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PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
Updated March 2023

COUNTRY: The Gambia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: FINAL
YEAR OF REPORT: MARCH 2023

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00124863**	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: ☐　　　Country Trust Fund ☐　　　Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:** UNFPA, UNDP, and UNESCO	**Type and name of recipient organizations:** **UNFPA (Convening Agency)** **UNDP** **UNESCO**

Date of first transfer: 23rd November 2020 **Project end date:** 31st December 2022 **Has this project received a cost or no cost extension? No Cost Extension received** **Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension? No** **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: X Gender promotion initiative X Youth promotion initiative ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions ☐ Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):

- *Please enter the total amounts in US dollars allocated to each recipient organization*
- *Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.*
- *For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the detail in the attached budget.*

Recipient organisation	Budget Allocated ($)	Amount Transferred to date ($)	Amount spent to date ($)
UNFPA	**$1,000,000.00**	**$1,000,000.00**	**$999,802.86**
UNDP	**$810,500.00**	**$810,500.00**	**$810,315.12**
UNESCO	**$350,000.00**	**$350,000.00**	**$325,212.59**

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TOTAL	$2,160,500.00	$2,160,500.00	$2,026,030.57

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 94%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE
The budget templates are available here

Implementing partners
To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money to date? 11

Please list all of the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each to date

Name of Implementing Partner	*Type of Organisation (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)*	*What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner to date*	*Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner (175 mots)*
National Youth Council	Government	$373,501.13	NYC facilitated capacity building training for Adolescent's Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) service providers at youth centers. The areas covered during the training were Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), family planning methods, child marriage, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, abortion, and fistula. The service providers deliver reliable information and support on sexual and reproductive health to youth. The centers serve as a safe space and supplies contraceptives such as condoms to youth. The project also supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through NYC to conduct a consultancy that reviewed and validated youth statutory legal instruments such as the National Youth Council Act, National Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative, and the National Sports Council Act. The objective of the review was to reflect young people's representation and participation in governance and leadership. National and regional consultations were conducted to inform the provisions in all four instruments. The drafts are ready and currently with the Ministry of

			Youth and Sports (MoYS) for review and subsequent tabling at the National Assembly.
	Civil Society (Activista)		**Sub-Contractees** Activista supported the establishment of the Youth Branch of the Inter-party Committee (YoBIPC) structures across all seven regions to enhance youth political participation. The YoBIPC is made up of 72 members which cuts across all political parties in the Gambia to ensure equal representation. Following the establishment of the Youth Branch of the Inter-Party Committee (YoBIPC), Activista conducted capacity building training for its members. The members were trained on peacebuilding, importance of political participation of youths especially women, political tolerance, and becoming agents of peace within their respective communities.
	National Council for Civic Education (Government)		NCCE conducted a series of intergenerational and intersectoral dialogues between youth, political parties, security forces, and traditional leaders on peacebuilding. The dialogues focused on peace building, conflict management, civic rights and duties, community policing, and the role of security forces, youth, and politicians in maintaining peace in pre, during and post elections.
	Civil Society (Peace Hub The Gambia (PHTG))		PHTG conducted series of community engagements on electoral violence and the importance of political tolerance prior to the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The community engagements took the following approaches: ● Community engagement at Bantabas: The dialogues covered topics on conflict resolution, electoral violence, peacebuilding, and the impact of conflict in communities. ● Radio talk shows: Radio shows were conducted to target community members that didn't attend the

			Bantaba sessions. The radio shows were aired the same day as the community dialogues to further disseminate the information within the Badibou district. • A documentary was produced and screened at various village centers. The documentary was centered on electoral violence highlighting the realities of electoral violence in vulnerable communities. PHTG also conducted the following activity post parliamentary elections: • She Champions Peace: She Champions Peace was a training that leveraged on the influential role of women to promote sustainable peace and development at the grassroot level. The training brought together twenty (20) influential women including persons with disability from each region to be trained on Peacebuilding. The training equipped the selected women with knowledge on how to take part in Peacebuilding, Youth Peace and Security, Women Peace and Security and how they can translate these landmark resolutions to promote effective participation of young women in peacebuilding and decision-making processes.
	Government		The Capacity Building Training for young NAMs brought together twenty-five (25) National Assembly Members of the 6th Legislature including the Clerk, 1 member of the National Youth Parliament and one 1 staff of the Commission on Political Debates. The composition of the participants was 27 of which 24 were male and 3 were female. The training was engaging and interactive on the discussion of parliamentary procedures and processes, parliamentary tools and system as well as shared some practical experiences of parliamentary practices. Participants were trained on Parliamentary processes and

			procedures, effective listening skills for good governance, youth and Peacebuilding, Youth Bill and Youth policy and resource mobilization etc.
	Government		Community dialogues on post-election violence has the objective of promoting peace and tolerance whiles countering hate speeches during the parliamentary elections. The participants were made to understand the power to elect those who will represent them into parliament is in the hands of the electorates, and the need to live together peacefully despite their political, religious, or tribal differences. People from different political parties were brought together for the very first time, and all agreed to safeguard the common interest. The activity has raised the awareness of community members on the concept of Peace, Tolerance and Social Cohesion. Participants understand the concept of democracy and its principles, inclusive governance which include transparency and accountability, and women and youth political participation, prevention of conflict and importance of peace building. Current issues in our societies to foster understanding and encourage participants to share their experience were discussed.
	Government		Forty (40) interns have been recruited placed with NYC and its registered youth organization for a period of six month. The initiative has exposed young people to hands on the job experience for a period of six months and understand the basis of internship and how it widens their knowledge and experience. The initiative served as a one stop centre for NYC to mould, recruit and build the capacity of young people during internship and prepare them for challenging jobs/carrier for effective and efficient service delivery. Upon completion of the six-month internship program, The National Youth Council will organize a sharing session for interns to share best practices and network for effective service delivery.

			The Youthconnekt Summit brought together a total of 300 national delegates from the various regions of the country and Gambian youth innovators and business entrepreneurs that showcased their ideas in a pitching contest. The composition of the Youthconnekt participants was largely drawn from Civil Society youth-led organization, registered youth groups under NYC, Public Sector Government Ministries and Agencies in charge of youth, Private Sector, national and international non-governmental organization and development partners, young entrepreneurs, gender equality and women empowerment advocates, academia, Youth Leaders and Professionals, young peoples with disabilities, young people in informal sector, media and other stakeholders. The rationale behind the Youthconnekt is to critically engage with young people in all spheres of nation building to discuss strategies on how to achieve Youthconnekt Gambia goals and contribute towards the creation of an enabling environment for youth economic empowerment, create a platform to share information amongst young people and devise strategies/initiatives in building youth network.
University of the Gambia	Academia	$133,235.99	UTG is implementing three activities within the project: ● Internship at the National Assembly (NA). ● Mentorship in schools. ● Research on youth participation in politics. The internship program is currently in progress. 100 (60males and 40 females) students have been recruited. Two trainings and an orientation for all students have been conducted. Students were trained on critical thinking, report/memo writing, composition, and mandate of the National Assembly. All interns have been deployed to their respective areas of interest. Some interns are attached to a National Assembly Member (NAM) and others are attached to various select committees depending on their area of study. Interns report to work twice a week (2 hours

			each day). The internship program ends in December 2022. The mentorship program is currently in progress. 30 mentors have been selected and trained to mentor 200 students from six Senior Secondary Schools, three times a week. Each mentor has been assigned 6-7 students at a school within their community to ensure accessibility. Mentors will visit their mentees in their schools and/or meet virtually when necessary. The mentorship program ends in December 2022.
WANEP The Gambia	Civil Society	$20, 561.22	WANEP conducted community dialogue sessions/forums with young people on identifying grievances and implementing community mediation initiatives. WANEP also conducted consultations for the review of the Women's Bill through the CSO Gender Platform.
Network of Gender Based Violence (NGBV)	Civil Society	$40,560.03	NGBV through Think Young women trained 150 women leaders from different political parties. The training focused on building women's capacity in pursuing political leadership and was centered on enhancing their leadership skills, public speaking, and increasing their understanding of the importance of women's political participation.
Jokkolabs Banjul	An ICT Firm	$18,100	Jokkolabs built the national fact checking platform: www.factcheckgambia.org. For the first year of operation of the website, they provided technical support in its management. Before handing it over, they trained those who are now in charge of the operations and management of the platform, the Media Academy for Journalism and Communications (MAJAC). MAJAC was trained on the basic techniques of running a website, uploading stories, interacting with the website dashboard, etc.
Media Academy for Journalism for Communications (MAJAC-	Journalism Training School	$4,397	After building of the website, it was handover over to MAJAC to continue operating it. MAJAC serves as an independent entity that is accessible to all Gambian journalists for the publication of their fact checked stories. They

Gambia Press Union's entity)			were given small grants as a start to stimulate and spur journalists in the area of fact checking.
Mansafing Law Practice	Law and communication consultancy firm	$30,965	Mansafing Law Practice undertook the full competency gap assessment of young people on MIL across The Gambia. The report was later reviewed and validated by youth leaders and other stakeholders in the ICT and media industries.
Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia)	Civil Society	$87, 400	GYIN conducted a training needs assessment of 100 youths from selected youth organizations across the country. The assessment was undertaken to examine and analyze the organization and individual capacity of youth organisations and leaders on broad themes around peacebuilding and conflict management. Given that the capacity assessment identified the need to enhance the capacity of youth organizations in various aspects of conflict resolution and peacebuilding education, a comprehensive Training Manual on Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding for youth organizations was developed. Following the review and validation of the training manual, a capacity building workshop was organized for 50 youth leaders on conflict transformation and peacebuilding. GYIN also conducted a training of community media journalists on media and information literacy (MIL) and countering hate speech. In collaboration with the Department of Information, under the Ministry of Information, it also organised the review and validation of the Community Media Policy developed by UNESCO. Additionally, GYIN trained 20 youth associations selected from across the country to mainstream MIL into their policies and strategies, and thereafter guide and coached 10 associations to implement the activities in which a component of MIL is mainstreamed.

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International Press Centre (IPC)	Civil society	$17,663	IPC delivered a training of 50 journalists on conflict sensitive reporting, including countering hate speech and disinformation. The participants were selected from print, online and broadcast media. The training was designed to address real and potential challenges of conflict sensitive reporting in a fledgling democracy and partisan society like The Gambia.
Fact Space West Africa	Civil society	$35,170	Fact Space West Africa conducted the training of 30 journalists on fact checking. They were selected from print, online and broadcast media, including community radio representatives. The training focused on the role of fact-checkers in safeguarding elections and protecting democracies; how to fact-check politicians; digital tools for fact-checking, and how to identify 'fake news' in text, picture, video, and audio. In the wake of Covid-19, the training also explored how to tackle misinformation about the global pandemic. Fact Space also worked with youth leaders in the production of crowd-source and promote youth-created local content (audio and video) in English and local languages on various MIL topics. Over 40 products were developed.
Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism	Civil society	$39,090	Premium Times Center conducted the training of 80 youth leaders across the country on MIL, with focus on using MIL to foster their participation in peaceful and democratic public discourse. The training focused on themes such as: relevance of MIL in democracy and good governance; functions of media and other information providers; understanding the news, media and information ethics, and the relationship between journalism and society, as well as using MIL as a tool to counter hate speech and fake news.

Gender-responsive Budgeting:
Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes to gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 32.12%

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Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: $693,952.6

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: $650761.02

Project Gender Marker: GM2
Project Risk Marker: Low
Project PBF focus area:

Steering Committee and Government engagement
Does the project have an active steering committee?
Yes

If yes, please indicate how many times the Project Steering Committee has met over the last 6 months?
2

Please provide a brief description of any engagement that the project has had with the government over the last 6 months? Please indicate what level of government the project has been engaging with? (275 words max.)
The project *supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through a consultancy that reviewed and validated youth statutory legal instruments such as the National Youth Council Act, National Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative, and the National Sports Council Act. The objective of the review was to reflect young people's representation and participation in governance and leadership.*
Not Applicable

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: Fatima Sonko   *Fatima Sonko*
Project report approved by: Ms Ndeye Rose Sarr   *Rose Sarr*   28-Mar-2023
Did PBF Secretariat review the report: please select Yes

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PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Please rate the implementation status of the following preliminary/preparatory activities
(Not Started, Initiated, partially Completed, Completed, Not Applicable):

Contracting of Partners	Completed
Staff Recruitment	Completed
Collection of baselines	Completed
Identification of beneficiaries	Completed

Provide any additional descriptive information relating to the status of the project, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (250 word limit):

Overall, the project has been successfully completed.. All preliminary and preparatory activities including contracting of partners and staff recruitment has been done. All activities have been successfully implemented by the respective agencies, the end project evaluation is currently on-going and is expected to end in March 2023. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) has held two meetings during the project implementation phase. Collaboration and partnership between the implementing agencies and partners have been strengthened through review meetings, reflection sessions, and joint monitoring visits to measure the progress of project implementation, verify delivery of outputs and achievement of results, identify challenges, deviations, and lessons learnt for informed decision-making and corrective action.

Since its inception, the project has supported the establishment of platforms and mechanisms that promote and facilitate young women and men participation in peaceful democratic and decision-making processes. These platforms include the Youth Internet Radio, the Youth Peace and Security Situation room, the Youth Inter-Party Committee, mentorship and internship programs, and the fact-checking website, which are all fully established and functional. These platforms are providing young people with safe spaces to actively participate in decision-making processes and be agents of peace and social cohesion within their own communities.

The project has so far supported and facilitated the capacity building of 2,128 young people (1,268 females and 885 males) on political participation, mentorship, advocacy, peacebuilding and leadership through dialogue sessions and training. Overall assessments with partners and participating communities indicate a high understanding of the importance of inclusion of young women and men in decision-making processes, and the key role they play in social cohesion and peacebuilding. This is also reflected in the joint monitoring report of the project.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (550 word limit):

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The Project has contributed significantly to enhancing political awareness, participation, and inclusion of young people in peaceful democratic processes and strengthening their capacity as advocates against hate speech within the target communities. It has availed young people especially young women the platform and safe space for engagement.

From its inception, the project has trained and engaged 2,128 young men and women in the seven administrative regions through community and intergenerational dialogue sessions and other innovative initiatives which has increased their participation in traditional community conflict mitigation and as agents of peace and social cohesion. Trained participants have reported leading community initiatives such as football tournaments, Bantaba sessions, and door-to-door visits continuing the advocacy on peace and social cohesion. Young people within the target communities where these training were held are now actively participating in peace initiatives, political participation, and conflict resolution.

As part of the institutional strengthening, the project supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through a consultancy that reviewed and validated youth statutory legal instruments such as the National Youth Council Act, National Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative, and the National Sports Council Act. The objective of the review was to reflect young people's representation and participation in governance and leadership. National and regional consultations were conducted to inform the provisions in all four instruments. The drafts are ready and currently with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) for review and subsequent tabling at the National Assembly.

At the structural level and in efforts to ensure and promote women and youth political participation in the 2022 parliamentary elections, the project supported two campaign initiatives (#Askawoman2run and Not too young to run campaign) to accelerate the attainment of youth participation, especially for women in the National assembly to inspire young people to be part of decision-making processes at all levels. UNFPA in collaboration with IRI, UNDP, and the Gender Platform supported an advocacy campaign "#Askawoman2Run" for 19 female aspirants. The campaign raised the profile of the female aspirants and created awareness of the importance of female representation. The campaign reached a total of 150,000 people. As a result, two women were elected, and another was nominated by the President to serve as parliamentarians in the 6th parliament. In addition, the project also supported the establishment of the regional Youth Branch of the InterParty Committee (YoBIPC) structures across all seven regions. The YoBIPC is made up of 72 members which cuts across all political parties in the Gambia to ensure equal representation in all regions.

The Not too young to run campaign implemented by ACTIVISTA (a youth CSO Group) targeted various stakeholders in 32 communities and raised awareness on youth political participation, peacebuilding, and providing safe space for youth candidates. Seventeen young male aspirants were supported out of which four were elected as parliamentarians.

At the societal level, the project has also greatly contributed to increasing awareness of fake news and hate speech, especially in the media and political arena. Across the country, particularly among media professionals and youth leaders, there is a huge interest in the information ecosystem, having been exposed to the potency of media information in triggering conflict. A total of 80 journalists, and 120 youth leaders have been trained on fact checking, conflict sensitive reporting, and media and information literacy.

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<p style="text-align:center">***THIS TEMPLATE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF QUESTIONS IN THE ONLINE REPORTING FORM: IT IS INTENDED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE REPORTING QUESTIONS***</p>

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- *"On track" refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- *"On track with peacebuilding results" refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

How many outcomes does the project have? 2

Outcome 1: **Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels**

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track

Progress summary: *(350 word limit)*
The Project has increased the participation and capacity of 1050 young people across the seven regions through intergenerational dialogue sessions with security forces, Civil society organizations and political actors to enhance mutual understanding, foster respect for the rule of law, and the maintenance of peace and stability. The dialogues provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss security and peace issues, pre- and post-December 4th Presidential elections, as well as build capacities required amongst young people to serve as peace agents in addressing emerging conflict threats. Additionally, 60 aspiring and well-seasoned young female politicians from existing political parties across the country's seven regions trained reported increased practical knowledge and skills to effectively participate at all levels including the National Assembly.

Following the establishment of the Youth branch of the Inter Party committee, a 40-member national executive body (23 males and 17 females) from 18 political parties were capacitated and provided with the necessary tools to promote peace and tolerance and a safe space for youth leadership. This was evident during the parliamentary election as young people took the lead in spearheading peace advocacy campaigns to ensure peaceful elections across the country. The establishment of the regional Youth Branch of the Inter-Party Committee (YoBIPC) structures across all seven regions also increased the participation of young people in political processes particularly in rural area through the Inter-party committee structure. The YoBIPC is made up of 72 members which cuts across all political parties in the Gambia to ensure equal representation.

The project also supported the development of an advocacy strategy which serves as a working document for the YOBIC in engaging diverse stakeholders to advocate for active youth participation in political discourse through awareness campaigns, empowerment programs, networking, and political reforms involving critical stakeholders at all levels (local, regional, and national level).

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Leading up to the 2022 parliamentary election held in April 2022, the project supported a campaign which was designed to increase awareness and participation of young people in the election process through the 'Not too young to run, campaign' held in 32 communities across four regions of the country. The campaign reached 550 community members and supported 17 young men that contested the National Assembly elections, of which 4 were elected by their constituents as parliamentarians.

Following an assessment of the capacities of youth associations (national and regional) in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, a Training Manual on conflict prevention and peacebuilding was developed to address the gaps and training needs and standardize training on this area. 50 youth leaders have been trained on the manual and are now using it to conduct step-down engagements at community levels.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: *(350 word limit)*

The mentorship training on political participation and inclusion in decision-making was for young women. The training empowered them with practical knowledge and skills needed to increase their participation at all levels. The 'Not too young to run' campaign engaged 70% of the youth in the target communities, during the outreach campaign on peacebuilding and political participation through which 4 young men got elected as parliamentarians. For the community dialogue sessions,90% were young people of which 65% were women.

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 1 in the table below
- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.1 Percentage of political parties with regulations allocating at least 20% of their executive positions to young people	0	50%	This indicator is on track as project partners engaged political party leaderships to advocate for this shift	Structures such as the women and youth branch of the inter-party committee has been set up and will continue the advocacy within their parties for the executive quota allocation to young people. Most of the party leaders have

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
(40% being young women)				agreed to this in principle but are yet to implement it.
Indicator 1.2 Percentage of young people (m/f) who engage in leadership dialogue and consultation with community and opinion leaders	10%	35% (40% young women)	60% of women participation in dialogue sessions. A total of 20 sessions have been conducted A total of 10 youth organisations, including three women-led organisations and an organisation of persons with disabilities , have conducted community sensitisation with their various constituents on media and information literacy as a tool to counter conflict triggers such as hate speech and disinformation	
Indicator 1.3 Reduced involvement of young people in political violence in targeted regions	0	40%	Perception Survey is being concluded by the University of the Gambia. Indicator will be recorded in the final project narrative report.	

How many Outputs does Outcome 1 have? 3

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 1 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators

Output 1.1: Youth leadership and participation increased in political decision-making processes at party executive and national level

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.1.1 The National Inter-Party Committee Memorandum of Understanding revised to recognize the Inter-Party Youth Committee and make provisions for substantive collaboration	No	Yes	Yes. The YoBPIC has been recognized in the IPC MOU since its establishment.	
Indicator 1.1.2 Percentage of young men in youth political wings who believe in the importance of participation of their female counterparts	0	60%	90% (Source: Research study by UTG)	
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of intra and interparty youth dialogue sessions conducted with active participation of party-political leadership	0	22	(22) dialogues conducted on peaceful election and district level intergenerational dialogues on peace and social cohesion with active participation of political party leaders	
Indicator 1.1.4 Inter-party youth committee advocacy strategy for strategic communication on good governance and bipartisan youth	0	1	This indicator is achieved. The advocacy strategy for the interparty youth committee has been developed and is currently	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
engagement and involvement in peaceful electoral processes developed.			being used by its members.	
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of youth statutory instruments developed or revised that reflect youth engagement and participation in leadership and political decision-making processes	0	3	This indicator has been achieved as four youth statutory documents have been reviewed and validated through NYC	These are National Youth council act, Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative, and the Sports Council Act have been reviewed and validated to reflect young people's engagement in governance and leadership. The Bills are expected to be tabled at the National Assembly by the Ministry of Youths and Sports.

Output 1.2: Youth mobilized as key actors to engage in community dialogue initiatives to enhance inclusion and sustainable peace including prevention of electoral violence

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.2.1 Percentage of mobilized youth key actors (m/f) who implemented community peace initiatives	0	40%	90%	This activity has been completed, key youth actors have been trained and have implemented community peace initiatives in their communities of origin
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of policy briefs, fact sheets and technical analysis on young people produced.	0	16	9 Five Policy briefs and four fact check have been developed: **Policy briefs on** - Youth Employment, challenges, and remedies	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
			- Human Rights, Knowledge level, and violations - Women Access to Natural Resources - Factors Affecting Women and Youth Effective Participation in Election in The Gambia - Women and Youth in leadership, status and factors affecting them **Fact Sheets on** - Natural Resources - Human Rights - Political participation of Women and Youth - Youth Unemployment	
Indicator 1.2.3 NYC situation room and early warning crisis response centre functional	No	Yes	The situation room center is fully functional	
Indicator 1.2.4 Percentage of young people (m/f) in conflict hotspots trained as election observers that participate in 2021 elections.	0	60%	90%	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.2.5 % of trained youth association leaders who have conducted activities promoting peace in their community	0	40%	60%	A total of 50 youth leaders from across the five regions of the project were trained on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In a post training follow up with the beneficiary organizations three months after, more than 60% reported that they have undertaken stepdown engagements in one form or the other.

Output 1.3: Improved intergenerational dialogue to maintain community peace and understanding

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.3.1 Percentage of traditional and religious leaders that attend intergenerational dialogue sessions and serve as advocates for youth involvement in leadership at community, regional and national level	5%	20%	23%.	A total of 86 traditional and religious leaders participated in dialogue session across the seven regions of the country.
Indicator 1.3.2 Number of dialogue sessions organized between security forces and young people to promote understanding and	0	7	8 dialogue session were held.	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
peaceful co-existence.				

Output 1.4: Increased student capacities through assistanceship/mentorship to generate data/evidence and policy briefs information for public discourse on youth participation and inclusion in decision- making activities

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.4.1 Number of youth-related policy forums conducted with active participation and engagement of policy makers	0	5	10 youth related policy forums were conducted (e.g., YouthConnekt, International Youth Day)	
Indicator 1.4.2 Number of young graduates who benefited from 6-12 months' research internship and assistantship.	0	56	100	100 students have been selected and are benefitting from the Internship program with the National Assembly through the University of the Gambia which is due to end in December 2022.
Indicator 1.4.3 Percentage of successful youth-led community peace mediation initiatives supported through small grants	0	50%	100%	25 young men and women successfully implanted peace initiatives in their respective communities after a 10day training and award of grants.

Outcome 2: Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track

Progress summary: *(350 word limit)*

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Following the launching of the national fact-checking platform, Fact Check Gambia (www.factcheckgambia.org), in October 2021 through the project, a total of more than 100 well-researched articles and related content were published i.e., an average of 10 articles per month. The articles covered all sectors including politics, governance, Covid_19, and the economy. The Fact Check Gambia website has become a one-stop shop for people of all walks of life that are interested in verified content in the face of misinformation. The local and domestic election missions for December 2021 presidential and April 2022 parliamentary elections hailed the tremendous efforts by the fact-checkers in keeping at bay fake information and deliberate distortions, usually for political gains. The content providers of the platform are journalists who were trained in fact-checking through the project.

There is now high level of awareness and consciousness about media and information literacy across The Gambia, especially among the young people and the media sector. In addition, MIL is now widely accepted and mainstreamed by some organisations. In the media sector, at least two organisations now have desk officers on 'media monitoring' through which the media entity proactively flags, and counters hate speech and disinformation. In the youth sector, several organisations have reported the integration of MIL into their outreach activities, especially as it relates to young people's online engagements, particularly social media.

The project also supported the development of two fact sheets and two policy briefs in the areas of human rights, youth employment, and young people's participation in governance and leadership. This further informed and equipped key stakeholders with information and data to enhance and create a safe space for youth political participation.

The "She Champions Peace" was also launched as part of the project to leverage on the influential role women play in promoting sustainable peace and development at the grassroots. She Champions Peace trained 20 influential women including PWDs from each region on peacebuilding, UNSCR-1325 and UNSCR-2250. This equipped the selected women with knowledge and skills on how to effectively take part in peacebuilding and how they can translate these landmark resolutions to promote effective participation of young women in peacebuilding and decision-making processes. Young women in these communities have committed to support female aspirants in the upcoming local government elections in 2023.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: *(350 word limit)*

Activities under this Outcome were mainly youth focused i.e., the target beneficiaries were 100% young people with at least 70% women, and 30% PWDs. Consideration was given to women led organisations and PWDs. In addition, 40% of the trained journalists were also female (18 males and 12 females, 30youth).

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 2 in the table below
- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.

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- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1 Percent of young people (m/f) who believe that the level of political violence within their community has decreased	0	40%	45% (Source Research Study by UTG)	
Indicator 2.2 Percent of young people (m/f) who report experiencing hate speech within their communities.	0	30%	57% (Source Research Study by UTG)	
Indicator 2.3 Percent of young people (m/f) who know how to respond to hate speech without violence	0	40%	87% (Source Research Study by UTG)	

How many Outputs does Outcome 2 have? 5

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 2 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators

Output 2.1: Young people as champions of positive messaging and community change makers

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1.1 A youth-led online radio station established and is operational.	**0**	**1**	**1** Youth online radio has been set up and is functional	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1.2 Number of youth-produced content, used to sensitize peers on MIL and hate-neutral speech	0	40%	Out of the 80 youth leaders, from across the country, trained on media and information literacy (MIL), at least 30 have directly conducted stepdown engagement on how MIL is used to counter hate speech and disinformation, main triggers of conflict in a low-literate and partisan society like The Gambia. In addition, 10 others have used their MIL training knowledge and recorded video and audio messages to raise awareness about the dangers of hate speech, disinformation, the need for tolerance and respect for diversity. In addition to English, the audios and videos were recorded in the major local languages spoken in the country. In a nutshell, at least 40% of the trained youth leaders have conducted different initiatives across the country geared towards consolidating peace in the country	
Indicator 2.1.3 Crowd-source and promote youth-created local content (radio and	0	20 (30% by women)	This target is surpassed by more than 100%. Instead of 20 youth-created content, a total of 44 was created: 22	The 30% target of women could not be met here because the percentage of women that attended the training on the production of MIL content

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
video) in English and local languages on various MIL topics to stimulate tolerance and hate-neutral speech.			videos, and 22 audios. Almost each content was created in English and translated into at least one other local language. Precisely, 27.3% of the audios were produced by women. For budgetary reasons, only a few of the created content were selected for broadcasting on the television and radio stations. Beyond that, given the high penetration of internet among young people, selected content was also sponsored and promoted on Facebook and Twitter.	was only 27.3%. All of them were involved in the production of content. Even though more women were invited for the training, some of them could not attend because it was apparently at a time when a lot of the young women from the provincial regions were involved with their parents at the farms. Besides, on the limitation in airing the products, this was largely due to the shortfall in the budget. What the television stations, particularly, were charging was more than the budget could support.

Output 2.2: Media practitioners and youth mobilized and engaged as community peace mediators and advocates against hate speech at party political and all levels

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.2.1 Number of youth-led organizations, per region, whose capacities are enhanced to integrate MIL in their operations, with a focus on tackling hate speech at community level	0	35% (40% young women)	A total of 10 youth organisations, including three women-led organisations and an organisation of differently abled persons, have conducted community sensitisation with their various constituents on media and information literacy as a tool to counter conflict triggers such as	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
			hate speech and disinformation	
Indicator 2.2.2 Number of media professionals, and media houses, that have developed fact-checking skills and are contributing to fact-checking platform	0	60 professionals (30% of women) / 15 media houses (at least 4 women-led media houses)	A total of 50 journalists were trained from at least 23 media houses. For women representation, it was 46% of the participants. Four media houses that were either owned or led by women were also part of the training which equipped journalists with skills and knowledge in in setting agenda for a peaceful democratic society especially through peaceful electoral processes and the conduct of violence-free, fair and credible elections. These journalists are not just contributing to sanitising the media through fact checking, they also serve as vanguard against hate speech propagated through the media.	For lack of expertise locally to lead such training, a lead trainer was recruited from Nigeria. Because of the cost inherent in getting an international expert, the training participants were slightly reduced from 60 to 50.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Is the project planning any significant events in the next 6 months (eg. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc.) No

If yes, please state how many, and for each, provide the approximate date of the event and a brief description, including its key objectives, target audience and location (if known)

Event Description	*Tentative Date*	*Location*	*Target Audience*	*Event Objectives (150 word limit)*

Human Impact

This section is about the human impact of the project. Please state the number of key stakeholders of the project, and for each, please briefly describe:
  i.   The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation
  ii.   The impact of the project on their lives
  iii. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group

Key stakeholder	What were the challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation? (350 words max)	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (350 words max)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group (350 words max)
Young women and men	Youth and women remain under-represented at the highest levels of decision-making processes. They face structural, socio-economic and institutional barriers to political participation. Currently, only nine out of the 58 members of the National Assembly are youth. In the executive, none of the cabinet positions are filled by youth. However, while the numbers are low at the legislative and executive, young people constitute a larger number of seats at the local government level and are often involved in their	Through this project, young men and women were mobilized to participate in community dialogue initiatives at intra and intergenerational levels that enhanced inclusion, social cohesion and within their communities. Over 2,128 young people (1,268 females and 885 males) were trained on political participation,	"*The country belongs to the youths and women because they are the majority. We have been clapping and we are tired and need our place at the decision-making table. I am calling on my fellow women to come out and seek elective positions such as Councillorships and Council Chairpersons. I am happy to take part in such platforms that raise awareness on our participation in politics even at the grassroots level*" Aja Kaddy Fall Bojang Lady Counselor Brikama

communities and grassroot organisations. These show the gaps in youth participation as they continue to face under-representation at the executive level in most of the political party structures, yet they make 57.7% of registered voters according to the IEC 2021 voter register. In the recently conducted Presidential and Parliamentary elections, despite the unavailability of the age disaggregation of the voter turnout, it is estimated that the youth made up the largest population of the voter turnout. This indicates an overall will and determination from the youth to be more involved in political and decision-making processes, despite their participation being often restricted to the civil society space and does not translate into government, political parties, and traditional political positions. The project recognized the need to reflect youth and women's engagement in governance and leadership and enhance their involvement in violence prevention, peace promotion and social cohesion which inspired the project's interventions.	mentorship, advocacy, peacebuilding and leadership through dialogue sessions and training. This enhanced their skills and raised awareness of the importance of their participation in decision-making processes, and the key role they play in social cohesion and peace-building. The project also supported the review of statutory legal instruments such as the National Youth Council Act, Strategic Plans and policy documents to adequately reflect young peoples' priorities. The legal instruments are currently with the Ministry of Youth and Sport ready to be tabled at the National Assembly for consideration.	*"I am happy to see that PWDS are invited and included in these training and engagements. This is my first time that I have been given the opportunity to enhance my knowledge and skills. This is also my first time even speaking in an opening ceremony as a PWD. Without this platform, my silence would have continued."* Fatoummatta Manneh Basse *"I am grateful that there is consideration for training grassroot decentralized structures. These structures are the entry point for development at community level. The training has empowered my colleagues and I to be able to fulfill our mandates. Citizens participation is important to development and it is crucial to empower grassroots decentralized structures to embrace development initiatives."* Lamin I. L. Bojang Chairman Kerewan Area Council *"The youth just need support, love and a sense of belonging. If we have communities that are inclusive, care about the wellbeing of the youth and give us open arms for collaborations in community development, we will surely have sustainable peace and development. The inter-generational and inter-sectoral dialogue has now opened the doors to easily engage each other. I now spend*

			time with security personnel in my community which was never welcomed." – Ebrima Touray, North Bank Region *"Women and young people are the largest constituent in most communities, but when it comes to issues which matter most in these communities, their opinions are usually not considered as men. This is not helpful in building inclusive societies", she said. She encouraged her fellow participants to keep having the conversation on equality and inclusion in their homes and neighborhood in order to raise awareness on the importance of equality and inclusion."* Joye Sonko Essa NBR
Journalists / media practitioners	At the beginning of the project, fact checking was foreign to the Gambian media. Even though the very profession of journalism entails checking and verifying facts, fact-checking techniques are broader than traditional verification performed by journalists. For instance, it follows and verifies claims and statements of officials or people in authority who ought to know but who, for different reasons, want to side-step the facts. The training for everyday journalism does not cover such skills. However, in The Gambia, the problem	Thanks to the training on fact checking, and countering hate speech and disinformation, the Gambian media is consolidating its rightful responsibility in the country's fledgling democratic transition process. Fact checking is now a niche for a lot of journalists and media houses. Almost all the major media houses have a trained fact checker	*"For me, coming from the broadcast media [radio station, precisely], one thing I took from the training is to be sensitive to the kind of people to invite for live radio shows; to make sure we don't invite people who are going to fan tension or castigate others using our platform. That is one thing I have been practising since the training. I make sure I do background research to better understand the thinking and view of the people I want to interview so that to remove, if not to eliminate totally, the risk of getting people on my platform to cause or fan conflict."*

	was even worse because even the core journalism training as practiced in the country has a lot of shortcomings as can be observed in the limited quality of news media outputs. With the rise and importance of social media in the Gambian society, and the proliferation of information by everyone, the need for skills in fact checking became so paramount. But beyond fact checking, as the Gambian media society is getting more and more partisan and polarized giving rise to conflict triggers like hate speech, there was also an increasing need for journalists to be conflict-sensitive in their reporting. Like the skills of fact checking, there was dearth of skills on conflict-sensitive journalism in The Gambia hence the cliché 'publish and damn' phenomenon.	and the central fact checking platform established by UNESCO under this project is regularly fed with different kind of fact check articles. At least two of the media houses have dedicated desk officers on fact checking. On the aspect of countering hate speech and disinformation, journalists are now in the forefront flagging hate speeches and disinformation that when unchecked could degenerate into conflict.	*Banna Sabally* *Reporter at West Coast Radio* *"I learned from the training how to recognise and flag hate speech. I have now started flagging hate speech. My media house, Gainako online, has flagged hate speech twice during the campaign period of the National Assembly elections in April 2022, For fact checking, I personally have published more than 15 fact checked articles on Fact Check Gambia [website] alone."* Yusef Taylor Gainako online newspaper *"Since the training, I changed my approach to writing certain stories, especially stories on politics and religion. Now when I submit my stories for editing, I sit with the editors to make sure they don't inadvertently add things that could cause or trigger potential conflict. Before now, as soon as I am done writing my stories, I submit them to editors and leave. But you would realise that sometimes the editors could add things that may look somehow, perhaps they are not privileged to have the kind of training that we in the field benefit from."* Omar Bah The Standard newspaper

In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had. (650 word limit):

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You can also upload upto 3 files in various formats (picture files, powerpoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and 3 links to online resources (OPTIONAL)

Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (*350 word limit*) ● *Monthly coordination meetings are held with the UN sister agencies on the progress and challenges in implementation.* ● *The Project conducted one review meeting with all the project implementing partners and sub-contractee on the progress, challenges and lessons learned during implementation.* ● *The different agencies conduct onsite periodic monitoring of individual activities by implementing partners* ● *Two joint monitoring was conducted for the project with implementing agencies and partners. About 90% of the project activities implemented so far country wide were monitored using random sampling method*	Do outcome indicators have baselines? No If yes, please provide a brief description Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes If yes, please provide a brief description (350word limit) *A Research was conducted on the prevalence of hate speech to ascertain the level and magnitude of hate speech in the media. A survey conducted by ACTIVISTA (a youth organisation) on people's perception on governance, and democratic transition has also been completed and validated.*
Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? Yes	Evaluation budget (response required): $50,000 If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (*350 word limit*): *The project end evaluation has been conducted and concluded. The project was evaluated based on the OECD DAC evaluation criteria to measure the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, coherence, and relevance. The evaluation concludes that the project was highly effective, impactful and coherent however more work is needed on the sustainability aspect and translating and applying lessons learned to future projects of this nature*
Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started.	Name of funder: Amount: *European Union, through WANEP 34,000 Euros* *International Organisation for Migration 8,000 USD*

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	Both funds supported the production of fact checks.
Catalytic Effect (non-financial): Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur? *Please select* ☐ No catalytic effect X Some catalytic effect ☐ Significant catalytic effect ☐ Very Significant catalytic effect ☐ Don't Know ☐ Too early to tell	*The collaboration between the IRI, UNDP, and UNFPA and the Gender platform on the campaign* *#AskAWoman2Run and the women reservation bill has been catalytic in that each agency played a significant coordination role amplifying the role and voices of young women and men.* *The upcoming GPI-2.0 project took inspiration from this project to continue supporting women's inclusion in governance and decision making.* *The commencement of fact-checking with the launching of Fact Check Gambia has ignited interest on fact-checking to tackle the rising menace of false information and hate-filled rhetoric. Several youth and civil society organisations that did not even directly benefit from the project activities now venture into fact-checking and flagging hate speech.*

Sustainability: Does the project have an explicit exit strategy? Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains beyond the duration of the project (350 word limit)

To ensure sustainability, most platforms set up by the project has been handed over to established institutions to manage and incorporate as part of their regular operations. Some of these platforms include the Fact-checking Website, Youth Internet Radio, Youth Peace and Security Situation Room, Youth Inter-Party Committee. Implementing Agencies have each committed their implementing partners to include the operations of the respective platforms in their annual workplans and set up plans to generate income for continued sustenance. The NYC has also been made the custodians of the legal instruments that are currently with the MoYS to ensure its subsequent consideration at the National Assembly.

Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(350 word limit)*