**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY: South Sudan**

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual, annual OR FINAL** Semi-Annual

**date of report:** 15 June 2018

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| **Project Title: Strengthening Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan**  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** | |
| **PBF project modality:**  **🞏 IRF**  **🞏 PRF** | **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  **🞏** Country Trust Fund  **🞏** Regional Trust Fund  **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:** |
| **-List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):**  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- UN entity  United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)  International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - UN entity  **List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:**   * Women Caucus of National Dialogue Steering Committee * Eve Organization * Voice for Change   - Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS)  - Action For Conflict Prevention (ACR)  - South Sudan National Editors Forum  - Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)  -Community Media Network of South Sudan(COMNetSS)  -Association of Media Development in South Sudan(AMDISS) | |
| **Project commencement date[[1]](#footnote-1) : 11-May-2018**  **Project duration in months[[2]](#footnote-2): 18 months** | |
| **Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:**  **🞏** 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):**  : $ 1,000,000 (tranche 1)  : $ 2,000,000 (tranche 2)  : $  : $  Total: 3,000,000.00  **\****The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO’s approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account*  **How many tranches have been received so far: tranche 1 (1 million usd)** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by:, UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNESCO, IOM, RCO  Project report approved by: UNRCO  Did PBF Secretariat clear the report:  Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report:  Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: | |

***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

* *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general / common language.*
* *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
* *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

**PART 1: RESULTS PROGRESS**

* 1. **Overall project progress to date**

*Briefly explain the* ***status of the project*** *in terms of its implementation cycle, including whether all preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (1500 character limit):*

The joint project on Strengthening Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan is on track and has undertaken some of the following key project activities related to mobilizing, facilitating and strengthening women participation in the National Dialogue process and related peacebuilding initiatives in the country. The planned activities are in line with the timetable developed by the stakeholders and institutions managing the implementation of the national peace process and the High-Level Revitalization Forum for reviving the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The project has moreover, continued to foster free, independent and pluralistic media in print, broadcast and online with the aim of enhancing freedom of expression contributing to peace, sustainability and respect for human rights during the peace process. Also, the displaced communities in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site are provided a platform allowing the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to express their views about peace and peaceful coexistence in South Sudan. The displacement and population flow in Bentiu, is continuously monitored and the data analyzed to inform a regular conflict analysis report. The UN has drafted the Peacebuilding Plan which has been informed by a wide consultation process and mapping to identify what works, what doesn't and what could be improved. The mapping is now a country wide planning and programming tool for peacebuilding in South Sudan and the Plan has been endorsed as a mutual accountability and joint planning tool to bring coherence and harmonization to UN.

[**NOTE**: this section will be updated in case the agreements with the IPs are signed before 15 June].

*Given the recent/current political/peacebuilding/ transition situation/ needs in the country, has the project been/ does it continue to be* ***relevant*** *and well placed to address potential conflict factors/ sources of tensions/ risks to country’s sustaining peace progress? Please illustrate. If project is still ongoing, are any adjustments required? (1500 character limit)*

In the context of the ongoing peace process in South Sudan, the project continues to provide relevant support. The UNs support helped develop a platform that increases participation of a diverse group of stakeholders to meet international standards regarding inclusive and nationally driven processes. The National Dialogue contributes to the overall peace process and does not replace it and has provided the UN with an entry point to engage with and influence the process. Some of the recommendations emerging from the National Dialogue is now being discussed in the High-Level Revitalization Forum. While there remains room for improvement in the National Dialogue process, UN support has greatly contributed to the successes that can be rightfully claimed, including for example, demonstrating the potential of bringing relevant stakeholders for collective decisions and actions together to resolve grievances, trust issues and concerns. As noted by the Chair of the National Dialogue Steering Committee, Subcommittee for Jonglei, UN was central to the success of the dialogue in Jonnglei (see report of Jonglei consultation).

In the National Dialogue “grassroots” / local consultations, discussions were frank and open and there was a significant level of freedom of expression. The open questions of what the drivers of conflict are and what the solutions are, elicited diverse responses, including open criticisms of the government and calls for substantial change. No incidence of threats, harassment or arrests of journalists for reporting on the dialogue were recorded

There is an emerging consensus that strong and smart investment in local peacebuilding decreases the risk of community violence. Studies indicate that the risk drops by 50%, when solid local peacebuilding investments are made (UNMISS mandate review 2016). The civil war in South Sudan is linked to local community conflict. Addressing local conflict and consolidating hubs of stability will increase the cost of mobilizing communities for armed conflict. Indicative monitoring and evaluation show that strong investment in local peacebuilding has improved community stability by 70% in Aweil, Bor and Yambio.

Project activities initiated at the sub national levelfocus on strengthening social cohesion and conditions for return and reintegration of youth from Protection of civilian sites, including in Unity State for example. Investments are being made to address local level intra-ethnic differences between youth groups, which run the risk of being sensationalized and politicized at the national level, fueling hostilities, hate speech and potential conflict.

Moreover, to support the initial gains in Unity state, the UN Country Team in South Sudan is developing a country-wide programme on recovery and resilience under the theme “Partnership for Recovery and Resilience”. Bentiu town among the 11 sites identified to implement resilience programming. This broader support and the initial learnings may create a catalytic effect that promotes community social cohesion approach developed and applied under the project.

*In a few sentences, summarize* ***what is unique/ innovative/ interesting*** *about what this project is trying/ has tried to achieve or its approach (rather than listing activity progress) (1500 character limit).*

The joint thinking, action and analysis adopted by the project is unique and has for example resulted in the joint platform bringing together peacekeeping, humanitarian and development components of the UN which bridges the gap between all spheres of efforts, helps leverage programmatic support and secure progress on the political front.

The project supported the creation of platforms for grassroots women organisations to participate substantively in the national dialogue process. The UN did outreach and sensitization activities of key constituents at the grassroots level on the peace process including the national dialogue initiative at the local level and facilitated linkages between the women leadership of the national dialogue steering committee and the women civil society organizations at the state and grassroots levels. Grassroots women’s voices, grievances, issues and concerns are now reaching those at the national level who make major decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.

The UN has also established a coordination framework to facilitate exchanges and increase collaboration among diverse women organizations, thus allowing them to strategize women’s engagement in the peacebuilding processes through a common strategy. For instance, a coalition of forty-five women organizations recently convened and developed a strategy to enhance women's substantive and meaningful participation in the High-Level Revitalization Forum. The joint strategic approach shows a stronger unity of purpose for women and gender organizations.

A major innovation and source of informed decision making is the data driven aspect of the project.Interventions under implementation continue to be informed by the quantitative and gender-disaggregated data and qualitative information. For example, the Site Flow Monitoring Report findings will guide the conflict and displacement analysis for the Bentiu, planned to be produced during the next quarter.

A principle of ‘social cohesion’ has been defined as a unique characteristic of the project. The approach aims to reconcile youth in Bentiu who are divided by national politics. The youth in Bentiu town are perceived to be supporters of the national Government while those in the protection of civilian sites are perceived to support the SPLA in Opposition (SPLAiO). The social cohesion approach aims to strengthen what connects both groups of youth. Assessments have identified sports, livelihood initiatives and culture as major connectors. Activities such as sports are designed to mirror those in the PoC and those outside. Eventually, through subtle dialogue, the project will bring both youth groups together, in joint training for peace, sports and also in skills training and livelihood initiatives. The project has already brought a few youths from both sides together to meet for the first time since the conflict erupted in 2013.

The project’s design to facilitate an inclusive reintegration is core to the community processes implemented under the project. The project promotes peaceful coexistence and social cohesion through collaborative and joint income-generating activities, including small business and vegetable production and sales. Youths representing the host community, IDPs and returnees are consulted on and will benefit from the remaining planned activities.

*Considering the project’s implementation cycle, please* ***rate this project’s overall progress towards results to date****: (Select one):* **on track**

*In a few sentences summarize* ***major project peacebuilding progress/results*** *(with evidence), which PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500-character limit):*

The project is on track and has been the pacesetter for practical and workable actions that have improved participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability of the National Dialogue and other peace processes. The project contributed to transforming the National Dialogue from a concept to a process of bottom-up national conversations, and provided a platform for joined-up UN advocacy for a credible dialogue process consistent with international standards.

UN advocacy and support has contributed to increasing the ratio of women participation to 33% in the national dialogue; release of 31 political prisoners; ensuring an independent process, including recusal of the President to act as patron of the National Dialogue. Reports from sub-committees of the National Dialogue, and the UN’s own observations reports, confirm that discussions have been frank and more than 200 consultations have been held with more than 20,000 participants in at least 90 locations, representing most states.

The capacity strengthening support provided to women leaders through training and logistical assistance, and their outreach activities (sensitization and education of women in grassroots communities) contributed significantly to enhancing the quantitative and qualitative participation of grassroots women in the ongoing National Peace Dialogue process. For instance, the reports of the grassroots consultations by the NDSC indicate that female participation exceeded 35 % in most of the regions, as compared to the 25% target defined in the National Development Strategy. The reports further reveal that women articulated their needs and concerns clearly and made outstanding contributions to the discussions identifying causes of conflict linked to a wide range of factors, and proposed recommendations, distinct from those of men, as a way forward to resolving the conflict and gaining sustainable peace in the country. These consultations have resulted in recommendations taken forward to the High-Level Revitalization Forum e.g. rotation of presidency, reduction of the number of states/nature of the state-federalism.

For media, the project has continuously fostered freedom of expression and independent media with the aim of strengthening the role of media to contribute to peacebuilding, national reconciliation and respect for human rights. Thanks to this project, the Community Empowerment Progress Organization was able to produce a report that justifies the importance of involving media in covering the revitalization of South Sudan Peace Agreement under IGAD-led High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF). The report highlighted that the role   played by media in providing daily information on the progress or challenge made during the 2nd Phase of HLRF was remarkable and informative. Keeping the citizens/public uninformed about HLRF, offers great chance for political elites and other sections of elites to manipulate information on the HLRF progress. The   daily media reports on HLRF has contributed effectively in building public trust and confidence on the outcomes of the revitalization process including reduction of hostile and hate speech associated with peace mediation in the social media.

Major progress has been made in the domain of reconciling youth in Bentiu POC site and Bentiu town. A three day-induction training has motivated the participating youth to engage in social cohesion activities. During the training, both sides have requested support to conduct joint activities such as a 10-day training, peace forums and cultural and sports events. Importantly captured by the Chairperson of PoC Youth Forum: “The training has united the youth to come together.” In support, the Chairperson of Youth Union has said: “We wish the youth from the PoC and from the counties to come together for a big training. Then they can negotiate and dialogue among themselves about how to reconcile.” Anecdotally, a female secondary school student said: "The training was important to bring cooperation between female and male youth to bring peace.”

*In a few sentences, explain how the project has made* ***real human impact****, that is, how did it affect the lives of any people in the country – where possible, use direct quotes that PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500-character limit):*

The project has resulted in national consultation of communities which have not had access to participate in and express their grievances and concerns during the peace process. As noted by Angelo Beda, Co-chair of the National Dialogue Steering Committee. "the National Dialogue is the first truly national wide opportunity for every South Sudanese to participate in the peace process.

The participation of women in the processes, has uplifted women’s status in the National Dialogue, which has set the standard for more equal participation of women and other stakeholder groups in future. The long-term impacts of this is not readily measurable, but the response and appreciation of participation is evident.

Many of the youth in the PoC and in Bentiu and Rubkona town engage in criminal activities due to lack of income-generating opportunities. The PBF activities have provided new opportunities for the youth in the PoC and in Bentiu town to engage in alternative and constructive activities.

Spokesperson Youth Union: “When youth are not engaged they will be involved in cattle raiding and gang activities. Engaging youth is preventing criminal activities from spreading in the state. This is a way to reduce violence in the state and in South Sudan.”

*If the project progress assessment is* ***on-track****, please explain what the key* ***challenges*** *(if any) have been and which measures were taken to address them (1500 character limit).*

Despite PBF and other sources of support to the National dialogue, it has continued to face funding constraints as well as security and political challenges which have not allowed its implementation to proceed according to the initial timeframe. This and changing political priorities has led to an absence of motivated national counterparts and resistance/lack of official cooperation with civil society including media associations. There has been Insufficient room for public participation in shaping public policy towards media.

Consequently, UN and partners have had to adjust the plan for implementing project activities to align with the changes to the schedules of the National Dialogue implementation. To address these challenges, UN established a partnership with partners such as the women caucus of the National Dialogue Steering Committee. As part of the collaboration, UN has committed to priority activities identified by partners, including support to the mobilization in the ongoing and future national dialogue events.

There is widespread skepticism among members of the public on the ultimate objective of the national dialogue which has reduced the potential scope for participation. While this provided opportunity for the CSOs and media to explain and inform citizens on the national dialogue it took longer to convince citizens of the need to engage in the process. Simultaneously, the UN heightened the advocacy towards duty bearers and media to provide better understanding on the importance on freedom of expression, safety of journalists, and media pluralism in peacebuilding.

The access to the opposition controlled areas and IDP camps was challenging as there is widespread hostility towards Government related projects. The National Dialogue is perceived as a Government process. After the initial rejection, the CSOs changed their approach and started sensitization with mapping of local conflict issues. This provided a link between the national and local problems and plausible solutions, including the national dialogue process.

Based on focus group discussions held as part of the PBF Youth Reintegration Project, talks on the National Dialogue (initially a part of the project) were deemed disruptive and not welcomed by the community. Therefore, engaging youth on issues specifically related to the National Dialogue was avoided, which could prove divisive. Instead, the project focused on big-picture expressions of peace that can serve to unite the PoC community. The strong community-engagement activity that involved and empowered the community in the PoC mitigated the possible risk of failure as a result of the collapse of the Transitional Government of National Unity.

Genuine safety and security concerns impeded local consultations in opposition held areas. Most local consultations have taken place in government controlled areas. There are attempts to secure the ability to host consultations in opposition held areas to ensure a more inclusive and representative process. Logistical constraints have limited the scope of the local consultations. For example, during the first phase of consultation, only 3 out of 10 counties were consulted in Western Equatoria because of inaccessibility and insecurity.

*If the assessment is* ***off-track****, please list main reasons/* ***challenges*** *and explain what impact this has had/will have on project duration or strategy and what* ***measures*** *have been taken/ will be taken to address the challenges/ rectify project progress (1500-character limit):*

***Please attach as a separate document(s****) any materials highlighting or providing more evidence for project progress (for example: publications, photos, videos, monitoring reports, evaluation reports etc.). List below what has been attached to the report, including purpose and audience.*

* 13 reports from local consultations. the reports capture the recommendations emanating from local consultations
* UN assessment report on the National Dialogue process.
* Report on accessibility and traffic of the website of the National Dialogue
* Radio interviews with participants of the induction training during and after the training (Internews)
* Bentiu PoC Site Flow Monitoring

https://www.ssnationaldialogue.org/news-item/press-freedom-in-south-sudan/

https://www.ssnationaldialogue.org/news-item/national-dialogue-unesco-workshop-enhances-freedom-expression/

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/juba/about-this-office/single-view/news/strengthening\_media\_professionalism\_through\_conflict\_sensiti/

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/juba/about-this-office/single-view/news/free\_press\_is\_essential\_for\_peaceful\_south\_sudan/

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/juba/about-this-office/single-view/news/media\_advocates\_for\_freedom\_of\_expression\_to\_create\_enabling/

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/juba/about-this-office/single-view/news/enhancing_the_implementation_of_the_peace_agreement_through/>

<http://cepo-southsudan.org/news/role-media-covering-2nd-phase-hlrf>

<https://www.facebook.com/iomsouthsudan/posts/1731548360271217>

<https://twitter.com/IOMSouthSudan/status/988375511872212992>

<https://twitter.com/IOMSouthSudan/status/986862709856702464>

***1.2 Result progress by project outcome***

*The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes. If your project has more approved outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

***Outcome 1:*** Peace and Reconciliation Strengthened

***Rate the current status of the outcome progress:* on track**

***Progress summary:*** *Describe main progress under this Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration), including major output progress (not all 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. Where possible, provide specific examples of change the project has supported/ contributed to as well as, where available and relevant, quotes from partners or beneficiaries about the project and their experience. (3000 character limit)?*

As a major milestone and activity of Outcome 1, the UN in South Sudan has developed a ‘UN-wide Peacebuilding Plan’ (2018-2021) to strategically channel its limited resources and guide activities into priority areas that; help sustain peace by addressing the root causes of conflict; facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; prevent relapse of violence; and enhance complementarity and coordination between and among diverse actors engaged in peacebuilding processes.

The grassroot level consultations have allowed entry points for stakeholders to make grievances and concerns heard at the highest political level and is a first step to reconciling differences between conflicting parties. It has further enhanced participation of grassroots women organizations in the national dialogue, strengthening capacity and coordination of women leaders for participation in peacebuilding efforts, for example, UN and South Sudan Women’s Peace Network conducted a workshop in each of the country’s former ten states sensitizing and educating grassroots women representatives about the national dialogue which entailed both 500 women and 120 men preparing them to take interest in the grass root consultation held by the National Dialogue Steering Committee (NDSC).

Furthermore, fifty-three female lawmakers and leaders of civil society organizations received training in transformational leadership, peace negotiations, mediation and dialogues skills. The training sessions have contributed to enhancing the skills and confidence of the participants and improving the quantitative and qualitative representation of women in the critical peacebuilding processes.

The UN further supported women leaders to establish a Coordination Forum that has helped promote collaboration and cooperation among various women civil society organizations and women leaders and enabled them to unify the women's voice in the peace process. The Forum facilitates interactions between the Women’s Bloc (a signatory to the peace agreement representing South Sudanese women) and other women civil society organizations (CSOs); and between the Women Parliamentary Caucus and women-led CSOs. Through the Forum, women leaders have regularly convened to strategize on their engagement with the peace processes, articulating women's concerns, needs and proposal for durable peace. A critical outcome of their effort recently was the consensus among the different stakeholders of the HLRF to increase the affirmative action quota for women’s minimum participation in political leadership and decision-making positions in the public sector from 25% (established by the Transitional Constitution) to 35%.

In terms of supporting media stakeholders to adopt Conflict Sensitive Reporting, capacity building on gender specific media programming and technical support to the National Dialogue Secretariat to develop a media engagement strategy, the project achieved the following; continued advocacy for freedom of expression, free press and intercultural dialogues during International Days. South Sudan media stakeholders used the occasion of 2018 World Radio Day to call for the use of radio to encourage local sports for peaceful co-existence in the country. Out of 200 delegates who attended the event, 75% were youth and over 40% were women. The event was broadcasted live in 2 radio stations with over 200,000 listeners. The national celebration of 2018 World Press Freedom Day which brought together more than 150 media stakeholders allowed for spotlight on the importance of freedom of expression, safety of journalists, the role media in peacebuilding and national reconciliation. The momentum of the days goes beyond advocacy but also strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration to influence policy reforms. In terms of collaboration, the days provided platforms for multi-stakeholder involvement and commitment to support strengthening the role media in peacebuilding and national reconciliation. As a result, South Sudan has been ranked 144th out of 180 countries by the media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders on the 2018 World Press Freedom Index. This is an improvement by one point compared to 2017. “Creating plurality and allowing diversity of voices through media help publicize the efforts of positive engagement of mass media in peace processes.” Mary Ajith, Chairperson of the Association of Media Development in South Sudan.

Capacities of media professionals were strengthened and 50 media professionals including 28 women were trained in conflict sensitive reporting and to report in a well-researched, factual, non-biased way contributing to dialogue, mutual understanding and eventually reconciliation and peace in the country. Furthermore, 30 members of the national dialogue secretariat and 47 members of parliament were sensitized on the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom to ensure that media is appropriately used during the process for people to express their concerns. The National Dialogue media engagement strategy was also developed with project support.

“Editors are gatekeepers, they filter all the information that goes to the public, and in this case, it is important that they acquire the skills for responsible reporting" said Koang Pal Chang, Chairperson of the South Sudan National Editors Forum during the workshop on Conflict Sensitive Reporting.

In terms of Engaging with and providing IDPs to develop a platform to express their views and grievances as well as conflict analysis and mapping of existing peace building initiatives between IDPs/returnees and host communities the following has been achieved; the project has generated a Bentiu-PoC specific report, with age and sex-disaggregated data, as well the destinations of households in mobility. The report covers the intentions of IDPs as to their intended duration of stay inside, as well as their reasons for leaving, the PoCs. The February 2018 monitoring indicates a decline in the total volume of flows of people in and out of the PoC within the month of January 2018. The tools for the remaining surveys have been completed, namely the Intentions and Perceptions Surveys (for IDPs and host community, respectively) and the Village Assessment Survey specific to Bentiu and Rubkona towns. The VAS will incorporate indicators relating to labour, market and skills of the youth.

During the initial phase of the project, 24 youth (18 females, 5 males) were trained on field audio recording and photography. In addition, 118 (68 females, 50 males) participated in other activities such as peace festival, embroidery and henna painting. The youth IDPs through the ‘My Voice Matters’ initiatives are given the opportunity to share their views about peace through a variety of artistic approaches, including singing, drawing, storytelling, photography and drama. The event taken place on the 28th of April 2018 had an attendance of over 3,000 fellow IDP community members. On 4 May 2018, representatives from South Sudanese civil society, humanitarian agencies, and UNMISS came together for an exhibition at the Bentiu PoC site, which showcased ‘My Voice Matters’ youth artwork and peace messages, including the screening of the video compilation of the project's 16 peacebuilding activities and a Q&A session with the My Voice Matters project team. Through the medium of art and multimedia, youth were able to share their perspectives and messages of peace with various stakeholders from Juba.

***Outcome 2: Violence Reduced at the Community and Local Level in Targeted Areas***

***Rate the current status of the outcome progress:* on track**

***Progress summary:*** *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 2, is mostly related to phase two of the project. However, certain activities such as the ongoing, conflict analysis and mapping assessment of existing support for local dialogue and reconciliation initiatives between IDPs/returnees and host communities fall under this outcome and serves as a trigger into phase two. In relation to this, the following has been achieved;

A mapping of community based peacebuilding and reconciliation mechanisms in South Sudan has been drafted as a reference to the next programme design on local peacebuilding support and the scaling up of the successful community-level peacebuilding activities by a wide range of peacebuilding actors such as the UN, NGOs and community-based actors. The mapping identifies strengths, gaps and lessons learned in various technical and financial support provided for local peacebuilding mechanisms. Based on data collected through a series of interviews and focus group discussions of peacebuilding actors in Juba, Aweil and Yambio, this report identifies types of community-based peacebuilding and reconciliation mechanisms and their relevance and effectiveness to the national peacebuilding process, and their potentials for sustainability of the peacebuilding activities. The mapping analysis provides recommendations for a next phase of local peacebuilding support. The mapping also feeds into a UN-wide peacebuilding plan developed under outcome one of this project.

In Bentiu the first Conflict and Displacement Analysis is underway and a zero-draft report has been developed. Final report expected to be available in July 2018. Moreover, the Flow Monitoring of data on the in and out flows of IDPs in the PoC site has tracked movement of groups and individuals through key points of origin, transit and destination. The flow monitoring exercise indicated a decline in the total volume of flows of people in and out of Bentiu PoC site. Results of these surveys will inform the conflict analysis which will be completed by the end of June 2018.

***1.3 Cross-cutting issues***

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| **National ownership:** How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit) | The project activities directly support the government-led national dialogue initiative and are implemented in close collaboration with the national government stakeholders. The Secretariat of the National Dialogue has taken firm ownership in leading implementation of the dialogue process. e.g. the engagement process with refugees and women caucus is led by the Steering Committee. Support from UN helps facilitate engagement and ensure protection of refugees and other vulnerable groups.  Fundamentally, UN considers the leading role and responsibility of local actors and partners of utmost importance. For example, activities to strengthen freedom of expression are spearheaded by duty bearers, local media development partners and the media.  In Northern Liech State, the project falls under the responsibility of Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth & Sports. The Ministry has shown strong commitment to the youth activities. For example, they have swiftly facilitated the allocation of land for the planned community infrastructure projects (youth centre and milk bar). Also, they are strongly advocating for exchange with the youth in the PoC through the planned activities.  The leadership within the PoC are the Community High Committee (CHC) for Sector 1 and the CHC for Sector 2-5. Both CHC Chairpersons have shown strong commitment to the project by attending the entire three day induction training as active participants. Through their presence, they have contributed to and endorsed the action plans for joint activities with youth in Bentiu and Rubkona town. |
| **Monitoring**: Is the project M&E plan on track? What monitoring methods and sources of evidence are being/ have been used? Please attach any monitoring-related reports for the reporting period. (1500 character limit)? | Monthly, UN technical Working Group on National Dialogue tracks progress on the dialogue process. These monthly reports are used for advocacy purposes.  The project M&E Plan is on Track, and the monitoring system utilizes a systematic approach to collecting data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data sources include direct observation and feedback from beneficiaries and other stakeholders obtained regularly; and secondary sources include existing records of relevant government institutions such as the NDSC, as well as civil society organizations, and other partner records. Agencies also undertake internal monitoring meetings on a regular basis to review project progress, based on the work plan. |
| **Evaluation**: Provide an update on the preparations for the external evaluation for the project, especially if within last 6 months of implementation or final report. Confirm available budget for evaluation. (1500 character limit) | External evaluation will be conducted in 2019 |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Did the project lead to any specific non-PBF funding commitments? If yes, from whom and how much? If not, have any specific attempts been made to attract additional financial contributions to the project and beyond? *(1500 character limit)* | Cognizant of the solid progress being made, Japan has contributed $600,000 to support the National Dialogue process.  The Government of Canada has provided about $480,000 through UN to support women leadership and participation in the peacebuilding processes.  IOM’s Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team also secured funding from the UK Department for International Development (DfID) to continue the multimedia and youth engagement aspects of the ‘My Voice Matters’ activities. The project will focus on employing youth engagement strategies and multimedia as a means of reaching underrepresented and populations in vulnerable situations in the PoC site, including women, adolescent girls, and persons with disabilities. |
| **Catalytic effects (non-financial):** Did the project create favorable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. *(1500 character limit)* | The recommendations and suggestions emanating from the dialogue process will together with the outcome of the High-Level Revitalization Forum form the basis for institutional reform and development in South Sudan. These will include constitution making, holding, free, fair and transparent elections; define the governance structure of the state, including options for federalism; nature of the executive, and other institutional reform  The capacity strengthening of women leaders and the establishment of a functioning coordination framework supported by the project have created the basis for women organizations to increase collaboration and enhance their participation and influence in peacebuilding initiatives. For instance, a coalition of forty-five women organizations recently convened and developed a strategy to enhance women's meaningful participation in the High-Level Revitalization Forum, which is an indication of a move towards greater unity among women organizations. A technical team established by the coalition is currently providing strategic support to the women participating in the second phase of HLRF in Addis Ababa.  Partnerships with local media associations and civil society organizations (UJOSS, AMDISS, CEPO) to continue advocacy for freedom of expression and strengthening the role of media in peacebuilding.  Partnership with Journalists for Human Rights(INGO) to produce peacebuilding content for media.  The project has contributed to an increase in the shift of focus from primarily humanitarian activities within the PoC to more long-term oriented peacebuilding work in Bentiu and Rubkona town. For example, after the start of the PBF project, UNHCR has initiated a monthly Youth Forum Coordination Meeting chaired by the Youth Union to identify and coordinate areas of support for the youth. |
| **Exit strategy/ sustainability:** What steps have been taken to prepare for end of project and help ensure sustainability of the project results beyond PBF support for this project? *(1500 character limit)* | Resources from Japan are geared towards putting architecture in place to implement decisions and priorities of the National dialogue process. Importantly, UN is prepositioning itself to support the reform agenda that will emanate from the dialogue.  In terms of sustainability, lessons learned from the project could readily be adopted by the government and results sustained and scaled-up, with UN support during a transition phase/exit. Also, skills acquired by the women civil society leaders and the establishment of a coordination forum that brings them together would allow them to regularly update each other on news and developments on the peace process and attract support from other stakeholders.  The activity implementation has been designed for learning together with key government and civil society stakeholders in terms of what worked (good practices) and what did not work, and which were the most effective and efficient modalities; as well as the critical gaps, opportunities; and constraints for similar activities in the future.  In Bentiu POC site and town, the project targets youth structures that already existed prior to the PBF project launch. The aim of the activities is to strengthen the capacities of these youth structures and to increase their effectiveness. They will continue to operate after the end of the project cycle.  To ensure ownership, the details of all project activities were designed and reviewed through consultation with the youth, women, CSOs and media groups. In all action planning sessions emphasis is put on the inclusion of activities that can be implemented without the help from any partners. Community sustainability groups will be formed and trained to manage the planned community infrastructure projects. |
| **Risk taking:** Describe how the project has responded to risks that threatened the achievement of results. Identify any new risks that have emerged since the last report. *(1500 character limit)* | To manage risk of exposure to politicization, inordinately high expectations, and confusion with other political processes, resources are tied to clear results. Further resource management is sequenced to ensure transition from one activity/support to the other is triggered by the achievement of benchmarks or results that are developed by the UN Taskforce on the National Dialogue.    Support to the dialogue process was considered a due to the skepticism of the dialogue process, however, the UN could influence the conceptualization and design of the National Dialogue. The project has demonstrated that at times impact can best be made by engaging a process rather than staying out of it. The best entry point to influence a political process is the time when concepts, perspective and initiatives are being formed. Whilst some donors were hesitant, the project provided a platform for the UN to influence and shape the conceptualization and design of the National Dialogue process.  A potential risk to the realization of the planned results is resistance from male leaders -political, military, academic, traditional and religious towards promoting women’s leadership and participation in the national dialogue and other peacebuilding initiatives. To mitigate this risk male stakeholders were consulted and their buy-in obtained through continuous sensitization and education that women would bring different dimensions to the peace dialogue than men and that their participation increases the chances of the national dialogue and other peace processes to succeed.  Political divisions between the communities in the PoC and the communities in town are still very strong especially related to the national dialogue process. The politicization of peace initiatives therefore pose a risk to the project, especially because it aims to bring the youth from the two communities together. The project responded to the risk by avoiding engaging on the issues specifically related to the National Dialogue, which could prove divisive. Instead, the project focused on the big-picture expressions of peace that can serve to unite the PoC community. Moreover, fully engaging the youth and the leadership in the planning and implementation of all phases of the activities. For example, the leadership of the PoC was included in the induction training for representatives of the youth forum. The project also communicates openly about upcoming plans and its engagement with the other communities. The community-engagement activity that involved and empowered the community in the PoC will mitigate a possible risk of failure as a result of the collapse of the TGoNU (Transitional Government of National Unity). |
| **Gender equality:** In the reporting period, which activities have taken place with a specific focus on addressing issues of gender equality or women’s empowerment? *(1500 character limit)* | All the project activities are designed with the primary objective to promote gender equality through the effective participation of women in South Sudan peacebuilding process, especially the national dialogue initiative.  On average, 30% of participants in local consultations have been women and 5% of the recommendations put forward are directly linked to women empowerment.  Female participation in the youth structures is significantly lower than male participation. This seems to be the case due to: heavy workload assigned to female youth by parents; female youth are already married or have children to take care of; some parents and care givers do not trust youth groups - they perceive it as a place where female youth will be enticed to engage in ‘illegal sex’. However, due to strong advocacy efforts during the consultation process, good participation of women was ensured in the youth peace champion groups. In Bentiu town, 56% of the members are female youth, in the PoC the participation was 27%.  The 3-day induction training had a strong focus on gender based violence. Participants gained an understanding of the various instruments related to women, peace and security and SGBV prevention and response. During the action planning at the end of the training, the youth forum committed to organize sensitization meetings on SGBV prevention and response in schools, churches and youth centers in the PoC and to raise awareness about the voluntary counselling and testing center (VCT) among survivors of SGBV.  In South Sudan, women are often marginalized and are not provided with equal opportunity to express their views and interests. To ensure an equal representation of both genders, female trainees’ participation in the multimedia production have been enhanced with 70 per cent of the trainees being female. Also, women accounted for 60 per cent of the total beneficiaries of multimedia activities.  There is strong political will among media development stakeholders in promoting gender equality and increasing women voices in peace processes. As a result, South Sudan National Editors Forum, Association of Women in Media in South Sudan and Journalists for Human Rights committed to partner with UN agencies to develop and implement gender sensitive guidelines for 14 media houses in South Sudan |
| **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)* | None. |

**1.3 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 both the outcome and output 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** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** | **Adjustment of target (if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  Peace and reconciliation strengthened | **Indicator 1.1**  Participants in dialogue platforms with confidence in peace and security, disaggregated by sex and age. | 28% | 55% | 50 media professionals trained in Conflict Sensitive Reporting  0ver 450 media stakeholders sensitized on the importance of freedom of expression in peacebuilding  12 episodes of radio programs and 12 pages of newspapers content related to peacebuilding produced | perception about the credibility of the dialogue process will be undertaken after the process ends |  |
| **Indicator 1.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Indicator 1.3** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 1.1:  Strengthened dialogue platforms that gather national and international actors | **Indicator 1.1.1**  Number of active national participants engaged in interactive public debate/awareness programs - disaggregated by sex and age. | 2,640 | 4,200 | 20,000 (621 through UN Women support). | Target has already been exceeded. So far 20,000 people have participated in 200 dialogues across 90 communities |  |
| **Indicator 1.1.8**  The Number of IDPs who express their views on national dialogue platforms -disaggregated by sex and age. |  | National dialogue information campaign conducted in the PoC and displacement sites.  “My Voice Matters” session conducted to gather views, identify participatory and creative methods to include IDPs, platform established to share views of IDPs | 2 information campaigns conducted (1 in Bentiu POC and 1 in Juba) with the theme “My Voice Matters” |  |  |
| **Output 1.2**  Strengthened participation of better informed women and women’s groups in dialogue platforms | **Indicator 1.2.1**  Percentage of women actively engaged in dialogue platforms - disaggregated by sex and age. | N/A | 50% Participation | 30% of 20,000 participants at the local consultations of the National Dialogue are women  Increase of women representation and participation in the Leadership of the National dialogue from 0-33.3% | on track to secure and achieve the target  The government-led grassroots consultations had allocated quotas for the different population groups participating in the event with women organization assigned to constitute only 25% of the participants. Outreach helped secure higher participation. |  |
| Output 1.3  Shared goals and strategies for peace articulated in a UN Peacebuilding plan as well as a national strategy | **Indicator 1.3.1:**  Shared goals and strategies for peace articulated in a UN peacebuilding plan, as well as a national strategy. | 0 | 1 | 1 | The Plan has been developed and endorsed by the UN in South Sudan |  |
| **Indicator 1.3.2:**  Number of actions undertaken to support a common forum for dialogue across conflicting communities | 36 | 55 | 200 |  |  |
| **Outcome 2** | **Indicator 2.1**  Number of violent incidents in targeted areas. | 0 | 30% Decrease |  | Activities directly linked to this outcome has not commenced. They are part of the 2nd tranche |  |
| **Output 2.1**  Preparing scaling-up of community and local level dialogue through a mapping and an action plan. | **Indicator 2.1.1;**  Mapping and action plan | 0 | 1 | 1 UN mapping and action plan undertaken | Achieved |  |
| **Indicator 2.1.3:** | 0 | 1 map of existing peace dialogue initiatives, actors and community in identified high return areas and around the PoCs. | 1 draft report with mapped locations of peace dialogue initiatives developed | Achieved |  |

**PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS**

**2.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures**

Please rate whether the project financial expenditures are on track, delayed, or off track, vis-à-vis project plans and by recipient organization:

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and what is the overall level of expenditure against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far (500 characters limit):

When do you expect to seek the next tranche, if any tranches are outstanding:

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

Please state what $ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date:

Please fill out and attach Annex A on project financial progress **with detail on expenditures/ commitments to date using the original project budget table in Excel**, even though the $ amounts are indicative only.

1. Note: Commencement date will be the date of first fund transfer [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Maximum project duration for IRF project is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months [↑](#footnote-ref-2)