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**[COUNTRY:** Nepal**]**

**PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

**PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2015**

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| **Project No & Title:** | PBF/ IRF-180: Localizing Women Peace and Security Agenda in Central Terai Districts of Nepal |
| **Recipient Organization(s)[[1]](#footnote-1):**  | UN Women and UNDP  |
| **Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):** | National Counterparts: Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Local Development Training Center (LDTA)District Counterparts: District Development Committees (DDCs), District Administration Office (DAOs), Women and Children Office (WCO), and other district line agencies, Nepal Police, CSOs, Inter-Party Women Alliance (IPWA), Women Political leaders, Conflict Affected People’s Network in Bara and Parsa, Local Peace Committees (LPCs) |
| **Location:** | Central Terai (Bara and Parsa districts) |
| **Total Approved Budget :[[2]](#footnote-2)** | 576,602 (UNDP – 198,892 / UN Women – 377,710) |
| **Preliminary data on funds committed : [[3]](#footnote-3)** | 25,478 | **% of funds committed / total approved budget:** | 4.42 % |
| **Expenditure[[4]](#footnote-4):** | 17,123 | **% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)** | 2.97%  |
| **Project Approval Date:** | 19 December 2014 | **Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)** |  |
| **Project Start Date:** | 19 December, 2014 |
| **Expected Operational Project Closure Date:** | 15 July 2016 |
| **Project Outcomes:** | Enhanced participatory and gender responsive planning and budgeting processes at the local bodies (VDC, DDC and Municipality) for implementation and monitoring of National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCRs 1325 and 1820) |
| **PBF Focus Area[[5]](#footnote-5)**(select one of the Focus Areas listed below) | Priority Area 2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/ management.  |

**Qualitative assessment of progress**

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| *For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.* *In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved.**(1000 characters max.)* | **Outcome 1 :** Enhanced participatory and gender responsive planning and budgeting processes at the local bodies (VDC, DDC and Municipality) for implementation and monitoring of National Action Plan on women, peace and security [UNSCRs 1325 and 1820]During the first six months of project inception, most of the efforts were placed in project coordination, management and preparatory works. Some consultation and FGDs were carried out with government stakeholders, women groups, conflict affected victims, local political leaders in Bara and Parsa districts, contributing to achieving the outcome. This consultation process with different stakeholders has reinforced for further realization about gender responsive planning and budgeting process particularly among the government stakeholders and local political leaders. The FGDs with women groups and conflict affected women could identify issues of insecurities (domestic violence, rape, weapons, drugs, youth violence, alcohol, dowry, child marriage, caste discrimination, etc.) of women, which will be addressed through community security plans developed at the end of the series of consultations.**Output 1.1** Two conflict issues (government decision to expand a service center in Simara, and the rape and death of a dalit girl) flared up into violent protests in Bara in the first quarter of the year.  CPP conducted meetings with the protesting groups in Simara, and the political parties and relevant stakeholders in Kalaiya regarding the service center issue. These meetings created a platform of dialogue and negotiation among the political leaders, other stakeholders and conflicting groups, and it supported in building trust amongst one other. As a result, the issue of service centre was discussed in a dialogical way. In the absence of these meetings, the situation would have worsened further. Consultation was also done with security personnel, political leaders and human rights activist in the Bara district to update and analyze dynamics of the ongoing protest and conflict in the region, and to explore possible point for dialogue initiatives. A monitoring visit was conducted in Bara/Parsa and facilitation support provided to a training organized by Bara FNJ to the journalists on ‘Role of media in conflict context’. Outreach and consultative meetings with IPWA Bara and IPWA Parsa were also conducted.**Output 1.2**Identified 30 VDCs (15 VDC per district) to roll out the activities in Bara and Parsa following stakeholder consultation. These VDCs lie under 4 Area Police Offices and form 6 clusters, with 5 VDCs in each cluster. During the reporting period, the project reached out to people at settlement level, including the vulnerable groups of women (Dalit women, Muslim women, Tharu women) from 10 VDCs (5 VDC per project district) to help them to identify and prioritize their security related issues; 20 focus group discussions were conducted with 280 people (166 women, 114 men) in different groups including women groups. 5 VDC level consultations were also held with the 276 local stakeholders (116 women, 160 men) in five VDCs of Parsa district. The community security issues identified and prioritized by the community including the vulnerable groups through FGDs and VDC level consultation were domestic violence, rape, dowry, child marriage, caste discrimination, weapons, drugs, youth violence, alcohol etc. These FGDs and consultations will feed into the Community Security Plans which will be prepared at cluster level and later integrated into VDC budget planning process.***Project Management and Performance***During this project inception period, significant effort was put in the project coordination, management and preparatory works. UN Women, CPP and AVRSCS developed a **full project work plan** for the implementation of the project, focusing on integration and synergic effect of the activities of participating agencies. For effective coordination, a **Project Coordination Team** was established at the central level and a **Project Implementation Team** at the district level to meet on monthly basis. **Two one-day workshops** were organized to orient the project staffs on the objective, modality and activities under the project, and on women, peace and security issues, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and its localization, GRB principles, and collaborative leadership and dialogue concepts. UN Women **initiated the recruitment** process of a Programme Officer to coordinate amongst UN Women and UNDP, and 2 community security facilitators were also recruited. UN Women **selection of implementing partner** is underway.[[6]](#footnote-6) The district level **project launching meeting** was organized. **Context analysis and baseline survey** were conducted to guide the tracking of the progress of the project. The result framework **(RRF) was revised** adding two outcome indicators and one more output, incorporating PBSO's feedback. |
| *Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding?**(1000 characters max.)* | The project aims to develop community security plans at VDC clusters through inclusive and participatory method and integrate them into VDC planning and budgeting process. The project has already carried out 20 focus group discussions and 5 VDC level consultations to ensure the inclusion of the issues of the most vulnerable group of women in community security planning; This allows the most vulnerable groups to voice their issues loud and promotes collaboration of community, civil society, security providers, and state institutions to address the burning issues that lead to violence in communities. The further consultation with the political party leaders on the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 have reinforced their understanding about the resolutions and their role to play in ensuring the participation of women in peacebuilding issues.  |
| *Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/ unblocking of any peace relevant processes?**(1000 characters max.)* | Since the implementation of activities under the project has just begun, catalytic effects are yet to be seen. |
| *If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them.**(1000 characters max.)* | Although the project was supposed to begin in January 2015, its launch in the project districts could occur only in the beginning of 2nd quarter of 2015, delaying the implementation of field activities. The major reasons are: We received feedback from UNPFN to revise the RRF on 2 March 2015 and later from PBSO colleagues in New York in 16 April 2015. The time taken to revise the RRF has impacted the implementation of activities, delaying the launch of the project in Bara and Parsa, since the RRF serves as the guiding framework for both implementation of activities and monitoring of results. The project activities got further delayed due to the big earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. Joint strategic meetings have been conducted to discuss on this issue and to review the work plan on a regular basis. A no-cost extension will be requested if needed later in the project. However, planning and implementing field activities well in advance will address this problem. |
| *What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year?**(1000 characters max.)* | Through the capacity development trainings carried out to select government officials in Bara and Parsa districts on gender responsive local planning, budgeting and localization of NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, significant number of Gender Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC) members and stakeholders of local planning process will report an increase in knowledge and skills on applying gender responsive planning and budgeting principles in their work, and GRBCs will be functional in two DDCs and 2 municipalities. The regular consultations and FGDs will be conducted at community level on community security planning, through which 12 community security plans at VDC level and 6 at District level will be developed in participatory and inclusive manner, and 3 action points from community security plans will get incorporated into select VDC Plans and budget. The trainings on collaborative leadership, dialogue, gender responsive planning, budgeting and NAP issues will be provided to women members of IPWA, Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and existing conflict affected women, which will enhance significantly their level of understanding to influence local planning and budgeting process, demand better services and access targeted VDC's budget in project sites. |
| *Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (1000 characters max.)* | In the changed post-earthquake context, UN Women and UNDP conducted a meeting to discuss on whether the modality and area coverage under the GPI-II project should be reviewed to address the humanitarian need. The agencies have decided to continue the work in the same two districts (Bara and Parsa) as per the agreed objectives of the project in the earlier planned modality. Conducting activities at Bara and Parsa will not be a problem, they being less earthquake affected districts. However, a linkage of the activities will be established with the national early recovery plan that is applicable even in earthquake non-affected districts, the emergency and earthquake preparedness, relief and recovery aspects as they also relate well with the security issues of women and conflict sensitivity issues. The regular activities under the project will slow down for about next 2 months as government officials (e.g. Local Development Office, CDO, police and ministry level officers in MoFALD, MoHA), NGOs and other implementing partners' current focus is on earthquake relief work. Plus, the energy and capacity of the some of the existing human resource of UN Women, UNDP will be diverted/ mobilized for humanitarian works. A budget adjustment is not required at this point of time.  |
| *What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expensed by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only?**(1000 characters max.)* | The project has spent USD 17,123 (2.97 %) during the reporting period. The agency specific expenditure is provided below:UN Women – USD 4,487 (1.19 %)UNDP/ AVRSCS – USD 7,400 (7.1 %)UNDP/ CPP – USD 5,236 (5.31%) |
| *Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage?**(1500 characters max.)* | In the context of the nation's shifting priorities post April 25, 2015 earthquake, the project activities will be slowed down. This will cause delay of some of the project activities. Hence, disaster-related themes will be incorporated into the project activities. The Work Plan will be reviewed, and budget revision and no-cost extension will be requested, if deemed necessary at a later phase. |

**INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT*:*** *Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document****- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above.* (250 characters max per entry)

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|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay****(if any)** | **Adjustment of target (if any)** |
| **Outcome 1:** Enhanced participatory and gender responsive planning and budgeting processes at the local bodies(VDC, DDC and Municipality) for implementation and monitoring of National Action Plan on women, peace and security [UNSCRs 1325 and 1820] | **Outcome Indicator 1a.**Percentage of local budget allocated for directly gender responsive in two districts | TBD (will be determined after district GRB classification software is available later in 2015 for fiscal year 2015/16)).  | Increase by 5% in absolute figure in next fiscal year (2016/17)  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome Indicator 1b.**Number of local bodies (DDC, Municipalities and VDCs) that have adopted gender responsive budgeting.  | DDC =0Municipality = 0 | DDC = 2Municipality = 2 |  |  |  |
| **Outcome Indicator 1c.**Percentage of budget allocated for the NAP 1325/1820 Action Points in District Plans in Bara and Parsa | Bara:10% and Parsa: 5% | Bara:15% and Parsa: 10% |  |  |  |
| **Outcome Indicator 1d.**Meaningful participation[[7]](#footnote-7) of women in local planning and budgeting process. | 1) Only some members attend local planning meetings 2) Very few (1-2) raise women’s concerns to be addressed in meetings3) None of them perceive that their voices are heard and respected 4) A couple of concerns are addressed in the planning document at that level. (Please see the baseline report for details) | Significant numbers of women members from IPWA, WHRD and CAW attend local planning meetings and all of them raise concerns to be addressed in the meetings. Most of the women perceive that their voices are heard and respected. Most of the women agree that their concerns have been addressed in the planning process. |  |  |  |
| **Output 1.1** Demonstration of a pilot on how gender responsive planning and budgeting improves/enhances service delivery for conflict affected women and budgetary allocations from local resources to further effective NAP implementation and monitoring in 2 municipalities and 2 DDCs in Bara and Parsa districts. | **Output Indicator 1.1.1** Number of GRBCs functional in the DDCs and municipalities | 0 (2 GRBCs are formed in 2 DDCs but not yet functional.) | 2in each district, total 4 (1 DDC each in Bara and Parsa, 1 Municipality each in Bara and Parsa) |  |  |  |
|  | **Output Indicator 1.1.2**Number of GRBC members and stakeholders of local planning process who report an increase in knowledge and skills on applying gender responsive planning and budgeting and NAP SC 1325 and 1820 principles in their work | 0 | 22 GRBC members 32 DCC members60 District IPFC members142 VDC Secretaries8 Executive Officers of Municipalities160 Social mobilizers |  |  |  |
|  | **Output Indicator 1.1.3.**Budget Software updated in line with GRB principles in 2 DDCs and developed in 2 Municipalities | No | Completed in 2 DDCs and 2 Municipalities |  |  |  |
|  | **Output Indicator 1.1.4.**Change in capacities[[8]](#footnote-8) of women members of IPWA, local leaders and existing conflict affected people’s district level networks, to influence local planning and budgeting and demand better services in project sites | Very low capacity to influence local planning and budgeting – low level of knowledge on GRB, NAP 1325/1820 and local planning and budgeting process; | Understanding on key principles of GRB, NAP 1325/1820and local planning and budgeting process.  |  |  |  |
|  | **Output Indicator 1.1.5**Bara and Parsa district level NAP 1325 and 1820 monitoring report developed through a participatory process and available. | No | Monitoring report available in both districtsby 2016 |  |  |  |
| **Output 1.2** Conflict affected women and women leaders to influence the local planning processes and greater equality in access to leadership and decision making opportunity | **Output Indicator 1.2.1.**# of women-led effective mechanisms in place and functional[[9]](#footnote-9) in two project districts (UNDAF indicator 9.1.1)  | Parsa-7, Bara-11 women led mechanism are existingIPWA and WHRD partially functional; Bara: CAW network is not in placeParsa: Conflict victims network include women, however a separate network for CAW does not exist. | At least one functional mechanism is in place per district. . |  |  |  |
| **Output Indicator 1.2.2.**# of gender responsive local planning and budgeting related shared agendas[[10]](#footnote-10) developed by women network/mechanisms  |  0 shared agenda developed | At least one shared agenda per district developed |  |  |  |
| **Output Indicator 1.2.3.**Number of community security plans produced in an inclusive manner[[11]](#footnote-11) and implemented (UNDAF output 9.3.1) | 0 | 6 at Cluster level and 2 at District level | Process just initiated; 5 VDC consultations held with the 276 local stakeholders (116 women, 160 men) and 20 FGDs conducted in 10 VDCs with280 people (166 women, 114 men).  |  |  |
| **Output Indicator 1.2.4.**Number of action points from community security plans incorporated into select VDC Plans  | 0 | 60% VDCs (out of 30 VDCs) incorporate 3 action points from community security plans in their annual plan (FY 2072/73) | Community security plans development and implementation are ongoing |  |  |
| **Output Indicator 1.2.5.**Community perceptions of how CSP was planned and implemented (in an inclusive, conflict- and gender-sensitive manner) (EPST indicator) | Community members do not know about community security planning process | 60% of community members in project area believe that the community security plans are developed and implemented in conflict sensitive and gender responsive manner |  |  |  |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 5 PBF focus areas are:

*1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1)*:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2)RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue; [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UN Women has approached the government partner (LDTA) with the TOR to submit the proposal. For the recruitment of the Programme Officer who will coordinate amongst UN Women and UNDP, candidates have been shortlisted and written exam carried out on 20 May 2015. Earthquake has delayed the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Meaningful participation will be assessed in terms of 1) Attending local planning meetings 2) Raising women’s concerns to be addressed in meetings and 3) Perceive that their voices are heard and respected 4) Some concerns are addressed in the planning document at that level. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. capacity assessment will be done for the given groups including existence of networks, regularity in meetings with proper plans documented decisions and progress, knowledge on NAP 1325/1820 and GRB and skills on leadership that is required to influence the local planning as well as it means functionality of IPWA members at the district level as per main original mandate of IPWA. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Networks are considered functional if they have action plans in place and meet regularly in order to implement and follow up on the action plans. The meetings have set agenda and outcomes of meeting are documented in minutes. The project will support the networks to prepare action plans for influencingthe local planning process. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Shared agenda as per “CPP working definition” is conflicting groups or multiple stakeholders defining common goals. For example: Expansion of road network could be common goal of all political parties [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Inclusive means participation of women (at least 33% as government standard) and other social groups that is defined excluded groups by UNDP/Nepal. Activity completion reports will be prepared with disaggregated data of women and other social groups that will verify/count the inclusion at the implementation level [↑](#footnote-ref-11)