country Team on the implementation of the project. UNMAT also reported quarterly to donors.

An external evaluation of the programme from its beginning to date was conducted by Cranfield University in mid - 2009 to assess the effectiveness of UNMAT support in addressing the mine action needs of Nepal. The evaluation recommended the continuation of UNMAT technical support to the Nepal Army and quality assurance of their clearance activities through 2011 and to facilitate the development of a national mine action strategy through coordination with stakeholders from the government and members of the MAJWG.

1. **Results**

Considerable gains were made in 2009 in the Nepal Army’s rate of clearance as well as their capacity to independently manage mine clearance operations. In 2009, 14 minefields were cleared and 2,119 mines and 296 IED/UXOs and other ERW destroyed. This is a marked increase in productivity compared to 2008 in which 4 minefields were cleared. This increase can be attributed to both an improved operational techniques and efficiency of the demining platoons as well as a greater capacity overall with the addition of a third demining platoon as of October 2009.

UNMAT worked with the Maoist Army again in 2009 to arrange for and carry out the demolition of all remaining dangerous items stored in the seven Maoist Cantonment sites and contribute to their adherence to terms in the CPA/AMMAA regarding the disposal of stockpiled dangerous items. With the cooperation of the Maoist Army and the support of UNMIN operations and the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee (JMCC), demolitions were carried out at all seven MCS in the July – December period. At total of 33,975 dangerous items were destroyed in this period. Together with the 18,642 items destroyed previously during 2007 – 2008, this project has support the demolition of a total of 52,617 dangerous items previously held within the sites.

The capacity development, training and quality management activities with the Nepal Army continued in 2009 to improve the effectiveness of demining operations and ensure compliance with International Mine Action Standards. In February 2009 a joint UNMAT-NAMACC Capacity Development Plan (CDP) was finalized that assessed the current capacity of the NAMACC and outline a series of trainings to improve the technical and middle management capacity of the NAMACC over the next two years.

In addition to the ongoing capacity development and mentoring activities, the trainings provided and facilitated by the UNMAT in 2009 included, among others: Advanced Demining Course, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) – Level 3 Training, Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) Training, Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) User Training, and Mine Action Management.

Advice and support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in the development of a mine action office for the planning and coordination of mine actions was ongoing throughout the year. In October, the MoPR-chaired Steering Committee met for the first time since 2007 and appointed a Task Force to develop a draft Mine Action Works Plan. The Plan was submitted in November and UNMAT will continue to work with the MoPR on the further development and implementation of this plan and the stand-up of the MoPR mine action office in 2010.

UNMAT coordinated Nepal’s participation in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010* and submitted a number of proposals for MRE, Victim Assistance, Advocacy and Clearance activities from members of the MAJWG.

Together with members of the MAJWG, UNMAT hosted an event on 06 April to celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The event was attended by the ambassadors of UK and Australia, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction Joint Secretary, the director of Military Engineers and the UN Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator.

The project document for extension 5 of the project only provides indicators for support to Nepal Army – the table below compares the indicators set in the project document and the result achieved.

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| **Indicator** | **Achieved** |
| 40 new Deminers trained | 50 |
| 60 Deminers are provided with refresher training | 77 |
| 10 Minefields Cleared | 14 |
| Monitoring visits demonstrate that the trained demining teams are operating as per the concept of operations and national SOPs. | Completed, operational platoons awarded accreditation by UNMAT |
| 15 Nepal Army site managers, supervisors and team leaders managerial training | 15, plus 2 Civilians |
| Reduction in number of victim activated casualties (injuries and deaths) from anti-personnel mines. | Reduction in mine casualties, slight reduction in overall victim activated casualties (73 in 2008) and (70 in 2009) |

The results of the project in the reporting period far exceed the expected outputs – this is due in to the broadening of the project’s objectives within the timeframe of the project – namely the move from UNMIN to the UNCT and alliance with UNICEF to form the UNMAT and the development of a more direct support role to the MoPR. Indicators and expected outputs of the project’s expanded objectives are clearly reflected in the project document of the sixth and final extension for the December 2009 – November 2011 period.

1. **Future Work Plan**

The sixth and final extension of the project has been approved for the 24-month period of December 2009-November 2011. This sixth extension is a continuation of UNMAT support to the Nepal Army clearance efforts and an in increase in support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) to

develop their capacity for national ownership of mine action in Nepal. The primary impacts expected from the final stage of this project are:

* The Government of Nepal develops and implements a national mine action strategy to ensure national ownership of mine action
* Nepal Army meets its commitments under the CPA/AMMAA and the impact of mine/IED/ERW are not seen as a hindrance to the peace process or national development

This sixth extension is designed to be the end of UN direct support to clearance activities in Nepal and has as a primary aim of assisting the Government of Nepal to develop a standalone national capacity to effectively deal with the remaining legacy of landmines, IED and other ERW in Nepal. The project will continue to work extremely closely with the NA to ensure that internal staff, management and logistical capacity has been built so that Nepal can self manage these matters in the future. The two – year timeline presented in this proposal is to ensure that the activities developed to achieve the objectives of the project and a sustainable phasing out of UN support to mine action activities in Nepal. The estimated timeline is a conservative one taking into account a number of dependant factors with their own variable timelines, such as the speed of the MoPR in dedicating the requisite resources to the mine action office and the sustainment of Army’s rate of clearance.

1. **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AMMAA - Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies

CPA – Comprehensive Peace Agreement

ERW – Explosive Remnants of War

IMAS – International Mine Action Standards

JMCC – Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee

MAJWG – Mine Action Joint Working Group

MAU – Mine Action Unit (UNMIN)

MCS – Maoist Cantonment Site

MoPR – Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

NA- Nepal Army

NAMACC – Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre

UNMAT – UN Mine Action Team

UNMAS – United Nations Mine Action Service

VTF – Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action