



Monthly Newsletter

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Minister Acharya meets donor representatives

The Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya met Ambassadors and heads of international agencies supporting the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) on 18 November. The high-level meeting discussed the draft NPTF strategy and the proposed thematic areas. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the European Union, also the donor chair, Rensje Teerink,

Ambassadors of Switzerland, Denmark, Finland and Norway and heads of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and UN Resident Coordinator.

At the meeting Minister Acharya briefed donors about the NPTF's new draft strategy and peace building projects underway and responded to queries related to the strategy and the programs planned for the coming years. The minister also explained the government's plan to ensure that the transitional justice mechanisms are based



*Minister of
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Acharya at a
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on international best practices and hoped that NPTF would receive continued support from the development partners. He explained the provisions in the commission on Inquiry of Enforced Disappeared Person and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act,2071 (2014), how these commissions would be set up and their mandates.

According to a press statement issued by the MoPR, Minister Acharya also responded to questions the donor representatives had on the thematic areas proposed in the new NPTF strategy. Secretary at MoPR Khum Raj Punjali, and the Director of NPTF, Mukunda Prasad Paudyal were also present in the meeting.

Minister inaugurates new barrack for women police

Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Mr. Acharya inaugurated newly constructed barrack for women at the Nepal Police Academy on 12 November.

Addressing the event Minister Acharya said the new infrastructure would benefit women police because the new facilities offer privacy and security that are instrumental in motivating them to perform their duties.

*Minister for
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Narahari
Acharya
inaugurating
newly
constructed
police barrack.*

He added that he was pleased with the role women in uniform were playing in maintaining law and order and added that the Government plans to increase their numbers in the police force. The Secretary of the MoPR Mr. Punjali and Director of NPTF Mr. Paudyal were also present at the inauguration.

The new barrack was built under a project supported by the NPTF. The project “Capacity Enhancement of Nepal Police (NP) to contribute to Peace Process effectively,” had a budget of NPR 234 million for building six Women Police Training Centres at Bharatpur, Butwal, Nepalganj, Dipayal and at the National Police Academy and Police Headquarters in Kathmandu.

The project aims to strengthen capacity of police personnel for ensuring a gender sensitive approach to addressing issues related to conflict affected women and girls, and victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Its approach is to increase the number of women in the police by developing women-friendly infrastructures, and through gender responsive policing.

So far, NPTF has supported five different projects with the Nepal Police that collectively add up to NPR. 3938.99 million.



Joint monitoring of NPTF-funded projects

A team led by Mr. Paudyal, Director NPTF, carried out monitoring of projects supported by the NPTF and the UN Peace Fund Nepal (UNPFN) in Banke and Kailali districts from 4-7 November 2014.



NPTF Director, Mukunda Prasad Paudyal in a discussion with conflict affected persons during the joint monitoring visit.

In Banke, the 11-member team visited two projects “Physical Rehabilitation Services for Conflict Affected Disabled People in Nepal” supported by the NPTF, and “Integration and Rehabilitation of Children Affected by Armed Conflict” supported by the UNPFN. At Nepalganj Medical College (NMC) the team met with conflict affected disabled people who had received artificial limbs provided by the National Disabled Fund (NDF), an Implementing Agency working with NPTF support.

Similarly, the team also visited a UNPFN project site in Nepalganj and met members of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) including



Joint monitoring team at a discussion with conflict affected persons in Kailali.

Chief District Officer (CDO), Women and Children Officer (WCO) and other networking groups and officials, and conflict affected children and victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In Kailali, the team visited five projects sites. The projects visited included those aimed at strengthening local peace committees (LPCs), those related to the National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 and those seeking to enhance capacity of conflict affected women and girls for employment and enterprise development.

Also included in the monitoring was a project being implemented by a non-governmental actor (NGA) that sought to promote the NAP and support livelihood improvements of poor and vulnerable women and girls.

The monitoring team included Under Secretary, Laxmi Datt Kalauni and other finance personnel from the NPTF/EU Technical Assistance (TA) for monitoring project spending. Other members included representatives of Denmark, the UNPFN, and program and monitoring and communication staff of the NPTF/EUTA/USAIDTA.

In all the team members visited three projects supported by NPTF, three by the UNPFN and one project implemented by a NGA.

TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS

Monitoring, Reporting and Communication Training / Workshop

The NPTF organized a Monitoring, Reporting and Communication Training / Workshop for Implementing Agencies (IAs) of ongoing projects on 30 November and 1 December at Kathmandu. The training is mainly focused on how to write report and how to communicate with the people about projects' activities, which they are implementing.

Director NPTF, Mr. Paudyal welcomed the participants in the workshop and gave brief information

Implementing Agency participants at the reporting and communication workshop.



about the NPTF draft strategy. He further stressed on effective implementation of NPTF projects with the joint endeavor of IAs and NPTF.

During the workshop Thomas Thomsen, Team Leader of the EUTA gave the Presentation on Findings of the Review of NAP Projects. Whereas, Binod Bhattacharai, Communication expert, EUTA took a session on Communicating Impacts such as; Success Story, Lesson Learnt and Press Release. He briefed how to write and how to present their success stories.

M&E team of the NPTF shared about the Problems related to reporting formats, and orient participants on NPTF Reporting formats.

The external Monitoring team, Scott Wilson Nepal Presented their Findings of the External Monitoring from the field.

The participants included from 11 IAs, who are responsible to implement projects under the NPTF fund namely, MoPR, Election Commission Nepal, National Women Commission (NWC), NP, Department of Road, Non Formal Education Centre, Nepal

Television, Radio Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defense, NDF and NPTF. Altogether 26 officials participated at the workshop.

GESI Sensitizing Training

The NPTF organized a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitization training workshop for MoPR officials on 24 and 25 November at MoPR. The workshop was a part of the Ministry's capacity development plan, participated by 23 officials of the Ministry.

The training familiarized MoPR officials about (i) the basic Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) concepts and the gender analysis framework, and (ii) how gender roles and stereotypes are constructed, preserved and transformed with socio-cultural, economic and political factors and development.

Besides, the officials were also oriented on the need for GESI integration in all stages of peace building, particularly in the programs and projects of MoPR. Increased sensitivity of officials is expected to encourage them to become GESI responsive in planning, programming and implementation.



MoPR officials
at the GESI
workshop.

The Secretary, Mr. Punjali affirmed in his key address that GESI mainstreaming is mandatory policy of the GoN and the PFS' endeavor to capacitate the government officials to become GESI responsive in planning, formulating policies and implementing programs is well-timed to attain the Ministry's goal of balanced development and sustainable peace in the country.

The Director of NPTF, Mr. Paudyal, in his opening remarks enlightened that the sensitization training is the product of "GESI Sensitive Capacity Development (CD) Plan" that PFS has formulated as part of the Ministry's capacity development plan. Dr. Munni Sharma, the GESI Advisor serving as USAID TA for PFS has facilitated all through the formulation of CD plan to sensitization of officials for more effective mainstreaming of GESI in MoPR.

Focus Group Discussions

The NPTF organized a series of focus group discussions(FGDs) for Conflict Affected Persons (CAPs) on 12, 13 and 17 November to obtain deeper and experience-based understanding of issues related to CAPs including feedback on

support being provided, lessons learnt and gaps. The feedback and recommendations will serve as inputs for designing programs for supporting the rehabilitation of CAPs under the new NPTF strategy. The five FGDs focused on the following themes related to CAPs:

- Livelihoods and employment
- Conflict-Affected Persons with Disability (CAPwD)
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Ex-combatants
- Psychosocial Support

The NPTF seeks to adopt a program-based approach during the period of its new strategy and the findings from the FGDs will contribute to the formulation of a broad programme document for supporting CAPs. These findings with key central-level stakeholders and representatives of different groups working with CAPs also is expected to feed into a stakeholder conference on CAPs to be held in the coming months.

The FGD were designed to primarily discuss status of CAPs (i.e. particularly those eligible for

Participants at the Focus Group Discussion.



support), support provided to them so far and the lessons learnt from the interventions. The meetings also discussed the way forward in terms of areas and types of support, the most effective ways to provide support (areas, procedures, etc.), and role of representative organizations of CAPs.

The FGDs were held in five groups and had a total of 94 participants. The participants included representatives of the MoPR, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, the LPCs (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur), representatives of the donors such as the EU and USAID. There also were participants from the UNPFN, UNDP, National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), and other IAs of the NPTF projects. Also represented at the FGDs were the Orphans Society of Conflict Victim, Association of St. Mary's Alumnae Nepal, Conflict Management and Displaced Centre, Maoist Victim Association, Ex- PLA Women Association Nepal, Scott Wilson Nepal, and the PFS-TA staff.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Changing life by artificial limbs

Indra Prasad Yadav from Kohalpur, Banke had lost his left leg during the insurgency, in 2002. The loss had prevented him from walking around and doing regular household work until he received an artificial limb and physical rehabilitation services from the NMC. The change was made possible through a project supported by NPTF that is being implemented by the NDF.

Mr. Yadav is now able to walk around and has started a small business near his house. He said, the shop is the only way he could earn an income because he



Indra Prasad Yadav at his convenience store.

cannot work on the fields anymore. He had used support provided by the MoPR to start the shop and added that he would be grateful for some additional assistance for expanding his business.

The NDF is implementing the project—Physical Rehabilitation Services Conflict affected Disabled People in Nepal – that seeks to support conflict victims who had lost limbs and mobility and provide them artificial limbs, other assistive devices and physical rehabilitation. The NDF aims to screen 5,000 conflict victims and provide assistive devices to 1750 people during the project period.

To date the NMC has provided services to 170 conflict affected people, including 35 women. NDF provides conflict victims similar services across the country through its partners the Community Based Rehabilitation, Biratnagar; NMC, Kohalpur; the Nepal National Social Welfare Association, Kanchanpur; and the NDF office, Kathmandu. (The NDF can be contacted through email: ndfcadp@gmail.com and telephone: 01-4227384)

Interaction on women, peace and security

The NWC organized an interaction program with the key representatives of political parties, LPCs and Government officials from DCCs working on the UN SCR 1325 and 1820 related projects. The discussions also covered ways of promoting meaningful participation of women in decision-making and peace building processes. The meeting was held on 12 November in Kanchanpur District. There were 39 participants from five districts: Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Banke, Bardia and Kailali.

The NWC member Urmila Devi Biswakarma and Krishna Chandra Ghimire, CDO of Kanchanpur were the chair and the chief guest of the discussion session, respectively. Similarly, Local Develop-

ment Officer and WCO of Kanchanpur also participated in the event.

The representative from the WCO made a presentation on the situation of women in Kanchanpur District and the challenges faced by WCO in supporting women victims to report violence.

The discussions focused on the challenges faced by LPC and DCC in implementing program related to the NAP on UN SCR 1325 and 1820.

The activity was supported by NPTF for “Promoting Equal Participation of Women in Decision Making Positions and Peace Building Process” under its programs to support NAP implementation.

Review on Public Service Commission Act and Regulations

The NWC is conducting a review on Public Service Commission (PSC) Act and Regulations to identify gaps and challenges for promoting women representation in the civil service. As part of the review NWC carried out two regional consultations and FGD son 12 and 14 November in Kanchanpur and Surkhet districts. The FGDs included participants from regional offices of the PSC, WCOs, officers (both men and women) from different government agencies, and academicians from the two districts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Activities

1. Conference on Conflict Affected Persons, 5 December 2014
2. Sectoral Cluster Meeting, 9 December 2014
3. Technical Committee Meeting, 10 December 2014
4. GoN-DG Meeting, 12 December 2014
5. Board Meeting, 17 December 2014

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