

Field Visit Report



**Nepal Peace Trust Fund
Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction**

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu
Nepal

www.nptf.gov.np

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Monitoring Team Members:

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Prepared by: Government of Nepal and Donor Advisory Group

Summary

Date	Programme/Project title:	Activity	Districts/VDCs visited	Participants
30 June 2010	D-1 Reconstruction of Police Units	Visit to Aurahi Police Post and meetings SP, DSP, Sub-Inspector and with community members.	Dhanusha	Arvind Rimal, Martin Stuerzinger, Ben Reese, Santosh Bisht and Juliet Wattebot O' Brien
1 July 2010	B-1 Special Program for Relief and Rehabilitation of the IDPs	Visited Sindhuli CDO office and held meetings with CDO, Asst. CDO, Local Cantonment Management Officer, Local Leaders and IDPs.	Sindhuli	Arvind Rimal, Martin Stuerzinger, Ben Reese, Santosh Bisht and Juliet Wattebot O' Brien, Bimal Bhattarai (LCMO)
1 July 2010	E-1 Cantonment Management Project	Visited Ranibas Satellite Cantonment and held meetings with, Asst. Brigade Commander, and other representatives of the PLA.	Sindhuli	Arvind Rimal, Martin Stuerzinger, Ben Reese, Santosh Bisht and Juliet Wattebot O' Brien, Bimal Bhattarai
2 July 2010	E-1 Cantonment Management Project	Visited Belsot Satellite Cantonments and Dudhauri Main Cantonment and held meetings with, Company Commander, Deputy Brigade Commander, Doctor, UNMIN Arms Monitor and other representatives of the PLA.	Sindhuli and Udaypur	Arvind Rimal, Martin Stuerzinger, Ben Reese, Santosh Bisht and Juliet Wattebot O' Brien, Bimal Bhattarai

Purpose of the visit:

The joint donor-GoN monitoring visit of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) took place from 30th June to 2nd July 2010. This is the first joint NPTF monitoring mission since December 2008. The NPTF recently conducted a monitoring visit in April 2010. This visit was led by Arvind Rimal, NPTF M&E officer. Other participants were Martin Stuerzinger (Swiss Embassy), Ben Reese (UN RCO – UNPFN), Santosh Bisht (GTZ TA) and Juliet Wattebot O'Brien (DFID/ Donor Secretariat).

1. The team visited NPTF-funded projects in Sindhuli, Udaypur and Dhanusha districts. These included: Aurahi police post, Sindhuli District Administration Office, Dudhauri main cantonment, and Ranibas and Belsot satellite cantonments. We were unable to visit Khairmara satellite cantonment because of lack of time.
2. During the visit the team met with senior police officers, local politicians, community members, NGO workers, non-verified Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Maoist divisional commanders, representatives of the local cantonment management office (LCMO), local civil servants, the Sindhuli Chief District Officer (CDO) and UNMIN arms monitors. Although this was a good range of people, very few were women.
3. The NPTF secretariat, with support from GTZ, organised an interesting and informative field visit. The fund representative was very engaged in the process and this trip marked a positive shift in terms of effective monitoring of the fund. This now needs to be systematised within NPTF operations.

Reconstruction of Police Units: Mission Findings

Activity 1: Visit to Aurahi Police Post and Meetings with SP, DSP and Community Members

4. The team visited Aurahi, Dhanusha, where a police post will be reconstructed as part of the NPTF-funded project. Dhanusha is a very sensitive district – the Superintendent of Police (SP) generally stays a maximum of 7 months, which may affect implementation adversely.
5. The current police post was blown up during the conflict and is barely useable. So far the tendering for the reconstruction work appears to be relatively transparent: the bidding process was organised centrally but the bid opening was done locally and publicly, with bids submitted to the district HQ, and witnessed by civil society. The review committee included representatives of the CDO, District Development Committee and Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI). The Aurahi Sub-Inspector said agreed, strict criteria had been used in reviewing bids and that the final decision had been unanimous. The successful bid was the lowest one that still met all the criteria. The difference in cost between the lowest and the highest bid was 3%, which may warrant further investigation.
6. The main concern currently is about temporary accommodation while the police post is being rebuilt. Whilst it is positive that the new post will occupy the same plot as the existing post, and therefore not require new land to be acquired/donated, it is not clear whether the police can stay on the same plot during construction. If not, they

are considering moving into part of a new school. This is a negative unintended consequence of the project which exposes children to an unacceptable level of risk.

7. Community relations appear to be good - the SP said that local people were demanding police posts. The community had already assisted in construction of the police's temporary accommodation. We noted that the police are one of the few representations of the state locally – the VDC secretary left some time ago and the health post is not staffed.
8. Local people are already looking at ways to be involved and monitor the process – the team met with local politicians Nepali Congress (NC), United Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (UCPNM), Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), amongst others and community members. The group were aware of public audits: they plan to organise one and also a construction committee to monitor implementation. However, there was no female representation. We were informed that the women were too busy working in the fields but the group agreed that it would be good to have female representation on the committee. Given the demanding work of women, careful consideration needs to be given to how this can be facilitated.
9. The SP was not involved in deciding which police posts were rebuilt but said that some in a worse condition were not included in phase 1, which raises questions about prioritisation. We need to understand whether those in a worse condition were not included because they were not damaged by conflict or for some other reason.
10. The group were not concerned that armed groups would destroy the rebuilt police post – the Maoists are involved in mainstream politics and other armed groups are too small. The police reported there were many armed groups in the area but that their impact was “minimal”.
11. The National Vigilance Centre (NVC) is not involved in procurement processes. The procurement act does not indicate the inclusion of NVC.

Special Program for Relief and Rehabilitation of the IDPs: Mission Findings

Activity 1: Visited Sindhuli District Administration Office and meetings with CDO, Asst. CDO, Local Cantonment Management Officer, local leaders and IDPs.

12. The team met with the CDO of Sindhuli district regarding interim payments to IDPs. The local major political parties verify IDP status in Sindhuli as there is no Local Peace Committee (LPC) (the LPC has so far failed to agree who will act as chair).
13. There was a lack of clarity around numbers of verified IDPs, those still waiting to be verified and why they were still waiting. IDPs can come and ask to be verified but it seems that major political parties also present lists. This new list is highly disputed amongst local parties. The NC is the only party to have completed verification. The team met IDPs who said that they had applied or tried to apply but heard nothing back. Additionally, the task force in the MoPR centrally vets the list and had doubled the numbers.
14. Based on the revised list, there is now discussion at the district level to agree who is an IDP. The question of who is an IDP is clearly causing problems - the CDO suggested that the decisions should be devolved to the district level as central involvement was creating controversy. It is unclear on what basis those who had received payments were deemed to be IDPs. The decision is a political one - e.g. do

those who left their homes to fight and cannot return because of politics count as IDPs? These decisions are currently being dominated by the major political parties.

15. There is also a risk that those without access to information and without access to major political parties are being excluded since, because of insufficient funding for the payments, the CDO is reluctant to advertise the payments.
16. The CDO also pointed out that payments are made by a number of different ministries at the local level with little coordination or oversight; he suggested the CDO should coordinate this. There was no awareness of the World Bank complaints line.

Cantonment Management Project: Mission Findings

Activity1: Visited Ranibas, Belsot Satellite and Dudhauri Main Cantonment and held meetings with, Deputy Company Commander, Asst. Brigade Commander, and other representatives of the combatants, Doctor, Local Cantonment Management Officer and UNMIN Representatives.

17. From surface examination it seems that most of the projects paid for by the NPTF have been delivered. However, an issue remains around the road project signed off in November which is still not being implemented, despite MoPR through a letter of XXXX had informed the concerned implementing agencies that the temporary suspension of the projects has been lifted.
18. All cantonments reported problems with ongoing maintenance. Whilst \$1.3m was agreed in November for maintenance, issues remain. More clarity on this is needed.
19. Benefits to local communities also appear to be being realised: health centres are being used by local people and power lines have also brought electricity to local communities. We did not meet with local communities, but did see a number of local women queuing up to use the health facilities at Dudhauri.
20. Interactions with LCMO are frequent and appear to be good but we did not have an opportunity to talk to the LCMO separately.
21. We noted a number of points that require following up:
 - In all cantonments the electricity and phone bills were unpaid and so phone lines had been cut off (this occurred under the Maoist-led Government).
 - Cantonment leadership was not aware of what had been agreed in terms of NPTF funding.
 - In order to see female health workers, female combatants must travel to the main cantonments or local hospitals.
 - A number of implementing agencies are involved in delivering NPTF projects. There is a local implementation coordination committee but this needs strengthening, particularly to ensure CMCCO involvement.

Recommendations

General

- Find ways to make the process of identifying needs, projects and beneficiaries more transparent. Particularly in the cantonments, there was a desire to know how and who to discuss needs with.
- Find ways for NPTF beneficiaries to feedback directly to the NPTF and feed into monitoring. For example, how could cantonment leadership have let the NPTF know that the roads projects were not going ahead?
- NPTF secretariat should communicate to all implementing agencies that changes to projects need to be agreed with the NPTF board.
- The monitoring team need to ensure that we meet with those who are more likely to be excluded – e.g. women, minor political parties, other community members. This may mean having meetings in the evenings or in less central places.

Police posts project

- The GoN/DAG should visit the part of the Nepal Police (NP) who manage the tendering process for the police posts projects – as this is done centrally, this could be done as follow up to this visit.
- The GoN/DAG should follow up a bid opening process for the police posts project.
- The GoN/DAG should attend a public audit for the police posts project.
- The NPTF should discuss with the NP ways to ensure balanced gender representation in the construction committee, e.g. meetings could be arranged at times when women are free to participate or in locations that are more convenient with a possible required quota for female representation.
- The NPTF should work with the NP to identify alternative accommodation while police posts are being reconstructed that do not adversely impact on communities or place people, particularly children, at risk.
- In phase 2, a more transparent process focusing on local consultations should be used to decide which posts are rebuilt.

IDPs

- The MoPR should provide more clarity and transparency in the process to identify who is conflict-affected (including IDPs) In particular, they should clarify what the role of the MoPR task force is and provide rationale when names are added.
- The MoPR should look at ways of depoliticising the process as much as possible and at the very least ensuring that individuals without links to the major political parties have a voice. Could the CDO verify applications based on case-histories and documents?
- The NPTF should feed these points into government discussions about management of interim payments and discussions around the truth commissions and reparations.

Cantonments

- The NPTF must obtain from the Department of Roads a detailed timeline of when the roads work will take place.
- The NPTF should seek clarification on payment of electricity and phone bills for the cantonments. Who is responsible for paying these? Why have they not been paid?
- The NPTF should communicate to cantonments in writing what has been agreed in terms of support.
- NPTF should send its 4-monthly reports to beneficiaries, including all cantonments; UNMIN arms monitors could help facilitate this process for the cantonments. The NPTF should consider producing a synopsis of progress in Nepali.
- For the next visit, the NPTF-DAG should meet with members of local communities to understand more regarding their use of cantonment facilities and relations.
- The GoN/DAG should meet with the LCMO to discuss any problems they face and how they work with the cantonments and explore opportunities for better information sharing and local coordination.
- The NPTF should look at ways to strengthen local coordination for cantonment management. The LCMO needs support from the MoPR to coordinate this as most of those who are on the local implementation coordination body are senior to the LCMO representative.
- The NPTF should work with the LCMO and the DoH to ensure female health workers visit the satellite cantonments as well as the main cantonments.
- The NPTF-DAG should look at cantonment maintenance in depth and also ask the LCMO for a report on progress on this project.

Conclusions

22. This visit marked a positive step forward in terms of monitoring of the NPTF. PFS needs to make sure that the proposed next visit is arranged to assess further progresses of the projects tentatively in September. A schedule will be put together by PFS for regular visits. The stakeholders the team met were engaged and keen to comment on projects. They were also keen for the monitoring team to come back as projects progressed. There are a number of ways, outlined above, that the secretariat can develop channels of communication in order to strengthen oversight outside of monitoring visits. It is clear also that the NPTF need to look at ways of ensuring wider stakeholders feed into the needs identification process and that this process is transparent. Future visits could also explore joint monitoring of UNPFN and NPTF projects.

List of People Interviewed

Dhanusha District

Police

1. Mr. Survendra Khanal, S.P.
2. Mr. Jagadish Pokharel, D.S.P
3. Mr. Dipendra Kumar Yadav, Sub Inspector

Community Members

4. Mr. Ram Hirdya Shah, Nepali Congress (NC)
5. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Raya, UCPN (Maoist)
6. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum
7. Mr. Bisheswor Yadav, UCPN (Maoists)
8. Mr. Rajendra, NGO Representative
9. Mr. Community Representatives – Nine

Sindhuli District

District Administration Office

10. Mr. Jitendra Bahadur Bhandari, C.D.O.
11. Mr. Chetraj Baral, Assistant C.D.O.
12. Mr. Parshuram Thapa, Non Gazetted First Class Officer

Political Party Representative

13. Mr. Manik Dhakal, NC
14. Mr. Deepak Misra, NC
15. Mr. Ashok Rajbhandri, Rashtriya Prajatantra Party
16. Mr. Boraj Satyal, Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist)
17. Mr. Kamal Jung Rai, UML
18. Mr. Hiranya Lal Shrestha, Nepal Communist Party (Marxist)
19. Mr. Devi Prasad Phuyal, UCPN (Maoists)
20. Mr. Som Prasad Baral, UCPN (Maoist)

Internally Displaced

21. Mr. Modnath Timilsina
22. Mr. Dhruva Devkota
23. Ms. Nagro Maya Gole Pakhari
24. Mr. Prashant Magar
25. Mr. Shree Prashant Magar
26. Mr. Yogendra Prajuli
27. Ms. Purna Kumari Devkota
28. Mr. Shree Tek Bahadur Thapa

Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction Representative

29. Mr. Bimal Bhattra, Local Cantonment Management Office

Ranibas Satellite Cantonment

30. Mr. Padam Bahadur Asthani, Brigade Commander

31. Mr. Budha Ratna Shakya (Parvesh), Assistant Brigade Commander
32. Mr. Basudev
33. Mr. Bimal Gautam
34. Mr. Suman
35. Mr. Mahesh Karki
36. Mr. Upendra Oli
37. Mr. Dinesh

Belsot Satellite Cantonment

38. Mr. Saran, Brigade Commander

Dudholi Main Cantonment

39. Mr. Gopal Pandey (Uttam), Division Deputy Company Commander
40. Mr. Samir Ansari, Doctor

UNMIN Representatives

41. Yusuf Usman DIRI, Team Leader
42. Ahmed El-Naggar, Arms Monitor, Deputy Team Leader
43. Bimal Biswakarma, Language Assistant
44. Bir Bahadur Shrestha, Support Forces