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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** **LIBERIA**

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

**YEAR of report:** 2021

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| **Project Title:** Protection and Support of Enabling Environment for Women Human Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders in Liberia-PROSEED  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:**  **00125938** | |
| **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 organisations:**  **Kvinna till Kvinna NUNO (Convening Agency)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** Feb. 12 2021  **Project end date:** Aug 12 2021  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organisation):**  **Recipient Organisation Amount**  Kvinna till Kvinna $ 495 000.00  Total: $ 495,000.00  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 16%  \*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: 459 000  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: 71830.00 | |
| **Project Gender Marker: 3**  **Project Risk Marker: 1**  **Project PBF focus area: (2.3) Conflict prevention/management** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Aisha Kamara Kolubah, Program Manager  Project report approved by:  **Katarina Inkinen, Africa Grants Manager**  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes | |

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

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

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

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

The project inception activities include the following:

The project kicked off on February 4, 2021. Worked with the PBF Secretariat to finalize preparatory documents including the annual work plan and M& E Plan. All project staff have been recruited and are currently on board. Two Kick-Off meetings were held with partner organisations and stakeholders at national level. The first meeting was held with the partner organisations (Liberian Women Empowerment Network- LIWEN, Community Healthcare Initiative- CHI, and Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia- LEGAL) and Kvinna till Kvinna staff. It focused on the rollout of the project outlook, including planned activities, key deliverables, timeline, financial management, anti-corruption and donor compliance. The second meeting was external, and it brought together 15 participants, including the UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights, Peace Building Office, PBF Secretariat, Sida, LIPRIDE coalition, and other partners. At the end of the meeting, participants had detailed information about the project and expressed their interested in supporting it. Sida and OHCHR were keen on the Integrated Security Training and expressed interest in understanding the processes and getting information about the outcome.

Community entry and engagement processes were conducted. At the community level, community entry and mobilisation meetings were held with local leaders with the intent of providing information about the project and soliciting buy-in from communities. As a result, the project is now positioned in the targeted locations in Grand Bassa County-Gornigar Town, Gorzohn, Cortroe; Margibi County- Kataka, Harbel, Dolo Town and Kpans Town; Montserrado County- Low-cost Village, Chicken soup Factory and Rivercess County- Gbardea's town, Sand Beach Adam & Eve Creek.

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):

The project plans to conduct Integrated Security Training that targets Women and LGBTI Human Rights Defenders, members of the Women Human Rights Defenders Network, and staff from Independent National Commission on Human Rights staff. It intends to provide set skills and tools to enable human rights defenders safely claim their rights and participate in democratic processes.

There is a plan to strengthen Women Human Right Defenders Network of Liberia which will be supported by Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations. The event will bring together Women Human Rights Defenders from the national and sub-national levels to promote coordination, Networking and dialogue with key stakeholders for the protection of their rights. The event is intended to call on the government and other actors to prioritise the safety and security of WHRDs. The activity will take place in November 2021.

The project intends to also support planned dialogue sessions with influential leaders led by Partner Organisations (POs) on Power Analysis and Value Clarification. During the dialogue session, the POs are expected to identify champions who could be agents of change for the larger group (traditional and religious leaders). The first phase of the activity will be completed by September 2021.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarise **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):

Not applicable for this period

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):

Not applicable at the moment; it is too early to determine impact. This section will be addressed in the next period.

**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.

Not applicable for this period

Outcome 1: Strengthened protection and resilience of Women Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders to safely claim human rights for all and challenge current patriarchal structures.

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

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

Initial capacity building training conducted for three partner organisations[[1]](#footnote-1) focused on the overall programme management and organisational development capturing key performance tools. At the end of the training, partners clearly understood the project deliverables and reporting timeline. The team agreed to carry out Bi-annual capacity building activities and quarterly coaching and mentoring sessions to deepen knowledge acquisition of the project.

In addition, a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held with staff of selected partners. It focused on the concept of Participatory Vulnerability Analysis and Participatory Needs assessment. Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) is a systematic process that involves communities and other stakeholders in an in-depth examination of their vulnerability and, at the same time, empowers or motivates them to take appropriate action. The essence of PVA is for the community to develop action plans and have their confidence built by valuing their expertise and seeking opportunities to enhance their resilience to difficult conditions constantly. Participants developed and tested the needs assessment tools used for data collection during the need assessment at the training. At the end of the training, 12 participants (9 women and 3 men) had in-depth understanding of the trend on human rights defenders and related issues. They learned the skills and tools to facilitate participatory sessions and comprehensively analyse vulnerable people and power relations.

Following the training, the POs led the needs assessment in the project location. The assessment was done using participatory tools and techniques to ensure communities' active participation in identifying and analysing levels of vulnerabilities and developing/designing strategies to address them. They were able to identify their issues, analyse them and come up with actions to address them.

After the assessment meeting with LIPRIDE Coalition, the Coordinator mentioned: “We do not see this approach with other projects; going through the Force Field tool to analyse Actors and Institutions has helped us to understand which actor or institution is most likely to support the intervention and who might not support it”.

Across the communities, 184 women of 12 focus group discussions and 60 young people of five focus group discussions participated in the assessment.

In addition, the team held two meetings were held with the WHRDs, and it focused on reviewing and strengthening the Network. The Network members agreed to set a formal structure that will lead to advocacy and other policy engagement at the community and national levels. Currently, the Network has 25 members and individually based, with a nonhierarchical leadership structure. With the available funds, the project will support the development and implementation of a strategic plan that will focus more on Networking and exchange.

**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)*

Kvinna till Kvinna is a feminist organisation (all women staff) and works with only women-led organisations. Women and girls are primary targets; however, we work with men and boys as they are members of the community and greatly influence attitudes towards gender equality and women empowerment. As part of our mandate, Kvinna till Kvinna encourages partners to prioritise working with women and ensure that they have all the support. About 75% of the partners' organisation staff are women, and 90% of staff assigned to the project are, or identify themselves as women.

For the two trainings, 12 persons participated out of which there were 9 females (75%) of the participant, the male participation were 3 persons (20%). 5% of the male participants identified themselves as women. Young people (25-35) made up 75% of the participants, 5% were middle age (36-49) and 20% were 50 and above.

For the engagement with WHRDs, older women (40 and above) made up 65% of participants, while young women (28-35) made up 35%. Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations will continue to engage and ensure that young women are reached under this intervention so as lay foundation for sustainability as older women retire.

**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)  *No was no monitoring conducted during the reporting period.* | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  *No. This is not applicable for this period* | Evaluation budget (response required): 18500.00  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500-character limit)*: |
| **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: |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organisations? *(1500-character limit)* | Not applicable at the moment |

**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:

Not Applicable

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

The project implementation is on track, however, there have been some delays due to the COVID-19 restrictions both in Liberia and Sweden. The integrated Security Training is slightly behind schedule due to travel restrictions making Kvinna till Kvinna' s Senior Advisor unable to travel to the Liberia at the moment. She is however providing remote support to the Liberia team to find alternatives for the training to take place. To ensure quality training, Regional Consultants from the Nigeria, west African region and Liberian Feminist Forums were identified and their ToR and training content is currently being reviewed. We anticipate the training to take place end of June or early July 2021.

Due to the updated restriction which limit face to face interaction, there will be slow down of some project activities. Trainings and dialogues will be conducted considering the restrictions. More sessions will be required for trainings above 20 persons and awareness will be more virtual than face to face interaction.

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 stigmatisation and address trauma

Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire

Other (please describe):

Kvinna till Kvinna is considering hiring a consultant to conduct the Integreated Security Training instead a staff from HQ coming in country to do the training.

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.*)

Not applicable in all ways. However, the use of mask, washing hands and social distancing is always reinforced during gatherings for trainings and group discussions etc.

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the Outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  Strengthened protection and resilience of Women Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders to safely claim human rights for all and challenge current patriarchal structures | % of HRDs who report one concrete example of how the project has contributed to them feeling more secure in their work (disaggregated by sex, age, location and stakeholder group) | **0** | **50%** |  | Not applicable at the moment. Report on progress will be in the annual and end of project reports | Too early to determine progress |
| % of leaders who report having developed pledges for action (disaggregated by sex, age, location and stakeholder group) | **0** | **20%** |  | Not applicable at the moment. Report on progress will be in the annual and end of project reports | Too early to determine progress |
| % of participants who report participating in developing advocacy plans in their communities (disaggregated by sex, age, location and stakeholder group) | **0** | **30%** |  | Not applicable at the moment. Report on progress will be in the annual and end of project reports | Too early to determine progress |
| **Output 1.1** WHRD and LGBTQI Rights Defenders are provided with tools to understand and assess risks, vulnerabilities and capacities as well as with strategies for integrated security to safely and effectively claim their space and defend right-holders rights.  **List of activities:**  **1.1.1** Organisation of "Integrated Security Workshops" for WHRD and LGBTQI RDs.  **1.1.2** Networking and exchange between human rights defenders.  **1.1.3** Capacity building of partner organisations | **Indicator 1.1.1**  Increased knowledge on risk assessment and integrated security strategies among WHRDs and LGBTQI RDs (24 participants, expected 18 self-identifying as women, six self-identifying as men) | **The training is pending** | **30** |  | **The training is slightly behind schedule. Mobilisation and other preparation are ongoing. The training is expected to take place in early July 2021.** | **COVID-19 restrictions could not allow KTK staff from Sweden to travel to Liberia. However, a regional consultant will be hired to conduct the training.** |
| **Indicator 1.1.2**  Increased capacity to conduct training on risk assessment and Integrated security strategies among six staff of INHRC (3 women, three men) and six staff of the Women Human Rights Defenders Network (6 women); through the training of trainers | **0** | **30** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| Output Indicator 1.1.3 # of WHRDs, LGBTQI RDs and youth between 15-29 years, participating in the networking event. | **0** | **80** |  | **Activities leading to this is are not due this period. Progress will be reported in the next reporting period.** | **Not applicable for this period.** |
| Output Indicator 1.1.4 % of WHRDs, LGBTQI RDs and youth between 15-29 years participating in the event have coordinated after the event. | **0** | **50%** |  | **Same as above** | **Sane as above** |
| **Indicator 1.1.5**  Partner organisations have addressed gaps (in terms of policies and systems) | **0** | **2** |  | **Initial training was done for 12 staff of the three POs. Coaching and mentoring sessions are currently ongoing. Progress against this will be reported in the next reporting period.** |  |
| **Output 1.2**  Increased understanding of Human Rights-Based approach and acceptance and protection of WHRDs and LGBTQI Rights Defenders by the community, traditional and religious leaders  **List of activities:**  1.2.1 Participatory needs assessment  1.2.2 Dialogue sessions with influential leaders  1.2.3 Trainings with traditional & community religious leaders  1.2.4 Follow-up dialogues and monitoring visits | **Indicator 1.2.1**  # Dialogue sessions conducted with traditional & community leaders and religious leaders, 65% men, 35% women. | **0** | **8** |  | **Activities leading to this is are not due this period. Progress will be reported in the next reporting period.** | **Not applicable for this period.** |
| **Indicator 1.2.2**  Increased knowledge on HRBA and HR-related content among project participants | **The training is pending** | **20%** |  | **Activities leading to this is are not due this period. Progress will be reported in the next reporting period.** | **Same as above** |
| Output Indicator 1.2.3  Increased acceptance of WHRDs and LGBTQI RDs among project participants | **The training is pending** | **20%** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Indicator 1.2.3**  Increased acceptance of WHRDs and LGBTQI RDs among project participants | **The training is pending** | **20%** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Output 1.3**  Women, girls and boys (including sexual minorities), analyse, understand and respond to GBV, Harmful Traditional Practices, and other violations of their rights.  **List of activities:**  1.3.1 Needs assessment and dialogue  1.3.2 Support the groups to set up their forums and leadership structures.  1.3.3 Support to established forums and community groups to develop action plans  1.3.4 Support implementation of action plans on advocacy and awareness raising  1.3.5 Follow-up and monitoring visits | **Indicator 1.3.1**  Rightsholders' forums and groups report having improved their leadership and structures. | **0%** | **70%** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Indicator 1.3.2**  The targeted rightsholder groups have increased knowledge and skills to raise awareness on women's rights and/or LGBTQI rights in their own communities. | **5%** | **30%** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Indicator 1.3.3**  The targeted community groups have seen the pledges of action partially or substantially completed. | **0%** | **70%** |  | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |

1. CHI, LIWEN and LEGAL are the three major partners. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)