



Joint Monitoring Visit Report (Draft)

**December 1 to 3, 2015
(Kathmandu, Bhaktapur)**



(Meeting with Nepal Police, Police Training Academy Maharajganj, Kathmandu)

Nepal Peace Trust Fund

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Joint Monitoring Visit

A three days joint monitoring visit from 1 to 3 December 2015 was organized to review the progress of and find out the reasons behind some slow performing projects supported by NPTF and identify steps and remedies for future intervention in the related areas.

IAs and Projects visited

- **Department of Road (Project: 1/18All Weather Access Roads and Bridges to the Cantonments)**
- **National Disabled Fund (Project: 2/03: Rehabilitation Services for Conflict Affected Disabled People).**
- **Ministry of Defence (Project: 3/13 NAP 1325 and 1820 Promoting Women's Participation in Peace Building Process and Economic Opportunities).**
- **Non Formal Education Center (Project: 3/14 NAP 1325 and 1820 Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls through Literacy and Livelihood skills (NFEC).**
- **Nepal Police (Project: 3/10 Capacity Enhancement of NP to Contribute to Peace Process Effectively).**
- **Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (Project: 4/16Conflict Transformation and Peace Building through Constitution Making).**

Participants

Mr. Bed Raj Phuyal, Under Secretary (PFS), Mr. Tom Nath Upreti, Under Secretary (Account, PFS), Ms. Ruku Sharma Poudyal (Section Officer, PFS), Ms. Januka Kafle (Section Officer, PFS), Mr. Thomas Thomsen (TL EU TA), Mr. Nanda Sharma (PFM Advisor, EU TA), Ms. GARCIA ALCUBILLA Diana (EEAS-KATHMANDU), Mr. Yagya Bikram Shahi (DG Coordinator), Arvind Kumar Rimal (EU TA), Ms. Roshani Adhikari (EU TA). Some of the participants took part in every meeting and discussion and some in a few chosen ones.

Day 1.

The team visited three implementing agencies and had discussion with project management team on the slow progress and problems of the projects being implemented by them.

1. Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (Project: 4/16Conflict Transformation and Peace Building through Constitution Making).

The JMV team met with the project management team of above mentioned project. The project manager Mr. Laxmi Sharan Ghimire, Joint Secretary, MoPR, briefed the context of the project and highlighted its importance.

Observation:

- The project has been able to carry out activities related to all three outputs. Activities related to output one have already been completed. Preparatory work for the activities related to output two and three have also been completed but due to current political situation it is on hold.
- The major activity carried out by the project was collection of suggestion and feedback on new constitution and submission to Parliamentary Secretariat.
- Though the Parliamentary Secretariat is cooperating with them very well, they have not received consent letter from Parliamentary Secretariat for carrying out these activities as agreed with donors.
- The project needs extension to carry out all the activities.

Recommendation:

- MoPR should get consent letter from Parliamentary Secretariat and send a copy to PFS for circulation to donors.
- Seeing the importance of the project concerned authorities should take necessary decision for further extension as the project completion date is December 2015. Maximum it could go until 15 march 2016 if that is helpful for some pipeline activities.

2. National Disabled Fund (Project: 2/03: Rehabilitation Services for Conflict Affected Disabled People).

The project management team of NDF headed by the President Mr. Nitesh Kumar briefed the JMV team about the progress and problems of the project. As far the slow progress of the project is concerned, management team of NDF told that in the initial stage it took nearly seven to eight months to receive funds from MoWCSW. During implementation phase, they faced problems reaching to the conflict affected disabled, as most of them moved away from the cantonments after reintegration, rehabilitation and volunteer retirement of ex-Maoist combatants. As a result the project had to be revised and it took nearly one year for approval.

Observation:

- Despite current political situation, a few activities are moving ahead.
- Due to the embargo, supplies of materials have been hampered.
- Due to lack of funds in transportation head, 138 disabled people who have already been screened could not receive services.
- Relations with implementing partners are good. NDF is providing funds to them on advance basis.
- As far as the financial issue - regarding interest is concerned, NDF earned interest of NRs 45 lakhs from the project funds, which had to be returned to PFS. They have already returned 8 lakhs out of 45 lakhs to PFS and are in the process of settling remaining interest.
- NDF needs continuation of the project till extended time (February 2016).

Recommendation:

- Funds from remaining budget head should be transferred to transportation head so that 138 disabled waiting for services can receive required services.

- Seeing the present political scenario the project should not be closed before extended time (February 2016) and obtaining the interest.

3. Department of Road (Project: 1/18 All Weather Access Roads and Bridges to the Cantonments)

The JMV team met with the project management team of DoR headed by Regional Director, Mr. Mukti Gautam. The division Head, Mid-western Regional Road Office, told that due to major earthquake of April and aftershocks and current political situation, the construction of Chingad Bridge could not move ahead. If the situation becomes normal within one to two months the project can be completed by the end of this fiscal year otherwise it will take longer time for completion.

Observation:

- Seeing the present political scenario the project is difficult to complete by the end of this fiscal year.
- DoR is ready to close the project by the end of December and return the remaining money, provided that a letter should be sent by the NPTF.

Recommendation:

- Despite slow progress of Chingad Bridge, the bridge should be completed. For this, DoR should take strong steps to complete the bridge and it may proceed through any of the following way;
 - Request NPTF for time extension with commitment to complete the project within this fiscal year or,
 - Submit the project completion report, return the remaining NPTF fund and complete the project with DoR budget.

Day 2.

The team visited two implementing agencies and had discussion with project management team on the slow progress and problems of the projects being implemented by them.

4. Nepal Police (Project: 3/10 Capacity Enhancement of NP to Contribute to Peace Process Effectively).

The representative of Nepal police Mr. Phanindra Baral, SP, briefed the JMV team about the progresses and problems faced during implementation of the project. The team had also discussion with Mr. Sudip Acharya, DIG of Police Training Academy and other officers involved in training activities.

Observation:

- Almost all the activities have been completed except finishing work of one women barrack in Dipayal.
- Massive sensitization programme was launched in different local languages to encourage women to join Nepal police, which has started paying off.

- Women barracks constructed under this programme have encouraged women to join the Nepal Police. The number of women applicants to join Nepal Police at different level is increasing.
- The women barrack built in police training center has some minor cracks due to major earthquake and aftershocks.

Recommendation:

- Time should be extended for completion of one remaining barrack as per request or TC decision

5. Ministry of Defense (Project: 3/13 NAP 1325 and 1820 Promoting Women's Participation in Peace Building Process and Economic Opportunities).

The JMV team met with the project management team of MoD, headed by Mr. Toya Nath Adhikari, Joint Secretary of MoD who briefed on the progress of the project and problems faced during the implementation. He briefed the JMV team that due to major earthquake and recent political condition of the country the progress of the project is rather slow. He also mentioned that activities related to output 2 were rather irrelevant as most of the conflict affected women were already involved in some kind of income generating activities.

Observation:

- Women barracks in Panchakhal, Kavre has been completed. 80% Construction work of child care center at Bhadrakali and 70% construction work of childcare center at Chhavani have been completed.
- The progress related to output 2 is rather slow as conflict affected women have already engaged in other income generating activities.

Recommendation:

- The activities related to output 2 should be closed. The livelihood component could be included in other CAP projects.
- The project should be handed over to MoD with all committed fund for construction work. Remaining funds should be returned to PFS by the end of December.

Day 3

The team visited one implementing agency and had discussion with project management team on the slow progress and problems of the projects being implemented by them.

6. Non Formal Education Center (Project: 3/14 NAP 1325 and 1820 Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls through Literacy and Livelihood skills (NFEC)).

The JMV team met with the project management team of NFEC headed by Deputy Director, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Mishara. The project management team briefed about the progress and problems they faced during the implementation. In the beginning it took longer time to get approval from the Ministry of Education on implementation guidelines of the project. Other reasons for slow progress

were reshuffling of government staffs, Constituent Assembly election and Literate Nepal Mission in which most of the government staffs were involved.

Observation:

- The project has been able to link literacy with livelihood and reach to the grassroots level conflict affected women and girls in 12 targeted districts.
- The progress achieved so far are encouraging.
- The mid-term evaluation conducted by Center for Educational Research and innovation and Development (CERID) on behalf of NFEC indicated that project activities have contributed to bring about a change in the mindset of the conflict affected women and girls in the community and encouraged them to engage in some kind of income generation activities utilizing the resources and possibilities available in the local communities.

Recommendation:

- Linking literacy with livelihood is a commendable effort and the project has been able to reach out at grassroots level.
- The positive indications came out by the mid-term evaluation of the project are encouraging and lesson learnt and good practices could be replicated in other 23 most conflict affected districts.
- Project should not be closed before extended time (Mid June 2016).