**Annex 1**

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**UN Peace Fund for Nepal**

**ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

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

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| *Submitted by:*Ms Gillian Mellsop, UNICEF Representative Tel: 977-1-5523200, Ext. 1100, 5521342gmellsop@unicef.org  |  | *Country and Thematic Area[[2]](#footnote-2)*Security -W2 |
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| *Programme No*: PBF/NPL/B-1(UNPFN/A-4)***MDTF Office Atlas No:* 00071691***Programme Title:* Programme and support for children and adolescents formerly associated with the Maoist Army in Nepal |  | *Participating Organization(s):* UNICEF |
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| *Implementing Partners:* CAAFAG Working Group |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):*$1,100,000 |
|  |  |  |
| *Programme Duration (in months):*Start date[[3]](#footnote-3): March 2010End date: 21 March 2010 |

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# Purpose

This programme for children and adolescents affected by conflict (CAAC) is built on best practices from other parts of the world. It uses a rights-based approach that seeks to create an enabling environment that is conducive to children’s overall well-being. The objective of the programme is to ensure successful discharge of verified as minors during verification of Maoist Army personnel, and provide them with assistance for their successful socio-economic reintegration.

**1) Monitoring and reporting** on violations of children’s rights, thereby ensuring that credible data and information are collected in order to guarantee that response interventions are effective and well targeted. UNICEF has been co-sharing together with OHCHR the SC Res 1612 taskforce in Nepal since 2005. Over the years the taskforce has been able to document the six core violations in resolution: recruitment abduction, killing and maiming, attacks on schools, sexual violence. Even though the conflict is formally over, the task force continues to document violations against children and in 2009, UNICEF’s focus is on strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism in Terai districts, to better capture and inform prevention strategies and protection response to child protection concerns in the Terai. Emphasise will also be put on strengthening the capacity to monitor and report on sexual violence in line with SC Res 1820 and 1882.

2) Provision of **appropriate services for CAAC**, ensuring, for instance, that they are given opportunities to catch up in school or learn a trade from which they can make a peaceful living. Income-generating support will be made available for families when poverty risks forcing youngsters back into armed groups. Psychosocial support will be provided to those who need help to overcome emotional distress and fight stigma. Every individual case is unique, and the rights and needs of each individual will always be the principal factor considered when tailoring a response to their specific needs and roles, especially for girls. UNICEF is also particularly interested in devising locally appropriate activities to advance these goals.

The following steps are followed by service providers in allocating reintegrating packages:

Community sensitisation

Rapid assessment in the community

Identification of children

Inquire if help is required

Observation of family and economic conditions

Inform child and family about the reintegration package

Inquire about interest

CAAFAG implementing partner, child and family take decision on support to be given

One key challenge is to ensure that reintegration support does not create resentment and bitterness within the wider community or place a strain on communities’ limited resources. The current UNICEF CAAFAG programme, therefore, targets not only CAAFAG but also other children affected by the conflict, and it also involves the community in programme implementation.

Girls face additional challenges during reintegration as the acceptance level from family and community level is lower in the case of girls than boys and consequently many girls marry early or to live away from their family. In recognition of the special protection concerns for girls reintegration and to build on the emancipation many girls experienced during their association with the armed group, UNICEF has developed joint activities with UNFPA to enhance the capacity of implementing partners on issues relating to gender mainstreaming, gender based violence. It also links the girls to existing women’s federations and micro credit group.

3) Empower children and young people to be forces for **peace and conflict prevention**. A culture of peace’ must be promoted, based on the principles of tolerance, rights, responsibilities, reconciliation and coexistence must be promoted at the same time as child protection systems, i.e. laws, policies, regulations and services across all social sectors, are in place to support prevention and response to protection related risks. All too often children are seen as victims and youth as a source of problems, however if their energy is channelled creatively they can become powerful forces for peace. ‘

Inclusive and appropriate processes of transitional justice and peace building are integral parts of reintegrating war-affected children. It is imperative that, in recognition of the violations and abuses suffered by children during the armed conflict[[4]](#footnote-4), children be an integral part of the TRC process in order to allow their voices to be heard and to promote reconciliation. Ideally children’s participation should strengthen and enhance their protection, and protection measures should enable participation. In the long term, if children are excluded from transitional processes, they may become frustrated and vulnerable to a continuing cycle of violence, impacting future generations. Failure to address their concerns also wastes the capacity and potential of children and adolescents to serve as catalysts for reconciliation and peace-building within their own communities.

Together, these three components address the immediate needs of CAAC and support their positive contribution to a stable peace at the same time as it will contribute to the prevention of new conflict. This holistic approach will not only help duty-bearers fulfil the rights of children and young people, but will also allow the programme to make a significant contribution to the consolidation of peace in Nepal.

The part of the CAAC programme that is funded by the PBF Fund focuses on the 2,973 Maoist Army personnel who were verified by the UN as having been under the age of 18 years on 25 May 2006[[5]](#footnote-5) and therefore categorized as disqualified minors. This project primarily addresses the needs and issues of these minors.

#### Overall objective

* Support the overall peace process in Nepal through promotion of the rights of children and youth who have been affected by the conflict.

#### Immediate objective

* Ensure a successful discharge process for those verified as minors during verification of Maoist Army personnel, and provide them with assistance for their successful socio-economic reintegration.

#### Expected outputs

* Disqualified minors are successfully discharged from cantonments in line with established global standards.
* Disqualified minors are provided with community-based reintegration opportunities.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is fully aligned with the above-mentioned priorities, and has thus made the support for processes and initiatives aimed at consolidating the peace an area of priority: *UNDAF Outcome A: National institutions, processes and initiatives to consolidate peace are strengthened*.[[6]](#footnote-6) This priority is reflected in the country programmes of all agencies, with particular emphasis on the rights of people affected by the conflict to be afforded opportunities to rebuild their lives.

# Resources

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| **Line #** | **Line Description** |  **Definision of figure to be reflected**  |
| **1** | **Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport** |  |
| **2** | **Personnel (staff, consultants, travel & training)** |  **135,893.95**  |
| **3** | **Training of Counterparts (orientation)** |  **615.22**  |
| **4** | **Contracts (vacancy notice)** |  **672.58**  |
| **5** | **Other Direct Costs (travel and**  |  **1,483.78**  |
| **6** | **Indirect Costs** |  |
|  | **Total** |  **138,665.53**  |
| **7** | **Total received funds (this project)** | **1,028,060** |
| **8** | **Agency Earned Interest Income** |  |
| **9** | **Balance as of December 2009**  | **889,394.47** |

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The programme to support the discharge and rehabilitating of disqualified minors was developed by UNICEF based on the extensive networks and expertise of CAAFAG Working Group network, which includes district based partner NGOs and community-based grassroots structures. The implementation plan focuses on supporting the return of the dischargees to their community, providing psychosocial support and facilitating access to UN supported rehabilitation packages. The programme builds on past achievements and lessons learnt as UNICEF has already gained experience through the implementation of its community based CAAFAG reintegration programme since 2007.

Monitoring systems which has been established to monitor the already ongoing community based CAAFAG reintegration programme are used also to support the implementation and monitoring of the release and rehabilitation of the newly discharged caseload. UNICEF regional field monitors are responsible for direct monitoring of rehabilitation process and implementing partners are used for case management of individuals supported by the UN rehabilitation programme, which includes regular assessment of individual cases and providing necessary support to facilitate their socio-economic reintegration.

# Results

The main constraint for the implementation of this project was the delay in the release of the verified minors which meant that activities were focused mainly on advocacy instead of the envisaged reintegration support. Moreover, UNICEF did not have access to the cantonments sites during the reporting period which blocked any kind interaction or participatory process the verified minors.

Throughout the year the UN, in collaboration with UNMIN, engaged in joint advocacy and other activities to secure the release of the 4008 individuals who were identified as minors or late recruits in the UN led verification of the Maoist Army in 2007. UNCT, in particular UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, retained stand-by capacity to support the discharge and rehabilitation and worked closely together having weekly, sometimes even daily meetings, to ensure that planned activities were synchronised.

The discharge process picked up momentum after the summer when the Maoist leadership commenced to engage more actively with the MoPR in the planning process of the release. A High Level Steering Committee was formed to take political decision relating to the discharge process which included representation from the Maoists, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the RSG of UNMIN, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF Country Representative. A Technical Committee was also formed which was responsible for the technical implementation of the discharge, including developing a plan for the process. The Technical Committee was comprised by representatives from the Maoists, MoPR and UNICEF, UNMIN, UNDP and UNFPA.

The Technical Committee was able to provided technical assistance and facilitated discussion among government and Maoist representatives, highlighting minimum standards and global practices for discharge and rehabilitation.

In the end of the year the Maoist decided to discharge the disqualified “unilaterally”, but accepted UN support to and monitoring of the discharge process. During a visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, an Action Plan for the discharge of disqualified was signed by the GoN, UCPN-M and the UN on 16th December 2009. After the signing of the Action Plan for the discharge of disqualified Maoist combatants, UNICEF, a part of UNCT, developed an operational plan, to carry out the discharge process as per international practices. This was done in consultation with Maoist representatives.

Due to the nature of activities that were undertaken during the year, i.e. mainly advocacy and preparations for the discharge, the main bulk of the funds spent were used for salaries of UNICEF staff both on national and field level. Funds were used to partly support one international programme coordinator and nine national officers. A smaller amount of the funds were used for orientation of implementing partners.

# Future Work Plan (if applicable)

As indicated above the Maoist signed an Action Plan to release the verified minors in the beginning of 2010. It is therefore highly plausible that the project will be able to achieve its goal to support the discharge and reintegration of 2,973.

Due to UNICEF’s and other partners in the UNCT’s high level of preparedness, UNCT was able to act swiftly once the Action Plan was signed, allowing the first discharge to take place three weeks after the date of the signing. The UNICEF and other partner in the UNCT also made available a number of options for rehabilitation ranging from education support to skills trainings that will be available for the disqualified Maoist army personnel on a voluntary basis.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAAC Children Affected by Armed Conflict

CAAFAG Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups

GoN Government of Nepal

OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UCPN-M United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist

UNCT United Nations Country Team

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For example, reports, prepared in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) have documented grave violations of children’s rights. See (S/2006/1007), and (S/2008/259). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Code of Conduct for the peace agreement between the CPN (M) and the Government of Nepal was agreed upon on the 25 May 2006. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.undg.org/docs/8362/UNDAF.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)