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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** LIBERIA

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

**semi-ANNUAL**

**YEAR of report: June 2022**

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| **Project Title:** Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00129077** | |
| **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:**  **UN Women (Convening Agency)**  **UNDP** |
| **Date of first transfer:** October 2021  **Project end date:** December 31, 2023  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):**  Recipient Organization Amount  **UN Women: $1,150,000.00**  **UNDP: $850,000.00**  **TOTAL: $ 2,000,000.00**    How many tranches have been received so far: One (1)   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Recipient organisation** | **Budget Allocated ($)** | **Amount Transferred to date ($)** | **Amount spent to date ($)** | | **UN Women** | **$1,150,000.00** | **$805,000** | **$135,341.77** | | **UNDP** | **$850,000.00** | **$595,000.00** | **$95,514.62** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | **TOTAL** | **$ 2,000,000.00** | **$1,400,000.00** | **$230,856.39** |   Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 12%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **The budget templates are available** [**here**](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/application-guidelines)  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 86.55%  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women’s empowerment: $1,730,992.60  Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women’s empowerment: $199,806.21 | |
| **Project Gender Marker:** GM3  **Project Risk Marker:** 1 - Medium  **Project PBF focus area:** 2.2 – Democratic Governance | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Trokon Bryant and Nyasha Chidau, UN Women, WPPL  Project report approved by: Pamela Mkwamba; Deputy Country Representative ai UN Women  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 following preliminary and preparatory programme activities have been completed; capacity assessments and selection of 3 implementing partners – Naymote partners for Democratic development (Naymote, and Messengers for peace (MOP) and LIFE miracles sister (LIFE), recruitment and onboarding of three project staff; The Project inception phase included meetings and consultations with diverse stakeholders and the project launch. First tranche cash advance for NAYMOTE has been transferred to kick off implementation.

Below finds a status by component as per the below outcome and outputs:

**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/have 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.*

**Outcome 1:** Increased women’s participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms.

Although actual data percentage of women voters, candidates and elected will only be collected annually, some progress towards the outcome was achieved through complementarity with the Women Political Empowerment and Leadership project. The Inclusive Participation project built on previous advocacy work and contributed to the passage of an electoral reform bill inclusive of a mandatory 30% gender quota and amendments to support the resolution of electoral disputes at the House of Representatives in the Liberian Legislature.[[1]](#footnote-2) This bill has now gone to the Senate and UN Women and UNDP will continue to support coordinated advocacy efforts by civil society under the Inclusive Participation project in the next reporting period. In addition to legislative reform, UN Women will work with project partners to encourage the adoption of voluntary party quotas, such as the 40% gender quota recently adopted by the Congress for Democratic Change. A strengthened legal framework to promote increased women’s participation in elections will contribute to increased representation of women in politics. In addition, the leadership and advocacy capacities of peace hut women have been strengthened to influence attitudes and behaviors enabling women’s leadership, which will contribute to the project’s goal of increased women’s participation in elections, politics, and peacebuilding mechanisms. The delivery of project outputs, including training and technical assistance in transformative leadership and advocacy has laid the foundation for the promotion of women’s participation and prevention of Violence Against Women in Election and Politics (VAWiE/P).

Strengthened capacities of peace hut women in support to to hold dialogues with community leaders (Activity 1.1.7) in three project counties (Margibi, Lofa, Bong) contributed to the delivery of this output. Peace hut women organized dialogues with youth, district, and women leaders, county gender coordinators, traditional leaders, and joint security personnel in their respective communities and discussed the importance of women’s participation in peacebuilding and governance at the local level. Dialogues have been focused on the barriers to and value of inclusive participation. In line with the project Annual Work Plan (AWP), activities under this output started in Quarter II 2022. This follows trainings and technical assistance on transformative leadership for 28 (26f/2m) peace hut members so they to better influence attitude and behavioural change, as well as changes in policy and practice.

In addition, capacity strengthening of NEC staff, the security sector, and the judiciary on VAWiE/P under Activity 1.3.2 and the establishment of an advocacy mechanism under Activity 1.3.7 which began in this reporting period, will contribute to the delivery of this output. Engagement with political parties under the Inclusive Participation Project will begin in June 2022 and will leverage the recent adoption of a 40% gender quota by the Congress for Democratic Change[[2]](#footnote-3) to influence the adoption of voluntary quotas by other parties.

The above-mentioned WPEL Project has also laid a strong foundation for the Inclusive Participation Project to improve the prevention and response of VAWiE/P, 85% (28) of the registered political parties signed the protocol on 18 February 2022. The implementation of the Protocol and the actions taken by political parties that have signed on will be tracked and reported on under the PBF Inclusive Participation project in the next reporting period.

With the above-mentioned signed VAWiE/P Protocol and the Inclusive Participation preparatory activities with the NEC Gender Section complete, the NEC will begin dialogue and monitoring to hold political parties and the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) accountable for the implementation of the Protocol. In addition, the Inclusive Participation Project also leveraged the Lofa byelections to increase awareness of the barriers to women’s political participation, including VAWiE/P and to identify instances and risk factors for VAWiE ahead of the election, which was rescheduled from May 10 to June 28th 2022. In line with the AWP, activities under this output started in Quarter II 2022. This output is on track and actual data will be reported against project targets following grants to partners which target training to domestic observation groups and legal aid and information for at risk women and survivors of VAWiE/P and strengthening of judicial and law enforcement institutions to detect, investigate, prosecute, punish, and provide redress for VAWiE/P (Activities 1.2.4-1.2.7).

Capacity of women and youth in the period have been strengthened to advocate for the passage of the bill with emphasis on 4.5 – mandatory 30% gender quota.[[3]](#footnote-4) Within the reporting period, three meetings to develop advocacy strategies and tools for the passage of the electoral reform bill with the mandatory 30% gender quota were held by CSOs with support of the Inclusive Participation Project. This culminated in the development of a position paper to lobby the senate for the passage of the bill. This position paper, which is a key aspect of the advocacy mechanism established under activity 1.3.7, is inclusive of the views of NEC and diverse civil society actors made up of Liberia Elections Observation Network and Elections Coordination Committee, women’s rights organizations, representatives of faith-based institutions, youth groups and Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs). The Inclusive Participation Project will support CSOs to effectively use their position paper to influence Senators and generate more public and political party support for the electoral reform in the next reporting period.

Strengthened capacity of women and youth and other electoral stakeholders will also be supported through the availability of gender disaggregated data on women participation available and analysed (Activity 1.3.5). Towards this, a thematic training and sex-disaggregated data collection procedures for the Lofa County Senatorial By-Election has been developed, yet it has not been applied due to the postponement of the by-election.

Towards strengthened strategies and structures to promote women’s participation, peace and security, preparatory activities were completed for a VAWiE/P risk assessment (Activity 1.4.2). This assessment will support the Peace Building Office (PBO) to include prevention or mitigation of VAWiE/P into the Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism (EWRM). This will be completed in the next reporting period and the findings will be used to inform context-specific trainings with actors such as the National Elections Commission (NEC), the security sector and the judiciary. In addition, Standard operating Procedures (SoPs) on women participation were developed for law enforcement and media. These were developed with the full participation of media practitioners, police and other security officials during conferences held in Ganta and Buchanan. These are intended to provide guidance regarding the roles, responsibilities, and respective mandates of both law enforcement personnel and journalists at different points in the electoral cycle, and particularly in campaign periods. The SOPs will help to facilitate communication between the Liberia National Police (LNP) and journalists, and improve conflict-sensitive reporting, set limits on certain types of speech and misinformation, and expand the role of women in electoral violence prevention and response.

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** Slightly off track

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

Recruitment of consultants to carry out baseline perception and inception meeting done which enabled the survey to kick start. Regular coordination meetings between UN Women and UNDP have helped to improve synergies and deliver as one. Furthermore, UN Women/UNDP submitted detailed implementation plan, and M&E Plan and budget to the secretariat.

The held consultation meetings with stakeholders, CSO and government ministries at national set the platform for the project launch. Additionally, the project launch held on February 10, 2022 with 51 (39f/12m) government and civil society stakeholders have created implementation readiness. to propel delivery. Three implementing partners identified, and capacity assessments conducted following the project launch and created a platform the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) to convene. LPAC convened for partners to implement activities 1.1.3 and 1.1.7 which has enabled the procurement for the cash advances and implementation of the activities.

**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)*

Gender equality and women’s empowerment and women and youth inclusion and responsiveness are at the heart of this project. Women and youth, particularly young women are targeted for capacity strengthening and leadership as well as activities that allow them to exercise their voice and agency to influence changes in attitudes and behaviours, policy and practice to enable women’s safe and free political participation. At the same time, the project supports gender mainstreaming in elections, with emphasis on electoral arrangements and stakeholders’ responsibility for the prevention and response to VAWiE/P. Gender is also being mainstreamed into early warning and response (EWRM) mechanisms, with particular emphasis on linking GBV referral pathways and the EWRM to ensure appropriate response for cases of VAWiE/P. The outcome also requires political parties to be more gender responsive, and that accountability mechanisms are utilized to track and respond to VAWiE/P. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of the media to challenge negative stereotypes about women and youth participation in elections and to report in a gender responsive manner on women’s participation and cases of VAWiE/P provides legal information and services for women who experience VAWiE/P.

**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 the outcome 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**  **Increased women’s participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms** | Indicator 1.1a  Outcome Indicator 1a: Perception of women candidates on the risks in terms of presenting themselves and the political party support for them. | 0 | TBD | 0 | 0 | Baseline study is underway. Indicator will be measured again at endline. |
| Indicator 1.1b  Outcome Indicator 1 b: percentage of women voters, candidates and elected | 12% women elected members  17% women candidates  9.7% Women elected members  % Of women voters (TBC) | By (Oct 2023)  30% women candidates  20% women elected members  % Of women voters (TBC) | 0 | 0 | To be measured annually/at endline |
| Indicator 1.1c  Outcome Indicator 1c. Increase in the percentage of institutional (NEC), judiciary/security sector and political party actions that redress cases of VAWIE/P | TBD | 20 % | 0 | 0 | To be measured annually/at endline |
| **Output 1.1**  **Political party and community engagements on women political participation are promoted through dialogue** | Indicator 1.1.1 Number of institutions publicly discussing the rights of women to participate in leadership and elections (political parties, agencies, local government structures) | 4 TBC  Year: 2022 Value: 2  Notes: (UPP, LP, CDC, ANC) | 20 | 0 | 0 | CDC in this period adopted 40% gender quota but cannot be attributed to PBF. |
| Indicator 1.1.2 Proportion of registered political parties signed onto and implementing the Protocol on Prevention and Response to VAWiE-P. | TBD (signing conference expected in 2021 last quarter) NEC holding last socialization exercise quarter 3, 2021) | At least 80% (based on political parties that signed MoU) |  | 85% | Progress based on signing; actual implementation of Protocol is yet to be tracked. |
| Indicator 1.1.3 Number of community peacebuilding action plans implemented and reported at subnational and national levels promoting participation of | 20 | 50 |  | 0 | Peace hut women have been supported with training and technical assistance, with development of action plans to follow. |
| Indicator 1.1.4. Number of awareness raising campaigns organized by young boys and girls on the right and incentives for young women to participate in public life and politics. | TBD | 15 |  | 0 | To be delivered by partners, presently being onboarded. |
| Indicator 1.1.5: Number of media institutions and outlets engaging in gender responsive media coverage. | By (July 2021) 10 | By (2023): 30 |  | 0 | To be delivered by partners, presently being onboarded. |
| **Output 1.2 Strengthened mechanisms for reduction of violence against women in elections, politics, and public spheres** | Indicator 1.2.1: Number of political parties in the National Legislature publicly committed and engaged to reduce violence against women | 0 | 5 (5 political parties represented in the National Legislature) |  | 0 | To be delivered by NEC and partners, with activities in progress. |
| Indicator 1.2.2 Number of training sessions organized for women for their meaningful participation in the IPCC. | By (2021): 0 | 10 |  | 0 | To be delivered by NEC and partners, with activities in progress. |
| Indicator 1.2.3: Number of gender response provisions and initiatives developed, implemented, and undertaken by electoral stakeholders | (2021): Codes of Conduct and Protocols  TBD | (2023) 3 |  | 0 | To be delivered by NEC and partners, with activities in progress. |
| Indicator 1.2.4: Number of training sessions and support provided to domestic observation groups to monitor and report on elections | TBD | TBD | 0 | 0 |  |
| Indicator 1.2.5: Number of reported cases of VAWiE-P registered and submitted to relevant authorities | TBD | TBD | 0 | 0 |  |
| **Output 1.3 Strengthened capacity of women and youth to formulate and implement measures to promote women’s participation in elections and peacebuilding** | Indicator 1.3.1  # of women and youth (boys ad girls) capacity enhanced to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding | 275 constituting 55% of women and youth trained to formulate and implement measures to promote women participation in elections and peacebuilding (2020) | 500 boys and girls and women trained |  | 0 |  |
| Indicator 1.3.2  # of political parties recommitting to non-violent elections | Ganta and Farmington declarations signed by 22 registered political parties (2017) committing to non-violent elections | At least 15 political parties recommitting to non-violent elections |  | 0 | Indicator to be accomplished closer to the 2023 elections. Meanwhile, 22 political parties signed the Violence Against Women in Election and Politics Protocol. |
| Indicator 1.3.3  Gender disaggregated data from CFM platform on women participation analyzed | 2020 voters’ roll | NEC collects at least 4 types of gender disaggregated data for 2023 lections (on observers/party agents, poll workers, candidates, voters |  | 0 | Indicator is relevant for 2023 elections and Lofa 2021 pilot (Lofa by-elections currently postponed). |
| Output Indicator 1.3.4  # of political parties comply with the 30% voluntary gender quota | One party complied with the 30% gender quota (2017 elections), two in 2020 | By 2023 80% if political parties comply with 30% voluntary gender quota |  | 0 |  |
| **Output 1.4**  **Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political and peacebuilding processes** | **Output Indicator 1.4.1: # of VAWIE-P risk assessment available to all relevant institutions** | 0 | At least 3 institutions’ personnel trained in VAWIE-P risk assessment |  | 0 | Recruitment for risk assessment is ongoing. Once risk assessment is completed, the trainings for institutions will start. |
| **Output Indicator 1.4.2: SOP for media and law enforcement validated** | One conference held for law enforcement and media to strengthen collaboration and protect citizens during elections (2020) | One SOP for media and law enforcement on women’s participation developed and adopted |  | 0 | Draft SOPs are ready for discussion at the roundtable planned for 8 June 2021. The SOPs will be validated after the roundtable. |
| **Output Indicator 1.4.3 # of women organisations in each county trained in mediation** | Mediation role played by women organisations in two electoral disputes involving women candidates (2020) | By 2023 at least five women organisations trained in mediation |  | 0 | Development of mediation curriculum ongoing. |

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

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):

Public hearing on An Act to amend certain Sections of the New Elections Law (1986) of the Republic of Liberia followed by debate in Senate Plenary (June-July)

National convention/dialogue to renew commitment to 30 percent women’s participation as stipulated in 2017 Farmington Declaration on peaceful elections, and Code of Conduct. (July-August)

Annual General Assembly of National Peace Hut Women (end June-beginning July)

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):

You can also upload up to 3 ﬁles in various formats (picture ﬁles, PowerPoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and 3 links to online resources

<https://www.lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2022/undp--un-women--launch-project-on-inclusive-political-participat.html>

OPTIONAL

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  *Joint monitoring and fact-finding mission was carried out May 12-13 targeting peace huts/peace hut women for PBF and complementary Irish Aid project, Supporting Community Engagement on Women’s Political Participation.* | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  *Some do. These will be revised after the final baseline report is completed at the end of June*  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection?  *Yes. Baseline including perception survey is underway.* |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  No | Evaluation budget (response required):  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:  Irish Aid €298,750 |
| **Catalytic Eﬀect (non-ﬁnancial):** Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer‐term peacebuilding change to occur?  ***Please select***  No catalytic eﬀect  Some catalytic eﬀect  Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Very Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Don't Know  Too early to tell | If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-ﬁnancial) catalytic eﬀect  Please limit your response to 3000 characters including spaces. |
| **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.*

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SECTION IS OPTIONAL***

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

$

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

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.*)

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1. See, for example, https://www.facebook.com/womentvlib/posts/486030669861774 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.liberianobserver.com/liberia-weahs-cdc-adopts-40-women-quota [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. **Section 4.5(1b)**

   A political party or coalition participating in an Election shall submit to the Commission its structure and the list of members of its governing body, which shall have no less than 30% from each gender. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)