



PEACEBUILDING FUND
[GUINEA-BISSAU]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY – JUNE 2013

Project No & Title:	PBF/GNB/E1 Guinea-Bissau National PBF Secretariat Support 2012 - 2013		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UNDP Guinea-Bissau		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc)	UNDP Guinea-Bissau & UNIOGBIS		
Location:	Guinea-Bissau		
Total Approved Budget²	531,347 US\$		
Funds Committed³	170,763.11	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	47,87%
Expenditure⁴:	108,392.67	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	30,39%
Project Approval Date:	13 October 2011	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	NA
Project Start Date:	9 December 2011		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	31 December 2013		
PBF Outcome Area⁵	Outcome Area (from Priority Plan or Project Document): Public Administration / Re-establish essential administrative services		
Qualitative assessment of achievements and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of progress towards overall achievements of the Project at both the outcome and output level</i> <p>The PBF Secretariat has been the only project exempted from the moratorium declared by PBSO on PRF portfolio in Guinea Bissau following the coup of 12 April 2012. The portfolio suspension, however, has affected all aspects of its role and function during the first half of 2013. While during 2012 the Secretariat functioned primarily as a conduit of information and analysis to PBSO and exercised an oversight function of the portfolio on behalf of the suspended JSC, with the arrival of a new SRSG in February 2013 and the emergence of a new political momentum, in 2013 its advisory role in the repositioning of the PBF become much more forward-looking. The overall outcome of ensuring that “PBF funds [are] managed transparently, strategically, cost-effectively and catalytically maximizing PB opportunities” has remained valid, but the outcomes have had to be adjusted in order to account for the dramatic change of the country situation as compared to 2011 when the project document was developed. Thus, during the first half of 2013 the Secretariat has worked towards the achievement of the following outputs:</p> <p>(1) IRF window (made available to GB during Q1 of 2013) is used effectively to respond to the emerging political momentum and rapidly changing situation on the ground</p>		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget should be the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations.

⁴ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

⁵ Reference to be made to outcomes of the Priority Plan or PBF Performance Management Plan (PMP)

(2) Secretariat effectively exercises an oversight role over the suspended portfolio on behalf of the JSC

A third output, from the 2011 project document, has maintained an ongoing relevance (though with altered performance indicators, reflecting the role of the Secretariat as a repository of knowledge during a time crisis and transition):

- (3) PBF National Secretariat established as a local repository of knowledge, lessons learned and institutional memory regarding PBC/PBF engagement in Guinea-Bissau
- *Use the project indicators and target for the measuring of achievements (see target table at the end)*

Since the Secretariat project document could not be formally updated due to suspension of the JSC, and in light of the need to respond to a rapidly shifting situation, it is not possible to report against previously agreed upon targets and indicators. The section below describes some of the major expected and unexpected results.

- *What are the major - expected and/or unexpected – highlights of results?*

The suspension of the PRF portfolio led to at least two major results during the first half of 2013.

- I. Repositioning of the PBF: Working closely with the RCO, the Secretariat has been using the suspension as an opportunity to lead an in-depth reflection on the lessons learned from the first PBF allocation (2008-2010/11), especially in the area of youth employment. One important outcome of this process has been the development of a multi-donor comprehensive employment programme focused on the rehabilitation of critical socio-economic infrastructure through high-intensity labor projects. Within the programme portfolio, a set of projects have been identified that fit particularly well within the PBF framework and that would offer a rapid re-entry point with a high probability of success when the PRF is reactivated.
- II. IRF Window: Access to the IRF window allowed for the development of two IRF projects by UNIOGBIS with substantial Secretariat support, one focused on the establishment of a high-level strategic planning commission for Guinea Bissau and a second (packet) proposal targeting the transition period leading up to the elections, which have now been scheduled for November 2013. The first proposal has received a conditional approval for USD 1.23 million.

- *Did the results impact the causes and drivers of conflict?*

The first IRF proposal was approved in June, so it is too early to assess its impact comprehensively, but the idea of a commission that could offer a venue of participation in the political process for some of the high-level actors who did not join the government of national unity that was established in June contributed to the success of the negotiation process that made such an expanded government possible.

- *Were there catalytic effects – additional funding commitments or unleashing peace relevant processes?*

The support from the PBF prompted the approval of a further USD 400,000 from UNDP. It is expected that further funds will be forthcoming from other international partners.

- *What are the risks / challenges – and how to address them?*

The three objectives of the high-level commission – an emergency programme for 2013, a strategic plan for 2014 and the organization of a pledging roundtable – extend beyond the transition period and, therefore, the great risk is that its work could be challenged by the government that will be constituted following the November elections. The risk, however, is mitigated by the likelihood that the new government will also be a government of national unity and thus constituted by actors representing the same political constituencies.

- *What can be expected as additional results by the end of year?*

A lot! Both IRF proposals are focused on the second half of 2013 and therefore their critical interventions will be carried out during this period. Secretariat support will be crucial to the successful implementation of the IRFs as well as to the review of the PRF portfolio, which is also expected to begin during the second half of 2013.

- *Is there any need to adjust project strategies?*

Once a new JSC is constituted, the project document should be formally revised to reflect the strategic adjustment that has already taken place in close consultation between PBO and UNIOGBIS.