

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Guinea-Bissau
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL:
 Semi-Annual
YEAR OF REPORT: June 2020



Project Title: Political Stabilization and Reform through Confidence Building and Inclusive Dialogue

Project Number from MPTE-O Gateway: IRF 00119912

If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:

- Country Trust Fund
 Regional Trust Fund

Name of Recipient Fund:

Type and name of recipient organizations:

- please select UNDP (Convening Agency)
 please select WFP
 please select UNFPA
 please select

Date of first transfer: 30 Jan 2020

Project end date: 31 Jan 2022

Is the current project end date within 6 months? No

Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:

- Gender promotion initiative
 Youth promotion initiative
 Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
 Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):

Recipient Organization	Amount
UNDP	\$ 1,682,103.00
UNFPA	\$ 135,462.00
WFP	\$ 182,435.00
Total: \$ 2,000,000.00	

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 0%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: \$472,020.87

Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: 0.00

Project Gender Marker: GM1

Project Risk Marker: High

Project PBF focus area: please select 1.3 Political Dialogue

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Luana Natali, Lissonia Paquete (UNDP), Filipa Carvalho (UNIOGBIS), Marco Principi (WFP), Ednilson Blute (UNFPA)

Project report approved by: Jose Levy (UNDP), Kiyomi Kawaguchi (WFP)

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *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: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the status of the project in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

Since the project's start, the country finds itself amid a dual crisis that has strongly impacted project's implementation. The COVID-19 crisis, coupled with one of the worst political crises since 2012, has left partners and beneficiaries without the ability to look beyond these two issues. Nonetheless, several preliminary activities were undertaken, following Project Board and Project Committee's establishment.

Prior to COVID-19 outbreak, the Project Committee unpacked the workplan to further define and prepare the activities. Following the outbreak, the committee adjusted a few of the workplan priorities to ensure project implementation despite limitations. These have been recently presented to the Project Board that provided its approval.

UNDP and UNIOGBIS have thus started consultations with several CSOs to define modalities and mechanisms to channel community priorities to the highest political level and to mobilize them towards a joint platform for stability and the rule of law (concept notes and TORs were produced).

WFP has identified the national NGO Tiniguena as the main implementation partner. Despite limitations due to the State of Emergency, Tiniguena conducted sensitization activities and completed communities' selection in collaboration with ECAS-D in Gabu region.

With regards to contracting and staff recruitment, the recruitment processes for Project Manager, Programme Analyst and Project Finance/Admin Associate were launched by UNDP and for an Assistant Project Analyst by UNFPA (onboarding is expected to begin by June/August). Tiniguena recruited one senior consultant and two junior consultants for the implementation of the participatory diagnostic study.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

The country is currently in a State of Emergency (ongoing since March 28), due to the ongoing pandemic, and events or large gatherings are forbidden to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It is difficult to estimate for how long the pandemic will have an impact on project's implementation.

For this reason, the project team is exploring the possibility of organizing consultations and/or events to accompany and feed the ongoing discussion on the constitutional reform through alternative digital means. Consultations with CSOs have already been organized through online

platforms. However, this entails addressing several challenges because of the very limited and expensive internet connectivity in the country, including in the capital city of Bissau.

With regards to activities in rural areas, while the full implementation of participatory diagnosis and subsequent training activities are delayed, they are expected to start within the next six months. Following the slight easing of COVID-19 lockdown, currently, it is expected that project activities will resume from next week, 15 June 2020.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

The project is too recent to have such impacts at this stage.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

The project is too new to have had such impacts.

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list 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.

- *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated in-country confidence building measures, dialogue and mediation interventions from ECOWAS, SRSG Good Office, Civil Society and other key international actors strengthen political stabilization in Guinea-Bissau

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Off Track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

Following December 2019 Presidential Elections, the political environment has been non-conducive to successful achievement of Outcome 1. The self-proclamation as President of Umaro Sissoco Embaló, before the conclusion of the legal challenge filed by the contesting

candidate, followed by a political impasse and an ongoing deterioration of the relationship between political players, and compounded with the declaration of the State of Emergency due the pandemic, has limited the ability to execute preparatory base work for drafting an intervention strategy. Nevertheless, some advancements have been made in Output 1.2, by starting consultations with local CSOs.

1. Mobilization of SCOs towards Stability and Rule of Law

Since January, the project team started consultations with CSOs toward a joint mobilization to call for political dialogue and the resolution of the post electoral crisis. This resulted in a partnership amongst CSOs, led by Women's Political Platform, which requested a meeting with President Embalo and, after the meeting, were requested to facilitate political dialogue amongst political actors. It also paved the way for a meeting with a larger group of society organizations with the aim of reaching a common position on the political situation, resulting in a joint press-release that condemned Deputy Marciano Indi's abduction and beatings.

The project team continues to engage with CSO towards the creation of a broader network in support of a common CSO agenda on stability and of a CSO forum's organization:

- a) A micro-survey was sent to a broad range of CSOs involved in efforts towards stability. Preliminary results showed that although 90% of the respondents are motivated to work together with other CSOs for a common platform to ensure CSOs participation in political dialogue, only 60% believe this is possible or must be attempted, and close to 40% believe this is not possible. As for the type of action to be taken, the majority suggests engaging directly with political parties (43.3%), followed by working for a common position paper (20%) and a meeting with the SRSG (13.3%), and with the P5 (10%). Almost all respondents proposed the engagement of religious leaders. Regarding the support required from the UN it ranges from technical, financial to public support. Many stressed the need to go back to reference documents regarding previous consensus.
- b) A meeting with Special Representative of the Secretary General took place on 10 June. This initiative provided a safe space for CSOs to share information on current activities and encouraged them to join efforts towards a common platform for stability and the rule of law. In the aftermath, CSOs have already suggested to continue this joint dialogue.

2. Influencing emergency measures and improving feedback loop with authorities.

In response to the dual crisis, the project committee has identified an initiative to help the population meet some immediate COVID-19 response priorities, while at the same time providing a practical opportunity to support inclusive dialogue to improve the feedback loop with the national government. The initiative intends to enable CSOs to engage with national authorities to influence the decrees and their implementation based on solid knowledge of the reality in communities. The initiative, recently approved by the Project Board, will be implemented in partnership with a consortium of CSOs. The definition of this activity is in its final stages and should start already in June.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

(1000 character limit)

The crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic is hitting Guinea-Bissau particularly hard, and youth and women are suffering the most. The closure of schools and the decline in job perspectives for youth is expected to increase youth's lack of confidence in leadership, disillusion, more desire to immigrate or even, in extreme situations, engage in violence or illegal activities. The pandemic poses also a significant toll on women's livelihoods, including because of the impact on service industries and informal labour dominated by female workers. For this reason, the activities have started to be developed in consultation with Women Peace Security Network in ECOWAS (REMPSECAO), the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League (LGDH), the National Youth Association (RENAJ) and the National Network of Young Women Leaders (RENAJELF) to ensure youth and women's inclusion and participation.

The involvement of LGDH in this outcome is also of particular importance given they are monitoring human rights abuses, with UNDP support, and liaising with authorities to influence response and limit such cases.

Outcome 2: Systemic reforms advanced through inclusive processes (as stipulated in the ECOWAS Roadmap and Conakry Agreement)

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Off Track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

UNDP has undertaken preliminary research work to inform the implementation of Activity 2.2.1: the design and launch of a Leadership Academy in Guinea-Bissau. The document considers the need and rationale for a Leadership Academy in Guinea-Bissau based on the country context. It surveys international best practice of Leadership Academies worldwide (the models, roles and functions) and provides guidance on the adaptability of these practices in Guinea-Bissau. Based on this research, the TORs for the Academy are currently being developed.

As part of the same activity, WFP has identified the national NGO Tiniguena as the main implementation partner, which is expected to carry out capacity strengthening and empowerment activities with selected 550 rural women from 11 communities in Gabu region capitalizing lesson learned from the implementation of the past PBF-funded project. The outbreak of COVID-19 in the country occurred when the participatory diagnosis and training were being prepared. Despite the limitations due to the State of Emergency, Tiniguena conducted sensitization about the project and completed the selection of communities in collaboration with another WFP NGO partner, ECAS-D, in Gabu region. The project prioritized communities with established women smallholder farmer's associations, which supply locally produced fresh foods to school canteens building on the basic training that women already received.

In this context, an 8-day visit to the region of Gabu is currently taking place (5-12 June 2020) to raise awareness of the project and prepare the participatory diagnostic study. Tiniguena will carry out special awareness sessions for monitors, drivers and staff on how to conduct monitoring in the safest way, to ensure reducing their exposure to COVID-19 risks and to avoid

becoming an agent of propagation. Tiniguena will also disseminate messages through local radio stations to raise awareness on the project.

As part of this outcome, the project team has also started reflecting on a possible strategy to accompany the dialogue on the constitutional reform, which is currently high on the political agenda, with both expert dialogues and research, as well as broad local consultations.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

(1000 character limit)

Tiniguena is expected to carry out capacity strengthening and empowerment activities with selected 550 rural women from 11 communities in Gabu region capitalizing lesson learned from the implementation of the previous PBF-funded project, demonstrating hence a strong focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment for activities implemented under this outcome. Since establishing its Gender Action Plan in 2016, WFP Guinea-Bissau has indeed reinforced a gender approach across all phases of project design and implementation. WFP’s Gender Policy is incorporated in all field-level agreements, memorandums of understanding and contracts. Gender and age disaggregated data is mandatory for monitoring and evaluation efforts. The five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 is in compliance with good gender mainstreaming practices and has been assigned a gender age marker of 3. Gender-focused activities comprise 14.4 percent of the total CSP budget.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p>Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p> <p><i>N/A</i></p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? <i>yes</i></p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? <i>yes</i></p>				
<p>Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?</p> <p><i>No</i></p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): <i>\$35,000.00</i></p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations <i>(1500 character limit): N/A</i></p>				
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>UNDP</i></td> <td><i>\$200,000.00</i></td> </tr> </table>	Name of funder:	Amount:	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>\$200,000.00</i>
Name of funder:	Amount:				
<i>UNDP</i>	<i>\$200,000.00</i>				
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? <i>(1500 character limit)</i></p>	<p><i>It is soon for the project team to outline specific issues that could have an impact on project’s implementation. However, it is clear that the ongoing political crisis is posing several challenges for the implementation and achievement of several outputs. The team, however, which will expand in the next couple of weeks, is exploring all</i></p>				

	<p>possible alternatives to achieve the expected outcomes, also by shaping and adapting activities according to the current context. This also takes into account that several activities are linked to the mandate of UNIOGBIS and a smooth transition process will be crucial for the successful implementation of the project.</p>
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PART IV: 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	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Effective and coordinated in-country confidence building measures, dialogue and mediation interventions from ECOWAS, SRSG good office, civil society and other key international actors strengthen political stabilization in Guinea-Bissau	Indicator 1.1 # of attempted coups per election cycle diminishes	1 Since 2014. Last election cycle	0		0	
	Indicator 1.2 Government adheres to and fulfils commitments outlined in the Conakry international peace agreement	Conakry Agreement	2 of 3 reform laws approved by Parliament contain input from CSO Stakeholders		0	
	Indicator 1.3	0	1			
Output 1.1 Support ECOWAS-led intervention efforts to foster effective inter-party and political leader dialogue	Indicator 1.1.1 Intervention Strategy Developed	0	1		0	
	Indicator 1.1.3 Crisis Management for High Level Actors held	0	1		0	
Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1	0	Trust level changes			

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Civil Society contributes activities effectively to Political Stabilization	Civil Society Crisis Strategy developed that diminished distrust among CSOs and enables them to contribute to stabilization					
	Indicator 1.2.2 Crisis Management Training for Civil Society held	0	1 Workshop		0	
Output 1.3 Support the SRSB Good Offices role to build on and support coordination of dialogue initiatives and enable effective transition to the RC's Office.	Indicator 1.3.1 # of advocacy meetings held with political parties in efforts to facilitate political agreement on key political disputed issues.	0	12		0	
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Outcome 2 Systemic reforms advanced through inclusive processes (as stipulated in the ECOWAS Roadmap and Conakry Agreement)	Indicator 2.1 Reforms reflect the will of the People	The current draft law on electoral and party reforms	A draft law that includes input drawn from stakeholder consultations			
	Indicator 2.2 Draft laws inclusive of input from marginalized	The current draft law	Revised draft law includes input from marginalized stakeholders			

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	communities and women's groups					
	Indicator 2.3 Stakeholder groups level of satisfaction with (i) the consultation process AND (ii) the content of the laws	0	65% of Stakeholder groups surveyed show satisfaction with the process and the content of the laws			
Output 2.1 Systemic reforms drafted and approved with effective lobbying, implementation strategies designed, monitoring mechanism established and training and communication strategies undertaken	Indicator 2.1.1 Draft Reforms laws written with stakeholder input	Current Draft Laws	Revised draft laws include stakeholder inputs			
	Indicator 2.1.2 National Consultation held on 3 draft law					
Output 2.2 CSO stakeholders, government officials and political party leaders supported, and capacities built to enable effective engagement on the three systemic reform processes	Indicator 2.2.1 Other sources of funding which contribute to the Academy	\$200,000	\$300,000			
	Indicator 2.2.2 Regional Stakeholder Consultations held	0	3 regional consultations are inclusive by age and sex (combining 3 regions per consultation)			
	Indicator 2.3.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 2.3 Preparations and follow up actions for the National Conference Paths to Peace and Development supported	Diverse Delegates participate in National Conference					
	Indicator 2.3.2 Preparation completed, and model options defined	0	5			