IRF – PROJECT DOCUMENT





United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)/ Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

Project Title: Women as Peaceful Voters &	Recipient UN Organization(s): UNDP,
Women as Candidates	UNICEF (UNRCCA – strategic partner)
Project Contacts:	Implementing Partners:
	Government: Office of the President;
UNDP: Mr. Pradeep Sharma	Government (Vice Prime Minister on Social
Address: 160, Chui avenue, 720040 Bishkek,	Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Migration and
Kyrgyzstan	Youth, Ministry of Social Protection); State
	Agency on Local Self-Governance and
Telephone: +996 312 611213	Interethnic Relations; Central Electoral
E-mail: pradeep.sharma@undp.org	Commission; informal caucus of female
	Members of the Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh);
	Political parties;
UNICEF: Ms. Yukie Mokuo	SCO: Women's Alliance for Legislative
Address: 160, Chui avenue, 720040 Bishkek,	Initiatives, Coalition for Democracy and Civil
Kyrgyzstan	Society, Taza Shailoo, Youth of Osh, InStream,
	Institute for Youth Development, network of
Telephone: +996 312 611227	youth centers and media houses relevant for the
E-mail: ymokuo@unicef.org	scope of the project (e.g. Kloop Media)
	Other (coordination) partners: UN Women,
	OSCE Centre in Bishkek, OSCE High
UNRCCA: Mr. Jomart Ormonbekov	Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM),
Address: 160, Chui avenue, 720040 Bishkek,	NDI, IFES
Kyrgyzstan	Project Location: PRF priority areas - Chui
	region (Tokmok, Alamedin); Issyk-Kul region
Telephone: +996 555 787307	(Karakol); Osh region (Osh, Uzgen); Jalalabat
E-mail: ormonbekov@un.org.kg	region (Alabuka, Aksy); Batken region (Batken,
	Kadamjai, Leilek)
Project Description:	Total Project Cost: USD 985,000
The project aims at increasing women's	Peacebuilding Fund: USD 985,000
participation, including from minorities and youth	Government Contribution: 0
groups, at elections, both as candidates and	Other: 0
peaceful voters, in priority geographic areas under	Ducmoned Ducient Stant Date: 1 January 2015
currently ongoing PRF projects.	Proposed Project Start Date: 1 January 2015 Proposed Project End Date: 20 June 2016
	Proposed Project End Date: 30 June 2016
	Total duration (in months): 18

Gender Marker Score¹: 3

Project Outcomes:

<u>Outcome 1</u>) Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, exercise their electoral rights and participate in voting during parliamentary and municipal elections in 2015-2016; <u>Outcome 2</u>) Women and men in priority PRF areas, especially youth, actively promote peaceful elections and engage in electoral debates, including on issues relating to gender equality and gender-based violence;

<u>Outcome 3</u>) Women in selected areas, especially women from minorities, run as candidates during municipal elections in 2016.

PBF Focus Areas² which best summarizes the focus of the project: 2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2): (2.2) Democratic Governance.

¹ PBSO monitors the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment all PBF projects, in line with SC Resolutions 1325, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2122, and as mandated by the Secretary-General in his Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender Responsive Peacebuilding.

² PBF Focus Areasare:

^{1:} Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):

^(1.1) SSR, (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

^{2:} Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):

^(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

^{3:} Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);

^(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

^{4) (}Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)

^(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including JSC/ PBF Secretariats)

IRF PROJECT DOCUMENT

(for IRF	-funded projects)
Recipient UN Organization - 1	Representative of National Authorities Ms. Elvira Sarieva
Name of Senior UN Representative Ms. Yukie Mokuo / Hc. Alvard Poghosya Signature Title UNICEF Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic / O/C Date & Seal	
Recipient UN Organization – 2 Name of Senior UN Representative Mr. Pradeep Sharma Signature Title UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic	
Date & Seal 2/13/2014 Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)	Resident Coordinator (RC)
Name of Representative Signature Peacebuilding Support Office, NY Date & Seal	Name of Representative Mr. Alexander Avanessov Signature Date & Seal ALEXANDER AVANESSOV
	UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATI IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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PROJECT COMPONENTS:

I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support

a) Peacebuilding context:

Democratic elections have become a central element of peace-building in post conflict societies. This emphasis on elections acknowledges that popularly supported, legitimate institutions can be a key to lasting solutions to conflicts. At the same time elections can trigger violence and public disorder. Similarly in Kyrgyzstan, parliamentary elections that are scheduled for October 2015 and local elections planned for 2016 can contribute to further stabilization or trigger violent conflict.

According to 2013 Peacebuilding Needs and Priorities Assessment (PBNPA), women, youth and ethnic minorities in the Kyrgyz Republic face limited political representation.

In particular, the assessment notes that "ensuring women's equal participation in the political process remains a challenge, despite electoral reform to include women, in line with the democratic principles of pluralism and inclusiveness. In addition, stakeholders pointed out that double discrimination is observed in representation of women of other ethnic groups in high-level positions. Since 1995, there have been no women of minorities represented in Parliament or held other high positions in the government except those of Kyrgyz and Russian ethnicity."

Inequitable gender norms, especially against women and girls, gain strength at time of political/societal transitions and conflicts also long in the aftermath. Kyrgyzstan is not unique in that sense. It has been struggling its way to democracy over the last two decades having seen two anti-authoritarianism revolts and many socio-political conflicts of varying scale. While youth have been a driving force in these dynamics and change they have often been excluded from spoils in most cases. Girls and women have been even more marginalized in these processes mainly because of social norms, beliefs and practices. Youth issues have been framed from the perspective of young men, rather than their female counterparts. Political and policy reforms brought about after 2010 events have not yielded much progress in the situation of girls and women in regard to access quality education and livelihood, protection from violence and discrimination especially for marginalized groups.

Despite the fact that Kyrgyzstan's youth (14-28 years old) makes up 30% of the total population,³ this vital human resource is often overlooked and undervalued in the context of the country's immediate and long-term stability and development. A content analysis of the country's youth policy determined that the national youth policy was mainly oriented towards mass culture.⁴ Local and central government, as well as civil society and corporate sectors often operate in such a way that either totally excludes youth or only engages youth groups in a very limited capacity. Such exclusion leads to a perception among youth that the

³*Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2006-2010, Compendium of Gender Disaggregated Statistics.* National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, Department of Social and Environment Statistics. Bishkek, 2011.

⁴*Kyrgyzstan: successful youth – successful country, the National Human Development Report 2009/10.* UNDP Kyrgyzstan, 2011.

institutions behind these approaches are non-inclusive, setting precedents for a broader sense of alienation that can have negative repercussions for society and the state.⁵

Elections as a central element of the nation state building and democratic development provide an important opportunity to bring gender related issues to the centre of public debate. It is the opportunity to create social and political demand, commitments and accountability to address these issues in a meaningful manner and fill the gap between declarations and operational reality.

While parliamentary and presidential elections in 2010 and 2011 were largely peaceful, a number of potential risks exist that may lead to election-related violence in 2015 and 2016. The controversial issues that may bring about protest actions and grievances among voters range from suggested amendments to electoral law⁶ (e.g. currently suggested amendments aimed at securing gender and minorities' quotas) to geopolitical trends involving regional powers (Kyrgyzstan's upcoming entry into the Customs Union led by Russia).⁷ Popular unrests in 2005 (also triggered by irregularities during elections) and 2010 in Kyrgyzstan involved women and youth, both as active participants in public disorders, as well as victims of violence and discrimination. Women and youth from ethnic minorities faced ever greater discrimination, which is evidenced by post-conflict assessments.⁸ The vulnerability of marginalized/at-risk women and youth could potentially be exploited by political and religious actors with an interest in mobilizing them for violent protest action and voter intimidation. Such actors may exploit interethnic divisions in the society, nationalistic tendencies and religious sentiments for their own political gains.

This context is in line with elements of Kyrgyzstan's National Action Plan on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Among other things it states the importance of ensuring women's full and equal participation in all phases of the electoral processes. Additionally, the SG's 7-Point Action Plan for gender-responsive peacebuilding, implemented in Kyrgyzstan, relates to supporting the role of women in resolving disputes, for example those that may occur during the electoral process.

Therefore, it is **critical** to tackle the above mentioned issues both at national and local levels:

• A need to work with civil society and communities outside the capital and big cities, to address issues of ensuring political participation in parliamentary and local elections.

• A need to work with political parties both at local and national levels. This is emerging as a new priority in efforts to increase and improve youth and women's political participation, particularly as candidates. This work can come from strengthening the parties, establishing formal internal statutes and structures, including women's and youth wings, empowering local party women and youth activists, facilitating women's and youth networking, etc.

• In order to ensure a steady inclusion of experienced women politicians at the national level, there is a need to ensure that they can be elected and gain experience in local elections.

⁵ Unfortunately, analytical works in this area do not contain gender-disaggregated data; therefore, it is difficult to learn about young women and men's views on political institutions and to identify differences.

⁶ See, for instance, http://www.osce.org/odihr/119906?download=true

⁷ See, for example, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-25718770

⁸ See, for instance, UN Women Post-Conflict Women's Needs Assessment in Southern Kyrgyzstan, 2010, available at http://gbvaor.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/02/Post-Conflict-Women%E2%80%99s-Needs-Assessment-in-the-Southern-Kyrgyzstan.pdf

Kyrgyzstan started the implementation of its Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) in the beginning of 2014. Ten projects (with the total budget of USD 15.1 million) are focused on three main areas: (1) acceptance of critical laws and strategies to implement the rule of law, to improve access to justice and to protect human rights; (2) strengthening the role of local governments, which, in collaboration with relevant government authorities and civil society, have the potential to overcome the risks of conflict on the local level; and (3) development of a common civic identity, multilingual education, respect for diversity and minority rights.

In this context, the upcoming electoral cycle in Kyrgyzstan would give an important perspective in terms of political participation of national minorities. The elections` results could serve as a good indicator to measure the impact of the ongoing PBF interventions in terms of creating more opportunities for political participation, especially on the local level. The ethnic Uzbek community mentioned this priority on numerous occasions. The proposed activities would allow to address these issues in a more targeted way.

This project is designed in a way to complement the ongoing work to achieve the PPP. It also fills a critical gap because the issue of contributing to peaceful election in 2015 and 2016 has not been directly included in current PRF interventions. The activities proposed under this gender initiative can therefore build upon all 3 outcomes of Kyrgyzstan's Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) to fill critical gaps in order to strengthen women's participation and voice during elections. Activities can complement projects under PPP Outcome 1 to promote electoral and political rights of women and to ensure women's safety and security at the polls. Local Self-Governments (LSGs) supported under PPP outcome 2 will be critical partners at the local level to implement project interventions that will be supported through media outreach and civic education campaigns (PPP outcome 3). While UNICEF and UNDP will focus their work on LSGs covered in ongoing PRF interventions, special efforts will be made to also integrate activities into the work of other PRF projects.

b) Mapping of existing peacebuilding activities and gaps:

Targeted peacebuilding thematic areas/sectors	Key Instituti on	Key projects/Activities	Duration of projects/activitie s	Budget in USD	Estimated gap in USD	
Peaceful Elections	UNDP	Kyrgyzstan Elections Support Project – II	2014 - 2017	0.6 million	Unaddressed gap still exists	
Free and Transparent Elections	OSCE	Support to upcoming elections (2015, 2016, 2017); elections monitoring	2015 - 2016	1 million	in sustaining and scaling up tangible improvements in the areas of the project intervention and will require cumulatively from \$9 to \$13 million	
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UN Women	Women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, etc.	2012 - onwards	4 million		
Gender Equality, Reproductive Health	UNFPA	Women's and men's health, gender-based violence, etc.	2012 - 2017	2,5 million		
Women Development	ADB	Capacity development,	2013 - 2017	1.5 million		

Table 1 – Mapping of peacebuilding activities and gaps

		economic growth, gender equity			
Youth Development	IYF	Civic engagement and entrepreneurship	2011 - 2014	4.2 million	
Peacebuilding, Youth Development	UN	Peacebuilding and reconciliation, youth development	2013 - 2016	21,3 million pledged (18% confirmed)	
Youth and Adolescence Development	UNICEF	Conflict Prevention, Civic Participation, employability and economic development,	2010 - 2016	3 million	
Youth Development, Peacebuilding	OSCE	Youth empowerment through youth councils and youth banks	2010 - 2014	N/A	
Youth Development	Eurasia Founda tion in Central Asia	Youth funds, social inclusion	2009 - onwards	600,000	
Youth Development	OSI	Youth action fund, youth-led initiatives	2008 - onwards	approx. 400,000	

c) Rationale for this IRF:

Building on lessons learnt from electoral behavior of women during the previous parliamentary (2010) and local (2012) elections: Although the previous electoral cycle was conducted peacefully and has opened a number of opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups, there were important lessons learnt to continue working on enhancing the political participation. International and domestic observers have singled out a number of issues that did not allow women to enjoy equal participation during the campaign. First of all, the order of placement of women candidates on the political party lists influenced their success. In 2010, there was no political party list that was headed by a female candidate. Major political parties implemented the basic minimum requirement to place women candidates with four spaces sequence on the top of their lists, and then placed more women in the second half of a 120-member list in order to comply with the 30% quota. While campaigning the parties focused their visibility around male candidates and did not develop strategies to attract female voters. The OSCE observers also indicated that female candidates were rarely given the opportunity to speak during rallies. Besides this, women often lack access to economic resources, which makes their chances to be elected even lower. The Elections Code is under constant consideration since its adoption in 2010. The legislation is not synchronized and cannot ensure the mandated women's representation in the national parliament and local councils. Elected women are often asked to resign and are replaced by male colleagues. Despite serious achievements in the area of gender equality, including the confirmation of Roza Otunbaeva as interim president of the country in 2010-2011, the first ever female head of state in the CIS, Kyrgyzstan remains under high influence of patriarchal and religious norms, which generally do not support women's political participation. Gender stereotypes, particularly in rural areas, portray political participation as not being "appropriate" for women. At the same time, it is important to stress that the wider political participation of women in terms of quantity does not necessarily guarantee the quality of legislative initiatives proposed by female MPs. Therefore another important aspect of the planned work is to focus on increasing the quality of such inputs.

Addressing discriminatory practices during elections that may affect women, especially women from ethnic minorities: As for discrimination, despite considerable progress made with regard to introducing gender equality provisions in national electoral legislation (e.g. gender (30%), minority (15%) and youth (15%) quotas), the 2013 Country Report on Lessons Learned on Gender Mainstreaming in Electoral Assistance in Kyrgyzstan⁹ states that "as it is seen from the elections at the local level [2012], the proportion of women is quite low among candidates and is correspondingly low among winners of elections". One can argue that young women face similar challenges added up by age discrimination imposed by still widely existing patriarchal traditions, whereas women from ethnic minorities are ever less represented locally due to language and other barriers. A research conducted by OHCHR¹⁰ states that despite significant progress in increasing female presence in political institutions in recent years, there is a glaring gap in the presence of women with ethnic minority backgrounds in government structures. While the minority share of the population is at present about 30%, minorities account for less than 12% seats in the current parliament and for an average of 5% of seats in cabinets formed throughout the post-communist period. Referring to data on gender and ethnic representation confirms the almost complete absence of women from minority groups in the political arena. The exception from this pattern is ethnic Russian women who gained representation in the previous and current parliaments. According to the 2009 census, ethnic Uzbeks form the biggest minority group (14.3%) in the country; however, the party lists in 2010 included only 3.6% ethnic Uzbek candidates. Ethnic Russians and Ukrainians were represented with 11.5% on party lists, though making up 8 % of the population. An additional 8.6% of the candidates belonged to other minority groups such as Koreans, Uighurs, Dungans, and Tatars. The role of political parties in supporting minority women and creating entry points for women's inclusion is therefore important. Representation of minority women can therefore only be increased if political parties understand that it will be beneficial for them. The Electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) deployed by the UN Department of Political Affairs in January 2014 also addressed the issues of the participation of women and other underrepresented groups in elections. In its final recommendations (shared with the host government), the NAM stresses the importance, among others, to provide capacity developments of stakeholders, including women networks and women leaders on women's political participation¹¹. The final report of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission on the previous parliamentary elections in 2010 has also touched upon the issues of participation of women and national minorities in the electoral processes¹². The OSCE recommends the political parties to provide female candidates equal opportunities to address the public at rallies and be more visibly represented in party campaign materials, as well as to consider ways to connect with women voters and encourage female party members for taking leadership positions in the party.

⁹ UNDP Country Report on Lessons Learned on Gender Mainstreaming in Electoral Assistance in Kyrgyzstan, 2013 ¹⁰ OHCHR Research on Participation of National Minorities in Public Affairs in Kyrgyzstan, 2012

¹¹ The Report of the Electoral Needs Assessment Mission, 2014 (confidential)

¹² OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report on Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyzstan held on 10 October 2010; http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/kyrgyzstan/74649?download=true

- II. Objectives of PBF support and proposed implementation
- a) Project outcomes, theory of change, activities, targets and sequencing:

<u>Outcome 1:</u> Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, exercise their electoral rights and participate in voting during parliamentary and municipal elections in 2015-2016

Theory of Change:

If cultural/traditional barriers to women's participation in elections are removed, more women – especially from minority populations and young women – will exercise their right to vote, because they will know that the process of voting is confidential and free and that there is a connection between their votes and legitimate and democratic institutions.

Expected content of the support:

This project will be mostly implemented at local level, with some activities taking place centrally (at national level).

In geographical terms, activities will be conducted in communities where UNDP and UNICEF are currently implementing PRF projects (14 local self-governments (LSGs) in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Osh, Jalalabat and Batken provinces), in order to build upon existing partnerships.

Locations that were selected have a history of violent conflict, have been affected by violent conflict or are susceptible to conflict. LSGs identified fall under a list of 64 potential hotspots according to information provided by the Agency for Local Self-Governance Affairs and Interethnic Relations.

As noted by the women's movement in Kyrgyzstan during consultations on project design, all voters - men and women - should be informed about the right to vote, the right of women to participate in politics and why advancing these rights is important for the whole society.¹³ It should be noted, in this regard, that the government and donor community have started preparing for 2015 parliamentary elections, including by revising electoral law. Some of the new provisions foresee securing gender and minorities quotas (as described in the Rationale part). In addition, the government plans to base voter lists on biometric data. The latter brought about some grievances, particularly among civil society activists who doubt that this data would be securely encrypted.¹⁴ It can be also assumed that should the voters feel (1) they are not properly consulted on the above mentioned changes; (2) the changes are implemented too quickly to prevent voters from fully grasping the underlying logic behind them, protests might happen, as the voters would expect a proper awareness raising campaign by the government. The project's activities under this Outcome, will, therefore, focus on encouraging the inhabitants of the target communities to vote, first, in parliamentary elections in 2015, and, second, in municipal elections in 2016. Depending on the changes to the electoral law and situation around biometric data, the project will take into account the

¹³ Minutes of the meetings with women' NGOs (October 10- November 7, 2014)

¹⁴ See, for example, http://findbiometrics.com/kyrgyzstan-introduces-biometric-passport-program-to-a-skeptical-public/

directions by the larger electoral support project (e.g. Kyrgyzstan Elections Support Project) and respectively work with voters by explaining the changes to them.

Through Leadership Schools¹⁵ in 14 LSGs, the project will build the skills of women and men leaders (including from minorities and youth) to reach out to families, and women in particular, on electoral rights. While a pilot project conducted during previous elections by OHCHR and UNDP in 2012 on encouraging voter participation had not provided sexdisaggregated data, the evaluation found that voter turnout in pilot communities was, on average, 10-16% higher than in control communities. Representatives of target communities noted,¹⁶ that many rural inhabitants might be reached only through informal gatherings, including door-to-door visits,¹⁷ "black cash" parties,¹⁸ or informal morning talks with young married women near kindergartens. Whereas the above largely concerns women, in particular young women, married women with small children and women from minorities, men can be also reached through similar networking channels, such as gatherings in tea rooms (popular among Uzbek men). It is also known, however (through participatory observations by implementing agencies and partners), that men are more represented at formal communitylevel gatherings (e.g. water-, pasture users) and hence can be reached there. Taking into account that people in Kyrgyzstan are eligible to vote from the age of 18, trained young leaders, through existing youth centres and networks, will mentor other youth that have reached or are soon approaching this age, and young women and minorities in particular, to understand and exercise their electoral rights.

At central level, activities under this outcome will involve cooperation with the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) in raising awareness about electoral rights throughout the country. This activity is linked to the fact that during regional consultations on project design, women, particularly those from ethnic minorities groups, have expressed concerns on personal security and confidentiality during election process. Moreover, women NGOs alarmed on widespread practice of "family voting", where the head of household, usually a man, decides which party or candidate should be supported¹⁹. In order to address these concerns project will cooperate with the CEC to use media and communications for development (public service announcements that will be broadcast on national and local TV channels) to target voters - men and women - with specific focus on explaining the confidentiality of election process. The public service announcements (TV spots) will be gender- and ethnicity-balanced, highlighting that all citizens of Kyrgyzstan, regardless of their gender and ethnicity, have the right to vote.

¹⁵ The Leadership Schools are already functioning within ongoing PRF projects (for instance on "LSGs for Peace").

¹⁶ UNDP Country Programme Gender Coordinator's report on visit to Osh region, October 17, 2014

¹⁷ Successfully piloted by OHCHR and UNDP through funding from the Peacebuilding Fund's Immediate Response Facility during previous local elections in 2012, to reach elderly and young women.

¹⁸ Where a group of women gathers to make small cash contributions for the woman who organizes the party.

¹⁹ UNDP Country Programme Gender Coordinator's report on visit to Osh region, October 17, 2014

<u>Outcome 2:</u> Women and men in priority PRF areas, especially youth, actively promote peaceful elections and engage in electoral debates, including on issues relating to gender equality and gender-based violence.

Theory of Change:

If political parties' and candidates' positions take into account women's and youth empowerment and are made public and central to electoral debates, then electoral outcomes and subsequent political processes will be more responsive to the needs of women and youth, because the parties will be keen to keep the electorate by showing their commitment to promises made at elections.

Expected content of the support:

The Outcome will target women, men and youth as drivers for change in priority PRF areas, and political parties.

Women, men and youth as drivers for change: Implementing partners – women's NGOs, through local leaders – men, women and youth - will mobilize people in 14 LSGs to promote peaceful elections and participation of women in the electoral process and debate. In particular, the leaders will target women, men and youth who have the potential to actively contribute to prevention of election-related violence by engaging in outreach activities that promote peaceful elections, enhance dialogue and peaceful resolution of electoral disputes at local level. Considering the fact that women may potentially play a role in protest actions (e.g. through so called "OBON"²⁰ and radicalized religious women) and be recruited for these protests by some politicians, the project will engage with women, men and youth role models (or "ambassadors") and leaders who can convince these women to refrain from violence and instead mobilize the latter to participate peacefully in the electoral process and debate. Moreover, the Leadership School (mentioned above in Outcome 1) will build the trainees' skills on reaching target groups within communities and learning about their gender-related concerns (including those gender-related concerns that exist among minorities) and conflict issues that can be raised during meetings within political parties' electoral campaign events.

As a pilot approach, young people will be equipped with basic skills of participatory research and will join efforts with adults from civil society and academia organizations to collect reliable data, including through mobile/internet platforms,²¹ on issues concerning them and analyze the root causes of main risks and deprivations.²² Particular efforts will be made to engage young women: experience in other countries²³ showed that majority of mobile reporters are young men; young women, including from minorities, will also be reached through above mentioned informal networks (see Outcome 1). Youth will be able to use this

 $^{^{20}}_{\rm \sim}$ "OBON" is an abbreviation (in Russian) for "rent-a-mob" consisting of women.

²¹ A type of U-report tool will be piloted in a few communities. This tool was applied by UNICEF in Uganda and Nigeria. It is a free SMS-based platform through which youth can speak out on what is happening in their communities across the country, and work together with other community leaders for positive change. Young people simply text the word "JOIN" to the toll-freeshort code and become U-reporters after answering a few prompted questions.

²² This activity will largely include Participatory Action (community) Researches (PAR). PAR's purpose is to build collaboratively constructed descriptions and interpretations of events that enable groups of people to formulate mutually acceptable solutions to their problems.

²³ UNICEF U-report experience in Uganda.

data, analyse it with regard to electoral context and explain benefits of conflict-free elections in different networks including families and communities, as well as on knowledge exchange and discussion platforms. Moreover, they will bring up issues that affect their wellbeing to community agenda and raise awareness.

The fact that political parties and candidates try to convince people to vote for them presents a unique opportunity for women, men and youth to make sure that their electoral decision also takes into account how these political parties and candidates relate to the issues the residents of the target communities are facing.

Political parties: An innovative idea suggested by women's NGOs during national consultations on project design, related to the necessity of strengthening accountability and transparency of political parties' election campaigns. This could be done through pressure from civil society and mass media. Implementation partners - women's NGOs - will create a "gender rating"²⁴ of political parties at national level. They will monitor parties' programmes and attitudes towards gender and minorities rights with the aim to attract votes of underrepresented groups.

The project will also engage with major and interested political parties to integrate the gender equality and GBV related issues into their electoral platforms with the aim to raise issues of common interest for women voters, and to address the expectations of female electorate.

The outcomes of NGOs' monitoring during pre-election and election periods will be used for developing the information content for advocacy campaign which will be held in the same period in pilot regions. Civic audit of candidates' activities and gender rating of political parties will be presented through traditional media (newspapers, TV programmes), social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) and non-traditional channels (e.g. comic books). This media campaign will be drafted under one slogan (for instance, "Strong women – strong country"). Campaign might also include tools for promoting images of successful women with diverse backgrounds who originated from the 14 target LSGs and became vocal advocates for vulnerable groups' rights (rural and urban female entrepreneurs; civil activists; members of communities' councils; artists, etc.). With the CEC's support, at national level, the project will aim at advancement of positive images of women, with special foci on women MPs, including youth's and ethnic minorities' representatives in current and previous parliament. This tool can later be used to provide an avenue for women (including young women and women from minorities) candidates' political participation and campaign (see Outcome 3).

<u>Outcome 3:</u> Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, are empowered to run as candidates during municipal elections in 2016.

Theory of Change:

If political parties encourage nomination of women, including from minorities and young women, in selected communities to run as their candidates at municipal elections, then there will be increased trust and willingness among voters to support these parties, because voters will know that women-candidates are able to promote social issues into the parties' agenda thus the resolution of these issues at community level can duly occur.

²⁴ Similar to UN gender marker.

Expected content of the support:

Local elections will take place in 2016, thus the project's Outcomes 1 and 2 that focus on empowering women to exercise their electoral rights and working with the whole community to hold peaceful and secure elections will contribute to achieving the third outcome. The Outcome will target women-candidates.

Project activities within this outcome will include the same 14 pilot LSGs, where the network of female and male activists will be trained and engaged in advocacy campaign during parliamentary pre-election period in 2015. Through that network interested women (including young women and women from minorities) will be identified for participation as candidates in local elections in 2016. The project will develop a set of actions for supporting these candidates in partnership with experienced women's NGOs and other regional NGOs who have established contacts in pilot communities. Elected female MPs (in 2015) will be engaged as mentors to provide advice and moral support to emerging women leaders in the rural areas. The project will engage with an informal caucus of female MPs in order to establish interest and initiative across the political party affiliations in an attempt to integrate gender equality related issues into the electoral programmes of the political parties and parliamentary factions. Since there is an ongoing discussion of the role of women in the parliament and the future of gender quota in elections, the elected MPs would be interested in forming the next generation of female parliamentarians, Mentorship programmes are proven to be successful in Kyrgyzstan, with recent good practices from "Ustat" project of the "Roza Initiative" foundation led by former President Roza Otunbaeva.²⁵

During consultations on project design with women's NGO, previous experiences in empowering women-candidates for parliament and local elections were analyzed. This lessons learned exercise enabled the clear vision on strategies which were not successful in Kyrgyzstan (e.g. fundraising networks, negotiating with political parties' leaders) and streamlined the planned activity for upcoming elections. Women's NGOs agreed on multipurpose approach focusing on providing opportunities for women in local communities to enter political arena and empower them with necessary knowledge and skills.

Project will make sure that all interested candidates will be involved in Women's Leadership School trainings. This School will build the women's capacities to campaign (message development, media relations and communicating with voters) and provide mentorship support from experienced political leaders. In order to expand these candidates' visibility and trust within communities, project will ensure small grant funding (through women's NGOs) for implementation of projects on improving livelihoods conditions or relationships in particular districts or groups. These small grants should provide clear evidence to the communities what women can change and what attention they can bring to usually neglected social issues. Proactive public outreach campaigns can counter cultural and societal biases against women as candidates and increase overall women political participation.

Additionally, project will address the vital concern about those candidates' campaigns endorsement from families (husbands, children and relatives' networks) and local authorities (e.g. territorial councils). Support networks for young women and women from minorities will be given particular attention (mostly through informal outreach described in Outcome 1).

²⁵ http://roza.kg/initiative/democratic-governance/mentoring/

For this purpose, the project will attempt to include candidates' support circles in all activities (e.g. in Leadership School). Moreover, the project will build upon current PBF projects' activities that contribute to building and strengthening LSG structures, such as territorial councils in pilot districts. The latter will be broadly involved and encouraged to support women-candidates regardless of their age and ethnicity.

Although the project will be primarily focused on capacity development of women leaders to run as candidates during the municipal elections, the project will organize one event before the parliamentary elections in fall 2015 in order to secure synergy between the two tiers of the electoral cycle. The event will be aimed at creating a platform for all female candidates from various political parties to discuss the issues of common interest across the political spectrum, and agree on a joint code of conduct of female candidates (and MPs) in order to promote the gender related issues higher in the political agenda, and increase the quality of input of female MPs in the legislative work. A broader analysis on the quality of women MPs work and their voting trends will be undertaken prior to the event.

The project will provide a communications and visibility platform for emerging women by organizing TEDxWomen²⁶ events both in Bishkek and Osh. The format is a success story in Kyrgyzstan with four TEDx events organized since 2011, and TEDxBishkekWomen event, the first in Central Asia, conducted in December 2012.

²⁶ More information is available at http://tedxbishkek.kg/

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Outcome/ Output number	Output name	Output budget by UNDP	Output budget by UNICEF	UN budget category (see table below for list of categories)	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification)
	en in priority PRF areas, es				al rights and
Dutput 1.1	ng during parliamentary and Voters in target communities are empowered to exercise electoral rights without fear	145,000		Contractual services	
	en and men in in priority PR al debates, including on issue				
Output 2.1	Political parties at local level include gender issues in their electoral programmes and respect gender quota	115,000	82,000	Contractual services, travel, operating costs	
Output 2.2	Public discourse developed and electoral commitments set with regard to political participation issues, including those faced by youth	88,275	1 2 4 4 4 4 4	Contractual services, travel, operating costs	
	en in priority PRF areas, esp	ecially women f	rom minorities,	run as candidates duri	ng municipal
elections in 2016	Women-candidates in target communities, incl. young women and women from minorities, have skills to run for local elections	75,000		Contractual services, travel, operating costs	
그 같아 아파 아랫 방법에서 공격을 받았다. 귀엽을 망치지 않았다. 것은 것을 많았다.	aluation cost as per M&E	46,837	23,000		
Plan Staff and other pe	rsonnel cost	78,000	70,000		
Sub-Total		548,112	372,450		
Indirect support co		38,368	26,070		
TOTAL PROJEC	T COST	586,480	398,520		

PBF PROJECT BUDGET				
CATEGORIES	Amount Recipient Agency: UNDP	Amount Recipient Agency: UNICEF	TOTAL	
1. Staff and other personnel	78,000	70,000	148,000	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	2,000	2,000	4,000	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	2,000	3,000	5,000	
4. Contractual services	403,225	185,450	588,675	
5. Travel	7,000	7,000	14,000	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0	52,000	52,000	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	9,050	30,000	39,050	
8. Monitoring and evaluation	46,837	23,000	69,837	
Sub-Total Project Costs	548,112	372,450	920,562	
8. Indirect Support Costs* (7 %)	38,368	26,070	64,438	
TOTAL	586,480	398,520	985,000	

Table 3: Project budget by UN categories:

b) Capacity of RUNOs and implementing partners:

UNDP has experience in implementing peacebuilding, electoral support, women empowerment and youth projects. UNDP's Peace and Development Programme has been ongoing since early 2000s and contributed to policy and institutional changes that together present an important milestone towards creating an "infrastructure for peace" in Kyrgyzstan. The Country Office has also run a multi-donor funded election support project in 2010-2012, with the aim to support the government in conducting fair and transparent elections. UNDP's programmes in the area of democratic governance and economic empowerment target women, in particular, on issues of implementation of the country's gender strategies and plans, and youth. The office is currently co-implementing three PBF projects with other UN agencies: (1) *Strengthening Capacities of Local Self-governance for Peacebuilding*; (2) *Youth for Peaceful Change*; and (3) *Improving Rule of Law and Access to Justice for Sustainable Peace*.

UNICEF has experience in implementing peace building programs in the Kyrgyz Republic. There have been at least four large scale peace building programs in the agency peace building portfolio. These include *Youth, Livelihood and Peace Promotion* and *Empowering Youth to Promote Reconciliation and Diversity* implemented under IRF. Under these programs UNICEF established the network of 21 youth centers in the conflict-affected and conflict-prone communities as a platform where youth of different ethnic backgrounds could come together and gain skills and implement peace building initiatives. They operate both in multiethnic and mono-ethnic communities where the ethnic composition of attendees reflects the demographics of the communities. The project gained a buy-in from the government and donor agencies such as USAID, OSCE, DFID, GIZs which increased the number of the centers to up to 48 and see them as the core community mechanism to reach out youth.

Table 4: Overview of RUNO funding in the country			
RUNO 1: UNDP	Key Source of Funding (government, donor etc)	Annual Regular Budget in \$	Annual emergency budget (e.g. CAP)

Previous calendar year		Donor	23,171,000	552,351
Current calendar year		Donor	28,416,000	1,135,203
	RUNO 1: UNICEF	Key Source of Funding (government, donor etc)	Annual Regular Budget in \$	Annual emergency budget (e.g. CAP)
Previous calendar year		Donor	\$10,145,801	\$545,801
Current calendar year		Donor	\$14,188,831	\$833,194

III. Management and coordination

a) **Project management:**

The *Joint Steering Committee* (JSC), established by the President's order, will oversee overall project implementation and guidance. By the President's order, the JSC consists of 28 individuals representing government structures and commissions, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies. The *JSC is co-chaired* by the Head of the Office of the President of Kyrgyzstan and the UN Resident Coordinator to ensure project implementation coherently and timely.

Project staff of one of the UNDP projects will be responsible for day to day management of UNDP part. UNICEF will allocate at least 2 programme officers to manage the project. Essential part of activities will be undertaken through NGO-implementation modality.²⁷ The two agencies will establish internal project coordination body with the joint action plan and communication means; they will lead monitoring and evaluation processes, ensure commitment, coordination and support to all implementing partners, etc.

Abovementioned UNDP and UNICEF staff will serve as the main operational unit for the joint project, providing the overall management and coordination support to the joint project implementation, M&E, and consolidation of results reporting. PM is responsible for ensuring the integration of thematic activities into the coherent whole of the joint project, and that common initiatives are fully respected throughout implementation of the joint project. The PM will also be responsible for compiling reports from all components into one coherent document, reviewing monthly progress and ensuring that all deadlines are respected.

Team of Coordinators will render technical and expert support to the Project Manager to ensure successful achievement of the project outputs, and provide technical support and consultation to the partners and beneficiaries of the project.

Operations Unit will perform administrative, financial, and organizational support to the project Manager and the Project Staff for successful achievement of the Project outputs.

²⁷ This modality explains the large part of the project budget to be spent on contracts.

b) Risk management:

Table 5 – Risk management matrix

Riskto the achievement of PBF outcomes	Likelihood of occurrence (high, medium, low)	Severity of impact on project (high, medium, low)	Mitigating Strategy (and Person/Unit responsible)
Political and security			
Political and civil unrest	Medium	High	Share ownership of interventions and external risks with key stakeholders (owner: UN RC)
Frequent reshuffling in and lack of coordination between government units	High	High	Maintain ongoing coordination and consultation with key local and national government stakeholders on importance of their involvement and ownership of activities and results (owner: UN RC)
Social and economic			
Adverse effect on project participants and their relations	Medium	High	"Do No Harm" principle will be applied through continuous conflict sensitivity planning, monitoring and adjustment (owner: UN RC)
Low level of participation by marginal groups, e.g. ethnic minorities, women	Low	High	Active and wider civic outreach through trusted channels, as well as showcase project benefits to these marginalized groups (owner: UN RC)
Management			
Capacity of implementing partners is low	Low	High	Compliance with proper due diligence process during selection of partners (owner: UN RC)

c) Monitoring & evaluation:

Annex B provides details on the project's Results Framework. The project progress and achievements will be measured through collecting baseline data, submission of bi-annual progress updates and annual reports, and annual meetings of Project Steering Committee/Board. All these will be supplemented by ongoing monitoring field trips, ongoing collection of externally and internally generated data, and as-needed coordination meetings between RUNOs and other implementing partners and entities. All data will be disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and age. The final evaluation led by an external organization will assess the achievement of project results and the extent to which peacebuilding and reconciliation, and the role and capacity of women and men therein, has been aided by the project. The final independent evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the activities, and the achievement of project outcomes.

d) Administrative arrangements

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

AA Functions

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved "Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds" (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate narrative reports and financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is notified by the RUNO (accompanied by the final narrative report, the final certified financial statement and the balance refund);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any costs extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

- Bi-annual progress reports to be provide no later than 15 July;
- Annual and final narrative reports, to be provided no later than three months (31 March) after the end of the calendar year;
- Annual financial statements as of 31 December with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the PBF, to be provided no later than four months (30 April) after the end of the calendar year;
- Certified final financial statements after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document, to be provided no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.
- Unspent Balance at the closure of the project would have to been refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (http://unpbf.org) and the Administrative Agent's website (http://mptf.undp.org).

Annex A: Project Summary





PEACEBUILDING FUND

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Number & Title:	PBF/		
Recipient UN Organization:	UNDP, UNICEF		
	Implementing Partners: Government: Office of the President; Government (Vice Prime Minister on Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth, Ministry of Social Protection); State Agency on Local Self-Governance and Interethnic Relations; Central Electoral Commission; informal caucus of female Members of the Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh);		
Implementing Partner(s):	 Political parties; SCO: Women's Alliance for Legislative Initiatives, Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, Taza Shailoo, Youth of Osh, InStream, Institute for Youth Development, network of youth centers and media houses relevant for the scope of the project (e.g. Kloop Media) Other (coordination) partners: UN Women, OSCE Centre in Bishkek, OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM), NDI, IFES 		
Location:	Kyrgyzstan: Chui region (Tokmok, Alamedin); Issyk-Kul region (Karakol); Osh region (Osh, Uzgen); Jalalabat region (Alabuka, Aksy); Batken region (Batken, Kadamzhai, Leilek)		
Approved Project Budget:	USD 985,000		
Duration:	Planned Start Date: 1 January 2015	Planned Completion: 30 June 2016	
Project Description:	The project aims at increasing women's participation, including from minorities and youth groups, at elections, both as candidates and peaceful voters, in priority geographic areas under currently ongoing PRF projects.		

PBF Focus Area:	2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2): (2.2) Democratic Governance
Project Outcomes:	<u>Outcome 1)</u> Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, exercise their electoral rights and participate in voting during parliamentary and municipal elections in 2015-2016; <u>Outcome 2)</u> Women and men in in priority PRF areas, especially youth, actively promote peaceful elections and engage in electoral debates, including on issues relating to gender equality and gender-based violence; <u>Outcome 3)</u> Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, run as candidates during municipal elections in 2016.
Key Project Activities:	As described in Outcomes section.

Annex B: IRF Results Framework	ork				
Country name: Kyrgyzstan					
Project Effective Dates: 1 January 2015 – 30 June 2016	1011 1015 – 30 June 2016				
PBF Focus Area: 2: Promote	coexistence and peaceful r	PBF Focus Area: 2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2): (2.2) Democratic Governance.	Area 2): (2.2) Democrat	ic Governance.	
INF I NEORY OF CHANGE: SEE OUTCOMES SECTION.	utcomes section.				
Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification	Year 1 Year 2	Milestones
Outcome 1: Women in priority PRF areas, especially women from minorities, exercise their electoral rights and participate in voting during partiamentary and municipal elections in 2015-2016		Outcome Indicator 1 a % of women (disaggregated by age, and ethnicity, if possible) in target LSGs voting in elections (compared to earlier elections) Baseline: tbd through baseline survey Target: tbd through baseline survey	Central Electoral X Commission data	×	Milestones for this and furthe indicators will be identified upon baseline survey and assessment
	Output 1.1 Voters in target communities are empowered to exercise electoral rights without fear	Output Indicator 1.1.1 % of residents of voting age (disaggregated by age, sex and ethnicity, if possible) saying they know their electoral rights and how to exercise them without fear Baseline: tbd through baseline survey Target: tbd through baseline survey	Baseline survey; pre-X election survey	× ×	
Outcome 2: Women and men in in priority PRF areas, especially youth, actively promote peaceful elections and engage in electoral debates, including on issues relating to gender equality and gender-based violence		Outcome Indicator 2 a Elections-related conflict incidents in target communities (if possible indicating whether initiated by men or women, age and ethnicity- disaggregated) Baseline: tbd Target: tbd	Local law X enforcement records (obtained in cooperation with ongoing PRF Rule of Law project)	× 	
	Output 2.1 Political parties at local level include gender issues in their electoral programmes and respect gender quota	Output Indicator 2.1.1 Rating of parties' 'gender audit' by women NGOs Baseline: tbd Target: tbd	Baseline survey; pre- election survey	×	
	Output 2.2 Public discourse developed and electoral commitments set with	Output Indicator 2.2.1 Extent to which media (traditional and new) covers political	Baseline X assessment; endline assessment	×	

	addition to political participation	participations issues, including those	Contraction of the second		ALC: NOT THE REAL PROPERTY OF	
	issues, including those faced by	related to gender equality				
	youth	Baseline: tbd				
	1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 - 1945 -	Target: tbd				
Outcome 3:		Outcome Indicator 1 a	Central Electoral	××	×	
Women in priority PRF areas,		Number of women-candidates (age	Commission data			
especially women from minorities, run		and ethnicity disaggregated) at local				
as candidates during municipal		elections in target geographic areas				
elections in 2016		(if elections take place during the				
		project duration, - number of women				
		who won)				
		Baseline: tbd through baseline				
		survey				
		Target: tbd through baseline survey				
-	Output 3.1	Output Indicator 3.1.1	Pre-election survey	XX	×	
	Women-candidates in target	# of women-candidates (age and				
	communities, incl. young women	ethnicity disaggregated) in target				
	and women from minorities, have	communities and supported by the				
	skills to run for local elections	project running for local elections				
		Baseline: tbd				
		Target: tbd				