PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL Semi-annual
DATE OF REPORT: 14 June 2019

Project Title: Fostering dialogue and social cohesion in and between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (Dialogue for the Future) **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00113873 (BiH), 00113874 (MNE), 00114184 (SRB)	

PBF project modality:
    <u>IRF</u>
    PRF
	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:
	       Country Trust Fund
	       Regional Trust Fund
	 Name of Recipient Fund:

List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):
UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO
List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:

Project commencement date[1]: 7 January 2019
Project duration in months:[2] 18

Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:
Gender promotion initiative
Youth promotion initiative
Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):
UNDP: $ 1,753,765.71
UNICEF : $ 1,297,910
UNESCO : $ 1,132,316.80
Total: 4,183,992.51

> *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*

How many tranches have been received so far: 1

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: Alma Mirvic, Jelena Miljanic, Stanislava Vuckovic
Project report approved by: Steliana Nedera, UNDP Resident Representative (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Daniela Gasparikova, UNDP Resident Representative (Montenegro), Regina de Dominicis, UNICEF Representative (Republic of Serbia) – representing Convening Agencies in the joint programme
Did PBF Secretariat clear the report: Yes
Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report: Yes
Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: No.

---

[1] Note: commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.
[2] Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:
- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general / common language.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

PART 1: RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1   Overall project progress to date

Briefly explain the **status of the project** in terms of its implementation cycle, including whether all preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (1500 character limit):

The project is on track. Launched in January across all countries, teams proceeded with recruitments of staff, while appointment of overall coordinator (convened by UNDP BiH) is expected in the first half of June. The technical project teams met in Sarajevo on 3-4 April to agree on the Communications Strategy, complete the Joint Annual Work Plan, discuss all components of the joint project and agree on approach for the first set of activities. Institutional partners in the Joint Programme Board were nominated by the Offices of the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry with the first meeting held in Sarajevo on 10 April. The Board approved the Joint Annual Work Plan, Communications Strategy, Terms of Reference for its work and selected the project's logo. Recognizing the complexity of multi-country and multi-agency joint programmes, the Board also recommended to all teams to recalibrate project plans to a 24 instead of 18-month timeline. Accordingly, the Convening Agency will be submitting a no-cost extension request, in compliance with established procedures. The UN-based methodologies for capacity building of all target groups were mapped, informing various curricula under preparation with partners in CSO and academia. All countries agreed on a common approach to the organization of youth dialogues. The joint project was presented in Podgorica in January at a meeting of PBF-funded joint projects in the region, determining synergies, especially with the UN Albania joint project.

Considering the project's implementation cycle, please **rate this project's overall progress towards results to date**: on track

In a few sentences, summarize **what is unique/ innovative/ interesting** about what this project is trying/ has tried to achieve or its approach (rather than listing activity progress) (1500 character limit).
Within the multifaceted realm of social cohesion, this joint project works primarily at the level of social relations, connecting different (ethnic) groups in the three countries on common issues, providing space for constructive dialogue, enhancing impetus towards activism and solidarity by enabling action on common social cohesion priorities. The joint project embeds the community consultative mechanism through dialogue platforms, piloted in DFF I and DFF II at local level. They are a novelty across the three countries and will allow for broad-based identification of social cohesion priorities within and across countries. Additionally, adolescents and youth will be, for the first time, brought together in bilateral and trilateral teams at Innovation Lab events to propose and jointly implement community actions they find relevant for improved social cohesion.

In a few sentences summarize **major project peacebuilding progress/results** (with evidence), which PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):

In a few sentences, explain how the project has made **real human impact**, that is, how did it affect the lives of any people in the country – where possible, use direct quotes that PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):

On 30 March, 150 youth from all over Serbia attended a workshop on mobile journalism for social cohesion, 'Point of YOU', organized by UNICEF Serbia. They learned about innovative methods of communicating and reporting in their communities – using primarily their mobile phones – gained new skills, and improved critical thinking and empathy. Spozhmai Aqtash, a fifteen-year-old girl from Afghanistan, temporarily accommodated at the Asylum Centre in Krnjaca, explained she wanted to report about the right to education of refugee children. "I have often recorded my surroundings in the refugee camp to have memories, but I have never posted anything. Now I see that I don't need a professional camera and microphone to show the world what I do and what I'm interested in", she said Spozhmai. Biljana Stojkovic, from Subotica, broadcasted live from the workshop. She has already used social media to talk about topics that matter to her generation. As a mobile journalist, she wants to address mental health issues. "I would encourage others to share difficult moments with their followers, even though they would risk getting fewer likes that way."

If the project progress assessment is **on-track**, please explain what the key **challenges** (if any) have been and which measures were taken to address them (1500 character limit).
One of the key challenges for this joint project is ensuring strategic coherence of approach across main components, delivering and communicating as one rather than as individual agencies, while recognizing the need for country-specific interventions based on context. The teams are frequently in contact through coordinators or specialized staff where M&E and communications components are concerned. All joint documents are consulted broadly among all teams which is time consuming, but necessary, to reach a levelled understanding. In BiH, the national and multi-country streams are moving in parallel, with limited project staff available from all agencies. To mitigate time and resource issues, the two projects are handled jointly at technical and senior management meetings.
From the peacebuilding perspective, the ability to ensure that our high-level counterparts are moving in the same direction and pace is challenging and time consuming, with various negative narratives and rhetoric impacting the region. Finally, although this joint project has planned for activities in Croatia; the efforts in early 2019 to advocate for their endorsement, coupled with the limited availability of institutional political partners, contributed to start-up delays.

If the assessment is **off-track**, please list main reasons/ **challenges** and explain what impact this has had/will have on project duration or strategy and what **measures** have been taken/ will be taken to address the challenges/ rectify project progress (1500 character limit):

Please attach as a separate document(s) any materials highlighting or providing more evidence for project progress (for example: publications, photos, videos, monitoring reports, evaluation reports etc.). List below what has been attached to the report, including purpose and audience.
1. Joint Progress Monitoring Platform (Excel Sheet)
2. Photos from the mobile journalism for youth, RAD Alumni and youth dialogue events
3. News story on mobile journalism event
4. Joint M&E Plan
5. 1st Joint Programme Board Meeting Minutes
6. Communications Strategy

1.2   Result progress by project outcome

The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes. If your project has more approved outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: Stability and trust in the region, and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are enhanced.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress:

Progress summary: *Describe main progress under this Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration), including major output progress (not all individual activities). If the project is starting to make/ has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context. Where possible, provide specific examples of change the project has supported/ contributed to as well as, where available and relevant, quotes from partners or beneficiaries about the project and their experience. (3000 character limit)?*

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP is coordinating the selection of an external communications agency which will provide PR and communications support to the project. Four youth dialogue events will take place from late June, using a common methodological approach prepared and shared by UNDP. A learning webinar on social cohesion will be organized for all teams in late June. UNICEF and UNESCO are jointly working with the Faculty of Political Sciences to implement teacher training and media literacy with youth. RYCO?

In Montenegro, NGO partner has been selected to deliver social and emotional skills curriculum (focusing on empathy, tolerance and trust) in 9 schools from all 3 regions. Given advanced experience of UNICEF Montenegro with implementing UPSHIFT (platform empowering youth to build skills and opportunities through social innovation and entrepreneurship), it has delivered a Training of Trainers for UNICEF in Serbia with training for BiH team planned for July. This joint project will feature, for the first time, the organization of bilateral and trilateral UPSHIFT youth workshops. UNDP has prepared a one-year long programme for young diplomats from the 3 countries. Through 3 modules, the program will build participants' skills in intercultural communication. Additionally, the training programme for 60 women, focusing on gender equality and participation, social cohesion, advocacy and project design and implementation, has been prepared. UNESCO is in the process of consultations with the implementing partners on the model of implementation and selection of beneficiaries.

In Serbia, 151 young people (109 female, 42 male) participated in a one-day workshop on mobile journalism for social cohesion 'Point of YOU', organized by UNICEF. Their reflections were part of consultations for the Voluntary National Review, to be submitted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in July 2019. A situation analysis on adolescent and young people is also being conducted to inform policy dialogue and advocacy efforts. Preparation for UPSHIFT workshops and two additional youth dialogue events are underway, with 110 participants already voicing their opinions in the first event. UNICEF will work with the Institute for the Improvement of Education on innovating citizenship education teaching programme in secondary schools. UNDP's CSO partner hosted a meeting of alumna

regional network which examined barriers to social cohesion among the three countries and identified public policy design (especially youth policies), public advocacy, intercultural learning, conflict transformation as areas requiring intervention at institutional level. UNESCO has consulted with implementing partners on the model of implementation and selection of target groups for learning activities. Additionally, it is working with the responsible ministries on the promotion of Serbia's valuable cultural heritage as a tool to foster inter-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

Outcome 2: n/a

Rate the current status of the outcome progress:

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 3: n/a

Rate the current status of the outcome progress:

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 4: n/a

Rate the current status of the outcome progress:

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

1.3 Cross-cutting issues

National ownership: How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit)	Across all countries, the Offices of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have expressed their strong support to the project, reiterated at the Board meeting in April. The institutional partners have recognized the need to form country coordination bodies, broadening the number of government actors (such as ministries of education, culture, youth), involved in steering the project at country level. Additionally, the key institutional partners/Presidency offices agreed to consider the possibility to organize a highly symbolic Dialogue for the Future signing event with the UN Secretary General during the High-Level segment of the 74th session of the General Assembly.
Monitoring: Is the project M&E plan on track? What monitoring methods and sources of evidence are being/ have been used? Please attach any monitoring-	The Project has a Joint M&E Plan as well as progress monitoring platform, including definitions of indicators, baseline and target values. The plan envisages for a baseline and end-line survey (baseline expected by October

related reports for the reporting period. *(1500 character limit)?*	2019) and an independent final evaluation report. The monitoring platform is populated quarterly by project coordinators, using in-country reporting mechanisms. Additionally, the project is developing joint entry and exit questionnaires for capacity building and dialogue events.
Evaluation: Provide an update on the preparations for the external evaluation for the project, especially if within last 6 months of implementation or final report. Confirm available budget for evaluation. *(1500 character limit)*	N/a
Catalytic effects (financial): Did the project lead to any specific non-PBF funding commitments? If yes, from whom and how much? If not, have any specific attempts been made to attract additional financial contributions to the project and beyond? *(1500 character limit)*	To support implementation of the life skills building programme for 160 young people, UNICEF in Serbia has decided to contribute with additional funds for the UPSHIFT programme. The amount of additional funds is 52,415.23 USD.
Catalytic effects (non-financial): Did the project create favourable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. *(1500 character limit)*	This joint project aspires to affect the creation and/or increase of government (regional) funding towards social cohesion and trust building projects among the three countries.
Exit strategy/ sustainability: What steps have been taken to prepare for end of project and help ensure sustainability of the project results beyond PBF support for this project? *(1500 character limit)*	Overall, almost all activities are implemented in close coordination and direct participation of government partners. The socio-emotional skills methodology is already mainstreamed both in formal and non-formal educational environments in Montenegro, and will continue even after PBF support ends. Further networking of young diplomats is embedded in the international school for young diplomats of the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In BiH, partnering with higher education institutions in capacity development of teachers and youth ensures transfer of knowledge and interest-based approach that warrants longevity of intervention.
Risk taking: Describe how the project has responded to risks that threatened the achievement of results. Identify any new risks that have emerged since the last report. *(1500 character limit)*	The busy political agenda of the key political stakeholders continues to be a high impact risk for the project. The Peace and Development Unit BiH and RC Offices are maintaining constant liaison to ensure interrupted engagement.
Gender equality: In the reporting period, which activities have taken place with a specific focus on addressing issues of gender equality or women's empowerment? *(1500 character limit)*	Youth dialogues methodology features a session on gender equality, which will be discussed within country and UN-based contexts across all events. In Montenegro, the prepared training programme for women's empowerment for leadership focuses on gender equality and participation, social cohesion, advocacy and project design and implementation.

Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)*	Recognizing the complexity of joint multi-country and multi-agency projects, UNDP BiH developed the SOP document in the project design phase, which was broadly consulted among teams and remains a living document to ensure coherence and consistency for joint project's operations. Additionally, country project teams are meeting regularly, while project coordinators are meeting bi-weekly to discuss updates and any coordination matters.
	Additionally, the Joint Programme will make every effort to invite and include youth from Croatia to participate in regional events envisaged by the programme. The competent bodies in Croatia will be duly consulted on this approach.

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

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 Stability and trust in the region, and especially in BiH, are enhanced.	Indicator 1.1 Rank of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 2018 Global Peace Index.	89, out of 163 countries.	Improved ranking	2019 data will be published on 20 June.		
	Indicator 1.2 Percentage of youth indicating higher levels of trust towards other ethnic groups in the region.	Low overall level of trust between youth of different ethnicities	50% of surveyed youth, particularly in BIH (including youth who are direct project beneficiaries) report increased trust toward members of other ethnicities	n/a	Insufficient number of activities with youth in all countries to compile and evaluate comprehensive data. Baseline information will be available in October 2019. Additionally, the joint programme will benefit from data generated through regional youth research, commissioned by the UN Albania joint project.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	Indicator 1.3 Level of collaboration to address mistrust and social divides between citizens from different groups in the participating countries, with their peers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Low overall levels of cross-country collaboration addressing mistrust and social divides (BiH vis-a-vis neighboring countries).	Increased level of cross-country collaboration to address mistrust and social divides between citizens, manifested through at least 20 sustainable social cohesion partnerships generated as a result of the programme.	n/a	As above.	
Output 1.1 Different groups in the countries of the region, and youth in	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of people (teachers, youth, women, journalists and editors, sex- and gender-	Insufficient number of people (particularly teachers, youth and	At least 1900, as follows: (i) 800 adolescents (10 – 18 years old); (ii) 800	Skill building training for 151 young people aged 15–24 (42 male, 109 female). Two-day training on		

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
particular, acquire and practise skills to help break stereotypes and constructively interact across divides.	disaggregated) from participating 4 countries with increased knowledge and skills to bridge social divides.	women) capacitated to support social cohesion in the region.	young people (18 – 30 years old) among whom 50% women; (iii) 200 teachers, among whom 50% women and (iv) 120 journalists and editors	volunteerism for 20 participants (3 male and 17 female out of female participants 7 were adults and 10 young).		
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of stakeholders who apply the acquired skills and knowledge in their follow-up work as a result of the programme support.	n/a	At least 50% of all stakeholders (in various target groups) apply the skills and knowledge acquired through the programme in their follow-up work.	n/a	Too early in project implementation.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 1.2 Citizens from different groups jointly identify and implement actions that promote social cohesion in the region, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Indicator 1.2.1 Total number of people (particularly youth) from participating countries who meaningfully engage in and contribute to identification of social cohesion barriers and priorities for the 3 countries	600 people in the national platform events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.	At least 1,600 people (among whom at least 800 youth and women) from participating countries engage in and contribute to identification of regional social cohesion barriers and priorities.	120 youth (68 F, 52 M) identified social cohesion priorities from their perspective. 22 alumna (11 women/11 men) participants from participating countries brought together in order to contribute to methodology and identification of potential risks for delivering further regional cohesion.	As above.	
	Indicator 1.2.2 Total number of dialogue platforms (gender balanced) bringing together political leaders and various stakeholders from	n/a	At least 20 broad-based social cohesion dialogue platform events (gender	n/a	As above.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	the 4 participating countries in joint discussions on how to strengthen social cohesion in the region.		balanced) bringing together political leaders and various stakeholders from the 4 participating countries.			
Output 1.3 Policy recommendat ions to improve social cohesion in the region are effectively advocated for, and endorsed by, authorities	Indicator 1.3.1 Number of effective advocacy channels (engaging equal numbers of both sexes) leveraging political and public support within participating countries for endorsement of social cohesion policy recommendations.	UN agencies in the participating countries have deployed successful advocacy efforts to promote social cohesion.	At least 4 inter-connected and mutually-reinforcing advocacy channels help leverage political and public support for endorsement of social cohesion policy	n/a	As above.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
and relevant stakeholders.			recommendations, including: (i) UN-led discussions with political leaders and policy-makers; (ii) regional dialogue platform; (iii) civil society			
	Indicator 1.3.2 Number of social cohesion policy recommendations voiced through the regional dialogue platform that are endorsed by authorities and international community and contribute to their	n/a	At least 5 policy recommendations formally endorsed by authorities and the international community.	n/a	As above.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	effective follow-up implementation.					
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1					
	Indicator 1.4.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator 2.1					
	Indicator 2.2					
	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1					
	Indicator 2.1.2					
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1					
	Indicator 2.2.2					
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 2.4	Indicator 2.4.1					
	Indicator 2.4.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
	Indicator 3.3					
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					
Output 3.4	Indicator 3.4.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	Indicator 3.4.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					
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					
Output 4.4	Indicator 4.4.1					
	Indicator 4.4.2					

PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS

2.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, delayed, or off track, vis-à-vis project plans and by recipient organization:

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and when do you expect to request the next tranche if applicable: 1st tranche received; 2nd tranche expected to be requested in the 1st quarter of 2020.

What is the overall level of expenditure/ commitment against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far: Overall: 6%, against 1st tranche: 7%

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters limit):

Please state what $ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date: $ 815,252 (planned);

Please fill out and attach the project document Excel budget Annex showing current project financial progress **(expenditures/ commitments to date),** using the original project budget table in Excel, even though the $ amounts are indicative only.