



[**COUNTRY:** Papua New Guinea]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2017

FINAL

Project No & Title:	PBF/Strengthening partnership and political dialogue between GoPNG and ABG.		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UNDP		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):	National Government of Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Bougainville Government, National Coordination Office on Bougainville Affairs		
Total Approved Budget :²	US\$ 2,500,000 (Budget 2017 - \$1,198,214.12) total budget expended to date is \$ 1,703,266.03		
Preliminary data on funds committed :³	US\$1,198,214.12	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	100%
Expenditure⁴:	US\$ 513,064.03	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	43.1%
Project Approval Date:	June 2014	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	Request for a no cost extension through JSC to PBSO to achieve project outcomes
Project Start Date:	August 2015		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	December 2017		
Project Outcomes:	1. The key Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) provisions on autonomy and on the referendum are progressed through joint decisions and actions of the PNG Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget is the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations.

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations. Provide preliminary data only.

⁴ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

⁵ PBF focus areas are:

PBF Focus Areas are:

1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):

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

3: Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);

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

4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)

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

	2. The national and the Bougainville Parliamentarians have a shared understanding of the BPA and the referendum provisions and the effectiveness of the Bougainville Parliament is strengthened in line with the 2013 Autonomy Review Findings.
PBF Focus Area⁵ (select one of the Focus Areas listed below)	2.2 Democratic Governance

Qualitative assessment of progress

*For each intended outcome, provide **evidence** of progress during the reporting period.*

In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved. (1000 characters max per outcome.)

Outcome 1:

Significant progress on joint decisions and actions of the two governments on the key provisions of the BPA, namely the autonomy arrangements, referendum preparations and weapons disposal have been made. Although the JSB was deferred to after the 2017 PNG National Elections, an informal Joint Technical Meeting was held in POM in April to support a private meeting between the President of Bougainville and the Prime Minister of PNG. Emanating from this private meeting, was approval and endorsement of the Bougainville Referendum Commission to conduct the referendum. The Solicitor General subsequently endorsed the Referendum Charter now ready for the Governor General's signature. Referendum Arrangements have been gazetted as required by law. An overarching MOU on draw-down of powers was also signed between the two governments earlier in the year to support transfer of powers to ABG. Implementation of the Weapons Disposal Plan will also commence in July 2017.

Outcome 2:

Significant progress in this outcome were also seen in this period. A motion passed in 2016 for a Constituency Referendum Ready Process reinforced UNDP peacebuilding capacity support including continuing ICT trainings, Referendum Awareness inductions, and M&E to the BHOR Parliamentarians. These have contributed significantly to them being able to champion awareness raising on the referendum and BPA in their constituencies. Phase 1 of this process was supported by UNDP and significantly bolstered public confidence in the BPA provisions from 17% to 54% in just 6 months. Concluding the Phase 1, the national and ABG parliamentary committees met in POM and Arawa to agree on tabling a report in the national parliament in support of the Bougainville referendum preparations. The BHOR still continues to discharge its functions diligently as exemplified by about 59% of the Bougainville public having confidence in the BHOR's capacity and willingness to engage with them on key issues.

Outcome 3:

	Outcome 4:
<i>Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding? (1000 characters max.)</i>	The project is indeed making an impact on peacebuilding in Bougainville and PNG. Despite the fact that it deals with political sensitivities related to state sovereignty, the UN's comparative advantage in this area has made possible continuous dialogue between both governments, which has resulted in the national government's endorsement of the Charter that will establish the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC). The joint review of the autonomy arrangements though significantly delayed, has veered back on track and both governments still continue to demonstrate substantial commitment to raise referendum awareness and to rid Bougainville of weapons ahead of the Referendum. Community Based Monitoring findings reveal that around 54% of Bougainvilleans are now more informed of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and its provisions and these have increased their level of confidence in the region's peace process.
<i>Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/unblocking of any peace relevant processes? (1000 characters max.)</i>	The catalytic effects spurred by this project includes the signing of the Roreinang Declaration of unification by former fighters of the BRA, Meekamui, Twin Kingdom and BRF in Arawa on 17 May this year. The project also strengthened its partnership within the UN system and both the national and ABG Parliaments and made possible the visit of the national Bipartisan Parliamentary Committee to Bougainville early this year, for preparation of a report to be presented to the national parliament on Bougainville for the first time in five years. Unfortunately, this did not materialise due to other political exigencies. UN/ BHOR partnership saw BHOR commit about \$7,000 towards establishment of a BHOR ICT Resource Centre, to provide parliamentarians a contemporary facility, to upscale their engagement with their constituencies. The UN referendum support project for PNG is an offshoot of work being done by this project.
<i>If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them. (1000 characters max.)</i>	This project has not progressed as fast as would have been expected, understandably so because it is political and a lot of decisions have to be made at the top echelons of both governments. The decision making Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meetings have not been held regularly due to competing priorities of both governments, and technical capacity issues on the part of the ABG and NCOBA in convening meetings including follow ups. This is going to be resolved through strengthening the capacity of the ABG Chief Secretary's office to deal with high level political decision making meetings, augmented by effective and consistent PDA/UNDP liaison with the Department of PM and NEC. The Second Autonomy Review is also significantly delayed although highly prioritised by UNDP. The delay is to do with interpretation issues on whether or not there should be a constitutional

	review of the Bougainville Constitution before the review. Decision will be made by the Joint PBF TC in Buka this June.
<i>What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year? (1000 characters max.)</i>	Planned activities for the next six months will include support to the 2nd Phase of the BHOR Referendum Ready Process, funding Referendum Parliamentary Committee consultations in and out of Bougainville, and building the capacity of the newly established BHOR parliamentary committee on Gender. Selected parliamentary committees will undertake learning exchanges with relevant neighbouring countries on autonomy arrangements and referendum. In addition, UNDP will come up with innovative strategies to progress the Second Autonomy Review. These will be discussed at the upcoming PBF Joint Technical Committee meeting planned for June this year. The ABG Chief Secretary's office will be strengthened to convene and follow up on high level meetings, including the JTT and JSB. Nomination of Commissioners to the BRC will be done during this period and a Weapons Disposal Consultant deployed to Bougainville. Women's unification will be prioritised and aspiration is to have one JSB before end 2017.
<i>Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (1000 characters max.)</i>	Yes there is need to adjust project duration for many reasons without necessarily requesting an additional budget. Firstly, the Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) for PNG was signed in 2014, but funds only released a year later in August 2015. This significantly affected project start up. Secondly, this project is politically sensitive dealing with state sovereignty, hence the national government actually determines the rate of progress through its decision making processes. This has also had significant effects on timelines for implementation. Cognisant of this, UNDP's innovation of alternative implementation approaches has included a Letter of Agreement with the ABG to deal with the soft part of referendum and BPA awareness, whilst it continues to strategically engage with the two governments politically including their parliaments. This will chart out a new direction and UNDP will continue to provide strategic guidance and rigorous monitoring throughout the LOA's implementation .
<i>What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expended by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only? (1000 characters max.)</i>	Overall the % of delivery in comparison with expenditure over allocated budget for 3 years stands at 68.4%. In contrast to this, the delivery rate per annual budget allocation is 43.1% according to the UNDP annual work plan (AWP) 2017. Clearly this is an indication that despite the slow start of implementation, catalytic interventions based on sound political analysis and consistent monitoring has contributed positively in changing the project's outputs and outcomes over the past 5 months. The new approach of UNDP supporting Phase 2 of the BHOR Constituency Referendum Ready Process (CRRP) and strengthening the Constituency Referendum Committees established by the ABG through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) will not only promote ownership of referendum preparation processes

	<p>but will also increase project delivery rate to about 75%. The level of commitment of the two governments is improving steadily as demonstrated by their joint attendance of meetings and joint decision making.</p>
<p><i>Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage? (1500 characters max.)</i></p>	<p>UNDP continues to partner with the ABG BHOR to support the second phase of the Parliamentary Constituency Referendum Ready Process. This technically means providing resources in the form of funding, equipment and materials to all the 39 Parliamentarians to disseminate important joint messages and decisions on the BPA and referendum to their electorates well ahead of the referendum. This activity will be cross cutting and impacting on Outcome 1 and 2 Political dialogue and knowledge building respectively. The Parliamentarians will also be engaged in a number of learning exchange programs around autonomy and referendum, to inform them about similar experiences and best practice models globally. Additionally, signing of the Bougainville Referendum Charter by the Governor General and establishment of the Bougainville Referendum Commission with appropriate funding to make it operational, will mean that much of the pending work related to awareness raising and electoral preparations will be taken over by the Commission once established. The planned JSC set for 14 of June 2017 has been postponed by the national government till after the national elections. Nonetheless, the PBF Joint Technical Committee (TC) will still meet to discuss the Referendum, Autonomy Review, Weapons Disposal and No Cost extension for the PNG Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP). Recommendations will be made to the PBF Joint Steering Committee for its consideration and endorsement at its next meeting.</p>

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above. (250 characters max per entry)*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 The key Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) provisions on autonomy arrangements and on the referendum are progressed through joint decisions and actions of the PNG Government and the ABG.	Indicator 1.1 Level of progress in Autonomy arrangements implementation since 2013 Autonomy Review.	Very little progress	Tangible improvements with regards to 2013 bottlenecks.	Both Governments agreement to progress the 2nd Review of Autonomy arrangements and making funding available to the process	The delay in the Second Autonomy Review is related to issues of interpretation of the law on whether or not there needs to be a constitutional review of the Bougainville Constitution before the Bougainville Autonomy Review	Target may need to be readjusted within the framework of the no cost extension timelines to achieve outcome.
	Indicator 1.2 Evidence of joint decision by two governments on date, voter eligibility, options, independent authority...etc	Joint decisions on date, voter eligibility, options and questions not agreed upon.	Date and options for referendum agreed.	2 of the 3 instruments for the set up of the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) have been gazetted. Once the Charter instrument is endorsed and gazetted, the BRC is expected to be up and	The delay in convening a Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting may have delayed the process since the agreements and arrangements for the BRC were signed in January this year	Not necessary at this stage as target is progressing.

				coordinating efforts to achieve targets set		
	Indicator 1.3 Increase in funds and timely release of funds (SIF & RDG) by GoPNG to ABG.	Planned JSB Meeting	All funds under RDG and SIF released.	Some SIF and RDG funds were drawn down by the ABG from the National Government. Plans are however underway to have a Supreme Court's interpretation of the formula to be used for the calculation of the RDG from GoPNG to ABG.	Delay caused by different interpretations of the RDG formula by both governments and technical capacity to drawdown the funds including attrition in the ABG public service (New Chief Secretary in post just 6 months ago)	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
Output 1.1 Existence and effective use of dialogue fora for GoPNG and ABG to discuss BPA provisions and resolve bottlenecks and to communicate	Indicator 1.1.1 Frequency of JTT Roundtable meetings.	Planned JSB Meeting	At least once a year	An informal Meeting was convened between the PNG PM and ABG President in POM in April this year. JTT/JSB and PBF JSC meeting planned for after national elections	Delay in JSB meeting due to lack of coordination and effective paperwork at the technical level to support a full JSB meeting, as well as preparations for the 2017 PNG National Elections. However, a JSB is being planned for November.	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of Community visits	0	At least twice a year	The JBRC have held one visit th Parliamentary visit	No delays and visits are ongoing and on track	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.

with the Bougainville population.	by the Joint Bougainville Referendum Committee (JBRC)			to Bougainville in this period. Other than them, 1 visit was made by 33 members of the 33 Constituencies, including 2 follow-up visits by the BHOR Referendum Parliamentary Committee.		
Output 1.2 Progress on implementation of key BPA provisions regarding autonomy arrangements and preparations for the referendum.	Indicator 1.2.1 Level of progress on referendum work-plan	No workplan to progress	At least nine referendum components make tangible progress, in line with identified areas.	All components of the Joint Referendum Workplan are supported and implemented concurrently.	The slight delay was the endorsement of the 3 instruments for the establishment of the Bougainville Referendum Commission.	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
	Indicator 1.2.2 Timeliness and quality of 2015 Autonomy Review	2nd Autonomy Review not conducted	Autonomy Review 2015 is endorsed and conducted jointly by both governments providing evidence of progress.	Second Joint Autonomy Review not yet conducted	The delay is related to issues of interpretation of the law on whether or not there needs to be a constitutional review of the Bougainville Constitution before the Bougainville Autonomy Review	There may be need to readjust the target once a decision and direction is provided by both governments

Output 1.3 Increased understanding by the Government and the civil servants of the BPA provisions and intentions.	Indicator 1.3.1 Eminent Persons Group is established and functioning composed of men and women	No group exists	EPG is formed, supported and fully performing its role	EPG ToR not yet finalised and endorsed. This is to be discussed at upcoming PBF Joint Technical Committee Meeting on 14 June	Limited political and administrative support to progress this at the level of the national government.	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Outcome 2 The national and Bougainville Parliaments have a shared understanding of the BPA and the Referendum provisions and the effectiveness of the Bougainville Parliament is strengthened, in line with the 2013	Indicator 2.1 Level of Bougainville parliament capacity to perform its role effectively	53.3% of Bougainville population now perceive that the BHOR is working well in performing its duties.	75% of Bougainville population perceive that the BHOR is working well in performing its duties	69% of the Bougainville population now perceive that the BHOR is working well in performing its duties	On track	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
	Indicator 2.2 Level of confidence by Bougainville population in ABG Parliament's capacity and willingness to engage with the	36.9% of the population feel quite well about ABG Parliament's capacity and willingness to engage	75% of the population feel very well about ABG Parliament's capacity and willingness to engage with the population	59% of the population feel very well about ABG Parliament's capacity and willingness to engage with the population on key issues	On track	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.

Autonomy Review findings.	population on key issues.	with the population on key issues	on key issues			
Output 2.1 Strengthened capacity of the Bougainville Parliament to fulfill its functions under the Autonomy Arrangements and the good governance provisions of the BPA.	Indicator 2.1.1 Bougainville Parliament's Website is operational with the information on peace, development, BPA, human rights and gender.	6% Know there is work done to establish a website.	50% of the Bougainville population know there is an operational Bougainville Parliament Website	30% of the Bougainville population interviewed know there is an operational Bougainville Parliament Website	The Bougainville Parliament Website has been established and is fully functional.	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
	Indicator 2.1.2 Level of usage of Parliamentary Website	30% of the population have claimed to have visited the website.	50% of the Bougainville can access the Parliament's website	29% of the Bougainville population interviewed have claimed to have visited the website	The network connectivity in certain areas of Bougainville is a constraint especially for the average Bougainvillean although the Parliamentary website is up and running.	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
Output 2.2 Bougainville Parliament and PNG Parliament are aware of	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of parliamentarians who participate in a learning exchange with another country on	0	31 parliamentarians who participate in a learning exchange with another	14 Parliamentarians have participated in a learning exchange with another country on BPA relevant	On track	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.

respective roles and responsibilities regarding the referendum and regularly exchange views on the BPA.	BPA relevant lessons learned become champions of peace.		country on BPA relevant lessons learned become champions of peace.	lessons learned and are now champions of peace.		
	Indicator 2.2.2 Number of parliamentarians who become champions of peace in their constituencies.	42% of population felt their ABG members of Parliament are champions of peace	75% of the Parliamentarians are champions of peace	53% of the population interviewed felt their ABG members of Parliament are champions of peace	On track	No need for adjustment of target at this stage.
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1					
	Indicator 3.1.2					
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					

	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
Output 4.1	Indicator 4.1.1					
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1					
	Indicator 4.2.2					
Output 4.3	Indicator 4.3.1					
	Indicator 4.3.2					