

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:** Myanmar

**TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL:**

**YEAR OF REPORT:** ANNUAL Report

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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** Myanmar Capacity Action and Norms (CAN) for Peacebuilding Project  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00119214 | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  ☒ Country Trust Fund  ☐ Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:**   SECRETARY-GENERAL's PEACEBUILDING FUND | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**  **Mercy Corps, International NGO (Convening Agency)**    **Women’s Organizations Network (WON)**  **International Alert (IA)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 12 December 2019  **Project end date:** 11 June 2021  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  ☒ Gender promotion initiative  ☐ Youth promotion initiative  ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  ☐ Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):**  **Recipient Organization Amount**  Mercy Corps $ 1,002,850.00        $        $        $  Total: $ 1,002,850.00  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget:   21%  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $828,581  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment:  83% | |
| **Project Gender Marker: 3**  **Project Risk Marker: 1**  **Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict prevention/management** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by:  Mercy Corps - Myanmar  Project report approved by:  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: | |

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

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

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

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

In the second part of the annual reporting period, the Women CAN project team focused on moving forward in the implementation process by building off of the strong foundation of partnership established at the onset of the project, both between the three implementing partners--Mercy Corps, the Myanmar Women’s Organization Network (WON), and International Alert (IA)--as well as with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the Union level in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the government to often prevent people from gathering for social occasions and leaving their neighborhoods/villages. Because of the restrictions during the second wave of COVID-19 (August onwards), it became necessary to adjust the methodology and conduct activities, such as the Action Research (AR) virtually.

Moreover, as program implementation continued to adapt to the changes in the context, WON and Mercy Corps reviewed and discussed the current situation in Rakhine State. The second wave of COVID-19 infections continues and political tensions are on the rise due to the cancelation of elections. Given Mercy Corps’ existing presence in Rakhine, after discussions between WON and Mercy Corps, it was decided that Mercy Corps would take on more responsibilities in Rakhine and provide more direct support and managerial guidance to activities of the local partner in Rakhine, Women of Faith Network (WOFN).

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

A documentary film has been commissioned, which will be following the program over the next six months, while a Women Peace & Security (WPS) short film will also be made to present the achievements of the project and grant recipient partner organisations:

The documentary is expected to capture the most significant improvements and achievements of grant recipient/partner organisations in terms of: stronger strategy/mission; stronger community/government profile; institutionalisation and organisational management processes; staff capacity development; programme development; increased research and advocacy capacity; and increased donor profile and sustainability, in particular highlighting the contribution of the grant.

The WPS short film will promote strengthening women’s leadership, advancing gender equality and improving protection for women and children in conflict settings under three components: women’s roles in conflict prevention, peace-making, and peace building.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

N/A

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

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

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

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

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

**Outcome 1: Existing and emerging female mediators are empowered to influence peaceful and effective resolution of conflicts**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Output 1.1** To date, AR has been carried out in three locations (Kayin, Mandalay, and Mon State), which includes three days of action research training, two days of data collection, and one day of data analysis. The first was able to take place in person, while the latter two took place using a hybrid method that included online and in-person engagement (see COVID-19 section below for more details).

From pre and post-test reports for the Kayin AR training, it was found that there have been quantitative increases in participants’ understanding of gender issues and conflict dynamics in their areas related to output 1.1.1. This also feeds into meeting Outcome indicator 1.1 which measures the percentage of female program participants reporting they have increased influence over resolution of conflicts.

The trained Action Researchers reported increasing their understanding of local conflicts and dispute resolution and spoke of their interest and determination and increased confidence to be actively engaged. This is the preparatory step towards this outcome in order to move ahead with the next steps of the project--Action Grants and Interest Based Mediation (IBM) training--which will build their practical skills to increase their influence. The AR identified priorities for the Action Grants to address, and what norms form barriers to women’s participation that will be addressed by the Gender Dialogue process (Outcome 3). The locally undertaken participatory action research is also a cornerstone for progress on Output 3.1.1, “Development of the gender community dialogues guide,” to inform the adaptation of a global approach to the local conflict dynamics and gender norms.

**Output 1.2** During the annual reporting period, the Women CAN team focused on an internal review of the current IBM Curriculum, generating lessons learned emerging from previous field experiences as well as the global literature in the field of gender and mediation. The team engaged in a multi-stakeholder workshop exploring lessons learned from the recently published Mercy Corps study exploring women’s experiences, roles, and influence in Community-Based Dispute Resolution and Mediation in Myanmar. Brief findings of the research were delivered to the participants in the Action Research training, and the process also included the facilitation of the IBM training for Women CAN team.

Due to the delayed action research activities, it was not possible to engage with women participants from the action research from four locations in the initial review and consultations for the IBM curriculum. The review and adaptation of the IBM curriculum has now entered its next phase, with the curriculum set to be finalized in December 2020, and training to be conducted in January 2021.

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

Project activities aim to expand the cohort of women in Myanmar who can play key roles in promoting localized peacebuilding goals and play key mediation roles. The approach is innovative in focusing on **emerging** women leaders at the **community level** who are typically not targeted in peacebuilding and mediation functions, as they do not hold these formal positions in the communities due to restrictive cultural norms. Currently, there is not much existing focus on women at the community-level in mediation processes, and it is expected that Mercy Corps and partners will be able to build local capacity that can be translated into national-level capacity.

**Outcome 2: Local drivers of conflicts are addressed through women-led actions linked to the Myanmar National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) at the community level**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

An actor mapping exercise related to the selection of program participants for the women’s leadership training was initiated by Mercy Corps along with WON and IA. WON also revised its Basic Women’s Leadership training design and curriculum for it to be relevant and applicable to being conducted online. Thereafter, Basic Women’s Leadership virtual training was conducted for existing female mediators from 25 to 28 October 2020 in Kayin State. WON has also started the production of IEC materials related to Basic Women’s Leadership.

Finally, the program team has been finalizing the grant guidelines and related documents. A coordination meeting with partners will be held to review these guidelines and make any necessary additions.

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

**Outcome 3: Male gatekeepers demonstrate increased support of women’s meaningful participation in the peaceful resolution of conflicts**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

There is currently no progress under this outcome, as this is designed to be the final stage of the project. Outcome 3 activities are scheduled for the latter phase of project implementation, and will be reported on in future progress reports.

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

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** *Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)*  The project’s baseline study which was expected to be conducted early on was delayed due to described challenges. However, all systems, including the Program Performance Monitoring Plan and evaluation tools were collaboratively developed and finalized in a two-day online M&E Workshop, with the participation of all partners.  Output tracker is the main tool tracking the basic numeric achievements on a monthly basis with the partners, both as an overview along with detailed validation sheets apart from the other pre and post-test, training evaluation or the baseline databases.  CARM (Community Accountability and Reporting Mechanism), promoted at the trainings with the participants and partners, is one of the channels of collecting voices of the program participants and the partners. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? No  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? No |
| **Evaluation:** *Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?*  At the AR (Action Research) training, the pre-post tests were conducted.  Training evaluation was used at the Basic Women Leadership training and these training evaluations will be conducted in the upcoming training like Interest-Based Mediation, advanced training for women. | Evaluation budget (response required): $53,740  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:  Although the program was aiming to conduct a Midterm evaluation, due to the delay of the activities and the baseline which shortened the program timeframe, the midterm will most likely not be conducted and only a robust endline evaluation will take place which will be led by the external consultant.  Program Review Meeting will be conducted with all Women CAN partners in November 2020.  Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and CARM review/discussion session will also be conducted in November 2020. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: No Amount: |
| **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)* | Due to the COVID-19 pandemic period, the project implementation activities are delayed behind schedule. However, the scheduling arrangements are being discussed with partner’s organizations to conduct the training. There is a challenge to identify women who have potential leadership skills and identifying the interviewees in the community during these days. The main challenge is planning for Rakhine. Mercy Corps is leading right now in order to start identifying required adaptations to the methodology in this highly sensitive area.  The second important thing is that we may need to discuss online adaptations for quarterly exchange meetings for IBM and the social norm change dialogues as well, particularly if restrictions on travel and group size persist. |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

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

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

$

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

A lot of effort went into finding alternative ways to provide training while abiding by the government’s travel and gathering restriction policies. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place since March 24, 2020, the project adapted the AR and training methodology to a remote delivery modality. Online workshops can make it difficult to engage participants, build trust between participants and trainers, and hold open discussion and brainstorming sessions. In order to produce the best learning outcomes for the participants, a hybrid methodology that allows participants to gather in small groups with one project officer and local facilitators group was agreed upon to smooth the process and mobilize break-out group discussions. This allowed participants to benefit from peer discussion and increase their confidence. These mini-groups would follow on a laptop and printed power-points rather than trying to follow a training on a mobile phone screen for the three to four day training.

Transferring in-person activities to an online platform to adapt to the COVID-19 related restrictions, proved challenging as digital literacy is quite low among the local partners and program participants in the field. So in addition to preparing for virtual training the program team worked on enhancing the partners’ digital literacy.

Although there were travel restrictions and quarantine procedures in all locations, Sittwe Township was in a complete lockdown situation and the team couldn’t travel there, while the local facilitators could barely leave their homes. WON faced many challenges and after a review of the situation and discussions between Mercy Corps and WON, it was decided that Mercy Corps would take on more direct responsibilities in supporting the local partner in Sittwe given the fact that MC already has an office and team in place there. At the same time, along with this change, MC has restructured the team for better program and partnership management.

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

☐ Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

☐ Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

☐ Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

☐ Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

☐ Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

☐ Other (please describe):

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

**PART V: 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** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| **Outcome 1**  Existing and emerging female mediators are empowered to influence peaceful and effective resolution of conflicts | Indicator 1.1  % of female project participants reporting they have increased influence over resolution of conflicts | **0** | **70%** | **NA** | **NA** (the baseline of the first cohort of 25 women in Kayin has been conducted on 25-27 October before the BWL training started) | Due to delayed of the initialization of the program and the COVID-19 crisis, the delay of the start of activities, including the identification of the potential participants due to restriction of movement, the MEL (Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning) team among the partners agreed to conduct the baseline for women participants at the IBM (Interest-Based Mediation) training, which is planned to ve delivered to 25 targeted women from each of the four target locations after the Action Research. However, BWL (Basic Women Leadership) Training was conducted first in Kayin State and the Baseline has been conducted by phone interviews prior to the training on 25-27 Oct 20 by the Women CAN team members for those 25 women who joined the BWL training. |
| Output 1.1  Emerging female mediators utilize research skills to better understand context specific drivers of conflict, barriers and opportunities for women and female youth meaningful participation in dispute resolution and mediation processes | Indicator 1.1.1  # of emerging female mediators reporting they utilize research skills to better understand context specific drivers of conflict, barriers and opportunities for women and female youth meaningful participation in dispute resolution and mediation processes | **0** | **60** | **NA** | **30 women participants** (this achievement is as of Oct 15th). | Only Rakhine State is left to conduct this Action Research due to its complicated, risky nature of the context, and the handover processes between MC and WON, the Civil Society Organization Partner (WOFN). It is planned to be conducted in the third week of November2020. |
| Output 1.2  Existing and emerging female mediators are equipped with the skills and knowledge to resolve disputes using the adapted gender- responsive Interest Based Negotiation tool and methodology | Indicator 1.2.1  # of emerging and existing female mediators trained on IBM | **0** | **100** | **NA** | **0** | Although the program team followed the timeline as planned, the team could not finish adaptation of the IBM curriculum because of COVID-19 restrictions preventing the organization of existing female mediators to review from their community perspective. Therefore, the team decided to hire the consultant to develop the gender responsive Interest Based Mediation curriculum with the technical team and the Women CAN program team. The revision and adaptation process will be conducted in November. The adaptation of Interest Based Mediation will be finalized in December. |
| Indicator 1.2.2  # of trained women mediators receiving coaching, mentoring and thematic trainings | **0** | **20** | **NA** | **0** | Due to the delayed initiation and processes of the IBM curriculum adaption to be gender responsive, the selection of the women for coaching, mentoring, and thematic trainings was also delayed as a consequence. |
| Output 1.3  Linkages between emerging and expert women mediators are established | Indicator 1.3.1  # of regional meetings facilitated between expert and newly-trained women mediators | **0** | **2** | **NA** | **0** | Due to the delayed initiation and the prior activities, this activity has also been delayed. |
| Indicator 1.3.2  # emerging and expert women mediators who commit to continue to collaborate with each other beyond program life cycle | **0** | **75** | **NA** | **0** | Due to the delayed initiation and the prior activities, this activity has also been delayed. |
| **Outcome 2**  Local drivers of conflicts are addressed at the community level through women-led actions linked to the Myanmar National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women | Indicator 2.1  % of community led action projects that are reported to have addressed at least 1 local driver of conflict | **0** | **75** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Output 2.1  Less visible women’s CBOs, influential female leaders and individual young women identify, design and implement community action projects | Indicator 2.1.1  # of community action projects around NSPAW WPS priority areas implemented by women’s CBOs, influential female leaders and individual young women thanks to CAN small grants | **0** | **12** | **NA** | **0** | Due to the delayed initiation and the prior activities, this activity has also been delayed. |
| Indicator 2.1.2  # of field visits conducted to provide support through the design, implementation and monitoring process of women's action projects | **0** | **24** | **NA** | **0** | Due to the delayed initiation and the prior activities, this activity has also been delayed and may be adapted to include remote monitoring through video call or zoom meetings. |
| **Outcome 3**  Male gatekeepers demonstrate increased support for gender responsive resolution of conflicts | Indicator 3.1  % male gatekeepers reporting more equitable gender attitudes about women and female youth meaningful participation in the peaceful resolution of conflicts | **0** | **10%** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.2  % of female project participants reporting male gatekeepers increased support for gender responsive resolution of conflicts | **0** | **10%** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Output 3.1  Local CSOs / CBOs capacity to lead gender dialogue groups is strengthened | Indicator 3.1.1  # of community dialogue guide developed | **0** | **1** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2  # of female members of local CSO/ CBO members participating in gender dialogue training that report increased capacity to lead gender dialogue groups | **0** | **10** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Output 3.2  Influential male and female community members collaborate to challenge gender norms and promote positive masculinities | Indicator 3.2.1  # of dialogue groups facilitated to unpack and better understand gender barriers and promote positive masculinities | **0** | **32** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2  # of joint / collaborative initiatives for male- female collaboration initiatives that challenge gender norms thanks to small grants | **0** | **12** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Output 3.3  Religious, political and community leaders, MPs and political dialogue leaders increase their knowledge of gender responsive conflict resolution approaches | Indicator 3.3.1  # of national event in Naypyidaw featuring women-led action research results and revised gender-responsive IBN methodology and lessons learned | **0** | **1** | **NA** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.3.2  # of people participating in national event in Naypyidaw featuring women-led action research results and revised gender-responsive IBN methodology and lessons learned | **0** | **50** | **NA** | **0** |  |