



The Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) is a joint undertaking between the Government of Nepal and a group of donors. It was created to support critical peace activities and 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 supporting 66 projects, of which 44 have been completed and 22 are on going. The fund's composition comprises 60 per cent from the Government of Nepal and 40 per cent from the donor group. NPTF Strategy (2014-2017) provides the framework for supporting projects in four different peace-related clusters: Social Dimension/CAPs, TJ and Reconstruction, Access to Security and political dimension.

High-level Government-Donor meeting

Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya convened an informal lunch meeting of previous and current NPTF donors on 30 September. The Donor Chair, Donor Group Coordinator, and senior representatives from the European Union (EU), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Finland, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Switzerland and the Department for International Development (DFID) attended the meeting. Government representatives included Ramesh Kumar Sharma, secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), and Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, NPTF Executive Director. Ms. Sarada Sharma, spouse of the minister, also attended the meeting.

Mr. Acharya welcomed all the donors and thanked them for the continuous support by the donors to

Nepal's peace process. He said that Nepal was able to promulgate a new constitution partly as a result of their support and that the statute commits to democratic values, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, social justice and rights of minorities. He added that the new constitution could take Nepal to a phase of stability and prosperity. The Minister added that NPTF still has role to play in advancing Nepal's peace process towards a meaningful conclusion and explained that the new government's priorities would be to organize local elections and to conclude the peace process.

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Narahari Acharya, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction addressing a lunch meeting with NPTF donors.

The Minister also informed the donors about the difficulties caused by protests by Madhesi groups and the “unofficial blockade” of supplies, and sought support of the international community to resolve the dispute.

The Minister thanked donors and the United Nations for support to the peace process and assured them that the interim local elections could be held within six months after a new government is formed, and these bodies would provide for special reservations for Dalits and women, among others.

Rensje Teerink, EU Ambassador to Nepal and Donor Chair welcomed the new constitution and said “we would like to congratulate the Government and people of Nepal for this achievement.” She added that donors believed that the constitution could lead the country towards stability.

Core Cluster Meeting

The 25th Core Cluster meeting of the NPTF was held on 27 August at the Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS). The meeting discussed concept notes of three potential projects – one related to the consolidation of peace and harmony through oriental knowledge and values submitted by Nepal Sanskrit University, another related to strengthening the use of conflict

management tools and negotiation skills at local level submitted by Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies, Tribhuvan University; and the third one on strengthening Local Peace Committees (LPCs) for promoting local peace and supporting for community integration of conflict-affected people (CAPs) submitted by MoPR.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, NPTF Executive Director and the Chair of the Core Cluster welcomed the members and facilitated the discussions. He clarified the agenda listed for the meeting and asked the concerned Implementing Agencies (IAs) to make brief presentations of their concept papers that the participants commented upon.

Among others, the meeting pointed out that the Nepal Sanskrit University’s concept note did not have a relevant link with the NPTF strategy and that the concept note by Tribhuvan University should be merged with LPC project. This decision was anchored on the NPTF approach to avoid duplication – as similar activities were being done by the UNDP and JICA, among others – and also the NPTF’s desire not to have too many scattered projects. The participants also pointed out to existing training modules and handbooks on peace building and suggested that the new projects should try to use the resources.

The meeting also commented on the MoPR concept note and suggested the need to update data on CAPs and to integrate sexual and gender-based violence and torture victims in the proposal. The participants also requested MoPR to provide brief ideas on potential activities and budgets and also indications on how the village level LPCs would be reached. They stressed the need to have clear approaches for managing the political risks and that some of the ideas in the Tribhuvan University concept note could be added to the proposal. The participants also suggested that the MoPR come up with a strong implementation plan and team for the project.

Similarly, the meeting discussed a draft programme document for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation. It was agreed that a written procedure would be adopted to seek approval for the Transitional Justice programme document at the Core Cluster.

The Mr. Paudyal, NPTF thanked the participants for their comments and suggestions and asked MoPR and Tribhuvan University to coordinate the incor-

poration of ideas as was suggested, and re-submit a concept note to the PFS.

Representatives from the MoPR, EU, USAID, NPTF, EUTA, and USAID TA attended the meeting.

Sectoral Cluster Meeting

The Sectoral Appraisal Cluster 1 – Social Dimensions/ CAPs – met at the NPTF on 22 September and discussed a project proposal on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) submitted the proposal.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, chaired the meeting. He explained the progress so far in the preparation of projects by the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB)/ MoWCSW and said that it was in line with the concept note approved by the Core Cluster.

Gyanendra Shrestha of the CCWB made a presentation on the project and highlighted its importance.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF addressing the Sectoral Cluster meeting.



The goal of the project is to support the peace process by protecting the rights and interests of children affected by armed conflict (CAAC). The proposed outputs and activities there in were also discussed.

The project will cover all communities in 20 districts where a study on CAAC has been conducted.

The chair then facilitated a discussion with the aim of seeking expert advice and comments from the members of the cluster. Following comments and suggestions the meeting decided to table the project for approval by the Technical Committee after a document incorporating comments from the meeting was received.

Representatives from NPTF, USAID, EUTA, USAID TA, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and MoWCSW/CCWB had attended the meeting.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Program

The NPTF Supported a Training of Trainer (ToT) program conducted by Conflict Transformation & Peace building through constitution making project (CTPB-CMP) of MoPR with the technical support of UNDP. The program was held on 23-24 September 2015 in Peace Fund Secretariat's meeting hall. There were about 15 senior level participants from MoPR, Ministry of Education (Non formal Education Centre), Constituent Assembly Secretariat and PFS. The trainings' objectives include providing depth knowledge about conflict/peace sensitivity, conflict analysis among others. The participants were trained to facilitate

similar trainings in the regional/cluster level as per aforementioned project's activity.

NPTF direction program for mainstreaming the PFS staff

The NPTF organised a two-day residential direction program to enhance interaction among PFS staff and to discuss the functioning of PFS so as to achieve overall organizational effectiveness. The program was conducted at Dhulikhel on 21-22 August 2015 with all staff of PFS as participants. The topics covered were Program related functioning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Financial management, Administrative operation, team building and spiritual values including Yoga classes.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF, welcomed all the participants and briefed them about the programme. During two days sessions, all officer level staff made presentations and facilitated a session of their respective topic. "The program is an excellent initiation by NPTF that provided opportunity to know each other and to understand organization's functions in detail. Now we are ready to perform in team, better and effectively." This was the common conclusion made by all participants during experience sharing session. Executive Director thanked all participants and concluded the program.

Communication planning session

The NPTF organised a half-day working session for potential IAs to incorporate communication activities in project documents on 9 September. The participants included consultants and officials involved in preparing new projects on Local Peace Committees, rehabilitation services and operation of the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, and local peace initiatives. Representatives of the CCWB had attended an earlier session on the same topic. Buddha Bahadur Gurung, Programme Management Officer, NPTF welcomed the participants to the meeting and stressed on the need to coordinate activities between different programmes. He added that communication was a weak component in previous projects and said there was a need for transparency and better information management that had to be clari-

Participants at the PFS retreat.



fied in the project proposals. He added that communication was needed both for increasing visibility of projects and also for ensuring that information was managed and available when needed. Binod Bhattarai, EUTA senior expert communication, facilitated the meeting.

Consultations on transitional justice

The NPTF organized two consultations with victim groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), donor representatives and Government officials to identify approaches for implementing the transitional justice process.

NPTF donors the European Union and USAID jointly organized the consultation on 6 August. The meeting had 26 participants from victims' organizations, human rights defenders working on transitional justice, international NGOs, UN agencies and bilateral donors. The conflict victims and CSO representatives said that the transitional justice process in Nepal was fragmented and that both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on Enquiry of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CoDP) still remained to abide by the Supreme Court verdict of 26 February 2015. They also suggested need for institutional reforms, and comprehensive reparations through a victim-centered approach.

On 11 August, the NPTF, with support from the EU and USAID organized another orientation cum consultation with senior government officials on transitional justice. Some 60 government officials from eight Ministries and agencies like the Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Nepal Army attended this meeting – the UN did one on the “Conceptual Framework for Transitional Justice and International Norms and Standards” and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) did another on “International Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Government Coordination and Action on Transitional Justice”. The meeting discussed the formulation of a comprehensive national transitional justice strategy and the UN agreed to provide technical support to this process. The ICTJ agreed to develop a list-serve to initiate coordination among government agencies and donors.

Advanced level training / workshop on GESI mainstreaming

The NPTF organized a two-day Advanced Level Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) workshop on 10-11 September.

Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MoPR, inaugurated the workshop saying that “GESI mainstreaming should have been delivered 10 years ago and added that the knowledge from the workshop would help integrate GESI in peace sensitive programs, and also contribute to the 14th National Plan.”



Participants at the GESI workshop.

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director of NPTF, added that the “Advanced Level Training would not only capacitate officials on mainstreaming skills and help them to design and implement projects and programs but also make the participants results-oriented and GESI responsive”. He said the advanced course is a concrete action towards implementation of the “GESI Sensitive Capacity Development Plan” formulated by NPTF in 2014 as part of USAID’s technical assistance (TA) for mainstreaming GESI.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Paudyal said GESI is a cross-cutting concern for NPTF and MoPR activities and is important for promoting equality, sustainable peace and development.” Amanda Cats-Baril, Democracy and Governance Specialist, USAID, spoke at closing event and said that she hoped the participants would apply the learned skills in their work”.

Twenty-five officials, including 10 women, from the MoPR and NPTF attended the workshop.

Dr. Munni Sharma, USAID supported GESI Advisor to NPTF facilitated the workshop.

Presentation on GESI

Dr. Munni Sharma, GESI advisor under the USAID TA to NPTF presented her bi-annual progress report (January 2015 - July 2015) to the GoN-DG representatives on 22 September at the PFS. She has been providing TA to the NPTF and MoPR since mid-July 2013.

sion (1 project). Of the 10 projects, the Ministry of Industry (MoI), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and the MoWCSW have successfully achieved their goals. The remaining projects are still ongoing.

The key findings of the monitoring visits included the need for skills orientation for sustainable livelihood and empowerment for conflict affected women and girls (CAW&Gs) and the need to estab-

Mukunda Prasad Paudyal, Executive Director, NPTF and participants at the GESI bi-annual progress report presentation at PFS.



Some of the activities undertaken during the January-July 2015 include capacity development of 25 officials (10 female) from MoPR, PFS and IAs through sensitization on GESI, and transfer of Gender Analysis Tools for GESI integration. Sensitization trainings are part of the GESI sensitive capacity development (CD) plan of MoPR formulated in 2015.

The GESI advisor also participated in 10 monitoring visits of the NPTF for supporting eight NAP 1325 and 1820 projects being implemented by Government agencies, Nepal Police (1 project) and National Women Commis-

lish links to finance and market networks. The findings suggest that CAW&Gs were pre-dominantly engaged in farming and therefore the orientations need to be related to agro-livestock-based enterprises.

The GESI advisor said the MoFALD and MoWCSW have internalized the NAP spirit in their regular programs but not exclusively, and that these agencies possessed comparative advantage for NAP localization due to their outreach in 75 districts and the communities. She added that overall progress of seven ongoing projects was satisfactory.

Taking the case of activities implemented by the Non-Formal Education Centre (NFE) on NAP she said the sustainability of the Livelihood Promotion Groups

Munni Sharma, GESI advisor USAID TA to NPTF making her bi-annual progress report presentation.



need to be enhanced in terms of skills in coordination with the District Women and Children's Office (DWCO) and line agencies of MoI and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. She added that performance of other projects—including those being implemented by National Women Commission (NWC), Ministry of Defense (MoD), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Nepal Police (NP) – needed more attention. The GESI advisor suggested that awareness raising activities need to be carried through media that were effective in reaching remote villages.

The GESI Advisor said that MoPR has made GESI integration a priority but there still were challenges in internalization. These included weak horizontal and vertical coordination among NAP implementing agencies. The NPTF donors (EU and USAID) and MoPR officials provided feedback saying that GESI integration needs continuity and this could be possible if MoPR and NPTF remained committed to mainstreaming. The Executive Director of NPTF Mukunda Prasad Paudyal had chaired the meeting.

Review of NPTF support to Nepal Police

The NPTF has carried out a review of its support to the Nepal Police for police post reconstruction. The review covered all activities undertaken since 2009. The final report was submitted to NPTF on 30 August. Two consultants and one Nepali consultant carried out the review. The EUTA funded the review.

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- to review the quality of reconstructed police units supported by the NPTF
- to review the acceptance of and satisfaction from services of reconstructed units among communities, and
- to assess if the reconstructed units were designed and reconstructed to resist strong earthquakes, and to recommend options for retrofitting and design enhancements for units to be built in the future.

Nepal Police has received NPTF support for reconstructing police units and also for two projects under

the NAP that seeks to support conflict affected women and girls.

The final report is available on the NPTF website www.nptf.gov.np

Peace Fund Operation Regulation (PFOR)

The Government has approved the revised Peace Fund Operation Regulations 2072 that is in line with new NPTF Strategy (2014-17) and Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA). The PFOR was published in the Nepal Gazette on 25 Shrawan 2072 (10 August 2015).

Financial reviews

The finance team at the EUTA facilitated the independent evaluation of Nepal Police projects during July-August 2015. An independent accountancy firm was also hired to carry out a financial review of IAs that had significant issues in the NPTF Project Account Audit Report for 2013/14. The projects reviewed were the National Disabled Fund (NDF), Nepal Television and Radio Nepal. The PFS held several meetings with these IAs and has instructed them to refund ineligible spending and to make corrective actions to improve the financial management system at NDF. The NDF has already returned some of its funds to the PFS.

Similarly, NPTF carried out the financial management capacity reviews of the BP Koirala Institute for Health Sciences and the Central Child Welfare Board in September 2015. This is a requirement of the PFOR for all new projects.

Workshop on Transitional Justice

The MoPR organized a workshop on "Role, Challenges and Problems" of National Human Right Commission (NHRC), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Commission on Inquiry of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CoEDP) in the context of Transitional Justice (TJ) on 3 October at Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu. The main objective of the workshop was to develop common understanding on TJ among NHRC, TRC, CoEDP and MoPR and to assess the accomplishments on TJ by the commissions.

Minister of Peace and Reconstruction Narahari Acharya inaugurated the workshop and called on the different institutions to coordinate their work for avoiding duplication and for enhancing effectiveness. Both the TRC and CoEDP made presentations on progress.

MoPR officials including the Secretary, and joint secretaries, secretaries of the TRC and CoEDP former chief justice, chairs of different committees, and officials from Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and EUTA participated in the workshop.

Narahari Acharya, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, inaugurating the Transitional Justice workshop. Participants at Transitional Justice workshop.



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