

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Sri Lanka
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2020



Project Title: Young Women as Drivers of Peace: Providing 360° Support to Emerging Women Leaders

Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:00119223

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:

- NUNO Search for Common Ground (Convening Agency)**
NUNO Muslim Women’s Development Trust
NUNO Muslim Women’s Research and Action Forum
NUNO Women’s Resource Centre
NUNO Sarvodaya, Shanthi Sena

Date of first transfer: 16 December 2019

Project end date: 11 June 2021

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
Search for Common Ground	\$ 263906.83
Muslim Women’s Development Trust	\$ 44000.00
Muslim Women’s Research and Action Forum	\$ 44000.00
Women’s Resource Centre	\$ 44000.00
Total:	\$ 439906.83

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: **project burn rate is 12.13%** as on 10/06/2020.

Note: HQ will close the monthly accounts on 15th only. Therefore it does not include HQ expenses for the month of May 2020.

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: \$362896.59

Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: Due to the current situation, significant expenditure has not incurred for this. However from June 2020 there

will be an expense as all activities directly focusing on Gender equality and Women's empowerment will be done from June 2020 onwards.

Project Gender Marker: GM3
Project Risk Marker: Medium
Project PBF focus area: 2.1 National Reconciliation

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: Kiruthika Thurairajah
Project report approved by: Nawaz Mohammed
Did PBF Secretariat review the report: please select Yes

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):*

We are six months into implementation of the project, which has been affected by COVID-19 related control measures since March 2020. Some delays in overall implementation of activities are envisaged, and these have been proactively communicated to PBF Secretariat in a memo and subsequent calls dated April 6 and 9. Mitigation strategies are currently being discussed to ensure project objectives are achieved as planned.

We have successfully completed the start-up phase of the project, including the recruitment of the full project team with a Team Leader, Senior Program Coordinator and Project Assistant. Agreements were also signed with the four implementing partners, and orientation sessions were held at the outset of the project. Preliminary meetings were conducted with government partners, including the ONUR, to introduce the team and the project.

The Program Manager of Search's Children and Youth Division was invited to the Sri Lanka office to conduct a training workshop to contextualize the Youth 360 approach to the project. We developed a learning toolkit to explain the project and visited the four partner locations to align on project monitoring and strategy. Based on this, comprehensive activities and costed work plans were developed by all implementing partners.

The project has now started implementing activities remotely, using social media and phones to identify potential participants and mentors, and to design the leadership training modules.

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):

Orientation programs will be conducted in all project locations to select 40 Young Women Leaders (YWLs) in each district. In addition, mentors who are expected to coach the YWLs as they implement initiatives in their communities will also be selected. Training of Trainers will be conducted for all four implementing partners on the Leadership and Common Ground Approach module by the consultants who developed the module. The trainings will then be conducted in all four districts for 120 YWLs. The next six months will be centred on preparing collaborative context assessments, selecting proposals for initiatives and youth-led research to be implemented in all four districts, and cross-network exchange visits between the project districts and other districts. Alongside these activities, project progress will be documented by young researchers under the guidance of the M&E Consultant.

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):

N/A

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):

It is too early in the project cycle to elaborate on this aspect.

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: Emerging women leaders have increased knowledge and skills to carry out a collaborative context assessment, and design and implement inclusive peacebuilding initiatives based on this assessment.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: off track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

The COVID-19 control measures in the country have affected our ability to fully implement all planned activities. Nevertheless, we have made important progress towards this outcome. During this reporting period, we have initiated the process of identifying the emerging women leaders who will be engaged throughout the project, and we expect to finalize those within the month of July 2020. Similarly, we have been able to develop a localized training curriculum which, once rolled out to the emerging women leaders, will contribute directly to increasing their knowledge and skills to achieve the objectives of this project.

All four partners have made the necessary arrangements to reach out to their networks in target locations to identify between 35-40 Young Women Leaders (YWLs) in each district to receive training on the Leadership and Common Ground Approach, which will guide them in their collaborative context assessments and peacebuilding initiatives. To date, 162 applications have been received and are being reviewed by the partners. Calls for applications were sent through online social media and messenger platforms. Meetings were also conducted with community leaders, government officers, youth club members, CSOs and CSO leaders and teachers through phone calls. The key selection criteria were based on age (18-29), representing an formal or informal youth or women’s group, willingness to work on peacebuilding initiatives and outcomes, proven leadership and communication skills in the community.

During this reporting period, Search also developed the Leadership & Common Ground Approach (CGA) training module which includes specific Context Assessment tools, with the support of two experienced peacebuilding consultants who speak Sinhala and Tamil. The four implementing partners provided feedback on the module, and an English version is now available for use. The module will eventually be translated into both Tamil and Sinhala. The

Leadership and CGA training module consists of the following topics: Leadership, Active Listening, Identity, Understanding Conflict and Violence, Conflict Analysis and Tools. The training will enable the young women leaders to understand the concepts of conflict, peace and violence and relate those in to their communities and enhance their skills with necessary tools on assessing their context, and to roll out a comprehensive context analysis for the project period and also beyond the project objectives. This will empower the young women to continue to engage in promoting social coexistence in their community.

The roll out of the training had to be delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and related response measures, including the lockdown and curfews which were introduced across the country. The trainings have been postponed until June/July, pending government approval for activities of this nature. Should implementation of in-person activities not be possible or responsible at that stage, we will explore implementing the training remotely. Delays in these activities will affect the overall project timeline, and we expect all activities to be delayed by two months. This will also have an impact on the project duration. Search Team is in discussion with PBF Secretariat to explore the possibilities of a no cost extension. However, as the project is within the first 6 months of implementation phase, the teams will have discussions to finalize it at their earliest.

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)

In identifying Young Women Leaders to participate in this project, the project partners specifically reached out to women from socioeconomic backgrounds that would make them particularly vulnerable to gender based violence, who lack access to sexual reproductive health and sanitation facilities, and who face unequal distribution of care work or access to economic opportunities. This is particularly pertinent during the current COVID-19 crisis, as lockdown measures are further shrinking the already limited space for women’s equality and advancement, in terms of mobility and access to education, health and economic opportunities. The selection was also based on women who have participated in other programs and collaborated with other entities emphasizing on capacity building and peace building activities. The meetings held with government authorities have also paved the way for connecting the emerging women leaders to government stakeholders, so they can work together to implement COVID-19 responsive peacebuilding initiatives in their communities. This will ensure the interventions are sustainable and scalable with support from the government.

Outcome 2: Emerging women leaders have developed and implemented community-level peacebuilding initiatives leveraging local resources leading to increased peace dividends in the target communities.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: off track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

The final selection of 140 young women leaders will be finalized by June, after which they will receive the relevant training and mentoring to carry out the participatory context assessments, and identify and implement peacebuilding interventions in their communities.

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)

Project partners have carried out important preparatory ground work to leverage their expertise and connections to the project locations to implement COVID-19 responses in their communities. During the months of March-May 2020, all partner organizations struggled to implement the activities stated in their activity plans due to COVID-19 restrictions. Puttalam in particular has been a high-risk zone. Our partner MWDT was selected by the local government task force to implement a COVID-19 response providing dry rations to children homes and elders’ homes. The team used this as an opportunity to network with vulnerable groups of women in Puttalam and also to identify some who could be potential young women leaders to be involved in the project. The Women’s Resource Centre in Kurunegala has also been selected as one of the focal points by the Presidential task force and has been working closely with women leaders to mobilize resources for vulnerable communities affected by COVID-19.

Outcome 3: Increased knowledge among decision-makers and peacebuilding and governance organizations in Sri Lanka of the positive role emerging women leaders can play in peacebuilding initiatives in their communities and how to support them in leading community-level peacebuilding initiatives

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: off track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

Preliminary progress has been made towards this outcome. Search is currently in the process of finalizing the short-listed candidates for the Young Researchers and Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant who will be responsible for producing a learning paper which will collect key project findings and lessons learned from the Youth 360 approach adopted in this project. The findings of the learning paper will be shared with key peacebuilding donors to discuss the findings and explore future investments.

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)

We are still in preliminary stages of making progress towards this outcome.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p>Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p> <p><i>No monitoring activities were carried out during this period</i></p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? no</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? no</p> <p><i>As the trainings have been delayed the baselines have not yet been established.</i></p>
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<p>Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? no</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): \$15555</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (<i>1500 character limit</i>): N/A</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>	<p>Name of funder: Amount: N/A N/A</p>
<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>Project partners have explored online tools to conduct meetings and trainings with young women leaders. However, for many partners the use of online tools remains a steep learning curve, and some partners do not have the capacity nor the infrastructure to utilize available online platforms for e-learning and other webinar based meetings. As a proactive solution, SFCG is exploring ways to capacitate them on web-based platforms and to support them with resources to invest in basic infrastructure for online communications.</p> <p>All implementing partners are liaising with the NGO coordinator, PHI and MOH representatives to strategize ways to conduct orientation programs and training sessions in their respective districts while adhering to the safety and security regulations laid out by the government.</p> <p>During this reporting period, the partners found it difficult to disseminate materials relating to the project due to the psychological hardships faced by the project communities as a result of COVID-19, with many suffering from economic instability, gender based violence, sexual harassment, and lack of access to mental and physical health services.</p> <p>Gathering in groups or commuting within neighbouring areas was prohibited. The Leadership and CGA training, Training of Mentors, Identifying the final 35 to 40 YWLs from each district, will be delayed by one to two months.</p>

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 Emerging women leaders have increased knowledge and skills to carry out a collaborative context assessment, and design and implement inclusive peacebuilding initiatives based on this assessment.	Indicator 1.1 % of participating emerging women leaders with increased knowledge and skills on collaborative leadership and conflict transformation (data disaggregated by age, ethnicity, location)	Baseline: To be determined (TBD) after pre-test	Target: 30% increase from pre-test value	After the training is finished, follow up after three months, and final evaluation	Baselines have not yet been established.	Training has been postponed to July 2020 due to COVID-19 context in the country.
	Indicator 1.2 Outcome Indicator 1 b % of trained women who are able to share an example of when they have taken up a leadership role in engaging with other community and government	Baseline: 0	Target: 60% of all participating emerging women leaders	12th month	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	stakeholders to address issues that have been identified in the collaborative context assessments.					
Output 1.1 140 emerging women leaders selected; two two-day collaborative leadership and common ground approach workshops conducted.	Indicator 1.1.1 # of emerging women leaders identified (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	140	3rd month	0	Due to the COVID-19 context, the selection process was delayed in all four implementing partner districts. The final target of selecting 140 Young Women Leaders will be finalized in the month of June 2020.
	Indicator 1.1.2 Output Indicator 1.1.2: # of emerging women leaders trained on collaborative leadership and conflict transformation through the collaborative leadership and Common Ground Approach workshops (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	140	6th month	0	Training has been postponed to July 2020 due to the COVID-19 context in the country.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 1.2 One collaborative context assessment conducted per district	Indicator 1.2.1 Output Indicator 1.2.1 # of women leaders who participated in collaborative context assessment	Baseline: 0	Target: at least 84 (60%) out of 140 in total	8 th month of the project period	N/A	-
	Indicator 1.2.2 Output Indicator 1.2.2 % of participating emerging women leaders who indicate agreement with the final outcome document of the collaborative context assessments (disaggregated by age, location, activity sector).	Baseline: 0	Target: 80% of the emerging women leaders who participate in the collaborative context assessments	8 th month of the project period	N/A	-
Outcome 2 Emerging women leaders have developed and	Indicator 2.1 # of participating emerging women leaders who have leveraged (can cite actual examples and facts) local resources to design and implement peacebuilding initiatives.	Baseline: 0	Target: 50% from the total 140	14 th month and final stage of the project	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
implemented community-level peacebuilding initiatives leveraging local resources leading to increased peace dividends in the target communities.	Indicator 2.2 % of emerging women leaders who achieve their self-defined indicators of success through the small grants (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	Target: 50% from the total 140	Between 10th - 18th month and final reporting	N/A	-
	Indicator 2.3 % of community members who have been engaged through the women-led community-level peacebuilding initiatives that attest that the leadership and engagement of emerging women leaders has positively contributed to resolving local issues or conflicts (disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	Target: 75%	14 th month and final reporting	N/A	-
	Output 2.1 : 50 experienced women leaders selected; one training on coaching and	Indicator 2.1.1 Output Indicator 2.1.1 # of experienced women leaders trained on coaching and mentoring skills to support and empower	Baseline; 0	Target: 50	Once during the training	N/A

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
mentoring organized	emerging women leaders to design and implement community-level peacebuilding initiatives (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)					
	Indicator 2.1.2 Output Indicator 2.1.2 % of trained women leaders that have conducted mentoring or coaching sessions (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline; 0	Target: at least 80% of the trained mentors	5th month onwards	N/A	-
Output 2.2 small grants per district disbursed and reported on.	Indicator 2.2.1 # of women-led community level peacebuilding initiatives implemented by the emerging women leaders through a small grant.	Baseline:0	Target: At least 4 projects in each district	12th month	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 2.2.2 # of community members participating in the women-led community-level peacebuilding initiatives (disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, and religion).	Baseline: 0	Target: At least 30 persons per event	14th month	N/A	-
Output 2.3 : Mentorship sessions conducted	Indicator 2.3.1 # of emerging and experienced women leaders participating in the mentorship session (disaggregated by age, location, ethnicity, religion)	Baseline: 0	Atleast 120	Start from 6th month	N/A	-
	Indicator 2.3.2 % of emerging women leaders who attest that the coaching sessions have supported them to succeed in	Baseline: 0	Target: 75% from the total women participating in the small grant initiatives	Start from 14th month	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	developing community-level inclusive peacebuilding initiatives. (disaggregated by district, age, and ethnicity)					
Output 2.4 4 cross-district networking and exchange visits organized each engaging 10 participants from each district.	Indicator 2.4.1 # of cross-district networking and exchange visits conducted (disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	Target: 4	12th month	N/A	
	Indicator 2.4.2 # of emerging women leaders participating in the cross-district networking and exchange visits (disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, religion, and district)	Baseline: 0	Target: 140 (four exchange visits)	12th month	N/A	-
	Indicator 2.4.3	Baseline: 0	Target: 70% from	12 th month and final evaluation reporting	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	% of emerging women leaders who state that the cross-district networking and exchange visits have expanded their networks with peers from other age groups, ethnicities, religions, or locations		participating emerging young women in the cross- district networking and exchange visits			
Outcome 3 : Increased knowledge among decision-makers and peacebuilding and governance organizations in Sri Lanka of the positive role emerging women leaders can play in peacebuilding initiatives in their communities and how to	Indicator 3.1 Outcome Indicator 3 a # of power holders from the target districts (identified through the collaborative context assessments) who have started developing partnerships with emerging women leaders to advance community-level peacebuilding initiatives. (disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, religion, and position)	Baseline: TBD after the context analysis	Target at least 2 of those identified	14th month	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
support them in leading community-level peacebuilding initiatives	Indicator 3.2 Indicator 3 b # of decision-makers and peacebuilding and governance institutions who have expressed an interest to build on the knowledge generated through the project. (disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	Target: at least 2	14 th month	N/A	-
Output 3.1 : One learning paper developed	Indicator 3.1.1 # of learning sessions held to document best practices	Baseline: 0	Target: At least 1 in each district	Throughout the project period	0	Due to the COVID-19 context, there was a delay in recruiting the young researchers and M&E consultant.
	Indicator 3.1.2 # of learning papers produced and disseminated.	Baseline: 0	Target: 1	15th month	N/A	-
	Indicator 3.1.3 # of closed-door donor meetings among key	Baseline: 0	Target: 1	15th month	N/A	-

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	peacebuilding donors conducted					
Output 3.2 : One national-level final workshop conducted	Indicator 3.2.1 % of participants who attest that they have a better understanding of the role emerging women play to advance peace and reconciliation as a result of their participation in the final workshop. (disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, and religion)	Baseline: 0	Target: 60% participating in the final workshop	15th month	N/A	-