SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Sierra Leone
Project Title: Promote the creation of an enabling environment for the conduct of peaceful elections and the strengthening of social cohesion in Sierra Leone   **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):**

PBF project modality:	**If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund**
☐ IRF ☒ PRF	**(instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):** ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ 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.): UNDP, UNICEF
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Ministry of Political and Public Affairs (MPPA), Office of National Security (ONS), Legal Aid Board, Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, WANEP, The Clingendael Institute, Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD), Focus 1000, Eminent Womens, Defence for Children International, The Inter-Religiuos Council, CDRHI, International IDEA,Tejan Kabba Foundation.
Project duration in months[1] [2]: 24 months (starting August 2022)   **Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:** Nationwide

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: ☐ Gender promotion initiative[3]   ☐ Youth promotion initiative[4]   ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions   ☐ Cross-border or regional project
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):   **UNDP:** $ 1,799,638   **UNICEF:** $ 1,200,362   **TOTAL**: $ 3,000,000   **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.*   Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):

- UNDP TRAC and other donors (Irish Aid, EU, Japan) funds will complement the project; amount TBC.
- The Clingendael Institute, in-kind, facilitators' fees for one training;
- UN DPO, salaries of two UN Police Advisors. DPO covers their salaries and the project all other costs (travel and DSA, logistic).
- UNICEF own funds (TBD)

PBF 1st tranche (70%):	PBF 2nd tranche* (30%):	PBF 3rd tranche* (_%):
UNDP: $ 1,259,746	UNDP: $ 539,891	
UNICEF: $ 840,254	UNICEF: $ 360,109	
Total: $ 2,100,000	Total: $ 900,000	
	Expenditure of 75% of the funds of the 1st tranche is required for disbursement of the 2nd tranche.	

Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):

The project contributes to the promotion of a peaceful environment in Sierra Leone prior, during and after the June 2023 elections. It aims to support national stakeholders to strengthen their early warning and response systems to mitigate electoral related violence, reinforce the protection of victims of violence and provide indigent perpetrators (male and female adult and minors) with legal- assistance. At the same time, this intervention aims to reinforce the capacity of political parties to engage in mediation and negotiations and adapt their internal codes to the new electoral legal system and regulatory mechanisms of the Political Party Registration Commission. The proposal, promoting women and young people participation in political and electoral processes, supports awareness raising on peaceful elections and against hate speech, particularly through social media, and engagement of young women and men in peaceful communication and violence prevention in schools and communities. The proposal has a strong innovative focus and works through existing state systems to ensure sustainability. While it supports the establishment of the situation rooms during the elections, it also strengthens the GBV reporting system established by the Ministry of Gender and Children Affairs and the response through the Family Support Unit of the Police. This proposal complements the UNDP electoral assistance project, which is focused on the technical support to the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone to conduct the elections.

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): Ministry of Political and Public Affairs (MPPA), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Sierra Leone Police Family Support Unit, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), Electoral Commission-Sierra Leone (ECSL), Office of National Security (ONS), WANEP, 50-50 Group, MARWOPNET, MOPADA, CAFOD, EU and other development partners, International IDEA, CHDRI, Eminent Women Group, UNCT, UN PDA, IPNC

Project Gender Marker score[5]: 2
Specify % and $ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 40.14% - $ USD 1,204,052
Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender

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	equality and women's empowerment [6]: This project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that all activities mainstream gender in their implementation and that a minimum of 30% of women are included in the different activities. At the same time, training curricula will include specific components related to the protection of women and girls, women political participation and young women engagement in prevention of hate speech. All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) will be specifically supported in several activities and eminent women will be involved in the mediation and negotiation processes with political parties. The project also enhances the prevention and mitigation of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) mechanism of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and the Family Suport Unit of the Police that provides assistance to women and girls victims of violence. The system will be enhanced to specifically respond to cases of electoral violences. The U-report system includes already 34% of girls and women enrolled.

Project Risk Marker score[7]: 1

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

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: Outcome 2 (Transformational Governance) and Outcome 4 (Protection and Empowerment of the most Vulnerable).

If applicable, **Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes: The backbone of the project is formed by SDG 16 to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" and interrelated SDGs in particular SDG 3, namely 3.4, SDG 5, namely 5.2 and 5.3, and 10.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: the project contributes to the targets of SDG 16, 3.4 and 5.2, 5.3 and to the targets of SDG 10.

Type of submission:	If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:
☒ **New project** ☐ **Project amendment**	**Extension of duration:** ☐ Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date):
	Change of project outcome/ scope: ☐
	Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: ☐
	Additional PBF budget: ☐ Additional amount by recipient organization: USD
	Brief justification for amendment:
	Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in
	TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.

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

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

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

[8] **PBF Focus Areas** are:

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Recipient Organization(s)[9]	Representative of National Authorities
Name of Representative Pa Lamin Beyai ████ *Signature* ████ UNDP *Date & Seal* 03/08/2022	*Name of Government Counterpart* Amb. Foday Yumkella *Minister of Political and Public Affairs* *Signature* ████ *Date & Seal* MINISTER 03/08/2022
Recipient Organization(s): *Name of Representative* Suleiman Braimoh ████ *Signature* UNICEF *Date & Seal* 03 August 2022	
Head of UN Country Team *Name of Representative* Babatunde Ahonsi *Signature* ████ *Title* UN *Date & Seal* 03 - 08	**Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)** Elizabeth Spehar ████ *Signature* Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support *Date & Seal*

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[9] 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

Since the end of the civil war in 2002, Sierra Leone has successfully conducted four elections, with the latest being held in 2018 without a United Nations Security Council mandate and resulting in a peaceful transfer of power from the then ruling party - All People's Congress (APC) party - to the current dispensation led by the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). The next multi-tier elections, namely Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Councils will be held on 24 June 2023.

Although the past and last elections were qualified as credible and peaceful by all national and international observers, in terms of the Global Peace Index (GPI)[10,] Sierra Leone has been dropping in the ranking, from 40th place in 2018 to 54th in 2021, out of 163 countries. Indeed, the Government's Roadmap *"Walking out of fragility (2019)"* indicates the Peacebuilding and State-building (PSG) Goal 1 *"Legitimate Politics - Foster inclusive political settlement and conflict resolution"* as an area that requires further improvement, after it dropped from a score of 3.4 in 2016 to 3.2 in 2019[11] in the four dimensions of political settlement, political processes, institutions and societal relationships. Based on the Roadmap, this can be ascribed to the political tension that has persisted in the country after the 2018 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, which has spilled over to the rest of society, creating ethno-regional and political divisions. This tension is becoming ever more palpable as the next elections approach.

Based on an ACLED report, by early 2020, Sierra Leone found itself at levels of political violence that were higher than at any time since the end of the war[12]. This included physical clashes between supporters of political parties, particularly during by-elections; physical confrontations between opposition supporters and security institutions as well as among communities' members and local leaders with a political undertone, also triggered by hate speech disseminated through social media. The same report explains that during the past three years, Sierra Leone has experienced one of the highest levels of political disorder per capita among countries in the region that are not in conflict (see graph below).

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[10] The Global Peace Index (GPI) is a composite index that ranks countries based on their level of peacefulness. A lower score indicates that a country is more peaceful, relative to a higher score.

[11] In 2011, the New Deal for Engagement in the Fragile States was adopted at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. A key tool of the New Deal is a Fragility Assessment, based on 5 Peacebuilding and State building Goals (PSGs) to determine a country's level of fragility. The Fragility Assessment uses a fragility spectrum against which various aspects of development tied to the 5 PSGs are plotted on a scale from 1 (more fragile) to 5 (less fragile). The following are the five-peacebuilding and state-building goals:

PSG 1: Legitimate Politics - Foster inclusive political settlement and conflict resolution

PSG 2: Security- Establish and strengthen people's security

PSG 3: Justice- Address injustice and increase people's access to justice

PSG 4: Economic Foundation– Generate employment and improve livelihoods

PSG 5: Revenue and Services - Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery.

[12] ACLED (2020), *"When emerging democracy breed violence, Sierra Leone 20 years after the civil war"*. Joint report produced by ACLED, Clingendael, WANEP.

Figure 1: Political Disorder in Sierra Leone
(January 2012 - June 2020)
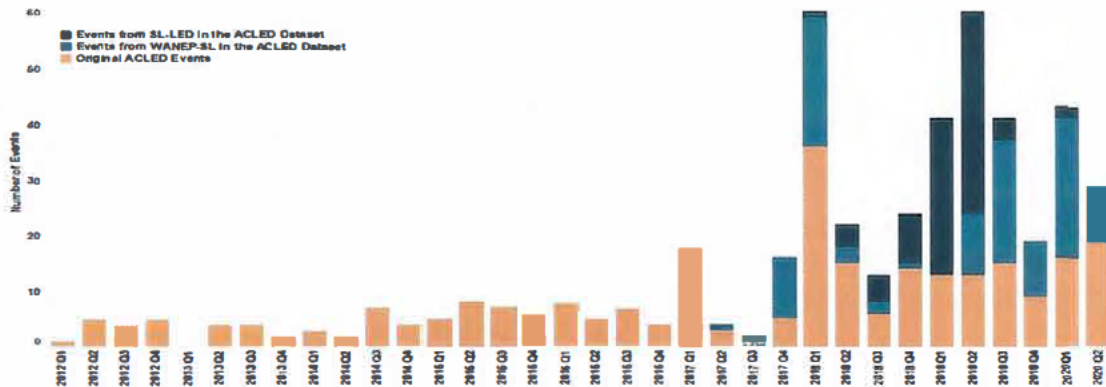
Electoral related violence in Sierra Leone accounted for 26% of all forms of political disorder recorded by ACLED over the past years[13]. Electoral violence in Sierra Leone occurs in the context of internal party primaries, paramount chieftaincy elections, by-elections (district councils and parliamentary) as well as national elections and takes place throughout the country. However, the so-called "swing districts" tend to experience the highest levels of political violence.

As a result of frequent episodes of political disorder, not only have people's lives been lost and properties damaged, but, also, social cohesion between different groups and trust in government is showing significant fractures. A 2020 Afrobarometer survey[14] reported that citizens lost faith in their leaders and that episodes of violent protests experienced in 2019 and 2020 in the country were triggered by concerns about poor living conditions, coupled with a communication deficit and socio-political exclusion. Based on the same survey, citizens' demand for accountable governance has increased by 28 percentage points since 2012 (from 43% in 2012 to 71% in 2020).

The political system in Sierra Leone comprises 17 registered political parties, with only four represented in Parliament, but dominated by two main parties, namely the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and main opposition All People's Congress (APC). Indeed, the voting pattern of Sierra Leoneans indicates that the country is still a duopoly that is built on ethno-regional divisions. Manipulation of ethnicity by unscrupulous politicians has been one of the causes of political disorder and has increasingly undermined national cohesion. Women represent only the 13% of the total number of Members of Parliament, all them elected in the 2018 elections and 2020 by-election.

Prevailing political tension has also been exacerbated by misinformation and hate speech, resulting in violence. In 2020, instances of violence took place between local communities, youth and security forces triggered by misinformation and hate speech disseminated through social media that exacerbated the existing political divide as well as by lack of dialogue on the implementation of COVID-19 restrictive measures, which affected livelihoods of the people. These instances of violence, which claimed people's lives, included a prison riot at the male section of the Correctional Center in Freetown, a violent protest in the iron-ore rich Lunsar town led by machete-wielding youths, a riot in the Tombo fishing village in Freetown, and a protest in the hometown of the former President, among others. In 2021, an additional spate of violence - also motivated by political tension, misinformation and lack of dialogue – caused the death of young people. In Kono, violent incidents between opposing political groups claimed the life of a young person followed by the destruction of houses and offices;

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[13] Idem

[14] https://www.afrobarometer.org/countries/sierra-leone/

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in Freetown, an attempt by the Police to enforce a traffic law was met with resistance by commercial motorbike riders (Okadas)[15], who generated chaos on the main roads and destroyed properties, including by making use of petrol bombs to the astonishment of residents. Political division, hate speech and disinformation, coupled with inequality and deterioration of food security – also due to the loss of livelihoods, as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic and current impact of the war in Ukraine on the increase of prices of fuel and food - is leading to an increasing level of frustration among the population, particularly among young people.

The effective administration of justice, at national and local levels, continues to be challenged by limited institutional capacity and logistics, which poses an additional layer of complexity in terms of electoral justice. Resolutions of electoral disputes through the court system have faced, in the past, significant delays. Other than few high-profile cases, several electoral offences lodged with the Police and subsequently for adjudication in 2012 and 2018 are still pending redress. The delay of justice has a long-lasting negative impact on the life of people and their families. Legal Aid Board (LAB) has been effective during the past electoral cycle to provide legal assistance and accelerate the delivery of justice to indigent people, particularly women and children. During the previous elections LAB represented 257 people (253 male, 4 female) of which 248 at Magistrate Court level and 9 at High Court level.

In July 2020, the Sierra Leone Parliament unanimously repealed Part V of the 1965 Public Order Act (POA), which criminalized libel, making way for improved freedom of speech in Sierra Leone. While this has significantly contributed to the promotion of individual liberties and an expanded democratic space, misinformation and hate speech remain a major challenge and will play a role in the 2023 elections. The country has recently seen a flood of hateful, inciting statements on social media perpetrated, mainly, by political rivals in the country and abroad, with the aim of creating disturbances and mayhem. Sierra Leone's Human Rights Commission (HRCSL), Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), political stakeholders, and civil society organizations have expressed grave concerns over the proliferation of videos, audios, and voice notes with incendiary messages on social media, which have the potential to deepen the ethno-reginal divide and cause unrest in the country.

The discussion on constitutional reform in Sierra Leone has continued for a long time. The need for constitutional reform was acknowledged by all stakeholders in the Lomé Peace Accord 1999. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its report of 2002 recommended to undertake a constitutional reform "through a wide and consultative process". This was followed by the Tucker Commission Report 2008 and the Justice Cowan Constitution Review Committee (CRC) 2014-2017. The CRC report was released in January 2017, after a widespread consultative process and a comprehensive review of the Constitution of 1991. A White Paper (2017) that reviewed the report rejected several of the Committee's recommendations. In January 2022, a second White Paper was released, reviewing the 2017 White Paper and CRC report.

At the launch of the 2022 White Paper, the President requested to submit to Parliament the modifications that do not require the approval through a public consultation in a referendum, while postponing submission of the clauses that can be modified only through a referendum to after the 2023 general elections. A political debate has currently started on the return to the proportional electoral system in the form of the district block for the Parliamentary elections.

The release of the provisional results, on 31May 2022, of the 2021 Mid-Term Population Census has also heightened the political tension, with the ruling party inviting the ECSL to use the provisional

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[15] Okadas in Sierra Leone are organized in the Bike Riders Union at national and sub-national level and provide different transport services to people.

results for the delimitation of Constituencies and the main opposition party, instead, calling on ECSL to refrain from using the results.

As part of the electoral legal reform process, proposed by the 2018 Electoral Observer Missions (EOM), the PPRC Act (2002) and Public Elections Act (2012) have been reviewed through an inclusive process supported by UNDP and EU. The modifications to the PPRC Act have been submitted to Parliament and are expected to be approved by September 2022. It will be then necessary to undertake a process of sensitization and education of political parties on their content, as the modifications aim at guiding and regulating political parties. It is expected that this will help to decrease inter-party tension, as the Commission will have regulatory powers and will be able to impose sanctions onto political parties. Currently the Commission has only the power to de-register political parties, which is an extreme measure that, if taken, could lead to violence.

In the 2018 Gender Inequality Index, Sierra Leone fell to 181 of 186 countries. A patriarchal society has created deep (and worsening) gender inequalities, leading to widespread social exclusion and violence. Over 59 percent of the population remains multidimensionally poor (MPI, 2019), which disproportionately affects women and youth. Women's participation in decision-making mechanisms remains an issue. In the 2018 elections, political parties pledged to improve gender equality by increasing women's political representation and introducing the 30 per cent women quota, as recommended by the Constitutional Review Report. However, low female representation to date shows that this objective is elusive. Although women constitute 52 percent of the population, they account for only 11 percent of parliamentarians and 19 percent of local councillors (NEC, 2018). Therefore, women's views and interests are not fully reflected in key governance processes.

Women and girls in Sierra Leone face a range of barriers to social inclusion, including weak access to education especially in remote communities, health services, legal rights, as well as limited participation and representation in elected and appointed positions. Women's participation in electoral processes is limited by the cost of fees for nominating candidates, registration of political parties, the conditionality to be present in every part of the country with logistical/financial implications as well as the requirement to resign from public office a year before contesting elections. Attempting to address these and other issues that hinder women's political participation, the government, in 2020, endorsed the *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy* that advocates for special measures for women and girls' access to education and health as well as for political participation. Following this, a bill advocating for 30 percent quota for women's participation in elected and appointed positions has been submitted to Parliament. Advocacy with MPs from different groups is currently ongoing for the bill to be approved.

According the 2019 Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, Sierra Leone is among countries with the highest concentration of poverty with 64.8 percent of the population identified as multi-dimensionally poor in 2017. Rural poverty is 86.3 percent, in comparison to 37 percent in urban areas.[16] With about 75 percent of the population below 35 years, the youth are significantly affected by poverty with most young men and women (49.8 and 60 percent respectively) working in the informal sector[17]. The centrality of youth is, therefore, particularly salient in contributing to social cohesion and sustaining peace in the country, chiefly in the current context of socio-political division. The Peacebuilding Statebuilding goal 1 under the New Deal on Inclusive politics of the Roadmap "Walking out of Fragility" recommends the inclusion of more women, youths and persons with disability in political decision-making processes. Youth groups have always been politically active and not always linked

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[16] Sierra Leone Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2019
[17] Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census, Statistics Sierra Leone.

to specific political parties. However, the relationship between youth and state institutions, chiefly the Police, has been frequently marked by antagonism, which has led to violent incidents.

The 2019 Government UNCT assessment on at-risk youth identified family cohesion and parental guidance as key to preventing young people from engaging in risky behaviors and violence. A study carried out by UNICEF Sierra Leone in 2019 on violence against children revealed that the use of harsh punishments including burning, flogging/beating, inflicting pain on sensitive body parts and confinement are widespread across all regions and ethnic tribes. According to the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), use of violent discipline had increased by over 20 per cent between 2010 and 2017, with 86.5 per cent of children aged 1 to 14 years having experienced some form of violent discipline in the household or at school, compared to 64.8 per cent in 2010. Such levels of abuse of youth can be attributed partly to the legacy of past conflicts, which have created a culture of high tolerance toward violence and desensitization to suffering, exacerbating negative mental and emotional impacts.

Notwithstanding these challenges, youth civil society organizations have demonstrated strong desire and capacity for promotion of peace. The All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) has been instrumental in the past to mitigate and prevent youth engagement into violence, including young people from the slums who are usually recruited as party Marshall by unscrupulous politicians. The inter-party approach to the youth in the slums helped to demonstrate that politics should not necessarily be associated with violence and that there are other systems to channel grievances, avoiding being manipulated. The Association was recently reactivated with the support of PPRC, UNDP and Peace and Development Advisor to the UNCT and their first retreat was held at the end of April 2022, during which they agreed on their main joint work plans, including commitments to peaceful conduct and respect of rule of law during 2023 elections, support to the work of the Electoral Management Bodies.

The country has established its early warning and response (EWER) system coordinated by the Office of National Security (ONS), which operates through decentralized structures, namely **Provincial, District and Chiefdom Security Committees** (PROSECs, DISECs, and CHISECs, respectively), and includes local government officials, local security commanders, local representatives of the Inter-religious Council, CSOs, PPRC, HRC, ECSL, among others. Meetings of the PROSEC, DISEC, AND CHISEC take place on a regular basis, with information sharing on main security risks and conflicts and agreements on joint solutions. Information is regularly transmitted to the ONS HQ and issues escalated to the National Security Council based on need. ONS HQ also support the response from Freetown, when needed. During elections, since 2012, in order to support the EWER system, ONS uses to establishe a dedicated situation room and the **Integrated Elections Security Planning Committee** (IESPC).

The **IESPC** comprises representatives from security sector institutions and other stakeholders involved in the electoral processes. These include the Sierra Leone Police, Military, Correctional Service, National Fire Force, Immigration, Central Intelligence and Security Unit, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communication, the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) and several CSOs, including Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), West Africa Network for Peace (WANEP), National Election Watch (NEW), among others. Development partners, including the UN, are also invited to attend the IESPC meetings. The IESPC has established three Sub-Committees, namely planning, communication, and training. The main objective of the IESPC is to ensure that a safe and secure environment is created for the conduct of peaceful elections in Sierra Leone. The IESPC coordinates the response to violence and conflicts in coordination with the PROSEC, DISEC,

CHISEC and the Local Policing Partnership Boards (LPPB). The IESPC, in partnership with political parties' leaders, was instrumental in the 2018 elections to mitigate post-electoral conflicts, promote reconciliation and the return home of population displaced by electoral related violence. The IESPC will undertake similar activities during the current post-electoral cycle.

The IESPC will also closely coordinate with the CSOs that will establish situation rooms. The main one will be the situation room of **WANEP and Inter-Religious Council. WANEP** has maintained a network of conflict monitors and insider mediators in the countryside, who have been active in the resolution of local disputes. With the support of the project, WANEP will activate their conflict monitors and insider mediators' network, who will report to the National Electoral Response Group (NERG) co-chaired by WANEP and the Inter-Religious Council. ONS and other stakeholders are also represented in the NERG, in order to ensure coordination in the response to early warnings. Both ONS and WANEP contribute to the overall ECOWAS' EWER system known as ECOWARN.

Key stakeholders of this proposal:

Ministry of Political and Public Affairs (MPPA),

MPPA was established to serve as a conduit through which government and citizens can engage in the spirit of promoting good governance and democratic culture in Sierra Leone and organize dialogue on issues of public concern. MPPA has been tasked by the Election Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee to support the civil society organizations to coordinate their provision of support to the electoral process. MPPA, as it was the case in 2019 during the national conference on social cohesion, will support the dialogue between government, NEC and CSO on the electoral process. Considering its coordination mandate, MPPA has been identified as the lead government partners in this project.

Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MGCA)

The Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MGCA) came into existence and became operational only in 2020. Until then it was a single entity with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW – before MSWGCA). It is responsible for the implementation of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS+) that will be scaled up as part of this intervention. It also provides general oversight on all legislations and policies related to GBV, family and child welfare, including harmful practices, and it is the Government lead for the implementation of international agreements' recommendations as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes. Since COVID19, MGCA initiated a Helpline on GBV (116) and established One Stop Centers in selected districts for survivors of GBV.

Office of National Security (ONS) and its structures

In an effort to minimize tensions and prevent conflict, Sierra Leone has, over time, established national and local institutions to enhance security and mitigate conflicts. These include the Office of National Security (ONS), which is in charge of coordinating the efforts of all security institions in the country, including the Military. The ONS is chaired by a National Security Coordinator, who directly reports to the President and chairs the National Security Commitee. ONS has established an Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) mechanism to respond to threats and hazards that impact on Sierra Leone's national security, such as internal conflicts, corruption, organized crime, economic security, health and environmental issues, terrorism and external threats. ONS is the leading institution of the Integrated Elections Security Planning Committee (IESPC), which coordinates operations related to election security. The Committee comprises state security institutions, independent commissions, civil society organizations, and international partners.

The Local Policing Partnership Boards (LPPB) have been created to promote partnership and cooperation between the police, local authorities, traditional leaders, independent state institutions at local level, communities and CSOs to reduce crime and enhance security and peaceful existence. These entities had in the past benefited from UN PBF support to enhance their capacities and during 2018 elections they were quite effective to peacefully resolving electoral related conflicts in collaboration with ONS, as part of the early warning early response.

Under the Sierra Leone Police, the Family Support Unit (FSU) is a government-led service intended to ensure effective implementation of national law and policy to combat SGBV and violence against women and girls and improve outcomes for victims. Seventy-seven FSUs have been established nationwide. UNDP and UNICEF have supported the FSU with case management guidelines and awareness raising. UNDP and UNICEF will continue to support FSU during the electoral cycle to facilitate their support to victims of election-related violence.

The Election Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) is a constitutional body responsible for preparation and conduct of elections in Sierra Leone as well as capturing lessons learned to improve the electoral legislation in line with observers' recommendations, international electoral standards and good practices. Over the years, UNDP Sierra Lerone provided considerable support to the ECSL in strengthening its institutional capacity and improving internal administrative processes, enhancing the organization of the elections in Sierra Leone.

The **Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC)** was established under the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and strengthened with the Political Parties Act of 2002, which has been recently reviewed to give a regulatory mandate to the Commission. PPRC has managed over the years to bring political parties together, despite their differences. The split, last year, of All Political Parties Association (APPA) and creation of the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties (COPPP) has generated further challenges to the Commission. PPRC has however managed to maintain together the **All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA)** and **All-Political Parties Women Association (APPWA)**. Following a training, in September last year, to all political parties on mediation and negotiation provided by The Clingendael Institute for International Diplomacy, the main political parties represented in Parliament agreed to initiate a process of inter-party dialogue, which has been facilitated by PPRC with the support of the UN PDA. Three inter-party dialogue sessions with the four parties represented in Parliament have taken place so far. This project will build on the current dialogue process to support parties and PPRC to sustain peace during elections, including by signing a peace declaration ahead of the election day.

Legal Aid Board (LAB) has been established with the Legal Aid Act 2012 and has been supported over the years by UNDP and UNICEF. They have offices across the country and their paralegals and lawyers conduct mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), provide awareness on legal rights, represent defendants in courts and provide legal advice. During the 2018 elections, LAB represented 257 poor and indigent clients in Court accused of committing election-related offences, including women, girls and adolescents, and provided legal education in schools to prevent youth to engage in electoral offences and violence.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have engaged over the past years in awareness-raising and advocacy with political parties and government for peaceful resolution of their political divergences and improved accountability to citizens. Women's movements have been particularly important in spear-heading pressure and holding the different governments to account. The **Inter-religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL)** has also been instrumental in promoting peace in the country, by reaching out to the different governments and disseminating messages of peace. Although there are concerns

over 'elite-capture' of these organizations and it is perceived that they are increasingly dominated by party politics, they continue to play an important role in sustaining peace in the country.

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**[18], how it ensures **national ownership**.

This project builds on the national priorities set by the Government of Sierra Leone in the **Medium-Term National Development Plan** (M-TNDP, 2019-2023), the **Government's Roadmap "Walking out of fragility"** (2019), both in line with the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*, the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy** endorsed in December 2020 and, if approved, the gender bill.

The project aims to support implementation of the **National Gender-Based Violence Referral Protocol** that has been revised in 2021-22 under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police.

The project is fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework (**UNSDCF 2020-2023**), namely Outcome 2 on *Transformational Governance* and Outcome 4 on *Protection and Empowerment of the most Vulnerable*.

The proposed initiative is in line with Output 2.1 of the **UNDP Country Programme Document (2020-2024)** as well as the UNDP's renewed strategic offer for Africa[19]. UNDP country programme aims at strengthening electoral management bodies including the National Electoral Commission (NEC), Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), and electoral courts. Key areas of the CPD include improving the electoral laws; advocating for the affirmative action bill for increased representation of women in elected office; and supporting the PPRC to promote inter-party dialogue, among others. It also fully aligns with **UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation (2020-2023)** Outcome 4 (*By 2023, fewer children experience physical and sexual violence, abuse and exploitation*) and in particular the Outputs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 on building an enabling environment through legal and policy reform and information management and evidence base strengthening, increasing access to gender responsive and child-friendly protection services within the social welfare and justice sectors at national and decentralized levels and contributing through behavior change programming to prevent and respond to violence and harmful practices especially towards adolescents and youth.

The project responds to the recommendations of the **Sierra Leone Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) led by the UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD)** in March 2021. Both the United Nations Needs Assessment Mission (NAM/May 2021) and UNDP's Governance Mission Assessment (July-August 2021) concluded that the UN should provide support to the creation of an enabling environment for peaceful elections ahead of 2023, prevention of post-electoral violence as well as to build citizens' trust in governance at all levels (national and sub-national) and social cohesion. The NAM highlighted the need for technical assistance to the Electoral Management Bodies (EC, PPRC) linked to support to other relevant institutions and areas, such as electoral dispute resolution and legal reforms, prevention and mitigation of electoral violence through the enhancement of early warning and response systems, prevention and mitigation of hate speech and disinformation on social media platforms to prevent electoral violence.

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

[19] Strategic Offer in Africa (3) pdf

Lessons learned from the 2018 electoral cycle demonstrated that a holistic approach centered around the enabling environment for credible and peaceful elections through coordinated responses from a wider range of stakeholders (EMBs, CSOs, the judiciary, security forces, etc.)[20] can have an impact on peacebuilding. Based on an ECSL 2019 presentation of lessons learned in the 2018 elections, the strong collaboration among EMBs and with political parties, security sector institutions and mechanisms, CSOs, traditional authorities and religious leaders was instrumental to curb violence. The presence of national and international observer missions, the establishment of the situation rooms, dialogue with political parties on the voter register, agreements on the political parties' code of conduct and campaign calendars were also indicated as part of the good practices that led to the conduct of peaceful elections. The current proposal builds upon these lessons and good practices, supporting the same mechanisms that played a role in sustaining peace during the previous elections, but it also considers the changes of the context and new approaches, such as the proposed support to the development of the regulations of the PPRC Act that replaces the 2018 code of conduct.

The project also builds on synergies and coordination between UN projects and programmes that support legislative reform, peacebuilding, gender equality, human rights, and civil registration as well as other international partners' ongoing and planned interventions in the context of the forthcoming elections. An integrated approach to international support in the context of elections will be promoted to ensure effectiveness of all contributions. To this end, development partners have created the **Governance and Accountability Working Group (GAWG)** for the implementation of the Busan agenda on aid effectiveness and coordination. Electoral support is now a regular topic of all meetings. Similalry to 2018 electoral cycle, a **multi-stakeholders election steering committee** has been established by the government in order to support coordination, accountability and transparency of the electoral process. The steering committee is co-chaired by the Chief Minister and RC and includes several government ministers, electoral management bodies, independent state institutions, Judiciary, CSOs, National Election Watch (NEW) and development partners. Regular briefings will be provided by UNDP, ECSL, and MPPA to the election steering committee on the progress in the implementation of the PBF and electoral support projects.

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

Compared to the donors' contributions to the 2018 elections and peacebuilding activities in Sierra Leone, the 2023 electoral cycle and the overall peacebuilding architecture in Sierra Leone are critically underfunded. Therefore, as Sierra Leone enters the electoral cycle, a multi-sector conflict and violence prevention intervention is needed to address potential conflict triggers and promote public confidence for a peaceful and democratic transition of power in 2023 through the general elections. As indicated in the matrix below, no major projects are currently implemented in the country that focus on increasing the space for intra- and inter-party dialogue and supporting PPRC and political parties to strengthen their regulatory framework to prevent inter-party violence; or on strengthening the early warning and early response systems for violence prevention explained below and the support to the security sector; on the establishement of a system to prevent the spreading of hate speech messages and sensitising young people in schools, focusing attention on first time voters; on preventing and addressing SGBV, enhancing existing government systems for increased sustainability; on supporting innovative systems to give voice to young people in the country, among others. The project has also been discussed in detail with donor partners, particularly the Europe Union Delegation (EUD), and a division of labour, close coordination and collaboration with EUD/International IDEA project (not yet

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[20] SNEC Project Final Evaluation.pdf (undp.org)

formulated) has been agreed. For example, while the PBF project targets the prevention of hate speech through social media, the EUD with International IDEA will strengthen the mainstream media. The PBF project addresses unique areas of UNDP and UNICEF expertise and complements the UNDP electoral support project, which is starting to receive contributions and pledged from donors, including the EUD. Additional explanation has been included in the table below. As Sierra Leone enters the electoral cycle, a multi-sector conflict and violence prevention intervention is urgently needed to address potential conflict triggers and promote public confidence for a peaceful and democratic transition of power in 2023 through the general elections.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Fostering Peaceful, Credible and Inclusive Elections in Sierra Leone (2022-2024) UNDP	UNDP Core (TRAC) $1,500,000 (2022) 2023 - $2,000,000 2024 - $1,000,000 Current pledges: Irish Aid: Euro 1,000,000 EUD: Euro 1,000,000 (more resources being mobilized from other partners)	Technical support to the Electoral Commission (ECSL) to conduct the elections, including defining operational strategies, strengthening voter registration and result management systems, enhancing transparency of tally process, voter awareness and promotion and inclusion of women and young people and people with disabilities in the electoral process.	The two projects complement each other and share project staff (more details in the section below). The PBF proposal supports the creation of an enabling environment for peaceful elections, while the UNDP project focuses more on the technical aspects of the conduct of the elections.
Support to ECSL (2017-2022) UNDP	EU, UK, Irish Aid, Canada $ 12,939,872 Remaining budget from EU funds $285,000	Supported the Electoral Commission on the technical conduct of elections in 2018. The remaining budget has been addressed to support the electoral legal reforms, including the development of the PPRC Act and Public Election Act as well as the refurbishment of NEC warehouses and provision of equipment to PPRC and ECLS	The remaining budget has been used to support a participatory and inclusive approach on the promotion of the electoral legal reforms, including the PPRC Act. The current proposal will support PPRC and political parties to develop the regulations of the PPRC Act
Support to ECSL (2018-2023) EU - DAI	EUD € 5,744,150 Governance Technical Assistance (ECSL, Parliament, HRMO, PSC)	Provision of technical assistance in three areas: a) Support to the electoral cycle b) Parliamentary support on legislative and institutional capacity and c) Civil Service Reform.	The EU project ends in September 2022 and was related with the provision of technical assistance to ECSL. This task will be taken over by the UNDP election CTA as part of the electoral support project. The UNDP CTA will also coordinate this PBF project. This will create a clear link between the projects and give

			continuity to donors' support.
Human Rights Commission (2021-2022) UNDP	Irish Aid € 200,000 Support to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL)	The project supports the strengthening of capacity the Human Rights Commission for the effective promotion and protection of human rights in Sierra Leone	HRCSL will provide support to the training and other activities of the PBF project
EU Support to ESCL, EMB, CSOs, Media (2022-2027) International IDEA NEW	EU € (TBC) Out of this amount, € 1,000,000 have been pledged to the UNDP election support project with the ECSL	The project is being finalised, but areas of support have been discussed with UNDP and International IDEA	Agreements have been made with EU on a division of labour and complementarity of support between UNDP and IDEA. EUD will not support ONS, iVerify, SGBV, FSU, MGCA, HRCL, dialogue, etc. Therefore the current PBF will address a concrete gap of donors' support.
Enhancing the capacities of Human Rights Defenders (2021-2023) HRDNSL	Irish Aid € 150,000	The project strengthens the capacity of human rights defender organizations and enhances coordination and broades the human rights advocacy base.	Complement the current PBF, as it does not directly support the HR defender organizations.
Mitigating the effects of Covid-19 response on governance and accountability processes IGR/CARL and ONS (Sept 2021-Oct 2022)	Irish Aid € 341,565	Support to the conduct of a National Elections Threat Assessment, promote social inclusion with a focus on human rights protection during Covid-19	The PBF project builds on the National Elections Threat Assessment to establish the ONS/IESPC and situation rooms, and identify the hot spots for the UNDP-UNICEF intervention. The PBF will provide continuity to the Irish Aid project
Strengthening women's participation in politics and governance (2021-May 2022) SEND SL	Irish Aid € 450,000	To increase women's political participation and roles in decision-making through political, economic and social empowerment in Kailahun, Kono, Kenema and Bonthe	The PBF project will build on the achievements of this project on women's political participation by providing support to mainstream gender in political parties and prevent violence against women. The UNDP electoral project will also address women's inclusion and political participation.

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

The approaching of the general elections in June 2023 poses challenges and opportunities for the UN to capitalize on peace and development gains and support Sierra Leone to strengthen electoral-related processes in an inclusive and conflict sensitive approach, ensuring youth and women can have their voices heard and meaningfully participate in the pre-electoral and the electoral process as well as remain engaged in the post-electoral period.

The project goal is to promote the enabling environment for the conduct of peaceful and credible elections by strengthening national conflict prevention and response systems; build trust and foster citizen engagement during the electoral process, including adolescents, youth and women; promote citizens engagement and tackle misinformation and hate speech.

The reinforcement and scale-up, during the electoral cycle, of national early warning and response will be implemented by supporting the system and mechanisms established by the Office of the National Security at national, regional, district and chiefdom levels. This will be complemented by supporting CSO-led initiatives to prevent, detect and respond to incidents.

The project pays special attention to promoting the empowerment of women, including by reinforcing existing support-mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. During election period gender-based violence increases and women and girls, particularly leaders and supporters of political parties at community levels, are particularly targeted. During previous elections, 3,842 GBV offences against women and girls were reported. Men-led secret societies were also released to prevent women and girls to leave their houses to attend meetings and participate in the elections[21]. Violence against women and girls during elections has also been triggered by underlying causes related with other existing disputes in the communities, such as land, villages' boundaries and families' related conflicts.

The promotion of a holistic peaceful environment requires sound engagement at all levels, involving different stakeholders. Therefore, the project will pay special attention to enhance the skills of adolescents and youth to build their trust in the electoral process and prevent electoral related violence. PPRC and political parties will be supported to develop the regulatory framework and internal disciplinary systems based on the provisions included in the new PPRC Act, which will streghten systems for prevention of inter-party violence. The project will also provide support to PPRC to continue the current process of inter-party dialogue, initiatied by the Peace and Development Adviser (PDA) with PPRC.

The project will address the dissemination of hate speech through social media by providing support to adapt the UNDP iVerify app, which is a comprehensive package based on an online monitoring and fact-checking platform. At the same time, through the U-report the project will give voice to young people to share their concerns related with the election context as well as their specific greviances that could play a role on escalating conflicts. Positive leadership and parenthood will be sthrengtened to prevent young people from engaging into violence[22].

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[21] In sierra Leone there are women and men led secret societies, respectively Bondos and Poros, who are very powerful and have been used by unscrupoulus politicians to intimidate people during elections. Paramount Chiefs, in collaboration with Government and security sector, are in charge of regulating the use of the secret socities.

[22] During the previous elections, the UNCT used the U-Report to explore specific concerns of young people prior, during, and after elections. Findings of the surveys were provided to national partners to tailor their interventions, accordingly. After the elections, based on the findings of the U report, a study was carried out to better understand the elements that prevented young people from engaging in violence. The study reported that positive leadership exerted by local leaders and parents prevented young people from engaging in electoral violence.

It is expected that the programmatic interventions outlined in this project will contribute to ensuring violence prevention and mitigation during the elections, as defined in the Guide on Action Points for the Prevention and Mitigation of Election-related Violence, namely: a) *Improved electoral management and justice (addressed under the UNDP electoral support project); b) Improved electoral security (addressed under this PBF); c) Improved infrastructure for peace (addressed under this PBF)*[23].

b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'**

If early warning and early response inclusive mechanisms, at national and sub-national levels, including state and CSO-led, are operational and collaboration and coordination is facilitated between security institutions and CSOs to detect and prevent tensions before, during and after the elections;

If youth are aware of their rights as citizens of Sierra Leone and understand the importance of peaceful elections and their active participation in it;

If political parties are better prepared to address their differences through dialogue and negotiation and commit to non-violence and legal instruments are strengthened to increase political parties' accountability;

If youth and sexual gender-based violence is addressed by the appropriate state and CSOs mechanisms supported also by this project during the electoral cycle;

If misinformation, disinformation and hate speech is tackled, enhancing capacity of national stakeholders to mitigate threats to information integrity around the elections;

If peace messaging including on inter-ethnic collaboration is enhanced and promoted at higher level, mid-range and grassroots level during the increasingly volatile electoral period;

***Then** responses by state actors, CSOs and political parties are enhanced for* prevention of violence, mitigation and mediation *of electoral related conflicts; understanding and trust in the electoral process will increase at national, regional and district level; peaceful and inclusive discourses during the electoral cycle are fostered, mostly by political parties (including its youth and women wings); triggers to electoral tensions will decrease, and if conflicts arise national authorities will be better prepared to tackle them respecting the Rule of Law and human rights; women and youth will be empowered to participate in the electoral cycle and political processes in general;*

***Because** integrated and interconnected approaches are more inclusive and promote the participation of all, the new regulatory framework of political parties disicentivizes the use of violence and unlawful behiavour by unscrupulous politicians, and many of the key drivers of election-related violence - including misinformation, hate speech, violation of rights, particularly women's and girls' rights, manipulation of youth by political actors - are mitigated, while capacities for peace are boosted, and the potential benefit of supporting/committing political violence will be reduced.*

The theory of change underpinning the project is built on the assumptions that: firstly, investing in institutional mechanisms and legal framework for violence prevention and security institutions' peaceful response capacity allow for potentially violent situations to be de-escalated and reduce the chance that violence spreads from one locality to another, further reducing the potential benefit of violence to political spoilers; secondly, to build inclusive and peaceful societies, men and women, female and male youth, should be able to contribute on an equal foot to the electoral processes and be empowered to do so; thirdly, both state and non-state mechanisms, systems and processes offer

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[23] The Guide on Action Points for the Prevention and Mitigation of Election related Violence, Idea International, ERM Tool, September 2003

positive potential to prevent electoral and political-related tensions as they affect how tensions are managed and mitigated and can constitute a building block of relationship between communities and the state, at different levels.

c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components**

Outcome 1: Early warning and response mechanisms to electoral tensions and triggers of conflicts reduce the potential and the intensity of election-related violence

Output 1.1 National and sub-national Early Warning and Response Systems (EWER) are enhanced

This output aims to support the existing early warning and early response system of the Office of the National Security (ONS)[24], which is based on the Provincial Security Committees (ProSec), District Security Committees (DiSec), Chiefdom Security Committees (ChiSec), and Local Police Partnership Boards (LPPB) field level network, comprising security institutions, independent commissions, civil society organizations, local authorities, religious leaders and women and youth leaders, at the different levels.

As part of the conflict prevention architecture, during the electoral cycle, the **ONS** activates the **Integrated Elections Security Planning Committee** (IESPC), which provides a framework within which security sector institutions collaborate with civilian authorities and organised civil society to ensure a peaceful and safe environment for the conduct of the electoral process. The IESPC is a multi-stakeholders group, comprising about 25 members, including Ministries and Departments (chiefly MPPA), National Commissions, Judiciary, Women and Youth organizations, NGOs, UN Agencies and other international partners. The IESPC meets on a regular basis to analise the security reports from the field, processed by the situation rooms (ONS and CSOs'ones), and makes agreements on prevention and response activities to be jointly undertaken by the members of the IESPC, based on their field networks and in collaboration with the ProSec, DiSec, Chisec and LPPBs. A Secretariat is established in the IESPC, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of electoral related activities. The Secretariat will also support the update of the election security, communication and training strategies and manuals, which were developed during the previous electoral cycle with the support of UNDP and UN Police advisors deployed by the United Nations Standing Police Capacity (UNSPC).

A situation room is also activated in ONS, as part of the IESPC activities, which is dedicated to monitor, collect, analyse and report information on electoral related incidents to the ONS and IESPC. The situation room will also coordinate with the civil societies' situation rooms, which are usually established during elections. A dedicated ONS personnel will liaise with the CSOs' situation rooms to ensure that the information collected is properly reported to the ONS' situation room for the IESCPC to be able to prevent and respond to incidents in a coordinated and effective manner. Dedicated technical support will be provided to the IESPC and situation room on planning, data gathering, organization, and analysis by the UN Police Advisors, who will be sourced from the UNSPC. Equipment to ensure the functionality of the situation room as well as the communication between the field level and the central situation room will be also provided by the PBF project.

As it was the case during the previous electoral cycle, the early warning and response system will also benefit from the UNICEF-led U-Report, through the direct engagement and feedback from volunteer U-reporters for real time monitoring. U-Report is a free TEXT social engagement tool for community

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[24] Explanation on ONS'structure is included in the list of key stakeholders.

participation, designed to address issues of concern to young people, with an average response rate of 20% of the registered users. Currently there are 163,787 registered U-reporters countrywide, with 34% female and 64% in the age group 20-30 years old and remaining above 31 years, 1% adolescents. The data received is disaggregated by age, gender, provinces, districts and settlements in real time. Registration is voluntary with SMS free (subsided by UNICEF through a public-private partnership with mobile companies) to the users across all networks. The U-Report was used in the past electoral cycle to complement other early warning and risk analysis platforms and provided useful information on concerns of young people in relation to electoral violence and the general conduct of the election in their villages. The information gathered was analysed by UNICEF and provided by UNDP to the IESPC and EWER mechanisms[25]. Differenlty from the previous electoral cycle, where the use of the U-Report was piloted as a UN internal mechanism, during the current cycle, the U-Report will launch the surveys in coordination with MPPA and ONS/IESPC to complement the information gathering of their situation room, using customised questionnaires. Time and frequency of U-Report surveys will be agreed with MPPA and ONS/IESPC.

In collaboration with the MPPA, and in order to create a baseline to measure results, before the election, UNICEF will carry out a specific survey on adolescents and youth subjective well-being to better understand young people's frustrations and anxieties related to the upcoming elections and their perceptions and expectation on their civic engagement. The results of this specific survey will inform the design of target interventions during elections that respond to youth's priorities.

The ONS/IESPC early warning early response system proved to be very effective during the previous electoral cycle to prevent and peacefully respond to instances of electoral related violence. For example, the LPPB in Port Loko, assisted by the ONS and IESPC, was able to peacefully mitigate the escalation of electoral related violence, also fueled by other underlying causes related to land conflicts in the area.

The current output builds on previous experiences, instruments, and coordination mechanisms and it will be achieved by implementing the following activities:

1.1.1   *Support the activation of the ONS/IESPC situation room, ensuring its operationality*
As explained above, the situation room will collect and analyse data provided by the ProSec, DiSec, ChiSec, LPPBs, as well as CSOs' situation rooms. The analysis of the information will be made available to ONS and IESP for early response. The situation room is activated during the electoral period and fully operational from September 2022 to September 2023. The current PBF will provide technical assistance to the situation room, through the recruitement of a national consultant and UN Police Advisors sourced from the UNSPC, who will mentor ONS staff on the planning and operationalization of the situation room. Following an accurate needs assessment and inventory, required equipment will be provided for the functioning of the situation room, including ensuring proper communication with the ONS' descentrailised mechanisms (ProSec, DiSec, ChiSEc, LPPBs). This will include mobile phones, WiFi portable boxes, teleconferencing materials, tablets, laptops and printers.

1.1.2   *Training of trainers on elections security to security personnel and other stakeholders and planning and simulation exercises*
With the support of this PBF project, five training of trainers of mid-rank security personnel on election security will take place. The training will target about 100 officers from the Police, Armed Forces (RSLAF), Fire Brigades, Correctional Services, Chiefdom Police, Independent Police Complaints

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[25] https://sierraleone.ureport.in/about/, https://sierraleone.ureport.in/opinion/2400/ and https://sierraleone.ureport.in/opinion/2601/ https://sierraleone.ureport.in/opinion/2646/

Board (IPCB), Police Family Support Unit (FSU) and the Legal Aid Board in each of the 6 regions of the country, reaching a total of 600 officers (30% women) during 4 days (3 days on elections security and one day for the simulation exercise), who, in turn, will cascade the training to their subordinates during their daily regular meetings and activities. It is expected that about 25,000 security personnel and other relevant stakeholders, who will provide security during elections, will be trained.

The ToTs will be provided by 8 facilitators (at least 3 women) part of the IESPC, including ONS, ECSL, HRCSL and IPCB. ONS will ensure gender parity as much as possible in the facilitators team. Topics of the training will be related with roles and responsibility of security forces in policing elections, definition of electoral related offences and how to address them, role of descentralised security committees, prevention of violence against women and girls, protection of human rights, among others. The UN Police Advisor is expected to support ONS to update the curriculum of the training.

Pocket guidelines on the role and functions of the security personnel during the election day will be designed, printed and distributed to the security personnel. About 30,000 guidelines will be printed with simple language, pictures and graphs.

1.1.3   *Training of trainers to security personnel on management of conflicts*
A ToTs on conflict management will be provided by ONS and Police trainers to 15-20 mid-rank security officers in each of the five regions of the country, aiming at a maximum of 100 participants in total (30% women). The training will be then cascaded to the district and chiefdom levels by the participants during the daily briefings with the troops. Existing training material will be updated in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Police Director of Operations. Topics of this training will focus on prevention of violence during demonstration, negotiation, and progressive use of force, accordingly to international standards. This training will complement efforts of bilateral partners, such as US and EU, although there is no clarity until now on their support to the ONS and Sierra Leone Police.

1.1.4   *Deployment of the UN Police Advisors from the UN Police Standing Capacity to provide technical support to ONS/IESPC*
Following the request from ONS, the project will support the deployment of two police advisors from the UN Police Standing Capacity (one female and one male) for a period of up to 12 months. The Police Advisors will provide technical support to ONS on planning and analysis of information generated at the situation room, update the election security strategy and the training curricula, and provide support to the implementation of ONS and IESPC's activities during the electoral cycle.
Based on experience of the 2018 electoral cycle, the early deployment of the Police Advisors helped early planning for the full operationalization of the situation room, training activities and simulation exercises. Similar to 2018 elections, it is expected that one of the two Police Advisors will be a woman.

1.1.5 Roll-out the U-Report's surveys at national level and conduct a survey on adolescents and youth subjective well-being before the elections
In order to ensure that voices of young people, particularly women and girls, will be captured, at least five U-Report surveys will be designed and launched, in collaboration between MPPA, IESPC, and UNICEF. A survey on adolescents and youth's well-being will be also carried out before the elections. The U-report questionnaires will be tailored accordingly to specific events of the electoral calendar (eg.: voter registration, political campaign period, etc), but also to other events that might affect the electoral environment (such as COVID-19 and other relevant health issues, flooding, etc). Specific questions related to gender discrimination and women involvement in the electoral process will be added to each questionnaire (34% of U-reporters are young women).

The findings of the surveys will be analysed by a specialised team of UNICEF and submitted to the MPPA and IESPC for required actions.

1.1.6 Facilitation of conflict mitigation and reconciliation initiatives in the post-electoral hotspots
Based on the positive experience of the past elections, representatives of ONS, IESPC, political parties, Inter-Religious Council and Eminent Women Peace Mediators Sierra Leone (EWPMSL) will be supported to organize mitigation and reconciliation sessions in the areas affected by electoral violence to restore peaceful coexistence of the population. During 2018 elections, as a result of incidents of political violence, people were killed and seriously wounded, their houses were burned and in some areas population was displaced by their villages. The joint intervention of the IESPC, ONS and representatives of different political parties traveling to the areas still in conflict and advocating with the population for a decrease in tensions and peaceful coexistence (during previous elections, houses of people were burnt in some areas and population fled the villages. The ONS, IESPC and political leaders were instrumental to facilitate the return of people to their villages).

Output 1.2 Nationally-led initiatives to prevent electoral violence and promote dialogue are reinforced and scaled-up

As part of the efforts to prevent violence and building on the extensive network of local monitors and insider mediators established by West Africa Network for peace building (WANEP-SL), the project will support the establishment of the National Elections Response Group (NERG) - which is co-chaired by WANEP and Inter-Religious Council and includes a network of about 20 civil society organizations, including Campaign for Human Rights and Development International (CHDRI) and Eminent Women Peace Mediators Sierra Leone (EWPMSL), among other institutions - and the District Elections Response Groups (DERG). The NERG and DERG meet regularly to analyse reports received from the WANEP field monitors on election related incidents and other conflicts that could trigger violence during elections and jointly agree on actions to be undertaken to avoid escalation of violence. Violence prevention and early response to incidents are led by the 90 WANEP insider mediators, together with religious leaders, members of the descentralised security committees and LPBBs, in close coordination and collaboration with ONS. WANEP has established a network of about 500 field monitors countrywide, mainly young people (about 40% women), who have been trained by WANEP since 2018. In addition, 90 insider mediators (40% women) will be deployed in key hot spots.
WANEP will also establish a situation room, which will compile and analyse information from the field monitors. The analysis will be sumitted to the NERG and DERG for joint response. Differently from the ONS situation room, the WANEP's one will process information on all conflicts that might affect the electoral environment and play a role in triggering electoral related violence. The NERG, differently from the IESPC, has a stronger conflict prevention role, mediating on a wide range of conflicts that could affect the peace of country during the electoral cycle. The NERG and DERG will also support the post-electoral reconciliation activities facilitated by ONS.

ONS and WANEP will reactivate their 2018 MOU to collaborate on EWER during the electoral cycle. Based on the MOU, a representative of ONS will be deployed in the WANEP's situation room to facilitate information transmission to the ONS' situation room.
Information collected by the WANEP's situation room will also be transmitted to the WANEP's National Early Warning Systems (NEWS), which is part of the ECOWAS' Early Warning and Early Response Network (ECOWARN).
The following activities will be implemented under this PBF project:

1.2.1 *Provide training to insider mediators on mediation and negotiation*

With the support of the Netherland Institute for International Relations, Clingendael, refresher courses on mediation and negotiation will be provided to the WANEP 90 insider mediators as well as CHRDI personnel and EWPMSL volunteers (50% women). The training will provide new skills and tools to the insider mediators and members of CHRDI and EWPMSL and will include topics related with conflict analysis, stakeholder analysis, mediation and negotiation strategies, among others.

1.2.2   Support the establishment of the NERG and its situation room
Technical and logistical support will be provided to WANEP to reactivate and operationalize the NERG and DERGs and the data collection and analysis system of their situation room. The data collection instruments and tools, created during the previous electoral cycle, will be updated and validated with the NERG and DERG and harmonized with the ones of ONS' situation room. Refresher training will be provided to the WANEP monitors on the data collection and reporting system. The UN PDA will also provide technical support to WANEP on the establishment of the data collection and analysis system, as it was the case during the previous elections. Members of the NERG

1.2.3   Support the MPPA to establish a CSOs platform for information sharing and coordination among the CSOs that provide support to election related activities
Mandated by the Election Multi-Stakeholders Steering Committee (EMSC)[26], MPPA will create a space for CSOs to share information, strategies and methodologies on their election related activities. This will help to create synergies among CSOs and with the government and avoid duplication of interventions and better distribute the support to all areas of the country, particularly the ones most at risk of electoral violence. It is expected that, with the support of MPPA, CSOs will be able to resolve their differences and sthrenghten partnership for conflict prevention and social cohesion prior, during and after the elections. The project will provide support for the logistic of the meetings, which will be held on a monthly basis, while the technical support will be provided by the UNDP election team. Women and youth CSOs will also be included (50% women).

Outcome 2: An inclusive civic space is fostered and peaceful, accurate and timely communications for participatory and well-informed discourse are promoted

Output 2.1 Political Parties as well as its women and youth wings commit to peaceful, credible, transparent, and independent elections

Following the organization by PPRC, in collaboration with UNDP and EU, in November 2021, of participatory and inclusive workshops with representatives of political parties on the review of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) Act, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) drafted the amended ACT and submitted it to Parliament for approval. The new Act provides PPRC with the power to regulate the political parties' activities. Currently, PPRC has only the power to register and de-register political parties. As political parties, currently, do not have a forum where their iternal and inter-parties differences and greviances can be mediated, inter and intra-parties' conflicts, frequently, escalate into violence or cases are filed in Court, congesting the Courts and expanding the conflicts to the Judiciary. With the new Act, PPRC will be able to initiate inter and intra-parties negotiation and mediation processes as well as to directly impose sanctions to parties for violating the electoral law. This migh help to decrease intra and inter-party conflicts, as it will serve as a deterrent for parties' members and supporters to violate provisions of the electoral law. The project intends to support PPRC to train the political parties on the provision of the new Act as well as design its regulations in a participatory and inclusive manner. Technical support will also be provided to political parties to

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[26] The Election Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee has been established end of last year with the objective of supporting the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) to conduct the elections, and includes ECSL, PPRC, MDAs, CSOs and development partners and it is co-chaired by the UN RC and Chief Minister.

review and adapt their internal codes of conduct and discipline to the provisions of the new PPRC Act and its regulations.

The PBF project will also support political parties to mainstream gender into their structures, based on the new gender policy. Considering the current level of resistance of political leaders to gender equality, intensive advocacy work will be required to ensure the buy-in of parties. The All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) and All Political Paries Youth Association (APPYA) will be the primary target of this support to then champion gender mainstreaming within the parties.

Building on the recent efforts of PPRC and the Peace and Development Adviser to the UNCT (PDA), inter-party dialogue will continue to be facilited to ensure parties will have a forum to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner. To this end, training on mediation and negotiation will be provided. The Netherland Institute for Multi-party Democracy will be contracted to support PPRC and political parties to undertake these activities.
This output includes the following key activites:

2.1.1 *Increase the capacity of PPRC, the All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) and All-Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) on mediation, negotiation and dialogue*
PPRC and political parties, including women and youth wings, will be provided with refreshed training on mediation, dialogue and negotiation to provide them with the skills and knowledge to engage in intra and inter-party dialogue to peacefully resolving their disputes. The training courses will target the leadership of political parties, APPYA (10% women) and APPWA (100% women), involving about 30 participants in each course.

The project will also support the re-organization of the APPYA and APPWA to facilitate dialogue forums to champion non-violence and peace throughout the electoral cycle, increasing the responsiveness of female and male young leaders towards sustaining peace. As part of their activities, APPYA and APPWA will engage in advocacy against the manipulation of youth by unscrupouls politicians by jointly disseminating messages of peace to young people and adolescents, particulary in the hot spot areas mentioned in output 1.3 above.

As part of a UNDP-Clingendael partnership, the PPRC Chair, in June 2022, attended a training of trainers on insider mediation at the Clingedael in The Hague. Leaderhisp of 17 registered political parties was also trained in November 2021 in Freeetown by the Clingedael. A new training on mediation and negotiation will be provided in July 2022 to the APWA by the Clingendael, as part of the collaboration already established with the UNDP/UNCT. The project will, therefore, make use of their available expertise and continue to build on the previous training efforts.

2.1.2 *Support the development of the regulatory framework of the new Political Parties Registration and Regulation (PPRC) Act and political parties' internal codes of conduct and discipline*
The Netherland Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD)[27] will be contracted to support PPRC to design the regulatory framework of the new PPRC Act in an inclusive and participatory manner with political parties as well as to support political parties to review and update their internal codes of conduct and discipline, based on the provisions of the amended PPRC Act. The amended Act replaces the political parties' Code of Conduct, which used to be updated during every election.

2.1.3 *Raise awareness among political parties, including the youth and women wings, on the new PPRC Act ahead of the political campaigns*

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[27] Alternatively, depending on budget and timing, UNDP could also consider to contract the services of International IDEA in further consultation with the EUD.

The amended PPRC Act will bring several changes in the manner political parties used to conduct their activities and it will be necessary to ensure that all political stakeholders will have a complete understanding of the new provisions not to incur in any violation of the law. The project will support three awerness raising programmes on the amended Act addressed to political parties and their youth and women wings.

2.1.4 *Dissemination of the Political Parties Registration and Regulation Act in printed and electronic media*

The project will support the dissemination of the amended PPRC Act through TV and radio programmes and electronic media and the public will be sensitized on the sanctions that will be applied to political parties for violation of the provision of the Act and electoral law (eg: destroying billboards of another party), particularly during electoral campaigns.

2.1.5 *Training to political parties on electoral law and gender policy*

The Gender Empowerment Bill 2021, yet to be enacted, call for 30% minimum quota for women. The Bill has been submitted to Parliament and advocacy for its approval is still ongoing. The project will support the political parties to mainstream gender in their structures (internal committees, executive positions, etc.) either in line with the new bill (if approved) or with the already existing gender policy. Training curricula will include modules on prevention of violence against women and girls and women's political participation.

2.1.6 Facilitation of high-level inter-party dialogue and signing of a Peace pledge

The project will support PPRC to continue to conduct the inter-party dialogue, currently facilitated by PPRC Chairman with the support of the UN Peace and Development Adviser. The project will also support PPRC to establish a group of eminent personalities (eg: members of the Eminent Women Peace Mediators Sierra Leone (EWPMSL), Inter-religious Council and Tejan Kabbah Foundation, among others), who will support the inter-party dialogue meetings, help de-escalate conflicts, support the signing of a peace pledge, committing political parties to accept the results of the elections. It is expected that the signing of the peace pledge will help to increase confidence from the public on the peaceful conduct of the elections and facilitate a peaceful transition of power. ECOWAS, AU leaders and UNOWAS will be invited to be part of this activity, as needed. The dialogue process and engagement of the group of eminent personalities will continue after the elections in order to promote reconciliation and social cohesion at local level, also supporting the activity described in 1.1.6 above.

Output 2.2 Peaceful civic engagement is fostered through community dialogues, awareness raising on peace and youth participation in the electoral process

In line with the National Youth Policy (NYP), which was developed with the support of the UNCT and has, recently, been passed by Cabinet, the project will promote youth, male and female, participation in electoral processes with the aim of building trust and confidence in the country's political system. The project will support awareness raising on non-violence, the negative repercussions of disinformation and hate speech, and promotion of youth leadership.

Under this output, building on the pilot on positive parenting education implemented by UNICEF in 2021 in selected districts, adolescents and youth will be targeted to foster community cohesion. Community engagement and dialogue will complement this intervention, as enabling and protective environments at community level through engagement with influential leaders and community structures are key to bridge the intergenerational and power divides and function as a mechanism to deter tensions. This was also reported in the findings of a study developed by UNDP after the 2018 elections, which explored the motivations and incentives for youth **not** to engage in violence.

This output will be implemented in collaboration with Defense for Children International (DCI) and Focus 1000. DCI has been actively engaged with the Positive Parenting Education Programme pilot as well as in providing services to young people on legal rights and empowerment. Focus 1000 has been working on community dialogue and developed a community planning and engagement manual. Both organizations have an active Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UNICEF and have been selected through a competitive process. In addition, DCI has an active MoU with the Ministry of Social Welfare. This output will be implemented in hotspot districts mentioned above of Kono, Port Loko, Kenema, Makeni and Western Area.
Specific activities of this output include the following:

2.2.1 Intergenerational community dialogues with religious and traditional leaders are promoted in Kono, Port Loko, Kenema, Makeni and Western Area Districts

This activity will be implemented with the support of FOCUS 1000 and other CSOs in the five districts and involves Focus 1000 district coordinators and chiefdom coordinators in all chiefdoms. Community dialogue and engagement will be conducted on a monthly basis and will involve approximately 3,500 community members (at least 30% of women). The manual on community planning will be used to facilitate the sessions, which will focus on peaceful civic engagement and youth participation in the electoral process. Community radio stations will also be used to convey peace messages and radio call-in programmes will be organized to answer the concerns of the communities in the targeted districts. Specific gender messages and on prevention of violence against women and girls will be conveyed.

2.2.2 Awareness raising on young people's elections-related rights is enhanced to increase their meaningful participation and reduce likelihood of electoral violence

This activity will be implemented by DCI in the five above-mentioned districts, scaling up the existing Positive Parenting Education Programme (PPEP), targeting specifically adolescents and youth. The PPEP consists of 12 sessions of community dialogue over a period of 3 months to which a specific component on election participation and civic education will be added and facilitated by DCI's staff.

During the civic education component, DCI will also be able to inform, assess and refer young people participating in the programme to legal services and representation in case some of them are involved in electoral violence accidents. The aim is to reduce violence in general in communities, including gender-based violence and contribute to strengthening social cohesion. The less violence permeates society and the more positive and peaceful leadership is exerted by local leaders and parents, the less adolescents and youth will engage in violence. A module on disinformation and hate speech will be incorporated, developed through output 2.4 below.

Output 2.3 Enhanced civic education to youth to build their understanding and trust in the electoral cycle and legal support to youth engaged in electoral-related conflicts

In order to promote an inclusive electoral process, specific attention will be given to to first-time voters and other young people, including adolescents who, frequently, are involved in electoral violence. To this end, it is important that youth see themselves as rights' holders in terms of civil and political rights. First-time voters are particularly vulnerable to political manipulation and with this output the project intends to strengthen their knowledge of their civil rights through trainings in schools organized by the Legal Aid Board (LAB) in close coordination with the ECSL, who has the mandate on voters' education, which is supported under the UNDP electoral support project.

In addition, the project intends to provide legal representation to young people, male and female, including underage, accused of having perpetreted electoral related violence. Based on 2022 ONS' national election threat assessment (not published, yet), adolescent and young people are frequently manipulated by unscrupulous politicians and tend to engage into illegal activities, either participating in violent protests, damaging voter stations and materials, or pretending to vote even if not entitled due to age. Young people and adolescents are also, frequently, victims of political and electoral violence. In 2019 in Kambia and in 2021 in Kailahun, two adolescents were killed during by-election violence. With the support of LAB, quality age appropriate and gender responsive advice, education and legal support will be provided to poor and indigent clients, particularly male and female youth and adolescents, accused of having committed election-related offences. The LAB will also promote civic education sessions in schools to raise awareness among young people under 18 years of age on their rights and responsibilities during the electoral process, who, in turn, will deliver the same messages to their parents, who, frequently, do not have access to accurate information or are illiterate.

Under this output the following activities will be implemented:

2.3.1 Trainings in schools on civic education, in particular on the elections and youth-responsibilities and availability of LAB's services

The LAB will conduct training on civic education in senior secondary schools (14–18 year-old) in the districts identified in the 2022 ONS'national election threat assessment as more prone to electoral related-violence (Kono, Port Loko, Kenema, Makeni and Western Area)

432 senior secondary schools (44 Kono, 47 Port Loko, 49 Kenema, 52 Makeni, 240 Western Area) will be targeted by the project, reaching approximately 12,000 students (50% female). The sessions will involve the last two classes (SSS 2 and SS3) in a one-day activity repeated for the same class every 3 months.

2.3.2 Provide legal representation to young people, including underage and women accused of committing electoral-related violence

The project will support LAB to provide legal representation at Magistrate Courts and High Courts to women and youth accused of having committed election related offences as well as support to witnesses/sureties to testify in Courts (transport, lodging and feeding). Transport to paralegals to trace the witnesses/sureties and monitor the Police Stations, Local Courts and Correctional Centers will be also provided. During the previous elections, 257 offences (253 male, 4 female) were recorded and filed to Court, which included riotous conduct (170), damaging posters of opponents (27), unlawful assembly (20) and use of abusive language (19). Technical and logistic equipment will also be provided to ensure that LAB staff will be deployed to all five hot spot areas.

Output 2.4: The capacity of national stakeholders to prevent and mitigate the threats to the integrity of information (misinformation, disinformation and hate speech) is strengthened

The advance of the internet, social media and Artificial Intelligence, has contributed to inclusion, transparency and participation of citizens in the governance, but also carries risks and challenges to the integrity of the information landscape with ramifications on the democratic processes. With hateful speech and related ethno-regional divisions increasing in the context of Sierra Leone, the project will support the development and implementation of a mechanism to identify, analyse and counter disinformation and hate speech called iVerify.

IVerify is a comprehensive support package developed by UNDP at global level, which has at its core an online monitoring and fact-checking platform, customizable to the country context with support of the UNDP Electoral Task Force based in Brussels. Beyond the customization of the IT mechanism,

the roll-out of this activity will aim to strengthen the information ecosystem in Sierra Leone by building capacity of national stakeholders to address information integrity challenges and fostering media literacy of the Sierra Leoneans. This will be done through targetted information campaigns and trainings. In addition, the project aims to faciliate coordination between those actors involved in identification and fact checking and those best placed and mandated to respond.

As an IT mechanism, iVerify is designed to receive messages from the general public to identify online and offline content requiring action, while automatically scrapping the web/social media for problematic stories. The first requires investment in communication and visibility of the platform, alongside training on how to find problematic narrative online and capture them. Once the content is checked for veracity and toxicity by a team of national fact-checkers, - which will be part of the identified organization or institution capacitated through iVerify - the fact-checked stories are shared widely on a dedicated page. Engagement with social media platforms such as Facebook is also supported alongside training on response options including counter-messaging to a number of actors, which will be facilitated through a number of activities included in this project such as activity 2.2.2 for youth and activity 2.1.5 for political parties.

In a nutshell, the application (1) increases the capacity of mandated national actors to identify and analyse disinformation and hate speech; (2) strengthens their capacity to timely respond to disinformation and hate speech through local networks (3) strengthens media literacy and provide a publicly available reference page for disinformation and hate speech; and (4) supports IT platforms with automated features to facilitate identification, analysis and response coordination. Specific activities to materialize the roll-out of iVerify Sierra Leone include:

2.4.1 Conduct an assessment for the launch of the iVerify in Sierra Leone
Conduct in-country consultations with a broad range of stakeholders including state and non-state actors to assess the existing initiatives, legal framework and information/media landscape related to elections and disinformation/hate speech. Three reports will be included in the assessment: Information landscape, Actors/initiatives mapping, and risk evaluation. A specific focus will be placed on the impact of information pollution on women.

IVerify is meant to support national counterparts in identifying and responding to problematic content online, and so the assessment will be instrumental in identifying the implementing partner and partnerships. Furthermore, IVerify intends to foster multi-stakeholder coordination and facilitate inclusion of youth. During the assessment, specific attention will be paid to ensure the engagement of youth, either in the monitoring and/or the counter-messaging process. While digitalization has the downside of disenfranchising parts of the population, youth engagement is an area in which it can prove valuable given they tend to be more connected and tech-savvy.

2.4.2 Customization of the IT solution for iVerify
Based on this assessment, the mechanism and IT Tool will be customized to fit the needs and context which includes the hire of a company to facilitate the IT tool customization following a design workshop.

2.4.3.Deployment of JTF experts and national focal point to roll-out the tool
Includes training, roll-out and piloting of the national mechanism for the identification, fact-checking, and response to the mis/disinformation phenomenon.

2.4.4.Operationalization of iVerify

Support to the operational phase will be provided, including training, communication and outreach and sustainability in the long-term (back-up, updates). Sustainability measures will be identified and developed during the assessment.

2.4.5 Support the production of a song to combat misinformation, disinformation and hate speech

A call to Sierra Leone musicians will be launched for proposals to produce a song to raise awareness on the negative impact of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech and the best proposals will be supported and disseminated through social media and radio programmes.

Outcome 3: Women are better protected to meaningfully participate in political processes prior, during and after the elections.

Marginalization of women and girls and alienation of youth remain a key cause – and consequence – in the ongoing manifestation of social tensions and unequitable socio-economic development in Sierra Leone, likely to be more prominent and reflected in various forms of civil unrests and rights violations in the upcoming election period, also exacerbated by the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war in the country. The project therefore intends to strengthen and build on the work currently ongoing to promote gender equality and youth and women's empowerment.

Given the challenging environment in which women in Sierra Leone exercise their rights as women, voters and candidates, the project intends to support specific targeted interventions to raise awareness and implement measures to mitigate gender-based violence more broadly and violence against women and girls in elections and politics (VAWE/P), including by ensuring the integration of VAWE/P into the early warning platforms.

Output 3.1 Enhanced prevention and mitigation of Gender Based Violence to ensure women can safely participate in political and electoral processes

Under this output, the project will employ strategic approaches for dialogue and support to women victims of violence. Some unscrupolous politicians, in order to increase their popularity, sponsor the cost of the girls' initiations into the Bondo Society, which for most families is an important incentive. Hundrends of girls are reported to be initiated prior to each elections. The Government has instituted a ban on secret societies and there is a policy in place to prevent initiations into Bondo of underage girls. The project will work with Government institutions, mainly Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MGCA), GBV Task Force CSO members, and FSU, to educate survivors, young men and women and service providers on the existing government's regulations and how to access services before, during and after elections

In Sierra Leone, UNICEF is, currently, the only Agency working with the MGCA on an integrated Information Management System on GBV (GBVIMS+) as well as with the Family Support Unit of the Police on prevention and response to GBV cases. During electoral periods, violence against women and girls tend to increase and, frequently, remain unpunished, as it happened during the previous elections. Although, the cases of GBV were documented by the women's situation room, they were not properly recorded and documented and there was no follow up. The PBF project intends to support the MGCA to maintain a record of and manage the cases of GVB in a manner that the institutionalization of the reporting system will prevent information to be missed and allow the follow up on the cases even after the elections.

3.1.1 Scale up the GBV IMS+ system

This activity includes the scale up of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS+) to identify and effectively manage in real time cases of Gender Based Violence by trained government and CSO personnel. This is particularly key as noted in the analysis harmful practices and SGBV increase during the electoral period.

With UNICEF support, Sierra Leone has implemented an interoperable Child Protection Information Management System, (CPIMS) called *Primero*, which was transformed for use in regular case management from its initial use to support reintegration of children associated with conflict. With the split of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children (MGCA) into two separate ministries in 2020, the case management protocol was updated to promote a more sustainable approach to manage the system. In 2021, UNICEF handed over the system management role to the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and will continue to support revision of the protocol and upgrade of the system. In addition to the CPIMS module, already active and in use, UNICEF will provide support to bring the GBVIMS+ at scale in all districts across the country. This will enable the government to have up to date data on GBV cases and to manage individual cases in a professional manner. The project will also support the implementation of a comprehensive GBV Case Management Protocol aligned with the National GBV Referral Protocol. This will avoid dispersion of information and increase the possibility for the victims to receive justice.

3.1.2 Provide support to the Help Line – 116 to report cases of GBV

With this activity, the project will support MGCA to operate the 116-helpline, a toll-free helpline that started to be operational during COVID-19. Based on the analysis above, during the electoral period, the Help-Line 116 is expected to receive an increased number of calls, thus, the project will provide technical and logistic support to the Help Line operations during the entire period of the project operations, including deploying a GBV coordinator, who will be in charge of referring GBV survivors to service providers, One Stop Centers, social workers and FSU stations in their respective districts. During the elections, increased awarness will be raised on the availabity of the Help Line -116, as a reporting channel of election related violence against women and girls.

3.1.3 Training to FSU on SGBV to prevent and respond to electoral related violence

The Family Support Unit (FSU), as a specialized branch of the Police, has grown to play a crucial role in executing its mandate since its establishment in 2012 and, currently, has 77 stations countrywide with 570 personnel of which 241 are female. Working closely with social welfare departments (through dedicated social workers stationed at each FSU), young people, women and other vulnerable populations have access to age-appropriate and gender responsive reporting, interviewing and investigation services in cases of gender-based violence, abuse, neglect and reported offences involving juveniles.

This activity will support the provision of training of 100 FSU personnel per year on the revised Reference Guidelines Handbook on Sexual Gender Based Violence and Case Management. Specific content will be included in the Guidelines on addressing cases of electoral related violence, including identification, reporting and response (eg. submission of files in the electoral Court, etc). Required technical equipment will be provided, prioiritizing offices located on the identified elections hot spots.

See Annex C with all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.

d) **Project targeting**.

The total number of direct beneficiaries of the project activities will be about 31,960 people of which about 15,660 (49%) female and 16,300 (51%) male. In addition, the project will target 163,787 registered U-reporters countrywide, with 34% female and 64% in the age group 20-30 years old and remaining above 31 years, 1% adolescents. It is expected that the IVerify will target a large portion of the population, particularly young female and male. As indicated also above under Output 2.3 schools will be targeted as follow: 432 senior secondary schools (44 Kono, 47 Port Loko, 49 Kenema, 52 Makeni, 240 Western Area) will be targeted by the project, reaching approximately 12,000 students (50% female, involving the last two classes (SSS 2 and SS3) in a one-day activity repeated for the same class every 3 months. This will target first time voters. The project beneficiaries will be selected in coordination with national partners, based on the agreed criteria and ensuring gender balance, and ethnic and regional representation of the 5 regions of the country.

Most of the project interventions take place nationwide, but specific focus will be placed on the areas at most risk of electoral related violence, identified as hotspots by the ONS' election threat assessment, including Kono, Port Loko, Kenema, Makeni and Western Area Districts. Post-electoral activities will focus on the hotspots that will emerge as a result of cases of electoral related violence. The project will also target the areas with the highest levels of violence against women and children, as described above.

2 Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

a) Recipient organizations and implementing partners

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: UNDP **Implementing** partners: MPPA ONS PPRC SLP WANEP DSTI NIMD CLINGENDAEL	$12.500,000	TRAC (1&2) GEF Irish Aid EU FW Global RoL Human Security RFF PBF	Freetown	63	The CTA of the UNDP electoral project already in place at the CO will also be the CTA/PM of this PBF project. Two UN Police will provide support to activities under output 1. The PBF project will also benefit of the technical support of other staff recruited under the UNDP electoral project, including a conflict prevention specialist, M&E, Reporting officer, among others.
Recipient Organization: UNICEF	21,091,551	United Kingdom, Global Fund, Gavi Vaccine Alliance, Global Partnership for Education, USAID, Ireland,	Freetown, Kenema, Makeni	115 (101 FT, 8 Kenema, 6 Makeni) 41% female,	A P3 Child Protection Specialist on harmful practices and GBV Focal point will be engaged on a 30% basis on this project A NOC Child Protection Specialist in charge of

		Japan, Iceland, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, China, UK, Germany, Sweden and Denmark UNICEF National Committees UNICEF Regular Budget		59% male	Justice for Children and GBVIMS+ will also be engaged in this project (more details provided below).
Implementing partners:		"			
DCI		"			DCI will be implementing Output 2.2.2
FSU	100,000	"	Freetown, Kenema,	33	
Focus 1000	60,000	"	Makeni, Kono,	570	Focus 1000 will be implementing Output 2.2.1
LAB	100,000		Moyamb All	40	
MGCA	60,000		districts All	135	
	50,000		districts All districts All districts All districts	42	

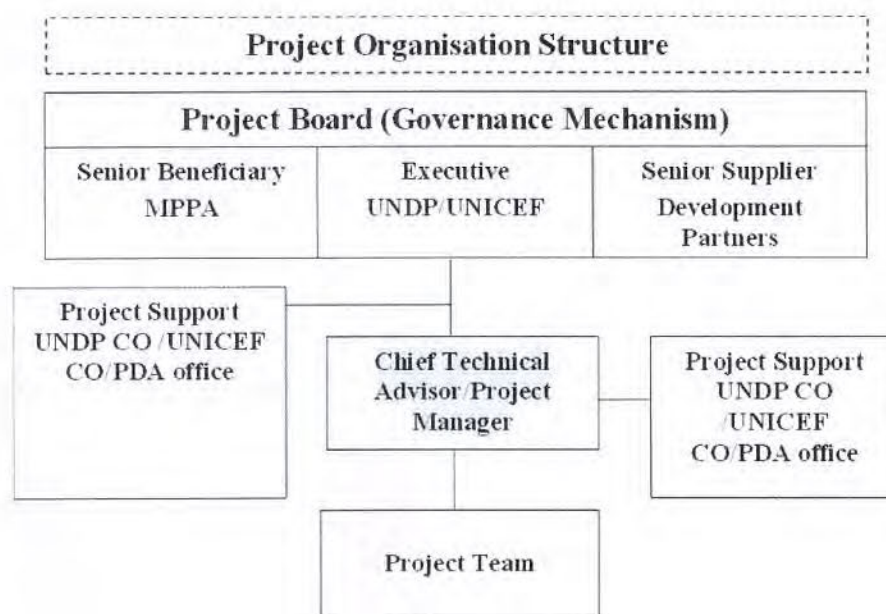b) **Project management and coordination**.

UNDP will serve as the managing and convening agency for the project and will ensure coherence and partnership in activity implementation jointly with UNICEF across the outcomes, outputs and activities.

UNDP has demonstrated success in supporting national and local-level peacebuilding projects in Sierra Leone, including a PBF project implemented in collaboration with the UN Office on Human Rights (OHCHR) on conflict prevention and mitigation during the previous electoral cycle, and another PBF initiative implemented in partnership with UNWOMEN to increase women's political participation and leadership as well as the recently closed PBF projects, in partnership with WFP, on mitigation of localized conflicts and an ongoing PBF project on empowerment of youth at risk. UNDP has proven expertise in supporting initiatives to build social cohesion, support vulnerable groups to access justice, build capacities of the security sector, promoting the participation of women and youth. UNDP has supported the Government of Sierra Leone during key transformative periods, including during and after national elections and the transition from UNIPSIL in 2014. UNDP has a countrywide network of partners on peacebuilding, early warning and conflict prevention, both at the national and local levels. UNDP will use its experience and expertise to foster partnerships and dialogues at the local levels, promoting political participation and economic opportunities to build the skillsets of marginalised youths, as well as help build the capacities of local and national actors on conflict prevention, to promote social cohesion and resilience to counter risks of conflict and vulnerabilities.

The Project Management and team will provide strategic direction for the overall project implementation. It consists of an international Chief Technical Advisor (CTA – P5) for the full project period, who manages, oversees and supervises the Project, being charged 50% to the PBF project and the other 50% to the UNDP electoral support project, working in close collaboration with the Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) at the RCO and EAD/DPPA. The CTA/PM will coordinate and manage the overall intervention and will have responsibility on project implementation, including providing technical guidance on substantive aspects, ensuring effective coordination among the RUNOs and implementing partners.

In addition to the CTA, the PBF project will benefit from the support of staff recruited under the UNDP electoral support project, including the following experts: a Gender and Inclusion expert, a Conflict Prevention expert, a M&E and Communication specialist, Programme Finance specialist, a Project Associate and other support staff. A short-term consultant will also be recruited to support in the field of legal, voter registration and results management process. These experts are paid under the UNDP electoral support project and no cost is included in this project. An International staff (P3), charged 30% to the project, and a national staff (NOC), paid 100% by the PBF project, will be responsible for the implementation of UNICEF activities and will also support the CTA in the coordination of the entire project. The CTA, International P3, and NOC are already on board, which will facilitated the smooth and timely starting of the project.

To support the results of output 1.1, following reqeuest from ONS, two UN Police Advisors from the UN Standing Police Capacity will be also deployed to support the IESPC and situation room's activities.

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│              Project Organisation Structure                 │
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Project Board (Governance Mechanism)		
Senior Beneficiary MPPA	Executive UNDP/UNICEF	Senior Supplier Development Partners

Project Support UNDP CO /UNICEF CO/PDA office	Chief Technical Advisor/Project Manager	Project Support UNDP CO /UNICEF CO/PDA office

Project Team

PROJECT BOARD (PB)

The Project Board will be responsible for the overall strategic guidance to the project and make policy decisions with regard to the project and the areas agreed in the project document. It will review and assess the targets set in the annual work plan and oversee performance to ensure that the project meets its critical milestones and that impediments, if any, can be addressed. The Project Board is co-chaired by the MPPA Chairperson and UNDP and UNICEF Resident Representatives, and meets twice per year. Should there be an urgent requirement for a Project Board decision, it may be convened as and

when necessary, on an *ad hoc* basis including virtually. The RC will be invited to attend the project board meetings, as required. The project board will report, on a voluntary basis, on progress and escalate issues, as needed, to the Elections Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee, co-chaired by the RC and Chief Minister.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC):
The Technical Committee, chaired by the UNDP CTA/PM, will be combined with the one of the UNDP election support project and includes UNDP, UNICEF, ECSL, PPRC, MPPA, ONS, LAB, Police, and recipient CSOs as well as the PDA/RCO. The Committee will meet bi-monthly or more frequently, as required. Technical experts from the contributing partner organisations and direct beneficiaries can also be invited. The Technical Committee will serve as a platform for coordination and exchange of information as well as to oversee technical aspects of project implementation, including undertaking joint field missions, and monitoring quality assurance of the project. The TC will provide input to the agenda and discussions of the Project Board's meetings. Sub-committees may be established by the PB or Technical Committee for coordination and communication on specific key issues, as they arise.

The project team will meet regularly, under the leadership of the CTA, to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the project. The PDA will be invited at the meetings to provide advisory and technical support, as needed.

Considering the mandate for electoral assistance, provided by the 2021 Needs Assessment Mission, carried out in 2021, the modality of direct implementation will be utilized, according to the UN Agencies' rules, and as per the narrative above. HACT system will be utilized when clearance are provided and specific audits will be conducted.

c) **Risk management**

Project specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Lack of coordination between organs of sovereignty	Low	Senior management intervention will be provided if this will happen hampering the implementation of the project.
Occurrence of violence in the country and the hotspots already identified	Medium	The established early warning and response systems, including through IESPC, CSOs and Inter-Religious Council will be activated to prevent and mitigate escalation of violence.
Tension due to acceptance of electoral results by contestants	Medium	By supporting the EWSR of ONS, WANEP, Inter-Religious Council, Eminent Women, MPPA, Eminent personalilty group, and the wider CSO coordination, the project will contribute to increase accountability and respect of the electoral results aimed at reducing tensions. Intervention of UN SRSG, development partners, ECOWAS and AU will be also sought.
Resistance towards women's political participation in the elections, as candidates and voters	Medium	Advocacy efforts will be increased, using the good offices of the Minister of Gender, other project stakeholders, Government and UN. Advocacy will target specifically political leaders. Women CSOs will be also mobilized.

Lack of responsiveness of the targeted stakeholders to the sensitization activities	Medium	To mitigate this risk the project has found several entry points to ensure that key stakeholders are reached by the different activities; strong gender considerations has been taken into account, as well as geographic ones - representatives of the five regions will be invited.
Difficulties to roll out training at local level	Medium	The project was drafted consulting national stakeholders and agreements have been made on the implementation modalities. Other donors might also provide support to roll out the training at local level.
Epidemic outbreak affecting the electoral process and preventing implementation of the project activities.	Medium	Ensure coordination with national and international health organizations for timely identification of potential threats to an electoral environment and implementation of the project activities.

d) Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted at different stages and with different methodologies. Annual workplans (AWP) and a M&E plan will be prepared and approved by the project team and main national partners and shared with PBF once the project implementation starts.

Within the first three months of project approval, the monitoring plan will be finalized and will detail the timing of the initial and final assessments to collect baseline and end-line output and outcome indicators, and the methodology for monitoring each activity (timetable for data collection and tools to be used). The monitoring strategy will ensure that findings and lessons learnt are captured throughout the life cycle of the project. UN Agencies will undertake joint missions with their partners to implement and monitor activities. The baseline will be completed within 6 months of project start.

The project team will be responsible for ensuring data collection and reporting on project activities. The M&E and Communication Specialist, hired via the UNDP electoral support project, will contribute to ensure appropriate M&E of the PBF project, ensuring that results achieved feed into the overall UN support to the electoral process in Sierra Leone. In addition, the Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) will support the project team by providing quality assurance of PBF support, technical advice on peacebuilding issues and methodologies. The findings of the monitoring missions will be shared during technical committee meetings to foster lesson learning and sharing of experiences.

As the convening Agency, UNDP will be responsible for compiling the narrative and financial reports and ensuring timely submission to PBF through the RCO, in addition to any internal agency reporting requirements.

Aproximately, 6.7 per cent of the budget (USD$ 200,000) has been allocated to monitoring and communications activities, as per the budget breakdown. This includes funds for the project team to travel to the regions, including the hotspots and remote areas of the country for the implementation and monitoring activities of the project.

An Independent Evaluation of the Project will be commissioned at the end of the project. A total of 50,000 USD has been set aside for that purpose. An external final evaluation will verify the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, impact and sustainability of the project.

e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability

Most of the proposed interventions have a specific timeframe of implementation with a clear outcome – to prevent electoral and post-electoral violence during the Sierra Leone current electoral cycle.

The sustainability of the intervention lies in the long-term effects of the increased knowledge acquired during the training and mentoring activities, on the impact of civic education provided to youth that ultimately will reinforce not only their understanding and trust in the electoral cycle but overall their participation in the political and public processes in the country. The dissemination of peace messaging and the sthrenghtening of positive leadership at local and family level will launch the seeds for respect for human rights in a peaceful civic engagement.

Sustainability of the interventions related with prevention and mitigation of Gender Based Violence, to ensure women can safely participate in political and electoral processes, is ensured through the support to an already institutionalized systems within the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, eg.: the help line and the GBV IMS+ system. This not only sthrenghen the support to government's systems, but also improve accountability to beneficiaries and victims, as prevent dispersion of relevant information. The support to LAB complements the government budget allocated on a yearly basis. The additional support under this project will be required due to the expected increase in the number of cases during the electoral period. It is expected that IVerify will be incorporated in the government existing mechanisms, which will ensure long-term sustainability, such as DSTI.

The project exit strategy is also linked to the continuous functioning of the ONS early warning and response mechanism, systems and processes that will remain in place after the elections, though on a lower scale. Insider mediators and field monitors will also remain active in their communities, monitoring and mitigating disputes, and provide information for the WANEP supported ECOWARN system.

Legal instruments, developed with the support of the project will remain in place and increased skills on negotiation and mediation will be utilised by PPRC and the All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) and All-Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) on their daily activities.

Furthermore, consolidation of the project's achievements will be ensured and reinforced through future interventions in the country. In line with the outcomes of the UNSDCF and the UN AFP strategic documents for Sierra Leone, the UN system will provide continuous support to partners and beneficiaries, building on improved capacities and experience as well as lessons learnt. The project can be an entry point for donors wishing to continue supporting EWRS, women and youth's empowerment and to continue supporting Sierra Leone addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence, which has been qualified by HE President Bio as an issue of national emergency in the country.

Anchoring the interventions on national priorities, with a strong national ownership and buy-in for the project, in a whole-of-society approach is also a sustainable and exit strategy for the project.

3 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. The proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. The 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.

The total budget of this project is USD$ 3,000,000 for 24 months. Funds will be divided into two tranches for UN recipients with the second tranche being released upon demonstration by the project that the first tranche has been expended or committed to at least 75% between the recipients and upon completion of any regular PBF reports due in the period elapsed. The release of the second tranche is dependent upon the results achieved with the funds of the first tranche.

CTA/PM will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project. Each agency will be responsible for the management of their funds. In terms of financial obligations with staff, the project will require the payment of following staffing configuration, who are already on board in both agencies:

- ✓ 1 CTA/PM P5 charged 50% to the project for 24 months (the other 50% is coverd under the UNDP electoral support project)
- ✓ 1 P3 from UNICEF (charged at 30%) for 24 months
- ✓ 1 NOC from UNICEF (charged 100%) for 24 months.

The human resources costs under project management do not exceed 20% of the total project budget (USD$ 600,000 for 24 Months). The project will cover the cost of the deployment of two UN Police Advisors, requested by ONS, for a total amount of USD$ 150,000. This includes the cost of travel, DSA, and logistical support such as transportation, internet, stationery and office supplies.

Apart from staff costs, the project budget will include:
- Costs for programmatic interventions comprising three outcomes
- Operational costs at about 7% equivalent to USD $ 210,000
- Indirect support costs at about 7%, equivalent to USD $ 196,216
- M&E Costs and Independent Evaluation at 7% of the total budget, equivalent to USD $ 210,000
- Gender Marker at 33% of the total budget

Detailed budget information per activity and category is available in Annex D.

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

	Planning			
1.	Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	Y		
2.	Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission			Key staff already on board
3.	Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Y		
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.	Y		
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?	Y		Based on the lessons learnt from past electoral support projects, as elaborated in the text.
6.	Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	Y		
7.	Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation site approaches, Government contribution?	Y		
8.	Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Y		
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)?	Y		
11.	Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Y		
12.	Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Y		
13.	Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Y		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

1.	Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	Y		
2.	Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past	Y		

	interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.			
3.	Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	Y		
4.	Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	Y		
5.	Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	Y		
6.	Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		N	
7.	Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.		N	
8.	Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	Y		Additional funds will be provided by UNDP and UNICEF core resources to cover the cost of the staff. Also expected pledges from donors and in-kind support by The Clingendael for one initial training.

Annex B.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations

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

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

AA Functions

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

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;

- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;

- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations' headquarters);

- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

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

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

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

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

Financial reporting and timeline

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

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 PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reports and timeline

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

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

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

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

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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

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

➢ 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 headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE**: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).

➢ 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.[28]

➢ 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 MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

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[28] 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) it will be improved at baseline data collection stage.

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator millestone targets
Outcome 1: Early warning and response mechanisms to electoral tensions and triggers of conflicts reduce the potential and the intensity of election-related violence		Outcome Indicator 1a: Proportion of people who express confidence in the safety and security measures put in place to enable them to participate in the electoral processes (disaggregate data by sex and age) Baseline: TBD Indicator: TBD Baseline: Target:	Baseline and end line survey	
		Outcome Indicator 1b: Number of conflict mitigated, through the intervention of IESPC and decentralized commiittes (ProSec, DiSec, ChiSec, LPPBs) and WANEP insider mediators, as recorded by ONS and WANEP situation rooms Baseline: Target:	Reports of situation rooms and ProSec, DiSec, ChiSec, LPPBs, WANEP monitors and insider mediators	
	Output 1.1: National and sub-national Early Warning and Response Systems are enhanced 1.1.1. Support the activation of ONS/IESPC situation room, ensuring its operationalization 1.1.2. _Training of trainers on elections security to security personnel and other stakeholders and planning and simulation exercises 1.1.3. Training of trainers to security personnel on management of conflicts 1.1.4. _Deployment of the UN Police Advisors from the UN Police Standing Capacity to provide technical support to ONS/IESPC 1.1.5 Roll-out the U-Report's surveys at national level and conduct a survey	Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of conflicts reported to the situation room and data analysed and acted upon Baseline: TBC Target: TBC	Reports of situation room, ONS, Police, CSOs, UN, etc.	
		Output Indicator 1.1.2 Proportion of polling centers and stations that reports no incidents related with performance of security personnel at the polling centers and stations Baseline: TBC Target: 80% (estimate based on recent by-elections)	Reports of ECSL, NEW and other observers, Police, ONS, Afrobarometer, etc.	
		Output Indicator 1.1.3 Proportion of police responses to protests and riots with no excessive use of force Baseline Target:	Reports of situation rooms, Police, ONS, Afrobarometer, baseline, endline, etc.	

	on adolescents and youth subjective well-being before the elections 1.1.6 Facilitation of conflict mitigation and reconciliation initiatives in the post-electoral hotspots	Output Indicator 1.1.4: Security and communication strategies updated with the support of the UN Police Advisors, endorsed by the IESPC and implemented Baseline: 2 strategies Target: 2 strategies	Documents of the security and communication strategies	
		Output Indicator 1.1.5: Number of U-report surveys launched and analysed and recommendations provided to MPPA and ONS/IESPC Baseline: 3 (in 2018 electoral cycle) Target: 6 (compared to 2018 there will be more surveys in the post-electoral period to continue to give voice to youth and use the findings to act upon)	Reports of the surveys (also available online)	
		Output Indicator 1.1.6: Proportion of community members in post-electoral hotspots who say their trust in groups they have been in conflict with during the elections has increased (sex- and age-disaggregated) Baseline: Target:	Baseline, endlline,	
	Output 1.2 Nationally-led initiatives to prevent electoral violence and promote dialogue are reinforced and scaled-up 1.2.1 Provide training to insider mediators on mediation and negotiation 1.2.2 Support the establishment of the NERG and its situation room 1.2.3 Support the MPPA to establish a CSOs platform for information sharing and coordination among the CSOs that provide support to election related activities.	Output Indicator 1.2.1 Number of election related conflicts raised by the communities to the NERG that are mitigated with the contribution of WANEP insider mediators Baseline: Target:	Report from local authorities, descentralised security committees, ONS, reports of the situation rooms	
		Output Indicator 1.2.2 NERG and WANEP-led situation room's capacity to receive and analyse information and coordinate response with ONS and other actors is in place Baseline: 1 NERG and 1 situation room established in 2018 Target:	Situation room, ONS, Police reports	
		Output Indicator 1.2.3 Number of recommendations made/decisions taken that propose joint collaboration in the implementation of election related activities by CSOs Baseline: xx recommendations of the "Standing togheter CSO consortium"; in 2018 elections Target: TBC	Meeting notes, CSOs reports, minutes of the Election Multi-Stakeholders Steering Committee	

	understanding and trust in the electoral cycle and legal support to youth in electoral-related conflicts		
Outcome 2: An inclusive civic space is fostered and peaceful, accurate and timely communications for participatory and well-informed discourse are promoted		Outcome Indicator 2a: Proportion of community members who expressed satisfaction with the conduct of political parties (sex- and age-disaggregated) Baseline Indicator:	Baseline, Endline, U-report surveys
		Outcome Indicator 2b: Proportion of community members who believe social media was used in a responsible manner (sex- and age-disaggregated) Baseline: Indicator:	Baseline, Endline, U-report surveys
	Output 2.1 Political Parties as well as its women and youth wings commit to peaceful, credible, transparent, and independent elections 2.1.1 Increase the capacity of PPRC, including its women and youth wings via the All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) and All-Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) on mediation, negotiation and dialogue.	Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of inter and intra-party disputes resolved through dialogue at local and central level (participants disaggregated by age and sex) Baseline: TBC Indicator: TBC	PPRC, ECSL, project data
	2.1.2 Support the development of the regulatory framework of the new Political Parties Registration and Regulation (PPRC) Act and political parties' internal codes of conduct and discipline	Output Indicator 2.1.2: 1 Regulatory framework and 17 codes of conduct in place Baseline: 0 Indicator: 1 Regulatory framework and 17 codes of conduct	PPRC's, political parties' documents
	2.1.3 Raise awareness among political parties, including the youth and women wings, on the new PPRC Act ahead of the political campaigns	Output Indicator 2.1.3: Proportion of political parties' members who express they are familiar with the provisions of the PPRC Act (disaggregated by age and sex) Baseline:0 Target: 80%	Endline, U-report surveys
	2.1.4 Dissemination of the Political Parties Registration and Regulation Act in printed and electronic media	Output indicator 2.1.4: Proportion of political stakeholders (MPs, candidates, parties' members, etc), CSOs, including youth and women CSOs, who express they are familiar with the PPRC Act (disaggregated by age and sex)	Endline, U-report surveys
	2.1.5 Training to political parties on the electoral laws and gender quota	Output 2.1.5: Proportion of increase of women in political parties' executive positions at local and central level Baseline: TBD Target: 30% increase	Baseline, endline, PPRC' and parties' data

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	2.1.6 Facilitation of high-level inter party dialogue and signing of a Peace pledge			
		Output 2.1.6: One Peace pledge signed and respected committing political parties to accept the elections results Baseline: 1 in 2018 Target: 1	Peace Pledge declaration	
	Output 2.2 Peaceful civic engagement is fostered through community dialogues, awareness raising on peace and youth participation in the electoral process 2.2.1 Intergenerational community dialogues with religious and traditional leaders are promoted in Kono, Port Loko, Kenema, Makeni and Western Area Districts 2.2.2 Awareness raising on young people' selections related rights is enhanced to increase their meaningful participation and reduce likelihood of electoral violence	Output Indicator 2.2.1 Proportion of community members, in target communities, who believe that dialogue has contributed to peaceful elections (disaggregated by age and sex) Baaseline:TBD Target: TBD	Baseline, endline, U-report	
		Output indicator 2.2.2: Proportion of community members in target communites who believe that youth participation in the electoral process contributed to peaceful elections (disaggregated by age and sex) Baseline: TBD Target: TBd	Baseline, endline, U-report	
	Output 2.3 Enhanced civic education to youth to build their understanding and trust in the electoral cycle and legal support to youth engaged in electoral-related conflicts 2.3.1 Trainings in schools on civic education, in particular on the elections, and youth-responsibilities and availability of LAB's services 2 3.2 Provide legal representation to young people, including underage, and women being accused of committing electoral-related violence	Output Indicator 2.3.1: Proportion of youth who believe their level of awareness on electoral system, laws and availability of legal support has improved (disaggregated by sex and age) Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	U-Report, baseline, endline, target questionnaires	
		Output Indicator 2.3.2: Proportion of youth and women accused of having committed electoral offences represented in Court by LAB Baseline: Target	Judiciary, LAB data	
	Output 2.4 The capacity of national stakeholders to prevent and mitigate the threats to the integrity of information (misinformation, disinformation and hate speech) is strengthened	Output Indicator 2.4.1: The extent people are using iVerify application to identify and analyze hate speech (1=not using, 2=stated using, 3= fully using) (disaggregated by age and sex) Baseline:0 Target: 2	iVerify reports	

	2.4.1 Conduct an assessment for the launch of the iVerify in Sierra Leone 2.4.2 Customization of the IT solution for iVerify 2.4.3 Deployment of JTF experts and national focal points to roll-out the tool 2.4.4 Operationalization of iVerify 2.4.5 Support the production of a song to combat misinformation, disinformation and hate speech	Output indicator 2.4.4: IVerify App developed, and working. Baseline:0 Target: App in place and working Output indicator: 2.3.5: 1 song produced and played in main radio stations in the country Baseline: 0 Target: 1	iVerify reports Baseline, endline, report of the radio stations
Outcome 3: Women are better protected to meaningfully participate in political processes prior, during and after the elections.		Outcome Indicator 3a: Proportion of women in targeted locations who feels safe to participate in the electoral process as candidates and voters Baseline: TBD Target: 60%	Intial survey, Baseline, endlines,
		Outcome Indicator 3b: Proportion of increase of women nominated as candidates compared to male candidates- Baseline:TBD Target: 20% increase	Baseline, endlines, ECSL data
	Output 3.1 Enhance the prevention and mitigation of Gender Based Violence to ensure women can safely participate in political and electoral processes 3.1.1 Scale up the GBV IMS+ system 3.1.2 Support the Help Line – 116 to report cases of GBV 3.1.3 Training to FSU on SGBV to prevent and respond to electoral related violence	Output Indicator 3.1.1 level of operationalization of the GBVIMS+ (1- system building, 2- system functioning in 4 districts, 3- system functioning in 8 districts, 4- system functioning in 16 districts) Baseline: Level 1 Target 2022: 4 districts – level 2 Target 2023: 16 districts – level 4	Primero dashboard MGCA administrative data and reports
		Output Indicator 3.1.2 Number of of calls received and reported monthly by Help Line-116 Baseline: 2,000 Target: 2022: 2,000 calls per months 2023: 3,000 calls per months (increase responds to the increased knowledge of people of the existence of the reporting system)	116 Monthly Reports MGCA Administrative data

		Output Indicator 3.3..3 Number of cases of electoral related violence against women and girls reported and acted upon by FSU and other institutions Baseline: TBD Target: TBD Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	FSU reports, situation rooms' reports, Police reports	

Totals				
	UNDP	**UNICEF**	**Recipient Organization 3**	**Totals**
1. Staff and other personnel	$ 321,556.00	$ 278,444.00	$ -	$ 600,000.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	$ 151,740.00	$ 110,000.00	$ -	$ 261,740.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	$ 56,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ -	$ 86,000.00
4. Contractual services	$ 576,132.00	$ 140,000.00	$ -	$ 716,132.00
5. Travel	$ 327,500.00	$ 170,000.00	$ -	$ 497,500.00
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	$ 103,280.00	$ 300,000.00	$ -	$ 403,280.00
7. General Operating and other Costs	$ 145,696.32	$ 93,390.00	$ -	$ 239,086.32
Sub-Total	$ 1,681,904.32	$ 1,121,834.00	$ -	$ 2,803,738.32
7% Indirect Costs	$ 117,733.30	$ 78,528.38	$ -	$ 196,261.68
Total	$ 1,799,637.62	$ 1,200,362.38	$ -	$ 3,000,000.00

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	UNDP	**UNICEF**	**Recipient Organization 3**	**TOTAL**	**Tranche %**
First Tranche:	$ 1,259,746.34	$ 840,253.67	$ -	$ 2,100,000.00	70%
Second Tranche:	$ 539,891.29	$ 360,108.71	$ -	$ 900,000.00	30%
Third Tranche:	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
TOTAL	$ 1,799,637.62	$ 1,200,362.38	$ -	$ 3,000,000.00	