

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE



PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTRY: Sri Lanka

TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL Annual

DATE OF REPORT: 15 November 2018

Project Title: EMPOWER: Building peace through the economic empowerment of women in northern Sri Lanka	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00108311	
PBF project modality: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc): International Labour Organization, World Food Programme, List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental: Puthukkudiyiruppu Women Entrepreneurs' Cooperative Society (hereafter PTK women's cooperative)	
Project commencement date¹: 09 January 2018 Project duration in months:² 18 months	
Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): ILO: \$ 685000 WFP : \$ 515,000 PTK Women's cooperative : \$ 800,000 : \$ Total: 2,000,000 <i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account</i>	
How many tranches have been received so far: 1	
Report preparation: Project report prepared by: ILO and WFP Project report approved by: Agency Representatives and UN Resident Coordinator Did PBF Secretariat clear the report: Yes Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report: comments incorporated Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: N/A	

¹ Note: commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

² Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general / common language.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

PART 1: RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1 Overall project progress to date

Briefly explain the **status of the project** in terms of its implementation cycle, including whether all preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (1500 character limit):

The overall assesment of the project per the original workplan indicates that the project is not fully on track.

Outcome 1 of the project is largely on course with activities being implemented as planned. A steering committee has been formed bringing together a multiplicity of stakeholders for effective coordination, implementation and inclusive decision making. The project is implemented through a cooperative, an independent entity under the provincial government, but the inclusive nature of the steering committee promotes sustainability and will ensure continuous coordination and maintenace of linkages with relevant departments. In terms of direct interventions, 352 beneficiaries have been identified for support and 95 were trained on ginger cultivation. Of these, 52 beneficiaries have received water sprinklers and planted ginger rhizomes. Additionally, 38 and 42 beneficiaries have been trained on ground nut and banana cultivation respectively and the procurement of inputs is complete.

Under Outcome 2, the project is not as advanced. The formation of a network with several other cooperatives, including the National Youth Council Cooperative (NYCC), is at an initial stage. This network will function as a base to both promote peacebuilding activities and gender equality, particularly amongst youth.

To date, Cooperative membership has grown from an initial 350 to 1,600, an important element of the outreach and inclusion strategy.

Given the recent/current political/peacebuilding/ transition situation/ needs in the country, has the project been/ does it continue to be **relevant** and well placed to address potential conflict factors/ sources of tensions/ risks to country's sustaining peace progress? Please illustrate. If project is still ongoing, are any adjustments required? (1500 character limit)

This project remains highly relevant in light of current political and socio-economic realities. Access to gainful employment and livelihood enhancement opportunities is limited, indebtedness remains a significant challenge, especially for women and female headed households.

Through support to SMEs and agricultural production, the project provides opportunities for women to develop businesses and secure livelihoods. Their business and management skills will be developed. It will enhance social marketing and will provide opportunities to access new markets and interact with people from other communities thereby providing new avenues for peace building.

The current Constitution provides for 25% of local government seats to women. The project promotes women's empowerment through leadership development and gainful employment uplifting local economies. The support and empowerment will facilitate more women to take up leadership positions in the local governance of their communities.

The project encountered an increase in community tension as a result of only providing support to cooperative members. The project adjusted its strategy to include outreach activities to non-members, through investing in community infrastructure and expanding participation in business development trainings.

In a few sentences, summarize **what is unique/ innovative/ interesting** about what this project is trying/ has tried to achieve or its approach (rather than listing activity progress) (1500 character limit).

Using the cooperative model the project is enhancing livelihoods and empowerment amongst hard to reach groups of vulnerable women. The outreach, including the creation of 19 sub-branches of the PTK cooperative, extends support and assistance to new members, including from different communities. In one district, this is the first cooperative to function with sub branches in the district.

The cooperative model allows for a greater and more efficient outreach to communities. In addition to the livelihood support, the model also provides opportunities for improved contact between communities, including through joint training, and joint business services, distribution and marketing channels for produce.

Initially, support was focussed on the coop members only. However, the project found that increasing the outreach was essential to have a greater peacebuilding impact as well as addressing sensitivities vis a vis community norms and perceptions that could act as serious obstacles to women's empowerment. The all female membership of the cooperative created a platform to more effectively target female leaders for cooperative and/or local governance.

Considering the project's implementation cycle, please **rate this project's overall progress towards results to date:**
off track

In a few sentences summarize **major project peacebuilding progress/results** (with evidence), which PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):
The project is still in its initial implementation stage, with results expected down the road. However, the project has established peace-building networks with other cooperatives in the province. A key element is gender training that is tailored to the post-conflict context with the National Youth Council Cooperative. The involvement of the NYCC greatly increases the outreach and ensures that peacebuilding measures based on increased contact between communities reaches a wider group of youth in the North.

As part of livelihood training, the project organised an exposure visit on ginger farming. The visit allowed beneficiaries to engage, learn from, and appreciate the knowledge/ways of members of other ethnic and religious communities. In particular it was used to foster greater understanding of the issues faced by female entrepreneurs of the Tamil community. The visit

successfully created ties between the Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil participants and a reciprocal visit is planned to PTK for January next year.

Some 54 women have been selected to participate in a training that will cover the four pillars of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan (reconciliation, governance, transitional justice, resettlement and durable solution). Through this training, the project will form a Change Agent Network. These women will act as change agents and will develop and implement their community based peace building action plan.

In a few sentences, explain how the project has made **real human impact**, that is, how did it affect the lives of any people in the country – where possible, use direct quotes that PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):

There are encouraging signs at this initial stage that indicate positive human impact as a direct result of the project. This year, the PTK cooperative received an award from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka. Historically, this award only recognized export companies. The formal recognition of PTK has helped build linkages with the exporter community, amongst others, to further boost expansion of the cooperative's access to export associations and improved market access. The recognition has psychologically encouraged and greatly motivated cooperative members in their endeavours.

"Motivated by the award which we have gotten and being empowered women, we feel the responsibility of helping to empower other women who were affected by the war in the northern province of Sri Lanka. We faced lots of struggles and barriers and now at least to some extent we overcome challenges from our society."- MS. Jayanthiny, General Manager

Furthermore, persons who benefitted from trainings through the project have also provided testimonials as to the knowledge gained and how they intend to use this in the future.

"Before this training, I had about 30% knowledge. After this, I feel I have 100% knowledge and I have also been able to see ginger cultivation practically." One beneficiary's feedback following an exposure visit to a ginger growing farm.

If the project progress assessment is **on-track**, please explain what the key **challenges** (if any) have been and which measures were taken to address them (1500 character limit).

If the assessment is **off-track**, please list main reasons/ **challenges** and explain what impact this has had/will have on project duration or strategy and what **measures** have been taken/ will be taken to address the challenges/ rectify project progress (1500 character limit):

The process of acquiring land for the cooperative through the Regional Forest Department faced "red tape" delays- specifically in relation to housing a cashew processing centre, a moringa farm, packing and husk processing centres. Following cooperative follow up with local government, the issue of land acquisition now appears resolved. Another issue related to Cooperative membership eligibility and benefit criteria arose within the larger community in the area. Perhaps linked, bureaucratic delays with the Cooperative Department emerged in the efficient procurement of agricultural inputs for select beneficiaries. Similar constraints requiring resolution were faced on who would benefit from agro-wells. To resolve these, several meetings between government representatives and cooperative members were held to reach consensus on beneficiary selection.

The cooperative also extended its membership beyond ex-combatants, resulting in an expansion from 350 to 1,600 members. Outreach and training activities were also extended to the expanded membership. While this membership expansion is positive and in line with targets, the rapid increase did also create an urgent need to manage the [benefit] expectations of members. As a mitigation measure, the cooperative created sub-branches in 19 village divisions in order to more easily address membership issues. Additionally, the cooperative plans to set up banking services accessible for all members.

Please attach as a separate document(s) any materials highlighting or providing more evidence for project progress (for example: publications, photos, videos, monitoring reports, evaluation reports etc.). List below what has been attached to the report, including purpose and audience. Please see attached annexes:

A story published in the Sunday Times (national newspaper)

Brief on well construction progress

Links to video documentary:

Empower_Small.mp4

1.2 Result progress by project outcome

The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes. If your project has more approved outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: Female former combatants and other conflict-affected women increase their economic contribution through effectively accessing new market opportunities, resources and information that have opened as a result of a more peaceful environment.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: Describe main progress under this Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration), including major output progress (not all individual activities). If the project is starting to make/ has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context. Where possible, provide specific examples of change the project has supported/ contributed to as well as, where available and relevant, quotes from partners or beneficiaries about the project and their experience. (3000 character limit)?

At present, 352 beneficiarie have been identified and have received technical trainings on improved agricultural technologies and the application of good agricultural practices. The trainings have covered introductory topics (per crop), irrigation management and field-based training on Ginger cultivation. Crop cultivation in relation to local crop calendars is on track. Trainings are scheduled onGrespective crop stages of growth, from planting to post harvest and marketing.

In June 2018, 95 members participated in an introductory course on ginger cultivation. Out of these, 52 beneficiaries received and planted their Ginger rhizomes. These 52 have also successfully installed sprinkler irrigation kits and have started irrigation. To enhance effective Ginger cultivation, the project facilitated an exposure visit to the Department of Export Agriculture with the objective of equipping beneficiaries with practical knowledge on Ginger cultivation and outward orientation. Supportive monitoring, with technical support from the Department of Agriculture, is currently underway.

Additionally, 38 and 42 beneficiaries have been trained on Ground Nut and Banana cultivation respectively. Procurement of Banana and Groundnut inputs is complete for the first batch of beneficiaries.

The project has also facilitated a beneficiary verification and agro-wells assessment for beneficiaries selected to benefit from well construction. The beneficiary list was received by from the Cooperative and analysed by the Divisional Secretariat, WFP and ILO. An initial batch of 50 beneficiaries were selected out of which 46 beneficiaries are benefitting with the wells construction. Out of 46, 16 have been completed and 30 are almost complete.

The project procurement of 80 drip irrigation and 70 sprinklers irrigation systems, 103 electric water pumps, 6 kerosene water pumps, 20 submersible pumps, 66 alkathene pipes, 2 seeders and 2 weeders, is currently underway and is expected to be delivered by the first week of November.

At the District level, a steering committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Government Agent. This constitutes the District Secretary, Divisional Secretary, District Planning Director, Assistant Director of Cooperative Development, PTK Women Cooperative, Deputy Director of Agriculture, WFP and ILO. This is the project's main advisory cum facilitating body.

50 out of 100 identified beneficiaries to start SMEs have received training from the Department on Industries on resource identification, market opportunities and skills for business development. The department is leading this process to ensure that appropriate SMEs are identified and developed.

To date, the membership of the Cooperative has expanded from an initial 350 to 1,600, a substantial number for a cooperative in the Northern Province. A data base of all members has been created and is being maintained by the PTK coop.

Outcome 2: Female former combatants and other conflict affected women leverage their increased social status to be a leading voice in the region's private sector's contribution to peacebuilding.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: off track

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

The work on Coop in Coop which started in the first half of 2018 continues. Working with local government the network is initiated in the northern districts, and its expansion is expected in 2019 though political issues have caused some delays. The Coop in Coop strategy remains a key entry point for the PTK cooperative to engage with a wider range of stakeholders.

The project is establishing peace-building networks with other cooperatives. To date, various cooperatives have been approached for potential partnership to form a peacebuilding network. As part of this, the project plans to complete gender training by December 2018. Nine topics have been identified so far, and the training is tailored to the post-conflict context. The District Youth Service Cooperative society has been invited to participate in the training. This Cooperative has access to many youth and therefore, through this partnership, the Peacebuilding Plan can be transferred to a wider group of youth in the Northern area.

The project has facilitated a Ginger exposure visit for beneficiaries selected for ginger cultivation. Among other knowledge-related objectives, one objective of this exposure visit was to facilitate interaction with a different ethnic group.

54 marginalised women including ex-combatants and women from female headed households from the cooperative who already engaged in social activities were selected by the project to participate in a training that will cover gender sensitivity, gender preventive and responsive mechanisms & referral systems. This will also include overview, strategic objectives, and current interventions taking place at regional level of the four pillars of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan. At the end of this training, these women are expected to become Change Agents, forming part of the project's Change Agent Network/Alliance covering each of the four key pillars of UN PPP. They will develop and implement their community based peace building action plan during 16 days of activism (25 November to 10 December).

The cooperative has encouraged women who are being trained to include men who could support them in their agricultural activities. Some 28 men participated. Men are also being included in the gender trainings held in November and December.

The project is facing challenges in registering the number of ex-combatants it is to reach. While initially 78 women were identified as ex-combatants, many members fear the stigma attached to admitting to being ex-combatants. Subsequently, the coop has stopped asking this question. Anecdotal evidence suggests this has resulted in more ex-combatants joining the coop as they no longer fear being labelled as such.

Outcome 3:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select one

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select one

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

1.3 Cross-cutting issues

<p><u>National ownership:</u> How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>At the Provincial level, the government has taken leadership of the project under the leadership of the Government Agent. The Government Agent (GA) is the head of the steering committee. The beneficiary selection criteria was finalized together with the Steering committee.</p> <p>WFP support is channelled through government ministries.</p>
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	<p>Therefore, the government has direct ownership and control over use of resources aimed for beneficiaries. For example, money from WFP is transferred directly to the Treasury which is then transferred to the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs.</p> <p>Project trainings are led by relevant government ministries. For instance, all agriculture support trainings are being led by the District Provincial Director of Department of Agriculture jointly with relevant government agencies such as the Department of Export Agriculture, Department of Fruit Crops Research and Development Centre, Grain legume and Oil Crops Research and Development Centre, Post harvest Technology, Research and Development Center. The Department of Industries is also leading the support for the training on SMEs. They have come forward voluntarily to support the development of SMEs in Puthukudiyirruppu division and have promised the Cooperative to continue supporting the development of the sector with assistance for expansion and marketing.</p>
<p>Monitoring: Is the project M&E plan on track? What monitoring methods and sources of evidence are being/ have been used? Please attach any monitoring-related reports for the reporting period. (1500 character limit)?</p>	<p>The project plans to implement a community based monitoring strategy with support from digitized data collection from November. The purpose of the community-based monitoring is to empower the community to take charge of the project and its outcomes. The EMPOWER project seeks to empower its beneficiaries by actively enabling community level monitoring of the project in order to facilitate greater outcomes and greater accountability.</p> <p>In addition to the project M&E system, the Department of Agriculture has rendered their support in monitoring beneficiaries who have been supported for Ginger cultivation. The Department continues to visit their households on a regular basis and provide them with information on pest control and the application of fertilizers, thereby improving the relationship between the community and the government department. The visits and support provided are recorded by the beneficiaries for verification purposes.</p> <p>A baseline was completed in June 2018</p>
<p>Evaluation: Provide an update on the preparations for the external evaluation for the project, especially if within last 6 months of implementation or final report. Confirm available budget for evaluation. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The project is not yet within its last 6 months.</p>
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Did the project lead to any specific non-PBF</p>	<p>No financial catalytic effects have been observed yet.</p>

<p>funding commitments? If yes, from whom and how much? If not, have any specific attempts been made to attract additional financial contributions to the project and beyond? (1500 character limit)</p>	
<p>Catalytic effects (non-financial): Did the project create favourable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The Department of Industries contributes to the development of the local SME sector through an assessment of SMEs, including this being a first assessment to include a cooperative. The new collaboration between the Department and the cooperative has led to the Department indicating willingness to provide training opportunities (both local and international) to cooperative members in the future – a first such case in the North.</p> <p>The coordination between the PTK women's cooperative and the divisional secretary was fairly limited, in part due to siloed operational mechanisms of both the cooperative department which falls under the provincial government and the Divisional Secretary which falls under the national government. The project was able to identify gaps and facilitate a process to ensure that the Divsional Secretary is equally informed for purposes of transparency and accountability. This has led to a positive relationship between the PTK cooperative and Divsional Secretary. The Divisional Secretary has now come forward in support of land acquisition for cooperative endeavours.</p> <p>Furthermore, the EMPOWER project is viewed by the UN in country as a positive intervention supporting PPP goals and it continues to serve as an example of promise in mobilising development support from donors.</p>
<p>Exit strategy/ sustainability: What steps have been taken to prepare for end of project and help ensure sustainability of the project results beyond PBF support for this project? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>Cooperative membership has expanded from 350 to 1,600 as at Oct 2018. Average cooperative membership in the Northern Province is around 400. This exceptional growth within the space of 4 months is largely due to expectations of financial assistance from the cooperative to all members. In order to respodm to membership growth, the project has obtained the assistance of the Department to establish a cooperative bank. This bank would create the option for members to obtain loans at a minimal interest rate to expand or develop their businesses and ensure the sustainability of their agricultural and economic endeavours.</p> <p>Further, there are several business plans being explored for the sustainability of the cooperative. For example, the financial viability of husk and cashew nuts processing centres and a moringa farm for export is being explored. The income generated through these businesses will ensure that the cooperative will be able to maintain its portfolio as</p>

	<p>an organization catering to 1600 members. They will also be able to share the profit among members once the businesses start generating adequate revenues.</p> <p>Additionally the growth in membership has prompted the project to facilitate the formation of cooperative sub-branches in the respective GN divisions. This will enable the cooperative to reach more members directly and ensure retention of the members even after project completion.</p>
<p>Risk taking: Describe how the project has responded to risks that threatened the achievement of results. Identify any new risks that have emerged since the last report. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>At project conception, there was projected risk of "public discontent from the general community for targeting female-headed households from marginalized groups". To manage this risk, the project has opened up training activities to accommodate other members of the community, including male participants. This has helped create harmony and understanding about the nature and need for an all-female Cooperative.</p> <p>Dissolution of the Provincial government: Recently, the Provincial government, which directly oversees Cooperative affairs, was dissolved. The project will continue to coordinate with the National government agencies while a new Provincial government is being appointed.</p> <p>The current spike in new membership has created the need for managing membership expectations as well as enhancing retention. To achieve this, the Cooperative plans to embark on banking services for its members, while providing a streamlined and devolved management platform through sub-branches in each of the 18 GN divisions that members come from.</p>
<p>Gender equality: In the reporting period, which activities have taken place with a specific focus on addressing issues of gender equality or women's empowerment? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The project plans to conduct a gender training by December 2018. Both men and women will be invited to participate. A "Training of Trainers" shall be included with the intention that the Trainers would promote/disseminate gender equality messages to the wider community thereafter.</p> <p>Additionally, through its network of Cooperatives, gender-related messaging will be disseminated within spheres of influence. Additionally, the soon to be established "Change Agents" will promote gender inclusion and equality alongside peacebuilding messaging.</p>
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity</p>	

needs of the recipient organizations? <i>(1500 character limit)</i>	
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1.3 INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the **Project Results Framework** as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 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 See Annex	Indicator 1.1					
	Indicator 1.2					
	Indicator 1.3					
Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1					
	Indicator 1.1.2					
Output 1.2 \ 	Indicator 1.2.1					
	Indicator 1.2.2					
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1					
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator 2.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	Indicator 2.2					
	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1					
	Indicator 2.1.2					
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1					
	Indicator 2.2.2					
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1					
	Indicator 3.1.2					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					
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					

PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS

2.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, delayed, or off track, vis-à-vis project plans and by recipient organization: *delayed*

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and what is the overall level of expenditure against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far (500 characters limit): 1 tranche has been received. ILO has received \$1,039,500, whereas the WFP received its first project budget tranche of \$360,500 in January 2018. So far, the ILO expenditure shows against the first tranche and the total budget is \$376,320, whereas for the WFP the expenditure is \$172,789. See attached annex D for further details.

When do you expect to seek the next tranche, if any tranches are outstanding: The ILO and WFP are expecting to receive the next tranche by the end of 1st quarter of 2019 considering the low delivery rate of expenditure of available funds and the pending completion of activities which are off track. A request for an extension might be sought too beyond June 2019.

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters limit): The delayed expenditure is directly linked to the delay in activities outlined above. The project is looking at expediting its activities and try to increase delivery in the coming quarter.

Please state what \$ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date: Aside from the headcosts, the remaining project budget (\$1,869,158) has been allocated to activities focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment. The ILO has allocated \$ 1,166,199 and the WFP has allocated \$ 344,083 for Gender equality and women economic empowerment.

Please fill out and attach Annex A on project financial progress **with detail on expenditures/ commitments to date using the original project budget table in Excel**, even though the \$ amounts are indicative only.