



[COUNTRY: MYANMAR]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2015

Project No & Title:	PBF/IRF-114 Establishment of the Center for Diversity and National Harmony		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UNOPS		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):	Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH)		
Total Approved Budget :²	USD 2,538,122		
Preliminary data on funds committed :³	USD2,190,135	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	86.3%
Expenditure⁴:	USD435,052	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	17.1%
Project Approval Date:	16/02/2015	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	0
Project Start Date:	01/03/2015		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	31/08/2015		
Project Outcomes:	<p>1. Enhanced comprehension of the current situation of violence, its nature, the local context and trends through systematic information gathering and research</p> <p>2. The mitigation of risks is enhanced and responses to threats of social violence are improved through the setting up and maintenance of an early</p>		

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

² Approved budget is 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. Provide preliminary data only.

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

5 PBF focus areas are:

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1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

3: Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including JSC/ PBF Secretariats)

	<p>warning system.</p> <p>3. Local capacities for conflict resolution are enhanced and acceptance of differences through public outreach, awareness raising and training is increased and a growing constituency for social harmony is created and fostered.</p> <p>4. CDNH is recognised as an effective institution for reducing community tensions in Myanmar and its continued existence is assured</p>
<p>PBF Focus Area⁵ (select one of the Focus Areas listed below)</p>	<p>Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2) - (2.1) National reconciliation</p>

Qualitative assessment of progress

<p><i>For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved. (1000 characters max per outcome.)</i></p>	<p>Outcome 1: CDNH has submitted eight memos to relevant government agencies between January and May 2015. Of the eight memos, two were on the activities related to the cancellation of the white cards (temporary identity cards). One was on the reasons for a jailed Muslim activist, two on the meetings organized by the Buddhist extremist group (Ma Ba Tha) in Yangon, two on the boat people issue and one on the accusation that Muslim patients, especially pregnant women, were killed at Sittwe General Hospital. The memos which were 3 to 6 pages long described the nature of the issues and the impact they could have on the overall situation in Rakhine State and in the rest of the country and recommendations on what the government should consider doing to resolve them.</p> <p>CDNH is currently finalizing a needs assessment in Rakhine, which will be shared with all stakeholders upon completion. As mentioned in the Project Document, this was one of the high priority tasks for CDNH to do upon project commencement.</p> <p>Outcome 2: CDNH’s Early Warning System is currently being established and will be fully operational in 2 to 3 months, by which time its contributions to conflict prevention will be measurable.</p> <p>Outcome 3: More than 100 Muslims and 150 Rakhine community and youth leaders who have participated in various activities, including “reconciliation meetings,” have shown increased tolerance and sensitivity toward one another. For example, they now refrain from using the socially controversial terms ‘Rohingya’ and ‘Bengali’ in meetings so as to avoid offending each other. However, due to religious holidays and delays in the disbursement of funds (due to the negotiation between UNOPS and CDNH to sign the Grant Support Agreement), CDNH was unable to undertake all the awareness activities and public campaigns it had planned. More activities will be conducted in the second phase. Five Muslim leaders and ten Rakhine leaders noted that since they started working with CDNH, they had also tried to change the mindset of several hundred people they knew. They also noted that if CDNH could help</p>
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	<p>them organize sharing sessions, they should be able to change the mindset of several thousand people.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Anecdotal evidence indicates that several stakeholders recognize CDNH’s contributions to conflict prevention. However, it is too early to concretely measure the extent to which CDNH is recognized as a credible conflict management institution. An independent consultant will be hired to survey stakeholders’ opinions of CDNH’s activities by the end of the second phase.</p>
<p><i>Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding? (1000 characters max.)</i></p>	<p>As a result of the reconciliation meetings organized by CDNH, moderate members of both communities in Maungdaw have established a joint committee which meets twice a month, with similar committees under discussion in five other townships. CDNH has noted Rakhine civil society activists helping Muslim leaders from IDP camps in Sittwe establish civil society organizations. About 10 Rakhine participants of the “reconciliation meetings” visited Muslim colleagues living in IDP camps or isolated areas.</p> <p>With CDNH early warning training supported by the UNRCO in Yangon, many moderate Muslim and Rakhine community leaders have started exchanging information about developments in each other’s areas. CDNH-led coordination meetings saw the establishment of open and cooperative relations between the Rakhine State government and moderate Muslim leaders. Muslim leaders who have participated in CDNH’s meetings can now call the state security minister directly whenever they fear a breakout of violence.</p>
<p><i>Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/ unblocking of any peace relevant processes? (1000 characters max.)</i></p>	<p>The project has received additional funding from the Norwegian government and DFID’s Peace Support Fund (PSF). The Norwegian government funds are used on staff salaries and costs of organizing joint committee reconciliation activities not covered by the PBF funding. The funding from PSF covers expenses of reconciliation meetings, public campaigns on tolerance, and the civic education program. The Norwegian government is considering providing additional funding to start the legal advisory program. Meanwhile, the Swiss government may provide funding for a consultant for the early warning system.</p>
<p><i>If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them.</i></p>	<p>After the Project Document was signed, it was necessary to sign a Grant Support Agreement between UNOPS and CDNH. This required much negotiation and legal consultations. CDNH could not implement all the trainings and meetings it had planned in the first three months of the project due to the lack of PBF funding until May. CDNH will organize many activities both in Rakhine State and</p>

<i>(1000 characters max.)</i>	other areas with communal problems immediately after Ramadan. It will focus mainly on organizing coordination meetings and gathering early warning data for conflict prevention during the election campaign period. Although CDNH has already collected data for its early warning system, certain technical problems with Swiss Peace software caused delays in data entry. In addition, the shortage of people with skills and prior experience meant that early warning memos and reports took longer to produce.
<i>What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year? (1000 characters max.)</i>	CDNH will organize at least 15 more reconciliation meetings and more than 10 capacity building trainings, expand early warning data collection activities, and publish early warning reports, needs assessment reports and research papers on interfaith issues and civic education. CDNH will also provide legal education and advice to stakeholders in Rakhine State and will help Rakhine women social organizers start an organization that can represent all female residents of Rakhine State. Some female activists in Maungdaw have started mobilizing a women's network including members of both communities. A forum on women's empowerment and conflict prevention will also be organized. In addition, CDNH will try to organize the very first interfaith dialogue in Rakhine State in August 2015, with the participation of major religious communities in Maungdaw. The said activities are expected to increase the number of interactions between the two communities and encourage problem-solving through dialogue
<i>Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (1000 characters max.)</i>	Since most of the planned activities will be undertaken in the second phase, it is too early to consider adjusting strategies or budget. However, the budget adjustment might be considered at the end of phase one (August 2015). CDNH is convinced that all remaining planned activities for phase one will be implemented by the end of the phase one period (August 2015).
<i>What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expended by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only? (1000 characters max.)</i>	Of the USD 2,538,122 total project budget, USD2,190,135 has been committed through a Grant Support Agreement between UNOPS (grantor) and CDNH (grantee). Of this USD2,190,135, USD 435,052 has been spent by UNOPS. This is a combination of a) disbursement by UNOPS to CDNH (USD 400,000) and b) expenditure by UNOPS for procurement done by UNOPS. This equates to 17.1% of the total project budget.
<i>Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage? (1500 characters max.)</i>	A legal consultant is currently helping CDNH start a legal advisory program. CDNH is also considering doing an ethnographic study of the The-chaung areas in Sittwe, shedding light on how a small Rakhine village that is located in the middle of Muslim IDP camps and villages manages to survive and how the Rakhine village residents interact with Muslims on a daily basis.

	<p>CDNH is also exploring the possibility of including the peace education curriculum developed by UNESCO for northern Rakhine State in its capacity building and awareness raising training workshops and teachers' trainings. CDNH will organize 3 exposure trips for Rakhine community leaders in collaboration with the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, based in Cambodia. The first group, composed of 12 community and civil society leaders, will go to Sri Lanka on June 21, 2015 to study how communal problems are managed there. Government officials will be included in the second trip and Muslims from Yangon in the third trip. Muslims from Rakhine State will not be included in foreign trips mainly because it is impossible for them to get passports at the moment. However, CDNH is exploring the possibility of organizing a trip for some hardline Muslim leaders to visit Yangon.</p>
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INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above. (250 characters max per entry)*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 Enhanced comprehension of the current situation of violence, its nature, the local context and trends through systematic information gathering and research (Outcome 1 of the CDNH logframe)	Indicator 1.1 Number of decisions (mitigation and operational actions in response to violence) taken by stakeholders (govt., CBOs, security forces) using the CDNH analysis provided	The government had made 8 policy decisions on the basis of the analyses of CDNH at the time the project started. However, CDNH has not yet widely shared its analyses with other stakeholders.	Policy decisions take into account research and analyses produced by CDNH.	4 Decisions taken by CSOs and INGOs on the basis of CDNH's analyses on areas such as: - Ways to change mindset of hardliners (such as exposure trip sponsored by HD) - Formation of joint committee - Formation of women's organization in Maungdaw		
	Indicator 1.2 Increase of culturally, gender-	Stakeholders rarely paid special	Engagement with stakeholders	CDNH organized two reconciliation meetings in	Muslim community leaders are reluctant to include more women in their activities, despite promises. At the same time, most	.

	sensitive and conflict-sensitive reactions and activities by stakeholders of CDNH	attention to gender issues. Only about 30% of stakeholders initially working with CDNH were culturally and conflict-sensitive.	that are culturally, conflict- and gender-sensitive.	Yangon. CDNH organized joint committees in Maungdaw. - CDNH organized dialogue session between both communities and supported the formation of a women's organization in Maungdaw	Rakhine organizations need to improve their cultural sensitivity.	
Output 1.1 Recruitment of research and operations personnel	Indicator 1.1.1 Initial personnel recruited for start-up phase by UNOPS	0	38 (+2 UNOPS project management personnel), disaggregated by sex	Initial 24 (Male-11, Female-13) personnel were recruited for the start-up phase		
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of total personnel vs. planned personnel	0	49, disaggregated by sex	24 (Male-11, Female-13) personnel were recruited		
Output 1.2 Procurement of equipment for successful CDNH start-up	Indicator 1.2.1 Number of equipment items delivered vs. planned	No equipment	Acquisition of exact equipment detailed in budget	Planned equipment items for 18 months = 12 items. 8 equipment items were to be delivered during first quarter.	4 equipment items are still underway.	

	Indicator 1.2.2 Timely delivery of equipment	No equipment	Delivery within first 6 months of project	8 equipment items were to be delivered during first quarter.	Due to delay in the disbursement of fund (due to negotiation over GSA), the procurement process could not start on time.	
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1					
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Outcome 2 The mitigation of risks is enhanced and responses to threats of social violence are improved through the setting up and maintenance of an Early Warning System. (Outcome 2 of the CDNH logframe)	Indicator 2.1 Key institutions and stakeholders, (i.e. union and state govt., security forces (police), communities (e.g. Rakhine nationalist communities, Muslim activist networks) and community based organisations) use information from EWS and respond to warnings	Only government agencies were provided with the information.	Widespread use of information provided by CDNH in conflict prevention.	Both the union and state government agencies have used the information provided by CDNH effectively. CDNH has organized early warning trainings for stakeholders from 6 conflict areas. CDNH will continue to organize more trainings for them.	Due to delays in provision of funding, CDNH could not open its office in Sittwe. Since CDNH has mainly focused on establishing relationships in Rakhine State, it has not been able to work closely with stakeholders outside Yangon and Rakhine State.	CDNH will open its Sittwe office by end of June and it should be able to reach out to most local organizations in Rakhine State by end of August. CDNH will open the Mandalay office by mid-August to reach out to stakeholders outside Rakhine State.
	Indicator 2.2 CDNH creates and implements policies, strategies and actions that	No EWS	CDNH able to use EWS to respond to warnings and adjust its	Drawing on the local and international media, social media network,	Delays in establishing EWS due to pending opening of branch offices in Sittwe and Mandalay.	After the opening of offices in Sittwe and Mandalay, CDNH should be able to regularly

	respond to, and directly result from, the information produced by their EWS, thus showing a high level of responsiveness to the EWS		activities accordingly, and warnings shared with relevant stakeholders.	and information received from local informants, a database on issues that could affect the communal problems in Rakhine State and in the rest of the country has been created.		collect a greater volume of first-hand data.
Output 2.1 Missions conducted between CDNH and conflict areas	Indicator 2.1.1 Number of personnel conducting missions for EWS	0	CDNH undertaking missions for establishment of EWS	3 personnel conducted missions for establishment of EWS	Delay in opening of local offices.	Regular mission will be conducted after local offices are opened.
	Indicator 2.1.2 Funds spent on missions for EWS purposes	USD 0	Funding used to visit 6 clusters for EWS set up	USD1791.86	The mission was conducted during 18-25 May 2015, and the expenses will appear under June expenses.	
Output 2.2 Training sessions for staff and local communities on EWS	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of trainings delivered	0	Trainings held by end of project in 6 clusters	Training was not held during March and May as planned.	Trainings were not held because of funding delays.	The training plan is postponed until July.
	Indicator 2.2.2 Broad spectrum of people trained, e.g. different gender, religion, organisations,	0	All relevant stakeholders trained	CDNH organized training on community based EWER for Rakhine and Muslim leaders by the facilitation of		CDNH plans to organize all EWS trainings by the end of August 2016.

	communities etc.			Peter L. Barwick (Senior Advisor of Conflict Prevention Program of UNDP).		
Output 2.3 Procurement of communicati on equipment for early warning system	Indicator 2.3.1 Number of equipment items delivered	No equipment	Exact communicatio ns equipment procured as planned in budget	No equipment was delivered yet.		
	Indicator 2.3.2 Timely delivery of equipment	No equipment	Delivery within first 6 months of project	No equipment was delivered yet.		
Outcome 3 Local capacities for conflict resolution are enhanced and acceptance of differences through public outreach, awareness raising and training is increased and	Indicator 3.1 Perception levels of members of targeted communities on the level of inter- communal violence in their community and their own safety (disaggregated by religion and gender)	2300- participant survey conducted in 10 townships in Rakhine State in March and May 2015. 50% of the survey participants answered that the security has			It is currently too soon to concretely measure how this project has influenced public perception of the possibility of communal violence and safety condition	New surveys to measure how this project might have contributed to changes in public perception of the possibility of communal violence and safety issues will be conducted by the middle of phase two and at the end of phase three.

<p>a growing constituency for social harmony is created and fostered. (Outcome 3 of the CDNH log</p>		<p>improved; the same number (50%) said they still felt unsafe.</p>				
	<p>Indicator 3.2 Perception levels by members of targeted communities on the efforts by key institutions and stakeholders to pre-emptively and effectively address potential tensions and hence prevent violence (disaggregated by religion and gender)</p>	<p>The same survey quoted above indicates that 70 % of the participants thought that international organizations should play a key role in bringing normalcy to Rakhine State and 9% percent said they should not be in Rakhine State.</p>				<p>New surveys on public perception of key institutions and stakeholders will be conducted by the middle of phase 2 and by the end of phase 3.</p>
<p>Output 3.1</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1</p>					
	<p>Indicator 3.1.2</p>					

Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Outcome 4 CDNH is recognised as an effective institution for reducing community tensions in Myanmar and its continued existence is assured	Indicator 4.1 Additional funds are mobilised for CDNH	No other funds	Several donors engaging with and committing funds to CDNH as a result of its performance and reputation	CDNH has received funding from all the funders it has approached.		CDNH has requested more funding from the Norwegian government and the Swiss government to establish a legal program and to hire a consultant respectively.
	Indicator 4.2 Key government, non-state actors and third-party observers testify to value of CDNH to resolution of social conflict.	Many actors unaware of role of CDNH.	Key sectors of society increasingly value CDNH's role and can cite concrete examples of its contribution to social coherence	CDNH's role in conflict prevention in Rakhine State has been recognized by the government and international organizations. CDNH is the only NGO which government officials approach	It is too early to conduct a survey of all stakeholders' views on CDNH's activities.	CDNH should be able to provide more concrete information in the second quarter about recognition and appreciation shown by key state and non-state party observers.

				whenever they need advice on an issue related to Rakhine State.		
Output 4.1	Indicator 4.1.1					
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1					
	Indicator 4.2.2					
Output 4.3	Indicator 4.3.1					
	Indicator 4.3.2					