

## FACT SHEET

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### Democracy and Governance Program

## Nepal Peace Support Project (NPSP)

In 2003, upon the request of the Government of Nepal, USAID provided technical and financial support to institutionalize the newly formed Peace Secretariat and the peace negotiation process. This assistance eventually led to the USAID-supported Nepal Transition to Peace (NTTP) Initiative in 2005. The project was designed to build Nepali capacity to engage in the peace process; create an inclusive multi-party dialogue to address stakeholders' concerns; and institutionalize government peace structures. The NTTP Forum was formed during this phase and accepted as an informal conflict negotiation forum convened by two national facilitators. The NTTP has been recognized by the government, major political parties and civil society groups as an inclusive negotiation mechanism that supports national peace process, constitution writing and political transition.



NTTP Forum Political Party leaders meeting

The NTTP evolved as a trusted negotiation space resulting in successful and structured negotiations on major issues of peace processes, including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In 2009, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) and other peace stakeholders requested USAID to continue its assistance to further the peace process. As a result, the work that started with NTTP took its new form as the Nepal Peace Support Project (NPSP).

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The five-year, \$4.1 million Nepal Peace Support Project hosts the Nepal Transition to Peace (NTTP) Forum where political leaders have the opportunity to navigate difficult political subjects and negotiate policy for top-level decision makers' consideration. NTTP supports policy dialogues covering the constitution drafting process, state restructuring decisions, truth and reconciliation commission legislation, Maoist-seized territory disposition, minority-led unrest, and ex-combatant voluntary retirement and military integration.

NTTP is used extensively by Nepal's political parties to facilitate peace process conciliation and political compromise. The project will conclude January, 2015. During the last six months of the project the focus will be on creating a Nepali managed institution called the Nepal Transition To Peace Institute (NTTP-I) to continue the work of the NTTP Forum in addressing a range of issues stemming from the CPA and drafting and implementing a new constitution, state restructuring, and ensuring the Forum's sustainability.

### SNAPSHOT

**Life of Project:** August 2005 to February 2009 (Academy for Educational Development); March 2009 to August 2014 (The Asia Foundation)

**Goal:** To advance Nepal's Peace Process

**Implementing Partners:** The Asia Foundation (TAF)

**Geographic Focus:** National focus

**USG Contribution:** \$4.1 million

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen and Maintain the NTTP Forum – The NTTP Forum is an informal forum used by second and third tier political party leaders for dialogue, and for building trust and confidence between the parties. NTTP is used extensively by the parties to negotiate compromises on challenges to the peace process. The NTTP Forum is led by four nationally recognized facilitators and supported by an internationally-renowned conflict resolution specialist. The negotiations of the NTTP are taken back to the respective parties/constituencies for formal decisions and implementation. The project also supports the NTTP Peace Resource Center, a peace library and resource center for stakeholders.
- Increase the Base of Support for Peace Units in Political Parties – The NTTP Forum political party members formed peace units within their respective parties. The project provides support to these peace units to research other peace processes' best practices, comparative analyses, and lessons learned.
- Transform the NTTP Forum into a sustainable and independent national peace entity – In consultation with USAID and NTTP stakeholders, in May, 2014, the project registered the NTTP-I as a peace institute with the Ministry of Home Affairs, to allow it to function autonomously. Management and advisory boards are comprised of NTTP Forum members, who will guide future NTTP activities. The USAID implementer will then transfer the NPSP resource center archives, and other materials and equipment to the newly formed institute, make a sub-grant to partially cover institute operations for six months, and provide technical assistance to help the NTTP-I staff to assume their responsibilities on its behalf.
- Support the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) – Assist the MoPR to establish Local Peace Committees in all the 75 districts of the country. The committees were designed to bring together political parties, Non-Government Organizations, and relevant local government agencies to prevent potential conflict, resolve them as they arise, and promote peace at the district level.

## KEY RESULTS

- Since 2005, the project facilitated negotiations on ten contentious issues through the NTTP Forum, leading to important breakthroughs on the constitution drafting and peace process: ex-combatant integration and rehabilitation; CA extensions; state restructuring and federalism; electoral system; judiciary and transitional justice; forms of governance; power-sharing; structured dialogue; trust building; and deadlock breaking negotiations. USAID' support and engagement with high-level political party leaders played a crucial role for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signing in 2007.
- Supported the establishment of Local Peace Committees in all 75 districts through the MoPR.
- Aided the MoPR to draft the Truth and Reconciliation Commission bill, which is pending further enactment and action in the absence of the Parliament.
- The establishment of a fledgling Nepali managed NTTP-I to serve as an independent peace institution to support a national negotiation/dialogue space and facilitators to assist political parties and civil society to further the peace process, to provide research on peace process issues, and to become the national peace process entity interacting with other peace foundations around the world to share Nepal's experience with other similar organizations.

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