

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): South Sudan	
Project Title: Women's Leadership and Political Participation During South Sudan's Transitional Period	
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.): UN Women and UNDP	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): National Transformational Leadership Institute, South Sudan Women Coalition, and SSUEMOP	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 36 months	
Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: National (Juba) and Sub-national (Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Malakal)	
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 <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): UN Women: \$ 1,500,000 UNDP: \$ 1,500,000 Total: \$ 3,000,000 <i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.</i>	
Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):	

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

PBF 1st tranche (40%): UN Women: \$ 600,000 UNDP: \$ 600,000 Total: \$ 1,200,000	PBF 2nd tranche* (40%): UN Women: \$ 600,000 UNFP: \$ 600,000 Total: \$ 1,200,000	PBF 3rd tranche* (20%): UN Women: \$300,000 UNDP: \$ 300,000 Total: \$ 600,000
<p>Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs): The main goal of the project is to tackle the barriers that keep women, especially young women, at the margins of decision-making, political leadership and participation as a means to build social cohesion and peace. The project is based on the understanding that extreme gender inequality in South Sudan is a root cause of the country's fragmentation, instability and is a critical variable in the cycle of violence. The assumption is that, addressing gender inequality in women's political participation will support nation-building and help to create positive peace and stability. The project will work to overcome structural barriers, such as pervasive intersubjective notions that women are merely domestic actors that are not well disposed to leadership. Target populations will include the most marginalized women, such as women in Pibor and Malakal, which will be connected to state and national levels of engagement to voice their concerns and influence policy. By connecting local, state and national constituents and institutions, a social cohesiveness, which is presently missing, is expected to develop. Furthermore, the inclusion of women, especially young women, in decision-making, political participation and peace processes will decrease their marginalization and presumably the societal and political disintegration resulting from their exclusion. The approach will be intergenerational. As this project will span South Sudan's election period, young women, who are not yet well integrated into political parties or government, need support to gain a foothold into these realms. Approximately 74% of South Sudan's population is under the age of 30, yet political parties and government are largely run by the country's elders with little participation of youth. Integration of young women, and youth overall, into party politics will be one of the central efforts. Lastly, the project seeks sustainable change that will help ensure women's political participation in the future. Young women also need support for entry to key peace processes which are ongoing in different areas of South Sudan such as Pibor and Malakal, two target areas of the project. Legislation for women's equal rights is an important goal of this project, which will ensure women's equal rights in all realms including the effective implementation of the 35% quota for women's political participation in the Revitalized Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). This legislation is a foundational peace measure that is necessary for the ability of women to address all issues including ones thought traditionally to be in men's domain. Gender legislation will be promoted not as merely a women's issue but a society-wide one to be driven not only by women leaders but by their male counterparts as well. Essentially, like other forms of inequality, gender inequality is not merely women's problem, it is the whole nation's problem.</p> <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): The Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, University of Juba – National Transformation Leadership Institute, SSUDEMOP and the Coalition of Women of South Sudan (50 members) were consulted. In addition, a consultation was conducted at PMT under the leadership of RCO to discuss the needs, priorities and agree on ways to ensure the best use of the PBF opportunity. Moreover, UNMISS Gender Section is an important stakeholder in this project. Thus information about the project focus areas and plans will be shared and coordinated with UNMISS. Consultations were also undertaken with the Ministry of Peacebuilding which is the government institution responsible for coordinating PBF. The Women Parliamentarians Caucus was consulted and will be key to rallying men parliamentarians to support the gender equality cause.</p>		

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 3

Specify 100% and \$3 millions of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment:

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment ⁶:

The project will carry out interventions that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and that will raise awareness of the link between gender inequality, conflict violence; and gender equality as a peace multiplier. Analysis will be conducted on gender inequality as a variable in conflict and on violence against women in politics. There is little data recorded in South Sudan on the impediments to women's leadership and political participation especially as it relates to violence women encounter in the political sphere. The data will help the project management understand the risk of harm that women could be exposed to as they seek an increased participation in politics. The analysis generated will guide a do no harm strategy to mitigate the risk of harm and protect participants and women leaders. By enhancing women's participation in politics, the project will expand opportunities for women to give voice to their perspectives; and to influence dialogues, debates, policies and processes critical to building and sustaining peace. At least 35% women representation within local peace committees and the Council of Traditional Authorities and Leaders (COTAL) will be targeted in line with R-ARCSS commitments. While the 35% quota is the minimum that the project aims to achieve, the project is expected to lay a foundation for more equitable participation of women and men in political processes.

Local, national, regional and international learning, consultations, and dialogues will have more than 35% women's representation. These are consultations and dialogues related to topics that address a range of issues including conflict, gender equality and women's empowerment. The idea is to have women lead and participate in all aspects politics, decision-making and governance. By challenging stereotypes of women the marginalization of women, especially young women, will be reduced and a more cohesive, and peaceful society will result. Overall, the project will support peace and the country's political, economic and social stability by securing more inclusive and democratic processes.

To diminish barriers for women's inclusion, the project will raise awareness through government, political parties, media, CSOs and opportunities for women's participation will be created. Awareness will also be raised regarding gender inequality as a conflict driver and as a concern for all citizens. Furthermore, there will be direct technical support to women leaders, women government representatives, candidates, CSOs and women-led organizations to strengthen their capacities and support their participation in a broad spectrum of policy issues. The support will consist of training regarding political processes, peacebuilding, the country's policy priorities, law, advocacy, budgeting and establishing a Gender Equality Fund. A Women's Peace and Security Advisor will be seconded from UN Women to the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. Furthermore, women leaders, women organizations, and CSOs will be assisted through training for political participation including electoral processes and gender sensitive analysis to address gender inequality as a driver of conflict and instability. The aim is to lessen South Sudan's fragility, and build social cohesion by securing more inclusive and democratic processes through the

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)

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

strengthening of women's presence and authority in political spheres. Advocacy will be undertaken to pass the Gender Equality Affirmative Action Bill 2022 for women's representation and women will be encouraged to launch awareness campaigns for issues other than gender so that they are not confined to just 'women' issues.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (select ONLY one) 8: 2.2

This project contributes to the SDCF/UNDAF outcomes and the SDGs.

If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes: This project contributes to the Outcome 1 of UNSDCF : Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, enables the consolidation of peace, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all.

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

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Target 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

Target 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

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target: 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

SDG 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

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels

Target 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Type of submission:

☒ **New project**

☐ **Project amendment**

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

Extension of duration: ☐ Additional duration in months

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)

	<p>Change of project outcome/ scope: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Additional PBF budget: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional amount by recipient organization: USD</p> <p>Brief justification for amendment:</p> <p><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></p>
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PROJECT SIGNATURES

<p>Recipient Organization(s)⁹</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Peterson Magoola</p> <p><i>Signature:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Name of Agency:</i> UN Women</p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i> 13/01/2023</p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p><i>Name of Government Counterpart:</i> Ministry of Peacebuilding</p> <p><i>Signature:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Title:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i> 16/1/2023</p>
<p>Recipient Organization(s)¹⁰</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i></p> <p><i>Signature:</i></p> <p><i>Name of Agency:</i> UNDP</p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i> [Redacted]</p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Spehar:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Signature:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support:</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i> 20/01/2023</p>
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Sara Beysolow Nyanti</p> <p><i>Signature:</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Title:</i> DSRSG/RC/HC</p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i> 13/January/2023</p>	

⁹ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

¹⁰ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

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

- 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.

Background

South Sudan is in a period of transition after the signing of the peace agreement in 2018. The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan offers a pathway to peace and stability. It includes a 35% quota for women's representation in government, the appointment of a Transitional Government of National Unity and plans for elections. However, despite the agreement, the country remains fraught with political discord, violent conflict, and natural disasters. Adding to the country's fragility, the Covid-19 pandemic and, more recently, the global repercussions of the Ukraine crisis, have severely impacted the economy, blocking supply routes, causing inflation, and heightening food insecurity. Although the peace agreement ushered in some progress, its implementation has been slow. Elections are postponed until December 2024 and key mechanisms for transitional justice are yet to be launched. Presently, South Sudan is third on the Fragile States Index (2022), the most corrupt country in the world according to the Corruption Perception Index (2021), fourth in lowest human development according to UNDP's Human Development Index (2021), and fifth least peaceful country according to the Global Peace Index (2022). The ability of the country to address these crises and come together as a nation is hampered by the local-state-national fragmentation of its governance systems and by the exclusion of women, especially young women, from political participation and decision-making.

Gender inequality in South Sudan strongly correlates with the country's instability. The depth of gender inequality appears to mirror the level of insecurity and volatility experienced in the country. Women's marginalization in critical decision-making arenas and in relation to leadership positions undermines South Sudan's democracy and peace.

Studies have shown that peace agreements' sustainability increases with women's participation.¹¹ Historically, women's participation in peace processes in South Sudan has shown to benefit outcomes. For example, in the early 90s during South Sudan's liberation struggle from the north, there was a major split in the Sudan People's Liberation Army that was hard to bridge given a massacre that occurred in Bor, Jonglei where approximately 2,000 Dinka were killed by SPLA Nuer forces a battle that was part of an ongoing rivalry between the two. The divide between the Dinka and Nuer, South Sudan's two largest ethnic groups, threatened the viability of the struggle against the north. Consequently, Dinka and Nuer women initiated a peace process that eased the way for the SPLA Dinka and Nuer men to sit at the table and negotiate an end to hostilities. This peace process led to the parties coming together to focus their fight on northern oppression rather than each other. If the SPLA split between the Dinka and Nuer remained, independence from the north would not have been possible.

Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life is a critical condition for building a sustainable peace in South Sudan. At present, none of the political parties have fully met their obligations in terms of women nominees for political appointments. Not even in the case of political parties led by women has the 35% goal been reached. The problem is particularly acute with

¹¹ Jana Krause, Werner Krause & Pita Brantors (2018) Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace, *International Interactions*, 44:6, 985-1016, DOI: 10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386

state leadership as there is only one woman governor out of 10 and there are no chief administrators out of the 3 administrative areas in South Sudan. One political party (SPLM/IO) had successfully appointed women to key positions, such as Ministry of Defence and the only State woman Governor across the country. However, women appointed are often used as tokens without full decision-making authority.

The exclusion from political participation and leadership, whether on the basis of gender discrimination, age, ethnic affiliations or center-periphery dynamics, is a critical example of the conflict-prone fragmentation in South Sudan. The country is yet to consolidate its nation-state and still largely acts as a region as the states and localities are not sufficiently connected to the capital. This results in a core-periphery dynamic and resentment from citizens throughout the country who feel at the margins of their country's politics and in their ability to realize their rights including that of self-determination. While the nature of the struggles are similar in different areas of the country, the problem is more urgent in highly volatile settings, such as Malakal and Pibor. Overall, national parliamentarians regret their inability to regularly connect with constituents, state and local authorities. There is a weak communication infrastructure in South Sudan, thus they lack digital and telecommunication connectivity. Also, they do not have resources to travel to their areas, thus they are unable to engage with constituents directly and directly learn of their needs. In turn, many local authorities and constituents do not have the means to travel to state and national capitals. They are underrepresented in the decision-making and planning for some of the greatest challenges faced by the country including climate change.

Barriers to women and young women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life

South Sudanese women and young women face inadequate opportunities to participate in decision-making processes. Women encounter several obstacles which arise from cultural and social norms that relegate women and girls to a lower societal caste. The obstacles that impede women's participation and leadership often appear at an early age and are then compounded by discrimination and lack of opportunities throughout their years. Girls are less likely to go to school and are less likely to be literate. The education of girls is not as valued as that of boys as the expectation is that girls will marry at an early age. Women, young women and girls are too often seen as a resource to families in need of wealth that can be obtained through dowry. Bride price is a significant yet harmful part of South Sudan's economy which in part fuels the country's cycle of violence. For this reason, girls are commonly relegated to the home to carry out household duties and care for the elderly and younger siblings until they are married. Lack of education has lifelong harmful consequences even for individuals that are able to assume professional positions. Most of the women in the public administration have low educational qualifications: 53.2 % have no educational qualifications, and only 19.7% of civil servants with postgraduate qualifications are women.¹² This greatly affects their ability to carry out their duties and advance in their careers.

Married women often withstand abuse from their husbands and in-laws and are not able to leave their marriage because they would be required to pay back the bride price. In this way, bride price acts as ransom for the release of women from abusive marriages. Women's status not only impedes their ability to attain skills and experience for leadership, women and girls are often traumatized by exposure to GBV, including domestic abuse which has a significant impact on their overall wellbeing and confidence. Approximately 41% of South Sudan's population experience the range of symptoms

¹² UNDP /Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare- Gender Equality in Public Administration Study conducted in 2022 (GEPA)

associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and women are significantly more likely to score within the PTSD range than men.¹³ PTSD and childhood trauma may lead to self-hate, lack of compassion for oneself and performance anxiety.¹⁴ Women and girls are likely to internalize the harmful beliefs regarding women's place in society and their potential. In a study focused on women's leadership, women reported a lack of confidence as a barrier to seeking leadership positions.¹⁵

Though there is wide understanding of inequities and barriers women and young women generally face, there is little data on the obstacles they encounter in political participation and leadership. Indeed, there is an understanding that political violence is generally a threat and there have been reports of the disappearance and killing of some political activists, however there is little known of threats to women. By and large, women who are active in public life may face risks at home, through Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) however, to protect women of all ages, more needs to be known regarding the hazards to women in political spheres.

Experiences vary according to age. Young women who seek to participate in political life experience similar barriers to their elder counterparts. They face socioeconomic hurdles such as financial, educational and experiential ones as previously discussed. For young women, discrimination is a challenge not only because of their gender, but also due to their age. South Sudan has a practice of leadership by elders, which largely excludes youth from decision-making. Unlike their elders, young women's role as leaders is not assumed. Thus, there is a strong intersectional aspect of the difficulties young women face, they are discriminated according to gender and age. This highlights the need for an intergeneration approach to peacebuilding. Furthermore, it should be noted that vulnerability to SGBV is heightened during youth, especially reproductive years. Restrictive gender norms are the best predictors of a society's prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls and this is the case in South Sudan where young women are too often treated as a commodity.¹⁶ Bride price, forced marriages, wife inheritance and intimate partner violence are experienced, for the most part, by young women although in South Sudan, women of all ages are not immune to GBV.

The realm of political participation is a labyrinth where women and young women who seek to take part face financial setbacks and lack preparation. Shortage of funds hampers women's mobility, and inadequate skills regarding policy, conflict management, and leadership disallows for women's entry into political spheres. Making matters worse, discriminatory social norms can be argued to represent the greatest structural block to women's involvement. In a report on women's political participation¹⁷ young women described barriers to political participation as overlapping dynamic variables such as financial, educational, and discriminatory factors. For young women, who lack experience and skills and who do not have the mobility that a sustained income affords, entry into decision making arenas appears insurmountable especially as women are not easily embraced in these areas.

Social Norms

Discriminatory beliefs regarding women's place in society are among the most challenging impediments to women's leadership and political participation. The notions that women ought to be subordinate to men, and merit abuse under some circumstances, are common in South Sudan. These

¹³ UNDP (2015) *Search for a New Beginning: Perceptions of Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Healing in South Sudan*.

¹⁴ See: <https://childhoodtraumarecovery.com/blog/childhood-trauma-leading-to-self-hatred-and-intense-self-criticism/>

¹⁵ NTLI (2019) Transformational Leadership Training Impact Report.

¹⁶ Mary Ellsberg, Junior Ovince, Maureen Murphy, Alexandra Blackwell, Dashakti Reddy, Julianne Stennes, Tim Hess, and Manuel Contreras. (2020) *No safe place: Prevalence and correlates of violence against conflict-affected women and girls in South Sudan* Plos One Journal

¹⁷ NTLI (2019) Transformational Leadership Training Impact Report.

ideas contribute to the high prevalence of violence experienced, especially by young women, and they add to the difficulties women encounter in their attempts to break out of the confines placed on them by society.¹⁸ Patriarchal ideas that assume the inferiority of women are deeply ingrained in South Sudanese society and are embraced by both men and women.

In this very young country, the profile of its leaders is decidedly older. This phenomenon is rooted in a practice founded on ideas of wise elders that does not fully recognize the value of young leadership. Thus young women's vulnerability to gender discrimination is compounded by age prejudice. Indeed, the difference between the elder leadership and the country's young population is stark. Approximately, 74% of South Sudan's population is 30 years of age and younger.

Women and girls are susceptible to assimilating the negative beliefs and realities of this context in such a way that prevents them from seeking leadership positions or working to influence decision-making. The situation appears intractable. Gatekeepers are in government, political parties, and civil service among other areas are informed by these discriminatory beliefs. Even when women are skilled and experienced, too often they are stopped from entry to positions for which they are qualified. If this is to change, there needs to be a transformation in the patriarchal belief system that is at the root of the discrimination women experience. Women leaders who are presently working in government report that the hurdles women face continue into their work. Women are assigned to domestic-like, womanly duties, assignments and causes. Issues of security and economics are less likely to be thought of as the domain of women. For this reason, there is a need to address gender inequality as a problem affecting the country as a whole. Additionally, women require preparation in issues that are not merely gender focused so the scope of their work and influence is not restricted.

Access to financial resources

Gender and economic status are also interlinked as a major barrier to women and youth's participation and leadership. The ability to influence decision-making in one's community to a significant extent is dependent on the economic status of the individual. Those who can host guests and have resources to offer in gatherings, have a more influential status and thus their views may be taken into account. Those who are able to travel and have mobility are more able to be of influence. Women and youth are not often equipped with resources to support political activity or to garner the respect that results from a stable or higher economic status.

Eighty-two percent of South Sudanese fall under the poverty line. Data at the household level are extremely scarce due to the lack of household surveys but the Women, Business and Law Index measures legal differences between men's and women's access to economic opportunities. South Sudan has the lowest rates of access to economic opportunities for women in the region. The areas with wide gaps between women and men are pensions (i.e. women have a much more precarious retirement), parenthood (i.e. bearing children reduces their economic opportunities compared to men), entrepreneurship (e.g. they do not have equal rights to inherit assets) and marriage (e.g. there is no specific legislation addressing domestic violence). In Article 16 of the Transitional Constitution, statutory land access, use, and management systems are introduced (cf. 4.7 Strategies for Extending and Protecting Women's Land Rights) but the clause is undermined by the Constitutional and Land Act unlimited recognition of customary practices as a valid source of law which contradicts women's equal rights to land and property. Though South Sudan now has statutory laws that aim to protect women and girls economically, and from GBV, customary law predominates throughout most of South Sudan and upholds harmful and discriminatory practices.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Women suffer disproportionate consequences of conflict and other crises

Women suffer South Sudan's economic, political, conflict and climate crises disproportionately because of their roles as care givers, limited adaptive facilities, and vulnerability to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The context is dynamic, ever-changing and hurdles grow steeper with every crisis. Crises are linked to greater vulnerability to conflict related sexual violence (CRSV), SGBV, reproductive and other health issues, and heightened duty of care for family especially for family members with disabilities. During incidents of violent conflict such as what occurs in Malakal and Pibor, two areas of this project, young women and children become targets of violent acts such as rape and abductions. Women's vulnerability increases during natural disasters as well. Displacement leads to increased vulnerability to GBV, extreme challenges delivering basic care and supplying family with water, firewood and food. While women are in the forefront of their families' survival they are generally not positioned to address these crises or conflicts as decision-makers. The most vulnerable women of South Sudan are not well connected to leaders such as women parliamentarians at state and national level that represent them and generally are not able to become leaders themselves.

Malakal

In Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile, there are approximately 37,000 IDPs living in Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs). The number of IDPs grew this past September after a breakout of fighting in the area which displaced thousands more. In November fighting between Shilluk and Nuer armed youth fought in Fashoda County and displaced civilians into Malakal and Kodok towns. The areas are presently tense and unpredictable. The IDPs in Malakal were originally displaced by the wars that broke out in 2013 and 2016 but other waves of displacement occurred with continued fighting between the SPLM and the SPLM In Opposition as well as fighting between other groups including inter-ethnic clashes that were often instigated by leaders in the capital vying for power in the region.

Women in the PoCs are largely cut off from opportunities to participate in the political system and promote their rights. They are among the most vulnerable populations in South Sudan as was recently highlighted by the news regarding the abuse perpetrated by UN and NGO staff. The women in Malakal urgently require assistance to be able to lead, represent themselves, take part in peace processes, promote policy, influence leaders and participate in future elections.

Presently, there is fear that violence may erupt in the PoC given the conflict that has recently sparked in the area. Government, traditional and community leaders are being called to intervene and use their authority to mitigate further violence. Traditional leaders are the primary authorities at the Malakal PoC. There are also other leaders appointed to head committees representing different blocks of IDPs. Seventy percent of Upper Nile government leaders reside in Juba for fear of their safety thus they have little to no connection with their constituents. The situation in Upper Nile is extreme. To make matters worse, local, state, national governance is fragmented and unable to effectively address the conflict.

Pibor

The Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) formerly of Jonglei State is a new administrative area that over the years has experienced a variety of shocks. The area has been plagued by intercommunal fighting, climate-related disasters such as extensive flooding leaving thousands displaced, weak infrastructure with blockages to roads to Juba thus cutting off a significant supply route. The area is

predominantly Murle and was established by their rebellion and the subsequent peace agreement in 2018 that provided for the administrative area and their separation from Jonglei state.

Pibor does not yet have their government structures fully in place and it is not fully demarcated, a process that has caused tension with neighboring counties. Its formation is a victory to the rebel movement but its future is precarious as it is tied to the outcomes of the rivalry between the SPLM and SPLM/IO.

They have long lingering issues with Jonglei, the state, that need to be addressed. Pibor requires the leadership of women to navigate the relationship with Jonglei state which has good representation by women. Furthermore, the ethnic divisions within the Greater Pibor Area require urgent and long-term interventions. The divisions among the Dinka, Murle and Lou Nuer manifests in violent cattle raids, rape, child abductions and fighting. In the last 2 years, the area has been insecure and has been hit with floods and fighting. The inaccessible roads to Juba are causing high prices for commodities and a weakening of trade in the local markets. Overall insecurity whether due to natural disasters or violent conflict inhibit income generating activities and heighten levels of vulnerability of women and their families.

GPAA has a long history of political marginalization and violent conflict that has required constant support. The GPAA is founded on not very stable grounds and women's marginalization adds to the area's fragility. In the absence of well-established government structures, participation of women in peacebuilding and politics is uncertain.

Entry Points for Change

As Malakal and Pibor are two of the main target areas of this project, peace processes in these regions will be entry points for driving change through women and young women's political participation. The project aims to have women lead and participate in a variety of political processes. Violent conflict throughout the country continues to be a major concern thus peacebuilding is a logical pathway for women's influence. Conflict in South Sudan is complex and finds its roots in a range of causes which include, political, ethnic, economic, gender and climate-related variables. The project will ensure that although gender equality is addressed as a conflict issue of high priority, women are prepared to tackle the wide breadth of issues propelling violence and all forms of instability in South Sudan. Peace processes in Pibor and Malakal will afford an opportunity to address the broad scope of issues that manifest into violent conflict.

The elections, and the R-ARCSS and gender equality legislation are other key entry points for women to effect change. South Sudan is currently preparing for the 2024 general elections and is undergoing a constitution-making process which is presently supported by PBF. The country is working to fulfil its obligations in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which stipulates a 35% affirmative action for women's representation. The influence of South Sudanese women is urgently needed as their country consolidates its democracy in an environment where women continue to face severe insecurity and inequities. The elections provide an entry point for increasing women's participation as elected officials and party members. The participation and representation of women, including young women, in decision-making is critical for truly representative institutions; to support to prioritization of gender issues in policymaking; but also, as a critical condition for an inclusive and sustained peace.

The country has signed all the main international treaties and protocols relevant to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and have agreed to a comprehensive National Gender Policy.

The Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024 contains specific commitments to mainstream gender in all development policies and programmes, empowering women (alongside youth) as drivers of peace, growth and nation building. Several legislative gaps are now being addressed in the preparation for the Permanent Constitution-making Process (PCP) with Anti-GBV and Affirmative Action Laws in the pipeline. More resources will be required to ensure the National Gender Policy is fully implemented and a comprehensive whole-of-society approach adopted to empower women and girls going forward.

South Sudan is also in the process of developing an Affirmative Action /Gender Equality Bill that will contribute to the implementation of gender provisions such as the 35% affirmative action, once passed into law, hopefully, later this year. This Bill has undergone a participatory process including the formation of an experts' group on Affirmative Action that has convened to review and give inputs. The draft Bill has undergone various stages and was presented to a National Consultation Meeting on 24th and 25th February 2022. The Bill was validated on 8 August 2022. The purpose of the validation was to build concurrence with state Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare as well as to enable more women, and men to be well informed about the draft bill and be well prepared to advocate for its operationalization. Planning is underway to present the bill to the members of parliament for buy in and endorsement before the Bill is tabled in Parliament. Thereafter, the Bill will be handed over to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for further deliberation in Parliament. The Bill, once passed as a law, will be launched and disseminated. The Bill has several new proposals including the establishment of an inter-ministerial and inclusive Gender Equality Authority which will act as an enforcement mechanism for Gender Equality and Women Peace and Security in South Sudan. It creates a Gender Equality Fund to support women's representation, support for women's participation in elections and other measures to enhance gender equality. It proposes that the Fund will be vested in the Ministry responsible for Finance and Planning and shall be managed and administered by the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. The fund shall receive various sources of funding including from Government, donors, and individuals. UN support and potential contributions to the fund will be provided transparently, with the expectation that candidates and women in politics will be supported in an impartial and equitable manner and in a way which is and is perceived to be politically neutral. The Bill further proposes the holding of an annual Gender Equality Forum to monitor enforcement of gender equality provisions as well as discuss challenges and opportunities. The forum will monitor the adherence to the provisions of the relevant laws and regional and international commitments on gender and the measures adopted.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) coordinates gender mainstreaming at national and state levels, a challenging task as local, state and national governments are not virtually connected. Despite the urgency of the MGCSW's mandate it receives less than 0.3% of the national budget. The MGCSW is central to the policy that this project seeks to support and actualize. Thus, assisting the MGCSW so that it can deliver on its mandate is required for the project objectives to be achieved.

UN Women and UNDP work closely with women parliamentarians, to help build their knowledge and skills regarding peacebuilding and governance. This is being done at the national and state levels. Parliamentarians, especially novice ones often do not have the knowledge or skills to carry out basic functions or begin to address violence experienced in their areas. They require fundamental support to be able to act in their roles and address urgent issues of conflict that threaten peace and the country's democracy. Navigating policy and law are formidable challenges, that are presently addressed in trainings but more work is needed to address violent conflict and to mobilize men in government to adopt gender equality as a top priority. South Sudan is the newest country in the world. Indeed, this fact is well known but the reality is deeply felt by UN Women and UNDP. Peace, stability and the

consolidation of a socially cohesive nation-state will not be achieved unless women are fully participating in governance and are able to effectively carry out their roles.

Stakeholder Matrix

Stakeholder	Power and Interest	Role, capacities for peace	Importance
Women and women youth groups	High interest + Low power	Role and capacity remains inadequate. We need to bring group forward so they play more. Women and girls face inadequate opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes. Women encounter several obstacles, which arise from cultural and social norms that relegate women and girls to a lower societal caste.	High as they are the primary targets of the project
Women parliamentarians (both national and state Caucasus)	High interest + High power	Play critical role in advocating for increased participation of women and girls at state structures. Advocacy roles are high. However, they are party based and politically divided. If they are mentored and capacitated, they play key role in effective participation of women in peace processes.	High importance as they are the primary targets of the project and have power at the state level. They can influence decisions.
CSOs and women-led organizations	High interest + Medium power	CSOs and WLOs play a significant role in advocacy and evidence-based push for inclusiveness and fair representation. Women's networks hold consultations for requests and recommendations to be shared with decision-makers centered on policies and issues of priority.	High importance in voicing the needs and rights of women. They lead advocacy meetings driven by civil society members, activists and government representatives for sensitization and lobbying for women rights.
Political parties (members of the coalition including executives)	Low interest + High power	Political leaders play a role in creating an enabling environment for women's political leadership. They can allow for legislation, policies and strategies enabling the participation of women in decision-making structures. Particularly the ruling party can pass bills, policies and legislation that enhance participation of women.	High importance as they are the key actors in enacting laws, policies and strategies.
Media	High interest	Media is key for gender responsive media coverage. This is key to	High importance as the media is key to the shift

	+medium power	shifting the environment in which women engage and lead. The country needs to shift its view of women and come to expect women to lead in all areas. There is improvement but women still struggle against stereotypes of women as merely homemakers, followers, unskilled and lacking the intellectual capacity to lead.	that needs to occur and they are asking for more training in gender responsive reporting.
Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare	High interest + medium power	The Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare is key to ensure women are adequately represented and participating at various levels. This ministry also has a key role in initiating bills and policies enhancing women's participation. Lack of funds and technical support limits it's role	The Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare plays an important role in the design and operationalization of the different laws, policies and strategies.
UN Women and UNDP	High interest +Medium power	Provision of technical and financial support to the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare to promote Gender Equality and monitor adherence to the provisions of the relevant laws and regional and international commitments on gender and the measures adopted. Has capacity for advocacy	The two play an importance role in driving commitments for the laws, policies and strategies. They play important role in advocacy, technical and financial support.
International partners (INGOs, UNMISS, donors, embassies, etc)	High interest +Medium power	This group plays important role in advocacy, providing capacity building and funding important initiatives that enhance participation of women in peace and decision-making processes.	Critical to mitigate the resources gaps (funds and technical) capacities required
State level peace infrastructure	Medium interest +Medium power	(peace and security, gender, human rights and humanitarian sector committees) These are key structures at state level where decisions are made. These are cross cutting structures that influence women's participation in different structures. However, mostly they are male dominated.	State, peace and security, gender, human rights and humanitarian sector committees play critical importance in making decisions at state level
Ministry of Peacebuilding	High interest and medium power	The policy of MPB should promote participation of women in local peace processes. MPB plays critical role in ensuring that women are participating and their voices are heard in peace processes at all levels. Coordination role for PBF projects.	Important in ensuring women's participation in peace decisions.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	High interest and medium power	Critical in ensuring women are participating in political processes such as elections. Their impactful contribution however depends on the political will of the ruling party	Plays important role for the enhanced participation of women in the political processes including peace building issues.
Upper and lower houses(Parliament)	Low interest + High power	Critical and powerful in legislation, policies and bills process. However, often they are politically divided. The gender agenda is lost as they are politically divided due to regional, ethnic dynamics	Important in setting the scene in terms of laws, bills, policies enabling women's participation
Traditional leaders mainly council of traditional authority leaders (COTAL)	Low interest + High power	They have been incorporated in the government structures and a critical role to play in the local conflict resolutions and ensure participation and interest of women are considered. This is a male dominated. Women leaders (Kabarthe) in Pibor are very strong in handling issues of cattle raiding, abduction etc	Very important group for operationalizing any laws, policies and strategies developed for increased participation of women

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**¹⁹, 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:

The project is aligned with the South Sudan National Action Plan (SSNAP) on the implementation of 1325, and as stated previously R-ARCSS. The SSNAP operationalizes the three thematic areas of the 1325 focused on increasing women's effective participation in leadership and peacebuilding; supporting security sector reforms; and strengthening efforts to prevent and protect women and girls against any form of violence. A draft gender equality affirmative action bill has been developed consultatively. Advocacy towards it passing is an opportunity to increase women participation. In line with the R-ARCSS commitment, the project will contribute to the realization of 35% quota for women in political process at national and state level. The project supports the United Nations Development Corporation Framework for South Sudan (2018-2022). The UNCF bolsters national priorities as it seeks to build the capacity of duty bearers such as parliamentarians to serve the holders of rights including women. This project will work closely with Women Parliamentarians and Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to strengthen their influence in forwarding women's equal rights.

- 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 summary **of existing interventions** in the proposal's sector by filling out the table below:
Gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive laws, policies and practices in parliament are increased...

¹⁹ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Transformational Leadership Project	1,000,000 US\$ UN Women	Women's Political Participation	Supports government institutions/builds capacity of women to lead and participate in governance. The project is focused on building the capacity of the National Transformational Leadership Institute of the University of Juba, NTLI trains women leaders from government and CSOs. This project is due to end in April 2023. The current proposal for Women's political participation is focused on building the capacities of women and young women to fully participate in politics including peacebuilding, political parties, elections and government. The main difference between the current project and the proposal is that the proposal is centered on peacebuilding. It addresses the nations fragmentation by working on women's inclusion and by bringing local, state and national government together.
Gender mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform (September 2020-March 2023)	4,000,000 US\$	Mainstreaming Gender in the Security sector National Strategy	This project focuses on capacity building of security sector institutions to be gender responsive, on one hand and advocacy, consultation and

			<p>dialogue with women on the security needs for women and the imperative to take opportunity/positions available within the security institutions as a result of the reforms. The Women's Leadership and Political Participation during South Sudan's Transitional Period will reinforce these efforts by building capacities of women to engage in institutions and spaces of decision making at the national and local levels.</p>
Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC)	SIDA, and UNDP, KOICA 35,121,066 US\$	Women Peace and Security (Participation Pillar)	<p>The project complements this proposal as one of the key pillars focuses on engendering peace process and improving women's participation in decision making. It has a country wide reach and support the Ministry of Gender Child and Social welfare to have a nation-wide reach on issues of women and gender in peace process as well as governance. This project will build on the work of this pillar as well as use the infrastructures at the national and local created by the Pillar (PaCC)</p>
Building Peace through Promoting Inclusive Peace and Participatory Transitional Justice	PBF (\$ 2,969,796)	Strengthening capacities of institutions for transitional justice	<p>This project strengthens institutions to ensure accountability through truth, healing, and reconciliation. The Women's Leadership</p>

			and Political Participation during South Sudan's Transitional Period project, will catalyze the participation of women in transitional justice as it will build their capacities to participate in decision making including peace and reconciliation processes.
Support to a People Driven and Gender Responsive Constitution Making Process	PBF(\$4, 000,045)	Capacities for Constitution Making	This project aims to strengthen capacities for an permanent constitution making process and also increase participation of the women in the process. The Women's Leadership and Political Participation during South Sudan's Transitional Period will boost the participation of women in the constitution making process as it strengthens their capacities to participate.

II. 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 will support the leadership, representation, and meaningful participation of women in political and peacebuilding processes. Firstly, to diminish barriers for women's inclusion, the project will raise awareness for women's leadership and political participation through government, media, and CSOs. Secondly, there will be direct technical support to women leaders, women government representatives, candidates, CSOs and women-led organizations to strengthen their capacities and support their participation. Thirdly, gender equality will be promoted as a critical peace issue for the whole society and that is to be promoted not only by women. Technical support will consist of resources to help decrease the local-state-national fragmentation and help women gain skills to navigate the difficult conflict terrain. They will be trained on how to manage conflict and build bridges and support policy that will increase peace, gender equity and the inclusion of all women including

young women in spheres of decision-making. The assistance will be delivered impartially, and equitably, keeping in mind political rivalries and the sensitive conflict context. Political candidacies will not be funded. Instead, support will consist of training regarding political processes, peacebuilding, law, advocacy for political participation and inclusion and for the work needed to be done to establish a Gender Equality Fund. The project will not finance the Gender Equality Fund itself.

A Women's Peace and Security Advisor will be seconded from UNDP to the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. Furthermore, women leaders, women organizations, CSOs will be assisted through training for political participation including electoral processes, and gender sensitive analysis. The aim is to support the country's stability, build social cohesion by securing more inclusive and democratic processes through strengthening women's presence and authority in political spheres and having young leadership that.

Participatory approach: The project will use an integrated, inclusive, participatory and flexible approach to adapt to the changing context and beneficiaries' needs. Ownership of project activities and interventions will be sought through national, state and local authorities, women organizations, and civil society organizations including the Women Coalition of South Sudan. Stakeholder-led interventions and community participatory approaches will be used during project implementation. Deliberate efforts will be made to ensure young women and girls affected by conflict benefit from the project with a target of 60% (young women).

Political inclusion: Women and especially grassroots women have minimal opportunity for meaningful political engagement as they are at the periphery of political participation. Political exclusion is viewed as underpinning all other forms of exclusion; For women to see themselves as the architect of the extension of the Revitalized Agreement of Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) roadmap, there is a need for full inclusion and participation in processes at national, state and local levels. The project approach shall include training activists, and leaders in advocacy, civic education, peacebuilding, gender equality so that grassroots women, including young women understand their rights and civic duties and are better able to advocate for their concerns and for their inclusion in political participation. The civic education will also focus on duty bearers to know their responsibility vis vs the women through inter-generational dialogues.

Gender equality and women's empowerment: During consultations with communities, conducted by UN Women and UNDP in the development of this project, gender issues were viewed by participants as central to peace. This project is founded on the premise that gender in South Sudan is similar to caste, thus the need to promote gender equality policy as a peace measure. Caste is determined at birth and defines social status, access to capital, and exposure to violence that is deemed permissible. Though there is a push against gender inequality in South Sudan, the barriers appear to be almost static similar to what is found in a caste system. Gender equality is foundational to peace and security. The ability of women and young women to enjoy all aspects of security, including physical security is not possible without addressing the many barriers they face. In this project, policy and law will be treated as important to the realization of this peace. Laws can be operationalized and are mechanisms for accountability and a way for equitable change to be sustained. Overall, extreme gender inequality is a destabilizing factor that intensifies the country's fragility, thus the urgency for gender equitable policy. However, the project will ensure that women are not stuck in a gender-policy ghetto, disconnected from other vital issues, such as economic and security concerns. The project will aim to increase the participation of women and young women in all political and peace processes through counter-messaging of discriminatory social norms, increasing political and leadership skills of participants, bringing together disparate groups, leaders and constituents and pushing for equitable legislation.

A conflict sensitive approach: The project will conduct continuous conflict analysis to gain a sound understanding of dynamics between activities and context. This analysis will include an assessment of violence against women in politics. The data regarding political violence as experienced by young women is lacking but is needed to fully understand barriers to women's participation in decision-making and to fully grasp violent conflict in South Sudan. This process will help minimize negative impacts and maximize positive outcomes from project interventions. Through this analysis, the project will more effectively do no harm. A review of conflict factors will ensure that the interventions support peace and do not reinforce inequities. Community consultations will be key to selecting the beneficiaries and implementing the project in an equitable and sensitive manner. Tools such as the Conflict Impact Assessment and Aid for Peace will be used in this process.

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. (Working on this)

Impact: Women's meaningful political participation and decision-making increases social cohesion and Gender Equality in South Sudan.

If patriarchal views and attitudes are shifted through advocacy and awareness raising driven by local women CSOs, activists and media;

And if legislation pushed by women leaders, passed by parliaments and implemented by the relevant authorities helps increase and sustain gender equality;

And if women, in particular young women in Parliaments and political parties have the skills and the space to actively participate, meaningfully represent their constituents' interests and lead changes in policy and practice,

Then women's more meaningful participation and leadership in political decision-making will foster national and state-level social cohesion and gender equality,

Because women's equal participation and leadership will be fostered through shifting norms and attitudes, legal action, and political practice simultaneously, which has a transformative potential also for inclusive civic space and enhanced social cohesion.

ASSUMPTIONS (with evidence derived from UNDP IEO (2022): *Lessons from Evaluations: Boosting Women's Political Participation*)

- 1) Enhancing the political participation of women can in itself contribute to strengthening social cohesion and overcoming political divides.
- 2) Civil society engagement can help connect national, state and community level in an effort to enlarge civic space and sustain women's political participation
- 3) Social norms can be challenged through exposure to women leaders in politics.

4) Women parliamentarians often lack the knowledge, experience and capacities to actively and meaningfully participate in political decision-making.

5) A quota system can be effective if it is adequately monitored and accompanied by legislative measures, policies and practice.

(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?)

- b) **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. Enhanced quality and quantity of women participation in decision making, in particular in the National and State Parliament.

Output 1.1. Women, especially young women are capacitated to work effectively in government and political parties

Activities

- 1.1.1 *Develop a training manual for parliamentarians and other government leaders on violent conflict and security concerns, gender sensitive legislation including gender responsive budgeting.*

UN Women and UNDP's current work with Parliamentarians and other government leaders will inform the development of a manual for government leaders. The manual will most likely include a broad scope of policy issues which representatives need to address including but not limited to gender-mainstreaming, creating strategic partnerships (such as with men for gender equality), key economic, health, and security issues related to violent conflict, conflict resolution/management, and peacebuilding. Also practical skills such as public speaking, managing media, negotiations, planning, tabling, and budgeting.

- 1.1.2 *Train members of newly formed national Women Parliamentary Caucus on influencing decision-making and policy in a gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive way.*

An orientation system will be put into place for the WPC. New parliamentarians need special guidance for beginning their work as parliamentarians. Most new members have no experience and have not worked in government. The orientation system will be set up to orient members to their post and allow them to function effectively from the start of their tenure. The newly developed training manual will be utilized for the orientation.

- 1.1.3 *Train the Women Parliamentary Caucus on monitoring and information management around women's participation in parliament.*

While it is clear that women's active participation and leadership in parliament is disproportionately low, there is currently no reliable monitoring system to measure participation and detect changes over time. The Women Parliamentary Caucus is well positioned to monitor such information and use it to promote women's participation and leadership on a better-informed basis. Such training can include quantitative and qualitative methods such as counting women's interventions and submission of bills, but also monitoring women's and men's perceptions of women's participation in parliament.

- 1.1.4 *Trainings for Women Parliamentary Caucuses and women parliamentarians at state-level, including Upper Nile and in administrative area such as Pibor.*
- 1.1.5 The newly developed training manual will be used for the trainings. The pedagogy will be designed for both highly and minimally educated parliamentarians. The assumption is that not all effective leaders need to arise from the academy.

Output 1.2. Increased opportunities and spaces for women leaders to engage with their constituencies, thereby strengthening accountability and linkages between center and periphery
Activities

- 1.2.1 *Organize exchange forums between women parliamentarians and young women, CSOs, local leaders and the wider community.*
There will be a series of forums held that are intergenerational and give young women the opportunity to set the agendas and lead. The topics of discussion will vary but they will most likely be tied to the upcoming peace and conflict issues, the elections or other issues that arise from community contexts. The forums will give women representatives and women leaders from communities the opportunity to engage constituencies, work on issues of inclusion in the elections, discrimination, GBV, conflict, local economy and other matters that arise at the time. the opportunity. In Malakal and Pibor, the issues relating to the conflict will most likely be the focus.
- 1.2.2 *Conduct an assessment on violence against women in politics and other barriers faced by young women and women.*
Data will be collected on violence against women in politics and other impediments to political participation. The assessment will inform what protection measures are needed for the project participants and generally for women and young women in politics.
- 1.2.3 *Prepare young women for intergenerational engagement with elder leaders and for political participation.*
Barriers to political participation are intersectional thus training sessions will be held for young women to prepare them to effectively participate in political processes. The training will be informed by the assessment conducted on violence against women in political participation and other barriers.

Output 1.3. Increased advocacy to augment the number of women candidates and leaders in political parties through democratic and transparent means
Activities

- 1.3.1 *Organize dialogues with local leaders and political party leaders to advocate for peace and discrimination of women and for their inclusion in political and decision-making processes.*
Women are not well represented among political party candidates and not within political parties. The elections are scheduled for 2024. There is urgency in lobbying for women, especially young women's participation who are largely left out of government and party politics.
- 1.3.2. *Implement advocacy campaign focusing on conflict issues arising during the project timeline and on issues arising from the conflict in Malakal and Pibor. Have young women drive advocacy peace advocacy campaign focused on issues of violent conflict. This will put women in a position to participate and lead on peacebuilding issues.*
- 1.3.3 *Provision of technical and financial support the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare and CSOs actors to develop a media and communications strategy to advocate for increased women's participation in politics and decision-making.*
Advocacy in all its forms is essential to the goal of women's inclusion and full participation in governance. There currently is a process of normalization having women as leaders through advocacy. The increase in the percentage of women as leaders throughout the country is a sign

that the advocacy is having a positive impact. UN Women will support the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare to develop a mass media and communications strategy that will be broadcast throughout the country through radio, TV and print news. The strategy will build upon previous advocacy efforts and will utilize the lessons learned to implement an effective approach. We will support the ministry in efforts to connect with Pibor and Malakal, 2 hotspots that are not well connected to the capital or the rest of the country.

1.3.4 Coordinate Women led and other CSOs to popularize the provisions of the Political Parties Act to women aspirants particularly on their engagement with the Political Parties at the grassroots level.

Young women have great challenges in joining political parties and being promoted to party leadership positions. Youth tend to work through civil society networks but are not well incorporated into political parties. As the country is getting closer to holding elections, supporting young women membership and candidacy in political parties is an urgent priority. Thus, this project will educate women on the content of the Political Parties Act and advocate for their inclusion in political parties as vehicles to their candidacy and eventual election to decision-making positions. UNDP and UN Women are already involved in the review of the Political Parties Act which is ongoing and thus we are privy to the requirements for women in order to get their way to active political party politics. This will include awareness raising and lobbying. Women who have received leadership training will be supported in this effort and they will be able to engage political parties to discuss opportunities for young women's participation and leadership.

Outcome 2. Positive shift in perceptions and attitudes regarding women capacity to lead and make decisions in politics and peacebuilding

Output 2.1. Increased capacity and awareness of stakeholder groups, including CSO's, Women Rights Organizations (WROs), media, community influencers, male allies, and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership.

Activities

2.1.1 Train CSOs, WROs and grassroots organizations, women's networks on holding inclusive public consultations, including on advocacy and leadership skills.

Trainings will be conducted to prepare for CSO members to engage leaders and lobby for their priorities. The project will facilitate opportunities to meet with leaders but the skills learned will support their participation and activism beyond the project timeline.

2.1.2 Train young men and male elders on gender equality, positive masculinity and gender inequality as a peacebuilding issue.

UN Women intends to work with young men as well as their elders to grow awareness of gender inequality and the negative impact it is having on the country including the role of inequality in the cycle of violence. Inequality needs to be understood for the harm it is causing in all realms and how it is a root cause of violence. Stories and statistics of country's with stable and resilient democracies will be cited. Those countries that have more women's representation and leadership enjoy more stability and peace.

2.1.3 Train media practitioners to portray women candidates positively and fairly through radio, print and social media.

UN Women has previously worked closely with media on gender responsive and gender sensitive media. This is key to shifting the environment in which women engage and lead. The country needs to shift its view of women and come to expect women to participate and lead in all areas. Media is key to the shift that needs to occur and they are asking for more training in gender responsive reporting. Media will also be trained on gender inequality as a conflict issue that threatens the country's overall stability.

Output 2.2. Expanded space for dialogue and exchange of ideas on women's participation in political and peacebuilding decision-making (townhalls, meetings, dialogues, forums, consultations). Women will be given the opportunity to lead dialogues on a variety of issues according to their priorities.

Activities

2.2.1 *CSOs, WROs and grassroots organizations, women's networks hold consultations for requests and recommendations to be shared with decision-makers centered on policies and issues of priority.* This allows for women to lead on a broad spectrum of issues. Organizations will be supported in conducting consultations throughout the country including the Malakal PoC and the Greater Pibor Administrative area. They will be given the opportunity to set the agenda for the conflict-sensitive consultations and to network various stakeholders to influence key decision-makers. In Malakal and Pibor, the focus of the consultations is likely to address their ongoing struggles and conflict. Every activity and action gives these actors a chance to hone their skills, grow their networks and influence peace processes.

2.2.2 *Organize men and women youth events promoting peace and women's political leadership in Malakal PoC, states and administrative areas such as Pibor.*

One of the methods employed by this project for supporting women's leadership is to impact the environment in which they engage. Belief systems and norms need to be transformed if gender equality is to be achieved. For this reason, working with youth is important as they will determine their country's future and their beliefs influence women's ability to lead in the long-term. Important is to highlight gender inequality as part of the cycle of violence in South Sudan. Thus promotion of women's leadership is necessary to peacebuilding. Malakal and Pibor are conflict zones in need of urgent attention. These areas have some of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations of the country thus the need for support is critical.

Outcome 3. Gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive laws, policies and practices are increased.

Output 3.1: Passing and commencement of implementation of a Gender Equality Affirmative Action Bill 2022 for women's representation in the Republic of South Sudan that includes an enforcement mechanism for women's representation

This bill is key to addressing the discrimination of women and girls. Through the work on this Bill, UN Women and UNDP will connect marginalized women, grassroots leaders to the country's capitals and to their representatives. This output will entail a process of learning, action and empowerment through the struggle to get the Bill passed.

Activities

3.1.1 *Advocacy meetings driven by civil society members, activists and government representatives for sensitization and lobbying for the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill, 2022 targeting members of legislature and other critical persons.*

This will be one several advocacy efforts in this project. As in the case of other advocacy interventions, this is aimed at empowering women who do not easily get access to the main areas of governance in South Sudan. This will bring together women, youth from the grassroots, from all areas including outside of the country's capitals to engage officials on the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill. The idea is to empower some of the most marginalized constituents of the country to get the Affirmative Action Bill passed.

3.1.2 *Under the Gender Equality Affirmative Action Bill, provision of technical and financial support to the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare to convene an annual Gender Equality Forum to monitor adherence to the provisions of the relevant laws and regional and international commitments on gender and the measures adopted.)*

The country needs better monitoring mechanisms to highlight successes and most importantly to address gaps. The support for this process will entail connection the Ministry to the states in this process. Presently a lot of data is missing from the state and local level. This project aims to improve this situation.

Output 3.2: “Strengthened capacity of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to oversee implementation of gender equality legislation

A problem with the work on gender equality that it receives extensive moral support but there is a need that it is financially supported affecting sustainability. As mentioned above.

Activities

3.2.1 Undertake an assessment of viability of a Gender Equality Fund to support women’s representation, capacities of young women and action measures.

This assessment will help to understand the viability of a Gender Equality Fund to support women participation, including seeking a buy-in for the Fund from donors in the Women Peace and Security Coordination Forum. The assessment will use both quantitative and qualitative tools in order to generate useful evidence from women and girls at community, state and national level. The assessment will also provide evidence on the need for the fund for the peace and stability in South Sudan. Furthermore, the assessment is expected to provide an input to a further action for establishing a Gender Equality Fund that will help to address issues of women’s representation, capacity building of young women and advocating for action measures from stakeholders.

3.2.2 Secondment of a WPS advisor at the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare to enhance the capacity of the Ministry to meet its obligations under the WPS Agenda including implementation of the revised SSNAP and monitoring and reporting on the various WPS obligations such as the AU Continental Framework, CEDAW, etc. as per the Ministry’s Monitoring and Reporting Template and Schedule developed in 2022. With the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Gender staff, including all the gender focal persons in all Ministries were trained on WPS reporting obligations such as the AU Continental Framework, CEDAW. However, till now the reports for 2022 are not yet finalized because of insufficient capacities. This position will not only support the completion and submission of the reports but will also mentor and coach staff of the ministry to improve their capacities in monitoring and reporting.

3.2.3 Support coordination with the Cluster of Gender and Youth Affairs on WPS issues.
The cluster of Gender and Youth Affairs plays key importance on WPS issues for inclusive and engendered programming. It plays strategic leadership in advocacy, defining priorities, planning, implementing and monitoring of gender and youth affairs. It endorses draft bills, policies and strategies before they are presented to the cabinet or parliament for debates and approval. Thus, technical and resource support will be provided to the cluster for coordinating system wide activities through organizing work planning and progress reviews.

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

- c) **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.

The project will be implemented at the national and subnational levels. The Greater Pibor Area in Jonglei and the Malakal in the Upper Nile will be the focus of the subnational work. Geographic zones were decided with input from the Ministry of Peacebuilding. Pibor is an area affected by many complex conflicts as well Malakal; and there has been lot of reported GBV matters. Grants will be provided to

select institutions to implement projects at the State level- particularly through women's coalitions and blocs. Women leaders in various sectors will be a key demographic for the project. Young women and youth from vulnerable communities will also be prioritized. Target beneficiaries of the project include;

- 1). Women parliamentarians at state and national level: They will be selected for their influence in policy, advocacy at state and national levels. They will be supported with trainings on peacebuilding, policy-making and negotiations among other subjects. They will be engaged in dialogue and advocacy activities at state and national and will make connections with their constituents.
- 2). CSOs and women led organizations and grass root structures: The project will target CSOs and community-based organizations in the target areas with trainings, dialogues, forums and advocacy activities. Selection of the organisations will be based on their role, relevance and interest in women's empowerment and participation.²⁰
- 3). Primary beneficiaries of this project will be young women and women overall who as they will benefit from the outcomes of the project through engagement with leaders, policy change, legislation and passing of bills enabling women participate and make decisions.

Direct beneficiaries include:

- Women Parliamentarians at state and national levels which totals approximately 333. However national and state legislatures as a whole will benefit from the training of women parliamentarians.
- Approximately 500 young women, members of CSOs to meet with parliamentarians.
- Approximately 600 dialogues with political parties and leaders for talks against discrimination
- 46 women and women-led organisations will be principle actors mobilizing support for the
- 100 young men and some elders will be trained on gender equality for advocacy of women's inclusion in peace processes and political decision-making.
- Approximately 100 journalists and persons in media will benefit from the gender sensitive media trainings.
- Approximately 600 young women and men take part in events in support of women's leadership and political participation Pibor and Malakal.

Roughly, there will be about 2,300 direct beneficiaries.

Indirect beneficiaries

- Advocacy efforts will be national and local and will indirectly benefit most of the country's populations.
- Approximately 132,233 the population of women in Pibor and Malakal are expected to benefit from the project outcomes.

3 Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- a) **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.

²⁰The Coalition of Women of South Sudan has 46 women and women lead organisation who will be principle beneficiaries of this project.

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: UN Women	7.05 million USD	Peacebuilding Fund, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), The Government of the Netherlands, The Government of Canada, The Government of Japan, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, UNAIDS	Juba (With plans to open field offices in Yambio and Wau in 2023)	Staff= 37	Governance and Leadership Specialist, Economist (Gender Responsive budgeting), Communications Specialist and officer M&E officers, Communications Specialist and officer
Implementing partners: NTLI, CEPO,					
Recipient Organization: UNDP	60.2 million	Sweden, KOICA, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, EU, FCDO, Global Fund for HIV/Aids; FCDO, EU, PBF,	Central Equatoria (Juba); Lakes State (Rumbek; Jonglei (Bor); Eastern Equatoria (Torit); Western Equatoria (Yambio); Upper Nile (Malakal); Unity (Bentiu); Warrap (Kwajok) Western Bhar El Ghazal	UNDP 227 staff and 13	Project Manager; Peacebuilding Analyst, Reintegration specialist, Gender Analyst, M&E Specialist, Psychosocial Support Specialist - Two Peace and Community Cohesion Analyst
Implementing partners: Coalition of Women of South Sudan (46 members), NTLI, 32 other CSOs working at grassroots level, Ministries of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; Youth, Sports and Culture, Peacebuilding, Cabinets affairs, Justice, Federal Affairs,					

Local Government, Judiciary, Peace and Reconciliation Commission,			(Wau); Northern Bhar El Ghazal (Aweil		
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- b) **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.

This project will be implemented by UN Women and UNDP. The two agencies will coordinate with relevant ministries, UN agencies, UNMISS' Political Affairs, Civil Affairs, Gender, Rule of Law Divisions and the UNMISS Security Sector Advisory Service Section, CSOs (Coalition of Women in South Sudan and National Transformational Leadership Institute of Juba University – responsible for capacity building) and beneficiaries of the project. The PBF Steering Committee will provide a high-level oversight forum for peace building. In addition, lower-level, project-specific coordination forums will be established between the implementing agencies and partners. These include a technical committee, a joint M&E team and coordination with other PBF projects and UN system in the implementation location. These coordination forums will provide for enhanced coordination, sharing of information, design of strategies, agree approaches, monitoring and learning, review progress and guide smooth project implementation. The project will be carried out with support of implementing partners in strategic areas such as Pibor and Malakal.

The project coordination and oversight will be as follows.

- **A National Steering Committee** which will be chaired by UN Resident Coordinator (also representing the UN Mission, and the Ministry of Peacebuilding to steer the project. The Committee will also include the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the and the Heads of Partner UN Agencies (UNDP, UN Women), CSO partners, and state level representatives as required. The Steering Committee will meet bi-annually during the project's life to provide strategic direction to the project implementation. The PBF secretariat in Juba will act as the secretary.
- **A Technical Committee** will also be established and chaired by UN Women as the lead agency and with the membership of technical persons from UNDP, UNMISS (Gender Section Head) Government and CSO partners of the project. It will be responsible for ensuring the quality of project-wide, M&E, reporting and communication functions. The technical committee will meet quarterly during the life of the project.
- **Joint M&E team:** The Individual M&E staff from each organization will form the project Joint M&E Team and will monitor project indicators, support the coalition of the project reports, and also oversee the project evaluation. Field monitoring will also involve Government counterpart including the Ministry of Peacebuilding for Coordination of PBF initiative in the field and capital.
- **Coordination with other PBF project and UN system in the location:** Given that there are multiple PBF project under implementation in South Sudan country, the project will build synergy with those being implemented in the country. The National Steering Committee proposed, which is chaired by the RCO and the Ministry of Peacebuilding will be a space for

coordination, information sharing and learning.

Given that this is a joint project, the implementation team will include the following staff who are already on board and thus none of the agencies will hire new staff.

UN Women:

- Program Manager (20% funding) from the UN Women budget. She will provide oversight of the project as a whole and oversee the collaboration with UNDP, Implementing Partners, Government, and she will represent the project interagency coordination. The program manager is currently on board.
- Project Coordinator (50% covered by the project): she will lead the project implementation and directly engage all partners and participants. The project coordinator will be hired specifically for this project. However, other UN Women staff will support the project until the coordinator is hired.
- M&E Officer (30% covered by the project). The M&E officer is currently on board.
- Project Admin and logistics associate (40% covered by the project) will support logistics, administration, and preparation of activity implementation, including support with procurement. The project admin is currently on board.

UNDP:

Overall, about 20% of the entire project budget will go for staffing and personnel. With this the Level of Effort (LOE) for different roles will be allocated differently as per their involvement and relevance for the project. An overview of critical staffs that will lead the project is provided below;

- Advisor/Manager (20% funding) from UNDP who will also provide oversight.
- Gender Specialist (100% covered by the project): who will lead project implementation jointly with partner UN agencies and stakeholders.
- Peacebuilding Analyst (20%) who will be responsible for conflict analysis, ensure selection of beneficiaries and do no harm as well as leaving no one behind principles.
- Project Admin and logistics associate (40% covered by the project) will support logistics, administration, and preparation of activity implementation, including support with procurement.
- M&E Specialist (20%): who will lead the monitoring and evaluation activities including baselines, endlines and other research products.

For UNDP, all staff are already on board, three are women, and all staff are familiar with gender mainstreaming principles and practices.

- c) **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)
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Project staff have little knowledge of conflict sensitivity and do no harm principles and approaches.	Low	Continuous sensitization on conflict sensitivity for the project team, including CSO partners and Government counterparts
Security and access challenges in focus regions	Medium	The project is mostly national but both Malakal and Pibor are targeted. These areas are highly volatile. These areas will be closely monitored and activities will be implemented according to the security situation that will change at times during the span of this project. Indeed, the approach will be flexible and responsive to changing security environment, working closely with local authorities and implementing partners with security in mind.
Changing local and national political environments and national priorities, undermining or compromising the ability to implement	Low	The project will keep a pulse on national priorities through the partnership of project partners at the national level so that measure is undertaken to minimize the impact.
Lack of buy-in from the women and community hampers implementation	Low	Proactive outreach to women and local partners to encourage their ownership and buy-in is continuous. Both UN Women and UNDP advocacy efforts are ongoing and have thus far proven effective.
Slow implementation and/or ownership of planned activities due to limited capacities of local counterparts	Low	Capacity strengthening will be integrated in the partnership modalities and the project implementation team will work with the local partners during implementation. In fact, capacity building is at the center of the work in this project.
Block/delay the delivery of project due to COVID-19/ or other health emergencies	Low	The project will adopt approved preventive protocols such as use of facemasks, handwashing and sanitization and practicing of social distancing during its activity's implementation
Lack of political will from government and political parties	High	The project will ensure strong engagement of the various stakeholders of the project and build a strong platform for communication and involvement. The project will work closely with relevant stakeholders that have high power which include the government, women parliamentarians, ministry of Gender, Peacebuilding and create a suitable environment for mitigating the risk.
Women representatives push for Gender equality will box them in women-related issues.	Medium	Women representatives are excluded from policy areas that are thought of as the domain of men. The project aims to support women tackling a broad set of issues and raising awareness

		regarding forms of discrimination in political participation such as excluding women from issues not thought to be women's priorities. Also, gender equality will be approached as a priority for society as a whole that needs to the active support of men if peace is to be realized.
Repercussions on women for participating in politics and challenging the social norms.	Medium	The project will conduct various dialogues and forums aimed at raising awareness on importance of women's participation in politics. The project will also conduct an assessment regarding violence against women in political participation. This assessment will inform protection measures incorporated for project participants and women overall.

- d) **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 M&E for this project is especially important as there is little data on women's political participation and leadership. Most of the data is merely a counting of the number of representatives disaggregated by gender. By building the capacity of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus to monitor their engagement, there will be an opportunity to see the quantity and quality of their political participation and how the training manual and instruction help parliamentarians carryout their work. There will be a survey conducted which will measure also measure parliamentarians engagement. The survey will be compared to the findings from the monitoring system to see if there is a gap in women parliamentarians perceptions of their political engagement and the reality as measured through the monitoring system.

UN Women and UNDP will develop a joint M&E framework that defines the indicators, level of disaggregation, roles and responsibilities for collecting, analyzing and reporting data. The project will make use of a variety of means of verification. This includes activity documentation, including activity reports, attendance lists, photos, and audio-visual documentation. Further, connected to training and exchange activities, evaluation forms and pre-post surveys will be used to measure event outputs. The project will conduct a baseline and endline survey to track the level of participation of women in politics at the beginning and end of the project along with change in perceptions on women's participation. The baseline assessment will be used to sharpen the results framework with up-to-date data. The baseline survey will also help in our due no harm efforts as information will be gathered on potential risks to young women and women participants who participate in politics. Data will be collected with the use in mind and will be focused on essential indicators, reflecting the limited timeframe and allowing for timely use of data for project decision-making. Data collection will be integrated with ongoing activities for cost- and time-effectiveness. Finally, the project will commission an external evaluation.

The key M&E activities and their rationale:

1. Baseline and endline survey: The project will undertake baseline and endline surveys at the beginning and end of the project respectively. The baseline survey will be essential to the strengthening of the results framework and gathering information on potential risks to women and young women participating in politics. The base and endline surveys will in the development of an evidence-based comparison of the outcomes and impact of the project. In addition to providing a comparison of outcome indicators, the baseline and endline surveys will also be used to generate useful perception data on parliamentarian men and women regarding women's participation in politics which will provide important evidence on changing perceptions of barriers to change.
2. Period indicator tracking and reporting: progress of indicators, particularly output indicators will be routinely tracked using dedicated tools that will be developed at the inception of the activities. For this purpose, an indicator tracking table will be prepared and used to track indicators.
3. Pre and Post evaluation of trainings: Training activities will be monitored through a pre & posttest evaluation using tailored tools for each training. The results are expected to provide immediate feedback on the result of the training.
4. Period progress reporting: The progress of the project activities will be reported according to agreed reporting timelines.

The for the key M&E activities and estimated budget to undertake them:

Activity	Timeline	Responsible	Budget (per institution)
M&E staff and personnel	Throughout	UN Women & UNDP	19000
Baseline and end-line survey	At the beginning and end of the project	UN Women & UNDP	USD 10,000
Indicator monitoring- track data against results indicator /analyze progress	After 12 Months	UN Women & UNDP	USD 10,000
Annual review and reporting	After 12 Months	UN Women & UNDP	USD 10,000
Joint End of project evaluation	End of Project	UN Women & UNDP	USD 65,000

- e) **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 be implemented in partnership with the government and CSO partners. The key sustainability ingredients include;

1. Working with CSOs, women led and grass root organizations: This will be a key ingredient for the sustainability of the outcomes and impacts. These group will be key stakeholders for the dialogues and advocacy activities in the project that would own the process and results.
2. Working with women parliamentarian caucuses at state and national level. The women parliamentarians will be equipped with the knowledge and skills for influencing policies, legislations and passing of bills favoring women's empowerment and participation. The manual and orientation system will allow for skills to be taught to new parliamentarians, a key element of the project that addresses the turnover in parliament and is the foundation of the sustainability as the manual is key to the future training of all parliamentarians beyond this project cycle.
3. Key legal framework promulgated during the life of the project will support long term work on gender equality and women empowerment. The gender equality fund and the affirmative action bills passed would be cornerstones for the sustainable participation of women in politics and decision-making structures.
4. The beneficiaries shall be empowered for voice and agency. Lessons from other projects implemented by UN Women and UNDP show that when you provide knowledge and skills during the implementation period, the beneficiaries will be well placed to run their activities without much external support. Further, lessons learned from UNDP and IOM-led peacebuilding and dispute resolution mechanisms show that localized stakeholder-led processes to enhance ownership and sustainability beyond project interventions.

4 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.

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	Planning		Comment
	Yes	No	
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	x		Partners (as indicated in page 1 of the proposal) to support implementation have been identified, further consultations will be held once resources are received.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission		x	Staff who will implement the project are all on board
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline			
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	x		
5. 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		Analysis was done as part of the preparation of the proposal. More analysis will be done on need basis
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.		x	Committee will be established at beginning of the project who will also support selection
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	x		Ministry of Peacebuilding and Ministry of Gender, Child and Welfare
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	x		
9. 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		
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?		x	
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		
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Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
0. 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		
1. 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		
2. 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		
3. 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		
4. 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		
5. 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		
6. 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		

7. 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	
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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. 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 Programs, and One UN funds" (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially 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;
- 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 been 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 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 PPRF)	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

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.

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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).

Public Disclosure

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.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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.

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>	

Financial reports and timeline

allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it		Head of UN Country Team where it does not.
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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:

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarters 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).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- 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.
- 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.²¹
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTFO for the PBF grant.

²¹ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

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

The Results Framework will be updated during the inception phase to reflect baseline data collected.

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: Enhanced quality and quantity of women participation in decision making, in particular in the National and State Parliament.		Outcome Indicator 1a: % of Women parliamentarians that reported participation in gender responsive policy dialogue, review and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project report • Final evaluation • Monitoring reports • Case histories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender sensitive policy dialogue • Woman and youth participation in the process
(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)		Baseline: TBD Target: 70%		
(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Outcome Indicator 1b % of women parliamentarians that show increase in level of engagement. Baseline TBD: Target:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPC monitoring system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of acts of engagement (As determined by a baseline survey and monitoring) and quality

				of the engagement will inform the level of engagement measure.
	Output 1.1 Women, especially young women are capacitated to work effectively in government and political parties	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.1: # of training manual developed on gender sensitive legislation including gender responsive budgeting</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.1.2: number of grassroots legislators, young women and community members mobilized and engaged by women parliamentarians</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.1.3: # of state level Parliamentary Caucuses trained and mentored on policy and gender-sensitive legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project records • Training reports • Attendance list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project records • Attendance list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project records 	

	Output 1.2 Increased opportunities and spaces for women leaders to engage with their constituencies, thereby strengthening accountability and linkages between center and periphery	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training reports • Attendance list 	
		Output Indicator 1.2.1: # of women parliamentarians and young women, CSOs, local leaders and the wider community that participated in exchange forums. Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project records • Attendance list 	
		Output Indicator 1.2.2: Measures for the protection of women and young women in political participation are adopted. Baseline: Target:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for the protection of women and young women's participation. • Workplan illustrating protection measures. 	
		Output Indicator 1.2.3 Baseline: Target:		

Outcome 2: Positive shift in perceptions and attitudes regarding women capacity to lead and make decisions in politics and peacebuilding.	Output 1.3 Increased advocacy to increase the number of women candidates and leaders in political parties through democratic and transparent means	Output Indicator 1.3.1 Number of publication or Research study completed on WPS Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	Finalized Research finding Report	Hiring of a consultant Data collection Stakeholder meeting
		Output Indicator 1.3.2 Number of coordination meeting held on WPS Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	Minutes of meeting Advocacy engagement reports; monitoring reports	4 months after the project start
		Output Indicator 1.3.3 Baseline: Target:		
		Outcome Indicator 2a % Parliamentarians and Women lead CSO' members who perceived women's participation in politics is vital for peacebuilding disaggregated by sex Baseline: TBD Target: 80%	Baseline/Endline survey	• Execution of the baseline/end line
(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)		Outcome Indicator 2b	• CSO, WROs and Grass root	• Completion of the trainings

(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		# of trained CSOs, WROs and Grassroots organizations actively promoting women's rights. Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	organizations result reports, • Project progress reports	
0	Output 2.1 Increased capacity and awareness of stakeholder groups, including CSO's, Women Rights Organizations (WROs), media, community influencers, male allies, and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership.	Output Indicator 2.1.1 # of CSOs, WROs and grassroots organizations trained in women's rights and advocacy. Number of consultations held on policies and issues by CSOs/WROs etc. Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	• Minutes of meeting • Engagement reports; • Monitoring reports	
		Output Indicator 2.1.2 Number of HeForShe events organized in the targeted areas of intervention Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	• Project Report	

		Output Indicator 2.1.3 Number of media practitioners trained and mentored by media type [Radio/Print/Social media] Baseline: 0 Target: TBD	• Project Report	
	Output 2.2. Expanded space for dialogue and exchange of ideas on women's participation in political and peacebuilding decision making (townhalls, meetings, dialogues, forums, consultations)	Output Indicator 2.2.1 # of CSOs, WROs and grassroots organizations, women's networks that held consultations for requests and recommendations to be shared with decision-makers centered on policies and issues of priority. Baseline: Target:	• Consultation/ event report • Attendance list	
		Output Indicator 2.2.2 Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 2.2.3 Baseline: Target:		

	Output 2.3	Output Indicator 2.3.1		
		Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 2.3.2		
		Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 2.3.3 Baseline: Target:		
Outcome 3: Gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive laws, policies and practices in acted and in use		Outcome Indicator 3a: # of gender-inclusive laws, amendments and policies that are passed. Baseline: Target:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy documents • Parliament meeting minutes • Evaluation and monitoring report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and submission of policies • Policy dialogue • Enactment of policies
(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)					
Output 3.1 Passing and implementation of a Gender Equality Affirmative Action Bill 2022 for women's representation in the Republic of South Sudan that includes an enforcement mechanism for women's representation					
Output 3.1.1 # of legislators and government representatives engaged and mobilized for the passing of the affirmative action bill					
Baseline: Target:					
Output Indicator 3.1.2: Annual monitoring on adherence to relevant laws and regional and international commitments conducted					
Baseline: No Target: Yes					

Output 3.2 Increased financial and technical resources in support of gender equality and women's meaningful participation in political and peacebuilding decision-making.		Output Indicator 3.1.3 Number of young women leaders, state legislators and male champions sensitized on the affirmative action bill at the national and states level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project report • Sensitization report • Attendance list 		
		Baseline: Target:			
		Output Indicator 3.2.1 Number of publication or Research study completed on WPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research study product published 		
		Baseline: Target:			
		Output Indicator 3.2.2 Number of coordination meeting held on WPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project report • Meeting minutes • Attendance lists 		
		Baseline: Target:			
		Output Indicator 3.2.3			
		Baseline: Target:			

	Output 3.3	Output Indicator 3.3.1		
		Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 3.3.2		
		Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 3.3.3		
		Baseline: Target:		