**SECRETARY-GENERAL’S PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**

**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** Liberia

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

**date of report:** 25 October 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment  opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas  **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  **Name of Recipient Fund:** LMPTF |
| **List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):**  FAO, ILO and WFP  **List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:**  Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Youth & Sports (MYS), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection | |
| **Project commencement date[[1]](#footnote-1):** 1 March 2019  **Project duration in months:[[2]](#footnote-2)** 24 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):**  FAO:$ 760,041.60  ILO : $ 405,699.81  WFP : $ 334,258.59        : $  Total: $1,500,000  *\*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:** 1 | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Octavuis Quarbo-FAO, Lonnie Herring-WFP and Salif Massalay-ILO  Project report approved by: Mariatou Njie (FAO), Ferdinand Ngueyap (WFP)  Did PBF Secretariat clear the report: n/a  Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report: not yet  Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: Not due | |

***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 project is currently in 8th month of implementation, that is one-third of the project's 24 month duration. Following the necessary two-month coordination with relevant Government counterparts, the project start-up activities began in June 2019. These included an inception mission and seminar focused on raising awareness, identifying potential implementation bottlenecks, risks and defining mitigation measures. The project was officially launched on 28th June 2019 by the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Other preparatory activities during the period under review focused on finetuning the programme governance structure with the set up of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Project Technical Committee (PTC). In addition, procurement activities for the recruitment of consultants and technical equipment for the livelihood-related outputs; beneficiary engagement through consultations, workshops, and campaigns aimed at addressing conflict drivers in the targeted Counties in line with Outcome 1 (addressing drivers of conflict through livelihood and agriculture resilience) have been carried out.

Considering the project’s implementation cycle, please **rate this project’s overall progress towards results to date**:

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).

This project strategically combines peacebuilding with livelihood activities with a view to strengthening social cohesion in the targeted conflict-prone communities. In this regard, the project is directed at addressing two interlinked causes of conflict, namely, grievances over insufficient youth participation in community-driven services coupled with the lack of existing and/or equal livelihood opportunities for youth employment. During the period under review, the project focused on creating spaces for youths to express their concerns and find commonly agreed solutions to address them. For instance, during the community-based participatory planning (CBPP) practical session held in Salayea, Lofa County, 50 participants, including 12 youths felt included for the first time in the decision making and planning of development initiatives for their own land. This approach indicated the importance of engaging the youth as social actors of peace through presenting their own views and contributions instead of merely seeing them as victims or perpetrators of violence.

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):

During the period under review, three evidence-based layers of peace building progress were identified: (1) Through the scoping exercise, a mapping of youth, gender and land-related conflicts was finalised and vital baseline information was collected with empirical data on the drivers of conflict. Additionally, information on the status of the existing peace mechanisms and more importantly how employment and livelihood opportunities positively impact on peacebuilding among targeted communities was obtained; (2) identification of existing peacebuilding and mediation structures within the project communities. This has provided the Recipient UN Organisations (RUNOs) and local partners with a foundation to review the history of conflict mediation, the actors that were involved, the current status, as well as the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that exist; and (3) development and trust induction between community youths and their local authorities. During some of the key start-up deliverables, the implementation teams (MoA,MYS,MoGCSP, FAO, WFP and ILO) observed that peacebuilding results are achievable if young people are given priority, the capabilities and opportunities to work with local government authorities. The project has therefore been contributing to bridging such gap by supporting activities that include the youths while fostering their representation in local level community decision making processes.

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):

Over 50 residents of Salayea City in upper Lofa County participated in the week-long Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) practical session facilitated by the United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP). Participants have lauded their inclusiveness in the planning process of their Community Action Plan (CAP) as key to informing viable development initiatives in their community. Salayea resident and Chairman of the Disabled Group in Salayea District, Mr. Sam K. Darkolon, saw the CBPP exercise as “an eye opener to all of us that disabled people have potentials, skills, and should no longer be excluded in the decision making and planning of development initiatives.” He praised the Peacebuilding Fund project for designing aplan for their area. "In the past, when it came to the County Development Fund, no disabled people were included, we have not been counted, and have lacked the right information. This time around, I think it will be different," he said.

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).

The project is on track as evident of key deliverables being achieved during the period under review. However, some notable challenges and measures to address were:

I. Limited and unfavourable status of existing youth agriculture infrastructure -The project has intentions of utilizing an existing youth agriculture facility as a modality to train disadvantaged youth through different layers of the agriculture value chain development. However, it turned out, due to budgetary constraints, the facility has not been functional for the last couple of months. The team has engaged the MYS and MoA. With this, the implementation model is being reworked to suit the condition;

II. High expectations by the youth for incentives - Most project beneficiaries within the agriculture component have high expectations of receiving payments (incentives) for work. Most have expressed that they might need food or cash to facilitate work related outputs. To address this, the project technical team has continued to sensitize communities that hand-outs and incentives are not sustainable. There will also be some capacity building elements to support the youth as they engage in farm related activities.

III. Difficulties in acquiring suitable service providers - The programme has numerous capacity building activities (trainings, seminars, etc) planned. However, the UN procurement systems requires registered vendors for service provision, which is extremely limited in most of the target rural communities.

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):

NA

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.

Annex - None

* 1. **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:** Young women and men have increased access to local conflict resolution mechanisms, with a focus on land disputes, and become active agents of peace.

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

**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)?*

During the period under review, youths and their communities gained increased access to enhanced peace-building and conflict resolution capacities. Under output 1.2: There were two community based participatory planning exercises conducted in Zorzor and Salayea (Lofa County). These activities involved 50 participants per exercise including the youth, community socio-economic groups and local district sector representatives. A participatory approach was used to build social capital in divided communities by providing safe spaces for interaction, communication and joint decision-making. It was observed that the process helped to overcome mistrust and set a precedence for peaceful and constructive management of local disputes. As a result, two Community Action plans (CAPs) were developed, prioritizing key drivers for inclusive development whilst building resilience against conflict related shocks. These exercises were preceded by a training-of-trainers workshop aimed at setting the tone for local stakeholders to understand the tool and concept of community-based participatory planning (CBPP), stressing the underlying linkages between the exercise and peacebuilding initiatives. Going forward and also under this output, there were gains made in identifying existing peacebuilding mediation structures. Most of the structures appeared to be non-functional due to lack of budgetary support, but there are opportunities that exist with the institutional memories still available.

The final activity (1.2.3) observed during the period under review focused on socio-cultural activities, community mobilization and awareness raising campaigns which empowered the participation of vulnerable groups, especially youths, to promote actions towards sustaining the peace in their local communities. This informed also their role as actors of change to concertedly refine peacebuilding structures with increased participations by youth.

**Outcome 2:** Rural young women and men have access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods addressing key drivers of conflict.

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

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

Following the conclusion of the project start-up activities, the prime focus under this outcome was to have rural youth gain access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods addressing key drivers of conflict. During the period under review, progress recorded under output 2.3. includes: accessing 30 hectares of lowland in Lofa (Zorzor, Salayea, Ganglota) and Bong (Totota, Tumutu and Salala) for rice and vegetable production; rehabilitation/development is underway. Sites for improved poultry production are being prepared of construction of poultry facility in Totota (Bong). Beneficiaries have been mobilized and considered for three agriculture-based livelihood activities according to their interest; rice, vegetable and poultry. These activities are supported by the rationale behind combining employment and livelihood programmes with peacebuilding undertakings. This is due to the direct correlation between employment opportunities and their impact on jobs, incomes and skills, contributing to reducing anti-social behaviour through increased stability. Also, towards empowering youths to contribute to bridging the gaps existing in the supply of poultry feed, an initial consultation-based market assessment was undertaken. This, when finalized, will provide a basis for project subsequent interventions under output 2.4

**Outcome 3:** NA

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

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

NA

**Outcome 4:** NA

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

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

NA

* 1. **Cross-cutting issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National ownership:** How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit) | The Government (GoL) is fully participating and has taken lead in coordinating project activities. There are two designated focal persons from the ministries of Agriculture and Youth and Sports respectively. The government has assumed ownership from the beginning and have shown commitment to ensuring results and sustainability of the project. Through the MYS, the GoL co-chairs the Project Advisory Committee. The Ministries of Agriculture, Labor, Youth & Sports, Gender, Children and Social Protection are engaged centrally and locally in the project implementation, together with youth leaders, local leaders and women groups throughout the project's implementation. The Ministry of Agriculture leads the technical aspects of crop and poultry production while the Ministry of Gender ensures that some gender-based awareness and sensitization messages are included in each project activity, whilst supporting equal access to participation based on a gender mainstreaming strategy. The Ministry of Labor works closely with the UN Agencies to ensure youth gain competitive skills for employment. With the targets being youth, the MYS provides overall support to beneficiary selection as well as project implementation. |
| **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)?* | The project monitoring plan is on track. Through the coordination meetings, a joint monitoring plan has been developed to be conducted quarterly. In addition, every agency monitors activities on a regular basis, as they implement and update the M & E plan.The joint monitoring planned for the quarter was not carried out due to delays associated with deployment of some staff. However, separate non-periodic need-based missions of GoL/UN perssonnel were undertaken for monitoring, consultation and implementation purposes. Regularization of these montoring visits will be ensured going forward. |
| **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)* | Not due. |
| **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)* | There were no commitments during the period under review but data and lessons learned are currently being gathered to inform advocacy and resource mobilization efforts to increase support to the project. |
| **Catalytic effects (non-financial):** Did the project create favourable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. *(1500 character limit)* | N/A. Too early to observe. |
| **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)* | The project considers that ensuring sustainability is critical. As a first step, the project strives to ensure strong ownership by the government, beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Youth and Sports). Activities of the project are jointly implemented by the Project Technical Committee (PTC) which comprises of technical leads of government partners and the UN Agencies. This level of involvement generates ownership and sustainability. Youth, women, and local leaders are fully involved to ensure results are achieved and continued beyond the project closure. |
| **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)* | There have not been no new risks identified. |
| **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)* | The project has a gender marker score of 2 which indicates that 30-79% of the budget must be allocated in direct pursuit of gender equality and women empowerment. The project allocates 50% of its total budget to direct pursuit of GEWE. The project has 55% of the beneficiaries as young women. Issues of gender and women empowerment are carefully taken into consideration; Also, working with the Ministry of Gender, awareness and sensitization messages are being prepared for dissemination during all project activities, consistent with a strategy to mainstream gender into the project. |
| **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)* | N/A |

**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**  Young women  and men have increased  access to local conflict  resolution mechanisms,  with a focus on land  disputes, and become  active agents of peace. | Indicator 1.1  % change in  perceptions among  youth, women and local  leaders of their own  ability to prevent,  reduce and cope with  conflict and promote  peace | 0 | At least 20%  increase in perception  change | 0 | It is early to determine a change in perception of the beneficiaries as the activity that should contribute to this has not started and the milestone of this activity is Decemebr 31, 2020 | Target remains the same |
| Indicator 1.2  A % change in the  number of land related  conflicts and disputes in  the project areas. | 0 | At least 25%  reduction in land  related disputes and  conflicts. | 0 | As activities under this outcome has just began, it is too early at this stage to give statitics on this. However, due to the ongoing campaigns on peace building. There has not been no reported incidence relating to land conflict in all six project communities. | Target remians the same |
| Indicator 1.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 1.1  Land, youth  and gender related drivers  of conflicts are mapped  and documented | Indicator 1.1.1  # of land, youth and  gender related conflict  drivers mapped and  documented | 1 | 1 | 1 | The report of this exercise is currently been finalized. It will be ready by mid November 2019. | Target remains the same |
| Indicator 1.1.2  # of updated  conflict profile  : | 1 | 1 | 1 | The report of this exercise is currently been finalized. It will be ready by mid November 2019. | Target remains the same |
| Output 1.2  Young women  and men and their  communities have  enhanced peace-building  and conflict resolution  capacities | Indicator 1.2.1  # of community  based participatory  planning conducted | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 community based participatory planning activities have been concluded to date; | Target is at 50 percent |
| Indicator 1.2.2  # of  peacebuilding  structures  strengthened  Indicator 1.2.3  : # of socio-cultural activities, community mobilization and awareness raising-campaign conducted | 0  2 (3 in each project county) | 22  2 | 0  2 | This activity is still in progress  The media campaign is ongoing. Physical campaigns including all 1,200 project beneficiaries in the two project counties will commence towards the end of October, 2019 | Target remains the same  Target remains the same |
| Output 1.3 | Indicator 1.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 1.4 | Indicator 1.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 2**  Rural young  women and men have  access to sustainable  agricultural livelihoods  addressing key drivers of  conflict | Indicator 2.1  % of targeted youth  with access to  sustainable agricultural  livelihoods | 0 | At least 50% of  targeted youth (male:  50% and female: 50%) | 0 | Implementation of activities to achieve this target has just begun | Target remains same |
| Indicator 2.2  % of participants  who expect their future  economic situation to  be better than their  present economic  situation | 0 | At least 50% of  targeted youth (male:  50% and female: 50%) | 0 | Implementation of activities to achieve this target has been initiated. | Target remains same |
| Indicator 2.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.1  Young women  and men have enhanced  access to market-based  entrepreneurial skills  training and business  development services | Indicator 2.1.1  # of livelihood  activities youth  engaged in for self reliance | 0 | At least 3 agri-based livelihood (rice,  assorted vegetables  and poultry products) | 0 | Implementation has just started | Target remains the same |
| Indicator 2.1.2  # of training  manuals adapted to  local context | 0 | At least 2 (SIYB  and Farmer Field and  Life Schools Facilitator’s  Guide ) | 0 | Preparatory work for this activity is ongoing | Target remains the same |
| Output 2.2  Youth farmers’  have enhanced capacity to  manage their agricultural  cooperative effectively | Indicator 2.2.1  # of local partners  engaged in  developing/supporting  youth agricultural  cooperatives identified | 0 | 2 | 0 | Activity has not started | Target remains the same |
| Indicator 2.2.2  # of financial  institutions  identified/assessed | 0 | At least 2; one in  Bong and one Lofa | 0 | Activities to achieve this target has just begun | Target remains the same |
| Output 2.3  Thirty (30)  hectares of integrated  community lowland for  rice and vegetable  production rehabilitated  and developed through  employment-intensive  technique | Indicator 2.3.1  # of hectares  identified and selected  Baseline: 0  Target: 30ha in Lofa and  Bong | 0 | 30 ha | 100% (30ha) | NA | NA |
| Indicator 2.3.2  % of participants  who report feeling  comfortable working alongside a member of  other social group | 0 | at least 50% of  targeted beneficiaries  (male:50%, female:  50%) | 0 | Activities to contribute to achieving this indicator have just commenced | Target remains the same |
| Output 2.4  Poultry  production and  productivity improve | Indicator 2.4.1  # of sites  identified for poultry  production | 0 | 4 sites in 2  counties (2 in Bong and 2 in Lofa) | 100% (2 sites are identified in Bong: Tumutu and Totota, 2 sites in Lofa; Zorzor and Ganglta) | NA | NA |
| Indicator 2.4.2  # of raw material  identified locally | 0 | At least 3 local  raw materials (maize,  beans and  supplements) | 0 | Sites have been identified but construction of poultry facilities has not started; consultations with poultry producers will inform market assessments | Target remains the same |
| **Outcome 3** | Indicator 3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.1 | Indicator 3.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.2 | Indicator 3.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.3 | Indicator 3.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.4 | Indicator 3.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 4** | Indicator 4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.1 | Indicator 4.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.2 | Indicator 4.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.3 | Indicator 4.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.4 | Indicator 4.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |

**PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS**

* 1. **Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures**

Please rate whether 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 when do you expect to request the next tranche if applicable: One tranche has been received and the second is expected in June 2020.

What is the overall level of expenditure/ commitment against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far:The total budget is $1,500,000. Against this, $468,992.47 or 31.2% has been expended; this amount represents 44.6% of the first tranche of $1,050,002.

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

Please state what $ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date: The project amount of $750,000, representing 50% of project budget, is allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women’s empowerment. To date, out of the total expediture ($468,992.47), 55% ($257,445.85) can be attributed to the gender equality or women's empowerment. This is consistent with the project design and the current enrollment of 55% women as beneficiaries in all project activities.

Please fill out and attach the project document Excel budget Annex showing current project financial progress **(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 funds transfer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)