

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): South Sudan	
Project Title: Community Violence Reduction Partnerships with White Nile and Sobat River Communities to Advance Socioeconomic Cohesion and Peaceful Uses of the White Nile and Sobat River	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund
Name of Recipient Fund:	
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): United Nations Development Programme (UN) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UN)	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI), semi-autonomous institution at the University of Juba Community In Need Aid (CINA) (local CSO) African Development Aid (ADA) (local CSO)	
Strategic partner: United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Ministry of Peacebuilding (national level) Ministry of Peacebuilding Upper Nile State Ministry of Peacebuilding Jonglei State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (national level) Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Upper Nile State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Jonglei State Ministry of Youth and Sports Upper Nile State Ministry of Youth and Sports Jonglei State South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission South Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC)	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 36 months	
Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:	

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.

Selected Communities on the White Nile and Sobat River Corridor in Jonglei State and Upper Nile State. The initial target communities are Tonga, Atar, Wathkec, Baliet, Renk and Malakal. These communities may be subject to change after the inception phase.

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:

- Gender promotion initiative³
- Youth promotion initiative⁴
- Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
- Cross-border or regional project

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

UNDP: \$ 2,780,000

UNICEF: \$ 1,220,000

TOTAL: \$ 4,000,000

**The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.*

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

PBF 1st tranche (70%):

UNDP: \$ 1,946,000

UNICEF: \$854,000

Total: \$ 2,800,000

PBF 2nd tranche* (30%):

UNDP: \$ 834,000

UNICEF: \$366,000

Total: \$ 1,200,000

PBF 3rd tranche* (%): N/A

Total:

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

The White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are of paramount strategic importance in South Sudan as a key transportation route that serves as a lifeline for humanitarian and development access, especially during the rainy season, when various roads become impassable. Additionally, it is central to the country's economic development. In the context of the electoral year, this corridor is also central for ensuring that communities in isolated areas are engaged in the peace process, and for enhancing security implications during the elections. However, the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor access is impeded by the presence of unauthorized checkpoints. The key transportation routes are home to numerous communities from various ethnic groups. These communities experience severe hardship due to their isolated locations. The unauthorized checkpoints are causing tensions, inter- and intra-communal violence, instigating cycles of revenge killings. The unauthorized checkpoints are operated against a backdrop that is characterized by deeply rooted ethnic divisions. The main goal of the project is to support the Joint Technical Working Group on the River Nile Access (representing RTGoNU and UN) with the peaceful and sustainable closure of the unauthorized checkpoints while contributing to the efforts of United Nations and national entities in establishing structures that work to identify triggers for electoral

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

violence, to monitor and mitigate risks and to elaborate early warning and response mechanisms. The support includes activities focused on: capacitating local peace infrastructures to effectively lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives; contributing to increased social cohesion within, and between, targeted communities by focusing on mental health and psychosocial support, and sociocultural activities; providing alternative livelihoods to divert community members from running unauthorized checkpoints; and strengthening early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate electoral violence. The activities will target communities as a whole to foster a Do No Harm approach within communities. Nonetheless, several activities will specifically target adolescents, youth and women as their marginalized position in society requires tailored activities. The project will also focus on local ex-combatants, youth at risk of recruitment into armed groups and or running of unauthorized checkpoints to enforce the CVR nature of the project. An elaborated inception phase is embedded in the project to allow for more in-depth consultation to cater for a needs-based intervention that enjoys support from key local and national stakeholders. Taken together, the project will reduce community violence, foster peaceful coexistence and enhance meaningful participation of the isolated communities in the upcoming elections.

Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups):

PBF Steering Committee: the proposal was presented during the Joint Steering Committee meeting, organized by the PBF Secretariat on 22-11-2023 in Juba. The JSC endorsed the CN. The JSC was consulted on the integration of the elections component in March 2024.

Civil Society: the CSOs consulted for this proposal were selected based on their field presence and expertise on the issue of unauthorized checkpoints. The project team consulted the following CSOs: Norwegian Church Aid, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Touch Africa Development Organization (TADO), World Vision and Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC). The CSOs were all asked a set of six fixed questions during the first round of consultations, touching upon the running of the unauthorized checkpoints, the link with community violence, and the role of women regarding the checkpoints. Hereafter, the CSOs shared complementary information. The second round of consultations with World Vision and Nonviolent Peaceforce focused on humanitarian access of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor. Overall, the CSOs were able to identify crucial information on the link between unauthorized checkpoints and inter- and intra-community violence and the different roles of chiefs, elders, women, young men and women in the running of unauthorized checkpoints, and humanitarian access. The information has been integrated into the conflict analysis and has informed the design of activities. The CSOs have been consulted in November 2023 and February 2024.

Stakeholder Communities: different stakeholders living in- or near the target areas have been consulted on the proposal. Accordingly, the majority of collected data focuses on Malakal/Upper Nile State. The project design attempted to consult a variety (profession, age, gender) of stakeholders to cover different angles and viewpoints. The proposal also used relevant data collected by UNDP and UNMISS in June-July 2023 for the purpose of a nation-wide conflict analysis. Taken together, the following stakeholders have been consulted: young males and females living in Malakal town and PoC (June-July 2023); young males and females living in Renk (June-July 2023);

traditional and spiritual leaders living in Renk (June-July 2023); women leaders living in Renk (June-July 2023); youth leaders living in Bor, Jonglei State (June-July 2023); chairperson of the General Boat Union, based in Malakal (November 2023); chairperson of the Upper Nile youth union (November 2023). The consultations have provided information on root causes of violence, current challenges, and identification of needs to address root causes of violence and overcome challenges. The information obtained was useful to sketch an initial overview of what challenges the project should address and what the local stakeholders require to address these. Nonetheless, it has become clear that more in-depth consultations with members of the targeted communities are necessary during the inception phase to identify specific community, gender and age category challenges and needs in order to tailor activities and assure a robust 'Do No Harm' strategy.

Government: the government has been consulted on different levels. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Peacebuilding has been consulted on the proposal during a meeting in Juba, in September 2023. The Undersecretary has been consequently consulted on the integration of the elections component in March 2024. The project team also consulted governmental counterparts at the state-level. The Minister of Peacebuilding and the Minister of Youth and Sports of Jonglei State have been consulted on the proposal in September 2023. The DG of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Minister for Peacebuilding of Upper Nile State have also been consulted on the proposal in September 2023. The consultations provided insightful information on the governmental perspective regarding root causes of violence, challenges and needs. The information obtained has been incorporated in the conflict analysis and has been used to design project activities.

UNMISS: the Senior Security Sector Reform Officer of UNMISS has been consulted throughout the development of the proposal and has provided valuable inputs for the proposal. UNMISS is a member of the JTWG and has provided useful information on the configuration, mandate and objective of the working group. Further, UNMISS has provided assistance with the identification of target communities in order to assure that they align with the action plans of the JTWG.

The participation of UNMISS throughout the project implementation period is favourable to foster smooth project implementation and to maintain synergies with the JTWG. The partnership with UNMISS is embedded in the technical working group of this specific project, as outlined in section III-B.

WFP: the Malakal-based security focal person of WFP has been consulted regarding humanitarian access of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor. The consultation took place in February 2024.

Project Gender Marker score⁵: Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: GM2 (30% of the total budget amounting to 1,200,000USD for GEWE).

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender

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)

equality and women's empowerment⁶:

The project does not envisage specific activities that will solely focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. However, gender equality and women's empowerment are mainstreamed throughout the activities meaning that the notions of gender equality, women's empowerment and GBV will be included and discussed during all dialogues, MHPSS activities, sensitization workshops on the R-ARCSS, preventing electoral violence activities and other peace activities. To illustrate, the sensitization workshops on the R-ARCSS will contribute specific attention to the equal role and necessity of women's participation in the implementation of the roadmap⁷. Herewith, female and male participants will be informed on the subjects and encouraged to contribute to women's empowerment and positive masculinity. Further, the consultations and certain dialogues, MHPSS workshops and other peace activities will target females only. Herewith, women are enabled to speak freely and share their opinions. This is necessary as lessons learned from previous experiences demonstrate that young and seasoned women can be reluctant to speak-up, even when the concept of gender equality and equal participation is introduced at the beginning of the session. All things considered, the project will align with the 35% provision outlined in the R-ARCSS. This is also included in Article 16 of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS), which stipulates the 'Rights of Women.' Article 16(4)(a) provides for 35% affirmative action intended to enhance women's participation and representation in public life⁸. The latter covers women's participation and representation in, for example, government and activities organised by peace partners.

Project Risk Marker score⁹: 2**Is the project piloting new approaches:**

A peacebuilding project focusing on the closure of unauthorized checkpoints in the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor for community violence reduction has not been implemented in South Sudan. This innovative aspect of the project will be combined with/complement current peacebuilding activities and interventions that respond to a needs-based assessment and lessons learned from previous UNDP and UNICEF interventions.

Does the project design incorporate climate, peace and security related considerations:

The project proposes alternative livelihood opportunities for community members involved in the running of unauthorized checkpoints. The livelihood opportunities will be based on a needs- and private sector assessment, and will include an assessment on sustainability regarding climate change. The project aims to provide alternative livelihood opportunities that are climate friendly by supporting livelihood activities that are not harmful to the environment. The specific livelihood opportunities will be determined after the inception phase, when the target beneficiaries have been finalized and a needs- and private sector assessment has been conducted. Further, the inception phase will cover consultations with climate security specialists from UNDP and UNMISS to gain additional knowledge on green jobs and interrelations with climate security aspects. Lastly, the project will also address one of the impacts of climate change as IDPs living in the target communities (as a result of severe floodings along the Sobat River Corridor) will be among the target beneficiaries.

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

⁷ The R-ARCSS includes an Agreement on the Roadmap to a Peaceful and Democratic Transitional Period.

⁸ Why women must seize the 'constitutional moment' in South Sudan, the world's youngest nation | Feature from King's College London (kcl.ac.uk)

⁹ **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

<p>Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (<i>select ONLY one</i>)¹⁰: 2.3 Conflict Prevention/Management</p> <p>If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes: Outcomes 1,2 and 4.</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: SDGs 5 and 16.</p>	
<p>Type of submission: New Project</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>

¹⁰ **PBF Focus Areas** are:

- (1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;
- (2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management.
- (3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services
- (4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<p>Recipient Organization UNDP¹¹</p> <p>Name of Representative Signature [Redacted] Name of Agency: United Nations Date & Seal: South Sudan </p> <p>Dominic Sam Resident Representative a.i.</p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p>Name of Government Counterpart Signature: HON. DIA PHILIP MICHAEL Title: Undersecretary, Ministry of Peace Building Date & Seal: RSS - JUBA [Redacted] </p>
<p>Recipient Organization UNICEF</p> <p>Name of Representative: DARA JOHNSTON (OIC) Signature: [Redacted] Name of Agency: UNICEF Date & Seal: 10/5/24 </p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p>Elizabeth Spehar [Redacted] Signature: [Redacted] Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal: 10 June 2024</p>
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p>Name of Representative: Anita Kiki Gbeho Signature: [Redacted] Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Date & Seal: [Redacted] </p>	

N.K. 

¹¹ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

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

- a) A brief 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.

Context



South Sudan's struggle to find peace since independence remains a work in progress despite the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The country ranks bottom on the Human Development Index¹², which is reflected in a societal environment characterized by severe poverty, ethnic divisions, revenge killings, lawlessness, natural disasters and corruption. The current crisis in Sudan instigates a substantial influx of returnees and refugees in South Sudan. The arrival of the returnees and refugees is

exacerbating existing conflict triggers such as competition over scarce resources, economic hardship, pre-existing communal tensions, a weak social fabric and the presence of firearms. These effects are most notable in the main entry points and areas of settlement, here including Upper Nile State.

Origins of the unauthorized checkpoints

Against this background, the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are of paramount strategic importance in South Sudan as a key transportation route that serves as a lifeline for humanitarian and development access, especially during the rainy season, when various roads become impassable. Additionally, it is central to the country's economic development. However, the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor access is impeded by the presence of unauthorized checkpoints. Since independence, the number of unauthorized checkpoints has increased significantly. They are frequently used to extort or impede humanitarian aid¹³ and are a vital source of revenue for civil servants (traffic police, State police). To illustrate, the political economy of South Sudan was mostly driven by oil revenues to finance government expenditures. Since 2013, however, oil revenues plummeted, leading to a shortage of budget to finance government expenditures. Consequently, the presence of- and taxation at checkpoints increased significantly to finance government and army expenditures. One may even refer to a 'checkpoint economy', comprising how 'official and unofficial actors tax and expropriate goods and cash travelling on South Sudan's roads and rivers'¹⁴. Moreover, the installation of unauthorized checkpoints by organized forces is a combat technique as it provides a

¹² South Sudan has the lowest human development index in the world, ranking 191 out of 191 countries, Human Development Report 2021-2022.

¹³ South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot, February 2023. OCHA.

¹⁴ Thomas, E., Gworo, R., & Wani, K.G. (2018), Cash-based Programmes and Conflict: Key areas of interaction and options for conflict-sensitive programming in South Sudan, CSRF, p2.

possibility to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching a certain area or community, weakening the opponent's presence and position¹⁵.

The access of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor is formally granted by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. The latter is an independent commission established through the RRC act, issued by the Government of South Sudan in 2016. The RRC is a legal entity under the oversight of the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. Humanitarian organizations are required to obtain a clearance letter from the RRC prior to accessing the respective waterways. Nonetheless, the clearance letter from the RRC does not secure tranquil movement along the waterways due to the 'checkpoint economy'. In general, humanitarian aid is transported by convoys led by WFP. The convoy leader of WFP negotiates with checkpoint managers in most instances, resulting in a payment of on average 5,000 South Sudanese Pounds for access and the docking of a boat. It is common practice that checkpoint managers also demand material goods such as fuel or shares of the load being transported, for example food. In addition, leveraging from its existing status of force agreement with the government, UNMISS can support humanitarian access through a joint integrated mission with a UN Agency, through a regular request letter processed via the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, requesting for a government clearance to access a government-controlled area. However, for an opposition-controlled area or areas under the control of armed groups, UNMISS makes a direct call for access negotiation with commanders on the ground. Overall, access is negotiated and assured on an ad-hoc basis on the rivers themselves as there is no existing protocol and control by the Government that regulates the handling of (un)authorized checkpoints¹⁶.

Communities living along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor

The key transportation routes are home to numerous communities from various ethnic groups. The majority of them rely on fishing as a main source of income. The communities living along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor experience significant hardship due to their isolated locations. The communities suffer from very little infrastructure, the road network is seasonal at best and while the rivers are the most reliable transport option, they are affected by insecurity issues such as the unauthorized checkpoints. The area observes no presence of local infrastructures for peace such as peace committees, limited livelihood opportunities, limited access to basic services like healthcare and education, exclusive socio-political and economic systems (especially for adolescents, youth¹⁷ and women), the exploitation of grievances for political gains, lack of trust among communities and limited to no presence of law enforcement entities to intervene in communal conflicts. As a result, communities are heavily armed as a mechanism for self-protection. These hardship factors are largely similar to all the targeted communities, however, the inception phase will yield more community-specific information regarding hardship factors.

Within this context, adolescents, young men and young women are often marginalized from decision-making that is affecting their lives, face strong intergenerational gaps and encounter limited to non-existent livelihood opportunities. This makes them extremely vulnerable, forcing them to look for alternative ways to sustain themselves and their families. The youth leaders aiming to make a positive

¹⁵ Peer Schouten, Ken Matthysen & Thomas Muller (December 2021). Checkpoint economy: the political economy of checkpoints in South Sudan, ten years after independence.

¹⁶ Consultations with WFP security focal person, World Vision and Nonviolent Peacefore, February 2024.

¹⁷ Adolescents refers to the age category of 10-17 years old and youth refers to the age category of 18-35 years old.

contribution to the development of their communities are often held back by the hardship factors listed above. At present, most efforts to build peace and reduce conflict are targeted towards existing leadership structures, not young people themselves, despite their centrality to conflict dynamics in South Sudan. Further, seasoned women face similar marginalization as their situation is shaped by entrenched gender norms that limit their active participation in decision-making and peace process and delegitimize their position in society. The entrenched gender norms pose an additional burden for young women to meaningfully participate in decision-making and peace processes.

Conflict factors

Military use of unauthorized checkpoints

A number of the unauthorized checkpoints can be found along the White Nile and the Sobat River Corridor in the northern part of Jonglei State and Upper Nile State, up until Renk. The White Nile is predominantly controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO)¹⁸. The SPLA-IO has been cut off from most of government financing and relies heavily on revenue generated at checkpoints along the White Nile, making it the most expensive route in South Sudan.

Communal use of unauthorized checkpoints

The profitability of unauthorized checkpoints, set up by SPLA-IO and other stakeholders, has been noticed by communities living along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor. Consequently, communities established their own unauthorized checkpoints, which often serve as the main source of income. The unauthorized checkpoints are mostly run by youth and elders and are sometimes backed by military personnel¹⁹. Mostly, they are run on a community basis, in that, the majority of communities yield income from a single checkpoint. This checkpoint is run by individual community members, size varies per checkpoint. However, there are cases where multiple checkpoints are linked to the same family or community²⁰. Women (including young women) are often not directly involved in the daily running of the unauthorized checkpoints. However, they are employed by checkpoint managers to cook and provide food for the people running the unauthorized checkpoint²¹. Hence, women are also benefitting from the income generated by the unauthorized checkpoints.

Community violence triggered by unauthorized checkpoints

The unauthorized checkpoints are causing tension, including inter- and intra-communal violence. There is competition over land that encompasses an unauthorized checkpoint, which is causing conflict between different communities. One can also observe tension between different checkpoint managers (representing different communities) over the different rate that is charged at each checkpoint. The different communities living along the target area are using the Rivers for their daily transport. The stopping at checkpoints can sometimes cause conflict and can escalate to a stage where a community member is killed. This instigates a cycle of revenge killing as the family of the deceased community member will retaliate on the community owning the checkpoints where the incident happened²². Further, the unauthorized checkpoints are also causing intra-communal violence as there is often conflict within a community over the division of profit generated by the unauthorized checkpoints²³.

Backdrop of deeply rooted communal violence

¹⁸ Influx of people fleeing Sudan put pressure on scarce resources in Upper Nile State, raising ethnic tensions; militia leader returned to Juba. Crisis Watch, International Crisis Group, May 2023.

¹⁹ Consultation with the chairperson of the General Boat Union, based in Malakal. November 2023.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Consultation with representative of the Upper Nile Youth Union, based in Malakal. November 2023.

²² Consultation with chairperson of the General Boat Union, based in Malakal. November 2023.

²³ Consultation with a representative of the Upper Nile Youth Union, based in Malakal. November 2023.

Further, the White Nile and Sobat River Corridor are besides fishing communities also inhabited by various pastoralists communities from different ethnic groups, mainly related to the Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk. Many pastoralist communities migrate in search of pastures and water during the dry season, which often accounts for violent clashes followed by revenge killings. To illustrate, the Lou Nuer migrate from Jonglei to the Sobat River area in proximity to Dinka clans of Apadang in Upper Nile State, which often results in violent conflict²⁴. One can also observe rivalries between communities of the same ethnicity. For example, the Sobat River Corridor is (amongst others) home to the Lou Nuer and Jikany Nuer, which often experience inter-clan conflicts²⁵. Further, male adolescents and youth often see no recourse but to acquire small arms to pursue economic goals, obtain dowry and to defend themselves. Women often have an indirect role in the communal conflicts, which is centered around obtaining intelligence prior to an attack or boosting the morale of community members designated to fight. Further, women are seen as the most vulnerable victims of conflicts emanating from the unauthorized checkpoints. They face significant levels of rape, murder and abduction²⁶.

Aggravation by emerging issues

The communal violence is aggravated by emerging issues such as the influx of returnees and refugees due to the crisis in Sudan. Upper Nile State is one of the states most affected by the ongoing crisis in Sudan, which has resulted in an unprecedented influx of over 641,195 persons fleeing insecurity²⁷. The majority remains at the northern point of the White Nile River in Renk (one of the target locations of the JTWG on River Nile access) as they have been unable to transit to further locations due to road inaccessibility caused by heavy rains and no plans of travel beyond arrival in Renk²⁸. These persons are primarily of South Sudanese origin, and though they may ultimately travel to other destinations within the country, their presence in Renk places significant additional socio-economic stress on the existing community that is leading to tensions and communal conflict over scarce resources among the host communities and returnees/refugees if preventive actions are not immediately taken. The additional challenges in Renk exacerbate the vulnerable position of women as GBV increased since the arrival of the returnees. An intervention in Renk is particularly urgent as the conflict in Sudan shows no signs of abating and it can be expected that Renk will continue to receive even greater numbers of returnees²⁹.

Further, natural disasters such as prolonged periods of drought and extreme flooding as a result of climate change are other factors that aggravate existing communal violence. To demonstrate, floodings along the Sobat River Corridor, the White Nile River and the Sudd swamps forced a record high number of communities to flee to higher grounds. Consequently, the number of IDPs along the rivers increased, causing additional tension and triggers between communities living along the Rivers³⁰.

²⁴ Consultation with UNDP staff based in Malakal and Jonglei. October 2023.

²⁵ Consultations with UNDP staff in Malakal and Jonglei. October 2023.

²⁶ Consultation with representative of Norwegian Church Aid, based in Malakal. November 2023.

²⁷ IOM and UNHCR population movement dashboard, accessed on 19 April 2024.

²⁸ Renk, South Sudan: Life, death and fear for refugees | Conflict News | Al Jazeera and South Sudan: Aid needs to scale up for returnees stuck in Renk (msf.org.au)

²⁹ Reliefweb (26 Jul 2023): Critical funding gap for onward transportation for people fleeing Sudan risks to create a humanitarian catastrophe in the border areas.

³⁰ Climate change leaves the upper corridor of South Sudan flooded out and stuck in the mud. UNICEF, 25 October 2021.

Opportunities and entry points

First, an opportunity for timely action has been presented through progress achieved on the Nile River Corridor initiative. The Nile River Corridor initiative began on 24 November 2022, when the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) and a UN High-level Committee requested that a joint RTGoNU-UN technical working group be convened to address the recurrent challenges for the free and unhindered movement of people and goods on the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor. The Joint Technical Working Group on the River Nile Access Committee (JTWG) comprises representatives of the RTGoNU, UNMISS and members of the UN Country Team³¹. The JTWG subsequently met on 28 April and 3 May 2023. As a result of these meetings, members of the JTWG mapped existing check posts and agreed on authorized check posts. As the UNMISS Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Haysom has emphasized in his 20 July UN Security Council Briefing, an agreement was reached to reduce the number of checkpoints³². The JTWG has identified key communities that would be affected by checkpoint closure and has identified as a next step the need to consult with communities directly on the subject of checkpoint closure. In that regard, this project is designed to support community consultations to address checkpoint closures and develop socio-economic incentives for communities to encourage their consent to the closure of the unauthorized checkpoints, by providing concrete benefits to communities in recognition of the potential negative repercussions of checkpoint closure. Overall, the project is designed to support, and will be fully aligned at all stages with, the JTWG processes. The momentum for the closing of unauthorized checkpoints has increased as the chairperson of the National Transitional Committee commented that the White Nile River should be clear for relief aid and commodities to move freely to the citizens³³.

Second, the initial engagement with communities living along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor also offers, besides the closure of unauthorized checkpoints, the possibility to address other root causes of communal violence such as (but not limited to) land disputes, ethnic and inter-clan rivalries, cattle migration and raiding. These are aggravated by the emerging issues mentioned above. Herewith, the proposed project has the opportunity to respond to both existing tensions and new tendencies such as the influx of returnees coming from Sudan, and increased presence of IDPs.

Third, UNDP will be implementing activities in Renk as an emergency response to the crisis in Sudan, which is covered under a separate UNDP project. This presents a timely entry point for community violence reduction activities to ensure a sustained and coordinated commitment to addressing the impacts of the crisis in Sudan on border areas with South Sudan, and thus, addressing triggers for community violence. Further, the RTGoNU considers the challenges presented by the large number of returnees in Renk so critical that it has used its own resources to try to mitigate the problem, and understands the grave security implications of the mass migration into South Sudan. The commitment of the RTGoNU emphasizes the window of opportunity.

Lastly, the project will be implemented at a crucial moment in South Sudan, as the country is paving its way towards elections in December 2024. As the project will be implemented in an area characterized by localized conflicts, it is important to pay attention to creating an enabling security

³¹ RTGoNU members of the JTWG are led by MOFA and include representatives from MOFA, MODVA, SSNPS, NSS, JVMM, and Riverine Operations. UN members of the JTWG are led by the UNMISS Force Commander and include representatives from UNMISS/Force, PAD, as well as OCOS/LAU; and ODSRSG/RC/HC and OCHA.

³² Statement by Mr. Nicholas Haysom Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS United Nations Security Council Briefing 20 June 2023.

³³ Interview with Radio Miraya, 15 November 2023.

environment for elections where the communities can participate without intimidation or fear of reprisal. This presents a timely entry point for a community violence reduction project, that will contribute to the efforts of the UN Integrated Election Assistance Team and national entities in establishing structures that work on identifying triggers for electoral violence, to monitor and mitigate risks and strengthen early warning and response mechanisms in light of preventing electoral violence.

Stakeholder Matrix

Actor Group	Power and interest
Male youth and adolescents at risk of recruitment	High interest + medium power
Female youth and adolescents at risk of recruitment	High interest + low power
Local ex-combatants (senior and youth)	High interest + medium power
Community leaders	High interest + high power
Women groups	Medium interest + low power
Religious leaders	Medium interest + medium power
Traditional spiritual leaders	Medium interest + medium power
Civil Society Organizations	High interest + medium power
Returnees and refugees from Sudan	High interest + low power
Ministry of Peacebuilding (National and State level)	High interest + medium power
South Sudan National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission	High interest + medium power
South Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control	High interest + low to medium power
Military elites	High interest + high power
Relief and Rehabilitation Commission	High interest + low power
National Election Commission	High interest + low power

The sensitivity of the project requires an in-depth stakeholder mapping up to individual basis, which is embedded in the inception phase to schedule consultations accordingly.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**³⁴, 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.

National ownership

On the one hand, the project supports national ownership as it responds to the request of the RTGoNU, within the JTWG, to commence community consultations along the River Nile and Sobat River Corridor regarding the closure of unauthorized checkpoints. The strategic partnership with UNMISS

³⁴ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

will provide the opportunity to closely liaise with the RTGoNU to sustain engagement and commitment throughout the implementation cycle. Further, the increasingly striding situation in Renk calls for immediate action. This viewpoint is shared by the RTGoNU. The implementation of the project will be conducted in consultation and collaboration with national- and state-level ministries. The inception phase embedded in outcome one will include a robust consultative process, which will provide more clarity on the variety of governmental stakeholders that should be involved in the implementation of the project. Accordingly, governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Peacebuilding will be involved in the implementation of the project. Further, the first phase of the project implementation timeframe will cover the electoral component, hence the National Elections Commission (NEC) will be consulted and involved in the project implementation. Herewith, an active role of the national and sub-national counterparts is safeguarded in the project development and implementation.

On the other hand, the inception phase will also provide more clarity on the challenges and needs of the local communities living along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor. Inclusion of the local communities from the early project design phase onward will foster local ownership at the community level. Further, key implementation approaches in the project will focus on the principle of meaningful youth engagement and gender equality. Herewith, extra efforts will be made to safeguard the inclusion and equal participation of marginalized groups such as youth and women throughout the lifespan of the proposed project as this is imperative to peaceful co-existence and inclusive elections. Consequently, the notion of national ownership will also be assured amongst these groups.

Governmental strategic frameworks

The proposed project fosters the implementation of the Revised-National Development Strategy (R-NDS), which aims to foster the implementation of the R-ARCSS and secure a shift from dependency on humanitarian aid to a development trajectory. One of the key principles of the R-NDS is to position youth as drivers of growth, and nation-building³⁵. The proposed intervention contributes to this objective by identifying adolescents and youth as the key target group, enabling them to become agents of change. Another key document in the South Sudanese peacebuilding landscape is the South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF), which aims to promote long-term goals regarding peacebuilding interventions. The proposed project contributes to the strategic objective of the framework's intervention pillar 4, namely: '*to promote peace and social cohesion amongst South Sudanese*', as the proposed activities will reduce community violence and foster peaceful coexistence and social cohesion amongst the targeted communities along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor. The project also aligns with priority 2 of pillar 7, which addresses the importance of youth engagement and empowerment in promoting peace, as the project empowers youth to become agents of change³⁶. Further, the project directly supports Chapter II of the R-ARCSS that addresses 'Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements' which is pivotal in creating an enabling security environment for elections. Subsequently, the electoral component of the project fosters the realization of the Roadmap for the implementation of outstanding provisions of the R-ARCSS, namely the plans for the conduct of national elections, envisaged for late 2024.

PRF strategic objectives

The proposed intervention supports strategic objective two (addressing conflict resulting from and around displacement) and three (strengthening local peace mechanisms and conflict prevention) that have been identified in the eligibility process. The deliberate decision to target Renk will support

³⁵ Revised-National Development Strategy, 2021-2024: Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy, Republic of South Sudan and UNDP, Juba 2021

³⁶ South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework, Ministry of Peacebuilding, September 2021.

community violence reduction by addressing conflicts between returnees and refugees coming from Sudan and the host communities. In addition, the proposed intervention will target communities living across the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor, which are increasingly including IDPs due to severe floodings in that area. Herewith, the proposed intervention will address another communal conflict trigger related to displacement. Further, the strengthening of local peace mechanisms and conflict prevention are inherent to the proposed intervention, as demonstrated in the outcome framework.

UN frameworks

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the Republic of South Sudan (2023-2025) identifies ‘Women and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development’ as one of its strategic priorities. The theory of change underpinning this strategic objective touches upon the need of capacity building of young women and men to enable their participation in decision-making across peace and governance structures and processes³⁷. The proposed project includes interventions that capacitate the participation of young women and men in local peace infrastructures, and thus, supporting one of the strategic priorities of the UNSDCF.

Further, the proposed project fosters the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (UNSCR 2250). The YPS agenda recognizes the positive contributions of young men and women to peace and security³⁸. The proposed intervention supports the realization of three out of five pillars of the YPS agenda, namely: participation, prevention, and disengagement and reintegration as the intervention enables youth participation in local peace infrastructures, includes youth in violence prevention mechanisms, disengages youth from joining armed groups, and reintegrates young ex-combatants into the community.

Overall, the proposed intervention contributes to the realization of the 2030 agenda, namely SDG 5 and 16 as the project contributes to the meaningful participation of young women in local peace infrastructures, and the wider community violence reduction activities contribute to peace.

Catalytic nature

The proposed intervention touches upon a sensitive and complex issue, however, with a possible significant peacebuilding gain. The issue of closing unauthorized checkpoints for community violence reduction has not been a common peacebuilding activity in South Sudan. Additionally, the proposed project will support the peaceful access of a key transportation corridor, which will ease humanitarian and development activities in the period characterized by increased humanitarian needs in Upper Nile state. The dedicated outcome on preventing electoral violence addresses the much-needed preparedness for the upcoming national elections. Taken together, these elements contribute to the catalytic nature of the project.

- 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.

South Sudan is entering an important phase in its journey towards a historical political transformation through the conduct of its first national elections scheduled for December 2024. The aim of the

³⁷ UNSDCF 2023-2025, UN Country Team, 18 January 2023.

³⁸ Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, S/RES/2250, 09 December 2015.

forthcoming elections is not only to elect legitimate political leaders, but to also consolidate peace and promote reconciliation. A technically acceptable election may be necessary but is in itself not enough without a safe environment that enables citizens to participate in a meaningful way, fosters trust in processes and leads to acceptance of election results that are perceived as genuine. In this regard, key outstanding issues of the implementation of the R-ARCSS, such as the constitution making process, respect for human rights, access to information, space for diverging views, enabling security arrangements, effective dispute resolution processes at the local level, and inclusive and equal opportunities for participation for all sectors of the population remain to be addressed. The need to expedite the implementation of the security arrangements of the R-ARCSS has recently been underscored by a ministerial-level meeting convened by the AU High Level Ad Hoc Committee and other stakeholders.

UNDP's South Sudan Election Support Project, in collaboration with the UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (UNDP and UNMISS) and the National Election Commission aim to address the key outstanding issues by fostering a holistic approach that addresses the legal framework for elections, strengthened institutional capacities for accountable election management, inclusive participation, enhanced environment for maintaining security and mitigation of electoral violence, and strengthened effectiveness in planning and implementing electoral processes for all citizens. Herewith, it aims to assure that all citizens and communities are equally able to participate as voters, as candidates and in decision making on the electoral framework. This principle is at the core of the concept of 'free and fair elections' envisaged within the R-ARCSS. Outcome four of this proposal focuses on preventing electoral violence, herewith, the proposal supports and complements the ongoing work of the UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team. Herewith, the proposal contributes to addressing key outstanding issues that lie at the heart of the election preparedness process.

All things considered, the proposal will support and complement the ongoing work of the UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team by: providing access to significantly hard to reach communities, that face increased isolation from infrastructures due to the compounded impact of climate change. Thus, supporting access to a target group that would be left out during general election support; the project provides opportunities to utilize the dialogue spaces to support conflict prevention and the existence of diverging views regarding the elections; the project provides opportunities to leverage on activities linked to the reinsertion of youth (including ex combatants and youth at risk of recruitment), in cooperation with existing local level peace committees, to address hate speech and strengthen early warning mechanisms in light of the elections; the project will support opportunities that facilitate clarification of the complementary roles of national and international security actors and promote a common understanding of a joint security framework for elections. Further, the project has a strong focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities. This provides opportunities to conduct inclusive election-related activities and support the prevention of violence against women during elections. The sum of the electoral activities is captured under outcome four of this project document.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Provision of a multi-dimensional	UNICEF HQ & BHA:	-Reintegration and trauma healing of youth and adolescents living	The current proposal will look at introducing a mobile approach/low-cost model. The

youth and adolescents friendly services in Malakal – South Sudan (April 2023 – April 2026)	USD 849,173.00	very dangerous lives through sports, music and arts, as well as vocational training, emotional self-regulation and relationship building activities in two youth centres; -Peacebuilding and conflict resolution	low-cost model will work by including the youth centre activities in existing infrastructures such as schools, child friendly spaces or other existing community structures that are close to the targeted checkpoints to be able to divert the youth and adolescents involved in the running of these illegal checkpoints. At the same time, the mobile approach involves the inspirators/mentors doing much more outreach and bringing the relationship building to the streets. Many of the children they will work with are street children so the inspirators are splitting up to be able to spend time with the children on the street or wherever they find them to slowly build their trust. Moreover, the current proposal will support the expansion to other locations, as the ultimate aim is to implement this innovative reintegration and well-being methodology in all the States and Administrative Areas of South Sudan.
Community Violence Reduction in Western Bhar el Gazal	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs USD \$514, 393.82	Reintegration of ex-combatants, Women and Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (WAAFAG/CAAFAG), youth at risk, returnees and communities of return. Providing psycho-social support, training of former ex-combatants and forming them into cooperative societies.	The CVR activity in WBeG includes a similar approach, and therefore, similar activities. The proposed project will complement CVR activities in South Sudan by targeting a different area in the country.
Peace and Community Cohesion Project	UNDP, Japan, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PBF	Peacebuilding at the grassroots level with an integrated community violence reduction approach.	The project complements this proposal as one of the key projects covering establishing and operationalizing peace committees at the grassroots level,

			implementing MHPSS activities and creating socioeconomic interdependencies. The project has a country wide coverage with the institutionalization embedded in various government entities such as the Ministry of Peacebuilding, South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, DDR Commission etc. The proposed project will build on the work of PaCC as well as use the infrastructures at the national and local level.
South Sudan Sobat Corridor Project: To reduce violence and increase the safety and security of civilians in conflict-affected areas of the Sobat Corridor.	Embassy of Switzerland CHF 475'000	Human rights Humanitarian Assistance & DRR	This project, though closed, is complimentary to the current proposal. It supported IDPs and host communities along the Sobat corridors by mainstreaming protection programming on GBV prevention, child abduction mitigation and deter the threat of violence against civilians. The protection mainstreaming approach allowed for coordination in humanitarian response. The HPD nexus in the Sobat Corridor is at risk of dwindling down, and the PBF intervention would strengthen humanitarian protection programming in the area.

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 overarching goal of the project is to foster community violence reduction in targeted communities located along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor, with the diversion of community members from running unauthorized checkpoints being a key element to foster community violence reduction. The unauthorized checkpoints run by community members are not recognized by the

government making them fluid in their existence. Accordingly, no official closure protocol or registration is required.

As discussed in the conflict analysis, the unauthorized checkpoints, often controlled by adolescents and youth (including youth and adolescents formerly associated with armed forces and groups and youth at risk) from different communities, contribute to insecurity in the community, impeded access and use of the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor. Accordingly, the project seeks to strengthen local peace infrastructures to enable them to lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives. The activities centered around the local peace infrastructures will focus on the meaningful inclusion of women and youth to safeguard their role in local peace infrastructures. Further, the peace initiatives led by the local infrastructures will include specific initiatives that target women, young women and young men, assuring an enabling environment where they feel comfortable to talk and share their opinions. The high levels of community violence in the targeted areas indicate the presence of a weak social fabric. Hence, the project will implement activities that foster social cohesion and trauma healing to strengthen the social fabric. As for trauma healing, specific initiatives will be tailored towards the context of women, here including young women, as their traumas require special attention towards, for example, traumas related to GBV. Women-only initiatives are also crucial to foster an enabling environment where they feel comfortable to discuss their trauma. One of the key components leading to the running of unauthorized checkpoints and community violence is severe economic hardship combined with a limited availability of livelihood opportunities. Therefore, the project will implement socioeconomic activities that divert communities from running unauthorized checkpoints, enabling them to become self-reliant. Specific opportunities will be targeted at adolescents, youth and women, recognizing their marginalization in some, for women mostly male-dominated, fields, entrenched gender norms and social constructs that limit their participation.

Further, the implementation strategy leverages the holistic nature of the proposed activities in combination with access to isolated communities to contribute and complement the work of the UNIEAT aimed at fostering an enabling environment where inclusive democratic elections can prevail.

The outputs will be implemented in a sequenced manner. The first step in the implementation will be the elaborated inception phase, which is necessary to further enrich the conflict analysis, define target beneficiaries, tailor activities and draft a robust 'Do No Harm' approach. The project will then start with implementation of remaining activities under outcome one, establishing and capacitating the local peace infrastructures. It is important to firstly establish these in order to put the local peace committees in the driver seat to further lead peace activities. Outcomes two and three may be implemented in parallel throughout the implementation phase. Outcome four covering the preventing electoral violence component may be implemented in a shorter timeframe at the early stage of the project lifespan as the activities cater for an enabling environment in the lead up to the elections in December 2024.

The implementation strategy includes multiple approaches, recognizing the complexity of the proposed intervention. The different approaches contribute together to a robust Do No harm approach:

- **Participatory approach:** the project will use an integrated, inclusive, participatory and flexible approach to adapt to the changing context and beneficiaries' needs, feedback and interests. Ownership of project activities and interventions will be sought through national, state and local authorities, women organizations, youth organizations and CSOs. Stakeholder-led interventions and community participatory approaches will be used during project implementation. Further, UNDP and UNICEF will comprise a 'sounding board' consisting out

of young women, young men, senior women and people with disabilities that participate in project activities. The sounding board will be consulted on a frequent basis throughout the project to check whether the marginalized groups are satisfied with their inclusion and whether they have suggestions for the project working group. The sounding board group will be encouraged to contact the project working group in case there are activities that hinder the meaningful participation of the marginalized groups. Moreover, UNICEF through the implementation of its youth and adolescents activities will respond directly to the needs and wants of youth and adolescents as the centers will be co-created by them. They will have a direct role in decision making around what activities happen in the centers, what atmosphere is created and how conflicts are prevented and resolved.

- **Youth sensitive approach:** the project acknowledges the important role that young people play in the prevention of conflict and building peace. The project also recognizes the particular experiences of violence, injustice and exclusion, both in situations of violent conflict and in contexts of inequality, insecurity, or uncertainty outside of conflict settings, faced by young women and men. Therefore, the youth interventions in the proposed project will be based on- and respond to the specific realities, needs and aspirations of young people. A key component of the youth-sensitive approach is to also recognize that youth is *not* a homogeneous group, it is a diverse group, with varied characteristics, identities and needs. The exact characteristics of youth targeted in this project will be included after the inception phase in order to avoid assumptions. Young men and women will be a standalone category during the consultative process that is embedded in the inception phase. The youth group will be further disaggregated by gender to provide both young women and men with an enabling environment where they feel safe to respond to the queries of the inception phase. Further, the heterogeneous characteristics of youth will be reflected in the tailored interventions as different youth groups will be included in the consultations embedded in the inception phase. Another key component of the youth-sensitive approach is the meaningful inclusion of youth. The concept of meaningful youth participation underlines young people's agency, that is, their ability and capacity to independently reflect on their experiences and engage in action. Understanding the importance of young people's agency is important to enable their active participation in peace and security spaces. Through meaningful participation young people can have an influence on- and (co)take decisions on matters that concern them at all levels and in all stages of policy and program implementation. There will be multiple forms and levels of participation, such as being the beneficiaries of programs, being participants of a training seminar, being part of consultations, or being responsible for organizing activities for other youth or groups. Promoting meaningful participation requires physical and emotional safe spaces (being able to participate and to build positive relationships), voice (being allowed to express opinions), audience (being listened to), and influence (being able to shape decisions). The concept of meaningful youth participation is included in two ways in the proposed intervention. 1) youth are, and will be, meaningfully included in the design and implementation of the proposed intervention (see participatory approach paragraph). 2) youth are, via the proposed intervention, empowered to meaningfully participate in local peace infrastructures, youth centres, and community violence reduction initiatives.
- **Gender sensitive approach:** this project is founded on the premise that women, including young women, face entrenched gender norms that are deeply rooted in the South Sudanese society and traditional cultural norms. Though there is a push against gender inequality in South Sudan, the barriers remain significantly high. Further, a key component of the gender sensitive

approach is to also recognize that women are *not* a homogeneous group, it is a diverse group, with varied characteristics, identities and needs. The exact characteristics of women targeted in this project will be included after the inception phase in order to avoid assumptions. Hence, the inception phase will cover consultations with individual women and women groups. The gender-sensitive approach will allow the project team to tailor specific activities and interventions towards the needs and context of women to foster the meaningful participation of women (see participatory approach paragraph), and mainstream gender equality as a necessity for peace. Here, specific inquiry will be made to understand the sources of resilience regarding the targeted women to avoid victimization.

- **Conflict sensitive approach:** the project will conduct continuous conflict analysis to gain a sound understanding of dynamics between activities and context. This analysis will include an assessment of community violence within the target areas and an assessment on the impact of unauthorized checkpoints on the wellbeing of communities. Further, the interlinkages of local, regional and national conflict dynamics and the political economy dimension will be included in the conflict analysis as this sensitive matter will influence project implementation. This process will help minimize negative impacts and maximize positive outcomes from project interventions. Through this analysis, the project will more effectively do no harm. A review of conflict factors will ensure that the interventions support peace and do not reinforce inequities. The detailed inception phase embedded in outcome 1 will cover the preliminary conflict analysis, which includes stakeholder mapping and community consultations. The outcomes of the conflict analysis and inception phase at large will be incorporated into a robust do no harm strategy.
 - **Crisis modifier approach:** this is a flexible approach that allows the program to adapt to changing dynamics in its environment. A flexible implementation approach is necessary given the implications of emerging issues like the Sudan crisis and natural disasters such as floodings. A flexible implementation approach entails working in close coordination with local CSOs and peace partners to systematically communicate regarding any change in environment or conflict dynamic and ensuring timely adjustments where needed. Taken together, a crisis modifier approach allows for an increased flexible response to external factors that influence project implementation and possibly conflict dynamics. Herewith, the project is mindful of the interplay between conflict dynamics and emerging issues.
- 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?)

Impact: Alternatives are provided to the running of unauthorized checkpoints, community violence decreases and peaceful coexistence prevails among the target communities located along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor.

- **IF** Comprehensive and inclusive community consultations on the peaceful use of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are conducted (output 1.2)

- **IF** the capacities of local peace infrastructures are strengthened and the inclusion of young men, young women and seasoned women is safeguarded (output 1.3)
- **IF** Local peace infrastructures facilitate inclusive (young men, young women and seasoned women included) and participatory community level peacebuilding activities (output 1.4)
- **IF** communities along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are provided with mental health and psychosocial support and are engaged in social activities (output 2.1)
- **IF** White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor adolescents and youth participate in well-being activities to promote pro-social behaviors that minimize conflict and violence at all levels (output 2.2)
- **IF** Alternative pathways for economic resilience are created, which also foster an equal and participatory role of young men, young women and seasoned women in society (output 3.1)
- **IF** Socioeconomic interdependency between the targeted White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities is created (output 3.2);
- **IF** the targeted communities of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are able to participate meaningfully in the electoral processes;
- **THEN** local peace infrastructures will effectively contribute to community violence reduction and peace initiatives (outcome 1); Social cohesion will be improved among the targeted communities (outcome 2); Members of targeted White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities become self-reliant (outcome 3); the elections will be more inclusive, and results will be more credible (outcome 4).
- **BECAUSE** unauthorized checkpoints trigger various types of conflict, here including deeply rooted ethnic divisions and harmful cultural practices such as revenge killings. The provision of alternative livelihood opportunities in combination with active local peace infrastructures, social cohesion activities and trauma healing helps communities to become self-reliant without a need to be in competition, and thus, in conflict with neighboring communities. Further, the combined set of activities will contribute to the de-marginalization of young men, young women and seasoned women in society, and the inclusivity of the electoral process will promote a safe and secure environment for elections.

The project theory of change is underpinned by the following assumptions:

- Sufficient cooperation between all relevant project stakeholders creates an enabling environment for peacebuilding interventions. Herewith, the theory of change assumes that crucial stakeholders such as communities, political elites and/or military officers active in the checkpoint economy are willing to cooperate for the sake of project implementation.
- The closure of unauthorized checkpoints will contribute to community violence reduction. The conflict analysis demonstrates that the unauthorized checkpoints contribute to tensions, inter- and intra-community violence. Therefore, the project team assumes that diverting community members from running the unauthorized checkpoints into livelihood opportunities that foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence would decrease community violence.
- White Nile River and Sobat River communities, especially youth and adolescents (including youth and adolescents formerly associated with armed forces and groups and youth at risk), will actively seek opportunities to promote social cohesion and contribute to violence reduction activities.
- Community members within the targeted communities lack the capacities to implement community violence reduction activities and are in need of, and/or, open³⁹ to receiving capacity building which they would then use to promote peaceful coexistence.

³⁹ Consultations with CSO stakeholders are ongoing to carefully explore the openness and needs of communities to participate in a

- Economic empowerment, the creation of job opportunities for communities, establishment of local peace infrastructures and the reinstalment of the foundational layer of the social fabric decreases the need to rely on income generated by the running of unauthorized checkpoints, thereby decreasing the number of unauthorized checkpoints.
 - The different approaches leading to a robust Do No Harm strategy will account for a flexible project implementation that can mitigate potential changes in the political landscape due to the upcoming elections in December 2024.
- 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.

Outcome 1: Local peace infrastructures effectively lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives.

Step zero in the process of interventions will be an inception phase. The inception phase is of utmost importance considering the sensitivity and complexity of the intervention. The inception phase will include a mapping of key stakeholders and power brokers, target locations and communities (including youth and women), followed by a consultative process. Thorough consultations on the political economy of the unauthorized checkpoints, daily management of the checkpoints, the community members involved in the running of the checkpoints, interlinkage with government and military factions at the county, state and national level, the role of youth and women (including ex-combatants and youth at risk), community-based needs to divert from running unauthorized checkpoints are among the subjects to be discussed with target beneficiaries and key governmental stakeholders. The target beneficiaries will be consulted in different categories, e.g., consultations with women, young women and young men will be organized separately, to provide an enabling environment where target beneficiaries feel safe and comfortable to share their opinions. The consultations are crucial for a well-designed project that addresses the needs of the local communities, and, in parallel does no harm and revert peacebuilding gains. Furthermore, consultations with key power brokers along the governmental and military axes are necessary to ensure support and smooth implementation of the project, which will yield a sustainable impact on the ground. Taken together, the inception phase will cater for a detailed implementation strategy. The non-confidential knowledge obtained regarding the inception phase will be disseminated with other peace partners in the form of a knowledge product.

A key element to enable communities to contribute to violence reduction and peace initiatives are local peace committees. However, five out of six target communities⁴⁰ do not enjoy the presence of local peace committees. Lessons learned from UNDP demonstrate that local peace committees are essential players in preventing violence and conflict as they are trusted by the communities, have inherent knowledge of the local culture, causes and roots of the conflicts, and are present to react quickly⁴¹. For this specific case, they should be established to address conflicts or issues that may arise related to (the closure of unauthorized) checkpoints. Key partners in the establishment of the peace committees will

possible project. The consultations during the inception phase will cover a detailed needs-assessment. It may be harmful to conduct such assessment now, without secured funding, as this may give communities false hope regarding support of the UN.

⁴⁰ Malakal is currently the only town that has an established peace committee that acts under the SSPRC.

⁴¹ The Peace and Community Cohesion Project of PaCC has, in collaboration with NTLI, supported the establishment of 165 peace committees across South Sudan. The peace committees act under the mandate of the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Committee and merge into their early warning and conflict prevention system.

be the National Transformational Leadership Institute, which will facilitate a 5-day induction training on, amongst other subjects, conflict mediation, conflict prevention, communication, and the day-to-day management of a peace committee. The training follows a set curriculum developed by NTLI and validated by a board that represents academia, UN agencies and government counterparts. The training will be followed by a mentorship period, where peace committee members will receive on-the-job training in, for example, mediating conflicts. The composition of a peace committee requires inclusion of at least 35% women and at least 10% youth (male and female). The peace committees will merge into the existing structure of peace committees in South Sudan that operate under the mandate of the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC). This means that the peace committees will also serve as a local monitoring mechanism for early warning and conflict management, reporting to the situation room of the SSPRC based in Juba. The latter uses the CEWE software to report incidents into the IGAD system. The SSPRC is currently establishing tools that facilitate the early warning of components that foster prevention of electoral violence. The peace committees established under this project will be sensitized to use the respective mechanisms.

Lastly, community consultations and dialogues are compelling to the role of the local peace committees, as they will account for inclusive enabling environments to identify key issues and challenges related to checkpoint closures on which the local peace committees should act. The community consultations and dialogues will be coordinated through the JTWG on the River Nile Access to ensure national, sub-national and local consensus building. Additionally, the peace initiatives implemented by the local peace committees will include components on the dangers and misuse of firearms as an extra impetus for community violence reduction. The project will liaise with the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control to facilitate the possible voluntary surrender of arms to the government during implementation of activities, especially activities targeting the misuse of firearms. Peace messages and key documentation, including key provisions of the R-ARCSS and accessible sensitization regarding the upcoming elections will be communicated and disseminated throughout the consultations and dialogues, to increase knowledge and reinforce a mindset of peace for the prevention of electoral violence among the members of the targeted communities.

Output 1.1: Knowledge and understanding of the local context and stakeholders involved with the running of unauthorized checkpoints along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are enhanced. (UNDP)

- Activity 1.1.1: Map key stakeholders, power brokers and their interrelations. This exercise will be conducted prior to the consultations and will be updated during the consultative process (UNDP/direct implementation).
- Activity 1.1.2: Hold consultations with key power brokers and targeted beneficiaries (inception). Individual consultations will be organized for women, young males and young females (UNDP/direct implementation).

Output 1.2: Payam-level Peace Committees are established to reduce community violence⁴². (UNDP)

- Activity 1.2.1: Establishment and training of five Payam-level peace committees (lead implementing partner is NTLI and UNDP will provide logistical support).

⁴² Consultations with Hon. Malual Gabriel, Minister of Peacebuilding and Hon. Mabil Makuach Dau, Minister of Youths and Sports, Jonglei State emphasized the need for the strengthening of intercommunal peace committees consisting out of fishermen and women.

- Activity 1.2.2: Mentorship on conflict mediation and prevention for peace committee members (CSO).
- Activity 1.2.3: Support the functioning of the six Payam-level peace committees by providing seed funding to organize, for example, monthly meetings or activities (seed funds provided via local CSOs).

Output 1.3: Comprehensive and inclusive community consultations on the peaceful uses of the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor conducted. (UNDP)

- Activity 1.3.1: Conduct a series of comprehensive and inclusive community consultations to explore issues and solutions related to the closure of unauthorized checkpoints (UNDP/direct implementation that supports the peace committees).

Output 1.4: Local peace infrastructures facilitate inclusive and participatory community level peacebuilding activities. (UNDP)

- Activity 1.4.1: Support community (intergenerational) dialogues, mediation and consultations, and other violence reduction and peace initiatives for selected White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities, including between host communities and returnees/refugees. The topics and activities will be tailored to the outcomes of the needs assessment that is conducted during the inception phase, and the community consultations. The outcomes of the activities will be written down in a resolution-style document that will be signed by attendees of the activities. These resolutions will act as a way forward for community members. Several dialogues will be targeted at (young) women only, assuring an enabling environment where they feel comfortable to talk and share their opinions⁴³ (UNDP/direct implementation with support of the peace committees).
- Activity 1.4.2: Conduct awareness raising on peace agreements, especially the R-ARCSS, and the upcoming elections to address hate speech, dividing perceptions and promote national unity⁴⁴ (local CSOs with support of the peace committees).
- Activity 1.4.3: Visibility and communication materials for peace committees in the pursuance of awareness raising and sensitization activities on the R-ARCSS and the upcoming elections (local CSOs with support of the peace committees).

Outcome 2: Social cohesion is improved among and within White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities⁴⁵.

The targeted communities along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor have experienced trauma and inter-communal violence⁴⁶. In general, lessons learned from UNDP and UNICEF demonstrate that existing trauma and a weak social fabric due to inter-communal violence prevents the participation of community members at large in violence reduction activities at the community level. Therefore, interventions are necessary to support communities, including youth and women, in processing their communal trauma and to support individuals to help them cope with existing trauma.

⁴³ The DG of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of Upper Nile State indicated during consultations that one of the most needed peace interventions are peace dialogues to bring different communities together. Consultation conducted on 03 July 2023.

⁴⁴ Consultation with Hon. Pia Michael Philip, Undersecretary at the National Ministry of Peacebuilding.

⁴⁵ Peaceful coexistence and strengthening of social cohesion are among the key activities recommended as necessary to contribute to violence reduction along the White Nile by Hon. Malual Gabriel, Minister of Peacebuilding and Hon. Mabil Makuach Dau, Minister of Youths and Sports, Jonglei State.

⁴⁶ Consultations with youth in Malakal (including youth living in PoC), Maban, Renk and Kodok, DG of Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, traditional leaders in Renk indicated that trauma is a present short-term effect of conflict in their respective areas, and that people are left deeply traumatized. Consultations conducted July – August 2023.

The mental health and psychosocial support activities for youth and senior community members will handle the methodology that is outlined in the guidance note on MHPSS and peacebuilding, published by UNDP. The activities will be overseen by the Psychosocial Support Specialist of the Peace and Community Cohesion project of UNDP. Once trauma is addressed and learned to cope with, individuals and communities are more responsive and open to social cohesion activities. The latter is another crucial factor that influences the extent to which communities are ready to contribute to violence reduction. Social cohesion means the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community. The targeted communities face a weak inter- and intra-communal social fabric. Hence, it is important to bring them together, build trust amongst each other, with the result that they are less occupied with grievances, revenge, and distrust, and are available in unity to contribute to violence reduction. A strengthened social fabric is especially important in light of the upcoming elections and will contribute to the roll out of the activities under outcome four.

Within this context, UNICEF recognizes the different needs of adolescents vis-à-vis other young people that are on the middle-outer spectrum of youthhood, and senior community members. In fact, too many of South Sudan's children and adolescents are out of school and lacking opportunities and the young country risks losing a generation that is crucial to rebuilding a nation still struggling to find peace. Yet, the post conflict period and transitional efforts to establish systems and stabilize the nation's ailing governance and security structures, especially in light of the upcoming elections in 2024, are not including adolescents in the discussions. Rather adolescents are still perceived as the victims and perpetrators of insecurity than change makers and peace advocates. Emphasis is often put on adolescents as wrongdoers and problem makers without fair consideration on how they are manipulated, coerced, and indoctrinated into war, conflict, violence, and criminality. There is an urgent need to change the narrative towards supporting and appreciating the adolescents' voices and tapping into this huge resource and propel the anticipated transformations. Accordingly, a different innovative approach towards trauma healing and social cohesion is required whilst targeting adolescents. Sustainable development will be achieved by expanding their civic space, empowering them with the right skills, as well as strengthening their reintegration efforts so that they can be role models for their peers and the next generation to come. UNICEF will leverage its well-being centers in Malakal and set up the same reintegration and well-being approach targeting adolescents living very dangerous lives, including those involved in the check-point activities into its existing Child Friendly Spaces in New Fangak and Panyikang. This will provide physical and emotional safe spaces for hard-to-reach adolescents in South Sudan, where trauma healing and social cohesion activities, including the prevention of hate speech through relationship and peacebuilding to avoid adolescents participating in potential electoral violence, are implemented.

Lastly, UNICEF will include a participatory research and impact assessment. A fully integrated and participatory research and learning programme will be incorporated into the intervention from the outset. Young people participating in the programme will be supported with skills and knowledge to record insights (critical, reflective, positive) through innovative means (blogs, video blogs, diaries, music, painting, etc.). The feedback will support a design/implementation team that also includes children and young people to ensure that their voices are central to the evolution of the programme. The aim of the research programme is, therefore, expansive through enhancing ownership of the programme by participants of the programme as well as ensuring that research output is meaningful in real time – not months/years after project closure – as is the case for many research programs. At the same time, the way UNICEF collects data and formulates indicators for MHPSS/well-being interventions was questioned and led to the decision of including indicators and a different way of measuring the change in well-being of the children accessing such services. This new approach is being piloted within the youth and adolescents programme and will also be used for the impact assessment of the UNICEF PBF interventions. For the participatory M&E as well as the change of

well-being measurements, UNICEF is working with a team of expert consultants in the field, including a researcher.

Output 2.1: Communities along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor are provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and are engaged in social activities⁴⁷. (UNDP)

- Activity 2.1.1: Train a pool of 60 (10 per community) Community Volunteers Counselors to conduct MHPSS activities such as trauma awareness and individual counselling. Specific initiatives will be tailored towards the context of (young) women as their traumas require special attention towards, for example, traumas related to GBV. (Young) women-only initiatives are also crucial to foster an enabling environment where they feel comfortable to discuss their trauma (UNDP and local CSOs).
- Activity 2.1.2: Mentorship on MHPSS/trauma healing for Community Volunteers Counsellors (local CSOs).
- Activity 2.1.3: Seed funds for operationalization of Community Volunteer Counsellors (local CSOs).
- Activity 2.1.4: Support Nile River communities to undertake community-designed joint traditional and social activities to deepen relationships and strengthen social cohesion, which will also contribute towards an enabling environment for the upcoming elections (local CSOs).

Output 2.2: White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor adolescents and youth participate in well-being activities to promote pro-social behaviors that minimize conflict and violence at all levels. (UNICEF)

- Activity 2.2.1: Establish and set-up well-being, social cohesion and peace-building activities, including hate speech prevention, which can take place in schools, in youth centres, in child-friendly spaces, and in the river Nile communities through art, music, and sporting activities.
- Activity 2.2.2: Training youth mentors/inspirators to develop and conduct structured fun and engaging well-being activities such as sports, breathwork, arts and music to promote mindfulness leading to self-regulation, conflict, anger management and addressing hate speech in light of the upcoming elections.
- Activity 2.2.3: Participatory research and impact assessment.

Outcome 3: Members of targeted White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities become self-reliant.

Sustainable peace and stability along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor require not only an inclusive peacebuilding approach but also comprehensive economic development to divert communities from using unauthorized checkpoints as income generating sources towards legal and sustainable income generating activities. The first activity will cover a market assessment to identify viable and self-sustainable value chains to inform the design of economic activities. Accordingly, the proposed interventions under this outcome will offer opportunities for the targeted communities to find alternative pathways to economic stability, decreasing the need to rely on unauthorized checkpoints⁴⁸. A decrease in unauthorized checkpoints contributes towards peace, as a key trigger for conflict and violence has been eliminated. A key infrastructure used in the interventions are the reintegration and

⁴⁷ Peaceful coexistence and strengthening of social cohesion are among the key activities recommended as necessary to contribute to violence reduction along the White Nile by Hon. Malual Gabriel, Minister of Peacebuilding and Hon. Mabil Makuach Dau, Minister of Youths and Sports, Jonglei State.

⁴⁸ Consultations with Hon. Malual Gabriel, Minister of Peacebuilding and Hon. Mabil Makuach Dau, Minister of Youths and Sports, Jonglei State indicated the need for support to fishermen youth to form cooperatives for a collective bargain of process and access to national fish markets.

well-being, and youth centers in Malakal. Adolescents will be enrolled into the structured reintegration and well-being sessions of the existing youth center and will be able to participate in the vocational training activities. Further, other specific opportunities will be targeted at adolescents, youth and women, recognizing their marginalization in some, for women mostly male-dominated, fields and entrenched gender norms and social constructs that limit their participation. The activities will also cater for the construction of boreholes, which foster the self-reliance of the targeted communities. The boreholes will be constructed in strategic places aimed to bring different communities together by means of socioeconomic interdependency. The activities will cater for initial support to local management committees of the respective boreholes in order to assure that the boreholes are run equally, reinforcing the Do no Harm principle.

Output 3.1: Alternative pathways for economic resilience are created for targeted community members. (UNICEF and UNDP)

- Activity 3.1.1: One day workshop to conduct a market assessment to identify sustainable livelihood opportunities and skills necessary to exercise the respective livelihood opportunities.
- Activity 3.1.2: Conduct skills training for members of selected White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities, and IDPs from Sudan, and provide start-up kits⁴⁹. (local CSO)
- Activity 3.1.3: Conduct widespread outreach to divert youth involved in the running of the unauthorized checkpoints to the reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal, New Fangak and Panyikang.
- Activity 3.1.4: Conduct vocational skills training and provide start-up kits at the reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal, New Fangak and Panyikang.⁵⁰

Output 3.2: Socioeconomic interdependency between the targeted White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities is created. (UNDP)

- Activity 3.2.1: Provide support to construct boreholes aimed to foster socioeconomic interdependencies between the different communities.
- Activity 3.2.2: Provide support to local management committees that are involved with the daily management of the respective boreholes.

Outcome 4: White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor community members are committed to participating actively and peacefully in the electoral process through an enhanced environment for maintaining security and mitigating electoral violence.

The context of the targeted communities is subject to localized incidents of violence, which could potentially trigger electoral violence. Hence, it is important to pay attention to creating an enabling security environment for elections where the targeted community members, including youth and women, are able to participate without intimidation or fear of reprisal. The proposed activities under this output will build upon the local peace infrastructures mentioned in outcome one and the well-being centers highlighted in outcome two. To illustrate, the project will support opportunities, arising under outcome one, that facilitate the clarification of the complementary roles of national and international security actors along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor, and promote a common understanding of a joint security framework for elections. Collaboration between state and non-state actors will be encouraged in the development of action plans for preparedness and response,

⁴⁹ Consultations with communities in Upper Nile State (Malakal, Maban, Renk and Kodok indicate that a lack of income and job opportunities contributes to violence and conflict, consultations conducted July – August 2023.

⁵⁰ The chairperson of the Youth Union in Upper Nile State indicated in a consultation that economic empowerment and an increase of livelihood opportunities are necessary for youth to not engage in violent activities, July 2023.

as well as support enhancing mechanisms for effective coordination. The proposed activities will further strengthen the capacities of local peace infrastructures and security actors present in the target areas regarding early warning and response related to preventing electoral violence. Overall, a particular focus will be given to promoting the constructive and active engagement of youth in preventing electoral violence. Attention will also be given to preventing and mitigating violence against women in elections through awareness raising and advocacy, as well as through mechanisms for monitoring, analysis and reporting of using the platforms created under other project activities.

The National Election Commission (NEC) in collaboration with local peace infrastructures will be leading national, and sub-national, partners in the implementation of election related activities. Accordingly, the outcome caters for concerted technical support to the NEC and the local peace infrastructures in conducting elections, including their planning, implementation, and follow-up. This aims to enhance effectiveness of election implementation through efficiency of processes, enabling delivery according to the election timetable, maintaining accuracy of outcomes, and facilitating enfranchisement of the targeted communities along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor.

Output 4.1: Election risk management, monitoring and response mechanisms are strengthened.

- Activity 4.1.1: Facilitate a comprehensive risk and threat analysis to identify triggers for violence through the electoral process that will inform a coordinated response mechanism in the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor.
- Activity 4.1.2: Provision of technical support to strengthen early warning and response systems in coordination with UNMISS and UN agencies.
- Activity 4.1.3: Foster a common understanding and definition of a joint strategic security framework for elections with national and international stakeholders deployed in the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor.

Output 4.2: The capacity of the police and other security actors is reinforced for maintaining security for elections

- Activity 4.2.1: Undertake a rapid assessment of capacities and requirements of the security actors based along the White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor.
- Activity 4.2.2: Raise awareness amongst the security actors and the community members on potential triggers of electoral violence, including against women, and response mechanisms.

Output 4.3: A constructive and active engagement of community members, especially youth, is promoted for preventing electoral violence

- Activity 4.3.1: Facilitate consultative meetings and sensitization efforts, including through the local peace infrastructures and other local authorities, to promote the engagement of youth, community leaders, traditional leaders and influential personalities for preventing electoral violence, and to encourage confidence-building during elections.
- Activity 4.3.2: Develop dedicated initiatives, through the local peace infrastructures, to prevent and reduce violence against women in elections.

Output 4.4: The technical capacities of the NEC and local authorities and mechanisms established for the prevention of electoral are enhanced

- Activity 4.4.1: Provide technical support to local authorities and mechanisms established for the prevention of electoral violence, including support to communicate and disseminate civic information on the elections ahead of the national elections.

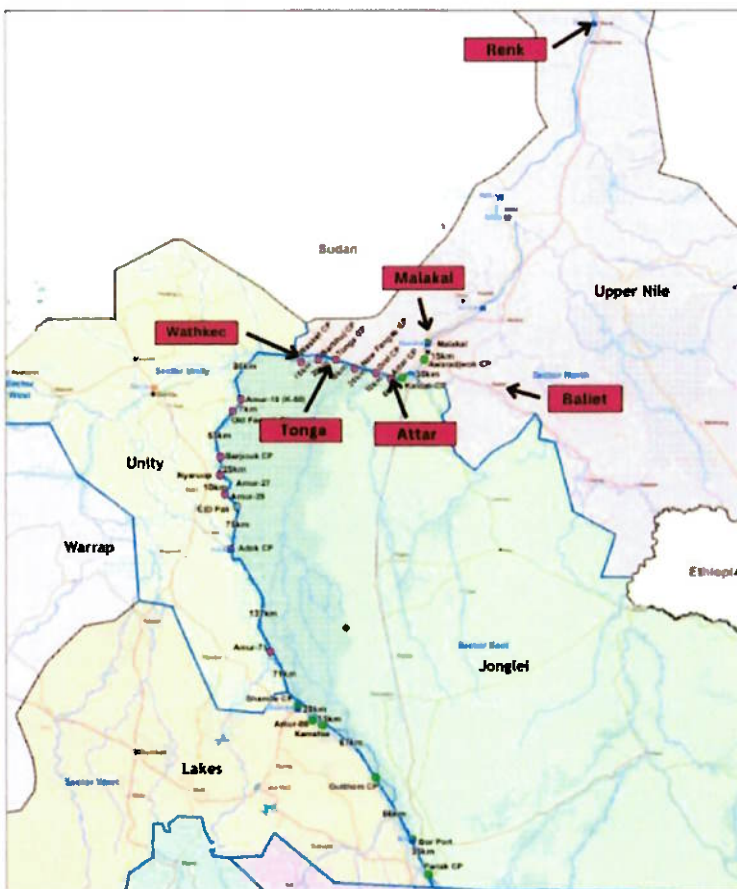
Use Annex C to list all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.

- 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.

Geographical targeting

The project will be implemented along the White Nile River and the Sobat River Corridor, which are located in Jonglei State and Upper Nile State (UNS). The project is currently envisaged to target communities associated with the running of unauthorized checkpoints, namely: Tonga (UNS), Atar (Jonglei), Wathkec (Jonglei), Renk (UNS), Malakal and Baliet (UNS). The initial selection was based on the priorities of the RTGoNU as identified in the JTWG for the River Nile Access, on the identification of strategic impacts of a community violence reduction project in the proposed communities, and accessibility of the locations. Four of the proposed locations will be supported via Malakal, and Renk will be independently supported. UNDP and UNICEF have field offices and staff based in Malakal. The sustained programmatic presence in the target locations will ensure consistent engagement with key stakeholders, community members and implementing CSOs throughout the duration of the project. The UNDP and UNICEF field presence in Malakal will also cover project activities in Renk, therewith assuring sustained engagement in Renk. Further, the strategic partnership with UNMISS ensures accessibility of target locations in times when locations may be harder to reach due to environmental or security challenges. The final selection of target locations will be confirmed after the inception phase has been completed as the complexity and sensitivity of the project requires

a robust ‘Do No Harm’ analysis, conducted via elaborate consultations with the JTWG, governmental counterparts at the national, state and county level, CSO counterparts, and members of the local communities. Therefore, the target locations may be subject to change. The ‘Do No Harm’ analysis will be linked to the political economy analysis and includes considerations relating to risks of potential harm that may include unintended increased tension, competition among communities, a weakened position of women in the communities, obscurely understood/opaque local dynamics, unresolved tensions among R-ARCSS signatories, election cycle dynamics and instrumentalization of youth by political actors. The ‘Do No Harm’ analysis will be embedded in the inception phase.



Beneficiaries targeting

Project beneficiaries include members of the specific target communities. The activities will target communities as a whole to foster a Do No Harm approach within communities. Nonetheless, several activities will specifically target adolescents, youth and women as their marginalized position in society requires tailored activities. The project will also include local youth and adolescents formerly associated with armed forces and groups and those at risk of recruitment into armed groups or the running of unauthorized checkpoints to enforce the CVR nature of the project. Consultations during the inception phase will shed a light on the status of youth, including youth at risk, and whether they carry any form of weapons related to the unauthorized checkpoints. Accordingly, the following beneficiaries have been identified: the six preliminary targeted communities along the White Nile River and Sobat River corridor, here including: chiefs, elders, adolescents, young men, young women, seasoned women, local ex-combatants and youth and adolescents formerly associated with armed forces and groups, youth at risk of recruitment into armed groups or the running of unauthorized checkpoints, and returnees from Sudan located in Renk, as well as RTGoNU authorities as interlocutors to the relevant communities. It is not possible to determine the exact (numbers of) targeted beneficiaries at this stage, as the locations of the proposed intervention may be subject to change. The table below includes an initial estimation of beneficiaries per activity. The target number will be disaggregated by sex and age at a later stage. The sensitivity of the project and the need for thoroughly inception phase combined with a robust Do No Harm approach contribute to a situation where identification of the exact target beneficiaries is solely possible once the inception phase has been completed and locations, target communities and key stakeholders have been identified and informed.

Outcomes	Number of Beneficiaries
Outcome 1: Local peace infrastructures effectively lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives.	4,760
Outcome 2: Social cohesion is improved among and within White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities	3,200
Outcome 3: Members of targeted White Nile River and Sobat River Corridor communities become self-reliant.	630
Outcome 4: White Nile River and Sobat River community members are committed to participating actively and peacefully in the electoral process through an enhanced environment for maintaining security and mitigating electoral violence.	600

The project is GM2. It will ensure equal participation of both male and female beneficiaries at all stages of the implementation. Inter-generational aspects will be considered as well, for example through intergenerational community dialogues. Additionally, in line with existing guidelines, conflict sensitivity will be integrated into the programming cycle⁵¹.

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.

⁵¹ UNSDG (2022): Good Practice Note. Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been working in South Sudan for over 30 years. With the formation of the independent Republic of South Sudan in July 2011, UNDP established a Country Office and has staff working across the country. The country programme aims to support the government and people of South Sudan to transition out of humanitarian assistance towards sustainable development with an emphasis on state-building and peacebuilding. UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) project contributes to reducing and mitigating national and local level conflict and insecurity by investing in initiatives that address the key drivers of conflict and by supporting the central and subnational governments and authorities. Specifically, PaCC supports communities, the central and subnational governments, and authorities to; a) establish and enhance the capacity of peace infrastructures to manage conflicts peacefully; b) deepen social, cultural and economic cohesion among communities to foster healing, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence; c) empower citizens, with added emphasis on women, youth and other marginalized groups for voice, agency and participation in governance and peacebuilding initiatives and demand accountability; d) implement legal, policy and civilian frameworks on small arms and light weapons; and e) promote conflict-sensitive access, use and control of natural resources by pastoral and farming communities in targeted conflict clusters. It uses an integrated and gender-sensitive approach to effectively support the communities in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict in a non-violent manner.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Child Protection programme has conducted important reflections on how to reinvigorate the sector in the country by identifying partners that are value-based and have a mission to respond courageously to Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection issues at the community level. UNICEF's new Child Protection partnership strategy involves placing smaller organizations on 3-year partnerships (the life of UNICEF's Country Programme) and working with them to professionalize their social workers with certificate, diploma programmes and core specialized training on tools such as CPIMS+ and social norms change programming. The longer-term partnerships allow partners to provide long-term contracts to staff which will in turn build morale and motivation and strengthen the outcomes of capacity building initiatives. The critical impact will be at the community level where key child protection/GBV staff will have sufficient time to build trust and collaborate at the local level – necessary to shift norms and provide durable case management services. While local NGOs will be selected as implementing partners, they are also indirect beneficiaries of the action, as a new cadre of community child protection workers are developed in each organization. UNICEF is implementing an extensive capacity building programme for all local partners, including professionalizing the social welfare workforce, building an accountable case management system, introducing new evidence-based methods in preventing and mitigating risk, as well as youth and adolescent programming. For the youth and adolescents programme, UNICEF is working with a network of local partner organisations who were supported to introduce new evidence-based methodologies and build youth and child led/owned activities. This includes the provision of meaningful job opportunities for former and current children associated with armed forces and groups, gang members, street children, children in conflict with the law, and children survivors of grave violations etc. in facilitating programmes for adolescents and youth. UNICEF has been applying a five-pillar reintegration and well-being methodology, developed in partnership with award winning sports for development organisation Waves4Change. These international youth expert consultants were hired to train and support the local partner NGOs and build a research programme for real time learning and adaption of the model to the South Sudan context.

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	\$16,733,949 (Core Resources)	Sweden/Sida	Central Equatoria State, Juba	262	Program Manager/Advisor (Juba based)
Implementing partners: National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI; semi-autonomous institution at the University of Juba)	\$103,640,026 (Non-Core Resources)	Netherlands KOICA Japan France FCDO PBF ADB MPTF Norway UN Agencies United Kingdom Vertical fund – GEF GFATM16	Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, Aweil Western Bahr El Ghazal State, Wau Warrap State, Kuajok Unity State, Bentiu Upper Nile State, Malakal Western Equatoria State, Yambio Lakes State, Rumbek Jonglei State, Bor Eastern Equatoria State, Torit		Youth, Peace and Security Specialist (Juba based) Re-integration Specialist (Juba based) Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Juba based) Cluster Coordinator (Jonglei based) Cluster Coordinator based (Upper Nile based)
Recipient Organization: UNICEF	15,445,187 (Core-Resources)	World Bank	Central Equatoria State, Juba	273 staff total, of which 20 in project zones	Chief of Child Protection
Implementing partners: -CINA (local CSO)	177,970,00 (Non-Core Resources)	BHA Germany EU Commission Global Fund GPE Netherlands	Western Bahr El Ghazal State, Wau		Child Protection Officer (Youth & Adolescents)

-ADA (local CSO)		GAVI FCDO	Unity State, Bentiu Upper Nile State, Malakal Western Equatoria State, Yambio Lakes State, Rumbek Jonglei State, Bor Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Pibor		National Child Protection Officer based in Upper Nile State Child Protection Extender based in Upper Nile State
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- b) **Project management and coordination** – Indicate the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explicitly indicate how the project implementation team will ensure sufficient gender or youth expertise. Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements and ensure link with PBF Secretariat if it exists. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex A.1** and attach key staff TORs.

The UN in South Sudan will continue to advance its mandate and work with the government, community structures, and citizens to help create a safe and stable environment and build more favorable conditions. The UN in South Sudan will continue its robust, nimble, and proactive approach in implementing its mandate and target key drivers and critical conditions to maximize the impact of conflict prevention and resolution as well as building durable peace and reconciliation.

Stakeholder-led approaches, adaptive peacebuilding, and flexible reallocation of resources are critical for the effective discharge of the objectives of this project. The project will mainstream gender equality in all proposed activities aimed at contributing to the protection of vulnerable populations. Similarly, the project will contribute to the mainstreaming of age equality, fostering the meaningful inclusion of youth in local peace infrastructures, addressing existing intergenerational gaps and age discrimination.

On a day-to-day basis, the project will be directed by a technical working group (TWG) consisting of UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS (Rule of Law and Force Protection) and PBF Secretariat/RCO, and implementing partners when necessary. The functions will include day-to-day management, technical coordination, and project implementation. The TWG was established to develop the project document and will continue to lead and coordinate to ensure effective project implementation. The TWG will meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and the lead agency will be responsible for convening the meetings. The lead agency is also responsible for ensuring the timely submission of project progress reports to the RCO/PBF Secretariat for quality control and onward transmission to PBSO. The technical working group will have regular joint coordination meetings with key project government interlocutors (including the JTWG on River Nile Access) and implementing CSOs. The TWG will also ensure systematic coordination and joint planning with the Peace Partners Forum to ensure complementarity and revise project plans and goals in light of evolving political dynamics to ensure conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm considerations are preserved.

The strategic oversight of the proposed project will be embedded in a steering committee (SC) that is a project specific committee, which will represent the relevant government stakeholders, academia, CSOs and UN agencies. The steering committee is envisaged to meet on a bimonthly basis and will be co-chaired by UNDP and the Ministry of Peacebuilding to foster national ownership. The TWG will provide updates on project implementation and impact during the steering committee meetings. Accordingly, the members of the steering committee are enabled to discuss strategic priorities and feedback on project implementation to inform continuous project implementation.

The project will be implemented under the PBF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for South Sudan. The Joint Steering Committee and the South Sudan PBF Secretariat will oversee the implementation of the project as well as a review of implementation progress, including budget revisions.

The project team consists of the following international and national staff under the overall guidance and leadership of the Peace and Community Cohesion project, Democratic Governance and Stabilization Unit of UNDP:

Position	Units	Duration	PBF contribution	Main function
Program Manager/Advisor (UNDP - P5)	Months	36	N/A	Oversight and leadership of the project
Youth, Peace and Security Officer (UNDP - IUNV)	Months	36	50%	Coordination and management of activities, provides technical support
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (UNDP - IUNV)	Months	36	50%	Provides M&E support, sets up systems and tools for the project
Project Admin and Logistics Assistant (UNDP - NPSA)	Months	36	20%	Provides admin and logistic support to the project
Field Coordinator based in Upper Nile State (UNDP - IUNV)	Months	36	30%	Implementation of project activities in the states.
Reintegration Specialist (UNDP - P3)	Months	36	15%	Provides support to youth at risk of re-recruitment into armed and criminal gang groups.
Elections Technical Advisor (UNDP - P4)	Months	12	30%	Provides technical support to national electoral counterparts and the project team. Support project implementation under outcome 4.

Project Finance Officer (NPSA)	Months	36	20%	Operational support
Chief of Child Protection (UNICEF – P-5)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Oversight of the project
International Child Protection Specialist (Youth & Adolescents) (UNICEF - P3)	Months	24	41,5%	Oversight of the project and coordination and management of activities,
National Child Protection Officer based in Upper Nile (UNICEF – NOB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Implementation of project activities at the State level
National Child Protection Extender (CTG Consultant)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Implementation of project activities at the State level

- 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)
Inadequate commitment and/or manipulation of political and governmental partners	High	The elaborated inception phase will include a detailed consultation phase with a wide variety of stakeholders. The outcomes of the consultations will provide for an implementation strategy that carefully considers the political sensitivity of the project and mitigation strategies. Additionally, the elaborate consultation phase will act as an opportunity to gain trust and commitment from political/governmental partners. Further, the continuous liaison with government interlocutors and sustained engagement with the JTWG on the River Nile access will assure positive commitment, or identification for the need of mitigation strategies, of political and governmental partners.
Manipulation of program interventions at the local	Medium	UNDP and UNICEF will sustain advocacy and engagement of

level for election campaign gains.		stakeholders for transparency and accountability of project interventions. CSO engagement in this process is key to ensure that project activities create a neutral civic space without political interference during the electoral process.
Joint activities between the different target communities trigger violence due to local dissatisfaction or perceptions of favouritism.	Medium	UNDP and UNICEF will continuously engage local stakeholders in all project interventions, including abiding by conflict sensitivity analysis findings as well as the principles of DNH. These mitigating measures will take place prior to the commencement of project activities, during project implementation, and during project closure. The project's sequenced conflict-sensitive community engagement approach as well as the initial assessments and consultations to be conducted in the inception phase will lay the ground for a community consensus where joint activities are accepted by the communities and any discontent or concern is clearly communicated with the project team who are prepared and trained to respond to the changes in dynamic. In the case that local dissatisfaction causes delays in the rollout of activities and if appropriate, UNDP and UNICEF will engage local stakeholders and leadership to directly address concerns.
Difficulties in accessing project sites due to insecurity along roads and or field locations.	Medium to low	The project will work in close coordination with UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), local CSOs and peace partners to ensure timely communication of security situation in targeted locations and will plan its operations accordingly. UNICEF and UNDP are fully integrated into the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS). This considers the safety and security of all staff at the national

		and international levels, as well as the security of all assets and programs.
The participation of youth is negatively affected or hindered due to influence of chiefs and other powerbrokers within the community. To illustrate, Youth participating in the project may be harassed by powerbrokers involved in the running of the unauthorized checkpoints, and demand youth to avoid active participation in the project.	Low	UNDP and UNICEF will comprise a 'sounding board' consisting of young women, young men and women that participate in project activities. The sounding board will be consulted on a frequent basis throughout the project to check whether the marginalized groups are satisfied with their inclusion and whether they have suggestions for the project working group. Further, the sounding board group will be encouraged to contact the project working group in case there are activities that hinder the meaningful participation of the marginalized groups.
The participation of women is negatively affected or hindered due to influence of chiefs and other powerbrokers within the community. To illustrate, women may face criticism regarding participation that further weakens their inclusion in community-level decision-making processes and makes them withdraw from participation.	Low	UNDP and UNICEF will comprise a 'sounding board' consisting of young women, young men and women that participate in project activities. The sounding board will be consulted on a frequent basis throughout the project to check whether the marginalized groups are satisfied with their inclusion and whether they have suggestions for the project working group. Further, the sounding board group will be encouraged to contact the project working group in case there are activities that hinder the meaningful participation of the marginalized groups.
Delays to the implementation of the R-ARCSS including the framework for elections, reduce the timeframe available for election preparation	Medium to low	Project priorities will be reviewed and revised with key stakeholders in light of the electoral timetable.
Lack of consensus on the electoral framework between communities in the target area negatively impacts on acceptance and/or	Low	The project will support advocacy efforts of national and international bodies in the target areas to foster consensus and inclusiveness in dialogue on the electoral framework.

sustainability of election outcomes.		
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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 monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework will improve the quality and integrity of project delivery, ensure that projects are responsive to peacebuilding dynamics, and meet donor requirements and standards of accountability. Internal structures are developed to monitor the progress of projects through data collection, analysis, reporting, and feedback.

In targeted areas, baseline mapping will be complemented by more in-depth qualitative research, which will be area-specific, participatory, and age-, gender-, and diversity-sensitive. The baseline evaluation tools will be developed in coordination with local partners and agencies to ensure coverage of key areas of interest, seal identified information gaps, and inform the baseline of the results matrix.

The project will adopt a mixed-methods approach to monitoring, including the utilization of community-based and participatory monitoring, to enable active involvement and an in-depth understanding of the impact of activities on community members. These approaches are particularly pertinent given the sensitivity of interventions aimed at peacebuilding and social cohesion on highly contentious issues. The mapping will inform project targeting and provide evidence to contextualize the development of other project outputs, including capacity-building and diagnostic tools, which will be conducted during project implementation. Focus group discussions with communities and ‘change agents’ will be held at the beginning, mid-term level, and conclusion of the project to check accountability and integrate issues to be addressed over time. Moreover, UNICEF is piloting a new approach whereby through base-, mid- and endline surveys, adapted from the WHO-5 well-being index, the change of well-being is measured. This allows for a different impact assessment of its well-being activities and research that is meaningful in real time. Furthermore, UNDP and UNICEF will invite donors, the government, and other key stakeholders to observe major interventions, including participation in policy workshops, review meetings, and joint field monitoring to facilitate feedback and the periodic review of project interventions.

Through these processes, progress against project deliverables is monitored and challenges are identified. UNDP and UNICEF will integrate a combination of quantitative and qualitative gender- and age sensitive indicators to provide evidence against the theory of change that underpins this project. The outcome-level indicators have been aligned with the UNSDCF 2023–2025.

Proposed indicators in the results matrix are based on results-based management principles and seek to measure the impact of interventions as well as activity-based indicators measuring performance deliverables against set activity targets. At the inception of the program, an inter-agency M&E team will be established to encompass UNDP, UNICEF, PBF M&E Officer, and national partners to develop and refine the joint M&E plan under the intervention, which will be reviewed and further refined during the intervention. The project M&E focal points, project managers, and project staff from each UN entity will regularly conduct monitoring exercises, quality assurance processes for knowledge products, and quality control of activity implementation.

The project will be coordinated through the TWG established under the project, where respective work plans are coordinated, and activity implementation is based on thorough conceptualization. The objectives and rationale of activities would be clarified and discussed jointly prior to implementation to take advantage of the collective experience of the joint UN peacebuilding expertise. A process for developing and reviewing activity planning concept notes and project knowledge products will be established, and these deliverables will be used to inform programming on an ongoing basis and shared with national actors for policy and decision-making processes.

Regarding M&E expertise, both UNDP and UNICEF have M&E focal points in Juba who will support and advise on the process, the development of relevant tools and data analysis, and undertake field visits to oversee M&E processes on the ground. Finally, an external evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, to measure whether the project objectives were met and whether activities were conducted according to the abovementioned principles. The evaluation will be conducted by an independent company specializing in peacebuilding evaluation contracts in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The evaluation will be contracted by the lead agency, and the cost has been budgeted accordingly. All agencies allocate 5% of the project budget towards M&E processes. A total of \$65,000 has been allocated for an independent evaluation. Finally, an annual review meeting will be held during the duration of the project with all partners and internal midterm evaluation to review and revise the project implementation plan as necessary.

The key M&E activities and their rationale:

1. *Baseline and endline survey*: the project will undertake baseline and endline surveys at the beginning and end of the project respectively. The baseline survey will be essential to the strengthening of the results framework and gathering information on the different roles of community members, including youth and women, in the community violence, including the running of unauthorized checkpoints, and opportunities for community violence reduction. The base- and endline surveys are essential for an evidence-based comparison of the achievements and actual impact of the project.
2. *Period indicator tracking and reporting*: progress of indicator particularly output indicators will be routinely tracked using dedicated tools that will be developed at the inception of the activities. For this purpose, an indicator tracking table will be prepared and used to track indicators. The project will also include reporting on the number of closed unauthorized checkpoints, however, this is not reflected in the results matrix due to the uncertainties associated with the unauthorized checkpoints.

3. *Pre and post evaluation of peace committee trainings by NTLI*: the NTLI training activities will be monitored through a pre- and post-test evaluation using a template tailored to the literacy levels of the targeted beneficiary. The results are expected to provide immediate feedback on the training.
4. *Period progress reporting*: the progress of the project activities will be reported according to the agreed project reporting timelines. The progress reports will include quantitative data regarding number of beneficiaries reached and qualitative data that cover the true impact of the implemented activities.

Overview of the key M&E activities and an estimated budget necessary to undertake them:

Activity	Timeline	Responsible	Budget
M&E staff (IUNV)	Throughout	UNDP	USD 93,553.92
Baseline and endline survey	At the beginning and end of the project	UNDP and UNICEF	USD 15,000
Indicator monitoring: track data against results indicators to track progress	Start after 6 months until closure of the project.	UNDP and UNICEF	USD 10,000
Annual review and reporting	Start after 12 months, hereafter on an annual basis.	UNDP and UNICEF	USD 10,000
End of project evaluation	Start one month after last implementation of activity	UNDP	USD 65,000

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

The proposed activities and strategies outlined in the project strategically contribute to fostering robust connectivity with development, emphasizing sustainability and systems strengthening within the context of South Sudan. The project’s approach aligns with the principles of development by not only addressing immediate challenges but also embedding initiatives that promote long-term change and ownership within the existing context.

Lessons learned from prior UNDP interventions focusing on strengthening community resilience and peaceful co-existence highlighted that peace committees are a crucial factor in early warning and early response, preventing conflicts from escalating. However, their operational capacity in the formative months may be insufficient. Therefore, the proposed intervention has included increased emphasis on supporting the operational capacities of the local peace committees to maximize their long-term impact and sustainability. Further, the lessons learned also demonstrated that collective and individual trauma

are a continuous burden to effective participation in the peace- and constitution-making process. Unaddressed trauma prevents reconciliation, which is a prerequisite for sustainable peace and development. Therefore, mental health and psychosocial support activities are key to assure sustainable peacebuilding gains. Another factor contributing to a sustainable peace is a holistic approach of opening-up spaces for dialogue, and in parallel, providing livelihood activities. Lessons learned of past UNDP interventions demonstrate that successful dialogues or mediation initiatives can easily be spilled due to the presence of widespread poverty. To illustrate, target beneficiaries may be motivated to reconcile or adhere to a positive outcome of a peace dialogue, however, more often than not they cannot sustain themselves and their families, making them vulnerable to resort back to violent practices. Therefore, coordinated interventions are necessary that provide both spaces for reconciliation and livelihood opportunities to ensure a sustainable outcome.

Lessons learned from prior UNICEF youth and adolescents interventions include the emphasis on creating safe spaces, both physically and emotionally, which contributes to the connectivity with the development and sustainability of the intervention by cultivating environments that can endure beyond the intervention's lifespan. By ensuring these spaces become integral to the community and part of the government's accountability, impacting local systems, they are more likely to be sustained in the future. By equipping young people with essential life skills, the project contributes to the long-term capacity building of the population. This focus on skill development aligns with the broader goals of systems strengthening, as empowered and skilled youth having lived through adverse childhood experiences, becomes an indispensable asset for the overall development of and peacebuilding in the country. At the same time, co-creation with youth and adolescents, involving them directly in decision-making processes, is a key element for fostering sustainability and ownership. By empowering the youth to actively participate in shaping the programme, it enables interventions to be culturally relevant and responsive to the unique needs of the community. This participatory approach sets the stage for government ownership as it aligns with the principle of community-led initiatives. The participatory monitoring and evaluation methods integrated into the intervention enhanced sustainability by actively involving young people in ongoing evaluation and adaptation. Such real-time engagement enables the intervention to remain responsive to changing needs, contributing to continuous improvement and long-term relevance.

Additionally, for Child Protection programmes in general, UNICEF is working closely with the government to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), as well as to deliver, monitor and regulate child protection services. UNICEF continues, including in the implementation of this project, to provide resources to local partners and government agencies with the explicit goal of responsibilities to the relevant stakeholders and advocating for resources from government accounts. There is no realistic plan to exit from any of these programmes, at least not within the timeframes given, as it is also UNICEF's mandated responsibility to enable the protection of children in conflict-affected regions of the world. Whilst there is political fragility, inadequate government resources, multi-layered conflict, UNICEF is committed to supporting the development of government and local actors to strengthen responses and build the protective environment. However, the strategy of investing in local partners and strengthening community structures, as well as building government accountability, is the most efficient and effective approach to reducing donor and international governmental investments in this key area. By working through already established local organized community organizations, this project will continue to enable any knowledge and skills generated are retained by the local community. In return, the communities will

be able to use knowledge and skills acquired to support their own children better, building the family and community networks of childcare and protection.

Therefore, based on these prior lessons learned, the exit strategy and sustainability of the project is based on four components:

1. The notion of national ownership is embedded in the proposal as the project aligns with the outcomes and initiatives of the JTWG on the River Nile Access, of which the RTGoNU is a member. The positive engagement of national stakeholders in the process of closing unauthorized checkpoints has recently increased as the chairperson of the National Transitional Committee stated that the White Nile River should be clear for relief aid and commodities to move freely to the citizens. Additionally, other governmental stakeholders such as the Ministry of Peacebuilding will be actively involved in the design and implementation of the project. The notion of national ownership is also embedded at the local level considering the inclusion of communities and local CSOs in the project design and implementation. In this sense, commitment to- and ownership of the project is well-anchored in institutional and communal processes ensuring sustainability of the project.
2. The project will strengthen the capacities of local peace infrastructures to lead community-based activities that foster peaceful coexistence. The training provided to the local peace infrastructures covers methods and tools that are based on sustainability, meaning that these can be implemented on a long-term basis. Accordingly, the activities of the local peace infrastructures can continue once the project has ended. The training sessions for the local peace infrastructures will pay specific attention towards the spirit of self-reliance, herewith preparing them for the departure of the UN agencies.
3. The project will contribute to the restoration of the social fabric between, and within, the targeted communities. Key components for restoring the social fabric are trauma healing and sociocultural activities. Lessons learned from other projects implemented by UNDP show that addressing (communal) trauma combined with activities fostering social cohesion via community-led activities provide a strong foundational layer of the social fabric. Social cohesion activities such as cultural dances or women-to-women counselling sessions are implemented beyond the project intervention period. The actual implementation of activities provided under outcome two are designed in such a way that they can be implemented without interference of external actors and will include a component on encouragement of continuation with activities after the intervention.
4. Fourth, the project will provide alternative livelihoods to communities involved with the running of unauthorized checkpoints. The identification of alternative livelihood opportunities will be conducted in close consultation with local stakeholders and business professionals to identify business and skills training opportunities that have adequate business development prospects and will generate income on the long-term. The skills training will include a component on entrepreneurship and the mid- to long-term running of a small business. With these means, the community members participating in activities under outcome three are engaged in alternative livelihood opportunities that are sustainable beyond the project implementation phase. Herewith, the community members are enabled to become self-reliant regarding their income generating activities.

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. Proposed budget for all projects must include

sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.

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

and depending on the risk rating or other context-specific factors, additional benchmarks may be indicated for the release of second and third tranches.

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

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

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline		X	The majority of implementing partners have been identified. However, full identification is only possible after the inception phase.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission			N/A as the proposal does not require extra staff to be hired.
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	X		Yes, however, final decision on the project sites will be taken after the inception phase.
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	X		Yes, however, some details have not been shared with government counterparts as the issue is sensitive. Sharing and requesting this sensitive information without assurance that funds for the project will be allocated may cause harm in positive and fruitful relations with government counterparts.
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?	X		The activities are based on lessons learned of UNDP and UNICEF. The activities will be finalized after the inception phase.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.		X	The TWG of the project will gather in in January of 2024 to further discuss the selection criteria of participants. Consultations with government, namely JTWG and MoPB, will be essential for the design of the identification criteria.

7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?		X	No, this will be completed after the inception phase as the project first needs to map out what exact governmental stakeholders need to be involved.
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	X		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?			The inception phase will take place before the project implementation starts. The exact duration of the inception phase needs to be further discussed and will be finalized in January 2024.
Gender			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	X		Gender focal person of UNDP provided recommendations.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	X		Yes, please see section on consultations at the beginning of the document.
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	X		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	X		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	X		
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	X		

<p>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.</p>	X	
<p>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?</p>	X	
<p>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?</p>	X	The project will be implemented by existing project teams of UNDP and UNICEF. These include national and international staff.
<p>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.</p>	X	The project will adhere to UNDP and UNICEF rules and regulations for procurement which embed value for money.
<p>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.</p>		X
<p>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.</p>	X	UNMISS provides technical support and will provide operational assistance in terms of reachability of the target areas.

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 close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

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

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

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

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
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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 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	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or

progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it		Head of UN Country Team where it does not.
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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 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.⁵²
- 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.

⁵² Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: Local peace infrastructures effectively lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives.		<p>Outcome Indicator 1a: % peace committee members reporting increased capacity to lead community violence reduction and peace initiatives (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: NA Target: 75%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) Annual reports End of project report 	Achieved by the end of the project implementation period
		<p>Outcome Indicator 1b: % of community members consulted and expressing support to the closure of unauthorized checkpoints (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: NA Target: 60%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) Annual reports End of project report 	Achieved by the end of the project implementation period
	Output 1.1: Knowledge and understanding of the local context and stakeholders are enhanced.	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.1: # of consultations with key power brokers and targeted beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender and age: by women, young males and young females).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 30 Of whom youth-focused: 10 Of whom women-focused: 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports Tracking the number of consultation sessions held with community members. 	100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period
	Output 1.2: Comprehensive and inclusive community consultations on the peaceful use of the White Nile/Sobat River corridor conducted.	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.2: # of mapping exercises conducted to identify key stakeholders, power brokers and their interrelations, target locations and communities, including the number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports Quarterly reports Annual reports 	100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period
		Output Indicator 1.2.1: # of comprehensive and inclusive community consultations conducted to explore issues and solutions related to the closure of unauthorized checkpoints (disaggregated by gender, age, location).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports 	100% achieved by the second year of the project

	<p>Output 1.3: Payam-level Peace Committees are established to reduce community violence</p>	<p>Baseline:0 Target: 30 Of whom consultations for youth: 8 Of whom consultations for women: 8</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.3.1: # of peace committees established and trained (disaggregated by gender and age). Baseline: 0 Target: 5</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.3.2: # of Payam peace committees received seed funds. Baseline: 1 Target: 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tracking the number of consultation sessions held with community members. ● Training report ● Attendance list ● Progress reports 	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period</p>
	<p>Output 1.4: Local peace committees facilitate inclusive and participatory community level peacebuilding activities</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.4.1: # of community (intergenerational) dialogues, mediation and consultations, and other violence reduction and peace initiatives conducted for selected White Nile/Sobat River communities (disaggregated by gender, age, refugee, host communities). Baseline: 0 Target: 15 Of whom initiatives for youth: 5 Of whom initiatives for women: 5</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.4.2: # of people reached through awareness raising and dissemination of peace agreements, especially the R-ARCSS, in the targeted communities to address dividing perceptions and promote national unity (disaggregated by gender and age). Baseline: 0 Target: 1,200 Of whom youth: 600 Of whom women: 420</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dialogue report ● Attendance list ● Progress reports 	<p>100% achieved by the second year of the project implementation period</p>

<p>Outcome 2: Social cohesion is improved among White Nile and Sobat River communities</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to. As relevant, alignment to UNSDCF and/or Strategic Results Framework indicators recommended at outcome and output levels)</p> <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 2a: % of community members reporting increased economic, social and cultural activities between White Nile and Sobat River corridor communities (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 70%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) Annual reports End of project report 	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Communities along the White Nile/Sobat River are provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and are engaged in social activities</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 2b: % of change of well-being of youth and adolescents regularly attending the structured sessions in youth centers, schools, child-friendly spaces and in the river Nile communities (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 10%</p>	<p>Base-, mid- and endline surveys based on WHO-5 well-being index</p>	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Communities along the White Nile/Sobat River are provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and are engaged in social activities</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1: # of people reached through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) initiatives, such as trauma awareness sessions, to support healing of those affected by the conflict along the White Nile and Sobat River corridor as well as to disarm the minds of the youth from violent behaviors (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 60</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports Tracking the number of MHPSS/PSS sessions held with community members. 	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>
<p>Output 2.2: White Nile River and Sobat adolescents and youth participate in well-being activities to promote pro-social behaviors</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1.2: # of people that participated in joint cultural and social activities for deepening relationships and building social cohesion (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 3,100 Of whom youth: 1,000 Of whom women: 1,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports Tracking the number of people reached with social and cultural activities 	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>
<p>Output 2.2: White Nile River and Sobat adolescents and youth participate in well-being activities to promote pro-social behaviors</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.2.1: # of youth and adolescents living extremely dangerous lives regularly attending the structured sessions facilitated by the inspirators in youth centers, schools, child-friendly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Attendance lists Teampact Application 	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>

<p>Outcome 3: Members of targeted White Nile and Sobat River communities become self-reliant.</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to. As relevant, alignment to UNSDCF and/or Strategic Results Framework indicators recommended at outcome and output levels)</p> <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p>	<p>that minimize conflict and violence at all levels</p>	<p>spaces, and in the river Nile communities (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target: 300 adolescents</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.2.2: # of adolescents mentors/inspirators identified and trained to develop and conduct structured fun and engaging activities such as sports, breathwork, arts and music to promote mindfulness leading to self-regulation, conflict and anger management (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target: 30 adolescents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly & annual project reports List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports 	<p>Achieved by the end of the project implementation period</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 3a: % increase in perceptions of economic resilience and capacity for self-reliance among White Nile and Sobat River communities (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: Target: 50%</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Alternative pathways for economic resilience are created for [mention both communities]</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 3a: % increase in perceptions of economic resilience and capacity for self-reliance among White Nile and Sobat River communities (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: Target: 50%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) 	<p>Achieved by the end of the third project implementation year</p>
<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1: # of people supported with skills training and start up kits in White Nile & Sobat River communities (disaggregated by gender and age)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 100 Of whom youth: 60 Of whom women: 40</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of youth and adolescents diverted to reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1: # of people supported with skills training and start up kits in White Nile & Sobat River communities (disaggregated by gender and age)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 100 Of whom youth: 60 Of whom women: 40</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports List of participants 	<p>Achieved by the end of the third project implementation year</p>
<p>Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of youth and adolescents diverted to reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of youth and adolescents diverted to reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of youth and adolescents diverted to reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports List of participants 	<p>Achieved by the end of the third project implementation year</p>

			<p>Output Indicator 3.1.3: # of youth and adolescents that received vocational skills training and start-up kits at the reintegration and well-being youth center in Malakal (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports List of participants 	Achieved by the end of the third project implementation year
	Output 3.2: Socioeconomic interdependency between the targeted White Nile and Sobat River communities is created		<p>Output Indicator 3.2.1: # boreholes for socioeconomic interdependency constructed</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p>Output Indicator 3.2.2: # of local management committees that are involved with the daily management of the boreholes supported (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports List of participants Project reports List of participants 	Achieved by the end of the third project implementation year
Outcome 4: White Nile River and Sobat River community members are committed to participating actively and peacefully in the electoral process through an enhanced environment for maintaining security and mitigating electoral violence.			<p>Outcome Indicator 4a: % of targeted community members committed to participating peacefully in the electoral process (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: NA Target: 75%</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 4b: % of targeted community members and security actors contribute to preventing electoral violence (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: NA Target: 60%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) Annual reports End of project report 	Achieved by the end of the project implementation period
	Output 4.1: Election risk management, monitoring and response mechanisms are strengthened.		<p>Output Indicator 4.1.1: # of risk and threat analysis drafted to inform a coordinated response mechanism in the White Nile and Sobat River Corridor (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception surveys (baseline and end-line surveys) Annual reports End of project report List of participants Quarterly & annual project reports Tracking the number of consultation 	100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period

	<p>Target: 1</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.1.2: # dialogues conducted to foster a common understanding and definition of a joint strategic framework for elections with national and international stakeholders deployed in the White Nile and Sobat River Corridor (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6 Of whom dialogues for youth: 1 Of whom dialogues for women: 1</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.2.1 # targeted community members and security actors participated in the rapid assessment of capacities of security sector actors in the White Nile and Sobat River corridor (disaggregated by gender, age, location).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 50</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.2.2 # security actors and targeted community members participated in awareness raising sessions on potential triggers of electoral violence and response mechanisms (disaggregated by gender, age, location).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 100 Of youth: 30 Of women: 30</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.3.1: # target beneficiaries participated in consultative meetings for preventing electoral violence and encourage confidence-building during elections (disaggregated by gender and age).</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>sessions held with community members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly reports • Quarterly reports • Annual reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of participants • Quarterly & annual project reports • Tracking the number of consultation sessions held with community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of participants • Quarterly & annual project reports • Tracking the number of consultation sessions held with community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training report • Attendance list • Progress reports 	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period</p>	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project</p>	<p>100% achieved by the second year of the project</p>	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period</p>
	<p>Output 4.2: The capacity of the police and other security actors is reinforced for maintaining security for elections</p>													
	<p>Output 4.3: A constructive and active engagement of community members, especially youth, is promoted for preventing electoral violence</p>													

	<p>Target: 100 Of whom youth: 40 Of whom women: 40</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.3.2: # local initiatives developed to prevent and reduce violence against women in elections.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training report • Attendance list • Progress reports 	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period</p>
	<p>Output 4.4: The technical capacities of the NEC and local authorities and mechanisms established for the prevention of electoral are enhanced</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.4.1: # of national and sub-national governmental and non-governmental stakeholders have received technical advice regarding prevention of electoral violence.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue report • Attendance list • Progress reports 	<p>100% achieved by the first year of the project implementation period</p>