



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
Nepal Peace Trust Fund



The Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) is a joint undertaking between the Government of Nepal and donor group, created to support critical peace activities and thus fostering the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord and other peace-related agreements. The Fund was established in January 2007 and has so far managed NPR 23 billion in supporting 66 projects, of which 44 have been completed and 22 are in operation. The fund's composition comprises sixty percent from the government of Nepal and forty per cent from donor group. NPTF Strategy (2014-2017) provides the ground to support in four different peace related clusters viz. Social Dimension/CAPs, TJ and Reconstruction, Access to Security and political dimension.

GoN-DG meeting

The 25th Government-Donor Group (GoN-DG) meeting of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) was held at the Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS) on 18 June. The meeting discussed the activities underway after the last GoN-DG, progress of existing projects, and financial status (including balance in the Foreign Currency Account) of NPTF.

Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) and chair of the meeting, welcomed the donors and participants. In his welcome remarks, he said that NPTF is in its third phase following the approval of the NPTF's new strategy (2014-17) and the signing of the new Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) by the Government of Nepal (GoN), European Union (EU) and USAID. He added that the Peace Fund Operational Regulations (PFoR) had been drafted in Nepali and was in the process of

approval by the GoN. He further added that the new arrangement would be in place until July 2017 as per Board's decision.

Similarly, the NPTF is now in the process of preparing programs and projects in areas agreed in the strategy. The third phase would also have increased monitoring and support to implement ongoing projects.

The secretary said that NPTF support to elections would be critical after the Constituent Assembly (CA) approves the constitution. He further added that the NPTF way of implementing projects and experience so far could

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*Khum Raj Punjali,
Secretary, MoPR,
addressing the
GoN-DG meeting.*



inform the arrangements made for reconstruction of infrastructures and homes damaged by the 25 April earthquake. Finally, he made it clear that NPTF would remain within its mandate and continue to work to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA).

EU Ambassador to Nepal Rensje Teerink, the Donor Chair, thanked NPTF for organizing the meeting despite the inconveniences being faced after the earthquake of 25 April. She further emphasized to redouble the efforts in addressing both the aftermath of natural calamity, and the outstanding interventions needed for completing the peacebuilding agenda. She encouraged the PFS to increase follow-ups and monitoring of ongoing and especially slow-performing projects. She further stressed that planning, implementation and monitoring capacity to be augmented for a successful third phase of the NPTF. For the programmatic approach envisaged by the NPTF Strategy Ms. Teerink urged the PFS to initiate discussions with potential Implementing Agencies (IAs) for concept notes and proposals for new projects, ensuring that support to the neediest people were included.

At the meeting Amanda Cats-Baril pledged US\$ 500,000 for NPTF's phase III as part of the contribution of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF made a presentation on the key activities of NPTF since the last GoN-DG held in December 2014. Mr. Paudyal elaborated on the NPTF project status and named three projects that MoPR requires special attention: 1) Targeted Assistance for Conflict Affected Disabled and Women Ex-combatants Requiring Special Support, 2) Strengthening Local Peace Committees, and 3) Peace Campaign for Solidarity and Unity.

He also presented a status report on NPTF fund as of 31 May 2015. Accordingly, the GoN Red Book allocation stood at NPR 250 million and donor balances available in the FCA account at NPR 2,574.778 million in individual accounts at NPR 28.265 million. He said the balance returned by IAs in the non-freeze account stood at NPR 47.776 million. The Director listed the exact amount of funds of each donor that was with NPTF on 31 May 2015. He said 18 ongoing project had NPR 384.26 million and the three slow-moving projects had NPR 578.81 million of donors' fund. He added that the GoN planned to use the balances of slow-moving projects after revising and/or amending the activities.

Executive Director, Mr. Paudyal also presented a budget of NPR one billion for fiscal year 2015-16. He said the budgets for programs being prepared were NPR 950 million -1.25 billion (Cluster-1 Social dimen-

sion/ Support to CAPs) and NPR 1.90-2.20 billion (Cluster-4 Political dimension)

MoPR Secretary, Mr. Punjali thanked the donors for their continued support to Nepal and particularly to the NPTF. He added that the meeting would help in preparing plans needed for beginning the third phase on NPTF.

Representatives of the EU, USAID, Norway, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) attended the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, MoPR, and Rensje Teerink, the EU Ambassador to Nepal and Donor Chair.

Technical Committee meeting

The 39th Technical Committee meeting of the NPTF was held at the PFS on 14 July. The meeting discussed and approved the **“Conflict Transformation & Peace Building through Constitution Making”** project following a presentation by Laxmisharan Ghimire, joint secretary, and Januka Subedi, Under Secretary of MoPR. The presentation highlighted the key aspects of the proposed project. The project had been proposed as ‘Peace Campaign for Solidarity and Unity’ when it was approved in 2012. It was revised as ‘Peace Campaign for Conflict Transformation and Constitution Making’ in 2014 for making the project relevant. However, the revised project could not be implemented for various reasons and had become less relevant once again.

The approved project was revised to account for the constitution making efforts underway, and also

includes activities aimed at peace building and conflict transformation. The project was discussed and was approved with the suggestion that the comments be considered during implementation.

The Technical Committee approved a no cost extension request of the Capacity Development project at the MoPR. The project will run up to mid-January 2016. And, meeting also discussed and approved an amendment to the operational budget of the PFS, within the approved amount, as proposed by the NPTF Director.

Additionally, meeting also granted an extension of the project “Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820: Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls through Literacy and Livelihood Skills”. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and has been extended until mid-June 2016. The meeting also discussed an amendment to “Strengthening the Capacity of Mechanisms of relevant State Institutions to Implement Human Rights Plans and Policies in Nepal” project that is being implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM). The Committee has asked OPMCM to submit the list of activities and budget for the period leading to December 2015. The DG coordinator in consultation with PFS and the OPMCM would coordinate any extension, if needed.

Khum Raj Punjali, secretary, MoPR chaired the meeting that was attended by representatives from the National Planning Commission, Office of the Financial Comptroller General, OPMCM, MoPR, Non Formal Education Center, USAID, DG Coordinator, PFS officials and staff of technical assistance staff.

Monitoring of NPTF Projects

A team led by Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF visited Surkhet to monitor project sites of the “All Weather Access Roads and Bridges to the cantonments” project on 31 May- 1 June 2015.

The project was approved in December 2009 and was supposed to be completed in a year but a bridge at Chingaad, in Surkhet remained incomplete. The Department of Roads implemented the project that included building roads and bridges to link seven



Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, welcoming participants to the Technical Committee meeting.



Vehicles on the newly constructed Jhupra Bridge in Surkhet and an NPTF monitoring team observing the construction.

main and 21 satellite cantonment sites. The project was implemented through 10 Divisional Road Offices (in Damak, Ilam, Biratnagar, Lahan, Janakpur, Bharatpur, Butwal, Dang, Surkhet and Mahendranagar).

The purpose of the monitoring visit was to observe progress made so far and to understand the reason for the delay in implementation. The PFS had not received credible information concerning finalization of the bridge and therefore it was decided to visit the site and hold discussions with the responsible officer in the Mid-Western Division Road Office, Surkhet.

The group met Bhanu Joshi, Divisional Engineer, Mid-Western Division Road Office, Surkhet and visited the two bridges at Juppra and Chingad. It also met with the contractor, and discussed the construction with local people.

Jhupra bridge was completed last year after a delay of four years. The contract was signed in 2010 and civil work on the foundation was completed in 2013. One reason given for the delay was that the subcontractor did not complete the work on time after which the main contractor had to step in and finalize the project. Further, the contractor had only ordered the steel structure for the bridge only after the civil work had been completed in 2013. Accord-

ing to the Divisional Engineer, Mr. Joshi, the project was not completed because the import of materials and construction of the steel span (the main part of the bridge) can take up to two years. Therefore the main purpose of the project – to support the cantonments – was not met. At this stage it seemed that the supplier of the steel structure was delaying delivery because the company had enough other work to complete. The supplier is a well-known Kathmandu company with good reputation and it has come to the notice of NPTF that about 65 per cent of the steel structure has been produced.

The people were not satisfied with the delay of the bridge construction.

The monitoring team included Buddha Bahadur Gurung, programme management officer at PFS, Yagya Bikram Shahi, DG Coordinator, Thomas Thomsen, Team Leader, Arvind Kumar Rimal, M&E officer, and Roshani Adhikari, communication officer from the EUTA team.

Induction of NPTF staff

The NPTF organised an induction program for the newly joined staff at Hotel Himalaya on 28 July. The objectives of the program were to provide the new staff an overview of the NPTF working modality,

structure and also introduce them to different TA functions.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, welcomed the newly joined team members and provided an overview of the NPTF and the program, M&E, capacity development, communication and finance sectors. EUTA team made brief presentations on their work and work areas as guided by the new strategy. All PFS officials attended the meeting.

Concluding the session, Executive Director, Mr. Paudyal emphasized the need for providing relevant trainings to PFS staff and added that the PFS and TA team working on specific areas need to have regular meetings to ensure transfer of knowledge to PFS officials. The EUTA members also responded to questions related to program implementation of the new PFS staff.



NPTF officials and EUTA team at an Induction programme for new staff.

Core Cluster meeting

The 24th meeting of the Core Cluster was held on 15 July. Concept notes of the two projects: Operation of Rehabilitation Centre in BPKHIS, Dharan and Implementing NPA-CAAC for Restoring the Rights of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC). The IAs proposing the projects made presentations that were commented by the participants.

The meeting approved both the concept notes and asked the IAs to prepare project documents, including the comments and observations that were made.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, chaired the meeting. The meeting had representa-



Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, and participants of the Core Cluster meeting.

tives from the MoPR, EU, USAID, BPKHIS, NPTF and EUTA.

Consultative Workshop on “Support to CAPs- livelihood project”

The NPTF organized a workshop as part of the preparation of “Support to CAPs-livelihood project” on 21 June in Kathmandu. NPTF’s strategy for the period 2014 to 2017 covers support to four clusters /thematic areas of the peace process and Social dimension/ Support to CAPs is the first cluster. The Board has approved a program document on “NPTF program to Support Conflict Affected People (CAP) during the period May 2015 to June 2017” and it envisages support to the following projects:

- A livelihood and employment program
- A project for psychosocial support
- A project for support to CAAC (Related to UN SC 1612)
- A project for support to women (victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence & torture)
- A project to support Conflict Affected People with Disability

The NPTF also organized a consultative workshop with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of industry, and Ministry of agriculture and cooperatives to prepare a concept note for the livelihood and employment support projects. The workshop discussed a ToR for

needs assessment related to vocational education and training and livelihood support to CAPs, development of concept notes, and project documents for approval by the NPTF. The workshop also aimed to clarify roles and responsibilities of the IAs to be involved in the project.

Consultative meetings with stakeholders

The NPTF organised Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders at Nepalgunj, Dhangadi and Mahendranagar on 29-31 July to review the situation of Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

Two FGDs were organized in Nepalgunj and Dhangadi on 29, and 30-31 July respectively. These meetings focused on identifying the needs of IDPs. Consultants hired by the EUTA are carrying out the consultations.

The team of consultants met Women and Children Development Officers (WDOs) in the different districts. The objectives of meetings with WDOs focused on identifying needs of CAP women and former Maoist women combatants of the Maoist army. The FGDs with these groups were focused on the needs of these specific beneficiaries. The team also observed a safe house in Mahendranagar that is managed by the WDO of Kanchanpur.

The team also met Local Peace Committee (LPC) representatives in districts.

The main purpose of the FGDs with LPCs focused on identifying activities for strengthening their role in community peace building. LPC members, and key district stakeholders including the Chief District Officer, District Police Chief, representatives of UN and international agencies in the districts, and NGOs, attended these meetings. EUTA Team Leader and Senior Capacity Development Manager attended the meetings.

GFA support to earthquake-affected staff

GFA Consulting Group (a sub contracting Agency of EUTA) has provided financial support to three support staff of NPTF and EUTA, who had suffered direct damages to their residences during the earthquake of 25 April. GFA provided NPR 100,000 each

for Champa Gurung, receptionist, and Lok Bahadur Baramu, driver at PFS and Subarna Karki, the driver at GFA for repairing their homes that were damaged by the quake.

GESI Training / Workshop

The NPTF organized a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitization workshop on 30 and 31 July in Kathmandu. Twenty-five officials of the MoPR and IAs attended the workshop. The training was part of USAID's technical assistance for mainstreaming GESI concerns in programs and projects of the NPTF and MoPR.



Participants at the GESI Training workshop at Kathmandu.

The Executive Director of NPTF Mukunda Prasad Paudyal inaugurated the workshop and said that the sensitization training was a part of the ministry's Capacity Development (CD) Action Plan. He added that NPTF formulated a "GESI Sensitive Capacity Development Plan" in 2014 as part of USAID's technical assistance. The plan was prepared following an assessment that had indicated that a majority of officials lacked GESI knowledge, limiting their capacity to integrate GESI concerns in programs.

The director further added that GESI mainstreaming is mandatory for promoting sustainable peace and development and said the sensitization can play a pivotal role to make programs and projects more GESI responsive and results-oriented.

Amanda Cats-Baril, Democracy and Governance Specialist, USAID said in her speech that GESI is a key foundation for promoting peace and USAID is supporting capacity development of MoPR and IAs

in understanding and applying GESI concept in their work.

The training workshop was interactive and had 12 female participants. The participants came from the MoPR, NPTF, Nepal Police, and from Non-formal Education Center, Nepal Television, Radio Nepal, and the Central Child Welfare Committee. Dr. Munni Sharma, USAID TA to NPTF, facilitated the workshop.

New staff at PFS

Four new members joined PFS during this period.

Bed Raj Phuyel, Under Secretary, assumed office on 6 July as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. He is also responsible for Administration and communication. He had served before in Ministry of Federal Affairs of Local Development (M&E section), Department of Environment and National Planning Commission Secretariat *including others*. He has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from University of Tokyo, Japan and Master's Degree in Business Studies from TU.

Similarly, **Tomnath Uprety, Under Secretary**, took on responsibilities as the Finance Management Officer on 15 July. Prior to this he had worked as Customs Officer at the Tribhuvan International Airport, and as an officer at the Revenue Administrative Training Centre, Pulchowk. He has Master's degrees in Public Administration and political science, and a Bachelor's Degree in Law.

Two other staff members include **Hemanta Aryal Bhattarai** and **Laxmi Subedi**, Who have joined PFS as Program/administration assistant and M&E assistant, respectively.

Financial reviews

PFS, with financial support from EUTA, has sub-contracted a Chartered Accountant firm to carry out financial review of three IAs (NDF, Nepal Television and Radio Nepal) based on audit reports of the Office of the Auditor General and internal monitoring. The review focuses on recommending options by PFS for maintaining financial discipline and mitigating risks.

MoPR ACTIVITIES

New publications and interaction with Media

MoPR organised a press meet on 16 July and launched a new publication – Shanti (peace) – a compilation of policies and procedures with articles.



The Secretary of MoPR, Mr. Khum Raj Punjali, unveiled the new issue of the publication that the MoPR publishes. Addressing the meeting after unveiling the publication, the secretary said the ministry has recently disbursed NPR 2.5 billion for supporting people affected by the conflict. He added that the work for supporting the conflict-affected people would continue under the new strategy of the NPTF.

Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, MoPR, launching a new publication at a press meet organized by the ministry.

Rishi Raj Bhandari, Joint Secretary, MoPR welcomed the participants and briefed the participants. Damodar Bhandari, spokesperson, MoPR, made a presentation about Ministry's efforts in peace related activities.

Induction program for new staff

The MoPR organized an Induction program for new staff on 25-26 July with the support of Capacity Development Unit and technical support of EU TA team. There were 17 participants including Under Secretary (M&E) and Under Secretary (Finance) of the PFS. The main purpose of the induction program was to orient the new staff in the MoPR's role in the peace process. The Director of PFS and Senior Capacity Development Manager from EU TA team facilitated the sessions.

ACTIVITIES OF IAs

Consultative Workshops at BPKIHS

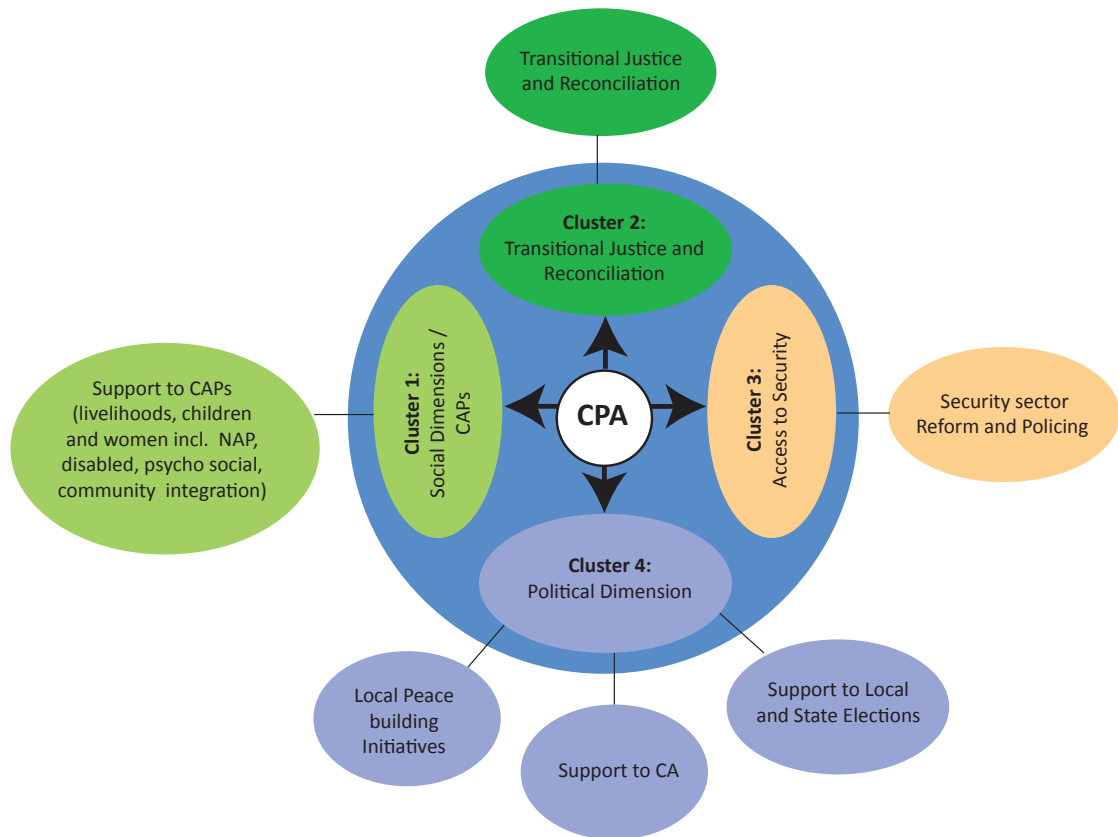
The B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS) organized two consultative workshops in Dharan on 7 and 8 July. One of the workshops included LPCs representatives from all 11 districts of the Eastern Development Region.

The aim of the workshops was to assess the status and number of conflict-affected disabled people in

the eastern region. BPKIHS has an on-going NPTF funded project to establish a rehabilitation center within its premises in Dharan. The project is nearing completion requires additional funding for operating the center.

A working group meeting was held between the PFS-EUTA team and the BPKIHS officials to discuss and draft a concept note for operating the rehabilitation center.

Programmatic dimensions and agreed thematic directions in the NPTF strategy



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