SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Sierra Leone
Project Title: Youth in Politics and Peacebuilding **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):**

PBF project modality:	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):
☒ IRF ☐ PRF	☐ 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.): Catholic Relief Services (CRS) **List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):** Caritas Sierra Leone, National Youth Commission, National Commission for Persons with Disability, Malumo Women's Group, and Catholic Youth Organization.

Project duration in months[1] [2]: 24 Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: The project will be implemented in five districts across the four regions of Sierra Leone. Eastern Region: Kenema district Southern region: Bo district Northern Region: Port Loko district Western Area: Rural and urban districts

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: ☐ Gender promotion initiative[3] ☒☐ <mark>Youth promotion initiative[4]</mark> ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions ☐ Cross-border or regional project
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): **CRS:** $ 1,918517.12 Total: $ 1,918517.12   **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.*

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[1] Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.
[2] The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.
[3] Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative
[4] Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):		
PBF 1st tranche (35_%): CRS: $ 671,480.99 Total: $ 671,480.99	**PBF 2nd tranche* (_35%):** CRS: $ 671,480.99 Total: $ 671,480.99	**PBF 3rd tranche* (30_%):** CRS: $ 575,555.13 Total: $ 575,555.13

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

The project aims to promote an inclusive political process, social cohesion and socio-economic improvement for young people in Sierra Leone. Through this project, CRS and implementing partners will engage diverse stakeholders to address unequal power relations between leaders and young people at district and national levels. The project will empower young people, particularly young women, to engage in advocacy activities against gender-based violence (GBV) and underlying cultural and traditional beliefs that undermine youth participation in socio-economic activities. Young people will also be empowered and protected to support peacebuilding efforts at chiefdom and district levels. CRS will introduce its social cohesion framework which will build bridges between community leaders and young people. CRS' innovative social cohesion framework encompasses three spheres of society: sociocultural, economic, and political. CRS and partners will promote equal opportunities and improve diversity along ethnic lines, and address politically motivated violence that affects young people, particularly youth who are disconnected from school and employment. CRS will work with communities to monitor and track politically motivated violence during the upcoming national election and report these incidents to the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC). The project will also train law enforcement agencies to ensure the protection of youth activists at district and national levels. Through this project, CRS will use its influence and trusting relationships throughout government structures and with the inter-religious council to introduce traditional and inter-religious dialogue with diverse youth and stakeholders. This will create a platform for young people to have a voice in national discussions that will support their meaningful participation in politics and decision-making, and to peacefully resolve disputes and discriminatory practices against young people (including young women and youth with disabilities) in decision-making, peacebuilding, and political processes.

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):

Throughout the proposal development process, CRS has engaged several partners and stakeholders including our sub-recipient, Caritas Sierra Leone, and our target beneficiaries. The project design has been an inclusive, collaborative and consultative process. Prior to the project design meeting, CRS and Caritas Sierra Leone engaged stakeholders in the five target districts to solicit community and stakeholder input in the conflict analysis, intervention areas, and approaches. This was achieved through key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) at district and chiefdom levels with representatives of the inter-religious council, district councils, community women's organizations and young women's groups, Catholic Youth Organizations, CRS' University Youth Club, National Youth Commission, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, and PPRC. Two consultative meetings and a project design workshop were held to review,

prioritize, and harmonize the project targets, interventions, and participant selection. To ensure youth voices were captured in the project design, CRS worked with its existing youth structures to lead the design process. Additionally, consultations were conducted with the in-country Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) country focal person who provided strategic guidance and technical support to the design process with a focus on the complementarities of agendas between the Youth, Peace and Security and the Women, Peace and Security Agendas. These consultative approaches facilitated the co-creation of project initiatives and sustainable peacebuilding actions in selected chiefdoms and districts.

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% of the total budget ($720,000) will be allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment activities.*

Briefly **explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment [6]:**
Through this project, we will advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) by increasing young women's participation in governance and decision-making processes. The project will also invest in advocacy activities against GBV and traditional and cultural practices that put young women at risk and undermine young women's socio-economic development.

Throughout Sierra Leone, young women's participation in governance has been limited by traditional gender ideologies. A strong gender-responsive conflict analysis has informed the design of this project. FGDs pointed to religious and cultural beliefs as main factors undermining young women's participation in governance, especially in rural Sierra Leone. In certain cultural traditions and religions, women are not expected to take leadership positions nor access certain services to develop their livelihoods. This, in turn, leads them to be dependent on their families and husbands, and limits their participation in leadership and governance. Young women are also vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Politicians in Sierra Leone pay for costly initiations that include FGM during campaigns to garner votes, putting young women and girls at risk of severe health consequences. As a core focus, the project will engage policymakers, traditional, religious, and local leaders to raise awareness and advocate against practices, cultures, and beliefs that expose young women to SGBV and limit their participation in decision-making processes, leadership, and livelihoods activities.

To promote gender equality and women's empowerment, CRS will engage in the following interventions at chiefdom, district, and national levels:
- Strengthen 40 young women's groups across the five target districts. CRS will organize training-of-trainer workshops on civic education and leadership skills. We will train these groups on existing laws and policies that protect their rights as well as available services. Group members will serve as young peace educators and peer leadership coaches to reach other young women in their communities.

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[5] **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)
Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE
Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)
[6] Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

- Initiate mentorship and career coaching. We will work with political parties' women's wings and successful female entrepreneurs to mentor and coach members of young women's groups.
- We will engage multisectoral stakeholders at community, chiefdom, and district levels to advocate and establish by-laws against SGBV. CRS has a track record of working with local leaders to develop by-laws on SGBV. Through multiple phases of a CRS school feeding project, we have worked with local leaders across two districts to develop community by-laws against harmful practices that undermine girls' education. The PBF project will adopt this successful initiative. CRS will also engage with the Inter-Religious Council to discourage traditional practices that put young women at risk of violence and to promote and influence the positive involvement of women and youth in leadership.
- CRS will also introduce its positive masculinity concepts to train and engage men and boys to change behaviors and attitudes at the household and community levels and to promote young women's socioeconomic development.
- As part of our stakeholder engagement efforts, CRS will engage political parties, paramount chiefs, security apparatuses, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other national governance and political actors to discuss proactive and meaningful involvement of youth in political processes and their protection during and after elections.
- To invest in young women's livelihoods, CRS will identify and support young women who have dropped out of school. We will support them to enroll in vocational and business development and skills training programs and introduce them to income generating activities in agriculture.

Project Risk Marker score: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project *(select ONLY one)* [7]:
2.3 (Conflict prevention/management)

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

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or another status.
SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies
Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

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[7] **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)

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 XXXXX **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.*

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Recipient Organization(s)[8]	Representative of National Authorities
Name of Representative ▮▮▮▮▮ *Name of Agency* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Date & Seal* October 6, 2022	*Name of Government Counterpart* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Signature* *Title* D▮▮▮▮ *Date & S* ▮
Head of UN Country Team	**Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)**
Name of Represe ▮▮▮▮ *Signature* *Title* UN ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ RDINAT *Date & Seal* 07-10 ▮▮▮	▮zabeth Spehar ▮▮▮▮▮ *Signature* Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding ▮upport *Date & Seal* 20/12/2022

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[8] Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

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

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

Conflicts in Sierra Leone remain a persistent problem that continue to expose youth to risks and vulnerabilities to political manipulation, exclusion, violence and poverty. CRS, Caritas and other partners collected data through FGDs and KIIs across the five target districts (i.e., Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, and Western Area Rural and Urban Districts) on youth involvement in conflict and peacebuilding. Findings indicate a number of complex, interrelated and geographically specific factors. A majority of youth (female and male) focus group and interview respondents pointed to political exclusion as a main driver of conflict. Similarly, young men and women cited cultural practices, including gender norms, and socio-economic challenges, influenced by a lack of education and skills for formal or informal employment, as root causes of conflict.

Government and other development actors place the blame for conflict on political and cultural factors, underpinned by socio-economic factors, such as unemployment, underemployment, and limited access to economic opportunities. According to the campaign for National Unity Sierra Leone, 60% of youth are unemployed, whereas the report from the Joint Assessment Mission of the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations on Youth at Risk in Sierra Leone 2019[9] stated that adults aged 36-65 years have 5.9% employment opportunities compared to youth ages 15-35 that account for 2.2%. According to the 2015 census, people 24 years and younger represent 62% of the population, and a large portion of them are unskilled, unemployed, and live in poverty. Youth have little access to resources and education, resulting in a 60% literacy rate, combined with limited political participation and representation due to poor financing for election and peacebuilding youth groups.[10]

Marginalized groups, such as young women and people living with disabilities, are exposed and severely affected by conflicts, but also excluded from economic and social opportunities. The 2015 census found people with disabilities make up 1.3% of Sierra Leone's population, yet their participation and engagement in governance remains very weak. People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable in Sierra Leone and their voices and participation are limited in decision-making and governance processes due to stigma and discrimination. Women continue to face traditional, cultural, social, and economic discrimination. Despite efforts by the government to increase women's representation in politics to 30%, challenges remain due to different political interpretations and permutations by political parties on how this will translate into the internal democracies of the political party's governance structures. Young women in Sierra Leone face many restrictions that limit their access to political participation and economic opportunities. Many young women, especially those in the rural areas, have little access to and control over resources, and limited access to information. According to a 2021 CRS study on child, early and forced marriages, young women in both urban and rural areas are vulnerable to abuse and SGBV, including teenage pregnancy, rape and FGM, however, rates are higher in rural areas.

Young women's participation in politics and decision making is low throughout Sierra Leone as a result of a lack of information, education, livelihood opportunities, and involvement in political processes, as well as harmful cultural beliefs and gender stereotypes. Sierra Leone's new radical inclusion policy (i.e., promoting the intentional inclusion of persons directly or indirectly excluded

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[9] https://sierraleone.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Microsoft%20Word%20-%2020200305-Final%20Report%20on%20assessment%20of%20Youth%20at%20risk.docx.pdf

[10] https://www.statistics.sl/images/StatisticsSL/Documents/final-results_-2015_population_and_housing_census.pdf

from education due to actions or inaction by individuals, society, or institutions), as well as the 30% quota for women in politics and leadership provide opportunities to engage stakeholders. Key stakeholder groups include participants in governance structures, inter-religious councils, chiefdom authorities, and men and boys. All of whom are needed as advocates to eradicate harmful historical practices that undermine young women's socio-economic equality and invest in training and building the capacity of young women to be involved in governance and decision-making processes.

Causes and Contributing Factors

Young people continue to be excluded from participating in local and national politics in Sierra Leone. Youth are not only under-represented in political participation and decision making at local and national levels, but they are at risk of politically motivated violence, especially young men who are both victims and perpetrators due to their political and social associations. These associations include political parties, political youth groups, cliques, and gangs. Rejecting PPRC rules and regulations, groups release politically provocative songs and ethnic and regional divisive messages before, during and after elections. The inability to tolerate diverse political interests exacerbates resistance and tensions that culminate in sometimes violent clashes between and among political groups. Social media has further surrounded young people with hate speech, political division and abuse.

Young women and youth with disabilities are under-represented in politics, compared to young men, as a result of traditional and cultural norms that suppress the participation of young women and youth with disabilities in decision making and leadership from the household to the national level. Similarly, among youth with disabilities, young women are under-represented in politics compared to young men. One driver of this inequality is weak capacity to participate resulting from limited access to civic education, low awareness of civic responsibilities, and poor economic empowerment.

The time around an election is one of increased risk of political conflict in Sierra Leone. Youth manipulation, limited opportunities for women to engage in electoral processes, marginalisation of persons with disabilities (PWDs), and high rate of illiteracy in rural areas further challenge voter education and peacebuilding. Trends of recent political conflicts in Sierra Leone have mostly had links to elections. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other national institutions that support free, fair, and transparent elections face capacity gaps, particularly in an increasingly tense context.

Cultural and social beliefs and practices continue to shape the activities of youth, especially in rural communities, and include discriminatory local and customary laws and practices that deprive young people (particularly young women) of access to empowerment and livelihoods opportunities. For example, women in rural communities are not allowed to own land, whereas in other parts of the north, women are not allowed to seek chieftaincies and other leadership positions. Social stigma, discriminatory attitudes toward PWDs, and beliefs about associations between certain disabilities and demons and black magic all limit the ability of young women and men with disabilities to participate in and contribute to their societies.

Furthermore, youth have limited access to economic opportunities. High rates of illiteracy, particularly among young women and PWDs; low professional, entrepreneurship and technical skills; and limited access to finance leave youth with high rates of under- and unemployment. Despite progress of the government's flagship initiative of free quality education, the rate of transition and progression, especially from junior to secondary level for girls, remains remarkably low. The rate of transition from high school to university remains similarly low. CRS' KII and FGDs found that interest in vocational skills and agricultural activities remains very low among youth. Youth, particularly in urban areas, continue to demonstrate negative attitudes towards and a lack of interest in vocational trainings. For those seeking vocational training, opportunities and facilities are lacking.

Opportunities for Change

National policy framework to promote peace. Using the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion Act of 2021 as a guide, CRS will develop strategies and coordinate with national institutions to promote peacebuilding (part 111, sub-section 2 A-Q). CRS will collaborate with the Commission and other agencies, groups, and structures to promote peace, reconciliation, and unity; build peace cultures, enhance tolerance and support peaceful resolution of conflicts. Additionally CRS will leverage on its relationship with other regional peace building organizations like the National Peace Council of Ghana, the West Africa Network for Peace Building(WANEP) and the Caritas Justice and Peace Commission in Gambia and Liberia to share lessons and to build synergy that will promote regional peace

Existing national structures for peacebuilding. The project will work with existing structures from community to national levels. Some peacebuilding support structures exist in communities, learning institutions and religious bodies at local and national levels (e.g., Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, National and District Youth Council structures, Inter-Religious Councils, University Youth Clubs, and Catholic Youth Organization Peace Promoters). CRS will map and profile, capacity and scope of these structures. CRS will collaborate and coordinate with these structures to complement their efforts to promoting peacebuilding.

Government's human capital development. The government's 2018 Free Quality Education Program established human capital development as a priority for long-term sustained economic development. CRS will collaborate with the Ministry of Tertiary and Higher Education to explore market driven Technical Vocational Training for employment opportunities for youth, including PWDs.

Interest and willingnes of youth to participate in politics. CRS will work with youth through exsisting formal and informal structures and groups at various levels adopting a peer-to-peer approach to advocacate for increased political participation of youth, particulalry young women and young people with disabilities.

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

Sierra Leone has several national structures that develop policy and promote the socio-economic development among women and youth (e.g., Ministry of Youth Affairs, National Youth Commission, Commission for Persons with Disability, and Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs). All these structures have a specific mandate to advance the participation of women and youth in governance. CRS' work will complement several clusters of the government's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019-2023), including the following:

Policy Cluster 4 – Governance and accountability for results. Advancing political development for national cohesion, fighting corruption and illicit financial flows, and strengthening public financial management.

Policy Cluster 5 – Empowering women, children, adolescents, and persons with disability. Empowering women and increasing investment in children, adolescents, and PWDs.

Policy Cluster 6 – Youth employment, sports, and migration. Building social and national cohesion, increasing youth employment and empowerment, revitalizing sporting activities, and addressing migration challenges.

This project also aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Sierra Leone (2020-2023). The project will complement **outcomes areas 2 (Transformational Governance), 3 (Access to Basic Services) and 4 (Protection and Empowerment of the Most**

Vulnerable). To ensure national ownership, CRS will implement the project according to our local leadership approach with local organizations and structures leading implementation at chiefdom and district levels to promote ownership and sustainability. Project delivery and interventions will not duplicate but align and complement existing government and UN investment in peacebuilding.

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 s**ector** by filling out the table below.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Land for Life Initiative – Making Polices Work for Food Security (2018-2019)	German Ministry for Economic Collaboration and Development (BMZ) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) 267,775.00 Euro	Ensure policies and laws work for peaceful resolutions of land conflicts in communities, especially agricultural and mining communities.	BMZ/WHH's project focuses on the peaceful resolution of land-related conflicts in agricultural and mining areas targeting women and men. CRS' project will complement this effort by addressing household and community power dynamics and involving religious leaders to advocate for equitable distribution of resources.
Protection of Women through Empowerment and Response (2018-2020)	USAID, implemented by International Rescue Committee $450,000	Empower women and girls to pursue their ambitions free from violence and inequality; prevent SGBV; and promote women's ability to seek SGBV services.	USAID's geographic focus was Kono and prioritized access of SGBV survivors to appropriate health services. CRS will complement this effort by addressing root causes of SGBV, working with men and boys at household and community levels.
Standing together for free, fair, and peaceful elections in Sierra Leone (2016-2017)	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) GBP 3,000,000	To create the conditions for free, fair and peaceful elections in 2018.	FCDO's project had nation-wide coverage. CRS' proposal will promote youth involvement in governance and peacebuilding, particularly the 2023 election. Our interventions address long-term challenges, such as cultural, religious, and traditional beliefs that undermine women's and youths' participation in leadership and creating economic opportunity for youth.
United for Greater Governance and	European Union 900 Euro	Increase understanding and demand for accountability and participation in	The project was implemented in six districts: Port Loko, Kambia, Moyamba, Kono, Koinadugu and Pujehun. CRS will continue to

Participation: Empowering Rural Communities to Strengthen Local Governance and Accountability Processes. (2017-2019)		democratic governance in rural communities; and increase key local stakeholders' capacity to voice citizens' demand for participatory decision-making and accountability processes.	engage key local stakeholders to promote citizens' voices and ensure protection and participation of youth peacebuilders.
Promoting women's safety and security for sustainable peace in Southern Sierra Leone (2019-2021)	UNPBF $300,000	Reduce SGBV and conflict in southern Sierra Leone.	CRS will complement this effort by addressing root causes of SGBV by working with young people at district and community levels.
Empowering Youth at Risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili and Kenema in Sierra Leone (2020-2022)	FAO, UNDP and UNFPA $3,000,000	Empower and reintegrate youth at risk by providing opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making spaces, securing sustainable livelihoods, and increasing access to prevention and protection services.	CRS will advocate for and support institutional reform and increased trust between youth and state/local authorities by strengthening the capacities of security and civilian authorities at national/local levels to deal with youth at risk issues, adhering to respect for human rights and dignity.
"Women for Water and Peace" (W4WP) Project	UNCDF, ILO, FEDURP UNPBF funded project 2022 - 2023	Through a community-led approach, the project seeks to empower young women from the communities to become agents of change through supporting the construction and management of twenty-five (25) water kiosks with solar-powered purification systems.	CRS PBF proposal will compliment this effort by engaging young women, men and boys to promote young women's participation in leadership to become agent of change in their communities.

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

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

The project's goal is to **foster social cohesion and dialogue for women, youth, and PWD involvement in civic engagements at the national and community levels.** The intended result of which is a secure, sustained and inclusive political, cultural, and socio-economic society. Using CRS' innovative social cohesion framework, encompassing the socio-cultural, economic, and political societal spheres, CRS and partners will work with youth peer educators to promote equal opportunities, positively manage ethnic diversity, and address politically motivated violence. CRS will work with, train, and equip youth at the community level to monitor, track, and report violence using existing election monitoring tools to report politically motivated violence to the PPRC. Through this project, CRS will facilitate traditional and inter-religious dialogue with diverse youth creating a platform for their meaningful participation in politics and decision-making. Religious institutions serve as convening points to mitigate violence and promote social cohesion. Finally, the positive masculinity initiative will engage men and boys as advocates to support young women's involvement in governance and peacebuilding.

The project implementation strategy includes multi-stakeholder intergenerational and inter-religious dialogues at national and district levels; capacity strengthening, civic education and leadership training for targeted youth; and advocacy against harmful practices and traditional beliefs that undermine women's participation in leadership. Our efforts will be sustainable as the training and engagement with state actors to protect and integrate youth in peacebuilding and governance already reside in the communities and will remain there after the project closure.

Through this project, we will invest in training, sensitization, advocacy, and awareness raising to address the underlining factors that prevent youth positive involvement in peacebuilding and leadership and address the limited livelihood empowerment opportunities for youth. These activities will address the contributing factors that limit political participation and peacebuilding efforts. CRS will also ensure safeguarding and protection of young peacebuilders through our multi-stakeholder dialogue and civic education training with young adults, law enforcement and other stakeholders.

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

IF youth (including young women and PWDs) are knowledgeable about and committed to practicing civic rights and responsibilities; and **IF** duty bearers increase engagement with youth on equal rights and representation; and **IF** youth gain greater access to decision-making spaces and thereby **improve their participation and representation in governance and decision-making processes**; **AND**

IF youth (including women and PWDs) are knowledgeable of skilled at employing social cohesion methods and practices, engaging in intra- and inter-community dialogue and conflict management and mitigation, in so doing become capacitated **to mitigate conflict and promote social cohesion; AND**

IF youth gain formal and informal employment, have access to financing opportunities and mentorship, and acquire skills to invest in sustained income generating activities, and by this means **increase the economic well-being of youth, including young women and PWDs.**

THEN social cohesion and civic engagement by youth, women, and PWDs at the district and community level will be promoted.

BECAUSE evidence shows that when young men and women including PWDs are not economically, socially, and politically empowered to participate in civic engagement processes, they become highly susceptible to mobilization for violent purposes. CRS' experience indicates that when young men and women including PWDs lack the appropriate knowledge of and are not intentionally engaged by duty bearers to promote civil rights and responsibilities, their ability to participate and

constructively engaged in decision-making processes that promote social cohesion is undermined. Young men and women including PWDs become increasingly susceptible to negative influence and indoctrinated as agents of conflict when they are unemployed and have limited opportunities for employment and income generation.

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

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

Outcome 1: Enhanced participation and representation of youth (including women and PWDs) in decision-making processes.

This outcome seeks to increase and improve youth participation in civic engagement through building their capacity in civic awareness and leadership and linking them to existing youth platforms like chiefdom and district youth councils, political party and religious youth organizations, community youth associations, and CRS University Youth Clubs to engage local leadership positively. The University Youth Clubs are groups of young people in universities across Sierra Leone who are supported by CRS to model positive behaviors and influence their peers through different behavioral change strategies. To achieve this outcome, the project will work with communities and stakeholders to identify, establish, and strengthen youth groups, including young women's groups and PWDs, to build their capacity to dialogue and develop action plans through training, awareness raising, mentorship, and coaching. CRS will work with duty bearers to promote and protect the civic rights and responsibilities of youth through constructive engagement and access to participate in decision making at community, chiefdom and district levels. Youth will be represented in village and ward development committees, districts and city councils, and Parliament.

Output 1.1 Youths (including women and PDWs) are aware of their civic rights and responsibilities in decision-making processes at community, chiefdom and district levels.

This output aims to raise the awareness among young people of civic rights and responsibilities through facilitated peer-to-peer sensitization sessions. The project will adapt various strategies and platforms to the target participants, including local radio stations for discussion programs, street parades and public address systems, and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Radio Maria, owned by Caritas Sierra Leone, has a large listening audience and national coverage. The project will leverage this radio station for information dissemination. Drama role plays will be organized at strategic points in target areas, including ataya bases (coffee shops), for participants to learn about their civic rights and responsibilities and the benefits of participating in decision-making processes. This will allow young adults to discuss issues they face relating to conflict and peacebuilding through peaceful approaches to conflict resolution. CRS will hire a local drama group to develop a two-hour 10-episode radio series for broadcast twice a month for five months. This series will dramatize the journey through the electoral process and touch on key themes, such as political manipulation, instigators of violence, and ways to positively engage in the process. The project will work with the disability commission to mobilize, train and provide technical accompaniment support to PWDs to influence their representation in governance processes at local and district levels. Town hall meetings will be organized to raise awareness on the civic rights and responsibilities of PWDs.

Activities:

- Train youth groups as peer educators on peacebuilding approaches and civic education in schools, ataya bases, and marketplaces targeting first-time voters and opportunity youth (Disadvantage youths that can easily be mobilize for violence)
- Raise awareness through parades, drama, and open space "edutainment" sessions with popular artists, cultural groups, and entertainers to preach peace and influence youth involvement in civic rights, responsibilities, and involvement in decision-making processes
- Radio panel discussion on civic rights and responsibilities
- Awareness raising and dialogues with political parties to support and include young people
- Conduct simulcast discussion program on youth civic rights, responsibilities and involvement in peacebuilding and decision-making processes at districts and national levels

Output 1.2: Increased stakeholders' engagement with youth on equal rights and representation.

The project will develop a structured system and process for youth, women and PWDs to constructively dialogue with stakeholders (e.g., traditional authorities, district council officials, religious leaders, National Youth Commission, disability commission, district members of parliament, political party executives) and document action plans to promote civic rights and responsibilities, representation, and inclusion as well as addressing harmful and exclusionary cultural practices and GBV against young women, men and PWDs. A train-the-trainer will be organized on facilitating inclusive engagement and dialogue sessions for youth in all target districts. Trainees will engage with peers, at chiefdom and district levels, to raise awareness of youth civic rights and responsibilities. The trained youth will organize symposiums, radio discussions and IEC materials that will increase youth recognition and involvement in decision making processes.

Activities:

- Hold town hall and community discussions targeting first-time voters, women's groups, and ataya bases on their meaningful involvement in politics and promoting peace
- Develop an inclusive community action plan on conflict prevention and management with youth and diverse stakeholders

Output 1.3: Increased participation of youths including young women and youths PWDs in local governance decision-making processes at household, community, chiefdom and district levels

The project will organize leadership training for youth with a specific focus on building the confidence and self-esteem of young women to support their participation in leadership. The leadership skills training will include public speaking, mobilization, advocacy, and fund-raising. Forums will be organized with successful women in politics and entrepreneurship to coach aspiring young women leaders. Dialogue forums will be organized with traditional and religious leaders to share the benefits of involving young women in governance and decision making. We will engage with men and boys to advocate for the safety, socio-economic development, and political participation of young women.

Activities:

- Establish civic education school clubs and leverage existing CRS University Youth Clubs to train youth as peer peace ambassadors
- Form and strengthen 40 young women's groups
- Training-of-trainer workshop on civic education and leadership skills
- Conduct awareness raising sessions on laws and policies that protect women's rights and services available; and group members will act as peace educators and peer leadership coaches
- Train young men in positive masculinity, advocacy against GBV and for women's leadership

- Conduct leadership skills training for rural young women who aspire to participate in public life

Outcome 2: Youths are capacitated to mitigate conflict and promote social cohesion.

This outcome focuses on mitigating conflict and promoting social cohesion at national, district and community levels using CRS' innovative social cohesion framework.

Output 2.1: Youths and duty bearers dialogue for improved governance.

This output focuses on mitigating conflict and promoting social cohesion through constructive dialogue with community stakeholders, traditional leaders, inter-religious councils, police, the Office of National Security, city and district councils, chiefdom youth councils, and political party structures. Through facilitated dialogue sessions, participants will develop actions plans which will be integrated into district and chiefdom plans. Stakeholders (paramount chiefs and youth) will be supported to develop commitments to mitigate community conflicts and to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion. Project staff will conduct follow up visits to monitor progress on conflict prevention and management.

Activities:

- Stakeholder engagement sessions (e.g., politicians, paramount chiefs, security structures, National Electoral Commission, PPRC, CSOs) to discuss meaningful involvement of youth, particularly young women, in political processes and their protection during and after elections
- Dialogue sessions with the inter-religious councils to promote and influence the positive involvement of young women in leadership
- Regional dialogue sessions with political party structures, traditional and religious leaders, women's groups, youth groups, and organizations of PWDs

Output 2.2: Youths are engaged in promoting social cohesion.

This output seeks to reduce the risk of violence and promote social cohesion at district and chiefdom levels. The project will identify and train young people in each district and chiefdom to serve as champions for change and promote social cohesion. They will be trained as peer educators to conduct community outreach, raise awareness and sensitize others on violence prevention and social cohesion. Radio simulcast discussions will be broadcast on issues of conflict mitigation and social cohesion. In addition, regionally customized jingles will be developed in all languages promoting peace. Messages will be designed collaboratively with program targets to address their specific issues. IEC materials on conflict mitigation and social cohesion will be produced and distributed.

Activities:

- Awareness-raising sessions, media, and IEC materials on peace and youth involvement in political processes
- Inter-community sport activities
- Inter-political party and inter-community football matches
- Radio panel discussion on conflict prevention and management

Output 2.3: Youths trained on social cohesion methods and practices

Under this output, trainings will be organized for a network of Catholic Youth Organization, district youth councils, Caritas paralegals and young journalists on conflict mitigation and social cohesion using CRS' innovative social cohesion framework and non-violence reporting. This training will be organized at the regional, district, and chiefdom/ward levels. The project will use ICT4D tools to track and report politically motivated violence to the PPRC, particularly during elections. CRS will strengthen existing and new peacebuilding structures in the district and communities on their roles

and responsibilities in peacebuilding, and social and cultural change. CRS will train youth groups in positive engagement and dialogue with their peers and leaders about youth political participation.

Activities:

- Train youth groups on peacebuilding methods (e.g., education for peace, non-violent communication, conflict management), civic education, mitigating political conflict and increasing social cohesion
- Strengthen existing structures (e.g., district youth councils, chiefdom development committees, mothers' support groups) through training, mentorship, meetings, and coordination with partners to advance advocacy and peacebuilding and the community levels
- Procure ICT4D devices and develop incident monitoring tools
- Train paralegals to report incidents of violence using ICT4D tools
- Train district PPRC staff on the use of violence monitoring tools
- Safeguarding training for community youth to ensure their engagement and advocacy activities do no harm and protect communities and beneficiaries

Outcome 3: Youths including young women and youths with disability engaged in diversified livelihoods.

This outcome seeks to increase the economic well-being of young adults through diversified and sustainable livelihood approaches. This includes adopting empowerment approaches to deliver market driven skills; coaching and mentorship to boost formal and informal employment; and investing in income generating activities. To achieve this, the project team will identify youth groups, assess their livelihood options, work with capable institutions and individuals to design and provide customized skills training, coaching and mentorship packages.

Output 3.1: Youths are trained in entrepreneurship methods and practices (including agribusiness)

This output focuses on capacity building for unemployed young people to identify and invest in diverse income generating activities based on their areas of interest. The project will identify youth groups, provide training in business skills, and invest in incoming generation activities in partnership with the National Commission for Social Action, Mankind Accreditation Development Activity Movement, Munafa, and Sierra Leone Adult Education Association. CRS and Caritas will use their business and income generating models to enhance the livelihoods skills of target beneficiaries. The project will map market-driven income generation activities in project zones to determine investment potential. Project participants will receive a business plan to guide investment and market the plans for additional funds from microfinance institutions (MFIs). The project will negotiate with training institutions and the private sector to develop accelerated training manuals and modes of delivery.

Activities:
- Identify existing youth groups to be trained or linked to vocational training
- Identify and strengthen the capacity of youth agricultural cooperatives on climate smart agriculture, provide agricultural input materials and seeds, and provide training in business development, financial management, and marketing skills

Output 3.2 Youths are linked and deployed in internship and mentorship to acquire alternative livelihood skills (formal and informal).

This output seeks to ensure that youth trained in market-driven vocational skills are linked with internships and mentorship. The project will coordinate with local master trainers and vocational institutions to provide internships and mentorship support to participants interested in skills development. CRS will conduct a mapping exercise to determine the market for skills then guide participants to identify skills for which there is demand for mentorship and internship placement.

Activities:

- Leverage CRS' existing relationships with vocational and financial institutions to link young people with opportunities to learn technical and entrepreneurship skills for livelihood activities
- Create mentorship and career guidance training for rural youth

Output 3.3 Youths are linked to access finance opportunities and mentorship.

This output provides links to finance from formal and informal sectors. Access to finance is critical to invest in income generating activities and sustainable livelihoods. Youth, especially young women and PWDs, will be supported via linkages with MFIs and Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) (CRS' village savings and loans associations). The project will map local MFIs and financial services associations to understand the kinds of support participants will need to meet their criteria and access services. The project will promote small scale savings through participation in SILC. Youth, particularly young women, will be encouraged to join SILCs, trained in basic financial education, and provided with the tools and a trained facilitator to promote savings.

Activities:

- Establish SILCs at the chiefdom level, targeting young women
- Provide agricultural inputs to youth agricultural cooperatives

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

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

During the proposal design process, CRS and Caritas Sierra Leone conducted rapid assessments in the four target regions with young women, men and PWDs, and other key national stakeholders through FGDs and KIIs. Five districts were identified for the implementation due to their vulnerability to politically motivated violence and high number of young adults at risk. The project will directly reach 11,604 diverse young people, including PWDs, ages 17-24. Half (50%) of the target participants will be young women and 15% will be young people with disabilities.

Target Regions and Districts

Eastern Region: Kenema District is the third largest in Sierra Leone and a stronghold of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party. The district has immense potential for agricultural activities; however, Kenema was the site of many recent incidents of violence during and after the 2018 elections. In 2021, CRS studied early, child and forced marriages in three districts, including Kenema district, and found this type of GBV was driven by poverty, limited opportunities for young women, and unsafe environments. In Kenema district, the project will be implemented in Small Bo and Lower Bambara chiefdoms. Small Bo is a cosmopolitan chiefdom in which many residents, especially young people, participate in mining, logging, stone mining, and land disputes. The chiefdom has a high prevalence of SGBV and is notable for political upheavals. Lower Bambara has a significant level of elicit mining activities and subsequent conflict between elicit miners and OCTIA Sierra Mining; suffers from land disputes; and has a high prevalence of SGBV and political conflict between youth of the main opposition All People's Congress and the Sierra Leone People's Party.

Southern Region: Bo District is home to Bo Town, the largest city in the Southern Province. The city of Bo attracts youth from rural areas searching for economic opportunities. Bo is a stronghold of the Sierra Leone People's Party and prone to violence involving young people during and after elections. The project will be implemented in Tikonko, Baoma, Kakua and Valunyai Chiefdoms.

Northern Regions: Port Loko District is the fourth most populous district in the country. It is made up of 11 chiefdoms and the population is predominantly Muslim (80%). The largest ethnic group is Temne with other tribes now migrating to the district. The district is prone to violence due to its geographical location, adjacent to Western Area and Freetown. Political conflict and violence among young people are common. Port Loko was a stronghold of the All People's Congress, but since the 2018 elections, the political dynamics have gradually changed due to the formation of other political parties (e.g., National Grand Coalition, Alliance Democratic Party), and the Sierra Leone People's Party gaining ground. Poor governance and unemployment are the current drivers of violence in the district. The project will be implemented in Marampa, Maforki, and Kaffu Bullom chiefdoms.

Western Area: Rural and Urban Districts. Western Area is the most vulnerable region to politically motivated violence in Sierra Leone. In August 2022, Western Area experienced severe politically motivated violence, and the loss of many young people and law enforcement personnel. Youth migrate to the Western Area in large numbers. As a result, the Western Area has a large number of young people at risk of involvement in politically motivated violence.

III.   **Project management and coordination (4 pages max)**

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

CRS currently implements programs across 16 districts in Sierra Leone with an operational office in Koinadugu, satellite offices in Bo and Bombali districts, and the country head office in Freetown. Our main implementing partner, Caritas Sierra Leone, has offices in all target districts.

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: Catholic Relief Services Implementing partners:	$ 14,750,911	CRS Discretionary Funds, European Union, FCDO, USDA, UN Habitat, USAID, The Nature Conservancy	Freetown, Koinadugu, Falaba, Makeni and Bo districts	CRS has 170 staff in Sierra Leone: 80 in Freetown 90 across 10 operational districts	We have a pool of technical staff to support the project, including the following staff: MEAL Coordinator, Partnership Advisor, Communications Manager, Gender Focal Point, and Youth Technical Advisor.
Recipient Organization:	$ 5,348,787	CAFOD, Trocaire,	Freetown Bo		Monitoring and Evaluation,

Caritas Sierra Leone Implementing partners:		CRS, Manus Unidas, USAID, Dutch Government, Cordaid, UNICEF, FAO, BMZ, DAHW (German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Association)	Makeni Kenema		Justice and Peace Technical Advisors, and Governance and Finance Technical Advisors.

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

Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone (CRS) is the lead agency and will coordinate and lead the implementation of the project. CRS will manage the fund with full contract responsibility to UNPBF. As the convening agency, CRS will be responsible for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project including quality assurance. CRS has extensive experience implementing peacebuilding and sustainable economic empowerment programs through our Caritas partners in Sierra Leone. Our social cohesion framework and social accountability models are unique tools to promote peacebuilding through an iterative and politically versatile process that mobilizes community members, civil society, the private sector, and the state to contribute to accountability and responsive governance. With over 59 years of operations in Sierra Leone, CRS' presence and operations provide for extensive ground-level knowledge of Sierra Leone, its people, culture, language, economy, political structures, and atmosphere; CRS has also earned the trust of community leaders, and has strong relationships with local NGOs, the Church, and the Government of Sierra Leone.

CRS will also provide technical support to project implementation drawing from the pool of resources based in the country program, region, and headquarters. CRS has been registered as a charity in Sierra Leone since 1963, providing both humanitarian and development support to the government and people of Sierra Leone. CRS has managed donor-funded projects, including the Global Fund, United States Department of Agriculture, USAID, European Union, FCDO, and UN Habitat, with an annual country budget of $14,750,911.

Caritas Sierra Leone is made up of the Diocesan Caritas of Bo, Kenema, Freetown, Makeni, and the Archdiocese coordinating office in Freetown. Caritas has a strong portfolio promoting peace and justice through the Justice and Peace Commission, a Caritas initiative. The organization has a pool of paralegals across Sierra Leone. Caritas also has a strong relationship with the local media and trusting relationships with national government structures and stakeholders at community level. A significant portion (40%) of the peacebuilding fund will be allocated to Caritas to coordinate and work with women's and youth groups, such as the Muloma Women's Organization, CRS University Youth Club, and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) – a network of over 4,000 young people across Sierra Leone represented in all regions – to effectively influence other young people in the

formal and informal sectors. The CYO membership is voluntary and has a wide range of expertise, including education, agriculture, peacebuilding, advocacy, conflict resolution and pastoral support. Caritas Sierra Leone has an annual budget of $5,348,787.

Other implementing partners will include the National Youth Commission, Moluma Women's Organization, Talented Young People Everywhere Sierra Leone, and the National Commission for Persons with Disability. In all regions, CRS and Caritas will work with the National Commission for Persons with Disability on all activities related to the empowerment and inclusion of people with disability in political, peacebuilding, and governance processes. CRS and Caritas will also work with the National Youth Commission, a government entity working with youth in all districts to target young people at district and chiefdom levels through non-violence training and civic awareness activities. Specifically, CRS will work with district and chiefdom youth councils through the National Youth Commission. The National Youth Commission and the National Commission for Persons with Disability are both positioned to influencing policy and have regional and local trust and knowledge to influence local communities and structures.

As the lead organization, CRS will provide both administrative and technical support to the implementing partners, ensuring quality implementation and monitoring of all project activities. As a partnership-oriented organization, CRS will organize throughout the project a series of capacity-building sessions aimed at improving the abilities of the local partners to perform in line with their scopes of work, to report effectively on the progress achieved and to manage funds in an accountable, transparent, and efficient manner. CRS is committed to ensuring local ownership and understanding at all stages of program development and implementation. This includes development of a joint implementation plan throughout the entire length of the project and having the same understanding of the project's indicators, expected results and activities. Throughout the project, CRS will convene monthly individual and collective coordination meetings for the project team to be able to discuss, share feedback and plan. To facilitate decision-making and to ensure rapid, flexible, collaborative, and adaptive project management, CRS and implementing partners have agreed on the following project management structure:

Strategic Management Team (SMT): The SMT will be the project's governance board, which will include the CRS Program Manager, the CRS Head of Programs, UN Peacebuilding focal points at the UN Resident Coordination office in Freetown, and the Caritas Directors. The SMT will meet monthly to make executive decisions relating to the governance and implementation of the project, to track progress, identify challenges and gaps in the project implementation, and make recommendations. Decisions from these meetings will be communicated with the CRS Country Leadership team and the UNPBF contact staff through the CRS Program Manager. Additionally, CRS will hold a monthly check-in meeting with the UN Resident Coordination Office to discuss project progress and ensure strategic oversight by the UN of overall implementation of the project.

Project Implementation Committee (PIC): This committee will be the day-to-day project staff directly involved with the project implementation. They will report to the SMT monthly through the respective Caritas Directors. The PIC will be involved with the planning and execution of field activities and will ensure that the project meets its output and that results are achieved. They will also ensure that risk and value for money are considered in their decisions and actions. The structure will include all direct and other technical support staff of the project.

External Coordination: At the national level, the CRS Program Manager and Caritas National Director will attend external coordination meetings with Electoral Management Bodies and other civil society election platforms to share key updates on program activities and solicit the necessary support that will enhance project implementation. Partner directors will attend similar meetings at the district and regional levels. Feedback from these meetings will be shared during the SMT meetings.

Annual project learning and reflection meetings: The project will organise two annual project reflection meetings to do a strategic analysis and review of project activity successes, challenges, and ways forward. These meetings will be attended by all project staff and project support staff.

List of staff in the project

Organization / Staff (Project fund LEO / months)	Role and Function	Total Cost to the Project
CRS Program Manager with governance, peacebuilding, and livelihood expertise (100%, 24 months)	Responsible for general oversight and day-to-day management of project implementation. Ensures that project activities are implemented within approved budget and meet program quality standards. Responsible for overall management and coordination of the relationships with implementing partners and ensures effective lines of communication. Ensures that project reports are prepared and submitted in compliance with donor standards.	$27,000
CRS Project Officer with gender and youth expertise (100%, 24 months)	Responsible to provide support to the Program Manager for day-to-day execution of the project, including implementation of activities, delivering trainings, conducting general project monitoring, and liaising with the program partner staff.	$22,233
CRS Advocacy and Communications Officer (100%, 18 months)	Responsible for developing all IEC materials, advocacy, and communications strategies. Support partners to mobilize and train participants.	$15,394
Caritas Project Coordinators (4) (100%, 24 months)	Coordinators will work with districts and chiefdom authorities and stakeholders to ensure program activities are delivered in a timely manner.	$37,906
CRS Finance Officer (100%, 24 months)	Monitor project activities and budget. Produce financial reports and prepare budget forecast for the project.	$19,265
Other Support Staff		
CRS Head of Programs (5%, 24 months)	Provides strategic leadership in managing the relationships with the UNPBF. Responsible for overall implementation, including timing of activities, budget, and donor requirements.	0%
CRS Grant Coordinator (5%, 24 months)	Oversees all financial aspects of the program and is responsible for the final overview of all financial reports. They will conduct trainings and accompaniment with partner finance staff and will run regular internal audits of spending.	0%
CRS Communications Manager (5%, 24 months)	Ensures that all branding and communications materials are reviewed and follow standards. Supports partners with communications, advocacy, and media training.	0%

CRS MEAL Manager (20%, 24 months)	Responsible for the monitoring and evaluation component, helping to conduct the baseline and ongoing monitoring to ensure program rigor and learning.	$5,884
CRS Gender Focal Point (15%, 24 months)	Supports the project team to ensure all activities are gender responsive and abides by the principles of Do No Harm.	$2,890
CRS Partnership Advisor and Safeguarding Focal Point (5%, 24 months)	Supports coordination of partners and leads external engagement meetings at the national level in collaboration with Program Manager. Ensures partners are trained on CRS and UN safeguarding and Do No Harm principles.	$1,830
Caritas Finance Officers (4) (5%, 24 months)	Support the management of project finances at the diocese level.	$11,372
Caritas MEAL Officers (4) (5%, 24 months)	Support the monitoring and evaluation process at districts levels. They support baseline and midline data collection.	$10,336
(5) Caritas Directors (5%, 24 months)	Provide overall oversight and ensure project quality and compliance with donor standards.	$18,874
Caritas National Office Program Manager (30%, 24 months)	Responsible for the day-today implementation of the project. The National office Program Manager will coordinate the diocese at districts level.	$3,120
CRS Regional Technical Advisors for Social Cohesion, Gender Equality and Youth (5%, 24 months)	Provides technical expertise to ensure program quality. Cost for all support staff will be a percentage charge, except for the Program Manager.	$596

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

CRS operates in over 100 countries around the world, including several regions of active, violent conflict. CRS policies towards managing security, political, economic, and environmental risks focus on regular risk monitoring, clear risk management and decision-making authority, and a comprehensive analysis of potential adverse effects of our actions. We opt for transparency about our programs and their aims with a wide range of stakeholders. We use a combination of in-country, regional and HQ support, including global risk advisory reports, financial monitoring, global crisis management planning, as well as locally tailored solutions, including routine participation and coordination with security management agencies and community stakeholders to discuss potential security risk and develop appropriate safety and security management strategies. Specifically, this project will consider the following as security risks:

Project specific risk	Risk level	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Limited women, PWD and youth participation in project activities due to either lack of motivation to participate or other cultural	Medium	CRS and partners will leverage their influence and relationships with existing women's, youth and PWD organizations to encourage and ensure women, youth and PWDs are committed and motivated to participate. CRS will implement project activities navigating barriers to

norms and barriers that limit participation.		participation for women, PWDs and youth that may be rooted in culture and norms. CRS will use an inclusive approach by ensuring representation of all groups in project activities. Project meetings will be organized in safe places in consultation with our staff and partners to ensure that activities are conducive to and encourage the participation of women, PWDs and youth. We will also ensure that project staff includes young people to ensure clear representation.
Willingness of community stakeholders, political party leaders and other institutions to give space to youth, women, PWDs and marginalized groups to participate in governance and decision-making in their localities	Medium	Continuous advocacy, dialogue and lobbying with stakeholders, political parties, and other institutions to include youth, women and PWDs in governance and decision-making structures at all levels. CRS will leverage its relationship with the inter-religious council to engage stakeholders and political leaders. We will work in close collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's officer on these strategic engagements.
Outbreak of epidemics, and natural disasters	High	CRS will engage with the PBF and UN Resident Coordinator's office to agree on actions that will create flexibility for project implementation. CRS will constantly review planned activities as against implementation plan and inform the donor on progress.
Spontaneous strikes and violent demonstrations	High	CRS will maintain independence and impartiality and will collaborate with the government and other stakeholders for a peaceful resolution. If this affects project implementation, engagement will be made with the UN Coordinator office and PBF to strategies and amend the project as needed.

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

The CRS **MEAL Coordinator** will provide strategic support for all monitoring and evaluation components of the project, helping to carry out the baseline and ongoing monitoring throughout the action to ensure project rigor and learning. CRS will organize a project startup workshop with partners and participants' representatives to inform them and the public about the project.

The implementation team will establish a clear monitoring and evaluation framework for the project. A project baseline will be conducted within three months of project implementation, and this will be followed by an end of project evaluation. A project closeout meeting will be organized to take stock from project stakeholders and inform endline and evaluations, which will be conducted a month to project end date. All data will be age and sex disaggregated.

A robust monitoring system backed by quality ICT4D, such as CommCare and Power BI that are well established within CRS' data collection, analysis, and reporting platforms, will be developed to track and measure progress made toward achieving output and outcome level indicator targets. Joint monitoring of project activities will be done on a quarterly basis, and this will be done by a dedicated

M&E Team tasked with undertaking joint monitoring of the project throughout the implementation period. To ensure accountability and transparency, project participants will have the space to provide feedback on project performance through regular community stakeholder meetings.

Findings from project monitoring visits will be incorporated into the project coordination meeting agendas to inform the review of project strategies. A bi-annual M&E report will be produced to track project performance. Approximately $65,000 (4%) of the project budget is allocated for baseline, monitoring, learning review and end of project close-out activities including a final project evaluation.

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

Formation and strengthening of conflict resolution structures: Conflict resolution structures, like the inter-religious councils, University Youth Clubs, and Catholic Youth Organization, will be strengthened during project implementation. Strengthening of conflict resolution structures in the communities linked to the local, national, and political leadership ensures ownership and sustainability of community conflict resolution mechanisms. Caritas is working with a network of paralegals in all selected project districts. Engagement with paralegals will be strengthened and they will be supported to facilitate alternative dispute resolution processes for peaceful coexistence and community cohesion.

Support to youth solidarity groups: The project will establish and support solidarity groups that will be trained in civic responsibilities, good governance, and peace building. These groups will serve as catalysts to champion the causes of women, youth and PWDs, provide peer support to young people who aspire to leadership positions, and raise awareness advocating for the rights of the target group. CRS will invest in these groups to remain functional beyond the life of the project.

A systematic project closeout event: A project closeout event will be held where all key stakeholders will be present. Community structures formed or supported by the project will be formally handed over to the respective stakeholders to solicit buy-in and support for these structures at the community level. This closeout event will be a forum where key learning from the intervention will be shared with stakeholders, and roles will be defined for post project initiatives and pathways for support. This process will reinforce commitments made by stakeholders for continuity and support.

Project exit strategy: From inception, a project exit strategy will be developed through an inclusive process of all stakeholders and the necessary support needs will be identified, provided, monitored, and reviewed throughout the life of the project. In doing this, the project structures for sustainability will be capacitated to foster continuity with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The exit strategy would be shared with the UNPBF one month after the inception of the project.

Continuous mentorship and support: Caritas is a local NGO with a national presence and coverage and will therefore continue to engage with communities and beneficiaries beyond the life of the project and will prioritize project communities and groups to benefit from other initiatives that will advance their capacity.

Sustainability of local project structures: The project will endeavour to support existing community structures and adopt locally tested and verified approaches to engage young people through a consultative and inclusive approach to ensure buy-in, participation and local ownership of

the project. The project will work with local structures, such as districts youth groups, the PPRC, and Ministry of Youth Affairs to continue consultative engagements beyond the project lifespan.

Sustainability of knowledge and skills: After the project, PWDs, women and youth trained by the project will have the confidence, skills, and capacity to continue leading and contributing to good governance at the community level and beyond. CRS and partners will build up and connect target groups and project participants with the proper skills (e.g., civic rights and responsibilities, governance, leadership, advocacy, business management, savings) to effectively drive forward the continuation of these actions. CRS will equip the target groups with concrete experience leading their own initiatives (for example, through SILC) and ensure they play key leadership and support functions throughout the action. Finally, CRS and partners will ensure that sufficient capacity, buy-in, and ownership are created in communities and with key institutions, local authorities, and local structures. The action will generate tangible results that provide incentives for all stakeholders to continue furthering the objectives of this action.

Financial sustainability: The action will increase our trained target groups and project participants' business management skills through expanding their credibility with local youth support institutions and increase their opportunities to diversify their livelihood options that will further the action's objectives beyond the project lifespan.

Institutional sustainability: Fostering relationship building and collaboration between women, youth, PWDs, government institutions, and local authorities will result in the institutionalization of best practices and policy recommendations that are responsive to the needs and concerns of youth as well as the communities more broadly. Moreover, the SILC groups will be established, strengthened, and supported on the premise of their ability to be sustainable and promote social cohesion while supporting youth livelihoods.

Policy level sustainability: By building linkages, relationships, and platforms for increased communication and collaboration between local and national authorities and other marginalized groups, government stakeholders particularly the National Youth Commission, the Commission for Persons with Disability, the Electoral Management Bodies, and the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs will have the ability to translate lessons learned from the action to the policy level, and a well-informed citizenry can hold their leaders to account. Authorities and leaders will connect with communities and target groups through district forums, radio programming, and district and chiefdoms women's governance forums. Relationship building and networking between and among these stakeholders can persist based on mutually beneficial relationships and low-cost options for collaboration.

To ensure sustainability of the economic component of the project, CRS will leverage existing relationships with the private sector to continue engaging and supporting project participants beyond the project lifespan. CRS will use a partnership and local leadership approach for the project to be community led which will enhance participation, ownership, and continuity.

IV.   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.

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

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

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	Yes		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	Yes		
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Yes		
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.	Yes		This was done during the project design process
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?	Yes		
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	Yes		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?		No	No agreement has been signed yet, but bilateral discussions are ongoing.
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Yes		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	NA	NA	
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)?	Yes		CRS gender technical team provided inputs to the project design. We also consulted the PBF focal point
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Yes		
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Yes		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Yes		40% of the budget is allocated to GEWE

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
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?	Yes		
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 interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
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?	Yes		
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?	Yes		All staff will be local Sierra Leoneans.
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.	Yes		CRS has a robust procurement process that will be followed on all related procurement of the project.
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.		No	
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.	Yes		CRS will provide technical staff support whose costs will not be directly charged to the project (i.e., Communication Manager, Gender

			Focal Point at Country, Regional and HQ levels)

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 an 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 headquarters is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE**: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE**: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.[11]
- 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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[11] 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)

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: Enhanced participation and representation of youth (including young women and PWDs) in decision-making processes. (Note: Target that this Outcome contributes to – SDG 1, 5, 10 &16) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Outcome Indicator 1a: % of youths including women and PDWs in decision-making process entities. Disaggregated by male, female. Baseline: TBD Target: 30% Outcome Indicator 1b: Percent of young women who have applied targeted improved civic management skills and practices as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: TBD Target: 75% Outcome Indicator 1c: % of youths including women and PWDs who reported increased access or representation to targeted governance structures as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: TBD Target: 25%	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report • Baseline and endline evaluations	Bi- Annual and end of project target number youths are aware of their civic rights and responsibilities and meaningfully participate in decision-making processes. (TBD)
	Output 1.1 *Youths including women and PDWs are aware of their civic rights and*	Output Indicator 1.1.1: # of young women trained in civic rights and responsibilities as a result of UNPBF support.	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list.	Bi-Annual and End of project target # of youths,

	responsibilities in decision-making processes at community, chiefdom and district levels.	Baseline: 00 Target: 6383 Output Indicator 1.1.2: % of women who demonstrate the use of new methods and practices in civic rights and as a result of UNPBF support Baseline: TBD Target: 75%	• Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report. • Pre and post test results. • Endline survey of a representative sample of young women trained in civic rights and responsibilities	including young women and youths with disability are aware of their civic rights and responsibilities (TBD)
		Output Indicator 1.1.3: # of Youths trained in civic rights and responsibilities as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: 00 Target: 5220 Output Indicator 1.1.4: % of youth trained who demonstrate the use of new methods and practices in civic rights and responsibilities as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: TBD Target: 75%	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report. • Activity report. • Endline survey of a representative sample of youth trained in civic rights and responsibilities	
		Output Indicator 1.1.5: # of PWDs trained in civic rights and responsibilities as a result of UNPBF support	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list.	

		Baseline: 00 Target: 1160 Output Indicator 1.1.6: % of PWDs who demonstrate the use of new methods and practices in civic rights and responsibilities as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: TBD Target: 75%	• Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report. • Activity report • Endline survey of a representative sample of PWDs and other Vulnerable groups trained in civic rights and responsibilities	
	Output 1.2: *Increased duty bearers engagement with youth on equal rights and representation.*	Output Indicator 1.2.1: # of duty bearers engagement meetings held as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: 00 Target: 30	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report.	Bi-Annual and End of project, target # of women, youths PWDs and other vulnerable groups engaged in Civic rights and responsibilities sessions in their communities (TBD)
		Output Indicator 1.2.2: # of duty bearers, youth, women and PWDs engaged as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline:00 Target: 11,854 Output Indicator 1.2.3: # of community-based institution members (youths, including	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report.	

		women and PWDs) trained by duty bearers to act with accountability towards their constituents, disaggregated by sex: male and female Baseline:00 Target: 11,604		
	Output 1.3: *Increased participation of youth including young women and PWDs in decision-making process.*	Output Indicator 1.3.1: # of youths including young women and PWDs engaged in decision-making process as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by sex (male, female) Youths: Baseline: 00 Target: 11,604 PWDs Baseline: 00 Target: 1,160	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report	Bi-Annual and End of project, target # of women, youths PWDs and other vulnerable groups engaged in governance and decision-making process
	List of activities under this outcome **1.1.1:** Train youth groups as Peer-to-peer educators on peacebuilding awareness approach and civic education in schools, attaya base, and marketplaces targeting first-time voters and opportunity youths.		• Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report	

	1.1.2: Hold town hall and community dialogue discussion targeting first-time voters, women's groups, and attaya base groups on their meaningful involvement in politics and promoting peace in Sierra Leone. **1.1.3:** Organize awareness raising session through static parades, drama and open space "edutainment" session-popular artists or cultural groups entertainers to preach peace and influence youths' involvement on civic rights, responsibilities, and involvement in decision-making processes in 5 districts. **1.1.4:** Awareness raising and dialogue sessions among political parties for support and inclusion of young people in political and governance processes. **1.1.5:** Conduct simulcast discussion program on youths' civic rights, responsibilities and involvement in peacebuilding and decision-		

	making processes at districts and national levels. **1.1.6:** Radio panel discussion on civic rights and responsibilities. **1.2.1:** Hold town hall and community dialogue discussion targeting first-time voters, women's groups, and attaya base groups on their meaningful involvement in politics and promoting peace in Sierra Leone. **1.2.2:** Development of an inclusive community action plan on conflict prevention and management with youths and diverse stakeholders **1.3.1:** Establishment of civic education school clubs. CRS is currently working with a network of university youth clubs to promote social cohesion and civic engagements. This project will leverage on these structures to train CRS youths as peace ambassadors to provide peer-peer peace education.		

	1.3.2: Development of an inclusive community action plan on conflict prevention and management with youths and diverse stakeholders. **1.3.3:** Strengthen 40 young women's groups across the 5 target districts. We will organize training of trainer workshop on civic education and leadership skills. We will also educate these groups on existing laws and policies that protect their rights and services available. These group members will be used as young peace educators and peer leadership coach to reach other young women in their communities. **1.3.4:** Conduct simulcast discussion program on youths' civic rights, responsibilities and involvement in peace building and decision-making processes at districts and national levels. **1.3.5:** Training youths (male) on CRS positive masculinity concept to advocate against			

	GBV and advance women's leadership. **1.3.6:** Conduct basic social skills training such as public speaking, mobilization, lobbying and advocacy skills for young women			
Outcome 2: Youths are capacitated to mitigate conflict and promote social cohesion. (Note: Target that this Outcome contributes to – SDG 1, 5, 10 & 16) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Outcome Indicator 2a: *% of youths (including women and PWDs) who have demonstrated improved conflict management and social cohesion knowledge and practices as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by youths, women and PWDs and by sex (male, female)* *Women:* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%* *PDWs:* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%* *Youths* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%* Outcome Indicator 2b: % of youths including young women	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report.	On a monthly, bi-annual and end of project, the # of Women, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups constructively dialogue and collaborate with regional district chiefdom and national stakeholders for just and peaceful society

		and PDWs participating in collective actions as a result of UNPBF support *Women:* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%* *PDWs:* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%* *Youths* *Baseline: TBD* *Target: 75%*		
	Output 2.1 Youths and duty bearers dialogue *for improved governance.*	Output Indicator 2.1.1: # of youths (including women, PWDs) who engaged in dialogue meetings as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by sex (male, female) Youths: Baseline:00 Target: 11,604 Women: Baseline: 00 Target: 6,384 PWDs: Baseline:00 Target: 1160	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report • Baseline and endline Survey of a representative sample of women, youth and PWDs	On a monthly, bi-annual and end of project, the # Women, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups constructively dialogue.

		Output Indicator 2.1.2: # of duty bearers engaged in dialogue meetings with youths as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: 00 Target:250	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report	
	Output 2.2: Youths *are engaged in promoting social cohesion.*	Output Indicator 2.2.1 # of Youths (including women and PWDs) trained on intra and inter community dialogue engagement, disaggregated by sex (male, female). Baseline:00 Target: 11,604	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report. • Baseline and endline Survey of a representative sample of women engaged in promoting social cohesion	Bi-annual and end of project, target # Women, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups engaged in promote social cohesion within the society. (TBD)
		Output Indicator 2.2.2: # of engagement meetings held as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline:00 Target:30	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report.	

| | | Output Indicator 2.2.3 # of youths (including women and PWDs) who participate in social cohesion engagement meetings. Disaggregated by sex (male, female). Baseline:00 Target: 11,604 | • Project inception report.
• Meeting minutes and attendance list.
• Monthly Project progress report.
• Project Bi-annual report.
• Annual report.
• End of project report.
• Baseline and endline Survey of a representative sample of PWDs and other marginalized groups engaged in promoting social cohesion | |
| | Output 2.3: Youths trained on social cohesion methods and practices | Output Indicator 2.3.1 # of conflict mitigation trainings held for youth (including young women and PWDs) as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline: TBD Target: 10

Output Indicator 2.3.2: # of youths (including women and PWDs trained in conflict management and social cohesion methods and practices as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline:00 | • Project inception report.
• Meeting minutes and attendance list.
• Monthly Project progress report.
• Project Bi-annual report.
• Annual report.
• End of project report. | Bi-annual and end of project, the # Women, youth, PWDs and other marginalized groups capacitated to mitigate conflict and promote social cohesion (TBD) |

		Target: 11,604		
		Output Indicator 2.3.3: # of youths (including women and PWDs) trained who score at least at least 80% in a post training test on social cohesion methods and practices, disaggregated by sex (male, female) Baseline:00 Target:5,802	- Project inception report. - Meeting minutes and attendance list. - Monthly Project progress report. - Project Bi-annual report. - Annual report. - End of project report.	
	List of activities under this Outcome: **2.1.1:** Stakeholders' engagement sessions with politicians, paramount chiefs, security apparatuses, National Electoral Commission, PPRC, CSOs, etc.) to discuss proactive and meaningful involvement of youths particularly young women in political processes and their protection during and after elections. **2.1.2:** Dialogue sessions with the Inter-Religious Councils to promote and influence the positive involvement of young women in leadership.		- Meeting minutes and attendance list. - Monthly Project progress report. - Project Bi-annual report. - Annual report. - End of project report	Bi-annual and end of project report (TBD)

	2.1.3: Regional dialogue sessions with political party structures, traditional and religious leaders, women's groups, youth groups, and the person with disability organizations (PWDs). **2.2.1:** Organize awareness-raising sessions on the importance of peace and youths' involvement in political processes through media engagements and production of IEC materials. **2.2.2:** Organize inter-community sport activities **2.2.3:** Organize inter political party and inter community football matches **2.2.4:** Radio panel discussion on conflict prevention and management. **2.2.5:** Dialogue sessions with the Inter-Religious Councils to promote and influence the positive involvement of young women in leadership. **2.2.6:** Regional dialogue sessions with political party structures, traditional and		

	religious leaders, women's groups, youth groups, and the person with disability organizations (PWD). **2.3.1:** Train youth-led groups on peacebuilding methods (education for peace, non-violent communication, conflict management. The training will include civic education for mitigating political conflict and increasing social cohesion. **2.3.2:** Strengthen the community's existing structures through training, mentorship, meetings, and coordination with another partner to advance advocacy and peacebuilding and the community levels. These structures include the District's Youth Council, Chiefdom Development Committee, Mother Support Group, etc. **2.3.3** ICT4D training for paralegals as violence incidence reporters.		

	2.3.4: Procure ICT4D devices and develop incident monitoring tools. **2.3.5:** Training of district PPRC staff on the use of violence incident monitoring tools. **2.3.6:** Safeguarding training for community youth to ensure their engagement and advocacy activities do no harm and protect communities and beneficiaries.			
Outcome 3: Youths including young women and youths with disability engaged in diversified livelihoods. (Note: Target that this Outcome contributes to – SDG 1, 5, 10 & 16) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps	**Youths are supported to improve their economic and social capabilities and contribute to local and national development.**	Outcome Indicator 3a: # of youths (including women and PWDs) deployed in internship who applied improved livelihood skills and practices as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by sex (male, female) Baseline:00 Target: 5830 Outcome Indicator 3b: % of participants in UNPBF-supported programs designed to increase access to livelihood skills and income-generating opportunities who are young women Baseline TBD	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report • Baseline and endline evaluations	Bi-annual and end of project, target # Women, youth, PWDs and other disadvantaged groups are supported to improve their economic and social capabilities and contribute to local and national development. (TBD)

to implement and if so, year of UPR)		Target 25% Outcome Indicator 3c: % of participants in UNPBF-supported programs designed to increase access to livelihood skills and income-generating opportunities who are youth. Baseline TBD Target 75% Outcome Indicator 3d: % of participants in UNPBF-supported programs designed to increase access to livelihood skills and income-generating opportunities who are PWDs Baseline TBD Target 10%		
	Output 3. 1. *Youths are trained in entrepreneurship methods and practices (including agribusiness)*	Output Indicator 3.1.1: # of youths including women and PDWs trained in entrepreneurship methods and practices as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by sex (male, female) Baseline:00 Target: 11,604 Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of alternative livelihoods identified	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report	Bi-annual and end of project, the # Women, youth, PWDs and other disadvantaged groups economic wellbeing of women sustainable and diversified

		and supported for youths as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by type of livelihood options. Baseline:00 Target: 10		livelihoods options. (TBD)
	Output 3.2 *Youths are linked and deployed in internship and mentorship to acquire alternative livelihood skills*	Output Indicator 3.2.1: # of internship and mentorship opportunities identified and supported for youths as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by type of internship and mentorship opportunities. Baseline:00 Target: 35	• Project inception report. • Meeting minutes and attendance list. • Monthly Project progress report. • Project Bi-annual report. • Annual report. • End of project report.	Bi-annual and end of project, target # Women, youth, PWDs and other disadvantaged groups economic wellbeing of women sustainable and diversified livelihoods options.
		Output Indicator 3.2.2: % of youths including women and PWDs deployed in internship and mentorship programs as a result of UNPBF support. Disaggregated by sex (male, female). Baseline:00 Target: 1,160:		
	Output 3.3. *Youths are linked to access finance opportunities and mentorship.*	Output Indicator 3.3.1: Savings and Internal Lending Committees formed and trained as a result of UNPBF support. Baseline:00 Target: 48		

		Output Indicator 3.3.2: # of youths including women and PWDs participating in UNPBF-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs including SILC. disaggregated by sex: male and female. Baseline: TBD Target: 1,056		
	List of activities under this Outcome: **3.1.1:** Identification of existing youths' groups to be trained or linked to vocational training. **3.1.2:** Identify and strengthen the capacity of youths' cooperatives on climate smart agriculture. Agricultural inputs materials and seeds will be given to support youth's agribusiness. Youths Agric cooperatives will be trained in business development, financial management and marketing skills.			

	3.2.1: CRS will leverage its existing relationship with vocational and financial institutions to link opportunity youths to learn technical and entrepreneurship skills that will enable them to engage in alternative livelihood activities. We will also create mentorship and career guidance training for rural youths. **3.3.1:** Establishment of SILC at chiefdom levels targeting young women. **3.3.2:** Provide agricultural input materials to youth Agric cooperatives. **3.3.3:** CRS will leverage its existing relationship with vocational and financial institutions to link opportunity youths to learn technical and entrepreneurship skills that will enable them to engage in alternative livelihood activities. We will also create mentorship and career		

	guidance training for rural youths.			

Totals		
		CRS
1. Staff and other personnel	$	373,757.97
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	$	-
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	$	17,197.45
4. Contractual services	$	90,000.00
5. Travel	$	123,078.34
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	$	1,172,412.38
7. General Operating and other Costs	$	16,560.51
Sub-total	$	1,793,006.65
7% Indirect Costs	$	125,510.47
Total	**$**	**1,918,517.12**

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown			
		CRS	**Tranche %**
First Tranche:	$	671,480.99	35%
Second Tranche:	$	671,480.99	35%
Third Tranche:	$	575,555.13	30%
TOTAL	$	1,918,517.12	