

**United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal**

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**Project Status Update**

***For the period of July-September 2014***

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| **1. Project Information** |
|  **Project Title:** | **Project Numbers:** |
| Technical Assistance to Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in the Implementation of Psychosocial Counselling and Support Services to Conflict Affected Persons | ***UNPFN / PBF:*** | UNPFN/E-7 |
| ***MPTF Office:***  | 00085973 |
| **Name of PUNO(s):** | **PBF Result *(if applicable)*:** |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | No applicable PBF result |
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| **Primary Project Contact Person:** | **UNPFN Funding Round Strategic Outcome(s):** |
| Name and Designation: Maurizio Busatti, Chief of MissionAgency and Address: IOM, 768/12 Thirbam Sadak, Baluwatar-5, Kathmandu, NepalTelephone: +977-1-4426250Email: mbusatti@iom.int | Strategic Outcome 7: Accelerated implementation of the government’s gender and/or social inclusion agendas in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and national plans and policies. |
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| **UNPFN Cluster:** |
| E: Rights and Reconciliation |
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| **National Partners(s):** | **NPTF Cluster:** |
| Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR)Joint Secretary, Binod K.C.Joint Secretary, Mr. Mukunda Prasad Poudel | 2: Conflict Affected Persons and Communities  |
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| **Total UNPFN Funding:** | US$ 500,198 | **Project Start Date:** | 18.03.2013 |
| **Original End Date:** | 31.05.2014 |
| **Funds spent to-date by the project:** | US $ 249,780.96 | **Revised End Date *(if applicable)*:** | 15.03.2015 |
| **Funds spent as percentage of budget:** | 50 % | **Total Project Duration:** | Two Years |

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| **2. Project Executive Summary** |
|  The main objective of this project is to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) with the implementation of its planned psychosocial counselling and support services for conflict affected persons in Nepal. In particular, the technical assistance is aimed at ensuring service delivery in a manner which comprehensively addresses the needs of women and children (including the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities) in line with the government’s gender and social inclusion agendas. The project will directly contribute to the UNPFN Strategic Outcome for an accelerated implementation of the government’s gender and/or social inclusion agendas in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and national plans and policies. Psychosocial counselling and support services to conflict affected women are important components of the relief and recovery pillar of the Government of Nepal’s (GoN) National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325 and 1820. Recovery of conflict affected persons cannot be ensured unless psychological traumas are addressed; ensuring access to psychosocial support and services will on its part facilitate communities to begin leading more healthy, peaceful and productive lives. IOM’s Technical Assistance project is to facilitate the implementation of the MoPR’s psychosocial counselling and support services for conflict affected persons in Nepal in a manner which comprehensively addresses the needs of women and children (including the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities) in line with the government’s gender and social inclusion agendas. In order to achieve this, the project will develop an implementation manual (IM) for the MoPR; ensure that government psychosocial counselling and support services give high priority to women, children and vulnerable communities; develop and implement a comprehensive outreach policy and materials to enhance access to psychosocial counselling and support services; train and capacitate members of the Local Peace Committees; and establish and support a comprehensive monitoring, reporting and evaluation system at the MoPR. The project intends to have an overall peacebuilding impact by enhancing MoPR’s mechanisms and capacities to efficiently provide psychosocial counselling and support services to conflict affected persons, mainly women, children and vulnerable communities.The project will help ensure that a maximum number of CAPs including women will have access to comprehensive counselling and support services to be delivered by MoPR. Throughout the implementation of all its activities, the project has prioritized gender inclusion and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities. Simultaneously, the project’s outcome in establishing transparent, inclusive and effective mechanisms and procedure will also eventually contribute to Nepal’s UNDAF Outcome 8 of ‘National actors and institutions have strengthened capacity to design and implement inclusive and participatory reparations programs and transitional justice mechanisms’.  |

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| **3. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges during this quarter** |
| **Project Outcome** | **Progress delivered and/or challenges during this quarter** |
| Comprehensive Psychosocial Counseling and Support Services for conflict affected persons with components of NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 successfully implemented and enhanced for national roll out | During this quarter, the project was able to the following intended outputs: completion and submission of the project proposal to MoPR intended for application of NPTF funding; and orientation and dissemination of the FIM to the Recommendation and Monitoring Committees, LPCs and 1325 & 1820 DCC members in districts namely Jhapa, Morang, Makwanpur and Chitwan. In past quarter the same was conducted in Kaski District. Additionally, conflict victims and local I/NGOs and civil society members were invited to familiarize themselves with the government’s initiative of providing psychosocial counselling services to conflict victims and their families. With the transfer and appointment of Secretaries and Joint Secretaries in MoPR, as part of internal outreach, the team members organized an orientation program for the newly appointed Acting Secretary and other government officials at the ministry. As per output 1: The project team members were involved in district level dissemination of the Field Implementation Manual (FIM) and consultations with the Recommendation and Monitoring Committee (RMC) as envisioned in the Guideline for Psychosocial Counselling Services. The IOM Technical Assistance Project (TAP) team, jointly with Joint Secretary Mr. Binod K.C., visited Morang, Jhapa, Chitwan and Makwanpur districts. Two separate consultations were held in each district – one with RMC members consisting of senior officials of district government offices, and the other with conflict victims, representatives from various I/NGOs and civil society organizations. There were altogether 121 participants in these meetings, including government officials, I/NGOs representatives and Conflict Victims. The consultations were interactive with active participation and constructive feedback from the participants. The government officials including Chief District Officer, chair of the RMC expressed their commitment to support the PSS program once it is implemented in the district. The NGO representative present at the program showed their concern on the past relief experience of conflict victims where many of the victims were left behind in terms of receiving the services. Thus, PSS program will intervene with community based approach in the community so that victims, their family members and community people can equally participate in the community counselling program. As per output 2: IOM submitted the first draft of the psychosocial counselling and support services project proposal to MoPR during the first week of July. The Ministry is expected to provide feedback and suggestions to the draft, if any. Several meetings with Joint Secretaries and Under Secretaries were undertaken to finalize the content of the proposal before its submission to NPTF for consideration for funding. As per output 3, The Ministry recently appointed new secretaries for Local Peace Committees (LPC) in the districts and these secretaries will need to be well oriented on MoPR’s planned PSS program. The TAP team is planning a new ToT for the Secretaries and Women and Children Officers from the selected districts to make them aware of and orient them on the PSS program. As LPC members are the key focal persons for the implementation of the PSS in the districts, this proposed ToT will help build good coordination and rapport from the initial phase.As per output 4: IOM mainly focused on internal outreach within the ministry and concerned government line agencies at the district level. The team organised a one day orientation program on the FIM, Monitoring & Evaluation Guideline, Database Framework and Procurement documents on Psychosocial Counselling Services for the newly appointed Acting Secretary Mr. Khum Raj Punjali and other senior officials including Joint Secretary Mr. Binod K.C to familiarize and orient them on the Psychosocial counselling and Support Services (PSS) project and related IOM Technical Assistance. A brief presentation on the draft Proposal on Psychosocial Counselling Services Program was also presented. The Acting Secretary appreciated the work of IOM and was positive in taking quick action to take forward the program. He mentioned that while serving as a government officer in the districts during the conflict and post conflict period he has observed the necessity of psychosocial counselling services for people.  |
| **Project Management: key activities and/or challenges during this quarter** |
| The project requested and was approved a two phase extension to support MoPR in accessing funds through NPTF and further implement the PSS program in the selected districts. The extension was preceded by negotiations with the donors and MoPR on the necessity of extending the project. Due to high turnover and transfer of staff at the Ministry and with new appointment of government officials, including Acting Secretary, there has been a delay in the submission of the proposal for funding from NPTF. Although several meetings have been carried out (formal/informal) to discuss the content and to create momentum in submitting the proposal, it is still underway. Subsequently it will have a direct impact in the achievement of the IOM project outputs, especially related to the service provider. The activities related to community outreach also cannot be conducted due to uncertainty of the program implementation. Likewise, with the new appointment of LPC secretaries some activities, namely the ToT, will need to be repeated. In this quarter, the TAP team members participated in a joint central level field mission to Chitwan, Bara and Parsa districts together with USAID, RCO, UNDP, MoHA and MoPR representatives. The mission had two objectives, one to understand remaining needs of conflict victims and two to conceptualize and plan future services for CAPs and in particular the best ways for service delivery. The mission was successful in articulating needs of conflict victims. Separate meetings were held with victims in Madi VDC, Bharatpur (Chitwan), and Kalaiya (Bara) Districts, where victims’ problem varied from one district to other. Nevertheless, common priority areas identified were health, education and employment opportunities. The interaction with conflict victims opined that they still fear the incidents they have witnessed and are traumatized. Their day to day work has been affected with conflict related incidents and thus, psychosocial counselling can itself act as an empowering tool to motivate and drive victims to lead healthy and prosperous life. However, the importance of linking psycho-social support with livelihood support skills was apparent. One of the victims in Madi shared for example that, ‘Me and my husband own a tailor shop but, due to the *Bandarmude* incident my husband is still traumatized and needs to take medicine to keep up with the work. He is still mentally disturbed and requires support from such counselling’.The project so far has developed the tools (Field Implementation Manual, Monitoring and Evaluation guideline, Outreach strategy, documents relating to the procurement of service providers and a database which is compatible with the ministry’s MIS system) needed to deliver on the broader project goal. Similarly, the project has conducted orientations, training and consultation related to the tools and is the process of conducting/developing various other trainings and outreach materials that would support the successful implementation of MoPR’s PSS program in the selected districts. However, MoPR needs to secure funding and its commitment to the delivery of the PSS program, as intended, before the project can achieve its overall outcome and goal using the background work already done. The TAP project developed an informative weblog with an objective share the project information widely. It can be accessed through <http://transitionandrecoverynepal.com/>  |

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| **4. Progress against key indicators in the UNPFN Results Framework** |

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| ***PBF Level*** |
| ***UNPBF PMP Result(s) (if applicable):*** | *No applicable PMP results* |
| ***UNPBF PMP Result Indicator(s) (if applicable):*** | **Baseline** | **Target** | **Current / Final Status** |
| *No applicable PMP result indicator* | *N/A* | *N/A* | *N/A* |
| ***UNPFN Level*** |
| ***UNPFN Strategic Outcome:***  | Accelerated implementation of the government’s gender and/or social inclusion agendas in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and national plans and policies. |
| ***Project Peace-Building Impact:*** | Communities in 10 conflict affected districts return to leading healthy, peaceful and productive lives. |
| **Impact Indicator(s)** | **Baseline** | **Target** | **Current / Final Status** |
| 1. Rate of access of conflict affected women and children to psychosocial counselling and support services in pilot districts
2. Improved psychosocial well-being of conflict affected women and children receiving counseling
3. Community perception that availability of and access to psycho-social services particularly for women and children has been fair and effective in pilot districts
 | 1. 0
2. 0
3. 0
 | a. (2000) 1/3 of conflict affected persons receiving psychosocial counselling and support services.b. At least 70% of women and children who received counseling have become more active in economic and social activities in the community.c. At least 70% of community members interviewed perceive service provision has been fair and effectiveHi  | The Field Implementation Manual along with M & E guideline, outreach strategy and database has been submitted to MoPR. The FIM includes the provision of maximum participation of women and children to receive psychosocial support services apart from the Conflict Affected Persons (CAPs) listed by the task force report[[1]](#footnote-1). The CAPs, their families and community will be eligible to participate in the community based PSS counseling up to medium level services.Through the different consultations with CAPs in the districts and communities, they are aware of the PSS services and it is expected that the PSS service delivery will begin in the first quarter of 2015.  |
| ***Project Level*** |
| **OUTCOME 1:**  | Comprehensive Psychosocial Counseling and Support Services for conflict affected persons with components of NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 successfully implemented and enhanced for national roll out. |
| **Outcome Indicator(s)** | **Baseline** | **Target** | **Current / Final Status** |
| a. # of components of NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 plan in relation to participation, promotion and relief and recovery accelerated and implemented. | a. NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 developed and adopted by GoN.b. Localization guidelines for NAP 1325 1820 developed and adopted by GoN |  GoN NAP components related to Participation 4.1, Promotion 1.7, 2.1, 2.3 and Relief and recovery 1.2, 1.6 are accelerated and integrated within the process. For Instance, Participation 4.1: Enhanced advocacy skills of government officials Promotion 1.7: Information dissemination  | During this reporting period, District government officials including Chief District Officers and others in four Districts participated in a half day meeting. The meeting focused on enhancing their capacity in advocating gender issues (NAP 1325 & 1820) and psychosocial needs of conflict victims. Likewise, Conflict victims (women and men) and I/NGOs representatives were informed about the government initiative of implementation of psychosocial counseling services in a separate program. Information on the MoPR proposed PSS project disseminated to a total of 66 community (conflict) persons including 32 female and 34 male in four different consultations. Other remaining consultations are planned for next quarter. The FIM has NAP 1325 and 1820 provisions integrated to facilitate and increase access of women, children and other vulnerable groups to psychosocial support through different outreach activities in the community level. In order to complement the NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, special emphasis has been given to enhance participation of women and marginalized groups during the district level consultations on PSS services. The participatory approach whereby various women groups, community groups and victim groups will actively lead and be part of the outreach and communication campaigns before and during the implementation of PSS services will further facilitate this. Additionally CPSWs and counsellors will conduct door to door, school and other informal women’s and children groups’ visits in the community, coordinate with local bodies to disseminate information and solicit feedback continuously on the PSS program. |
| b. Special needs of conflict affected women and girls are addressed in the provision of the MoPR’s psychosocial support services. | b. Non-existence of implementation manual on psychosocial counselling and support services b. Conflict affected persons have not received psychosocial counselling services from the MoPR. | Special needs with respect to psycho-social support and services addressed in MoPR tools, plan and budget | Special and adequate provisions in the FIM, M&E guidelines and tools, database and outreach strategy have been incorporated. FIM clearly indicates criteria’s such as prioritizing the psychosocial needs of women, children and vulnerable groups. As per the FIM, the Service Provider (SP) would be contractually obligated to particularly: (1) Contact existing formal and informal groups in the community and discuss about psychosocial and psychosocial wellbeing and its importance in daily life, (2) identify gender issues in the community and explore the GBV that takes place in their communities and their relation in psychosocial wellbeing, (3) identify health and other protection issues which have contributed to psychosocial problems and contact/ link with other service providers to address them, (4) request groups to participate in community orientations and support groups at their preferable time and place, and (5) provide caregiver facilities for women and those children who have to take care younger. In addition, the SP will comply with all psychosocial principles while providing support so that there will be no further risks to discuss psychosocial problems. |
| c. MoPR implements gender-sensitive psycho-social counseling services as a result of the successful piloting of the implementation manual and related tools. |  | Services have been initiated in 10 districts | The PSS service delivery is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2015. The MoPR’s concept note related to PSS has been approved by NPTF and a draft project proposal has been submitted to the Ministry for their review.  |

1. As per the decision of the Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) made on 2064/2/12 a Task Force was formed to work on the record collection about persons-family and structure affected by the conflict in the past. The report produced by this task force containing information of conflict affected persons, family and structure under MoPR is Task Force report. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)