# RUNO Half Yearly Reporting TEMPLATE 4.3

  

**[**Kyrgyzstan**]**

**PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

**PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2014**

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| **Project No & Title:** | PBF/KGZ/A3 Building Trust and Confidence Among People, Communities and Authorities (Part 2 - PPP Outcome 2) |
| **Recipient Organization(s)[[1]](#footnote-1):**  | UNHCR |
| **Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):** | Government: Ombudsman's Office, Department of Local Self-Governance and Interethnic RelationsNGOs: PU Abad, PU Law Center, FTI  |
| **Location:** | Osh, Jalalabad and Batken provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic |
| **Total Approved Budget :[[2]](#footnote-2)** | 1 073 287 USD |
| **Preliminary data on funds committed : [[3]](#footnote-3)**  | 551,027 USD | **% of funds committed / total approved budget:** | 51% |
| **Expenditure[[4]](#footnote-4):** | 254,189 USD | **% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)** | 24% |
| **Project Approval Date:** | 21.11.2013 | **Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)** | 0 |
| **Project Start Date:** | 01.01.2014 |
| **Expected Operational Project Closure Date:** | 31.12.2015 |
| **Project Outcomes:** | Outcome 2LSGs, LSGA and other oversight entities are enabled to provide effective feedback/conflict resolution mechanisms for the population and by actively listening to the population, providing impartial feedback and taking remedial measures, thus demonstrating their accountability. |
| **PBF Focus Area[[5]](#footnote-5)** | 2,4 |

**Qualitative assessment of progress**

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| *For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.* *In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved.**(500 words max.)* | Outcome 1The baseline study in which almost 900 people for all UNHCR peacebuilding locations were questioned showed that trust and confidence levels remain low. In the first six month, dialogue meetings were held in 24 locations with the participation of population and local self-government representatives (LSGs). In addition, eight presentations on the provincial level of PRF project mainly involved local self-government representatives. These meetings gave clear understanding of project activities and ensured support from LSGs for project activities. During a different activity, the budget and expenditures were presented in 19 out of 24 target locations so the population had the opportunity to raise their concerns and influence the decision making process actively for the first time. Often, people asked by such meetings were never held beforehand, showing an eminent need for openness, transparency and communication in order resolve conflicts in a peaceful and lawful manner. As a follow up, communities and local self-government develop jointly with UNHCR ideas for peacebuilding initiatives in order to tackle specific conflicts/grievances. The first ten initiatives are being finalized at the time of writing and will be implemented during the 3rd quarter of 2014. Additionally, UNHCR provides individual legal assistance to people in order to show that conflict/grievances can be resolved through the existing structures. 41 cases are being followed up at the moment, and 5 have already been resolved. This restored trust and confidence of the claimants in approaching government authorities with their problems. Outcome 2The baseline survey was conducted jointly with government representatives (Agency of Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations, Ombudsman's Office) who were involved in all levels of the survey process ensuring a great level of ownership. The baseline study showed that the provision of high quality and timely feedback relies on the willingness of government representatives to listen actively to people's concerns. This is a difficult process, however both the participation in the baseline study and the preparation of dialogue meetings /open budget hearing showed that, if given the right tools, most local self-government representatives are willing provide feedback to peoples concern. Often capacity is lacking though. Therefore, UNHCR and its implementing partners provide material and non-material assistance to local self-government to enhance the knowledge of relevant laws/regulations and their application in a conflict sensitive manner. UNHCR also prepared the implementation of small scale peacebuilding initiatives. These initiatives are developed in a participatory manner and aim to address peacebuilding needs in the communities. The first 10 initiatives will be implemented during the 3rd quarter of 2014. Outcome 3Three laws (Law on Social Entitlements, Law on Citizens Appeals, Law on Access to Information) have been analyzed and together with evidence from individual cases and results of the baseline study, UNHCR is currently preparing material for evidence based advocacy efforts by local NGOs both on the regional and national level.  |
| *Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding?**(250 words max.)* | As the project is still in its first phase, it is too early to determine whether any lasting and substantial impact on peacebuilding has been achieved because of UNHCR activities. However, there are positive signals that the interventions have indeed potential to create a favorable peacebuilding environment. The participation of government representatives (Agency of Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations (LSGA), Ombudsman's Office) in the focus group interviews in preparation of the baseline study has helped to raise awareness of the authorities and created ownership towards the baseline assessment. Furthermore, the cooperation with both LSGA and the Ombudsman's Office was formalized through two Memoranda of Understanding. In addition, government partners also participate in the selection of cases for individual case assistance and peacebuilding initiatives. During dialogue and open budget hearings, many people for the first time actively interacted with their local self-government representative. This creates one cornerstone of the foundation for sustainable peace: active listening and solving grievance according to the law. At the beginning of the project, local self-government authorities in some locations did not view the idea of peacebuilding in a favorable way and tried to avoid cooperation with UNHCR. However, increased information, transparency and the intervention of the LSGA as the oversight body helped to overcome this problem. |
| *Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/ unblocking of any peace relevant processes?**(250 words max.)* | Often, local self-government bodies are not fully aware of their duties and the corresponding legal regulations. While preparing open budget hearings, one UNHCR IP liaised with the national Ministry of Finance. The Ministry endorsed the guidebook on financial transparency prepared by UNHCR's IP, which gives clear instruction to local self-government how to publicize budget related information. During a workshop, central government representatives explained the guidelines to locals self-government representatives from all 24 UNHCR peacebuilding locations. It is now planned by the Ministry to use this guidebook nationwide, which demonstrates how small initiatives as part of UNHCR's project can positively affect peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan since transparency, and openness creates trust which, in turn, will prevent further conflict. It is anticipated that several initiatives that are being piloted during UNHCR's peacebuilding project will reach beyond the south of the country.  |
| *If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them.**(250 words max.)* | During the work in communities, it became clear that the situation varies widely. Many factors such as ethnic composition, economic situation, size and quality of local self-government bodies influence whether UNHCR peacebuilding activities can be successful. Therefore, UNHCR prepared passports for each community with information on the status of local self-government, most pressing community problems, economic and financial indicators, and composition of the local population. With this information, activities can be tailored to the specific needs of each community. Progressive and already conflict sensitive local self-governments require different programming than rather reluctant representatives of the local authorities. Peacebuilding needs of mono ethnic communities vary from the needs of multiethnic locations. If UNHCR's interventions were not successful, government partners, especially the Agency of Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations (LSGA), intervened and executed its oversight function.Another challenge is the mobilization of local population. Since trust level is low and past attempts to resolve issues through local self-government bodies rendered no substantial results, the population is rather reluctant of interact with the authorities. This is especially true for ethnic minorities. UNHCR tries to overcome this obstacle by providing accurate information on the project, its objectives and the opportunities for communities to apply for fully funded peacebuilding initiatives. In addition, the provision of individual legal assistance builds trust and confidence. |
| *What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year?**(250 words max.)* | Implementation of 15 peacebuilding initiatives, resolution of 30 individual cases, activities to strengthen feedback mechanisms on the local level (roundtables, training, workshops), second thematic perception study and advocacy activities will be completed by the end of the year. |
| *Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.?**(500 words max.)* | In a limited number of cases, project locations will be adjusted according to results of the baseline study. Based on the experience during the baseline study, the focus and amount of further studies will be adjusted. Budget and duration of the project will remain unchanged. |
| *Are there any lessons learned from the project in the period reported?**(500 words max.)* | As problems vary widely among areas of intervention, it is important to design peacebuilding activities according to the actual issues of the communities. A 'one fits all' approach is not feasible. As for the perception studies, it is important to limit data to a manageable level to ensure that analysis does not become overwhelming.  |
| *What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expensed by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only?**(250 words max.)* | 24% |
| *Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage?**(250 words max.)* | No |

**INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT*:*** *Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document****- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above.*

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|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay****(if any)** | **Adjustment of target (if any)** |
| Outcome 2LSGs, LSGA and other oversight entities are enabled to provide effective feedback/conflict resolution mechanisms for thepopulation and by actively listening to the population, providing impartial feedback and taking remedial measures, thusdemonstrating their accountability. | Indicator 2.1% increase in level of trust to local authorities that they are capable to solveincidents/grievances/conflicts | 30% of focus group respondents point out low problem solving capacity of local self-government entities | 30% increase in trust in conflict solving capacity | TBD by the end of the Year |  |  |
| Output 2.120 LSGs have functioning feedback mechanismsand two oversight mechanisms (Osh/Jalalabadombudsman’s offices) | Indicator 2.1.1Number of LSGs with functioning feedback mechanism | 0 | 20 | Open budget and dialogue meetings held in 19 locations |  |  |
| Output 2.220 LSGA bodies have ability to carry outmonitoring and analysis | Indicator 2.2.1Number of LSGs that are able to carry out monitoring and analysis | 0 | 20 | 0 |  |  |
| Output 2.3.At least 20 conflict resolution initiatives aresuccessful in opening dialogues between polarizedcommunities. | Indicator 2.3.1Number of successfully implemented conflict resolution/peacebuilding initiatives | 0 | 20 | 10 selected for implementation during 3rd quarter of 2014 by committee (UNHCR+government+IPs) |  |  |

1. Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Approved budget is the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations. Provide preliminary data only.

4 Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

5 PBF focus areas are:

*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; (2.1) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Management of natural resources;

*3:Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3)*;

(3.1) Short-term employment generation; (3.2) Sustainable livelihoods

*4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)*

(4.1) Public administration; (4.2) Public service delivery (including infrastructure). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)