

Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP)

Minutes of Project Board Meeting

19 December 2013

Venue: Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Singha Durbar

I. Participants

Senior Beneficiary : Laxmi Sharan Ghimire, Joint Secretary, MOPR

Project Management Team : Dennis Curry, Assistant Country Director, Peacebuilding and Recovery Unit (PBRU), UNDP

Archana Aryal, Programme Analyst, PBRU

Peter Barwick, Senior Advisor/Project Manager, CPP

Pramita Dhungana, Deputy Project Manager, CPP

Ajay Das, Regional Dialogue Advisor, CPP

Basker Kafle, Regional Dialogue Advisor, CPP

Prem Ojha, Programme Analyst, CPP

Rita Khatiwada, Dialogue Coordinator, CPP

Unit/Project Support : Yogen Rai, Programme Associate, UNDP/PBRU

II. Agenda

1. Opening remarks by Mr. Dennis Curry, Assistant Country Director, UNDP/PBRU
2. Update on previous board meeting action and decision points by Mr. Peter Barwick
3. Update on project activities and plans by CPP Team
4. Presentation of requested revision of Project Document
5. Issues for discussions and decision
6. Any other business
7. Closing remarks by Mr. Dennis Curry

III. Welcome remarks

Mr. Dennis Curry, Assistant Country Director of Peacebuilding and Recovery Unit (PBRU) represented as the Chair of the Project Board meeting. The Chair welcomed all the members for the meeting. He thanked to the Joint Secretary, Mr. Laxmi Sharan Ghimire for his support and advice, and letting the UNDP/CPP to hold the meeting at the premises of MOPR.

It was noted that this meeting would cover both the Q3 and Q4 periods of 2013. Due to a variety of factors including the 19 November national elections, the extended national transport strikes (bandhs) that preceded the elections, as well as two important national festivals (Dashain and Tihar), it was not possible to hold the Q3 Project Board Meeting before this time.

The Chair stated that this has been an exciting year for the Conflict Prevention Programme as it has begun work in new regions, brought on new staff, and most importantly carried out important conflict prevention work. He recalled that the CPP was initiated back in 2010, and the context has evolved significantly since that time. He added that the project has sought to adjust its plans and structures for the years ahead, and will be presenting a new Results and Resources Framework (RRF) to be relevant in the changed context. He commented that the new RFF lays out a vision of the work that is harmonized with the current 2013-17 UNDAF cycle, and would focus on creating national capacities and ownership to lead and continue the overall process.

Mr. Curry remarked that as the CPP has matured, new ideas to strengthen the work have slowly emerged. One of the most innovative has been an outgrowth of Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue and its contact with key government officials, Local Peace Committees (LPCs) and district-level political leaders. These leaders have emphasized the importance of developing mechanisms for identifying emerging political, resource and identity conflicts in a timely manner, and equipping local actors with tools and techniques for effectively managing such conflicts and preventing an escalation to violence. This thinking has given shape to a proposed work on Early Warning and Early Action.

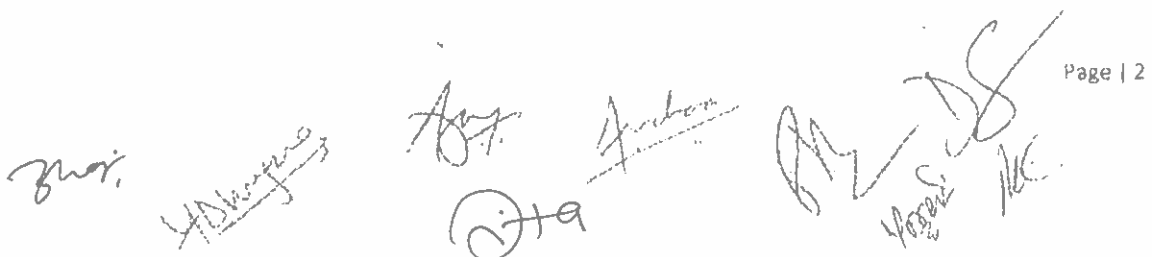
Mr. Curry handed over to Mr. Peter Barwick, Senior Advisor and Project Manager of CPP to update on key action and decision points of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2013. Mr. Barwick congratulated Mr. Ghimire for his new assignment and responsibilities with MOPR. Mr. Barwick introduced himself and requested for a round table introduction of the members.

Mr. Barwick briefly presented the last meeting decisions as follows:

- **Quarterly Work Plan:** The 3rd quarter programme activities were fully achieved as per the planned work plan.
- **Revision of Project Document:** With respect to expansion of activities, CPP has revised the Results and Resources Framework of the Prodoc to reflect the evolution of the project.
- **Recruitment:** CPP has completed most of its recruitment processes and has or will bring recruited staff on board before end of this year.

Mr. Barwick also provided additional information that:

- The 2013-14 has been the busy year for CPP as it worked on expansion of programme to two new regions (Far West and East), and that it is active in four of the five Development Regions of the country.
- The programme has established partnerships or strong working relations with NASC, LDTA and NCED, and this has provided a strong platform for institutionalizing the transmission of key concepts to government civil servants.



He has emphasized on the key points mentioned in the updated project documents which were as follows.

1. The updated project document is harmonized with the current 2013-17 UNDAF cycle, and would focus on creating national capacities and ownership to lead and continue the overall process. Resources and Results Framework is updated to incorporate the changes made in the updated project document
2. The CLD work with leaders have emphasized the importance of developing mechanisms for identifying emerging political, resource and identity conflicts in a timely manner, and equipping local actors with tools and techniques for effectively managing such conflicts and preventing an escalation to violence. This thinking has given shape to a proposed work on Early Warning and Early Action.

IV. Update on Project Activities and Plans

Mr. Barwick requested the CPP team members to present project achievements of the last two quarters that includes from July to December 2013 (Qtr-3 and Qtr-4), and briefly discuss on the plans for the next year 2014, as brief noted here below:

Pillar I: Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue

Achievements:

➤ Electoral Violence Prevention:

- CPP staff and it Senior Facilitators team, in close cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator, engaged with leaders of election boycott alliance led by CPN-M to convince them to cease violent activity.
 - Engaged with senior political party leaders and Regmi cabinet to encourage non-confrontational approach with boycotting groups.
 - Organized dialogue among national youth and student leaders that concluded in joint commitment to avoid violence. The Joint Youth and Student Platform (JYSP) named district representatives who helped to jointly organize cultural activities (mural painting and street theatre) with anti-violence messaging.
 - Worked with the Inter-Religious Council Nepal (IRCN) to promote dialogue on electoral violence among Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jain and Christian leaders. Shared concern about risk of candidates seeking to gain favour by promoting divisions, and agreed on a joint statement asking for peace and tolerance.
 - Disseminated positive messages from the Joint Youth and Student Platform (JYSP) and the Inter-Religious Council Nepal (IRCN) through the mass media. Messages transmitted on 200 FM stations, 11 national newspapers and on eleven national television stations.
- District-level dialogues in Dhanusa, Chitwan, Banke, Kailali and Sunsari with political party leaders, Senior Government officials (CDO, Returning Officers and SP) to identify local causes of electoral violence and practical solutions.
- Continued engagement with political party leaders and civil society actors in the Far-West to promote improved relations among political parties as well as between Tharu and Pahadi leaders. This included dialogues with political and social movement leaders that contributed in creating a peaceful environment for the electoral period.

Zhi

Yadunath

Arif

Arubha

MDS

Meeta

MA

Diya

➤ **Engagement with Media:**

- One-day workshop with the senior editors of the national dailies, who are committed to discuss on various thematic issues including election, review the role of media and connect local level issues to the national level.
- Partnership with Action Network Nepal (AWON) and Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ) in developing to support journalist fellowship to find the existing practices of dialogue, social cohesion and collaboration in society.
- Partnership with Nepal Press Institute to train local FM radio journalists on conflict sensitivity and collaborative leadership and dialogue mechanism

Plans for 1st Quarter (January–March 2014)

- Provide dialogue/mediation training to government, political party and civil society leaders
- Provide training and support to Local Peace Committees
- Support dialogue initiatives on Political, Resource and Identity-related tensions
 - VDC/District: focus on LPCs, CDO, LDO and other local networks
 - National: focus on 2nd tier political leaders and emerging consultative mechanisms
 - Key issues: local elections, constitution, transitional justice
- Work with media through training, partnerships and high-level engagement to promote a supportive environment for dialogue
- Provide focused training of dialogue to women, youth and vulnerable-group leaders
- Develop Early Warning/Early Response approaches and mechanisms to connect LPCs and other networks with relevant officials and institutions

Pillar II: Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity

Achievements:

➤ **Capacity Development**

- Facilitated Peace Sensitivity orientation and planning workshop for Peace Focal Persons through MoPR
- Finalized the practitioner's handbook (Conflict Sensitive Programming).
- TNA and ToT for NCED trainers
- Organized CS trainings and orientations for UN Country Team.
- Organized CS orientation to UNICEF and UNESCO staff.
- UNDP-GoN combined training on conflict sensitivity for the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Timor-Leste.
- New partnership with LDTA and NCED; partnership extended with NASC

➤ Exposure Trip - Guatemala (26 Nov – 3 Dec)

- High-level MoPR representation including Secretary Tamang, JS Ghimire and JS Sapkota
- Post conflict issues explored included transitional justice (truth commissions, exhumations), conflict resolution mechanisms, and indigenous governance.

Plans for 1st Quarter (January–March 2014)

- Support PFPs for mainstreaming PSDA through MOPR
- Continuation of the work with LDTA, NASC, and NCED
- Support NPC for Peace-Sensitive Planning
- Crisis Management training for CDOs
- Development of conflict sensitivity E-Learning package

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- Video production for conflict sensitivity trainings
- Resource Centre support to NASC, LDTA and NCED
- New partnership with MOHA and MOFALD
- Study on Economic savings on CS application
- Technical support to UNPFN
- Survey on impact of CS training
- Conflict Sensitivity trainings for UN Country Team - *Conflict Analysis ToT, Conflict Sensitivity in Emergency, Conflict Sensitivity Planning, Conflict Sensitivity M&E.*

Project Administration-update

(i) Human Resources

- Hired 5 Regional Advisors to head Field Offices.
- Hired CLD Team Leader
- Hired 2 Conflict Sensitivity Capacity-building Officers
- Hired 4 drivers for Field Offices and 1 Project Assistant for Kathmandu
- 5 Regional Dialogue Coordinators pending finalization in December

(ii) Logistical Management

- Opened two new Regional Field Offices – Kailali and Bharatpur
- Damak Regional Field Office set to open on 1 January
- Updated Resources and Results Framework
- Details the principal outputs and activities of the Conflict Prevention Programme
- Principal areas of focus are Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue, Conflict Sensitivity, and Early Warning/Early Response
- Establishes 31 December 2017 as new end-date of the CPP, adding two additional years to the project timeframe

JS Mr. Ghimire commented on the Annual Work Plan as well described, and highlighted the emerging work on 'Early Warning/Early Recovery' as both interesting and needed in the communities. He appreciated the CPP team's efforts to strengthen conflict sensitivity and dialogue activities, and noted them as useful contributions to peacebuilding. Mr. Ghimire further gave some suggestions which are noted below during the meeting.

1. The Western region needs to be considered for programme expansion and the impact of programme will be reached to the community.
2. The media personnel and institutes should bring the positive messages. The programme will communicate that the media will not carry negative messages and do not create conflict.
3. The programme could create a position for 'Peace Mobiliser' (example considering as Social Mobiliser) who can help reach the peace programme activities to the VDC levels.
4. It seen that the political leaders should be given awareness on the Conflict Sensitivity.
5. The programme should focus for effective monitoring and evaluation, which will deliver overall impact of the programme.
6. The VDC Secretary is the key person of every programme. We should try to bring a positive approach within him by providing relevant training and supplying any other equipment.
7. Most of the programmes seen as duplicated and noted that the resources are poured into only to accessible areas. It should not happen and we try to reach where resources are not reached

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V. Decision/Discussion Points

- **Programme:** The programme timeframes match the new United Nations and Government of Nepal's jointly approved UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and run through 2017 and the updated Resources and Results Framework is approved.
- **2014 Annual Work Plan and 1st Quarter Work Plan:** The Annual Work Plan (AWP) of the year 2014 and the first quarter work plan (QWP), January to March 2014, were well presented by the CPP team. Both the work plans (AWP and QWP) were welcomed and approved by the Board members.
- **Human Resources and Recruitment:** As CPP has gone under expansion of its activities, the project has felt necessary to develop a new human resources plan that includes the creation, discontinuation or redefinition of various posts. Based on the requirement of the forthcoming program plan, the new human resources plan and organogram of the project management have been endorsed.
- **Procurement of Motorcycles:** The project drew attention of the Board members that CPP needs to procurement motorcycles (five units, one unit each for each of its four region office and headquarters). The project explained that the motorcycles will provide economic and time-saving modality of transport for official functions – particularly in rural areas. With the given reasons, the procurement of motorcycles has been accepted and endorsed.

VI. Closing remarks

The Joint Secretary, Mr. Ghimire expressed that MOPR is very interested and committed to extend its support to UNDP programmes. He recommended that the programme plans need to aim to reach to the community level and to the poorest of poor.

The Chair, Mr. Curry once again thanked to the Joint Secretary for his time and valuable inputs during the discussion. Mr. Curry extended thanks to Mr. Barwick for his leadership and presentation. He reminded the apologies from the Country Director, Ms. Shoko Noda, due to her other official engagements. However, UNDP is looking forward to working with MOPR with the highest commitment.

It is expected that the next Project Board meeting shall be held during the month of April 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.



Zhu



Yoshida

