



## Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325

A high level team here in Nepal for the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 met with the Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya on 11 February at Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR). Minister Acharya briefed the team about activities undertaken by Nepal to implement the UN resolutions and also responded to questions from the team. The minister explained that the nature of violence against women had changed compared to conflict period and said sexual violence against women was an emerging challenge. This is because many cases go unreported and protecting the identity of the victims is difficult.

“There can be no development without peace, and no sustainable peace without the meaningful participation of women,” Minister Acharya told the visiting delegation. He also reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to implementing the National Action Plan (NAP). Minister Acharya is also in charge of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Minister said that the Government of Nepal had established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that would look into cases of sexual and gender based violence during the conflict period (1996-2006).

Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy, a former special representative of the Secretary General on women and children, and lead author of the Global Study, led the team. She discussed issues related to collaboration, representation, participation of women in the decision-making, and asked questions on the implementation of the NAP on UN resolutions 1325 and 1820 role in the country. Joint Secretaries at the MoPR Rishi Rajbhandari, and NPTF Director Mukunda Prasad Paudyal also attended the meeting.

The findings of the Global Study will help to plan renewed global commitment to the international women, peace and security agenda. The report, to be published in October 2015, is expected to come up with a set of major recommendations, providing a basis for future advocacy toward the full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. At the end of her two-day visit to Nepal Dr. Coomaraswamy asked the Government and the people of Nepal

to join her efforts in working towards achieving lasting peace and security for women in Nepal and around the globe.

The Global Study is a report commissioned by the Security Council and is expected to assess progress in women's participation and protection in conflict and post-conflict settings at the global, regional and national levels.

According to Dr. Coomaraswamy Nepal was selected as one of the destinations for the country visits to understand the situation in the post conflict period and especially to assess the implementation of the NAP for the implementation of resolution 1325.

"The drafting process of Nepal's NAP was consultative and participatory, and can serve as a model for other countries in the Global Study," she said. During the visit Ms. Coomaraswamy met with various stakeholders to seek information on the NAP and progress in implementation,

other good practices, and challenges for peace and security for women in Nepal.

## GESI Presentation

The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Advisor at the Nepal Peace Trust Fund Dr. Munni Sharma made a presentation at the Peace Fund Secretariat to share her report on the year-long engagement on 18 February. The USAID-supported Technical Advisor has been providing technical assistance (TA) to both the NPTF and the MoPR. The USAID TA support has focused on mainstreaming adequate and appropriate GESI approaches in the NPTF program/ projects and also on assisting MoPR to become GESI responsive.

Some of the achievements so far include integration of GESI in newly funded NPTF projects along with institutionalization of GESI responsive monitoring and evaluation in the NPTF strategy document. The consultant was also

*NPTF staff during GESI Presentation at PFS.*





involved in supporting the formulation of a GESI sensitive capacity development plan for the MoPR and an action plan for sensitizing officials. A training was also organized to acquaint 23 MoPR officials on GESI and gender analysis tools.

The MoPR has listed GESI integration as a priority but there are also challenges to internalization of GESI and its mainstreaming, she said. Among others, the weak horizontal and vertical coordination amongst 10 NAP 1325 and 1820 implementing agencies (IAs) and transfer of GESI knowledge, and operationalization of the Gender Responsive Budget remain as challenges. The NPTF donors (EU and USAID) and MoPR officials, including Joint Secretaries, provided feedback saying that GESI integration is imperative and that this could be brought about if the MoPR owned and mainstreamed GESI for attaining balanced social development and sustainable peace. Director of NPTF Mukunda Prasad Paudyal chaired the meeting.

### **Field Visit and Capacity Development Training Conducted**

The Public Finance Management (PFM) team at NPTF/ EU-TA carried out a 10 day field visit to organize trainings and monitor project implementation in several districts of the Central and Western regions. The field-visit (11-20 February) include two-day trainings at two locations – Janakpur and Butwal – for account officers, accountants and accounts assistants at the Nepal Police that is an implementation partner of NPTF. The trainings on “Financial Reporting, Procurement and Reporting Software” were



held on 15-16 February and 18-19 February, respectively.

The team also visited projects run by Department of Urban Development and Building Construction Morang, National Disabled Fund (Community Based Rehabilitation, Biratnagar) and Nepal Police (Biratnagar, Chandragadhi, Dhanushadham and Sabaila) in the districts that were visited. The objective of the training and field visit was to ensure that financial reports sent to the PFS are in agreement with records maintained, and in compliance with requirements of Government accounting. The other purpose was to observe whether or not the projects were being implemented as laid out in the implementation agreements with the PFS/NPTF.

The training sessions covered specific financial management and reporting requirements of the NPTF/PFS, procurement management (session was supported by project engineers),

*PFS and Nepal Police Monitoring team at a discussion with beneficiaries at Dhanushadham, Janakpur*

*PFS team with Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences and project team from Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Morang in front of the rehabilitation center built with NPTF support.*



settling of previous audit observations, familiarity with the reporting formats and methods of preparing reports manually and with the use of software.

More than 100 account officers, accountants and account assistants, including those from the Police Headquarters in Kathmandu, who are new to the NPTF requirements and those

from districts who have been supporting the implementation of NPTF-supported projects attended the training.

### **New Reporting Format**

The NPTF has developed new reporting format for Implementing Agencies (IAs) that is expected to simplify the progress reporting. The PFS

*Mr. Til Bahadur Thapa, undersecretary, leading a session at Butwal.*





organised and orientation for IA staffs on the reporting format on 15 March. The new format addresses to reporting issues faced while reporting particularly problems faced and steps taken to rectify them. The IAs report progress to the PFS once every four months.

## MoPR ACTIVITIES

### Dadeldhura Declaration

Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya addressed the Far-Western Regional Peace Meeting of Local Peace Committees (LPCs) on 20 February. There were participants from nine districts at the meeting.

Addressing the meeting Minister Acharya emphasized the relief packages provided to the conflict affected people and how LPCs can support the Government in ensuring fair distribution and local level coordination. He said that the Government was now working to ensure

that the development programmes are peace-sensitive and take into account the local realities during implementation.

The day-long meeting concluded with 15-point declaration that stressed the need to update the list of conflict victims, ensure delivery of services and special relief packages to conflict victims, speedy promulgation of a democratic constitution and making facilities for education of children in their own languages and cultural contexts. The meeting also declared that Far Western Region has been most affected by conflict and demanded special attention for ensuring support to conflict victims of the region. The meeting also raised the issue of forced-seizures of land belong to individuals and asked the Government to ensure that everyone has the right to own and use property that belongs to them.

NPTF Director, Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, also participated in the meeting.

*Narahari Acharya, Minister, Peace and Reconstruction, inaugurating Regional Peace Meeting.*



## IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

### National Women Commission

The National Women Commission (NWC) organized an interaction program on women, peace and security on 11 February in Kailali District. Members of civil society, Government officials and representatives of political parties from the district participated in the program. There were 46 participants from five districts Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke and Surkhet.

NWC has also reviewed the manifestoes of different political parties to identify gaps in the area of women's political participation. It is part of its preparation to develop a plan of action on

women's political participation in collaboration with the political parties.

Similarly, NWC, in consultation with the Public Service Commission is reviewing the existing policies to identify provisions that are not supportive for women to enter in the civil service.

The aforesaid activities are funded by the "Promoting Equal Participation of Women in Decision Making Positions and Peace Building Process" project that is supported by NPTF. The overall objective of the project is to ensure increased participation of women and girls as decision makers in state institutions, political parties and peace building processes.

## OPINION

# NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 Lessons learned and the way forward

By Januka Kafle

The Government of Nepal launched its National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 (NAP) in February 2011. The NAP was prepared in consultation and its launch was also followed up with nationwide consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders including Government agencies and civil society organizations. The Nepal NAP is the first in South Asia and seeks to address women, peace and security issues in the post-conflict context.

MoPR is mandated to oversee implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 & 1820. It is also the ministry overseeing all peace building activities including the operations of the NPTF, a special government-donor instrument for support-

ing the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA). The NPTF was established in January 2007.

As of February 2015, the NPTF has financed 65 projects under four sectoral clusters. Ten of these projects under cluster three have focused on supporting the implementation of the NAP. So far the NPTF has allocated NRs 844.536 million as an umbrella grant for various government agencies to implement different components of the NAP. The ten projects have addressed the five pillars of NAP (Pillar 1 - Participation; Pillar 2 - Protection and Prevention; Pillar 3 - Promotion; Pillar 4 - Relief and Recovery; and Pillar 5 - Resource Management, Monitoring & Evaluation)

Three of the 10 projects have been completed. These include “Sensitizing Local Bodies and Key Stakeholders” project that was implemented by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), “Enhancing Capacity of Conflict Affected Women and Girls for Employment and Enterprise Development” by the Ministry of Industry, and “Partnership on Women Empowerment and Representation” that was implemented by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), respectively.

The MoPR has been coordinating all the projects related to NAP and this activity is funded by NPTF under the “Promoting Ownership for Women’s Empowerment and Recovery” project. This project’s overall aim is “ensuring the human rights and security of women affected by conflict for promoting sustainable peace”.

The NAP implementation was evaluated by a team of external consultants in 2014 and even though it pointed out areas for improvement, it has also acknowledged the successes attained in making people aware about NAP and the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. The report said, ‘Considering the 75 districts of Nepal, it was a gigantic task to ensure a cross section of the local governance structure is made aware of NAP.’

NAP implementation included a number of activities ranging from awareness raising, building gender friendly infrastructures at security agencies, income generating, livelihood and literacy programs for conflict affected women and the development of policies, guidelines and code of conduct for ensuring confidentiality while attending to cases on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) for ensuring justice. Guidelines were also developed for localizing the NAP in district structures.

Among completed projects, the project on ‘Partnership on Women Empowerment & Representa-

tion’ implemented by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has successfully delivered all outputs on time. As a result, there is now greater awareness of women as well as duty bearers on promoting women’s rights and access to relief services for conflict affected women has also improved.

The Ministry of Industry implemented the project on ‘Enhancing Capacity of Conflict Affected Women and Girls for Employment and Enterprises Development’. The activities included building capacity of officials in the departments under the ministry and training conflict affected women on different skills. The project trained 1620 conflict affected women and girls (CAW&Gs) and victims of SGBVs of which about 60 per cent were able to establish small enterprises, which was also supported through subsidies for equipment purchase. The project was successful to an extent but there were issues related to market assessments and marketing plans as well as quality control, which is not uncommon for quick impact projects in post-conflict situations. Therefore, despite some issues, the project was able to make a contribution towards peace building.

The MoFALD implemented another project that is now complete. This ‘Sensitizing Local Bodies and Local Socio-political Leaders on NAP on UNSCRs 1325 & 1820’ made efforts to spread among local governance institutions across the country. The capacity enhancement component of this project reached the village development committees (VDCs) where social mobilizers were trained on identifying and supporting CAW&Gs and victims of SGBV.

Other project being implemented under the NAP include one aims at increasing access to the legal and justice system and to free legal aid services and another seeks to enhance the capacity of security forces to respond effectively

to crimes related to SGVB, providing support women inmates in income raising vocations, building gender-friendly barracks for female security personnel and sensitization programs to draw more female recruits to the police services, among others. Similarly, other NAP projects seek to improve access for CAW&G to functional literacy and livelihood skills training and also to incorporate UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 into the non-formal education curricula. Still another project seeks to raise the awareness of political parties and other state bodies about the UN resolutions on women, peace and security for encouraging greater representation of women in decision-making positions and in peace building processes and structures. This project also seeks to enhance the capacity of the Nepal Women's Commission for monitoring the implementation of the NAP.

All the seven NAP projects are in different stages of implementation and feedback from the evaluation is expected to help implementing agencies take corrective actions where required,

particularly on localizing the NAP and ensuring adoption in the local development plans at the district level to make the efforts more sustainable in terms of financing. The other step would be to mainstream the NAP approaches and strategies into regular plans of sectoral agencies.

Finally, while the implementation of the NAP has tended to receive mixed reviews, it also needs to be acknowledged is that these were projects being implemented in a complex post-conflict context alongside dozens of other peace building initiatives. Further, we also need to acknowledge that we have been able to do what was done because funds were available from the NPTF for the implementation. The next steps therefore would be to consolidate on the successes, and re-focus on effective implementation to ensure that women peace and conflict related issues are adequately addressed as we move closer towards lasting peace.

*Ms. Kafle is Gender and Programme Officer (Section Officer) at the NPTF.*

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**Peace Fund Secretariat**

Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone +977 1 4223993 • Fax +977 1 4228261 • Email:info@nptf.gov.np • Web: www.nptf.gov.np