PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL:
SEMI-ANNUAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2020

Project Title: Fostering dialogue and social cohesion in and between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (Dialogue for the Future)
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: IRF
00113873 (BiH), 00113874 (MNE), 00114184 (SRB)

If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:	Type and name of recipient organizations:
☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:**	**RUNO** **UNDP (Convening Agency)** **RUNO** **UNICEF** **RUNO** **UNESCO**

Date of first transfer: 7 January 2019
Project end date: 30 April 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**

Recipient Organization	Amount
UNDP	$ 1,753,765.71
UNICEF	$ 1,297,910
UNESCO	$ 1,132,316.80
	Total: $ 4,183,992.51

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 59%
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: $915,105
Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: $445,316

Project Gender Marker: 2
Project Risk Marker: 1
Project PBF focus area: Democratic Governance

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: Alma Mirvic, Amira Vejzagic-Ramhorst, Jelena Miljanic, Stanislava Vuckovic
Project report approved by: Steliana Nedera, Resident Representative, UNDP BiH (Convening Agency)
Did PBF Secretariat review the report: 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):

The project is on track. Although the global COVID-19 pandemic has initially severely affected the project implementation since early March, adaptive measures, such as digitization of capacity-building components, continue to be put in place to respond to the new operational circumstances. In April, the project received a 9-month no-cost extension, allowing additional time to implement all planned activities also in response to the impact of COVID-19 on project activities. As a risk mitigating measure, all contracts and grant agreements were revised and adapted to include digitization components, where possible, or prolonged implementation period. The Joint Annual Workplan for 2020 was adapted to include revised milestones. Due to the operational circumstances, the Joint Programme Board meeting, was adapted to an electronic session in June. The Call for Proposals was launched in December 2019, following the validation of joint social cohesion priorities and actions at a Regional Dialogue Platform. Their priorities contributed to the themes of the cross-border Small Grants Facility, providing for selection of 19 projects in support of youth empowerment, improved inter-cultural cooperation and understanding, strengthened dialogue, gender equality, non-formal education, environmental protection. The Social Media Communications Strategy was drafted and agreed, with a view to engage Millennials and Z Generation on promotion of shared values and messages, as well as work to suppress stereotypes and deep-rooted biases that young people in the three countries have for each other, within respective countries or among.

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):

Following the completion of evaluation in all three countries, and as part of activities under Output 2.4, the program will award 19 cross-border grants during June, supporting partnerships among CSOs, public institutions and schools in the three countries to advance youth capacity-building, intercultural understanding and dialogue, empowerment of visually-impaired women, safeguarding of the environment as a common good and advocating for the rights of marginalized groups. Additionally, furthering support to joint action on identified priorities under Output 2.4, the social entrepreneurship platform, UPSHIFT, will continue in digital format as of July, allowing for national iterations of this program for adolescents and youth to proceed unimpeded. In support of thematic regional dialogues planned under Output 2.5, the Regional Youth Dialogue is tentatively planned for the Fall or Winter of 2020, with due care to any outstanding risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing together close to 100 adolescents and youth from three countries to share examples of their leadership and identify specific cross-border priorities they can address together.

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):
Following the completion of capacity-building modules for women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which 84 women ages 20 to 70 years participated, two women shared personal impressions about their participation saying: *"I think that we are an empowered group that will transfer these experiences to other groups and members of our association., and the second one: "Keep working for women's affirmation, because strong and affirmed women mean a better society."*
A short video (in Bosnian language) is available here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwVK29dlowM&feature=youtu.be

In Montenegro, two youth from northern and southern parts of the country (young man, 19 and young woman, 26), were inspired by their participation in the youth and national dialogues within the program, and continued to be engaged in social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives in the region by joining the Youth Consultative Group, established within the PBF-funded UNDP/RYCO Albania project, to co-design the youth perception survey that will be launched later in 2020. More information at: https://www.rycowb.org/?p=8141

Nabi and Hadi are two uprooted boys, living in the refugee camp near border in Serbia. Together with Nina, girl from the majority population they have created a team. All of them are 16 years old and their team "Just Human", is one of the many participating in the UPSHIFT programme in the Republic of Serbia. They organized two events to bring together refugees and the local population. "I think that if teenagers and others spent more time together, they could get to know each other better and that can change their minds. That can help to beat discrimination in Sid.", believes Nabi. This, and other UPSHIFT related stories are presented here:
https://www.unicef.org/serbia/en/stories/its-important-get-know-each-other

"I find out that I can advocate and crowdfund for all my ideas even if I am not part of any organization, and that motivated me to be proactive in my community and to start a change. Thank you for the chance" was shared by a 25-year old Romani woman who participated in capacity-building in Serbia. More information at: https://en.bfpe.org/active-women-active-society-the-first-seminar-held-within-the-dialogue-for-the-future/

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: Stability and trust in the region, and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are enhanced.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the youth capacity-building component has been adapted to online format, with the last module on crowdfunding and project design delivered via digital platform for 25 youth across the country. All workshops will be recorded, lending it for future use and making the learning material available to other participants. As part of the COVID-19 adaptation process, UPSHIFT social entrepreneurship platform has been digitized, with the first iteration for BiH adolescents and youth to commence in July 2020. During the reporting period, in collaboration with the Faculty of Political Sciences, work has been laid to introduce 'society, religion and culture in digital age' as part of curricula of the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Education, focusing on soft skills, interculturalism and social cohesion. Additionally, partnership with Faculties of Political Sciences in Sarajevo, Belgrade and Podgorica was established aiming to promote sustainable regional partnership on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and introduce core elements of this model into training curriculum for primary and secondary schools' teachers. The component of women's capacity building focused on gender equality and women's rights in BiH context, social justice, state of social cohesion in BiH, communication, building trust and respect for diversity, public policy-making processes in BiH context, leadership, advocacy of priorities, forms of citizen participation was completed in February 2020, with 84 women from 28 municipalities across the country, drawn from civil society and public sector, completing a series of learning seminars on leadership, advocacy, public policy and self-representation.

In **Montenegro**, the regional dialogue for women took place in February. Eighty-eight participants (84 women and 4 men from Montenegro, BiH and Republic of Serbia) discussed social cohesion and gender equality, contributing with inspiring examples of community action and leadership across the public and private sector. The meeting identified a series of priorities, but also pointed to possible actions that could be supported through the program. The programme team is working on country level as well as regionally to identify conclusions which can be taken further for policy action and/or implementation.

A group of 24 young diplomats and public servants in charge of international cooperation and EU integration participated in the first module of social cohesion and intercultural communication training. The training programme has been implemented in close partnership with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and consists of this face-to-face training, to be followed up by webinars and online learning and discussions. The participants were selected based on the call that was distributed across the institutions. The activity is aiming for building capacities of young diplomats and civil servants active in regional and international relations to better understand and contribute professionally to social cohesion, dialogue and intercultural communication. Their feedback was very positive, and they have shown eagerness to explore

notions of interculturalism and social cohesion, having in mind both their importance and lack of opportunities to learn and discuss those.

The first regional UPSHIFT for youth from three countries took place on 5-8 March. Applicants from all three countries were organized into 10 mixed teams, out of which five were awarded grants to work on their team projects. The Covid-19 pandemic has stalled implementation of these projects; however, they are being restored with ease in movement restrictions across communities. As part of the capacity-building component, the second cohort of 31 women from CSO, media and public sectors learnt about gender equality, social cohesion, advocacy and community action.

In the **Republic of Serbia**, the second hackathon for young developers, designers and activists from the three countries, which took place in December 2019, was unique opportunity to develop concrete ideas for projects that might be implemented in the future, depending of the funding availability. Project ideas were prevention of peer violence and boosting of volunteering opportunities by building of volunteer online platform for participants from 3 countries. Capacity-building seminars for women continued, with 36 selected young women from Serbia learning about the importance of active engagement. Participants who attended two educational seminars were equipped with knowledge and skills to act as agents of change in their local communities. They will continue to be part of a network, relied upon also by other projects. During the reporting period, data on the perceptions of youth in Serbia regarding volunteerism, violence towards children and digital skills enhancement were collected using uReport, for the purpose of changing strategic and legal framework for above mentioned topics. Work continued with the Ministry of Education and Technological Development on the educational reform of the civic education (CE) curriculum and teachers' practices. Through this engagement, teachers are continually supported in developing key competences for teaching reformed CE curriculum. Through the UPSHIFT social entrepreneurship platform, five teams are implementing their community projects on combating discrimination, enhancing school accessibility, creating supportive environment for increasing literacy skills, cooperation between young people etc.

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 program has a dedicated component to youth and women's leadership respectively, while gender equality is a principle that is applied across all components of the program. Additionally, the principle of gender equality was embedded in grant application forms, seeking to ensure a balanced approach in interactions and work with final beneficiaries. Gender equality, women's empowerment and youth inclusion were among the seven priority themes of the cross-border Call for Proposals. Of the 19 selected cross-border projects, 4 are either directly focused on GEWE or implemented by women's organizations, while 5 center on youth advocacy and leadership. In terms of institutional partnerships, it is of note that the Montenegrin Ministry of Sports and Youth included 7 recommendations from national dialogue events into their baseline document defining future grants schemes in 2021. Social cohesion analysis was also inserted in the document. This testifies to impactful synergy and policy leverage the program has achieved to date.

Outcome 2:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

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)*

<u>Outcome 3:</u>

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

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)*

<u>Outcome 4:</u>

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

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)*

<u>PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES</u>

Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit) Owing to the no-cost extension of the project, the Project has an updated Joint M&E Plan as well as progress monitoring platform, including definitions of indicators, baseline and target values. The platform is populated at bi-annually by project coordinators, using in-country reporting mechanisms. Additionally, the project is taking advantage of joint entry	Do outcome indicators have baselines? YES Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? NO

and exit questionnaires for capacity building and dialogue events.	
Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? NO	Evaluation budget (response required): $75,000

If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** All RUNOs in this programme have contributed to the discussions initiated under the regional eligibility process for PBF funding. Planned discussions with Joint Programme Board members for the May meeting were postponed due to Covid-19 circumstances. | Name of funder: Amount: UNICEF $52,425.23 |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | Recognizing the complexity of joint multi-country and multi-agency projects, UNDP BiH developed the SOP document in the project design phase, which was broadly consulted among teams and remains a living document to ensure coherence and consistency for joint project's operations. The forthcoming elections schedule (June in Serbia and plans for the Fall in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and possibly Montenegro) may have an impact on the continuity of relationships the program has established, due to possible re-appointments of officials in line with election results, generating changes in the composition of the Joint Program Board. Most significantly, this may affect the achievement of Output 3 (policy recommendations and advocacy). The program faced a challenge with the methodology and implementation of the baseline perception survey, looking into possible synergies with the methodology chosen under the national joint DFF project, while at the same time adapting to the requirements of a multi-country format. Ultimately, to address this methodological challenge and ensure rigor, the Service Provider proposed that end-line measurements of all target group samples would be compared against control group samples in each country, while a baseline/end-line approach would be implemented for the beneficiaries of cross-border small grants, thereby increasing the overall survey sample and gaining insight into the changes of perceptions for the final beneficiaries of the joint program. |

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 (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 Stability and trust in the region, and especially in BiH, are enhanced.	Indicator 1.1 Rank of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 2018 Global Peace Index.	89, out of 163 countries.	Improved ranking	2020 data not available at submission time.		
	Indicator 1.2 Percentage of youth indicating higher levels of trust towards other ethnic groups in the region.	Low overall level of trust between youth of different ethnicities	50% of surveyed youth, particularly in BIH (including youth who are direct project beneficiaries) report increased trust toward	n/a	The planned survey has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the joint programme will benefit from data generated through regional youth research, planned in the UN Albania joint project.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
			members of other ethnicities			
	Indicator 1.3 Level of collaboration to address mistrust and social divides between citizens from different groups in the participating countries, with their peers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Low overall levels of cross-country collaboration addressing mistrust and social divides (BiH vis-a-vis neighboring countries).	Increased level of cross-country collaboration to address mistrust and social divides between citizens, manifested through at least 20 sustainable social cohesion partnerships generated as a result of the programme.	The baseline survey for grant beneficiaries should be administered in early July 2020, encompassing the planned sample of 900 respondents among the beneficiaries of 19 cross-border projects.	As above.	The planned Baseline/Endline Survey will be implemented among the beneficiaries of cross-border grants.
Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1	Insufficient number of	At least 1900, as follows: (i)	Skill building training for 1,173		The overall target for skill-building activities across all

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Different groups in the countries of the region, and youth in particular, acquire and practise skills to help break stereotypes and constructively interact across divides.	Number of people (teachers, youth, women, journalists and editors, sex- and gender-disaggregated) from participating 4 countries with increased knowledge and skills to bridge social divides.	people (particularly teachers, youth and women) capacitated to support social cohesion in the region.	800 adolescents (10 – 18 years old); (ii) 800 young people (18 – 30 years old) among whom 50% women; (iii) 200 teachers, among whom 50% women and (iv) 120 journalists and editors	(out of 1,200) adolescents and youth (including 391 boys and 782 girls), 155 women (out of 200), 39 (out of 200) teachers (33 women, 6 men) and 8 (out of 120) editors and journalists, including 2 men and 6 women.		three countries should be adjusted to 1,600 because the initial target planning included activities in four countries. The adjusted breakdown would include: 1,200 adolescents and youth (10-18 and 18-30 years old); 200 women, 200 teachers (among whom 50% women) and 120 journalists and editors (among whom 50% women).
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of stakeholders who apply the acquired skills and knowledge in their follow-up work as a result of the	n/a	At least 50% of all stakeholders (in various target groups) apply the skills and knowledge	This measurement will be obtained through endline survey using mixed method approach among all target groups (adolescents,		

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	programme support.		acquired through the programme in their follow-up work.	youth, media, teachers, women). Endline measurement will be implemented incrementally, following completion of capacity building for the given target group.		
Output 1.2 Citizens from different groups jointly identify and implement actions that promote social cohesion in the region, especially in	Indicator 1.2.1 Total number of people (particularly youth) from participating countries who meaningfully engage in and contribute to identification of social cohesion barriers and	600 people in the national platform events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	At least 1,600 people (among whom at least 800 youth and women) from participating countries engage in and contribute to identification of regional social	1,322 participants (804 women) and 528 men have contributed to date across three countries to joint identification of social cohesion priorities and recommendations to address them at youth, national and regional dialogue		This target, although set at the level of four countries, may be subject to adjustment based on operational circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 global pandemic context. This assessment will take place prior to the submission of annual report in November 2020.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Bosnia and Herzegovina.	priorities for the 3 countries		cohesion barriers and priorities.	platforms organized within the program.		
	Indicator 1.2.2 Total number of dialogue platforms (gender balanced) bringing together political leaders and various stakeholders from the 4 participating countries in joint discussions on how to strengthen social cohesion in the region.	n/a	At least 20 broad-based social cohesion dialogue platform events (gender balanced) bringing together political leaders and various stakeholders from the 4 participating countries.	15 dialogue events (youth, national and regional level), among which 3 youth dialogues, 1 national and 1 regional platform in BiH; 3 youth, 1 national and 1 regional thematic platform in Montenegro and 4 youth and 1 national platform in Serbia, took place bringing together adolescents, youth, civil society, government,		This target should be adjusted to 19 dialogue events because the initial framework envisaged activities in the Republic of Croatia as well.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
				media, academia and international community representatives across the three countries.		
Output 1.3 Policy recommendations to improve social cohesion in the region are effectively advocated for, and endorsed by, authorities and relevant stakeholders.	Indicator 1.3.1 Number of effective advocacy channels (engaging equal numbers of both sexes) leveraging political and public support within participating countries for endorsement of social cohesion policy recommendations.	UN agencies in the participating countries have deployed successful advocacy efforts to promote social cohesion.	At least 4 inter-connected and mutually-reinforcing advocacy channels help leverage political and public support for endorsement of social cohesion policy recommendations, including: (i)	Implementation of activities under this Output is in its early stages. Some advocacy priorities, such as improvements to the youth policy, volunteering framework, gender equality strategies, have been identified at country and cross-country level.		

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
			UN-led discussions with political leaders and policy-makers; (ii) regional dialogue platform; (iii) civil society			
	Indicator 1.3.2 Number of social cohesion policy recommendations voiced through the regional dialogue platform that are endorsed by authorities and international community and contribute to their effective follow-up implementation.	n/a	At least 5 policy recommendations formally endorsed by authorities and the international community.	As above.		

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1					
	Indicator 1.4.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator 2.1					
	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					
Output 2.4	Indicator 2.4.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	Indicator 2.4.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1					
	Indicator 3.1.2					
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Output 3.4	Indicator 3.4.1					
	Indicator 3.4.2					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	End of project Indicator Target (2021)	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
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					
Output 4.4	Indicator 4.4.1					
	Indicator 4.4.2					