



Monthly Newsletter

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Government-Donor Meeting

The 24th Government-Donor Group (GoN-DG) meeting of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) was held at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruc-

tion (MoPR) on 12 December. Representatives of the European Union (EU), Department for International Development (DFID), Switzerland, and Norway attended the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Khum Raj Punjali, Acting Secretary,

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



MoPR and Rensje Teerink, the EU Ambassador to Nepal.

Secretary Punjali welcomed the donors, and explained why it was important for both the government and donors to reach an agreement on the NPTF Strategy, Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) and Peace Fund (Operation) Regulations (PFoR). He also explained the process involved in the preparation of strategy that included various meetings of the Task Force with the Donors and the Technical Committee.

Mr. Punjali thanked donors for their support to NPTF and said even though the transition has been long, there have been some major achievements related to the peace process. He said the highlights were the completion of the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist combatants and construction of public infrastructures that were damaged during the conflict. He added that the remaining support related to transitional justice and conflict-affected persons (CAPs) would be addressed under the new NPTF strategy.

He informed donors of ongoing efforts to strengthen the Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS), which is now headed by a full-time director, and also said the government was in the process of filling the vacant positions at PFS.

The Donor Chair, H.E. Rensje Teerink, welcomed the staffing arrangements at the PFS, and added that the donors were committed to the NPTF process and would listen with interests to briefings and the projects that were proposed.

She said she was aware that the preparation of the NPTF strategy has involved a number of meetings also among donors side where there had been discussions on outstanding issues. She added she was hopeful about moving forward after reaching a final agreement.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director, NPTF, thanked donors for their support to the peace process and

also made a presentation on the strategy and the activities underway at the preparation for implementing projects under the new strategy.

He also informed donors that the JFA and PFoR would be finalized after the finalization and approval of the strategy.

Conference on Support to Conflict Affected Persons

The NPTF organised a conference to explore ways to support CAPs in Kathmandu on 5 December. The meeting brought together CAPs, experts, donor representatives and representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations working with CAPs. The objective was to share experiences, learn and to contribute towards designing programs for supporting CAPs.

Specifically the conference sought to brief participants on past support and experiences, including the results of the focus group discussions (FGDs) carried out by the NPTF/EU-TA, and also sought to reach an agreement on who was a CAP and who was not.

It also aimed at having a preliminary discussion on the proposed NPTF strategy and possible program/projects and uncovered areas and how these could be merged in a broad programmatic approach. The idea of this approach was to be able to continue supporting individuals/groups of conflict victims as long as the PFS remained operational and to channel the support through government programs after it was phased out.

The meeting also discussed the role non-governmental agencies or NGOs could play in such a program and also agree on a timeline for NPTF-supported interventions.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director, NPTF, welcomed the participants and explained the afore-said objectives and said the PFS wished to have more programs to support CAPs. He requested



Narahari Acharya, Minister, Peace and Reconstruction, addressing the Conference on Support to Conflict Affected Person.



Participants at the Conference on Support to Conflict Affected Person.

the participant to suggest the kind of activities that could be implemented in future, and to also provide feedback on shortcomings and gaps they had observed in programs supported by the NPTF. He said all future programs would have to ensure sustainability and continuity.

Addressing the meeting Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, MoPR said the Government had been providing support to conflict affected persons but it was still not adequate. He explained that the support being provided was interim in nature because further support and final reparations would be examined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on Inquiry of Enforced Disappeared Person (CoDP). He said the Government has been providing 18 different kinds of relief support to CAPs, which included relief to families of the deceased and disappear persons, other relief packages and also support based on recommendations made by National Human Rights Commission.

The secretary said the Ministry was aware that many victims of conflict had not been receiving the relief support intended for them and said that there was a need to identify people who have not received support and update the list maintained by the Government. He said the Government was aware that support to victims of sexual and gender based violence during the conflict remained to be adequately addressed and added that the

Ministry was committed to ensure support to these groups in the coming days.

The Honorable Minister for MoPR, Narahari Acharya provided his key note address and highlighted the importance of the conference. The Minister stated that the MoPR and the PFS were in the process of reviewing their past programs and formulating future strategies and programs. He said that the Ministry is in the process of formulating programs for the next three years. He also informed that the GoN is in the process of formulation of the TRC and CoDP.

He further stated that the GoN has been providing interim relief packages to CAPs and to their families. He, however, acknowledged that all victims of conflict have not been able to receive the relief packages provided by the government. He explained that despite the weaknesses on part of the government, the government is committed towards providing support and relief packages to CAPs.

The discussions centered on Government services to CAPs such as scholarships, compensation, and management of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their effective delivery.

The conference was supported by the Technical Assistance provided by the EU to the MoPR and PFS for managing the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA).

Technical Committee Meeting

The Technical Committee of the NPTF held its 38th meeting on 10 December. The meeting chaired by Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary MoPR, discussed on NPTF Strategy 2014-17, JFA and proposed second amendment of the PFoR and agreed to forward the documents to the NPTF Board.



Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director, NPTF, at the Technical Committee meeting.

The meeting discussed a Project Document received from the MoPR on “Provision of Psycho-social Counselling and Support Services to Conflict Affected Persons in Nepal”. This was forwarded to the committee by the Sectoral Cluster meeting held at the PFS on 9 December.

The meeting also granted a no-cost extension for the project being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs on the “Implementation of NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820: Prevention, Protection and Recovery”. The Technical Committee also approved changes in the activities for project “Promoting Women’s Participation in Peace Building Process and Economic Opportunities” being implemented by the Ministry of Defense.

Progress Report

The NPTF has prepared and shared the draft of the 22nd Progress Report with donors. The report will

be posted on the NPTF website after incorporating comments from the donor. This report includes progress in program implementation and financial management covering the period between 17 July 2014 to 16 November 2014.

IMPLEMENTATING AGENCIES

District Level Coordination Meeting

The National Disabled Fund (NDF) organized district-level coordination meetings in Lamjung and Kaski districts on 18-19 December. The Chief District Officers of the respective districts chaired the meetings that were held to inform stakeholders on the types of physical rehabilitation services that were being provided. The participants were Women Development Officers, District Development Officers, and representatives from District Police Offices, District Education Offices, LPCs, and VDC Secretaries. Representatives of political parties, organizations working on rights of disabled people, journalists, municipal officials, I/NGOs working in disability sectors, Community Based Organizations, Conflict affected Disabled Persons, and other social workers and volunteers attended the meetings.

NDF partner organizations have also been organizing such meetings in other districts. The meetings are organized to inform stakeholders of services that are available for people disabled during the conflict and for developing coordination mechanisms among beneficiaries, government agencies and non-governmental stakeholders. The meetings also serve as a platform for listening to problems faced by people who were disabled during the conflict, and their expectations.

The NDF is implementing the “Physical Rehabilitation Services to Conflict affected Disabled People in Nepal” project that is supported by the NPTF.

(The NDF can be contacted through email: ndfcadp@gmail.com and telephone: 01-4227384)

Interaction on women, peace and security

The Nepal Women's Commission (NWC) organised an interaction with representatives of political parties at LPCs and government officials in Ilam and Dhanusa districts on 30 November and 2 December. The interactions sought to inform political party representatives and government officials about the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the National Action Plan (NAP) and to discuss ways to increase meaningful participation of women in peace building related decision making.

According to the NWC most of the participants were not aware about the UN resolutions and the NAP, even though there were District Coordination Committees in the districts that were working on NAP implementation. The LPC members at the meeting said there are INGOs and NGOs that have been providing capacity development support to CAPs, but these activities have been done without coordination with the LPCs.

MoPR ACTIVITY

MDAC Meeting

Hon. Minister of Peace and Reconstruction chaired the Ministerial Development Action Committee (MDAC) held at the MoPR on 31 December. In presence of Hon. Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Member and Pushpa Lal Shakya, Joint Secretary of National planning Commission, the meeting reviewed the progress of the ministry's work for the first trimester of fiscal year 2014/15.

Khum Raj Punjali, Secretary, MoPR, Mukunda P. Paudyal, Director, NPTF, Joint Secretaries of MoPR participated in the meeting that was also attended by other officials of the MoPR and PFS.



MDAC meeting at MoPR.

Officials of different divisions and departments of the MoPR shared the physical and financial progress of the trimester. Similarly, representatives from Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Department of Local infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DOLIDAR), Gorkarna Peace Park and the Nepal Police attended the meeting and informed the minister of the progress and problems.

The meeting discussed and decided ways to resolve implementation related problems particularly the shortage of timber and price escalation in the project on reconstructing the Mangalsen Durbar in Achham and the handover of the reconstructed Palpa Durbar. The Committee also decided that the government resources for the "Development for Peace Program" would be streamlined towards peace promoting and peace sensitive areas.

The meeting also discussed ways to ensure timely project completion and settlement of irregularities pointed out by the auditors.



Feedback from monitoring of NPTF projects

By Laxmi Datt Kalauni

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Director, NPTF, interacting with beneficiaries at the Kohalpur Medical College, Nepalganj.

The NPTF has been functioning as a mechanism for financing the peace building projects that support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and other peace related agreements. This unique mechanism has been instrumental in channelizing Government and donor funds towards peace building, and for supporting Conflict Affected Persons (CAPs). Financial transactions require strong oversight and a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in place so as to minimize the chances of fund misuse and to optimize the use of the scarce resources. That is why the NPTF stresses on different M&E approaches ranging from the internal supervision by Implementing Agencies (IAs) to the external outcome monitoring. Joint Monitoring

Visits (JMV) is one of many approaches adopted by NPTF in which the United Nations Peace Fund Nepal (UNPFN), NPTF and representatives of the donor group jointly visit projects in different parts of the country and assess performance. These visits include interactions with IAs at the implementation level and also the beneficiaries.

A number of JMV were organized to different districts including Kaski, Makwanpur, Parsa, Sunsari, Dhankuta, Nuwakot, Banke and Kailali over the past 18 months. Except the JMV to Makwanpur and Parsa that focused on the Next Constituent Assembly Election project, all other visits sought to monitor more than one project. The most recent JMV to Banke and Kailali focused on proj-



ects related to CAPs. It is not possible for the JMV to monitor all projects in all districts with its limited capacity but the feedback they provide to IAs are very important for steering implementation. It is also a platform for first hand feedback from beneficiaries.

Previous JMV have covered all development regions and included several projects related to supporting CAPs, security and transitional justice, and elections and peace building initiatives. The field level observations and interactions with beneficiaries and stakeholders have provided good feedback on the implementation status of the NPTF projects, including the challenges. This feedback has been accounted for in planning the strategic approach of the NPTF for the remaining years. What follows is an account of the monitoring in the areas of reconstruction, physical rehabilitation, elections, training and capacity development projects supported by the NPTF.

(a) Police unit reconstruction

During the observation of reconstruction of police posts at Dhampus, Kaski; Leguwa and Pakhribas, Dhankuta; and Kharanitar, Nuwakot the police personnel briefed the teams in the presence of local people on the status and progress of reconstruction initiatives. At Pakhribas and Kharanitar the posts were already in use and the police had begun extending support to the communities. The reconstruction at Dhampus and Leguwa had been delayed by problems related to contracting, and there also were issues about the quality of construction and the fencing of the premises. The field observations were shared with the Nepal Police Headquarters that responded with measures it would take to rectify the situation.

(b) Physical rehabilitation services

The JMV teams interacted with two projects on physical rehabilitation services – Physical Rehabilitation Centre at Dharan and the Physical Rehabilitation Services to Conflict Affected Disabled People

Joint Monitoring Team interacting with CAPs in Dhangadhi, Kailali.



(CADP) – at different time periods. In the latter project, the National Disabled Fund (NDF) has been providing assistive devices –prosthesis and orthosis – to CADPs. The project manager was available at Kohalpur Medical College, Kohalpur, Banke along with the hospital staff and service recipients to interact with the JMV team. This project has provided assistive devices and physiotherapy services to people disabled during the conflict despite the outreach and transportation problems it has faced in reaching CADPs residing in remote areas. The other project to build a Physical Rehabilitation Centre at the B.P.Koirala Memorial Hospital, Dharan has been delayed by construction issues, and lack of adequate coordination and communication.

(c) Support to the CA elections

The JMV visited Parsa and Makwanpur districts to observe the preparations for the second Constituent Assembly election. The team was able to interact with local officials on the preparations despite their busy schedules. The team was informed on the approach to manage preparation and voter education programs that were supported by NPTF. The team was also able to appraise themselves with the concerns of voters, particularly those related to their identity cards and security that were duly reported to the Election Commission, Nepal. This feedback was provided to the Commission that later distributed temporary voter identity cards before the election.

(d) Training programs

The NPTF has basically supported two types of training programs: (a) awareness raising orientations and trainings of short duration and (b) skills trainings of a longer duration. Non-Formal Education Centre and the Ministry of Industry carried out the second type of trainings aiming to mainly reach women and girls. The joint monitoring team met and interacted with trainees to obtain feedback on effectiveness and relevance of training-sheld in Nuwakot and Kailali districts. The team

also met and interacted with trainees and employees of a local non-governmental organization that was being supported under the pilot Non-Governmental Actor (NGA) project. It was found that even though the trainings had been carried out as planned reaching the desired number of trainees they fell short of attaining the overall goals of the programs for lack of sufficient linkages with the employment/self-employment opportunities. This has provided useful feedback: Trainings need to be selected based on local needs and market assessments and have to be combined with financing options such as seed money grants and linkages to credit opportunities.

(e) Capacity development of local peace building mechanisms

The Local Peace Committees (LPCs) and District Coordination Committees (DCCs) are the key local institutions that need to be strengthened and supported for ensuring sustainable peace. The participants in the JMV have interacted with LPCs of Dhankuta and Kailali. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) had identified these committees as the best performers. Interactions with them suggested that relief packages had not reached some CAPs despite their recommendations. These concerns have been conveyed to the ministry that is now in the process of revising the Terms of Reference for the LPCs and has also taken initiatives to formulate a taskforce to address the concerns related to CAPs. Such visits have also helped the NPTF to collect feedback on projects seeking to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. The NPTF has been supporting a number of NAP related projects and this feedback eventually led to an evaluation that has suggested ways to make NAP implementation more effective.

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