**SECRETARY-GENERAL’S PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:**

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

**DATE OF REPORT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:    Youth at Risk**  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** | |
| **PBF project modality:**  ☐ X IRF  ☐ PRF | **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  ☐ Country Trust Fund  ☐ Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:**  UNDP and ILO Lebanon |
| **List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):** UNDP, ILO (UNICEF as a partner agency without receiving funds)    **List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:**  Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), municipalities, local NGOs | |
| **Project commencement date[[1]](#footnote-1):**      December 2017  **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  ☐x 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):**  Fully allocated first tranche:  UNDP: 1,049,740 USD; ILO: 1,050,000 USD  Conditional second tranche:  UNDP: 449,888 USD; ILO: 450,000 USD  Total:  2,999,628 USD  **How many tranches have been received so far:**  2 (and all) | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by:    Marat Murzabekov M & E Officer UNDP  Project report approved by:  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:  No. | |

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

*By the 15th of June 2019, the project team completed the activities as planned in the project document for the reporting period. The majority of activities are finished, therefore the end report is expected to be similar to the current report. Some activities, mainly around communications and outreach would benefit from a one month no-cost extension. The RCO is currently in the process of requesting this.*

*The participating UN agencies focused on:*

***Ownership and sustainability/exit strategy****: project activities were coordinated with relevant Lebanese authorities, NGO’s and UN agencies and advocacy events on peace building and employment were organised throughout the reporting period.* *Efforts were made to keep the MSS committees running after project finalization.*

***Training:*** *By end of October/beginning of November 2018, 1,841 Lebanese and Syrian refugee youth have been selected by the PBF team and our partner Al Majmoua, out of which 1,015 (57% Syrian refugees and 53% female beneficiaries) have been trained on the My First Business entrepreneurship programme and 617 family members targeted with the family sensitization programme.*

*By end of May 2019, 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures (a total of 68 beneficiaries) were created and received intensive business coaching and seed funding from ILO.*

***Coordination:*** *A continuous coordination at field level is taking place through the Bekaa livelihood and social stability working group under the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan that brings together NGOs and UN in the Bekaa. The coordination has led to referral of youth from several livelihood actors to the Chamber of Commerce in the Bekaa and Zahle.*

***Outreach****: The PBF Team and UNHCR continued to reach out to Syrian refugees in order to encourage them to join the programme and Chamber of Commerce in Zahle (CCIAZ) and the socio-economic committee collaborated to increase the outreach to youth, and MSMEs.*

*Al Majmoua, an Implementing Partner, together with the established socio-economic committees reached up to 2,131 beneficiaries (49% Lebanese, 51% Syrian refugee, of which half were women out of which ,1015 were recruited in the entrepreneurship programme according to the agreed selection criteria.*

*Several partners were involved in the outreach phase; in addition, to the socio-economic committee and municipalities, the CCIAZ used the referral from the PBF team, MoSA and other NGO’s working within the area with vulnerable youth.*

*CCIAZ reached out to Syrian youth by using an SMS disseminated by the UNHCR.*

*The number of applications received during the outreach phase that took place in October and November in the targeted areas was 799; 560 applications were filled out in Riyak and Barr Elias and 239 applications in Al Qaa.*

*In 2 out of 3 socio-economic committees, the representation of the Syrian refugee community was noticed. That is worth considering as a real success even though the percentage is low, noting that in the first period of the project, there was a high resistance from the Lebanese committee members towards the Syrian participation (especially when they knew about the job and business vacancies resulted from the project.) In a later stage, the acceptance and teamwork between both communities, in Riyaq and Barr Elias, were noticeable.*

*Worth noticing, while supporting ILO and UNDP Livelihoods in the outreach to youth, the committee members ensured spreading the information equally between the Lebanese and Syrians and encouraged both nationalities to apply and register in the programs.*

*By December 2019 UNDP and ILO completed end-line research as well as the terminal evaluation of the project (cf. annexes). Both reports presented important findings and recommendations concerning the implementation of the project, its effectiveness in building bridges between Syrian and Lebanese youth.*

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)

*The PBF project is being implemented in villages where host communities and Syrian refugees live in close proximity from each other and where tensions have been present -and on several occasions have escalated in the past.*

*Perceived competition for lower-skilled jobs remains (as of 15th of June 2019) one of the main conflict drivers of tensions between Lebanese and Syrian refugees as indicated by regular perception surveys commissioned by UNDP in 2018, as well as by a recent conflict scan by the Search for Common Ground NGO. In particular, an increase in protests against Syrian competition for jobs has been observed all over the country, particularly in areas where there is a larger presence of Syrian refugees, or where the refugee inflow has exacerbated pre-existing economic grand social fragility. Municipalities continue to implement restrictive measures against the refugees, including curfews and have threatened to evict displaced Syrians unless they receive additional support.*

*At the same time more and more resentment towards Syrian refugees has been detected, for instance by local actors closing Syrian businesses down and by a new law that invokes all visas of Syrians that left the country after the 23rd of April 2019.*

*The percentage of youth among both refugees and host communities is large (often reaching over 40%) and ever growing, with a general lack of job opportunities. The continuous need to focus and increase support to activities promoting peace and employment was re-emphasised by partners and several donors.*

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).

*While there is an increasing advocacy for promoting economic opportunities and employment generation in Lebanon, there is limited evidence that such interventions actually contribute to peace, especially in fragile and conflict-affected countries. An overview of 400 ILO, PBSO, UNDP and WBG projects concluded that the supporting evidence is weak, as the majority of projects are difficult to evaluate due to the lack of consistent monitoring data.[[3]](#footnote-3) Research from Liberia[[4]](#footnote-4) and Afghanistan[[5]](#footnote-5) have demonstrated that employment interventions do work in the prevention of violent extremism, but under very specific circumstances (inter alia, robust beneficiary selection criteria, supplementing employment interventions with cash transfers). This project tries to address this knowledge gap and test some of the assumption of linkages between employment generation and peacebuilding, including by collecting comprehensive baseline and end line data.*

*The level of collaboration between implementing agencies is very high. Local socio-economic committees established by UNDP have been directly involved in the selection processes for both vocational training and self-employment components. The PBF team, including government and non-government partners, meets on a regular basis and agrees on next steps. As an example, during the summer 2018 the project team met on several occasions to refine and update the project’s Theory of Change. Based on this exercise, the team agreed on specific next steps in integrating socio-economic committees into the livelihoods activities organized by UNDP and ILO.*

*The PBF Team moreover invested a considerable amount of time and effort in internal team building and streamlining of project goals. This has led to cohesion of the team and an ongoing communication between members. This was also demonstrated at several meetings with the UNCT and the pillar groups of the internal document managing the UN’s work in lebanon, the United Nations Strategy Framework (UNSF).*

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

*The project is completed.*

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 has succeeded in re-engaging the local mechanisms for social stability (MSS) - community groups focusing on conflict prevention. Socio-economic committees have been established through MSS. In these committees all actors in the community are represented and provided the chance/opportunity to make a change. The project succeeded in facilitating the inclusion of Syrian refugees in two committees out of three (Bar Elias and Riyak). In the third village (Al Qaa), after a noticeable resistance from the municipality and host community sides, a different approach was taken, which is further elaborated below.*

*Main peacebuilding results:*

* *Close collaboration and coordination between the partner agencies in this project. In addition to their presence in the PBF retreat to answer all the questions and better provide details concerning the joint project as per the need.*
* *Acceptance and ability of the participants from both communities (Lebanese host community and Syrian Refugees) to sit on a round table equally and discuss potential economic solutions with sustainable PeaceBuilding impact for their region/place of residency.*
* *Supporting the partner agencies in their process (introduce the project to the communities, outreach and registration of youths, evaluation of the projects, providing information to Al Majmouaa and Chamber of Commerce).*
* *Identifying a unified socio-economic project, that links the small projects submitted by the youths and maintain their stability and development, and will be implemented specifically by the committees.*
* *Linking the committees with potential donors for more sustainability.*
* *The MSS Committee to be formally part of the municipality structure in Riyak (28th of June 2019)*

*The project has successfully supported the establishment of 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures in Bar Elias, Riyak and Qaa. Lebanese and Syrian partners have set up their businesses in full collaboration, with no conflict or major tension reported. Through coaching sessions, ILO has ensured that decent work principles are applied to the joint-venture partners, that responsibilities are clearly defined and equally distributed, and that no partners are exploited or abused. To date, the joint-business ventures are running smoothly, Lebanese and Syrian refugees are committed to their businesses and tension and grievances, if any, have significantly decreased.*

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):

*These results will be available at the end of the end line study (September 2019), however, during monitoring visits to MSS sessions and entrepreneurship-related bootcamps, as well as graduation ceremonies the project team observed a great of level of commitment and willingness to collaborate among Syrians, Palestinians and Lebanese. Working together on a shared issue (i.e. employment and self-employment) contributed to a constructive intercommunal dialogue between the participants. This is demonstrated by every MSS meeting (happening bi-weekly) and also by the MSS retreat for all three committees in Zahle in September 2018, where the team was part of a training about identity, common ground and collaboration given by PBF Partner Beyond.*

*In line with the livelihood skills that are provided and trained by the team, the real human impact is reflected by: 1) the acceptance and respect of the committee members towards each other, 2) the willingness to work with one another and 3) the appreciation of the ethics and values package provided throughout the process.*

*Quotes:*

* *‘It is nice to see people who are originally from Barr Elias and left the village long time ago, being present in the socio-economic market after hearing about it on social media’ - Barr Elias committee member*
* *‘We never thought that such a new and big project would be of a success when really integrating all the clubs and different stakeholders of the town’ - Barr Elias committee member*
* *‘It is the very first time that the mayor and a parliament member participate to an open event in the village’ - Barr Elias committee member*

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).

*No challenges at this stage. We did see the situation in Lebanon deteriorate for Syrians, the project team has been in constant contact with colleagues mapping tensions and the political situation to ensure the success of the project and address occurring issues (for instance some MSS members initially unwilling to sit with Syrians)*

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):

*Non-applicable, delays have been made up for.*

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.

*The below link describes the whole project, ILO component and specific activities with pictures. We have tons of pictures but I don’t know what and how to share them with PBF… in terms of publications, we are still working on the family sensitization guide and we have the MFB training package that was amended and redesigned but it’s also work under progress. We can attach the baseline study if everyone agrees.*

[*https://fragilestates.itcilo.org/employment-and-peacebuilding-building-bridges-for-youth-in-lebanon/*](https://fragilestates.itcilo.org/employment-and-peacebuilding-building-bridges-for-youth-in-lebanon/)

* 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:   Livelihoods opportunities for ‘youth at risk’ intense areas are improved**

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

*The activities under this outcome are on track. This outcome is 95% completed.*

**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)?

1. ***Coordination and Partnerships***

***This component is ongoing, to ensure catalytic effect of the project.***

*The PBF Team has continued to work closely together with relevant partners in the field and in Beirut.*

*UN Agencies: The three agencies part of the project have been meeting on a weekly basis both in Beirut as in the Bekaa. Heads of agencies are briefed individually and together at a regular basis. Other relevant UN partners (World Bank and UNIFIL specifically) have been informed about the project and are kept in the loop for partnerships in future and to avoid duplication*

*Government:*

*PBSO: the PBF team has monthly calls, and at times bi-weekly calls, with the PBSO in New York.*

*Al Majmoua: ILO signed an implementation agreement with Al Majmoua, Lebanese micro-finance institution and business development organisation to assist in the delivery of the entrepreneurship programme, specifically training of youth on entrepreneurship, running business plan competitions to select 30 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures, and coaching and providing seed funding to the joint-business ventures.*

*Chamber of Commerce: During this period the PBF Team contracted the Chamber of Commerce in Zahle and Bekaa (CCIAZ) under a Letter of Expression modality to implement the following project activities:*

*A. Identification of 450 “youth at risk’ (with up to 50% of Syrians) to be supported through vocational training programmes and internships.*

*B. Roll out of joint vocational and technical trainings within identified institutions based on the labor market assessment, provided by UNDP.*

*C. Enrolment in youth internship programmes and stipends within identified MSMEs.*

*The partnership between the PBF team and the Chamber of Commerce in Zahle and Bekaa(CCIAZ) is based on previous experience where CCIAZ had demonstrated strong capacity to implement similar projects in terms of youth recruitment, technical and soft skills development and internship placement within MSMEs with close follow-up.*

*The project implementation is done also through a collaboration with Ministry of Higher Education, directorate of vocational training in order to adapt and tailor trainings to accommodate the project needs and timeframe.*

1. ***Livelihood component***

***This component is completed.***

*By end of May; the project in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in Zahle and Bekaa completed the soft skills training targeting 50% Lebanese and 50% Syrian. The soft skills training covered the following topics:*

* *How to develop a curriculum vitae,*
* *How to prepare for a job interview,*
* *How to communicate with employers when searching for a job opportunity and last*
* *How to prepare youth in terms of skills for the work environment.*

*At the end, the total number of youth that benefited from the soft skills training was 845 youth. Below a table showing their distribution by gender, nationality, and region.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Count of Gender*** | | | | | | | | |
|  | ***Female*** | | ***Female Total*** | ***Male*** | | | ***Male Total*** | ***Grand Total*** |
| ***Region*** | ***Lebanese*** | ***Syrian*** |  | ***Lebanese*** | ***PalestinIan*** | ***Syrian*** |  |  |
| ***Bar Elias*** | ***114*** | ***89*** | ***203*** | ***117*** |  | ***93*** | ***210*** | ***413*** |
| *0 day* | *26* | *30* | *56* | *30* |  | *38* | *68* | *124* |
| *1 day* | *9* | *3* | *12* | *8* |  | *4* | *12* | *24* |
| *2 days* | *1* | *3* | *4* | *3* |  | *2* | *5* | *9* |
| *4 days* | *78* | *53* | *131* | *76* |  | *49* | *125* | *256* |
| ***Al Qaa*** | ***22*** | ***17*** | ***39*** | ***29*** |  | ***13*** | ***42*** | ***81*** |
| *0 day* | *20* |  | *20* | *27* |  | *2* | *29* | *49* |
| *1 day* | *2* |  | *2* | *1* |  |  | *1* | *3* |
| *2 days* |  | *17* | *17* | *1* |  | *11* | *12* | *29* |
| ***Riyak*** | ***183*** | ***21*** | ***204*** | ***125*** | ***1*** | ***21*** | ***147*** | ***351*** |
| *0 day* | *60* | *6* | *66* | *51* |  | *5* | *56* | *122* |
| *1 day* | *7* | *3* | *10* | *4* | *1* | *2* | *7* | *17* |
| *2 days* | *3* |  | *3* | *1* |  | *1* | *2* | *5* |
| *3 days* |  |  |  | *1* |  | *1* | *2* | *2* |
| *4 days* | *113* | *12* | *125* | *68* |  | *12* | *80* | *205* |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***319*** | ***127*** | ***446*** | ***271*** | ***1*** | ***127*** | ***399*** | ***845*** |

*The total number reached in Bar Elias was 413 youth, 256 received the 4 days soft skills, 33 attended 1 or 2 days and 124 dropped out from the project (this number was expected based on previous experience in the LHSP programme). In Riyak the situation was more or less the same. The reached number of youth was 315. Out of them 205 attended the 4 days soft skills training, 24 came for couple of days and 122 youth didn’t attend at all.*

*For Al Qaa, the number of participants that applied was 81. Only 29 attended the intensive soft skills training and the majority were Syrians. Out of 32 participants we had 28 Syrian participants.*

*The soft skills training proved to be an opportunity to have a positive interaction between Lebanese and Syrian youth. The training encouraged communication and eased the tensions between the two groups.*

*After the soft skills, youth was provided the space to select the vocational training they would like to attend and was provided with guidance on the legal framework of sectors Syrian are allowed to work in.*

*Based on the labour market assessment outcomes, the project developed curricula and training programmes for upgrading youth skills and know-how so they match with the demand and needs of local MSMEs in Bar Elias, Riyak and Al Qaa. A number of meetings took place in Beirut with teachers and members from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the department of vocational training to develop and adapt the curriculum and training programmes as per the business needs.*

*The curricula were designed using the Competency-Based Training (CBT) approach. In this context, educational materials such as manuals, methodology and contents were developed for the following trainings:1) cleaning, 2) nursing/first aid, 3) secretariat,4) sales and marketing, 5) agriculture, 6) agro food, and 7) tourism and hospitality. The new curricula were structured to provide each participant with at least 120 hours of theoretical and practical training.*

*As for the training programmes, they were tailored towards youth particularly those who have not been in a formal learning environment for several years.*

*Since all the participants are youth, who might sometimes find it difficult to follow the trainers, the process of training delivery includes a variety of tools in order to be effective. Interactive learning methods were adopted by the trainers during the delivery of courses. The trainers used instructional activities ranging from presentation, working group discussions, field visit and practical sessions. All the materials were adapted to suit youth’s educational background, the working language was Arabic so all participants could assimilate the course*

*The trainings targeted a larger number of youth reaching 636 youth but by the end of the training on 452 completed the training distributed as follow:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Count of Gender*** | | | | | | | |
|  | ***Female*** | | ***Female Total*** | ***Male*** | | ***Male Total*** | ***Grand Total*** |
| ***Row Labels*** | ***Lebanese*** | ***Syrian*** |  | ***Lebanese*** | ***Syrian*** |  |  |
| ***Bar Elias*** | ***66*** | ***42*** | ***108*** | ***57*** | ***23*** | ***80*** | ***188*** |
| *Agriculture* | *1* | *36* | *37* | *10* | *20* | *30* | *67* |
| *Cleaning* |  | *5* | *5* |  | *3* | *3* | *8* |
| *Hospitality* | *5* |  | *5* | *8* |  | *8* | *13* |
| *First Aid* | *41* |  | *41* | *11* |  | *11* | *52* |
| *Sales & Marketing* | *8* |  | *8* | *19* |  | *19* | *27* |
| *Secretariat* | *11* | *1* | *12* | *9* |  | *9* | *21* |
| ***Al Qaa*** | ***14*** | ***17*** | ***31*** | ***24*** | ***11*** | ***35*** | ***66*** |
| *Agriculture* |  | *17* | *17* |  | *11* | *11* | *28* |
| *Tourism & Hospitality* | *14* |  | *14* | *24* |  | *24* | *38* |
| ***Riyak*** | ***119*** | ***12*** | ***131*** | ***59*** | ***8*** | ***67*** | ***198*** |
| *Agriculture* | *46* | *12* | *58* | *39* | *8* | *47* | *105* |
| *Agrofood* | *73* |  | *73* | *20* |  | *20* | *93* |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***199*** | ***71*** | ***270*** | ***140*** | ***42*** | ***182*** | ***452*** |

*The reason behind this high turnover vary from:*

*- Returning to Syria or reallocating in Lebanon*

*- Starting a new job*

*- Timing of the training in the afternoon was a barrier for youth participation but since we were using the public school system this was the only timing feasible.*

*- Commuting and transportation availability.*

*Since mid-March 2019, 450 youth started their first month of internship in 102 MSMEs. The internship was planned to be 6 hours per day, 3 days per week for two months (144 total hours). However, due to the Month of Ramadan (taking Place in May and June in 2019) and the shortage of time we increased the number of days in order to end the internship by early May 2019, beginning of the month of Ramadan.*

*It should be noted that the CCIAZ team has previously contacted the MSMEs and agreed with them on signing an agreement that states their willingness to hosting interns. The table below illustrates the segregation of youth by sector, nationality, and gender.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Sectors*** | ***Lebanese*** | | ***Lebanese Total*** | ***Syrian*** | | ***Syrian Total*** | ***Grand Total*** |
| ***Female*** | ***Male*** |  | ***Female*** | ***Male*** |  |  |
| *Agriculture* | *46* | *48* | *94* | *64* | *40* | *104* | *198* |
| *Agro food* | *73* | *20* | *93* |  |  |  | *93* |
| *Cleaning/ Recycling* |  |  |  | *5* | *3* | *8* | *8* |
| *Hospitality* | *5* | *8* | *13* |  |  |  | *13* |
| *First Aid* | *41* | *11* | *52* |  |  |  | *52* |
| *Sales* | *8* | *19* | *27* |  |  |  | *27* |
| *Secretary* | *11* | *9* | *20* | *1* |  | *1* | *21* |
| *Tourism and Hospitality* | *14* | *24* | *38* |  |  |  | *38* |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***198*** | ***139*** | ***337*** | ***70*** | ***43*** | ***113*** | ***450*** |

*Since March 2018, the joint PBF project between 3 agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and ILO) was launched with 3 villages in Central and North Bekaa regions.*

*Local working groups (LWGs) were formed and activated in Barr Elias, Riyaq and Qaa villages aiming to create Mechanisms for Social Stability in the 3 mentioned towns. The PBF team ensured the representation of all different stakeholders and local actors in the committees giving them all the opportunity to express their opinions and come out with a common vision and interest for their village aiming to improve the socio-economic situation and providing youths with more livelihoods vacancies.*

*The capacity building of around 55 LWG members was continuous throughout the whole process of the project. It is worth highlighting that these LWGs were the entry point for the UNDP Livelihood component and ILO to assess the villages’ needs, interests and resources prior to the start-up of their interventions.*

*The main roles and responsibilities of the LWGS were to:*

* *Facilitate the other agencies intervention*
* *Provide more information regarding the needs, interests and resources of the villages*
* *Support with the outreaching and registration of the youths*
* *Come up with a socio-economic project enhancing the economic situation in town and maintaining the sustainability of the small businesses as well as of the committee*

*The main ideas suggested and implemented by the committees, to enhance the economic situation and create a space for more social interaction and relationships, are as below:*

* *Riyak: arrange a touristic week aiming to encourage tourism in the village in addition to finalize a touristic map focusing on the existing resources in the village.*
* *Barr Elias: organize a Socio-Economic market aiming to highlight the small businesses available in the village (and surrounding villages) including the businesses funded by the PBF Team.*
* *Qaa: conduct food production training for the community members as a start-up for the longer plan (local production) of the village as to also finalize a touristic map (similar to Riyaq).*

***(3) Entrepreneurship component***

* *July 2018:* 
  + *20 Al Majmoua trainers trained by the team on the My First Business entrepreneurship programme.*
  + *18 Al Majmoua trainers trained on family sensitization programme to promote self-employment among families of beneficiaries*
* *August-September 2018: Al Majmoua together with the established socio-economic committees reached out to 2131 beneficiaries (49% Lebanese and 51% Syrian refugees), out of which 1015 were selected to take part in the entrepreneurship programme.*
* *September 2018 - February 2019:* 
  + *1015 Lebanese and Syrian refugees (57% Syrian refugees and 53% female beneficiaries) were trained on entrepreneurship in joint classroom and entrepreneurship boot camps, out of which 300 selected to submit viable business plans for the business plan competitions.*
  + *890 family members sensitized on self-employment out of which 590 participated in awareness-raising group sessions and 300 benefitted from one-on-one awareness sessions.*
  + *6 Al Majmoua coaches trained and certified on the ILO coaching programme.*
* *February 2019: Business plan competitions were run to select 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures*
* *March - June 2019: Coaching and seed funding provided to the 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures for start-up and operationalisation phase.*
* *June 2019: 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures created in Bar Elias (19), Riyak (9) and Qaa (6)*

*Overall implementation of this component in on-track.*

**Outcome 2: Local communities’ ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict are strengthened through engagement of ‘youth at risk’**

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

*The activities under this outcome are on track and 95% completed.*

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

*Under this outcome, progress has been achieved in the following areas:*

1. ***Mechanisms for Social Stability***

*In 2019, the activities implementation took place in the 3 different villages:*

* *In Barr Elias, the socio-economic market was done for 7 consecutive days during the month of May, hosting at least 800 community members (from both host community and Syrian refugees) on a daily basis.*
* *In Riyaq, the touristic week is scheduled from the last week of June.*
* *The touristic maps for Riyaq and Qaa are in progress of completion and should be finalized in the end of the month of June.*
* *End of June the Bar Elias MSS committee was accepted as an official committee informing the municipality.*

1. ***Family Sensitization on Self-Employment***

***This component is completed****.*

*The PBF team developed a family sensitization programme that aims to raise awareness of families of Lebanese and Syrian refugee youth on self-employment and its benefits to social stability. The programme was delivered by Al Majmoua which conducted sensitization sessions as well as door-to-door visits to families of beneficiaries. In total, 890 family members were targeted in the three project location. 590 family members attended group sessions and 300 family members benefited from one-on-one sessions. As a result, the sensitization programme helped raise awareness of families on entrepreneurship and its benefits as an income-generating activity, increased contact between the older generation of both communities and contributed to breaking down stereotypes and reducing tension. The programme also helped in creating a supporting environment to youth and in maintaining their participation throughout the entrepreneurship training programme. A family sensitization or “how-to deliver a family sensitization programme on self-employment” guide is currently being finalised to institutionalise the programme within Al Majmoua or replicate in future interventions.*

1. ***Vocational Training and Literacy Education:***

Within the vocational training program, few soft and life skills training were provided to support youth better integrate in the work environment. This experience translate in a very positive relationship with both Lebanese and Syrian youth that contributed to a more positive collaboration between themselves and contributed to better know each other.

* 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) | *MOSA has been active in working together with the PBF team and partners both at national level as in the villages. MOSA attended all relevant meetings and has helped bringing together the steering committee. MOSA has indicated that the PBF project is very important for the ministry as well a vehicle to bring the four ministries involved together.*  *The Ministry of Interior as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education have been involved in the steering committee on a national level and representatives have been meeting with the PBF team, at a local level, they have shown commitment and their interventions have been aligned with those of the UN. All three mayors and municipalities of the villages are involved in the implementation of the project and have provided ideas and shared challenges with the PBF team, this will continue on a regular basis.* |
| **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 relies on a baseline and endline study to collect the evidence of change. The project team also conducts regular site verification visits. The endline study and the terminal evaluation are complete.* |
| **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)* | *The terminal evaluation is complete (cf. annexes)* |
| **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)* | *Most likely the Dutch Embassy will provide funding for a similar project by ILO.* |
| **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)* | *By sharing the PBF findings with the Inter Sector working group in Zahle, the World Bank, the UN Youth Working Group and UNIFIL as well as briefing senior leadership on PBF outcomes and meeting with external partners favourable conditions for scale up have been created. Statements by the government at the CEDRE conference about investing more in job opportunities for youth and increasing focus on employment also contribute to the project’s idea that investing in employment will be important for conflict prevention/peacebuilding. If the project manages to show a clear link, it will certainly support additional investments in that area. CEDRE is currently being rolled out, the RCO is following developments closely.*  *The results have been shown at several inter agency meetings, several Un agencies have asked for more information, which has been provided.* |
| **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 team has involved the government and local partners and made them equal actors in the development and roll out of the programme to ensure that they will eventually take this project forward and create ground for future interventions. By involving local partners and other UN agencies the project team also advocated for the project with them and gained interest with regard to follow up.* |
| **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)* | *The peacebuilding aspect, and establishment of joint ventures between Syrians and Lebanese, in Al Qaa -due to several circumstances addressed earlier in this report- are more complicated than in Bar Elias and Riyak. Syrians and Lebanese show unwillingness to work together. This risk has been identified in the project document concerning difficulties of implementation in Al Qaa and has been addressed in several ways. Firstly, peacebuilding activities in Al Qaa have been scaled-up to foster dialogue and ensure training activities could continue. Secondly, the PBF team has convened several times with the Al Qaa socio-committee and separately to find ways to continue to implement in Al Qaa. MOSA has been informed along the way and is on board with the approach of continuing activities as much as possible between Syrians and Lebanese and where not to continue training separately.* |
| **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)* | *According to the project document, approximately $1,011,695 (33.7% of the budget) contributes to gender equality or women’s empowerment, based on the assumption that 50% of all beneficiaries are women. To date, this ratio is kept and 33.7% has been allocated to activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment. Over half of partners/stakeholders involved in this project are women as well. A strong focus has been given on involving women in ‘non-traditional’ occupations.* |
| **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)* | *-* |

**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**  **Livelihoods for ‘youth at risk’ in-tense areas are improved** | Indicator 1.1  **No. of jobs created through start-up businesses or as a result of vocational training and job placements. (ILO, UNDP)** | **150 job seekers supported who accessed employment in 2017 through livelihood projects of LCRP partners in the Bekaa[1]; 71 jobs created in supported MSMEs/cooperatives in 2017 through livelihood projects of LCRP partners in the Bekaa[2]**  **[1] ActivityInfo.**  **[2] ActivityInfo.** | **140 jobs filled by youth trained as a result of a local labour market assessment, skills development, internships, and job placements in targeted villages.** | **34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures created including 68 self-employment opportunities created** |  |  |
| Indicator 1.2  **Number of start-up businesses created (ILO)** | **N/A** | **30** | **34** |  |  |
| Indicator 1.3  **% of youth receiving job offers or other employment opportunities. (UNDP)** | **5%[1]**  **[1] Based on Activity Info reporting in 2017.** | **20%** | **N/A** |  |  |
| Output 1.1 | Indicator 1.1.1  **# of youth supported by: a) short and medium term competency and market-based skills trainings programmes (aged 14+); b) internship, on-the-job trainings or apprenticeships.**  **disaggregated by gender, nationality, location, c) entrepreneurial skills. (ILO, UNDP, UNICEF)** | **a) 1513 Lebanese and Syrians completing market-based skills training through LCRP partners’ projects in 2017 in the Bekaa;[[6]](#footnote-6) b) 378 Lebanese and Syrians completing market-based skills training through LCRP partners’ projects in 2017 in the Bekaa.[[7]](#footnote-7) c) N/A,** | **a) 1190; b) 360; c) 1000**  **a) 845 youth received training in soft skills. (270 women:199 Lebanese and 71 Syrian; 399 men: 271 Lebanese and 127 Syrian and 1 Palestinian)**  **450 completed technical training.**  **b) 450 completed two months of internship  (268 women:199 Lebanese and 69 Syrian; 182 men: 139 Lebanese and 43 Syrian)** | **a) 873**  **c) ILO 1015 (518 in Bar Elias, 389 in Riyak and 108 in Qaa)**  **(439 Lebanese and 576 Syrians)**  **(532 women and 483 men)** |  |  |
| Output 1.2  **Youth’ enterprise ideas are implemented through start-up grants under Lebanese ownership and management: youth are provided with business management training, start-up capital and mentoring to establish business ventures.** | Indicator 1.2.1  **# of youth receiving specific business start-up training and mentoring support through selected BDS providers.**  **disaggregated by gender, nationality, location (ILO)** | **1177 Lebanese and Syrians supported with employment services, counselling and career guidance in the Bekaa in 2017[[8]](#footnote-8)** | **300 in the villages targeted.** | **350 (173 in Bar Elias and 120 in Riyak) and 57 in Qaa)**  **(164 Lebanese and 186 Syrians)**  **(174 women and 176 men)** |  |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2  **# of business plans submitted to MFIs.**  **disaggregated by gender, nationality, location (ILO)** | **N/A** | **100** | **N/A** |  |  |
| Indicator 1.2.3  Number of grants provided by MFIs. (ILO) | **N/A** | **30** | **34** |  |  |
| **Outcome 2**  **Local communities‘ ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict are strengthened through engagement of youth at risk** | Indicator 2.1 Perceptions of both Lebanese and Syrian refugees indicate improved relations and reduced emphasis on specific sources of tension (including related to job competition, economic challenges) (UNDP, ILO, UNICEF) | **In the 2017 Stabilization survey, 31% of respondents in the Bekaa reported positive relationships between Lebanese and Syrians[1].**  **[1] 2017 Stabilization Survey – narrative report forthcoming.** | **70% youth involved in the Mechanisms of Social Stability report more positive perceptions of the other community than before the intervention.** | **N/A**  **How should we measure this?** |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2  **Local capacities and mechanisms for addressing disputes or emerging conflicts are activated and applied. (UNDP, ILO, UNICEF)** | **Limited platform for youth working on peace building and livelihood. 36 self-functioning mechanisms in the Bekaa.** | **3 self-functioning mechanisms of social stability (one per village)** | **3** |  |  |
| Output 2.1 | Indicator 2.1.1  **# of youth trained on Life Skills, Conflict Resolution and Healthy Life styles.**  **disaggregated by gender, nationality, location (UNDP, UNICEF)** | **N/A** | **2460** | **2372** |  |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2  **# of youth involved in Mechanisms of Social Stability and socio-economic committees, disaggregated by gender, nationality, location (UNDP, ILO)** | **N/A** | **3330. 50% of women youth reached through socio-economic committees.** | **1841 youth are reached out by ILO in coordination with the socio-economic committees**  Riyaq:   * 2 male Lebanese * 1 female Lebanese   Barr Elias:   * 2 female Lebanese * 1 male Lebanese   Qaa:   * 2 male Lebanese * 1 female Lebanese |  |  |
|  | Indicator 2.1.3 # of community initiatives developed and managed by youth in identified locations.  disaggregated by gender, nationality, location (UNDP, UNICEF) | **0** | **20 (involving 350 youth)** | **20** |  |  |
|  | Indicator 2.1.4 Increased percentage of Syrian and Lebanese parents of youth at risk who have a favourable attitude towards self-employment (ILO) | **N/A** | **400 families** | **890 families** |  |  |

**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:

*Project financial expenditures are on track for both UNDP and ILO*

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):

*2 tranches have been received, spending is over 95%.*

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

*NA*

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 focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date:

*According to the project document, approximately $1,011,695 (33.7% of the budget) contributes to gender equality or women’s empowerment, based on the assumption that 50% of all beneficiaries are women. To date, this ratio is kept and 33.7% has been allocated to activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment.*

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.

*See Annex A*

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)
3. Bruck et al. (2016): *Jobs and Peace: A Review of the Theory and Practice of the*

   *Impact of Employment Programmes on Peace in Fragile and Conflict-affected Countries*, International Security and Development Center, Berlin. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Blattman, C and Annan, C (2015): Can employment reduce lawlessness and rebellion? A field experiment with high-risk men in a fragile state, available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2431293> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Kurtz, J., Tesfaye, B., & Wolfe, R.J. (2018). Can economic interventions reduce violence?

   Impacts of vocational training and cash transfers on youth support for political violence

   in Afghanistan. Washington, DC: Mercy Corps. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. ActivityInfo [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ActivityInfo [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. ActivityInfo [↑](#footnote-ref-8)