



The Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) is a joint undertaking of the Government of Nepal and a group of donors. It was created to support critical peace activities and to foster the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and other peace-related agreements. The Fund was established in January 2007 and has so far managed NPR 23 billion in support to 68 projects, of which 50 have been completed and 18 are underway. The fund has about 60 per cent contribution from the Government of Nepal and 40 per cent from the donor group. NPTF Strategy (2014-2017) provides it the mandate to support four different peace related clusters: Social dimension/CAPs, Transitional Justice and reconstruction, access to security and the political dimension.

Government and Donor Group Meeting

The 26th meeting of the Government and Donor Group (GoN-DG) was held on 23 December at Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS).

The meeting discussed activities implemented since last GoN-DG meeting held in June 2015, annual progress of existing projects, reviews and evaluations; NPTF's work plan, annual financial statement, and unspent funds of donors that have discontinued support.

Secretary at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), Ishwori Prasad Paudyal chaired the meeting, welcomed participants and thanked donors for their continuous support to peace building. He also thanked them for sharing experiences through the NPTF platform and provided an overview of the agenda.

H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink, European Union, congratulated the new secretary for

assuming the responsibility at the MoPR and thanked the PFS for organizing the meeting, and for sharing the 24th progress report, and financial update. She added that both the PFS and EUTA team needed to increase follow-up and closely monitor both on going and slow-performing projects. The Donor Chair also proposed that NPTF I & II projects be closed down by the second trimester of Nepal's fiscal year 2015-2016 (mid-March 2016).

The Donor Chair informed that there was about USD 23 million available for supporting Nepal in completing the remaining tasks of the peace process, and added

In this Issue

- Government and Donor Group Meeting1
- Technical Committee Meeting3
- Sectoral Cluster Meeting4
- Core Cluster Meeting.....4
- Workshop on Communication5
- Joint Monitoring5
- GESI Finding Sharing Programme.....6
- Internal Monitoring7
- New Executive Director ...8
- New EUTA Team Leader.....8

that both project approval and implementation needed to be expedited.

She suggested concentrating efforts on designing projects to support livelihoods for Conflict Affected Persons (CAPs), Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) victims, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and land reform. The Donor Chair proposed that February 2016 be the cut off date for accepting new concept notes and proposals, except for elections. She added that the decision of outgoing donors on their funds remaining at NPTF would be communicated separately.

The Donor Chair informed the meeting that the Donor Group, Government and other donor partners were planning to commemorate 2016 to mark 10 years of the peace process with a number of activities, including showcasing of achievements.

The opening remarks were followed by presentations by the NPTF on the agenda items.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director of NPTF, reported on key activities since the last GoN-DG meeting saying that actions/decisions that were discussed had been achieved with one exception – the integration of SGBV victims in the MoPR definition of CAPs. He added that the ministry was working on this while NPTF had already integrated victims of conflict-related sexual violence in programmes and projects. He also informed the meeting that the USAID pledge of US\$ 500,000 was received on 17 September, and that the agreement with donors on transfer of non-freeze account balances to the operative account at the Financial Comptroller General's Office (FCGO) had also been completed.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director NPTF addressing 26th GoN-DG meeting at PFS.



Mr. Paudyal explained the status of existing projects and those in the pipeline for NPTF III. In December 2015 NPTF had approved two new projects: “Provision of Psychosocial Counselling and Support Services to Conflict Affected Persons in Nepal” (MoPR) and “Project for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)” being implemented by the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW)/Central Child welfare Board (CCWB).

The Executive Director said 50 of 65 projects under NPTF I and II had been completed in November 2015, and also presented progress in its work plan for 2014/15 under programme development and implementation, M&E, communication and financial management.

Under new projects, the Executive Director briefed donors on the preparation adding that the Core Cluster had received and approved three concept notes on livelihood and employment, strengthening of the Local Peace Committees (LPCs) and access to justice for CAPs.

EU-TA Team Leader and Senior Public Finance Management (PFM) advisor, Nanda Kishor Sharma made a presentation the NPTF finances for 2014/15, including source-wise contributions and its uses. He said the net funds available as at December 2015 were NPR 2,291.9 million, and also provided an estimate of funds that would be used by pipeline projects.

Accordingly, the net uncommitted fund balance was NPR 1,491.9 million which included NPR 1,262.2 million (EU), NPR 72.5 million (Germany), NPR 26.9 million (Norway), NPR 27 million (Switzerland) and NPR 49.5 million (USAID). Mr. Sharma also presented balances of different donors in slow-moving projects.

Ms. Maria Elena Barron, USAID, said there is a need for careful discussion with the Implementing Agencies as regards the refund of funds to donors and advised the PFS to work closely with the EUTA to facilitate the process.

The Executive Director responded to queries related to programmes, and Mr. Sharma responded to finance-related questions.

Technical Committee Meeting

The 40th Technical Committee meeting of the NPTF was held on 3 November to discuss on the proposed project titled “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict” by the Central Child Welfare Board. The meeting was chaired by Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary of MoPR.

Gyanendra Shrestha from the CCWB made a presentation highlighting the key aspects of the project that seeks “to assist the current peace process in reaching a meaningful conclusion by protecting the rights and interests of Children Affected by Armed Conflict and Youths”. The project is to be implemented in 20 districts aiming to reach children below the age of 18 and some above (those who were below 18 during the conflict) as key beneficiaries. The presentation also covered the implementation mechanism. The project has a budget of NPR 99.95 million.

The meeting decided to approve the project but also required the CCWB to prepare a procurement plan that would be annexed to Implementation Agreement and also review the proposed costs before implementation could begin. The NPTF signed the implementation contract with Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare/CCWB on 10 November.

The Technical Committee also agreed to constitute the Core Cluster, Sectoral Cluster and Technical Committee as proposed by the Executive Director. The proposal is in line with the provisions of the Peace Fund Operation Regulation 2072 (Second Amendment) and the NPTF strategy 2014-17. The meeting also decided to continue the participation of two



Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MoPR along with PFS officials during the Technical Committee meeting at PFS.

existing civil society organizations in the Technical Committee. The organizations are NGO Federation of Nepal, Federation of Democratic NGOs Nepal, and People’s Social Organization Network (PeSON). It was also agreed that the two organizations would send different representatives to the Technical Committee and the Sectoral Cluster meetings.

The Technical Committee also discussed and approved a request from Ministry of Defense (MoD) for using funds (NPR 5.9 million) leftover after the construction of women-friendly accommodation in Panchkhal under a NAP project, for furnishing the building. However, the Committee instructed the MoD to ensure the costs are reviewed before contracting.



The meeting also endorsed the no-cost extension to two projects: Strengthening Local Peace Committees, and NAP 1325 and 1820: Enhancing Access To Justice For Women, Girls And Conflict Affected People being implemented by the MoPR and Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs until December 2015. It then approved the revised budget and no cost extension for the project “NAP 1325 and 1820: Prevention Protection and Recovery programme” till 16 November and the “Operational and Institutional Support to Nepal Peace Trust Fund” till December 2015.

The meeting that was attended by representatives from the National Planning Commission, Office of the Financial Comptroller General, OPMCM, MoPR, civil society representatives, CCWB, DG Coordinator, PFS officials and technical assistance staff.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF and Tarak Dhital, Executive Director at the CCWB shaking hands after signing agreement at PFS.

Sectoral Cluster Meeting

The Sectoral Cluster meeting of the NPTF held on 19 November discussed a project proposed by the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS), Dharan. The “Operation of Rehabilitation Centre at B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan” is to be implemented by the institute’s Department of Orthopedics. The Executive Director of NPTF, Mukunda Prasad Paudyal chaired the meeting.

Dr. Surya Raj Niraula, BPKIHS, provided a background to the project, mainly the completion of the construction of the Rehabilitation Centre with NPTF support. He said that the building would be used to provide services to Conflict Affected People with Disabilities (CAPWD) in the region. The project is to run till mid-July 2017 and will cover 16 districts of the eastern region.

Following discussions, Mr. Paudyal suggested that the BPKIHS should incorporate comments from the meeting and submit a project document to the Technical Committee for consideration. It was also agreed that the project would include the cost of supporting the travel of CAPWDs for seeking the services.

Representatives from NPTF, USAID, EUTA, USAID TA, People’s Social Organization Network, NGO Federation, and the BPKIHS had attended the meeting.

Core Cluster Meeting

The 26th Core Cluster meeting was held on 16 December to discuss concept notes of two potential projects – Social reintegration of CAPs through capacity enhancement, submitted by Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), and on Enhancing access to justice, submitted by Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.

NPTF Executive Director and the Chair of the meeting clarified the agenda and asked the project proponents to make brief presentations of their concept papers. The presentation was followed by comments and observations by participants.

Mahesh Bhattarai from the CTEVT briefed par-

ticipants on the two project components: 1) Social integration, and 2) Economic empowerment. Social integration included community re-integration, livelihood support, psychosocial counseling, relief and rehabilitation of children and protection and support to Conflict Affected Women and Girls (CAW&G). The second component seeks to provide vocational training.

The project targets all Conflict Affected People – families of the deceased, CAPWDs, families of the disappeared, individuals who had lost property, former combatants, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), survivors of torture, and survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SSGBV).



Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director NPTF addressing Core Cluster meeting.

Similarly, Aruna Joshi, explained the main ideas of the MoLJPA concept note. This project seeks “to enhance legal aid system and service in making easy access of conflict affected people, women, girls and marginalized to legal aid, and to facilitate legal reforms”. It aims to support CAPs, women, marginalized and indigent persons to access free legal aid in course of documentation and representation of their cases in courts, tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies; preparation of legal documents, administrative assistance, counseling and other support as required.

The meeting decided to ask the CTEVT to revise the concept note based on the comments and asked the MoLJPA to begin work on the project document.

PFS officials and representatives from EU, USAID, EUTA, and CTEVT and MoLJPA had attended the meeting.

Workshop on Communication

The NPTF organised a half-day workshop on communicating effectively for MoPR and NPTF officials on 2 November. The purpose of the orientation was to introduce communication skills to participants. It covered an overview on the importance of effective organizational communication and also why it was important at the individual level. The presentation covered communication techniques, inter-personal communication skills, the use of social media, and working with media.



Participants at the Communication Workshop.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF welcomed the participants and emphasized the need to communicate effectively both individually and as an organization. He said presenting right information at the right time was what communication was about and that the skill would be of use to participants throughout their careers. There were 22 participants at the workshop. Binod Bhattacharai, Communication Expert, EUTA, facilitated the workshop.

Joint Monitoring

A team of officials led by Bed Raj Phuyel, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at NPTF visited, and made inquiries from different projects underway in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts on 1-3 December. The team included PFS officials, representatives from European Union, the Donor Coordinator and EUTA team members.

The purpose of the monitoring visit was to i) understand the progress of on going projects, ii) discuss

implementation problems, if any, and iii) assess future support required.

At the MoPR the team met Laxmi Sharan Ghimire, Joint Secretary, to discuss progress in the project on Conflict Transformation and Peace Building through Constitution Making. One project output was to gather suggestions on the constitutional provisions and provide them to the Constituent Assembly. It was partly achieved through two national events but the planned district-level events were not possible as the deadline for providing suggestions was very short. Another output was to disseminate the new constitution that MoPR carried out through the LPCs. Thirty LPCs had completed the distribution of the copies of the constitution. Mr. Ghimire informed the visitors that materials on conflict transformation and peacebuilding had been prepared but publication and dissemination remained to be done. The MoPR said the earthquake had caused the delay. The MoPR has requested an extension by six months for completing the planned activities.

At the National Disabled Fund (NDF), the monitoring team met Nitesh Kumar Yadav, the project manager, and Ramchandra Dahal, the project coordinator of the project titled "Physical Rehabilitation Services for Conflict Affected Disabled People in Nepal". The team also observed sessions on physiotherapy, counseling, gait training and the workshop for making prostheses, orthoses and other mobility aids. The NDF had 55 service seekers who needed assistive devices and it had identified 138 others as potential beneficiaries. NDF said that the potential beneficiaries had not been brought to the facility because it had used up the budget allocated for transport.

There had been some irregularities in financial management at NDF and the team asked it to return the interest earned on project funds to NPTF, from where it would be returned to the donors.

The Department of Roads (DoR) explained the difficulties faced in completing bridge in Surkhet District, which had been delayed largely because almost 50 per cent of construction material has to be imported. Other reasons for the delay were the earthquake and the disruption of transportation after August 2015. The DoR said that it was unlikely that the project could



Joint Monitoring team interacting with National Disabled Fund's officials at Bhrikuti Mandap.

be completed in end-December 2015. The team then discussed about the options to complete the bridge.

The monitoring team also visited the Nepal Police and inquired about the progress on its projects. The Nepal Police had completed the construction of five of six barracks for women, and most of the work on the remaining barrack had been completed. The project also had plans to prepare a Master's level course on police services.

The monitoring team visited the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to discuss the status of its project on women's participation in peace building and economic opportunities. The project manager Toya Nath Adhikari told the visiting team that the project had been slow, and was delayed mainly by the earthquake and the political situation after August 2015. He also said that some planned activities had become less relevant. It had completed some of the trainings that had been planned. One barrack for women in the service had been completed while work was still underway to build planned childcare centers at the barracks.

The monitoring team also visited the Non-formal Education Centre (NFEC) and learnt that it had taken some time for the project – NAP 1325 and 1820 Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls through Literacy and Livelihood skills – to begin owing to delays in approval of the guidelines by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Frequent staff transfers, the November 2013 election and the Literate Nepal Mission (FY 065/066-071/072) also affected implementation. Bishnu P. Mishra, deputy director of NFEC, told the monitoring team that a mid-term

evaluation of the project was very encouraging and that some of the good practices could be replicated in 23 other conflict-affected districts. He suggested that the project be extended until mid-2016.

The project seeks to integrate key elements of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 in the non-formal education curriculum. It has completed the review of the existing curriculum and revisions are planned for the next cycle, next year. The project also intended to provide functional literacy and livelihood skills training to 6000 conflict affected women and girls, and 600 conflict-affected women and girls were to be trained on vocational skills. The project will be completed by mid-2016.

GESI Finding Sharing Programme

The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Advisor of NPTF Dr. Munni Sharma made her final presentation covering January-November 2015 on 10 November. She had served as advisor on gender mainstreaming under USAID support to both the NPTF and MoPR since mid-July 2013.

Her presentation covered the conceptual framework of gender and social inclusion (GESI), particularly mainstreaming or assessing the implications of planned actions, policies and programs for both men and women, and diverse social groups. The bottom line in mainstreaming is that there are fair results for all intended beneficiaries, she said.



Arguing that GESI mainstreaming leads to good policy decisions, she emphasized that GESI analysis be made mandatory for all development interventions. She said the three pillars for GESI mainstreaming were (i) individual's knowledge, positive attitude and practice by individuals, (ii) sound institutional policy mandate – GESI responsive policy and plans, programs and operational guidelines, and (iii) GESI friendly organization and working environment. (See: illustration, GESIM = GESI mainstreaming).

Dr. Sharma said both MoPR and NPTF have become GESI sensitive and knowledgeable and recommended that GESI should be integrated in all project stages to ensure sustainable peace building. While with the NPTF she prepared a GESI Sensitive Capacity Development (CD) Action Plan to complement MoPR's own CD Plan and suggested a framework for interventions. She also led and facilitated a basic training on GESI and gender analysis tools for 25 MoPR, PFS and implementing agencies officials and followed it up with an advanced training for 25 officials on mainstreaming GESI. Dr. Sharma also provided inputs to the NPTF Strategy (2014 – 2017), which has incorporated GESI as a crosscutting theme.

Further, Dr. Sharma presented her findings related to GESI from monitoring of 10-NPTF supported NAP 1325 and 1820 projects. These projects were implemented by Government agencies (8 projects), Nepal Police (1 project) and National Women Commission (1 project). Of these projects, three that were implemented by the Ministry of Industry (Mol), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and MoWCSW had been completed. She said these agencies had internalized NAP concerns in regular programs. NPTF had granted no-cost extensions to the other seven projects.

The GESI advisor said she had observed weak coordination among NAP Implementing Agencies in many districts because the District Coordination Committees (DCC) did not meet regularly and the Implementation Committee (IC) meetings at MoPR were intermittent. She suggested need for stronger coordination for effective implementation of NAP projects, both at the horizontal and vertical levels. Another finding was that most NAP projects had focused on 1325 (women, peace and security) and



not as much on 1820 (sexual and gender based violence), and suggested there was need for a second phase of NAP.

Dr. Sharma's findings suggest that MoPR has prioritized GESI integration but there also are challenges of internalization. Among others, lack of GESI policy and operational guidelines, weak horizontal and vertical coordination amongst 10 NAP implementing agencies (IAs), low transfer of GESI knowledge and practice, delay and under reporting on GESI by IAs and the end of of NAP's term in February 2016 remained as challenges.

Another recommendation was that GESI sensitization should be a part of the induction for all new officials of MoPR, and that refresher trainings were needed for those who had completed advanced courses on mainstreaming, while GESI orientation needed to be continued for high-level officials. Her final recommendation was to carry out a review of NAP implementation for providing lessons to the next phase. Localization of NAP should be the focus of the next phase, she added.

Participants at the final presentation on gender mainstreaming at PFS.

Internal Monitoring Visit

The NPTF organized an internal monitoring visit from January 25-28, 2016 to assess outcomes/



PFS team interacting with women beneficiaries during internal monitoring visit in Gorkha district.

impacts of the projects carried out by Nepal Police and Non Formal Education Center (NFEC) in three districts – Gorkha, Dhading and Nuwakot. Bed Raj Phuyel, Under Secretary, M&E Officer at PFS led the monitoring team. Other members were Prakash Mahatara, M&E assistant, PFS, and Arvind Kumar Rimal, EU-TA.

In addition to inquiries on different projects, the team also visited some police units that were partially/completely damaged by the earthquake of 25 April 2015. It also met with local communities to understand their expectations from and concerns resulting from the damages.

The team visited the Area Police Office, Arughat, Gorkha, and Police Posts at Jogimara, Dhading and Fikuri, Nuwakot. The team also met and interacted with staffs implementing the NAP 1325 and 1820 project Empowering Conflict Affected Women and Girls Through Literacy and Livelihood in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts. The Non-formal Education Centre is implementing these projects.

Farewell to Outgoing Executive Director

PFS team during farewell to outgoing Executive Director at PFS.

The PFS organized a farewell for the Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, former executive director NPTF, on 18 January.



Buddha Bahadur Gurung, Under Secretary, NPTF, thanked Mr. Paudyal for leading the NPTF during the crucial period when it was preparing a new strategy and congratulated him on his new posting.

Mr. Paudyal spoke about the efforts made by NPTF towards finalizing the strategy and preparing projects for NPTF III. He stressed that he had worked for ensure better coordination between the Government, donors and the EU-TA for effective implementation of NPTF projects and hoped that would continue after his departure.

New Executive Director

Buddha Bahadur Gurung has taken charge of NPTF as Acting Executive Director effective 20 January 2015. Prior to this Mr. Gurung was Program Officer at the NPTF.



PFS new acting Executive Director Buddha Bahadur Gurung.

Mr. Gurung succeeds Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, the outgoing executive director, who has taken up a new responsibility at the Ministry of Finance.

New EUTA Team Leader

Nanda Kishor Sharma, Senior Public Finance Management advisor, now leads the EU Technical Assistance team at the PFS. He assumed the responsibility on 14 December 2015. He replaces Thomas Thomsen, who cut short his engagement with the EUTA for personal reasons. The European Union has been providing technical assistance to the PFS since March 2013.

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