

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:** ALBANIA

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

**YEAR OF REPORT:** 2020

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| **Project Title:** Supporting the Western Balkan's collective leadership on reconciliation: building capacity and momentum for the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 112939 | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  ☐ Country Trust Fund  ☐ Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:** | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**  **UNDP (Convening Agency)**  **UNFPA**  **UNICEF**  **RYCO (implementing partner)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 7 November 2018  **Project end date:** 7 May 2021.  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** | |
| **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**  UNDP $ 2024975.00  UNFPA $ 552120.00  UNICEF $ 422650.00  Total: $ 2999745.00  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: **59.6%**  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  Note: The PBF project approved budget is enclosed the Financial Report, Spreadsheet 2.  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: **850,900 USD**  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: **550,709 USD** | |
| **Project Gender Marker:**  **Project Risk Marker:**  **Project PBF focus area:** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: UNDP Albania, UNDP IRH, UNFPA, UNICEF, RYCO  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.*

**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):*

The Project Annual Planning Workshop for 2020, initially planned for December 2019, took place in January 2020 due to the strong earthquake hitting Albania on 26 November 2019. The 2020 workplan was designed, indicating the timelines of the project activities and cooperation modalities among implementing partners, both UN and RYCO. The workplan was revised in April, in view of Covid-19 implications.

To compensate for the delays caused by force majeure twice in a short period in Albania, a project no-cost-extension (NCE) until May 7th, 2021 was very recently approved by PBF. Following the approval of the NCE, the request for the release of the second project tranche is on the way of being processed by PBF.

During the reporting period, the implementing partners have progressed with the implementation of activities, with certain limitations caused by the pandemic. In response to Covid-19 restrictive measures, agencies have adopted alternative methods for implementation, such as online work or a hybrid approach combining online work with face-to-face meetings for small groups. The online implementation of activities has required a longer time compared to the initially planned modalities of implementation.

In the reporting period:

* UNICEF has conducted the training on the peacebuilding methodology with the schools in Western Balkan (WB) region and has held one session of online consultations with teachers about the use of peacebuilding methodology in class;
* UNFPA has finalised the y-peer peacebuilding manual and held two rounds of ToT, where 28 youth from WB region were trained to be peer-trainers in topics of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, using the y-peer methodology. Roll out local workshops in Western Balkans under the project are planned and some started implementation.
* UNDP experts have provided support to RYCO on institutional capacity building and consolidating its grant facility scheme;
* UNDP has concluded the design of the research on young people’s perceptions on peace and security, including 7 online co-design and training sessions with 23 young people across the WB region. UNDP has procured a consortium of companies to conduct the data collection in the WB region, and completed the finalisation and translation of the survey together with the company.

The Project Steering Committee Meeting took place on 27th October 2020 and was attended by representatives of UNPBF, UN RC in Albania, UNDP in Albania and IRH, UNICEF in Albania, UNFPA in Albania and EECA Regional Office, and RYCO.  The PSCM aimed to share information about project implementation and progress to date, as well as to discuss about challenges involved. PSC approved the workplan for the forthcoming implementation period and provided recommendations on overcoming certain challenges resulting from the pandemic and more.

*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):*

* Stage two of TOT will be organised with teachers from WB6 region on peacebuilding methodology;
* ToT trainings with youth from the WB region on UNFPA y-peer peacebuilding will be followed by local workshops and support to best ideas, aiming to reach 300 hard-to-reach young people at community and grassroot level. The 6 teams in WB composed of consultants, UNFPA country office focal points, RYCO local branch office staff and 3-4 ToTs per each WB6, have already prepared their local workshops’ plans and are finalizing logistics and final organisational details for delivering the local activities by beginning of December. Part of the local workshops will be the development, presentation and selection of best innovative ideas by young participants, which will then be financially supported and implemented until February 2021. Another key component of this output relates to the project communication plan and campaign, which will start to be developed in November 2020 and implemented during Jan-May 2021.
* Upon the finalisation of the survey UNDP will conduct a series of online trainings on peacebuilding and advocacy for the youth reference group. Upon the finalisation of data collection, UNDP will organise data analysis and validation workshops as well as a regional launch for the research. The key significant communication, advocacy and dissemination activities are planned for Q1-Q2 2021.

*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):*

In view of the application for a 6-month project no-cost extension until 7th May 2021, information under this section will be provided in the final report, based on the project evaluation findings and recommendations, which will be conducted in early 2021.

*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):*

Although the final project evaluation, the research results and the finalised RYCO grant implementation will provide substantial information about the positive human impact, it is worth mentioning the initial results in this regard.

* Due to its specific structure and set-up, RYCO as an institution that promotes peacebuilding and reconciliation, has gathered individuals from the WB region working together in the Head Office in Tirana, ensuring adequate cross-national representation in the RYCO Secretariat and overall RYCO, by modelling a positive example among youth in the region;
* The research, dialogue and advocacy component will capture the voices of young people and impact the way the public, decision-makers and young people themselves understand and work towards the peace and security situation in the WB region. Already the group of 23 young people have actively participated in the altogether 7 online consultations during March-May, and despite the online mode have in feedback expressed learning and enthusiasm for being able to participate in the planning of the research from the start and be involved across the project. RYCO has also noted the positive impact of the consultations as demonstrated in their communication piece: <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=8141>;
* At the same time, the other youth group of 28 ToT y-peers have expressed their satisfaction, keen interest and dedication to continue transfer the acquired knowledge and skills to their peers in the communities and groups, they live in, through a wide range of initiatives and innovative ideas designed and implemented by themselves: <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=8614> and <https://www.facebook.com/RYCOWB/posts/1471220383063547> .
* The ToT organised with teachers in the WB6 by March 2020, was another event serving as “seed planting” in the peacebuilding and reconciliation processes with WB6 young high schoolers through teachers acting as agents of change. Former Deputy Minister of Education and Youth in Albania, Ms Lorena Haxhiu found “This workshop (..) a unique opportunity to get prepared for teaching (…) students the values of peace, democracy and human rights”. <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=8040>

**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:** Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, attitudes of tolerance and reduced prejudice and discrimination by youth is enhanced across the Western Balkans.

**Output 1.1:** **Capacities of schools to access and use RYCOs resources to undertake intercultural dialogue in the WB6 will be strengthened**

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

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

After conducting a mapping on the best peacebuilding practices in WB6 in 2019, UNICEF Albania, in cooperation with RYCO, prepared a methodology for teachers to address peacebuilding in school settings, in the form of a toolkit for teachers, so they can engage students in intercultural learning, open and respectful dialogue, help students in discussing safely and effectively the controversial issues, on the past and current causes of conflict in the region and treat classroom as a safe space, while at the meantime students explore issues of their concern freely and safely. In early March 2020, 23 teachers from WB6, selected in cooperation with RYCO and mostly representing schools, which have implemented or are implementing RYCO funded projects (giving them the opportunity to use the toolkit and learnings directly in their RYCO funded activities), received a three days training, using the toolkit as the basis on intercultural dialogue and conflict analysis ([https://youtu.be/JR12sqPXSLA](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FJR12sqPXSLA&data=02%7C01%7Crodika.goci%40undp.org%7Cc62681b803e444ec7ece08d80ebb7a39%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637275545659598089&sdata=TdOY3YdXiKat0pQTuU7RytZVy%2BTl8FU7bnDITfxG1vI%3D&reserved=0); [https://youtu.be/z9n\_VOWjJT4](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2Fz9n_VOWjJT4&data=02%7C01%7Crodika.goci%40undp.org%7Cc62681b803e444ec7ece08d80ebb7a39%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637275545659608088&sdata=SAyyBBwtPbJk5tXphWUt6Agp03jtYvhupeUGqRaT7fA%3D&reserved=0)). The training served as an opportunity to receive wider teachers’ feedback about the toolkit for further improvement before its finalization. The toolkit will be also tested by teachers in their local environments and they will report back their findings. UNICEF is exploring ways to adopt the toolkit in an open source online training package and share it for a wider use in the WB6.

Worth noting is that the group of teacher trainees was very carefully selected, with the intention to become a regional and RYCO’s pool of excellence of teachers, who can replicate the knowhow to other teachers in their local communities and across the region. A second training on peacebuilding methodology was planned during Q2 of 2020, but due to the Covid-19 outbreak, and due to the delays in the second tranche release, the training is now postponed in Q4 2020.

**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)*

Children and adolescents’ participation with a view to equal participation of boys and girls, is one of the key principles underpinning UNICEF work. Therefore, during the project implementation, it has been promoted in involving youth into intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding during the development of the peacebuilding methodology for schools. The peacebuilding methodology includes a considerable proportion of information and provides teachers the methodological approach on dealing, among others, with gender issues and peacebuilding in their classes, At the meantime, due consideration was provided to gender balance, in the setting and applying the selection criteria for teacher trainees, participants in the ToT who are implementing the peacebuilding methodology in their classes.

Moreover the opinions of youth in the region have been documented through the U- report poll conducted in 2019, where more than 4,500 young people from Albania, Kosovo[[1]](#footnote-1) and Bosnia could express their opinions on how young people would like intercultural dialogue among schools to work and what they would like to see happen in school practices and as part of a methodology for peacebuilding.

**Output 1.2: Capacities of youth groups and grassroots organizations to access and use RYCOs resources to engage in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities in the WB6 will be strengthened**

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

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

UNFPA Albania has finalised the adaptation of the y-peer peacebuilding methodology and training manual in July 2020. The development of Y-Peer training manual forms one of the most participatory processes in the project, where UNFPA, in addition to PETRI, has mobilised three international experts and six national experts from the six Western Balkans part of this project, who, in cooperation with RYCO Head Office and its Local Branch Offices and UNFPA country offices in the Western Balkans, ensured that the final training manual has a regional perspective and it is applicable to this part of the region. It also ensures ownership of RYCO to use this instrument for the future youth training in the WB region, beyond the project implementation scope.

The training manual aims at building training skills of youth to address peacebuilding and conflict transformation by using youth peer to peer methodology and reflecting young people’s personal development aspects and their experiences in the context of the Western Balkans. To that, the core training manual developed by international consultants, was further contextualised by the national consultants, by incorporating information and contextual stories, based on specific and dominant peacebuilding issues in each of the Western Balkans under the project. The harmonisation with the peacebuilding methodology for schools, developed by UNICEF, was also strongly taken into consideration.

Parallel with the finalisation of the y-peer methodology, UNFPA prepared the conduction of the regional ToT, by selecting in close cooperation with RYCO, and training as peer trainers, the group of young people from WB6. The selection was made through an open call for application and based on a well-developed set of criteria, in order to ensure that representation from hard-to reach youth groups and all genders, is guaranteed. The ToT was divided in two parts – first part was conducted online on 22-28 July, and second part conducted on 30 September – 4 October, employing a hybrid approach, by combining online communication of young people and consultants across the region, while the smaller national teams composed of national consultants, UNFPA country office focal points, RYCO LBO assistants and young ToTs in each of the Western Balkans were brought together face to face.

The trained youth are expected to roll out the local workshops to about 300 peers in their respective communities targeting hard-to-reach youth groups and incentivise and increase outreach further through development and compilation of best innovative ideas coming from these groups, while also financially supporting and coaching implementation of such ideas until early next year. These local workshops plans are developed, two scenarios per each plan are in place – face to face and hybrid / online, in order to be prepared in case of a second lockdown or restrictions due to Covid-19 increased numbers in Western Balkans during winter. Some of them started to be implemented on 7 November. Results to be reported in the next progress report.

**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)*

Following its mandate, the work of UNFPA, builds on its worldwide experience on youth empowerment and dealing with gender equality issues, and such experience is well incorporated into the final training manual. The youth voices during the development of y-peer training manual are ensured through close consultations and active participation of RYCO as a youth organisation, which brings in the perspective of youth from Western Balkans, and in which there is a 3:1 female to male ratio and a strong youth representation among staff. It is also ensured through local consultations and perspectives brought in by UNFPA country offices and national consultants working with young people on peacebuilding issues. Youth empowerment with a view to women & girls’ participation and empowerment, is strongly considered in the development of the manual with gender lenses as a strong crosscutting perspective. In the selection of ToT participants and in the conduction of the ToTs and local workshops in WB6, during the second part of 2020 – the selection panel ensured fair representation of all genders in all workshops, with specific focus on girls’ and women’s and youth from hard-to-reach groups participation.

**Output 1.3: RYCOs capacities to enhance sustainable regional cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation amongst youth, through its small grants facility will be strengthened**

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

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

RYCO is supported to develop and implement its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, which enables RYCO to monitor and measure its institutional performance, according to a results-based management approach for institutional effectiveness, in compliance with its Strategic Plan for 2019-2021. The finalised M&E framework includes the methodology, tools and guideline. In February 2020, RYCO assigned a new professional in the position of M&E coordinator. To meet the professional development needs of RYCO and of the M&E coordinator for an efficient use of M&E framework, the consultant’s contract was extended, so she can train RYCO LBO staff to conduct data collection, using the newly developed M&E tools. The expert will also support RYCO to set up and collect the baseline data, in order to assess the impact of youth mobility events and projects implemented by its grant beneficiaries.

Based on recommendations of RYCO’s capacity assessment report of 2019, RYCO-UNDP agreed in the Annual Planning Workshop, to invest further in the strengthening of RYCO’s internal capacities. Given that overall RYCO staff was tripled by the end of 2019, UNDP is supporting RYCO to develop a number of internal guidelines, regulations and procedures, which will be due by the end of 2020. To date, an HR expert is working with RYCO staff, to develop RYCO’s Human Resources policy, and a company is developing RYCO’s Risk Assessment and Risk Management Guidelines, which will support RYCO to anticipate and take measures for mitigating various internal and external risks that could possibly affect the work and efficiency of the organisation. In addition, an IT expert supported RYCO with recommendations and developed the ToRs for an IT solution, which will maintain RYCO’s institutional memory and facilitate the internal e-processes.

RYCO and UNDP are jointly providing support and monitor the 41 RYCO’s grant beneficiaries (GB) under the2nd Open Call for proposals’, co-funded by this project. GBs started the regional youth exchange activities in December 2019 and January 2020, while for the period of 11 March - 30 June the activities were drastically slowed down due to the pandemic, with the intention to restart between July-September. After the suspension period, GBs were strongly encouraged to switch to online implementation, by revising their projects and budgets and making contract amendments with RYCO, in order to respond to the new covid-19 reality. Seven grant monitoring experts (GMEs) were contracted in February by UNDP across WB6, to support RYCO with expertise on financial monitoring of subgrantees and to enhance RYCO LBOs staff’ capacities to conduct independent spot checks in the future. The first round of monitoring visits was run during spring 2020 as a combination of face to face and online prevention visits, by checking whether subgrantees understand and follow the contractual obligations towards RYCO, with respect to financial and procurement actions. GMEs provided an overview of applicable national legislation, which will be used in the future by RYCO to ensure that financial and procurement actions of GBs are also complying with the national legislation. RYCO and UNDP started the preparations for the second round of monitoring visits to the GBs in September. The second round of spot check visits will take place during November, aiming to verify whether initial recommendations provided by GMEs were implemented correctly, to check the accuracy of the procurement procedures and expenditures and to provide guidance to GBs in preparation of their final reports for RYCO.

**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)*

RYCO’s M&E framework is developed so as to include the monitoring of RYCO’s contribution to gender equality (as reflected in RYCO’s staffing). The M&E framework utilisation will enable RYCO to measure the equal representation of genders and youth inclusion and responsiveness in the Open Calls as well as in other RYCO’ funded activities. Under the 2nd Open Call, RYCO has given the due weight, to the support that marginalised and unprivileged youth can receive through the cross-border youth exchange projects, by having a special focus on youth living in remote geographic areas. As such, gender representation and belonging to hard-to reach communities/groups were of the important selection criteria. Moreover, RYCO supported a number of projects which focused specifically to some vulnerable and discriminated youth groups, among others trans, intersex and gender variant youths.

**Output 1.4: Opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers across divides will be created, confidence in and dialogue with decision-makers will be enhanced, and youth** **capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened**

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

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

Through this component, opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities through action research and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers and decision-makers will be created, and their capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened. Research co-designed with youth will make available regionally comparable, youth-focused conflict analysis and evidence base on youth perceptions on sustaining peace, as a basis for better programming and policy as well as dialogue with decision-makers.

A group of 23 young women and young men across the Western Balkans was selected in January 2020 through an open call for applications, to co-design the research and co-lead in following advocacy efforts and dialogues. The group was selected based on their interest and experience in peacebuilding and reconciliation, with view of gender balance, equal representation of the WB region as well as inclusion of the perspectives of minority or hard-to-reach youth.

Two international research experts were recruited to help design the research methodology and facilitate trainings on peacebuilding, conflict analysis, dealing with past, gender equality and gender-sensitive peacebuilding and advocacy. The first envisaged training and face to face consultation workshop, originally scheduled for March 2020, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak, and was quickly substituted with a series of 7 online consultations, of 2-2.5 hours each, during March-May 2020. Beyond the consultations, the youth group has been engaged on social media through a private Facebook platform, to increase interaction with the group members, share resources and opportunities and collect feedback. As a result, the core survey for quantitative data collection was finalised together with the youth group.

In parallel with the youth consultations, the procurement process for a research company was launched, to conduct the quantitative and qualitative data collection across the WB region. The procurement process was prolonged and remote working conditions further slowed down the process. The company was contracted by the end of August and submitted an inception report in September. During October, the survey was finalised, translated and piloted, ready for data collection in November. The recruitment of an additional data analyst to support the eventual interpretation of the data is also underway.

The activities of Output 1.4, heavily relying on workshops and dialogue events, have further been revised to reflect the current realities. The process for procuring online training services on peacebuilding and advocacy to strengthen the capacity of the youth group has been started, as well as the process for the procurement of communications services to help design and implement the visibility and advocacy strategy for the research, to be implemented together with the youth group as the research results are finalised in February. Other activities have been realigned with current restrictions on travel and large events.

**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)*

The promotion of youth voices and their priorities for peace and security in the region, to strengthening overall stabilisation and prosperity in the region, is an integral part of this output, across the research design, data analysis, identification of key recommendations from youth and advocacy.

The youth group selected for the consultation and advocacy processes is gender balanced and includes representatives who have specific experience in promoting gender equality and the rights of minorities, including LGBTQI. Moreover, the research design puts an emphasis on collecting data that will help analyse the peace and security situation for young people taking into account gendered experiences, and with a focus on uncovering gender norms and expectations and promoting alternative narratives and the role of young women as peacebuilders. The role of young people as changemakers and the gender dimension was also prominent in the research design process and online discussions with youth, contributing to increased dialogue and awareness among the entire group on these themes.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit) | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection?  *An M&E international consultant was contracted in 2019, among others, to support the project team in defining the baseline indicators and data collection methodology. As per the analyses of the M&E consultant, there was an agreement among implementing agencies, to collect baseline data, by measuring the self-reported changes in attitudes and perceptions between 2018 and 2020, utilizing the already planned regional perceptions research under Project’s Output 4.*  *As per the progress to date, the research questionnaire includes specific questions for the project baseline and end line data collection. The qualitative data of the research will be due by end of January 2021, and the final report of the research including full project baseline and end line data will be due by March-April 2021.* |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? | Evaluation budget (response required): 25000-30000 USD  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:  *As per the project workplan, the final evaluation is planned in Q1-Q2 of 2021.* |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.  In this section, the information reflects the catalytic effect of PBF funds to RYCO. | Name of funder: Amount:    *Norwegian MFA: 929,758.08 EUR (9,459,172.80 NOK)*  *European Commission:* *795,689 EUR*  *Agence française de développement (AFD):* *999,496 EUR*  *German MFA: 300,000 EUR*  *SIDA and GIZ-EC funding are in the negotiation phase.* |
| **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)* |  |

**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:*

$

RYCO grantees have gone through a revision of their project workplans and budgets, after the pandemic. Due to this revision, savings from the budget category 6. Transfer and Grants to Counterparts will be reallocated to meet the needs of RYCO operations during the no-cost extension period.

In addition, to respond to the new pandemic situation and be more effective in implementation, the project team is utilising more funds that fall under the budget category 4. Contractual Services, rather than those falling under budget category of 1.Staff and other personnel.

It is worth noting though, that a thorough financial analyses will be conducted upon the closure of the project, and reported in the forthcoming progress report, which is also the final project report. After such analyses, the project team will be able to report about the budget utilisation rate for each budget category, and whether there have been variations between budget categories that exceed 15%.

1. *Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications (2000 character limit):*

Starting from March 2020, the project implementing partners have been constantly learning and adjusting to the new reality of Covid-19. The implementation and communication among partners and beneficiaries were immediately switched online, while most of the work was done remotely. During the reporting period, the project team has been checking regularly the workplan and has made the necessary adjustments, aiming to keep track of the progress and timelines for the online implementation of activities, as well as to modify and reconceptualise some activities, for which, face to face implementation was not an option anymore.

As such, in response to Covid-19 restrictive measures, agencies have been creative to experiment and adopt alternative methods for implementation, such as employment of hybrid approaches for conducting the workshops whenever possible, by combining online work with face-to-face meetings for small groups. As such, UNFPA conducted the ToTs with youth in the WB6 by employing the hybrid approach; the UNDP experts working for RYCO institutional capacity building are conducting their work online; UNICEF organised online consultation with WB6 teacher on the peacebuilding methodology.

Due to Covid-19 restriction measures, few activities have been cancelled and this is the case of two study visits in the WB6, planned originally by UNICEF in Activity 1.4, by allocating the respective financial resources to the Activity 1.5 Digital classrooms.

A lesson learned during this period, was that online implementation of activities and remote working, has required a longer time compared to the initially planned modalities of implementation.

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 IV: 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**  Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, attitudes of tolerance and reduced prejudice and discrimination by youth is enhanced across the Western Balkans. | Indicator 1.1  Percentage of youth (male and female) that indicate positive attitudes towards other ethnic groups in the region. | xxx % (to be measured at baseline survey) | 20 percentage points increase by end of project |  | Research data collection will be rolled out in November 2020 – January 2021 | An M&E consultant is recruited to support the project team in defining the methodology for baseline data collection as well as for measuring the success through project indicators at later stages of project implementation. Following the recommendations of the M&E expert, the project will use the regional research data collection to collect base-line and end-line data and demonstrate impact change by the end of the project. |
| Indicator 1.2  Percentage of youth (male and female) that have been the object of discriminatory behaviour in the past 4 months. | xxx % (to be measured at baseline survey) | 20 percentage points decrease by end of project |  | Research data collection will be rolled out in November 2020 – January 2021 | IBID as in the outcome indicator 1.1 |
| Output 1.1  Capacities of targeted schools to organize/undertake intercultural dialogue in the WB6, are strengthened | Indicator 1.1.1  % of targeted schools which initiated at least 1 new initiative to foster intercultural dialogue by end of the project | N/A | 50% |  | 15 schools’ part of the project | Data will be available after the second ToT session with teachers from WB6 in November 2020. |
| Output 1.2  Capacities of youth groups and grassroots organizations to access and use RYCOs resources to engage in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities in the WB6, are strengthened. | Indicator 1.2.1  % of targeted grassroots youth groups that are awarded through RYCO and other peacebuilding regional initiatives | 0 | 50% |  | Ongoing | Y-peer manual adaptation to peacebuilding completed; ToT was completed as a two-part training held online in July and using hybrid approach in September-October |
| Indicator 1.2.2  % of new self- initiatives initiated by the targeted grassroot youth groups in WB6 by end of project | 0 | 25% |  | Ongoing | - Identification and development of these ideas will start in November as part of the local workshops. Their implementation planned for end of 2020-beginning 2021. |
| Indicator 1.2.3  Number of youths in WB6 reached through Peer to Peer approach (ToT) for peacebuilding | 0 | 600 (end of project) |  |  | First group of outreach (300 young people) planned within 2020. Next group of young people planned to be reached through roll out and implementation of best innovative ideas at community level until end of the project May 2021. |
| Output 1.3  RYCOs institutional capacities to enhance sustainable regional cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation amongst youth, through the small grants facility, are strengthened. | Indicator 1.3.1  % of youth, youth organizations and schools in WB stating that RYCO is successful in achieving its mission. | to be defined upon project commencement | increase of 20% |  | M&E tools for data collection are developed as part of RYCO M&E framework | Baseline data will be collected in cooperation with the M&E consultant and will be due by December 2020. |
| Indicator 1.3.2  Time to review and approve the proposals (from launch – contract award) within the CfP is decreased | 7 months (during 1st CfP) | Reduced by 20% |  | Ongoing | RYCO’s 2nd Open Call for Proposals (OCfP) was scheduled to complete entire process within 6 months, but due to delays related to Output 4 being added to the project and Micro-assessment report and action before PCA was signed, it amounted to 11 months. In case of RYCO’s 3rd OCfP, the process was decreased to less than 5 months between launching the CfP and contracting the grant beneficiaries. |
| Indicator 1.3.3  Number of grants’ monitoring visits taking place during the implementation timeframe increased | 1 monitoring visit per grant | at least 2 monitoring visits per each grant |  | Ongoing | RYCO conducts program and fin-admin grant monitoring visits to grant beneficiaries. Some projects underwent program monitoring visits, while almost all projects completed first round of financial grant monitoring visits, as a combination of face to face and virtual monitoring meetings. Second round of monitoring visits are planned in November and will serve to support grant beneficiaries in preparation and timely submission of their final reports. |
| Output 1.4  Opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities through action research and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers across divides will be created, confidence in and dialogue with decision-makers will be enhanced, and youth capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened. | Indicator 1.4.1  Number of regional youth perceptions surveys on sustaining peace | 0 | 1 |  | On-going | Preparations for the survey roll-out completed, quantitative data collection starting November 2020 and data cleaned and completed by January 2021. |
| Indicator 1.4.2  Number of trainings and consultations with young civic actors in the region | 0 trainings, 0 consultations | 6 local trainings (1 per WB6), 1 regional training, 2 regional consultations |  | 1 regional consultation/ research co-design workshop conducted online through 7 virtual session with no cost | The first regional consultation was cancelled due to COVID-19, and thus partially replaced with online consultations, which by nature do not cover all training and interaction aspects envisaged for the original consultation.    Peacebuilding and advocacy trainings will be conducted online December-February. Data validation workshops will take place locally in 2021. |
| Indicator 1.4.2  Number of young civic actors (disaggregated by age, gender, geography, ethnicity) from WB6 with increased knowledge and skills for peacebuilding, advocacy, constructive dialogue and conflict and gender-sensitive analysis | N/A | 70 |  | 23 young civic actors (12 men, 11 women, as one woman dropped out) trained on conflict and gender-sensitive analysis | Further capacity-building envisaged online and at local level towards the end of the project |
| Indicator 1.4.3  Number of advocacy tools and products | 0 | 2 |  | No progress yet | Advocacy products will be finalised based on research results early 2021. |
| Indicator 1.4.3  Number of regional consultations bringing together youth to identify common messages and to create advocacy tools for policy and programming impact. | 0 | 1 |  | No progress yet | As regional events are not available in the current situation, this will be replaced with 6 local workshops (identifying key recommendations based on data analysis) and one regional online event. |
| Indicator 1.4.3  Number of regional, national or sub-national meetings and consultations with young people and political parties/policy-makers/decision-makers to discuss policy recommendations | 0 | 7 |  | No progress yet |  |
| Indicator 1.4.3  Total number of young people (disaggregated by age, gender, geography, ethnicity) from the WB6 meaningfully engage in and contribute to identification of peace and security priorities and policy messages for the region through project activities. | N/A | 600 |  | The project has so far engaged with the core group of 23 young people in the design of the research and eventually advocacy and peer-to-peer learning on peacebuilding and disseminating research recommendations widely with peers. |  |
| Indicator 1.4.3  Number of follow-up activities across borders or fault lines for advocacy on sustaining peace | 0 | 6 |  | No progress yet |  |

1. For the UN, all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

   For RYCO, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with Security Council Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)