

## Field Visit Report



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

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu  
Nepal

[www.nptf.gov.np](http://www.nptf.gov.np)

**Date of report preparation: 8 September 2010**

**Date of field visit: From 25 to 28 August 2010**

#### **Monitoring Team Members:**

Mr. Suman Ghimire, Programme Officer, NPTF  
Mr. Parmanand Ghimire, Section Officer, MoPR  
Ms. Satu Pehu-Voima (Counsellor), Embassy of Finland  
Mr. Bholu Dahal, Programme Coordinator, Embassy of Finland  
Ms. Juliet Wattebot O'Brien, Peacebuilding Advisor, DFID (UK)  
Ms. Ida Fjell, Intern, Embassy of Norway  
Ms. Barsha Pradhan, GTZ TA

**Prepared by: Government of Nepal and Donor Advisory Group**

## Summary of Programme

| Date      | Programme/<br>Project title:                                  | Activity  | Districts/<br>VDCs<br>visited      | Participants   |
|-----------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| August 25 | B-1 Special Program for Relief and Rehabilitation of the IDPs | Meeting with Chief District Officer   | Chitwan/<br>Bharatpur              | All monitoring team members  |
|           | E-1 Cantonment Management Project                             | Meeting with Local Cantonment Management Officer  | Chitwan/<br>Bharatpur              | All monitoring team members  |
|           |   | Meeting/ Discussion with LPC members  | Chitwan/<br>Bharatpur              | All monitoring team members  |
| August 26 | E-1 Cantonment Management Project                             | Visit to Main Cantonment, meeting with vice commander, observation of cantonment area   | Chitwan/<br>Jutpani/<br>Shaktikhor | All monitoring team members, Local Cantonment Management Officer (LCMO)  |
|           |   | Visit to Satellite Cantonment, meeting with ..., female combatants and male combatants, observation of cantonment area  | Chitwan/<br>Rasauli                | All monitoring team members, Local Cantonment Management Officer (LCMO)  |
|           |   | Interaction with neighbouring communities of cantonment   |                                    |  |
|           | D-1 Reconstruction of Police Units                            | Visit to Area Police Office reconstruction site, Interaction with Construction Management Committee, Meeting with the District Superintendent of the Police   | Chitwan/<br>Tandi<br><br>Bharatpur | All monitoring team members  |
| August 27 | E-1 Cantonment Management Project                             | Visit to Main Cantonment, meeting with Vice Commander and male combatants<br><br>Meeting with female combatants separately, observation of cantonment area<br><br>Interaction with neighbouring communities | Nawalparasi/<br>Jhyaltungdan<br>da | LCMO, Mr. Suman Ghimire, Mr. Parmanand Ghimire, Ms. Juliet Wattebot O'Brien, Ms. Ida Fjell, Ms. Barsha Pradhan |
|           | D-1 Reconstruction of Police Units                            | Visit to Area Police Office reconstruction site, Interaction with Construction Management Committee, contractor and Superintendent of the Police  | Nawalparasi/<br>Dumkibas           | Mr. Suman Ghimire, Mr. Parmanand Ghimire, Ms. Juliet Wattebot O'Brien, Ms. Ida Fjell, Ms. Barsha Pradhan       |

This was a joint donor-GoN monitoring visit of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) projects in line with the action plan of NPTF to conduct regular bimonthly monitoring visits to project sites. This is the second joint NPTF monitoring mission conducted in the Chitwan and Nawalparasi. The first joint visit was conducted in the area in December 2008.

During the visit, the team met with the Chief District Officer (CDO), Local Peace Committee members, senior police officers, Police Post Reconstruction Committee members, Police Post construction contractor, community members, Maoist divisional vice commanders, Maoist PLAs, representatives of the Local Cantonment Management Office (LCMO) and local civil servants.

#### **Purpose of the visit:**

- To assess the status of the projects implemented so far for management of cantonments.
- To assess the implementation process and inputs of the NPTF project on reconstruction of police units.
- To get an understanding of the community involvement and effects on the community as a result of the cantonments and police posts.
- To understand the gender perspective of NPTF projects by getting the viewpoints of the female involved in the projects.
- ...

#### **Mission Findings**

##### **Reconstruction of Police Units:**

##### **Activity 1: Visit to Tandi Area Police Post reconstruction site and Meetings with SP, DSP, Construction Committee members, Contractor and Community Members**

1. The team visited the site where a police post reconstruction had started with foundation being just laid down. The team interacted with the construction committee members and the contractors. They also visited the site where area police post once existed but was no longer there because of destruction during the conflict. This was one of the three police posts that were destroyed during conflict. The other police posts were already reconstructed from other sources. They later met with the SP and DSP at Bharatpur District Police Headquarters. A small board was put up in the site giving the details of the construction as well as the total budget.
2. A 7 members construction committee had been formed who stated that their role was to ensure the quality of the construction work and monitor the work so that the contractor completed his task on time. The members were informed about the total budget of the construction and they seemed to be interested and active in going to the site regularly to monitor the progress.
3. The local community members were positive about the reconstruction and believed that this would improve the security situation.
4. The contractor reported that the work was delayed due to recent incessant rainfall. However, he was optimistic that he could complete the work within the given duration.
5. The tendering process followed all the requirements of the Public Procurement Act of the Government of Nepal. The notice for tenders was published in national newspaper with one month of time for submission of tenders. Of the five applications, the one with lowest cost was selected for the reconstruction by the selection committee.

**Activity 2: Visit to Dumkibas Area Police Post reconstruction site and Meetings with DSP, Sub-inspector, Construction Committee members, Contractor and Community Members**

6. The team had an interaction with all the committee members, contractor, community members and related police personnel in the construction site. A board was put up in the site few days back, displaying the drawing, total budget and contractor's name.
7. The police post was destroyed 10 years back after which it was rebuilt with community support. The community in this area had huge contribution in rebuilding the post as well as providing some logistical support to the post as the post was severely under staffed and under equipped.
8. Regular procurement process had been followed in accordance with the public procurement act.
9. The foundation was being laid down whereas the work had been delayed due to the rain. The construction committee members were interested and seemed to be active in monitoring the progress.

**Cantonment Management Project**

**Activity1: Visited Main Cantonment, Division 3, Jutpani, Shaktikhor, Chitwan and held meetings with Asst. Brigade Commander, and other representatives of the combatants.**

**Activity2: Visited Satellite Cantonment, Division 3, Rasauli, Chitwan and held meetings with Asst. Brigade Commander, and other representatives of the combatants, including female.**

**Activity 3: Visited Main Cantonment, Division 4, Jhyaltungdanda, Nawalparasi and held meetings with Deputy Company Commander, meetings separately with female combatants**

**Activity 4: Meeting with Sharad Chandra Sharma, Local Cantonment Management Officer of Division 3.**

**Activity 5: Interaction with neighbouring communities of Rasauli satellite cantonment and Jhyaltungdanda main cantonment.**

10. Most of the projects paid for by the NPTF have been delivered including shelter construction, access roads, electricity, telephones, water supply and health clinics. The LCMO visits the cantonments once in two months for distribution of the basic allowance in agreement with the commanders.
11. The roads in all the three cantonments are, however, not all weather access roads as there are rivers on the way which tend to swell during monsoon making it impossible to commute through. The road project to address this problem signed off in November is still not implemented, though MoPR had informed the concerned implementing agencies that the temporary suspension of the projects has been lifted. Cantonment leadership was not aware of what had been agreed in terms of NPTF funding.
12. In all cantonments the electricity and phone bills were unpaid. In Jhyaltungdanda, the cantonment faced water scarcity problem as boring did not work in the place and water source was blocked in rainy season. Most of the temporary shelters built by NPTF were replaced as they became unusable.

13. Some combatants had appeared in School Leaving Certificate level examination last year through Open School system of Government of Nepal. This year they had decided internally that no combatants will appear for the SLC.
14. All cantonments reported problems with ongoing maintenance. Whilst NRs 24.6 million was requested in November for maintenance for Division 3, project worth only NRs 1 million had been approved and disbursed. More clarity on this is needed.
15. In Jhyaltungdanda, the doctor allotted for the health clinic had left six months earlier due to personal reasons, after which there is no doctor in the Division. The health services are carried out by an ANM, a staff nurse, and CMAs with a total of 8 government staff for whole Division.
16. Interactions with cantonment commanders and LCMO are frequent and appear to be good. 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 and LCMO involvement.
17. Benefits to local communities also appear to be being realised: health centres are being used by local people. The communities in Rasauli and Jhyaltungdanda reported of improved road conditions and increase in their local business following establishment of cantonment. In Rasauli, the community members also mentioned that they requested for and received support from the cantonment in cases of local public infrastructure construction works. There were two teachers from the cantonment coming to the local school for voluntary teaching as the local school lacked enough number of teachers. In Jhyaltungdanda, the community mentioned that in the initial days, some combatants had taken credit and never returned it.

## Others

### **Activity 1: Visited Chitwan District Administration Office and meeting with CDO, CAP and LPC.**

18. The Chief District Officer expressed his concern about the lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities of Local Peace Committees and suggested that they should be provided proper orientation.
19. In interaction with the LPC, it was evident that the members had different perceptions about the existence of LPC. While many said that this group was formed to support the state in smooth transition from conflict up to the formation of new constitution, some were of the view that the existence of LPC should go beyond formation of constitution and this structure should support long term resolution of conflict to bring peace and harmony in the country.
20. After the resignation of Maoists from government, the LPC in Chitwan had collapsed but the CDO was able to revitalize the LPC after six months. Despite the political deadlock, representatives from major political parties, human rights group, conflict affected people, many of whom were former LPC members had come together in this committee.
21. Before the disintegration of the LPC, the former members had contributed to addressing conflict in various local incidents, thereby preventing potential violence of a larger scale.
22. The LPC lacks resources for administrative purposes and have been operating on voluntary basis. The action plan being drawn by LPC showed high level of expectations of support from government. This needs to be carefully addressed so as to keep their motivation high within the available resources.

## **Recommendations**

Most of the recommendations are similar to the earlier visit conducted in Sindhuli district two months ago, and have been reiterated in this report as well.

### **General**

- The monitoring team need to ensure that we meet different groups of people separately even though they are related to the same activity. For example, the team can meet the police, construction committee members and the contractors separately in each of their own groups. This may facilitate the interaction with the less speaking members of the groups.
- NPTF secretariat should communicate to all implementing agencies that changes to projects need to be agreed with the NPTF board.
- NPTF should explore ways to provide support to strengthening the Local Peace Committees so that they can carry out their work effectively.

### **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.
- Further efforts required to make the construction committees more gender and socially inclusive.

### **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.
- 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 presence of doctor in main cantonment of Jhyaltungdanda.
- The NPTF DAG should look at cantonment maintenance in depth and also ask the LCMO for a report on progress on this project.

## **Conclusions**

This visit marked a positive step forward in terms of regularizing monitoring visits of the NPTF. A few important issues were identified that needs to be addressed and followed up for better utilization of monitoring information and smooth implementation of NPTF supported projects. A

comprehensive field visit guideline will be helpful in guiding systematic field visits that are beneficial for all. PFS needs to make sure that the proposed next visit is arranged to assess further progresses of the projects tentatively in November.

**Annex I**

**List of People Interviewed**

**Chitwan District**

***District Administration Office***

1. Mr. Basanta Raj Gautam, Chief District Officer

***Local Peace Committee Members***

1. Mr. Devendra Gurung, Chairperson
2. Laxmi Koirala, Representative of CPN- ML
3. Saraswati Paudel
4. Maya Nepali, Representative of CPN- UML
5. Shanti Adhikari, Reporter's Forum
6. Mr. Ramesh Shrestha
7. Mr. Bal Krishna Paudel, Human Rights Organization of Nepal
8. Mr. Govinda Sigdel, Chitwan Bar Association
9. Mr. Rajendra Paudel,
10. Mr. Bhumeshwor Kandel, Representative of CPN- Maoist
11. Mr. Krishna Bhakta Pokharel, Representative of CPN- UML

***Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction Representative***

1. Mr. Sharad Chandra Sharma, Local Cantonment Management Office

***Police***

1. Mr. Pushpa C. Ranjit,
2. Mr. Raviraj Khadka

***Community Members (Construction Committee members)***

***Main Cantonment, Shaktikhor***

***Satellite Cantonment, Rasauli***

***Neighbouring Communities of Satellite Cantonment, Rasauli***

**Nawalparasi District**

***Police***

Mr. Krishna Gautam

***Community Members (Construction Committee members)- 11-15***

***Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction Representative***

Mr. Ram Prasad Gyawali, Local Cantonment Management Office

***Main Cantonment, Jhyaltungdanda***

Mr. Fal Bahadur Nath, Assistant Division Commander  
Mr. Basu Dev Ghimire  
Nirmala Pun (Pratishtha)

*Draft 18/05/2011*

Usha GM (Usha)

***Neighbouring Communities of Main Cantonment, Jhyaltungdanda***