**RUNO ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**          **TEMPLATE 4.4**



# PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)
## ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
### COUNTRY: YEMEN
### REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015

| Programme Title & Project Number |
|---|
| Programme Title:   PBF/YEM/D-1 Joint Emergency Capacity Development Support to National NGOs working in communities affected by conflict' <br> Programme Number *(if applicable)* <br> MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[1] 00091370 |

| Recipient UN Organizations | Implementing Partners |
|---|---|
| List the organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP | List the national counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations:  Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (Government), WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA (United Nations) <br> Humanitarian Forum (CSO) <br> Social Fund for Development (Quasi-governmental) |

| Programme/Project Budget (US$) | Programme Duration |
|---|---|
| PBF contribution (by RUNO) <br> **US$ 1,000,000** | Overall Duration *(months)* <br><br> Start Date[2] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* <br> 25.07.2014 |
| Government Contribution *(if applicable)* <br><br> Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)* <br> **US$ 457,596** | Original End Date[3] *(dd.mm.yyyy)*          31.07.2016 <br><br> Current End date[4]*(dd.mm.yyyy)* <br> 31.07.2016 |
| **TOTAL:**                      1,457,596 | |

| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | Report Submitted By |
|---|---|

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[1] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to "Project ID" on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[2] 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

[3] As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

[4] If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed.

Assessment/Review  - if applicable *please attach*
☐   Yes   ☒   No   Date:
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*
☐   Yes   ☒   No   Date:

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Title: ER Field Advisor
Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
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**PART 1 – RESULTS PROGRESS**

**1.1     Assessment of the current project implementation status and results**

**For PRF projects, please identify Priority Plan outcome and indicators to which this project is contributing:**

| |
|---|
| *Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing.* Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance |
| *Priority Plan Outcome indicator(s) to which project is contributing.*<br><br>Indicator 1: Number of district authorities with peace and development plans with earmarked commitments to sectors identified as conflict triggers.<br><br>Indicator 2:Percentage of target population with positive perceptions of the roles of governorate- and district-level administrations (disaggregated by target versus non-target districts, gender, age, marginalized group)<br><br>Indicator 3: Percentage of target population that has been consulted in the process of developing district peace and development plans (disaggregated by gender, age and marginalized groups) |

**For both IRF and PRF projects, please rate this project's overall achievement of results to date:** on track

**For both IRF and PRF projects, outline progress against each project outcome, using the format below. The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes.**

<u>**Outcome Statement 1:**</u>  Direct support to the peace process, enabling the implementation of objectives prioritised in the Government's Transition Plan for Stabilisation and Development, to address pivotal community level triggers of conflict, by empowering Governorate based national NGOs to deliver dividends of peace including humanitarian aid, social services and livelihoods in a principled and highly professional manner, in partnership with international agencies. Access to social services and livelihoods will be improved and other urgent humanitarian needs met.

**Rate the current status of the outcome: on track**

| | |
|---|---|
| Indicator 1:<br><br># GB NGOs accredited by the project as sustainable, reliable and professional partners for the Government of Yemen, UN Agencies and international partners.<br><br>Indicator 2:<br># Communities receive support from the international community via the trained GB NGOs before June 2016<br><br><br>Indicator 3:<br># Projects implemented by trained GB NGOs by June | Baseline: Insufficient and poorly qualified GB NGOs partners.<br><br>UN and INGO implementers consultants refer to weakness of local partner as well as the spread of social conflict including violence conflict as the  major constraints in absorbing the foreign fund.<br><br>Target: UN and INGOs have high caliber GB NGO partners in 5 priority governorates for 80% of their projects by June 2015.<br><br>By December 2015, 150 GB NGOs in at |

| 2016 | least 10 priority conflict affected areas accredited by the project to deliver humanitarian relief assistance and development activities in conflict sensitive manner.<br><br>Progress:58 GBNGOs in 6 priority conflict affected areas (Aden, Abyan, Al-Bayda, Hajja, Amran, Sa'ada) trained on core skills as of December 2014 (round 1) with OCHA funding. 56 GBNGOs identified for the training programme for 2015 (round 2). As of end of March 2015, 24 GBNGOs in 7 priority conflict affected areas (Aden, Abyan, Ibb, Hajja, Sa'ada, Socotra, Hadramout) pre – trained to qualify for core trainings (round 2). 31 of the NGOs trained had already access to funding opportunities and have been implementing projects during the current crisis.<br><br>Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress:<br><br>Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
|---|---|

## Output progress

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*

Output 1: 40 Governorate level national Governorate Based NGOs (GB NGOs) in 6 priority conflict affected governorates will have the capacity to implement high quality, conflict sensitive projects.
- Pre-trainings conducted for 24 pre-identified GBNGOs.
- Recruitment of a regional consultant now working on expanding the conflict sensitivity training programme
- Training manuals for core training courses were updated and revised to suit project objectives and are now ready to be used.

Output 4: Management and monitoring of the project.
- Finalised recruitment of project team and payment of staff salaries
- Developed annual and quarterly work plans and budgets as well as monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Improved the overall project design by strengthening the training manuals and expanding the conflict sensitive training component.
- Coordination with project partner

**Outcome progress**

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?*

Although the training programs have not yet been completed, and the planned grant scheme and the online pool of accredited GB NGOS has not been established due to the war and to the request of suspension of PBF training activities, GBNGOs who attended training courses in the end of 2014 (OCHA funded) and in the first trimester of 2015 have made considerable progress in playing an active role in the emergency relief phase as well as in building capacities of IDPs families and, generally speaking, in bringing peace and stability to their areas of origin despite the heavy armed clashes and intra-governorate (i.e. Abyan, Amran) as well as inter-governorate (i.e. Hajja and Ibb) mass displacement. The success stories below in section 2.2 and in the attached file shows that 31 out of 82 GB NGOs that were trained (or pre-trained) during 2014 and 2015, have been actively supporting relief and recovery response in the face of outspread conflict, the absence of local authorities - including security bodies - lack of resources, and lack of relief/recovery interventions by the Government of Yemen or other INGOs and UN Agencies. The strategies followed by these GB NGOs has allowed them to mobilize locally available resources (volunteers, expert human resources and funding) and even being involved into finding solutions for local conflicts. The lessons learned from these successful experience indicated that: a) local conflicts and instability are significantly magnified by the scarcity of resources and the lack of development and relief interventions; b) community-based interventions and solutions are most appropriate for conflict transformation and for the re-establishment of peace and stability irrespective of whether outside financial aid is available or not. Some feedback collected from targeted IDP familiess in Abyan and Amran:

"Thanks to God and those organizations we were able to find shelter and food."

"May God reward them for that, where else could we gone, if they [Abyan Youth Foundation and the community committees they formed] were not around us."

"Our young sons trained by the AYF are now voluntarily securing public buildings, streets and our houses much better than the police".

The local beneficiaries' feedback are excellent evidence of the progress towards achieving the outcome of the project and a further validation of the effectiveness of the project's strategy and activities in contributing to peace and stability in the targeted Governorates. In addition, the international consultant assigned to further develop the conflict sensitivity component of the core training manuals has been able to continue operating through a remote work modality - paving the way to a further strengthening of the peace building character of the project. The project has also started liaising with UNICEF to identify training topics and available trainers for the next phase of the thematic training courses.

**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*

Low achievements with respect to the annual and quarterly work plans can be traced to the suspension of PBF activities following the escalation of the conflict in April 2015.

While conflict itself would have undoubtedly contributed to low achievement, the project team had found mechanisms to mitigate these effects through deployment of local actors and mobilization of community-based resources, expertise and solutions. Most of GBNGOs

targeted by the project (whether core training completed in 2014 or pre-training implemented in the first trimester of 2015) have reported feeling more motivated thanks to the project training to keep working even during the hardest phases of the conflict. To ensure continued project functionality, measures taken by the project included the revision of locally available training manuals, updated to suit the project objectives, in addition to expanding the roster of potential local trainers. The project further revised the training plan for core training courses, selecting comparatively safer venues to hold the training.

## Outcome Statement 2:

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

| Indicator 1: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
|---|---|
| Indicator 2: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
| Indicator 3: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |

### Output progress

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*

### Outcome progress

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?*

### Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*

## Outcome Statement 3:

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

| Indicator 1: | Baseline: |
|---|---|

| | Target:<br>Progress: |
|---|---|
| Indicator 2: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
| Indicator 3: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |

**Output progress**

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*

**Outcome progress**

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?*

**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*

## Outcome Statement 4:

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

| Indicator 1: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
|---|---|
| Indicator 2: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |
| Indicator 3: | Baseline:<br>Target:<br>Progress: |

**Output progress**

*List the key outputs achieved under this Outcome in the reporting period (1000 character limit).Outputs are the immediate deliverables for a project.*


**Outcome progress**

*Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers? Is the theory of change that underpins the project design still relevant for this outcome (3000 character limit)?*


**Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures**

*If sufficient progress is not being made, what are the key reasons, bottlenecks and challenges? Were these foreseen in the risk matrix? How are they being addressed and what will be the rectifying measures (1500 character limit)?*


## 1.2    Assessment of project evidence base, risk, catalytic effects, gender in the reporting period

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|---|---|
| Evidence base: What is the evidence base for this report and for project progress? What consultation/validation process has taken place on this report *(1000 character limit)?* | Follow-up visits to some of the GBNGOs who attended the first and second round of trainings showed that the trainings had strengthened both their skills and level of confidence. GB NGOs had kept working and directly applied for relief funding to serve IDPs in their areas, distributing food and non-food items to full beneficiaries satisfaction. |
| Funding gaps: Did the project fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)* | Strengthening capacities for absorption of international and local humanitarian and development funding is the back bone of the project as qualified GB NGOs are the most suited to implement conflict senstivite and conflict transformation projects in hard to reach areas. The whole core training program was specifically designed to reach this outcome. GBNGOs recently trained by the project in Aden, Abyan and Ibb, in coordination with the Social Fund for Development and Partners Yemen, have been supporting the resumption of development projects suspended because of conflict as well as involving communities to develop community initiatives to solve conflict and bring peace and stability. |
| Catalytic effects: Did the project achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unblock/ accelerate peace relevant processes? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)* | Right from the beginning the project attracted other sources of funding (OCHA US$ 457,596) and in kind contributions from SFD, UNFPA, WFP, UNICEF. Furthermore during the first week of February 2015, the project has facilitated a coordination meeting among actors implementing capacity development initiatives for local NGOs (SFD, RGP-USAID, Yemen Atta/IOM, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, OCHA) to identify potential areas for collaboration and joint actions. During the meeting it was agreed to hold further meetings in late March 2015 to discuss creative ideas in |

| | joint funding of peace building projects. |
|---|---|
| Risk taking/ innovation: Did the project support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result? *(1500 character limit)* | |
| Gender: How have gender considerations been mainstreamed in the project to the extent possible? Is the original gender marker for the project still the right one? Briefly justify. *(1500 character limit)* | Gender mainstreaming was taken into consideration from the very design phase of the project to make sure that both men and women would meaningfully participate to the training activities. As a result, during the first round of training in 2014 26% of trained participants were female, while in the second phase (pre-training activities in 2015) 50% of participants were female. Reports from Amran and Ibb showed that, thanks to their qaulified staff of both sexes, NGOs trained by the project are currently successfully implementing initiatives creating a safe and friendly environment for women and children from IDPs families. |
| Other issues: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that should be shared with PBSO? This can include any cross-cutting issues or other issues which have not been included in the report so far. *(1500 character limit)* | The project has been ensuring sustainability, appropriateness, credibility, flexibility and cost effectiveness in its strategies and activities through the following: 1- The project builds upon extensive existing national expertise. 2- The project is establishing field teams of qualified trainers who could provide support services to other organizations in their areas of origin in the future. 3- Graduation to the next stage of the training is based on evaluation of learning of the previous training and its practical application. 4- The project was able to target 2 additional governorates and 18 additional GBNGOs for the trainings, within the same budget and without compromising the quality of the training activities. 5- Pre-training sessions aiming to provide basic training to the weaker organizations in order to build their capacity to the appropriate absorption level were easily integrated in the planned activities. |

## PART 2: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

### 2.1 Lessons learned

*Provide at least three key lessons learned from the implementation of the project. These can include lessons on the themes supported by the project or the project processes and management.*

| Lesson 1 *(1000 character limit)* | Coordination at the sub-national level was critical to the success and quality of trainings, as well as partnership and work distribution was a key managerial component. The project has thus developed MoUs with clearly identified roles and responsibilities to facilitate the work of project partners. |
|---|---|

| Lesson 2 *(1000 character limit)* | It has been difficult to identify a significant number of organisations with adequate technical capacities to absorb the content of the planned trainings. The introduction of pre-training activities has made it possible to strengthen the skills of weaker organisations and qualify them for the core trainings. This strategy was adopted and conducted during the second phase, and 24 new NGOs from 7 additional governorates were qualified during pre-training workshops held in March 2015. |
|---|---|
| Lesson 3 *(1000 character limit)* | Given short time period of the Phase I of the project, there was no time for evaluating the practical application of the learning or providing on the job support / mentoring. Trainings in Phase II will be sufficiently spaced to give time for applying the learning during practical work within the organisation. Also time and funds have been allocated in the project work plan for providing grants for implementation of projects, providing on job support, mentoring, etc. |
| Lesson 4 *(1000 character limit)* | |
| Lesson 5 *(1000 character limit)* | |

## 2.2 Success story (OPTIONAL)

*Provide one success story from the project implementation which can be shared on the PBSO website and Newsletter as well as the Annual Report on Fund performance. Please include key facts and figures and any citations (3000 character limit).*

The following success story involved the Abyan-based NGO "Abyan Youth Foundation" trained by the project in 2015.
"Once we [Abyan Youth Foundation] went back to Abyan after completing the pre-training courses, the conflict spreading to Abyan, Aden and Lahj was already generating mass displacement of men, women and children heading to Jia'ar and Zinjibar districts whether from neighboring governorates or from other districts inside Abyan. The situation was further aggravated by the absence of State bodies including security enforcement and justice administration. Local conflicts spread because of the already scarce resources compounded by the lack of interventions by the State or any other agency to bring about necessary solutions that would put an end to conflicts and support community development.
Despite the very challenging situation and thanks to the training courses we participated in we felt driven and confident that we had the necessary planning, management and peace-building skills to create a promising and creative project called "Effective Community Work Creating Greater Social Cohesion". The main objective was to enhance the role of communities in creating local peace and stability as well as social cooperation and participation. The project implements the following activities:
1- Involving community leaders, CSOs, schools head masters/mistresses in identifying potential young activists as volunteers and forming local development committees in the affected villages.
2- Conduct a 3-day training course in basic development focussing on community participation techniques.
The trained volunteers and community commitees were assigned to perform the following:
1- meeting IDPs, register them, their origins and assessing their needs and then developing a data base concerning IDPs and their movements.

2- coordinate with the communities in preparing suitable accommodations either with host families or inside schools.

3- mobilize community resources and other traders contibutions as financial and in kind donation.

4- Coordinate with local councils to protect public services and buildings as well as private properties as community police.

A number of different campaigns were supported such as

- Collective and voluntary cleaning and removing the war debris from streets and public services buildings.

- Blood donations.

- Collection of food and non-food items and distribution to IDPs families in need.

- Public and private services and properties protection campaigns.

The success gained through these initiatives created great satisfictoin among our partners and beneficiaries who asked the Abyan Youth Foundation to share lessons learned with other CSOs/NGOs and INGOs working in Abyan and to extend these activities. Now an established network of 57 local NGOs/CSOs or foundations covering all Abyan is supporting the coordination of humanitarian relief operations.


## PART 3 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS


### 3.1    Comments on the overall state of financial expenditure

*Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, slightly delayed, or off track:  on track*

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters maximum):


Please provide an overview of expensed project budget by outcome and output as per the table below.[5]

| Output number | Output name | RUNOs | Approved budget | Expensed budget | Any remarks on expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Governorate Based NGOs (GB NGOs) in Yemen are sustainable, reliable and professional partners, for the Government of Yemen, UN agencies and international partners and thus increase the national capacity to  to deliver dividends of peace including humanitarian aid, social services and livelihoods in a principled and highly professional manner that caters to the distinct needs of  men, women, girls and boys in need. | | | | | |
| Output 1.1 | Governorate based NGOs (GB NGOs) in priority conflict affected governorates have the capacity to | UNDP | 535144 | 162,619.20 | The approved budget was for implementing pre, core and thematic trainings and to give small grants for project implementation |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | implement high quality conflict sensitive projects. | | | | (from UNDP resources - US$30,000), but because the suspension of PBF activities only pre-training workshops were conducted. |
| Output 1.2 | An on-line 'Pool' of accredited GB NGOs established to facilitate GoY, UN, international NGO and donor partnerships for implementation. | UNDP | 0 | 0 | This activity would have been conducted in Q4 2015 after the end of the training activities but because of the suspension of PBF activities in Yemen, nothing was spent and budget moved to next year. |
| Output 1.3 | A replicable national, conflict sensitive, NGO Capacity Building program developed, incorporating lessons learned. | UNDP | 70,000 | 0 | Cost of international consultant to strengthen conflict sensitivite elements in core training modules. Funds committed but not paid yet. |
| | Management and Monitoring of the project | | 319.938 | 107,964.31 | Includes direct and indirect project costs, staff costs for UNDP and implementing partners |
| Outcome 2: | | | | | |
| Output 2.1 | | | | | |
| Output 2.2 | | | | | |
| Output 2.3 | | | | | |
| Outcome 3: | | | | | |
| Output 3.1 | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 3.2 | | | | | |
| Output 3.3 | | | | | |
| Outcome 4: | | | | | |
| Output 4.1 | | | | | |
| Output 4.2 | | | | | |
| Output 4.3 | | | | | |
| Total: | | | | | |

### 3.2 Comments on management and implementation arrangements

*Please comment on the management and implementation arrangements for the project, such as: the effectiveness of the implementation partnerships, coordination/coherence with other projects, any South-South cooperation, the modalities of support, any capacity building aspect, the use of partner country systems if any, the support by the PBF Secretariat and oversight by the Joint Steering Committee (for PRF only). Please also mention if there have been any changes to the project (what kind and when); or whether any changes are envisaged in the near future* (2000 character maximum):

The project has significantly benefited from coordination with other actors engaged in the capacity strengthening area, such as the Social Fund for Development (the national capacity building leader), USAID, IOM, and in particular by building upon the training in Humanitarian Principles and Assessment methodologies developed by the Danish Refugee Council. Generous feedback has also been received from humanitarian partners engaged in the relief and recovery response in Yemen, who highlighted that lack of qualified partners with access to conflict areas undermines the quality of conflict sensitive humanitarian efforts. Consequently, the project has sought to include in the pool of GB NGOs selected for training members of all clusters as well as the implementing partners of all PBF-funded initiatives in Yemen - with a particular focus on the areas where the other PBF projects were being implemented. The development/expansion of the training materials has also benefited from regional expertise through the selection and recruitment of an international consultant with significant experience to further strengthen the conflict sensitivity element of the core training materials. The project has also sought and achieved close coordination with local authorities, community leaders and, as necessary, de facto authorities. Although no change is envisaged in the strategy of the project - the forced suspension of activities has put the project under strain both in terms of implementation timeframe and allocation of funds. GB NGOs are ever more needed under the current humanitarian crisis but negotiations to restart training activities is taking a significant time. Since the project is scheduled to end in July 2016, it will be necessary to revise all activities to make sure the project's objectives can be achieved within a shorter timeframe and with greatly reduced budget - as staff salaries have been regularly paid against no project implementation.