RUNO ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT   **TEMPLATE 4.4**

**PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: KYRGYZSTAN
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Programme Title & Project Number
Programme Title: PBF/"Women and Girls as Drivers for Peace and Prevention of Radicalization"   Programme Number *(if applicable)*   MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[1]

Recipient UN Organizations	Implementing Partners
List the organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC	List the national counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: Department for Ethnic and Religious Policy and Collaboration with Civil Society (Office of the President), State Commission on Religious Affairs (SCRA), Ministry of Interior, Muftiyat, Local Self-Governance (LSG) bodies in selected districts, Foundation for Tolerance International, Mutakalim Public Union.

Programme/Project Budget (US$)	Programme Duration
PBF contribution (by RUNO) **UNFPA USD 296 582** **UNDP USD 303 687** **UNICEF USD 198 143** **UNODC USD 201 588**	Overall Duration *(months)* 18 months
Government Contribution *(if applicable)* **No** Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)*	Start Date[2] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* 01 January 2017 Original End Date[3] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* 30 June 2018 Current End date[4] *(dd.mm.yyyy)* 30 June 2018
TOTAL: USD 1 000 000	

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

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

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PART 1 – RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1   Assessment of the current project implementation status and results

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

Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing.
Priority Plan Outcome indicator(s) to which project is contributing.

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

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

<u>**Outcome Statement 1:**</u> Women and girls at risk to VE engage with communities in manner compatible with the views and ideology as the result of PVE initiatives undertaken by non-formal and formal leaders

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1: The number of women and girls at risk to VE (disaggregated by age, ethnicity and community) take preventive VE actions and participate in community life. Indicator 2: Percentage of capacitated women and girls who provide professional advice and engage local authorities in PVE. Indicator 3:	Baseline: 0 Target: 500 women and girls Progress:Participants of women initiatives (PVE activities) Total number of participants: 2063 Age: under 25- 546 ; 25-45 - 619, 45 and up – 908 Sex: male participants- 141; female participants: 1921 Baseline: 0 Target: 80 women Progress:Women Leadership School total number of participants: 86 Age: under 25- 1 ; 25-45 - 24, 45 and up – 61 Baseline: 0 Target: Progress:

Output progress

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

Two rounds of Women Leadership Schools (WLS) for participants from all 16-target communities (Annex # 1 - The list of project target areas) were conducted for more than 80 women – religious leaders according to the developed training modules. WLS aimed at strengthening the capacity of participants in prevention of radicalization and peacebuilding in their communities (trainings within WLS included sessions on

tolerance, information on banned extremist organizations, mazhabs and dogmas in Islam, state religious policy, social and medical support issues, critical thinking, polemic, concepts of radicalism and extremism and their difference, etc.). After the first round of WLS, participants developed and implemented 16 plans of women initiatives aimed at prevention of radicalization, which included 49 activities. 2063 community members benefited from activities within women initiatives.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

The project involved women religious leaders in the work on prevention of radicalization. Due to the fact that the subject of PVE is relatively new, there has not been much work done with religious leaders on this topic, and especially with women and girls. Most of women religious leaders from the ground had no experience of involving in projects or public activities, confining themselves to their narrow circle of people (listeners of madrassas, members of hujra). Some of women-participants of the project (WLS in particular) are recognized religious leaders in their communities, nevertheless women did not realize their role in the community on issues of prevention of radicalization and peacebuilding and were not directly involved in PVE efforts. In a sense, religious leaders gradually moved away from the secular part of the population, including from municipal and the state bodies. Moreover, in general, since religious leaders operated in their narrow communities, they did not have the experience of communicating with representatives of local authorities, police, representatives of neighborhood committees, elderly courts, women councils, in particular on the issue of prevention of radicalization. For these reasons, initially the project was challenging in the issue of bringing religious women and girls into the project. On the one hand, they had no experience of participating in projects, on the other hand they had a certain lack of trust in secular organizations and people. Equally important factor was the gender issue, as many girls and women refused to participate in the project, arguing that this was prohibited by their husbands (some of participants were allowed to participate at WLS only after imam has talked to their husbands) . It is worth noting that the general trend is as described above, while the different target communities has its own specificities. As a result of the project, a dialogue was established between religious women and girls and representatives of local authorities, neighborhood committees and police officers. Women and girls equipped with knowledge and skills have led the implementation of PVE initiatives in their communities and started to realize their role in the prevention of radicalization and peacebuilding. At the same time, they have realized that in the PVE issue the goals of the state and religious leaders coincides which is peace and stability in the communities and in the country. Women and girls – participants of WLS were able to reach out to the wider group of people in their communities with the topic of prevention of radicalization, have learned the ways to identify and involved marginalized women on PVE efforts.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

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

While radicalization and violent extremism is a highly recognized challenge/phenomenon in Kyrgyzstan, the practice has shown methodological and institutional frames of PVE are still at the nascent stage in the country. Such circumstances required extensive consultations with both governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations towards visioning/formulating implementation strategies to ensure greater impact of project results in further perspectives. Secondly, given the fact that PVE is a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectorial, multifaceted dimension it required extensive consultations among variety of stakeholders, national institutions to reconcile planned activities. Thirdly, PVE is an emerging area in the country, it therefore has not yet accumulated a matured/diversified country level expertise, capacity and knowledge, be it among NGOs or individual consultants that further aggravated implementation timelines.

Outcome Statement 2: Law enforcement institutions, local authorities, legal aid providers and social workers engage women and girls at risk to VE in inclusive dialog to ensure access to public service

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1: Perception of women and girls from target groups on public services access in communities is improved Indicator 2: Number of capacitated selected law enforcement institutions, local authorities, legal aid providers and social workers who provide legal/social protection support and assistance Indicator 3:	Baseline: Data is abialable in the baseline report Target: TBC Progress: Gaps in technical and social skills of duty bearers identified; learning materilals drafted and tested; A course on service delivery sensitive to gender, ethnicty and religiousity is outsourced by the State HR Service to be run through three Univeristies as qualification advancements for public servants Baseline: 0 Target: At least 200 police officers Progress:215 police officers (where 7% women) trained Baseline: 0 Target: Progress:

Output progress

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

> A profile study was conducted with the social workers which resulted in more in-depth insight into their attitudes and skills towards the groups, considered vulnerable to radicalization. The State Human Resource Service was equipped with learning course on service delivery sensitive to gender, ethnicity and religiosity, which it further outsourced to three local universities to deliver as their qualification

advancement courses for public administration professionals. ToT training and learning materials drafted for social workers. Based on the training needs assessment of frontline police officers training plan has been developed on community policing principles to prevent extremism and for theology police experts. Free legal aid was provided to inhabitants of 16 target communities (292 people, 66% women). Information Center under SCRA was supported to provide consultations on theology, secular law, psychology via hotline for more than 400 people.

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

The project has been partnering with the Center for Study of Religious Situations (CSR), newly emerging government supported think tank specializing on PVE research and capacity building. The project has established a temporary consultation group composed of Bishkek-based social sector professionals to guide project outreach and capacity building activities. It has been helpful in identifying key field level partners, refining the tools and the methodology of the profile study as well as in feeding into the training materials. The project has been working to institutionalize the knowledge delivery to duty bearers on PVE-focused service delivery through higher education institutions. ToT Training and learning materials drafted for social workers and the local governances have benefited from insights of the project consultation group represented by Bishkek-based social public administration professionals. A profile study by the CSR revealed gaps both in technical and social skills of service providers which contributes to alienation with the vulnerable women and girls. It confirmed and reiterated that most of the local service providers do not see poor public awareness about services as an issue of concern. Nor they consider awareness raising about services as their function. Furthermore, there is no focus to equity in their approach while delivering services i.e. little distinction between the vulnerable and well-off. These findings are put in the basis of the training materials for LSGs and service provider currently being tested. The needs assesment among police officers demonstrated the importance of increasing level of knowledege of fronline police officers on gender sensitive prevention and community based principles of PVE. 215 community policing and juvenile delinquency police officers (7 % women) from all oblasts of the country enhanced knowledge on community policing principles to prevent extremism. The introduced dialogue platforms mechanism helped to reveal the existing problems in communication between the law-enforcement and local communities to build trust, identify risks and find effective ways to prevent radicalization to violence at the community level.The training sessions were led by trainers from the MoI Service on Counter-Terrorism Department, which strengthens internal MoI capacity to provide training on PVE to its staff and establishes a good basis for further inclusion of PVE in police training. During the legal consultations, people were interested on such issues as pensions and benefits; registration of land plots; property and inheritance; alimony and debts; receipt of personal documents. Regarding "HelpLine" on average, about 43% of appeals were related to questions of theology and religious law; about 34% were questions of legal advice; about 12% - appeals for psychological counseling, and about 6% of applicants were interested in the activities of state and non-state authorities.

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

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

Outcome Statement 3:

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

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

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

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

Outcome Statement 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome: on track

Indicator 1:	Baseline: Target: Progress:
Indicator 2:	Baseline: Target:

	Progress:
Indicator 3:	Baseline: Target: Progress:

Output progress

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

Outcome progress

Describe progress made during the reporting period toward the achievement of this outcome. This analysis should reflect the above indicator progress and the output achievement. Is there evidence of the outcome contributing to peacebuilding and to the specific conflict triggers (3000 character limit)?

Reasons for low achievement and rectifying measures

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

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

Evidence base: What is the evidence base for this report and for project progress? What consultation/validation process has taken place on this report *(1000 character limit)*?	Presentations of plans of women initiatives on PVE are conducted with participation of local authorities, representatives from the police, SCRA, Muftiyat, community leaders and recorded in protocols. 16 plans of women initiatives were elaborated by women and formulated according to the developed format. Baseline research was conducted with involvement of all stakeholders (Annex #2 - Draft of baseline report). Additionally, to the baseline research undertaken by the project in the inception, the project interventions are guided by the findings of the profile study for the duty bearers. Database of free legal aid receivers developed. A series of consultations conducted to agree with the national partners (Ministry of Interior, State Service on Religious Affairs, independent experts and Police Academy) on planning of the joint project events, including planning on the capacity building of the law enforcement.
Funding gaps: Did the project fill critical funding gaps in peacebuilding in the country? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)*	The given project is considered as a pilot PVE project for involved UN Agencies and was critical taking into account that PVE issue is getting more and more relevant in the region and there was fuding gap of PVE efforts. In this sense, this project gives opportunity to test PVE approaches, assess the situation, to

	weigh and take measures to address risks.
Catalytic effects: Did the project achieve any catalytic effects, either through attracting additional funding commitments or creating immediate conditions to unblock/ accelerate peace relevant processes? Briefly describe. *(1500 character limit)*	The project was catalytic in establishment of interaction and partnership of women religious leaders with local authorities (neighborhood committees and elderly courts). For instance, in Amir-Timur community, there was a lack of trust to women initiatives from members of local authorities, which was preceded, by the lack of communication and interaction. Through participation at presentation of women initiatives and as guest speakers at activities organized by women they could communicate with women and girls religious leaders and gain understating of their role and work on PVE. This is turn was catalytic in setting-up grounds for further collaboration of local authorities with female religious leaders on PVE efforts. Another example comes from Birlik community of the project from Aravan district, where women religious leaders initiated "School for Mothers" to strengthen intergeneration dialogue and communication for prevention of radicalization. This initiative was positively accepted by local authorities and the head of district administration has provided permanent premises with all necessary technical equipment for this initiative, which will continue operation. The project is among the rare ones that approaches PVE with the lens of access to quality of services, which found relevant by partners. Important example is the afore-mentioned partnership with the State's Human Resource Center for integrating PVE-related knowledge into the routine qualification advancement
Risk taking/ innovation: Did the project support any innovative or risky activities to achieve peacebuilding results? What were they and what was the result? *(1500 character limit)*	During the second round of WLS, the innovative method of simulation of risky situations was applied where on some practical exercise women were recruited into banned extremist groups. Using the information and skills from the trainings, participants were able to identify which banned group attempted to recruit and provide their counter-arguments. Participants found this exercise very useful as they witnessed such situations in real life, but were not able to provide thoughtful counter-arguments before.
Gender: How have gender considerations been mainstreamed in the project to the extent possible? Is the original gender marker for the project still the right one? Briefly justify. *(1500 character limit)*	Gender marker score for this project is three. The main components of the project are aimed at women empowerment and consider the issues of gender equality
Other issues: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that should be shared with PBSO? This can include any cross-cutting issues or other issues which have not been included in the report so far. *(1500 character limit)*	As a PVE project, for the effective support, contextualized approach needs to be adopted. The project requires adaptive re-programming to adjust its interventions, in consultations and joint actions with RUNOs and implementing partners. The local context is also changing day by day such as trend of radicalization and foreign fighters' returnees from abroad. Therefore, the project had occasionally joint actions through joint actions and project board discussions.

	During the course of project implementation 16 target communities were identified (Annex #1) through consultations with stakeholders on the local and national levels. Based on the results of training needs assessment among police officers and a series of consultations with the project implementing partners, including the key national partner - Ministry of Interior, it was strongly recommended to increase the number of the trained police officers to cover all regions of Kyrgyzstan including representatives of the 16 target communities of the project. Thus trainings were conducted for police officers from all provinces of Kyrgyzstan (including from 16 target areas).

PART 2: LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

2.1 Lessons learned

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

Lesson 1 *(1000 character limit)*	In total within the frames of UNFPA component 10 3-day trainings – WLS were conducted for more than 80 women and girls. Experts from State Agency on Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Miftiyat, social and medical workers acted as trainers and facilitators. Training for trainers was not planned prior the WLS. Experts from respective agencies has good knowledge of respective topics and issues, however they do not possess trainer and facilitator skills, which was demonstrated during the trainings. The project has learned a lesson - in PVE related trainings it is important to conduct TOT before delivering trainings for a broader audience and agree on core messages.
Lesson 2 *(1000 character limit)*	It was challenging to call religious community to get free legal consultations, especially among women's communities. The reason is that many religious communities are committed more to the norms of religious law, and at the same time considering secular law secondary in their daily life. On the other hand, some women are forbidden to communicate with other men, even if it involves obtaining legal advice. Understanding these circumstances, we have attracted both men and women as legal advice. We also tried to mobilize the population through local spiritual leaders, trusted and authoritative religious figures so that they could explain to parishioners about advantages to get appropriate secular legal consultations.
Lesson 3 *(1000 character limit)*	
Lesson 4 *(1000 character limit)*	
Lesson 5 *(1000 character limit)*	

2.2 Success story (OPTIONAL)

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

WLS was one of successful project measures, participants of WLS shared with their great inspirations: "This is is informative, creative, giving impetus to peacebuilding activities and calling for tolerance project. It once again reminded all of us about the civil duty, and made realize the personal responsibility for the destiny of the country.During the school, I said that I did not notice how I became radical myself (may Allah protect us from serious, real, destructive radicalism). I meant that lately I did not take into account the traditions and norms of society, and I did not participated

in some secular activities. Of course, as a true Muslim woman, I did not stop calling people to Islam, because I want people to know the truth and find happiness in both worlds. However, on the project we went deeper into the notion of "tolerance" and I realized that I did a little wrong. Precisely, my actions were not in accordance with the concept of tolerance. After all, everyone has the right to religious freedom and we should respect it".

"When a project staff member, for the first time, came to our community and told about the project, we - religious women were more frightened than pleased. We had been used to live as separate and isolated group of women, and we do not remember someone's interest in us before. Initially, all women refused to participate in school, one woman could not participate, due to her husband's prohibition, while second has a mother-in-law, the third is afraid, because it's not clear what it is, she thinks it's better to stay away from "trouble". We are really glad that five of our women overcame their fears, found the courage and came to the training. The overwhelming desire to gain knowledge, new information and use this rare opportunity helped them to get over all obstacles.How much we got when we left our comfort zones and met with different people, and coped with different situations. We, as it turned out, stayed in the same melting pot by not leaving our homes, not looking anywhere and not letting anyone to come to us. And today, for the first time, we conducted the lesson by ourselves, just as our teachers conducted to us. I heartily wish this project is not going to stop working, because I really want to be taught and learn all the time in order to know a lot, be strong, and never be afraid. I want other women, my friends, to learn a lot, to be confident and not afraid of life".

PART 3 – FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

3.1   Comments on the overall state of financial expenditure

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

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

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

Outcome 1:					
Output number	Output name	RUNOs	Approved budget	Expensed budget	Any remarks on expenditure
Output 1.1					
Output 1.2					
Output 1.3					
Outcome 2:					
Output 2.1					
Output 2.2					

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[5] Please note that financial information is preliminary pending submission of annual financial report to the Administrative Agent.

Output 2.3					
Outcome 3:					
Output 3.1					
Output 3.2					
Output 3.3					
Etc					

3.2 Comments on management and implementation arrangements

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

UNFPA as a leading agency is organizing regular inter-agency coordination meetings (at least once in 3 months). Montlhy joint plans of project events is being developed and distributed among RUNOs and implementing partners. The Project Board members are enagaged in project monitoring as well as participate during regular coordination meetings. Two workshops were organized for RUNOs and implementing partners - 1 - Conflict Sensitivity and PVE Programming with support from Peace Nexus to agree on strategies for risks mitigation and project implementation (Annex #3- Summary of the workshop) and 2 - Baseline reflection workshop to discuss outputs of baseline research and project implementation strategies. As the result of the first workshop the measure was agreed by RUNOs to change the working name of the project to "Women and Girls as Drivers for Peace and Stability". Baseline research was conducted and report developed within the project consisted from two components – project indicators part and analytical part (to inform project interventions). Qualitative methods were applied in conducting the research. In total 217 in depth interviews and 48 focus group discussions were conducted within the frames of baseline research. UNFPA has incorporated analytical monitoring approach to perform evidence-based analysis of the project, short-term impact and effectiveness of the project activities and inform project interventions. Following conduction of first round of Women Leadership School analytical report was developed by the team of analysts. The agenda of the second round of WLS was elaborated based on recommendations from analytical report and proved to be very interesting and relevant to project objectives.