



**PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)  
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT  
COUNTRY: Yemen  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015**

<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b>
Programme Title: Peace Building Fund Secretariat Programme Number (if applicable) 00091194 MPTF Office Project Reference Number: <sup>1</sup> 00091194

<b>Recipient UN Organizations</b>
List the organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP

<b>Programme/Project Budget (US\$)</b>
PBF contribution (by RUNO) <b>USD 1,100,000</b>
Government Contribution (if applicable) <b>NA</b>
Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) <b>NA</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b> <span style="float:right">USS 1,100,000</span>

<b>Implementing Partners</b>
List the national counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation (MoPIC) and RCO

<b>Programme Duration</b>
Overall Duration (months) 24 months
Start Date <sup>2</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) 09/07/2014
Original End Date <sup>3</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) April 2016
Current End date <sup>4</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) July 2016

<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b>
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No    Date:
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No    Date:

<b>Report Submitted By</b>
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<sup>1</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to “Project ID” on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>2</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>3</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>4</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed.

**PART 1 – RESULTS PROGRESS**

**1.1 Assessment of the current project implementation status and results**

**For PRF projects, please identify Priority Plan outcome and indicators to which this project is contributing:**

<i>Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing.</i> Secretariat support to all applicable outcomes
<i>Priority Plan Outcome indicator(s) to which project is contributing.</i> Timely submission of the PBF Secretariat Annual Report; Quality coordination and communication from PBF secretariat .

**For both IRF and PRF projects, please rate this project’s overall achievement of results to date:** on track

**For both IRF and PRF projects, outline progress against each project outcome, using the format below. The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes.**

**Outcome Statement 1:** Effective coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and communication on the achievement of the Priority Plan results and the projects that support it.

**Rate the current status of the outcome:** on track

Indicator 1: Timely submission of the JSC Annual Report	Baseline: N/A Target: within 7 days of the deadline Progress:The JSC has not been functional since the start of the recent conflict in Yemen in late March 2015. Many members of the committee left the country after the conflict started, and no meetings have been conducted since then.
Indicator 2: High quality JSC Annual Reports	Baseline: N/A Target: “Acceptable” rating by PBSO review team Progress:As mentioned above, the JSC has not been functional since the start of the conflict in Yemen
Indicator 3: Quality Coordination and Communication from JSC Secretariat	Baseline: N/A Target: Key partners (e.g. RUNOs and other stakeholders) satisfied with level and timeliness of JSC Secretariat communication and coordination Progress:The Secretariat is working with RUNOs and PBF Project Managers to ensure the application of PBF guidelines. The Secretariat has been actively communicating with Project Managers to answer all their relevant questions.

	<p>Coordination and Communication with all concerned counterparts continued throughout the emerging developments and unanticipated events; which included suspension of projects that led to the closing of some of them.</p>
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**Output progress**

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*

- Recruitment of international consultant to manage the Secretariat set-up.
- Recruitment of the PBF secretariat (PBF Program Officer, M&E Officer and Admin Assistant).
- Reporting and monitoring guidelines were provided to projects' focal points.
- Initiation of a communication & coordination mechanism to ensure that projects outcomes are in line with the Peacebuilding Priority Plan.
- Coordination & Review of the suspension process of PBF-PRF projects and ensured submission of reports.
- Provided guidance with the closing and refunding of the Social Welfare Fund Recertification Survey Project
- Assisted with the cost extension of the PNPA Project.
- Coordination & Monitoring the process of the closure of three projects (Livelihood and economic recovery, Peace and Transition Support, Support to the Implementation of Transitional Justice).

**Outcome progress**

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?*

By February 2015, the Secretariat completed the process of recruiting its staff: National Program Officer, M&E Officer, and Admin Assistant. The Secretariat also hired an International Consultant to help with the initial operations and establishment of the Secretariat.

Later, the Secretariat started to design the different plans that will support its mission in providing effective communication & coordination efforts to make sure all the work contribute to the achievement of the Priority Plan results. A Yearly Work Plan, and an M&E Plans were in the pipeline to serve as guidelines to achieve the above outcome. Reporting and monitoring guidelines were provided to projects' focal points. Several meetings were conducted to ensure coordination among the different projects and to review projects progress. the Secretariat was coordinating with PBSO for the provision of a set of training on peacebuilding for Projects Managers.

Unfortunately the recent events in Yemen which started in late March 2015 triggered the Secretariat work and shifted the focus onto the coordination and facilitation of the suspension of all projects as per the letter from ASG Fernández-Taranco on April 9th. The Secretariat was in constant communication with all counterparts, mainly RUNOs

Project Managers; reviewing and monitoring the submitted report to ensure a smooth workflow and coordination in order to proceed efficiently.

By July 2015 the Secretariat coordinated and monitored the refunding and closure of the Social Welfare Fund Recertification Survey Project. The Secretariat assisted in facilitating the cost extension of the Supporting the Yemen Peace and National Partnership Agreement Project.

After analysis of the situation and review of the submitted reports, it was evident that only three out of the six projects would be visible to continue. A letter sent by ASG Fernández-Taranco on Oct. 15th guided the process accordingly; the Secretariat is now coordinating and facilitating the closure process and the financial refund for the three closed projects and is coordinating the submission of the Annual Reports with the ongoing projects.

The outcome has contributed to the peacebuilding efforts in Yemen, and it supported the achievement of the results of the Priority Plan through the effective coordination between all counterparts. This was especially evident during the past period - when the interruption caused by the conflict jeopardized the work- through which the Secretariat succeeded in providing support to the concerned stakeholders as explained above.

Nevertheless, this outcome could have been more evidently helpful if the conflict has not triggered new approach to conduct the work.

### **Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*

Instability in Sana'a started after Houthis entered the city. The overall situation slowed down the work progress. Later the conflict in Yemen erupted and caused low achievement of the initial plan since all projects were suspended on April 9th, 2015. The war was not foreseen in the risk matrix and had no rectifying measures; it pushed all the JSC members to leave the country; and the role of the GoY perished during the conflict, so there was no one to coordinate the security risk with.

However the Secretariat was able to mitigate the effect of the conflict by coordinating a series of actions to ensure that work of the secretariat was still effective. The team was relocated to Amman, Jordan for two months on a mission to work on the suspension process. In addition the secretariat has been able to work remotely to support the counterparts.

An added challenge that faced the secretariat at the beginning was the lack of Peacebuilding conceptual understanding among some counterparts. The rectifying measures were to deliver certain training to improve their approach and understanding.

### **Outcome Statement 2:**

**Rate the current status of the outcome: on track**

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

**Output progress**

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*

**Outcome progress**

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?*

**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*

**Outcome Statement 3:**

**Rate the current status of the outcome: on track**

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

**Output progress**

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

**Outcome progress**

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

**Outcome Statement 4:**

**Rate the current status of the outcome: on track**

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

**Output progress**

List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit). Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.

**Outcome progress**

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?

## 1.2 Assessment of project evidence base, risk, catalytic effects, gender in the reporting period

<p><u>Evidence base</u>: What is the evidence base for this report and for project progress? What consultation/validation process has taken place on this report (1000 character limit)?</p>	<p>The submitted seven suspension reports that were uploaded into the MTPF Gateway  (June 2015), the end report and financial refunding of the Social Welfare Fund Recertification Survey Project (August 2015), the extension of the PNPA project (September 2015), and the constant consultation with PBSO and RUNOs are the evidence base for this report.</p>
<p><u>Funding gaps</u>: Did the project fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? Briefly describe. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The Secretariat filled a funding gap because there was no sufficient coordination capacity among the national counterparts. The project helped in better coordination with RUNOs, and PBSO.</p>
<p><u>Catalytic effects</u>: Did the project achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unblock/accelerate peace relevant processes? Briefly describe. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The project achieved catalytic effects through the efficient coordination between all counterparts and stakeholders. The Project Managers are more aware of the peacebuilding guidelines and processes. The project was successful in facilitating the suspension, closing, and extension of the various peacebuilding projects in a professional manner. The project filled the communication gap that existed before the establishment of the Secretariat.</p>
<p><u>Risk taking/ innovation</u>: Did the project support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The work of the Secretariat was interrupted by the conflict and the risk of its mission being hindered emerged. The team relocated to Amman, Jordan and was able to set in place a coordination mechanism to ensure the work continues. Later on the team set up a mechanism to work remotely to support the coordination and communication activities. Overcoming these obstacles was not easy, but the team succeeded in meeting its objectives during the crisis</p>
<p><u>Gender</u>: How have gender considerations been mainstreamed in the project to the extent possible? Is the original gender marker for the project still the right one? Briefly justify. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The original gender marker is still the right one, because it is based on the gender sensitivity of the PBF program.</p>
<p><u>Other issues</u>: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that should be shared with PBSO? This can include any cross-cutting issues or other issues which have not been included in the report so far. (1500</p>	

<i>character limit</i>	
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## PART 2: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

### 2.1 Lessons learned

*Provide at least three key lessons learned from the implementation of the project. These can include lessons on the themes supported by the project or the project processes and management.*

Lesson 1 (1000 character limit)	The Results Frameworks of the PRF projects were not aligned with the PBF M&E Guidelines. The establishment of the Secretariat came after the approval of the different projects, and this has contributed to ineffective supervision over these projects. The lesson learned is that to ensure quality submitted projects, the Secretariat should have been established prior to the kick off of the other projects.
Lesson 2 (1000 character limit)	The project budget did not reflect accurate lines to meet the needs at different levels. A more comprehensive budget preparation should be implemented to avoid any budget reviews later on.
Lesson 3 (1000 character limit)	The recent conflict in Yemen has proved that many unforeseen events can cause the suspension of the project, and obstruct the work. However, there are no clear guidelines on how to go about the suspension of projects, and its related issues. Guidelines for such scenarios should be in place to ensure smooth process in such circumstances.
Lesson 4 (1000 character limit)	
Lesson 5 (1000 character limit)	

### 2.2 Success story (OPTIONAL)

*Provide one success story from the project implementation which can be shared on the PBSO website and Newsletter as well as the Annual Report on Fund performance. Please include key facts and figures and any citations (3000 character limit).*

## PART 3 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

### 3.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditure

*Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, slightly delayed, or off track: delayed*

*If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters maximum):*

The financial expenditure has been delayed mainly due to the recent conflict in Yemen. However, It should be noted that the Program Coordinator position was suspended and had a significant amount in its budget line.  
The trainings that were planned earlier this year did not take place, and nothing was spent on that.

A budget revision is underway to re-allocate the funds and to meet the financial obligations which emerged during the past months since the start of the conflict.

Please provide an overview of expensed project budget by outcome and output as per the table below.<sup>5</sup>

Output number	Output name	RUNOs	Approved budget	Expensed budget	Any remarks on expenditure
Outcome 1: Effective coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and communication on the achievement of the Priority Plan results and the projects that support it.					
Output 1.1					
Output 1.2					
Output 1.3					
Outcome 2:					
Output 2.1					
Output 2.2					
Output 2.3					
Outcome 3:					
Output 3.1					
Output 3.2					
Output 3.3					
Outcome 4:					
Output 4.1					
Output 4.2					
Output 4.3					
Total:					

### 3.2 Comments on management and implementation arrangements

*Please comment on the management and implementation arrangements for the project, such as: the effectiveness of the implementation partnerships, coordination/coherence with other projects, any South-South cooperation, the modalities of support, any capacity building aspect, the use of partner country systems if any, the support by the PBF Secretariat and oversight by the Joint Steering Committee (for PRF only). Please also mention if there have been any changes to the project (what kind and when); or whether any changes are envisaged in the near future (2000 character maximum):*

The conflict in Yemen had a negative impact on the overall outcomes of the project, and it is very hard to judge how the current structure of the projects could have had performed in normal circumstances.

But it should be noted that the rectifying measures that the team undertook have helped mitigate the impact on the project performance.

<sup>5</sup> Please note that financial information is preliminary pending submission of annual financial report to the Administrative Agent.

It also should be noted that capacity training in peacebuilding for the staff of the Secretariat is needed along with more focused M&E training that can help the staff to perform better.