

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country: Sao Tome and Principe	
Project Title: <i>Strengthening the Justice and Security sectors in Sao Tome and Principe</i>	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): UNDP, UNODC	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Prime Minister Office; Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Humans Rights; Ministry of Defense and Internal Administration; Supreme Court (Hight Council of Judicial Magistrates); Prosecutor's General Office (Hight Council of the Prosecutor's Office); Bar Association; National Police; Judiciary Police; Correctional System; (Prison); SOS Women; Women Lawyers Association; Association of young entrepreneurs; Federation of People with disability; Media; National Assembly; Political Parties; CCIAS (Chamber of Commerce); Institute of Youth; National Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 24 months	
Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Sao Tome and Principe islands (national)	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative ⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total Joint Project budget UNDP: \$2,500,000 UNODC: \$2,000,000 Total: \$4,500,000	

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

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

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

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

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):

UNDP : \$1,257,660

UNODC: \$1,266,256

Total: \$ 2,523,916

**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 (60%):

UNDP: \$ 754,596

UNODC: \$ 759,754

Total: \$ 1,514,350

PBF 2nd tranche* (40%):

UNDP: \$ 503,064

UNODC: \$ 506,502

Total: \$ 1,009,566

PBF 3rd tranche* (0%)

Not applicable

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

This joint project aims to support the strengthening of the justice and security sectors in Sao Tome and Principe through nationally owned and led reform efforts. It aligns with the recommendations from the joint UN-ECCAS strategic assessment conducted in April 2023, which findings and recommendations were endorsed by the Government in November 2023. Relatedly, the current project also integrates programmatic recommendations crafted during a scoping mission conducted by UNDP and UNODC, with the participation of OROLSI, in November 2023, as a follow-up to the UN-ECCAS strategic assessment.

This initiative builds upon the existing political consensus for reform in Sao Tome and Principe and aims to strengthen the engagement of civil society in the reform process. By supporting these reforms, the project will help the country prevent conflicts more effectively and enhance its capacity to deliver fair and equitable justice and security to its citizens. As a result, it is expected that Saotomeans will live in a more safe and secure environment, especially women and youth. Furthermore, an increasing number of Saotomeans will have access to justice services, and human rights violations will be addressed in an inclusive and transparent manner, aligned with international standards.

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):

A comprehensive consultation process was conducted involving Civil Society and various governmental institutions engaged in the justice, security, youth, and gender domains in Sao Tome and Principe. These consultations were held during the high-level joint mission by the UN and ECCAS in April 2023 and the follow-on technical mission undertaken by UNDP and UNODC, with the participation of OROLSI. This latter mission leveraged the recommendations from the

strategic assessment to propose specific programmatic interventions aimed at assisting Sao Tome and Principe in implementing justice and security sectors reforms (JSSR).

In January 2024, the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened a high-level meeting to deliberate on the needs and reform of the justice and security sectors in Sao Tome and Principe. At that occasion, representatives from civil society, notably from the women and gender sectors, presented their views to the Commission, highlighting priorities for the country from their perspectives.

Furthermore, two consultative workshops were conducted in March 2024, involving governmental authorities, political parties, and civil society organizations. These workshops aimed to validate the current proposal and assess the situation of human rights in Sao Tome and Principe, emphasizing the necessity of establishing an Independent National Human Rights Commission in conformity with international standards.

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 2

30% and 747.052 USD of total project budget are allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment:

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

The project's interventions aim to promote gender equality and empower women through various key strategies:

Through the stakeholder forums, including women's organizations and civil society in stakeholder consultations, ensures that women's perspectives, needs, and challenges are recognized and addressed in justice and security sector reforms. Women's participation in these forums empowers them to advocate for changes that directly impact their safety, rights, and access to justice.

In the establishment and reinforcement of local and mobile justice services, it will be provided accessible avenues for women to seek redress for grievances, especially concerning gender-based violence (GBV) and other gender-specific issues. By ensuring justice services are available in both fixed and mobile structures, the project reaches women in rural and marginalized communities who may face barriers accessing traditional justice systems. The operationalization of the courthouse in Principe Island, targeting SGBV-related justice processes, demonstrates a commitment to addressing gender-based injustices.

Expanding the electronic case management system (eCMS) nationwide will facilitate women's access to justice services, particularly for those in remote areas with limited physical access to courts. Digital platforms provide women with a safer and more confidential means of accessing legal services, crucial in cases of GBV where privacy and security are paramount. By streamlining legal processes and reducing bureaucratic barriers, eCMS empowers women to navigate the justice system efficiently, ensuring their rights are protected and grievances are addressed promptly.

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**

Overall, these interventions not only address the specific needs and challenges faced by women but also empower them to actively participate in shaping and benefiting from reforms within the justice and security sectors, ultimately contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment in the long term.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Is the project piloting new approaches: No

Does the project design incorporate climate, peace and security related considerations: No

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

1.1 and 1.2

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

UNSDCF Outcome 1 and Outcome 4.

Outcome 1: By 2027, people in STP, in particular the people left behind and most vulnerable, benefit from quality and inclusive social systems and have access to integrated social protection

Outcome 4: By 2027, people benefit from transparent, responsive and gender-sensitive institutions

Outputs:

Output 1.4 Multi-sectoral case management is strengthened for the prevention and coordinated response to violence, especially against women and children

Output 4.1 Justice institutions at the national and sub national levels have improved capacity to provide access to equitable, gender/child sensitive and impartial justice to all

Output 4.2 The implementation of the international standards and best practices for transparency, control mechanisms and accountability are strengthened

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

SDG 5

SDG 10

SDG 16; Target 16.3 (peace, justice and strong institutions)

16.1 Reduce violence everywhere

16.3 Equal access to justice

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

16.a Strengthen national institutions to prevent violence and combat crime and terrorism

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

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁸ **PBF Focus Areas** are:

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





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

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

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

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

<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p>H.E. Patrícia Trovoada</p> <p><i>Signature</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Prime Minister and Chief of Government</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> 	
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p>Eric Overvest</p> <p><i>Signature</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>UN Resident Coordinator</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> 	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p>Elizabeth Spehar</p> <p><i>Signature</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p>
<p>UNDP Resident Representative</p> <p>Lovita Ramguttee</p> <p><i>Signature</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Resident Representative</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> 	<p>UNODC Regional Representative</p> <p>Amado Philip de Andrés</p> <p><i>Signature</i> [Redacted]</p> <p><i>Head of Programme</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal: 15/05/2024</i></p> 

*Au service
des peuples
et des nations*

I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support

- a) A brief summary of gender-responsive **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.

Political and socio-economic vulnerabilities that threaten stability

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (STP) is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) situated off the western coast of Central Africa. With a limited land area of about 1,000 square km and a coastline of just 209 km, STP has the smallest economy of Africa's sovereign states. The country is often cited as a model of stability in Africa due to its history of peaceful transitions of power. The country experienced a peaceful political transition following a landslide victory by the main opposition party, at the time, Acção Democrática Independente (Independent Democratic Action -ADI), during legislative, regional and local elections on 25 September 2022 and the subsequent appointment of Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada, leader of the ADI further consolidating the country's reputation as a model of democracy in Central Africa. However, the country faces significant socioeconomic and political challenges that threaten its stability and impede its efforts to progress towards sustainable development.

More than a third of STP's 220,000 inhabitants live in extreme poverty. Its small GDP (the smallest in Africa), weak management of public finances and vulnerability to corruption make the country relatively unattractive for foreign investors and increasingly reliant on international aid. The country is also experiencing severe fiscal and balance-of-payments challenges, and the Government has been trying to negotiate a new programme with the IMF since the previous programme collapsed in December 2022.

STP suffers from fragile governance and a political model characterized by strong polarization between the two main political blocs, led respectively by Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe – Partido Social Democrata (MLSTP-PSD) and ADI, and lack national political consensus on fundamental issues. It fosters continuous latent conflict and mistrust between political actors who exert high levels of influence on State institutions. It also creates lack of continuity on national policies: political transitions often result in the discontinuation of policies and projects initiated by the outgoing administration.

Civil society in STP is also politicized, which hinders its ability to effectively advocate for social causes. While civil society organizations, social media and the press enjoy a relatively high level of freedom, they have increasingly raised concerns about freedom of speech, even in the absence of overt government constraints. Former political appointees become NGO leaders and vice versa, blurring the perception of roles between political leaders and civil society leaders.

The country also faces growing divisions within the armed forces. On 25 November 2022, the Government reported an attempted coup d'Etat perpetrated by a small group of military and civilians. Allegations of human rights violations during and after the incident, including extrajudicial killings and torture have been reported by international and local media. This incident further undermined the confidence of Saotomean citizens in the national justice and security institutions. In an effort to address

the allegations of human rights abuses, a military tribunal has been established, but progress towards reaching conclusive verdicts on these matters has been slow.

Regional context:

The country's strategic positioning in the Gulf of Guinea, a critical conduit in international maritime commerce, also places it in a region with a spectrum of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing. Moreover, the lack of robust mechanisms to monitor international financial transfers in and out of STP could potentially facilitate illegal money flows. This gap in financial oversight may tie the country to international organized crime, enabling criminals to exploit its banking system for money laundering and other illicit financial activities. Modest surveillance initiatives led by the Government of STP (GoSTP) suggest the potential exploitation of the country as both an operational hub and a transit point, potentially escalating illegal operations throughout other African nations also with Latin America and Europe.

Justice system is central to the lack of trust between State and citizens

Politicization and polarization extend to the justice sector. There is a general perception among politicians, businesspeople, ordinary citizens, and members of civil society at large that the justice system is not independent and largely influenced by political actors. Political influence and conflicts of interest have a tangible impact on the impartiality of judges, also seen in appointments largely considered as politically influenced occasionally leading to verdicts more swayed by political and/or personal relationships than by the adequate and impartial application of the law.

Judicial investigations suffer from interference, especially when they target influential individuals, reflecting the judiciary's susceptibility to external influence.

Perception of corruption

The negative public views regarding the justice sector's independence directly contribute to the perception of corruption among some segments of the population and the judicial system. Although the law provides criminal penalties for corruption offences, those provisions are not effectively implemented, leading to a prevalent perception of impunity. The Attorney General is investigating several criminal cases involving public corruption. Many citizens reportedly view the police as ineffective and corrupt and fear retaliation if they report corrupt officers. The limited financial and human resources as well as the reduced capacities of the judiciary to process evidence and to conduct investigations, including the inability of the judiciary police to perform financial investigation, dangerously contribute to impunity in the face of corruption. In addition, the lack of financial independence of justice institutions and the lack of independent recruitment procedures in the judiciary also works as an enabler to the perception of corruption.

Moreover, constraints on the financial independence of justice institutions and concerns regarding the independence of recruitment procedures within the judiciary further reinforce the need to invest in anti-corruption mechanisms across the different institutions in the country, including the Supreme Audit Institution.

While the country has ratified international instruments against corruption and organized crimes (such as the UN Convention Against Corruption and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime), there is considerable work to be done to implement these commitments, including through active participation in the peer-review processes supported by the UN Secretariat that assists States

parties to effectively implement the conventions and strengthen national legal frameworks. Given the possible yet still uncertain scenario of commercial oil exploitation in STP, the management of resources with transparency and integrity will require stronger institutions.

Lack of access to justice for most citizens and limitations of the justice chain

In addition to its bias and vulnerability to corruption, the justice system is structurally inefficient due to an outdated legal framework and insufficient number and training of personnel, lack of means by judiciary police to address the cases of the criminal justice system. This has severe repercussions in the handling of gender-based violence cases, where cases frequently remained unaddressed or extensively delayed. The justice system and police (proximity) are almost non-existent beyond the capital (Água Grande District). The significant distance from the capital, along with associated transportation costs, legal fees and the economic cost of missing a day's work to travel to the city center, deter many individuals, in particular the most vulnerable population, from bringing disputes and grievances to the justice system for peaceful and fair resolution. This is particularly damaging in the case of rape or sexual abuse of girls, which some disadvantaged families prefer to settle through bilateral arrangements, avoiding reporting in exchange for material compensation.

In the Autonomous Region of Príncipe (ARP), since the country's independence, administering justice has required the travel of magistrates, prosecutors, judicial staff, and prison service agents, as well as the transfer of defendants and prisoners for trial and sentencing, due to a lack of infrastructure to accommodate magistrates and lack of a prison for detainees. However, improvements have been observed between 2021 and 2023, with a judge and a resident prosecutor being established in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe.

At the very end of the justice chain, the country is operating a largely dilapidated, overcrowded, and underfunded prison system with personnel mainly trained as police officers with only limited ad-hoc training for prisons thereby lowering the chances of successful rehabilitation and social reintegration of those who have been brought to justice - who are often part of vulnerable groups themselves.

Vulnerabilities of young women and children

The lack of independence and capacities of the justice system negatively affects young women and children in specific ways. The lack of an integrated justice, law and order, and social services system means victims of violence, including domestic violence, have little protection or access to treatment nor to justice. Considering the absolute number of all reported criminal incidents, domestic violence offences represent more than 14% of crime in São Tome and Príncipe.

Although free legal aid (public defense) is foreseen by the constitution, its implementation is limited due to the lack of funds and insufficient legal framework in line with international standards and norms.

The first country wide **Voluntary National Review** (VNR, June 2022) led and produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Blue Economy which contains a baseline of progress indicators in measuring the achievement of SDGs, highlights the “persisting problem of sexual abuse of minors, gender inequality, high rates of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and girls’ marriage before the age of 15” including the problem of early pregnancy (CCA, October 2022, p. 12).

It further indicates that the **National Strategy to Combat Gender Violence, 2019-2023**, “provides for, amongst other things, the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV), an increase in women's participation, and their education and empowerment. Nevertheless, despite apparent progress, gender inequality is persistent and prominent throughout the country, deeply rooted in slowly changing social and cultural norms and a system of patriarchy and discrimination that shape attitudes that are often passed on through the generations. 19.1% of women and 13.8% of men (in the 15 to 49 age group) think it is justified for men to beat women under certain circumstances, and social norms often require women to have their spouse's permission to take measures in relation to their sexual and reproductive health. Laws against domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape exist, but for cultural reasons, women tend not to vocalize or report the injustices committed against them, or the barriers they confront, with 96% of women reporting that they have never experienced gender-based discrimination, adding to the difficulty women have in asserting control over their own advancement” (CCA, *October 2022, p.17*).

Meeting International Human rights standards

STP has a relatively positive record on human rights compared to other countries in the region. The country ratified several international human rights instruments in 2017 to uphold international human rights standards. These include political rights and freedom of expression, but also civil liberties underpinned by a legal framework that recognizes freedom of assembly, association, and the press. However, the GoSTP continue to face some challenges relating to civil and political rights, including sexual and gender-based violence, and economic social and cultural rights which hinder the right holders from enjoying their rights.

Lack of trust in the justice system has been accentuated by the absence of effective national human rights mechanisms and civil society, too polarized along political lines of allegiance and hence not effective in promoting human rights.

In January 2021, during the 3rd cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of STP, 161 recommendations were made, of which 148 were accepted and 13 were noted. Four of the recommendations accepted by the GoSTP was the establishment of a national human rights institution which respects international standards. As part of the recommendations on cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms, STP requested the necessary international support to increase the capacity for the protection and promotion of human rights and to establish a national human rights institution.

The Regional Monthly Review (RMR) recommended that support be provided to STP in formulating and making pledges at Human Rights 75 to address weakness in the justice system and enhance government transparency, including steps that would set the conditions for establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in compliance with international standards. During the high-level HR75 event in December 2023, the GoSTP made five pledges, one of which was the establishment of a national human rights institution.

Security sector: increased politicization and risk of criminalization of the State

The security sector in STP faces structural and capacity limitations that compromise its efficiency and make it prone to corruption. Interference by political actors affects recruitment processes, promotion, and termination within the ranks. A notable pattern emerges among younger officers who, eager for quicker advancement in their careers, are particularly susceptible to the influence of political entities.

Factors such as an untrained and demotivated military force, inadequate salaries, and a stagnant budget of one dollar a day per soldier for over a decade, are primary contributors to this susceptibility to manipulation. These issues jeopardize the professionalism of the security forces and threaten their neutrality and operational effectiveness.

The population often lacks a clear understanding of the precise role of the police, leading to a trust deficit. Incidents of police and military involvement in violent acts, extortion of civilians, and other abuses of power further erode public confidence. These factors collectively undermine the sense of security among the populace. Compounding these issues is the lack of resources experienced by the GoSTP. This scarcity of resources opens different doors to risk factors. A weak security apparatus not only affects the internal population but also increases the country's vulnerability to the influence of external criminal groups, particularly in maritime domains.

JSSR as an entry point for maintaining political dialogue and building consensus

In September 2019, national consultations were held to identify collective priorities for reform, culminating in a high-level meeting attended by key representatives of the Government, political parties, civil society, and other key national stakeholders. The meeting expressed a collective commitment to reform and strengthen the justice sector, focusing on five priorities: i) Strengthening the independence of the courts and the Public Prosecutor's Office; ii) Improved accountability and transparency mechanisms in the administration of justice; iii) Expansion of citizens' access to justice services, especially for women and young people; iv) Capacity to respond in a timely, accurate and quality manner to the demands of those seeking justice modernized; v) Capacities of the police and judiciary in combating crime, as well as domestic and gender-based violence, sexual violence and corruption strengthened, through human capacity development and increased organizational cooperation between justice and law enforcement agencies streamlined.

Some progress has been achieved in supporting the strengthening of the justice sector, but it has been slow, and legal reforms have not yet been passed. The current government, through the Minister of Justice, has presented nine bills to the National Assembly (parliament): Organization, Functioning and Procedure of the Constitutional Court; Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Judicial System (Revision - Amendments); Law on the Supreme Judicial Council (New Law); Statute of Judicial Magistrates (Revision - Amendments) Statute of Public Prosecutors (Revision - Amendments); Statute of Judicial Officials (New Law); Judicial Inspection Law (New Law); Law on Judicial Secretariats (Revision - Amendments) and Law on the Institute for Justice Management, Administration and Infrastructure. The above-mentioned draft laws are currently being analyzed and discussed in the first committee - the Committee on Political, Legal, Constitutional Affairs, Public Administration and Ethics of the National Assembly (Parliament).

The current Government has reiterated these priorities and demonstrated its commitment to moving forward on reforming and strengthening the justice sector. Even if a change in political leadership occurs with the elections scheduled for September 2026, the groundwork laid by these reforms can ensure that the positive changes are not easily reversible. Increased participation from civil society will also help maintain the momentum of reformative efforts, as it serves to balance and mitigate the impact of political alternation. While political transitions often result in the discontinuation of policies and projects initiated by the outgoing administration, the current JSSR initiative aims to disrupt this cycle. By fostering bi-partisan support and the inclusive involvement of civil society in the reforms process, the sustainability of the reforms beyond the tenure of any single government will be more likely. The envisaged establishment of enduring institutions, such as the national human rights commission, will

also help ensure that advances made in justice and security remain intact, irrespective of who holds power.

Government request for support for JSSR

Following a request from Santomean leaders, the UN/Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) conducted a strategic assessment mission in April 2023 to evaluate the challenges within the justice and security sectors. The mission highlighted the critical need for a comprehensive reform strategy to address political polarization and ensure effective governance checks and balances. On August 7, 2023, Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada sought the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) support and expressed interest in securing funding from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to aid in implementing these reforms. Subsequently, on January 15, 2024, the PBC convened an ambassador-level meeting to discuss the nation's advancements towards peace and stability.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**⁹, 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. Elaborate on the catalytic nature of the project and how national ownership, including but not limited to, national and subnational entities are built in.

The support aligns with the country's strategic vision, as outlined in "São Tomé and Príncipe 2030: The Country We Want," and the "Príncipe 2030" Sustainable Development Plan. These agendas, in conjunction with the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, and the United Nations Development Sustainable Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, particularly under its fourth strategic priority, are all dedicated to fostering transparent and accountable institutions. It also aligns with UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 to bring more safety to Africa's people, government and institutions from drugs, crime, and corruption, and with UNODC's Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROSEN) strategic efforts for peacebuilding, security sector reform, national institution building, and capacity-building in the region.

The GoSTP has embraced the directives from the UN-ECCAS strategic assessment report of November 2023, which delivers targeted recommendations for the overhaul of the justice and security sectors. These recommendations align closely with four essential pillars for justice sector reform: (I) optimizing the performance of the Ministry of Justice, (II) ensuring the judiciary's independence, (III) guaranteeing equitable access to justice, and (IV) upholding a justice administration founded on human dignity respect. Concurrently, a pivotal focus for security sector reform is the professionalization of the Armed Forces and Security Services, a critical element underscored by strategic thematic areas encompassing various activities. Of note, the report also highlighted the need for the reforms to be implemented in an inclusive manner, through wide consultations with civil society and political parties.

UNODC's regional programme for West Africa implemented through its Dakar-based Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROSEN) seeks to strengthen the Criminal Justice Systems and combat transnational organized crime and related offences and is better placed to tackle the causes of insecurity and instability in the region. The proposed project would also be fully aligned with UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, in particular with regards to investment area 4 (Safeguarding people and

⁹ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

institutions from corruption and economic crime) and 5 (Making criminal justice systems more effective and accountable) and its four objectives: 5.1 (Africa’s law enforcement and cross-border cooperation is improved), 5.2 (Enhanced access to justice to all those in need without discrimination), 5.3 (Justice systems in Africa are accountable, effective and independent) and 5.4 (Rehabilitative approaches to prison management are adopted). From a broader UN perspective, the project would also constitute a tangible follow-up to the new United Nations System Common Position on Incarceration – the development of which was co-led by UNODC – and its focus on addressing global prison challenges as an urgent justice and rule of law priority.

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

Name of Project (duration)	Donor and budget (USD)	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to the current proposal
Support the development and capacity of the justice system in STP; Jan 2021-Sept 2024	UNDP/Core Resources \$3.6 mil	Digital transformation, coordination and training; technical assistance and operationalization of CMS in Agua Grande	Components of current proposal (CMS and national data center) build and expand on this project. Considering the budget available under the UNDP- implemented justice modernization / reform project, only the installation of the CMS in the Água Grande district was considered (Cycle I). This PBF project will enable the implementation of CMS at national level (São Tomé and the Autonomous Region of Príncipe) (Cycle II).
Youth and Women and entrepreneurs for a resilient and peaceful society 2024-2025	UNDP; \$670,000	Promote a conducive environment for youth and women including people with disability, opening innovative windows of socio-economic opportunities that generate employment and raise living standards, thereby promoting a peaceful and resilient society that contributes to the blue and green economic transformation agenda.	The project differs from this PBF project as it focuses on promoting socio-economic opportunities and entrepreneurial environment for youth and women, hence inclusive growth, and as a result, improved

			social cohesion. It complements the PBF project through its focus on empowerment and inclusivity of youth and women for whom the PBF project will aim to support increased access to justice.
ProPALOP-TL III; 2023-2026	UNDP; \$850,000	Promote the strengthening of accountable and inclusive institutions in the Portuguese-speaking African Countries - East Timor (SDG 16), to strengthen budget transparency and domestic resource mobilization capacities, independent and effective external control of public accounts and the promotion of more inclusive and equitable economies in these countries.	The project differs from this PBF proposal as it mainly focuses on boosting public finance management and oversight. It aims to strengthen structural economic reform, macroeconomic management, financial sector stability, public sector governance and transparency, and greater private sector participation in the economy. It is in synergy with the PBF project in that a stronger justice sector will further enable transparent and accountable management of public finances.
+ Igual: Combating gender-based and domestic violence in São Tomé and Príncipe (FED/2019/040-773)	Instituto Camões/ 2.450.000 EUR	Contribute to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls in São Tomé and Príncipe, contributing to the fulfilment of SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and Fight against sexual and gender-based violence implemented through Portuguese cultural institute (Camoos)	This project will complement the PBF project in: - strengthening the existing legal framework and implementation of the texts adopted on gender equality and the prevention and repression of gender-based violence - strengthening essential services to care for victims of gender-based violence, particularly

			women and girls, in the city of São Tomé and in the districts
2024-2025 Governance + Law + Participation	EU/ Instituto Camões Portugal: 362.000	Improve accountability of governance and public administration and monitoring role of civil society (ACEP-FONG STP)	This project is complementary to the PBF given its focus on governance and the role of civil society
2024-2025 Governance and Public Observatory	EU/Portugal; 150.000	CSO participation in democratic process and civic awareness (ACEP-Ministry of Justice)	The project differs from this PBF proposal as it is mainly for an advocacy program to promote actions related to governance, accountability and public policy.
PAJ-STP / São Tomé and Príncipe Justice Support Project	EU1.200.000 + Camões, IP - Portugal 800.000 Total = 2.000.000 Euros	Criminal Justice and Public Administration	This project is complementary to PBF given its focus on criminal justice courts. Creation, Implementation and Installation of a School of Public Administration and Justice; Training, including on-the-job training, for judges, prosecutors and justice officials, among other professionals; Training doctors, nurses and other professionals in the field of Forensic Medicine; Creation and revision of the following laws: Forensic Medicine; Victim's Statute; Interception of communications (wiretapping); Digital Evidence Law; Code of Administrative Procedure;

			Code of Administrative and Tax Procedure. Acquisition / Construction or Upgrading of an infrastructure for the installation of the future Institute of Forensic Medicine. Acquisition of equipment for the future Institute of Forensic Medicine.
DataBoost: Statistics for growth, Resilience & Ressource Mobilization	AFDB (TSF) ~ USD 1.3 M	Public finance management and accountability; Provide policymakers, developments partners and public at large, with the necessary data for informed decision-making, with a focus on priority areas as tourism, youth labor and skills, and remittances that hold critical importance for a small and isolated SIDS country like STP	The project differs from the PBF proposal as it mainly focuses on strengthening public finance and accountability, improving resilience and capacity for resource mobilization for economic growth. It is in synergy with the PBF project in that a stronger justice sector will further enable transparent and accountable management of public finances.
Zuntamon 2023-2024	UNDP/AFDB USD \$440,000	Improve institutional and operational capacity and structures to be more effective in meeting the needs of STP's private sector and attract foreign investments, particularly through the modernization of the legal framework and through establishing faster and fairer resolution of commercial disputes.	The project differs from the PBF proposal as it mainly focuses on improving institutional and operational capacity and structure to be more effective in meeting the need of STP's private sector
Catalyzing Impact through Structural Transformation (2023-2024)	UNDP's core resources 350.000 USD	"Sink or Swim: accelerate private sector development in Sao Tome e Principe in the blue and green economy"; strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem promoting an inclusive economic diversification in the green and blue sectors	The project differs from the PBF proposal as it focuses on promoting an inclusive economic diversification in the green and blue sectors through strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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

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

The project will focus on i) supporting the strengthening of the justice and security sectors in STP through nationally owned and led reform efforts, in line with the recommendations of the joint ECCAS-UNOCA assessment, endorsed by the GoSTP and building on existing political consensus for justice reform and strengthening the engagement of civil society in the reforms process; ii) strengthening the justice and security sectors in priority areas identified by the GoSTP in an effort to increase access to justice for Saotomean citizens, reduce corruption and perception of corruption and improve public trust in State institutions and iii) promoting human rights.

The project is designed with a core set of urgent activities with immediately available funding from the PBF (\$2.5 million) which will enable the theory of change to be achieved and enable the transformational change to be expanded and consolidated over two years.

Advancing JSSR building on political consensus and strengthening the engagement of civil society in the reforms process

A participatory and inclusive approach is critical to strengthen and transform policy making and decision making in justice and security sectors. In doing so, interactive consultation and fora will be arranged in order for the views and perspectives of individuals and groups from all parts of society, including women and youth, other civil society organizations, private sectors, different political parties, various parts of the government, and development partners to be collected and consulted to update and inform the reform and national strategies for security sector in an inclusive manner.

Building political consensus around JSSR would mean to adopt a shared vision with all relevant stakeholders, including political actors and civil society representatives, through the development of a common understanding of the need for JSSR and its goals. It will help emphasize the positive outcomes of JSSR such as improved rule of law, increased citizens trust in institutions and enhanced security for all. Furthermore, it seeks to identify areas of agreement and work towards consensus on key reform measures, while acknowledging and addressing differing viewpoints.

Also, capacity building and resources should be provided to CSOs to enhance their understanding of JSSR issues and support their advocacy skills, and ability to contribute meaningfully to reform efforts.

Strengthening access to justice through the judiciary’s case management system

The project will help make judicial services more modern, transparent and accessible to Saotomean citizens. It will support the digital transformation of the justice system, including the implementation of an Integrated Case Management System,

Expanding the development and implementation of the electronic case management system (eCMS) nationwide (Cycle II) in STP is crucial. It will ensure equitable access to justice for all citizens, transcending geographical barriers and extending legal recourse beyond the capital to remote regions such as Caué, Lembá, and Príncipe. This will foster a more inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to seek redress and have their cases adjudicated fairly, independent of their localization on the country.

The eCMS phase 2 will be tailored specifically to STP in collaboration with judicial authorities, administrative staff, and other stakeholders previously engaged with eCMS phase 1 supported by UNDP, like the Bar Association, the National Police, the Ministry of Health, Correccional Services, among others. By leveraging their expertise and insights, the system will aim to address the unique needs and challenges of the nation's justice sector. This collaborative approach will ensure that the eCMS aligns seamlessly with existing workflows and regulations, maximizing its effectiveness in streamlining case management processes.

The project will also provide comprehensive training and capacity-building programs, ensuring that all of the national human resources involved in this process are equipped with the necessary skills to effectively utilize the eCMS. This hands-on approach will foster ownership and sustainability, empowering local stakeholders to take full advantage of the system's capabilities and to have the means to give continuity to the project into the life cycle of the system.

The eCMS will serve also as a platform for ongoing collaboration and communication among the users, facilitating coordination and information sharing across different regions and sectors of the justice system in STP. This interconnectedness will enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability, driving overall improvement in service delivery.

In addition to this, eCMS will enhance security and integrity by offering secure digital storage and access controls for case-related information, not only in the cases that are in the judicial district of Água Grande but across all the judicial districts of the country. By safeguarding sensitive data against loss, tampering, and unauthorized access, the system will protect the rights and privacy of individuals involved in legal proceedings throughout the country.

Moreover, the project will leverage eCMS data specific to STP to identify trends in criminality, assess the productive ratios of human resources, and establish baselines for new justice and security public policies. Such insights will help optimize the functioning of the sector and improve overall service delivery tailored to the nation's needs.

Addressing SGBV

Improving women and girls' access to quality social and justice services is crucial for violence prevention, enabling early detection, referral, and essential social protection interventions. The project will aim to offer women means to seek justice in instances of domestic violence, abuse, discrimination, or property disputes, in line with CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The eCMS will contribute to more effective delivery of justice for SGBV related cases, including for the Autonomous Region of Príncipe.

The project will help establish partnerships with civil society organizations to bolster violence prevention interventions and enhance case management for victims of violence. It will also promote legal aid support in underserved areas to assist women and youth, enhancing their understanding and access to justice. Innovative kiosks will be instrumental, also facilitating internet access and improving

digital skills. The project will develop and implement a training program for paralegals and community leaders, to facilitate the administration of justice at community level effectively. It will also conduct legal education campaigns aimed at enlightening women and adolescents about their legal rights and available protective mechanisms. It will design and implement programs that ensure the most vulnerable families have equitable access to essential e-Government services, enhancing overall inclusivity and effectiveness.

The project will also support the implementation of the **2019-2023 National Strategy to Combat Gender violence** which outlines, among others, key challenges related to SGBV in STP. This will mean, for instance, updating the national strategy; review of the policy and legal frameworks to ensure that they are comprehensive and in place to prevent, address and punish SGBV. This will include, if not already effective, legislation criminalizing all forms of violence, protection orders and provision of legal aid services; trainings for law enforcement, healthcare workers, and judicial personnel on how to respond sensitively and effectively to cases of SGBV; work with local communities to challenge harmful social norms and attitudes that perpetuate SGBV; put in place robust M&E mechanisms to monitor the prevalence of SGBV, track the effectiveness of interventions, and evaluate progress towards reducing violence by using data to inform decision-making and improve programming over time.

While recognizing that tackling SGBV requires long term commitment, resources, and sustained efforts from all stakeholders involved, the project will help progress towards reduction of SGBV by fostering collaboration between government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, and international partners to ensure a coordinated and holistic response to SGBV through awareness raising, information sharing, resources and best practices.

Supporting access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for citizens

Justice reform also encompasses the creation of alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution. This is particularly significant for addressing issues such as youth violence and disputes in a more constructive and peaceful manner. By offering mediation and arbitration services, the reform provides young people with viable alternatives to resorting to violence or vigilante justice. These mechanisms promote dialogue, reconciliation, and compromise, thereby contributing to a safer and more harmonious society for the youth to thrive in.

These alternative mechanisms, which emphasize dialogue, reconciliation, and compromise, will play a pivotal role in restoring relationships within communities and will help increase access to justice for young people, who tend to perceive the formal justice system as daunting or inaccessible. Alternative mechanisms will focus on rehabilitation and reconciliation, breaking free from cycles of violence and contributing to a more peaceful society.

Traditional conflict resolution is part of STP's cultural heritage. Recognizing these practices as complementary to the formal justice system and regulating them adequately will enhance the actual and perceived effectiveness and legitimacy of the justice sector . It will in particular bring conflict resolution structures closer to the community, especially rural communities.

By doing this, the project will aim to have a positive impact on youth. Young people, who often face obstacles in accessing justice due to factors such as economic constraints or lack of legal awareness, will have improved opportunities to seek legal redress and protection. By removing barriers to accessing justice, justice reform ensures that the youth can more effectively engage with the legal system to address grievances and uphold their rights. Furthermore, as young people become more

knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities within the legal framework, they are empowered to navigate legal processes more effectively. This heightened legal literacy not only enhances individual agency but also fosters a culture of legal compliance and accountability among the youth.

Strengthening the legal framework on piracy, corruption, maritime crimes and prison management

UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which is the only universal, legally binding anti-corruption instrument. The Convention is divided into five substantive chapters, covering prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery. The Convention also covers a range of different forms of corrupt behavior, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, embezzlement as well as corruption in the private sector. With 189 States parties, including STP having ratified UNCAC in 2006, the majority of the United Nations Member States are parties to the Convention.

In addition to being the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC is also the secretariat of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of UNCAC (IRM), the peer review process that assists States parties to effectively implement the Convention. Building on its direct and privileged engagement with all African States parties to the Convention, the Office has successfully developed the infrastructure to provide rapidly deployable expertise across the continent in the form of on-site advisory services. Through its extensive experience and a network of subject-matter experts, UNODC can deliver tailor-made technical assistance to States parties upon request.

Within this project, UNODC will assess STP's legal framework and support legal reform by developing and reviewing draft legislation and building capacity on piracy, corruption, maritime crimes and prison management, ensuring that national legislation aligns with international standards. It will perform a legal assessment, including recommendations for required legislative drafting to ensure that the country's legal framework is in line with regional and international instruments.

A review of the legislative framework of STP is required to ensure it is aligned with UNCAC and that at minimum mandatory corruption offences are criminalized.¹⁰ Furthermore, challenges in the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework need to be addressed to enable the national counterparts to detect, prevent, investigate, and prosecute crimes adequately. Corruption offences are largely under-reported and there is a high prevalence of impunity in the face of corruption-related crime, in particular due to fear of retaliation and revictimization, the latter in particular by women. Thus, there is a vital need to revise the legal framework to include also a whistle-blower reporting and protection mechanism.

UNODC is also guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and assists States parties to implement the Convention, which was adopted by General Assembly in 2000 and acceded by STP in 2006 and is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.

Moreover, UNODC acts as the custodian of international standards and norms related to incarceration, including, inter alia, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (The Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard

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<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/ExecutiveSummaries/V1187238e.pdf>

Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules). In this capacity, the Office has built extensive experience in implementing technical assistance programmes in the field of prison and broader penal reform. UNODC's dedicated Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges focuses on three strategic objectives aimed at (i) rationalizing the resort to imprisonment; (ii) strengthening prison management and improving prison conditions; and (iii) supporting the social reintegration of prisoners upon their release. UNODC's extensive series of technical guidance manuals on prison management, including its Handbook on "Incorporating the Nelson Mandela Rules into National Prison Legislation", handbook on the Classification of Prisoners, handbook on Prisoner File Management, handbook on Dynamic Security and Prison Intelligence as well as its Roadmap on the Development of Prison-based Rehabilitation Programmes, will serve as important technical assistance tools for the implementation of the proposed project.

Supporting the establishment of a national human rights institution

The project will support the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). This will play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting human rights in STP and assist the State in meeting its international human rights obligations. The NHRI will serve as an independent government organ tasked with monitoring, investigating, and addressing human rights violations, thus helping to ensure accountability and justice. The NHRI will also contribute to raising awareness about human rights issues, providing education and advocacy, and advising governments on policies, practices and ensuring that national laws are aligned to international human rights. The NHRI can also contribute to the development of laws and policies to ensure compliance with international human rights standards, thus strengthening the overall justice system. It will act as a bridge between government and civil society organization and make recommendations to in cases of practices which violate international human rights norms. Its establishment will be an advancement in STP and act as a national mechanism to support the government in resolving critical human rights issues.

The establishment of a NHRI is a process in which its progress is determined by the motivation and engagement of the state authorities to ensure its realization. As such the timeline for its creation cannot easily be ascertained. However, experience in other countries have shown that the process is lengthy and can go up to two years due to the back and forth of the draft law. The engagement of the authorities is imperative for the completion of the process. OHCHR is available to work with the authorities to provide technical guidance throughout the process and beyond as the main national human rights mechanism in the country.

- 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?)

The project is designed to support prevention efforts in STP focusing on strengthening the justice and security sectors to align with global standards, strengthening the capacities of its institutions to counter multi-dimensional threats to peace and stability and preserve its national stability in a fragile sub-

regional context. By supporting the advancement of national reforms in line with international standards, strengthening the justice sector and preparing the ground for future security sector reform, the project seizes the opportunity of, and further solidifies key entry points to enhance, political stability, social cohesion and a strong social contract, while helping to accelerate human development.

This approach acknowledges the current disconnect between the state and its citizens, particularly in accessing fair justice and reliable security services. Efforts to close this gap are vital, aiming to address and eliminate practices that undermine trust in these sectors, such as unofficial justice methods and inappropriate conduct by security personnel. By improving these areas, the project foresees a reduction in community disputes and of tensions between the state and its population.

The specific project-level objective of this initiative is to enable greater access to justice and stronger, more effective justice institutions in 24 months of the project duration, as well as to contribute to preparing a conducive environment for security sector reform. It focuses on activities to be implemented under an initial fund of \$2.5 million from the PBF but should be expanded, maintaining the same objective of transformational change but at larger scale, as additional funding is secured to cover the \$4.5 million total project budget.

The project-level theory of change can be outlined as follows:

If:

- Progress towards the implementation of a strategy for JSSR is adopted, overseen, coordinated and monitored by the GoSTP, with clear milestones and progress indicators, and regular reporting to Santomean citizens and international partners;
- Immediate support is provided to strengthen the justice sector in the following priority areas identified by the GoSTP and civil society:
 - Access to justice
 - Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms close to the community
 - Compliance of legal framework with international standards
 - Judiciary police capacity to combat crime
 - Safe, secure and humane prison management in STP
 - Justice chain, including on Principe Island
- A human rights institution is established, operationalized and fully functioning
- Underlying causes of inequality, lack of access to justice and grievances are identified and addressed

Then:

- Visibility on concrete progress in the justice and security sector will be improved for all national stakeholders, for Santomean citizens and for international partners, which will improve the accountability of the GoSTP on progress and contribute to effective use of funds and the mobilization of additional resources.
- The country will have increased capacity to prevent and combat crimes, including maritime crime and corruption, and to manage offenders in line with international standards and norms.
- Concrete and visible improvements in access to justice for citizens will help improve their understanding of and trust in their justice institutions.
- The country will meet international human rights standards and Santomean citizens will use the mechanism to report on human rights abuses, thus strengthening accountability of the GoSTP and contributing to maintaining civic space.
- The likelihood of conflicts will be reduced, tensions mitigated as well as social cohesion and citizens trust in justice and security institutions enhanced.

Because:

- There will be more clarity, for national stakeholders as well as international partners on the use of funding and concrete results on efforts to strengthen the justice and security sector, which will strengthen confidence in the use of funding and in the likelihood that future funding commitments will be well invested and lead to positive change.
- There will be a strong legal framework and infrastructure criminalizing maritime crime and corruption and other offences, and judicial institutions will be better equipped to investigate crimes and manage offenders.
- A growing number of Santomean citizens will have been able to experience the delivery of justice by national institutions or through alternative dispute mechanisms to help address disputes and/or grievances that affect their lives.
- There will be an established, well-known and effective institution to receive and address human rights violations in an inclusive and transparent way, in line with international standards.

Under the assumption that:

- Until now, lack of clarity and activity-level monitoring of programming and funding support for justice and security sectors has fueled donor fatigue and been an important obstacle to securing significant and consistent funding to implement new programmes aimed to strengthen the justice and security sectors.
- Santomean citizens will be inclined to rapidly begin to use newly available justice and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and that these mechanisms will be relatively preserved from bias and corruption
- Awareness raising campaigns will be conducted to ensure that Saotomean citizens are well informed.
- The GoSTP will continue to support the establishment of a human rights institution and, once established, will allow the institution to function fully, including by undertaking investigations and will act on the institution's recommendations to address them.

- 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. Ensure that where relevant UN's [Community Engagement Guidelines](#) are adhered to.

The project will support the following three (3) key outcomes and several related outputs:

Through **Outcome 1**, the project will support the advancement of a national JSSR process by engaging all segments and actors of society ensuring that in-depth political dialogue on the reform process takes place through consensus building for a shared vision; that effective coordination mechanisms are in place for accountability purpose and ensure resource mobilization for sustainability as well as reporting/communicating to citizens. This outcome will be reached through five (5) outputs i) updated assessment of Justice and Security sector needs based on inclusive/participatory consultation process; ii) support the development of new national strategie for security sectors , with engagement of CSOs and Independent Media on the reforms, iv) support to political consensus and accountability on JSSR and v) mobilization of donors to support the country financially towards these reforms.

Outcome 2 will support the strengthening of justice and security sectors to bolster public confidence in justice and law enforcement institutions and increase demand for justice. This outcome will include seven (7) main outputs. Output 1 intends to support the establishment of local and mobile justice services through two houses of justice or justice centers, one in Sao Tome and one in Principe. It will further support citizens access to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in line with the African Union Protocol (Output 2) by implementing conflict resolution structures close to the community. The third output will support citizens access to justice through Digital Platforms such as expanding the development and implementation of the electronic case management system eCMS nationwide while Output 4 will support the enhancement of STP criminal justice and anti-corruption legal framework. Output 5 intends to strengthen the operational and technical capacity of the Judiciary Police Office (JPO) through provision of equipment and capacity building of personnel on criminal investigation and corruption. Output 6 will support the assessment of the Prison System of STP as well as improve infrastructure and prison management in line with international standards and norms. Output 7 intends to support the establishment and implementation of the Institute for the Management of the Courts alongside the autonomous Inspection Service.

In compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to Non-United Nations Security Forces (HRDDP), activities under Outcome 2 will include a detailed risk assessment and for all activities with security forces and carefully implement and monitor mitigatory measures where necessary.

Outcome 3 will focus on supporting the country in establishing a national human rights institution which respects international standards that will help address and reduce human rights violations by increasing citizens' awareness of their human rights, enabling investigations into human rights abuses and informing adequate responses by State institutions.

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

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

The project is country wide benefiting all districts and RAP (Agua Grande Me-zochi, Cantagalo, Lobata, Lemba, Caue and Principe) targeting almost 90% of all citizens dealing with and needing justice and security related services, such as women, elders, youth, people with disabilities.

Various stakeholders have been consulted prior to the crafting of this project. Consultations focused mainly on national justice and security institutions as well as representatives of key civil society organizations, for details please see footnote.

The project will invest in building the capacity of local actors involved in the law enforcement. This includes prosecutors, judges, Judicial Police Officers (JPO), the Coast Guard, Office of the Attorney General, penitentiary staff and other relevant agencies. Strengthening their capabilities to counter domestic crimes as well transnational organized crimes is pivotal in combating also transnational crimes effectively. This enhancement not only bolsters the country's ability to address domestic

threats but also aligns with its goals of enforcing maritime law and governing its oceans, thereby contributing to improved economic prosperity.

The direct beneficiaries would include security officers (gendarmerie, police and coast guards), the judiciary police, the prosecutors, the judges, penitentiary staff and other relevant agencies. Trainers would be provided by UNODC and would be focusing on creating a series of specialized staff, able to reproduce the training in their respective units/offices. UNODC would provide infrastructural and logistic support and technical expertise, using national and international experts.

UNDP/UNODC/OHCHR			
Numbers	Direct beneficiaries	Numbers	Indirect Beneficiaries
1	High Council of the Judiciary – Judges – Member’s Composition = 6 Council’s	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
1	High Council of Prosecutor Office – Prosecutors – Member’s Composition = 6 Council’s	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
23	Judges ^[1]	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
70	Court staff ^[2] - Court of First Instance and Supreme Court of Justice	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
22	Prosecutors ^[3]	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
37	Court staff ^[4] – Prosecutors Office	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
78	Judicial Police Officers	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
151	Penitentiary staff	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO Detained / Prisoners - 310
430	National Police ^[5]	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
7	Counseling Center Against Domestic Violence	200.000 Citizens	Citizens (women, elders, youth, people with disabilities) CSO
200	Security and defense forces,	200,000 Citizens of STP	The citizens of STP specifically, vulnerable groups, victims and

23	Magistracy (judges)		witnesses of human rights violations, CSO etc.
100	Penitentiary	-	-

^[1] First Instance and the Supreme Court of Justice (Entire National Territory including the Autonomous Region of Príncipe)

^[2] Entire National Territory including the Autonomous Region of Príncipe

^[3] Entire National Territory including the Autonomous Region of Príncipe

^[4] Entire National Territory including the Autonomous Region of Príncipe

^[5] Five police officers are assigned to criminal investigations

III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

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

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: UNDP	N/A	Portuguese Cooperation	City of Sao Tomé	One programme officer who manages the project, communication officer and Assistant Resident Representative who oversees the project, supported by administration, procurement and finance staff	Two senior experts working on supporting overall justice modernization programme
Implementing partners: Ministry of Justice, Public administration Human Rights	147,775.00				
Recipient Organization: Supreme court of Justice, Attorney General, Judiciary police	17,876.00	Government of Sao Tome	City of Sao Tome	National project coordinator	

Implementing partners: Ministry of Justice, Public administration Human Rights					
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The United Nations Development Programme is the Lead UN agency for this proposal, characterized by its longstanding partnership with the GoSTP in implementing justice reforms and within the framework of its Country Programme for STP (2023-2027). UNDP's comprehensive custodianship in key areas targeted by this concept note, alongside its sustained involvement in the Justice Modernization process, establishes a robust foundation for leadership. The presence of UNDP on the ground further solidifies its capability to administer the funds effectively. This combination of extensive expertise, direct involvement in critical reform areas, and a physical presence underscores UNDP's unparalleled position to guide this initiative towards achieving its objectives, aligning with both UNDP's and UNPBF's strategic goals of fostering peace and sustainable development through strengthening justice and governance frameworks.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC has the broad mandate to assist Member States in their efforts to achieve global security, safety and human development through the implementation of international conventions, protocols and universal legal regimes. It is committed to helping States to prevent crime and build the capacity of their criminal justice systems to operate more effectively within the framework of the rule of law, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups. UNODC also plays a key role in the development and promotion of internationally recognized principles in crime prevention and criminal justice and is the guardian of the UN standards and norms in these areas.

UNODC will spearhead the implementation of part of Outcome 2 vis-a-vis the security sector. UNODC is custodian of international standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and brings extensive experience in providing States with customized technical assistance. UNODC offers a variety of manuals, tools, and training resources, including a comprehensive e-learning platform to support the implementation of these international standards. Moreover, UNODC acts as the Secretariat of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The technical expertise of UNODC includes assistance on legislative and policy development, as well as the delivery of capacity-building activities. Building on its prior work, such as the partial legal assessment of STP's maritime crime legislation, UNODC will now extend its legislative review to cover other forms of transnational organized crime, including maritime crimes and corruption as well as the resort to incarceration and management of prisoners. This expansion aims to equip the country with the necessary legal framework to effectively prosecute criminals under universal jurisdiction. The activities proposed under the present project align with the UNODC *Strategic Vision for Africa 2030*, and its mission to provide more safety to Africa's people, government and institutions from drugs, crime, and corruption.¹¹

Non recipient entities collaborating on the project:

¹¹ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/strategy/africa-vision.html>.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The OHCHR will provide technical expertise to support the country in establishing an independent national human rights commission, as requested by the Minister of Justice and in follow-up to the commitment made on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This support includes assistance with legislative development, consultations, and training on relevant subjects. The OHCHR is the leading organization within the UN for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions

OROLSI provides policy guidance, technical expertise, and backstopping support to assist countries strengthen or re-establish institutions necessary to build and sustain peace, and to protect civilians. In 2019, the Secretary-General confirmed the role of OROLSI to serve as the United Nations system-wide service provider in the areas of rule of law and security institutions in mission and non-mission settings. OROLSI co-chairs with UNDP the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, of which UNODC is also a member, and which is designed to strengthen the provision of rule of law assistance to address and prevent violent conflict, to protect human rights and to restore justice and security for conflict-affected people. OROLSI comprises a standing capacity of approximately 50 uniformed and civilian experts – including on the reform of justice sectors, security sectors, and corrections systems, as well as on policing and law enforcement – available for rapid, short-term deployments.

United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

Based in Libreville, Gabon, the core mission of UNOCA comprises conflict prevention and peacebuilding in support of 11 countries across Central Africa, including through the SRSG's good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General. In this respect, UNOCA has consistently engaged the Santomean authorities, in close co-ordination with the RCO Sao Tome and Principe as well as ECCAS, throughout the country's key elections as well as the immediate aftermath of the events on 25 November 2022. Also of note, UNOCA serves as the secretariat of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), a framework of co-operation aiming at reinforcing confidence among the 11 ECCAS member States with a view to better addressing the threats to peace and stability, integration and sustainable development of the Central Africa region.

- 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.

In addition to the project-level governance outlined below, the project will support the establishment and functioning of the National Steering Committee on Justice and Security Sector Reforms (JSSR) under Outcome 1. Chaired by the Prime Minister, the Committee will include participants from the President's office, line ministries such as Justice, Defense, and Internal Administration, as well as the Attorney General. Additional members will include representatives from political parties, civil society, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for UNOCA, and the UN Resident Coordinator. To ensure the committee is effectively set up in line with GoSTP's strategic priorities, detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) will be jointly developed with the Prime Minister's office. This ToR will specify the committee's roles, functionalities, and a comprehensive list of participants. The UN will participate strictly as an observer, aligning the committee's operations with international best practices and the goals of the peacebuilding framework.

Project Governance:

A project Steering Committee will be established with the following composition:

- UN Resident Coordinator (co-chair)
- Office of the Prime Minister representative (co-chair)
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Defense and Internal Administration
- Attorney General
- President of Supreme Court
- Bar Association representative
- UNDP representative
- UNODC representative
- OHCHR representative
- OHCHR representative
- UNOCA representative
- OROLSI representative
- Women NGO representative
- Youth NGO representative

The Project Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the GoSTP (Office of the Prime Minister) and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Project Steering Committee will have the following main tasks:

- to provide strategic orientation for the entire project by ensuring a truly concerted approach for the implementation of activities to approve the annual work plan
- to oversee the implementation of the project, from initiation and throughout the project, particularly ensuring the coherence throughout the process (participative, inclusive, respectful of the do no harm principle) and the impact and results of the activities
- if necessary, to take any corrective action to ensure the smooth running, compliance with proper procedures, and the desired impact of the project
- to approve the semi-annual reports
- to ensure resource mobilization for sustainability and possible extension of the project, to new beneficiaries as well as geographically.

Representatives of the donors will be occasionally invited by the Committee.

Steering Committee meetings will take place: upon the signing of the project and every every six months thereafter. The meetings will be prepared by the Project Management Unit (UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR) led by the Project Coordinator, which serves as the Secretariat of the Steering Committee. Decisions will be made by consensus.

A Technical Committee (TC), gathering the same institutions as those of the Project Steering Committee but at a technical level will be established concurrently and chaired by the PBF project coordinator (see below).

The Technical Committee will have the following main tasks:

- to prepare the annual work plan for Project Steering Committee approval
- to ensure good coordination of the project among all partners
- to monitor the different phases of the project and its smooth progress
- to consolidate the project's progress reports based on information provided by the agencies, for Steering Committee approval

TC meetings, which will be prepared by the Project Management Unit (UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR), will take place at least quarterly and in preparation of Steering Committee meetings.

A Management Unit will be set up by the lead agency (UNDP) within 45 days of the project's approval, to ensure implementation, monitoring, reporting, and good coordination of the project, and will report any problems, initiatives, and lessons learned. This management unit will be based in STP and will include:

Job title	Fonctions	Level	% of PBF program budget	Remarks
Project coordinator (Reporting to Resident Coordinator, and matrix reporting lines to UNDP and UNODC)	Coordination of project, liaison with Government and development partners; supervision of timely implementation of activities, production of reports; identifies and guides project adjustments based on institutional developments; provides institutional advice to RCO/UNCT.	P4 International	100%	ToRs to be developed by all agencies
Monitoring/evaluation specialist (Reporting to the Project Coordinator with secondary reporting lines to UNDP and UNODC)	Implement the monitoring and evaluation plan in a participatory manner, ensure the production of results, reports and lessons learned	Int UNV	100%	
Project Officer	Coordination of activities led by UNDP	National Officer <u>NPSA9</u>	100%	
Human rights expert	Liaison on human rights expertise	Equivalent <u>NPSA9</u>	100%	
Finance Associate UNDP	Financial transactions related to the project (UNDP-led activities)	<u>NPSA7</u>	50%	
Procurement Associate UNDP	Procurement activities related to UNDP	<u>NPSA7</u>	50%	
Administrative and Finance Associate	Support on all administrative, logistic and financial aspects, including procurement, budget monitoring and reporting, and participate on the implementing of the project activities	SC7 (NPSA7 equivalent)	100%	

- 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)
Socio-political instability	Medium with low impact	Re-adapt the project to context; work with UNOCA and ECCAS to advocate the continuation of the project on the reforms
Low political will at the national or local level	Low with high impact	Continued advocacy by the RC, UNOCA, OLROSI and lead agency
Surge in targeted incursions and targeted threats by criminal groups in the maritime domain and within communities	Low with low impact	Continue the implementation of the project and adapt context to current threat. High level advocacy efforts by UNOCA in co-ordination with UNODC's technical support towards the full operationalization of the Yaoundé architecture at the cross-regional level
Floods, high tides and heavy rains	Medium with medium impact	Adapt implementation in relation to the implementation calendar and seasons
Lack of information on implementation by recipient agencies		Secretariat to collaborate with agencies to improve information sharing / maintain substantive link and exchanges with agencies
Delays to submit narrative and financial reports	Medium with low impact	Close monitoring of agencies to ensure efficient narrative and financial reporting through one-to-one ad-hoc and quarterly meetings.
Low synergy and coordination	Low with high impact	Increased coordination from the RCO
Procurement processes slow down project execution	Low with medium impact	Prepare procurement plan at start of project – have quarterly updates of the procurement plan and avoid delays

Unsustainability of achievements/gains	Medium with medium impact	Have clear exit strategy with resources mobilization strategy
Abuse of authority, sexual abuse and exploitation	Low with high impact	Mechanism of reporting abuse is implemented at beginning of project
Human Rights violations by Security Forces	Medium with high impact	Full adherence to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to Non-United Nations Security Forces (HRDDP), including detailed risk assessment and implementation and monitoring of mitigatory measures.
Engagement in project activities and with legal aid system may exposes GBV victims to stigma, re-victimization and/or retaliation	Medium with medium impact	Establish a strong monitoring mechanism of GBV cases (all along justice chain) and communication / sensitization actions to the public (victims/survivors, perpetrators, families and government/justice actors)
Project beneficiaries and CSOs are exposed to data breach and/or retaliation for engaging in activities in relation to SGBV and human rights issues	Medium with high impact	The project will apply established international standards for data protection with regard to the safeguarding of personal information and train staff in the application of these standards. Project stakeholders will be brought together at the inception phase to develop practical strategies and procedures for protecting beneficiaries from acts of retaliation.
Engagement in traditional justice mechanisms could further erode confidence in formal justice system	Low with high impact	Clear communication / sensitization strategy on the complementarity of traditional and formal system (criminal cases / GBV cases through formal justice system)
Political alternance hindering consistent progress on the reforms	Medium with high impact.	The Project Steering Committee includes the Government, non-

		Government organizations, and the UN bodies, hence an inclusive oversight body that secures the continuation of the ongoing reforms. In addition, the National Steering Committee will be established in the same inclusive manner to ensure that consensus is built across political spectrum, and continuity of the reform is protected beyond such changes.
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- 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. To ensure alignment, as relevant, indicators from the existing Strategic Results Frameworks or UN Cooperation Frameworks should be included. 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. Projects are recommended to invest in community-feedback loops (including with women), Community-based monitoring systems or output and/or outcome data collection mechanisms.

The project will incorporate a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism from its inception. This mechanism is designed to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources and to measure the project's progress against its objectives. The participatory approach that was integral to the project's development will continue to be a cornerstone of the M&E process - involving key stakeholders including the PBF Secretariat, UNODC, UNDP partner, and key targeted communities and stakeholders in the M&E process. The Project Management Unit, operational from the outset with adequate staffing from UNDP and UNODC including the monitoring/evaluation, will oversee the implementation of this plan.

A baseline study will be conducted at the start of the project to establish the initial level of indicators within the results matrix. These indicators will serve as benchmarks against which the project's progress and impact can be measured. The indicators will be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART), and will align with the project's goals and objectives. The M&E plan will outline the methodology for project implementation, delineating responsibilities, budget, and deadlines. It will detail the means of verification for each indicator and establish a timetable for data collection. The plan will ensure that all M&E activities are scheduled and executed in a timely and systematic manner.

The Project Management Unit will be responsible for collecting information and reporting back and will organize regular coordination meetings with key stakeholders in the government with the aim to facilitate the exchange of information and ensure alignment of efforts. A common database will be established to store and manage project data. PBS Secretariat will periodically assist with data aggregation and multi-sector analysis. Semi-annual project monitoring reports will be produced and

consolidated by the lead agency, with the PBF Secretariat aggregating reports every six months. Lessons learned will be archived and shared on a regular basis to inform ongoing and future projects.

An independent final evaluation will be conducted towards the end of the project, with a dedicated budget allocation. This evaluation will be carried out by a team of independent experts, with the involvement of the PBF Secretariat. The evaluation will assess the project's overall results, examining their relevance and effects on beneficiaries. It will draw lessons from the actions undertaken and propose recommendations for consolidating and expanding the project's achievements.

A portion of the project budget (5 %) has been allocated to M&E activities. This allocation reflects the project's commitment to robust M&E practices and underscores the importance placed on this critical project function. The M&E staff, supported by this budget, will be responsible for overseeing all M&E activities and ensuring their successful execution.

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

The sustainability of the Justice and Security Sector Reform Project in Sao Tome and Principe rests on its alignment with nationally owned and led reform efforts, strengthened by institutional cooperation and stakeholder engagement. Building on the recommendations of the joint UN-ECCAS strategic assessment and the programmatic insights of UNDP, UNODC and OROLSI, the project integrates seamlessly with existing frameworks and political consensus for reform.

An integral part of the project's sustainability strategy is the establishment of a National Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister and supported by UNOCA, to provide ongoing oversight and ensure alignment with national priorities. This institutional mechanism promotes continuity and ownership of the reform process beyond the duration of the project.

In addition, the project emphasizes outreach to civil society to promote inclusiveness and transparency in reform efforts. By strengthening the country's capacity to provide fair and equitable justice and security, the project aims to effectively prevent conflict and create a safer environment, particularly for women and youth.

Accountability mechanisms will be put in place to ensure donor and Member State engagement, promoting transparency and commitment to project objectives. Resource mobilization efforts, including support from the Chair of the PBC using the Outreach Plan developed, are critical to sustaining the project's impact and ensuring the realization of long-term reform goals.

The project's exit strategy prioritizes institutional cooperation, stakeholder engagement, and resource mobilization to promote sustainable improvements in Sao Tome and Principe's justice and security sectors in line with international standards and national priorities.

IV. Project budget

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

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

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

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline		yes	
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	no		This will be developed as soon as the project is approved and with all agencies involved
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline		yes	
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.		yes	
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?		yes	
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.		yes	Consultations are ongoing on this issue
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation site approaches, Government contribution?		yes	No Government contribution has been discussed yet at this stage
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	no		Consultations are ongoing
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?		N/A	Recruitment of project team Identification of project team location Assets for project team
Gender			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?		yes	UNDP CO gender adviser focal point
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?		yes	
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?		yes	To be done during budgeting
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?		yes	It will be done during the budgeting

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?		yes	
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.		yes	
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.		yes	
4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?		yes	
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?		yes	
6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		yes	
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.		TBC	The government has asked for a vehicle to support t judicial police to be able to be mobile and function- they have limited mobility at this point in time to reach to the most remote locations
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.		yes	Yes; from UNDP based on complementary initiative being implemented (see previous sections)

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

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

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

AA Functions

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

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

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

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

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

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

Financial reporting and timeline

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

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

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

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

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

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:

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

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

Reporting:

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

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist

Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.
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Financial reports and timeline

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

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

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

Public Disclosure

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

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as

designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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

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

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE:** If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE:** If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.¹²
- 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.

¹² 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

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: National JSSR process is advanced through i) political dialogue; ii) effective coordination; iii) resource mobilization and iv) reporting and communicating to citizens.		Outcome Indicator i) National steering Committee on reforms established and convening on 6 months basis Baseline:0 Target: 4 (2 per year)	- Attendance list - Meeting minutes - Action plans from the dialogues	Meetings conducted
		Outcome Indicator ii) Number of joint initiatives (Government and CSOs) or task forces established to address specific reform priorities. Baseline:0 Target:2 (1 for Justice and 1 for Security)	JSSR Transformation Roadmap - Attendance list - Meeting minutes	Meetings conducted Coordination mechanism established
		Outcome Indicator iii) Number of successful partnerships or agreements with international donors or organizations to support reform efforts. Baseline: 0 Target: 2	- Attendance list - Meeting minutes	Agreements signed

		<p>Outcome indicator iv) Number of citizens above 18 years of age who feel they understand the content of the national reforms and who feel implementation of national reforms has advanced</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: Women: 192 Men: 192</p> <p>Size of population: 200.000 Trust Rating: 95% Margin of error: 5% ($n = z^2 * p * (1 - p) / e^2$)</p>	Perception surveys.	Report developed and disseminated
	<p>Output 1.1 Updated assessment of Justice and Security sector needs based on inclusive/participatory consultation process</p> <p>1.1.1 Stakeholder Forums Conduct interactive consultation fora with civil society including women and youth organizations, private sector, political parties, government representatives and development partners to discuss and collect inputs about JSSR needs, challenges, and opportunities. Purpose: To foster comprehensive dialogue and bi-partisan consensus on reform priorities.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1: Number of actionable recommendations generated from stakeholder forums and focus group analysis.</p> <p>Baseline: 1</p> <p>Target: 5</p>	Meeting minutes Attendance lists Updated assessments Recommendations	Recommendations reports generated Consultant hired Data collection conducted Stakeholder meeting conducted

	<p>Output 1.2 Develop new national strategy for security sector ¹³</p> <p>1.2.1 Accompany the national authorities in undertaking a detailed review of the security sector (including public perception survey, sectoral stakeholders’ workshops, national security forum) to map out existing threats and needs, evaluate current capabilities and resources, and identify priorities as well as gaps that need to be addressed.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2: Number of new national strategy developed</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 1 (security)</p>	<p>Research finalized Reports available</p>	<p>Reports available and disseminated Hired a consultant Data collection</p>
	<p>Output 1.3 Support and accountability on JSSR</p> <p>1.3.1 Support establishment of national governance system for the reform (national reforms committee)</p> <p>1.3.2 Support national reforms committee in identification of milestones and tracking of progress</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.3: Number of periodic reports that highlight progress, challenges, and areas for improvement</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 2 (1 per year)</p>	<p>Consultations conducted Meetings/workshops conducted Recommendations outlined</p>	<p>Reports available and disseminated Hired a consultant Data collection</p>
	<p>Output 1.4 Donor coordination</p> <p>1.4.1 Support national reforms committee in mapping donor support on justice and security sector and tracking implementation progress.</p> <p>1.4.2 Support national reforms committee in resource mobilization efforts</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.4: Number of donors and partners meetings organized. % of resource mobilized</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 20% in addition to the 4,5M USD mobilized. Bilateral and multilateral donors</p>	<p>Coordination meetings conducted Commitment from the donors Mapping of indicative resources to be mobilized</p>	<p>Donor’s meetings conducted Government in-kind and donor resources committed Donor and mapping resources developed</p>

¹³ The implementation of the strategic plan for Justice 2017-2023 is underway, and only after its completion and evaluation will the new strategy be defined.

<p>Outcome 2: Strengthening of justice and security sectors to bolster public confidence in justice and law enforcement institutions</p>		<p>Outcome indicator: Increase in utilization of Formal Justice Mechanisms</p> <p>Baseline: 2.942 * * Source: Public Annual Report of Prosecutor's General Office - Number of new cases (assign) in the Public Prosecution Service in 2023</p> <p>Target: Women: +10% Men: +10%</p>	<p>Annual public reports of the Public Prosecution Service</p>	<p>Reports available</p>
	<p>Output 2.1 Establishment and reinforcement of local and mobile justice services</p> <p>2.1.1 Implementation of structures or Centers that act as focal points for community engagement in justice processes, providing spaces where individuals can seek redress and non-judicial dispute resolution in a supportive and trustful environment - Fixed or mobile structures.</p> <p>2.1.2 Support for the courts for the collection of personal evidence, interviews, statements and hold trials, allowing all parties, even when they are not physically present, to hold virtual trials (Courts and Public Prosecutor's Office).</p> <p>2.1.3 Provision of legal aid services: Equip with the capacity to offer services and legal assistance, focusing on the prevention, clarification, and resolution of common disputes that may evolve.</p> <p>2.1.4 Strengthening the judicial system to guarantee the functioning and improve the quality of justice in Agua</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1: Number of individuals accessing the centers seeking redress or dispute resolution</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target Women: 300 Men: 150</p>	<p>Rehabilitation assessment done Enterprise for the rehabilitation identified Awareness campaign conducted</p>	<p>Assessment report available Contract signed with the enterprise Modules for awareness campaign developed</p>

	<p>Grande, Lembá and Caué with the capacity to investigate, judge, resolve conflicts and repair damage (includes means, furniture, equipment, transportation).</p> <p>2.1.5 Operationalization of the courthouse in Principe Island.</p>			
	<p>Output 2.2 Improve access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in line with the African Union Protocol</p> <p>2.2.1 Implementing conflict resolution structures close to the community (peace courts, structures for resolving disputes close to the community)</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.2: Number of individuals accessing the centers seeking an ADR to solve the dispute</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target Women: 100 Men: 50</p>	<p>Legal framework reviewed TOR for mediators developed Training conducted at national level</p>	<p>Legal framework validated and disseminated TOR mediators validated Mediators identified Training modules available</p>
	<p>Output 2.3 Enhanced Access to Justice through Digital Platforms</p> <p>2.3.1 Expand the development and implementation of the electronic case management system eCMS national wide (Cycle 2 of CMS).</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.3: Percentage of courts covered by the eCMS in criminal cases</p> <p>Baseline: 25% * * Cycle 1 of the eCMS operational in September</p> <p>Target: 100%</p>	<p>Reports of users produced by system Data collection Functionality of the system</p>	<p>Report of users available Report of data collection verified available Testing of the digital platform conducted</p>

	<p>Output 2.4 São Tomé and Príncipe is supported to enhance its criminal justice and anti-corruption legal framework.</p> <p>2.4.1 Support the review of relevant laws, policies and regulations related to crime prevention and criminal justice, including maritime crimes, corruption, prison management and laws regarding the structure of peace courts.</p> <p>2.4.2 Support the country in aligning its legal framework with its international standards and commitments in relation to e.g. maritime crimes, corruption, and prison reform.</p> <p>2.4.3 Support the development of anti-corruption policies, procedures, regulations, including the establishment of whistle-blower protection reporting and protection mechanisms, with a gender perspective.</p>	<p>Output indicator 2.4.1: Outcome document with recommendations on how to improve Sao Tome and Principe’s criminal justice and anti-corruption legal framework Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>Output indicator 2.4.2: Number of relevant technical assistance services delivered related to crimes, corruption and prison reform Baseline: 0 Target: 5</p> <p>Output 2.4.3: Number of policies, procedures and regulations related to anti-corruption developed Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p>	<p>Periodic project reports Outcome document of legislative review with recommendations Training material Policies, procedures and regulations related to anti-corruption developed National legislation revised and/or bill adopted</p>	<p>Authorities willing to adopt legislation</p>
	<p>Output 2.5 Sao Tome and Principe Judiciary Police Office is equipped, and investigation capabilities and skill of their personnel fully increased to track organized criminal groups and investigate corruption cases.</p> <p>2.5.1 Support the Office of the Attorney General, including the Judiciary Police with the acquisition of investigation equipment to effectively adjudicate and prosecute illegal activities.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.5.1.a. Increase in knowledge and skills of judicial police officers in relation to investigations .</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.5.1.b. Number of prosecutions and adjudications related trainings carried out.</p>	<p>Baseline assessment Equipment procured through LTA List of potential investigators to be trained Training modules developed Survey tools</p>	<p>Equipment delivered after 9 months List of potential investigators to be trained validated Training modules available</p>

<p>2.5.2 2.5.2 Strengthening the Judicial Police's capacities with platforms and tools that effectively allow agents to collect information, analyse them, and training for judicial police agents so that they can carry out effective forensic investigations, particularly in relation to cases of corruption, financial crimes and other complex crimes, including the creation of mechanisms for reporting and protecting whistleblowers..</p> <p>. 2.5.3 Strengthening the system for combating gender-based crimes, through the decentralization of the Judicial Police services, at this stage with greater emphasis on training structures for dealing with and combating gender-based crimes.</p>	<p>Output indicator 2.5.2: % of judicial police officers who increased their knowledge on handling forensic evidence and detecting and investigating organized crimes, corruption cases and cases of SGBV Baseline: 0 Target: 60%</p>	<p>To be established at inception phase.</p>	<p>Survey tools show increase in knowledge and skills</p> <p>Appropriate criminal cases are brought before the courts</p>
<p>Output 2.6 Enhance the response capacity of the prison system and social reintegration, the capacity of STP's penitentiary infrastructure in accordance with international norms and standards and the protection of human rights.</p> <p>2.6.1 Improving the humane reception conditions for prisoners in the Prison Services in accordance with international standards Establishing penitentiaries in accordance with real needs in São Tomé and Príncipe.</p> <p>2.6.2 Development of a capacity-building framework and proactive support for prison staff's knowledge and practical application of international norms and standards, and support for their capacity to act..</p> <p>2.6.3 Infrastructure for safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners as well as rehabilitation and social-reintegration prospects of prisoners improved. Implementation of an embryonic prison structure with minimum conditions in the RAP, with a capacity of 20 inmates.</p>	<p>Output indicator 2.6.1: 1 validated baseline assessment report, including feasibility study for construction of infrastructure in Príncipe</p> <p>Output indicator 2.6.2: 1 strategic framework document and 50% of workforce of STP prisons and senior management have successfully completed in-person training on Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules and other relevant international standards and norms with at least 80% indicating usefulness and retention of received training</p>	<p>Periodic Project Reports</p> <p>2.6.1: validated baseline assessment available</p> <p>2.6.2: Strategy document and Pre- and Post Tests Results</p> <p>2.6.4: Pre- and Post Tests Results of Trainings as well as enhanced/new rehabilitation workshops are available to male and female prisoners.</p>	<p>Based on 2.6.1: Feasibility study of construction in Príncipe is completed after 1 year</p> <p>2.6.2: One in-person training workshop is completed after 1 year</p> <p>2.6.4: One in-person workshop on setting up / improving rehabilitation workshops is completed after 1.5 year</p>

		<p>Output indicator 2.6.4: Based on 2.6.1 minor refurbishment of STP prison infrastructure, including selected accommodation areas of male and female prison is completed.</p> <p>Enhanced/additional rehabilitation programmes are available to prisoners, including treatment for substance use disorders and sustainable farming activities.</p>		
	<p>Output 2.7 Efficiency, transparency, and accountability is enhanced by the establishment and implementation of instruments and institutes to support the Justice and Security Systems</p> <p>2.7.1 Establishment of specialized institutes, institutions or agencies dedicated to supporting justice systems.</p> <p>2.7.2 Implementation of instruments, tools and digital platforms to streamline judicial processes and security, increase transparency and improve security and access to justice.</p>	<p>Output indicator 2.7.1: Number of specialized institutes, institutions or agencies created</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 1</p> <p>Output indicator 2.7.2: Percentage of relevant stakeholders (such as judicial personnel, law enforcement agencies, legal practitioners) who have adopted and actively use the digital platforms and tools.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 15%</p>	<p>Activity reports, Monitoring reports Training modules developed</p>	<p>Consultations Development of Organizational Framework Operationalization Support Staff Skills Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</p>
	<p>Output 2.8 Enhanced capacity of Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) agencies to counter maritime crimes.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.7: Number of enforcement officers trained</p>	<p>Training Evaluations</p>	<p>Activity reports Report of incidents</p>

	<p>2.8.1 Enhance understanding of international law and the criminal dimensions of the Law of the Sea, equipping Coast Guards and relevant stakeholders with the necessary skills to secure São Tomé and Príncipe's maritime domains and resources more effectively.</p> <p>2.8.2: Provide communication equipment and increase operational capacities of MLE agencies to enhance safety and security in STP maritime spaces.</p> <p>2.8.3: maritime incidents. Develop a Harmonized Standard Operational Procedures to enhance mutualization of efforts and cooperation among all actors involved in the Action State at Sea to better conduct intervention in case.</p> <p>2.8.4: Coordinate training, educational programs, and skill-building initiatives, alongside integration activities, to raise awareness about the importance of integrating gender perspectives within the maritime sector.</p>	<p>in problem solving and operational issues Baseline: No standard operating procedures</p> <p>Target: Legal and LE officials properly trained</p>	<p>SOP harmonized and operational</p>	
	<p>Output 2.9 Anti-corruption practitioners and stakeholders have increased knowledge in preventing, detecting, investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating corruption cases through capacity-building activities</p> <p>2.9.1 Identify relevant institutions and authorities involved in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and conduct an in-depth needs assessment to strengthen their capacity to combat corruption and financial crime.</p> <p>2.9.2. Deliver training to those anti-corruption institutions and authorities on selected topics to build and strengthen their capacity to prevent and combat corruption.</p> <p>2.9.3 Support the development of more efficient inter-agency coordination between institutions and authorities that help prevent and combat corruption.</p>	<p>Output 2.8</p> <p>Indicator: Number of technical assistance services provided</p>	<p>Training Evaluations</p>	

	2.9.4. Support those institutions and authorities to develop and strengthen their regional and international cooperation.			
	<p>Output 2.10 Support Principe’s penitentiary infrastructure and capacities in line with international standards and norms</p> <p>2.10.1 Construct a small prison facility in Principe and provide equipment and furniture.</p> <p>2.10.2 Deploy prison mentors to strengthen prison management capacities within the prisons.</p> <p>2.10.3 Conduct in-person training for all prison officers and relevant justice stakeholders on the Nelson Mandela Rules and UNODC’s e-learning course on the Nelson Mandela Rules in Principe.</p>	<p>Output indicator 2.8.1: Number of prison/holding facility in Principe that respect international standards: Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>2.8.2: Number of prison mentors deployed at Principe: Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p>2.8.3: Number of prison officers and other stakeholders in Principe indicating usefulness and retention of training on NMR</p>	<p>2.8.1: Design, construction and procurement documents and facility ready for use</p> <p>2.8.2: Assistance reports</p> <p>2.8.3: Pre and post tests</p>	
	<p>Output 2.11 Enhanced Access to Justice through Digital Platforms - Phase 2</p> <p>2.11.1 Support the development and implementation of the CMS modules on matters related to Civil, Labor and Family and Minors cases and develop an integrated CMS of the Criminal Records System (Cycles 3 and 4)</p> <p>2.11.2 Support the development and integration of CMS with the banking system for the payment Judiciary costs including, development and integration of CMS within the Migration Services</p> <p>2.11.3 Support the Interoperability of CMS with the commercial registration to obtain the certification of</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.11: Percentage of courts covered by the eCMS in Civil, Labor and Family and Minors matters</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 100%,</p>	<p>Reports of users produced by system Data collection Functionality of the system</p>	<p>Report of users available Report of data collection verified available Testing of the digital platform conducted</p>

	enterprise owners in order to improve the investigation processes and system			
	<p>2.12 Increase the access to legal services and justice.</p> <p>2.12.1 Promote initiatives that ensure all individuals, including vulnerable and marginalized populations, have access to legal services and justice.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1: Number of initiatives that promote the clarification of the civil and justice rights, targeting the vulnerable and marginalized populations</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (7 district / 2 per district)</p>	<p>Consultations conducted</p> <p>Workshops conducted</p>	<p>Reports available and disseminated</p> <p>Hired a consultant</p> <p>Data collection</p>
	<p>2.13 Justice stakeholders capabilities and skills increased through training and capacity-building program</p> <p>2.13.1 Provision of training and capacity-building programs for legal professionals, judges, prosecutor's, court and prosecutor staff, law enforcement officials, and other key stakeholders</p> <p>2.13.2 Provision of training and capacity-building programs for CSOs and Media to play their oversight role</p> <p>2.13.3 Reinforce (build) the police training centre to guarantee the training of recruits and operatives from all the security forces (capacity, structure, means, introduce new content to help change mentalities and strengthen their capacity to act. (new request from MoJ – to be budgeted)</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1: Number of training actions</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 6</p>	<p>Attendance lists</p> <p>Training Evaluations</p>	<p>Trainings conducted</p>
Outcome 3: Contribute to the fights against human rights violations and abuse		<p>Outcome indicator 1</p> <p>Outcome indicator 2</p>		

and promote a culture of respect for human rights.		Outcome indicator 3		
	Output 3.1. National human rights institution is created in conformity with international standards and best practices 3.1.1 drafting of law 3.1.2roadmap 3.1.3 national consultations 3.1.4 dissemination of law	Output Indicator 3.1.1 National stakeholders are informed and participate in the process of the creation of a national human rights institution. A draft law is passed and adopted by parliament and promulgated into law for the creation of a national human rights institution. Baseline:0 Target:1	Reports of activities Reports of national consultations Meetings with various stakeholders	Final report of the process
	Output 3.2. Enable the operationalization of the Independent human rights Institution 3.2.1 Capacities of members of the Institution are reinforced 3.2.2Citizens and institutions are sensitized at national level on the role, the mandate and functioning of the National Human Rights Institution 3.2.3A population prepared to file complaints to the NHRI and collaborate with it in the execution of its mission.	Output Indicator 3.1.2 Members of the are elected/appointed and trained on human rights investigation and reporting Citizens are informed of the mandate of the national human rights institution and willing to cooperate with the institution due to confidence in its operations. Baseline:0 Target:1	Reports of the activities/meetings of the NHRI. Engagements between the institution and the local population	Number of partnerships initiated and maintained to enhance its work. Establishment of cooperation with international human rights mechanisms
Output 3.3 Support the functioning of the Independent Human Rights Institution for a period of 2 years	Output indicators. 3.3.1 Number of cases reported to the human rights institution	Reports on activities of te national human rights institution.	Reports of the institution’s activities	

	<p>The national human rights institution is functioning to resolve human rights issues</p> <p>-The national human rights institution is investigating and reporting on human rights violations.</p> <p>Citizens cooperate and report violations to the national human rights institution</p>	<p>Number of cases resolved by the National human rights institution</p> <p>Number of periodic, thematic and other human rights reports produced by the national human rights institution</p> <p>Number of partnerships and engagements made with international human rights mechanisms</p>	<p>Meetings held by the national human rights institution.</p>	
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- the outputs marked in the cells with this color are outside the scope of PBF funding

Table 1 - PBF project budget by outcome, output and activity

Outcome / Output number	Description (Text)	UNDP	UNODC	OHCHR	Total	% of budget per activity allocated to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) (if any):	Current level of expenditure/commitment (To be completed at time of project progress reporting)	GEWE justification (e.g. training includes session on gender equality, specific efforts made to ensure equal representation of women and men etc.)	Any other remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification, esp. for TA or travel costs)
OUTCOME 1:	Outcome 1: Outcome 1: National Security and Justice reform process is advanced through i) political dialogue; ii) effective coordination; iii) resource mobilization and; iv) reporting/communicating to citizens.								
Output 1.1:	Output 1.1 Updated assessment of Justice and Security sector needs based on inclusive/participatory consultation process								
Activity 1.1.1:	Stakeholder Forums - Conduct interactive consultation fora with civil society including women and youth organizations, private sector, political parties, government representatives and development partners to discuss and collect inputs about JSSR needs, challenges, and opportunities.	\$ 14,019			\$ 14,019	50%		50% of the inputs shall be allocated to women participants in the process and generation of women specific content in the compedium.	Consultancy, travel, workshops
	Output Total	\$ 14,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,019	\$ 7,009	\$ -		
Output 1.2:	Output 1.2 Develop new national strategy for justice and for security sectors 2025-2030								
Activity 1.2.1	Accompany the national authorities in undertaking a detailed review of the security sector (including public perception survey, sectoral stakeholders' workshops, national security forum) to map out existing threats and needs, evaluate current capabilities and resources, and identify priorities as well as gaps that need to be addressed.	\$ 9,346			\$ 9,346	50%		This strategy integrates gender perspectives into analysis, providing a foundation for more gender-sensitive justice and security programmes	Consultancy, travel, workshops
	Output Total	\$ 9,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,346	\$ 4,673	\$ -		
Output 1.3:	Output 1.3 Support and accountability on JSSR								
Activity 1.3.1	Support establishment of national governance system for the reform (national reforms committee)	\$ 4,673			\$ 4,673	50%		Sensization on gender and women rights as part of the Committee mandate.	Consultancy, travel, workshops
Activity 1.3.2	Support national reforms committee in identification of milestones and tracking of progress	\$ 4,673			\$ 4,673	50%		Sensization on gender and women rights as part of the Committee mandate	Consultancy, travel, workshops
	Output Total	\$ 9,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,346	\$ 4,673	\$ -		
Output 1.4:	Output 1.4 Donor coordination								
Activity 1.4.1	Support national reforms committee in mapping donor support on justice and security sector and tracking implementation progress.	\$ 4,673			\$ 4,673				Seminars, travel, donor meetings, TV, radio, social media, printing
Activity 1.4.2	Support national reforms committee in resource mobilization efforts	\$ 4,673			\$ 4,673				Seminars, travel, donor meetings, TV, radio, social media, printing
	Output Total	\$ 9,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,346	\$ -	\$ -		
OUTCOME 2:	Strengthening of justice and security sectors to bolster public confidence in justice and law enforcement institutions.								
Output 2.1	Output 2.1 Establishment and reinforcement of local and mobile justice services								

Activity 2.1.1	Implementation of structures or Centers that act as focal points for community engagement in justice processes, providing spaces where individuals can seek redress and non-judicial dispute resolution in a supportive and trustful environment - Fixed or mobile structures.	\$ 74,766			\$ 74,766	50%		At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	Equipment, Construction/Rehabilitation works, Furniture, Training
Activity 2.1.2	Support for the courts for the collection of personal evidence, interviews, statements and hold trials, allowing all parties, even when they are not physically present, to hold virtual trials (Courts and Public Prosecutor's Office).	\$ 14,019			\$ 14,019	50%		At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	Equipment
Activity 2.1.3	Provision of legal aid services: Equip with the capacity to offer services and legal assistance, focusing on the prevention, clarification, and resolution of common disputes that may evolve.	\$ 37,383			\$ 37,383	50%		At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women. Sensization on gender and women right	Equipment, Furniture, Training
Activity 2.1.4	Strengthening the judicial system to guarantee the functioning and improve the quality of justice in Agua Grande, Lembá and Caué with the capacity to investigate, judge, resolve conflicts and repair damage (includes means, furniture, equipment, transportation).	\$ 60,748			\$ 60,748	50%		At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of this service are Women. Aiming to provide legal aid services, establishing legal clinics, and ensuring that court proceedings are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of women.	Equipment, Construction/Rehabilitation works, Furniture, Training
Activity 2.1.5	Operationalization of the courthouse in Principe Island, specifically targeting justice processes related to SGBV.	\$ 140,187			\$ 140,187	85%		Establishing a courthouse in Principe Island for handling SGBV cases can significantly improve access to justice for women who have experienced such violence. Having a local courthouse means that women do not have to travel long distances to access legal remedies, which can be particularly challenging for survivors of SGBV who may face financial constraints, safety concerns, or social stigma. 85% of the new cases in the RAP are related with SGBV.	Equipment, Construction/Rehabilitation works, Furniture, Training
Output Total		\$ 327,103	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 327,103	\$ 163,551	\$ -		
Output 2.2	Output 2.2 Improve access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms in line with the African Union Protocol								
Activity 2.2.1	Implementing conflict resolution structures close to the community (peace courts, structures for resolving disputes close to the community)	\$ 28,037			\$ 28,037	75%		Benchmarking with other ADR Institutions on how they have ensured that the rights of women, girls and youths are promoted and protected. 75% of the budget is allocated to prioritizing womens needs and empowering local stakeholders to resolve disputes related to GEWE effectively.	Consultancy, workshops, Seminars, travel, development of training modules
Output Total		\$ 28,037	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,037	\$ 21,028	\$ -		
Output 2.3	Output 2.3 Enhanced Access to Justice through Digital Platforms								
Activity 2.3.1	Expand the development and implementation of the electronic case management system eCMS national wide (Cycle 2 of CMS).	\$ 299,065			\$ 299,065	50%		At least of 50% of the direct beneficiaries on the use of the system are women.	Consultancy, Software purchase
Output Total		\$ 299,065	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 299,065	\$ 149,533	\$ -		
Output 2.4	Output 2.4 São Tomé and Príncipe is supported to enhance its criminal justice and anti-corruption legal framework.								
Activity 2.4.1	Support the review of relevant laws, policies and regulations related to crime prevention and criminal justice, including maritime crimes and corruption and laws regarding the structure of peace courts.		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	50%		Corruption can exacerbate inequalities and undermine efforts to protect women's rights. Reviewing laws related to corruption and implementing measures to combat corruption can help ensure that resources intended for gender equality initiatives, such as healthcare, education, and economic empowerment programs for women, are not diverted or misused. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	
Activity 2.4.2	Support the country in aligning its legal framework with its international standards and commitments in relation to e.g. maritime crimes, corruption, and prison reform.		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	50%		Aligning the legal framework with international standards on women's rights and gender equality can contribute to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	

Activity 2.4.3	Support the development of anti-corruption policies, procedures, regulations, including the establishment of whistle-blower protection reporting and protection mechanisms, with a gender perspective.		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	50%		The whistle-blower protection reporting and protection mechanism will take into consideration gender dimensions. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	
Output Total		\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -		
Output 2.5	Output 2.5 Sao Tome and Principe Judiciary Police Office is equipped, and investigation capabilities and skill of their personnel fully increased to track organized criminal groups and investigate corruption cases.								
Activity 2.5.1	Support the Office of the Attorney General, including the Judiciary Police with the acquisition of investigation equipment to effectively adjudicate and prosecute illegal activities.		\$ 325,688		\$ 325,688	50%		Adequate investigative equipment enables law enforcement to effectively investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence. This helps protect women and empowers women to seek justice and protection from perpetrators. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	
Activity 2.5.2	Strengthening the Judicial Police's capacities with platforms and tools that effectively allow agents to collect information, analyse them, and training for judicial police agents so that they can carry out effective forensic investigations, particularly in relation to cases		\$ 78,050		\$ 78,050	50%		Adequate investigative training enables law enforcement to effectively investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence. This helps protect women and empowers women to seek justice and protection from perpetrators. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	
Activity 2.5.3	Strengthening the system for combating gender-based crimes, through the decentralization of the Judicial Police services, at this stage with greater emphasis on training structures for dealing with and combating gender-based crimes.							Adequate investigative training enables law enforcement to effectively investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence. This helps protect women and empowers women to seek justice and protection from perpetrators. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the new services are women.	
Output Total		\$ -	\$ 403,738	\$ -	\$ 403,738	\$ 201,869	\$ -		
Output 2.6	Output 2.6 Enhance the response capacity of the prison system and social reintegration, the capacity of STP's penitentiary infrastructure in accordance with international norms and standards and the protection of human rights								
Activity 2.6.1	Improving the humane reception conditions for prisoners in the Prison Services in accordance with international standards Establishing penitentiaries in accordance with real needs in São Tomé and Príncipe		\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	50%		Women in prison are at heightened risk of experiencing gender-based violence. An in-depth assessment can help shed light on the prevalence and nature of gender-based violence within the prison system, as well as the factors contributing to its occurrence	
Activity 2.6.2	Development of a capacity-building framework and proactive support for prison staff's knowledge and practical application of international norms and standards, and support for their capacity to act		\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	50%		At least 50 % of the workshop participants will be women and training will also be dedicated to the management of female prisoners in line with the Bangkok Rules.	
Activity 2.6.3	Infrastructure for safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners as well as rehabilitation and social-reintegration prospects of prisoners improved Implementation of an embryonic prison structure with minimum conditions in the RAP, with a capacity of 20 inmates.		\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	30%		Despite much lower female incarceration rates, 30 % will be earmarked for female prisons, prisoners and community solutions benefiting women.	
Output Total		\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 42,000	\$ -		
Output 2.7	Output 2.7 Efficiency, transparency, and accountability is enhanced by the establishment and implementation of instruments and institutes to support the Justice and Security Systems								
Activity 2.7.1	2.7.1 Establishment of specialized institutes, institutions or agencies dedicated to supporting justice systems.	\$ 56,739			\$ 56,739	50%		As part of its mandate, the new institute will develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and practices within the court system. This include training programs for court staff on gender equality and sensitivity, as well as the development of standard operating procedures that prioritize the needs and rights of women litigants. At least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of the services are women.	Equipment, Furniture, Training
Activity 2.7.2	2.7.2 Implementation of instruments, tools and digital platforms to streamline judicial processes and security, increase transparency and improve security and access to justice.	\$ 18,692			\$ 18,692	50%		Digital platforms can provide easily accessible legal information, which can empower women with knowledge about their rights and the legal avenues available to them, so at least 50% of the direct beneficiaries of this services are women.	Equipment, Furniture, Training
Output Total		\$ 75,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,431	\$ 37,715.42	\$ -		
OUTCOME 3:	Outcome 3: Contribute to the fights against human rights violations and abuse and promote a culture of respect for human rights.								
Output 3.1	Output 3.1 National human rights institution is established in conformity with international standards and best practices								
Activity 3.1.1	Drafting of law		\$ 40,738		\$ 40,738	50%		Sensization on gender and women rights	Consultancy
Activity 3.1.2	Roadmap				\$ -				

Activity 3.1.3	National consultations			\$ 22,118	\$ 22,118	50%		Sensization on gender and women rights	Workshops, Seminars
Activity 3.1.3	Dissemination of law			\$ 17,144	\$ 17,144	50%		Public awareness to target at least 50% of women	TV, radio, social media, printing
	Output Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -		
Additional personnel costs	Project coordinator, Project Officer Finance Associate, Admin/Procurement Associate, & Admin/Finance Associate (UNODC), Human Rights officer	\$ 76,086	\$ 529,679	\$ 25,214	\$ 630,979				
Additional operational costs	Project Office costs, stationary and supplies	\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000				
Monitoring budget	M&E Specialist, Monthly activity monitoring, project board and implementation committee meetings.	\$ 197,390			\$ 197,390				
Budget for independent final evaluation	International Consultant for End of Project Evaluation	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000				
	Total Additional Costs	\$ 298,476	\$ 529,679	\$ 25,214	\$ 853,369	\$ -	\$ -		

Totals				
	UNDP	UNODC	OHCHR	Total
Sub-Total Project Budget	\$ 1,070,169	\$ 1,183,417	\$ 105,214	\$ 2,358,800
Indirect support costs (7%):	\$ 74,912	\$ 82,839	\$ 7,365	\$ 165,116
Total	1,145,080.83	1,266,256.19	\$ 112,579	\$ 2,523,916

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	UNDP	UNODC	OHCHR	Total	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 687,048	\$ 759,754	\$ 67,547	\$ 1,514,350	60%
Second Tranche:	\$ 458,032	\$ 506,502	\$ 45,032	\$ 1,009,566	40%
Third Tranche	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total:	\$ 1,145,081	\$ 1,266,256	\$ 112,579	\$ 2,523,916	100%

\$ Towards GEWE (includes indirect costs)	\$ 747,052
% Towards GEWE	30%
\$ Towards M&E (includes indirect costs)	\$ 232,607
% Towards M&E	9%
Note: PBF does not accept projects with less than 5% towards M&E and less than 15% towards GEWE. These figures will show as red if this minimum threshold is not met.	

Total Expenditure	\$ -
Delivery Rate:	