

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): The Gambia	
Project Title: Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Direct Project Recipients: UNDP (Convening Agency), UN ITC, UN UNESCO, UN Implementing Partners: Government: Ministry of Interior, Women's Bureau (under Ministry of Gender and now called Directorate Equality and Women Empowerment), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice, National Youth Council (NYC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), National Sports Council (NSC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), CSOs, academia and private sector: I4P Technical Working Group, University of The Gambia, Gambia Press Union, TANGO, WANEP, Fact Check Gambia, Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce, Peace Ambassadors, Equals Now, Gambia Red Cross Society, GAMWORKS	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 36 months Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Greater Banjul Area, North Bank Region, West Coast Region, Central River Region & Upper River Region	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below? <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative ⁴	

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

² The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.

³ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative

⁴ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

<input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project		
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNDP: \$ 1,075,000 UNESCO \$ 675.000 ITC: \$ 750,000 TOTAL: \$ 2,500,000		
<p><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></p>		
Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):		
PBF 1st tranche (70%): UNDP: \$ 752,500 ITC: \$ 525,000 UNESCO: \$ 472,500 Total: \$1,750,000	PBF 2nd tranche* (30%): UNDP: \$ 322,500 ITC: \$ 225,000 UNESCO: \$ 202,500 Total: \$ 750,000	
Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):		
<p>Following the end of a 22-year long authoritarian regime marked by human rights violations, The Gambia has been undergoing a broad democratic transition as well as a transformative transitional justice process since 2017. The latter was led by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) which concluded its investigative work in December 2021 with the publication of the 'Never Again' report, outlining 265 recommendations to advance justice, healing and reconciliation in The Gambia. While several recommendations focus on prosecutions and compensations, another number are forward-looking, calling for the establishment of preventive mechanisms, including institutional and legal reforms, to ensure non-recurrence and to strengthen peacebuilding efforts across the country, with special emphasis on the need to further localize peacebuilding as well as intervene in specific conflict-prone areas.</p> <p>It is against this background that the project aims at strengthening the national peacebuilding architecture of The Gambia, in a context marked by several alarming threats to social cohesion such as growing frustration around the slow implementation of TRRC recommendations, a heightened rise of hate speech, as well as greater instability in the area of Casamance that can directly affect bordering marginalized communities.</p> <p>Under the overarching goal of strengthening the national peacebuilding architecture, the project will contribute to the implementation of specific TRRC recommendations, including i) support to the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC) as one of the TRRC successor bodies; ii) strengthening the competencies of a diverse, yet complementary, set of stakeholders to prevent and mitigate hate speech; and iii) piloting the first-ever set of reconciliation and conflict prevention initiatives in the Fonis where socially and economically excluded communities (including Kanilai, the residential area of former president Yahya Jammeh) are increasingly becoming easy targets for the recruiting armed groups in Casamance.</p>		
Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups):		

This project is the outcome of an inclusive and consultative process with different stakeholders. On 14 April 2022, the Resident Coordinator's Office, PBF Secretariat, UNDP, UNESCO and ITC convened a dedicated project design session with key stakeholders^[1] to identify the project rationale and structures that guided the formulation of the project, including the Women's Bureau (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare), The Gambia's Women Chamber of Commerce and the National Youth Council- as women and youth organizations. Furthermore, recommendations from the broad-based Technical Working Group on National Infrastructure for Peace (I4P TWG), established in October 2020 with a membership of 16 organizations^[2] also informed the design of this project. As part of this process, between November 2020 to August 2021, the I4P TWG supported nationwide consultations with citizens to produce a roadmap for the establishment of national and regional councils for peace and social cohesion, including community based early warning systems. In addition, UNDP in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia conducted a feasibility study of the Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) in 2020 to address the persistent and serious disparities between urban and rural areas in terms of access to basic services including water, energy, and road infrastructure, known to be causing intra and intercommunity tensions.

Furthermore, extensive consultations were held in 2021 with stakeholders including the Technical Working Group, political parties, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), ADR groups and practitioners, traditional rulers, religious organizations, women groups, youth leaders; community-based associations, Ministries of Interior and Youths and other state and non-state actors leading to the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to guide and improve peacebuilding and conflict intervention processes in The Gambia by ensuring a viable, coordinating and inclusive mechanism for managing diversities and differences; establishment of institutional mechanisms for coordination of various peacebuilding pillars and collaboration amongst government agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other stakeholders in peace and security; strengthening and coordinating the formal and informal channels for dialogue on a range of issues that interconnect with the structural causes of conflict at community and national levels; defining funding sources and processes for the coordination of aid for peace and security initiatives - bridging the gap between peacebuilding and business and bring dividends of peace to bear on businesses and development efforts in the country; among others.

^[1] Including the following participants: UNICEF, Ministry of Interior, Office of the President- Department of Strategy and Delivery, Gambia Press Union (GPU), WANEP-The Gambia as Chairman-I4P TWG, National Human Right Commission (NHRC), National Youth Council (NYC), Gambia Women's Chamber of Commerce (GWCC), and National Council for Civic Education (NCCE).

^[2] Membership of the I4P TWG includes the Ministry of Interior, Office of the President, WANEP-The Gambia, TANGO, National Youth Council (NYC), Women's Bureau/Directorate Equality and Women Empowerment, Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD), Council of Chiefs, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), NA Standing Committee on Defence and Security, Gambia Christian Council, Supreme Islamic Council, Gambia Chamber of Commerce (GCCCI), Inter Party Committee (IPC), Gambia Press Union (GPU), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 2 (35.62%)

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: **\$ 890, 614.50**

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality

⁵ **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)

and women's empowerment⁶:

Project interventions that explicitly aim to empower women and reduce gender inequality include:

- Support the implementation of The Gambia's 2021-2025 UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan
- Support the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the peacebuilding efforts, particularly in the infrastructure for peace formalization process
- Specialized training and sensitization on women's rights and women, peace, and security
- Strengthen women organizations and CSOs through capacity building on gender, peace, and security issues
- Research on hate speech against women (sexist hate speech) and cyberbullying of women as impediments against women in politics (as a component of the national research on hate speech)
- Empower young female politicians, activists and women-led organizations to counter hate speech, disinformation and cyberbullying

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)⁸: 2.3 Conflict prevention/management

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes:

UNDAF outcome 1.2: Governance and Human Rights: Improving governance and fighting corruption - Institutional reforms implemented to ensure rule of law and guarantee the protection of the human rights of all, including access to justice, gender equality, access to basic services, and democratic participation in decision-making processes.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:

5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets:

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girl everywhere

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

Targets:

16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

⁶ Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

⁷ **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁸ **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)

16.5: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Targets: 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability	
Type of submission: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New project <input type="checkbox"/> Project amendment	If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification: Extension of duration: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): Change of project outcome/ scope: <input type="checkbox"/> Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional PBF budget: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX Brief justification for amendment: <i>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.</i>

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Aissata De</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Resident Representative, UNDP</i> <i>Date & Seal</i> 28/11/2022</p> <p><i>Raimund Mose</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Representative, International Trade Center (ITC)</i> <i>Date & Seal</i></p> <p><i>Dimitri Sanga</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Director and Representative, UNESCO</i> <i>Date & Seal</i></p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p><i>Mr. Seyaka Sonko</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Minister of Interior</i> <i>Date & Seal</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p><i>Seraphine Wakana</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Resident Coordinator, The Gambia</i> <i>Date & Seal</i></p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Spehar</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature</i> <i>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</i> <i>Date & Seal</i> 15/12/2022</p>

a) **Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)**

- (a) A brief summary of **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project, focusing on the driving factors of tensions/conflict that the project aims to address and an analysis of the main actors/ stakeholders that have an impact on or are impacted by the driving factors, which the project will aim to engage. This analysis must be gender- and age-responsive.

In January 2017, The Gambia commenced its transition from autocratic to democratic governance, activating several overlapping reform processes, including security sector reform, a Constitutional review process, judicial reform and the review of several, conspicuous laws and transitional justice.

The TRRC was established in December 2017 to carry out a thorough investigation of the human rights violations and abuses that occurred in the country over 22 years under former President Yahya Jammeh's regime. One of the main objectives of the TRRC, pursuant to Section 13 of the Act, was to create an impartial historical record of violations and abuses of human rights from July 1994 to January 2017, in order to (i) promote healing and reconciliation, (ii) respond to the needs of the victims, (iii) address impunity, and (iv) prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses suffered by making recommendations for the establishment of appropriate preventive mechanisms, including institutional and legal reforms. Thus, the outcome of the TRRC process informs The Government and all, to a large extent, of the nature, scope, and gravity of the country's past human rights violations and abuses and provides a peacebuilding road map for addressing the legacy of social divisions, political polarization and marginalization, institutional dysfunction, among others.

On 25 November 2021, the TRRC submitted its Final Report to President Adama Barrow.⁹ The Report comprises of 17 volumes of thematic reports on human rights violations and abuses committed during former President Jammeh's government.¹⁰ It contains over 400 findings and makes 265 recommendations to the Government of The Gambia concerning the reforms and other measures needed to achieve the objectives of the Commission. It is important to note that during its time, the TRRC achieved national and international recognition for its ground-breaking achievements in the history of truth commissions, especially for the level of collaboration between the TRRC and perpetrators – many of whom voluntarily came forward to confess atrocities – and for the level of public interest generated by the live streamed public hearings and outreach activities. In addition to public hearings, during which 393 witnesses, including 222 victims and 80 alleged or confessed perpetrators had testified before the TRRC, the TRRC engaged over 50,000 Gambians at home and in the diaspora in community-led outreach activities. A perception survey conducted in 2020 showed that 90% of Gambians (from a sample of 1,200 Gambians) felt that the TRRC was performing well or very well. Thus, in May 2022, when the Government of The Gambia accepted to implement 263 out of the 265 recommendations made by the TRRC, The Gambia was again applauded for remaining steadfast in its aspirations to provide redress to victims of human rights violations and abuses, whilst ensuring that required legislative and institutional reforms are implemented as guarantees of non-occurrence.

⁹ The TRRC report is available on the Ministry of Justice's website: [Downloads - MoJ \(gov.gm\)](#)

¹⁰ Some of these violations and abuses include unlawful killings, torture, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, inhuman and degrading treatment, "witch hunting," fake HIV/AIDS treatment, and general and widespread abuse of public office.

Rejected TRRC Recommendations by the Government

Despite being applauded nationally and globally for accepting and committing to implement 263 recommendations in the final report submitted by the TRRC in November 2021, the government rejected the following two recommendations:

1. The banning of the so-called “mercenary” (i.e., foreign) judges from holding public office. The Government rejected the recommendation of the Commission because of unfair characterization of foreign judges as “mercenary Judges” without being given an opportunity to defend them against the allegations in line with the rules of natural justice. The Government was also mindful of the need to maintain existing cordial bilateral relations with sister countries where the judges came from, especially considering they have provided and continue to provide The Gambia with needed technical assistance in critical sectors such as education, health, the judiciary and the justice sectors.
2. The second recommendation rejected by the government was amnesty given by the TRRC to former Junta Vice Chair, Mr. Sanna Bairo Sabally. Amnesty was granted because he served time in prison for false crimes levied against him in addition to giving full disclosure, showing remorse and initiating and participating in reconciliation with a perpetrator. The Commission finally noted that Sanna’s crimes precede the Rome Statute and cannot be applied retroactively and recommended him for community service. But the Government rejected the TRRC recommendation, noting that although he might have made full disclosure and showed remorse, Sanna is one of the individuals that bears the highest responsibility for gross human rights abuses and violations in the early days of the Jammeh regime, particularly the extrajudicial killing of many soldiers on November 11th, 1994.

The need to ensure impactful peacebuilding efforts post-TRRC

Many agree that although the TRRC’s mandate has been concluded, the objectives of the Commission of promoting healing and reconciliation must continue. In words, peacebuilding efforts must continue.

Since 2018, the Government of The Gambia, spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior has sought to formalize a National Infrastructure for Peace (I4P), as one of the key recommendations following the 2018 CDA Report. The formalization of I4P was considered important in ensuring sustainability while highlighting various strategies for gender sensitive multi stakeholder cooperation and inclusivity. This promotes joint problem solving of conflicts and ensures institutionalizing processes of response to conflicts that produce outcomes leading to conflict transformation, social, political and ethno-cultural reconciliation. Overall, the I4P was intended to be a national peacebuilding architecture with the objective to strengthen national and local conflict resolution mechanisms, effective mediation, inclusivity and social cohesion, and gender equality.

In collaboration with the Office of the President, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the UN system in The Gambia, several actions have been completed in the spirit of establishing such infrastructure/architecture, including the provision of technical support to the Government and other national counterparts by a Peace and Development Adviser (PDA). In 2019, a Technical Working Group conducted a study tour to Ghana in 2019 to learn about the Ghanaian peace

architecture¹¹ followed by round-table discussions in 2019 and 2020 to generate consensus amongst stakeholders and development partners on the appropriate structure for an I4P in The Gambia.¹²

The outcome of the discussions was the recommendation on the creation of an I4P Technical Working Group (I4P-TWG) to facilitate the process of developing a Gambian-specific national peacebuilding architecture. [OBJ:OBJ]¹³[OBJ] and a mandate to develop an institutional framework that showcases how the I4P is envisaged to serve as a national peacebuilding architecture designed to strengthen local conflict resolution mechanisms, effective mediation, inclusivity and social cohesion, and gender equality.

The TWG has done a lot of research and analysis to identify why are some of the key gaps and challenges faced by The Gambia when it comes to advancing peacebuilding effectively. In that spirit, the TWG notes that there are several important normative peacebuilding gaps that persist in the country. For instance, whilst The Gambia has an updated 2021-2025 National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, it lacks the financial and technical capacity to implement it. Regarding UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, no such Action Plan exists, which hinders young women and men from playing central roles in preventing and resolving conflicts, negotiating peace, and participating in peacebuilding.

It remains critical that the post-TRRC setting ensures meaningful inclusion and promotes leadership of women and youth. Several critical senior positions within the TRRC (Chairman, Executive Secretary, Lead Counsel, Head of Investigations etc.) were headed by men, a fact that was criticized by the October 2020 Manifesto by CSOs, which urged the Government to appoint more women in decision-making positions related to transitional justice. In addition, the TRRC disproportionately heard male victims and witnesses (women represented less than 20% of the witnesses). For instance, while it devoted an entire three-week session on the conditions in the infamous Mile 2 prison, it only investigated crimes that were reported in the male wing and failed to examine conditions in the female wing, despite allegations of SGBV committed on female detainees. Although a Women's Affairs Unit was established within the TRRC, several CSOs including the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), the Toufah Foundation (survivor led organization) and ANEKED criticized the TRRC for its failure to adequately focus on women's experience and highlighted shortcomings in that regard. The TRRC admitted in a report that "most women lost confidence in ensuring meaningful participation in political processes as those who attempted were almost always harassed, and sometimes detained, tortured, and sexually violated. (...) this has led to setbacks for gender equality, women, and empowerment in the country."¹⁴ Due to these lapses, and perhaps on a positive note, CSOs proactively engaged the TRRC and continue to do so with the Government on the meaningful participation and

¹¹ The technical-level delegation comprised of representatives from the Office of the President (1) Ministry of Interior (2) West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)-The Gambia (2) The United Nations System (1) and ECOWAS (1).

¹² Attendees at these round table discussions include representative from the Strategy, Policy and Delivery Office of The President , Ministry of Interior, National Assembly, Ministry of Women Affairs , National Youth Council (NYC), UNDP Resident Representative, Head of Programs, Constitutional Review Commission , UN RCO PDA, ECOWAS, Political Advisor, IRI Resident Program Director, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), WANEP, Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat and representatives of CSO's i.e. Peace Ambassador- Supreme Islamic Council, Gambia Christian Council, National Council for Civic Education, (NCCE), CARITAS, Action Aid the Gambia and TANGO

¹³ Membership of the I4P TWG includes the Ministry of Interior, Office of the President, WANEP-The Gambia, TANGO, National Youth Council, Women Bureau/ Directorate Equality and Women Empowerment, Gambia Federation of the Disabled , Council of Chiefs, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), NA Standing Committee on Defence and Security, Gambia Christian Council, Supreme Islamic Council, Gambia Chamber of Commerce (GCCCI) Inter Party Committee (IPC), Gambia Press Union (GPU), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

¹⁴ TRRC Report: Gender Dimensions of the 22-year-old Regressive Rule of Jammeh

leadership of women in the post-TRRC process, which has led to some successes such as the acceptance of all recommendations made the CSO, WILL, on SGBV by both the TRRC and the Government in its White Paper.

Whilst the TRRC was commended for its inclusion of young people as decision-makers, with 2 of its commissioners being under the age of 35 at the time, as well as the Deputy Executive Secretary and the majority of the TRRC's technical staff, youth continue to be generally excluded from meaningful involvement, or leadership during political processes and broader 'society-changing' processes in The Gambia. Young people under the age of 25 represent 65% of the population of The Gambia, yet those persons under the age of 35 elected to serve in the National Assembly constitute for less than 20%, whilst young people are completely unrepresented in the superior courts or in Cabinet. Whilst several political parties have formed youth political wings, and the Youth Branch of the Inter-Party Committee continues to strive for greater dialogue between party executives and its young demographic, there remains systematic absence of meaningful communication and interface between young people and decision-making adults, and more severely, low implementation of national policies that speak on minimum youth representation in decision-making positions.

Among other gaps, the TWG also notes that whilst there are some existing structures in The Gambia, with the mandate to protect and promote human rights, such as the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Inter-party Committee (IPC), and the CSO Coalition on Elections, these structures are at times ad hoc and often fragmented in their approach. In addition to the lack of coordination of all the peacebuilding stakeholders in the country, there remains critical capacity gaps and resources for peacebuilding structures and institutions, particularly those working in political processes, on hate speech and/or striving to repair inter and intra-community tensions flagged in the TRRC report. For example, in the area of hate speech, there is no effective system in place to monitor it in The Gambia, coupled with the fact that there is no visible trusted flaggers for companies such as Facebook to effectively moderate content as is the case in some European countries. And despite the work of the budding group of journalist-fact checkers, dis/misinformation, like hate speech, continue to largely spread in the internet, particularly on social media.

However, at varying levels in different sectors, national organizations are increasingly becoming wary of the menace of hate speech and dis/misinformation. In the media sector, the Gambia Press Union (GPU), the umbrella body for journalists in The Gambia, in partnership with UN agencies, including UNESCO, has been providing capacity buildings on conflict sensitive reporting, a component of which included hate speech. However, the hate speech component was not elaborate and mainly focused on the concepts. The Union has also put in place a professional industry-wide ethical guideline for journalists which prohibits publications of such issues as hate speech and incitement. But it falls short of interpreting in clear terms what constitutes hate speech or incitement. And the two leading journalism training providers, the School of Journalism and Digital Media of the University of The Gambia (UTG), and the Media Academy for Journalism and Communication (MAJAC) have no course, or even a module in a course, to teach trainee journalists on hate speech.

In the general civil society, no organization monitors or even proactively advocates against hate speech. Recently, however, certain organizations are up against the menace. There is a need to mobilize and build capacities and competencies of civil society to effectively respond to this conflict-trigger.

In the political arena, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has in place the Code on Election Campaign Ethics Order, a subsidiary legislation to the Elections Act, which prohibits the use of any language which is inflammatory, defamatory, or insulting that could constitute an incitement to public disorder, insurrection, hate, violence, or war. The Inter-Party Committee (IPC) has a Code of Conduct that also prohibits the use of inflammatory or defamatory language before, during and after political campaigns and elections. But neither the IEC nor the Inter-Party Committee, which is a dialogue platform for all registered political parties, have any mechanism for monitoring or countering hate speech-related issues of political actors.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), established by the government in 2018 as an autonomous human rights institution, has now begun to act by issuing press releases¹⁵ condemning hateful remarks. With a mandate to self-initiate investigations and monitoring on human rights issues, the Commission is yet to conduct any proactive monitoring and reporting of hate speech, as it does of other human rights violations.

The I4P TWG also is an example of one critical challenge to further advance peacebuilding, which is the lack of inclusiveness in the few existing peacebuilding networks and partners. Indeed, whilst the I4P TWG includes the membership of 16 critical government and non-governmental peace institutions, there are several other national institutions and civil society organizations who should be incorporated into the TWG, including the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), which has been identified by the TRRC Report and accepted by the Government in its White Paper, as playing a key role in enhancing “indigenous knowledge of shared norms and values that are central to peacemaking and to averting conflict.”¹⁶ It is also important to recognize, support and work with other national institutions that have not been traditionally recognized as peacebuilding institutions or structures to widen the breadth and impact of the Infrastructure for Peace in The Gambia.

More recently, several consultations were held to further detail what the I4P should focus on and how it would work. In 2021, consultations were held in all administrative regions of The Gambia by TWG with a view to creating an I4P Roadmap. Key amongst the findings of the TWG during this period, was the need to map, coordinate and strengthen traditional peacebuilding systems and structures in local communities through a decentralized national structure with autonomous powers guaranteed under a robust legal framework. This same finding is presented in the TRRC Final Report, in its recommendation for the Government to establish a Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

Indeed, the TRRC makes recommendations for two successor bodies to take over its work on reparations and on national reconciliation. On the issue of national reconciliation, the TRRC recommends, and the Government has accepted, to establish a permanent, independent Commission—the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC), “with a clear mandate to promote peace, reconciliation and healing, and foster social cohesion.”

The PRC will have impact at individual/community level by addressing inter/intra community tensions and conflicts through the engagement of community peace institutions and structures. The establishment of the PRC will therefore lead to a more tolerant and cohesive community free from tensions triggered by communal drivers of conflicts such as land disputes, political polarizations,

¹⁵ <https://www.gm-nhrc.org/press-releases>

¹⁶ Government of The Gambia White Paper on the Recommendations of the TRRC, page 157, available for download here: <https://www.moj.gm/download-file/81d650ed-dc36-11ec-8f4f-025103a708b7>

ethnic and religious differences, hate speech, among others. The PRC will innovatively interrupt conflict forming dynamics in communities and provide space for new forms of consensus building on contested and divisive community issues by funding local peace initiatives, building capacities of communities' institutions and structures and providing them with networking opportunities. It is expected that the PRC will have relevant expertise to regularly build the capacity of I4P actors on conflict early warning systems, Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanisms and the facilitation of dialogue process and mediation efforts, etc. in collaboration with relevant institutions that carry the same mandate. This intervention will make a significant contribution in the implementation of one of the key TRRC recommendations on 'localizing' peacebuilding, consequently strengthening the peacebuilding 'labor force of the country' and supporting coordination to maximize impact.

In the absence of a Peace Reconciliation Commission in post-TRRC context, community level tensions and divisions are likely to increase, interventions by peace building institutions will be in silos and uncoordinated, requisite competencies for peacebuilding especially at the local levels will be lacking, legislations on building a peaceful Gambia will be weak or non-existent while implementation of key recommendations by TRRC related to peaceful co-existent and reconciliation will fail, minimizing all efforts made since the political transition of 2017 to prevent violence and sustain peace in the country. Details of PRC's responsibilities would need to be discussed in an inclusive manner, with views of stakeholders across the country taken into consideration. –

The establishment of National Peacebuilding Infrastructure for Peace will be guided by initial consultations of key stakeholders to gauge the views of existing peacebuilding structures on the membership, structure and powers or roles of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, as well as other matters relating to the coordination of The Gambia's I4P. Subsequently, project support will be directed towards the drafting of the Peace and Reconciliation Bill and its cabinet papers while working closely with the National Assembly, through the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional matters to advocate for the passage of the Bill. In the absence of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission, more support will be provided to the technical support towards the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Unit at the Ministry of Interior, to support coordination of peacebuilding institutions and efforts. The establishment of PRC has been delayed partly because the TRRC report was submitted to the government at a time when the country was starting an electoral cycle especially the Presidential election in December 2021 and subsequent National Assembly elections of April 2022. This delayed the initial envisaged date for the submission of the draft report to the President and formulation of the Government White Paper.

The heightened rise of hate speech fueling tensions and risks of conflicts

Analysis of news media reports and social media posts over recent years indicate four main forms of hate speech in The Gambia,¹⁷ namely, hate speech based on political differences, hate speech based on religious differences, ethnicity-based hate speech, and hate speech based on sexual orientation.

The 2019 (updated) Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) states that there are deep divisions along ethno-linguistic and political lines in The Gambia, which surface at most during political processes in the form of derogatory remarks and hate speech. This is also framed in the fact that

¹⁷ UNDP commissioned research paper on Hate Speech in The Gambia Media, September 2021, conducted by the Gambia Press Union in collaboration with University of The Gambia Students' Union, with PBF funding

following the change of Government in 2017 and the opening of the democratic space, competition for the leadership of the country has never been merrier – nor fiercer. Indeed, as of December 2021, there were 18 political parties in The Gambia - an 80% increase from the Jammeh era.¹⁸ Whilst this generally augurs well for the country's democracy, the Gambian political landscape exhibits discouraging signs for the country's peace and stability. The TRRC report too, under the theme "Attacks on Political Opponents," identifies hate speech as being a problem in The Gambia, whilst the Government's White Paper "confirms that hate speech, including making derogatory remarks against any ethnic group is included in the draft Criminal Code." Overall, identity politics continues to be alive and threatening The Gambia, and political leaders continue to foster and exploit ethno-linguistic division to rally support by using hate speech and divisive rhetoric, as exhibited during the 2021-2023 electoral cycle.¹⁹ Ahead of the December 2021 Presidential elections, abusive political rhetoric on ethnic lines was almost the order of the day for the major contending parties. For example, a political party leader warned his fellow ethnic Fulani people against voting for 'rats,'²⁰ whilst referring to another opposition party with majority followers from a different ethnic group. Another senior politician instigated that tribes like Jolas, Serere, Sarahule, and Fulas would be sent out of The Gambia if a certain political party is to win the December 2021 presidential elections.²¹ Unfortunately, such statements by political figureheads are common during the campaign period, and often attract strong reactions, triggering a cycle of hate speech between political and ethnic lines. Whilst hate speech is most common among low-ranked political operatives across the political spectrum, the degree of which varies from one party to another, the increasing and deep division of The Gambia along the lines of ethnicity and religion, exacerbated by politics, not only creates the perfect ground for hate speech, but hate crimes as well.

For many women and girls in The Gambia sexist and misogynistic language is an everyday experience. Some instances of hate speech can be categorized as 'sexist hate speech', as it does not only have an insulting or degrading character towards the individuals to whom the speech is addressed, but also resonating with the entire tribe, contributing to its silencing, marginalization, and exclusion. Key findings from the consultation led by the Resident Coordinator on 28th June 2022 focusing on the main challenges preventing women political participation and leadership identified character assassination and cyber bullying, often of a sexual nature, as key challenges for the women aspiring to vie for political seats. Faced with such virulent opposition that can have a serious negative affect on their personal lives and self-esteem, many women, including those who are well qualified and equipped to represent their communities, choose not to run for or accept public office. not to run for or accept public office.

¹⁸ Independent Electoral Commission website, 20 August 2022, accessed here <https://iec.gm/political-parties/registered-parties/>

¹⁹ Jaw, Sait Matty and Isbell, Thomas, Afrobarometer, All in this together? Social tensions in the post Jammeh Gambia, 14 August, 20202, accessed here https://media.africaportal.org/documents/ad404-tolerance_and_tensions_in_post-jammeh_gambia-afrobarometer-6nov20.pdf

²⁰ The Standard newspaper: Hamat Bah under fire for tribal comments (14 August 2022) accessed here <https://standard.gm/hamat-under-fire-for-tribal-comments/> ; see also Freedom Newspaper: Tourism Minister Bah attacks Immigration for profiling Fullanis as foreigners; As he warns Fullanis not to vote for the "UDP rats", saying "WE WILL ALL SUFFER IF THESE RATS COME TO POWER" (14 August 2022) Fullanis as foreigners; As he warns Fullanis not to vote for the "UDP rats", saying "WE WILL ALL SUFFER IF THESE RATS COME TO POWER" (14 August 2022)

²¹ The Alkamba Times newspaper: Human Rights Commission Boss Troubled by Dembo Byforce ' Comments' (14 August 2022) accessed here, <https://alkambatimes.com/human-rights-commission-boss-troubled-by-dembo-byforce-comments/>

In the religious circle, Islamic minority groups have been the main targets of this form of hate. Hate speech against the Ahmadiyya Muslim community by mainstream Muslim leaders is found to be the most common in the TRRC report, under the theme, “Attacks on Religious Freedoms.” On 15 February 2020, the leader of the Ahmadis in The Gambia testified before the TRRC regarding numerous hate speech encounters made against the community, including by an influential Sunni Islamic leader’s comment that Ahmadis should be killed.²² In a separate news article published in The Gambia, a Sunni Muslim leader is quoted as saying ‘Ahmadis should be banned’ from propagating their religion in The Gambia.²³ Seventeen witnesses testified under this theme, including the N’digal sect, a non-conformist Islamic religious sect based in Kerr Mot Ali, in the Central River Region of the country, who were subjected to gross violations of their human rights, including rape, resulting in their being forced to leave their homes and to settle in neighboring Senegal.

While the TRRC, and the CDA reports have helped to shed light on the prevalence of hate speech in The Gambia, there is no adequate empirical data and information on the root causes, drivers, and impact, to understand the menace and fashion out relevant actions to best address and/or mitigate its impact, especially the impact of hate speech against women (sexist hate speech). The lack of adequate information means efforts to counter and mitigate hate speech, at all levels, were largely absent or shallow, where available. The in-action of stakeholders in itself helps to trigger more hate speeches.

Besides, because of the mounting polarizations along ethnic, religious and political lines, there is increasing and deep division of The Gambia along the lines of ethnicity and religion and that creates the perfect ground for hate speech and hate crimes.

While much of the hate speech registered in recent years occur on social media platforms, Facebook, and WhatsApp in particular²⁴, some of these WhatsApp messages or Facebook posts find their way in the mainstream media. In addition to hate speech, both the mainstream media and social media in The Gambia are grappling with the fast-paced spread of dis/misinformation. The danger here is that in countries with simmering religious or ethnic tensions like The Gambia, misinformation and disinformation can be used to whip up hatred of specific groups, as happened in Nigeria in 2018,²⁵ where manipulated and decontextualized images disseminated on Facebook were used to incite violence between Muslims and Christians belonging to different ethnic groups.

Despite the work of the budding group of journalist-fact checkers, dis/misinformation are largely shared and propagated on the internet, particularly on social media. Most internet users, especially social media users in The Gambia are young people - young people accounting for over 60% of the population. With no education on media and information literacy, and with easy access to the internet, young people are especially prone to taking decisions and actions based on wrong information consumed online or sharing dis/misinformation, albeit unknowingly.

Conflict-prone areas systematically left out

²² Foroyaa newspaper: Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamat leader recollects encounter with Imam Fatty, (14 August 2022), accessed here <https://foroyaa.net/ahmadiyya-muslim-jamat-leader-recollects-encounter-with-imam-fatty/>

²³ The Point newspaper: Re: Imam Fatty says Ahmadis should be banned, (14 August 2022) accessed here <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/re-imam-fatty-says-ahmadis-should-be-banned>

²⁴ UNDP-commissioned research on the prevalence of hate speech in the media

²⁵ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/nigeria_fake_news

Studies, including the CDA Report in 2018 have shown that the nature of social exclusion in The Gambia is to a large extent based on inequality and diversity according to regional economic viability and access to basic social services such as water and sanitation, health care services, social protection and quality education.²⁶ The Government of The Gambia's white paper on the TRRC report and recommendation placed strong emphasis on establishment of social cohesion. As stated in the report, social cohesion requires multiple interventions and diverse approaches. A functional national I4P will help de-escalate intra-community conflicts. It should also devise and implement effective strategies to counter root causes of tensions and emerging and persistent conflict triggers.

In line with the above, the report outlined several communities in West Coast Region (Fonis, Makumbaya, Galoya, Sintet and Jambur) and North Bank Region (Essau) to have been grossly affected as a result of the witch-hunting exercise for instance. This exercise negatively affected older persons, many of whom were elderly women, and their families, all of whom derive from less privileged socio-economic backgrounds within these communities. To date, these communities, including youth and children, have continued to experience discrimination from surrounding communities because of the TRRC revelations, as well as exclusion from basic social services. The witch hunt campaigns affected infringed on individual rights and freedoms and violated the dignity of victims in several communities. The saga directly affected the mental, physical and psychological state of victims and their entire families, caused significant economic losses for many and created huge strain in community co-existence. Women in particular, some of whom were sexually assaulted and raped, are grossly impacted; most are still shunned and not allowed to engage in community activities, such as weddings or naming ceremonies, where women play a significant cultural role, whilst others have reported economic ostracization and the inability to sell their local produce. Their children they report, are equally shunned in school and public places. Within this context, enablers of these witch-hunt campaigns are still neighbors with some victims who continue to be stigmatized by the larger community. This continues to cause tension particularly between young people who aim to either defend their family's reputations and non-association as witches\wizards, and those young people who serve as children of enablers of the witch-hunt campaign, seeking to equally absolve their families of any wrongdoing.

During the buildup to the 2021 presidential elections in The Gambia, the country has seen polarization of political parties as well as tensions as a result of political party break-ups. A case in hand on this party split is within the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC)- the party of the former President Yahya Jammeh, which experienced a split in the buildup to the elections²⁷. This caused tensions between the group recognized by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the breakaway group following directives from former President Jammeh whiles in exile. In the April 2022 parliamentary elections, the former presidents breakaway group swept the polls in four (4) out of five (5) Foni constituencies (Foni Brefet, Foni Bintang, Foni Kansala and Foni Bondali) except for Foni Jarrol. Within these same constituencies are active supporters of the former president and others who defied his directives to support his agenda during the elections. In the buildup of the presidential and parliamentary elections, there were reported tensions in these communities. However, the tension still looms and poses a huge security threat as result of the strong presence from the breakaway group and other party supporters. This is contributing to the overall fragility of The Gambia's political situation which is also challenged by the legacy of over two decades of autocratic rule that came with

²⁶ NDP, 2018; The Gambia VNR, 2020, CDA Report 2018 available here: <https://gambia.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-0/FINAL%20REPORT%20CDA%20THE%20GAMBIA%20JUNE%202018.pdf>

²⁷ <https://standard.gm/iec-speaks-on-aprc-split/>

complexities of rolling out a series of simultaneous, sensitive reforms since January 2017, as well as vulnerability to the emerging proliferation of conflicts in the region.

It is important to note that, these social tensions within the Foni are aggravated by the presence of poverty and lack of economic opportunities. Coupled with a strong vulnerability to external shocks, rising demographic pressures and existing fractured identities which all add to the fragility, trigger tensions amongst and within communities and increase the chances of people resorting to criminal activities and irregular migration. Foni is also border to Cassamance, the Northern side of Senegal which have recent history of conflict between the Senegalese Soldiers and the MFDC rebels. The two parties' recent gun clashes have seen most communities in the Foni emptied and members displaced. This has affected the communities livelihoods, increased rage and tension with authorities over rising cost of living and the general economic welfare of the populace.

There are several distinct social mechanisms tools intended to be exploited in neutralizing tensions in these affected communities. These are the use of sports, arts, culture, music and the use of traditional communicators in conflict prevention, tension neutralization and building social cohesion. Building social cohesion is about bringing people together, rebuilding fragmented relationships and creating the necessary dialogue to foster empathy, gaining understanding of the roots of conflicts and establishing sustainable solutions. Arts, culture, sports, and the use of traditional communicators can play a pivotal role in the complex and long process of peace and reconciliation, analyzing the necessary conditions for peace building. The use of sports and the creative in this endeavor is mainly to strengthen impacts and give other programs a room/structure to develop and sail through logical models in order to achieve the overall objective of the project. In our approach to implementing activities and ensuring "do no harm", the extreme competitiveness of sports and exclusion in participation will be controlled. The targeted communities (particularly in the Foni) are well known for their rich and active cultural qualities. However, since 2017, there have been less cultural activities and the use of institutions to spearhead the revival and organization of cultural events will contribute positively to the peacebuilding efforts in the area. In the areas of sports and music, Foni and the wider West Coast Regional districts are well known for the production talents and any effort to strengthening the sectors through increased capacity and investments, will be a window of opportunity for peacebuilding.

Whilst not delving into all the reasons why, the TRRC Report does find that there is an ongoing decline in social networks in The Gambia particularly in certain communities. "Villagers in rural Gambia who previously had shared so much in common due to their multiple relationships and social and economic networks had now broken down into separate units and were not talking to each other out of fear for the other person or the perception that they were 'the enemy' and so on".

It is important to note that the long term national strategies are required to tackle this issue, the TRRC recommends that the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Youth Council (NYC) stay at the forefront of efforts to enhance social cohesion, employing, inter alia, a proven peacebuilding method in The Gambia- "the joking relationships culture", which through creative performance (sports, art and music), enhances indigenous knowledge of shared norms and values. In addition, institutions already working on fostering sports for peace and development like the National Sports Council, The Peace Ambassadors and Peace Hub-The Gambia are all stakeholders to be engaged in the common drive to maintaining peace and strengthening social cohesion.

Overall, The Gambia's peacebuilding situation remains fragile, challenged by the legacy of over two decades of autocratic rule, the complexities of rolling out a series of simultaneous, sensitive reforms since January 2017, as well as vulnerability to the emerging proliferation of conflicts in the region. According to the World Bank in 2022, The Gambia also remains vulnerable to future shocks such as new COVID-19 variants and weather-related risks. Although The Gambia's direct links with Russia and Ukraine are limited, the war is already increasing prices of food, fertilizer, and fuel and threatens to put the brakes on the global recovery, especially in its key tourism market, Europe.²⁸ Thus, whilst The Gambia is still navigating a delicate transition towards democratic governance, which is a complex, long-term process of creating the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and development, these unfortunate global economic realities have the potential to negatively impact on an already delicate prospects for strong social cohesion in The Gambia.

Mainstreaming of gender equality, women and youth empowerment

In this new phase of support, this Project will build on the existing partnerships between women and victim led CSOs and double its efforts on gender equality and women's empowerment. As it is apparent from the TRRC process that the lack of women in decision making positions has a direct and adverse effect on the inclusion of women and gendered issues, the Project will from the onset support strong advocacy on the appointment of women in upcoming decision-making positions, post-TRRC. Equally, all capacity building initiatives will include gendered perspectives and institutional support to CSOs, state institutions will be provided capacities on gender mainstreaming, and women and victim led organizations will continue to be made Project Responsible Parties, to ensure the active implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment focused initiatives. Overall, however, this Project notes that due to the deeply rooted patriarchal and other beliefs against women and girls in The Gambia, shrewd around an equally deep culture of silence around issues affected women and girls, there needs to be a long-term, intentional commitment to improving gender equality and women's empowerment in The Gambia. Thus, the Project will ensure that men in decision making positions, as well as young men as future decision-makers, are equally in the center of project interventions, as critical agents of change regarding the situation of Gambian women. All TRRC recommendations on peace and reconciliation efforts, and especially those with direct impact on the lives of women and girls, or other marginalized persons, will be supported- through adequate review and in other ways to ensure their comprehensive, participatory, and inclusive implementation.

Both young people and women will represent strategic beneficiaries of this project, as well as key partners. Regarding women, the project recognizes that despite strong legal and policy frameworks, women and girls continue to face significant discriminatory provisions in the law pertaining to the Personal Status of Women, and that the representation of women in political and public life remains a significant challenge, as translated by the following statistics: only 3 of the 22 Ministers (13.6 percent) in the current Cabinet are women, down from 21 percent in the previous Cabinet. Only 5 women sit in the current 58-seat National Assembly (8.6 percent), down from 10.3 percent in the previous National Assembly. And only 7 percent of Local Councils in The Gambia are women. These figures not only demonstrate the disparity in The Gambia's commitment to attaining gender equality in political participation and other aspects of life, but also indicate the volume of work at hand to building a democratic society where every citizen regardless of gender becomes a meaningful and active participant.

²⁸ The Gambia Economic Update: Coming Back Stronger, June 2022, The World Bank

Women's empowerment more broadly also is due to the weak gender-responsive/sensitive peacebuilding work in The Gambia, as demonstrated by the fact that several CSOs do not even have a gender strategy – a gap which will be addressed through this project.

- (b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**²⁹, how it ensures **national ownership**. If this project is designed in a PRF country, describe how the main objective advances a relevant strategic objective identified through the Eligibility Process

There is strong national ownership for this project. Firstly, this project is aligned with the overall goal of the National Development Plan (NDP) (2018-2022), aimed at “delivering social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalized and transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians.” More specifically, the project aligns with the 1st NDP strategic priority aimed at “restoring good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and empowering citizens through decentralization and local governance.” The project also furthers the Government's ambitions and ongoing efforts to establish an inclusive I4P/national peacebuilding architecture, as well as its efforts to implement the TRRC recommendations around national reconciliation and social cohesion, as detailed in the White Paper released in May 2022. The Peace and Reconciliation Commission will serve as the fulcrum of all Government reconciliation efforts as it relates to policy and strategy, strategic advice and support to peace and reconciliation programming and initiatives for national cohesion. The Peace and Reconciliation Commission is envisioned to have structures at the national and decentralized level to ensure that all parts of the country are involved. Against this backdrop, this project is timely in supporting the ongoing efforts of the Government towards the creation and proper coordination of a decentralized platform for national dialogue and consensus building.

Along similar perspective, the Government under Executive Order No 88 signed by President Barrow on December 19, 2019, established the National Center for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NCCRM) positioned under the Office of the Vice President. This mechanism serves as the statutory Board of the NCCRM, chaired by the Vice President with a membership of 12 Ministers and Head of Government Agencies.³⁰ The Center has a secretariat headed by a Director, and 5 thematic analysts charged with the responsibility to acquire quality, timely data, produce accurate information and monitor and evaluate the usage of the information in decision making, identify and forecast emerging crisis, identify improved response mechanisms or strategies to enhance crisis response and to prepare risk assessments, evaluation and recommendation for response to national and regional authorities.³¹ All of this will also contribute towards the consolidation of peace and democratic governance in The Gambia. The NCCRM will be a key ally and actor in the national peacebuilding architecture, eventually expected to work in collaboration with the PRC to share real

²⁹ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

³⁰ *Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Minister of Defence, Finance and Economic Affairs, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Interior 7. Justice, Health and Social Welfare, Agriculture, Speaker of the National Assembly Secretary General and Head of the Civil Service, the sector minister(s) or Agencies (depending on the nature of the crisis)*

³¹ The Centre's thematic analysts include Governance and rule of Law, Environmental, crime and criminality, security, and health.

time data/information and with the overall aim of preventing eruptions of violence and building peace across the country.

Regarding UN strategic frameworks, the proposal is also aligned with the 2017-2021 UNDAF outcome 1.2: Governance and Human Rights: Improving governance and fighting corruption - Institutional reforms implemented to ensure rule of law and guarantee the protection of the human rights of all, including access to justice, gender equality, access to basic services, and democratic participation in decision-making processes. The UNDAF outcomes aimed at contributing towards the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The interventions on hate speech and misinformation are designed in line with The Gambia UN Country Team's domesticated version of UN Strategy and Action Plan, with the objective of addressing the root causes and drivers of hate speech and misinformation. The domesticated Action Plan was also informed by the Government of The Gambia's concerns on the issue of hate speech and disinformation, especially as it is propagated through the news and social media. Based on the Action Plan, the interventions on hate speech are two-pronged) to increase support to national authorities and partners to address root causes, drivers, and conditions conducive to hate speech and misinformation, and ii) enhance support for policy and regulatory framework on addressing and countering incitement to hatred. These measures are in line with the international human rights norms and standards, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Similar alignment is also noticed with the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and its Support Plan, which obliges the UN and partners to scale up efforts to "re-establish peace and security and narrow inequalities to achieve lasting peace and prosperity under the stabilization and sustainability approaches of establishing and operationalization of peace infrastructure in furtherance of deepening, social cohesion, peace, and stability. Finally, the proposal will also support the overall UN political engagement strategy in The Gambia by supporting the government and civil society to build national capacities for conflict prevention and sustaining peace. The initiative will also leverage on the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the UN's Office for West Africa and the Sahel's vision to ensure national social cohesion and respect for the rule of law as prerequisite for the consolidation of peace.

- (c) A brief explanation of how the project fills any strategic gaps and complements any other relevant interventions, PBF funded or otherwise. Also provide a brief **summary of existing interventions** in the proposal's sector by filling out the table below.

Against the backdrop of the problems analysis described above, the current strategic gap is the in availability of an inclusive and coordinated national peace Infrastructure headed by an authority such as PRC to address inter and intra community disputes in collaboration with peace structures and institutions at the community level. At the institutional level, key national institutions that are traditionally left behind in peace-building work will be considered, including the National Center for Arts and Culture (NCAC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), The Gambia National Sports Council (NSC), among others. The establishment and operationalization of such an inclusive national peace infrastructure constitutes the missing link to the ongoing peacebuilding efforts in The Gambia following 22 years of dictatorship as it will address in a sustainable way tensions and conflicts within and between communities across the country while strengthening peace building institutions and structures and national and local levels. To better respond to the challenges of state fragility and

political tension in The Gambia, there is need for the country and its communities to adopt systematic and institutionalized ways to manage conflict and build sustainable peace.

Enhancing Fundamental Freedoms through the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

In addition to the joint UNDP, UNFPA and UNESCO project, UNESCO is actively supporting different initiatives and endeavors, in different projects, with the overall goal of consolidating peace and stability in The Gambia. Through another four-year project on ‘Enhancing Fundamental Freedoms through the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions’, UNESCO supported freedom of expression, media independence, and security of journalists in The Gambia. This PBF project complements above interventions by building consensus and understanding among journalists and journalism trainers on the limitations of freedom of expression and how hate speech is not free speech. The project would also help the media to shun conflict triggers from the news.

This project will complement the effort of the previous projects on peace building in The Gambia, building on some of the lessons learnt during the implementation phases to ensure the Infrastructure for Peace is established in order to promote social cohesion across the country.

The Post-TRRC Project implemented by UNDP and OHCHR is supporting the Government of The Gambia to create awareness of and improve capacities to implement recommendations made by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) using a consultative and participatory approach involving key national institutions such as the Police, Judiciary, National Human Rights Commission, and civil society organizations, with a special focus on victims’ and women’s organizations. The Project employs a broad approach in the design and implementation of its interventions, to include both immediate and prerequisite support to prepare for implementation, but also actual implementation of some recommendations, whilst ensuring the Government buy-in, ownership and commitment to the process and laying the foundation for continued implementation of TRRC recommendations beyond the Project duration. This new project is also mainly anchored within the post-TRRC context and will support the implementation of other recommendations, more specifically in view of supporting the establishment and operationalization of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission as one of the TRRC successor bodies; strengthening the competencies of a diverse, yet complementary, set of stakeholders to prevent and mitigate hate speech; and piloting the first-ever set of reconciliation and conflict prevention initiatives in the Foni where socially and economically excluded communities are increasingly becoming easy targets for the recruiting armed groups in Casamance.

Consolidating Democratic Governance for Development in The Gambia.

Implemented by UNDP since 2018, the overall aim of the project is strengthening the democratic character of the Gambia’s political processes and promoting outcomes that consolidate and advance democratic governance, peace, and accountability to achieve the country’s stated development priorities and goals and the sustainable development goals, especially SDGs 16. The project consists of 6 components: 1) Promoting credible, transparent, and sustainable electoral processes and political engagement; 2) Strengthening the National Assembly; 3) Promoting democracy, social cohesion and peace; 4) Civic engagement and enhancing participation by women, youth and other marginalized groups; 5) Supporting constitutional and legal reforms and 6) Strengthening institutional frameworks for accountability and citizen’s participation. This core UNDP project has since 2018 commenced the laying of a foundation and developing a framework through consultations for an I4P. This core project

will conclude in December 2023, and this new project is expected to consolidate its gains, in addition to supporting the enactment of the legal framework and operationalize a peace infrastructure in The Gambia, whilst working directly with affected communities and specifically on hate speech.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Support to the implementation and monitoring of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) recommendations in The Gambia. Implemented by UNDP and OHCHR between December 2021 - May 2024	PBF \$3,4million	Raise awareness around, and improve capacities to implement recommendations made by the TRRC	This project complements the post-TRRC project in the sense that the establishment of the peace infrastructure will create a platform to address the root cause of hate speech, discrimination, deepen social cohesion and foster reconciliation in divisive communities. Specifically, this project will support the TRRC's recommendations around the operationalization of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission.
Consolidating Democratic Governance for Development in The Gambia. Implemented by UNDP during January 2018 – December 2023	UNDP Core Resources (TRAC) approx. \$2,4million	Citizen voice and expectations for development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance	This core UNDP project has since 2018, commenced the laying of a foundation and developing a framework through consultations for an I4P. This core project will conclude in December 2023, and this new project is expected to consolidate its gains, and moreover, this new project will enact the legal framework, and operationalize a peace infrastructure in The Gambia, whilst working directly with affected communities and specifically on hate speech.
Young Women and Men as Stakeholders in Ensuring Peaceful Democratic Processes and Advocates for the Prevention of Violence and Hate Speech.	PBF \$2.2million	To address hate speech and counter dis-and misinformation of young people through media and community structures	This project will conclude in November 2022, and this new project will consolidate its gains and implement more focused strategies on the prevention of hate speech. While previous engagements have exposed the youth to

Implemented by UNFPA, UNDP and UNESCO between November 2020 - November 2022			<p>the dangers of hate speech and disinformation and committed them to play their respective roles in tackling the menaces, the project did not work on structural mechanisms capable of consistently addressing hate speech in various spheres (political, religious, media, etc.).</p> <p>Thus, this new project is more holistic, in that it looks at the issue of hate speech in the context of a post-TRRC Gambia and vis-à-vis the formal establishment of an I4P.</p>
<p>Jobs Skills and Finance.</p> <p>Implemented by ITC between January 2018 – December 2022</p>	EU 3.2million EUR	Supports income generation and jobs through investing in climate friendly infrastructure, skills development, and access to finance	Focuses on skills development for women and youth related to climate change adaptation. Synergies possible within this new project in the types of capacity building initiatives that can be implemented, on compressed stabilized earth blocks and agro-processing for example. This initiative covers West Coast Region but not specifically in the Fonis.
<p>Addressing the Drivers and Causes of Migration-related Vulnerabilities among Border Communities along the Trans-Gambia Transport Corridor.</p> <p>Implemented by ITC, IOM, UNICEF and UNDP between January 2022 – December 2024</p>	M-MPTF \$2,3million	The project focuses on mitigating migration challenges and improve the cross-border environment in North Bank and Lower River Region.	The Joint Programme is expected to mitigate migration challenges and improve the cross-border environment along the Senegambia bridge (in Jarra West and Upper Baddibou districts) by enhancing border posts, strengthening the capacity of border authorities, increasing awareness among women and youth of their rights, and strengthening skills and opportunities for women and youth. The community of Essau is mentioned in the TRRC Report as an area

			where social cohesion needs to be enhanced, the two initiative will complement each other in this endeavor through awareness raising and livelihood support.
Enhancing Fundamental Freedoms through the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Implemented by UNESCO between 2014 – 2017	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) SEK 400 million	It is a multi-country project, including The Gambia, that focuses on the areas of education, science, culture and communication and information.	This project supports education systems, freedom of expression and stronger media and security for journalists. The new PBF project seeks to build consensus and understanding among journalists, youth leaders and other stakeholders that hate speech is not free speech.

a) **Project content, strategic justification, and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)**

- a) A brief **description of the project** focus and approach – describe the project’s overarching goal, the implementation strategy, and how it addresses the conflict causes or factors outlined in Section I (must be gender- and age- responsive).

The project’s overarching goal is to strengthen inter and intra community relationships in The Gambia through strong coordination by the National Infrastructure for Peace (I4P), as well as through increased capacities of national peacebuilding and conflict prevention institutions. Combined, this approach would enable increased opportunities for stronger social cohesion in a post-TRRC Gambia. In this regard, the project strives towards three outcomes, namely:

1. Strengthened national peace architecture in line with key TRRC recommendations.

This outcome will support efforts towards the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC) as recommended by the TRRC and accepted by the Government in its White Paper. To achieve this, the project will first convene consultative conferences to gauge the views of existing peacebuilding structures on the membership, structure and powers of the PRC and matters relating to the coordination of The Gambia’s I4P. Support will also be provided to the drafting of the Peace and Reconciliation Bill and its cabinet papers. Additionally, the outcome will aim at strengthening capacities for peacebuilding institutions and actors in the country and in the absence of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission, provide technical support towards the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Unit at the Ministry of Interior and support coordination of peacebuilding institutions and interventions. 32

32 The Ministry of Interior with the support of UNDP is establishing the Peace Building Unit (PBU) to be based in the Ministry of Interior. The primary function of the PBU is to support the Government of The Gambia in the development and implementation of the government peace and reconciliation programmes. It serves as the fulcrum of all Government reconciliation efforts as relates to policy and strategy, strategic advice and support to peace and reconciliation programming for national initiatives. The PBU will play a central support role in coordination and collaboration with all key actors

2. Increased capacity to foster social and economic participation in targeted communities

The outcome will increase the capacity and services of institutions in sports and arts to foster social inclusion. This follows the recommendation of the TRRC report and evidence for the impact of sports and art on peacebuilding. Sport and art will be used as a vector to strengthen these institutions' overall capacity and services with specific focus given to the young people in the Foni given their important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security". Experience with the young population of The Gambia shows that football and art have a good pull factor in bringing communities together and involving diverse stakeholders. The outcome will also aspire to increase opportunities of economic participation for members in target communities. The project recognizes that long-term peace and stability rests on inclusive economic development, hence the third pillar to foster social inclusion focuses on the inclusion and participation of conflict-prone communities in economic activities. Decent livelihood is a key contributing factor to long-lasting peace and the project will therefore provide skills and business support programs to upgrade the livelihood opportunities while also providing social amenities like running water for selected conflict prone communities.³³

3. Strengthened capacities of media, CSOs and women, youth, political and religious leaders to address hate speech for improved social cohesion and conflict prevention

Specifically, the hate speech outcome is focused on enhancing the capacities and strengthening frameworks in the media, civil society, including youth associations, and relevant government agencies to play their rightful role in countering the menace of hate speech and dis/misinformation. The primary targets are actors such as political leaders, religious scholars, the media, and young people all of whom have a track record of propagation of hate speech or are prone to dis/misinformation in The Gambia. The nationwide community-level engagement on hate speech is targeted at communities like Foni, which, according to the TRRC report, were heavily impacted by the regime of former president Jammeh or are going through simmering tensions and divisions following the change of government. In line with the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, this component is also designed towards supporting a new generation of digital citizens that are empowered with media and

including government institutions, partners, private sector and civil society. The PBU will also support the Government in coordinating government efforts towards addressing various conflict issues that cut across the country, by engaging closely with local peace structures and supporting the Ministry of Interior in mediation efforts between and amongst conflicting parties including in concession areas.

³³ [1] P. Vernon, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development, State of Civil Society Report 2016, Civicus, 2016, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development .pdf (civicus. org) and International Alert (2021), Economic development and peace practice note series, <https://www.international-alert.org/publications/economic-development-and-peace-practice-note-series/>

[2] IAGSDP, Thematic paper: The contribution of sport to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, 2022, Thematic paper: The contribution of sport to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda | United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

[3] ILO, Jobs for peace and resilience: An ILO flagship programme, Key facts and figures, 2020, [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-promotion/recovery-and-reconstruction/WCMS_738531/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-promotion/recovery-and-reconstruction/WCMS_738531/lang-en/index.htm)

[4] Clark, Mary L., "The Creative Path to Peace: An Exploration of Creative Arts-based Peacebuilding Projects" (2019). *Creative Studies Graduate Student Master's Projects*. 293. <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/creativeprojects/293>

[5] P. Vernon, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development, State of Civil Society Report 2016, Civicus, 2016, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development .pdf (civicus. org) and International Alert (2021), Economic development and peace practice note series, <https://www.international-alert.org/publications/economic-development-and-peace-practice-note-series/>

[6] IAGSDP, Thematic paper: The contribution of sport to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, 2022, Thematic paper: The contribution of sport to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda | United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

information literacy skills to recognize, evaluate, and stand up to dis/misinformation as a recipe for hate speech and conflict.

Based on the above, it is worth highlighting that combined, the project will strengthen the national peacebuilding architecture through contributing to the implementation of specific TRRC recommendations, including i) support to the establishment and operationalization of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC) as one of the TRRC successor bodies; ii) strengthening the competencies of a diverse, yet complementary, set of stakeholders to prevent and mitigate hate speech; and iii) piloting the first-ever set of reconciliation and conflict prevention initiatives in conflict prone areas such as the Fonis, where socially and economically excluded communities (including Kanilai, the residential area of former president Yahya Jammeh) are increasingly becoming easy targets for the recruiting armed groups in Casamance. Under this objective, the project will also support to reduce community tensions around access to portable water, by providing such services in 2 of the most deprived communities in Kuntaur and Kerewan and supporting the inclusive and just management of this service.

Thus, to summarize, Outcome 1 supports critical legislative and policy developments that underpin the entire process, with special focus on the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission. Whilst it is recognized that legislative processes may extend beyond the duration of the project, foundations for the drafting of inclusive and robust laws, policies and strategies must be set and were possible implemented as a first step toward a strengthened national peacebuilding architecture. Besides this investment for long-term dividends, the project's Outcome 2 is designed to respond to glaring gaps on community level peacebuilding efforts. Using culturally appropriate and popular means, the project through these interventions seeks to promote the holding of those difficult, yet inevitable conversations between communities on strife and tensions. Under this Outcome, the project will also support tangible solutions to counter ongoing tensions, namely, the provision of portable water in 2 communities severely deprived in this regard. Whilst interventions under this Outcome are community-specific, Outcome 3 focuses on the implementation of national strategies against hate speech, an increasingly worrisome trend with potential to cause drawbacks on country's remarkable transitional justice and peace gains. As a reoccurring matter expected to flare particularly in connection to more polarized electioneering, the project shall under this Outcome ensure that national capacities to detect, response and prevent hate speech are in place.

- b) Provide a project-level 'theory of change' – explain the assumptions about why you expect the project interventions to lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis. What are the assumptions that the theory is based on? Note, this is not a summary statement of your project's outcomes.**

(Note: Change may happen through various and diverse approaches, i.e. social cohesion may be fostered through dialogue or employment opportunities or joint management of infrastructure. The selection of which approach should depend on context-specific factors. What basic assumptions about how change will occur have driven your choice of programming approach?)

By establishing a central and inclusive national Infrastructure for Peace in Post-TRRC period through legislations, and strengthening peace institutions and structures at the national and community levels, we can improve coordination, collaboration, and productive interactions among peace institutions, and contribute in a sustainable way to social cohesion,

By increasing the capacity and services of institutions in sports and arts, and increasing opportunities of economic participation for members in target communities, there will be promotion of peace and social cohesion in conflict-prone communities,

By providing technical support to enhance institutional mechanisms at the community level to deal with various types of disputes, we will contribute to the maintenance of peace by avoiding hate speech and incidents that risk escalating violence.

By creating a new dynamic at the level of governing bodies, embodying democratic values, and endowed with essential skills, we can promote the emergence of communities capable of leading more responsive effectively.

- c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components** (outcomes and outputs), ensuring sufficient attention to gender, age and other key differences that should influence the project approach. In describing the project elements, be sure to indicate important considerations related to sequencing of activities.

Outcome 1: Strengthened National peace architecture in line with key TRRC recommendations

Outcome 1 seeks to see The Gambia's National peace architecture strengthened. In this regard, the project will firstly seek to establish a critical infrastructure- the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, using a consultative and inclusive approach. The Project recognizes that the Ministry of Interior's Peacebuilding Unit required immediate technical and capacity support, and that the Project duration may not be enough to see the operationalization of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission. The Peacebuilding Unit at the Ministry of Interior has been fully established and is currently being led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and comprised of 4 technical staff, including one woman. The Unit is fully supported by the Government but there is a need for technical support through the project to be better equipped to respond to growing peacebuilding coordination demands on the Ministry.

Under this Outcome as well, the Project will support the Government to build on the strengthened national peace architecture – composed of many other stakeholders beyond the Peace and Reconciliation Commission- to develop and implement the National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The lack of such an Action Plan as a worrying normative peacebuilding gap, which this Project will seize the opportunity to support its development and some aspects of its implementation.

Finally, some activities under this Outcome target structures on early warning and early response include the National Elections Response Group (NERG), the Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat and its local branches, the Police Incident Command Centre and the Crisis Risk Dashboard. Furthermore, the Inter-Party committee on political dialogue and mediation. However, the project is designed to exercise flexibility and this support is also meant to respond to local structures that may be identified during project implementation cycle.

Outputs and activities under this Outcome include:

Output 1.1: Support towards the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission

Activity 1.1.1: Convene consultative conferences to gauge the views existing peacebuilding structures on the membership, structure and powers of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, as well as other matters relating to the coordination of The Gambia's I4P.

Activity 1.1.2: Support the drafting of the Peace and Reconciliation Bill and its cabinet papers.

Activity 1.1.3: Provide technical and financial support to the Government to adopt a consultative approach in the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.

The Project recognizing that under Outcome 1, it is critical that women, particularly young women are supported to fully participate and even lead in activities under this outcome, especially those relating to the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, to be a permanent, independent successor body to the TRRC. It shall be specified in the Terms of Reference of the Consultant to draft the Bill establishing the PRC that young women must be consulted severally during the drafting and validation process. Furthermore, to support the participation of women in drafting of the Peace and Reconciliation Bill and its cabinet papers, the project will engage with men and boys through advocacy efforts to address negative social norms, targeting specific groups like traditional and religious leaders' stakeholders, women, and girls in the communities on the importance of women's inclusion. Reason being that the process of reviewing the draft will involve community consultations. So, a good understanding of these issues will ensure their buy-in and ensuring women's perspectives are addressed by the Peace and Reconciliation Bill.

During the phase of consultative conferences, the project will organize problem-solving workshops bringing young women's rights groups, influencers, women civil society actors, women peace champions and women mediators to gauge the views of women on existing peacebuilding structures. Keeping in mind the power dynamics and cultural norms that may exist in some communities/ project areas, workshops, consultations, town hall meetings and training and capacity building sessions will be organized with women and girls only in the communities to better understand their perception and challenges with the peace structures.

Output 1.2: Strengthen capacities for peacebuilding institutions and actors

Noting the important role played by the PBU in the absence of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, this Output is focussed supporting the capacity of the PBU to carry out its function, vis-à-vis strengthening the capacity of peacebuilding institutions and actors as well. Since there are little existing policy frameworks on peacebuilding in The Gambia, with few national policies and practices to promote insider mediation, harmonious interfaith and intercommunal living and tolerance, some activities will be dedicated to address this gap. The project would provide support to national institutions to strengthen the existence of peacebuilding frameworks, and hopefully provide one platform for access to case studies, laws, policies, strategies, and news on peacebuilding.

Activities under this Output include:

Activity 1.2.1: In the absence of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission, provide technical support towards the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Unit (PBU) at the Ministry of Interior, to support coordination of peacebuilding institutions and efforts of the I4P TWG and other national, district and community early warning and response mechanisms, including the Peace and Reconciliation

Commission (trainings and the procurement of basic tools, furniture, and equipment to facilitate the work of the PBU)

Kindly note that under this activities, special attention shall be paid to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Specifically, the project will organize trainings for the PBU and entire staff of the Ministry of Interior, on the rights and role of women, empowerment, and political education programmes to build the self-esteem of women and girls for political participation and leadership, whilst helping them deal with the challenges in politics and leadership such as character assassination and cyber bullying, often of a sexual nature.

Activity 1.2.2: In collaboration with community peace institutions and structures, convene community-based meetings to create awareness in the communities of the national peace structure, its role and community support needed for sustainability.

Activity 1.2.3: Support the PBU to develop internal organizational and policy documents/tools (i.e., strategic and resource mobilization plans; communications strategy; gender strategy; human and financial resources management policies) for I4P actors, as well as a Practice Guide on Conflict Resolution, Early Warning and Early Response in collaboration with NCCRM.

Activity 1.2.4: Build capacity of peace building institutions and structures on conflict early warning systems, Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanisms and the facilitation of dialogue process and mediation efforts, etc.in collaboration with institutions having similar mandates.

Specifically, this activity and Activity 1.2.2 will work with women influencers, musicians, women role models, women community leaders and women led advocacy groups to create awareness in the communities and socialize the national peace structure and the benefits to women. In this regard, the project will promote mentorship programmes between women peacebuilding in various institutions, to ensure that capacity building is continued beyond workshops and training initiatives. Notwithstanding this, capacity building sessions will be tailored to the physical and other logistical realities of women participants, particularly those in rural communities with limited time during the day to concentrate on activities beyond daily chores, or limited access to technology. In terms of topics, training topics will focus on for example, Gender and Vulnerable Groups in peacebuilding, and Gender and cultural dimensions of conflict to emphasize the role of women in peacebuilding, thereby creating enabling environment for more women and girls to join peacebuilding efforts in The Gambia.

Activity 1.2.5: Conduct a risk and threat assessments to update, understand, and align the peace and security dynamics in The Gambia with the work of the I4P.

Activity 1.2.6: Support the development and strengthening of legislative and policy frameworks for peacebuilding

Outcome 2: Increased capacity to foster social and economic participation in targeted communities

To foster social inclusion the outcome will rely on three pillars, namely sport and art, economic participation and access to portable water. Further description of these output areas are provided below:

Output 2.1 Improved/ strengthened performance and service portfolio of institutions at national and community level using sports and the use of the creative industry (as a vector)

Following the recommendation of the TRRC report and evidence for the impact of sports and art on peacebuilding, the project is using sport and art as a vector to strengthen these institutions' overall capacity and services. In line with the UNSCR 2250 core message, this outcome focuses on young people in the Foni as it recognises their "important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security".³⁴ Based on experience with the young population of The Gambia, football and art have a good pull factor in bringing communities together and involving diverse stakeholders. The focus will be on systematically strengthening the capacity and service delivery of the involved institutions (National Sports Council, The Gambia Football Federation, Regional Sports Association and the National Council for Arts and Culture). As highlighted by the thematic paper of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Sport for Development and Peace, this output will also use sports, particularly football, as an effective tool for community development, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Moreover, sport has been identified as tool to prevent extremism in youth and hence directly contributes to conflict prevention.³⁵ Sport has the power to build relationships across cultural, economic, or social divides,³⁶ and activities under this output will be informed by previously tested and successful engagements by ITC, most notably, through the Kick For Trade³⁷ (K4T) initiative. The developed curriculum of the K4T focuses on life-skills such as self-confidence, communication, analysing and solving problems or adaptability - life skills that are critical on and off the football pitch and ultimately foster peaceful coexistence, communication, and social cohesion. Particularly the sessions, *Fit for Change*, *Team Players* and *Build your Resilience or From Conflict to Collaboration* are directly connected to foster social cohesion within the communities.³⁸ Through institutions like the National Sport Council, the Peace Ambassadors and the Peace Hub-The Gambia as well as using the Secondary Schools Sports Association, the message of sport as a tool for peacebuilding will be disseminated and structurally embedded.

Overall, there are over 15 associations registered with the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC) and over 10 sports associations registered with the (National Sports Council) including women led associations like the Female Artist Association and the Women in Sports Consortium, which will be provided with dedicated support during implementation. In addition, through TANGO, the project will also assess all active peacebuilding institutions with the association. The project will work on supporting the respective associations earmarked for technical assistance (and structured training of these institutions on their peacebuilding mandate), particularly those that are newly established, and/or women or youth led.

³⁴ https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2022-07/Thematic%20Paper_Sport%20and%20YPS_07122021_FINAL_for%20publication_0.pdf

³⁵ https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2022-07/Thematic%20Paper_Sport%20and%20YPS_07122021_FINAL_for%20publication_0.pdf

³⁶ see UNOSDP, Sport and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2016

³⁷ <https://yep.gm/tool/kick-trade>

Kick for Trade, Life-Skills Curriculum for Entrepreneurship and employability, 2020; [5f3cfb3e1d295469632298.pdf](https://yep.gm/tool/kick-trade) (yep.gm)

The associations supported in the form of technical assistance will roll out community interventions in culture, arts and sports to deliver activities in specific community through grants or start-up support. Community associations like the Kanfenda Youth Development Association, Bwiam Youth and Women Development Association etc all have important roles to support the roll out initiatives geared towards the promotion of social cohesions at community level. These associations will be supported to initiate and roll of sporting and cultural activities- like the Bujinga Festival, the Kankurang Festival and other related activities over the duration of the project with a clear sustainability plan in place. Special attention shall be provided to women-led associations to successful intervene in their communities, whilst aiming to simultaneously promote gender equality and women's empowerment through their activities.

The effectiveness of arts and sports are particularly mentioned in the TRRC recommendations for peacebuilding. It is important to note that the long term national strategies are required to tackle this issue, the TRRC recommends that the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Youth Council (NYC) stay at the forefront of efforts to enhance social cohesion, employing, inter alia, a impactful method in The Gambia- "the joking relationships culture", which through creative performance (sports, art and music), enhances indigenous knowledge of shared norms and values. ITC, UNDP, UNESCO and stakeholders (peace actors) will organise trainings on the best strategies for community engagement, as well as around communication strategies on peacebuilding. This will be followed by step-down trainings in the target communities, artistic production for awareness and advocacy in peacebuilding will be supported, including the production of music, poetry, dance, comedy, and local products made in The Gambia

Activities under this output include:

Activity 2.1.1: Engage with national sector associations and institutions in conflict-prone communities to support implementation of conflict prevention and social cohesion initiatives

This includes i) Assessments – There are over 15 associations registered with the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC) and over 10 sports associations registered with the (National Sports Council). In addition, through TANGO, the project will also assess all active peace building institutions with the association. Despite the target of 10-8 institutions, the project will work on supporting the respective associations - \$60k earmarked for technical assistance (and structured training of these 8-10 institutions on their peacebuilding mandate; ii) Community Intervention- these 8-10 institutions in culture, arts and sports will each be supported to deliver activities in specific community - \$10k (on average) is earmarked per institution to roll out activities at target communities; iii) Support to local sports and cultural associations/events- Community associations like the Kanfenda Youth Development Association, Bwiam Youth and Women Development association etc all have important roles to support the roll out initiatives geared towards the promotion of social cohesions. These associations will be supported to initiate and roll of sporting and cultural activities- like the Bujinga Festival, the Kankurang Festival and others- \$30k is allocated for such over the project lift cycle (3yrs).

Activity 2.1.2: Improve physical infrastructure of institutions to support on social cohesion measures on national level and in targeted communities (materials, refurbishment of facilities etc.)

Activity 2.1.3: Reinforce/ strengthen technical capacities of institutions through ToTs to deliver on their mandate (concept of Sports for Peace and Development/ K4T curriculum)

Activity 2.1.4: Roll-out of awareness raising initiatives, orientational engagement and step-down trainings in target communities to increase social cohesion

Activity 2.1.5: Training and coaching of institutions' members, artists and traditional communicators on peacebuilding communication techniques and production of such material, e.g. intertribal joking relationships "Kal".

Output 2.2: Increased opportunities of economic participation for members in target communities

The project recognizes that long-term peace and stability rests on inclusive economic development³⁹. Hence, the third pillar to foster social inclusion focuses on the inclusion and participation of conflict-prone communities in economic activities. The need for decent livelihoods is one of the four necessary conditions to contribute to long-lasting peace⁴⁰. Under this output, the project will on the one hand provide skills and business support programs to upgrade the livelihood opportunities and on the other hand provide social amenities like running water for selected conflict prone communities. The selection of these communities would be determined by several factors, including but not limited to, the findings and recommendations of the TRRC, susceptibility of the community, needs assessment reports and the level of implementation of existing socio-economic strategies. Business Support Institutions will be systematically strengthened to improve the availability of economic support to these conflict-prone communities. Next to trainings, small businesses will be supported with start-up kits, as well as a range of market linkage activities to ensure impactful and successful business endures. This may include initiatives like agro-processing, including packaging, backyard poultry, solar installations, and charging, as well as craft production in the form of soap making and batik. Following the idea of "Trade Connects," both inter-and intra-community businesses will benefit from these activities. By integrating the economic development perspective in peacebuilding, the foundation is laid to foster long-lasting peace and social cohesion.⁴¹ Beneficiaries will receive tailored business coaching to enhance sustainability of the initiative and their businesses. This includes linkages or memberships to national and regional chambers of commerce like the Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce, Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce and the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Under this Output, the Project will promote a do no harm approach by ensuring that community members themselves are the forefront of the design and selection of beneficiaries. The process to be employed will be community driven and include representation of women, youth, the elderly, victims of the previous regime, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. For instance, in the Foni (the main intervention for the use of arts, sports and livelihood initiatives to strengthen social cohesion as advised by the TRRC recommendations) there are five (5) target constituencies to be assessed at constituency level (Foni Brefet, Foni Bintang, Foni Kansala, Foni Bondali and Foni Jarrol). It is expected that a minimum of 20 communities will be selected for the intervention. Each community will be asked through its VDC, women and youth association, etc. to nominate beneficiaries (based on

39 ^[1] P. Vernon, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development, State of Civil Society Report 2016, Civicus, 2016, Building peace and stability through inclusive economic development .pdf (civicus. org) and International Alert (2021), Economic development and peace practice note series
40 p. 72

<https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/SOCS/2016/Building%20peace%20and%20stability%20through%20inclusive%20economic%20development%20.pdf>

41 <https://www.international-alert.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Economy-Peace-Through-Prosperity-EN-2015.pdf>

need, gender, availability, interest etc) to partake in agreed community initiative (skills training and entrepreneurship).

This method was tested in the PBF Climate change project and have proven to be effective, inclusive and representative. The mode of selection will be explained thoroughly during the constituency assessments and consultation session for the identification of training needs for social cohesion. The objective of the consultations is to gather all villages (VDCs, associations, youth groups, women groups) in each constituency attend the assessment in the form of FGDs. The project team, government representatives with partners like the Gambia Red Cross Society will then engage the groups to tease out information on general issues (specific to tensions or conflicts within or between communities) and then request from the group to propose peace building solutions using arts, sports and livelihood initiatives. Implementing partners rolling out the initiatives agreed upon from the assessments, will then use the selection criteria established jointly for the selection of participants.

Furthermore, the project will promote the sustainability of its economic activities using a multipronged approach. Firstly, the project will ensure the inclusion of the private sector in project implementation, including through the promotion of partnerships between local start up initiatives with private businesses. These partnerships would leverage on special relationships between private businesses and relevant communities, including diasporan associations often seeking to contribute to the socio-economic development of their local communities. Furthermore, the project will anchor all the economic activities supported under Outcome 2 with respective national institutions (with national budgetary allocations) for continuous joint-resource mobilization efforts. Finally, project interventions will provide broad and versatile skills training to project beneficiaries, increasing their ability to diversify income generating efforts.

Activities under this output include:

Activity 2.2.1: Assess the livelihood needs and existing service provision of communities for socio-economic programmes

Activity 2.2.2: Support implementation of programmes identified to address livelihood needs through skills and entrepreneurship trainings as well as local product development, incl. joint and/ or inter-community initiatives

Activity 2.2.3: Provide start-up support to MSMEs and community initiatives

Activity 2.2.4: Provide market linkage activities (through fairs, lumos (roving markets) and regional markets) for selected beneficiaries

It is important to note that Activity 2.2.2 is designed to provide skill and entrepreneurship trainings-community trainees/beneficiaries will be supported (tuition payment) to acquire relevant livelihood skills training (e.g., stove making, batik, bee keeping, TVET etc). In addition, trainees/beneficiaries will be exposed to entrepreneurship training in local language to prepare them to start and improve their businesses/ventures. Activity 2.2.3 is purposely designed to provide complimentary support to the beneficiaries. This component of the project is earmarked provide support in the form of inputs, materials and or, working capital to strengthen the businesses created.

Output 2.3: Improved access to portable water and strengthened inter-community relations in targeted, deprived communities

The project will provide water to selected communities, leveraging on similar support and the successes of UNDP's Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD).⁴² The PACD is funded by the Government of The Gambia, supporting international development norms that invite a multisectoral approach to reducing inequalities in hard-to-reach areas in The Gambia. The PACD does not only enhance access to basic services, such as portable water, but also facilitate co-existence and build relationships. This would improve social contact amongst community inhabitants, and lead to a reduction in the time spent by communities, especially women and children in fetching water which in many cases in rural settings in The Gambia can consume up to 4 hours per day.

The peacebuilding/conflict prevention-neutralization lens behind this Output would be that access to water in deprived communities would strengthen inter and intra-community relations. Previous assessments by UNDP under the PACD reveal that Kerewan and Kuntaur remain two of the most deprived communities in The Gambia on access to portable water, which the programme does not currently target. Thus, the construction of Solar Powered Water Drinking Systems (SPWDS) in Kerewan and Kuntaur would not only reduce the burden and travelling distance of approximately 16,000⁴³ by women and children to and from each water sources, but also enhance community interactions. Prior to the commencement of the project, a baseline survey will be conducted to ascertain the travel distance and time for women and children in these communities, and the number of adversely affected persons.

Similar to the PACD methodology, financial management committees, representative of different population groups, would be constituted and capacitated to run the day-to-day affairs of the water systems- the amount of money to be collected from each household will be deployed towards the maintenance and operations of the system. Having all groups represented in the committees, including those identified as conflicting and the left behind/disadvantaged people, especially women, would enhance a sense of oneness and promote peace. Whilst the project will support the construction of SPWDS, it is important to note that the crux of its intervention is around the establishment and operations of the financial management committees, for sustainability purposes, and importantly, in ensuring that women are part of decision-making processes in their communities and local government.

Local contractors would be relied upon to the extent possible, to deepen local ownership of the support, and the sustainability of these interventions are linked to both the community and the central Government's direct investment in this process, the Government of The Gambia in December 2022 announcing the further investment of 28 million GMD (approx. 500,000 USD) in the PACD.

Activities under this output include:

Activity 2.3.1: Building on the PACD feasibility study, conduct rapid assessment in Kerewan and Kuntaur to identify emerging consequences of lack of portable water, including through community consultations and focus group discussions

Activity 2.3.2: Construction of (2) Solar Powered Water Drinking Systems (SPWDS) (Borehole) to reduce frustration in Kerewan and Kuntaur

Activity 2.3.3: Facilitate supervision and water iron content testing by Department of Water Resources

⁴² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ix1grzHbQM>

⁴³ <https://www.gbosdata.org/topics/population-and-demography/percentage-distribution-of-the-population-by-lga-a>

Activity 2.3.4: Support the establishment and capacity building of inclusive, gender-balanced, financial management committees

Activity 2.3.5: Hold an event to Launch the SPWDS

Outcome 3: Strengthened capacities of media, CSOs and women, youth, political and religious leaders to address hate speech for improved social cohesion and conflict prevention

Output 3.1: Availability of evidence-based information on hate speech and enhanced capacity of key political and religious actors to spur countering actions

The main activity under this output is focused on research to generate data and information on the prevalence of hate speech, root causes, drivers, impact, perpetrators, and channels, in order to understand the menace and take relevant action to best address and/or mitigate its impact. This is the first time that such a national scale in-depth research will be conducted in The Gambia and it is in line with the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech which commits UN agencies to monitor, collect data, and analyze hate speech trends. It builds up on and expands the research on hate speech prevalence in the media commissioned by UNDP under a PBF-funded project entitled: ‘Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech’. While that research was limited in scope as it only looked at prevalence in the media, this one has a national approach, with a key focus on hate speech against women (sexist hate speech) and cyberbullying of women.

Although the methodology will be developed and finalized by a team of technical experts, the key research approach would be retrospective monitoring and mapping, and content analysis. The research will analyze archives of messages to identify the substantive issues, as well as track hate speech trends, and if possible, location and hot spots. The findings will address the dearth of information and lack of national benchmark and baseline on hate speech in The Gambia. While UN’s position is that tackling hate speech is the responsibility of all, lack of evidence-based information has been one of the main obstacles in efforts to tackle the menace by stakeholders in The Gambia. For example, it’s for a lack of information that bodies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) overlooked hate speech in their early engagements and pronouncements. The same is true for civil society organizations and the media.

It is expected that the capacity building of early warning systems under Outcome 1 of the Project will promote the objectives of the Project under Outcome 3 in that early warning organisations like WANEP, which is also a partner in the operationalization of the Crisis Risk Dashboard and the National Elections Response Group- early warning systems- will be engaged during the research segment of Outcome 3.

The second component of this output is a follow-up assessment. Since research on prevalence requires careful monitoring and follow-up to ascertain the trend, towards the end of the project, at least one year after launching the findings of the national research, there will be a follow up assessment. This exercise will build up on the lessons learned and identify possible additional aspects of hate speech that might not have been covered in the maiden national research.

While the national research will be led by an international consultant working with a team of local experts, the follow-up assessment will be nationally delivered, under the leadership of NHRC. During the maiden national assessment, the international consultant will work with a team comprising representatives of the NHRC, Gambia Press Union, and WANEP. The three agencies are strategically

identified: NHRC has a general mandate on human rights and hate speech is an abuse of human rights; GPU as the body for journalists is responsible for the Gambian media which is found to be used albeit innocently as a conduit for hate speech; and WANEP as the leading civil society working in the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, does occasional peace situation watch and is also involved in monitoring and data collection for the UN Crisis Dashboard in The Gambia. The selection of these entities is part of efforts to identify and support actors who challenge hate speech, a key commitment of the UN in the Plan of Action. Meanwhile, the national research processes, under the leadership of the international consultant, will serve as a skills transfer process for the three institutions to be able to individually and jointly undertake hate speech research, after the project. Most importantly, they will be constituted as the national expert team on hate speech to conduct the follow-up assessment on the prevalence and recommend right-centered measures aimed at countering retaliatory hate speech and escalation of violence.

In the third and final year of the project, the final component of this output will be implemented. The focus here is to tackle the key issues highlighted in the research and follow-up assessment. Therefore, in this component, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), together with the Inter-Party Committee, will benefit from technical and financial support to engage religious scholars and political leaders (known perpetrators of hate speech) at national and regional levels on sensitization on hate speech. All these three entities are already active in sensitizing and educating people on different thematic issues bordering on respect for diversity, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, and respect for human rights. But none have hate speech in their sensitizations. Therefore, they will first benefit from technical support to mainstream and integrate hate speech sensitizations in their engagements. Since they have different comparative strengths, they will each receive financial support to begin the implementation of their hate speech-integrated programs. For example, given that religious leaders are known key propagators of hate speech in The Gambia, UNESCO will partner with NHRC to engage religious leaders from the two major religious denominations, Islam and Christianity, and their respective sects, in sensitizations and symposia on hate speech. A similar partnership will be reached with the IEC, working with the Inter-Party Committee, to receive similar support to engage political leaders across the country given that the political arena is also a key known ground for hate-filled rhetoric. The NCCE, with strength in community civic engagement, will lead the interface at regional levels, especially in communities like Foni, which, according to the TRRC report, were heavily impacted by the regime of former president Jammeh or are going through simmering tensions and divisions, following the change of government. After the project support, these entities should be able to continue implementing hate speech-mainstreamed activities since they receive annual government allocation for their operations. UNESCO, through the NCCE, will coordinate with ITC to engage in communities where the impact will be felt the most.

Key activities under this output include:

Activity 3.1.1: National research on the prevalence of hate speech online and offline, mapping out the root causes, drivers, impact, perpetrators, and channels, to generate data for an evidence-based response.

Activity 3.1.2: Conduct of follow-up to national assessment of hate speech trends to update the initial national research

Activity 3.1.3 Capacity building for NHRC, IEC, IPC and NCCE on mainstreaming hate speech

Activity 3.1.4 Organization of national and regional sensitization on hate speech targeting religious leaders

Activity 3.1.5 In partnership with IEC and IPC, embark on national and regional sensitization targeting political leaders on hate speech

Activity 3.1.6 Organization of community sensitization (in all seven regions) on hate speech, noting that local CSOs and youth organization will be selected in line with UNESCO's procedure i.e., call for proposals will be issued, and eligible organization will be recruited and selected. Ideally, those organizations that benefited from previous training on hate speech and MIL will be prioritized. In any case, selected organizations will use the UNESCO module for community sensitization on hate speech or such modules as approved by UNESCO.

Output 3.2: Enhanced capacities of CSOs and young people on Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

This output is in direct response to the principle of the UN to support the empowerment of a new generation of digital citizens as a critical component of addressing hate speech. It is also in line with UNESCO's global approach to tackling the rising phenomenon of hate speech and dis/mis-information through education. All the activities under output are designed to equip CSOs and young people as active social media users, to counter hate speech and dis/misinformation through media and information literacy (MIL). Through capacity building on MIL and sensitization on hate speech, civil society and youth leaders will be provided with concrete knowledge, practical skills, and simple tools for more active engagement in countering disorder and hate speech and dis/mis-information. In countries like The Gambia with simmering religious and ethnic tensions, dis/mis-information can be used to whip up hatred of specific groups, as happened in Nigeria in 2018. There, manipulated and decontextualized images disseminated on Facebook were used to incite violence between Muslims and Christians belonging to different ethnic groups. In view of this and building up on the trainings provided to youth leaders on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) under the PBF-funded project entitled: 'Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech', more national and regional youth organizations will be supported with technical and financial capacity on mainstreaming MIL into their programs and actions.

While the 10 organizations that mainstreamed MIL into their programs will be supported to implement more MIL-mainstreamed activities, an additional 10 organizations across the country, including women-only organizations, will benefit from similar technical and financial support at regional and national levels. Although the organizations will be competitively selected through a call for a proposal, priority will be first given to organizations that participated in MIL trainings organized by UNESCO in the last two years under a previous PBF-funded project. CSOs like Gambia Press Union and WANEP which are already in the forefront of efforts to tackle hate speech and dis/mis-information will be prioritized for inclusion in this segment. After successful mainstreaming (inclusion) of MIL into their programs and policies, even organizations that may not traditionally focus on MIL will begin to implement their normal routine activities with elements of MIL included. With the implementation of the MIL-mainstreamed activities, an estimate of at least 300 young people, across all the regions, would be reached.

In addition, under this output, UNESCO will pilot its **MIL CLICKS**⁴⁴ initiative which aims to mainstream the development of MIL skills into daily online interaction. On social media, UNESCO MIL CLICKS share knowledge, tips, and resources and provide people with insight. Through channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, MIL CLICKS social media strategy engages people to play, learn and use MIL skills, know how to evaluate information and how to identify, and to find credible sources. Students and young people across the country will be sensitized and recruited to join the global online community of MIL CLICKers to build, practice and hone their MIL skills creatively and critically. A total of 150 MIL CLICKers, including at least 40% girls, will be recruited from across the country, including senior secondary schools.

Activities under this output include:

Activity 3.2.1: Capacity building and technical support to selected CSOs, including youth associations, on mainstreaming MIL into their programs and policies.

Activity 3.2.2: Technical and financial support to 10 selected CSOs and youth associations to pilot the implementation of MIL-mainstreamed activities.

Activity 3.2.3: Sensitization of 150 young people, including students, across the country on MIL-CLICK, noting that an average of 20 will be selected from each of the seven administrative regions of The Gambia. At the regional level, 50% of the participants will be selected from high schools and other 50% from community-based youth associations. Overall, at least 40% of the participants will be girls. The actual participant selection will be done by the schools and the associations respectively.

Output 3.3.3: Strengthened the media's institutional capacity and mechanisms to counter hate speech and disinformation

This output focuses on enhancing the institutional capacity and regulation of the media to play their respective rightful roles in the fight against hate speech, as outlined in the UN Plan of Action against Hate Speech.

Given that the media is used as a conduit in the propagation of hate speech, dedicated activities under this output are designed to establish and strengthen existing mechanisms to shield the media from such menace. These activities include capacity building of at least 15 journalism educators, mainly from the two leading journalism training providers, the University of The Gambia (UTG), and the Media Academy for Journalism and Communications (MAJAC), in the form of training of trainers on hate speech and fact-checking. The training will be followed by the development of standard training/teaching modules on hate speech and fact checking for integration in relevant courses taught at the two schools. To pilot the training modules, the two schools will be jointly supported, financially, to deliver in-service training to journalists on hate speech and fact checking. In addition to capacity development, a key component of the engagement with the media is to strengthen the self-regulatory framework. The GPU will be given technical and financial support to lead the review of its national ethical code for journalists, the Cherno Jallow Charter of Ethics for Journalists, to include explicit pointers to hate speech and careless propagation of dis/misinformation.

⁴⁴ More information here: <https://en.unesco.org/MILCLICKS>

In addition, to boost credibility, reputation and for the purposes of resource mobilization, the national fact-checking platform established by UNESCO, Fact-Check Gambia, will be supported to attain membership status of the International Fact-Checking Network⁴⁵ (IFCN), a global leader in fact-checking excellence. IFCN members benefit from an array of grants, fellowships and other forms of professional capacity development, and an opportunity to connect with fact-checkers around the world. IFCN members also have the power not only to debunk false and misleading claims, but to reduce the claims' circulation on major social media platforms, notably on Facebook, through IFCN's 3rd Party Fact-Checking programme⁴⁶. However, becoming an IFCN members goes through a rigorous application process which includes legally registering the entity, and publishing an average of at least one factcheck a week over the course of six months prior to the date of application. Therefore, Fact Check Gambia will be provided with technical and financial support to be able to meet up the requirement. Becoming a member of IFCN is a key part of the sustainability measures of the national platform. Already, since launching in October 2021, Fact Check Gambia published a total of about 100 articles, including graphical illustrations (as of September 2022). Based on the website analytics, on average, articles published on the website receive 275 clicks. On the platform's Facebook page, each article reaches an average of 750 people, as indicated by the number of clicks on each post. However, the number of stories published, and the quality of some, is less than the average requirement for IFCN members. These, couple with the fact that the organization is not legally registered as an entity, mean it needs support.

Activities under this output include:

Activity 3.3.1: Training of trainers of journalism educators on the teaching of hate speech and fact-checking modules

Activity 3.3.2: Development of training modules on hate speech and fact-checking for journalism schools and pilot delivery of the modules

Activity 3.3.3: Technical support for the participative review of the national Code of Conduct for Journalists to include provisions on countering hate speech and dis/mis-information.

Activity 3.3.4: Technical and financial support to boost the operational capacity of fact-checking organization in Gambia

On Activity 3.3.4, a consultant will be recruited to work with the organization to prepare a constitution for the purpose of registering it as a legal entity. This legal registration in The Gambia will further eligible it for membership of the International Fact Checking Network which is the global body of fact checking organizations. The registration of the organization as a legal entity and its membership of IFCN enhances its ability to raise fund on its own to sustain its operations.

Use Annex C to list all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.

- d) Project targeting** – provide a justification for geographic zones, criteria for beneficiary selection, expected number and type of stakeholders/beneficiaries (must be disaggregated by sex and age). Indicate whether stakeholders have been consulted in the design of this proposal. Do not repeat all outputs and activities from the Results Framework.

⁴⁵ More on IFCN here: <https://www.poynter.org/ifcn/about-ifcn/>

⁴⁶ More on the programme here: <https://www.facebook.com/formedia/mjp/programs/third-party-fact-checking>

This project is wide ranging in scope and targets institutions at the national, local and district levels. The proposed geographical coverage will be nationwide, targeted all the 5 administrative region of the Gambia and 2 municipalities. Specifically, activities will be carried out in the Greater Banjul Area (Banjul and Kanifing Municipal Council), West Coast Region (Kombo North, South, East, and the Fonis), Lower River Region (Mansa Konko), North Bank Region (Kerewan), Central River Region (Janjanbureh) and Upper River Region (Basse). Whilst government Ministries, Agencies and Departments are mostly found in the Greater Banjul Area, the TRRC Report identifies that communities most affected by ex-President Jammeh's regime are found in the North Bank Region, West Coast Region and Upper River Region. Activities relating to community engagements (sports, the use of the creative industry for understanding and advocacy, as well as livelihood to improve community inter and intracommunity relationship) would focus in Foni communities Foni constituencies (Foni Brefet, Foni Bintang, Foni Kansala and Foni Bondali and Foni Jarrool) , but the selection of specific communities to engage would be determined by pre-existing strategies, needs assessment and other reports. To establish the national peace architecture and institutional capacities, the project will collaborate with different stakeholders including WANEP; National Assembly; TANGO; University of The Gambia; Ministry of Interior; Office of the President- Department of Strategic and Delivery (DSPD) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

At level of outcome 1 and 2, the project target is to achieve 70% of community members at intervention areas to demonstrate improved understanding of social cohesion at community level. Under output 1.1. the project will target the main beneficiaries on the I4P as follows: 120 early warning monitoring officers drawn from Government ministries, community leaders including women, youth leaders, religious and traditional institutions, and regional local councils (60 men & 60 women). Members of the I4P TWG, particularly WANEP have over the years trained several early warning monitoring officers, including CSOs and the Police, particularly before, during and after elections. These officials do not have local offices per se but are based in their respective work offices and regularly monitor and report on tensions and conflicts around the country. It is a project ambition to provide technical support to at least 120 early warning monitoring officers covering the entire country.

Under output 2.1, the project will upgrade 3 sports facilities for young men and women to explore as safe social spaces, as well as train 20 coaches (15 men and 5 women) to serve as Kick for Trade coaches delivering the curriculum on Sports for Peace and Development. During these activities, the project will also target prominent women traditional communicators to produce and disseminate peace messages and serve as local peace ambassadors. In the area of alternative livelihood support as it relates to output 2.2, while ITC will interactively train 200 community members from the Fonis on various skills (maximizing the potentials of Ndemban Skills Centre in the Foni to provide TVET programs) and provide business support (140 women and 60 men), UNDP will aim to drill 2 Solar Powered Water Drinking Systems (SPWDS) to reduce the burden and travelling distance of approximately 16,000⁴⁷ women and children to and from each water sources and enhance community interactions. Prior to the commencement of the project, a baseline survey will be conducted to ascertain the travel distance and time for women in the identified communities. The project will promote a do no harm approach by ensuring that community members themselves are the forefront of the design and selection of beneficiaries. The process to be employed will be community driven and include representation of women, youth, the elderly, victims of the previous regime, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. For instance, in the Fonis (the main intervention for the use of arts, sports and

⁴⁷ <https://www.gbosdata.org/topics/population-and-demography/percentage-distribution-of-the-population-by-lga-a>

livelihood initiatives to strengthen social cohesion as advised by the TRRC recommendations) there are five (5) target constituencies to be assessed at constituency level (Foni Brefet, Foni Bintang, Foni Kansala, Foni Bondali and Foni Jarrol). It is expected that a minimum of 20 communities will be selected for the intervention. Each community will be asked through its VDC, women and youth association, etc. to nominate beneficiaries (based on need, gender, availability, interest etc) to partake in agreed community initiative (skills training and entrepreneurship).

Under output 3.1 a total of at least 100 religious, and political leaders, respectively, (at least 30 women) in all the seven administrative regions of The Gambia will be engaged. While political leaders at both national and regional level will be the target under this output, the religious leaders will be identified through the respective religious denominations in the country. Output 3.2 is targeted at youth and civil society organizations across the country. At least 10 organizations and 150 young men and women (at least 40 women) are targeted as direct beneficiaries. While the national organisations will be selected through an expression of interest, community-based organisations, which are often not connected to grid, will be selected based on activeness in the community or recommendation by the National Youth Council. Output 3 will target journalism training providers, and senior journalists in The Gambia. The two leading journalism training schools, public and private, are specifically targeted for this intervention. The Gambia Press Union, the umbrella body of journalists in the country, will benefit from a review of its industry-wide Code of Conduct for Journalists in The Gambia. All in all, under Outcome 3, an average of 40% women beneficiaries across the country are earmarked. In a nutshell, wherever selection of organisations is involved, it is done competitively through a call for proposals. The only exception is where only one organization is involved in a particular aspect, for example, the Gambia Press Union is the only umbrella body for journalists in The Gambia. Other organizations like WANEP are also considered as exception because of their niche area and track record in working with the UN.

a. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- **Recipient organizations and implementing partners** – list all direct recipient organizations and their implementing partners (international and local), specifying the Convening Organization, which will coordinate the project, and providing a brief justification for the choices, based on mandate, experience, local knowledge and existing capacity.

While UNDP will jointly implement this project with ITC and UNESCO as recipient organizations, UNDP will remain the Convening Agency for the project based on its UN mandate on governance and peacebuilding, rule of law, and access to justice. UNDP chairs the Development Partner Group, Governance and Peacebuilding Technical Working Group meetings, and Chairs the Results Working Group on Democratic Governance in The Gambia. Both forums include rule of law, conflict prevention and justice as core agenda items and therefore, UNDP with the support of the RCO Peace and Development Advisor will technically lead on Project Outcome 1.

UNDP will also be responsible for project management quality assurance as Convening Agency. UNDP has a fully-fledge in-country office, and a Governance and Human Rights Programme Unit with 4 staff members, including Programme Specialist/Head of Governance, Programme Analyst and Programme Associate. The Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes and Operations supervises the Programme Specialist/Head of Governance, and overall, UNDP The Gambia manages a budget of approximately 12 million USD. Over the past 5 years, UNDP has implemented PBF funded projects on the transitional justice, rule of law and increased accountability process, with a combined budget of over 5 million USD. Lessons learnt from the implementation of these projects have contributed to positioning UNDP to better deliver on peacebuilding and development interventions.

Concurrent to this project, two other PBF funded projects are being implemented by UNDP and OHCHR, on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services to SGBV survivors, and on the implementation of the TRRC recommendations. UNDP is thus well placed to ensure proper coordination and cross-fertilization between this, and those two ongoing “post-TRRC” projects.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, focusing on developing the export capabilities of small and medium-sized businesses in developing and transition economies. ITC implements a series of initiatives including The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (www.yep.gm), a flagship initiative of the Government of The Gambia with the aim of increasing job opportunities and income prospects for young Gambians. Additionally, ITC implements series of other projects like the PBF Project on Migration (IOM, ITC and UNFPA), the PBF Project on Climate Change (WFP, UNFPA and ITC); The Gambia Jobs Skills and Finance Project (ITC and UNCDF) and the SheTrades Gambia Project (ITC). ITC is also the convening agency for the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund Project which seeks to address the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor (2022 -2024).

UNESCO’s mission is to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information. This mission of UNESCO is derived from its constitution which states: “Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. It is the UN’s leading organization in promoting media and information literacy (MIL), freedom of expression and combating hate speech offline and online. UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, which oversees The Gambia has experience working on PBF funded projects both in The Gambia and other countries in the subregion. In The Gambia, UNESCO has an ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) to support, among other objectives, the development of a national policy on MIL. Within the media and the youth space, UNESCO works with the Gambia Press Union, and the National Youth Council (NYC) and the Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia) in engaging media practitioners and youth leaders as key stakeholders in building of a culture of peace, and sustainable development. In addition, UNESCO local staff in The Gambia has adequate experience and expertise working with the media and young people on democratic and governance projects and programmes.

With regards to the implementation, although each agency will generally manage one outcome area, staff implementing project activities will work as a seamless team under the guidance of the Project Manager/Coordinator. UNESCO and UNDP staff under this project will work from the UN Projects Office, and together with the designated ITC officer, will hold bi-weekly team meetings, as well as participate in all technical committee and steering committee meetings. Technical committee meetings will be called at least quarterly. Furthermore, the three outcomes of the project are mutually inclusive. While Outcome 1 focuses on the establishment of PRC and the coordination of The Gambia’s I4P, Outcome 3 is designed to provide capacity and mechanism for the peacebuilding structures that are subject of coordination by the I4P. For example, the political parties, media, religious leaders, and youth, who are all intrinsically part of the peacebuilding structure that the I4P is going to coordinate and who the PRC will leverage upon, when established, are also the key beneficiaries of capacity and technical support under Outcome 3. With regards to the community level interventions, both Outcomes 2 and 3 would focus on the same communities for the purpose of reinforcing and consolidating the project gains. While Outcome 2 takes care of the livelihood components and access to basic services, Outcome 3, at the community level, is focused on civic reorientation for the purpose

of building harmony by countering simmering tensions triggered by politically induced ethnic and religious hate speech and disinformation.

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: UNDP Implementing partners: Ministry of Interior, Women's Bureau (under Ministry of Gender and now called the Directorate Equality and Women Empowerment) National Youth Council (NYC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) National Human Rights Commission. WANEP- I4P Technical Working Group		UN Peacebuilding Fund Government of The Gambia UNDP Core Resources	UN House, Cape Point UN Projects Office, Kololi	54	Programme Specialist – Governance Programme Analyst – Governance Governance Officer Peace and Development Advisor (UNDP and RCO) M&E Specialist Communications Analyst
Recipient Organization: ITC Implementing partners: The Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce (GWCC)		European Union Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund UN Peacebuilding Fund UK DFID	Sait Matty Road, Bakau The Gambia	16	Programme Manager Technical Advisor and M&E Specialist Technical Advisor and Operations Officer Communications Officer

The National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) The Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce (GYCC) Buzz Women Gambia Ministry of Trade, Industry Regional Integration and Employment		ITC Corporate W1			
Recipient Organization: UNESCO		UN Peacebuilding Fund MDP Core funding	UN Projects Office, Kololi	1	Project Officer
The Gambia Press Union Fact Check Gambia National Human Rights Commission Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure					

- **Project management and coordination** – Indicate the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explicitly indicate how the project implementation team will ensure sufficient gender or youth expertise. Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements and ensure link with PBF Secretariat if it exists. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex A.1** and attach key staff TORs.

As Convening Agency, UNDP will recruit a Peacebuilding Specialist/Project Manager (IPSA10) who will be responsible for the overall project management, monitoring, and reporting, as well as overall responsibility to engage stakeholders and facilitate partnerships with on-going programmes of complementary nature. The project will cover 100% of the Project Manager's salary. UNDP has recruited an IUNV Gender Specialist, who will support implementation of the project. For this project, UNESCO will also recruit a Project Officer for project implementation, monitoring, and reporting, as well as engagement with partners and service providers. The Project Officer, whose full-time salary will be paid by the project, reports to and is directly supervised by the Head of Communication and

Information Section of UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar, which covers The Gambia. ITC already has a team ready to support the implementation of the project. The monthly salary of the ITC staff designated to implement ITC-led activities in the project will be covered by the project.

Project Coordination

The Project Steering Committee shall be gender balanced and be led by the Minister of Interior as Chairperson, and the UNDP Resident Representative as Co-Chairperson. The Steering Committee has authority to approve changes when required to the recruitment strategy and implementation strategy of the project provided that such changes are not significant and do not adversely affect the objectives, purpose, and budget of the project. As convening agency, UNDP will be responsible for Project Quality Assurance through the implementation of the project as per agreed programme documents, any deviation from which would be tabled before the Steering Committee, with prior approval sought from PBSO. UNDP will ensure independent project oversight and monitoring functions as well as facilitate project administration, management and technical support to the Project Coordinator as required by the needs of the project or Project Coordinator. Project staffing support will be provided for key implementing partners under the project to enhance their capacity to deliver the programme objectives.

Membership of the Project Steering Committee shall be as follows:

- Executives: Minister of Interior and UNDP RR as co-Chairs
- Beneficiary Representatives: Director of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (former Women's Bureau), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice, Inspector General of Police, National Security Advisor, Office of National Security, Office of the President, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Lands, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, and the Executive Director of The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO).
- The Development Partner(s) representative(s) are the Director General of the Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery, Office of The President and the Director of Research and Consultancy, University of The Gambia

Furthermore, on coordination, Project staff will work with relevant I4P TWG members under a project Technical Committee, to serve as a platform for national counterpart ministries, department, and agencies, CSOs and technical partners to discuss, consult each other and exchange views on activities being implemented under this project. The Technical Committee is expected to be gender balanced in its composition, to partake in joint-monitoring mission with Project staff and to report to the Project Steering Committee. Whilst it is customary for the Project Steering Committee to meet twice each year, at the commencement of the year to approve Annual Workplans and during the third quarter of the year to receive key project updates, the Technical Committee will meet on a quarterly basis at least to support efficient, and effective implementation of activities. Both the Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee meetings will be held in a hybrid manner, allowing for both virtual and in-person participation.

Membership of the Technical Committee shall be broad and inclusive, and more institutions may be invited to join these technical discussions. Nonetheless, as a start, membership shall reflect the composition of the I4P TWG: Ministry of Interior, Office of the President, WANEP-The Gambia, TANGO, National Youth Council (NYC), Women's Bureau/Directorate Equality and Women Empowerment, Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD), Council of Chiefs, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence and Security, Gambia

Christian Council, Supreme Islamic Council, Gambia Chamber of Commerce (GCCCI), Inter Party Committee (IPC), Gambia Press Union (GPU), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

It is important to note that the I4P TWG will continue to operate as a technical advisory body to the PBU, and it is likely that this function would continue even after the operationalization of the PRC. During the course of the Project, the I4P TWG will also act as the Project Technical Committee, providing technical advisory services to the project team on activity implementation. This is one of the Projects sustainability strategies- to not creating a different/stand-alone Technical Committee but rely on the pre-existing group of technical partners who have over several years been working on the furtherance of The Gambia's I4P.

This Project will receive support from the PBF Coordinator in The Gambia (in conjunction with the current Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) staff, in particular the PDA and the PBF M&E Specialist) to ensure coordination between this and other PBF projects, assist with joint monitoring approaches, support annual reviews of the peacebuilding context/PBF priorities and provide quality assurance to the Project team on project design and reporting.

- **Risk management** – Identify project-specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include a Do No Harm approach and risk mitigation strategy.

Project specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
The need for stakeholders' buy-in and understanding of its role and function to enable the Peace and Reconciliation Commission (PRC) to effectively execute its mandate	Medium	Manage expectation, while ensuring full buy-in from other key stakeholders, UNDP will continue to support broad-based consultations, as well as dialogue engagement between the PRC and key stakeholders, to ensure confidence-building around its mandate.
Failure of project beneficiaries, most notably political and religious leaders, to form partnerships or otherwise remain susceptible to project activities	Medium	On the side of the political parties, the project team will have bilateral meetings with IEC and then the Inter-Party Committee to improve understanding and get their buy-in before the commencement of project interventions. Similar engagements will be held with Supreme Islamic Council and Christian Council. If required, implementing UN agencies may seek intervention of the RC to exercise good offices.
Failure of the Government to fully resource the PRC	Medium	The fact that the PRC will be established by an Act of the

(staff, offices, budget, etc.) will undermine its ability to deliver on its core functions		National Assembly makes it imperative for it to receive annual budgetary allocation from the Government.
Lack of coordination and collaboration amongst the partners of the programme or between the partners and other peacebuilding organizations	Low	Government and UNDP will facilitate exchange sessions, information sharing, while strengthening programmatic coordination mechanisms.
Limited participation of women and youth in peace building and social cohesion initiatives at sub-national levels	Low	The project will enhance mechanisms for mainstreaming women and youth participation during planning and implementation of proposed interventions.
Operations - Delays in procurement related activities e.g., recruitment, outsourcing, contracting	Low	Clearly define and establish procurement procedures ahead of time to expedite processes, frontload activities, employ rapid deployment facilities/rosters where applicable and Regional Offices to potentially provide backstop if required
Decision making and /or activity implementation delayed	Medium	Regular technical meetings to review plans and activities- support from UNDP Sub-regional networks such as UNOWAS
Quality and timely construction of the SPWDS	Low	<p>Drawing on extensive experience in this area, UNDP will include relevant binding clauses with local and international contractors aimed at guaranteeing quality and timely construction of the SPWDS, including labour standards (prevent of sexual harassment and abuse).</p> <p>Frequent spot checks will also be conducted by the project team in partnership with the Department of Water Resources</p>
Environmental degradation in area of construction of SPWDS	Low	Again, building on pre-existing smooth relations with Government departments, and knowledge from the PACD, UNDP will work closely with the National Environment

		Agency to conduct a Social and Environment Risk assessment. A preliminary assessment by UNDP during the PACD feasibility study phase indicates low risk of environmental degradation in all targeted sites of the PACD, include Kerewan and Kuntaur.
--	--	--

- **Monitoring and evaluation** – Describe the M&E approach for the project, including M&E expertise in the project team and main means and timing of collecting data? Include: a budget break-down for both monitoring and evaluation activities, including collection of baseline and end line data and an independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. Fund recipients are obligated to reserve at least 5-7% of the project budget for M&E activities, including sufficient funds for a quality, independent evaluation.

The project team will develop and implement a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan based on the project's Integrated Results Framework, with dedicated support from M&E Specialists from UNDP and ITCT the Project Steering Committee will oversee the successful implementation of this Plan by holding bi-annual meetings to discuss the status of project implementation, and to ensure efficient resource utilization, accountability, transparency, and integrity.

Tracking the achievement of planned results for each activity within the annual workplan and reporting progress to the Project Steering Committee and giving feedback to the implementing partners will be the responsibility of the Project Manager. The Project Manager, in collaboration with the Project Steering Committee will ensure that selected implementing partners, if any, will develop a results-based monitoring plan. The plan will have gender-sensitive SMART indicators, which will facilitate effective monitoring. The Project Manager will provide semi-annual reports to the Project Steering Committee or as often as it requires.

The specific mechanisms that will be used to monitor the achievement of results will include:

1. Semi-annual progress and financial reports, prepared by the Project Manager for review by the Project Steering Committee; a standard reporting format will be used.
2. Semi-annual meetings of the Project Steering Committee will be convened to review progress reports and to ensure the Project results are achieved and where necessary, recommend a change in implementation strategy.
3. Annual progress report, technical and financial report prepared by the annual workplan implementing agency and/or the ERP Atlas system/Quantum at the end of the year.
4. After 15 months of implementation, a Mid-Term Assessment will take place, which will include lessons learned exercise and documenting good practices; this report will be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration and action. A final independent review will take place at the end of the Project.

5. A final report will be prepared by UNDP, which includes lessons learned and good practices, within 3 months of the end of the Project and submitted for review and consideration by the Project Steering Committee.

The project will be subject to an independent terminal external evaluation to be done in consultation with PBSO before its closure and a total amount of 50,000 USD has been set aside for this.

- **Project exit strategy/ sustainability** – Briefly explain the project’s exit strategy to ensure that the project can be wrapped up at the end of the project duration, either through sustainability measures, agreements with other donors for follow-up funding or end of activities which do not need further support. If support from other donors is expected, explain what the project will do concretely and pro-actively to try to ensure this support from the start. Consider possible partnerships with other donors or IFIs.

The project will not support the establishment of any ad-hoc structure, but rather, only permanent, national institutions and mechanisms, namely, the Peace and Reconciliation Commission to be established by an Act of the National Assembly, and the implementation of the I4P Roadmap being spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior in close collaboration with WANEP and other prominent peacebuilding institutions. The Project will also target much capacity building towards the recently set up Peacebuilding Unit at the Ministry of Interior, which, until the passage of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, will lead in the framing of the Government’s peacebuilding interventions and coordination efforts.

At the conclusion of the project, these national institutions will remain intact, yet strengthened through project interventions, increasing the prospects of success in their respective objectives. On the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, it is important to note that this is an important recommendation of the TRRC, which has been accepted by the Government in its White Paper and for which a national implementation plan is currently being developed to support the Government’s post-TRRC resource mobilization strategy. Notwithstanding, this permanent institution will receive a national budgetary subsidiary to carry on its basic functions of peace and reconciliation not just limited to the TRRC process but in other areas.

On the I4P, the project will support decentralization and strengthening capacities of all peacebuilding institutions. Emphasis will not only be placed on implementation of outreach activities, but internal institutional building, including through facilitating partnerships. This is expected to lead to dividends in the independence, and even financial autonomy of peacebuilding institutions, following capacity building in communications, strategy formulation, resource mobilization, etc. Ensuring that the capacities of civil society organizations, vis-à-vis national capacities are being strengthened, is likely to lead to further investment in peacebuilding and social cohesion in The Gambia as this would create a healthier collaborative and “balanced” environment between partners with varying comparative advantages. Overall, project investments through this approach are expected to lead to a better functioning I4P, and better prospects for the consolidation and multiplication of project results.

On a national level, it is likely that the current NDP 2018-2022, which is being revised and extended, will continue to prioritize “delivering social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalized and transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians.” Thus, the Government is expected to continue investing in peacebuilding and social cohesion through its respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as through programming and policy support, for the foreseeable future.

To enshrine values of dialogue, peace and reconciliation, policy frameworks including preventative mechanisms, for example the Community Early Warning and Early Response system will be established to scale up early detection and timely response to disputes. Community dispute resolution mechanisms will be strengthened within existing community peacebuilding structures, such as through the village development committees – rather than implemented ad hoc by CSOs. In this regard, existing local government office will provide avenues for sustaining interventions beyond the projects support.

On transfer of skills and knowledge, this project will ensure that adequate skills and knowledge are provided to national structures (National Institutions), such as the schools of journalism, and Gambia Press Union, The NCAC, NCCE, NYC, NSC etc to continued implementation, monitoring, and review of the interventions. This will enhance sustainability of the interventions as skills will be resident within national institutions. Institutions offering Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programs like the Ndemban Skills Centre in Foni will receive support in the form of teacher trainings, relevant curriculum upgrade and soft skills training curricula (Kick For Trade toolkits) to further support in the delivery of quality and relevant training programs beyond the project duration.

Notwithstanding, a key objective of the project will be to discuss the sustainability of project interventions with partners and beneficiaries throughout the project implementation period, and not delay in the joint strategizing on this matter towards project closure. It is important that partners are heavily engaged beyond the project design phase, incentivized and capacitated to take on relevant project interventions. This project also builds on existing national structures and experiences of each of the RUNOs (UNDP, UNESCO and ITC) in implementing similar initiatives. There will be strong coordination and involvement of the relevant Government ministries to mainstream activities into revised National Development Plan and other relevant strategies. Similarly, at community level, the project team will work closely with community members to ensure that interventions are driven by the communities and that they are equipped to continue activities without external support. Initiatives around livelihood support will be done through the planned investments and the structures strengthened highlighting clear ownership and, as appropriate, create a business model to ensure continuity without external funding.

UNDP, UNESCO and ITC will undertake robust resource mobilization, including strong project visibility and forging partnerships with other donors and IFIs, especially those already supporting The Gambia's democratic transition, including the European Union, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, USAID, the Governments of Ireland, France, Spain and Germany, the GIZ, the African Union and ECOWAS.

Finally, it is important to note that on the construction of SPWDS, the project aligns with the NDP 2018-2022, and at the end of the project, these structures would be handed over to the Local Government Areas (LGAs) and regional governance and key ministries for maintenance and management for sustainability.

b) Project budget

Provide brief additional information on projects costs, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. Proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.

Please note that in nearly all cases, the Peacebuilding Fund transfers project funds in a series of performance-based tranches. PBF's standard approach is to transfer project funds in two tranches for UN recipients and three tranches for non-UN recipients, releasing second and third tranches upon demonstration that performance benchmarks have been met. All projects include the following two standard performance benchmarks: 1) at least 75% of funds from the first tranche have been committed, and 2) all project reporting obligations have been met. In addition to these standard benchmarks and depending on the risk rating or other context-specific factors, additional benchmarks may be indicated for the release of second and third tranches.

Please specify below any context-specific factors that may be relevant for the release of second and third tranches. These may include the successful conduct of elections, passage of key legislation, the standing up of key counterpart units or offices, or other performance indicators that are necessary before project implementation may advance. Within your response, please reflect how performance-based tranches affect project sequencing considerations.

The project budget will be provided in two tranches with the second tranche being released upon demonstration by the project (by the Coordinating Agency on behalf of the project and through the Resident Coordinator's Office or PBF Secretariat) that the first tranche has been expensed or committed to at least 75% between the recipients and upon completion of any regular PBF reports due in the period elapsed.

It should be noted that to save project operational costs and as agreed by the Government and UNDP, the project vehicle and usable furniture and equipment from the recently concluded PBF funded project on Community Access to Justice will be transferred to this Project. This would also ensure swift implementation and coordination of project activities.

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

In the first Excel budget table in Annex D, please include the percentage towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) for every activity. Also provide a clear justification for every GEWE allocation (e.g. training will have a session on gender equality, specific efforts will be made to ensure equal representation of women etc.).

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
• Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	X		Implementing partners have been identified. A tendering process will be embarked upon to select which partners will do the community monitoring functions. Additional consultations with national, state and community-level stakeholders have been built into the early phases of the project to ensure a participatory Approach.
• Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	X		Terms of Reference for some key staff are drafted. Additional ToRs are being produced to ensure that all positions can quickly be filled, and the project can get set up early in the implementation phase.
• Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	X		Location of project has been agreed upon in meetings with key stakeholders. Further refinement of this will be undertaken with communities on ground at the onset of the project as part of the profiling and assessment activities foreseen.
• Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized of the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	X		Local Government authorities have been briefed and consulted in the development of the project. Further consultations and profiling activities planned for the beginning of the project will help further identify specific work plans and approaches in the different contexts/local communities. Furthermore, there have been extensive consultations across the country in 2019 and 2020 on the development of I4P Roadmap, which this project seeks to support the implementation thereof, particularly in relation to coordination and capacity building of peace actors.
• Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?	X		
• Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	X		The criteria will need to be extensively consulted at the community level to ensure they reflect the differences between communities. To ensure a participatory and community-owned process, these criteria will need to be defined over the course of several engagements with local level stakeholders planned at the onset of project implementation.
• Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterpart relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	X		Government have been consulted on the areas where the project will focus its activities and agree. At the onset of project implementation, mission to the Selected areas will further refine and formalize these agreements.

• Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	X		All recipient organizations have been involved in the development of the project document.
• What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?		N/A	
Gender			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?		X	UNDP is recruiting an IUNV Gender Specialist, and it is anticipated that he/she will be onboard in time to influence design of the project.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	X		The Women's Bureau (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare), The Gambian Women's Chamber of Commerce and the National Youth Council were consulted during the design of the project.
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	X		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	X		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
▪ 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?		x	The project's budget is in line with usual staffing, operational or travel costs.
▪ 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.		x	
▪ 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.		x	The project in total aims to benefit at least 22 peacebuilding structures including Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Academic, CSOs and the private sector. These peacebuilding institutions will thereafter directly engage with over 300 community members/directors.

			project beneficiaries in geographically diverse regions, mostly in tense, socially fractured communities. Thus, the proposed budget is proportionate to the expected project outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	x		The project will employ mostly national staff, except for one- an international peacebuilding specialist, ideally with the knowledge of West Africa, who'd provide advisory services to the government on the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission using an experienced lens, as well as managing the project as Project Manager.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		x	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		x	The project intends to rely on the transfer of assets, Including project vehicle, from the recently concluded Community Access to Justice Project, also funded by PBF and jointly implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	x		

Annex B.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 on the basis of 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:

- a) 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;
- b) 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;
- c) 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 close 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);
- d) 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
30 April	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

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	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 (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent's website (www.mptf.undp.org).

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

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

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	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist

	annual report if timing coincides)	
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 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 (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent website (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.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds directly, NUNOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its agent, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Prior to submitting a finalized project document, it is the responsibility of each NUNO to liaise with PBSO and MPTFO and provide all the necessary documents (see below) to demonstrate that all the criteria have been fulfilled and to be declared as eligible for direct PBF funds.

The NUNO must provide (in a timely fashion, ensuring PBSO and MPTFO have sufficient time to review the package) the documentation demonstrating that the NUNO:

- 1.Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- 2.Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE:** If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- 3.Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- 4.Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE:** If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- 5.Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

6. Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
7. Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

○ **Annex C: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated targets)**

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: Strengthened National peace architecture in line with key TRRC recommendations to improve inter and intra community relationships. (Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Outcome Indicator 1a Existence of an effective and well-coordinated National I4P Baseline: 0 Target: 1	Project reports Perception surveys Focus Group Discussions	Tabling of Bill establishing Peace and Reconciliation Commission before the National Assembly for debate Publication of an Annual Report by the Ministry of Interior on the work of the PBU
		Outcome Indicator 1b Number of institutions demonstrating improved capacity to resolve conflict Baseline: 2 Target: 6	Project reports Questionnaires and Surveys Media documentation (news reports, articles etc)	Project terminal report
	Output 1.1: Support towards the establishment of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission Activity 1.1.1: Convene consultative conferences to gauge the views existing peacebuilding structures on the membership, structure and powers of the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, as well as other matters relating to the coordination of The Gambia's I4P. Activity 1.1.2: Support the drafting of the Peace and Reconciliation Bill and its cabinet papers.	Output Indicator 1.1: Number of national Infrastructure for peace established Baseline:5 Target:13 Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of participants at the I4P conference and Number of awareness raising session held, Baseline:0 Target: 4 conferences and 5 awareness sessions; 100 participants engaged (at least 50% women or women-led organizations, and at least 50% youth or youth-led organizations)	○ Reports ○ National Gazette ○ . ○ Conference participants list transcripts and photographs of awareness raising sessions.	○ Existence of the PRC Act ○ Conference report
		Output Indicator 1.1.2: Number of I4P legislation and policy documents enacted Baseline 0 Target 4		○ Report of UNSCRS 2250

	<p>Activity 1.1.3: Provide technical and financial support to the Government to adopt a consultative approach in the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3: number of activities implemented in the UNSCR 2250 Action Plan Baseline: 0 Target: 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. o Activity Reports. 	<p>Consultative and validation reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reports of the National Youth Council to the National Assembly
	<p><u>Output 1.2: Strengthen capacities for peacebuilding institutions and actors</u></p> <p>Activity 1.2.1: In the absence of a Peace and Reconciliation Commission, provide technical support towards the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Unit (PBU) at the Ministry of Interior, to support coordination of peacebuilding institutions and efforts of the I4P TWG and other national, district and community early warning and response mechanisms, including the Peace and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Activity 1.2.2: Convene community-based meetings to create awareness in the communities of the national peace structure, its role and community support needed for sustainability</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.1. a) Existence of a functional PBU with an equipped secretariat to effectively execute its mandate. Baseline 0 Target 1</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.1 b) Number of Peacebuilding institutions and structures at national and community level established or supported to effectively handle cases and resolve disputes. Baseline 0 Target 12</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.2: Number of community town hall meetings and radio sessions held to create awareness of the importance of national peace structure. Baseline:0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PBU policies, and strategies. o Annual Reports o Training reports o Meetings reports o Annual Reports. o Internal organizational and policy documents/ tools. o Activity reports o Participants' lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Draft Policies o A functional and operational PBU Secretariat. o Initial dialogue, mediation and disputes resolution reports. o Agenda of meetings/session. o Threat mapping exercise to determine divisive communities to be reconciled.

	<p>Activity 1.2.3: Support the PBU to develop internal organizational and policy documents/tools (i.e., strategic and resource mobilization plans; communications strategy; gender strategy; human and financial resources management policies) for I4P actors, as well as a Practice Guide on Conflict Resolution, Early Warning and Early Response in collaboration with NCCRM.</p>	<p>Target: 20 radio sessions and 10 town halls</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.3: Number of PBU internal organizational and policy documents/ tools developed</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4</p>	<p>o Internal organizational and policy documents/ tools (e.g. work/action plans, resource mobilization strategy, communication strategy, strategic plans)</p>	<p>o ToR to recruit a consultant to facilitate the training.</p>
	<p>Activity 1.2.4: Build capacity of peace building institutions and structures on conflict early warning systems, Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanisms and the facilitation of dialogue process and mediation efforts, etc.in collaboration with institutions having similar mandates.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.4: Number of stakeholders trained in mediation and conflict prevention.</p> <p>Baseline:0 Target: 350 (150 Male and 200 Female)</p>	<p>o Training reports o Participants list.</p>	<p>Tabled legislations and validated policies</p>
	<p>Activity 1.2.5: Conduct a risk and threat assessments to update, understand, and align the peace and security dynamics in The Gambia with the work of the I4P.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.5: Number of a risk and threat assessment exercise in alignment with the peace and security dynamics in The Gambia conducted and co-lead by women-led organization</p> <p>Baseline: 1 Target: 2</p>	<p>o Assessment study report</p>	
	<p>Activity 1.2.6: Support the development and strengthening of legislative and policy frameworks for peacebuilding</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.6: Number of legislations and policies developed and implemented using a consultative approach (including women and youth-led groups)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6</p>	<p>Reports of bill drafting meetings</p>	

Outcome 2: Increased capacity to foster social and economic participation in targeted communities (Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Outcome Indicator 2a: Number of national institutions with improved capacity to foster tolerance and social cohesion Baseline: TBD Target: 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project Reports ○ Perception Surveys ○ Media documentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project terminal, independent evaluation report
		Outcome Indicator 2b: Number of communities with increased social and cultural participation in economic opportunities Baseline: 0 Target: 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project and activity reports ○ Survey reports ○ Media and communication documentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project terminal reports ○ End of activity reports
	Output 2.1: Improved/ strengthened performance and service portfolio of institutions at national and community level using sports and the use of the creative industry (as a vector) Activity 2.1.1: Assess and select national sector associations and institutions in conflict-prone communities based on their potential to deliver on conflict prevention and social cohesion (in terms of physical infrastructure and technical capacities as well as structural engagement of women and youth) Activity 2.1.2: Improve physical infrastructure of institutions to support on social cohesion	Output Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions in the arts and sports sector assisted operationally and technically to offer new / improved services in support of social cohesion Baseline: 0 Target: 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment report, reports from IPs ○ Delivery notes for the equipment ○ Infrastructure ○ Capacity assessment reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessments ○ Adoption of curricula ○ Bill of quantities / tenders ○ Activity reports
		Output Indicator 2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reports from IPs, rosters, questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concepts and workplans adopted

	measures on national level and in targeted communities (materials, refurbishment of facilities etc.)	Number of participants in group trainings offered/initiatives conducted (disaggregated by gender, age and location) Baseline: 0 Target: 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall activity summary reports Audio, visual content prepared 	
	Activity 2.1.3: Reinforce/ strengthen technical capacities of institutions through ToTs to deliver on their mandate (concept of Sports for Peace and Development/ K4T curriculum)	Output Indicator 2.1.3 Number of Training of Trainers and step-down Trainings Baseline: 0 Target: 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training reports from trainers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training completion report
	Activity 2.1.4: Roll-out of awareness raising initiatives, orientational engagement and step-down trainings in target communities to increase social cohesion	Output Indicator 2.1.4 Number of communities sensitized through Arts and sports Baseline: 0 Target: 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity completion report from IPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments Activity completion reports
	Activity 2.1.5: Training and coaching of institutions' members, artists and traditional communicators on peacebuilding communication techniques and production of such material, e.g. intertribal joking relationships "Kal".	<u>Output Indicator 2.1.5</u> <u>Number of Training and coaching sessions held</u> <u>Baseline: 0</u> <u>Target: 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training reports from trainers' coaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and coaching completion reports
	Output 2.2: Enhanced community-based livelihood initiative for communities most vulnerable to conflict	Output Indicator 2.2.1 Number of participants to group trainings (disaggregated by age and gender) Baseline: 0 Target: 100 (70% women, 70% youth under 35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and activity completion reports surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline questionnaires
	Activity 2.2.1: Assess the livelihood needs and existing service provision of communities for socio-economic programmes	Output Indicator 2.2.2 Number of MSMEs and community initiatives strengthened (disaggregated by women and youth owned MSMEs/initiatives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from IPs surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments Call for proposals

	Activity 2.2.2: Support implementation of programmes identified to address livelihood needs through skills and entrepreneurship trainings as well as local product development, incl. joint and/ or inter-community initiatives	Baseline: 0 Target: 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline questionnaires
	Activity 2.2.3: Provide start-up support to MSMEs and community initiatives	Output Indicator 2.2.3 Number of BSOs supported operationally or technically to provide relevant service Baseline: 0 Target: 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from IPs Membership of BSOs Activity completion reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional assessment Curricula validation Annual reports and end of project
	Activity 2.2.4: Provide market linkage activities (through fairs, lumos (roving markets) and regional markets) for selected beneficiaries			
	<p><i>Output 2.3: Improved access to portable water and strengthened inter-community relations in targeted, deprived communities</i></p> <p>Activity 2.3.1: Building on the PACD feasibility study, conduct rapid assessment in Kerewan and Kuntaur to identify emerging consequences of lack of portable water, including through community consultations and focus group discussions</p> <p>Activity 2.3.2: Construction of (2) Solar Powered Water Drinking Systems (SPWDS) (Borehole) to reduce frustration in Kerewan and Kuntaur</p> <p>Activity 2.3.3: Facilitate supervision and water iron content</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.3.1: Availability of recently concluded rapid assessment of consequences of lack of portable water in Kerewan and Kuntaur Baseline: no Target: yes</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.3.2: Number of solar powered water drinking systems constructed. Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.3.3: Water content in the constructed SPWDS rendered safe for consumption Baseline: no</p>	<p>Rapid Assessment Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> procurement receipts, Contractors Report, invoices etc Project Reports Reports of the Department of Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts Awarding, Installation of SPWDS, Periodic activity and programmatic reports, Feature in national news and international platforms Financial reinvestments in communities by financial

	<p>testing by Department of Water Resources</p> <p>Activity 2.3.4: Support the establishment and capacity building of inclusive, gender-balanced, financial management committees</p> <p>Activity 2.3.5: Hold an event to Launch the SPWDS</p>	<p>Target: yes Output Indicator 2.3.4a: Number of women serving in financial management committees in Kerewan and Kuntaur Baseline: 0 Target: At least 40% of committee members are women</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.3.4b: Number of community investments made by financial management committees Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.3.5: % of community members satisfied with the construction of the SPWDS and composition of the financial management committees Baseline: 0 Target: 75%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms of Reference of the financial management committees - Project reports - Reports by the financial management committees - Questionnaires/surveys 	management committees
<p>Outcome 3: Media, CSOs and youth leaders, Political and Religious actors in The Gambia have integrated mechanisms, and are increasingly taking appropriate actions, to counter hate speech to preserve social cohesion and prevent conflict.</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)</p> <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p>		<p>Outcome Indicator 3a:</p> <p>Number of research/assessment reports on hate speech available</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p>	<p>Activity report Research report FGD</p>	<p>Mid-term report End-term report</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 3b:</p> <p>Number of youth and civil society organizations demonstrating capacity on media and information literacy</p> <p>Baseline: 10 Target: 10 organizations, and 450 young people</p>	<p>Project report FDG Survey</p>	<p>Mid-term report End-term report</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 3c:</p> <p>Number of journalism training schools and organizations actively countering hate speech</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 3</p>	<p>Project report FDG Survey</p>	<p>Mid-term report End-term report</p>

	Output 3.1 Availability of evidence-based information on hate speech and enhanced capacity of key political and religious actors to spur countering actions			
	Activity 3.1.1: National research on the prevalence of hate speech online and offline, mapping out the root causes, drivers, impact, perpetrators, and channels, to generate data for an evidence-based response.	Output Indicator 3.1.1: Availability of evidence-based report on the prevalence, drivers and perpetrator, and victims of hate speech in The Gambia Baseline: 0 Target: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reports and end of project report Annual reports and end of project report
	Activity 3.1.2: Conduct of follow-up to national assessment of hate speech trends to update the initial national research	Output Indicator 3.1.2: Updated national research report on hate speech in The Gambia Baseline: 0 Target: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP' research report Media reports 	
	Activity 3.1.3: Capacity building for NHRC, IEC, IPC and NCCE on mainstreaming hate speech			
	Activity 3.1.4 Organization of national and regional sensitization on hate speech targeting religious leaders Activity 3.1.5 In partnership with IEC and IPC, embark on national and regional sensitization targeting political leaders on hate speech Activity 3.1.6 Organization of community sensitization (in all seven regions) on hate speech	Output Indicator 3.1.3: Number of engagements (sensitization and other forms of awareness raising) against hate speech carried out by selected agencies as part of their work plans or strategies Baseline: 0 Target: 9 Output Indicator 3.1.4: Number of religious leaders (and corresponding religion) who participated in, or benefitted from, awareness raising meetings on hate speech Baseline: n.d Target: 50 (25 from Islam, 15 from Christianity and 10 from other religions) Output Indicator 3.1.5: Number of political leaders (and corresponding political parties) who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP' activity and research reports Media reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP' research report Media reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP' research Media reports 	

		<p>participated in, pr benefitted from, awareness raising initiatives on hate speech</p> <p>Baseline: n.d Target: 40 (20 from majority parties and 20 from opposition parties)</p> <p>Output Indicator 3.1.6: Number of awareness raising campaigns on hate speech organized, and number of community members in attendance in hot spots communities</p> <p>Baseline: n.d Target: 5 campaigns (75 people targeted during each campaign)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IP' report ○ Media reports 	
	<p>Output 3.2 Enhanced capacities of CSOs and Youth Associations on Media and Information Literacy (MIL)</p> <p>3.2.1 Capacity building and technical support to selected CSOs, including youth associations, on mainstreaming MIL into their programs and policies</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.2.1: Number of youth associations and CSOs that formally included initiatives for building MIL competencies in their programmes and activities</p> <p>Baseline: 10 Target: (at least 30% of youth associations and CSOs led by women or with girls and women as their core target group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IP reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual reports and end of project report
		<p>Output Indicator 3.2.2: Number of CSOs and youth organizations from across The Gambia that implement MIL-mainstreamed activities</p> <p>Baseline: 10 Target: 20 (at least 3 women-led organizations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IP reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual reports and end of project report

	<p>Activity 3.2.2: Technical and financial support to 10 selected CSOs and youth associations to pilot the implementation of MIL-mainstreamed activities.</p> <p>Activity 3.2.3: Sensitization of 150 young people, including students, across the country on MIL-CLICK</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.2.3: Number of young people from across The Gambia that join the MIL CLICK globally Baseline: 0 Target: 150 (at least 30 women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP reports 	
	<p>Output 3.3: Strengthened the media's institutional capacity and mechanisms to counter hate speech and disinformation</p> <p>Activity 3.3.1: Training of trainers of journalism educators on the teaching of hate speech and fact-checking modules</p> <p>Activity 3.3.2: Development of training modules on hate speech and fact-checking for journalism schools and pilot delivery of the modules</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.3.1: Number of journalism trainers trained on hate speech and fact checking Baseline: no Target: 15</p> <p>Output Indicator 3.3.2: Availability of training modules on hate speech and fact checking for UTG and MAJAC Baseline: None Target: 2 modules</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP reports IP report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reports and end of project report Annual reports and end of project report
	<p>Activity 3.3.3: Technical support for the participative review of the national Code of Conduct for Journalists to include provisions on countering hate speech and dis/mis-information.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.3.3: Inclusion of hate speech into the national journalism code Baseline: None Target: 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised GPU code of conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reports and end of project report

	<p>Activity 3.3.4: Technical and financial support to boost the operational capacity of fact-checking organization in Gambia</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.3.4: Fact Check Gambia scaled up operations and become IFCN Baseline: 50 fact checks Target: 100 fact checks, and IFCN membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IP report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual reports and end of project report
--	--	---	---	--

For MPTFO Use

Totals				
	UNDP	International Trade Center (ITC)	UNESCO	Totals
1. Staff and other personnel	\$ 213 752,00	\$ 236 000,00	\$ 131 000,00	\$ 580 752,00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 20 000,00	\$ 10 000,00	\$ -	\$ 30 000,00
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$ 20 000,00	\$ 42 000,00	\$ 25 000,00	\$ 87 000,00
4. Contractual services	\$ 378 920,48	\$ 250 000,00	\$ 414 000,00	\$ 1 042 920,48
5. Travel	\$ 46 079,10	\$ 18 000,00	\$ 25 000,00	\$ 89 079,10
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ 170 920,90	\$ 100 000,00	\$ -	\$ 270 920,90
7. General Operating and other Costs	\$ 155 000,00	\$ 44 935,00	\$ 35 841,12	\$ 235 776,12
Sub-Total	\$ 1 004 672,48	\$ 700 935,00	\$ 630 841,12	\$ 2 336 448,60
7% Indirect Costs	\$ 70 327,07	\$ 49 065,45	\$ 44 158,88	\$ 163 551,40
Total	\$ 1 074 999,55	\$ 750 000,45	\$ 675 000,00	\$ 2 500 000,00

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	UNDP	International Trade Center (ITC)	UNESCO	TOTAL	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 752 500,00	\$ 525 000,00	\$ 472 500,00	\$ 1 750 000,00	70%
Second Tranche:	\$ 322 500,00	\$ 225 000,00	\$ 202 500,00	\$ 750 000,00	30%
Third Tranche:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
TOTAL	\$ 1 075 000,00	\$ 750 000,00	\$ 675 000,00	\$ 2 500 000,00	