

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND  
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**



**PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT**  
(Length : Max. 12 pages plus cover page and annexes)

<b>Country:</b> Liberia			
<b>Project Title:</b> Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics			
<b>PBF project modality:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF		<b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b> Peacebuilding Fund	
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc): UN: (UN Women, UNDP) Government partners: (National Legislature, Ministries of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), the Ministry of Internal Affairs/Peacebuilding Office, Ministry of Youth (MoY), NEC, LIPA; CSOs: (Political parties and their women and youth wings, National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Messengers for Peace, Liberia Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE).			
<b>Expected project commencement date<sup>1</sup>:</b> October 15, 2021 <b>Project duration in months:<sup>2</sup></b> 27 months <b>Geographic zones for project implementation:</b> Nationwide			
<b>Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project			
<b>Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):</b> UN Women: \$1,150,000.00 UNDP: \$850,000.00 TOTAL: \$ 2,000,000.00 <i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.</i>			
Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): Project total budget:			
<b>PBF 1<sup>st</sup> tranche:</b> (70%) UN Women: \$805,000 UNDP: \$595,000.00 Total: \$1,400,000.00	<b>PBF 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche*:</b> (30%) UN Women: \$345,000.00 UNDP: \$255,000.00 Total: 600,000.00	<b>PBF 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche*:</b>	<b>_____ tranche</b>
<b>Two-three sentences with a brief project description and succinct explanation of how the project is time sensitive, catalytic, and risk-tolerant/ innovative:</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Note: actual commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

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This project aims to strengthen coordination of peacebuilding, governance and elections processes and stakeholders with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes. It also seeks to achieve a more effective prevention and response to Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWiE/P) through building a peaceful and enabling environment for women's increased participation. The upcoming 2023 General Elections are the next benchmark, and that makes this project time sensitive and catalytic in fostering joint efforts to address conflict-related issues to enhance women's participation in these elections. Notwithstanding, the intervention adopts the electoral cycle approach in addressing the gaps identified in this proposal; the project will focus on strengthening coordination of peace building infrastructure to address VAWIE/P and enhancing women's participation in politics and public life. The beneficiary institutions range from grassroots to national levels include peace huts, palava huts, political parties' women and youth wings, National Elections Commission (NEC), the Women Legislative Caucus (WLC), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Ministry of Gender Children and Social protection (MoGCSP), the Inter Political Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) and other stakeholders. The intention is to influence social norms change, mainstreaming of all efforts into national coordination and robust gender responsive policies and legal frameworks, enhanced awareness on the rights of women to participate in politics and adherence to commitments on gender in the codes of conduct and legal provisions for women's meaningful participation and representation. The proposal builds on existing programmes and partnerships, scaling up initiatives and building complementarity with like-minded initiatives with Peacebuilding Office (PBO), ZoA and other development partners.

**Summarize the in-country project consultation and endorsement process prior to submission to PBSO, including through any PBF Steering Committee where it exists:**

The following institutions were consulted prior to the design and submission of this project: National Legislature, MoGCSP, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA)/PBO, Ministry of Youth (MoY), NEC, Liberia Institute for Public Administration (LIPA); CSOs: ZoA, PBO, (Political parties and their women and youth wings, Messengers for Peace, Liberia Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), RCO/PBF Secretariat. The Proposal was reviewed and endorsed by the Resident Coordinator's Office.

**Project Gender Marker score: 3<sup>3</sup>**

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 86.55% constituting \$1,730,992.60 will be allocated for GEWE.

**Project Risk Marker score: 1<sup>4</sup>**

**Select PBF Focus Areas** which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*): 2.2<sup>5</sup>

**UNDAF/UNSDCF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: OUTCOME 3: Sustaining Peace and Security - Consolidated and sustainable peace; enhanced social cohesion, rule of law and human rights. OUTCOME 4: Governance and Transparency - Good governance; transparent and strengthened institutions to the delivery of essential services targeting the most marginalized vulnerable

**Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes: SDGs 5, 10, & 16.

<sup>3</sup> **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective

**Score 2** for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective

**Score 1** for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget)

<sup>4</sup> **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 1** = medium risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 2** = high risk to achieving outcomes

<sup>5</sup> **PBF Focus Areas** are:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

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**Type of submission:**

- New project
- Project amendment

**If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:**

**Extension of duration:**  Additional duration in months:

**Change of project outcome/ scope:**

**Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:**

**Additional PBF budget:**  Additional amount by recipient organization:  
USD N/A

**Brief justification for amendment:**

*Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in*

*TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.*

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**PROJECT SIGNATURES:**

<p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>6</sup></b></p> <p>Marie-Goreth Nizigam [Redacted]</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: UN Women Resident Representative</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: 10/05/21</p> 	<p><b>Representative of National Authorities</b></p> <p>Name of Government Counterpart: Hon. Samuel Sseh</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Minister of Finance &amp; Development Planning</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: Oct 7, 2021</p> 
<p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>7</sup></b></p> <p>Stephen Rodrigues</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: UNDP Resident Representative</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: 10-5-2021</p> 	<p><b>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</b></p> <p>Oscar Fernandez-Taranco</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: 7 Oct. 2021</p>
<p><b>Head of UN Country Team</b></p> <p>Niels Scott</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Resident Coordinator</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: 6/10/21</p> 	

<sup>6</sup> Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.  
<sup>7</sup> Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.



## I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)

### Conflict Analysis

Women activism in Liberia to bring the peace was lauded globally when women of all ages and positions formed the Liberia Mass Action for Peace Campaign to end the 14-year deadly civil war, which started in 1990 and ended in 2003. This women-led activism continued until the nation's first elections (2005) after the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement in August 2003 that brought in power Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the first elected female Head of State in Africa. Women-driven civic education brought close to 80% of Liberians to vote in the first post-war elections, with the historic gain for women participation.<sup>8</sup> At the same time, a temporary gender quota also resulted in 14% women being elected to the legislature.

But since the quota was not maintained in the Election law, the women participation in politics and decision-making has been steadily decreasing across all sectors. This became apparent as Liberia continued its democracy consolidation efforts through two subsequent general elections (2011 and 2017) and three Senatorial mid-term elections (2008, 2014, and 2020). Women's participation dropped to 12.3 percent in 2014, and to 9.7 percent in 2017. Currently, only 8 out of 73 House of Representatives (10.9 percent) and 2 of the 30 Senators (7%) are female. Also, only 4 of 19 cabinet ministers, and 3 of 15 county superintendents are women. At the local government level, only 5 percent of over 2,000 local government officials are women.<sup>9</sup> Women also do not score high in the top-level memberships of the political parties (only 1 out of 26 parties had a female leader). Since 2005 there have been six failed attempts<sup>10</sup> to include affirmative action/quotas in the electoral framework. But the advocacy groups remain disconnected from the Executive and the lack of coordination weakens existing efforts.<sup>11</sup> Women elected members being a minority within the parliament and within the leadership of political parties made it difficult to negotiate an affirmative action bill. In addition, there is a lack of a real political will. Political leaders do admit that when they win elections it is owing to the huge work achieved by women and to their support at grassroots level, but they are still reluctant to place women on their lists or even accept positive measures to ensure women's representation in elected bodies. The prevalence of masculinity within the country's political parties is a major challenge and efforts need to focus on both their system and their culture.

The above is just an example of the decreasing women power score (WPS) in Liberia. In 2018, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) conducted a triangular assessment to provide an illustrative snapshot of the level of women's political leadership and empowerment across the key sectors in Liberia – legislature, executive, judiciary, and security. The assessment, reaching beyond the top-executive positions and beyond the national structures, revealed that the WPS decreased from 75 in 2014 to 63 in 2018 (the maximum total value is 400).<sup>12</sup> The sustainable peace and stability remains elusive without equal participation of men and women in public life. Women constitute about 50%<sup>13</sup> of the population and yet, their participation in politics and decision making remain limited<sup>14</sup>. As indicated in the conflict analysis above, the percentage of women in decision making remains low; for example, women are left out of decision making on issues that affect them

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.un.org/africanevel/magazine/april-2018-july-2018/women-liberia's-guardians-peace>

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Internal Affairs, Community Dialogue Report, 2015

<sup>10</sup> In 2009 a more structured and constructive introduction of a full-fledged proposal for legislative action was borne. The document titled the Fairness Bill proposed amongst other things: 30% Women Representation on Party lists; 30% leadership positions on party executive committees at both national and county levels

<sup>11</sup> Also, there is no deeper analysis detailing the participatory challenges Liberian women may face or how lessons learnt from the 2017 election could have been applied to strengthen women's participation rate in 2020. This contributes to the challenge. Affirmative action laws remain lacking as follow up on elections observation reports, recommendations of Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and National Action Plans (NAPs) for legal reforms remain elusive. This is also due to a lack of consistent high-level political follow-through on observer recommendations and tracking of commitments in human rights, peace, and security laws and programs.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/VWYL%20DI%20Report-Final.v.int2%20%281%29.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.IN?locations=LR> (accessed 03 Sept 2021)

<sup>14</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/liberia> (accessed 03 Sept 2021)



and their families, which drive the on-going legal reform discussion in the national legislature for an enforceable 30% gender quota on candidates' nominations listing in the electoral law.

Liberia does not yet have elected local government positions; but increased gender equality and empowerment programming has helped more women get involved informally in local decision-making and peacebuilding. Initiatives such as the women's peace huts and early warning structures (supported through various PBF projects as well as other donors) provide platforms for women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and social cohesion. The Peace huts have been instrumental in community dispute resolution, and they also monitored and reported on VAWiE/P and non-opening of polls in some districts (Nimba) in the December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections. Notably these peace huts are not in all districts and communities; consequently the project will build coordination with local infrastructures including peace committees focusing on issues of women's political leadership and preventions and response to VAWiE. The review of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Gender Strategy also indicates that since October 2016, its Liberia Configuration has placed a notable priority on promoting women's meaningful participation in the 2017 and 2020 elections to support Government's gender empowerment initiative. Nevertheless, despite the active engagement of Liberian women in the peace process and efforts to increase their participation in political and electoral processes, women still face difficulties today in entering mainstream leadership. In this context, a discrepancy between women's participation in political processes in Monrovia vis-à-vis the periphery remain. The peace huts women, despite their contribution to peace building efforts through dispute resolution within their communities, have limited influence/participation in formal decision making at the level of local authorities' structures. This project has a potential to help these women get better situated within the local leadership structures to influence decision making in meeting the objective of the project.

There are several factors that limit women's participation in the political sphere. At the macro-level, long-term structural causes include patriarchal, social, economic, traditional, cultural, and religious factors. COVID-19 has further exacerbated these structural causes. Women remain largely confined to household responsibility or lower paid or volunteer community jobs. There are also persistent cultural stereotypes against women in leadership, particularly in rural areas. Despite signing the Farmington declaration and committing to 30 percent gender quota, political parties have no strategy to increase women participation in political and public office. They generally just pay a lip service to the obligation to what they agreed to adhere. The legacy of the civil war also left more than 50 percent of population living below the poverty line, which, in particular affects women.

Noting the above, elections are an expensive venture and are highly transactional in Liberia, as are relationships of power and leadership. Political parties tend to nominate men because they have the power to mobilize resources, control resource networks, and lead political parties. Lacking the networks of their male counterparts, women are unable to mobilize adequate resources to support their campaigns, which often leads to their elimination from races before the elections take place. The few women with the resources to contest elections or with networks in communities often fall victim to electoral violence (non-state to non-state), especially when they do not have the protection of a political party with power or traditional leaders and the legal framework remains weak to protect female contestants. The absence of mandatory quotas for women's participation coupled with structural obstacles and limited resource capacity have undermined women's inclusion and undermined efforts to sustain peace. Additionally, the limited connection between the NEC, IPCC and CSOs to monitor and enforce the agreements on 30% participation of each gender continue excluding women from public debates, leadership and participation in organizations, decision-making, and local governance remains extremely low as evidenced by inadequate policies to address their needs and priorities.

It is observed but not well documented that women in urban areas participate more as candidates, while those in rural areas are supporters, creating a disconnect between the center and a periphery. Grassroots understanding of women's participation in politics and elections is minimal, therefore, tapping into the broad grassroots women leadership structure to empower women leaders towards national levels is lacking, and so

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the impetus for prevention and protection of women against electoral violence is low<sup>15</sup>. Reference is hereby made to the Rwanda model of women's ascent to power, building women leadership system from grassroots cells to national structures, from village councils to parliament. One of those was a new five-tiered system of local to national women's councils, addressing key issues such as health, education, and security.<sup>16</sup> According to Swanee Hunt, 2014 "The five-tiered system proved a dramatically effective leadership development scheme for moving civil society leaders into responsible government positions"<sup>17</sup>.

Furthermore, violence against women in electoral and democratic processes impacts electoral integrity and inclusiveness and is a serious obstacle to the meaningful participation of women as voters, candidates, observers, and election workers, and as a result, peace, and stability. Electoral violence often leads to conflict and risks impacting political stability notably in fragile democracies as the link between violence and different aspects of political contestation remains strong.

Normalization of increasing violence against women in elections and in political life in Liberia was documented in the 2017 election observation report (recommendation 45<sup>18</sup>), the 2019 by-elections, and the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) and Referendum (specifically a case of violence against the female Senatorial candidate in Gbarpolu)<sup>19</sup>. This type of male-dominated exclusionary politics, coupled with the threat of violence, results in women often choosing not to engage, and their voices being excluded from security, politics, and peacebuilding related planning.

**Key variables for increased Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWiE/P) include:**

- Dominant traditional and cultural perceptions that women belong at home
- Lack of rapid and effective Government response, particularly from the Ministry of Justice to incidents of political violence, which fuels a culture of impunity
- Weak regulations on electoral violence cases
- Inadequate security for women
- Absence of sex disaggregated data
- Lack of robust and clear systems for early warning, prevention, and timely responses to electoral violence
- Limited political will continue advocacy, implementation, and enforcement efforts on VAWiE/P
- Lack of conflict resolution, reporting, and referral pathways for election-related conflicts that women can leverage for redress
- Limited resources and awareness about existing international and national gender commitments
- Often inaccessible legal system amidst the high costs<sup>1</sup>
- High illiteracy rate (nearly 65 percent of women are illiterate, as compared to 38 percent of men)
- Limited access to information amidst the low internet penetration and lack of electricity outside of Monrovia and county-capitals

This results in men dominating and controlling formal peacebuilding, security, and governance mechanisms and priorities.<sup>20</sup> The above challenges in turn impact negatively on Liberia's ability to move effectively away from the context of fragility towards long-term and inclusive peace, stability, and justice (to fully achieve governance for peace). Equal participation of women and men in politics and decision-making is part of a fundamental right to participate in life and critical for sustaining peace. Marginalization and inequality, on the contrary, create conflicts and tensions. Violence against women as well as impunity remain amongst the most serious issues preventing a full democratic consolidation, and therefore, sustainable peace in Liberia.<sup>21</sup> According to Freedom House ranking Liberia's is said to be partially free with score of 27% on political rights and 33% on civil liberties.

**Relevant policy and strategic frameworks, other interventions and lessons learned**

Liberia has formally committed to taking steps to removing barriers to women's participation, including through the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1984, as well as commitments to international mechanisms such as United Nations

<sup>15</sup> Perception Study on Gender and Power Relations, Gender Roles, Gender Stereotypes and Attitudes Towards Women's Participation in Local Governance and Peacebuilding Processes.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/how-women-rebuilt-rwanda/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/rwanda/2014-03-30/rise-rwandas-women>

<sup>18</sup> Liberia General Elections 2017: Compendium of Election Observer Recommendations

<sup>19</sup> Liberia Peacebuilding Office, December 2020, Fact-Finding Mission to Gbarpolu, Election Situation Room.

<sup>20</sup> Gender and Conflict Analysis 2018, UNMIL and UN Women

<sup>21</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/country/liberia/freedom-world/2021>

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Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Liberia has also produced gender-specific policy frameworks that reflect the Government's commitments to furthering women's political participation. These include the National Gender Policy (2018), the National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 (2009-2013) and the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2019-2023), whose development was supported by the PBF.<sup>22</sup> Lessons informing initiatives under this proposal include the National Roadmap on Rape and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for Liberia to which a national roadmap on electoral violence and VAWiE/P will be developed under a proposed sub-committee to the National GBV task force.

**With these policies and action plans, progress has been recorded in the following areas:**

- The development of the Policy on Crime Prevention, which includes crimes of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the establishment of a specialized Criminal Court on SGBV
- Enhanced participation of women in security institutions – for instance 19 percent women in the Liberian National Police (Source: LNP-2018)
- Passage of the Domestic Violence Law in 2019
- Passage of the Land Rights Act in 2019
- Passage of the Local Governance Act in 2019
- Thirteen gender units were established in Government agencies and line ministries
- Gender policies were developed by Government agencies and line ministries, including four security institutions
- At the grassroots level, Peace Huts and County Peace Committees provide space for women's voices to be heard on peacebuilding and conflict resolution, security, rule of law, and political and economic issues.

This project is fully aligned with the Liberia United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation framework - UNSDCF 2020-2024, with UN Women Strategic Notes 2020-2024 and with the UNDP Governance portfolio. This intervention contributes to a more inclusive, effective, transparent, and accountable governance in Liberia through the realization of SDG -16, improved legal and regulatory frameworks, stronger public institutions, more engaged and responsible stakeholders, and peaceful and sustained electoral and democratic processes, and SDG-5, gender equality and empowerment. This initiative is also aligned to pillar three, "Sustaining Peace", of the Government's medium-term development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) (2018-2023) and the pillars of the NAP WPS (2019-2023) with special focus on strengthening the coordination role of all peace-building platforms and structures for a safe enabling environment and increased participation of women in elections and public offices. The project is also in line with PBC discussions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Liberia, including the PBC meeting on 9 March 2021 and the following press statement in which the PBC recognized the importance of women's full and effective political participation and representation and expressed concern at the persistent challenge of violence against women and girls.

The NAP WPS stresses the need for gender-sensitive approaches to peace and stability, building on existing innovative elements of the gender responsive planning, early warning and response mechanisms, innovative financing and use of technology of SMS and WhatsApp for enhanced information sharing, dialogue and reporting of incidents of VAWiE/P. The four pillars of the NAP WPS directly linked to the focus of this proposal are:

**1. Prevention:** Prevention of relapse into conflict and all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls, including SGBV. In the context of this proposal, emphasis is placed on preventing violence against women in elections and politics. By this, activities are designed to further open safe spaces, acknowledge the rights and contribution of women to politics and leadership from grassroots upstream.

**2. Protection:** Women, young women, and girls' safety, physical and mental health are assured, and their human rights respected. The project will focus on enhancing the capacity of relevant protection institutions including the Ministry of Justice and its auxiliaries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and

<sup>22</sup> UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000); A/RES/70/262-S/RES/2282 2016; A/RES/75/201-S/RES/2558; <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw27/tun5-1.pdf>; CEDAW General Recommendation No. 25, adopted in 2004, article 4, paragraph 1, [https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/General%20recommendation%2025%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/General%20recommendation%2025%20(English).pdf)

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CSOs with the primary responsibility of ensuring respect, demanding, and defending the rights of all citizens to participate in peace-building initiatives, including in elections and politics considering the vulnerable groups, especially women and youth.

**3. Participation:** Participation of women and girls in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts, humanitarian action and countering terrorism. The focus is on enhancing increased participation of women in elections and public offices from local to national levels as well as their participation in peacebuilding.

**4. Promotion of coordination and accountability:** Strengthening capacity and resources to coordinate, implement, monitor, and report on WPS plans and programs are ensured. The focus will be on strengthening the various institutions that implement, monitor, and report on violence, especially those affecting women in elections and public office.

However, the full implementation of existing policies and programs remains problematic. This is due to a combination of factors, including limited political will in the male dominated leadership landscape compounded by a difficult electoral system of first past the post (FPTP) for women participation in deep seated structural and policy barriers that require strategic engagements with male gate keepers at grassroots and national level, lack of coordination, and fragmented efforts that do not fully feed into national peacebuilding infrastructure or legal and policy frameworks. While previous and current interventions have addressed legal and policy provisions on peace and domestic violence for example, the legal framework and structural issues on women's leadership and politics remain a challenge that impact lasting peace.

Furthermore, this initiative is strategically placed to cover the gaps between how grassroots and national peacebuilding initiatives, existing laws and platforms are coordinated to feed systematically into national peacebuilding architecture. It also addresses how existing and new laws and policies are enforced, implemented, and monitored to facilitate lasting peace and equal and inclusive participation. Although, there is no robust gender equality provision in the electoral law, policies, guidelines, National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), and peace building structures at national and subnational levels are in place. However, further action is needed to harness their potential to influence a sustainable knowledge, practices, attitudes, and behavior (KAPB) change effect from grassroots upstream. While lobbying efforts to adopt favorable laws will be further supported, this intervention is rather about strengthening coordination mechanisms and systems to implement the existing peace structures and platforms, leverage their comparative advantages, and influence changes in both policy and practice for lasting peace. Building reliability, relevance, and efficiency of the sub-national and national structures to build, consolidate and sustain healthy, inclusive, and peaceful practices in governance at all levels is at core of this proposal.

Despite these challenges, UN interventions have made efforts to get a better understanding of the causes, to address issues of concern and build citizen-driven advocacy for legal reforms and enforcement for peaceful environment for women. A joint UNWOMEN-OHCHR perception study funded by PBF established that at least 50% of men and women still believe that women lack some leadership attributes,<sup>23</sup> reinforcing the need to work more with local communities and local government on social norms and behaviour change. Additionally, lessons from the UNDP electoral support project on reported cases of VAWiE/P and the role of community leaders, political parties, the security sector, and the judiciary informs the proposal's intervention to engage with key electoral stakeholders, including political parties through the IPCC,<sup>24</sup> to enhance prevention, response, and accountability at all levels. Whilst the capacity of various peacebuilding mechanisms – such as peace huts, peace committees, IPCC, and PBO - has been developed, gaps remain in building coordination and strong synergies that feed into VAWiE/P prevention and response efforts. Furthermore, one of the key interventions involves engaging all political actors on keys priorities regarding women's political leveraging the high-level engagements/advocacy platforms such as the Development Partners' Forum on Gender (DPFoG) and the National Economic and Reconciliation Dialogue held in 2019,

<sup>23</sup> Perception study pg16 In addition, the 2020 Public Perception Survey conducted by Liberia Election Observation Network (LEON) revealed that nearly 50 percent of respondents think that attack on female candidate is justified simply on the premise that she is not married. More than 50 percent of respondents also thought that it was not in Liberia culture to have women leaders and 23 percent thought women were weak to lead.

<sup>24</sup> IPCC is a mechanism that brings all political parties together to discuss issues around the peaceful conduct of elections in Liberia.



co-funded by the PBF.<sup>25</sup> This proposal also complements efforts on monitoring VAWiE through the women situation room currently implemented by ZOA with funding from the PBF. While ZOA's project covers only two counties, this proposal seeks to cover all 15 counties engendering the promotion of women's protection and leadership to sustain peace.

Furthermore, NEC already has a well-established relationship with IPCC that can be leveraged to enhance women political participation and eliminate violence against women in elections. Additionally, civil society is a key arena for women's engagement in public and political life. The 2020 elections showed civil society's ability to respond to electoral violence when they rapidly stepped up to establish a protection network for the affected candidate, mount a robust advocacy strategy, and mobilized support to sustain legal remedies towards her successful declaration of a winner. However, systematic coordination between the CSOs and NEC remains limited. Overall, the peace and conflict prevention actors (state and non-state) are often disconnected, especially between the field and the headquarters, as well as from warning to response.

The effective inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable and marginalized groups requires their full participation in all community structures and governance processes. These include, amongst others, Early Warning and Response Mechanism (EWRM) led by the Liberia Peace-Building Office, to ensure effective awareness, prevention, detection, and response to VAWiE/P, and NEC consultation platforms which are critical to meaningful, participatory, transparent, and peaceful electoral processes. IPCC is well established to promote accountability and electoral integrity among political parties, contributing to peace and stability. Regular dialogue, with traditional leaders, CSOs, and communities is critical for attitudinal change regarding women participation. Government structures are instrumental to translate successes into the laws, towards sustainable peace and stability of Liberia. The many CSOs in Liberia working on civil and political rights of women help to raise awareness with women and advocate for their political participation through policy reforms and capacity building of the women; however, strengthened internal coordination of these CSOs, development partners, and line Ministries would contribute more- specifically to women's political empowerment.

This proposal is based on Liberia's Second National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP WPS) and will support prevention, protection, participation, and coordination to prevent gender-based violence, specifically in political sphere. With the view towards a full achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 and 5, it aims to enhance respect for and uphold the voices and rights of all citizens towards democratic, just, inclusive, and peaceful society. The promising practice from the Spotlight initiative of engaging traditional leaders bring into this proposal lesson in working with traditional leadership and the grassroots. Coordinated work with CSOs is key for community ownership of prevention and response to VAWiE/P and building a peaceful enabling environment for women's increased participation. The consultative electoral reform led by CSOs and NEC as well as 2017 and 2020 elections lessons learnt conducted by Liberia electoral support projects<sup>26</sup> set course for further work on increased women participation in peacebuilding, elections, politics, and public life. The upcoming 2023 General Elections are the next benchmark, and the timing of this proposal is perfect to enhance participation of women in those elections. Nevertheless, the intervention also fully considers electoral cycle approach in addressing the gaps identified in this proposal as they relate to sustaining peace.

Project	timeline	Funding	New Niche
Women Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL)	2017-2021	Government of Canada 4million USD	The WPEL laid down the foundation by building partnerships with key stakeholders and began building capacity of these partners. Going forward, support to coordination of the stakeholders with a focus on inclusive

<sup>25</sup> The National Economic and Reconciliation Dialogue aimed to reach national consensus on feasible short- and medium-term policy measures, strategies, programs, and a time-bound roadmap to strengthen economic recovery, growth, peace, and reconciliation.

<sup>26</sup> UNDP Support to 2015-2018 Electoral Cycle Project (ended in 2020); newly launched Liberia Electoral Support Project 2020-2024; and Enhancing Youth Participation in the 2017 Legislative and Presidential Electoral Process in Liberia Project.



			<p>political participation and elimination of VAWiE/P is key.</p> <p>WPEL supported development of protocols on prevention and response to VAWiE-P and is supporting signing and socialization of the Protocol with Political parties. The PBF project will support the training on the implementation of VAWiE protocol with all key stakeholders, mapping and integration of VAWiE-P in EWRM as well as data collection and analysis and information dissemination.</p> <p>While the legal provision for an enforceable 30% gender quota has been formulated and is being considered, it requires sustained high-level advocacy.</p>
Liberia Electoral Support Project (UNDP)	2020 – 2024	<p><b>Current funding:</b> UNDP – 2 million USD, Sweden – 4,8 million USD, Ireland 500,000 EUR for 2021/2022 [with commitment of another 1 million EUR from 2022-2024]</p>	<p>While the LESP has VAWiE component, the funding is insufficient to address emerging challenges that affect peace. Therefore, PBF support is required. The proposed project will strengthen the platform, enhance coordination between various actors nationwide, improve linkages between the field and headquarters, review triggers of electoral violence, and improve system responsiveness.</p>
Sustainable and inclusive peace in Liberia through promoting women leadership and participation in civic and political life strengthened in conflict resolution.	Feb 2021- August 2022	<p>PBF \$1,289,615.00</p>	<p>The project focuses on strengthening women to overcome structural barriers that prevent them from participating in societal and peacebuilding processes. The project works with influential men and women including traditional leaders, women's groups female and male youth at national and local levels, using the women situation room mechanism as core pathway to address these challenges that face women. The new project complements efforts of ZOA in wider geographic locations .</p>
Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on women peace and security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and gender responsive budgeting (GRB).	Nov. 29 2019- 27 Nov. 2021	<p>PBF \$1,500,000.00</p>	<p>The new initiative will complement the work started with PBO to mainstream VAWiE into EWRM as part of the gender mainstreaming efforts</p>
Spotlight initiative	2019-2022	<p>EU \$5,6m phase 1 \$2,3m phase 2</p>	<p>The PBF proposal will build into the Liberia GBV roadmap established through Spotlight Initiative, a VAWiE component and a sub-committee under the GBV taskforce with the Ministry of Gender</p>

The initiative will further leverage the lessons learnt and promising practices from the Liberia Women Political Participation and Leadership project 2017 to 2021 and the work done by the Spotlight initiative on

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### **[UN Women to lead]**

This outcome focuses on strengthening the dialogue with community leaders, political parties, government ministries, and other stakeholders towards influencing a culture of inclusiveness and tolerance and creating safe spaces for women's participation in governance and peacebuilding issues, linking grassroots to national levels. Political parties are important entry points for women in politics, thus, they are specifically targeted by this intervention. The Project will leverage the existing IPCC structure that includes all registered political parties, some of which have women in leadership positions, without discrimination. Support to political parties will include engagement of structures outside of Monrovia to enable women at all levels to participate in politics and decision making taking into cognizance that some parties do not keep permanent presence outside Monrovia throughout the electoral cycle. Providing multi-party platforms and spaces for exchange and dialogue around peace and women's representation and participation will encourage attitude change and adoption of new norms in the long run leading to peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

The project will also support the specialized committees and parliamentary political groups in the legislature and liaise with various CSOs and networks including rural women for close collaboration between women and the legislature including public hearings and using multiples channels such as online platforms or in hearing sessions.

Specific interventions on gender sensitive political parties will be conducted in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and other CSOs mentioned in the proposals, and will focus on gender responsive party constitutions and practices. These will include concrete practices and reforms that recognize women's and men's equal during parties' primaries and adherence to gender sensitive code of conduct that recognizes violence against women in politics and work to prevent it.

### **Output 1.1: Political party and community engagements on women political participation are promoted through dialogue**

This Output targets NAP WPS area 1 - **Prevention** & 3 - **Participation**. Interventions will build on the work done with women peace huts, peace committees, palava huts and rural women at grassroots. These structures are currently functioning and operational in a good number of Counties as per recent Peace huts assessment report conducted by UN women in 2020. The strategy will include dialogues, community engagements, and awareness-raising designed to prevent violence against women in political and electoral process. Through questioning and critically reflecting on gender norms, the attitudes and behavior gradually changes through rehearsals and learning new skills in the safe spaces / community exchange sessions. The dialogues and engagements will target inhibitive patriarchal attitude towards women's participation at family level and community levels.

#### **Activities**

- 1.1.1 Conduct a regular quarterly dialogue sessions through the IPCC structure on the prevention of VAWIE/P, peaceful political engagement, tolerance, and inclusive participation of women and vulnerable groups.
- 1.1.2 Work with political parties including the women's league for gender responsive parties that enable women to participate more meaningfully following up on collaborations with NDI and their support to political parties.
- 1.1.3 Leadership engagement for increased tolerance to political pluralism, women's participation, accountability, and peace in communities. Work with community leaders/male gate keepers and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) on the constitutional leadership mandate of traditional and community leaders to safeguard/protect the rights and lives of all citizens, including vulnerable groups, especially women and girls without partisan biases. This activity is intended to support normative change within the communities and on getting men to become partners and recognize women as meaningful participants and leaders. It intends to engage men as partners, promoters and defenders of women for inclusive political participation and enhanced peace in communities.
- 1.1.4 Engaging the Youth in peacebuilding processes particularly on capacity strengthening of young women for political leadership through working with CSOs and the National young women political leadership council (NYWPLC) of the young women political leadership mentoring program. The young women will carry out political advocacy and leadership campaigns including mock

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strengthening prevention and response to VAWiE/P, strengthening advocacy initiatives by CSOs, and building ownership of development initiatives with traditional leaders. The lessons learnt stemming from 2020 Special Senatorial Elections will further inform initiative under this intervention.

These include:

- From the WPEL project that coordination of the women's movement is key to strengthen as it brings priorities as women's political leadership and prevention of VAWiE on the forefront.
- That support to the NEC gender unit to develop a formative influence over the NEC policies and procedures is imperative to mainstream gender in elections.
- That Mentorship of young women on political leadership and peacebuilding from local to national level is key to building the next generation of women's leaders and a culture of women's leadership in communities.
- That capacity strengthening of the legislature on gender responsive legislation is essential for enforceable provisions enabling increased participation of women in elections and decision making.
- That strengthening capacity and coordination of community level peace-building structures to prevent and respond to VAWiE/P is critical to mainstream efforts for inclusive political participation upstream.

Premised on the fact that elections are a vehicle for entering into public office, space and decision-making, the interventions in this proposal are considered within the electoral cycle framework. VAWiE/P impacts negatively on women electoral and political participation. Having said that, the electoral cycle approach to some of the interventions is necessary to ensure robust approach to peacebuilding.<sup>27</sup>

## II. Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

### Project Theory of Change

If coordination and monitoring of peacebuilding mechanisms by grassroots networks (peace huts and peace committees etc.), CSOs, PBO, ZoA, is enhanced, and

If NEC, community male gate keepers and political party leaders and other institutions and structures of governance in the executive, legislature and Judiciary are engaged and supported to prevent and respond to VAWiE-P, and to protect and support women's equal rights to political participation and representation, and

If legal frameworks and policies are made more robust and intentional towards gender responsiveness, and

If women's political agency is strengthened to claim their rights and demonstrate transformative leadership competencies, and are linked to economic empowerment initiatives,

If the media effectively challenges negative stereotypes and builds public trust of women leaders, and high-level political lobbying takes place,

Then there will be positive cultural shift from men as partners to engage and promote women leadership and greater participation of women in elections and public office contributing to lasting peace in Liberia.

Because the deep seated institutional and social barriers, would have shifted to appreciate and promote women as partners in leadership; coordination at the grassroots and national levels would have been strengthened to mainstream all efforts towards inclusive political participation, and legal and policy frameworks have become more gender responsive.

### The project will include two main outcome areas:

*It should be note that all planned election-related activities and direct collaboration with Liberian electoral authorities will be in line with the approved parameters of UN electoral assistance to Liberia and in close coordination with the Chief Technical Adviser.*

### Outcome 1. Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headers/attachments/sections/library/publications/2017/preventing-gaw-in-elections-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3742>



parliaments engaging the Legislature, political parties youth wings and institutions of governance at all levels. This is targeted at positioning young women in political leadership, harnessing the potential of the youth as future leaders and young male influencers who are often used to carry out violence acts against women by politicians.

- 1.1.5 Media engagement with CSOs for gender responsive reportage in dissemination of key messages on the human rights of women and profiling the work of women in Leadership at all levels. Reporting community engagement initiatives on the project will be utilized as key to reach out to a wider audience, especially youth. Communication will include rights of women to participate in politics and elections, including work with bloggers on hate speech detection/ prevention especially targeted at slandering women, freedom to support candidates and political party of choice, to decide to run for public office, and on promoting the use of non-violent options in conflict resolution. A series of the reportage will be done on the various topics and activities of the project through engaging with media institutions to which community radios are part. This activity will also focus misinformation management platform and specifically prevention of hate and or violent speech regarding women candidates and women leaders. The use of bulk messaging will be explored building on existing partnerships with Orange Liberia and UN Joint Programme on Rural Women Empowerment.
- 1.1.6 Conducting district and county-level gender dialogues on VAWiE/P and promoting women's increased leadership with collaboration between the Ministries of Gender, Internal Affairs and Youth. The Caravan strategy will be leveraged. 15 dialogues are envisaged per year, once for each county bringing to 30 dialogues over 2 years. The Ministry of Gender will take lead as the gender coordination entity with support of UN Women.
- 1.1.7 Support CSOs to build the women's leadership culture and participation in peacebuilding from grassroots upstream focusing integration of women in clan governance and peace-building committees and meetings to town, district, county and to national governance and peace-building discourse and architecture (from village councils to parliament Rwanda Model). This will include support to women and youth grassroots initiatives (peace huts and political leadership mentees) for women and young women's engagement in local political and peacebuilding mechanisms and decisions building upon the young women leadership mentoring program. This integrates political leadership into the peace huts priorities and loops in the young women mentees' work under the political leadership-mentoring program as well as the compendium of women competencies who can leverage both the LGA once in full force and the 30 percent quota law

**Output 1.2: Strengthened mechanisms for reduction of violence against women in elections, politics and public spheres**

This Output considers NAP WPS area 2 – **Protection**, focusing on strengthening capacity of relevant protection institutions and stakeholders with primary responsibility to ensure respect for human rights for all. The Output represents the third step in the theory of change intervention logic that suggest that internalization of new gender attitudes through laws, procedures, codes of conducts, and internal party and governments rules, the society is moving towards gender-equitable, non-violent, and healthy behaviors in every-day life and in a sustained way.

1.2.1 Support national convention/dialogue to renew commitment to 30 percent women's participation, including reaffirmation of political parties to the 2017 Farmington Declaration on peaceful elections, and Code of Conduct. The renewed commitment and monitoring of the implementation will reduce the obstruction of a critical mass of women to participate in elections

1.2.2 Support political parties to implement the existing legal and policy provisions within their internal structures and externally – including codes of conduct, Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), and the developed Protocol on prevention and response to VAWiE – to inculcate intolerance to VAWiE/P in politics.

1.2.3 Printing, dissemination, and education of VAWiE/P Protocol at national and community level.

1.2.4 Strengthen capacity of domestic elections observation groups to monitor and report electoral violence against women.

1.2.5 Reform of legal, policy, and institutional frameworks that facilitate prevention and response to VAWiE/P. Such policies will include having mandatory 30% gender quota in the elections law.



facilitating for voluntary political party gender quota policies, incentives to political parties with gender quotas and alignment of the local government act (LGA) and Article 54 of the Constitution of Liberia to enable implementation of the law. This initiative targets the state's duties in regulating behavior aligning the ratified international human rights treaties to domestic laws and policies to prevent violence against women in sustaining peace.

1.2.6 Support to legal clinics dealing with survivors of VAWIE/P including awareness raising to communities and women on legal aid options to survivors of electoral violence building on the UN Women's peace and security project with Association of Female Lawyers in Liberia (AFeLL) will be leveraged.

1.2.7 Support to legal response to instances of VAWiE. This activity targets key institutions responsible for responding to VAWiE/P perpetrators in particular, the Judiciary and police as well as the political parties who should be vocal in condemning it.

**[UNDP to lead]**

Outputs 3 and 4 consider NAP WPS area 3 – **Participation** and 4 -**Promotion of coordination and accountability**. Under this Outcome, the intervention will focus on institutions playing substantive role in women empowerment, justice, peace, and security. The intervention will also leverage women already in leadership and empower them to make a substantive contribution towards accountable leadership. The Outcome will also aim to strengthen women access to information to strengthen their decision-making leveraging technology where useful, feasible, and advisable. In the theory of change approach, the implementation of this outcomes considers the necessary work on supporting influence and structures, specifically institutions. It translates aspects of gender norms into accessible discussions through learning, and rehearsal to create an understanding of and examples of positive norms and new practices towards their internalization, institutionalization, and eventually full implementation.

**Output 1.3: Strengthened capacity of women and youth to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding**

Within the existing legal framework, NEC has tools at its disposal (regulations, procedures, Codes of conduct, and policies) to strengthen participation systems and enforce in place to enforce provisions in Election law, code of conduct and MoU with political parties. NEC can leverage its female leadership to drive the initiatives. Furthermore, Ministry of Gender, Legislature, as well as Peacebuilding Office are well placed to work with civil society and other partners to promote women leadership in sustaining Liberia peace. There are existing mechanisms, such as women situation room (WSR), earlier supported by UN Women, which are also well equipped to prevent and respond to violence against women.<sup>28</sup> The full integration of all such peacebuilding structures into one robust nation-wide EWRM will enhance effectiveness, particularly from warning to response, as it would give WSR an easy and institutionalized access to the response mechanism. In return, the full engagement of women groups in EWRM ensures that the response is gender sensitive.

Integrating VAWiE/P and relevant institutions / mechanisms into PBO EWRM platform, including triggers. Mapping and measuring VAWiE/P. Setting up baseline data on gender on VAWIE/P, monitoring progress, and identifying hotspots for VAWIE/P. The EWRM also includes young ambassadors of peace. The Project will ensure that youth women leaders are trained in the VAWIE/P and electoral violence prevention and play critical role in mitigation of electoral conflicts.

2. Facilitate an electoral violence and VAWiE/P sub-committee under the national GBV taskforce under the Ministry of Gender. The sub-committee will be integrated or linked to the EWRM, which will also work with relevant actors to define modalities. Special focus will be placed on involvement of youth female leaders/peace ambassadors. The activity will be closely coordinated with LESP and the upcoming assessment of the EWRM structure.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> In 2020 elections, women CSOs created a safe-haven for attached female candidate, a victim of VAWIE, and mobiles to ensure sufficient legal representation is provided for the candidate to defend her victory through the legal challenges.

<sup>29</sup> **Possible design of the structure:** NEC oversight on Gender will chair the sub-committees, co-chaired by the Judiciary with support from the Political affairs unit and committee members from CSOs, LNP, WLCL, MoGCSP and peace building structures from subnational levels. This committee will follow up closely with all enforcement issues of



3. Under the EWRM, support drawing up a national roadmap on electoral violence and VAWiE/P which will condense all existing provisions in GEWE laws, policies, guidelines, and actions plans and codes of conduct, with special focus on women participation and leadership in EWRM. It will define the roles and functions of each stakeholder group, including youth, in identifying violence and reporting, prevention, response, monitoring and tracking.
4. Support to the Legislature in deployment of the platform and conduct of information campaigns, and train stakeholder, including women and young women leaders to access campaigns and provide feedback
5. Collection of gender disaggregated electoral data and development of repository and databases; enhance NEC capacity to set baselines, regularly review the data, and act on shortcomings in women's participation in electoral and democratic processes.
6. Development of a dialogue platform between the NEC, CSOs and political parties to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing policies, MoUs, and codes of conduct covering women's participation in elections and leadership.
7. Development of advocacy-mechanism through consultation and coordination with clear benchmarks for enforcement of temporary special measures for women's participation in electoral processes, appointment of women in leadership positions, leveraging current composition of the NEC Board of Commissioners (57 percent of the Board members are women, including Chair and the Co-Chair) and women leadership in other Liberian institutions.
8. Support CSO networks to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive civic and voter education, including regular publication of op-eds and radio shows on women participation in elections and EWRM/peacebuilding structure; and set up gender sensitive election resource center allowing access to technologies and relevant laws, policy, and political/electoral information for all electoral stakeholders, including marginalized groups. Specific campaign will be conducted to attract youth women leaders to access resource center to develop knowledge and information sharing.
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**Output 1.4 Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes**

The development of national capacity is critical to sustain the Project's interventions. The Project will design or adapt existing curricula and activities within the robust capacity-development program to ensure sustainability and involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Specific focus of this intervention will be placed on development of a young generation of female leaders. Liberia Institute for Public Administration (LIPA) is well placed to support other government agencies in ensuring the training and capacity building needs in all areas, including women political participation and prevention of VAWiE/P are responded to and sustained. Furthermore, the capacity of national institutions, such as NEC and parliament, to hold standard and regular trainings for its staff to promote women participation in election, politics, and peacebuilding is to be strengthen.

1. In collaboration with LIPA, NEC, and other relevant stakeholders, the Project will implement the Gender and Elections Module (the existing modular course under the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections (BRIDGE) and UNDP – UN Women VAWiE/P module, for the training of civil servants, government entities, political parties, and other electoral stakeholders. Support LIPA in rolling out the module within the relevant institutions, including taking steps towards accreditation of Liberian facilitators, including from young generation working at government institutions at national and local levels.
2. Capacity strengthening of NEC staff, the security sector, and the judiciary on VAWiE/P to ensure that all electoral processes, including training of temporary staff, includes risk assessment

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all participation and protection provision in law, policies, guidelines, and code of conduct including the Protocol on prevention and response to VAWiE/P. Monthly coordination meetings will be held from grassroots (village/town) to national taskforce meetings.

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considerations regarding VAWiE/P (setting up continuous trainings for specific groups of stakeholders organized by LIPA in collaboration with NEC).

3. Strengthen research and analytical capacity of the Secretariat in the Legislature to provide information to decision-makers on the impact of the lack of women's participation on democracy, peace, and stability in Liberia.
4. Support Secretariat in developing an induction package for new representatives on women participation in elections, politics, and peacebuilding.
5. Engage Liberia Law Enforcement institutions, media, and women organizations / groups from all around the country to develop joint SOPs on support to women in peacebuilding, elections, and politics.
6. Conduct a mediation training developed with support from LESP and PBO for women, youth ambassadors of peace, and women organizations involved in EWRM nationally and at the county / rural level.

**a) Project implementation strategy**

The strategy of the project is ingrained in working with community structures, sub-national national partners of peacebuilding and elections who already have their capacity building through current and existing PBF intervention, women political empowerment projects from the UN Women Flagship program Initiative on women's political leadership and the Liberia Elections support project over the years. It also targets community level interventions especially in the south-east region of the country, counties were high incidences of VAWiE-P with the aim to bridge the disconnect between grassroots peace efforts and national efforts whilst harnessing the potential of all Liberians (especially the women in politics) towards more sustainable peace.

Women and youth particularly those in the category of rural women with limited experience and financial resources will be targeted through different fora to enhance their political skills by training and exposing them to opportunities that exist. Additionally, in the different political parties' leaderships-women and youth wings will be strengthened to demand their participation in decision making and as candidates for their party.

The project provides a unique opportunity to follow the electoral cycle pattern, in that activities are designed to engage electoral stakeholders before, during and after the 2023 elections. Policy dialogues/reforms will be initiated aim at enhancing women's political participation which will mandate political parties to nominate at least 30% women as candidates on their party ticket. Engaging stakeholder at all levels national, sub national and different groups to raise awareness on women's participation in politics will be pursued before and during the elections to encourage ordinary citizens to vote for these women candidates to eventually become winners. Additionally, EWRM will be strengthened at all levels to prevent, respond, and address VAWiE-P before, during and after elections by building the capacity of stakeholders (Security actors, youth and women groups and early warning monitors) at community and national levels through the women situation room.

As part of its implementation strategy, the proposed list of activities will be considered in discussion with key stakeholders, as part of the inception phase and adapted to each county.

### **III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)**

In its implementation, the Project will ensure synergies with existing programs and structures:

**Gender Responsive Media Engagement** for women's increased access to media platforms on amplifying their voices in politics, development and peacebuilding, positive portrayal of women political aspirants including discouraging hate speech and discussions on the benefits to communities of having both women and men in public offices. This follows media engagements on



the WPEL project in 2017, for Spotlight Initiative in 2019/20 and in 2020/21 on WPEL. Following this, journalists in various media institutions were trained in gender responsive media reportage through New Narratives and Fejal media CSOs who produced a Training Manual on Gender Sensitive Politics and Elections Coverage.

**Early-Warning and Response Mechanism (EWRM):** The PBO and NCCRM are key institutions supported under this initiative harnessing existing work on related peacebuilding, governance, and elections projects with an aim to develop robust coordination mechanisms including all peacebuilding actors, and systems in place from grassroots upstream. The system will support existing structures on data collection and analysis, electoral violence triggers, and strengthen the response component. Lessons from Gender and Human Rights Assessments conducted with PBO and NCCRM under Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through land governance and dispute Resolution PBF funded project which include recommendations for collections of gender disaggregated data will ensure sustenance of gender responsive early warning and response mechanisms.

**Inter-Party Consultative Committee:** Synergies with the IPCC as a coordination mechanism between political parties and NEC is key to the intervention through its institutionalization to develop it into the effective conflict-prevention mechanism, fully integrated into EWRM structures. In collaboration with partners under this initiative, IPCC will further serve as a space to generate training opportunities for political parties on various topics, including women. This is with the view of developing topic-based political discourse, which is less prone to the deteriorating into conflict. The IPCC Secretariat shall be equipped with ICT technologies to ensure access and increase knowledge of ICT.

**Civil society** in Liberia is vibrant and active, albeit its limited capacity at the grassroot level and lack of financial resources. Wongosol has been coordinating activities of women organizations at all levels in Liberia, including grassroots, to consolidate maximum utilization of resources of women organizations through cooperation to improve efficiency towards inclusive and inclusive society.

**Resident Coordinator's Office/Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat will provide overall monitoring, coordination and supervision:** The interventions in this proposal will be closely coordinated with the Resident Coordinator's Office to inform political and policy response towards implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the WPS and other recommendations (CEDAW, 1325 NAPs, election observers) to strengthen advocacy for legal reform processes (NAP WPS area 4). The national legislature, political party executives, and traditional leaders shall be engaged in the conceptualization of all reports, recommendations, and imperatives for enhanced political will, alignment of laws and practices, as well for fostering meaningful changes to women's participation in public life and enjoyment of Liberian people from diverse ideas of both women's and men's leadership. The key engagements will seek to:

1. Adopt a pro-active approach of reaching out to the above groups on a regular basis, raising awareness of critical policy matters, and
2. Advocate for positive changes in the relevant laws and policies as well as behavioral change towards more inclusive and equal society.

#### **Recipient organizations and implementing partners**

UN Women will be the lead UN Agency for this project, with the implementation will be done jointly with UNDP. As lead Agency, UN Women will have the responsibility to ensure effective communication, coordination, information sharing, project visibility, monitoring and take lead to submit key reports including half yearly and annual to the PBF Secretariat. UN Women will also lead on project evaluation as required.

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The UNDP's long term governance work in Liberia, and contribution to inclusive governance, conflict prevention and resolution as well as peace consolidation and sustainable development underlie the justification for its involvement in this project. UNDP has extensive experience managing and implementing electoral cycle programmes, and engagement of stakeholders. It has successfully managed several complex programmes and projects since post conflict in Liberia including the Truth and Reconciliation Project which involved community dialogues and public hearings. Additionally, UNDP managed the county reconciliation dialogue process which resulted in the development of the county reconciliation plans and the consolidated reconciliations plans. Currently, UNDP is completing the Cross Border Project with Cote d'Ivoire, which involves holding community level dialogues along the borders and cross border meetings with mirroring communities.

Partnerships built over the years will be continued in efforts to support the government of Liberia's priorities in the PAPD Pillar 4 on Governance and strong institutions. These include the National Legislature, Ministries of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Liberia Peacebuilding Office (LBO) and the Ministry of Youth (MoY), NEC, LIPA, IPCC, political parties and their women and youth wings, CSOs (Messengers for Peace and Liberia Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), NDI and male and female grassroots peacebuilding networks and traditional leaders.

Partnerships with partners will be established according to UNDP and UNWOMEN procedures and through various arrangements such as Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Request for proposals (RFPs).

#### **Targeting and beneficiaries:**

The project will cover the 15 counties of Liberia, reaching out to greater population in grassroot communities who interact with peacebuilding process and institutions more broadly. The project is targeting women as direct beneficiaries from grassroots level up stream and political institutions (NEC, at least 15 registered Political Parties, the Legislature, the Executive, the Judiciary, the CSOs, the Peace huts and other peace building infrastructures etc.). The grassroot communities also make up the peacebuilding structures that need to be linked into the national peacebuilding architecture. A deliberate stronger focus will be placed on the counties with a history of electoral violence and VAWiE-P as well as in the south-east region of the country where women's representation remains a huge challenge. This includes but not limited to: Nimba, Gbarpolu, Grand Geddeh, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland. Although voters (males and females) and candidates are from all the 15 counties, political process that impact peace usually engage more Monrovia hence why the focus to bridge the disconnect between grassroots and national peacebuilding activities and efforts.

#### **Project management and coordination**

Aside from the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, that provides strategic direction of the project, there will be a Project Management Board. The Board will include the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection; the NEC Chairperson and the Minister of Justice. The Country Representatives of the two participating UN Agencies UN Women and UNDP will also be members. The Representative of UN Women, and Minister of Gender Children and Social Protection will be the co-chairs of the Project Management Board. Both will also represent the project at the JSC. The board will also include one member from the Implementing organizations. A National project Officer (UN Women) will serve as the secretary for the board.



Project Management Team. The Project Management Team (PMT) will be led by UN Women to support coordination with UNDP, and the Government of Liberia. The PMT will meet once a month to review progress against the workplan and review the risk register, updating the required actions based on critical discussion of strategic issues and external/internal risk to inform the RCO/PBF Secretariat on the project progress; considering that there will be a periodic Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) meeting organized by the PBF Secretariat. UN Women will assign a National Project Manager to coordinate and manage the Project. The Project Manager will be tasked with the responsibility of reporting to the Project Board on the implementation of activities, achievement of results, and financial accountability of the project. The Project Manager will also coordinate activities between the UN Agencies, Taskforce and the Implementing partners ensuring that all the activities are complementary and that implementation and monitoring of the project is in line with the endorsed work plan and M&E framework as per the prodoc. Additionally, the Project Manager will work closely with the Government and CSO partners providing technical support where needed. UNDP Chief Technical Adviser (LESP), responsible for coordination of Output 3&4, will be part of the Project Management Team. The PMT also includes focal persons from government institutions and CSO. The project will be launched in all counties in Liberia and media engagement, EWRM and VAWiE activities will cover all counties.

Most of the project activities will be implemented by local partners indicated in the proposal, under the supervision of UN Women and UNDP. The type of activities per county will be decided based on partners' locations and comparative advantages. Partners will have nationwide reach and will be grouped into regions (Southeast, Central, Western, Northwestern) to allow for greater coordination amongst partners and synergies across activities. The detailed implementation plan will outline how the activities will be rolled out in the counties, and by whom.

Monthly partner coordination meetings will be held with partners within the regions with a quarterly coordination meeting for all PBF partners. In coordination with the PBF Secretariat, UNDP, UN Women will organize quarterly joint monitoring visits that will include key national stakeholders for improved social accountability. These joint monitoring visits will monitor for progress against the activity plan and to inform corrective measures to strengthen implementation.

In addition, UN Women will seek additional funding to support the implementation of activities in counties which are more strategic for women's political participation.

In UN Women, Women political participation and leadership (WPPL) team already in place to ensure the implementation of the proposed project activities under it with additional team members (table below). A monitoring and evaluation officer will be recruited under this project to carry out constant follow up and support reporting and supervision with all implementing partners and responsible authorities. A Gender and elections specialist will ensure gender is mainstreamed as planned, including in development of training manuals, delivery of training, monitoring and evaluation

Position	Status	Status	Percentage	Est. Cost (2 years)
Gender & Elections Specialist, WPPL- P3	UN Staff Women	To be recruited	20%	92 000 USD
National Project manager, WPPL-SB4	UN Staff Women	To be recruited under WPPL	50%	39 594 USD
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SB3)	PBF	To be recruited under PBF	100%	67 850 USD



National communications UNV	PBF	To be recruited	50%	21 600 USD
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For Outputs 1.3 and 1.4 and noting the close collaboration and synergies with Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP), the overall coordination will be done by the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), who will be part of the Project Management Team, with support and oversight by the Governance Team Leader. Training and Capacity Development Specialist and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be responsible for implementation of Outputs 1.3 and 1.4, while LESP CVE and Gender Specialist with support from the Gender Focal Point in the UNDP Country Office will oversee the implementation of Outputs 1.3 and 1.4. Communication and M&E Specialists, with support from UNDP Project Management and Support Unit will further ensure the reporting, monitoring, and evaluation.

Position	Status	Percentage	Est. costs
Chief Technical Adviser (FTA International -P4)	In place	15%	80,000 USD
Program Officer-SC 8	In place	25%	20,000 USD
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (National UNV)	To be recruited by LESP	20%	10,000 USD
Communication Specialist (International UNV)	In place	10%	14,000 USD
CVE and Gender Specialist (International UNV)	To be recruited by LESP	20%	16,000 USD

How many staff does each recipient organization have in the project country?	UNDP has a total of 107 staff in the Liberia Country Office UN Women has a total of 38 staff in the Liberia Country Office
How many years has each organization worked in the project country?	UN Women has worked in Liberia since 2004-2009 as Unifem and as from 2010 UN Women. UNDP has worked in Liberia since 1977 which is 44 years
What was each organization's annual budget in the project country in 2020 ?	UNWOMEN annual budget \$7,581,917 USD UNDP global annual budget is \$15 million USD
What was each organization's annual budget in the project country in 2021?	UNDP Liberia has a budget of \$14 million USD UNWOMEN Liberia annual budget \$7,294,709 USD

#### a) Risk management

There is a medium risk to achieving Project outcomes, amidst the below-identified challenges. To mitigate the risks, UNDP will use the Crisis Risk Dashboard for data aggregation and visualization to support contextual risks. The Risk matrix will be reviewed and updated quarterly to foresee challenges and ensure mitigation strategies are in place to prevent negative impact on implementation.

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#	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management Response	Owner
1	Non-transformative approach to women empowerment and capacity-development initiatives	Political	I: High P: Low	Promote national ownership and leadership in Project activities; work through the CSOs and support to their advocacy efforts will further strengthen the implementation of agreed priorities and commitments	UNDP UN Women NEC LIPA PBO Government CSOs
2	Difficulties to organize dialogue sessions/meetings	Political	High	Adopting national ownership approach	CSOs
3	Limited understanding of women's and youth inclusion- including patriarchal attitudes from home to community	Programmatic	Medium	Make documentation/information available on the importance of women's participation and representation. Community male engagement on patriarchy	UN Women UNDP NEC
4	Limited access to New Information technologies	Programmatic	Medium	Liaise with local CSOs and networks  Include ICT equipment in the activities budget when needed	CSOs
6	Difficulties to reach consensus by political parties and stakeholders	Political	High	Liaise with UN Resident Coordinator office	UNCT
7	Limited capacity of implementing partners and responsible partners	Organizational	I: Medium/Low P: Medium/Low	Strong capacity building element included in the Project / recruitment of Capacity Development Specialist to follow the implementation	UNDP UN Women NEC LIPA PBO Government CSOs
8	A highly dynamic political environment leading to shifting priorities and demands	Political	I: Medium P: Medium	Encourage consultations and dialogue among national stakeholders to resolve any impasse and agree on common priorities	UNDP UN Women NEC LIPA PBO Government CSOs
9	Resistance of national partners to closely coordinate their activities that will decrease synergies and limit project impact	Political	I: Medium P: Medium	Promote national ownership and ensure that all relevant institutions are fully included and consulted in Project activities from the beginning	UNDP UN Women NEC LIPA PBO Government CSOs
	Conflict sensitive issues including perceptions of the project as being biased and supporting more one political party over another	Political-social	high	Conflict sensitivity considerations and do no harm are considered from project design. Stakeholder consultations and engagements an inception phase to discuss partnerships considerations in project design	UN Women UNDP RCO
	Exposure of female beneficiaries to risk and violence as part of being identified and supported as leaders and candidates	Programmatic	medium	Work with community networks already recognised in communities and deployment of multi-stakeholder interventions	UN Women UNDP CSOs Government



#	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management Response	Owner
10	Covid-19 restrictions prevent timely implementation of some activities (notably public gatherings, trainings, etc.) or activities increase health risk	Health	I: Medium P: High	Set contingency plans in plans, including using preventive equipment during activities implemented by the Project (face mask, handwashing, social distancing)	UNDP UN Women NEC LIPA PBO Government CSOs

#### b) Monitoring and evaluation

The Project uses the detailed result framework to set baselines and targets. UN Women as Lead RUNO will hire a dedicated M&E Officer who will invest 100% of his/her time for the project to ensure regular data collection and monitoring on Project implementation. UN Women will coordinate the monitoring and reporting framework/plan and ensure that project progress report is produced on a quarterly basis to track progress towards achieving project outputs, outcomes and mitigate any challenges. The monitoring and evaluation plan will be prepared by both RUNOs at the Project inception period. The M&E plan includes a perception study pre-election period and focused group discussions with female candidates and voters post elections. A baseline and end term evaluation including an audit is a critical part of the M&E plan and all components are reflected in the budget.

About 5-7% of the Project budget will be set aside to cover M&E personnel, field trips to monitor progress, and final project evaluation and project audit with \$50,000. The PBF Secretariat will provide overall coordination and provide technical M&E support. There is a total of \$145,642.93 allocated towards M&E, including indirect costs.

#### c) Project exit strategy/ sustainability

This project is specifically aimed to accompany the next Liberian electoral cycle, so it has a natural end. At the same time, throughout the implementation, this Project will ensure national ownership and assume rather advisory role, while ensuring that the activities are driven by the implementing partners. Close connection with linked projects is ensured by building complementarity and through scaling up. The strategy of strengthening coordination mechanisms from grassroots upwards under national partners is a deliberate investment in exit plan and sustainability of interventions beyond project timelines and funding. Working with communities also on behaviour change is built into the sustainability plan. Delivery of training and capacity through the development of curricula that will be owned by Liberian institutions further ensure sustainability and ownership. A communication officer will ensure visibility of project initiative at community, sub national and national levels, commitments from stakeholders will be documented and shared and documentary will be done.

#### IV. Project budget

The project budget took into consideration the nature of activities and their needs in terms of building sustainability and catalytic to be scaled up which informed personnel needs. The budget is catalytic is well thought through allocations for a robust monitoring and support to coordination and evaluation components which includes audit and M&E as needed by project. The required expertise to bring about the expected changes/results informed the choice of personnel under this project. The Project budgeting took into consideration the highest possible delivery at decreased personnel costs. The linkages to other projects and programs as discussed in the section after context analysis above makes possible for this project to leverage personnel and staffing structure from the respective sections of the two RUNOs, in delivering outcomes. The Project keeps the personnel



costs under 20% of the overall budget. The budget also took into considerations the need for dedicated monitoring of progress and evaluation including the guidelines to ensure gender is mainstreamed.

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **Annex D**.

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## **Annex A.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations**

*(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)*

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

### **AA Functions**

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters. );
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations**

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives, and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in



		consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

#### Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
<b>30 April</b>	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</i>	

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

<b>31 July</b>	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
<b>31 October</b>	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

#### Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

#### Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent's website (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

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**Annex A.2: Project Administrative arrangements for Non-UN Recipient Organizations**

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**Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:**

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each recipient in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

**Reporting:**

Each Receipt will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

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## Financial reports and timeline

Timeline	Event
28 February	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
30 April	Report Q1 expenses (January to March)
31 July	Report Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Report Q3 expenses (January to September)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</i>	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the Administrative Agent, no later than three months (31 March) of the year following the completion of the activities.

### **Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property**

Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the Recipient Non-UN Recipient Organization will be determined in accordance with applicable policies and procedures defined by the PBSO.

### **Public Disclosure**

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent website (<http://www.mptf.undp.org>)

### **Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects**

An independent project audit will be requested by the end of the project. The audit report needs to be attached to the final narrative project report. The cost of such activity must be included in the project budget.

### **Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism**

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

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**Annex B: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated data)**

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<p>Outcome 1: Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Political party and community engagements on women political participation are promoted through dialogue</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 1 a. Perception of women candidates on the risks in terms of presenting themselves and the political party support for them. Baseline ( July 2021): TBD Target ( July 2023):</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1 b: percentage of women voters, candidates and elected Baseline: 12% women elected members 17% women candidates 9.7% Women elected members % of women voters (TBC) Target: (Oct 2023) 30% women candidates 20% women elected members % of women voters (TBC)</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1c. Increase in the percentage of institutional (NEC), judiciary/security sector and political party actions that redress cases of VA WIE/P Baseline(July 2021): TBD Target: 20 %</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.1.1 Number of institutions publicly discussing the rights of women to participate in leadership and elections (political parties, agencies, local</p>	<p>Post Survey report on candidate's perception on risks related to their participation to elections</p> <p>Information captured in Elections Reports Related information in Official Gazettes</p> <p>2023 Post Elections survey reports and statistics</p> <p>Official Gazette Elections reports</p> <p>Statistics in the Elections Progress reports</p>	<p>Pre-election rapid perception assessment Post Elections report</p> <p>Non applicable.</p> <p>25 % Actions taken on redress and to hold persons/violators accountable</p>

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	<p>government structures)</p> <p>Baseline: TBD          Baseline: Year: 2019 Value: 2          Notes: (UPP, LP)          Target: 20</p>	<p>Partners and RUNOs progress report</p> <p>Drafted rule and policies to promote women's participation</p>	<p>10</p>
	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.2 Proportion of registered Political Parties signed the Protocol on Preventions and Response to VAWIE-P and implementing it.</p> <p>Baseline: TBD (signing conference expected in 2021 last quarter) NEC holding last socialization exercise quarter 3, 2021)</p> <p>Target( 2023): at least 80% (based on political parties that signed MoU)</p>	<p>Data in the Post elections reports from partners.</p>	<p>10 parties</p>
	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3 Number of community peacebuilding action plan implemented and reported at subnational and national levels promoting participation of women</p> <p>Baseline: (July 2021): 20          Target: (2023): 50</p> <p>Output 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.</p> <p>Baseline( July 2021): TBD          Target( 2023): 15</p>	<p>Elections Progress reports from Partners</p> <p>Elections progress reports submitted by partners</p>	<p>25</p>

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	<p><b>Output 1.2 Strengthened mechanisms for reduction of violence against women in elections, politics and public spheres</b></p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.5: Number of media institutions and outlets engaging in gender responsive media coverage            Baseline: (July 2021) 10            Target: (2023): 30</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of political parties in the National Legislature publicly committed and engaged to reduce violence against women            Baseline: 0            Target: 5 (5 political parties represented in the National Legislature)</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.2 Number of training sessions organized for women for their meaningful participation in the IPCC.            Baseline (2021) : 0            Target(2023) :10</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.3: Number of gender response provisions and initiatives developed, implemented, and undertaken by electoral stakeholders            Baseline(2021) : Codes of Conduct and Protocols            Target(2023) 3</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.4: Number of training sessions and support provided to domestic observation groups to monitor and report on elections            Baseline(2021): TBD</p>	<p>Elections Media coverage report produced by partners</p> <p>Meeting minutes produced by partners</p> <p>IPCC Attendance Registers.</p> <p>NCCRM, PBO, Gender Coordination Theme meetings minutes</p> <p>Elections Progress report from partners</p>	<p>7 reports</p> <p>15 media at midterm</p> <p>2 political parties</p> <p>5 sessions</p> <p>1 enforceable gender quota</p> <p>TBD</p>
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		<p>Target(2023): TBD</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.5: Number of reported cases of VA/WIE-P registered and submitted to relevant authorities</p> <p>Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.6 Proportion of survivors who received legal aid after elections violence</p> <p>Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p>	<p>Elections Progress report from partners</p> <p>Elections Progress report from partners</p>	
	<p>Output 1.3 Strengthened capacity of women and youth to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 1.3.1</b> Proportion of women and youth girls and boys who declared their capacity enhanced to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 275 youths trained (2020)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 500 young boys and girls and women trained</p>	<p>Data from the training reports</p> <p>Reports from the NEC and political parties</p> <p>Reports from the PBO</p>	<p>2022 – 50%</p> <p>2023 – 100%</p>
		<p><b>Output Indicator 1.3.2:</b> # of Political parties recommending to non-violent elections.</p>		

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		<p>CFM platform up and running at the national level</p> <p>Number of stakeholders trained to use the platform</p> <p>Number of users logging in the platform</p>	<p>Mid-2020 – platform is established, and training conducted</p> <p>2023 – Advocacy on platform utilization</p>
<p><b>Baseline:</b> Ganta and Farmington declarations signed by 22 registered political parties (2017) committing to non-violent elections.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least 15 political parties committing political to non-violent elections</p> <p><b>Output Indicator 1.3.3</b> Gender disaggregated data on women participation available and analyzed</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 2020 voter's roll</p> <p><b>Target:</b> NEC collects at least 4 types of gender disaggregated data for 2023 elections (on observers/party agents, poll workers, candidates, voters)</p> <p><b>Output Indicator 1.3.4:</b> At least 15 political parties comply with 30% voluntary gender quota</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Only one party complied with 30% voluntary gender quota in 2020 elections.</p> <p><b>Target(2023):</b> 80% political parties comply with 30% voluntary gender quota</p>	<p>Database populated with gender-disaggregated data</p> <p>Revised documents:</p> <p>2017 MoU, nomination procedure, political party by-laws, Code of Conduct</p> <p>2023 Candidate nomination report</p> <p>Number of districts reached by gender-sensitive CVE</p> <p>Number of op-eds published</p> <p>Number of talk shows organized</p> <p>Number of relevant</p>	<p>Q4 2021/Q1 2022 – Data collected from 2020 elections included in the database</p> <p>Q4 2021 – Hold dialogue on by-laws</p> <p>Q2 2022 – Update MoU and CoC</p> <p>2021 – Update the NEC Nomination procedures (to include by-elections)</p> <p>2021 – Nomination procedure reviewed for by-election</p> <p>2023 – Nomination procedure reviewed for General elections</p>	

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	<p><b>Output 14 Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes</b></p>		<p>publications in the resource center</p>	<p>Q1/2022 – Strategy and action plan on gender sensitive CVE developed</p>
	<p><b>Output 14 Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes</b></p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 1.4.1:</b> # of VAWIE/P risk assessment available to all relevant institutions <b>Baseline(2021):</b> 0 <b>Target(2023):</b> At least 3 institutions personnel trained in VAWIE/P risk assessment</p>	<p>Risk assessment reports Monitoring reports</p>	<p>Q1/2022 - VAWIE/P risk assessment developed Q2/3 / 2022 - Training delivered to NEC staff, judiciary, and security sector on implementation of risk assessment in their work 2022/2023 – Risk assessment regularly implemented</p>
	<p><b>Output 14 Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes</b></p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 1.4.2:</b> SOP on women participation available to law enforcement and media <b>Baseline:</b> One conference held for law enforcement and media to strengthen collaboration and protect citizens during elections (2020) <b>Target (2023):</b> One SOP for media and law enforcement on women's participation developed and adopted. <b>Output Indicator 1.4.3:</b> # of Women organizations in each county trained in mediation <b>Baseline:</b> Mediation role played by</p>	<p>Approved, endorsed, and signed SOPs Conference reports</p>	<p>2021/2022 – hold consultations and lay groundwork for preparation and development of SOPs Q4/2022 – sign, endorse, and promote SOPs</p>

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**Annex C1C1: Checklist of project implementation readiness**

Question	Yes	No	Comment
1. Have all implementing partners been identified?	Y		Institutions and CSOs partners have been identified in the project, but CSOs will go through UN processes for hiring.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise?	Y		
3. Have project sites been identified?	Y		
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project?	Y		
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done?	Y		
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified?	Y		Criteria already established by UN procedures
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	Y		
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Y		According to UN procedures
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	Y		Preparing workplan and M and E plans, contracting CSOs and conduct baseline survey to establish baseline data.

		<p>women organizations in two electoral disputes involving women candidates (2020 elections)</p> <p>Target (2023): At least five women organizations trained in mediation</p>		
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## ANNEX C2:

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	Y		
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	Y		
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	Y		
4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	Y		
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	Y		
6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.	N		
7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.	N		
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	Y		The activities under this proposal build upon the current efforts from the WP/EL project on VAWIE and activities for gender responsive provision of for women in elections, the LESP also has a budget for 2021 and 2022 to VAWIE and these activities are part of the LESP workplan.

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11/12/22





For MPTFO Use

Totals				
	Recipient Organisation UN Women	Recipient Organization UNDP	Recipient Organization 3	Totals
1. Staff and other personnel	\$ 221,044.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 361,044.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 94,000.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
4. Contractual services	\$ 226,000.01	\$ 239,392.53	\$ -	\$ 465,392.54
5. Travel	\$ 119,722.35	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	\$ 154,722.35
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ 404,000.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ -	\$ 674,000.00
7. General Operating and other Costs	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00
Sub-Total	\$ 1,074,766.36	\$ 794,392.53	\$ -	\$ 1,869,158.89
7% Indirect Costs	\$ 75,233.65	\$ 55,607.48	\$ -	\$ 130,841.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,150,000.01</b>	<b>\$ 850,000.01</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000.01</b>

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	Recipient Organisation UN Women	Recipient Organization UNDP	Recipient Organization 3	TOTAL	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 805,000.00	\$ 595,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000.01	70%
Second Tranche:	\$ 345,000.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ -	\$ 600,000.00	30%
Third Tranche:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,150,000.01</b>	<b>\$ 850,000.01</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000.01</b>	