

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



COUNTRY: Liberia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: FINAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2022

Project Title: Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing, and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00118934

<p>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund</p> <p>Name of Recipient Fund: N/A</p>	<p>Type and name of recipient organizations:</p> <p>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment _UN Women (Convening Agency)</p> <p>United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p>
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Date of first transfer: 2 December 2019
Project end date: 27 November 2021
Is the current project end date within 6 months? N/A (Final Report)

Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:

Gender promotion initiative

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 (\$)
UN Women	\$ 1,238,577.60	\$ 1,238,577.60	\$ 1,237,987.80
OHCHR	\$ 261,422.40	\$261,422.40	\$ 243,954.27
TOTAL	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,482,531.81

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: **98.8%**

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

The budget templates are available [here](#)

Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 80%

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: US\$ 1,200,000.00

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: 1,200,000.00

Project Gender Marker: GM3

Project Risk Marker: Low

Project PBF focus area: (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Ghoma Karloweah (UN Women), Leetor Williams (OHCHR), Emebet Geda (UN Women)

Project report approved by: Comfort Lamptey (UN Women) and Uchenna Emelonye (OHCHR)

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
- *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e., contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500-character limit):

Project implementation cycle has been completed. The final evaluation has been conducted. The evaluation assessed the achievements of the project in an inclusive way and to determine its overall added value to peacebuilding in Liberia. It answered questions related to the evaluation criteria of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including relevance, development efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, in addition to assessing the program on Gender, Equity and Human Rights principles.

The evaluation report was shared with the evaluation management team and reference groups and was validated, finalized, and disseminated.

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. (1500-character limit):

Line Ministries and Government Agencies are allocating resources for the implementation of the NAP WPS. For example, the Ministry of Internal Affairs under its Gender unit allocated USD 20 000, - for gender activities also covering the NAPWPS. Furthermore, the development of a toolkit on GRPB contributed to the observed increase in gender budget /resources by the government of Liberia from USD 200,000.00 to USD 300,000.00 in the 2021 and 2022 national fiscal budgets with a certain extent to the implementation of some NAP WPS activities.

In addition, capacity of targeted women's organizations, and networks including the (WONGOSOL) enhanced in monitoring the implementation of the NAP WPS and other treaty at national level. As results, the evaluation found that the Shadow Report of CSO platform of Liberia on the 9th Periodic Report of Liberia Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was produced. The project also effectively addressed toxic masculinities that was identified in the baseline study conducted in 2019 as a hindering factor of the advancement of the WPS agenda at national and county levels.

Furthermore, this project successfully supported the capacity building and development of the GOL representatives and involved stakeholders on innovative financing and supported the design of two projects planned to generate financial resources for the peacebuilding activities of the Second NAP WPS (2019-2023).

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.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: Targeted Line Ministries Government Agencies and local governments are implementing the NAP WPS in a more effective manner by generating financial resources through innovative Financing and GRB and by creating monitoring and accountability mechanisms and capacities.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track with peacebuilding results

Progress summary: (3000-character limit)

Government ministries began to implement the NAP and WPS in a more effective manner by allocating resources through GRPB. In 2021/2022 fiscal year, the government increased its commitment to the NAP WPS by allocating USD 70,000 to enhance the capacity of the National Gender-responsive planning and budgeting Coordination Unit and US\$ 1.2 million to the social development sector through its national budget of which most of the activities were linked to various aspect of the implementation of the NAP WPS. Through the support of this project, government capacity was strengthen within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Gender Children, and Social Protection to allocate resources to support the NAP. Additionally, in the 2021/2022 budget circle, the Ministry of Internal Affairs under its Gender Unit allocated USD 20 000 for gender activities related to NAP WPS. Furthermore, for the very first time, there was an increased in gender budget from USD 200,000.00 in 2021/22 to USD 300,000.00 in the 2022/23 national fiscal budgets to allocate funds for the implementation of some NAP WPS activities.

The institutionalization of the Implementation Structure of the NAP WPS which includes the National Steering Committee (NSC), the Technical Working Group (TWG), the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Unit (ME&L) as well as the County Taskforce and District Champions in two counties has strengthen the capacity of national and local actors to implement and create awareness on the NAP WPS. These officials, CSO partners and networks have over the timeframe of the project increased knowledge on GRB, Innovative Financing, WPS NAP which is effective the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NAP WPS at all levels.

The capacity building and development of the GOL representatives and involvement stakeholders on innovative financing supported the design of two projects planned to generate financial resources for the peacebuilding activities of the Second NAP WPS (2019-2023) namely “Women Economic Empowerment and Campaign to end Violence Against Women and Girls to be promoted by Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI)” and “Women Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion in Liberia (WEFIL) to be promoted by Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)”. The revenues mobilized through the innovative financing strategy linked to the two projects are expected to finance the full costs of the NAP WPS, providing a revolving fund to ensure the sustainability of the NAP and new projects.

Toxic masculinities identified in the baseline study conducted in 2019 as a hindering factor of the advancement of the WPS agenda at national and county levels was addressed through capacity building initiatives at both community and national levels by targeting men and boys on understanding masculinity and ending violence against women and girls. Additionally, this initiative also addressed some of the causes of conflict and peacebuilding gaps including property and limited economic opportunities for women and high youth unemployment, land tenure and property rights and exclusion of women, rural women, women with disabilities and young women from peacebuilding processes by mobilizing resources through GRB and innovative financing for the implementation of the Second NAP WPS.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

The joint project conducted a baseline survey at its early stage (2019) and consulted a total of 21 strategic stakeholders and implementing partners at national and county levels. The involvement such a high number of partners and stakeholders was to ensure at the design stage that the “Leave no-one Behind” principles were considered. Furthermore, People With Disability (PWD) were actively involved through the National Union of Disabled in the design phase to capture the needs and priorities of women and girls living with disabilities in Peace and Security related issues in Liberia. Needs of people with disabilities were integrated into the training manual on human rights. Partners also identified other marginalized groups (including survivors) at the community level as beneficiaries. The active involvement of marginalized groups in this joint project contributed to its alignment with the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, which places gender equality at the centre of Africa’s development and commits to ending all forms of oppression and gender-based discrimination.

An assessment of the knowledge gap on gender, masculinities, human rights standards, Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) was validated, and its findings and recommendations were incorporated in the project implementations. For example, 33.3% of the stakeholders said they had no knowledge of the plan. Whilst more than half, 57.7% of the respondents pointed out that they did not have a copy of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. Relative to the understanding of roles and responsibilities in implementing the plan, 48.1% of the respondents did not know their roles and responsibilities, while 13.5% point out that they need information on their roles and responsibilities. These gaps were incorporated in the institutionalization of the Implementation Structure.

Outcome 2: More women, including marginalized women, in targeted counties hold the government accountable for the NAP WPS and support the implementation of the peacebuilding related activities of the NAP WPS.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track with peacebuilding results

Progress summary: (3000-character limit)

Significant transformation reported by members of NAP WPS Taskforces in Grand Bassa after completing trainings on Gender Concept and UNSCR 1325 including NAP WPS. Currently members of the structure are now implementing awareness raising activities in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. Whilst in Nimba, the NAP WPS taskforce has begun integrating WPS in their local plans.

Peace hut and non-peace hut women were capacitated through various activities on WPS /HRBA. In Grand Bassa, some peace hut women participated in some county sittings. Whilst at the taskforce level, women are actively participating in the meetings /sittings. In Nimba, it was reported that Peace hut women attended a total of 2 coordination meetings of the NAP WPS County Taskforce since its establishment. However, in Grand Bassa the peace hut women participating only in Taskforce meetings.

An Advocacy tool was also produced with the title “Effective and Efficient Advocacy. A tool for engagement with partners on ensuring the implementation of the WPS NAP” to support further evidence- based advocacy on NAP WPS implementation in Liberia as well as a Manual for Training of Trainers (TOT) in Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) to address the capacity deficit for mainstreaming Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) into the national budget processes. Utilizing these manuals, there are positive transformations regarding the monitoring, reporting and evidence-based advocacy for the implementation of the NAP WPS because of the capacity development and strengthening conducted for Women’s Organizations, local authorities, and the peace huts in Nimba and Grand Bassa on GRB, advocacy, WPS and HRBA.

The project conducted a perception assessment and Gender & power analysis as planned to identify main challenges that were addressed by various awareness raising activities involving men. In addition, awareness raising activities & performing and visual arts with the title “Drama MenEngaged” written and produced by Talking Drum Studio were implemented to Support Women’s Rights and Shift Perceptions around Gender Stereotypes in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties between September to October 2021. These initiatives have addressed the prevailing socio cultural and traditional norms and perceptions preventing women from participating in peace and security related activities, interventions and discussions.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

(1000 character limit)

The project applied a participatory approach that ensured active involvement women-led civil society organizations and community-based organizations inclusive peace hut women in Nimba and Grand Bassa. At the community level, there were efforts to promote women participation local leadership. Through the complimentary efforts of this project women are now serving as paramount, clan, sessional and town chiefs, which have been traditional positions reserved for men. They are now demanding shares and participating in land

discussion. Though these cannot be totally credited to this project, it provided training and awareness among women in the communities on women participation in leadership.

Selected youth, particularly the young men and some elders were trained by Talking Drum Studio and participated only in awareness raising activities on "Positive Masculinity and Gender Awareness".

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Using the **Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments**- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at the outcome level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the 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. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Targeted Line Ministries Government Agencies and local governments are implementing the NAP WPS in a more effective manner by generating financial resources through	Indicator 1.1 Number of Line Ministries and Government Agencies that allocate resources for the implementation of the NAP WPS	Ministry of Justice (2019)	At least 2 additional Line Ministries	One Ministry or Government Agency per year	Three additional Line ministries allocated resources for activities linked to the NAP WPS. In 2020/2021 the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Finance and Development Planning. Whilst Ministry of Internal Affairs under its Gender unit allocated resources for gender activities which also covered NAP WPS related activities for this year 2021/2022.	
	Indicator 1.2 Amount of resources allocated by the government for the implementation of the NAP WPS	USD 16,000 (2019)	At least USD 50,000 (2021/2022 budget cycle)	At least USD 25,000 (2020/2021 budget cycle)	In the 2020/2021 national budget an additional US\$ 70,000 was allocated for GRPB activities linked to activities related to NAP WPS implementation. Moreover, there	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
innovative Financing and GRB and by creating monitoring and accountability mechanisms and capacities.					was an increase in gender budget by the government of Liberia from USD 200,000.00 to USD 300,000.00 in the 2021/22 national fiscal budgets. This budget was reported to contribute to a certain extent to the implementation of some NAP WPS activities. This also includes USD 20,000.00 allocated by the gender unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.	
	Indicator 1.3 Number of innovative financing mechanism developed nationally and started mobilizing resources	2019: 0	2021: At least 2	An Innovative financing strategy (IFS) developed	An innovative financing Strategy developed. Additionally, an inclusive implementation plan and IFFL was validated by the Government of Liberia in August 2021	The validated IFS and its implementation are not yet operational as it must now go through legislature to be effective. Consultations are still pending with the National Legislature on the IFS due to competing priorities of the Lawmakers.
Outcome 2 More women,	Indicator 2.1 Number of Targeted Counties (Grand Bassa	0 (2019)	At least 2 counties	At least one targeted local government	Two counties (Grand Bassa and Nimba) out of the	This is due to challenges in localizing the costed

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
including marginalized women, in targeted counties hold the government accountable for the NAP WPS and support the implementation of the peacebuilding related activities of the NAP WPS	and Nimba) that integrate peacebuilding activities from the NAP WPS into local plans and budgets				fifteen counties in Liberia in integrating peacebuilding activities from the NAP 1325 into local plans and budgets. The capacity building activities on WPS and GRB were effectively conducted with the officials in these targeted counties. NAP WPS county Taskforce established in February 2022 in Grand Bassa is actively implementing awareness raising activities on WPS in Buchanan. The development of a costed local plan is not yet initiated.	NAP WPS at the district level.
	Indicator 2.2 Women, including marginalized women in targeted counties (Grand Bassa and Nimba), that participate in local sittings.	Baseline: 0	Target: At least 25 by the end of the project	At least 15	The peace-hut and non-peace hut women were capacitated on WPS related issues including economic empowerment in line with Relief and Recovery Pillar of the NAP WPS. In the two (2) targeted counties, some peace-hut women were invited to join some local sittings.	The taskforce in both counties is resource challenged to involve taskforce members in communities far from the county capitals where the meetings are hosted.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
					In Nimba for example, Peace hut women attended a total of two (2) coordination meetings.	

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):

Although the project has ended, but its catalytic effect has led to the midterm review of the NAP WPS (ongoing) and within the next six months, additional two county taskforce to be established.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):

You can also upload up to 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

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)</p> <p>OHCHR conducted two (2) monitoring visits in Nimba and one (1) in Bassa during the project. A joint monitoring mission comprised of all projects implementing partners including UN Women, OHCHR, MoGCSP, FCI, TDS, etc. was conducted in the two counties with two (2) visits by the project end.</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes. The project conducted a baseline survey at its early design stage (2019) with 21 strategic stakeholders and implementing partners consulted.</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes. The project conducted a perception assessment and Gender & power analysis as planned to identify main challenges that were addressed by various awareness raising activities involving men.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? Yes. This evaluation assessed the achievements of the project advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)” in an inclusive way and to determine its overall added value to peacebuilding in Liberia. It answered questions related to the evaluation criteria of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including relevance, development</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): US\$ 50,000.00</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500-character limit): Project evaluation has been completed.</p>

<p>efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, in addition to assessing the program on Gender, Equity and Human Rights principles. The time scope of the evaluation covered all GRB/WPS Joint Project activities implemented since January 2020 to November 2021 (and extended until April 2022) at the national and sub-national levels.</p>	
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<p>Name of funder: Amount: Sweden US\$ 330,000.00</p>
<p>Catalytic Effect (non-financial): Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur? <i>Please select</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No catalytic effect <input type="checkbox"/> Some catalytic effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant catalytic effect <input type="checkbox"/> Very Significant catalytic effect <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Too early to tell</p>	<p>If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-financial) catalytic effect Please limit your response to 3000 characters including spaces.</p> <p>The GRB/WPS Joint Project was highly relevant and was fully in line with the national priorities in the area of WPS NAP, CEDAW and other African and National policies and protocols on Women, peace and Security as well as UNSDCF (2020 and 2024). It has also managed to involve a National Commission on Disability in its design to capture the general needs and priorities of women and girls with disabilities in Peace and Security related issues. It was also very innovative and its focus on strengthening capacity of GOL structures, CSOs and peace hut on GRB, Innovative Financing, WPS and NAP1325 was very effective.</p>
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	

PART IV: COVID-19

Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SECTION IS OPTIONAL

1) Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

UN agencies had to change implementing strategies and therefore readjust funding to enable operation in COVID-19 context. A No Cost Extension and budget revision was submitted to the PBSO in May 2021 to adapt the budget to the new implementation strategies

2) Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

The project annual workplan and budget were revised to indicate the six months delay in project implementation due to the COVID-19. To this end, the project has requested a no cost extension until 27th of November 2021.

3) Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

- Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications
- Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
- Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
- Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

- Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
- Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

N/A