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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** **NIGERIA**

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

**YEAR of report: 2020**

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| **Project Title:** Integrated approach to building peace in Nigeria’s Farmer-herder crisis  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** **IRF** | |
| **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)**  **OHCHR**  **FAO**  **UN WOMEN** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 04 December 2018  **Project end date:** 16 Dec 2020  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** YES | |
| **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 $ 1,683,283.41  FAO $ 692,890.54  UN WOMEN $ 321,058.85  OHCHR $ 302,767.20  Total: $ 3,000,000  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 50.48%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $928,596.50  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $527,096.07 | |
| **Project Gender Marker: GM2**  **Project Risk Marker: High**  **Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict Prevention/Management** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: UNDP, FAO, UN WOMEN and OHCHR  Project report approved by:  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: | |

**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 implementation of the Integrated approach to building peace in Nigeria’s Farmer-herder crisis project was on track in achieving planned objectives. From the project’s start in January 2020, all preliminary activities related to setting up the project structure and the establishment of a programme management unit were completed. Moreover, planned interventions for the period were implemented with a focus on setting up mechanisms for conflict prevention and peacebuilding at state level, youth and women involvement in peace building processes and developing a Protocol on Gender Sensitive Dialogue and Mediation

The project was implemented within a structure comprising of a programme management unit and a field unit. The project employed a project coordinator, 2 National Human Rights Officers (OHCHR/UNV) and 15 National Human Rights Monitors (CSOs). The 15 National Human Rights Monitors were deployed to Benue State to carry out periodic monitoring and reporting of rights violations, as well as strengthen referral pathways in 15 LGAs in the State. As for the two project officers, they were assigned to Benue and Taraba and supported Nasarawa Stateon significant programme implementation and stakeholder coordination issues at local levels. Following this field deployment, the project developed a strong partnership with State Governments who subsequently assigned SDG Advisors to the Governors as the project focal points. Partnerships were also built with key civil society organisations working in the field of peacebuilding and other key institutions like the National Human Rights Commission, the Legal Aid Council, and the Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

In terms of activities’ implementation, efforts towards the setting up of mechanisms for conflict prevention and peacebuilding at state level have been scaled through drafting enabling legislation and developing prototypes for ICT-based early warning systems, with Early Warning and Early Response System Control room established in each state. Multi-Stakeholder platforms for sustained dialogue on the evolving crisis set up in Nasarawa and Taraba states proved to be useful as local level mechanisms for consensus building and dispute resolution (to complement the efforts of the state level peace agencies). These platforms were complemented by actions of youth in media who continue to scale up risk communication and reshaping the conflict narrative across the three states. As such they have formed a critical mass of young change agents who leverage on new media for peace building. Through these mechanisms, Networks of Women in Peacebuilding have also been established in Taraba, Nas~~s~~arawa and Benue States and are currently leading the Women Peace and Security Agenda through supporting the development and operationalisation of the UNSCR1325. The Resolution was localized with the development of a State Action Plan (SAP) in Nasarawa state, while the process ongoing in Benue and Taraba states. Additional achievements of the project include enhanced technical skills of  women leaders from the three states to support the State Level Peacebuilding Agency/Commission in formal Dialogue and Mediation processes and to enhance the technical capacity of other women leaders at community and state level on dialogue and mediation; ***a developed Protocol on Gender Sensitive Dialogue and Mediation***for the project states which will be disseminated at the state level for effective integration of the WPS agenda in peacebuilding infrastructure; a **Year Action Plan with actions for the implementation of Women Peace and Security agenda in the MDAs workplans of the two States for 2021/202**2, and enhanced technical skills for Security personnel responding to farmers-herders crisis in Taraba state to identify, prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV/PSEA in their area of operations. Currently, efforts to promote livelihoods recovery of conflict affected communities are in progress through the transfer of productive skills in relevant local agro-value chains.

Towards achieving the project objectives, the project sought to prevent conflict and promote peaceful co-existence among farmers and herders in the States of Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba through capacity enhancement on alternative feed and fodder resources to minimize the inherent competition over natural resources a precursor to the recurring farmers/herders’ crisis.

The economic interdependence of farmers and herders was strengthened through concerted efforts of enhancing the capacity of the state government agriculture extension system to support alternative fodder/feedstock production through efforts to modernize its 5,000 Hectares of grazing reserve for the development of pasture; which allowed farming communities to grow pasture and develop markets for the same to be accessed by herders. These initiatives including the establishment of pilot innovative service centres (halted due the covid19 lockdown) were steps taken by the project towards fostering co-operative initiatives that aligns the farmers’ and herders’ value chains and production modes to create economic interdependencies.

The project built the capacity of 60 agricultural extension agents (within the government employ) in identification of alternative fodder/feedstock, conducted assessment on alternative feedstock, established Farmers Field school (FFS) as step downing training and people centred learning for 1800 farmers and supported the Taraba state government to operationalize the demarcations and beaconing of one grazing reserve earmarked for National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP).

As a result of these concerted efforts, peaceful co-existence among farmers and herders seemed not to be far-fetched. The step-down training and farmer field school activities are beginning to strengthened social cohesion and unity among farmers and herders including community members.

**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):**

In the next six months, key project-related events anticipated include multi-stakeholder validation sessions of draft peace agency bills in the three states, tabling of the bills in the Houses of Assembly and provide technical support to public hearings as part of the legislation making process. The next project phase also plans to support the process of setting up the peace agencies, including the induction of commissioners in the agencies and procurement of key start-up assets. Furthermore, the project intends to scale-up community cohesion activities through economic empowerment initiatives of 2,686 conflict affected persons, intensify human rights monitoring activities in IDP camps and host settlements, and increase follow up actions on referred cases, community outreach programmes, and awareness sessions.  Findings of the assessment will inform post-COVID19 peacebuilding responses. Additionally, policy-level advocacy engagements on preserving the rights of a girl child and integrating women, peace and security (WPS) agenda in state peace architectures will be carried out across all three states. 80 representatives of farmers, herders and women association and trade groups in Benue and Nasarawa states were engaged through a participatory consultative process to identify the impact of the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law on their economic, social and political lives. Key advocacy messages on the impact and recommendations to mitigate them were developed and would be used to engage key actors in 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. (1500character limit):**

**Societal change:**

The project has implemented 3,116 community human rights outreach programmes and interfaith dialogues in 15 LGAs in Benue state. The programmes and dialogues reached out to 104,734 people including 21,842 boys (20.85%), 23,789 girls (22.71%), 27,878 men (26.61%) and 31,225 (29.81%) women.  These engagements have raised community awareness in Benue state on issues of SGBV, SEA and accountable response to conflicts by security agents. This community level empowerment of conflict affected people has led to increased reporting on SGBV cases within IDP camps and local communities through instituted reporting and referral pathways. Other notable achievements include mitigated reoccurrence of violence among boys, girls, men and women and improved response by security forces. There has also been a deliberate awareness creation on girl-child education/ early marriage and gender-based violence to preserve the rights of the girl-child. Women at community level in Ibi and Wukari LGAs (Taraba State) and in Keana (Nasarawa state) established regular women, peace and security dialogue platforms in communities to raise awareness on the role of women in peace building and sensitize other women to contribute to peace building. These platforms are now recognized and functional in communities like Giza and Bangaza.

**Economic change:**

The project was implemented along with a strategy for economically empowering women to better position communities on a pathway to recovery and peaceful co-existence. In this line, small-scale production capacities for women were strengthened to enable a conducive environment for future economic resilience. Specific skills developed focused on specific agro-production value chains. Capacity building initiatives also included establishing a pilot model for building mutually beneficial economic relations using alternative fodder/feedstock production. The objective of this model was to provide a common platform for restoring livelihoods of conflict affected communities, especially between herders and farmers, while fostering intra and inter community engagement in peace building.  The initiative benefited over 2,686 beneficiaries from the conflict-affected herding and farming communities whose lost livelihoods and economic security were restored. Community members were also empowered with more productive agricultural practices and supported with inputs and value chain development skills. Related skills were developed for 89 representatives of women’s groups in the three states, comprising representatives from herding and farming communities as well as other groups. Acquired skills will be applied in the production of hydro alcoholic products used in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and will therefore constitute a community response to the pandemic in the three states,

**Institutional change:**

At institutional level, capacities of key counterparts – including state level counter parts, independent commissions, civil society organisation - have been enhanced in peacebuilding processes. The project adopted a learning approach based on collaborative project implementation where recipients are rather active participants in the design and implementation of the project instead of being considered as simple beneficiaries. Through this collaborative approach, the capacities of key focal teams from the three states were strengthened to better own the results and further tailor them internally. At institutional level, capacities to timely respond to cases of conflict will be further enhanced upon full operationalization of peace agencies and early warning systems. Furthermore, peace building training sessions allowed to review and profile institutional mandates for improved quality of engagements with key stakeholders. The example of Taraba State which developed a road map for funding and operationalizing the State’s Peace and Conflict Management Bureau constitutes an evidence of the Government’s commitment to complement the Project’s strategic investments to strengthening the gender-sensitive peace architecture. In Nasarawa state, plans are advanced to complement the Project’s catalytic investment. Notably, the State has availed an office space and internet connection to the C-EWERS situation room and an office complex to the Peace Agency ahead of their operations. In Benue State, a high commitment and ownership were evidenced through all relevant stakeholders’ active engagement in the process of developing an enabling bill for setting up a Peace Agency. The first presentation in a multi-stakeholder engagement saw a 70% input rate to the initial draft which was mutually developed with state government partners.

The inauguration of the Steering Committee for the Network of Women in Peacebuilding in Nasarawa state by the Executive Governor gave high level of recognition to the Women Peace and Security Agenda in the state. Benue state has also inaugurated the Network’s Steering Committee while the official inauguration of the Committee in Taraba is planned for a later date in 2021.The Network worked closely with the State Ministry of Women Affairs in organizing a technical working session with representatives of government's Ministries, Agencies and Department (MDAs). Subsequently, all MDAs in these States developed a **One –Year Action Plans for implementing the Women Peace and security agenda as part of their work plans for 2021/202**2. The Ministry of Women Affairs committed to lead the coordination, monitoring and reporting related to the implementation of the developed plans.

As a result of the project’s strategic engagements in Taraba, a budget line and budget allocation was approved for the first time by the state government for the 2020 to the State Ministry of Women Affairs. The allocated budget is expected to support the implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda in the state and was not affected by the recent downward review of budgets in the state.

Capacities for referral and investigation within the Nigerian Human Rights Commission and Benue State Government have been strengthened in the period under review. These capacities were satisfactorily used during the COVID19 pandemic in response to increasing SGBV and SEA cases occasioned by the pandemic in IDP camps and local communities.

**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):**

*Bala Tsokwa, a 42 years old crop and poultry farmer from Wukari, was displaced due to the farmer-herder conflicts. The predicaments of isolation from families, loss of social and economic opportunities, and depression became evident in his everyday life. The UN supported project helped him regain the knowledge of farmin;, integration with community; understanding of conflicts, early warning and early response; peaceful co-existence and mutual economic interdependence among people. “It was like a dream as the protracted crisis destroyed our sources of livelihood and left u, disconnected and hopeless. These supports have restored our human dignity, re-united us and given us hope. We remain grateful to our partners”.*

*Bala is now one of the many ambassadors of peace advocating for the role of youth and women in peace building and mutual co-existence amongst tribes, religions and interests in Taraba and the region. “Living together as the same people from different tribes and religions makes us better as we need and depend on one another”. The project participant commended the timeliness of the project and the innovation it introduced to them especially to rural farmers. “We have seen the innovation in farming, the need for peace. We thank our partners and Government for their coordination with us and also ask that they help us extend such interventions to other parts of the state where people are going through similar challenges”.*

The project has empowered women to promote and drive local mechanism for early warning and conflict prevention.

“*Hon Danjuma Patience Ngati, the former Councilor of Akwana Ward, Wukari LGA Taraba State used the knowledge she gained from the EWER training to facilitate a town hall meeting with about 80 Hausa, Junkun and Tiv women on Dec 20, 2019 (see pictures). This led to an intra-ethnic dialogue between women, men and youth on Dec 29, 2019 (pictures) and the commitment of youth/men to seek redress through dialogue and legal means instead of taking up arms.*

*Local initiatives on peace dialogues, mediation and early warning early response to identified violent conflicts have commenced. Noteworthy amongst them are, three women leaders from Bazaga community in Ibi LGA, Taraba state and Giza community in Keana LGA, Nasarawa state facilitated peace dialogue sessions among the Jukun and Tivs in Taraba state as well as Fulani herders and Tiv farmers in Nasarawa state respectively. The leadership of Keana LGA have recognised this peace dialogue and have committed to supporting the organization of next peace dialogue session.*

List of attachments and links to Project:

1. UN Resident Coordinator’s mission to Taraba state. <https://guardian.ng/news/ishaku-seeks-un-assistance-on-refugee-problems-in-taraba/>

2. Nasarawa state launch of State Action Plan to operationalize UNSCR1325: <https://www.radionigeria.gov.ng/2020/08/06/nasarawa-domesticate-unscr-on-women-peace-security/>

Nasarawa state follow up on State Action Plan to operationalize UNSCR1325: <https://authorityngr.com/2020/11/25/un-women-advocate-mainstreaming-of-action-plan-in-nasarawa-budget/>

3. Nasarawa state’s commitment to Project implementation:

i. <https://businessday.ng/news/article/nasarawa-partners-undp-to-address-security-challenges-mulls-peace-building-agency/>

ii. <https://authorityngr.com/2020/11/30/understanding-un-nssg-undp-efforts-to-curb-conflict-in-nasarawa/>

4. Training of youths and media practitioners on risk communication call:

[https://nigeria.un.org/en/92147-integrated-approach-building-peace-nigerias-herders-farmers-conflict-call-applications](https://nigeria.un.org/en/92147-integrated-approach-building-peace-nigerias-herders-farmers-conflict-call-applications%20%20HYPERLINK%20%22https:/nigeria.un.org/en/92147-integrated-approach-building-peace-nigerias-herders-farmers-conflict-call-applications%205)

5. UN Sustainable Development Group, Climate crisis in Nigeria: The UN fosters dialogue between farmers and cattle herders over shrinking land, 12 November 2020,https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/climate-crisis-nigeria-un-fosters-dialogue-between-farmers-and-cattle-herders-over

6. UN Women advocates for increase of women in peace building. https://www.odogwublog.com/un-women-advocates-for-increase-of-women-in-peace-building/

**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: Effective and gender-sensitive infrastructure for peace in place at the state level to support conflict prevention**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: (ON TRACK)**

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

State-level gender-sensitive infrastructures for peace were prepared and adopted using a phased approach. The project’s support to States first consisted in backing the process of putting in place enabling legislation for the institutions. In this regard, the project availed technical support in form of services of an experienced legal drafter to work with Government, Houses of Assembly and key stakeholders in drafting peace agency bills for Benue and Nasarawa States. As a result of this support, and in collaboration with key stakeholders, **draft peace agency bills are now in place** pending further validation by the standing committees in the houses of assembly prior to formal legislative processes, including public hearings. In Taraba State where a law establishing a peace agency already exists, high level advocacy by the UN RC is in progress for operationalization. The project has initiated a **procurement process for key equipment and assets for the new agencies** to support their routine operations.

Secondly, while formal institutions are critical in coordinating peace processes, their effectiveness depends on how they leverage the social goodwill of communities, their leaders, and other stakeholders at local levels. To contribute towards this end, **multi-stakeholder peace forums at community level** have been established in the three states – as mechanisms for early warning as well as platforms for problem solving. Similarly, an intensive technical session created a pool of 35 women leaders with technical skills for Track I and II Dialogue and Mediation in three states, **A Protocol on Gender Sensitive Dialogue and Mediation**was developed to guide the effective mainstream of women’s role and issues in state level peace infrastructure. The Protocol would be popularized as a working document of the Peacebuilding Agency/Commission to institutionalize gender sensitive peacebuilding processes in the states. Thirdly, effective infrastructures for peace are those that can in a timely manner anticipate conflict risks and mobilise rapid response. Building capacities in EWER has therefore been a key interlinked component of this project. **An ICT-based integrated prototype for monitoring conflict risks has** been developed, with 40 personnel trained in each state for the final operationalisation of the situation room. 104 women leaders in the three states were trained on conflict early warning and response and several of these women leaders have built community-based networks to effectively contribute to the ICT based system. Upskilling youth in media, women groups and security institutions in risk mapping, early warning and reporting has been undertaken by the project with the objective of ensuring residual human capacities for promoting co-existence.

**Output 1.1: Establishment of state-level agency/commission/structure to drive gender-sensitive peacebuilding agenda**:

A reference group was established at the level of target States and brought together the State Focal Points, UN Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs. This reference group served as a think pad for the bill making process by providing feedback and input to the document and ensuring benchmarking with other contexts. Stakeholder engagements on the bills in the two states generated useful feedback from over 70% of participants. Critical comments received helped in improving the revised version. A gendered analysis of the bills was also undertaken with support from UN Women who also ensured that women groups from target states participated in the validation and review sessions of the drafts. With continued UN advocacy, state governments have allocated the needed institutional resources including office spaces and made budgetary commitments to kick-start the operations of the peace agency upon the passing of the bills into laws.

Additionally, a pool of 35 women leaders with technical skills for Track I and II Dialogue and Mediation was created through intensive technical sessions in three states. **A resulting Protocol on Gender Sensitive Dialogue and Mediation**was developed to guide the effective mainstream of women’s role and issues in state level peace infrastructure. The Protocol will be popularized as a working document of the Peacebuilding Agency/Commission to institutionalize gender sensitive peacebuilding processes in the states.

**Output 1.2: State peacebuilding agency/commission/structure supported to drive gender-sensitive response to farmers-herders crisis:**

Addressing the gendered dynamics of conflict and a deliberate investment in promoting increased participation of women in peace processes through peace building structures constituted key strategies in the design and implementation of project activities as the farmer-herder crisis affects women and men differently. A gendered analysis was undertaken to ensure issues of gender and peacebuilding are integrated in the drafting of the peace agency bills and in the development of EWERs. Moreover, platforms for empowering women’s participation in peacebuilding processes were established in Nasarawa, Benue and Taraba States. In all the three States, the UN has worked closely with Ministries of Women Affairs to develop State Action Plans (SAPs) for localizing the UNSCR1325 with the objective of mainstreaming and driving a gender sensitive implementation of peace and security processes. These platforms formed a key component of the State level peace infrastructures. Furthermore, the Network of Women in Peacebuilding is working closely with the State Ministry of Women Affairs in operationalizing UNSCR1325 and the develop State Action Plans in Nasarawa and Taraba states. A Network’s technical working session with representatives of government's Ministries, Agencies and Department (MDAs) in the two states influenced the integration **of the Women Peace and security agenda into the developed One –Year Action Plans for 2021/202**2. The plan received the support of Ministry of Women Affairs who committed to ensure the coordination, the monitoring and reporting of its implementation.

**Output 1.3: Gender-sensitive early warning and early response capacity developed, supported and improved:**

The establishment of an ICT-based EWERS is at an advanced state. A web-based prototype was designed by the project in collaboration with state governments, communities, security agencies and civil society partners. This system allows citizens, civil society and other stakeholders to report in real time on behaviour or actions that they consider as potential indicators of conflict. The referral systems of the mechanism is linked to key institutions mandated to respond – for example 40 security actors were trained to operate the control room in each of the States. Situation rooms in the three states are being equipped for monitors to be able to handle any complaints or conflict risks at an early stage and refer them to responsible agencies for timely response. A related gender-sensitive conflict risk model was developed in consultation with key civil society partners and state focal points to inform the tracking and monitoring process as part of the early warning/ early response system. To complement the efforts of the technology-based systems in the three states, 104 women leaders have been trained in conflict early warning and response and several of these women leaders have built community-based networks to effectively contribute to the ICT based system. Youth in media groups have been established to ensure increased uptake of the systems for rapid implementation.

**Output 1.4: Constructive dialogue promoted through inter-ethnic and inter-religious exchanges**

A robust network of platforms for sustained dialogue have been catalysed with support from the project. First sustained virtual engagement with youth organisations on their growing role in sustaining peace in the context of COVID19 response was established. Key discussions on the role of youth in peacebuilding translated to a youth in media platform where 122 young people from across the country (including the project states) were supported to support risk communication efforts at the height of the pandemic – and are now part of the early warning and reporting teams. Five members of the Women in Peacebuilding Networks established across the project States have set up community level platforms to engage on WPS issues in their communities. Lastly herder-farmer peace forums in Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa States continued meeting monthly to identify emerging conflict issues and proffer solutions to the Government as part of the State’s peace infrastructure. 80 representatives of farmers, herders and women association and trade groups in Benue and Nasarawa states were engaged through a participatory consultative process to identify the impact of the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law on their economic, social and political lives. Key advocacy messages on the impact and recommendations to mitigate them were developed and would be used to engage key actors in 2021.

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

In several communities, members of the state network of women in peacebuilding  held forums to step down their learning. They also facilitated dialogues to mitigate farmer-herder conflict and promote social cohesion among farmers and herders in their communities. Activities undertaken by these women are being recognized by the leadership structures at the communities and LGA levels. The development of SAPs by respective State Governments to oversee the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the localized UNSCR 1325 in the three states is expected to contribute to gender equality, youth and women’s meaningful participation and responsiveness to the two groups’ needs. **A Protocol on Gender Sensitive Dialogue and Mediation** processes was developed for the project states while MDAs in Taraba and Nasarawa states developed a one-year action plan for operationalizing the UNSCR1325 through different MDAs 2021/2022 plans.

**Outcome 2:  Strengthening economic interdependence between farmers and herders**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** ON TRACK?

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

A key project’s achievement under this outcome in the reporting period was to bring together farmers and herders in a series of planned steps towards strengthening the economic solidarity between farmers and herders through trainings on integrated agro-production value chains *(seeking opportunities for crop farming and animal production as mutually beneficial value chains)*. In collaboration with FAO, the project strengthened the state government agriculture extension system to support alternative fodder/feedstock production and efforts to modernize its 11,500 Ha of grazing reserve for the development of pasture. This allows farming communities to grow pasture and develop related markets to be accessed by herders. This availability of jointly accessible markets and the establishment of innovative service centres (suspended due the COVID-19 control measures) are key milestones completed by the project towards fostering accommodating initiatives that align the farmers’ and herders’ value chains and production modes to the creation of economic interdependencies.

**Output 2.1 Improved land, fodder/feedstock management to reduce competition over natural resources**

The capacity of extension workers including farmers and herders are now enhanced to identify alternative feedstock resources that were available in their communities and had been wasting away and can now be put to economic use. They are now aware that the conventional feedstuff is already dwindling and thus the need to explore alternative feedstuff to feed their animals adequately and throughout the year is important. Other achievements included:

* Increased capacity to determine what constitutes safe, qualitative alternative feed for livestock;
* Improved capacity to propagate, produce, manage, process and utilize alternative feeds to ensure safe, affordable and quality feed is given to livestock to satisfy the nutritional requirement;
* Business opportunities that are bound within the livestock feeds value chain is understood;
* Improved capacity to identify different alternative feedstock and their nutritional content ;
* Improved capacity in the production of hydroponic fodder production;
* Enhanced capacity of 60 agricultural extension agents (within the government employ) in identification of alternative fodder/feedstock;
* Established Farmers Field school (FFS) as step downing training and people centered learning for 1800 farmers;
* Supported the Taraba State Government to operationalize the demarcations and beaconing of one grazing reserve earmarked for NLTP.

**Output 2.2: Livelihood opportunities at agricultural/pastoral interface improved to incentivize farmer-herder cooperation**:

To strengthen interdependence between farmers and herders as a peacebuilding strategy, capacities of 2686 beneficiaries were strengthened on crop farming and animal production through a a skills transfer exercise. The skills building exercise was conducted to address the capacity gaps identified in a profiling of existing capacity needs prior to the training. This activity was implemented in partnership with ThriveAgric, a tech-driven agribusiness start-up company. The Project is leveraging key partnerships with Mercy Corps to also integrate entrepreneurship skills and sustainable business models into these upskilling processes. Besides, start-up farming inputs are being procured and will be distributed to beneficiaries to model and roll out the prototypes of agricultural-based ventures in the communities. In addition, 16 group members from the Network of Women in Peacebuilding in the three states were trained on production of hand sanitizers as part of response to COVID-19. The skills acquired provided trainees with a new source of income and a protection from COVID-19.

**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 project ensured gender equality and women’s empowerment in all processes. Preliminary processes for identification and selection of beneficiaries for training and economic empowerment were based on criteria agreed upon by stakeholders to ensure that women are included. The tools for profiling and selecting beneficiaries were reviewed by a technical team in collaboration with respective state governments. This was to ensure that selection criteria were mutually agreed upon and that tools were relevant in collecting the required information needed to target the right categories of conflict afflicted people from the respective communities. The methodology for data collection applied a 50:50 women to men ratio and a 1:7 adult to youth ratio in the selection of beneficiaries.

Furthermore, sixteen (16) organizations/groups members of the Network of Women in Peacebuilding, (89 women and girls) representing women across social strata and conflict divide were trained to produce hydro alcoholic gel in three states. The production of hygienic products is a great contribution of these communities to the COVID19 response in their respective states and enhanced means of livelihood for women during the pandemic period and beyond.

**Outcome 3:  Enhanced accountability to promote effective response to crisis**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** ON TRACK?

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

A mechanism for systematic human rights monitoring and tracking has been established with the support of the project to ensure that violations are reported for action to respective state and non-state agencies. The tracking system serves as an accountability platform to ensure principles for human rights protection are adhered to and that rights of affected populations are protected. To ensure increased awareness of human rights, 3116 community level human rights outreach programmes were undertaken in 15 local government areas in Benue State. Consequently, 4.950 referrals related to rights violations were made to relevant agencies. The success of this intervention is built on strong partnerships established with the National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council, Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies and Civil Society Organizations. Through these partnerships, the project received technical support from the National Human Rights Commission who deployed 15 human rights monitors to Benue State. Sustained monitoring of human rights violations through this mechanism continues to strengthen the nexus between peacebuilding and human rights protection, while also ensuring that conflict-sensitive measures were put in place to protect the rights of vulnerable populations (affected by conflict).

**Output 3.1 Capacity of monitoring, investigation and follow up on human rights offences enhanced:**

The capacities to respond in conflict settings from a human rights-based approach were enhanced for State, security and oversight institutions like the National Human Rights Institutions through the implementation of a mechanism for systematic monitoring and reporting on human rights. The capacities of these institutions to monitor and track violations were improved through tailored trainings and community outreach programmes. Meanwhile, communities were also being empowered to report violations should they occur. The mechanism for tracking and monitoring has also provided an opportunity for impartial and evidence-based narrative for a targeted response. The mechanism also integrated human rights responses that helped to yield peace dividends and mobilize a broader response to other vices like SGBV and SEA. During the COVID19 lockdown, the Benue State Government and NHRC have continued monitoring and investigating cases while applying COVID-19 preventive measures.

**Output 3.2 Increased civil-military/security agencies cooperation and dialogue:**

A platform for regular exchange, dialogue and engagement between security agencies and informal security actors (i.e. vigilante groups) is currently being set up, following sustained sensitisation sessions with the various security institutions. The platform will play a key role in improving military-civilian collaboration and ensure community policing efforts remain effective and do no harm. The extend to which these structures and mechanisms respond to emerging needs and threats to peace will help to determine the operational aspects of the conflict early warning system. Furthermore, the project integrated SGBV and SEA trainings into engagements with security personnel across the Nigerian Military, Police Force and other security agencies to ensure their response to farmers-herders crisis is gender-sensitive. To apply a gender balance to the trainings, selected participants included 94 (31 females, 6~~4~~ males) security personnel in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba states who attended a training on gender concepts and technical skills to identify, prevent, mitigate and response to SGBV and SEA in their area of operation. The personnel also committed to the He4She campaign. At the end of the training, 65% of participants confessed an increased knowledge on gender issues, awareness, and capacity to mitigate and respond to SGBV/SEA incidents in their areas of operation.

**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)*

Periodic awareness raising sessions, community outreach programmes and interfaith dialogues, to sensitize the IDPs and host communities on human rights and referral pathways were conducted targeting women, girls, boys and men who have been abused or who are at risk. The project also conducted targeted activities including SGBV protection trainings for women and girls and community resilience and conflict resolution sessions for traditional and religious leaders, village chiefs, heads of women and youth groups, and members of community watch teams. A total of 104,734 persons comprising of 21,842 boys (20.85%), 23,789 girls (22.71%), 27,878 men (26.61%) and 31,225 (29.81%) women were reached through these sessions.

**Outcome 4: Improved understanding of the crisis encourages evidence-based advocacy, targeted investments and innovative solutions**

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

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

To prepare for evidence-based advocacy, the project has started harnessing information around the farmer-herder crisis. Gender and youth disaggregated data were collected through project-related activities and from different other sources. Information gathered is analysed, validated and made publicly available through social media handles and other media. Discussions at the Federal level with the National Livestock Transformation Plan office are ongoing to use the project’s information management capacity to support the Federal Government in conducting an in-depth analysis of the crisis with the aim of producing better informed responses.

**Output 4.1 – Information Management and Analysis Unit provides reliable and credible information on farmers-herders crisis**

The project information management and analysis unit is currently providing and disseminating a credible and impartial analysis on the crisis. This was facilitated by the recently acquired ESRI ArcGIS software, a geographic information system working on maps and geographic information. As part of repurposing its implementation in the light of COVID-19, the project supported a nationwide citizen poll to gather primary data on citizens’ perception on COVID-19 and its attendant primary and secondary impacts on the society. Findings from this survey were incorporated into a policy brief prepared by UNDP on behalf of the UNCT in Nigeria. In addition, a letter of agreement (LOA) was signed with the NLTP Office on possible collaborations around data collection, management and visualization for livestock management, farmer-herder conflicts, environmental, socio-economic and other relevant information. The project is also supporting the NLTP to generate information via surveys of selected grazing reserves and identifying linkages to be strengthened as mechanisms for building social cohesion between farmers and herders. This partnership provides an opportunity to link EWERS to a national level platform as another mechanism to further support the efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria in addressing the farmer-herder conflict in the country.

**Output 4.2 – Objective and verified information on the crisis is made publicly available:**

With the COVID19 outbreak, the project deployed its GIS capabilities to support the Federal Government’s Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 in the design of a resource tracking dashboard. The dashboard is now adopted by the Government as one of the accountability platforms used to ensure that resources and donations for crisis response are effectively utilised. The related dashboard can be found at <https://www.ngcovid19resourcetracker.info>is serves as a data platform with nationwide coordination of partners for COVID19 response. In addition, the project’s technical team supported data analytics by monitoring the socio-economic, conflict and security threats at the heart of the lockdown and recommended entry points for advocacy. To sustain the analysis of the farmers-herders conflicts and produce factsheets on the project, the Communications team introduced a weekly monitoring of multi-media sources as part of the efforts for pushing forward several frontiers of information dissemination both within and outside the UN System. In the same line, 104 youths and media practitioners from Nasarawa, Benue and Taraba states were trained on conflict risk communication, peace building and linking these with COVID19 risk communication.

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

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  Human right violations monitoring in 10 IDP camps in Benue and 15 Local Government Areas within the state. Monthly reports are produced  Project performance review and Annual Work Plan development. | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Yes.  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection?  No. However, the Project is in the process of launching a nationwide conflict analysis and peace assessment. All preliminary activities have been concluded for field work/data collection |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  No | Evaluation budget (response required): Yes  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:  ToR for the international consultancy to conduct the Project evaluation are being developed by the technical team. The consultancy will be publicly advertised for prospective applicants upon completion, clearance and approval. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: Amount:        Government of Japan      $191,940        Mercy Corps      $10,342        UK Government Foreign Commonwealth & Development organization |
| **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)* | Weak coordination among NGOs and government agencies working on dialogue and mediation in the project states led to a duplication of efforts and over concentration of efforts in some areas such as peace dialogue to the detriment of other areas such as risk communication. To address this challenge, the Project is facilitating:   1. A coordination platform for organizations/ institutions working on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and women, dialogue and mediation in the Middle Belt to facilitate the necessary collaboration for enhancing outcomes and maximizing the impact of interventions; 2. A coordination platform for creatives and media professionals on Peacebuilding in the Middle Belt to facilitate ethical and gender-sensitive risk communication on conflicts in the Region; and 3. Capacity development for NLTP Office at the Federal Government level on information management/analysis and data-backed decision-making processes*.* |

**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:

$     484,000

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

     The C-EWERS developed and tested a demo on the field. However, the technical team has added the COVID19 dynamics to C-EWERS to ensure capacities for other types of shocks and insecurity drivers not earlier considered are incorporated to make a robust system. Furthermore, the project supported the National Presidential Task Force on COVID19 to develop a real-time dashboard for tracking resource needs, donations and deployment across Nigeria. This helped in evidence-backed decision making for the Federal Government on COVID19 response and its resultant crisis at large.

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

☐ relevant Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

☐ Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

☐ relevant Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

☐ relevant Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

☐ Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

☐ Other (please describe):

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

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  **Effective and gender- sensitive infrastructure for peace in place at the state level to support conflict prevention** | **Indicator 1.1**  **Number of peacebuilding structures established per state and percentage of women and youth participating in these structures** | **0** | **3 (1 per state;**  **35%**  **women/youth participation)** | **1** | **1 (Taraba state)** | **Support and technical resources currently being deployed to institutional systems and fast track the legislative process for the establishment of peace agencies in Benue and Nasarawa states** |
|  | **Indicator 1.2**  **Percentage of women and youth surveyed who perceive that peace infrastructure adequately reflects and addresses their concern** | **0** | **50%**  **women/youth** | **35%** | **0** | **This is an end of project evaluation indicator to be conducted during project close out.** |
|  | **Indicator 1.3**  **Percentage of conflicts reported through EWERS in project area and percentage of reports responded to by peacebuilding structures** | **0** | **50% capture;**  **25% response** | **25% capture; 15% response** | **0** | **EWERS has been tested in the states and undergone upgrades following feedback received from stakeholders** |
| **Output 1.1**  **Establishment of state level agency/commission/structure to drive gender- sensitive peacebuilding agenda** | **Indicator 1.1.1**  **Number of agreements with state governors' offices on supporting the establishment of agency/commission/structure** | **0** | **3 agreements** | **1** | **1** | **Legal drafter has been recruited coupled with support from CSO network to strengthen the current capacity of relevant government institutions. With this support draft bills have been developed with presentations made to critical stakeholders. Updates to this draft has been shared with stakeholders. This is to help fast track the legal process of constitutionally establishing Peace Agencies in Nasarawa and Benue states** |
|  | **Indicator 1.1.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 1.2**  **State peacebuilding agency/commission/structure supported to drive gender- sensitive response to farmers- herders crisis** | **Indicator 1.2.1**  **Number of institutions supported to drive gender sensitive response** | **0** | **15** | **5** | **0** | **This will be carried out as a support to the state level peace agencies** |
|  | **Indicator 1.2.2**  **Number of mediation/dialogues led by peacebuilding structure** | **0** | **5** | **2** | **0** | **This is contingent upon the establishment of state level peace agency** |
| **Output 1.3**  **Gender- sensitive early warning and early response capacity developed, supported and improved** | **Indicator 1.3.1**  **Number of functional EWERS established** | **0** | **3** | **1** | **0** | **The ICT-based EWERS has been established across all 3 states as led by a consultant using a multisectoral approach to incorporate all stakeholders into the design. The process of operationalizing the Control room is ongoing.** |
|  | **Indicator 1.3.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 1.4**  **Constructive dialogue promoted through inter-ethnic and inter- religious exchanges** | **Indicator 1.4.1**  **Number of verifiable peacebuilding activities achieved** | **0** | **30** | **10** | **4** | **Farmers-Herders Peace Forums were established in Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa states even with the constraints of COVID19 lockdown. Virtual meetings were held and with the phased easing of restriction of movement, physical meetings were held with social distance observed.** |
|  | **Indicator 1.4.2**  **Number of relevant state institutions provided with validated outputs from open grazing consultations** | **0** | **4** | **2** | **0** | **Multi-stakeholder consultative forums on open grazing are yet to be held. Once held it will start the process of engagements with relevant state institutions to provide these validated outputs** |
| **Outcome 2**  **Strengthening economic interdependence between farmers and herders** | **Indicator 2.1**  **No. of new co- operative initiatives between farmers and herders demonstrating mutually beneficial economic interdependence** | **0** | **3** | **1** | **0** | **This will be borne out of the post vocational and other trainings graduation and empowerment of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are currently at advanced stages of training** |
|  | **Indicator 2.2**  **No. of target states that adopt concepts of pasture and alternative fodder system for scale- up** | **0** | **2** | **1** | **3** |  |
|  | **Indicator 2.3**  **No. of people benefiting from new market opportunities in project areas** | **0** | **485 direct beneficiaries and at least 50,000**  **indirect beneficiaries** | **200** | **2,686 (m:1450, f:1236)** |  |
| **Output 2.1**  **Improved land, fodder/feedstock and water management to reduce competition over natural resources** | **Indicator 2.1.1**  **Survey reports provided to relevant state institutions and validated** | **0** | **1 Survey for 5,000 hectares** | **100%** | **100%** | **none** |
|  | **Indicator 2.1.2**  **No. of farmers and herders informed about alternative fodder/feedstock opportunities** | **0** | **1800** | **600** | **2,686 (m:1450, f:1236)** | **none** |
| **Output 2.2**  **Livelihood opportunities at agricultural/pastoral interface improved to incentivize farmer herder co-operation** | **Indicator 2.2.1**  **No. of persons trained on value chain development around livestock production and markets** | **0** | **300** | **100** | **0** | **Onboarding and training of beneficiaries concluded. Farm inputs to be distributed to the farmers and herders are being procured; these will also be quickly implemented by Thrive Agric and Mercy Corps.** |
|  | **Indicator 2.2.2**  **No. of platforms and CBOs reached with knowledge products, advisory services and sensitization activities** | **0** | **6** | **3** | **0** | **This will be borne out of engagements of beneficiaries of vocational and other trainings at the later stage of their program** |
|  | **Indicator 2.2.3**  **No. of men/women/youths supported by vocational training** | **0** | **125** | **80** | **2686 (m:1450, f:1236)** |  |
| **Output 2.3** | **Indicator 2.3.1** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 2.4** | **Indicator 2.4.1** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 2.4.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 3**  **Enhanced accountability promotes increased effectiveness of response to the farmers- herders crisis** | **Indicator 3.1**  **No. of states with a systematic monitoring of HR abuses** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **1** |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.2**  **Percentage increase in awareness of SEA and SGBV in project area** | **0** | **50%** | **25%** | **30%** |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.3**  **Degree of improvement in HR responsiveness of military and security apparatus** | **0** | **30%** | **10%** | **60%** |  |
| **Output 3.1**  **Capacity of monitoring, investigation and follow up on human rights offences enhanced** | **Indicator 3.1.1**  **No. and quality of reports referencing documented HR abuses** | **Irregular reports of poor quality** | **Regular reports that meet minimum standards** | **Irregular reports of high quality (meet minimum standards)** | **Regular reports that meet minimum standards** |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.1.2**  **Percentage of reported HR abuses and violations that are investigated** | **0** | **50% improvement** | **25%** | **70%** |  |
| **Output 3.2**  **Increased civil- military/security agencies cooperation and dialogue** | **Indicator 3.2.1**  **No. of workshops and dialogue platforms supporting behavioral changes** | **0** | **3** | **2** | **3** |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.2.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 3.3** | **Indicator 3.3.1** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.3.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 3.4** | **Indicator 3.4.1** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 3.4.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 4**  **Improved understanding of the crisis encourages evidence- based advocacy, targeted investments and innovative solutions** | **Indicator 4.1**  **Number of initiatives informed by project-generated information and**  **advocacy on farmers-herders crisis** | **0** | **5** | **2** | **2** | **Two farmers-herders forums were formed in Nasarawa and Taraba states (one per state)** |
|  | **Indicator 4.2**  **No. of references in national and state media to project generated information and**  **analysis on farmers-herders crisis** | **0** | **12** | **4** | **2** |  |
|  | **Indicator 4.3**  **Total value of additional funds leveraged to address farmer- herder conflict** | **0** | **$5 million (at least $1 million targets women/youths)** | **$1million** | **202,000** |  |
| **Output 4.1**  **Information management and analysis unit provides reliable and credible information** | **Indicator 4.1.1**  **No. of verified**  **and objective information products based on the project's sources of**  **information** |  | **3 reports, 9 updates and 12**  **infographics produced (with gender and youth dis- aggregated data and analysis)** | **1 report, 3 updates and 4 infographics** |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 4.1.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 4.2**  **Objective and verified information on the crisis is made publicly available** | **Indicator 4.2.1**  **No. of reports, briefs and**  **infographics that reach a wide audience** | **0** | **100,000 reached, 1,000 likes, 1,000 shares/retweets** | **20,000 reached, 200 likes, 200 shares/retweet** |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 4.2.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 4.3** | **Indicator 4.3.1** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Indicator 4.3.2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Output 4.4** | **Indicator 4.4.1** |  |  |  |  |  |