

**United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal**

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**Project Status Update**

***For the period of January-June 2014 (half yearly)***

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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, Mr. Deependra Nath SharmaJoint Secretary, Mr. Sadhuram Sapkota | 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$ 295,187.23 | **Revised End Date *(if applicable)*:** | 31.07.2014/ 15.03.2015 |
| **Funds spent as percentage of budget:** | 59.01 % | **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. Project priorities to ensure the planned impact include: 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. In summary, 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. |

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| **3. Overview of project results, achievements and challenges during half-yearly reporting period** |
| **Project Outcome(s)** | **Progress delivered and/or challenges during January-June, 2014** |
| 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 half-yearly reporting period, a final consultation on the Field Implementation Manual (FIM), Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline, Outreach Strategy and MIS database was held with high level officials of MoPR in the presence of Honourable Secretary, Mr. Dhan Bahadur Tamang. There were altogether 49 participants at the program. The feedback received from the program has been incorporated to finalize the documents. Likewise, a separate round table meeting was held with UN colleagues and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to receive feedback on the documents. Finally, bi-lateral meetings with victim groups and I/NGOs working on Psychosocial Support services such as International Committee of the Red Cross, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization and Centre for Victims of Torture Nepal were carried out to an ensure effective program delivery mechanism is proposed in the FIM. Progress on output 1: As per this output, comments from the consultations were incorporated into the documents, further the project organized a handover ceremony where the final Field Implementation Manual (FIM), Outreach Strategy and implementation plan, procurement documents and database were submitted to the Honourable Secretary Mr Dhana Bahadur Tamang by UN Resident Coordinator Mr Jamie McGoldrick on behalf of the IOM and the UN. The Ministry is currently reviewing the documents and is expected to publish them shortly. Progress on outputs 3 and 4: To provide a basis for an effective Outreach mechanism at the district and community levels, IOM organized a district based resource mapping and victims consultations in all ten districts selected by MoPR for the planned pilot Psychosocial Support and Services (PSS) project. The resource mapping carried out in the presence of district stakeholders helped acquire information on existing services at the district and community levels. Special focus was given to programs and projects currently being implemented in the districts that targeted women and children. While implementing the psychosocial services, the selected service provider(s) will further update the resource mapping carried out by IOM to also help them establish an effective referral mechanism of services to conflict affected persons (CAPs). A separate consultation with victim groups was successful as it provided a platform to share information regarding the government’s plan of implementing PSS. Keeping in mind one of the management responses, the consultation was held in an informal manner where mostly women members participated and shared their issues. The program structure and criteria of beneficiaries were discussed during the consultation. Participants were informed about the community based approach which envisages participation of the CAPs, their families and community at large for up-to mid-level services of psychosocial support.  Progress on output 5: To ensure effective future monitoring and evaluation of the PSS program at the district level, a consultative meeting with Recommendation and Monitoring Committee (RMC) members was organized in Kaski District. The RMC, chaired by the Chief District Officer, and other government, LPC and victim representatives as outlined in the Government’s PSS Guideline, were unaware about their proposed role and responsibilities related to the PSS program. Hence, the consultation was very helpful in disseminating information to the concerned government officials and line agencies. Thus, it was realized that such meetings with RMC in other districts are equally important in order to establish effective coordination mechanisms as envisioned in the MoPR guidelines. Lessons learnt from previous interim relief programs also further supports that outreach, both externally to beneficiaries and internally to implementing agencies is imperative for the efficient implementation of relief programs for conflict victims. The project intends to conduct such consultations in all remaining districts before the roll out of the MoPR PSS project.IOM Nepal organized a study visit for high level MoPR officials to IOM Colombia in order to observe and learn from the psychosocial support program being implemented there. IOM Colombia has a large scale on-going program jointly implemented with the Government of Colombia to implement psychosocial programs for conflict victims. The visit provided a unique first-hand experience to observe relevant program modalities, implementation process and M & E in a post conflict situation. For both Nepal and Colombia it proved to be a learning opportunity and it is expected that lessons learnt from the visit will help strategize future plans in implementing a comprehensive psychosocial support program in Nepal. The delegation comprising of seven members was headed by Honourable Secretary from MoPR.  |
| **Project Management: key activities and/or challenges during this quarter** |
| The project requested a No Cost Extension (NCE) due to contributing factors beyond its control. Together with a NCE request, the project submitted a revised work plan till March 2015. The UNPFN Executive Committee approved a two-phased project revision and no cost extension in May 2014. The condition for the project continuing past the first phase will be the approval of the PSS project for NPTF funding by the end of July 2014. If the condition is met, the second phase of the NCE will continue from 31 July 2014 to 15 March 2015.Background to the NCE: The Emergency Peace Support Project implemented by MoPR and funded by World Bank, which was the primary source of resources to be used for the implementation of PSS services for Conflict Affected Persons, is phasing out by the end of June 2014. In the absence of guaranteed funds from the World Bank the process of procuring service provider(s) to deliver PSS services was delayed. Upon confirmation that the WB funds would not be available for the completion of this project, the MoPR submitted a concept note on the project to deliver PSS to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) under cluster 2; the concept note has now been approved. IOM’s technical assistance project is innately linked with the implementation of MoPR’s PSS program and the delay in the roll out of MoPR’s PSS program has subsequently delayed the project’s activities. With the approval of the NCE and subsequent approval of MoPR’s concept note by NPTF, IOM is assisting MoPR in developing the project proposal. The project till date has successfully delivered all of the outputs related to the development and design of mechanisms and systems such as Field Implementation Manual, Monitoring and Evaluation framework and tools, Outreach strategy, documents relating to the procurement of service providers and a database which is compatible with the ministry’s MIS system needed for the implementation of MoPR’s psychosocial counselling and support services for conflict affected persons and their families. The project is also now moving ahead with the implementation of activities related to outreach, trainings to stakeholders and dissemination of the FIM in the selected ten districts.During this reporting period the project completed mid-term evaluation in the month of April. A migration law expert from IOM Head Office visited Nepal to conduct the internal evaluation. The evaluation looks at the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the project. Some of the strengths of the project include but are not limited to: the participation of all stakeholders, in particular the efforts to include women, the excellent relationship between IOM and MoPR as well as with the donors, in addition there is a strong national ownership of the project. Few of the recommendation such as ensuring gender sensitivity and consultation too technical were addressed during the project period. For instance in the course of resource mapping exercise and while conducting meetings in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts with victim groups to share the information on the progress of PSS by the government of Nepal, the methodology used was informal and facilitated where possible by female member of the IOM team. It helped participants to share their post conflict problems more openly specially by women participants. Also, women were given opportunity to converse more on their livelihood problems and how it has affected in their daily life-functioning. Similarly, to address the categories of CAPs excluded in MoPR’s database, the provision of offering services to all categories of CAPs their families and community at large has been precisely mentioned in the field implementation manual. The project completed a context analysis exercise in all 10 selected pilot districts. The objective of the context analysis was to get an overview of the existing tensions and/or issues in the districts that have potential to trigger conflict. The exercise was helpful in understanding the context of the implementing districts, identifying the interaction between the planned intervention/project and the context hence, act upon that understanding in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts of the project. |

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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** |
| … | 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
 | 0 | a. (2000) 1/3 of conflict affected persons receiving psychosocial counselling and support services. | The Field Implementation Manual along with M & E guideline, outreach strategy and database has been submitted to MoPR. FIM includes the provision of maximum participation of women and children to receive PSS apart from the CAPs listed by the task force report. CAPs, their families and community will be eligible to participate in the community based PSS counseling to medium services.  |
| 1. Improved psychosocial well-being of conflict affected women and children receiving counselling
 | 0 | b. At least 70% of women and children who received counseling have become more active in economic and social activities in the community. | The PSS service delivery is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2015.  |
| 1. Community perception that availability of and access to psychosocial services particularly for women and children has been fair and effective in pilot districts
 | 0 | c. At least 70% of community members interviewed perceive service provision has been fair and effective | The PSS service delivery is expected to 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** |
| 1. # 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 GoNb. Localization guidelines for NAP 1325 1820 developed and adopted by GoN | a. 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. | Progress has been made with trainings and workshops in order to accelerate participation 4.1, promotion 1.7, 2.3 and relief and recovery 1.6 of NAP UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 components. The FIM includes provision in facilitating and increasing 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 a bottom-up and 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. Additionally CPSWs and counsellors will conduct door to door, school and other informal women’s and children groups visit in the community, coordinate with local bodies to disseminate information and solicit feedback continuously on the PSS program. |
| 1. Special needs of conflict affected women and girls are addressed in the provision of the MoPR’s psychosocial support services
 | Special needs of women and girls identified in NAP | 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 such as prioritizing the psychosocial needs of women, children and vulnerable groups. The Service Provider (SP) is contractually obligated to particularly: (1) Contact existing formal and informal groups in the community and discuss psychosocial and psychosocial wellbeing and its importance in daily life, (2) identify gender issues in the community and explore GBV in communities and its relation to psychosocial wellbeing, (3) identify health and other protection issues which have contributed to psychosocial problems and link with other relevant service providers for further support thereof, (4) request groups to participate in community orientations and support groups at their preferable time and place, (5) provide caregiver facilities for women and those children who have to take care of younger siblings, and (6) comply with all psychosocial principles while providing support so that there will be no further risks to discuss psychosocial problems. |
| 1. MoPR implements gender-sensitive psycho-social counseling services as a result of the successful piloting of the implementation manual and related tools
 | No services  | 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 drafting of the project proposal with the support from IOM is underway.  |