

THIS TEMPLATE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF QUESTIONS IN THE ONLINE REPORTING FORM: IT IS INTENDED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE REPORTING QUESTIONS



PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Updated May 2025

COUNTRY: Bosnia and Herzegovina

TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: FINAL

YEAR OF REPORT: 2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: Sustaining peace and social cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina through enhanced inter-municipal and inter-entity cooperation on local services (SPSC) Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00134115	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:	Type and name of recipient organizations: RUNO IOM (Convening Agency) RUNO UNDP
Date of first transfer: 16 December 2022 Project end date: 15 June 2025 Has this project received a cost or no cost extension? Yes Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension? No Will this project be submitting a Fund Transfer Request (FTR) in the next six months? No If so, around which month do you expect to submit the request? N/A Is the current project end-date within 6 months? N/A	
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project None (as indicated in previous progress reports)	

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Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):

- Please enter the total amounts in full US dollars allocated to each recipient organization
- Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.
- For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the details in the attached budget.

Recipient organization	Budget Allocated (in full USD)	Amount Transferred to date (in full USD)	Amount spent / committed to date (in full USD)
IOM	1,753,053.00	1,753,053.00	1,647,042,83
UNDP	1,746,947.00	1,746,947.00	1,418,124.19
TOTAL	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	3,065,167.02

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 88%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE
The budget templates are available [here](#)

Implementing partners

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money since the project's start? **24**
To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money during this calendar period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-December (anticipated); for final reports: full project duration)? **24**

Note: All amounts in USD are calculated using the official UN exchange rate for BAM to USD as of 15 August 2025.

Please list all of the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each, both since the project's start, and specifically during this calendar period:

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<i>Name of Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Type of Organization (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)</i>	<i>What is the planned total amount (in USD) for the overall duration of the project to be disbursed to this implementing partner?</i>	<i>What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner <u>since the project's start?</u></i>	<i>What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner <u>during this calendar period?</u></i>	<i>Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner during this calendar period (1500 characters)</i>
Centre for Educational Initiatives Step by Step	Other National CSO	396.783,72	416.729,60	416.729,60	The “Schools as Agents of Change” intervention (implemented from April 2023 to November 2024) aimed to establish participatory, school-based platforms that promote independent learning, critical thinking, social justice, and democratic values among children. It contributed to Output 1.2, focusing on youth engagement in cross-community and inter-entity activities, supporting the overall outcome of enhanced social cohesion across communities. Key activities included nine coordination meetings with a Trainers and Mentors Team (10 members), 12 Professional Learning Community sessions, and four training sessions. The partner established 15 multipurpose student rooms (“Sobičak”), formed 16 school clubs that held 77 meetings, and implemented 66 school and interschool activities. A Final School Fair showcased the results of the 18-month intervention. At least 160 students (60% female) and 100 teachers (80% female) were actively engaged and directly benefited from the project, fostering inclusive learning environments and

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					strengthening inter-community relationships.
Citizens Association "PSIHOLUMINIS"	Other National CSO	135.598,85	145.198,77	145.198,77	<p>The PRESTO (Prevention of Secondary Trauma) project (implemented from May 2023 to October 2024) aimed to strengthen professional capacity in addressing war trauma through a methodology focused on transgenerational trauma. The intervention included five online workshops and one in-person training for 28 professionals (90% female), selected via public call, followed by four months of supervision through eight online group sessions. For youth, two educational modules were delivered as four events, engaging 45 participants (64% female). The second module featured 40 storytelling sessions across eight communities, each followed by individual psychotherapy. Local coordinators facilitated the sessions, and 16 youth received family psychotherapy (80 sessions total). These activities promoted healing, civic engagement, and reduced ethnic and religious divisions. Additionally, IOM partnered with Psiholuminis to organize a networking event during UN BiH SDG Week 2024, convening 50 youth (64% female) and professionals to strengthen interethnic relationships and build community-based institutional knowledge.</p>

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<p>Citizens Association “PRAVIPOŽAR” Derventa</p>	<p>Other National CSO</p>	<p>34.911,68</p>	<p>30.855,25</p>	<p>30.855,25</p>	<p>Veteran Dialogues 4.0 (implemented from August 2023 to November 2024) aimed to strengthen interethnic relationships by addressing unresolved war trauma through the “Constructive Usage of Veterans Experience (CUVE)” methodology. This approach leverages veterans’ experiences to build institutional knowledge and skills for supporting veterans and their families in targeted communities. The partner successfully completed all planned activities, starting with eight introductory site visits to Mrkonjić Grad, Ribnik, Ključ, Sanski Most, Bosanski Petrovac, Livno, Drvar, and Bosansko Grahovo. These visits engaged war veterans and professionals from local mental health centers and centers for social welfare (CSWs). Following the visits, four seminars/learning modules were organized based on the CUVE methodology, developed in collaboration with the Centre for War Trauma in Novi Sad. In total, 22 individuals (14 male, 8 female) participated in preparatory visits and learning modules, including 10 veterans and 7 professionals from CSWs and mental health centers. These activities promoted healing, dialogue, and cross-community understanding through shared learning and trauma-informed support.</p>
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<p>Youth council Bosanski Petrovac</p>	<p>National youth CSO</p>	<p>15.356,12</p>	<p>36.016,22</p>	<p>36.016,22</p>	<p>The “You(th) Can Build the Peace” project (implemented from April to December 2024) aimed to strengthen social cohesion in Bosanski Petrovac by creating opportunities for shared experiences among youth from Bosanski Petrovac and neighboring communities. Activities included joint celebrations of religious holidays, workshops, field trips, and the creation of a shared space for youth clubs. These initiatives enabled young people to gather, collaborate, and exchange ideas, foster mutual understanding, joint learning, and active participation in community life. In addition to the grant, IOM further supported the Youth Council by procuring IT equipment, furniture, and books to ensure the full functionality of youth premises in both Bosanski Petrovac and Bravsko. The intervention promoted inclusive engagement and contributed to building trust across communities, empowering nearly 50 local youth to become agents of positive change.</p>
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PRONI Center for youth development Brčko	National youth CSO	65.012,62	14.731,93	14.731,93	<p>The Youth Activism Focus project (implemented from April 2024 to February 2025) aimed to equip young people from targeted communities with the skills and support needed to establish and manage youth centers. Through a series of workshops and mentorship sessions, participants received guidance on forming youth organizations and engaging local authorities to ensure institutional support for youth-led initiatives. The partner successfully implemented all four learning modules for 20 young participants (60% female), focusing on youth NGO management at the local level. The training was based on the “Proni Academy of Youth Work” methodology, previously developed with IOM support, and was followed by online mentorship sessions to support ongoing youth initiatives. Meetings with local authorities in Ribnik and Bosansko Grahovo led to the initiation of a Memorandum of Understanding to formally support the establishment of new youth organizations or spaces in these communities. The intervention strengthened youth engagement and laid the groundwork for youth activism.</p>
Center for Peace Building Sanski Most	Other National CSO	69.335,61	19.664,49	19.664,49	<p>The “Invest in Youth – Invest in Peace” project (implemented from May to November 2024) aimed to empower young people in BiH through non-formal education on peacebuilding, leadership, and critical thinking. It contributed to</p>

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					<p>Output 1.2 by fostering cross-community and inter-entity activities that enhance social cohesion. The first module, “How to Communicate About Peacebuilding,” engaged 21 participants (57% female) in interactive workshops covering peacebuilding theory and the eight pillars of positive peace. Two additional modules strengthened group cohesion and supported mentorship, leading to the design and implementation of local youth peace initiatives which included “PetrovACT” in Bosanski Petrovac), two initiatives in Ključ, “Intergenerational Dialogue” and “Youth and Mental Health”, awareness-raising actions in Mrkonjić Grad and Drvar, and Youth Peace Caravan. In total, more than 100 youth (approximately 60% female) participated in local youth peace initiatives. Despite efforts, the establishment of a youth NGO in Ključ was unsuccessful due to local contextual challenges. In addition to the grant, the Centre for Peacebuilding was supported through procurement of equipment and furniture to ensure full functionality of the youth space.</p>
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<p>Youth organization Centar Mrkonjić Grad</p>	<p>Subnational youth CSO</p>	<p>15.965,81</p>	<p>19.825,08</p>	<p>19.825,08</p>	<p>The “Opportunity for Youth, Path to a Better Future” project (implemented from April to December 2024) aimed to empower youth and strengthen community ties through interethnic exchanges, educational activities, and volunteer actions. The partner organized four inter-ethnic youth exchanges involving 20 young people from neighboring communities with both Serb and Bosniak majorities. Five educational workshops were held in the newly renovated and reopened Youth Centre, alongside five local volunteer activities such as mural painting and eco-cleaning. The partner also successfully delivered four sessions, engaging 64 young people (56% female) from Mrkonjić Grad, Ključ, and Bosanski Petrovac in discussions on youth activism and non-formal education. These activities fostered cooperation and cross-community understanding. In addition to the grant, the youth organization was further supported by procuring furniture to ensure the full functionality of the premises.</p>
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Center for Civic Cooperation Livno	Other National CSO	15.282,05	15.435,23	15.435,23	<p>Within the “Together for a Better and More Tolerant Community” initiative (implemented from April to August 2024) a non-formal media group was engaged to highlight positive stories of reconciliation and tolerance. The initiative included media and peacebuilding workshops to equip young aspiring journalists with civic engagement skills. An online campaign was launched to combat hate speech and promote values such as tolerance, humanity, and volunteerism. The partner successfully implemented four seminars/learning modules for 30 high school students (70% female) in Livno, focusing on tolerance and peacebuilding. Students were encouraged to identify and share success stories from their communities, which were featured in the campaign. As a result, eight audio and eight video segments were produced and broadcast on local TV and radio stations. In addition to the grant, the initiative was supported by procuring necessary equipment to ensure its full functionality.</p>
Center for Cultural and Media Decontamination	Other National CSO	22.005,70	23.111,91	23.111,91	<p>As part of the Chain of Change project (implemented from February 2024 to February 2025), the Center for Cultural and Media Decontamination was contracted through a Service Agreement to develop the “Mi o nama/We about Us!” video social media campaign, which involved developing, recording, and promoting a</p>

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					minimum of nine individual success or positive change stories, captured during on-site visits and video production and producing a final documentary highlighting the project's impact on participating communities.
Gymnasium Livno	Other/Public institution - school	1.661,42	1.796,86	1.796,86	The "School to Community initiative: Supporting School Sport at Gymnasium Livno" (finalized in November 2024) aimed to enrich educational experiences, promote physical and mental well-being, and strengthen community connections by providing equipment and creating venues for both school and community events.
Secondary School Bosanski Petrovac	Other/Public institution - school	1.820,80	3.861,75	3.861,75	The "School to community initiative: Outdoor Class(room) at Secondary vocational school Bosanski Petrovac" (finalized in November 2024) aimed to enhance educational experiences, promote well-being, and strengthen community ties by providing equipment and creating venues for school and community events.
Primary School Bosanski Petrovac	Other/Public institution - school	1.326,58	1.434,73	1.434,73	The "School to community initiative: Book club at Primary school Bosanski Petrovac" (finalized in November 2024) aimed to enhance educational experiences, promote well-being, and strengthen community ties by providing equipment and creating venues for school and community events.

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Primary School Ključ	Other/Public institution - school	2.611,73	2.824,66	2.824,66	The "School to community initiative: Sports hall at Primary School Ključ" (finalized in December 2024) aimed to enhance educational experiences, promote physical and mental well-being, and strengthen community ties by providing equipment and creating venues for school and community events
Primary School "Mahala" Sanski Most	Other/Public institution - school	2.838,27	3.069,66	3.069,66	As part of the "School to Community" initiative (finalized in December 2024) Primary School Mahala in Sanski Most received equipment for its sports hall, with the goal of enriching education, supporting health, and fostering stronger connections between the school and the wider community by providing a venue for school and community events.
First Primary School Sanski Most	Other/Public institution - school	1.749,85	3.861,75	3.861,75	The "School to Community" initiative: Multimedia classroom at First Primary School Sanski Most" (finalized in November 2024) aimed to enhance educational experiences and strengthen community ties by providing equipment and creating venues for school and community events.
Vocational Secondary School Livno	Other/Public institution - school	1.878,01	2.031,12	2.031,12	As part of the "School to Community" initiative (finalized in December 2024), Vocational Secondary School Livno received equipment to support the development of a new sports field. This initiative aimed to enhance educational experiences, promote physical and mental well-being, and strengthen community ties by providing a venue for

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					school and community events.
FLEX INVEST	Other/Construction company	6.980,06	8.064,03	8.064,03	This contractor was engaged for conducting the reconstruction works of the playground in Glamoč which was finalized in January 2025.
ZIDART	Other/Construction company	27.210,24	24.425,72	24.425,72	This contractor was engaged for conducting the reconstruction works of the premises of the Youth organization Centar in Mrkonjić Grad which was finalized in May 2025
DOLA d.o.o. Cazin	Other/Construction company	28.595,24	33.035,98	33.035,98	This contractor was engaged in conducting the reconstruction works of the Youth Centre Bosanski Petrovac which was finalized in November 2024
Youth Educational Center "KOSMOS" Ključ	Subnational youth CSO	2.025,97	2.158,86	2.158,86	The Youth Centre in Ključ in April 2025 received donations of equipment and materials essential to its operations, enhancing its ability to support youth activities and programs.
Youth Organization "Mladi grade budućnost" Gornji Ribnik	Subnational youth CSO	3.353,23	3.552,83	3.552,83	The Youth Organization in Gornji Ribnik in April 2025 received donations of equipment and materials essential to its operations, enhancing its ability to support youth activities and programs.
Youth Organization "Bosansko Grahovo"	Subnational youth CSO	4.512,52	4.770,41	4.770,41	The Youth Organization in Bosansko Grahovo in May 2025 received donations of equipment and materials essential to its operations, enhancing its ability to support youth activities and programs.

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Prime Communications	Other/PR and Marketing Agency	10.156,03	9.116,73	9.116,73	Organizational, technical, and logistical support was provided for seven inter-municipal dialogues held in March 2025 across four municipalities (Bosanski Petrovac, Drvar, Livno, and Mrkonjić Grad), with participation from Grahovo, Glamoč, Ključ, Ribnik, and Sanski Most. A total of 78 participants (62% female), including representatives from local governments, schools, social work centers, NGOs, youth, cultural institutions, and media, engaged in discussions aimed at fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.
Qlity d.o.o.	Other/Consulting Agency	10.940,31	9.350,69	9.350,69	Tour de la Bosnia brought young people together for a three-day journey (12 to 14 June 2025) through nine communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, promoting peace, cooperation, and shared identity. Organized under the VOZI MIR initiative, the tour was supported by Qlity d.o.o., responsible for logistics, coordination, and media production. The initiative produced: 10 short videos (1 per community + 1 general intro) and 1 highlight video (3–5 minutes) summarizing the journey and its impact.

Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE) as per the project document? 35.23%

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: \$ 1,233,008.30

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: \$ 1,059,651.51 (including indirect cost)

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Project Gender Marker: GM2
Project Risk Marker: Medium
Project PBF focus area: 3.2 Equitable Access to Social Services

Steering Committee and Government engagement

Does the project have an active steering committee/ project board? **Yes**

If yes, please indicate how many times the Project Steering Committee has met over the last 6 months? *(3000 characters)*

The Project Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Republika Srpska, the Ministry of Labor, Health, Social Protection and Displaced Persons of Canton 10, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, IOM, and UNDP.

Over the course of the project, three Steering Committee meetings were held:

- The first meeting (23 May 2023) approved the selection of partner local governments, endorsed the project work plan, and confirmed institutional readiness to support implementation.
- The second meeting (13 February 2024) reviewed progress, approved proposed projects, and endorsed a revised annual work plan. The Committee also supported a potential six-month extension to ensure completion of social service improvement activities
- The third meeting (27 November 2024) brought together key government and UN stakeholders to review progress, approve adjustments to selected municipal infrastructure interventions, and adopt the revised 2023–2025 Annual Work Plan, confirming project completion in June 2025.

The final Steering Board meeting was originally scheduled for June 2025 but was postponed to September due to scheduling constraints. However, it did not take place in September because of overlapping operational and logistical obligations that affected the availability of key participants. To ensure Steering Board members remain well-informed despite the cancellation, the project team is preparing a visual and informative summary package. This package will present key project results, evaluation findings, and lessons learned, and will be shared with all members by the end of September/beginning of October 2025 to support reflection and future planning.

Please provide a brief description of any engagement that the project has had with the government over the last 6 months. Please indicate what level of government the project has been engaging with *(3000 characters)*

From its inception, the SPSC Project actively engaged government actors at the local, cantonal and entity levels to ensure alignment, ownership, and sustainability of social service improvements and peacebuilding efforts.

Initial engagement included meetings across all levels to present project goals, gather input, and secure cooperation. These meetings also facilitated the recruitment of 18 UN Volunteers and explored their long-term integration into local institutions. Consultations with mayors and officials from

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targeted municipalities, including directors of Centers for Social Welfare and youth department heads, laid the foundation for community-based interventions.

To formalize cooperation and ensure sustainability, a Memoranda of Understanding were signed with all nine municipalities, and relevant ministries (BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Republika Srpska, Ministry of Labor, Health, Social Protection and Exiled of Canton 10) were engaged through the Project Steering Committee. These agreements supported the development of proposals focused on enhancing social services and strengthening social cohesion. Working sessions were facilitated to co-design inclusive services, including support for people with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence.

Through implementation, collaboration with authorities helped address challenges, including delays in infrastructure projects, most notably in Bosansko Grahovo, where political deadlock delayed municipal council approval due to changes in its composition. Additionally, inputs were provided to public consultations on the draft Law on Social Services in FBiH, ensuring field-based lessons and community needs were reflected in policy recommendations. In March 2025 the “World Social Workday” event brought together representatives from all levels of government, UN agencies, and civil society to discuss the role of social services in promoting peace, trust, and cohesion.

In the final phase, the project focused on consolidating gains through (cross)community-level dialogues and renewed cooperation with newly elected local officials.

Coordination remained strong with municipalities involved in infrastructure projects, particularly Livno, Glamoč, Sanski Most, and Mrkonjić Grad, which were effective and responsive throughout the planning and execution of infrastructure projects.

The final project event in June 2025, showcased key synergies and lessons learned, including sustained cooperation among Centers for Social Welfare, cross-entity collaboration between Bosanski Petrovac, Ribnik and Ključ, and strengthened youth informal networks between youth groups from Ključ, Ribnik, Bosanski Petrovac and Mrkonjić Grad. The event highlighted participants’ willingness and commitment to remaining active in their communities and continuing their engagement in peacebuilding and civic activism across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Andrea Soldo, Senior M&E Associate

Email: asoldo@iom.int

Project report approved by: Michael O’Mahony, Deputy Chief of Mission (mjfomahony@iom.int)

Have all fund recipients for this project contributed to the report? Yes

Did PBF Secretariat or RCO focal point review the report? Yes

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NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.
- Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.
- Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.
- Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.
- In the results table, please be concise, you will have 3000 characters, including blank spaces to provide your responses

PART I: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Please rate the implementation status of the following preliminary/preparatory activities (*Not Started, Initiated, partially Completed, Completed, Not Applicable*):

Contracting of Partners	Completed
Staff Recruitment	Completed
Collection of baselines	Completed
Identification of beneficiaries	Completed

Provide any additional descriptive information relating to the status of the project, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (*3000 characters*):

All key preparations were completed, including staff recruitment and partner contracting.

Activities followed the planned timeline, though some delays occurred. Hiring qualified staff took longer than expected, with the full team in place by July 2023. The selection of a service provider for mapping social services was also delayed; the first tender in March 2023 received one ineligible offer, requiring a second round that concluded in June. The contract ran from late June to mid-November 2023, following an extension to finalize the report. These delays affected the overall timeline which resulted in a no-cost extension approved in November 2024. The one of the project's key challenges was the absence of concrete, implementation-ready projects within local governments, even though local development strategies are in place. Developing concrete proposals requires adequate institutional capacity and awareness, and strengthening these capacities was a key project goal, starting with the mapping exercise shared with partners as a basis for proposal development. This process involved consultations, revisions, and field visits. With project support, 21 proposals were submitted, and 14 were selected for funding.

Political developments contributed to additional delays. In anticipation of the October 2024 local elections, informal campaigning commenced early, redirecting the municipal councils' attention toward political debates, slowing down decision-making on project matters, as illustrated with the example of Bosnasko Grahovo.

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Due to these delays, a no-cost extension of six months was requested and approved in November 2024, moving the project's end date from December 2024 to June 2025. This allowed time to complete all planned activities and project evaluation.

While internal staffing changes led to some delays in implementation, transitional measures were put in place, and new project lead was appointed, to ensure continuity in operations and implementation.

All partner-led activities were completed by the end of the project, although some administrative closures took longer than expected.

In the final phase, service providers supported closing activities:

- A PR and marketing agency supported the final event in June 2025, which showcased achievements, engaged stakeholders, and encouraged reflection.
- Another provider supported the UN Youth Advisory Board's "Tour de la Bosnia" initiative, promoting unity through travel and storytelling. This included production of 8–10 short videos and a 3–5-minute highlight video.

The external evaluation included:

- A summative evaluation managed by IOM (March-June 2025), reviewing project results and contributions to peacebuilding, as per PBF guidelines.
- An Impact Perception Survey managed by UNDP (May- June 2025), with the final report submitted by the end of June 2025.

**Is the project on track for the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan?
Yes**

If no, please provide an explanation (6000 characters): NA

Project progress summary (6000 characters):

Describe overall project progress made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-December (anticipated); for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

The SPSC project, jointly implemented by IOM and UNDP, aimed to strengthen social cohesion and foster inclusive, peaceful communities in BiH, particularly across the administrative borders of the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). Targeting post-conflict areas, the project engaged municipal authorities and local actors to promote dialogue, empower youth, and build community resilience through trauma-sensitive approaches and improvements to social infrastructure.

Findings from the Perception Survey confirms that the project has made measurable progress toward enhancing social cohesion. Residents in project-targeted communities reported a higher level of social cohesion (2.61) compared to those in comparative communities (2.56),

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and lower perceived tension (3.45 vs. 3.56) and threat (3.39 vs. 3.59), indicating improved intergroup relations. While perceived responsiveness (2.12 vs. 2.06) showed no significant statistical difference, residents noted improvements in social service delivery compared to the pre-intervention period.

The project enhanced trust in local institutions through participatory engagement (Output 1.1). Between November 2023 and March 2025, 34 community dialogues (27 local, 7 inter-municipal) engaged over 500 participants (65% women). Beyond gathering input on local priorities, dialogue served as platforms for exploring community values, fostering awareness and encouraging collaboration. By addressing shared concerns, such as social exclusion and insecurity, which often transcend ethnic divisions, the dialogues helped build trust and promote cooperation.

While ethnic divisions persist, survey results confirm reduced tension and threat, though deeper cohesion, such as trust and belonging, requires sustained effort. Youth engagement, cultural activities, and inclusive community-building were seen as key strategies to counter emigration and promote long-term social cohesion.

Based on needs identified through dialogues, CSWs and municipal departments co-developed proposals to improve access to social protection services for all residents, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic status. The project supported partners in mapping needs and designing interventions which combined capacity-building and infrastructure investments, enhancing institutional capacity.

In total, 14 new and six improved social services are now benefiting nearly 9,000 residents. Co-designed with local authorities, these services support vulnerable groups, especially children, women, and persons with disabilities. Key improvements included enhanced professional capacity of social workers and mental health professionals, better access to psychosocial support, early childhood services, and protection mechanisms, contributing to community resilience and inclusion. Infrastructure upgrades further supported these goals:

- In Bosanski Petrovac a new CSW was established
- In Livno, an inclusive playground enables children with developmental disabilities to play alongside peers, promoting early integration and reducing stigma
- In Glamoč and Ribnik, Safe Apartments for survivors of violence offer secure, dignified shelter and support, with municipal commitment to long-term maintenance
- In Sanski Most, the renovated CSW now provides legal aid, therapeutic workshops, and parental counselling
- In Mrkonjić Grad, a sensory therapy unit and parental counselling services expanded early childhood intervention and caregiver support, benefiting nearly 100 individuals.

The project also promoted cross-community cooperation through joint initiatives, such as creative workshops for oncology patients from Bosanski Petrovac and Ključ. These workshops provided psychosocial support and laid the groundwork for cross-entity collaboration through shared exhibitions and school outreach.

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Plans to extend these efforts to Ribnik and Prevljaka, including school-based awareness activities, reflect sustained interest in inter-community engagement.

Youth engagement (Output 1.2) was a cornerstone of the project. By intentionally partnering with both well-established CSOs and smaller, less experienced grassroots organisations and groups, the project focused on strengthening the capacities of local actors who are embedded in their communities, understand local needs, and mobilize both formal and informal networks, often through volunteering. Through these partnerships, the project supported over 500 community activities, reaching 2,200 participants (66% children and youth). In addition, more than 60 youth-focused initiatives engaged 1,500 young people, with 70% reporting increased knowledge and skills. These efforts not only fostered cross-community collaboration and leadership among youth but also laid the groundwork for sustained civic engagement and inclusive peacebuilding driven by local actors.

The project empowered beneficiaries through dialogues, training, intercommunity visits, and festivals, helping them gain hands-on experience and develop personal and professional skills. These interactions encouraged youth to become “agents of change” advocating for collaboration in schools, neighborhoods, and communities, as well as initiating small-scale interventions and engaging in civic life. Cross-ethnic exchanges (e.g., youth from Ključ and Sanski Most with Ribnik and Mrkonjić Grad) challenged stereotypes and strengthen bonds across divides. Media content production and youth clubs provided further platforms for sustained activism and engagement.

One of the key achievements was the creation and enhancement of 21 youth clubs and multi-purpose student/youth spaces, many located in municipal or school premises. A new Youth Centre was established in Bosanski Petrovac, two youth organizations registered in Ribnik and Bosansko Grahovo, and youth centres in Mrkonjić Grad and Ključ were equipped. These hubs became vital for intergroup and interethnic interaction and collaboration, especially in underserved areas.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured by the project to date (3000 characters):

The project placed strong emphasis on gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly by improving access to quality social services for women in vulnerable communities. Women represented approximately 80% of social service beneficiaries, positioning them at the center of service delivery improvements.

Key gender-responsive interventions included the establishment of safe housing for survivors of domestic violence in Bosansko Grahovo, Glamoč, and Ribnik, small municipalities with disproportionately high rates of gender-based violence. In Sanski Most, a new social counseling service was launched to provide legal and psychosocial support to survivors, with women comprising 80% of its 2,347 beneficiaries. The project also facilitated inter-municipal

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cooperation to support women with cancer in Bosanski Petrovac and Ključ, improving access to care across administrative boundaries.

Youth inclusion was promoted through the creation of youth clubs, student corners, and youth centers integrated into school extracurricular programs. These platforms fostered leadership, civic engagement, and peacebuilding among youth from diverse backgrounds. Women and girls made up 64% of participants in cross-community activities, highlighting strong civic engagement. Joint community dialogues, youth-led initiatives, and inter-entity training sessions for social workers and educators further strengthened collaboration and professional networks.

Staffing also reflected the project's gender commitment, with 72% of UN Volunteers being women, reinforcing gender responsiveness at both community and institutional levels.

However, the external evaluation found that while gender participation targets were met, genuine gender responsiveness was uneven. Programming often defaulted to numeric parity, counting women's participation without fully addressing structural inequalities or designing interventions around gendered experiences. For example, family therapy sessions saw low participation from fathers, indicating a lack of male-friendly formats. Women veterans were underrepresented, and some women's CSOs felt sidelined when their ideas were repurposed or not implemented as envisioned. Despite meaningful efforts, such as tailored training schedules, women-only sessions, and the empowerment of female mentors, these advances were not always systematic. The absence of formal gender analysis and consistent gender-responsive curricula meant that achievements were sometimes ad hoc rather than comprehensive.

The evaluation highlights the need for future programming to integrate gender-sensitive conflict analysis and design tailored interventions that elevate women's leadership and address gendered dimensions of trauma, exclusion, and caregiving.

Is the project 1+ year in implementation? Yes

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FOR PROJECTS 1+ YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION ONLY:

Is the project demonstrating outcome-level peacebuilding results? Yes

Outcome-level peace building results entail results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviors or institutions.

If yes, please provide concrete examples of such peacebuilding results (6000 characters):

The SPSC project addressed the root causes of division, marginalization, and inequality in post-conflict and underdeveloped communities in BiH, including educational segregation, divisive narratives, unresolved trauma, youth exclusion, and weak inter-entity cooperation. By promoting inclusive services in multi-ethnic municipalities and ensuring equal access to social protection regardless of ethnic background, the project contributed to peacebuilding and enhanced social cohesion across targeted communities in western BiH, particularly those near administrative entity borders. Perception survey results indicate a measurable impact on social cohesion, defined as the current levels of tension, trust, perceived threat, sense of belonging, and empathy, with residents in project-targeted communities reporting a statistically significantly higher Social Cohesion Index (2.61) compared to those in comparative communities (2.56) reflecting the project's positive influence on community relationships and social dynamics.

A comprehensive approach combined infrastructure development (14 newly established and 6 improved social services, including 2 intermunicipal services), civil society engagement through a small-grants program (10 CSOs involved as partners or grantees), and over 300 events and activities encompassing both capacity-building and community-based social interactions. Together, these efforts enabled dialogue and interaction, fostering shared spaces that embed collaboration and coexistence into everyday life.

By constructing, reconstructing, and equipping CSWs in Bosanski Petrovac, Glamoč, Ribnik, Ključ, and Livno, the project strengthened the institutional capacity of local governments to deliver equitable services, including psychosocial support for vulnerable families, counseling and shelter for survivors of domestic violence, and referral services for children and persons with disabilities. All services were made accessible to residents regardless of ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic status, reinforcing non-discrimination and restoring trust in public institutions. Safe apartments for survivors of domestic violence were established or renovated in Glamoč and Ribnik. While the Glamoč facility still requires full furnishing, due to delays in the tendering process, it represents a critical step toward providing safe spaces. A social counselling service was also launched in Sanski Most. By addressing gender-based violence, a deeply rooted societal issue often linked to post-conflict trauma, these interventions supported both individual recovery and broader community healing.

The project also introduced inclusive and specialized services that promote equal opportunity such as an inclusive playground in Livno, a sensory integration room in Mrkonjić Grad, and targeted support services in Sanski Most. These interventions help reduce stigma, promote inclusion, and foster empathy and cooperation which are key elements of sustainable peace.

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By facilitating joint initiatives across municipalities and entities, such as the shared service improvement plan between Bosanski Petrovac and Ključ, the project strengthened horizontal cooperation and built networks that transcend ethnic and administrative divisions.

Through participatory planning, community dialogues, and inclusive decision-making, residents, especially women and youth, became active contributors to change, shifting from passive service recipients to engaged community stakeholders.

The project created and supported platforms for youth engagement, exchange, and networking, particularly in remote and underserved communities. A total of 21 youth clubs and multi-purpose student/youth spaces were established or supported across target municipalities, many integrated into schools or located in public premises allocated by local authorities, creating inclusive environments for youth from diverse backgrounds.

Teachers, students, and schools across the nine targeted communities are now better equipped to integrate core principles of peace pedagogy, such as critical thinking, cooperation, dialogue, nonviolence, and empathy, into school-led initiatives and activities.

The project also fostered stronger partnerships between local governments and youth stakeholders. Municipalities such as Ribnik, Bosanski Petrovac and Sanski Most demonstrated increased accountability and responsiveness by supporting youth-led initiatives and investing in youth-oriented infrastructure. These efforts are transforming relationships between young people and local officials, promoting mutual understanding, reinforcing inclusive governance, and empowering the next generation to actively shape their communities.

Evaluation findings confirm the project's high relevance to the peacebuilding context in BiH. It aligned closely with community needs and national/international policy frameworks, complementing ongoing efforts while addressing geographic and thematic gaps, particularly in smaller, marginalized municipalities. The findings suggest that the project contributed to long-term peacebuilding goals by facilitating cross-entity exchanges among youth who maintained friendships beyond the project's duration, encouraging teachers to adopt nonviolent communication methods that reduce classroom conflicts, supporting municipal authorities in taking ownership of dialogue outcomes, including infrastructure and social protection initiatives for marginalized groups, and normalizing intergroup contact in areas previously marked by distrust.

Perception survey results also confirm increased social cohesion, improved responsiveness of local authorities, and enhanced services for vulnerable groups. While improvements were evident within communities, relations between neighboring communities remain a challenge. The project also helped reduce tensions and feelings of threat. However, deeper aspects of cohesion, such as trust and belonging, require sustained, long-term engagement.

If yes, please provide sources or references (including links) as evidence of peacebuilding results or submit them as additional attachments.

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Evidence may be quantitative or qualitative but needs to demonstrate progress against outcome indicators in the project results framework.

Sources may include project surveys (such as perception surveys), monitoring reports, government documents, or other knowledge products that have been developed by the project.

[*PBF SPSC IOM UNDP Final Evaluation Report.pdf*](#)

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PART II: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments, provide an update on the achievement of all outcome and output indicators in the table below. Please add additional entries as needed, based on the number of outcomes, outputs and indicators in the approved project results framework.

- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state “N/A” and provide any explanation.
- Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (500 characters max per entry).

Outcome 1: Enhanced social cohesion among citizens across communities and the inter-entity boundary line

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project’s start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.1 Increased level of social cohesion within and across target communities [social cohesion defined as level of tension, trust, perceived threat, feeling of belonging, empathy] (disaggregated by age, gender, locations)	n/a	Increased by 20%	23.5% by Perception Survey 4.0% difference in pre-post administered Social Cohesion survey	23.5% by Perception Survey 4.0% difference in pre-post administered Social Cohesion survey	Two methods were used to assess impact: a Perception Survey among project targeted communities’ residents showed a 23.5% increase in perceived social cohesion, exceeding the 20% target, though this measure is based on participants’ self-reported perceptions of change and may be biased. The Social Cohesion Survey, conducted with youth before and after project supported

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/Delay (if any)
					community/youth initiatives, found that social cohesion increased by 4.0% (from 68.3 to 71%), youth activism by 4.5% (not statistically significant), and inclusion by 11.2% (statistically significant). These results indicate meaningful improvement, particularly in inclusion, with moderate gains in social cohesion and youth activism.
Indicator 1.2 Number of people reporting increased responsiveness of local authorities in provision of social services (through accessing new services in their communities, receiving services timelier, and overall satisfaction with services provided)	0	5,400	32,000 (weighted estimate based on the sample of the Perception Survey 2025)	32,000 (weighted estimate based on the sample of the Perception Survey 2025)	The results of the Perception Survey indicate significant progress, with an estimation of over 32,000 residents that would report improved responsiveness (based on statistical inference) from local social

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/Delay (if any)
					<p>service providers, far exceeding the original target of 5,400. While overall satisfaction with services did not always differ substantially between project and comparison areas, specific improvements, such as faster service delivery, were clearly linked to the project's interventions.</p> <p>However, these figures must be interpreted with caution, as much of the apparent impact stems from extrapolating sample data to the wider population without transparent details on weighting, confidence intervals, or potential biases. Low response rates and limited coverage in sparsely populated areas further limit the reliability of</p>

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/Delay (if any)
					these estimates. Thus, while the results suggest broadly positive effects, the limitations of the methodology should be kept in mind.
Indicator 1.3 Number of cross-community platforms for collaboration conceived (communication channels, joint projects/ideas, networks, cross-community services)	0	8 at least	9 (learning communities of primary and secondary school teachers, School Clubs, Youth Associations/Clubs, Network of social care professionals, Network of veterans, Peacebuilding network, Youth Network)	9 (learning communities of primary and secondary school teachers, School Clubs, Youth Associations/Clubs, Network of social care professionals, Network of veterans, Peacebuilding network, Youth Network)	
Indicator 1.4 Number of beneficiaries of improved or newly introduced social care services targeting the most vulnerable population (disaggregated by gender, age, location and belonging to ethnic minority groups)	0	9000	8,969 (51% women)	8,969 (51% women)	

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Output 1.1: Trust in local governments / social service providers is improved through responsive and participatory interaction with communities

Output Indicators	Indicator (Baseline)	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.1.1 Availability of an assessment of social service needs, demands and priorities	No	Available assessment that is gender and age sensitive	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of community dialogues organized with citizens, local authorities and/or veterans (disaggregated by type, locations)	0	32, out of which 24 local and 8 cross-community	34 (27 community and 7 inter-municipal dialogues in project targeted communities)	34 (27 community and 7 inter-municipal dialogues in project targeted communities)	
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of community dialogue participants (disaggregated by locations, gender, age, and ethnicity)	0	480 (40% women)	539 (65% women; 29% youth)	539 (65% women; 29% youth)	
Indicator 1.1.4. Number of improved or newly introduced social care services targeting the most vulnerable population (disaggregated by type, location)	0	8 local and up to 2 inter-municipal services	14 newly established and 6 improved social services (2 intermunicipal services)	14 newly established and 6 improved social services (2 intermunicipal services) 1 service for children, youth, and oncology	

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Output Indicators	Indicator (Baseline)	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
				<p>patients, offering occupational therapy and self-help groups; 2 services for children with disabilities, including oligo-phrenological treatment by a defectologist and professional orientation testing for youth; 2 services targeting vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, children from low-income families,</p>	

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Output Indicators	Indicator (Baseline)	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
				and children in social need; 2 services for victims of domestic violence; 6 services for children with developmental disabilities and their parents; 1 service for families, children at risk, and individuals in need of family counseling support.	
Indicator 1.1.5. Number of youths engaged to support community outreach and service delivery through the UN Community Volunteers modality	0	15 (at least 50% women)	18 (72% women)	18 (72% women)	.

Output 1.2: Young women and men engage in cross-community and inter-entity activities

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of youth initiatives implemented (disaggregated by locations and type of activity: community actions and initiatives, training, countering hate speech campaigns, etc.)</p>	0	at least 16 local and at least 6 intermunicipal	66 (52 local and 14 intermunicipal - Bosanski Petrovac 11, Glamoč 10, Mrkonjić Grad 6, Livno 7, Ključ 7, Sanski Most 8, Šipovo 5, Jezero 4, Drvar 4, Ribnik 4)	66 (52 local and 14 intermunicipal - Bosanski Petrovac 11, Glamoč 10, Mrkonjić Grad 6, Livno 7, Ključ 7, Sanski Most 8, Šipovo 5, Jezero 4, Drvar 4, Ribnik 4)	The target was based on the initial assumption of having at least 2 youth initiatives in each of the 8 project-targeted communities and at least 6 intermunicipal initiatives. By supporting the implementing partner in the “Schools as Agents of Change” project, the number of opportunities for youth initiatives increased significantly which led to higher progress on this indicator.
<p>Indicator 1.2.2 Number of youths participating in youth-led community initiatives (disaggregated by age, gender, women leadership, locations, and type of activity: community actions and initiatives, trainings, youth camps, workshops, countering hate speech campaigns, etc.)</p>	0	2000 out of which at least 40% women	1475 unique participants were recorded in the implemented initiatives (63% girls/women; 39% were aged 14 years and younger, while 61% were	1475 unique participants were recorded in the implemented initiatives (63% girls/women; 39% were aged 14 years and younger, while 61% were	According to implementing partners’ and grantees’ reports, more than 2,000 youth engaged in various youth-led community initiatives. However, the official figure reflects only the number of unique participants, resulting in a lower

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
			between 15 to 30 years old)	between 15 to 30 years old)	recorded number. This ensures that individuals who participated in multiple activities are counted only once, offering a more accurate representation of the program's reach. Additionally, the number is below the set target due to demographic realities in the project-targeted communities, many of which are experiencing depopulation and have a very limited youth demographic to engage.
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of activities implemented (disaggregated by locations, type of activity: community actions and initiatives, training, youth camps, workshops, countering hate speech campaigns)	0	42 [training for teachers (4), workshops for students (20), training on transgenerational trauma (6), youth camps (4),	45 (training for teachers (4), workshops for students (20), training on transgenerational trauma (6), youth camps (4), training for	45 (training for teachers (4), workshops for students (20), training on transgenerational trauma (6), youth camps (4), training for	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
		training for youth leaders (8]	youth leaders (11))	youth leaders (11))	
Indicator 1.2.4 Number of participants reporting increased project relevant knowledge and skills through capacity building events	0	960	763 (63% being young women and girls)	763 (63% being young women and girls)	The variance between the target and actual progress can be attributed to the lower survey response rate (47% of the 2,231 participants responded).. Among those who did respond, 73% reported increased project-relevant knowledge and skills, indicating that the events were both relevant and effective. As such, the figure achieved is likely an underestimation of the number of participants who gained additional knowledge and skills from capacity building events.

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PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Is the project planning any significant events in the next 6 months (e.g., national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc.)? No

If yes, please state how many, and for each, provide the approximate date of the event and a brief description, including its key objectives, target audience and location (if known).

<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Tentative Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Target Audience</i>	<i>Event Objectives (900 characters)</i>

Human Impact

This section is about the human impact of the project. Please state key stakeholders (including but not limited to: Civil Society Organizations, Beneficiaries etc.) of the project, and for each, please briefly describe:

- i. The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation
- ii. The impact of the project on their lives
- iii. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group

Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
Centre for Social welfare Bosanski Petrovac and Center for Mental Health Ključ	As part of this inter-municipal initiative, local psychosocial support systems were strengthened by equipping the Daily Care Center in Bosanski Petrovac and the Center for Mental Health in Ključ. These centers now provide safe and inclusive environments where beneficiaries can share experiences, participate in workshops and occupational therapy, particularly for oncological patients, and offer mutual support. In municipalities with histories of interethnic tension and wartime trauma, such as Bosanski Petrovac and Ključ, the availability of psychosocial services is especially critical due to the heightened vulnerability of residents. Demand for these services tends to increase during periods of political instability, such as rising nationalist rhetoric or threats to democratic norms, which trigger renewed feelings of insecurity and anxiety. These services not only help individuals navigate uncertainty but also foster a sense of community and contribute to rebuilding trust across societal	<i>“For me, peacebuilding means freedom. I need freedom for my children, which will be a legacy passed on to future generations, so they don't live in uncertainty as we did. This project helps us connect with the community, associations, and the municipality around shared interests.”</i> Beneficiary of Centre for social welfare and member of Association Tunel

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
	divides, making them essential from both a mental health and peacebuilding perspective.	
Centres for Social Welfare and municipal departments for social protection across targeted partner municipalities	<p>As part of its support to Centers for Social Welfare and municipal departments for social protection across targeted partner municipalities, project organized two forums for social protection practitioners. These forums provided a rare and valuable opportunity for social workers, particularly those operating in underdeveloped communities, to share professional challenges, exchange experiences, and build peer support networks.</p> <p>Due to structural limitations within the BiH social care system, social workers typically lack access to formal supervision or opportunities to engage with colleagues from other communities in professional settings. The forums addressed this gap by creating a space for open dialogue, mutual learning, and cross-community exchange, fostering not only professional development but also trust-building across divided contexts. Given the demanding nature of the profession and the prevalence of burnout symptoms, the initiative was highly appreciated and contributed to strengthening interpersonal and intergroup relationships.</p>	<p><i>„Now I know I can reach out to another social worker who participated in the Forum if I need advice.” Social Worker, Centre for Social Welfare Sanski Most</i></p> <p><i>“This was the first time we openly shared our challenges. Previously, we felt isolated, but hearing from other centres made us realize we’re actually in a better position than some.” Director, Centre for Social Welfare Ribnik</i></p> <p><i>“We plan to exchange contacts and offer support to one another when needed. More events like this would be valuable, especially if they included representatives from the Ministries.” Officer, Department of Social Protection, City of Livno</i></p>
Social service providers from project targeted communities	<p>The project significantly enhanced collaboration between municipal authorities and social welfare institutions across targeted partner municipalities. By requiring that project proposals be submitted directly by municipal authorities, project ensured that mayors and local governments were actively engaged in identifying community needs and co-developing proposals with Centers for Social Welfare and Departments for Social Protection.</p> <p>This approach marked a shift from previous practices, where CSWs often operated in isolation, facing challenges such as legislative constraints, understaffing, and lack of recognition in municipal budgets. By involving local leadership from the outset, the project fostered institutional</p>	<p><i>“This was the first time the mayor truly understood our challenges and needs. We no longer feel alone. He mobilized other sectors to support us, especially for infrastructure works, which we couldn’t manage on our own. We hope this recognition will be reflected in future municipal budgets, because now, they hear us.” Social Worker, Centre for Social Welfare Sanski Most</i></p>

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
	<p>support and visibility for social welfare services.</p> <p>A clear example of this impact occurred in Sanski Most, where the mayor, following the proposal submission, introduced an agenda item to the Municipal Council to allocate two additional rooms for the local CSW. The item was adopted unanimously, and UNDP promptly began implementation.</p>	
<p>Social care professionals and war veterans engaged in trauma-related work</p>	<p>The project created meaningful opportunities for social care professionals and veterans to strengthen their skills and confidence in trauma-related work. A dedicated panel held during the 8th edition of the Psychologists Congress of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Banja Luka provided a platform for practitioners to present their methodologies for working with secondary traumatized youth.</p> <p>For many participants, this was the first time they had the chance to share their experiences and approaches in a professional setting. Prior to the project, social care professionals and veterans often lacked the tools and knowledge to effectively address trauma-related challenges in their communities. The project helped fill this gap, equipping them with practical strategies and peer support.</p>	<p><i>“For the first time in my life, I felt encouraged by hearing others’ life stories and was able to share my own experience of being wounded. I’m deeply grateful for this opportunity, it made me feel relieved and accepted.”</i> Veteran, 52 years old</p>
<p>CSO/Youth Council Bosanski Petrovac</p>	<p>The project “You(th) can build the peace” aimed to enhance social cohesion in Bosanski Petrovac by providing opportunities such as joint celebrations of religious holidays, workshops, field trips, and a shared space for youth clubs from Bosanski Petrovac and neighboring communities. These activities allowed young people to gather, collaborate, and exchange ideas, fostering mutual understanding and joint learning, empowering young people to take an active role in community life.</p>	<p><i>“In a community like ours, where not much happens, projects like these are incredibly valuable. Through this project, we successfully gathered a group of 60 young individuals who became part of the Youth Council, motivated, engaged, and ready to volunteer for the benefit of their peers. Young people are tired of being exposed only to bad news. They are eager to be part of positive stories and to change the narrative that often paints them as passive, divided or simply leaving. These activities have shown that our youth want more, they want to be involved, to contribute, and to shape a better future for themselves and their communities.”</i> Project Coordinator, Youth Council Bosanski Petrovac</p>

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
CSO/ Center for peacebuilding (CIM) Sanski Most	The project “Invest in youth – invest in peace” aimed to empower young people in BiH through non-formal educational workshops on peacebuilding, leadership, and critical thinking.	<p><i>"Peacebuilding is not a one-time event, it's a long-term process. That's why engaging young people is essential. They need to understand that the conflict they've inherited is not theirs to carry. They didn't participate in it, and they shouldn't bear its burden. Helping them grasp this is key to breaking the cycle of conflict and preventing it from deepening.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, the responsibility for peacebuilding has largely fallen on civil society organizations, which often operate with limited resources. Young people rarely encounter peacebuilding narratives in schools, on television, or in their communities. That's why projects like this are so important, they fill a critical gap.</i></p> <p><i>We must continue to talk to young people and show them the other side of the story. Through education, exposure to diverse experiences, and practical examples, we can help them see that there are others, across different communities, who also want peace. These activities are not just relevant; they are vital for building a more resilient and understanding society."</i></p> <p>Project Coordinator, Center for peacebuilding CIM Sanski Most</p>
Young women and men/project beneficiaries	Young people gained new and different perspectives about those from other ethnic groups. Together, they discussed different narratives about the war in the 1990s, creating their own “truth” and vision for the future. They worked on their transgenerational trauma with their families and had the chance to start a “new life” both socially (as they became youth workers and peacebuilders) and psychologically, as therapy helped remove obstacles and build motivation. Crossing interethnic lines, experiencing life in other communities, and meeting international youth at Peace Week developed a fresh spirit that will surely bring social transformations to the targeted communities.	<p><i>“Before coming here, I had some prejudice. I grew up thinking that other ethnicities just want to kill us and that they hate us. After spending a few days at the camp, I realized that all of us are just people with our flaws and insecurities. I got along just fine with everyone. „Participant at Peace Camp, Ribnik, male</i></p> <p><i>“When I arrived at the Peace Camp, I was carrying a heavy burden with me. I come from a homogenous environment, and this was my first chance to communicate with peers who have different religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds. At first, I was afraid that I would not be accepted by them, but I made some friendships that will be long-</i></p>

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
		<p><i>lasting. For the first time in my life, I was able to explore different cultures and religions with an open mind. I realized that we are not so different after all. I cannot wait to attend another Peace Camp.</i>” Participant at Peace Camp, Ribnik, female</p> <p><i>“Stories shared by activists inspired me a lot. I used to believe that nothing in our country could change for the better and there was no point in even trying. Through personal examples, they taught me that this is not true. This experience is very valuable to me, and I will definitely use this knowledge to initiate positive changes in my local community.</i> Participant, Bosanski Petrovac, male</p> <p><i>“This is an innovative approach in working with young people. I am so inspired to go back home and start working on change. You taught me how and gave me strength and motivation. I feel so good and ready.”</i> Participant from Sanski Most, female</p> <p><i>“Trust is key; without it, I would have a completely different opinion about different religions or nations. Through this process, I realized that almost all of us went through the same difficulties.”</i> Participant from Drvar, female</p>
High school students/Project beneficiaries	<p>Young people used the knowledge they gained from the project to build their youth clubs and student multipurpose facilities, where they are now organizing their first activities.</p> <p>The support students received for setting up Critical thinking clubs was instrumental in establishing these new 'structures', providing great opportunities for students to initiate various activities and changes at the school level.</p> <p>Meetings and opportunities for visiting, hosting, and socializing with students from other schools/communities led to the formation of new social relationships,</p>	<p><i>“The most significant activities were establishing the Critical Thinking Club and all the workshops we had on that topic. We had the opportunity to understand what critical thinking is, why it is important, and why it is important to respect each other. The workshops we attended we have adapted and implemented in our school, not only in our Club but also in our classes and other classes in the school. It seems to me that since we completed all these workshops, the relationships between students and between students and teachers have improved. For example, before, when a discussion on a topic where everyone did not agree would</i></p>

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
	<p>changing perspectives, gaining new, diverse, and enjoyable experiences.</p>	<p><i>often turn into an argument, even causing some problems, now everyone is more willing to listen to each other and reach a compromise. I believe these activities have really led to improvements in our school.</i>” Project participant from Livno</p> <p><i>“My favorite activities were these visits, and trips. For example, I had never been to Jezero before [A/N: Ključ and Jezero are 50 km apart], and I probably wouldn’t have if it weren’t for these activities. Through the presentation, we saw that Ključ and Jezero have a lot of similarities, something I had never thought about before.”</i> Project participant from Ključ</p> <p><i>“I believe that, besides the knowledge gained, the most valuable things are the contacts and friendships that will last. The only thing bothering me is that my enthusiasm from here might vanish if I don’t manage to gather enough support from both adults and youth in my community. But I believe there are like-minded people; I just need to find them.”</i> Project participant from Mrkonjić Grad</p>
<p>Citizens/community members</p>	<p>Citizens from ethnic minority groups in communities such as Livno, Sanski Most, and Mrkonjić Grad often experience pressure from the dominant ethnic group and report feeling socially excluded. During community dialogues between local governments and citizens, facilitated using the peacebuilding interactive methodology known as the "experience workshop", members of the majority group acknowledged that they frequently forget the presence of minority groups, with some admitting they often forget that “those people exist.” This moment of reflection was important in raising awareness among participants about the rights and realities of minorities in their communities. The presence of local government representatives was especially significant. It allowed them to directly hear the concerns of minority citizens, who are actively</p>	

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Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
	seeking greater justice and equality in both community life and public policy.	

In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had (*4000 characters*):

After graduating, a social worker from Livno was unemployed and, in search of financial stability, took a job at a local retail store. After applying for the UN Community Volunteer position under the SPSC project, he started working at the Centre for Social Welfare in Livno and occasionally at the Centre for Social Welfare in Glamoč. A decision was made to extend his engagement for an additional five months after his planned 12-month engagement ended, citing his high-quality performance, empathy, and dedication to his work. Reflecting on his experience, he said:

“Before this UNV engagement, I worked in a retail store. Through the SPSC project, I met incredible people from all project locations and learned so much. Fieldwork at the Centre for Social Welfare in Glamoč helped me grow professionally. I’m grateful for the training, hands-on experience, and learning opportunities in social work provided by the UN and UNDP. I can’t say enough about the amazing, hardworking, and intelligent people I met, people truly committed to making this bleak and sad world a better place to live.” (Social worker, UN Community Volunteer from Livno).

You can also upload up to 3 files in various formats (picture files, PowerPoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and/or provide links to online resources (OPTIONAL).

Web article: [Empowerment through social protection services: Building Sustainable Societies by Supporting the Most Vulnerable ones | United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

Web article: [Cultivating a culture of peace: building inclusive communities through strengthening social services | United Nations Development Programme](#)

Web article: [Rebuilding Trust, One Municipality at a Time in Bosnia and Herzegovina | PEACEBUILDING](#)

[Mi o nama - Ljudi i priče](#) features videos and stories that highlight local initiatives, uplifting narratives, and progressive voices from communities and civil society, aiming to counter divisive rhetoric and propaganda.

[The School at the Heart of the Community](#) documentary about an 18-month initiative that supported 16 schools across Bosnia and Herzegovina in creating inclusive learning environments and promoting critical thinking, collaboration, and democratic values. Through student-led spaces like “Sobičak” and activities such as inter-school visits and training, the project empowered schools to become active agents of change within their communities.

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Image 1 Professional Learning Communities brought together primary and secondary school teachers to collaborate, improve teaching practices, and strengthen relationships, fostering a culture of learning and peacebuilding in schools



Image 2 An inter-municipal dialogue held in Mrkonjić Grad brought together citizens, civil society, and local authorities, not only to foster mutual trust, but also to lay the groundwork for locally led peacebuilding initiatives

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Please tick the applicable change based on above narrative.

How we worked: (please select up to 3) (3000 characters in each selected option)

- Enhanced digitization [please explain]
- Innovative ways of working¹ [please explain]
- Mobilized additional resources [through UNV platform, UNDP engaged 18 volunteers in communities who provided valuable support to institutions in social care, which reflects in timely and more quality provision of services. Five local communities managed to ensure continuation of these contracts after the project-funded period ended. Furthermore, the project in collaboration with the EU-funded project "*Empowering Trust and Cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Communities*", implemented jointly by IOM, UNDP, OSCE, and the Council of Europe, pooled resources to complete and equip the Centre for Social Welfare in Bosanski Petrovac.]
- Improved or initiated policy frameworks [please explain]
- Strengthened capacities [A comprehensive approach was adopted to strengthen capacities, combining infrastructure development with targeted capacity-building and community engagement. This included the construction, reconstruction, and equipping of Centers for Social Work (CSWs), which significantly improved the ability of public service providers to deliver inclusive support services such as psychosocial assistance, counseling, and referrals. In parallel, the project supported civil society through a small-grants program and facilitated a wide range of social and networking activities—planning sessions, study visits, summer camps, and youth exchanges—that fostered dialogue and interaction. Additionally, the establishment of 21 youth clubs and multi-purpose spaces, often integrated into schools or public facilities, created safe and inclusive environments for young people, further enhancing local capacities for youth engagement and participation.]
- Partnered with local/grassroots civil society organizations [project's implementing partners and grantees]
- Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will [The project supported intermunicipal exchange and cooperation (joint project proposals submitted by 9 municipalities), and led to strengthening local bonds, among institutions such as social welfare centers, but also the local CSOs united around joint issues and interest, especially youth CSOs gravitating towards joint youth spaces in larger local communities]
- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]

Who are we working with (3000 characters):

- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

¹ Where innovation is defined as a **product, service, or strategy that's both novel and useful**. Innovations don't have to be major breakthroughs in technology or digital solutions but includes here a new and/or creative approach to solving development challenges.

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Strengthened partnerships between UN Agencies [The project has had coordination meetings organized by the RCO to establish closer cooperation with other PBF funded projects, such as those focusing on WPS as well as with the DFF, but also with Možemo bolje as a joint endeavor of EU, UN, OSCE and CoE]

Partnered with local civil society organizations [The project has supported ten local civil society organizations across nine project targeted communities]

Partnered with local academia [please explain]

Partnered with sub-national entities [The project has engaged with the local authorities from nine project municipalities, as well as the professionals from respective centers for social welfare and mental health]

Partnered with national entities [please explain]

Partnered with local volunteers [please explain]

LNOB – Leaving No one Behind: Select all beneficiaries targeted with the PBF resources as evidenced by the narrative? [mandatory]

Unemployed persons

Minorities (e.g. race, ethnicity, linguistic, religion, etc.)

Indigenous communities

Persons with Disabilities

Persons affected by violence (including GBV)

Women

Youth

Children

Minorities related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression

People living in and around border areas

Persons affected by natural disasters

Persons affected by armed conflicts

Internally displaced persons, refugees or migrants

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PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE

<p>Monitoring: Please list key monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (3000 characters):</p> <p>Throughout the project implementation period, a range of monitoring activities were conducted to ensure effective coordination and progress tracking.</p> <p>Project team meetings were held weekly during the early phases and bi-weekly later on. These were complemented by periodic inter-agency meetings, which facilitated collaboration and alignment among project partners.</p> <p>Implementation progress was tracked through various mechanisms, including reports submitted by implementing partners, event and participant registration records, field visits, monitoring meetings, and financial spot-checks.</p> <p>Project staff conducted over 60 field visits. These visits included site verifications of infrastructure works, assessments of community-based and community-led initiatives, and the provision of technical, organizational, and logistical support.</p> <p>Since the introduction of IOM’s new policy on administering financial grants in May 2024, project staff have held at least six monitoring meetings. These meetings served as a platform to engage with implementing partners on all aspects of project performance, monitoring, and reporting. Discussions covered activity implementation, progress toward results, evidence of achievements, existing challenges, and final reporting requirements. Additionally, these meetings aimed to identify projects with evidence of success and lessons learned to inform evaluation activities.</p> <p>To further strengthen financial oversight, IOM staff conducted six financial spot-checks. These internal assessments were based on Pre-financing Risk Reviews and/or Due Diligence processes developed for each partner. The</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? yes If yes, please provide a brief description (3000 characters):</p> <p>For Outcome Indicator 1.1, baseline and endline data were internally collected through a Social Cohesion Survey administered to youth beneficiaries before and after participation in -supported community and youth initiatives. The survey gathered responses from 186 participants prior to the supported project/initiative and 165 afterward.</p> <p>The results demonstrated measurable improvements across all three dimensions assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cohesion increased by 4.0%, rising from a baseline score of 0.683 to an endline score of 0.710. This change was marginally statistically significant (p = 0.054) • Youth activism rose by 4.5%, from 0.532 to 0.556, although this increase was not statistically significant (p = 0.189) • Inclusion showed the most substantial improvement, increasing by 11.2%, from 0.544 to 0.605, a change that was statistically significant (p = 0.004). <p>For the remaining two outcome indicators, baseline values were set at 0.</p> <p>If not, explain why not and when they will be available (3000 characters): NA</p> <p>Elaborate on what sources of evidence have been used to report on indicators (and are available upon request) (3000 characters):</p> <p>The following sources of evidence are used to report on final progress for the indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing partners’ (narrative and financial) reports - Event Reports and Site Visit Notes - Events and Participants Registries - Media Post Repository - Post-training evaluation survey - Submitted project proposals & evaluation supporting documentation - Tender documentation - Signed lists of participants
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<p>spot-checks provided reasonable assurance that the financial records reported by implementing partners were accurate and aligned with project expenditures.</p> <p>An ongoing online evaluation survey was administered following each training, seminar, or workshop. Participants were invited to provide feedback on the relevance, usefulness, and applicability of the knowledge and skills gained during these events.</p> <p>In addition, a monitoring tool developed and provided by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in March 2025 was used on a quarterly basis. This tool enabled systematic data collection and tracking of key project elements, including the types of interventions implemented, the partner organizations involved, the target communities, and the number and profiles of beneficiaries reached.</p>	<p>- Photos of the events, started infrastructure works and purchased equipment</p> <p>Final external evaluation report and perception survey results are also included.</p> <p>Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g. perception surveys*? yes <i>*Perception survey is a formal collection of information from a randomly selected sample of respondents through their responses to standardized questions. See <u>PBF Guidance Note</u> for more information.</i></p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description of the efforts (3000 characters):</p> <p>As part of the final external evaluation, an Impact Perception Survey was conducted (May-June 2025) by an external service provider contracted by UNDP. The survey was designed to assess the perceptions and opinions of project stakeholders and beneficiaries regarding the effects and outcomes of the Joint Project. It also explored broader aspects of social cohesion and peacebuilding addressed by the initiative. The survey employed a stratified random sampling method, covering nine project targeted municipalities (Bosansko Grahovo, Bosanski Petrovac, Drvar, Glamoč, Ključ, Livno, Mrkonjić Grad, Ribnik, and Sanski Most) as well as three comparison municipalities that did not receive project support.</p> <p>The survey measured several key project indicators, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1.1: The level of social cohesion within and across target communities, defined by factors such as tension, trust, perceived threat, sense of belonging, and empathy. Data was disaggregated by age, gender, and location. • Outcome 1.2: The number of individuals reporting increased responsiveness of local authorities in the provision of social services, including access to new services, timeliness of delivery, and overall satisfaction. • Outcome 1.3: The number of beneficiaries receiving improved or newly introduced social care services, particularly those
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	<p>targeting vulnerable populations. This data was also disaggregated by gender, age, location, and ethnic minority status.</p> <p>In addition, the survey also examined broader metrics aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicator 5.a: The proportion of people expressing a general level of trust in society.• Indicator 5.c: Self-assessed trust and engagement levels among young people (ages 15–30), including attitudes toward inter-ethnic trust, cooperation, education, media, civic engagement, and partnerships with government representatives.• Indicator 5.d: The number of young people (ages 15–30) participating in community-level initiatives that promote dialogue, social cohesion, and appreciation for diversity. <p>The Impact Perception Survey report is attached as a separate document to this report.</p> <p>Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms*? yes</p> <p><i>*Community feedback mechanism, or community-based monitoring, is an organized system for communities of participants to monitor the local effects and impact of an intervention. Ideally, this system empowers the community to express whether their expectations are being met and to provide suggestions to decision-makers for possible (re)focusing. See <u>PBF Guidance Note</u> for more information.</i></p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description (3000 characters):</p> <p>The project implemented several feedback mechanisms to ensure community engagement and responsiveness. These included community consultations, such as community dialogue sessions and networking events, to gather input on local priorities, direct engagement through on-site visits, the use of surveys and interviews as part of internal monitoring, and active outreach via social media platforms to collect feedback and foster ongoing communication.</p>
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<p>Evaluation: Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation? yes</p>	<p>Evaluation budget included in the project budget (response required): 60,000 USD</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, is your upcoming evaluation on track? yes</p> <p>Please describe the preparations (3000 characters):</p> <p>The evaluation of the SPSC Project, as agreed with PBSO, consisted of an external summative evaluation process (managed by IOM) and a perception survey (managed by UNDP), which complement the evaluation findings.</p> <p>As defined by the Terms of Reference (ToR), the external evaluation has been conducted between March and June 2025. This included developing the evaluation methodology, data collection and analysis, and submission of the Inception Report, Draft Evaluation Report, and Final Evaluation Report, along with a one-page summary of key results and lessons learned, as well as a brief story for the PBF website.</p> <p>The Inception Report, detailing the evaluation approach and methodology, was submitted on 8 April 2025 and reviewed and approved by the PBF Secretariat Office in Sarajevo. The Draft Evaluation Report was submitted on 30 May, and the Final Evaluation Report on 30 June 2025.</p> <p>The purpose of the final external evaluation was to provide an impartial assessment of the project in terms of results achieved, quality of performance, and project management, with a focus on multi-partner contributions and synergies with similar projects. Specifically, the evaluation assessed the project's contributions to trust and peacebuilding efforts in BiH.</p> <p>The objectives of the evaluation were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the project intervention using the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability) as well as PBF-specific criteria, including conflict sensitivity, catalytic potential, risk tolerance, and innovation• Determine the extent to which the PBF-funded project has contributed to reducing conflict factors in BiH• Evaluate the project's efficiency, including its implementation strategy, institutional
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	<p>arrangements, management arrangements, and operational systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document good practices, innovations, and lessons emerging from the project • Provide actionable recommendations for future programming <p>The Evaluation Report, together with annexes, is attached as a separate document to this report. The evaluation results and lessons learnt were also shared with the PBF portfolio upon completion of the final evaluation.</p> <p>Please mention the focal person responsible for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF:</p> <p>Name Andrea Soldo Organization IOM Job title Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Associate Email asoldo@iom.int</p>									
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Has the project mobilized additional non-PBF financial resources since the project's start? yes</p> <p style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">UNDP has coordinated the existing intervention of the EU-funded project "Empowering Trust and Cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Communities," which was implemented by IOM, UNDP, OSCE, and the Council of Europe, with the planned interventions under this project to complete and equip the Youth Centre space and the Centre for Social Welfare in Bosanski Petrovac.</p> <p>If yes, please indicate name of all funding agencies and respective amounts of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started, as well as specifically during this reporting period.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Name of funder</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Amount mobilized since project's start (USD)</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EU</td> <td style="text-align: right;">230,007.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">230,007.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Municipality Bosanski Petrovac</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27,964.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27,964.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of funder	Amount mobilized since project's start (USD)	Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD)	EU	230,007.00	230,007.00	Municipality Bosanski Petrovac	27,964.00	27,964.00
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EU	230,007.00	230,007.00								
Municipality Bosanski Petrovac	27,964.00	27,964.00								
<p>Catalytic Effect (non-financial)*: Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur, in addition to the direct project changes? yes <i>*Please refer to <u>PBF Catalytic Effect Guidelines</u> for more information.</i></p> <p>If yes, please select the relevant option below:</p>	<p>If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-financial) catalytic effect, i.e. removed barriers to unblock stalled political, institutional or other peacebuilding processes at different levels in a country, and/or created the conditions to establish new processes to do so (3000 characters):</p>									

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<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some catalytic effect <input type="checkbox"/> Significant catalytic effect</p>	<p>The project has served as a peacebuilding initiative by addressing key political barriers that hinder cross-community cooperation such as the limited political will to support grassroots initiatives that promote reconciliation; ethno-political divisions embedded in public and governmental institutions that reinforce segregation and mistrust; the politicization of public spaces, which discourages inclusive participation; and the absence of institutional mechanisms to facilitate sustained cross-community collaboration. Most of the changes resulting from the project have occurred at the local level, where communities have seen improvements in dialogue, trust, and more inclusive participation. However, progress at the central level remains limited, as deeply rooted political barriers and divisions continue to hinder broader systemic change.</p> <p>Through inclusive dialogue and joint activities, the project created both formal and informal spaces where individuals from diverse backgrounds could engage constructively. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for more meaningful community engagement and long-term cooperation.</p> <p>This is evident through the collaboration and knowledge exchange among social workers, educators, mental health professionals, and youth activists from various local governments and entities. A total of 34 community dialogues, including seven intermunicipal sessions, engaged over 500 participants in open discussions aimed at improving the quality of community life and strengthening trust between citizens and local authorities. Nearly 1,500 children and youth participated in diverse contact-based activities such as training sessions, community initiatives, summer camps, and social events. These engagements promoted social inclusion and provided safe spaces for interaction and learning.</p> <p>The initiative also supported professional development and peer learning. Teachers from 16 schools, along with social workers and mental health professionals from local CSWs, actively exchanged knowledge and improved practices, contributing to more responsive and community-centered public services.</p>
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The engagement and contributions of UN Community Volunteers were both valuable and relevant. Their efforts were further recognized through continued employment by one local school and one cantonal administration.

The project also provided the foundation of sustainability for the Youth Centre Bosanski Petrovac by providing them with space and initial peacebuilding orientation.

The project also strengthened cooperation among CSWs and services in Bosanski Petrovac, Ključ, and Ribnik through experience sharing and efforts to coordinate joint actions and mutual support. Additional synergies were fostered among CSOs and schools participating in the project, with the Peace Farm in Sanski Most (Federation of BiH) being recognized for extracurricular activities, where schools, including the ones from Republika Srpska, engage youth.

Sustainability: Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains, including any mechanisms, platforms, networks and socio-economic initiatives supported, beyond the duration of the project (3000 characters):

To ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts, the project has established a range of mechanisms and platforms that foster continued collaboration among key stakeholders:

- Formal partnerships were established through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the project and each of the nine partner municipalities, represented by their respective Mayors. These agreements laid the foundation for sustained institutional collaboration. The MoUs signify the local governments' formal commitment to uphold and continually enhance the services and infrastructure delivered by the project.
- Capacity-building efforts targeted social welfare practitioners, equipping them with essential skills and training to enhance their professional effectiveness.
- Community engagement was prioritized by involving residents in the development of proposals that reflect their actual needs, ensuring relevance and ownership.
- Structured decision-making was promoted through municipal council decisions, which facilitated project approvals and inter-municipal agreements, thereby improving coordination and service delivery.
- Capacity building for CSOs in peacebuilding and youth work equipped young people in local communities with the skills to engage their peers and broader communities in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities. This led to stronger youth engagement and the registration of two new youth organizations.
- Networking among institutions and CSOs from communities in Una-Sana Canton, Canton 10, and neighboring areas in Republika Srpska fostered increased interaction among youth, institutions, and civil society organizations. These collaborations have created potential synergies that are expected to continue beyond the scope and duration of the project.

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The project also invested in essential equipment and infrastructure to strengthen the operational capacity of local social services.

UN Community Volunteers were another important part of the effort. Many of them (61%) have since moved into formal roles in local and regional institutions, meaning their contributions will continue beyond the project.

The external evaluation (the report is included as an Annex) confirmed that many of these efforts are already being sustained at the local level. Activities have been integrated into local budgets, school programs, and community networks. However, sustainability remains uneven. Structural and planning gaps, such as delays in implementation, and the absence of formal exit strategies, have affected stakeholders' ownership and diminished some partners' willingness to remain engaged. At both entity and national levels, political support has been limited; despite policy alignment, there has been no direct financial or institutional backing. Structural challenges, such as fragmented governance and the lack of funding mechanisms, further hinder the scaling of successful local models into broader systems.

Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (3000 characters):

During the project implementation period, changes in the staffing structures of both implementing agencies caused delays in the final three months, affecting the overall timeline of planned activities. Despite these disruptions, the project successfully met its core deliverables. While most activities were eventually carried out with delays, some were not implemented due to procedural complexity and time constraints, including the establishment of a dental clinic for children and adults with developmental disabilities in Livno, procurement of a mammography machine for use in Bosanski Petrovac, Ključ, and Sanski Most and the training for CSW participants on "Family law" and "Domestic violence." The training sessions did not take place because, despite extending the public call three times, there were no applications from trainers with the necessary experience.

Despite receiving capacity-building support, including ongoing, hands-on assistance from project staff in logistics, planning, and reporting; structured monitoring meetings to review project performance and reporting requirements; and financial spot-checks and due diligence assessments to ensure accurate financial reporting and strengthen administrative practices, many partners and beneficiary CSOs continued to face challenges. These were largely due to limited organizational capacity, unfamiliarity with reporting practices, and lack of experience with monitoring processes, particularly among newly established entities. These gaps affected both project implementation and communication with project staff.

While many CSOs possess foundational operational and financial systems, these often do not fully meet the compliance standards required by institutional donors, including UN agencies. It is important to recognize that this is not a reflection of poor performance, but rather an indication that additional, tailored support is needed to strengthen the capacities of under-resourced organizations. Such support may include:

- Clearly defined results frameworks and regularly updated workplans
- Regular communication through emails, calls, online meetings, and onsite visits
- Multiple rounds of feedback on draft financial and narrative reports
- Practical guidance on administrative tasks such as financial reporting, procurement procedures, and internal policy development

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Ongoing mentorship and hands-on monitoring can help ensure these organizations are equipped to implement projects effectively while meeting donor compliance requirements. This support is particularly critical in communities that are often underserved by international donors and UN agencies.

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Monitoring and Oversight Activities²

Name of the Event	Summary	Key Findings
Steering Committee Meetings	<p>The first Steering Committee meeting (23 May 2023) approved the selection of partner local governments (LGs), endorsed the project work plan, and confirmed readiness to support implementation.</p> <p>The second Steering Committee meeting (13 February 2024) reviewed implementation progress, approved proposed projects, and endorsed the revised annual work plan. The Committee also supported a potential six-month extension to ensure completion of social service improvement activities.</p> <p>The third Steering Committee meeting (27 November 2024) brought together key government and UN stakeholders to review progress, approve adjustments to selected interventions, and adopt the revised Annual Work Plan (2023–2025), confirming project completion in June 2025.</p>	The relevance of project activities to local needs was emphasized, and expanding the project to additional municipalities was recommended.
Field monitoring and community engagement	<p>Over the course of the project, more than 60 field visits were conducted by project staff to support the development and implementation of community initiatives, verify infrastructure works, and engage with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Field visits were used to provide technical and logistical support; identify implementation challenges; assess progress and outcomes of small grants and community-led</p>	Based on the monitoring visits, several key findings emerged. Livno and Bosanski Petrovac demonstrated sufficient professional capacity to manage and implement project activities effectively. However, other communities such as Bosansko Grahovo, Drvar, Ribnik and Glamoč required additional support due to limited institutional capacity, declining populations, inadequate social services, and political challenges, including a shortage of contractors for infrastructure

² These include Steering Committee meetings, Monitoring visits, Third party monitoring, Community based monitoring, any data collection, Perception or other survey findings, evaluation reports, audit or investigations.

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Name of the Event	Summary	Key Findings
	<p>interventions; harvest anecdotal evidence, which informed reporting on peacebuilding and human impact.</p>	<p>projects. The project’s activities were seen as a positive step toward addressing these issues by improving social care and stakeholder coordination, ultimately contributing to social cohesion and conflict prevention.</p> <p>Youth engagement and reconciliation efforts were most successful when approached indirectly, through volunteer actions, sports, folklore, and cultural activities. These methods created opportunities for continuous contact and interaction among youth from different ethnic backgrounds, helping to break down prejudices and foster mutual understanding. However, limited mobility in rural areas, due to a lack of public transportation, restricted access to such opportunities, making project-supported initiatives the only available platform for many young people.</p> <p>In smaller and depopulated communities like Bosanko Grahovo, youth engagement strategies should be adapted to target younger age groups (starting from age 15), as most youth leave after high school.</p> <p>Without opportunities for engagement, interest in community activism diminishes. Primary and secondary schools are identified as key partners in sustaining youth involvement. Furthermore, communities responded more positively to initiatives that benefited the wider population rather than targeting specific groups, such as public space improvements like parks and playgrounds. These insights confirm that tailored, inclusive, and community-wide approaches are important if</p>

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Financial spot-checks with implementing partners and grantees	The financial spot-checks were conducted to review financial records and provide reasonable assurance that the amounts reported by grant recipients were accurate. In addition to these checks, due diligence assessments were carried out to evaluate existing administrative and financial policies, with tailored recommendations provided to strengthen overall practices.	<p>interventions aim to ensure meaningful participation and long-term impact.</p> <p>The spot-checks revealed that while grant recipients generally possess the basic operational and financial capacities to manage project funds, the systems and procedures, particularly among small, local or grassroots organizations, often fall short of the compliance standards required by institutional donors, such as those within the UN system. CSOs play a vital role in addressing local community needs and advancing social issues. However, they continue to require sustained support to effectively implement projects and align their administrative and financial practices with donor expectations.</p> <p>To address these gaps, ongoing support was provided through regular communication (emails, phone calls, and online meetings), multiple reviews of draft financial and narrative reports with constructive feedback, and guidance on key administrative tasks. This included assistance with financial reporting, procurement procedures, and the development of essential internal policies, such as procurement and communication guidelines, to help partners meet donor requirements.</p>
Ongoing internal monitoring and data collection	<p>The internal monitoring system includes regular reporting from implementing partners and grantees, detailed events and participant registries maintained before and after each activity and a media repository documenting public communications related to the project.</p> <p>An online post-training evaluation survey was administered after each training, seminar, or workshop. This tool collects</p>	<p>During the implementation period, in collaboration with three implementing partners and seven grantees, the project supported over 500 activities and community events, engaging more than 2,200 participants, 66% of whom were children and youth. More than 1,000 pieces of media content were created or published (85% of which were social media posts)</p>

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	<p>participant feedback on the relevance, usefulness, and applicability of the knowledge and skills gained, helping assess the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts.</p> <p>To measure outcome-level changes, tools such as Social Cohesion Questionnaires were used to assess social cohesion, youth activism, and inclusion</p>	<p>sharing information about project activities, community actions, results, and local stories with a total reach of 1.6 million.</p> <p>Among the 1,048 respondents to the post-training evaluation survey, 73% reported increased knowledge and skills relevant to the project, indicating that the events were both effective and well-targeted.</p> <p>The Social Cohesion Survey, conducted with youth before and after their participation in this project’s initiatives, showed measurable improvements across all three indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cohesion increased by 4.0% (from 0.683 to 0.710), marginally significant (p = 0.054) • Youth activism rose by 4.5% (from 0.532 to 0.556), not statistically significant (p = 0.189) • Inclusion improved by 11.2% (from 0.544 to 0.605), statistically significant (p = 0.004) <p>These results suggest meaningful progress, particularly in inclusion, with moderate gains in social cohesion and youth engagement.</p>
Perception Survey	<p>The survey aimed to assess stakeholders’ and beneficiaries’ perceptions of the project’s effects on social cohesion, peacebuilding, and service delivery. It covered a stratified random sample from nine participating municipalities and three comparison municipalities not involved in the project. Data has been collected through a combination of desk reviews, surveys (in-person and telephone), interviews, and focus group discussions, targeting residents, social service users, CSO beneficiaries, local officials, and youth representatives. The research has been conducted</p>	<p>The results of the Impact Perception Survey indicate that the SPSC project achieved all planned objectives and was highly relevant to local communities. It contributed to increased social cohesion, with residents in project-targeted communities reporting a significantly higher Social Cohesion Index (2.61) compared to those in comparative communities (2.56), indicating a positive impact of the intervention. While the overall responsiveness of local authorities—measured through the Local Authorities’</p>

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	<p>between May 19 and June 13, 2025, with the final report submitted by end of June 2025.</p>	<p>Response Index—was slightly higher in project communities (2.12 vs. 2.06), this difference was not statistically significant. The project also supported the introduction or expansion of services for vulnerable groups. Importantly, residents in project communities perceived significantly lower levels of tension (3.56 vs. 3.45) and threat (3.59 vs. 3.39) than those in comparative communities. However, deeper aspects of cohesion, such as trust and belonging, require a longer-term and more intensive approach. Improvements were more evident within communities, while relations between neighboring communities remain a challenge. Socio-demographic differences also influenced outcomes, highlighting the need for tailored approaches. Although there was significant progress in infrastructure, its full impact is not yet visible due to limited implementation time. Administrative and communication challenges were noted but could be addressed through stronger inter-municipal cooperation, more flexible planning, and increased technical support. In terms of future planning, it is recommended to continue activities in the existing communities, where progress has been demonstrated but additional support is still needed. The findings also point to remaining needs, new strategic options, and potential partnerships. At the same time, insights from the comparison municipalities (Šipovo, Kupres, Bosanska Krupa), along with their expressed interest, suggest the possibility of expanding the project.</p>

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External Final Evaluation	<p>The evaluation was conducted by an external service provider using a theory-based, participatory methodology aligned with OECD/DAC criteria and PBF-specific standards, including conflict sensitivity, catalytic potential, risk tolerance, and innovation. Data collection methods included desk reviews, 38 key informant interviews, an online survey of youth participants, and integration of an independent perception survey.</p> <p>Despite some methodological limitations, such as incomplete baseline data in certain sub-components and difficulties in organizing focus groups due to youth availability, the evaluation team applied data triangulation to ensure the validity and reliability of findings.</p> <p>The final report presents conclusions on the project’s strategic alignment, field-level performance, results, and sustainability, and offers targeted recommendations to guide future peacebuilding interventions in BiH.</p>	<p>The evaluation found the SPSC project to be highly relevant to the peacebuilding context in BiH, directly addressing key conflict drivers such as educational segregation, divisive narratives, unresolved trauma, youth exclusion, and weak inter-entity cooperation. The project was well aligned with community needs and national/international policy frameworks.</p> <p>In terms of coherence, the project complemented existing peacebuilding efforts by UN agencies and donors, strategically filling geographic and thematic gaps, particularly in smaller, often marginalized municipalities. Its activities reinforced mandates of other UN entities, including trauma support, youth engagement, and educational integration.</p> <p>The project demonstrated strong efficiency, delivering quality outputs with limited resources. Lean staffing and partnerships with national CSOs enabled rapid mobilization and adaptability. Infrastructure upgrades were implemented in collaboration with local authorities, who provided financial or in-kind support. Effectiveness was evident in the achievement of most intended results, especially in fostering trust, contact, and local peacebuilding. Youth reported personal growth and increased openness, while trauma-informed counseling had transformative effects. Municipal dialogues led to tangible outcomes, such as new social protection services and infrastructure improvements. Veterans’ involvement proved effective for intergenerational reconciliation, and educators observed more inclusive classroom dynamics.</p>

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		<p>The project contributed meaningfully to long-term peacebuilding goals. Stakeholder feedback, survey data, and institutional changes showed increased intergroup contact, adoption of non-violent communication, and municipal ownership of dialogue outcomes. Youth engaged in cross-entity exchanges and sustained relationships beyond the project. Sustainability varied across locations. Where local governments were actively involved, infrastructure and dialogue mechanisms were already integrated into municipal plans and school policies, supporting continued impact.</p>
Final Narrative Package for Steering Board	To ensure Steering Board members remain well-informed, the project team is preparing a visual and informative summary package.	The summary package will include key project results, evaluation findings, and lessons learned, and will be shared with all Steering Board members by the end of September/beginning of October 2025 to support reflection and future planning.