



[Name of Fund or Joint Programme]

GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Strengthening Media Capacity • Programme Number <i>IRF 41</i> • MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00079523 	<p>Country, Locality(s), Thematic/Priority Area(s)²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><i>Thematic/Priority:</i> UNPBF PMP 2011-2013 result 2: Conflict resolved peacefully and in a manner that supports the coexistence of all relevant actors/groups that were involved in conflicts that underline peacebuilding efforts/Indicator 2.1: National reconciliation: effective partnerships and procedures in place that maintain regular inclusive policy dialogue to address issues of conflict, instability and political participation</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p><i>UNHCR</i> <i>UNICEF</i></p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations • National NGO – Door Media, Internews
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>MPTF/JP Contribution: UNICEF: \$ 166,667</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR: \$163,441 	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) <i>12 months</i></p>

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the PBF; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

<p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by Agency (if applicable) • <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) European Union:</p> <p>USD 3,942</p> <p>TOTAL:</p>

<p>Start Date³ 15 July 2011</p> <p>End Date (or Revised End Date)⁴ 14 July 2012</p> <p>Operational Closure Date⁵</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure Date</p>
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<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Name:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Title:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email address:</p>
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³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ As per approval by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁵ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MPTF Office.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

- *Provide the main objectives and expected outcomes of the programme.*

By its nature, the media is mostly interested in covering conflicts, not peace-building because the media tend to favour four values: immediacy, drama, simplicity and ethnocentrism. The objective of this project is to strengthen media capacity and engage it in promotion of peace-building and reconciliation, fully recognising its role and responsibilities in these processes.

This project will address access of journalists to resources and the development of professional skills and resources for the media in Kyrgyzstan to promote peace and reconciliation and prevent the recurrence of violence. As a result of this project, journalists will have increased access to resources and strengthened conceptual understanding of peace reporting so that they can contribute to building peace and reconciliation. Moreover, media has a role to play in early warning and the project will sensitise media professionals in this regard as well.

A public awareness campaign will help to counteract rumours and avoid undesirable manipulation of public opinion by politicians using nationalism and intolerance in their political agenda.

This project is not part or a substitute for a regular programme of any UN agency, but will amplify the impact and create publicity for other peace-building activities funded by the IRF. The project has synergies with all proposed peace-building activities and is the only project which targets the media directly, as a primary beneficiary, in a most comprehensive way.

The country-wide project will have a quick impact. For example, the first activities, such as capacity building of media resource centres in all regions, with a primary focus on the conflict-affected south will have an impact within 1-2 months of the start of the project. These centres will serve as media hubs and provide access and resources to independent media to produce and transmit professional and objective reports. Another immediate project result will be felt after involvement in training of the government press services, which may become a source of biased and unverified information or openly promote the political agendas of certain politicians. The media training and public awareness campaign components of the project will be conducted simultaneously.

The outcome of the project is: Infrastructure for peace is strengthened through active participation of media in peace-building and reconciliation processes in the country

- *Explain how the Programme relates to the applicable Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund/JP²*

To an extent, the project relates to the following UNPBF PMP 2011-2013 result 2:

Conflict resolved peacefully and in a manner that supports the coexistence of all relevant actors/groups that were involved in conflicts that underline peacebuilding efforts/Indicator 2.1: National reconciliation: effective partnerships and procedures in place that maintain regular inclusive policy dialogue to address issues of conflict, instability and political participation

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The European Union provided partial funding (USD 3,942) to this project in 2011.

- *Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.*

No budget revisions done in 2011.

- *Provide information on good practices and constraints related to the management of the financial aspects of implementing the programme, including receipt of transfers, administrative bottlenecks and/or other issues affecting the financial management of the programme.*

Human Resources:

UNHCR

National Staff:

Senior Programme Associate, PI Associate

International Staff:

Associate Community Services Officer, Associate Programme Officer, Associate PI Officer, Reporting Officer.

UNICEF

National Staff:

National Communication for development officer

National Communication officer

National HR assistant

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- *Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.*
- *Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.*

Procurement of goods and services carried out in line with UNHCR supply chain regulations (as per Chapter 8 of *UNHCR Supply Manual*) which upholds and ensures transparency. No variances from standard procedures are allowed.

In full compliance with UNICEF tender rules, an international tender was announced to hire a trainer.

- *Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme, including corrective actions that may have been taken.*
- *Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.*

UNHCR undertook a number of self-assessment and lessons learned exercises to tailor activities appropriately to new operational environments. Such assessments were also taken with implementing partners. In October 2011, UNHCR sought information from its' persons of concern (POC) – namely, internally displaced persons - regarding their current needs and sought feedback on areas of UNHCR's work. This exercise ensured PoCs were included in decision-making processes concerning their own protection. Emphasis was paid to seeking views from conflict-affected areas, however, due attention was given to neighbouring communities as well. Discussions were held with 1,233 PoC, representing the larger affected community, of which 52% were female and 38% were children. The views of PoCs were included in the following planning and lessons learned exercises, ensuring views formed part of revised activities.

Following the peacebuilding press tour, UNHCR spoke with participating journalists to incorporate their feedback for the second press tour which will take place during May/June 2012. Journalists requested more time at project sites and more discussion with beneficiaries; this will allow them to undertake further analysis and reportage of the impact of peacebuilding activities within Kyrgyzstan.

IV. Results

- *Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes (strategic results with reference to the relevant indicator) and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period.*

As a result of a UNHCR/UNICEF organized press tour in October 2011, positive and balanced reports promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation, as well as the efforts of UN agencies, appeared in the media (both Russian and Kyrgyz language). Some 60 reports were issued in all various sources including TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, online portals, and even photo galleries. Some were covering one separate project and its peacebuilding impacts, others have combined several projects held by one UN agency. Around 15 analytical works were published showing UN peacebuilding initiatives in South Kyrgyzstan as highly appreciated and important for rehabilitation and reconciliation of society following the June events.

UNHCR's implementing partner, Door Media, carried out activities to strengthen and upgrade media centers in six regions of the country. These centres serve as media hubs, providing access and resources for independent media outlets and journalists to produce and transmit professional and objective reports. UNHCR visited all media centers to undertake capacity assessments, following which all centres made requests for the equipment or financial support necessary to facilitate proper functioning of the centres. Following UNHCR analysis and assessment of proposals according to the objectives of the project, six media resource centres received technical support to build their capacity.

In order to mobilize regional journalists from media resource centers and to identify their suggestions of how the media can respond to existing tensions in Kyrgyzstan, the centers organized round tables on conflict related topics. Each round table discussed a specific topic related to the media and peace-building in their particular region. The round tables highlighted a lack of professional ethics among national and local media, an unwillingness or inability to look beyond political statements and other basic gaps in terms of journalistic ability to objectively report existing tensions. The roundtables noted that often sensationalist media can contribute to the polarisation of society. The results from these roundtables will be used as baseline information from which to prepare the cascade trainings and related activities to bolster

the objective reporting skills. The round tables also established some foundations for forthcoming activities to influence balanced reporting, and feedback from the events showed most journalists and editors are receptive and open to this kind of cooperation and capacity building.

Other results from the round table events included:

- Following discussion of a local newspaper providing unverified and unbalanced information in Karakol, an editor sought avenues to check information from other participating journalists, leading to agreements between participants to assist each other in providing objective information in reports.
- In Karakol, Osh, and Batken the participating journalists agreed begin consultations on how to enhance a local website to give a platform for young journalists to publish their works.
- In Jalal-Abad, following discussion on a need for more materials highlighting tolerance within Kyrgyzstan, the owner of one newspaper agreed to provide space for free in his paper for journalists writing on tolerance and reconciliation efforts
- In Osh and Batken, aware of the lack of opportunities for local journalists in these oblasts, the Media Centres and journalist participants agreed to start a journalist support fund to assist fellow journalists with transportation, communication and other expenses required for work.

- *Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period, including the number and nature of the activities (inputs), outputs and outcomes, with percentages of completion and beneficiaries.*

Output 1: Capacities of the media for peace-reporting (peace journalism) is strengthened

All media resource centres received assessments of their ability to support journalists and local media produce and distribute objective reporting. Following assessments of all six centres, the following technical equipment and finances were provided to facilitate them to adequately carry out their functions: two projectors, three netbooks, two PCs, three digital cameras, payment for internet access, and support for rental payments for media center in Jalal-Abad.

Five round tables in different regions across Kyrgyzstan (Karakol, Jalal-Abad, Osh, Batken, Naryn) were organized by media resource centers. Ninety journalists and 20 representatives of NGOs and local authorities (including government press services) participated.

A local team was hired by UNICEF to conduct a media monitoring of materials at Russian-language and Kyrgyz language media outlets over the period of 15 November – 15 December 2011. Criteria for analysis have been developed with the view to provide materials to be used during the TOT and further the cascade trainings. The study examined the professional standards and the conflict sensitivity evident in Kyrgyzstan news media. The analysis will be done in January 2012 to understand what kind of news Kyrgyzstan journalists are producing and the people are receiving, and how it may influence conflict resolution in Kyrgyzstan.

Output 2: Public awareness about the conflict resolution, peace-building and reconciliation is raised through targeted media campaign

UNHCR - in coordination with UNICEF and the five other PBF-funded UN agencies in Kyrgyzstan (UNDP, WFP, FAO, OHCHR, UN Women) - organized a three-day tour for opinion-leading media. This was done to provide information, and encourage objective and non-biased coverage of peacebuilding initiatives efforts in South Kyrgyzstan. Some thirty journalists (twenty from Bishkek, and ten from Osh and Jalalabad, all areas affected by the 2010 violence) from leading, national media visited 14 different project sites in Osh and Jalalabad regions. Journalists were given opportunities to interview project beneficiaries, implementing partners and also UN staff regarding peacebuilding activities. To conclude the press tour, a press conference was held presenting journalists to receive a briefing from the new UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan and pose questions to him and other high level UN officials and heads of mentioned UN Agencies in Kyrgyzstan.

- *Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.*

Recent political events (including the presidential election in October 2011, local council elections in March 2012 and accompanying threats of large scale demonstrations) increased tension and nationalist rhetoric in the political sphere. This negatively affected the possibility of working effectively with journalists, especially those from Southern Kyrgyzstan who do not operate independently and instead follow the agenda of local authorities who direct their actions. Such agendas during tense political periods were highly charged and not conducive to efforts encouraging balanced, objective reporting on reconciliation. From a conflict sensitivity perspective, it was considered necessary to postpone activities until a more neutral environment for fostering objective journalism appeared. As such, additional time is necessary to carry out the remainder of activities planned to strengthen media to promote reconciliation and tolerance in Kyrgyzstan.

In addition, there were some delays at the initial stage given procedural lead times in contracting an implementing partner. The time line, now known, will be borne in mind for future contracting.

- *List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.*

Since the project is being implemented jointly between UNICEF and UNHCR all activities were planned in good collaboration between two agencies. Partnership between two agencies in terms of human resources and division of tasks allowed quick and prompt support whenever needed. UNHCR also worked closely with local Internews agency in the initial stages of the project. Close collaboration helped to synergize plans to avoid duplication in future and make activities complementary to increase the impact. Their media expertise in Kyrgyzstan was valuable in choosing the right implementing partner and contacts with media sources.

UNHCR stays in regular contact with journalists and government press services through informal meetings, discussions, and their participation in this project's activities (round tables, cascade trainings). This ensures UNHCR's knowledge of trends, professional skills and attitudes among the targeted group remains updated and can be taken into consideration when planning activities aimed at promoting changes to influence balanced reporting.

- *Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.*

A balanced approach is taken regarding the geographical coverage of the project, which includes media resource centres and journalists (from private and state-owned media) from all Kyrgyzstan regions (Osh, Jalalabad, Naryn, Karakol and Batken). Government press services are also involved in consultation and participation stages.

UNHCR sought to have gender balance in participants at all roundtables to ensure women's participation in processes addressing how media can respond to tensions in Kyrgyzstan. This resulted in women accounting for 45% of participating journalists (50 female and 61 male).

- *Provide an assessment of the programme based on performance indicators as per approved programme document using the template in Section VI, providing clear evidence on the linkages of outputs and outcomes achieved, if applicable.*
- *Qualitative assessment of overall achievement with reference to the applicable strategic results indicator.*

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

UNHCR

In 2012, activities will continue in line with original proposal (conducting of base line and post intervention surveys, capacity building of media resource centres, a second press trip to encourage objective reporting of peacebuilding initiatives and impact, and the production of communication materials/media campaign).

Implementing partner, Door Media, will continue to support the media resource centres through provision of equipment and capacity building. They will continue to support media centers by organising small scale competitions in each region among journalists who write about peacebuilding and reconciliation within Kyrgyzstan. UNHCR, UNICEF and Door Media will evaluate the final works and the small prizes will be given to the winners in the end.

UNICEF

In January 2012, analysis of the media monitoring will be ready and will be used to shape the TOT.

In February 2012, it is planned to conduct the TOT and proceed with cascade trainings before mid-April.

In April-May 2012, the grant component is to be implemented.

In May-June 2012, final media monitoring will be conducted which will help to evaluate the impact of the project.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
Outcome 1: Infrastructure for peace is strengthened through active participation of media in peace-building and reconciliation processes in the country							
	Number of materials promoting peace messages (stories, PSA, documentaries, articles etc) produced and printed/broadcasted					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
	Broadcasting time, audience & statistics for materials produced within the project					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
	Number of journalists and editors benefited from project (obtained grants and participated in training) and proportion of those who became change agents					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
	Number of journalists outreached/journalists registered by the media resource centres/benefited from strengthened capacities of the					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means	

	centres					Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
	Change in public opinion and perception (indicators of the pre and post survey)					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
	Decreased number stories containing hate speech transmitted by media					Content analysis (quality and quantity) Pre-and post intervention surveys Progress reports Project control means Feedback from partners and beneficiaries	
Output 1 Capacities of the media for peace-reporting (peace journalism) is strengthened	Number of journalists trained					Progress Report Content analysis Narrative reports	
	Quality of reporting increased					Progress Report Content analysis Narrative reports	
Output 2 Public awareness about the conflict resolution, peace-building and reconciliation is raised through targeted media campaign	% of population of 16-45 heard of conflict-resolution, peace-building and reconciliation in the media					Pre-and post intervention surveys	

