SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT

United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
Project Title: Shared prosperity through cooperation in border regions of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan   **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project): 00129737 /00129738**

PBF project modality: ☒ IRF ☐ PRF	**If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):** ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:**

List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): FAO Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, UNFPA Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.   **List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):** Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic, Farmers Association, Fund for Women Entrepreneurship Development, PF "DIA," ENACTUS, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan, Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan, Water Users Association, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Project duration in months[1] [2]: 24 months + 6 months NCE with proposed new end date of 16 June 2024Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Andijan (Markhamat)-Osh (Aravan), Namangan (Kasansay and Yangikurgan) - Jalal-Abad (Ala-Buka, Aksy) cross border areas.

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: ☐ Gender promotion initiative[3]   ☐ Youth promotion initiative[4]   ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions   ☒ Cross-border or regional project

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

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

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

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

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):
FAO Kyrgyzstan: $ 850 000
FAO Uzbekistan: $ 850 000
UNFPA Kyrgyzstan: $ 650 000
UNFPA Uzbekistan: $ 650 000
TOTAL: $ 3,000,000
*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):

PBF 1st tranche (70%):	PBF 2nd tranche* (30%):
Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyz Republic
FAO: $ 595000	FAO: $ 255 000
UNFPA: $ 455 000	UNFPA: $ 195 000
Republic of Uzbekistan	Republic of Uzbekistan
FAO: $ 595000	FAO: $ 255 000
UNFPA: $ 455 000	UNFPA: $ 195 000
Total: $ 2 100 000	Total: $ 900 000

Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs): The project is aimed at enhancing cross-border environmental and socio-economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project will build confidence and trust between local governments, communities and CSOs through the empowerment of women and youth, as important peacebuilding agents. Climate-smart agricultural practices in sustaining common resources will be applied by this project as well as the establishment of common platforms and networks to foster positive social, cultural and economic exchange between communities on both sides of the border. The project will take into consideration lessons learned and experience from previous cross-border programmes in Ferghana Valley.

Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups): The proposal builds on and is guided by the Needs Assessment for the Kyrgyz-Uzbek Cross-Border Cooperation (June 2021) and Prioritization Workshop (with Presidential Administration, the Government and UN Representatives of both countries) held on July 30th, 2021; Conflict and Peace Analysis, Kyrgyzstan 2020; consultations with the women- and youth-led CSOs; Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Culture, Information, Sport and Youth Policy Kyrgyz Republic; Heads of District Departments of Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Namangan; Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support of the Republic of Uzbekistan Women Entrepreneurship Association

Project Gender Marker score[5]: GEM   2

100% or USD 3,000,000 of the total project budget are allocated to activities contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Briefly **explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment[6]:** The project will foster economic and people-to-people cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, by empowering young women and men and communities through capacity-building on gender equality issues and opportunities and exchange of SHG experience, with technical training on climate-smart agriculture, supporting entrepreneurship and trade for women and youth in border areas. The project will also address harmful norms and practices such as unequal distribution of household work and care, lack of education and employment opportunities for women, by working with men on gender stereotypes, etc. (transformative approach through MenEngage).

Project Risk Marker score[7]: 1

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

Kyrgyzstan: UNDAF outcomes to which the project contributes: Outcome 1: Sustainable and inclusive economic growth; Outcome 2: Good governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality; Outcome 3: Environment, CC/DRM; **Uzbekistan:** The project contributes to the UN's Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2021-2025) Outcome 3 on inclusive and equitable economic growth and Outcome 5 on building climate-change resilience in the most at-risk regions and communities.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: SDG2, SDG5, SDG8, SDG13, SDG 16

Type of submission: ☐ **New project** ☒ **Project amendment**	**If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:** **Extension of duration:** ☒ 6 months period until 16 June 2024 **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

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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**

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

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

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

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

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

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

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

organization: USD XXXXX

Brief justification for amendment:
The NCE is being requested, to address delays in the implementation of some activities, due to contextual issues, as well as to adapt some of the components to ensure the project's success, strengthen its contribution to sustaining peace efforts, and maximize its sustainable impact on the communities in the region.

The proposed NCE entails reallocating a portion of the budget which initially planned for activities under Output 1.4 to strengthen capacity of Self-help Groups (SHG) in Uzbekistan and SHG Associations in Kyrgyzstan (under Output 1.1. and Output 1.2). This strategic reallocation aims to ensure the long-term functioning and influence of these groups during and beyond the project's end. These strengthened SHGs are expected to generate a spillover effect, fostering increased cooperation with local authorities, water and pasture user associations, farmers, and other local formal structures- key stakeholders within the scope of Output 1.4. Thus, the suggested revision allows for in-kind contribution to the achievement of the project outcomes across all originally planned outputs. Furthermore, efforts have been made to preserve the budget, especially the operational administrative costs, resulting in a 4% reduction, given the 30-month project implementation period. The budget revision does change the total budget of certain budget category by more than 15%, but the amendments do not shift the overall project strategy or outcomes.

Challenges and Strategy to Overcome and Accelerate for full implementation

1.Absence of Cross-Border Communication and Cooperation: Over many years, the closed borders and lack of communication between the target communities and local authorities led to prolonged mutual isolation. The preparedness of local communities and local authorities for joint activities and collaboration, following the opening of some border crossing points and increased mobility, was overestimated during project design. The complex reality required more time to cultivate relationships first on each side, and then bilaterally, building sustained dialogue to ensure more enduring relationships and cooperation.
The NCE would provide the necessary time to reach these objectives, particularly as regards to the activities promoting cross-border entrepreneurship and common platforms between local authorities (Activities # 1.1; 2.1 and 4.1), so to fully leverage the advantages of cross-border exchange and cooperation, thereby enhancing mediation and cooperation processes.

2. Socio-Political and Socio-Economic Context: The socio-political

contexts both within and between countries pose unique challenges. For instance, specificities in the public administration setup in both countries, coupled with the institutional and staffing overhaul which unfolded at the time of project implementation, resulted in a need for more extensive coordination with central authorities for local activities and consequently led to some delays in planning and implementing activities that required close cross-border coordination. To streamline the coordination processes, the project has established more efficient channels of communication and decision-making.

An extension would enable local authorities to leverage communication channels and to streamline the implementation of these activities:

- *Internal reflection sessions to further strengthen communication channels,*
- *Organisation of networking events for SHG Associations in Kyrgyzstan*
- *Social entrepreneurship fair for beneficiaries and SHGs in Uzbekistan*
- *Exchange between Kyrgyz and Uzbek SHGs on agricultural and gender-responsive in local planning*

Additionally, persistent social gender norms in target communities presented challenges in mobilizing women and girls and gaining the support of their families for their participation in project activities. The extension would enable the project to further sensitize family members and raise awareness of women's rights, opportunities, and roles. This will involve the continued implementation of gender-focused programs and activities during the extension period.

3. Misalignment with Agricultural Seasons: The complexity of cross-border coordination and mobilization caused delays in sequential implementation of the project resulting in misalignment between project activities and the agricultural seasons in target communities. As a result, there are unmet needs and gaps in agricultural and climate-awareness capacity building.

Extending the project will allow us to capture an additional agricultural season to address these gaps, promoting sustainable resource use, behavioural change, and societal support in reducing disputes over access to natural resources. An additional agricultural season would allow supplementary exchange visits of Kyrgyz and Uzbek Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to share their experiences covering agricultural aspects and gender-responsive approaches in local planning practices.

In addition, the NCE will allow us to seize new opportunities to enhance the project's impact, including:

1. Opportunities Arising from Re-opening of Border Crossing Points: During the celebration of this year's Independence Days in August-September 2023, the governments of the two countries re-opened one additional border crossing point "Mingtepa / Kara-Bagysh" in the Aravan-Marhamat project districts of Osh-Andijan regions. Project

	beneficiaries including local authorities from both sides have already established relationships within the project framework, making the opening of border crossing points a promising opportunity for tangible cooperation and strengthened coordination.
	The potential extension would provide more time to build on the recent additional opening and further expansion of interactions in multiple domains, such as mutual trade and exchange in agriculture. The project will organise additional exchange visits of selected SHG members who are strongly interested to establish business project plans between the two countries, e.g., milk processing, honey and other bee products, bakery, sewing, etc.

2. Catalytic Effect: The project has produced a catalytic effect through informal exchange visits and relations beyond the project's original scope. These visits have been a result of knowledge sharing and networking established within the project.

The extension period would further nurture cross-border relationships between LSGs, SHGs and farmers, leveraging them for greater social cohesion and cross-border cooperation. We will be able to facilitate more opportunities for informal exchanges, enabling communities to build on the trust and goodwill established through these exchange visits.

3. Ownership and Commitment: The catalytic effect of the project, i.e. the informal exchange visits have been initiated by local communities themselves, demonstrating the power of local ownership and leadership. The level of ownership and commitment for improved interest-based cooperation among local stakeholders is currently limited due to the aforementioned challenges faced during the project's implementation. An NCE would allow the project team to codify and institutionalize this knowledge, creating more robust and sustainable results.

For instance, the extension period would include entrepreneurship networking activities connecting local beneficiaries with funding opportunities. Additionally, the NCE would support the establishment of Self-Help Group Associations and partnerships in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, shifting ownership to local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Uzbekistan. This shift in ownership will empower local actors to take the lead in project activities, ensuring long-term sustainability.

The extension would enable the project team to fully leverage this opportunity for increased effectiveness. We will work closely with local authorities and communities to maximize the benefits of this development.

In conclusion, the requested NCE is an opportunity for the project team to address critical challenges and enhance the project's impact. It would enable the project team to overcome the hurdles outlined above, related to cross-border communication, socio-political contexts, coordination, gender norms, alignment with agricultural seasons, informal exchange visits, and border crossing points.

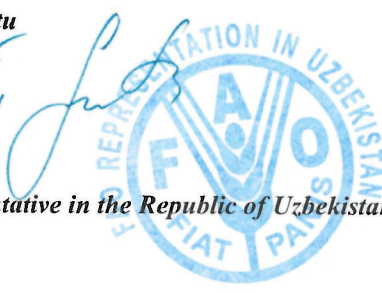|	
	By doing so, the project team will solidify local ownership, commitment, and catalytic effects, ultimately contributing to the sustained peace and prosperity of the border regions in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. *Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour 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:

Kyrgyz Republic

Recipient Organization(s)[9]	Representative of National Authorities
Mr. Viorel Gutu ██████████ Signature **FAO Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic** Date & Seal 17/11/2023	Mr. Almaz Isanov ██████████████ Signature **Chair of the joint Steering Committee, Head of Political and Economic Research Department in the Administration of President of the Kyrgyz Republic** Date & Seal
Mr. Baktybek Kainazarov ██████████████ Signature **UNFPA Head of Office in Kyrgyz Republic** Date & Seal	
Head of UN Country Team for Ms. Antje Grawe ██████████████ Signature **UN Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic** Date & Seal 17/11/2023	**Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)** for Elizabeth Spehar ~~Ms. Awa Dabo~~ ██████████████ Signature ~~Acting~~ **Assistant Secretary General for the Peacebuilding Support, ~~Deputy~~ Head of the PBSO** Date & Seal

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

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Republic of Uzbekistan

Recipient Organization(s)[10]	Representative of National Authorities
Mr. Viorel Gutu Signature **FAO Representative in the Republic of Uzbekistan** Date & Seal	**Mr. Alisher Shukurov** Signature **Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan** Date & Seal
Mr. Yu Yu Signature **UNFPA Representative in the Republic of Uzbekistan** Date & Seal	
Head of UN Country Team **Ms. Consuelo Vidal Bruce** Signature **UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan** Date & Seal	**Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)** **Ms. Awa Dabo** Signature **Acting Assistant Secretary General for the Peacebuilding Support, Deputy Head of the PBSO** Date & Seal

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

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.

Cross-Border Situation

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan share 1,378 km of the border. Over the last 30 years, relationships between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have been generally peaceful but there are notable border incidents that marred the partnership between the countries. The two countries have delimited 1170 of the 1378 kilometers of the border (~85%), with only slightly more than 200 kilometers left to be agreed on.

In his statement on 22 October 2021, President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic informed about considerable progress in finalizing the delimitation with Uzbekistan. The cooperation between the two countries intensified after 2016, with frequent meetings between the country leaders, local governments, and the people. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan still have untapped potential for cross-border cooperation in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. The legal and political framework for cooperation is in place (Treaty of Eternal Friendship signed in 1996), including for the delimitation process, and the recent progress and political commitments at the highest level to resolve cross-border issues peacefully.

Although both countries avoided major border conflicts and there is deepening cooperation, some risks remain that can trigger conflict incidents. The two countries still dispute the ownership over certain territories with infrastructure and resources of social and economic importance such as water reservoirs, roads, and natural and built resources, in particular, Ungar-Too mountain, Orto-Tokoi (Kasansai) reservoir, and agricultural land around the "Sokh exclave." In addition, the existence of Kyrgyz enclaves in Uzbekistan and vice versa—a legacy of the artificial territorial divisions in the past—continues to create both risks and opportunities for the two countries. Tensions over the delimitation of the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border have historical roots in the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 when the former administrative boundaries of Soviet republics became national borders of independent states. The creation of an international border led to new challenges in an area that was previously culturally and economically integrated. This included the need for institutional arrangements to facilitate cross-border trade and movement of people, the joint management of cross-border security issues, the sharing of water and natural resources across borders, the use of economically important infrastructure, transport and connectivity issues, and the disruption of social ties across borders. Disagreements over the particular sections of the border and control of natural and economic infrastructure have been among the issues contributing to the delayed completion of delimitation.

At the community level, the incomplete delimitation also led to clashing incidents, which in recent years have declined in number (see table below). The positive dynamic on decreasing incidents stems from improved cooperation both at the political and community levels. Both governments are committed to resolving issues in a peaceful manner. Moreover, multiple peace engines are currently in place in border areas with regular meetings between local authorities and communities. Intergovernmental working groups are working and serve as peace actors and conduct negotiations to resolve arising problems. Uzbek and Kyrgyz district water management departments also act as peace actors who meet at the local level when incidents arise, and conduct awareness raising work and develop/agree on joint action plans for conflict prevention.

Table 1. Border incidents between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan 2012-2020. (*Source: Needs Assessment for Kyrgyz-Uzbek Cross-Border Cooperation; data based on media reports; not officially confirmed by the Governments*)

2012	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
23	15	8	10	9	no data	4	no data	3

The risk of low-scale conflicts, however, persists and can be estimated as medium risk[11]. A possible deterioration can be expected unless pro-active peacebuilding initiatives are carried out. The governments' continuous efforts to facilitate the cooperation need to be further enhanced by the international community with a focus on promoting interest-based cooperation between local governments and the people.

Contextualizing Cross-Border Natural Resource and Agricultural Conflict and Tension

There are multiple root causes and drivers of the conflicts in the border area, including incomplete demarcation, the competition for natural resources, and the presence of enclaves/exclaves. The ineffective water management, governance gaps, the enforcement of the border regime in areas previously not having a physical border (and grievances of population due to the border enforcement, sometimes with violation of human rights) have contributed to and have driven the growing tension.

Most of the border between the countries goes through the Ferghana Valley. The densely populated areas of Ferghana Valley share critical resources such as irrigation water and pasture for cattle. Shared usage of resources posed little problem prior to independence. However, the establishment of national borders, combined with economic and demographic changes, heightened residents' sense of insecurity over access to previously shared natural assets as well as their dependence on "the other side". This, in turn, fueled conflicts, often involving a physical confrontation between the residents, and increasingly, the border guards.

Fergana Valley - through which most of the border goes - is an agricultural powerhouse, vulnerable to environmental and climatic conflicts and disasters, respectively. The high concentration of the population in Ferghana valley, where over a quarter of the population of Central Asia live in less than 5% of the region's total land area, is tightly connected with the agricultural productivity of the fertile land of the valley, which makes it as a major source of food for the region. The Fergana Valley is crucial for the economies of both countries, not only in terms of population, but also as an arable agricultural area that is generally a dry and/or mountainous region. There are enclaves in the valley with remaining disputed sections with natural and built resources important for both countries: Ungar-Too mountain, Orto-Tokoi (Kasansai) reservoir, and agricultural land around the Sokh enclave.[12]

Conflicts over resources usually take place in the spring-summer season, when the need for water and land is highest. One recent example of such a conflict was a clash between residents of the Kyrgyz

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[11] Shairbek Juraev, Farkhod Tolipov, Needs assessment for Kyrgyz-Uzbek cross-border cooperation, June 2021.

[12] Asel Murzakulova, Gulbara Omorova, and Evgenii Shibkov, 'Reconsidering the Meaning of Neighbourship: The Transformation of Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan Border Areas after 2016', MSRI Brief (University of Central Asia, May 2019), https://www.ucentralasia.org/Content/Downloads/UCA%20MSRI%20Brief_Uzbek-KR%20Border%20Areas_ENG.pdf.

village of Chechme and the Uzbek village of Chashma in the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan. On May 31, 2020, the residents of both villages got together for a joint annual cleaning of a spring located in a disputed area. The conflict reportedly erupted out of a verbal dispute among participants over which side "own" the spring. As a result, seven houses were burned down and about a dozen people were hospitalized.

Another example occurred a few weeks earlier, when Kyrgyz border guards had a brief stand-off with a group from Uzbekistan's Sokh over their attempt to pass into pastures on the Kyrgyz territory. The authorities in the two countries, however, addressed the 2020 conflicts quickly and at a high-level. Shortly after the events erupted, the two Prime Ministers visited and met at the conflict-affected areas. During periods when the two governments were less open for talks, community-level conflicts often led to the blockage of the road connecting Sokh with mainland Uzbekistan.

Existing resource usage patterns, lack of inclusiveness of management institutions, the limited awareness of rights and responsibilities and overexploitation of resources pose direct challenges to rural livelihoods and maintaining peace in the border area[13]. Local governments lack the capacity and resources to co-create, test and up-scale solutions to climate-smart agriculture and sustainable natural resource management strategies, which prevents improving and diversifying the livelihoods of the communities in the cross-border areas thus contributing to conflicts. The level of tensions is exacerbated by overall instability in Ferghana valley, including isolation, poverty, and inadequate access to public services. Cognizant of these issues, this project will focus on efficient use of resources through the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices to mitigate incidents and conflicts between residents of border areas over access to (or control over) specific economic resources such as water, land/pasture, roads and natural gas.

Youth, Women, and the Conflict at the Cross-Border Area

Despite rural youth and women's limited access to sustainable livelihoods, they have proven capacities to mobilize and advocate for changes in accessing services for communities to build trust and decrease tensions[14]. Being particularly disadvantaged, women and young agricultural producers face difficulties with processing, transport and access to wholesale markets for cross-border trade and in-country or cross-border marketing.

The population in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is young. Approximately over a quarter of the population in both countries are between 15 and 28 years old[15], representing a great opportunity to benefit from active youth participation in economic activity, including sustainable livelihood development. Considering a high unemployment rate among youth aged 16-29, which is estimated at 33.6%[16] in Kyrgyzstan and 17%[17] in Uzbekistan, with an agriculture-based economy in rural areas, it is pivotal to invest in youth and women's entrepreneurship that contributes to their active participation and social cohesion in border areas. The youth of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are active agents of peace to break stereotypes and build trust when supported by local communities and authorities[18]. Rural women fall out of community-based and local government decision-making processes. In Kyrgyzstan, only 3% of rural women possess sole land ownership in contrast to approximately 22% of rural men,

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[13] Context Analysis related to renewable natural resources in Osh and Jalal-Abad Oblasts, May 2021

[14] PBF project 2018-2019 "Addressing social disparity and gender inequality to prevent conflicts in new settlements"

[15] Elnura Kazakhbaeva, Youth Situation analysis, 2021, UNFPA. 49 % women and 51 % men for Kyrgyzstan, 64% in Uzbekistan

[16] National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2020

[17] https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/01/27/youth-unemployment/

[18] Promoting Kyrgyzstan's Youth Cohesion and Interaction towards Uzbekistan, PBF

while an estimated 60% of rural women do not own any land[19]. In Uzbekistan, 77% of all landowners are men, and only 11% of enterprises are headed by women. Twenty-three percent (23%) of Uzbek women are unemployed, and women spend twice as much time on unpaid work[20]. Rural households in the cross-border area are traditionally headed by men and most properties are registered in their name. Rural women have limited opportunities to find work outside the agricultural sector and while they contribute to 80% of agricultural production (excluding cotton, wheat and rice), they are continually involved in low-skilled manual labor and seasonal work.[21]

The prevalence of harmful gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms contributes to a missed opportunity of engaging women and youth in peacebuilding processes. Studies and past conflicts[22] prove that changed attitudes on gender equality, women's empowerment, tolerance and respect for diversity results in young women's contribution to peace through strong leadership and bringing a better sense of belongingness among community members[23]. Domestic violence, unpaid care responsibilities, including poor nutrition, unemployment and poverty are specific factors affecting women more than any other group in the cross-border area[24].

The needs assessment report indicates the need for improving trade, supporting small businesses in the border areas, strengthening local dialogue and cooperation on economic and trade issues, and establishing technical support logistics centers as well as facilitating freedoms of movements for people and goods[25]. There is still weak cooperation between farmers/producers in the border areas in Ferghana valley, which results in low know-how on how to increase the efficiency of producing farm products for higher added value and help establish supply-chains across borders. Thus, it is necessary to organize joint activities and events which would bring young women and men entrepreneurs from bordering villages and create a platform to find new contacts and business partners. This will improve knowledge and skills in the field of marketing, promotion and customer relations together.

The border divides renewable natural resources (water, pasture, and forests) and economic infrastructure resulting in the disruption of socio-economic relationships. The institutional arrangements to facilitate greater economic interaction and natural resource sharing at the local level are limited. The dispute resolution mechanisms outside resource management remain also largely ad-hoc and likewise fail to recognize the important role of women and youth as local peacebuilders. Women in both countries are generally not in a position to protect their own interests due to their lack of representation in the Water User Associations (WUAs) and common social practices. Kyrgyz women comprise approximately 11% of leadership positions within WUAs and out of 454 Pasture User Associations, only four are chaired by women[26]. In Uzbekistan, only 20% of business entities, including 7.3% of farms, are managed by women[27].

Lessons learned from previous programming

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[19] National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods - Kyrgyzstan, FAO 2016

[20] Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Uzbekistan, FAO 2019

[21] Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Uzbekistan, FAO 2019

[22] PBF project 2018-2019 "Addressing social disparity and gender inequality to prevent conflicts in new settlements"

[23] Good practices and lessons learnt in building resilient communities in Kyrgyzstan report, "Communities for Sustainable Peace"

[24] Elnura Kazakhbaeva, Youth Situation analysis, 2021, UNFPA

[25] Needs assessment report for cross-border cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, June 2021

[26] National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods - Kyrgyzstan, FAO 2016

[27] https://lex.uz/docs/5466673

The design of this project has been informed by a considerable body of evidence, lessons learnt and implementation experience gained by the UN in previous cross-border projects.[28]

Interest-based cooperation. The previous reviews and evaluations showed that interest-based cooperation brings stronger peacebuilding dividends, establishing durable ties between people that continue after the project ends. This is why this project promotes interest-based cooperation (entrepreneurship, trade, exchange of agricultural practices) rather than focusing on friendship ties through e.g. youth sports or cultural events.

Addressing multidimensional risks. This project works at climate-peace-economy nexus and therefore enables it to respond to multidimensional risks existing in border areas of the Ferghana Valley. In this context, it responds to Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRRA) conclusions[29]. Engaging partners that are operating at the juncture of this nexus, especially water-users associations, contributed considerably to the trust and confidence of people living in border areas. Building dialogue between communities around economic cooperation, agriculture, or water-use (it was also infrastructure in the Kyrgyz-Tajik project) has helped to mitigate conflicts, and improved the perception/acceptance of neighboring border communities.

Constraints for UN engagement. The project should act with an understanding that the UN (and none of the partners for that matter) is in position to address the biggest conflict drivers (land, delimitation, river-basin based water distribution) directly, as Governments have not requested any third-party engagement into interstate negotiations. Therefore, cross-border projects are focusing on mitigation of the immediate risks of the conflict, but not resolving the conflict itself. . The experience also showed that the situation in border areas can change rapidly and the project should be ready to adapt; mitigation measures are envisaged in this project.

Reviews and evaluations show that previously promoted strategies of encouraging the shared use of infrastructure were often not the most effective way to reduce tensions. The evidence showed that investments bring higher impact and are more conflict-sensitive when they foster solutions (regarding access to services) that enable communities to manage their own natural resources separately. This project does not support shared use of natural resources between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Infrastructure engagement in disputed [undelimited] areas. In a situation of incomplete delimitation, when the very belongingness of the territory is questioned, the implementation of the infrastructure projects is extremely sensitive. The infrastructure that affects natural resources or located in disputed areas should be dealt only in extreme necessity, and if pursued, the bilateral consultations both at community, district and national level must be carried out (and a Special Operating Procedures for the design and approval of these projects must be developed). Considering the risk-aversion and political significance of border areas for central authorities, in practice it means that implementation of infrastructure projects in disputed areas is impossible and should be avoided. Therefore, the project does not propose any infrastructure interventions in direct proximity of the border areas, does not affect natural resources distribution, and provides water-saving techniques only for in-farm water management, thereby reducing the water use and serving as conflict mitigating tool.

Different pace of project implementation and embeddedness in institutional constraints of each country. Governance structures, management practices, the scope of powers of local authorities differ in neighbouring countries (in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in this project). Local solutions must and

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[28] This section lists only some of them relevant to the thematic focus, other - related e.g. to improvement of the border crossing, or people-friendly border services – or multiple recommendations with regard to e.g. theories of change, adaptation, and field implementation by Agencies (including synergies and coordination) are not presented here because of space constraints.

[29] Joint study by UN, World Bank and FCDO completed in November 2021; analysed, among others, fragility in Ferghana Valley (which is the geographical focus of this project).

will be tailored to the opportunities and constraints of each country. This however may affect a differing pace of implementation in each of the countries. The design of this project allows for certain flexibility in the timing, by e.g., introducing the inception phase, and allowing an ample time for both sides to carry out in-country work before moving to cross-border exchange.

Flexible mirroring. Considering the differences between the countries, and different implementation modalities, the project should still ensure that activities on both sides are similar in their nature. This is critical to ensure the balance in benefits for each side – neither of the sides should receive unjustifiably greater support, and fair distribution of the resources of projects needs to be secured. The situation when e.g. tangible assets are provided to the one side and not to the other should be avoided; the considerable difference in number of beneficiaries should be avoided. The design of this project, including its targets, have been designed based on this assumption.

Youth and women – best practices of cross-border cooperation. Previous projects showed that empowering women and youth have been producing high peacebuilding dividends (reconfirmed by the RRRA). Multiple recommendations from previous evaluations were taken into consideration, in relation to e.g., youth. For instance, the project leverages a multi-stakeholder approach where institutions, including policy and decision-makers, ensure a sensitive and inclusive environment of young people's needs, recommendations and agency. This project also avoids the pitfall of approaching conflict transformation through only an employability angle, but strengthens elements of meaningful participation of young people to support social cohesion informed by the understanding of connectors and dividers.

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports existing Governmental and UN strategic frameworks[30], 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

In July 2021, a high-level workshop on the identification of priorities of the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan cross-border cooperation projects was held with the participation of the Presidential Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, UN Resident Coordinators of both countries, Cabinets of Ministers representatives and civil society experts. As an outcome of the workshop, the following two priorities have been identified as the most relevant and recommended for further programming:
- Economic cooperation (including, fostering trade, cooperation of entrepreneurs, joint economic actions, supporting clusters, exchange of experience in farming to increase production, building online trading platforms etc.); and
- Social cohesion (building platforms of cooperation, trust/confidence-building between various groups, including youth, women).

Cognizant of the focus areas identified, the project is well aligned with the National **Strategy on Sustainable Development** of the Kyrgyz Republic 2018 – 2040. Women's economic empowerment has been emphasized in the new **National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality** in the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2030 and its **National Action Plan** 2021-2023, along with other four priority areas such as ending discrimination and increasing access to justice, development of gender-responsive regulatory policies and women's political participation. With an increased number of women elected in April 2021 to local village councils up to 37.8 % in Kyrgyzstan and considering the total proportion of women elected as mahalla chairperson and their advisors equaling 13.4% in Uzbekistan

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

(WCU,2014a, p. 30), as well as taking into consideration both countries commitments, there is an opportunity to address the challenges of women's access to land, water, and agricultural extension services. Further, the project will enforce government recommendations as stipulated in the special **State Programme on Women's Entrepreneurship** 2021 – 2025 adopted by the Minister of Economy and Commerce on 19 November 2021. The women-smallholders in rural areas who are more involved in small-scale processing and household food production, are given priority in the national **Food Security and Nutrition Programme** 2019 – 2023. Therefore, the project will provide specialized support to women to increase their agricultural productivity and access to income-generating opportunities. Another aspect of the Food Security Programme measures is improving access of rural women to the loans and financial services and promoting roles of business associations and Producer Organizations (POs) headed by women.

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has developed a **Youth Policy Concept for 2020-2030**, which is a strategic document designed to respond to the challenges faced by youth, to create an effective system of youth participation at the decision-making level and promote social development and self-development of young people[31]. Hence, this project contributes to achieving the overarching goal of the government to engage young people in the socio-economic life of the country and their human capital development.

In Uzbekistan, the project will contribute to the **Agriculture Development Strategy 2020-2030** with a particular focus on the strategic priorities on the development of rural areas, the creation of a favorable agri-business climate, and ensuring rational use of natural resources and environmental protection. The project will also contribute to the political commitment to gender equality expressed during the Generation Equality Forum in Paris and in the **National Gender Equality Strategy 2030** and Presidential Resolution, both aimed at creating decent working conditions and support for low-income women, especially in rural areas of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan has confirmed its commitment to the achievement of the global 2030 Agenda and an inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnership approach for the realization of sixteen national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current national medium-term plan, the 2017-2021 National Action Strategy, serves as a pathway towards SDG implementation. To ensure that the SDGs are prioritized throughout all ministries, the Government in October 2018 endorsed and adopted a resolution on the 2030 Agenda which reinforced commitment to align SDGs to national strategies and programmes. In Uzbekistan, 2021 has been declared the "Year of Supporting Youth and Strengthening the Health of the Population," with special attention being paid to training young men and women in modern, in-demand professions, forming their entrepreneurial skills.

Legislative acts adopted in recent years, such as the **Concept for the Development of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan** until 2025, the Concept for the Development of Physical Culture and Mass Sports for 2019-2023, the National Program for the Development and Support of Reading for 2020-2025 are aimed at considering issues and solving problems of youth at the state level.

At the initiative of the President, a major step among the ongoing reforms was the introduction of a completely new system of employment for unemployed youth in Uzbekistan - the creation of the "Youth Notebook". Within the framework of the created system, 682,787 unemployed young people aged 18 to 30, in need of social protection, economic and psychological support, were included in the "Youth Notebook". As a result, the necessary funds were allocated to solve their problems with the help of the country's regional "Youth Funds".

The project also contributes to the efforts of the Forum of Women Leaders of Central Asia established in 2020 to advocate the development of effective ways for the fullest implementation of the scientific,

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[31] 2020-2030 Youth Policy Concept, dated October 18, 2019 # 562 http://cbd minjust.gov kg/act/view/ru-ru/157204

technical, creative, intellectual, and entrepreneurial potential of women in the states of Central Asia, further efforts to expand the opportunities of women and girls in the entrepreneurial sphere.

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

The project is aimed at establishing interest-based cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to prevent and mitigate the risk of conflicts. Lessons learned from the previous programming in border areas showed that cooperation of people around concrete joint interests, like trade, farming, employment, economic cooperation brings more durable and sustainable peacebuilding results. Therefore, this project will connect Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan by enhancing economic cooperation through climate-smart agricultural development between the countries, as well as enhancing the role of women and youth as key peace agents. The project also addresses the strategic gap of working at peace and climate nexus in border areas. By supporting climate-smart agricultural practices, the project contributes to water saving, thereby improving the resilience of communities to resource-driven conflicts, climate change and disasters, making them benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance, and protection.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Joint Program "Rural Women Economic Empowerment" (JP RWEE) 2014 - 2021	MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (Government of Norway, SIDA) FAO: USD 1,070,590	To secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development, women's empowerment was leveraged through the functioning of Self-Help Groups enabling an increased sense of women solidarity and collaboration, as well through the functioning of 5 women's cooperatives or Producers Organizations/POs – serving as a mechanism for sustainability of women groups.	The proposal will build on the associations of SHGs in Aravan (Mangyt and Chek-Abad) cross border villages of Osh oblast and in Seidikum, Aksy and Ala-Buka of Jalal-Abad oblast. As part of existing "Iskra" and "Kadam" Trade and Service Cooperatives, the SHGs have joint economic initiatives and ideas for cross-border exchange, e.g., soap making, product labeling, etc.
Promoting Kyrgyzstan's youth cohesion and interaction towards Uzbekistan (project finalized in 2020).	PBF Total: $ 1,500,000 UNFPA: $ 350,000	By supporting the Kyrgyz authorities in the implementation of cooperation plans between Kyrgyz provinces and their Uzbek counterparts the project aims to improve the social cohesion of border areas and beyond with	The project was implemented on the Kyrgyz side with a focus on building cohesion with youth from Uzbekistan and supported the implementation of the national plans with counterparts across the

		catalytic effects across the entire country.	border. These plans have been identified as the key to creating positive peace with the Uzbek counterpart and to having a positive in-country effect within ethnic communities.

I. **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).

Cross-border connectivity
The project is focusing on establishing and strengthening platforms of cooperation and trust-building between communities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Using innovative and people-led cross-border connections, the project will strengthen three types of platforms: 1) exchanges among youth and women through self-help groups; 2) coordination among local governments and associations (e.g., water and pasture users' associations); and 3) platforms of cooperation of young entrepreneurs, including by engaging business incubator and accelerator programmes.

A Focus on Socio-economic Strengthening
The project will focus on strengthening economic (including, especially, agriculture-based economic activities) and societal ties between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek cross-border communities specifically targeting young women and men, through supporting interest-based platforms (on farming, local entrepreneurship, etc.) that connect communities and enable the exchange of knowledge and experience. Cross-border platforms will increase trust and confidence between communities, and diverse groups within them (gender, age, etc.), thereby reducing the likelihood of conflict.

Inclusive Bottom-Up Approach
The project will follow a bottom-up approach to increase efficiency and innovations in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) through building capacities of local authorities and community members with a focus on youth and women. In other words, the project is working under the assumption that while national-level dialogue is important and sets the framework for peace between countries, the local disputes over the access to and efficient use of water and pastures are best resolved locally, through the introduction of CSA practices that save resources (reduce competition over them) and encourage cooperation and positive community exchanges.

The project will work with young women and men in the border communities to improve social cohesion through behavior change and confidence building to empower women (29-58 years) and girls (18-28 years) with support from men and boys (MenEngage approach). Thus, the project will contribute to creating a pro-peace environment that will be boosted by tangible economic and livelihood opportunities, crucial to prevent cross-border tensions.

Intersectional and Nexus Approach
The project is intersectional, working at the nexus of peacebuilding, climate change, poverty alleviation and women empowerment. It will tap on existing solutions/expertise and resources of local

CSOs and community residents who are increasingly recognized as important and diverse actors in risk mitigation. Climate-smart agriculture will be a pathway towards increasing resource efficiency, productivity and incomes as well as enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction. This will indirectly address resource scarcity (less water used in agriculture means water will be available for more people), and enhance resilience against natural disasters, such as drought which pose a threat to peace in the region. Local authorities will be engaged through all project components and their capacities will be built to strengthen their role in promoting innovative resource-efficient and climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices through review of local development plans and making them gender-sensitive and thus, make optimal use of existing resources and search for mutually beneficial solutions for livelihoods across both sides of the border.

Conflict Sensitivity Approach

A conflict sensitivity assessment will be conducted in the inception phase using FAO's programme clinic approach with further support being provided by Peacenexus and technical specialists from both UNFPA and FAO. The approach is founded on a structured understanding of the contextual dynamics in the border region including the causes and drivers of disputes and conflict and the mechanisms, practices and activities, which support improved relations between communities and contribute to localized peace, more broadly. Understanding the potential interaction between a proposed intervention and the local context will allow the project team to refine the activities and how they are implemented to increase the local peace contribution, while limiting any potential harm or division through the implementation. The FAO approach, called the Programme Clinic, is inclusive, participatory and designed to ensure that each of the five iterative steps fully integrates disaggregated information on women, girls, men, youth and the elderly.

The project will also adopt a bottom-up community-based approach to increase the ownership and relevance with and for local and community actors. When it comes to working with and for young people, this project stands on the commitment to combine "youth sensitivity" with "youth inclusivity": applying a youth lens while ensuring a meaningful youth participation that is safe, accessible, resourced, transparent and mutually accountable. Similarly, women are not mere recipients to the project, but active agents and partners throughout the project implementation cycle that integrates and mainstreams the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Prioritizing conflict sensitivity is intended to limit the risk of the project indirectly creating or fueling tensions and conflict as well as causing harm in the community. Learning from previous PBF interventions and the experience of both FAO and UNFPA in near cross- border areas has identified several risks to be addressed during the proposed conflict sensitivity workshops. These risks include:

- Proposed, realized or rumored interventions, including small-scale infrastructure projects, undermine renewable natural resource usage norms or negatively affecting equitable and inclusive access.
- The project targeting criteria results in the perception of exclusion with the aggrieved community mobilizing against the project. There is a heightened risk if a localized grievance is associated with a higher-level conflict line, such as identity, and thereby becomes vulnerable to escalation and intensification
- In a multi-ethnic area, where unresolved borders contribute to localized tensions, project interventions could fuel disputes and mobilize identity groups on the issue of language, community engagement and sensitization.

- Programming focusing on gender inclusion, equality and empowerment are opposed or undermined by key stakeholders or local authorities in favor of more conservative activities, which are not considered conducive to gender equality.
- Gender equality or empowerment programming contributes to a rise in gender-based violence.

Further conflict sensitive risks may be identified during the conflict sensitivity workshop with the recommendations intended to reduce any potential harm in the communities and accentuate positive outcomes. The project will also seek to monitor the identified risks and adapt the activities accordingly.

b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'** – explain the assumptions about why you expect the project interventions to lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis. What are the assumptions that the theory is based on? Note, this is not a summary statement of your project's outcomes.
(Note: Change may happen through various and diverse approaches, i.e., social cohesion may be fostered through dialogue or employment opportunities or joint management of infrastructure. The selection of which approach should depend on context-specific factors. What basic assumptions about how change will occur have driven your choice of programming approach?)

Theory of Change

Addressing the multidimensional drivers of conflict by promoting equitable access to services, building upon, or establishing local mechanisms for inter-group dialogue and cooperation, and expanding livelihood opportunities—especially for youth and women —will enhance the confidence of beneficiaries (SHGs), local authorities and entrepreneurs within and between border communities, and reduce internal and cross-border conflict.

Programmatic Approach
- Support integrated, community-based platforms for issue-focused dialogue between community-based organizations, young farmers and their associations, young entrepreneurs, women groups, NGOs, civic activists from different identity groups, and representatives from different local authorities in border communities to jointly identify common issues of concern and grievance, and jointly identify strategies to address those concerns.
- Strengthening business relationships and economic cooperation (such as agricultural technology exchange) with and between communities, as well as supporting livelihood strategies and vocational and tertiary training, particularly for youth from different identity groups in border communities. Youth training can include topics such as skills, informal businesses, local market access, and entrepreneurialism. Base projects on up-to-date needs assessment(s). This will directly contribute to:
- Advancing the "**Recognition**"[32] scheme where local communities, and young women and men in particular, can foster positive collaboration with other groups through exchanges, interactions and joint actions on employment and livelihood activities.
- Use community platforms to join community representatives and local government service providers to enhance equitable and conflict sensitive access to key public services in border communities for such groups as farmers, women-entrepreneurs, and youth in each community.

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[32] Theories of change on economic empowerment (YPS Programming Handbook, 2020, page 61.).

- Support conflict-sensitive approaches to enhance cross-border cooperation in border communities – through, among others, promoting climate-smart agriculture and connecting economically empowered women and youth.
- Introduction of climate-smart agricultural technologies that can help address 30-60% water loss during transportation causes water scarcity for agricultural activities; drip irrigation along with other climate-smart agricultural technologies, has the potential to reduce water usage by up to 70% thus reducing cross-border tensions over water scarcity.

Assumptions

Prioritization of programmatic approaches for peacebuilding projects
Programmatic approaches for peacebuilding projects at the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border were prioritized in discussions with government partners, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. These priorities included (1) strengthening economic cooperation and trade and (2) enhancing social cohesion and trust. Lessons from the previous cross-border projects revealed several instructive lessons, including the value in strengthening business ties and encouraging cross-border economic cooperation, which can contribute to more durable ties than friendship ties alone.[33]

Youth and women are influential voices in addressing conflict
The World Bank and United Nations argued in Pathways for Peace that "Trusted and influential voices within communities—such as women, youth leaders, and traditional chiefs—can help to educate the population and develop community-specific strategies for risk mitigation at the local level. Familiarity with the prevailing context, as well as the authority of and trust in these local formal and informal actors, has aided their efforts to provide peer-to-peer support and mentorship and to act as positive role models."[34]

Community-based approaches are key to peacebuilding
Community peace mechanisms are highly relevant in situations of chronic conflict, particularly when higher-level governance structures are often unable or unwilling to help resolve local disputes fairly. Many evaluations cite the responsiveness of community peace structures as being a direct result of their closeness to the ground and local knowledge, and of being untied to bureaucratic procedures. Community-based peacebuilding can prevent local disputes from escalating, improve local governance, improve representative decision-making, give excluded people a voice, and improve relationships and communication within and between communities. Importantly, relations and trust within and between communities can be readily improved by local initiatives.[35]

Targeted peacebuilding approaches are transformational
There is evidence that well-targeted peacebuilding approaches can support conflict-affected communities to transform how local and national institutions prevent and manage conflict more effectively. Independent evaluations of PBF-funded initiatives and other studies have repeatedly demonstrated that local-level community dialogues and early warning systems can contribute to improved inter-group social cohesion, enhanced trust between communities and state institutions, and reduced levels of violence. Research has also shown that lack of access or inequitable access to social services and economic opportunities can be a key trigger or driver of conflict. Inequitable social

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[33] Frauke de Weijer, *Review of PBF Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development in the border area of Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan.* PeaceNexus Foundation. November 20, 2017.

[34] Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, World Bank and United Nations. World Bank. 2018.

[35] PeaceInsight, What Works, https://www.peaceinsight.org/reports/whatworks/.

service access and delivery are particularly relevant where there is perceived discrimination towards a particular identity group or region, particularly in the immediate aftermath of conflict and even in later post-conflict settings.[36]

Post-conflict natural resource management contributes to community peacebuilding
Using the contributions of contact theory[37] to peacebuilding, research indicates that post-conflict natural resource management can offer opportunities for cooperation among community members and can positively contribute to peacebuilding.[38] For instance, cooperation among community members over natural resources increases community cohesion and trust-building, and jointly designed and implemented inclusive projects on sustainable use of land can increase trust between stakeholders, including between citizens and the state. Projects that build on communal participation, and promote contact between community members for mutual gain, have the potential to increase cohesion and trust.[39]

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.

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

Outcome: Mutual trust and interest-based cooperation strengthened between border communities of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Output 1. Youth and women have the capacity and tools to serve as connectors between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

The starting point of the project will be to establish self-help groups (SHGs) as a mobilization mechanism, establishing a defined network of women and men who cooperate with each other. Self-Help Groups will consist of 70% of youth and women of different ages (18-65) and serve as key peace infrastructure at the lowest, community level. These groups serve as primary reference foci for the project and focal group in identifying priorities, inclusive implementation and are used throughout all project's outputs. Groups' maturities differ in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In Kyrgyzstan, the groups are already established under the previous project, and the methodology has been tested in many localities, including target localities for this project. The groups have their 'charter' (rules of

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[36] Nafziger, E.W., Stewart, F. & Väyrynen, R.2000, War, Hunger, and Displacement: The Origins of Humanitarian Emergencies, Oxford: Oxford University Press.; Stewart, F.2010, 'Horizontal Inequalities as a Cause of Conflict: A Review of CRISE Findings', Background Paper, World Development Report 2011, World Bank, Washington, DC. See also McCandless, E., and Rogan, J. (2013) Bringing Peace Closer to The People: The Role of Social Services in Peacebuilding, Journal of Peacebuilding & Development, 8:3, 1-6, DOI: 10.1080/15423166.2013.866877

[37] Contact theory asserts that increased contact and cooperation between adversarial groups can surmount prejudice and distance. G.W. Allport
The nature of prejudice. Addison-Wesley, 1954. While the evidence is not entirely consistent, research has demonstrated that cooperation between various groups can lessen prejudice towards different group members. T.F. Pettigrew. *Intergroup contact theory*, Annual Review of Psychology, 49 (1) (1998), pp. 65-85, 10.1146/annurev.psych.49.1.65.

[38] P. Kashwan, Democracy in the woods. Oxford University Press (2017). M.F. Johnson, L. Rodríguez, M. Quijano-Hoyos. Intrastate environmental peacebuilding: A review of the literature. World Development., 137 (2021). Cited in Krampea, F. et al., Sustaining peace through better resource governance: Three potential mechanisms for environmental peacebuilding. World Development. Volume 144, August 2021. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X21001200#b0275

[39] Krampea, F. et al., Sustaining peace through better resource governance: Three potential mechanisms for environmental peacebuilding. World Development. Volume 144, August 2021. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X21001200#b0275

cooperation), joint revolving funds (for the whole village; since there might be more than one group per village), clear leadership structures, etc. In Uzbekistan, the project will be using existing informal structures, and foster the establishment of self-help groups and their associations, with the support of the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support. The Self-Help Groups (usually 5-7 people) are voluntary and established by people who trust each other (including trust on financial matters). The project will not allow the establishment of family-based groups. The groups will be trained on the basics of Self-Help Groups (SHG) structure, the importance of leadership in a group and how to select a leader, how the group functions, goals and objectives of the group, roles and responsibilities of the group members, benefits for individuals and as a group. This capacity building of SHGs will be followed up in Output 2, where the trained SHG members, interested in the development of their businesses will be able to participate in the incubator/accelerator programme.

The sustainability of the SHGs is ensured, among others, through the joint resources of the SHGs - the project will support the creation of rural revolving funds which motivate SHG members to stay in the group and contribute to its operation. SHGs are open for all community members, and the project will intentionally promote the membership of young people which will create space for intergenerational dialogue. The interest-based cooperation within the SHGs is the basis for creating solidarity and mutual benefits aimed at income generation.

In addition to creating self-help groups and promoting women into leadership roles, the output will build confidence among young men and women using the *MenEngage* approach which creates a balanced dialogue in-between them on constructed roles, relationships, and responsibilities of men and women. It builds awareness that men and women may not have the same initial needs but have the same rights.

Equally important, the project will provide a safe space to speak out and share with other men how they feel and understand their own privileges and power, and are willing to give them up. The approach does not treat men as problems or obstacles; both male and female allies should work for a positive development approach. It is worth mentioning that traditional alternative safe spaces for women already exist in targeted localities both in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (*sherine,* neighbourhood meetings, etc.). To mitigate the risk of retaliation and harassment, the RUNOs have feedback and complaints mechanisms in place. To ensure the do-no-harm principle, the information on available complaint mechanisms (and crisis centres, etc.) will be shared with beneficiaries and partners through different communication channels.

Activity 1.1. Create/strengthen capacities of mixed Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Kyrgyzstan and community/*mahalla* leaders in Uzbekistan in target areas through community consultations to identify narrow subject-matter topics (village meetings, needs assessment for interest-based groups);

Activity 1.2. Series of mentoring and advocacy initiatives with focus on young members of SHGs based on the "MenEngage" approach - training and community meetings - to build knowledge and awareness on gender equality, family planning, male involvement, family budgeting and access to services and information

Activity 1.3. Carrying out exchange visits between SHGs in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to share the experience of SHGs for up-scaling and replication (operations, leader selection, relevance, benefits as factors of sustainability and motivation to create such groups in Uzbekistan). The joint meetings will additionally contribute to the building capacity of SHGs, and enhance women's voice, agency, and leadership as peacebuilders.

Output 2. Economic cooperation between border communities strengthened through women- and youth-led innovative entrepreneurship development programmes;

The socio-economic development of border communities is one of the prerequisites for peaceful relations. Supporting the access of the most vulnerable population to productive resources, information, services and innovations increases their resilience to economic hardships and shocks, thus reducing the likelihood of tensions in the area.[40] The economic empowerment on each side of the border will be further taken to facilitate economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, which builds trust and confidence between border communities contributing to the sustainability of peacebuilding outcomes.

The selection of beneficiaries will be tailored to each country's context. In Uzbekistan, the selection will be carried out through the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support (and relevant district branches), and focused on women and youth, who are starting or intending to start their businesses. In Kyrgyzstan, the project will harness the existing resources of the business acceleration programme and will be supporting both women who already have an on-going business to ensure the potential to scale-up the existing ideas/business models, and enhance their resources to expand their entrepreneurial activity, and women who plan to start their business.

The project will provide youth and women (Self-Help Groups) with advisory service and business training (including financial literacy and access to credit) on how to establish and expand their businesses (in Kyrgyzstan - diagnostics and mentorship; in Uzbekistan - through recruited consultants). After the skills building, in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the project will link youth and women entrepreneurs (Self-Help Groups) with investors and financial institutions, which have started to support youth and women in the framework of state instructions/government priorities and corporate social responsibility policies (fair business concepts). The project will engage private investors to ensure the sustainability of enterprises that create platforms uniting youth and women striving for a common goal. In addition, the most successful projects of SHGs will be provided with equipment (by the project) to expand the business - focusing on marketing and processing. The thematic business areas will include digital sales and marketing, animal husbandry, bee production and dairy products, food processing, craftsmanship, etc. Beneficiaries will be taught production and food security standards.

Through the project duration, groups of youth and women beneficiaries will meet regularly, exchange experience, as well as connect their business, enhancing trade between communities and countries.

This output is closely interlinked to other project's outputs. The Self-Help Groups of women established (under Output 1) and supported serve as the main engine, the cornerstone of mobilization of women in targeted communities - will be engaged in this output. Local authorities (Output 4) will play an important role in identifying and working with women leaders and women-led businesses and establish communication across the borders to facilitate women-to-women business cooperation.

Activity 2.1. The Accelerator Programme. Training youth and women in launching businesses, digital skills, national taxation and social systems requirement and reporting, standards, regulations and requirements for export and imports within the EAEU/Uzbekistan, obtaining permits, licenses and quality certificates, value-chain, how to receive credits, etc. Activity mechanisms will differ in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan depending on available infrastructure for innovative business development.

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[40]Needs assessment report for cross-border cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, June 2021
Breisinger, C., Ecker, O. & Trinh Tan, J.F. 2015. Conflict and food insecurity: How do we break the links? In IFPRI, ed. 2014–2015 Global Food Policy Report,
pp. 50–61. Washington, DC, IFPRI.
Ecker, O. 2014. Resilience for food security in the face of civil conflict in Yemen. In Fan, S., Pandya-Lorch, R. & Yosef, S. eds. 2014. Resilience for food and
nutrition security, pp. 53–64. Washington, DC, IFPRI.

Activity 2.2. Most innovative and promising entrepreneurship initiatives are awarded with equipment provided by respective RUNOs within the project grant programme on a competitive basis.

Activity 2.3 Organization of a conference for presentations of business projects by participants to potential investors and support of enterprises through connecting with other existing financial institutions. This will be a government-supported business forums event whereby representatives from various established enterprises from the two countries will come together to explore new areas for cooperation. The project beneficiary groups and individuals will pitch their business ideas for investments benefitting the communities across the border. The activity will be attended by country, regional and international actors such as IT Park from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan's "Shoro," Kyrgyzstan UNDP Aid for Trade in Central Asia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Entrepreneurship initiative etc.

Activity 2.4. Connecting women entrepreneurship groups of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan - the Accelerator Programme will create a platform for the exchange of experience, enhancing trade, and networking on mutually beneficial cooperation among young women and men entrepreneurs from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in cross border areas. To boost the exchange of goods and services across the border the project will work to integrate existing country-based trading e-platforms such as Kyrgyzstan's "Buy from women", "Diykan Dos" Uzbekistan's Dalatek (UZB) https://dalatek.uz/#platforms, https://agromart.uz/ru/marketplace, etc.

Activity 2.5. Establishing and strengthening collaborative platforms and networks uniting youth and women farmers, local authorities, businesses, financial, education and research institutions, and civil society organizations (ENACTUS) for sustainable, inclusive and equitable climate-smart agriculture transformation in two countries. These knowledge management platforms take the form of: EXPO agri-festivals, exchange visits, eco-handicraft festivals

Activity 2.6 Organize agro-Hackathon to collect best IT solutions to increase the efficiency of agro-production and processing.

Output 3. Farmers, with focus on young ones, are equipped with innovative climate-smart agricultural technologies.

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. It is the most susceptible to the effects of climate change coupled with a higher frequency of natural disasters such as droughts, landslides and floods making peace and climate change nexus critical in the Ferghana valley[41]. Recognizing the sensitivities around the water resources, the project will work only at the on-farm level, and support climate-smart agricultural techniques that introduce water-saving technologies, increasing resource availability, without affecting the overall distribution of water between the countries. The conflict-sensitivity of every field intervention will be assessed by the project team.

Therefore, this output will support climate-smart agricultural practices linked to farming and pasture management. It complements Output 2, which focuses on processing and marketing, by focusing on the production side.

One of the issues addressed by the output is the overexploitation of near pasture and under-exploitation of remote pastures, which suffer from a lack of effective maintenance. The output will introduce artificial glacier innovation in Kyrgyzstan, as well as expand the use of up-to-date drip-irrigation technologies in Kyrgyzstan. Other technologies will be assessed (both from the feasibility side and conflict-sensitivity) and applied.

Cooperation with authorities is critical on these issues. Series of consultations with district authorities, as well as the farmers' community (water users associations, pasture committees, forest and land users) will be held. Depending on the category of land (village or state) consultations on the needs and opportunities will be held with the Ministry of Agriculture or ayil-okmotu/khokimiyat. The project

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[41] Needs assessment report for cross-border cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, June 2021

will build knowledge of stakeholders on existing climate-smart solutions, discuss the most appropriate solutions and support implementation. The project will purchase and install the equipment, which will be maintained by the pasture committees, ensuring the sustainability of the project outputs.

Activity 3.1. Carry out the needs and opportunities assessment on the efficient use of natural resources and review experience of existing farming practices of agro-producers.

Activity 3.2. Supporting community-based climate-smart solutions in agriculture - including drip irrigation systems and disseminating agricultural inputs (i.e., mini-equipment, storage facilities, drought-resistant and frost-resistant seedlings, and seeds), installation of artificial glaciers in remote pastures is an additional source of water supply on a high-altitude pasture during the dry period, which reduces the concentration of livestock and thereby reduces erosion, including opportunities for conservation of biodiversity, micro-climate and adaptation to climate change (for Kyrgyzstan only), for youth and women, who are part of interest-based groups.

Output 4. The capacity of local authorities on cross-border cooperation is enhanced through capacity-building, expansion of communication and establishment of new areas of cooperation.

Local authorities are the main stakeholder defining directions of the economic cooperation, connecting communities across the border, implementing development plans at the local level - therefore they are engaged in all Outputs of the project. They possess the most updated and comprehensive knowledge (picture) on the community needs, challenges, and serve as a broker between multiple interest groups (WUAs, pasture committees, etc.). Embedding the project into the existing local government, Activity 4.1 is essential for achieving results and ensuring their sustainability.

The project activities in this output assume that some level of interaction and communication between authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is in place. The project will aim to streamline this communication, establish new areas of cooperation, and build the capacities of authorities to lead on communication and cooperation in a more organized/skilled and timely manner. After an initial set of in-country reflection sessions, the project will take the forward idea of "learning together" - joint (for both countries) workshops on communication, mediation, etc. for the local authorities of targeted communities. This cooperation will take into consideration the sovereignty of states over the borders, and the nature (often centralized) of the decision-making pertinent to borders. It will also factor in the institutional (governance) differences between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Considering the political complexity of this cross-border project, this activity might go beyond the mere "learning together" and build the potentials of local authorities as peace actors.

Activity 4.1. Carrying out training for local authorities on communication, mediation, and negotiation skills, and on gender-responsive tools for management of cross-border related processes and use these tools in the implementation of national and local action plans.

Activity 4.2. Supporting local authorities in introducing and applying gender-responsive approaches in local planning for climate-smart agriculture and peacebuilding. Carrying out meetings between authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Activity 4.3. Creating/using social media platforms (Telegram) for exchange of information and communication between local authorities, water and pasture users' associations of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Activity 4.4. Awareness-raising on the pasture reforms and exchange of experience on the use of pastures in the context of border territories (legal knowledge etc.).

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.

The following geographical localities are selected based on three criteria: 1) the history of cross-border tensions or conflicts, 2) the proximity of settlements to each other on two sides of the border, and 3) the overall socio-economic situation in the localities.

Kyrgyzstan: two villages in Aksy (Olon-Bulak and Kashka-Suu) and two in Ala-Buka rayons (Kajar and Baimak) of Jalal-Abad province; and two villages in Aravan rayon (Mangyt and Chek-Abad villages) Osh province.

Uzbekistan: two villages in Kasansay district (Obodon and Khankurgan) and two - in Yangikurgan district (Mamay; Kukyor) of Namangan province, two villages in Markhamat district (Yolamatol; Qorabogich) in Andijan province.

Target beneficiaries:
- Youth (including young women): NEET (not in education and employment), active youth with running businesses
- Women: Single women/divorced/widowed/pro-poor/age/ethnicity, women-entrepreneurs with operating businesses
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Beneficiaries will be identified as part of social mobilisation and need assessments (Participatory Rural Appraisal) jointly in consultations with local authorities, social services, and civil society organizations. Targeting criteria will be inclusive, with a focus on intersectionality, i.e., gender, age, ethnicity, etc.

Target core groups: at least, 10 self-help groups with 5 members X 6 villages = 300 people in each country.

Total direct beneficiaries: at least 600 people of cross-border areas in both countries, 70 % women from both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Indirect beneficiaries: inhabitants of 12 villages (6 in Uzbekistan and 6 in Kyrgyzstan) with an approximate population of close to 3,000. Total: around 36,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Project partners: Local authorities (Aiyl Okmotu and sub-national departments of Ministry of Agriculture of Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and District Khokimiyats of Uzbekistan, Regional departments of Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support and Ministry of Agriculture) of 6 villages in Aksy, Ala-Buka and Aravan + 6 Uzbekistan villages in Yangikurgan, Kesensay and Markhamat, Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan.

Civil Society: Association of Youth, Fund for development of women's entrepreneurship, Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan, Association of Agrarian Women of Uzbekistan.

ENACTUS is a network of University teams that develop their creative and innovative projects that enable young entrepreneurs to develop their capacity with the mentorship of the business community. The network unites over 100 representatives of the business community and 40 academic leaders and government representatives who share their experience, provide mentoring, and evaluate creative and innovative ideas of young people across the country.

II. 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.

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 : Implementing partners:	**FAO Kyrgyzstan**	GEF, GCF, Government of Japan, Russian Federation, Korea,	n/a	45 in country office (Bishkek)	Agronomist, CCA/DRR experts,Live stock/Pasture expert, Irrigation expert, Gender expert,
Recipient Organization : Implementing partners:	**UNFPA Kyrgyzstan** Public Foundation "DIA", ENACTUS, Public Foundation "Women entrepreneurship development foundation"	EU, UK, Russian Federation	Bishkek	18 staff members+consultants in country office (Bishkek)	NPA on Youth, NPA on Gender, Operations team of 6 staff members
Recipient Organization : Implementing partners:	**FAO Uzbekistan** (1,888,662 USD as total delivery in 2020)	GEF, Government of Japan, Turkey, Korea, Germany (UoG)	Tashkent, Fergana	35 country office staff (Tashkent), of which 1 in Fergana field office	Agronomist, Agricultural Economist, Gender specialist
Recipient Organization :	**UNFPA Uzbekistan** (2,801,825 USD as total delivery in 2020)	UK,Government of Japan, MPTF,	Tashkent	19 country office staff (Tashkent)	NPA on Gender Issues, Programme Associate on

		UNHCR UNAIDS			Management & Coordination , Programme Assistant
Implementing partners:					

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.

The project will start with the inception phase to align the project staff and sensitize activities with peacebuilding principles. The high-level events will host Uzbek and Kyrgyz Governments, civil society organizations, and businesses to present the project, which came out of consultations with the Government and CSOs. It will ensure national ownership over the project results.

During the inception phase, at least two conflict sensitivity workshops will be organized in each country with technical support being provided by each agency. PeaceNexus, an organisation specializing on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity within organisations and supporting sustaining peace interventions, has offices in both capitals and has long-standing relationships with UN agencies and NGOs. Peacenexus will be providing technical support to the workshop and the project more broadly, including the capacity building of staff and key stakeholders.

The workshop will be based on FAO's inclusive and participatory approach to conflict sensitivity, called the programme clinic approach. It is a structured participatory and iterative process designed to identify and integrate "conflict-sensitive" recommendations into the design, implementation and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework. The approach was jointly developed with Interpeace, then piloted and implemented in approximately 20 country contexts between 2018 and 2021.[42] The recommendations from the workshop may include changes to the results framework, which will then inform a request to PBSO. The workshops will also contribute to a capacity to monitor the interactions between the context and the intervention over the course of the project to reduce the likelihood of the project inadvertently causing harm, while also identifying opportunities to improve peace outcomes.

The workshops will also include specific sessions on youth sensitive and inclusive approaches to peacebuilding based on the YPS Programming Handbook (2020) describing how to apply conflict sensitive interventions with and for youth through youth sensitive assessment checklist on relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

A Project Board will be established to make decisions and provide guidance that will be implemented by senior management both by FAO and UNFPA. The board will include UN Resident Coordinators,

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[42] FAO, The Programme Clinic: Designing conflict-sensitive interventions - Facilitation Guide, August 2021. Available at: https://www.fao.org/resilience/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1206211/

representatives of RUNOs, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, implementing partners and members of the PBF Joint Steering Committee.

RUNOs and implementing partners will meet at least bi-annually to ensure coherence, review progress, adjust programming to remain conflict-sensitive and prepare joint annual work plans that will be presented and approved by the project board. Key staff from RUNOs and partners will contribute to the planning meetings and implement the annual work plans once approved by the project board.

The Project Board and RUNOs will ensure close collaboration with the UN Peace and Development Advisor in Kyrgyzstan and RCO in Uzbekistan and the PeaceBuilding Support Office in Bishkek (when it is reestablished). PDA-team will provide strategic guidance in joint planning, framing monitoring and evaluation, and quality project oversight. Especially, PDA-team's strategic guidance in the inception phase will be ensured.

FAO and UNFPA will coordinate fieldwork by RUNOs and partners and will ensure cooperation with local authorities. RUNOs will work closely with national counterparts and support their programme implementation by liaising with local authorities in cross-border areas.

FAO and UNFPA agencies in Uzbekistan operate under the direct implementation modality. The modality of implementation in partnership with national counterparts / National Execution (NEX) requires a comprehensive preparedness activity which are under consultation process. Under these circumstances, allocation of 40% of the budget to implementation in partnership with national counterparts compromises achievement of the project objectives.

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FAO Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan:

1. Project Coordinator- responsible for project coordination and implementation, day-to-day, coordinates project activities (100% funded by the project)
2. Agronomist – responsible for agriculture-related project activities and based in Bishkek FAO Office (50% to be funded by the project)
3. Project Assistant – responsible for administrative, financial, and programmatic support to project implementation based in Bishkek (100% to be funded by the project)
4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Specialist – responsible for monitoring and reporting of the project implementation and learning from and communicating of project results and impacts (100% to be funded by the project)

UNFPA Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan

1) Project Manager - responsible for project management, coordination and implementation, day-to-day, coordinates project activities (100% funded by the project)
2) Project Assistant - responsible for administrative, financial, and programmatic support to project implementation based in Bishkek (100% to be funded by the project)

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

Project-specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Quarantine and travel restriction introduced due to COVID-19 outbreak	medium	Online mode of project activities implementation where possible. Strengthening e-platforms for communication and monitoring. Social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitation measures for local offline events.
Escalation of tensions between local communities that interrupts project implementation	low	Close monitoring of the situation with the help of community-based activists' platforms, women- and youth groups, and local authorities
Border closure that interrupts project implementation	medium	The border situation will be closely monitored on a continuous basis with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries. The project will switch to an online mode of implementation. As for offline activities, they will be negotiated and postponed until borders are open.
Open conflict between border guards and armed forces	low	Regular communication with border guard's authorities. Suspension of project implementation activities in case of open conflict.
Change of bilateral political commitment on cross-border communication, cooperation, and institutionalization of results in joint plans and measures; including those triggered by internal political instability	low	The project will adhere to close and transparent cooperation with national authorities with their engagement in peacebuilding capacity building. The project will focus on the local farmer-to-farmer approach and emphasize building digital platforms to sustain project results.
Women and youth activists are subjected to harassment, violence due to their active participation in the project and norm/behavior change campaign	low	Capacity building of participating communities on social norms and behavior change methodology, create networks (sherine, neighbourhood meetings) between women and youth activists for communication and experience exchange, engaging men and boys

		agents of change. PSEA mechanisms of each RUNOs and dissemination of crisis centers contacts
Change in local dynamics due to natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, landslides	low	Establishing an in-project system of continuous context analysis, reflection and learning, and adaptation of project activities.
Frequent rotation in government positions (both national and regional/local) affecting the partnership	medium	

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 project will use the regular national and subnational administrative data collection and the information drawn from the project level routine monitoring to establish the baseline both for the outcome and the outputs. The endline study will employ qualitative and quantitative data collection with control groups to measure the change in people's attitudes and behaviors as well as in the institutional performance in issues pertinent to cross-border cooperation. At the end of the project the endline study will investigate the probable difference in the quality and quantity of economic interactions and ensuing social cooperation between the target communities and those beyond the project outreach. The final evaluation will focus on the project's relevance, efficiency and effectiveness and is expected to feed into learning across the two countries to the benefit of prospective cooperation building initiatives.

The project will be monitored in accordance with the Project Results Framework outlined in Annex D. During the first two months of the project, RUNOs will develop a joint and detailed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan that allows establishing a rigorous M&E system for the project. The M&E plan will help to track progress against the targets and planned timeline. The M&E plan will include a Results Framework, Indicators Matrix, Measurement plan, list of M&E activities that will be undertaken, and the tools that will be used during these activities.

Quarterly meetings with implementing partners to review monitoring results will be held through the project implementation cycle. In the middle of project implementation, RUNOs will organize an M&E Workshop to monitor the preliminary progress of project implementation and to formulate recommendations on changes to be made. In addition to the baseline and endline study, a final independent evaluation will be carried out at the end of the project to assess the overall results of the project.

The project team members will directly and regularly monitor the day-to-day project activities in the field, as well as assess the project's efficiency, progress, and effectiveness. During the project implementation, various monitoring tools such as participatory observation, reflection and learning

sessions and end-line surveys to measure the impact of the project will be employed. Agencies will work closely to ensure joint coordination and support at the implementation stage (both field and CO levels). The M&E focal points will be responsible for ensuring regular process monitoring and establishing Management Information System (MIS) to keep and maintain relevant data and information on project progress captured through the project life.

The project team will collect and report all project and programme data in gender and age-disaggregated format. Monitoring is designed to ensure that the project reaches appropriate beneficiaries, men and women, with interventions that are conflict-sensitive (based on regular conflict analysis). Results-based monitoring and evaluation will be conducted during project implementation, with an emphasis on tangible improvements in beneficiaries' lives. RUNOs will regularly undertake lessons learned sessions with partners, authorities, and other stakeholders (e.g., through organizing joint visits with government partners to project sites and meeting with beneficiaries) to enhance implementation and assess achievements. This will imply also applying a conflict sensitive approach in monitoring and evaluation phases of the project: from ensuring a participatory approach from targeted groups and communities in assessing the impact of the activities to understanding the success of the intervention based on the conflict and peace dynamics.

Additionally, the project will have M&E specialists (shared between FAO and UNFPA) who will ensure timely actions, follow up and coordination of the MEL activities throughout the project cycle.

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.

Sustainability will be achieved at several levels: 1) through capacity building of local authorities on gender-responsive programming and building conducive environment for the development of agriculture and value chains, 2) confidence-building and raising awareness followed with change attitudes and behaviors among women entrepreneurs with the support of men and boys on the community level 3) introduction of innovative climate-smart agriculture technologies such as artificial glacier and drip irrigation will ensure sustainable and efficient use of resources, thereby increasing community resilience to climate change effects such as droughts and scarcity of resources. Drip irrigation methodology will allow sustainable access to irrigation water. 4) The project will build on existing digital platforms such as "Buy from women.kg," AgriHubs under the ENACTUS network and other agriculture-related platforms which will ensure knowledge management for continuous cultural and economic exchange and cooperation across borders and between two countries.

The project will build on UN Agencies' respective technical expertise and lessons learned from previous peacebuilding projects. The scaling of interventions requires systematic planning of how they can be implemented and replicated in different contexts to achieve a broader impact. The project teams are dedicated to leveraging innovative partnerships and incorporating good practices from applying innovative technologies and practices to increase the impact, sustainability, and scalability of project interventions.

One of the most essential elements for achieving sustainability is ensuring beneficiary participation in the design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of interventions that will guarantee full ownership by the project beneficiaries. Local authority and Civil Society Organizations will be fully

engaged throughout the programme cycle so that services and interventions are tailored to the local needs and they will have the ownership to be able to continue services beyond the project implementation period. A strong whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach will ensure collaboration with a wide range of government partners and local communities including those most marginalized, which is a prerequisite for systematic and sustainable change.

Based on the above, RUNOs will develop a programme exit strategy within the project implementation framework. The exit plan will remain flexible with the expectation that some of the criteria and benchmarks may need to be modified during the project cycle. The exit plan will be implemented in a phased manner which will allow to apply lessons learnt from earlier steps of project implementation.

III.   Project budget

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

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	x		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	x		
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	x		The target areas will be identified and selected during the Inception phase in agreement with project partners and national authorities
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Pleas state when this was done or when it will be done.	x		During the CN and proposal development process; During project proposal development stage
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?	x		Previous PBF projects and lessons learned were analysed. Consultations with the Government and CSOs partners were carried out online and telephone. Assessment report on prioritization workshop for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan was used. The Inception phase envisages baseline and endline studies.

6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline?		x	Needs assessment will be done during the implementation period; Beneficia selection criteria from similar projects has been gathered.
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	x		To be defined in detail bi-laterally between the UNRCs and Government
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementation approach between project recipient organizations?	x		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?		YES	Baseline and inception workshop to introduce conflict sensitivity approach
Gender			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g., has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	x		
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	x		
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	x		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	x		

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?	x		
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.	x		
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.	x		
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?	x		
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?	x		
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	x		

procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.				
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.		x		
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.	X			staff salary from core funds might be used

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 based on 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. 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 the 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 the 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

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

Public Disclosure

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

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

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

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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.

<u>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:</u>

- ➢ Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- ➢ Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project

implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE**: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, 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.[43]

➤ 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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[43] 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: Mutual trust and interest-based cooperation strengthened between border communities of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan (Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to) (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)		**Outcome Indicator 1a** 90% of key interviewed stakeholders acknowledge the improved relationship (increased trust) between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan at the community level [sample of 60 key respondents on each side] (at least 50% of interviewed are women and youth) Baseline: TBD Target: at least 2 in each country - 4 in total	Baseline and endline research	
		Outcome Indicator 1b Percentage of key stakeholders believe that economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan improved by 10 % (at least 50% of interviewed are women and youth) Baseline: TBD Target: at least 10 % in each country	Data, source. business plans Number of people based on survey) Improved access of local population KG UZB to sparing natural resources (water and land)	
		Outcome Indicator 1c Number of people interacted positively with residents of border areas within the project Baseline: 0 Target: at least 700 people (350 from each country) (at least 50% of them are women and youth)	Project reports, data	

	Output 1 **Youth and women have the capacity and tools to serve as connectors between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.** Activity 1.1. Create/strengthen capacities of mixed Self-Help Groups (SHGs) based on existing (Joint Programme Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) SHGs in Kyrgyzstan and community/*mahalla* leaders in Uzbekistan in target areas through community consultations to identify narrow subject-matter topics (village meetings, needs assessment for interest-based groups); Activity 1.2. Series of mentoring and advocacy initiatives based on the "MenEngage" approach - training and community meetings - to build knowledge and awareness on gender equality, family planning, male involvement, family budgeting and access to services and information Activity 1.3. Carrying out exchange visits between SHGs in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to share the experience of SHGs for up-scaling and replication (operations, leader selection, relevance, benefits as factors	**Output Indicator 1.1** Number of cross-border sustainable business project plans between SHGs as result of joint meetings of SHGs between Kyrgzstan and Uzbekistan Baseline: 0 Target: at least 10 business plans between two countries	Analysis, Recommendations Reports	
		Output Indicator 1.2 Proportion of women reporting empowerment support from male community members as part of MenEngage programme Baseline: 0 Target: one third of women participating in the project	Agenda, LOP, Feedback and recommendations from participants	
		Output Indicator 1.3 Number of group development plans updated in Kyrgyzstan and launched in Uzbekistan as a result of exchange visits Baseline: 25 existing group plans in Kyrgyzstan and 0 - in Uzbekistan Target: 100 group development plans updated / launched in both countries	Presentations, Agenda, LOP, Feedback and recommendations from participants	

	of sustainability and motivation to create such groups in Uzbekistan). The joint meetings will additionally contribute to the building capacity of SHGs, these are considered as capacity-building activities to enhance women's voice, agency and leadership as peacebuilders.		
	Output 2: Economic cooperation between border communities strengthened through women- and youth-led innovative entrepreneurship development programmes	**Output Indicator 2.1** Number of men and women (disaggregated by gender and age) reporting improved income-generating skills as part of acceleration programme (including portfolio created in the marketplace) Baseline: 0 Target: at least 40 participants/country	LOP, minutes Video, agreements between participants List of platforms with a number of members
	Activity 2.1. The Accelerator Programme. Training women in launching businesses, digital skills, national taxation and social systems requirement and reporting, standards, regulations and requirements for export and imports within the EAEU/Uzbekistan, obtaining permits, licenses and quality certificates, value-chain, how to receive credits, etc. Activity mechanisms will differ in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan depending on available infrastructure for innovative business development.	**Output Indicator 2.2.** Number of cross-border entrepreneurship initiatives supported through small grant facility Baseline: 0 Target: at least 15 initiatives in two countries that have started or increased generating income thanks to equipment purchased and disseminated **Output Indicator 2.3** Number of business plans by acceleration program participants supported by investors and financial institutions Baseline: 0	

	Activity 2.2. Most innovative and promising entrepreneurship initiatives are awarded with equipment provided by respective RUNOs within the project grant programme on a competitive basis. Activity 2.3 Organization of a conference for presentations of business projects by participants to potential investors and support of enterprises through connecting with other existing financial institutions. Activity 2.4. Connecting women entrepreneurship groups of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan - the Accelerator Programme will create a platform for the exchange of experience, enhancing trade, and networking on mutually beneficial cooperation among young women and men entrepreneurs from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in cross border areas. The format of platforms: exchange visits, online communication online marketplace "Buy from women", etc. Activity 2.5. Establishing and strengthening collaborative platforms and networks uniting youth and women farmers,	Target: at least 3 in total **Output Indicator 2.4** Number of women and youth-led entrepreneurs engaged in collaborative exchanges (platforms) between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (including ENACTUS and acceleration exchange programmes; agro-fairs and handicraft festivals, exhibitions, etc.) Baseline: 0 Target: at least 500 (at least 50% women and 50% youth) in each country		
		Output Indicator 2.5 Number of IT solutions (hackathon) supported/introduced to increase the efficiency of agro-production and processing in farming businesses Baseline: TBD Target: at least 3 in each country	LOP. Event report, an agreement between participants	

	local authorities, businesses, financial, education and research institutions, and civil society organizations (ENACTUS) for sustainable, inclusive and equitable climate-smart agriculture transformation in two countries. These knowledge management platforms take the form of: EXPO agri-festivals, exchange visits, eco-handicraft festivals Activity 2.6 Organize agro-Hackathon to collect best IT solutions to increase the efficiency of agro-production and processing.		
	Output 3 **Farmers are equipped with innovative climate-smart agricultural technologies.** Activity 3.1. Carry out the needs and opportunities assessment on the efficient use of natural resources and review experience of existing farming practices of agro-producers.	**Output Indicator 3.1** Crop yields increased by 30 % as result of capacity building, (mini-equipment, storage facilities, fertilizers, drought-resistant and frost-resistant seedlings and seeds, and resource-efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation) based on the assessment Baseline: average crop yield by National Statistical Committee of both countries Target: no less than 30 % increase from average level	Report,
	Activity 3.2. Supporting community-based climate-smart solutions in agriculture - including drip irrigation systems and disseminating agricultural inputs (i.e., mini-equipment, storage facilities,	**Output Indicator 3.2** Climate-smart initiatives for the preservation/saving of natural resources (water and land) are implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner in border areas Baseline: non-existent	Project reports, photos/videos

	drought-resistant and frost-resistant seedlings, and seeds), installation of artificial glaciers (for Kyrgyzstan only), for women and youth who are part of interest-based groups.	Target: at least 4 artificial glaciers in Kyrgyzstan and 300 water boxes in Uzbekistan)		
	Output 4 **The capacity of local authorities on cross-border cooperation enhanced through capacity-building, expansion of communication and establishment of new areas of cooperation** Activity 4.1. Carrying out training for local authorities on communication, mediation and negotiation skills, and on gender-responsive tools for management of cross-border related processes and using these tools in the implementation of national and local action plans. Activity 4.2. Supporting local authorities in introducing and	**Output Indicator 4.1** Number of local authorities and women within them (women-deputies and in local administrations) on both sides reporting improved communication, mediation and negotiation skills, and use of gender-responsive tools for management of cross-border related processes Baseline: 0 Target: at least 2 LSG representatives (50 percent participation)	LOP, meeting minutes, agreements between participants Analysis, minutes	
		Output Indicator 4.2 The number of gender-responsive approaches applied in local planning for CSA and peacebuilding as a result of exchanges and interactions between authorities, water and pasture users' association of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Baseline: 0 Target: at least 12 per country		

	applying gender-responsive approaches in local planning for climate-smart agriculture and peacebuilding. Carrying out meetings between authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Activity 4.3. Creating/using social media platforms (Telegram) for exchange of information and communication between local authorities, water and pasture users' associations of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Activity 4.4. Awareness-raising on the pasture reforms and exchange of experience on the use of pastures in the context of border territories (legal knowledge etc.).	**Output Indicator 4.3** Availability of online tools (platforms) used for consultations between coalitions of local authorities, water and pasture users' associations both within and between Kyrgzstan and Uzbekistan. Baseline: 0 Target: at least 1 platform created and functioning in social media platforms (Telegram) for the exchange of information and communication. **Output Indicator 4.4.** Number of relevant key actors disaggregated by sex and age) attending awareness raising sessions on pasture reforms and sharing experiences Baseline: TBD Target: at least 20 stakeholders per country (at least 20% women from local authority and association members).	LOP, meeting minutes, agreements between participants