

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



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT**

***NON-COST EXTENSION, May 2024***

<b>Country(ies):</b> Moldova	
<b>Project Title:</b> Building sustainable and inclusive peace, strengthening trust and social cohesion in Moldova	
<b>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):</b> 00133100	
<b>PBF project modality:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>IRF</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>PRF</b>	<b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b>
<b>List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.):</b> OHCHR (UN), UN Women (UN), UNDP (UN)	
<b>List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):</b> Bureau for Reintegration Policies (State Chancellery) The Office of the People's Advocate (Ombuds/National Human Rights Institution) and the Human Rights focal point on the left bank of the Nistru river Various local CSOs on both banks of Nistru river (selected on an open competitive basis) Various media outlets on both banks of Nistru river Schools in four geographic areas Social media influencers Think-thanks	
<b>Project duration in months<sup>1 2</sup>:</b> 24 <b>30</b> months (starting <b>July</b> <b>September</b> 2022)	
<b>Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:</b> Both banks of Nistru/ <b>Dniester</b> river, as well as Center (Causeni, Anenii Noi, Stefan Voda), North (Balti), South (Comrat), Security Zone	
<b>Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:</b> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <sup>3</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <sup>4</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	

<sup>1</sup> Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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

**Total PBF approved project budget\* (by recipient organization):****OHCHR: \$850,000****UNDP: \$802,500****UN Women: \$800,000****TOTAL: \$2,452,500**

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

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

**PBF 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (70%):**

OHCHR: \$ 595,000

UN Women: \$ 560,000

UNDP: \$561,750

Total: \$1,716,750

**PBF 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche\* (30%):**

OHCHR: \$255,000

UN Women: \$240,000

UNDP: \$240,750

Total: \$735,750

*Both tranches received by RUNOs as of 21 February 2024.*

**Provide a brief project description:** The project seeks to facilitate an enabling environment for improved cross-river interconnection between CSOs, communities, the Peoples' Advocate and the focal point for human rights on the left bank of the Nistru river, reduced social tensions and the continuation of the fragile Transnistrian conflict settlement process in the context of growing regional and domestic geopolitical tensions exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. This will be done through the advancement of, and cross-river interaction on, human rights, gender-responsive peacebuilding, and the promotion of equal access to services and through ensuring early intervention to prevent deepening divisions between the populations on either side of the conflict divide which are currently being affected by highly divisive narratives, misinformation and hate speech.

**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):**

Consultations were held with various government actors including the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, the Bureau for Reintegration Policies (State Chancellery), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President's Office, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Office of the People's Advocate and Human Rights focal point on the left bank, as well as NGOs (Gender Centru, Center for the Development and Support of Civil Initiatives "Rezonans", Interaction, Promo-LEX, INTERNEWS), media outlets from both banks of the Nistru river, and the National Association of Paralegals. De facto structures on the left bank of Nistru river were also consulted. During these meetings UN agencies received feedback on proposed actions, which were incorporated in the project document.

**Project Gender Marker score<sup>5</sup>: 2**

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and

<sup>5</sup> **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)

women's empowerment: ~~47.20%, \$1,157,649~~ **46.08%, or \$1,130,114**

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

To facilitate an environment conducive to women's meaningful participation in the Transnistrian settlement process and the broader peacebuilding efforts, including at community level, the project will employ a multipronged approach consisting of: a) thematic capacity building activities and leadership/empowerment programmes for women, including young women from both banks; b) core institutional funding for women-led CSOs from both banks, d) dialogue spaces linking women's and grassroots' voices to the settlement process, and e) advocacy for balanced representation of women in conflict settlement and peacebuilding processes. Concurrently, the project will build and strengthen the capacities of settlement process actors (women and men), to integrate the gender equality perspective in the issues on the negotiation agenda of the working groups. The project will also create dialogue spaces and foster joint initiatives bringing together local community actors on both banks, including along the Security Zone, around the implementation of Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at the local level. Additionally, multifaceted awareness raising interventions for the general public on both banks on the promotion of women's equal rights and opportunities in public life and in peace processes will be conducted, along with building the capacities of various media stakeholders on both banks on gender and conflict sensitive reporting. Overall, a gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approach will be applied in the implementation of all activities under the project.

**Project Risk Marker score<sup>7</sup>: Medium (1)**

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

2.3 - conflict prevention/management

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

UNSDCF 2023 – 2027: **Outcome 1: By 2027, institutions deliver human rights, evidence-based and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind.** Output 1.4. Rights holders, in particularly from vulnerable groups, are empowered to access and claim for quality public services. **Outcome 2: By 2027, more accountable, and transparent, human rights-based and gender responsive governance empowers all people in Moldova to participate in and to contribute to development processes.** Output 2.1. The regulatory framework and capacities of government and non-government institutions are enhanced to promote human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and accountability. **Output 2.4.** Government and non-government actors have strengthened capacities and resources to address the humanitarian crisis, sustain peace and security at the national and regional level and ensure access to justice for all.

**Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s)** to which the project contributes: SDG 16

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

<sup>7</sup> **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 1** = medium risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 2** = high risk to achieving outcomes

<sup>8</sup> **PBF Focus Areas** are:

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

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

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

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

<p><b>Type of submission:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New project</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Project amendment</b></p>	<p><b>If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:</b></p> <p><del>New project.</del> <b>Project Amendment (non-cost extension)</b></p> <p><b>Extension of duration:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): <b>6 months, end date set to 28 February 2025.</b></p> <p><b>Change of project outcome/ scope:</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Additional PBF budget:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX</p> <p><b>Brief justification for amendment:</b></p> <p>The amendment of the project is mainly suggested to seek a <b>non-cost extension</b> for an additional implementation period of six months. The project end date is foreseen for 28 February 2025 instead of 31 August 2024. At the same time, some budget reshuffling between lines will be suggested, not affecting the overall budget or budget allocated per RUNO.</p> <p>The project amendment seeks reshuffling within the OHCHR portion of funds to secure an additional three months of salary for the Project Coordinator. OHCHR takes the responsibility to provide six extra months of salary for the Project Coordinator, allowing them to be actively engaged in the realization of activities and overall coordination until February 2025 instead of until June 2024. <i>(Project coordinator was engaged in March 2023 and the original proposal foresees only 15 months of salary).</i></p> <p>The non-cost extension is sought to compensate for the Project's delayed start of implementation of activities and the additional time needed to recruit staff under the project. Actual implementation of activities by OHCHR and UN Women started in 2023, whereas UNDP activities started actual implementation in 2024 (although preparations and planning by all RUNOs started in the second half of 2022), due to late recruitment of the staff and other reasons explained below. The additional six months of implementation would give sufficient time for all RUNOs to reach the expected Outcome and Output level indicators. Despite difficulties faced in the initial phase, in the second half of 2023 the project implementation has gained momentum in tackling the relevant peacebuilding issues in Moldova. There is notable movement with cross-river interaction and awareness raising including stakeholders from both banks of Nistru/Dniester River which will continue and result with joint advocacy/peacebuilding initiatives until the end of 2024. Efforts to bring together the Ombudsperson and their counterpart from the left bank have finally brought results, and the project needs to use this momentum to support joint products and actions. The Project managed to bring law enforcement authorities to a consensus to develop an inter-institutional Guide on investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, including hate speech. The non-cost extension will allow for sufficient time for the Guide to be developed and published. The work with civil society, local communities, and schools and media towards creating joint products that tackle hate speech, misinformation and divisive narratives, as well as promote social cohesion are also underway, and the results of those actions will be visible in the second part of 2024. Firm commitments aimed at promoting access to services for left bank residents are made and implementation of activities related to the 'paralegals' will</p>
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	<p>commence this summer, and results will be visible the additional six-months of the project implementation.</p> <p>The reasons for a delayed project start are connected to several developments in the Moldovan context as well as RUNO's internal restructuring. Namely, in December 2022 some UN Agencies migrated to a new platform for administration of finance and procurement processes and underwent internal restructuring. This transition particularly affected UNDP and OHCHR, (both relying on UNDPs administration) and caused some additional delays in recruitment processes, the transfer of data and adaptation of staff to the new methods of working.</p> <p>Despite timely efforts the two RUNOs were not able to recruit adequate project staff at the early stages of the project – which has been pointed out in the regular project interim and annual reports. In OHCHR's case, although the vacancies were published as early as August 2022, the recruitment processes had to be repeated several times due to lack of qualified applicants. Therefore, the Project Officer commenced work in February 2023, and the Associate in August 2023. In UNDP's case, unexpected shortages in the Human Resources Unit in the second part of 2022, as well as the internal re-organisation of responsibilities between local and regional units resulted in a prolonged development and approval of the respective job descriptions. Therefore, the relevant two vacancies were only published in May 2023, the recruitment process was finalized in July 2023, and staff commenced work in August 2023.</p> <p>Such developments caused a significant delay in the actual implementation of activities, despite the preparations which were made to set a base for actual implementation of the outputs. Further, the political context and the ongoing uncertainty in the Transnistrian region have caused delays with implementation of specific outputs. Serious security events on the left bank of Nistru/Dniester River in 2022 have also caused concerns for implementing cross-river joint activities.</p> <p><b>NCE Budget changes</b></p> <p>The non-cost extension will not affect the overall/total budget of the project. Some reshuffling is done between lines related to activities/outputs, staff salaries and operational and general costs. Additionally, reshuffling between budget categories within the UNDP portion of the budget, already approved by PBSO<sup>9</sup> in October 2023, is reflected in the amended budget, along with reduced staff salaries and increased operational costs.</p> <p>Key budget changes are mainly linked to budget shifts within each RUNO's separate budget lines, to ensure that the project has sufficient funds to stay operational and continue with implementation until February 2025. Overall, these changes have resulted in a slight decrease in staff salaries, removal of costs for supplies, commodities and materials, and an overall increase of funds aimed for activities implementation, consisting of combined 'contractual services' and 'granting and transfers' to local partner organisations. The overall operational costs have also increased, on account of significantly decreased costs for 'materials' and 'equipment and furniture'.</p> <p><b>Key budget shifts per RUNO</b></p> <p>UN Women's main budget change consists of the increase of contractual services for implementation of activities and operational costs in order to secure</p>
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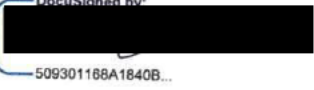
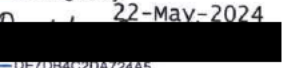
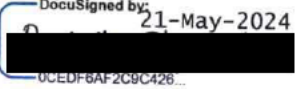

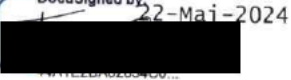

<sup>9</sup> A Memo requesting a budget reshuffle was approved by PBSO in October 2023.

	<p>payment for office rent and maintenance, using savings in staff salaries and equipment purchase. A few more minor budget shifts were made between specific activity budgets to fit the most recent needs to accomplish project results.</p> <p>The UNDP portion of the budget has decreased staff salary costs and removed costs for materials – and increased contractual services, and general operational costs – to be used for office rent and other expenses (the original budget did not foresee office rent costs). As of October 2023, a portion of ‘contractual services’ funds were moved to ‘granting and transfers’ and it is now reflected in the NCE. All of these funds are used for activity implementation.</p> <p>OHCHR has increased the costs of staff salaries to ensure that the overall project coordination remains in place until February 2025. This includes three additional monthly salaries for the Project Coordinator, which will be complemented with an additional six salaries provided by OHCHR’s own funds. Savings within activities originally intended for engaging external international consultants, and travel related costs were mainly used in this reshuffle.</p> <p>The foreseen budget changes will not affect the achievement of project results and set output level indicators, as all originally foreseen activities remain in place.</p> <p>The Project’s NCE was discussed and endorsed with no objections at a Technical Advisory Board<sup>10</sup> meeting on 10 November 2023. The detailed arrangements and the budget shifts were discussed with the Peace and Development Advisor, and PBSO Focal point in Moldova.</p> <p>At the time of submission of the NCE the total budget expenditure (including firm commitments) is estimated at <b>\$1,435,419 or 63% of the total approved budget.</b></p> <p><i>Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.</i></p>
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<sup>10</sup> The Project’s Technical Advisory Board consists of representatives of: The Moldovan Bureau for Integration Policies, Ombudsperson’s Office, NGOs from the Left and Right Bank of Nistru/Dniester River, the UNCT Peace and Development Advisor, Heads of the three RUNOs; and OSCE and the EU Delegation as observers.



## PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>11</sup></b>  <i>Name of Representative:</i>  Abdul Fofana Signature OHCHR Date & Seal  <i>Daniela Gasparikova Dima Al-Khatib</i> Signature UNDP Date & Seal  <i>Dominika Stojanoska</i> Signature UN Women Date & Seal 	<b>Representative of National Authorities</b>  <i>H.E. Mr. Oleg Serebrian, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration</i>  Signature Title Date & Seal 
<b>Head of UN Country Team, ad interim</b>  <i>Name of Representative: Bea Ferenci</i>  Signature Title Date & Seal 	<b>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</b>  <b>for</b> Elizabeth Spehar  Signature Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal  <b>31 May 2024</b>

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

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

- A brief summary of **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project

Moldova's prospects for sustained peace, stability and shared prosperity remain hampered by the protracted conflict on its territory. The Transnistrian region (with Tiraspol as its main city) remains effectively separated from the rest of the country since the end of the active conflict in 1992, not controlled by the government in Chisinau and with a de facto leadership that is supported by the Russian Federation. Despite the existence for many years of an active, formal OSCE-led settlement process (the "5+2 format" which was created in 2005, while conflict settlement talks between the two sides initially began after an Agreement between Republic of Moldova and Russian Federation on the principles for a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova was signed on 21 July 1992), no political resolution of the overall conflict has been achieved. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the situation has further deteriorated. With growing concerns that Russia's intentions could stretch beyond Ukraine, Moldova sought to expedite its European integration plans and formally applied for EU membership<sup>12</sup> on 3 March. Subsequently the de facto leadership on the left bank of Nistru river reiterated its claim for independence and called for an end to the formal settlement process, casting doubts over the future of the 5+2 format talks and overall Chisinau-Tiraspol relations. While the leadership of both banks appear willing to continue negotiations on key practical issues both at the level of negotiators and experts (several "1+1" meetings have taken place since the 4 March statement, and the work of the working groups is continuing)<sup>13</sup>, the OSCE has confirmed that the highest level of the talks – the formal 5+2 format – is for now on hold, also due to Ukraine's and Russian's role as guarantors in these talks, until further notice. The potential of EU membership may however inspire new efforts to resolve the situation.

The settlement process takes place at three levels (the formal "5+2 format", the 1+1 format, and the working groups) and focuses on three different 'baskets' of issues: the socio-economic basket; the legal/humanitarian/human rights basket; and the political/security/institutional basket. Currently, only two of them are open: the one on socio-economic issues and the 'basket' on legal and humanitarian issues and human rights. The discussions around the third one – comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues – has not been touched upon so far.

Human rights form one of the topics in the formal settlement process on which progress must be made for a final agreement on status and reintegration of the Transnistrian region to be clarified and concluded. While initially dealt with in one of the three subgroups discussing issues of civil status documents and population documentation, a dedicated Thematic Human Rights Working Group was later established as part of the negotiation framework to address specific human rights issues such as: the rights of persons with disabilities, rights of children at risk, repatriation of child victims of trafficking, trafficking in persons, tackling hate speech, prevention and combating of domestic violence, protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS against discrimination and their social inclusion. However, this did not fully contribute to deepening the cooperation. Some of the above-mentioned issues were discussed given inputs through previous initiatives with CSOs by UN agencies including OHCHR and UNDP, while there has been little progress on other issues due to the inevitable linkage between the working groups and the stalled political process. The Human Rights Working Group has, furthermore, met very infrequently so far, and its potential has not yet been reached. The 2018 "Follow-

<sup>12</sup> [1] The EU application is seen as an effort to bolster ties between the Moldovan government and the EU, with hopes for increased support from the latter to mitigate Moldova's vulnerabilities vis-a-vis the Russian Federation.

<sup>13</sup> <https://gov.md/ro/content/lista-coordonatorilor-grupurilor-de-lucru-din-partea-chisinaului>.



up Report on Human Rights in the Transnistrian region”<sup>14</sup> by Senior UN Human Rights Expert Thomas Hammarberg concluded: “It is essential to build on the positive momentum and systematize the efforts leading to full protection and promotion of human rights on both banks of Nistru-river. Human rights dimension should be even more prominently embedded into the Transnistrian settlement process.” In addition, while the working group on human rights could have been an efficient platform to specifically discuss the issue of women’s rights and the participation of women in peacebuilding processes and women’s social inclusion, it has not addressed those issues yet.

Women from both banks of Nistru river, especially the left bank, are underrepresented in the decision-making structures, including in formal conflict resolution process and, where present, mainly focused on 'feminized' areas of activity such as education, healthcare, social protection and humanitarian aid. Young women are even more underrepresented in decision-making spaces, facing double discriminations and barriers patterns due to their age and gender. Consequently, gender blind decisions are taken in the other areas of peace talks, further perpetuating the gender divide. This is mainly due to the traditional, patriarchal culture that shapes the women’s role, especially on the left bank of Nistru river community which remains isolated and has little exposure to sustainable development processes. There is little understanding of gender equality principles or gender-based violence on the left bank of the Nistru river, which make the women, including young ones, more vulnerable to human security threats. At the same time, women’s rights CSOs, particularly on the left bank, have weak institutional and specialized technical knowledge on all the issues discussed in the working groups which limits their space to make a meaningful contribution to addressing women’s rights perspectives in the settlement process. Moreover, presently they are generally disconnected from the formal process.

Consultations organized by UN Women between CSOs and women’s rights advocates from both banks of the river in 2021 revealed that the impact of traditional, patriarchal culture and education is one of the main factors hindering women’s participation in decision-making and leadership roles on the left bank, limiting also their capacity to take part in peacebuilding processes. The most recent Gender Barometer<sup>15</sup> organized on the left bank of Nistru river confirmed that girls and boys are educated differently, following a patriarchal pattern which negatively impacts the full and meaningful participation of women’s role in political and peace processes. More specifically, the current value system leans toward setting up a victim profile of women more than the profile of women as agents of peace.

The fourth and fifth (2013<sup>16</sup>) and sixth (2020<sup>17</sup>) periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova to the CEDAW Committee provided specific recommendations regarding women’s rights in the Transnistrian region. Although isolated measures were taken to reduce the gender divide in the context of peacebuilding efforts, including capacity building in gender equality and gender-sensitive conflict analysis for the female members of the Joint Working Groups in the framework of the Transnistrian

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/unct/moldova/docs/Follow-up\\_Report\\_TH\\_2018.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/unct/moldova/docs/Follow-up_Report_TH_2018.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Gender Barometer on the left bank of the Nistru River during the period 4-22 March 2019,

[https://resonancengo.org/upload/userfiles/files/Resonance\\_Survey\\_2019\\_gender%20barometr\\_present.pdf](https://resonancengo.org/upload/userfiles/files/Resonance_Survey_2019_gender%20barometr_present.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/4-5, 29 October 2013, <https://undocs.org/en/CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/4-5>

<sup>17</sup> Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6, 10 March 2020, [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6&Lang=En](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6&Lang=En)

settlement process, this was of a piecemeal nature and there is a need for a holistic approach and consistent interventions to truly advance the role of women in the settlement process.

While the right bank is implementing a dedicated National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the WPS Agenda has still not been integrated in the formal peace talks, with gaps on the left bank. More specifically, the WPS policy processes, namely the National Programme for gender equality in peace and security sector (2018-2021) did not include any conflict settlement related provisions nor localization of WPS commitments. Therefore, in the efforts to build sustainable peace, the meaningful participation and role of women in all their diversity and at all levels should be promoted in the official negotiations and high-level talks as well as through community-based initiatives and engagement. The synergy between the two not only will contribute to anchoring gender equality and women empowerment in peace processes, but also serve as basic ground for societal transformations.

The formal nature of the settlement process and the limited number of actors involved in the negotiations limits the type and number of issues discussed, with the result that the issues with the most acute day-to-day impact on the lives of people on the left bank of Nistru river may not even make it to the negotiation agenda. CSOs in Moldova play an important role in contributing to social inclusion and community engagement. However, the CSOs on the left bank lack knowledge of human rights, including gender equality, and the skills and opportunities to influence decisions of the de facto leadership, including in the context of the peacebuilding process. Moreover, the population has little knowledge about their activities and the services they provide. Therefore, the project aims at bringing an impetus to the broader negotiations process through a more efficient involvement of CSOs, People's Advocate and human rights focal point of the left bank of Nistru river in bringing new ideas to the attention of the working groups and other negotiation formats. This will be done through analysis of the potential priorities for discussion and advocacy through CSOs and others for the proposed consideration of those issues in the negotiation discussions. Some of the challenges faced by the population on the left bank in their development path have been discussed in the initial phase of the "Transnistrian Dialogues" initiative. The "Dialogues" bring together experts and representatives of NGOs, youth, vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, Roma, women with vulnerable background, in discussing the issues of importance for the reintegration of Transnistrian region and solutions for those challenges. The project will be building on the experience of organizing the dialogue and will enlarge the spectrum of topics for discussion including through mobilizing external expertise in the relevant domains.

Another challenge in the overall settlement process is linked to the low levels of interaction between individuals and communities from the opposite banks of Nistru river resulting from the thirty years of protracted conflict. In addition, the development gap between the left and the right bank of Nistru river is deepening. Given years of engagement on the left bank of Nistru river, UN agencies can conclude that the left bank (Transnistrian region) lags behind the right bank in terms of access to public services, the enjoyment of human rights and gender equality<sup>18</sup>, in turn exacerbating the divide between the communities on the left and the right bank of the Nistru river, especially the ones in the Security Zone and negatively affecting the formal negotiations. Limited interaction between people living on

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<sup>18</sup> Impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova. OHCHR, July 2021.  
<https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Summary%20of%20Research%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19%20%28OHCHR%29.pdf>.

both banks as well as between CSOs and human rights structures, focal points and experts contribute to the lack of trust and inhibits the overall peacebuilding process<sup>19</sup>. While a small-step approach was introduced in the formal negotiation process in 2016<sup>20</sup>, based on confidence building measures aiming to achieve concrete benefits for the people on both banks of the Nistru River, the progress made in the settlement process on socio-economic issues, which are perceived to be vital components of the process and important contributors to building trust and confidence, has stalled in recent years, and communities from the left and right bank have only limited interaction, which was made worse during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>21</sup>. The approach of the UN in implementing socio-economic interventions on the left bank of Nistru river over the years has been largely focused on economic development and limited social work with disadvantaged groups. As the interventions placed their emphasis on marginalized groups, they had limited effect on cross-river engagement. Feeling increasingly alienated from each other, most people therefore have little incentive to engage actively with the ‘other side’. On the left bank, this sense of ‘the other’ is compounded by low levels of engagement with public authorities on the right bank because people have a limited understanding about how to access basic public services. This includes services that are key to the implementation of agreements reached under the settlement process, such as the apostilling of diplomas from left bank institutions on the right bank. The limited access to services is caused by lack of accessible information about these services and the limited understanding of people from the Transnistrian region of the institutional infrastructure for public services delivery on the right bank. This project aims to stimulate access of persons from the left bank to the services on the right bank, enhance individual cross river engagement, increase the trust in institutions and therefore contribute to social cohesion between the communities on both banks.

The overall social cohesion in Moldova is fragile, according to the UN Moldova Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE)<sup>22</sup>. The human rights situation, which was negatively affected by COVID-19 pandemic, is also unequal among various vulnerable groups on both banks<sup>23</sup>. The outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 has also aggravated existing divisions within different groups of the population of Moldova, not only between people living on the left bank of the Nistru river and those living on the right bank, but also between groups of people within both of those geographic areas, including the Security Zone<sup>24</sup>. These divisions tend to be based on political conviction<sup>25</sup> (pro-Russia versus pro-West or pro-Ukraine views), which to some extent also fall along ethnic and linguistic lines. Moreover, the political discourse on both banks<sup>26</sup> around the potential risks for the country contributes

<sup>19</sup> Youth SCORE Index, Republic of Moldova: Secondary data analysis report, November 2019, p. 47. See more: <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/media/2971/file/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Berlin Agreement, June 2-3, 2016, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/d/f/244656.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights. <https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Summary%20of%20Research%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19%20%28OHCHR%29.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Moldova Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index, 2018. <https://www.scoreforpeace.org/en/moldova/2018-General%20population-0>.

<sup>23</sup> Impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights. <https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Summary%20of%20Research%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19%20%28OHCHR%29.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> [The Security Zone was created in 1992, delimiting the region closest to the territory controlled by the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the territory temporarily controlled by the non-constitutional authorities on the left bank of the Dniester.](#)

<sup>25</sup> According to the results of the SCORE index back in 2018 the attitude of right bank respondents was hostile toward 7 groups of people analyzed in the survey. The three waves of the COVID impact on social cohesion survey conducted between 2020-2021 registered positive trends with a significant improvement of attitudes, except people with different political visions. For instance, citizens from the left bank have a positive attitude toward people leaving on the right bank, but they are hostile against proponents who support closer ties with the EU, proponents of the Moldovan statehood, and unionists, groups of people which constitute a significant part of the Moldovan society, leaving on the right bank: (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B6N8bj-1ojl4iTz09Gm-cBeMduQp8y-x/view?usp=sharing>).

<sup>26</sup> <https://novostipmr.com/ru/news/22-06-20/vitaliy-ignatov-o-militarizacii-moldovy-eto-ugroza-miru-i-https://newsmaker.md/rus/novosti/zdravstvuy-oruzhie-nado-li-moldove-vooruzhatsya-i-pomozhet-li-eto-nashey-bezopasnosti/>.

to creating fears and mistrust among the population. The divisions and tensions are being further fueled by an increasing stream of misinformation, alternative news and hate speech, further weakening the fragile social cohesion in the country. The instigation to discrimination as a specific form of hate speech is regularly being reported to the Equality Council. Mainly, these are cases that refer to ethnic origin in a negative context and with a negative connotation in media, including social media, by journalists, politicians, or inciting calls against minorities by users of social media platforms. In 2021, the cases of injury to dignity through incitement to discrimination, based on language, sex/gender, ethnicity, disability, political affiliation, religious beliefs and other criteria reached 25% of the total number of complaints<sup>27</sup>. In addition, the large influx of refugees from Ukraine to the country, two thirds of which are women and girls (as of 22 June 2022, over 86,000 refugees, 60% of whom are women, and 51% of whom are children<sup>28</sup>) who have arrived on both banks, has added to the complexity of this situation. With the socio-economic pressures on host communities, the serious impact on the national budget, and limited opportunities of the refugees to integrate into Moldovan society, the refugee situation is adding further pressures on social cohesion. According to recent monitoring reports<sup>29</sup>, there was a considerable spike in hate speech across Moldova with the start of the war in Ukraine, most often amplified manifold by various media sources. Most of the hate speech was identified as rooted in politics— an already deeply divisive issue in Moldova. The hate speech mostly targeted Ukrainians, but also politicians, with Russians as a third target group. Those spreading such hate speech are predominantly male (78%). The National Human Rights Institutions have responded with a public statement to the general public, public figures, politicians and the media strongly condemning hate speech and public statements motivated by xenophobia towards refugees, ethnic and linguistic minorities<sup>30</sup>. Moreover, in the context of the Ukrainian war and refugee crisis, an increase in hate speech against refugees and minority groups, and misinformation in online media is being reported in Moldova<sup>31</sup>. This also raised concerns among the UN Special procedures<sup>32</sup>. At the same time, negative perceptions of Russia as a country and the threat of its actions have increased in Moldova since the beginning of the war, as per the latest poll by IRI in Moldova<sup>33</sup>. To tackle hate speech and hate crimes in line with international recommendations, Moldovan authorities recently adopted new legislation<sup>34</sup> that also requires effective follow-up and implementation by from state institutions.

In the context of the increased regional and national political tensions, increasingly divisive narratives, growing hate speech and the uncertainties of future Chisinau-Tiraspol relations, renewed efforts to

<sup>27</sup> Raport general privind situația în domeniul prevenirii și combaterii discriminării în Republica Moldova, anul 2021.

[http://egalitate.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CPEDAE\\_raport\\_-2021-final\\_site-1.pdf](http://egalitate.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CPEDAE_raport_-2021-final_site-1.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> Daily Trends Dashboard, UNHCR. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/MDA>.

<sup>29</sup> Hate speech and incitement to discrimination in the public space and in the media of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, 24.02.2022 – 24.04.2022. <https://promolex.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Discursul-de-ur%C4%83-%C8%99i-instigare-la-discriminare-%C3%AEn-spa%C8%9Biul-public-%C8%99i-%C3%AEn-mass-media-din-Republica-Moldova-%C3%AEn-contextul-r%C4%83zboiului-Federa%C8%9Biei-Ruse-%C3%AEmpotriva-Ucrainei.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. <https://promolex.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Discursul-de-ur%C4%83-%C8%99i-instigare-la-discriminare-%C3%AEn-spa%C8%9Biul-public-%C8%99i-%C3%AEn-mass-media-din-Republica-Moldova-%C3%AEn-contextul-r%C4%83zboiului-Federa%C8%9Biei-Ruse-%C3%AEmpotriva-Ucrainei.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova. Warning on the proliferation of biased symbols that may provoke conflict situations based on ideological, political and national hatred, 14 March 2022. <https://sis.md/ro/content/aten%C8%9Bionare-privind-proliferarea-simbolurilor-tenden%C8%9Bioase-ce-pot-provoca-situa%C8%9Bii-de>.

<sup>32</sup> The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues press release, Geneva, 16 March 2022.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/ukraine-un-expert-says-war-against-multi-ethnic-population-must-stop-calls>.

<sup>33</sup> Public Opinion Survey: Residents of Moldova. IRI, April 2022. <https://www.iri.org/news/iri-moldova-poll-shows-attitudes-toward-russia-increasingly-negative-economic-concerns-opportunities-for-youth-engagement/>.

<sup>34</sup> Draft law No 301 on amending and complementing some legislative acts (Criminal Code - art.77, 134'14, 135'1, etc.; Contravention Code - art.43, 46'1, 46'2, etc.) <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactele legislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/3349/language/ru-RU/Default.aspx>.

strengthen trust and confidence between both banks, including at community level, are now more important than ever.

- A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**<sup>35</sup>, how it ensures **national ownership**.

The settlement of the Transnistrian conflict remains a key focus for the Government of Moldova, tied also to its energy dependency on the Russian Federation, overall development, and capacity to move ahead with European integration. The Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration (DPM) and the Bureau for Reintegration Policies are the authorities set up specifically to deal with this issue, with the DPM also being the lead negotiator for the settlement process from the Chisinau side.

The Action Plan of the Bureau for Reintegration for 2022 has set as first objective to ensure the ongoing interaction on all negotiation platforms for the Transnistrian settlement process and identification of viable solutions for the issues on the negotiations' agenda.<sup>36</sup> Therefore, the continuation of the negotiations is among the priorities of the Government. The de facto leadership in Tiraspol also has a clearly stated interest in continuing negotiations and in supporting interventions that benefit the population on the left bank.

Another priority of the Government is informing the general public about the settlement process and about the essence of the reintegration policies.<sup>37</sup> In this respect, the authorities are planning not only to share information about the events of the Bureau for Reintegration Policies but also to monitor the way the information on the Transnistrian settlement process is being reflected in the media. The way this information is presented can contribute to reducing social tensions and political divisions along the issues related to the settlement process. The project will support the tackling of misinformation through increasing media literacy especially of non-traditional media and developing on-line tools to counter hate speech and misinformation.

The reduction of social tensions and political divisions which are growing as a result of misinformation and 'competing realities' in the context of the war in Ukraine would also be in the interest of both banks. Both Chisinau and the de facto leadership in Tiraspol, despite their differences and opposing political orientation/links, have made consistent efforts to play down and counter allegations and rumors perceived to be increasing the risks of the Transnistrian region and the rest of Moldova being pulled into conflict. The Moldovan government has made every effort to promote tolerance and acceptance amidst reports of hate speech against minorities, including both Russians and Ukrainians. Equally de facto structures have made efforts to refute misinformation that was spread through various media channels.

While the UN has no role in the formal settlement process, it has a reputation as an impartial actor and enjoys a relationship of trust and good interaction with both Chisinau and Tiraspol, with unimpeded access to the left bank of Nistru river, which presents the Organization with a unique opportunity to play a constructive role in Moldova at this critical stage in its post-independence history. The UN has successfully carried out programmatic interventions engaging both banks over the last few years,

<sup>35</sup> Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

<sup>36</sup> See the Action Plan for 2022 of the Bureau for Reintegration at: <https://gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/biroul-politici-de-reintegrare>

<sup>37</sup> See the objective 3 of the Action Plan of the Bureau for Reintegration at: <https://gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/biroul-politici-de-reintegrare>



including through core programmes of UN agencies as well as the “Support for Confidence-building measures” programme, “Advanced cross-river capacities for trade,” and the One UN Joint Action “Cross-river support to Human Rights” among others. The latter programme was focused on strengthening the institutional capacities of CSOs on the left bank including through cross-river exchange of good practices to become able to promote human rights on the left bank of Nistru river. Therefore, the aforementioned project has had a limited impact on cross river cooperation and facilitation of interaction including of individuals on the left bank with the institutions on the right bank as is the focus of the proposed project. The Government and the Bureau for Reintegration Policies welcome UN efforts to promote trust and confidence building in relation to the Transnistrian settlement talks and to address what it acknowledges are serious social cohesion challenges in the country.

The project is aligned with the provisions under the second-generation National Programme and Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) for the period 2022-2026 developed in Moldova with UN Women support. The new NAP is based on the four Pillars of the UNSCR 1325: Prevention, Participation, Protection, Relief and Recovery and it addresses, among other aspects, actions aimed at enhancing women’s meaningful participation in the security and defense sector, including in the conflict settlement processes and peacebuilding efforts, primarily from a human security perspective and includes interventions at local level to decentralize the WPS commitments. The new 1325 NAP for 2022-2026 is expected to be finalized and endorsed by August 2022, as per Government Action Plan for 2021-2022 <sup>38</sup>.

The current project will enable Moldova to address its major development challenges and meet its international human rights commitments. Particularly relevant in this context are UNSDCF Outcome 2 by 2027, more accountable, and transparent, human rights-based and gender responsive governance empowers all people in Moldova to participate in and to contribute to all spheres of life and Outcome 3 by 2027, all people in Moldova, including the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equitable/equal access to decent work and productive employment.

The work to be conducted is aligned with a number of SDGs: SDG1 (no poverty), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG10 (reduced inequalities), SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). It is also in line with the national development priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy to be approved in the near future.

Furthermore, it aligns with the National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2022, Areas of intervention No.16: Respect for human rights in the localities on the left bank of the Nistru river; No. 4: National human rights institutions; No. 6: Non-discrimination and equality; No. 7: Gender equality and domestic violence; No. 10: Right to work and social protection; No. 2: National justice system. The next National Human Rights Programme and Action Plan will be developed over the coming months. It will be based on recommendations received during the UPR as well as from treaty bodies who have reviewed Moldova since 2018. There are numerous UPR and treaty body recommendations relevant to this project. The UPR recommendations are mentioned in the Results Framework.

- 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.

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<sup>38</sup> Government Action Plan 2021-2022,p.169. [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/hg\\_nr.235\\_13.10.2021-engl.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/hg_nr.235_13.10.2021-engl.pdf)

<b>Project name (duration)</b>	<b>Donor and budget</b>	<b>Project focus</b>	<b>Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal</b>
One UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region (July 2019 – July 2022)	Sweden, Total budget: 2,600,000 USD	The Programme intends to foster commitment for human rights-oriented reforms in general and particularly in the area of right of the vulnerable groups, facilitating the establishment of multidimensional interaction, cross-river knowledge exchange and development based on best practices existing on both banks.	It is complementary to the current proposal by focusing on the wider range of groups of vulnerable people and piloting various community-based social services on the left bank of Nistru river and contributing to the promotion, respect and protection of their rights on the left bank of Nistru river. This project focuses less on cross-river cooperation than the proposed PBF project aims to do. It is also different from the project proposed by the fact that it did not look at facilitating cross-river engagement at the individual level.
Promoting and strengthening women's participation in conflict settlement processes from economic and social security community perspectives, with a focus on the left bank of the Nistru River (October 2021 – October 2022)	SIDA, Total budget: 66,007.62 USD	Piloting a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing the role of women in peace processes from economic and social security community perspectives and advancing Women, Peace and Security agenda with the focus on the left bank of the Nistru River	(Complementary to the project proposal) The on-going SIDA-funded activity is focusing on dialogue events between women at the grassroots level, provision of tailored capacity building on economic and social aspects. The interventions proposed under the PBF project will complement the above-mentioned activity through a multi-faceted approach, creating the space for a meaningful participation of women in the settlement



			process and broader peacebuilding efforts
Support to Confidence Building Measures (CBM) Programme (V) (2019-2023)	EU, Total budget: 15,104,143 USD	Contribute to the economic and social development of both banks by ensuring equal access to opportunities provided by the Association Agreement and its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area for both banks of the Nistru river; Tackle growing disparity between both banks by supporting local development and CSOs: Support the activities of media from both banks of Nistru river through common media production; Support the sectorial rapprochement in pilot sectors and progressively include the left bank of the Nistru river in Moldova-wide development initiatives to limit the development gap.	(Complementarity to the project proposal) The CBM has as objective the progressive closing of the development gap including through the inclusion of the left bank of the Nistru river in Moldova-wide development. It has a strong economic and infrastructural focus and aims at tackling economic growth disparity and facilitating cultural and community exchange between the banks. The current PBF project instead aims at bridging the development gap through supporting the integration of people from the left bank into Moldovan society through facilitation of access of Transnistrian region inhabitants to public services available to them on the right bank and uniformization of the institutional infrastructure typology (i.e. paralegals)
Advanced Cross-River Capacities for Trade (2019-2023)	UK, DCFTA 3,420,979 USD	Support cross-river exchange of information and awareness-raising on the opportunities provided by on the Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed between UK and	Different from the current proposal, the focus in the AdTrade project is on economic development and less focused on social aspects.

		Moldova and DCFTA in the region; Develop exporting capacities of companies from both banks of Nistru river and diversify exports by supporting emerging businesses; Promote expansion of the MSMEs sector in the Transnistrian region by developing new emerging businesses, in particular those led by women, with impact on representatives most vulnerable groups.	
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**The project aims to fill the following strategic gaps, not yet addressed through existing projects:**

**Outcome 1** foresees a strengthened cross-river engagement. While this approach is not new as such, in terms of cross-river engagement between CSOs, the Office of the People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank, the project aims to facilitate a more systematic engagement, an engagement on an equal footing between left and right bank CSOs, human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, and leading to joint advocacy, awareness raising, monitoring and reporting activities of CSOs, HRDs and journalists in particular. At the same time the project will introduce an innovative dialogue platform between the People's Advocate (Ombuds) and the human rights focal point on the left bank, both of whom are included in the Human Rights Working Group, and their close engagement with CSOs, will facilitate regular discussions and a more structured exchange on human rights and gender equality issues. This more structured engagement will potentially allow for joint human rights monitoring activities of the People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank and will provide entry points for constructive human rights and gender equality related discussions that did not exist in the past.

Women's meaningful participation in the conflict settlement process was not previously addressed in an integrated manner. Therefore, this project will employ a multipronged approach in this respect, which will include a combination of thematic capacity building of women, including young women, grassroots, CSOs and settlement process actors on women's human rights and gender equality, institutional support to women-led CSOs on both banks, and facilitation of dialogue spaces linking women's voices to the settlement process, while stepping up the advocacy for balanced representation

of women in conflict settlement and peacebuilding processes, also from human security perspective. Community level interactions will be facilitated to support the implementation of the WPS agenda at local level while fostering joint initiatives and cooperation on issues of shared concern to also advance peace acceleration and social cohesion solutions.

Outcome 1 of the project will also stimulate cross-river engagement at the individual level through legally empowering people living on the left bank of Nistru river to access services on the right bank. Even though the access to a range of services such as the confirmation of university education diplomas obtained on the left bank of Nistru river is object of negotiations within thematic working groups, people living on the left bank of Nistru river are usually not aware of the availability of those services, or how to access them. The idea behind the intervention in this project is that the facilitation of access to services through informing people about those services and about the institutions on the right bank delivering the services will contribute to laying the groundwork for the later reintegration of communities. The reintegration is envisaged, in one form or other, as one of the end results of the settlement process. Stimulating community level engagement between people on both banks through enhancing access of the left bank inhabitants to right bank services will contribute to bringing communities closer together. Ensuring that people on the left bank have their capacity increased and empowered to resolve legal and procedural issues that affect most people's life cycles is also likely to alleviate social tensions and strengthen the peaceful coexistence between people on both banks. This approach is an example of bottom-up way of building peaceful societies.

Finally, an especially important challenge to the settlement process is the effect that divisive narratives (including hate speech) and misinformation are having on the process. **Outcome 2** will therefore seek to strengthen responses to divisive narratives and misinformation to reduce social tension. While efforts have in the past been undertaken to address hate-speech and misinformation on both banks of Nistru river, these efforts were ad-hoc and focused mainly on awareness raising. Therefore, this project will conduct more systematic actions to counter misinformation and will engage with authorities and de facto structures on the increased compliance with international human rights standards tackling hate-speech. Alternatives to mis- and disinformation will be provided and factchecking promoted through developing digital tools and working with educators and students in particularly affected areas.

- **Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)**
- A brief **description of the project** focus and approach

The main goal of the project is to facilitate an enabling environment for improved cross-river interconnectedness and interaction, reduced social tensions and the continuation of the settlement process:

The project seeks to support peace talks by strengthening trust and confidence between the communities on the two sides of the river as well as between the Moldovan authorities and the de facto structures through capacity building, cross-river engagement and cooperation between CSOs, institutions, de facto structures and other conflict settlement process actors with a specific and ambitious focus on human rights, gender equality and increased service delivery. This will contribute to better integration of human rights and gender equality perspectives in the negotiation agenda and

help build capacities to more effectively address human rights, WPS and gender equality issues in the peace process.

The project also aims to reduce the existing divisions between the communities on the left and right bank as well as between certain groups in Moldovan society, which are being aggravated by starkly opposing views on the war in Ukraine, hate speech and misinformation and which are also impacted by pressures of the large influx of refugees from Ukraine.

The project proposes to do so through two outcomes, with:

- (1) one outcome focusing on strengthening the cross-river engagement and productive interaction at the level of government and de facto structures, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institution and the human rights focal point on the left bank, and at community level. The aim is to empower communities, and to enable the CSOs, the People's Advocate (Ombudsman) and the Human Rights focal point on the left bank to strengthen their engagement and contributions to the cross-river dialogue and ultimately to the settlement talks through the promotion of human rights and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. At the same time conflict settlement process actors will have their capacity increased on human rights and gender equality perspective, so that these are better integrated into the negotiation agenda, while concurrently continuing to advocate for balanced and representation of women in the settlement process and in decision-making at all levels and putting in place enabling conditions (capacities, funding, and creating spaces for influence) to also stimulate women's meaningful participation.

**Success under this outcome will mean** that CSOs are able to formulate and convey effective messages to members of the settlement process; human rights and gender equality principles are advanced in the peacebuilding process, increasing the trust between the two banks; the People's Advocate and human rights focal point of the left bank have conducted joint monitoring trips, among others (increasing direct engagement between stakeholders on both banks and the trust in the settlement process); people living on the left bank of Nistru river are empowered in accessing similar public services as the population on the right bank, in turn intensifying cross river community engagement; GEWE will be better integrated in the work of the Thematic Working Groups; more women will be engaged in high-level talks related to the settlement process.

- (2) The second outcome focuses on strengthening responses to divisive narratives and misinformation to reduce social tensions and will be implemented at national level by working with relevant actors, including state authorities in regards to the implementation of a newly adopted regulatory framework on hate speech, through discussions with de facto structures on importance of tackling hate speech, through CSOs, by increasing their capacities to effectively advocate for the implementation of international standards on countering hate speech as well as by working with new and traditional media to enhance their capacities on human rights, gender-responsive reporting and production of media products conducive to promoting tolerance, non-discrimination, gender equality and social cohesion; and community level, by addressing hate speech and discrimination through counter-narratives, fact checking and digital tools, and engagement with educators. **Success under this outcome means** that the international standards in the field of hate speech are implemented on the right bank through the newly adopted legal framework on hate speech; strong social tolerance competencies and awareness in human rights is shared by a growing number of students and school professionals; media professionals publish joint cross-river evidence-based

products conducive to social tolerance and non-discrimination, and have reduced the use of hate-speech; gender stereotypes and traditional norms negatively impacting the full and meaningful participation of women's role political and peace processes are effectively addressed, and social distance is reduced between underrepresented groups (refugees) and the majority of the population on both banks of Nistru river.

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

Human rights is one of the key topics identified in the formal Transnistrian settlement process. The limited progress on this issue and failure to address systematic grievances remains an obstacle to improving relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol.

Low representation of women in the settlement process and the supporting structures, coupled with insufficient awareness of the differentiated implications for men and women of the issues of the negotiation agenda, weak capacities of women's rights CSOs on both banks on peacebuilding and their overall disconnect from the settlement processes and decision-making instances more broadly result in gender perspectives and gender specific issues being unsatisfactorily addressed in the negotiations.

The lack of meaningful participation of CSOs, People's Advocate and human rights focal point of the left bank in the settlement process contributes to a disconnect between the high-level negotiations and how problems are perceived by people on the ground.

Levels of interaction between the communities of the two banks are low. The limited use of services available on the right bank by the left bank population, including those required for the implementation of agreements reached in the settlement process, deepens the development gap and increases social distance between the banks.

Increasing levels of misinformation, hate speech and divisive narratives through new and traditional media ecosystems are contributing to deepened alienation between people on the left bank and the right bank of the Nistru river as well as between different groups and communities on each side of the river, thus undermining the support for the settlement process and contributing to overall divisions and tensions among people, which have been further exacerbated due to the war in Ukraine.

Therefore:

If there is visible advancement of human rights and the Women, Peace and Security agenda; and  
 If there is improved access of communities from the left bank to public services on the right bank;  
 If there is a stronger mechanism for community participation in the advancement of these priorities as well as the communities' capacity to contribute to the settlement process and its supporting structures (including through greater cross-river CSO cooperation), and  
 If this is further supported through a strong response to divisive narratives, hate speech and misinformation.

Then this will facilitate an enabling environment for improved cross-river cooperation and will enable the continuation of the settlement process and reduce the likelihood of the current social tensions increasing further.

Because the process will be more inclusive and will benefit from additional perceived legitimacy and marginalized populations will be prioritized for inclusion and direct support, while reducing the likely effect of the misinformation and hate speech to inflame grievances into violence.

- **Provide a narrative description of key project components** (outcomes and outputs),

The project is structured around two outcomes. The first one aims at strengthening cross-river engagement and productive interaction, while the second one is focused on addressing divisive narratives and misinformation.

### **Outcome 1 – Strengthened cross-river engagement and productive interaction through the advancement of human rights, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and improved access to social services**

This outcome will be achieved by working with both institutions and communities, along the following outputs.

#### **Output 1.1. Improved capacities of the conflict settlement process actors to integrate human rights and gender equality perspectives at all levels of the negotiation agenda, including a focus on balanced and meaningful participation of women in the process at all levels**

To achieve this output the project will work along two lines. First, the project will deliver capacity development activities to the settlement process actors, including the Bureau for Reintegration Policies and relevant structures from both banks of the Nistru river on gender sensitive and human rights-based approaches to conflict resolution. Aside from trainings and production of tools and policy papers, the capacity development activities will also include tailored and well-focused peer-to-peer exchanges with women negotiators from other countries. Second, the project will facilitate the interaction between actors working around the track 1, 2 and 3 peace processes and help them to jointly identify emerging areas for discussions, including in relation to advancing gender equality and human rights issues in the negotiation agenda. This will take place through joint cross-river workshops, roundtables and consultations bringing together CSOs, think tanks, experts, local community representatives and the settlement process actors.

Efforts to achieve this output are ongoing and have made some notable progress, with minor setbacks due to the intensified political situation in Moldova. Namely, joint cross-river discussions are taking place with experts and communities from both banks, actively engaged in the areas such as agriculture, environment, business, social assistance and services etc. During the 6-month extension period, relevant conclusions and recommendations from each of these meetings will be brought to the attention of representatives of relevant line agencies from both banks, included in the settlement process.

Additionally, members of the Moldovan Parliament and the Bureau for Reintegration Policies were engaged and informed on relevant policies for integrating human rights and women's meaningful participation in peace processes, as well as the WPS Agenda. Additionally, a knowledge product - publication “Women’s inclusion in peace processes: Global lessons to Moldova” was developed capturing valuable insights from international practices regarding women's inclusion and meaningful participation in peace processes, while also highlighting best practices to formulate recommendations appropriate to the local context and peacebuilding efforts. The Project is experiencing some setbacks

while trying to convene joint in-person events with representatives of duty-bearers, line agencies from both sides. These were mainly related to changes in Moldova's legislation with the introduction of "separatism" as a criminal offense and concerns voiced by de facto authorities of prosecution based on charges of separatism should they enter the areas under the constitutional control of Moldovan authorities. As a consequence, both sides refused to participate in events on the respective "opposite side". Furthermore, there were attempts to misrepresent such events to the political benefit of one side. The project team, in consultation with the UN Peace and Development Adviser, continues to make alternative plans to engage both sides in joint activities.

**Output 1.2. Civil society organizations from both banks, People's Advocate and human rights focal point from the left bank, and local community actors from the Security Zone have increased capacities to JOINTLY engage in advancing human rights and WPS Agenda and foster effective cross-river dialogue and partnerships.**

To realize this output, the project will work with civil society actors, the People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank, and with local community actors. The project will establish a platform for CSOs, human rights defenders and journalists from both banks of Nistru river for cooperation and exchanges on promoting human rights, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and social cohesion. As part of it, the capacity of CSOs, human rights defenders and journalists of both sides will be increased to monitor, report and advocate on human rights and gender equality issues, which will facilitate the implementation of joint advocacy initiatives between CSOs from both banks including towards duty bearers. Continued engagement on social and economic rights as well as increased engagement on civil and political rights with the aim of ensuring the respect, protection and fulfilment of international human rights obligations, etc., will address in a constructive manner a stumbling block in the present settlement process.

The project will also support local initiatives for the decentralization of the WPS commitments, in line with the new 1325 NAP as well, by engaging local level actors, including along the Security Zone; as well as by providing small grants to women led CSOs from both banks to increase their institutional capacities to be able to better advocate for and promote the WPS agenda. This will lead to an increased trust and engagement between communities and duty bearers across the conflict-divide.

In parallel, a dialogue and exchange of good practices on human rights monitoring, reporting, public awareness and advocacy between right bank national human rights institutions and the left bank human rights focal point will be facilitated. The People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank are members of the human rights working group of the settlement process and can jointly influence the discussions. Through the project, the Ombudsperson and human rights focal point on the left bank will engage in a dialogue outside the formal settlement process, exchange experiences, increase their human rights capacity, will benefit from mentoring programmes as well as cross-river study visits, and will conduct joint human rights monitoring. They will increase their much-needed engagement with CSOs, including in countering hate speech, discrimination, gender inequality and promoting social tolerance. This will also increase leverage in their respective human rights work and strengthen their capacity to engage in constructive discussions on human rights in the settlement process.

Through the abovementioned interventions, as well as the CSO based "Transnistrian dialogues" and the mobilization of expertise to support the discussions within the (sub-) working groups of the



settlement process, this project aims to promote progress on key remaining challenges not yet resolved and brings new priorities to the overall negotiation process.

Notable progress is made in the realization of this Output, as the exchange and joint participation in capacity-building activities including members of the People's Advocate and the Focal point for Human Rights in the Left Bank have been realised. After a series of negotiations with the heads of the relevant entities, the Project Coordinator managed to secure in-person participation at joint events, and there are now discussions to realise joint monitoring activities to monitor the situation of rights of persons with disabilities on both banks. Additionally, the People's Advocate was supported to engage with Civil Society in promoting human rights and discussing the need to promote civic space across Moldova; similar engagements to discuss potential joint advocacy efforts will continue.

CSOs from both banks benefited from increased institutional capacities, as they have adopted gender-sensitive organizational systems and increased capacities of their employees to advance the WPS agenda. Additionally, local community actors from 16 districts in the Security Zone have increased capacities to design and implement projects/local initiatives to support cross-river collaboration and decentralize WPS Agenda commitments at the local level. Twelve such initiatives were additionally supported and will be implemented until the end of the project.

**Output 1.3. People from both banks, including women actors and community leaders have increased knowledge and understanding of human rights, gender equality and the WPS agenda and are increasingly enabled to access available public services and in cross river interaction.**

Under this output, the project will develop large communication campaigns targeting the general population on both banks, implemented through social and traditional media to address gender norms and stereotypes as well as promote human rights, the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and social cohesion.

This output will also seek to bring together people with different technical backgrounds to generate ideas for human centred tech products accelerating peace, social cohesion and gender equality and to strengthen the capacities of young women and men to promote and protect their rights and to fully recognize their leadership potential as independent peacebuilders within their communities through organizing Peace Accelerator Lab for Young Leaders, Hackathons and innovative media events.

The project will also enable communities living on the left bank of Nistru river to increase their access, among other things, to services on the right bank agreed under the settlement process. This will be done through NGOs delivering non-qualified legal advice to vulnerable groups including on the spectrum of public services available on the right bank. The project will support the establishment of a network of paralegals on the left bank similar to the institution on the right bank through the exchange in good practices with the NGOs on both banks of Nistru river. Sustainable, equal and equitable socio-economic development is a blueprint for all peacebuilding efforts. Therefore, the proposed intervention aims to build trust between people from both banks of Nistru river by facilitating equal access to public services for citizens of the Republic of Moldova living on both left and the right banks of Nistru river thus contributing to a conducive environment that can enable the settlement process. The increase in accessibility to public services on the right bank of Nistru river will not only intensify the individual interaction between people on the left and right bank but it will also increase the trust in institutions from the right bank. For the purpose of the present document, public services mean services delivered

to citizens of the Republic of Moldova by public state institutions. They might be services related to the documentation of the population, education and health services as well as specific services that were developed for population of the Transnistrian region in the Republic of Moldova based on the working groups discussions. For instance, within the formal settlement process it was agreed, as one of the key achievements in recent years, that certain education qualifications obtained on the left bank of Nistru river will be confirmed in the Republic of Moldova. Still, people who need these services do not know how to access them in Moldova. Supporting people from the left bank to access these and other public and legal services on the right bank will increase their cross-river engagement and contribute to the peacebuilding process, including by facilitating the implementation of agreements reached under the settlement process<sup>39</sup>.

This Output notes moderate progress, with several cross-river awareness products and youth interaction activities realised. As a result, 8 digital peacebuilding solutions were provided at a Hackathon event -of which at least 3 ideas will be additionally supported and developed until the end of the project; young women had their IT/STEM knowledge and practical skills enhanced; and their knowledge was increased in gender-responsive peacebuilding and communication and advocacy skills during a Young Women's Leadership School for Peace.

A three-lingual online Human Rights Quiz ([www.humanrightsquiz.md](http://www.humanrightsquiz.md)) was developed launched and promoted as an awareness raising tool to reinforce the applicability of human rights standards on both banks. The quiz is now published on the websites of the Ombudsperson and the National Institute of Justice and is still in use – often applied as a knowledge product in human rights sessions. Further, a set of ‘twin-murals’ to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR were painted in two locations on both banks and a small awareness campaign was organized around these with aspects on social cohesion.

The process of drafting a Road Map on setting up a network of paralegals in the Left Bank commenced, as was the drafting of a handbook for paralegals. The Paralegals are foreseen to provide guidance and advice to residents and facilitate their access to services available on the Right Bank. Awareness raising activities, development of peacebuilding solutions and establishing the network of paralegals will continue until the end of February 2025.

## **Outcome 2 – Strengthened responses to divisive narratives and misinformation thereby reducing inter-community tensions**

The project aims to address specific aspects of existing divisions between the communities on the left and right bank as well as within Moldovan society more broadly, which have been aggravated as a result of the war between Russia and Ukraine and the large refugee influx to the country.

To achieve this outcome, the project will (i) increase capacities of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers on international standards and newly approved national legal framework on countering hate speech and will empower CSOs; (ii) work with new and traditional media; (iii) use digital tools and (iv) engage with local communities, notably in areas with increased refugee populations.

### **Output 2.1. CSOs, judges, and law enforcement agents have strengthened capacities and duty bearers of the left bank have increased awareness to effectively implement international standards on tackling hate speech**

<sup>39</sup> Considering the limited resources available in the project, the focus will be placed on vulnerable groups as covering the general population would need more resources than available.

The project will address concerns of hate speech, divisive narratives, and misinformation at national level. Therefore, to achieve this output, the project will raise capacities of duty bearers on the right bank to implement international standards on tackling hate speech, notably by training judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and police officers of the right bank on international and newly approved national provisions. For the first time, discussions between de-facto structures and CSOs from the left bank of Nistru river to address hate speech will be initiated. Prior to that, CSOs from both banks will be trained on international standards of tackling hate speech, followed by activities that improve their capacity to monitor and engage in advocacy on countering hate speech. The project will also share good practices, including from the right bank of Nistru river. In addition, the project will support the drafting of a roadmap on how to address hate speech on the left bank in line with international standards.

Notable progress was made with actions aiming to enhance the response of institutions and civil society to counter hate speech in Moldova. Apart from increased capacities of trainers of law enforcement institutions, and basic training for police officers – first responders, an inter-institutional process was instigated by the Project to develop a Guide for investigating and prosecuting Hate Crimes. The Guide is being drafted in an inclusive manner by judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers and representatives of academia and civil society. In a parallel process, members of civil society are being equipped with knowledge on how to identify and how to advocate against hate speech. On the Left Bank, an analysis of the applicable local legislation is being performed, to be finalised by the end of the project - its findings and recommendations will be communicated with local de-facto authorities. Youth enthusiasts from both banks were involved in a hackathon to develop ideas on countering misinformation and hate speech in the Moldovan context, and three ideas were selected for further development. In the forthcoming months, opportunities for additional funding for the developers will be provided. Additionally, in cooperation with journalists and activists from both banks, several articles on discrimination, human rights and hate speech are being developed and will be published in a local prominent newspaper. Eight deep listening exercises were organized, involving representatives of host communities and refugees from Ukraine. A final report regarding the collected data is in development and will be finalised during the summer period. In the forthcoming period, the project will also engage young artists from both banks to campaign against hate speech and promote social cohesion.

**Output 2.2. Moldovan new and traditional media ecosystems are empowered to produce evidence-based, human rights, gender- and conflict-sensitive media products conducive to promoting tolerance, non-discrimination, and pluralism**

The project will work on a two-pronged approach to realize this output. On the one hand, it will build capacities of media practitioners and media institutions on gender-responsive and human rights-based reporting in conflict and post-conflict settings; will develop guides and checklists on mentioned topics and will provide small grants for media NGOs/portals to promote fact checking and alternative messages to the divisive narratives spread in the society. On the other hand, it will engage-with civil society and social media influencers (left bank of Nistru river) to address divisive narratives through helping in identifying common ground messages, provide training on media and online literacy, while

also supporting cross-river initiatives of media professionals on human rights and countering hate speech.

This output saw significant progress, through an ongoing programme which has already enhanced capacities of over 70 media professionals from both banks, in peace and human rights journalism, and gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive reporting. Journalists are also dealing with tackling dis/mis information and facilitating collaboration and common media space and are now working in teams to create joint articles relevant for the local context. Additionally, some five media outlets strengthened their institutional capacities by updating respective media formats and techniques and receiving security equipment.

Currently, teams of media professionals from different regions of Moldova, including from the different banks, have joined forces to create content – articles, video reports, testimonials, human stories, etc. The products will be finalized in the upcoming months. Further, two knowledge products on ‘gender and conflict-sensitive reporting’, and ‘safety of journalists in conflict-related settings’ are in the process of drafting; as is an online e-learning course on peace journalism.

Finally, until February 2025, the Project will fund the development of up to two digital solutions for tackling mis/disinformation adapted to the local context, to remain in place beyond the end of the project.

### **Output 2.3. Community-level prevention and response in addressing and countering hate speech and discrimination in areas with large refugee populations are strengthened**

With the additional stresses placed on social cohesion in Moldova as a result of the large refugee influx and the added socio-economic pressure this is placing on host communities, bringing both those groups together to discuss in a guided way the experiences of those most vulnerable will reduce social distance and increase social cohesion.

Under this output, the project will work on capacity development of institutions, by training civil servants, didactic and non-didactic (school psychologists, support teachers, etc) personnel at schools with larger refugee populations on unconscious bias, non-discrimination, social tolerance and tackling hate-speech. This will complement activities foreseen under output 2.1. The schools will be supported in the implementation of awareness raising initiatives, including reaching the community level. To reach these local level communities the project will work with CSOs. The schools will be selected in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and in consultation with UNICEF and duty bearers in the field of education on the left bank.

The project will also support joint CSOs initiatives from both banks, including youth CSOs, to counter hate speech and promote social cohesion. It will engage with refugees from Ukraine, particularly those belonging to underrepresented groups, in a cycle of community level “deep listening exercises” and use some of the micronarratives collected to shape communication on social cohesion. The “deep listening” are activities of focus groups like discussions within communities where persons belonging to marginalized groups present their life experience in a structured way with the help of a moderator. The perceptions of the participant over the underrepresented group in focus during the discussions will be measured before and after the events through questionnaires to gather evidence on the impact of the intervention.

With the support of the project, capacities of 26 teachers from 8 educational institutions from both banks of Nistru/Dniester River were developed to counter hate speech, prejudice and discrimination among students, and nurture inclusive schooling environments. As a result, each school is currently implementing their own awareness raising and non-formal education activities for fellow teachers and students. These activities may continue even beyond September 2024. By the end of the Project a handbook with best practices, based on the project experiences, will be compiled and shared with other schools as a resource material for teachers.

Until the end of the project, in cooperation with IOM and in coordination with other refugee response leads, the Project will implement training sessions for civil servants providing services to refugees.

- **Project targeting**

The end beneficiary of the project will be the people living on both banks of Nistru river. Main direct beneficiaries of the project will be settlement process actors, including the Bureau for Reintegration Policies and the members of the Joint Expert Working Groups, duty bearers, educators, the People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank, CSOs from both banks of Nistru river, media representatives, and local communities, who will be selected based on their expression of interest and relevance. While selecting the direct beneficiaries, the project team will also consider their potential for applying a sustainable approach to project interventions; young women and men will be particularly targeted under the project. As for the community development support, the 10 beneficiary localities along the Security Zone are expected to be selected, to the extent possible, in a proportional manner from the North, Center and South parts of the country, contingent also upon the number of applications received, i.e. interest expressed. To this end, outreach events will be conducted jointly with CSOs to inform potential applicants, both rural and urban local structures, about the initiative and provide guidance in the application process.

While the project will build on the collaboration already established with NGOs from both banks, for grants CSOs will be selected based on open calls. Attention will be paid to gender balance throughout all selected beneficiaries.

Geographically, the project will mainly target the communities on the left bank of Nistru river, it also will target communities in the Security Zone, in particular in the first Outcome, and in the second Outcome in the Center (Causeni, Anenii Noi, Stefan Voda), North (Balti), and South (Comrat), selected in consultation with the Ministry of Education given their larger refugee populations.

To stimulate direct cross river engagement, events will be organized in Transnistrian region as well as in Chisinau.

Stakeholders, including Bureau for Reintegration Policies, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, and other duty bearers, People's Advocate and the human rights focal point on the left bank, CSOs, and media representatives were consulted in the design of the project. The interventions focused on gender equality and WPS were in particular informed by three rounds of consultations involving 25 representatives (21 women, 4 men) of CSOs and Women's rights advocates from both banks of Nistru river were organized by UN Women in 2021. The roundtables revealed the challenges, barriers and struggles faced by women in peacebuilding processes.

- **Project management and coordination (4 pages max)**

- 1. 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.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Total budget in previous calendar year</b>	<b>Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)</b>	<b>Location of in-country offices</b>	<b>No. of existing staff, of which in project zones</b>	<b>Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project</b>
<b>Convening Organization: OHCHR</b> Implementing partners: CSOs through contractual services	746,663 USD	Sweden Swiss Core Funding	HRA presences, Chisinau	10	Human Rights Adviser, two National Human Rights Officers, Thematic Area Coordinator located in Transnistrian region, Communications Assistant
<b>Recipient Organization: UN Women</b> Implementing partners: CSOs, to be selected through a competitive process	4,728,416 USD	Sweden EU Institutional Budget	Chisinau	35	Representative, Programme Specialist, M&E Specialist, Programme Analyst Women in Leadership and Governance, Women Peace and Security, Programme Officer WPS Operations Manager Communication Specialist
<b>Recipient Organization: UNDP</b> Implementing partners: CSOs to be selected through a	21,670,000 USD	EU, USAID, INL, Sweden	Chisinau	30 CO staff 80 project staff	Resident representative, Deputy Resident Representative, Effective Governance, Justice and Human Rights Specialist



competitive process.					Inclusive Economic Growth Specialist Good Governance, Justice and Human Rights Programme Analyst
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The UN, which is not part of the formal settlement process, has for many years engaged in supporting confidence-building measures between the two banks to create an environment conducive to peace, while also having been able to engage in human rights activities on the left bank of Nistru river that aim to tackle increasingly ‘sensitive’ human rights issues on the left bank, which also has a beneficial impact on the settlement talks and left bank-right bank relations.

OHCHR has been working in Moldova since 2008 and on the left bank of Nistru river since 2011, following the visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The work was focused on engagement with CSOs, raising their capacity and supporting their initiatives, on engaging with de facto structures in the context of their human rights obligations as duty bearers, and very importantly on cross-river engagements on human rights issues. The two visits of Thomas Hammarberg, the UN independent expert, facilitated by OHCHR, provided further substantive grounds for engagement on thematic human rights issues, as did visits of various UN Special Rapporteurs. Since 2015, OHCHR and UNDP together with other UN agencies have been implementing projects on the left bank of Nistru river with a comprehensive focus on increasing the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights on the left bank of Nistru river in a manner that contributes to confidence building between both banks of Nistru river. CSOs, the People’s Advocate (Ombudsman), the human rights focal point on the left bank, as well as duty bearers on the left bank, have been engaged in these projects, and considerable innovative results have been achieved. OHCHR is presently the only agency in Moldova with a staff member from the Transnistrian region. In Moldova proper, OHCHR has a very strong and close relationships with state authorities, including the State Chancellery, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, as well as with the People’s Advocate (Ombuds) and the human rights focal point on the left bank, the Equality Council and CSOs, with all of whom OHCHR has been collaborating on a range of issues, including human rights based approach, equality and non-discrimination, combating hate speech, and participation of communities in decision making processes. OHCHR will have a close engagement and partnership with CSOs for the implementation of most activities foreseen in the project. For this OHCHR will to some extent rely on existing relationships with NGOs, and will partner with them, while also building new partnerships. OHCHR will not provide grants but will work with NGOs through contractual services.

UNDP is the leading agency in implementing development projects on the left bank of Nistru river. The UN CBMs, which began in 2009, were designed to support the formal working groups in the settlement process, but initially focused simply on being able to operate and implement projects on the left bank. Increasingly, the CBMs have tried to address the most critical socio-economic challenges faced by the populations on both sides of the river and, in later stages, to introduce a cross-river cooperation component to the degree possible in areas such as education, culture, sports, healthcare, economy and social services, targeting CSOs as well as local entities on both banks, including de facto structures. Over the years these interventions have contributed to strengthening the capacities of actors on both banks in a variety of areas and to creating more openness to cross-river interaction, identifying



and empowering individuals who can act as agents for peace, in turn creating an environment more conducive to finding solutions and making progress in the settlement talks. The Advanced Cross-River Capacities for Trade Project implemented by UNDP facilitates cross-river engagement and expands access of enterprises from Transnistrian region (particularly micro, small and medium sized enterprises - MSMEs) to export promotion mechanisms available on the right bank.

UN Women's presence in the Republic of Moldova has evolved from being a project-based office in 2007 to a Country Office with full delegated authority as of 2015. UN Women contributes to strengthening the institutional capacities of NGOs from both banks of the Nistru river with the goal to promote women's rights and gender equality. Activities target and involve beneficiaries from both banks. UN Women activities in the Transnistrian region include, but are not limited to: provision of trainings on gender equality to the members of the Network of Transnistria region Teachers which was created and capacitated with the support of UN Women; participation in the joint UN response to address the immediate consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; small grants programme for CSOs from both banks of the Nistru to promote elimination of violence against women and girls, and provision of training on gender-sensitive communication, conflict analysis, mediation and negotiation to 16 women members of the Joint Expert Working Groups. In addition, following broad consultations with CSOs, incorporated in a Roadmap on women's involvement in peacebuilding process, there have been identified important WPS entry points for the Transnistrian region at community level and at the level of peacekeeping processes aiming to preserve the principle of confidence building and strengthening trust among people from both banks. Key recommendations, including capacity building, awareness raising and leadership programmes for women and young women, were developed regarding immediate-, medium- and long-term initiatives on supporting women's participation in peacebuilding processes from economic and social community perspectives, with a focus on the Transnistrian Region. Thus, Starting October 2021 and through October 2022, UN Women is supporting the creation of 3 thematic Women's Platforms for discussions of a wide range of issues addressing them from the perspective of women's rights as well as promoting women role and participation in the conflict settlement process from economic and social perspectives. Additional thematic capacity building initiatives on women empowerment are also under development as part of UN Women's current interventions.

All three agencies, having the experience of implementing projects on the left bank of Nistru river are well acquired with the CSO environment on the left bank of Nistru river. There is a range of NGOs with whom the RUNOs could engage in the process of project implementation on various streams of the project. Therefore, the process of selection of the partnering organizations can be organized in a limited timeframe.

The engagement with the partnering CSOs will be both contract based and grants based. For the contracts with the NGOs, all agencies will be guided by their rules and procedures and will either launch RFPs, conclude Partnership Agreements or do direct contracting where the amounts of the contracts will allow. In the case of grants, grant competitions will be organized, and NGOs (from both banks) will participate in it on an equal footing. OHCHR will use a contract-based model with partner NGOs. The direct contracting procedure can be initiated in a one-month period. UN Women plans to engage implementing partners, on a competitive basis, to support the design and delivery of several inter-related project components. It is expected that most major processes will be completed in the first three to four months from the project launch (I.e. inception period). Individual consultancies and

smaller-scale interventions/events will be contracted in the course of project implementation as per UN Women's rules and procedures.

As per UNDP usual practices, the various agreements with CSOs will be concluded during the first 4 months of the project implementation process.

Overall, the CSOs play a key role in the project, and they will work closely with communities on both banks, media and settlement process actors. They will also be engaged in awareness raising campaigns and in the implementation of various advocacy and grassroots initiatives. The CSOs will receive support from the UN Agencies to strengthen their institutional and technical capacities in the thematic areas of the project.

## 2. Project management and coordination

The proposed project requires technical expertise in human rights and the gender-responsive peacebuilding. It requires a team that has some experience of working on cross-river issues, on the left bank of Nistru river, as well as with Moldovan authorities. All agencies intend to hire staff. In the meantime, ie prior to projected related staff being on board, all three agencies through their existing expert staff (as mentioned above) plan to initiate and engage in the implementation of the project. The TORs for all staff to be hired are ready to be advertised and to the extent possible given UN entities' policies, will be advertised prior to final project approval (Annex E). ~~The international staff is only foreseen for 15 of the 24 months of the project, and the recruitment process will be completed in a manner that allows for the full time period of 15 months of engagement.~~ **The international staff will be engaged for a period of 24 months, of which 18 months of salary will be provided by the PBF Project budget, and an additional 6 months of salary will be provided by OHCHR.**

The OHCHR staff working on the project will be an International Human Rights Officer (P3), a National Human Rights Officer (SB4), and a Finance and Administrative Associate (SB3). The International Human Rights Officer will be funded by the project for 15 months to 100 % through the project, the other two persons will be fully funded through the project (by 100 %) for the full 2 years of the project period. The project team will be supported by the Human Rights Adviser, focused on overseeing the project implementation, engagement with senior level authorities and de facto structures as required to facilitate implementation of the project, and engagement in strategic discussions and decisions. A National Human Rights Officer, who has considerable experience in the engagement with the People's Advocate, a National Human Rights Officer with extensive experience and knowledge of CSOs and a Thematic Area Coordinator with considerable experience on the left bank of Nistru river will support project implementation as well.

The tasks of the International Human Rights Officer will include:

1. Coordination among the entire project team including in terms of implementation, monitoring and reporting
2. Managing the OHCHR component of the project including day-to-day engagement with authorities and de facto structures at technical level, especially where the perceived objectivity of a non-national is crucial
3. Lead on output 1.1, partially on output 1.2, and 2.1., and provide technical expertise across all areas managed
4. Provide best international practices as relevant.

The tasks of the National Human Rights Officer will include:

1. Ensure a HRBA is adopted across all project activities
2. Lead partially on output 1.2, fully on output 1.3, 2.2, and 2.3.
3. Provide technical expertise across all areas managed

Contractual, administrative and financial management for OHCHR activities will be provided with the support of the Finance and Administrative Associate (SB3), to be hired through the project via UNDP Moldova, as administrator for OHCHR. In this regard, an SLA (Service Level Agreement) was signed between OHCHR and UNDP Moldova, in 2018.

The UN Women staff working on the project will be a National Project Officer on Gender Equality in Peacebuilding (SB4) who will act as UN Women component lead/manager for the project, and a Project Administrative/Finance Associate (SB3) who will be recruited on a competitive basis and will be funded 100% by the project throughout the entire project duration. UN Women has advertised the respective positions.

The tasks of the Project Officer on [Gender Equality in Peacebuilding](#) will include, but not be limited to:

1. Manage the UN Women component on a day-to-day basis.
2. Develop workplans, budgets, monitor progress and produce narrative/status reports
3. Develop ToRs for short-term consultancies and services to be procured under the project, and exercise supervision over all service providers
4. Ensure all interventions related to gender equality and Women, Peace and Security Agenda are fully implemented, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

The tasks of the Project Administrative/Finance Associate that will cover the UN Women interventions will include:

1. Provision of administrative support to the implementation of the Project activities
2. Ensure financial management of the project, including budget planning and monitoring
3. Provide operational/procurement/admin support in line with UN Women Rules and Procedures.

The UN Women country office staff partially covered from the project will provide quality assurance for the gender components of the project, including on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and also operational and administrative support for the full 2 years of project implementation. More specifically, the M&E specialist will be dedicated to project's quality assurance in a proportion of 5% of her total level of effort; the Programme Analyst on Women in Leadership and Governance (WILG) and WPS and the Communication Specialist will be engaged in the project at a 10% rate, while both the Programme Officer on Women, Peace and Security and the Administrative Associate under WILG pillar at a level of 30%. The Programme Specialist and Operations Manager will provide overall technical and operational oversight as in-kind contribution to the project. On-demand expertise on WPS from UN Women Regional Office, and if relevant HQ will be sought on case by case basis with no implications for the project budget.

UNDP staff within the project will include a Project Officer (NPSA8) and a Project Associate (NPSA 7&). Both staff will be recruited through open competition and will be paid in full from the Project's funds throughout the project lifespan.

The main tasks of the Project Officer will be the following:

1. planning the annual activities of the project to be implemented by UNDP;

2. interacting with relevant counterparts relevant for the implementation of the activities of UNDP within the project;
3. coordinating the implementation process including with the implementing agencies;
4. managing the progress across activities to be implemented by UNDP and adapt the work as needed;
5. prepare procurement documentation and coordinate the procurement process;
6. draft reports on the results achieved by UNDP within the project.

The tasks of the Project Associate will cover the component implemented by UNDP and will mainly consist of the following:

1. Provide administrative support in the implementation of the project activities;
2. Ensure financial management of the project;
3. Provide logistical and operational assistance.

The UNDP core staff will provide quality assurance of the project's activities, will oversee the implementation process through monitoring as well as through providing expertise and guidance to the project staff.

### **Project Coordination**

OHCHR as convening agency will facilitate the overall project coordination, including timely project reporting, meetings of the Technical Advisory Board, and coordination among RUNOs and with the Resident Coordinator and the Resident Coordinator's office, including the Peace and Development Advisor in the context of project implementation. OHCHR will also ensure liaison with PBSO as relevant.

The Technical Advisory Board will include, *inter alia*, authorities, CSOs from both banks of Nistru river, RCO and RUNOs and possibly relevant representatives of the international community. The role of the Technical Advisory Board will be to oversee the successful implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the project by holding semi-annual meetings to discuss the status of project implementation, and to ensure efficient resource utilization, accountability, transparency and integrity.

At the implementation stage, the Project will coordinate with relevant stakeholders and development partners supporting the settlement process to ensure complementarities and synergies with on-going and planned interventions in this particular area are facilitated.

### **Risk management**

<b>Project specific risk</b>	<b>Risk level (low, medium, high)</b>	<b>Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)</b>
Deterioration of security situation in Moldova, including on the left bank of Nistru river with continued "red alert" for terrorism or similar orders affecting freedom of movement and	Medium – there was a 'red alert' issued from late April to 25 May which has temporarily impeded some activities from continuing on the left bank.	In person activities can be relocated to the right bank with participants from the left bank travelling to the event. In some cases, events could also take place on-line in the worst-case scenario.

organization of activities on the left bank		
Severe deterioration of the security situation on the left bank of Nistru river and/or the right bank of the Nistru due to expansion of war in Ukraine affecting Moldova's borders	Medium	Depending on the degree of escalation, and whether both banks will be affected, the project implementation strategy will be revised. In case of severe deterioration of the security situation affecting both banks, the project may be put on temporary hold until conditions would allow to resume operations
Sensitivity by either the government or the de facto structures to activities carried out under the project	Medium/low	Broad consultations taking place to ensure all are aware of planned activities and outputs under the project. Consultations/update meetings with the counterparts will be held during the project implementation on need basis
Low number of NGOs from both banks responding to open calls under the project may lead to delays in implementation	Low	Ensure broad and targeted dissemination of procurement/granting announcements including by using the databases of CSOs engaged with by all agencies across other similar interventions
Weak capacity of implementing partners	Medium	These risks will be addressed by providing on-going training, coaching and mentoring.
Delays in project implementation may occur (staff recruitment, repeated calls to identify CSO/implementing partners)	Medium	The existing staff from the three UN agencies which worked on the project design will ensure the transition period before the staff needed for the project will be recruited and on-boarded. In case of delays in identifying implementing/CSO partners,

		the staff in the implementing agencies will support the CSOs/implementing partners (as soon as these are identified) in the design and implementation of activities in compressed terms (if applicable)
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### 3. Monitoring and evaluation

A total of USD 131,075, 5.34 % of the project budget are allocated to M&E.

Within maximum of three months from project start, with the support of a consultant (USD 10.000) and RCO M&E Officer, a specific M&E Plan will be developed based on the project's Results Framework, to track changes in implementation, leading to improved performance, accountability, transparency, learning and knowledge. This M&E plan will be reviewed and endorsed by the Technical Advisory Board. The M&E Plan will confirm how the various indicators will be tracked, stating clearly who is responsible for what and when.

For the implementation of the M&E plan, the following steps will be undertaken:

- Collection of baselines (up to USD 25.000)
- Collection of endlines (up to USD 25.000)
- Ongoing M&E support through three consultants, one per agency (USD 11.075)

The baseline study **was completed after the first year of the start of the project**, however it was designed to cover the period up to the end of 2022, where no Project activities had been implemented. ~~will be completed within maximum 4 months from project start.~~

The following steps will also be undertaken:

- Semi-annual progress and financial reports prepared by the Convening Agency based on inputs provided by UN Women and UNDP for review by the Project Board; a standard PBF reporting format will be used.
- Semi-annual meetings of the Technical Advisory Board will be convened to review progress reports and to ensure the project results are achieved and where necessary, recommend a change to implementation strategy
- A final independent evaluation, with a team of international and national consultants, will take place at the end of the Project. **Upon the non-cost extension, the evaluation will take place in the beginning of 2025.**
- A final report will be prepared by the ~~project~~ **implementing team**, which includes lessons learned and good practices, within 3 months of the end of the Project and submitted for review and consideration by the Technical Advisory Team.

During project implementation, a set of monitoring actions/tools will be used including but not limited to:

- Monitoring visits by project staff at all project events/activities. The staff will have the opportunity to intervene on the spot to address any issue that may arise, provide corrective feed-back to any implementing partner conducting a set activity, or bring the issue up to the project governance structure and/or senior management if needed.

- Use of feedback forms to be filled in by participants at all project capacity building activities. The important pieces of collected feedback will be shared between the staff of the three agencies;
- Use of pre/post knowledge assessment questionnaire for technical capacity building activities and pre/post assessment for institutional capacities of CSOs that will be supported with grants under the project;
- At least bi-monthly meetings between UN agency staff called by the convening agency to keep track of progress achieved, flag issues and identify corrective actions;
- Ad-hoc/issue-based meetings between UN agency staff (and counterparts, if applicable) to address any emerging challenges and
- Regular meetings with implementing partners (each agency responsible) to track progress and mitigate delays if any appear;
- Engaging short-term monitoring consultants as per budget mentioned above, to support the project teams in the close monitoring of project implementation;
- Based on the Project M & E plan, each agency will develop and use detailed activity monitoring tables to track progress towards output targets;
- Close monitoring and coordination of service providers in terms of quality, quantity and timely provision of deliverables, ensuring peer review of knowledge products etc.

The project will be subject to an independent evaluation and a total amount of USD 60.000 has been put aside for this purpose.

#### **4. Project exit strategy/ sustainability**

The project is designed to achieve sustainable results by increasing capacities of the settlement process actors, duty bearers and CSOs, their cross-river engagement and interaction with a focus on integration of human rights and gender equality perspectives in the negotiation agenda. The institutional support, besides the expertise development assistance provided to CSOs under this project, will increase the likelihood that the CSOs viability will be longer lasting and their voices on human rights issues, gender equality and WPS will continue beyond the project duration.

Furthermore, the project as its core outputs foresees the setting up of a Civil Society Organizations' platform and a dialogue platform between the People's Advocate and Human Rights focal point on the left bank. The platforms that will be established will be settled well in the two years of the project and OHCHR will be able to continue to support these platforms through its core programme. At the same time there is a high likelihood that follow-up projects will be secured by OHCHR, UNDP and UN Women through their commitment to continue supporting cross-river cooperation and engagement and continuous fundraising efforts and outreach to interested donor countries and other relevant partners. Furthermore, UN Women will continue advancing the WPS Agenda through sustained efforts towards gender-responsive peacebuilding, as enshrined also in its Strategic Note for 2023-2027. The improved livelihoods of people of the Republic of Moldova, including those living in the Transnistrian region continues to be among the priorities of UNDP Moldova, therefore, UNDP will continue to support the bridging of the development gap and build on the results of the present project in its future confidence building interventions.

Moreover, the training and capacity building tools, knowledge products and solutions developed under the project will be with the stakeholders engaged, and some will be in the public domain for wider access to other interested actors beyond those immediately covered in the project.

The project will seek to create a network of paralegals so that they become guides for people living on the left bank of Nistru river on ways to access public services on the right bank. The paralegals selected



to deliver assistance to communities will come from within the communities. The knowledge on how to access various services that will be passed on to paralegals will stay with the communities even after the closure of the project. Therefore, the project results for this stream of work will be sustainable. Furthermore, the digital tools developed by the project will become object of common use therefore ensuring sustainability of the respective components as well.

The project will work very closely with the Ombuds Institution of Moldova and the Human Rights focal point on the left bank of the Nistru river to establish a dialogue platform between them. This platform will serve as a forum of discussion for human rights issues, for joint training, monitoring activities and public awareness raising campaigns during the project and will be functional after its completion.

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in learning and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects.

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

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

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

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

**Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness**

Question	Yes	No	Comment
<b>Planning</b>			
1) Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and propose timeline	No		Implementing partners will be identified through open competitive calls in line with UN agency specific procurement and programme rules. For some partnerships with NGOs, payments will be done through contractual services. Considering that the agencies have already set up the modus operandi for interventions on the left bank of Nistru river, the contracting formalities should not be delayed.
2) Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	Yes		ToRs for staff fully covered by the project are enclosed. UN Women has advertised the positions of Project Officer on Gender Equality in Peacebuilding and Project Associate.
3) Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Partially		Most project sites have been identified and described in detail in the “project targeting” section. For some interventions (e.g. from the Security Zone), the exact locations would be determined during the implementation phase in consultation with the stakeholders, including the Technical Advisory Board.
4) Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	Yes		Government offices were consulted through meetings as well as through written submission of draft project document, to which written comments were received. The Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration was first informed in February. The consultations with the DPM, MFA and the Presidential Administration and with de facto structures took place between 26 May and

			22 June. The People's Advocate was consulted on several occasions.
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 propose timeline?	Yes		All UN Agencies are having or have had activities/interventions on both banks and will be using the lessons learned in the implementation so far, including those reflected in the reports of the implementing partners, to inform the design of activities /interventions under the PBF project.
6) Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	No		The selection criteria for project beneficiaries will be identified during the project implementation phase and tailored to the type of interventions and type of beneficiaries targeted. The criteria will be established in collaboration with the implementing partners. Inputs from the Technical Advisory Board may be solicited to inform the formulation of selection criteria and discuss the beneficiaries selected.
7) Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	Yes		The project proposal, including the project approaches, was consulted and agreed upon with the main Government counterparts. For Output 2.3 project implementation sites were agreed with the Ministry of Education.
8) Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Yes		Outlined in the part on project coordination.
9) What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	N/A		
<b>Gender</b>			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	Yes		UN Women is an implementing agency in the project. The agency has used the regional and headquarters expertise in the design and review of the project.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Yes		The project is informed from the several rounds of consultations organized by UN Women in 2021 that brought together women CSO members and

			activists from both banks. The roundtables served as platform for women to voice their needs in the conflict of peacebuilding efforts, and a roadmap with their priorities was compiled which informed this project document and other UN Women initiatives covering both banks of Nistru river.
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Yes		To the extent possible
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Yes		See budget

#### 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	There aren't any major budget choices. One issue to mention is maybe that for some of the activities that require close partnership and engagement with CSOs, contractual services of respective CSOs will be used, rather than granting. The budget lines are balanced so that there are no disproportionate expenses that would need supplementary explanations.
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		At this phase, the unit costs used for project budget are comparable to those from other interventions in the country. However, due to the sharp increase of prices and the high inflation rate, the actual costs during the project implementation might increase
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	x		
4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more	x		

than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?			
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?		X	The project will hire one international staff at P3 level for 15 out of 24 months. All other staff to be hired will be national. Some of the components implemented are sensitive to both sides and their implementation will be better facilitated and ensured, if managed and conducted by a non-national, who is perceived to be more objective.
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.		x	
7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.		x	
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	X		All agencies will provide in-kind support in terms staffing. Core staff of all three agencies will contributing to project implementation.

## **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:

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

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

<b>31 July</b>	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
<b>31 October</b>	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

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

#### Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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



## Public Disclosure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Reporting:

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

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

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

Timeline	Event
<b>28 February</b>	Annual reporting – Report <b>Q4 expenses</b> (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<b>30 April</b>	Report <b>Q1 expenses</b> (January to March)
<b>31 July</b>	Report <b>Q2 expenses</b> (January to June)
<b>31 October</b>	Report <b>Q3 expenses</b> (January to September)
<i><b>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</b></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](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund)) and the Administrative Agent website ([www.mptf.undp.org](http://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:

- a) Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- b) 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).
- c) Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.<sup>40</sup>
- f) Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- g) Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

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<sup>40</sup> 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
<p>Outcome 1: Strengthened cross-river engagement and productive interaction through the advancement of human rights, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and improved access to social services</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)</p> <p>5.1 SDG Target, 10.3 SDG Target and 16.3, 16.a, 16.b SDG Targets</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>UPR 2016</p> <p>121.175 Take appropriate steps to initiate the elaboration of a monitoring mechanism of the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, with the involvement of civil society representatives from both banks of the river Nistru (Georgia);</p> <p>121.173 Continue to work on the promotion of human rights in the Transnistrian region, integral part of the territory of the Republic of Moldova (Romania);</p> <p>121.174 Provide systematic support and assistance to victims of human rights abuses in the Transnistrian region (Czechia);</p> <p>73.63. Actively support the non-governmental organizations that have effective programmes in promoting human rights and inter-ethnic tolerance in the Transnistrian region (Canada).</p> <p>75.41. Continue to work on the promotion of human rights in the Transnistrian region, integral part of the territory of the Republic of Moldova . This commitment was</p>		<p>Outcome Indicator 1a</p> <p><b>The level of awareness on cross-river initiatives of stakeholders regarding human rights and women's role in the peace-building process.</b></p> <p><del>Perception of settlement actors, CSOs and target communities from the left bank and right bank on the level of cross-river engagement on human rights and women's role in the peacebuilding process.</del></p> <p>Baseline: On a scale 1-5 where 5.00 is highest level, and 1.00 is 'no awareness'.</p> <p><b>LB Communities = 2.30</b> <b>RB Communities = 2.88</b> <b>CSOs (both banks) = 4.21</b></p> <p><del>TBD</del> <del>data not available (a survey will be carried out at the initiation phase to determine the baseline)</del></p> <p>Target: percentage increase in the level of perceived engagement</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1b</p> <p><b>Percentage/ number of initiatives advancing human rights including women's rights brought to the attention of settlement process actors by CSOs.</b></p>	<p>Questionnaire-based survey carried out by the project at the initiation and in the last year of implementation</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Evaluation Report</p> <p>Internal reports</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Agenda of meetings /events</p> <p>Questionnaires to be applied pre and post delivery of</p>	

<p>undertaken upon accession to the Human Rights Council (Romania);</p> <p>UPR 2022</p> <p>6.37Strengthen the capacities of the People's Advocate Institution in order to monitor and protect human rights in the Transnistrian region (Belgium);</p> <p>6.74Continue the efforts in view of promoting the human rights and assisting the victims of human rights violations in the Transnistrian region (Romania);</p> <p>6.75Provide systematic support and assistance to victims of human rights abuses in the Transnistrian region (Czechia);</p> <p>6.76Continue efforts aimed at countering systemic violations of human rights in the Transnistrian region, including through consolidation of the international community (Ukraine);</p> <p>6.77Proactively demonstrate commitment to human rights and encourage greater awareness of, and support for, universal human rights throughout Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);</p>		<p><del>Number of priorities advancing human rights including women's rights brought to the attention of settlement process actors by organizations engaged in the project and the communities they represent</del></p> <p>Baseline: <b>13 initiatives/priorities submitted to settlement actors (out of 22 initiatives developed)</b></p> <p><del>to be determined in baseline study</del></p> <p>Target; increase by 50%</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1c</p> <p>% of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity) from the left bank feeling enabled to access<sup>41</sup> public services on the right bank of Nistru river</p> <p>Baseline: <b>Total - 58.8%(3.35)</b>  <b>Men 61.0% (3.44)</b>  <b>Women 57.2 %(3.29)</b>  <b>Ethnic minorities– 51.5% (3.06)</b>  <b>Persons with disabilities-49.0% (2.96)</b>  <b>18-39y – 60.2%(3.41)</b>  <b>40-59y – 61.5%(3.46)</b>  <b>60+y -50.0% (3.0)</b></p>	<p>legal empowerment services</p>	
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<sup>41</sup> The intervention will be focused on delivering the information to Transnistrian region inhabitants to access services on the right bank. At the output level, the implementer will not be able to control if the beneficiaries, after receiving the information, will actually access the service as this depend on a range of factors such as the need to travel to the right bank, availability of resources to pay for the service etc.

		to be established during the baseline Target: 50% increase .		
	Output 1.1 Improved capacities of the conflict settlement process actors to integrate human rights and gender equality perspectives at all levels of the negotiation agenda, including a focus on balanced and meaningful participation of women in the process at all levels	Output Indicator 1.1.1 Number of settlement process actors enabled to advance and mainstream human rights-based approach and gender in the negotiation process  Baseline: 16 women members of the Joint Working Groups trained on GE and gender-sensitive conflict resolution Target: <del>50</del> 24 persons, at least 50 % women	Activity reports  Pre-post knowledge assessment questionnaires for the capacity building activities	12 months  - facilitated the first training for the actors of negotiation process; <del>12</del> 25 participants trained; - facilitated at least 1 regional exchange/learning visit/peer-to-peer networking event  24 months  facilitated the second training for the actors of negotiation process; <del>12</del> 25 participants trained - facilitated at least 1 regional exchange/learning visit/peer-to-peer networking event
		Output Indicator 1.1.2 Number of demonstrated uses by the settlement process actors of advocacy tools/initiatives on human rights, human security, women's role in peacebuilding and conflict settlement produced by the project Baseline:0	Activity reports  Knowledge products  Advocacy/Dia logue events	12 months Facilitated at least 3 advocacy and dialogue events; developed at least 1 policy paper/brief/knowledge product  24 months

		Target: 9	Monitoring reports  Articles, press releases	Facilitated 6 other advocacy/ dialogue events; developed at least 2 policy papers/briefs/knowledge products
	Output 1.2 Civil society organizations from both banks, People's Advocate and human rights focal point from the left bank, and local community actors from the Security Zone have increased capacities to JOINTLY engage in advancing human rights and WPS Agenda and foster effective cross-river dialogue and partnerships.	Output Indicator 1.2.1 Number of CSOs on both banks with increased capacities to advocate on human rights and gender equality in the peacebuilding context  Baseline: 18 CSOs;  Target: (incl. 43 CSOs; 8 CSOs UNW)	Pre-post knowledge assessment questionnaires  minutes of platform meetings; applications to join the platform; training materials and reports; advocacy documents and advocacy papers	12 months - 1 joint platform established; 25 participants of the platform trained, at least 6 CSO from both banks (active or with potential to operate in the WPS field) enrolled in an institutional capacity development programme  24 months - 50 participants of the platform trained; 6 CSO completed the capacity development programme on WPS



		<p>Output Indicator 1.2.2</p> <p>Number of initiatives advancing human rights, promoting human security and women's role in peacebuilding processes implemented by CSOs and local community actors from both banks, including towards duty bearers</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 15 Initiatives</p>	<p>Activity reports, progress reports</p>	<p>12 months</p> <p>At least 10 representatives of local communities capacitated</p> <p>24 months</p> <p>20 representatives of local communities capacitated and 10 joint initiatives on WPS localization completed</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.2.3</p> <p>Number of human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy initiatives, including joint ones, conducted by People's Advocate and Human Rights focal point on the left bank</p> <p>Baseline -0</p> <p>Target- at least 4</p>	<p>activity reports</p> <p>Meeting reports, Annual reports</p>	<p>12 months</p> <p>- 2 trainings facilitated for at least 15 participants from both sides;</p> <p>4 mentoring/ workshops organized for 15 participants;</p> <p>1 cross-river study/monitoring visit organized;</p> <p>20 training materials developed and distributed;</p> <p>24 months – Joint Human Rights Consultative Council of CSOs on the left bank of Nistru river established;</p> <p>40 training materials developed and distributed;</p> <p>4 trainings facilitated for at least 15 participants from both sides;</p>

				8 mentoring/ workshops organized for 30 participants; 2 cross-river study/monitoring visits organized
	<p>Output 1.3 People from both banks, including women actors and community leaders have increased knowledge and understanding of human rights, gender equality and the WPS agenda and are increasingly enabled to access available public services and are empowered to engage in cross river interaction.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.3.1 Number of people reached through awareness raising campaigns on social cohesion, inclusive cross-river interaction and dialogue</p> <p>Baseline: 2021 - 56419</p> <p>Target: 150 000 persons</p>	progress reports, media materials	<p>12 months - developed and distributed promo materials through three campaigns on both banks; organized two TV - online media interactive campaigns on both banks on human rights and non-discrimination;</p> <p>24 months - distributed promo materials through three campaigns on both banks; organized two TV - online media interactive campaigns on inclusive dialogue and meaningful participation on both banks</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.3.2 Number of innovative peace acceleration solutions addressing women's role and contribution in peacebuilding jointly generated and implemented by youth (women and men) from both banks</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 5 identified, at least 2 implemented</p>	<p>training reports, progress reports</p> <p>Peace Accelerator Lab Report</p> <p>Hackathon Reports</p>	<p>12 months At least 5 innovative peace acceleration solutions identified</p> <p>24 months At least 2 solutions implemented</p>

		Output indicator 1.3.3. Number of advocacy initiatives oriented at promoting legal empowerment services on the left bank of Nistru river. Baseline: 0 Target: 10	progress reports	12 months 5 advocacy initiatives 24 months Other 5 advocacy initiatives implemented
		Number of beneficiaries from the left bank enabled through the support of paralegals to access public services on the right bank of Nistru river. Baseline: 0 Target: 1,500	progress reports	12 months 500 beneficiaries enabled to access services  24 months 1000 beneficiaries enabled to access services
<p>Outcome 2: Strengthened responses to divisive narratives and misinformation</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)</p> <p>5.1 SDG Target, 10.3 SDG Target and 16.3, 16.b SDG</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>UPR 2022</p> <p>6.49Tackle incidents of hate crimes and hate speech through prompt investigation and ensure perpetrators are prosecuted (Malaysia);</p>		<p><b>Outcome Indicator 2a</b> <b>Increase in % of CSOs and media outlets generating products tackling misinformation.</b></p> <p><del>Increase in number of media outlets and CSOs generating products fighting misinformation</del></p> <p>Baseline: <b>69.3% of CSOs and 83.3% of media outlets have reported to have elaborated products tackling misinformation (including discrimination, hate speech) until the end of 2022.</b> <b>Only 15% of the products were tackling Misinformation and Fake News.</b></p> <p><del>To be set at inception phase through engagement with media monitoring organization/s.</del></p>	<p>Media monitoring reports pre/post</p> <p>Baseline/endline survey</p>	

<p>6.44Undertake the necessary actions and measures to eliminate discrimination based on any ground, as well as to combat hate speech related violence (Mexico);</p> <p>6.45Continue the efforts to fight against hate speech and all forms of discrimination (Turkey);</p> <p>6.58Ensure stronger and more comprehensive protection against discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against minorities and marginalized groups, including LGBTI persons and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities (Croatia);</p> <p>6.73 Continue undertaking measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, including through conducting awareness-raising programs (Azerbaijan)</p>		<p>Target: <b>number/percentage increase</b> <del>number increase tbd at inception phase</del></p> <p>Outcome Indicator 2b <b>% of rights-holders (actively or passively) engaged in tackling misinformation and hate speech.</b></p> <p><del>Number of social media influencers, NGOs, students, school professionals and persons belonging to vulnerable groups actively engaged in tackling misinformation and hate speech.</del></p> <p>Baseline: <b>Total -43.2%(2.73)</b>  <b>Very active -14.4%</b>  <b>LB- 24.0% (1.96)</b>  <b>RB -45.25 (2.81)</b>  <b>CSO and media -60.7% (3.43)</b>  <b>PwDs - 52.7% (3.1)</b>  <b>Ethnic minorities- 52%(3.0)</b>  <b>to be established</b>  Target: <del>TBD</del> <b>number/percentage increase</b></p> <p>Outcome Indicators 2c  Number of law enforcement institutions that enact specific institutional responses to misinformation and hate speech</p> <p>Baseline: 0  Target: at least 3</p>			
		<p>Output 2.1  CSOs, judges, and law enforcement agents have strengthened capacities</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1  Number of judges and law enforcement agents enabled to implement the newly adopted</p>	<p>training reports, progress reports</p>	<p>12 months  - 20 judges and law enforcement agents trained;</p>

		and duty bearers of the left bank have increased awareness to effectively implement international standards on tackling hate speech	national legal framework on hate speech aligned with international standards		24 months - 40 persons trained
			Baseline: 0 Target: 40		
			Output Indicator 2.1.2 Number of CSO's initiatives, including joint ones, in monitoring and countering hate speech Baseline: 0 initiatives Target: 5 initiatives, including min 2 joint initiatives	training reports, progress reports, CSO developed products	12 months - 10 CSOs from both banks trained; - 3 CSOs' Initiatives implemented;  24 months - 20 CSOs from both banks trained; - 5 CSOs' Initiatives implemented
		Output 2.2. Moldovan new and traditional media ecosystems are empowered to produce evidence-based, human rights, gender- and conflict-sensitive media products conducive to promoting tolerance, non-discrimination, and pluralism	Output Indicator 2.2.1:  Number of media professionals, social media influencers and other non-traditional media representatives from both banks that have enhanced knowledge and skills to produce human-rights, gender, conflict-sensitive and social cohesion compliant media materials  Baseline (2021): 30  Target: 70  Output Indicator 2.2.2 Number of tools developed on prevention of hate-speech, discrimination, promotion of social cohesion and gender-responsive	training reports, progress reports	12 months - 30 media professionals , 1 tool developed  24 months - 40 media professionals, 1 tool developed

			reporting in conflict and post-conflict settings  Baseline:0 Target:10		
			Output Indicators 2.2.3  Number of joint media materials developed by media professionals from both banks on human rights, gender, conflict-sensitive and social cohesion and combating hate speech  Baseline: 0 Target: 39	published media materials, media reports	12 months - 10 media publications  24 months - 29 media publications
		Output 2.3 Community-level prevention and response in addressing and countering hate speech and discrimination in the areas with large refugee populations are strengthened	Output Indicator 2.3.1  Number of civil servants and service providers in the areas with large refugee populations enabled to counter hate speech and discrimination and contribute to social cohesion  Baseline: 0 Target: <del>400</del> 30	progress reports Pre and- Post-training knowledge assessment	12 months  - <del>50</del> 0 civil servants and service providers trained on the right bank;  24 months - <del>30</del> <del>400</del> civil servants, LPA and service providers trained
			Output Indicator 2.3.2  Number of awareness raising activities implemented by schools from both banks of Nistru river on non-discrimination, social tolerance and countering hate speech, including at community level  Baseline: 0	progress reports	12 months  - training program developed and conducted for <del>30</del> <del>400</del> participants  24 months

		Target: 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising activities in 8 schools and in communities conducted;</li> <li>- publication based on the training and awareness raising activities made</li> </ul>
		Output indicator 2.3.3. Number of communities benefiting from social cohesion focused interventions.  Baseline: 0 Target:4	progress reports	12 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concept of “deep listening” exercise developed;</li> <li>- NGO to organize the “deep listening” exercises contracted</li> </ul> 24 months - 4 rounds of deep listening exercises organized.



## Annex I: Non-Cost Extension - Updated Budget

For MPTFO Use (NCE Updated budget version May 2024)

Totals					
	OHCHR	UNWOMEN	UNDP	Totals NCE	Totals (Original budget)
1. Staff and other personnel	\$ 367,485.00	\$ 133,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 560,485.00	\$ 580,485.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,663.55
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
4. Contractual services	\$ 377,493.00	\$ 502,000.00	\$ 112,800.00	\$ 992,293.00	\$ 1,133,853.00
5. Travel	\$ 14,855.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 36,855.00	\$ 80,495.00
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 512,200.00	\$ 572,200.00	\$ 347,000.00
7. General Operating and other Costs	\$ 34,559.52	\$ 27,663.55	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 95,223.07	\$ 56,559.52
Sub-Total	\$ 794,392.52	\$ 747,663.55	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 2,292,056.07	\$ 2,292,056.07
7% Indirect Costs	\$ 55,607.48	\$ 52,336.45	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 160,443.92	\$ 160,443.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 850,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 800,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 802,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,452,499.99</b>	<b>\$ 2,452,499.99</b>

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	OHCHR	UNWOMEN	UNDP	TOTAL	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 595,000.00	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 561,750.00	\$ 1,716,750.00	70%
Second Tranche:	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 240,750.00	\$ 735,750.00	30%
Third Tranche:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
TOTAL	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 802,500.00	\$ 2,452,499.99	