

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

*Updated November 2025*

**COUNTRY: MALAWI**

**TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL**

**YEAR OF REPORT: 2025**

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**



**Project Title: Strengthening Malawi's Peace Infrastructure for conflict prevention and sustaining peace in borderland districts**

**Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00140045**

**If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**

Country Trust Fund  
 Regional Trust Fund

**Name of Recipient Fund:**

**Date of first transfer: February 2023**

**Project end date: 31 December 2025**

**Has this project received a cost or no cost extension? Yes**

**Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension? Yes**

**Will this project be submitting a Fund Transfer Request (FTR) in the next six months?**

**If so, around which month do you expect to submit the request? please select**

**Is the current project end date within 6 months? Yes**

**Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**

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

**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 detail in the attached budget.*

<b>Recipient organisation</b>	<b>Budget Allocated (in full USD)</b>	<b>Amount Transferred to date (in full USD)</b>	<b>Amount spent / committed to date (in full USD)</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>2,155,706.21</b>
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>609,487.04</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>3,365193.25</b>

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 96.15%

**\*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\***

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The budget templates are available [here](#)

**Implementing partners**

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money since the project's start? Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) – UN Women

Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) – UN Women

Public Affairs Committee – UNDP

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)? NONE

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:

<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 during this calendar period?</i>	<i>Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner during this calendar period (1500 characters)</i>
Public Affairs Committee	Quasi Religious body in Malawi		346,669.17		During this reporting period, the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) implemented several high-level and community-focused peacebuilding initiatives aimed at supporting Malawi's electoral preparedness and national cohesion: Engagements with Presidential Aspirants: PAC

convened closed-door dialogue sessions with selected presidential aspirants, urging them to publicly commit to peaceful conduct before, during, and after the 2025 elections. These engagements laid the groundwork for a planned National Peace Declaration, to be signed by all candidates later in the year.

National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue: PAC organized a large-scale All-Stakeholder Dialogue on Peace, bringing together political parties, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, government officials, and development partners. The forum fostered inclusive national conversations around electoral tolerance, political

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		dialogue, and peaceful coexistence.
		Strengthening Partnerships: With technical and financial support from the project, PAC formalized its collaboration with the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement defines joint roles in civic education, conflict mediation, and peace messaging.
Foundation for Civic Education and Social Enhancement (FOCESE), and Youth Network and Counselling - YONECO	Please select	324,000

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levels. Key activities carried out included: training youth in conflict prevention and advocacy; conducting community advocacy and awareness meetings; training safe space mentors; strengthening SGBV prevention mechanisms and referral systems for women and adolescent girls; establishing community advocacy forums; and facilitating the provision of psychosocial support to survivors of SGBV, particularly at border crossings. The partner also supported the coordination and linkage of women-led organizations and groups to enhance collaborative advocacy, human rights protection, and resilience-building efforts.

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Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace	Civil Society organisation	88,028.29	Dissemination of the Youth NAP 2250 was done in all the target areas for the Peace building programme. Implementing with support from UN Women, CCJP implemented a Situation analysis and mapping of women and youth networks in the 3 project districts; district level advocacy engagements in Karonga; a women WOM groups learning engagement in collaboration with the women movement groups across the project districts; trained the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission on the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the UNSCR 1325 NAP for Malawi; Trained women movement groups in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy, early warning
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Mechanisms, peacebuilding, and diffusion of radicalization and prevention of harmful practices; trained women and youth representatives in council structures, women counsellors, women leaders in Malawi Human Rights Processes (reporting and advocacy on addressing conflict) UN Women supported MHRRC and through activities implemented, 40 women leaders from key district structures—including political, religious, and traditional bodies— were trained to strengthen their role in promoting peaceful elections. Following the training, the women publicly called for non-violent electioneering ahead of the

September 2025 general elections, emphasizing that “Politics is temporary and life goes on after elections.”

To promote youth involvement in peace efforts, 20 young people (9 females, 11 males) were trained in basic community journalism. The training equipped them to document and share local peacebuilding stories through professional media outlets and accessible platforms like WhatsApp, enhancing community-level engagement and information sharing.

The project supported the Women Peacebuilding Movement to conduct 15 awareness campaigns and dialogue forums across four communities, reaching 2,548 people (1,360 women, 1,188

men). These sessions promoted peaceful conflict resolution and women's empowerment. In TA Mposa, 97 out of 100 land disputes were resolved at community level, attributed to strengthened local dispute resolution mechanisms supported by the project.

**Gender-responsive Budgeting:**

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE) as per the project document? **50.67%**

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: \$1,773,450

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: \$1,705,143.42

UNDP has ensured a mandatory 30% representation of women in community policing, peacebuilding and conflict prevention trainings. These trainings have been conducted in collaboration with FEMWISE Malawi chapter<sup>1</sup> to ensure that the women's peace and security agenda of integrating and ensuring women lead in peacebuilding initiatives is realised. Further, UNDP has been supporting dialogue and mediation work by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs), whose membership includes ensuring that female members meet the minimum quota to ensure that women's issues are adequately addressed.

Through UN Women, key interventions were implemented to advance gender equality within the framework of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The project strengthened the leadership and voice of women by training district-level women leaders in peacebuilding, leading to a unified call for peaceful communities and elections. It promoted inclusive information sharing by equipping youth, including young women, with skills in community journalism to document and disseminate peace narratives. The project also supported community dialogues and awareness campaigns that addressed peacebuilding, women's empowerment, and local dispute resolution, while fostering collaboration with

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<sup>1</sup> A women mediators led organisation which seeks to promote conflict prevention, mediation, dialogue and other peacemaking or peacebuilding efforts. <https://saro.au.int/index.php/en/node/314>

traditional and civic structures. Additionally, it enhanced youth participation in governance processes through interface meetings with duty bearers and facilitated the dissemination of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security alongside its mutually reinforcing National action Plan on UNSCR 1325 NAP on Women, peace and Security, ensuring both women and youth are meaningfully engaged and protected in peace and security efforts.

UNFPA concentrated on the strengthening of Malawi's peace infrastructure at district level , empowered women and youth, and addressed critical issues such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human trafficking, and conflict prevention. Key activities included:

- Dissemination of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSRC 2250 to youth groups at district level, with Youth Networks as well as Media campaign on NAP 2250. Dissemination of the Youth NAP 2250 was also done through district and community awareness using community radios and YONECO FM.
- Community of Practice (CoP) sessions to enhance coordination among stakeholders.
- Capacity-building trainings for human rights institutions and mentors.
- Seed grant disbursements to support mentors, young women and their safe spaces. The seed grant has been a key resource in helping safe spaces bring positive change to their communities. It has supported efforts to rescue children from trafficking across the border, return girls to school, and set up local referral systems to report abuse. Safe spaces also helping to reduce conflict by addressing issues like elder abuse and witchcraft accusations, which builds peace, prevent conflict and understanding in the community. The project continued to establish safe spaces for adolescents and young women in the target districts of Mangochi, Machinga and Karonga. These safe spaces are designed to enhance their capacity for peace and conflict prevention, while also providing crucial support to combat issues like sexual and gender-based violence. 25 safe spaces, 10 youth clubs in Mangochi; 30 safe spaces in Machinga and 33 in Karonga were provided with seed fund alongside business trainings with the aim of empowering women , girls and already existing youth networks economically, enabling them to become active participants in peace building and conflict prevention within their communities.
- Additionally, UNFPA in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and other district stakeholders conducted Youth Symposiums in Blantyre, Thyolo, Nsanje, Karonga, Lilongwe, Machinga and Mangochi reaching 351 Youths (156 Females and 195 males). The symposiums aimed to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools to actively participate in peacebuilding processes, particularly in the context of the 2025 tripartite elections and beyond. The symposium also served to popularize Malawi's National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. At the end of the training, Youth developed action plans on non violent activities during elections and beyond so that they're active participants on Peace Building and conflict prevention in their communities.
- In collaboration with UNWOMEN and Ministry of Gender , UNFPA supported strengthen capacity of Women Forums on peace building and Psychosocial Support (PSS) in preparation for the upcoming elections which focused on women peace builders as the main target group alongside other stakeholders. A total of 150 participants from Karonga, Mangochi and Machinga attended the session. The PSS was done to enhance participants' understanding of PSS, equip participants with knowledge and skills in stress management, grief processes, and identification of distress and also to strengthen participants' ability to provide support and respond appropriately when women and communities experience distress, especially in contexts such as losing elections. This training was successful as seen from the High participation and engagement, with more women actively contributing and sharing personal experiences, and it also resulted in Increased awareness among participants on the importance of PSS in peacebuilding.
- The active participation and testimonies from the women reinforced the importance of structured psychosocial support in addressing stress, grief, and distress. The training served as a valuable step

towards empowering stakeholders to handle psychosocial challenges during and beyond the election period.

**Project Gender Marker: GM 2**

**Project Risk Marker: 1**

**Project PBF focus area 2.3 Conflict prevention / Management**

**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 has not had a steering committee in the last 6 months.

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)*.

In the past six months, the PBF project has maintained active engagement with the Government of Malawi at both national and district levels, fostering alignment with national peace priorities, strengthening institutional frameworks, and ensuring government leadership in sustaining peace efforts.

At the national level, the project has provided continued support to the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC), the primary statutory body mandated to coordinate national peacebuilding initiatives. The project supported MPUC led high level dialogue sessions with presidential aspirants, encouraging them to publicly commit to peaceful conduct before, during, and after the upcoming elections. In addition, the project supported the facilitated the engagement of an international consultant to assist MPUC in formalizing partnerships with key national stakeholders. This work led to the drafting and validation of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between MPUC and two key institutions: the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD). The consultant also supported the development of a communiqué with national civil society organizations (CSOs) to reinforce collaborative frameworks on peacebuilding and conflict prevention ahead of the elections.

Further to this, the project supported the Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture – Department of National Unity by providing technical and financial support for the review of the National Peace Policy (whose tenure expired in 2023), laying the groundwork for the development of its successor. This engagement included working with the Ministry to facilitate consultative processes for the development of the Issues Paper and a comprehensive policy review report, aimed at informing the direction of the new peace policy. The engagement ensured alignment with national priorities on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. In addition to this, the project supported the launch and dissemination of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS), a milestone in operationalizing commitments under UNSCR 2250.

In addition to this, the project also contributed to broader national dialogue processes, supporting PAC engagements with select presidential aspirants and providing technical and financial support for PAC's national multi-stakeholder dialogue on peace as well as the national day of prayer event where presidential candidates signed the peace pledge.

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At the district level, the project worked closely with District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) and district authorities to strengthen local peace infrastructures. This included the successful reconstitution of Mangochi and Karonga DPUCs to align with the Peace and Unity Act, ensuring more representative and functional committees. Furthermore, sensitization<sup>2</sup> sessions which were held in the first half of the year facilitated the successful establishment of new District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Blantyre and Lilongwe, as well as City Peace and Unity Committees (CPUCs) in Lilongwe City and Blantyre, thereby expanding the national coverage of formal peace structures.

In preparation for the electoral period, the project facilitated a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) Framework, specifically designed to enhance the capacity of DPUCs to support the prevent and resolve election related disputes at the grassroots level. The trainers are now positioned to cascade tailor-made mediation skills to DPUCs in their respective districts, equipping them to serve as first responders to potential electoral tensions at the community level. This proactive approach is helping to build locally rooted mechanisms for early intervention, reducing the risk of localized disputes escalating into violence.

Further to this, targeted capacity building interventions were delivered, including community policing trainings in Machinga to strengthen collaboration between communities and security actors.

Recognizing the central role of youth in early warning systems, the project also supported Youth Early Warning trainings in Mangochi and Machinga, equipping young people with skills to identify, analyse, and respond to early signs of conflict.

Finally, Government in collaboration with UN implementing partners, the project conducted a joint monitoring and evaluation mission across all PBF-supported districts, engaging district-level leadership and stakeholders to assess progress and jointly reflect on ways to strengthen coordination, impact, and sustainability.

Through these engagements, the project has reinforced government leadership at both national and local levels in advancing peacebuilding efforts, particularly in the context of electoral preparedness and youth inclusion in peace processes.

**Report preparation:**

Project report prepared by: Atupele Mataula, Peacebuilding Analyst & Enisa Sande, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

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Project report approved by: Nanise Saune Qaloewai, Governance Portfolio Manager  
[nanise.saune@undp.org](mailto:nanise.saune@undp.org)

Have all fund recipients for this project contributed to the report? Yes  
Did PBF Secretariat or RCO focal point review the report? Yes

<sup>2</sup> <https://malawifreedomnetwork.com/2024/10/12/mpuc-and-blantyre-city-council-to-establish-city-peace-and-unity-committees-ahead-of-2025>

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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*):

During the reporting period, no additional recruitments were made as all the technical staff were brought on board in 2023. The baseline survey and capacity assessments were also done in 2023.

*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 project has made measurable progress in strengthening Malawi's capacity to prevent and manage violence, with positive results visible at national, district, and community levels. The peace infrastructures both formal and informal are becoming more operational, inclusive, and responsive, contributing to a stronger foundation for sustaining peace during the upcoming elections.

At the national level, support to the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) has contributed to the consolidation of national commitments to peaceful elections. Dialogues with presidential aspirants by MPUC<sup>3</sup> and Public Affairs Committee (PAC)<sup>4</sup> has significantly contributed to peace during the period leading to the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://malawifreedomnetwork.com/2025/04/09/president-chakwera-reaffirms-commitment-to-peace-and-unity-ahead-of-elections/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://times.mw/pac-engages-lazarus-chakwera-calls-for-action-against-violence/>

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elections. These engagements positioned MPUC (a relatively new institution) as a credible convener of non-partisan peace dialogues, contributing to a shift in national discourse towards peaceful political competition.

Furthermore, during the reporting period convened an all-stakeholder dialogue<sup>5</sup>. convened a high-level All Stakeholder Dialogue with support from the PBF project. The dialogue brought together political party representatives, government officials, civil society leaders, faith-based organizations, youth, and women's groups to deliberate on key governance, peace, and national unity issues. The forum provided a neutral and inclusive platform for constructive engagement and consensus-building on matters affecting Malawi's democratic stability. In addition to this, PAC successfully convened National Day of Prayers on 8 September 2025 during which presidential candidates signed the National Peace Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to peaceful elections<sup>6</sup>.

In addition, MPUC strengthened strategic partnerships by signing Memoranda of Understanding with PAC<sup>7</sup> and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD)<sup>8</sup>, enhancing coordination on political dialogue, insider mediation, and civic engagement. A joint communiqué was also signed with civil society organizations to consolidate CSO engagement in electoral peacebuilding and promote national cohesion.

At the same time, the project supported the launch<sup>9</sup> and dissemination of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAP 2250), giving young people a stronger framework for participation in peace efforts. UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and the Department of National unity led the dissemination of the NAP in Mangochi, Machinga, and Karonga as well as other districts in Malawi<sup>10</sup>, raising awareness among youth and strengthening their involvement in peacebuilding efforts. Media campaigns conducted through local radio stations like YONECO FM amplified these efforts, broadcasting key messages on peace, SGBV prevention, and youth participation to wider community audiences.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.malawianatimes.com/2025/05/21/pac-hosts-crucial-dialogue-on-transparent-and-accountable-elections-ahead-of-2025-polls/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://pacmw.org/presidential-candidates-successfully-sign-peace-declaration-crucial-step-towards-2025-general-elections/> ; <https://malawi.un.org/en/301272-un-solidarity-statement-occasion-signing-peace-pledge-malawi-presidential-candidates-16>

<sup>7</sup> <https://malawi24.com/2025/06/20/mpuc-pac-sign-landmark-mou-to-strengthen-national-peacebuilding/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://malawi.un.org/en/293091-malawi-peace-and-unity-commission-signs-landmark-mou-cmd-strengthen-peacebuilding-efforts>

<sup>9</sup> <https://thetruthmw.com/2024/12/13/malawi-ministers-emphasize-youth-role-in-peace-and-unity-ahead-of-umodzi-day/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://manaonline.gov.mw/index.php/news/item/10717-youths-urged-to-promote-peace-and-security-ahead-of-elections>

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*Media Campaign of NAP on UNSCR 2250*

At the district level, the project supported the reconstitution of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Mangochi and Karonga to align with the Peace and Unity Act. The project also supported MPUC to establish four<sup>11</sup> more infrastructures for peace in Blantyre and Lilongwe. Across PBF supported districts, women and youth now account for atleast 40% of DPUC members, helping to elevate their voices in local decision making on peace and conflict prevention. In addition, youth representatives trained through early warning systems in Mangochi, Machinga and Karonga have actively contributed to identifying and reporting local risks of political violence, misinformation, and social tensions, contributing to early interventions by local authorities before, during and after the election.

Progress on preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has also been notable. UNFPA has led the capacity building of district level human rights institutions on SGBV monitoring and prevention, improving their capacity to address cases and refer survivors for further support. A grassroots community advocacy strategy was developed to enhance SGBV prevention efforts, while media campaigns through community radio stations like YONECO FM promoted public awareness on SGBV prevention, human trafficking risks, and youth participation in peace processes.



*Capacity building trainings for human rights institutions and mentors*

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<sup>11</sup> Blantyre District Peace and Unity Committee, Lilongwe District Peace and Unity Committee, Blantyre City Peace and Unity Committee and Lilongwe City Peace and Unity Committee.

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More women and girls are now accessing protection and referral services, supported by better coordination among district authorities, police, and service providers. In addition, UNFPA promoted economic empowerment for women and girls by mentoring and coaching youth, adolescents, women, and local business owners in business management skills. This has been coupled with the provision of seed funding to women's safe spaces, enabling them to engage in income-generating activities and improving their financial independence, a key factor in reducing vulnerability to violence and exploitation. The provision of Psychosocial counselling sessions prior to the election period enhanced participants' understanding of PSS, equipped participants with knowledge and skills in stress management, grief processes, and identification of distress and also to strengthen participants' ability to provide support and respond appropriately when women and communities experience distress, especially in contexts such as losing elections. This training was successful as seen from the High participation and engagement, with more women actively contributing and sharing personal experiences, and it also resulted in Increased awareness among participants on the importance of PSS in peacebuilding.

The active participation and testimonies from the women reinforced the importance of structured psychosocial support in addressing stress, grief, and distress. The training served as a valuable step towards empowering stakeholders to handle psychosocial challenges during and beyond the election period as part of Peace building and conflict prevention.

Institutional coordination has also improved, with district authorities reporting stronger collaboration between traditional leaders, local councils, civil society, and security actors. Findings from joint monitoring missions highlighted improved readiness of these actors to prevent and respond to potential electoral-related violence in hotspot areas.

Overall, the project's achievements during this period reflect a growing national and community level commitment to peace, the meaningful inclusion of women and youth in decision-making, and strengthened systems to prevent both political and gender-based violence.

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

**Yes**

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

Project progress summary (6000 characters):

***Output 1.1: Malawi's national and subnational infrastructure for peace established, operationalised and capacities are strengthened.***

Work under 1.1 is on schedule with key structures established and capacitated for the upcoming electoral period.

**Local Infrastructures for peace strengthened**

During the report period, District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Mangochi and Karonga, were reconstituted and fully functional. Committees now include a balanced representation of women, youth, traditional leaders, civil society, and security actors. The project also supported the establishment of four more local peace infrastructures in form of

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Lilongwe DPUC, Blantyre DPUC, Lilongwe City Peace and Unity Committee (CPUC) and Blantyre (CPUC).

**EWER capacities enhanced, enabling timely and coordinated local response**

Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems were effectively operationalized during the reporting period. Youth centred early warning trainings conducted in Mangochi, Machinga, and Karonga empowered young people to actively identify and report community risks, which contributed to timely preventive actions at local level. An informal coordination platform linking DPUCs, MPLCs, CSOs, and local government structures was also established in PBF target districts, significantly enhancing real-time information sharing and collaborative response to emerging threats.

**National early warning system operationalised and transitioned to National Ownership**

In addition, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) participated in the Maso Athu (iReport) Election Situation Room, an initiative led by the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) with support from UNDP<sup>12</sup>, which strengthened national coordination and collective monitoring of electoral risks, contributing to the peaceful conduct of the September 2025 elections. Following the elections, the Situation Room EWER Platform and equipment was officially handed over<sup>13</sup> to the MPUC and the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) to enhance their institutional capacities for continued early warning, peace monitoring, and coordinated response beyond the electoral period. The transformation from a time bound election monitoring tool into a sustainable, nationally owned governance and conflict early warning system represents a shift towards long term peace infrastructure.

**District level peace commitments secured through joint MPLC - DPUC engagements**

In the preparation phase for the September 2025 elections, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC), together with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), engaged the Multi-Party Liaison Committee (MPLC) and the respective District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in joint forums across districts. These engagements culminated in the signing of district level peace declarations, with explicit commitments by political actors to uphold peaceful conduct during the election period. In Lilongwe City, for example, political party representatives signed the “Lilongwe City Peace Declaration” on 15 August 2025<sup>14</sup>, at which occasion the MPLC and DPUC also signed cooperation guidelines for monitoring risks and mediating tensions. Through this process, the institutional linkages between MPLC, DPUCs and MPUC/CMD were formally strengthened, laying a foundation for the systematic monitoring of electoral risks, facilitated mediation of emerging disputes, and reinforcement of local level peace systems ahead of the polls.

**National Peace Policy review initiated to strengthen coherence and address emerging threats**

Further to this, the project supported the Ministry of National Unity to initiate a review of the National Peace Policy, a foundational framework guiding national and subnational peace efforts. A technical consultation was held with stakeholders to assess policy gaps and align it

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.undp.org/malawi/news/building-capacity-malawis-civil-society-led-election-situation-room>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.undp.org/malawi/press-releases/undp-mpuc-and-nice-formalise-national-ownership-malawis-governance-and-conflict-early-warning-platform>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.undp.org/malawi/news/political-leaders-sign-lilongwe-city-peace-declaration-ahead-2025-elections>

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with the evolving peace and unity architecture, including MPUC and DPUC roles. This process is ensuring that policy reform reflects practical peacebuilding experiences, gender and youth inclusion, and emerging threats such as electoral violence.

### **Partnerships formalised to strengthen National Peace Coordination**

In addition to this, the project supported MPUC to formalize institutional partnerships with key national actors. Two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were developed and signed; one with the Public Affairs Committee (PAC)<sup>15</sup> and another with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD)<sup>16</sup>.



*Malawi Peace and Unity Commission Signing MOUs with Center for Multiparty Democracy and Public Affairs Committee*

These MoUs established a coordinated approach to election-related mediation, joint public messaging, and long-term peacebuilding collaboration. The MPUC also facilitated the endorsement of a national communiqué with civil society organizations, further reinforcing a unified commitment to conflict prevention ahead of the 2025 elections.

To complement these efforts, MPUC supported by the project held high level engagements with presidential aspirants<sup>17</sup>, encouraging them to publicly commit to peaceful conduct before, during, and after the 2025 elections. These dialogues have elevated MPUC's credibility as a neutral convener of national peace processes and contributed to shifting the national political discourse toward tolerance and nonviolence.

<sup>15</sup> <https://pacmw.org/pac-and-mpuc-signs-memorandum-of-understanding/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://web.facebook.com/UNDPMalawi/posts/%EF%88%8F-peace-through-partnershipundp-malawi-and-other-united-nations-malawi-agencies-1122001019965803/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr#](https://web.facebook.com/UNDPMalawi/posts/%EF%88%8F-peace-through-partnershipundp-malawi-and-other-united-nations-malawi-agencies-1122001019965803/?_rdc=1&_rdr#)

<sup>17</sup> <https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1102645908568906&set=pcb.1102645985235565>

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*MPUC meeting with the President of Malawi, HE Lazarus Chakwera, Presidential Candidate for Malawi Congress Party*

**Output 1.2 Enhanced capacity security and the rule of law institution and actors to effectively monitor and protect human rights and support conflict prevention**

The project supported capacity building trainings for Community Policing Forums (CPFs) across four Traditional Authorities (TAs) in Machinga District during the reporting period. These trainings enhanced the operational effectiveness of the community policing platform while strengthening communication, collaboration, and trust between the police and the communities they serve.

In addition, the project facilitated a technical review meeting of the national Community Policing Policy. This review contributed to the development of a more structured and standardized national framework for community policing. The revised approach promoted dialogue and joint problem-solving between law enforcement and local communities, encourages greater community involvement in local security management, and fosters improved information sharing. Collectively, these efforts continue to enhance crime prevention and detection, while rebuilding public trust in the police service. The Policy is approved and adopted by the Malawi Police Service for full implementation in the coming years.

**Enhanced Operational Capacity**

The project provided Community policing operational Kits, which included reflective jackets, torches, whistles, and basic safety gear, improving the ability of Community Policing Forums (CPFs) to conduct patrols and respond to incidents effectively with the Malawi Police Service. The support for the operational kits activated all 48 community policing forums in all districts in Malawi, making community policing members more visible and identifiable, which helped deter crime and built public confidence in the Malawi Police Service.

**Improved Collaboration with the Police in Violence Prevention**

The project supported a youth symposium in 5 violence hotspot districts during the reporting period. The Youth Symposium provided a platform for knowledge exchange, enabling youth leaders to learn from stakeholders and share experiences on challenges and opportunities in promoting democracy and preventing violence.

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The symposium amplified youth voices in electoral policy discussions, encouraging political parties to desist from perpetuating violence and civil society to prioritise youth inclusion. The symposium successfully mobilised young people to participate actively in democratic governance, emphasising their role beyond voting to include advocacy and policy influence. For the first time in the five hotspot districts, no case of violence was reported.

### **Increased Police Oversight and Accountability**

The support for the ICC's in communicating services available to the public has seen a substantial increase in submitted complaints, with 46 new cases, representing a 12.78% increase in demand for ICC services, from a baseline of 360 in January 2025 to 406 as investigations to some of the complex cases ongoing 14 cases were recommended for disciplinary action to the Malawi Police Service administration.

***Progress note: Activities such as population mobility mapping did not happen during this reporting period due to funding gaps.***

***Output 1.3 Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities and districts are strengthened with specific focus on women and youth led networks, and mainstreaming gender and youth across local infrastructures for peace.***

The project also conducted a Training of Trainers session to various stakeholders<sup>18</sup> for the election dispute resolution framework mediation. These trainers facilitated trainings to all DPUCs in Malawi, equipping them with practical skills and tools to mediate election related disputes in a timely, impartial, and community sensitive manner, providing complimentary support to Multi Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs). By strengthening the mediation capacity of local peace infrastructures ahead of the 2025 general elections, the project ensured community readiness to respond to tensions and prevent escalation of violence.



*TOT for EDR framework mediation by DPUCs*

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<sup>18</sup> Training participants include Staff from Department of National Unity, Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, Malawi Police Service, UNDP Staff and FEMWIS Malawi Chapter staff.

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***Output 2.1 Women and girls have increased access to safe spaces and empowerment schemes***

Over 967 women and youth benefitted from mentoring and coaching in business skills, receiving seed grants through safe spaces and youth clubs. These income generating initiatives have strengthened their economic independence and elevated their roles as agents of peace and conflict prevention.

Furthermore, in Machinga, three feedback and reflection sessions reached 74 female mentors and 120 stakeholders including police, Community Victim Support Units (CVSU), Child Protection Workers, women's movements, Area Development Committees (ADCs), and youth groups. These sessions led to the development of three action plans to guide future activities. 13 SGBV cases were reported, five were managed successfully. Additionally, four human trafficking cases were addressed, and thirteen community conflicts were resolved. Five success stories were documented for reflective learning.

Training sessions at border entry points significantly improved SGBV awareness and prevention. As a result, 76% of surveyed women and human rights organizations believed SGBV had reduced, while 79% of men and women reported increased knowledge of SGBV and related referral pathways.

At the community level, the project strengthened social cohesion and local dispute resolution mechanisms through inclusive dialogues and awareness campaigns on peace, women's empowerment, and alternative dispute resolution. In areas like TA Mposa, the resolution of the vast majority of land disputes at community level, attributed to project-supported interventions, demonstrates enhanced local capacity to manage and prevent conflicts peacefully. Through 15 community awareness campaigns and dialogue forums, the Women Peacebuilding Movement reached 2,548 individuals (1,360 female, 1,188 male) across four communities.

The dialogues addressed peacebuilding, women's empowerment, and alternative dispute resolution, and engaged traditional leaders, faith groups, youth networks, ADCs, and land tribunals. In TA Mposa, peacebuilding efforts directly contributed to resolving 97 out of 100 land disputes at the community level, with only 3 referred to the magistrate court.



*ADC Chair for Mchinguza, McDonald Wisiki giving closing remarks*

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Additionally, the project fostered more inclusive governance by enabling structured engagement between youth and duty bearers on issues of political participation and development. These dialogues have not only reinforced young people's commitment to nonviolence but also positioned them as legitimate actors in democratic spaces. The active promotion and dissemination of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security and its mutually reinforcing National action Plan on women peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) has further empowered youth networks to advocate for their protection and participation in peace and governance processes. Youth Networks in Nchinguza, Chikweo, Mlomba, and Mposa facilitated 6 interface meetings with duty bearers, advocating for Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP) in politics and development. Youth participants pledged their commitment to promoting peace, not violence, during the election period. The recent launch of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace, and Security was welcomed as a critical policy tool.

***Output 2.2: Youth organisations and networks in the target district mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives***

UNFPA led the dissemination of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250) in Mangochi, Machinga, and Karonga. District level sessions engaged 25 stakeholders, including 49 members of District Youth Networks, government departments, security agencies, CSOs, and religious groups. Community level dissemination reached 345 youth and local leaders, supported by advocacy broadcasts through local radio and YONECO FM nationally.



*Youth Officer Chikondi Kwalimba during Session 1 of comprehensive overview of the Malawi National Peace Architecture and the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, focusing on its key pillars.*



*Group Discussion during Community NAP Orientation*

Action plans were developed with a focus on deploying youth ambassadors to promote the NAP through public education, campaigns, and stakeholder engagement. In Machinga alone, 1,225 youth clubs were reached, with 35 youth club representatives and multiple institutional actors participating in follow up capacity building efforts. Three local level action plans were developed. Overall, 473 males and 752 females were engaged, including three young women with disabilities.

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UNFPA also supported interface meetings between youth and local authorities in areas like Nchinguza, Chikweo, Mlomba, and Mposa. These structured dialogues reinforced youth commitment to nonviolence and positioned them as legitimate actors in governance. Youth participants pledged to uphold peace during the upcoming elections and welcomed the national launch of the NAP on Youth, Peace and Security as a milestone for youth inclusion in peacebuilding.

Prior to the elections UNFPA in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and other district stakeholders conducted Youth Symposiums in Blantyre, Thyolo, Nsanje, Karonga, Lilongwe, Machinga and Mangochi reaching 351 Youths (156 Females and 195 males). The symposiums aimed to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools to actively participate in peacebuilding processes, particularly in the context of the 2025 tripartite elections and beyond. The symposium also served to popularize Malawi's National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. At the end of the training, Youth developed action plans on non violent activities during elections and beyond so that they're active participants on Peace Building and conflict prevention in their communities.

### **Case Reporting and Support: Reporting and Rescue of Child Trafficking Cases**

With the support of the seed grant, six (6) child trafficking cases were identified and successfully reported. These cases involved four (4) boys and two (2) girls who were rescued while being trafficked en route to Tanzania. The seed grant was instrumental in covering transportation and coordination costs during the rescue and reporting process.

### **Withdrawal of Child Marriages**

A total of eight (8) child marriage cases were reported and withdrawn through the intervention of the safe spaces. Among these, three (3) girls have been successfully reintegrated into the school. Although the rescued girls initially dropped out due to lack of basic school necessities, the women-led safe space collectively decided to re-enroll them in school. The seed grant was used to provide essential school needs including school uniforms and school fees and exploring ways to reach out to social welfare to enrolled them into the CDF, thereby removing barriers to education.

### **Community Engagement and Awareness**

Safe spaces have expanded their outreach to include elderly women in the community. Using the seed grant, they have been conducting targeted awareness sessions to:

- Inform elderly women about how to recognize and report suspicious behavior, including signs of elder abuse and wrongful accusations of witchcraft, and where to seek help when such issues arise
- Safe spaces are being recognized as informal referral points within their communities, helping to strengthen grassroots systems for reporting cases

### **Youth Engagement**

To prevent school dropouts and early marriages, safe spaces are also conducting awareness campaigns that encourage both boys and girls to remain in school by providing basic school needs especially provision of uniforms and school books.

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Through the interventions implemented, UN Women contributed to strengthened women's leadership and influence in peace and electoral processes, as evidenced by coordinated public advocacy by trained women leaders across key district structures. Their unified call for peaceful electioneering ahead of the 2025 general elections signalled an important shift toward gender-inclusive leadership in conflict prevention and electoral integrity. Following a peacebuilding training, 40 women leaders from key district structures including the District Multiparty Liaison Committee, Peace and Unity Committee, Pastors Fraternal, Chiefs Forum, Land Tribunal, Ward Councillors, and both Women and Girls Peace Movements publicly called for peaceful electioneering ahead of the September 2025 general elections. Their unified message, "Politics is temporary, and life goes on after elections," was strategically disseminated to foster tolerance and reduce potential electoral violence.

The project also led to increased youth participation in peacebuilding, with trained community journalists actively documenting and amplifying local peace stories. This has improved access to community-level information and fostered stronger linkages between grassroots voices and mainstream media, particularly enhancing the visibility of young women's roles in peace processes. The project successfully trained 20 youths (9 female, 11 male) in community journalism, equipping them with foundational reporting skills focused on peacebuilding. These trained youth are actively collecting and publishing local peacebuilding stories, collaborating with professional media from Nation Publications Limited and Times Limited. In addition, they are utilizing WhatsApp as a key platform to share stories, significantly improving local information access and stakeholder engagement.



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):

### **Women and Girls Starting Businesses and Building Support System**

The seed grant provision is designed to empower women and girls by providing small funds to start or expand income-generating activities. This support helps beneficiaries achieve financial independence, build confidence, and better address challenges such as child marriage, trafficking, and gender-based violence. With these grants, safe spaces are able to deliver essential services including case reporting, survivor support, awareness campaigns, and school reintegration, creating a positive impact within their communities.

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Under the peacebuilding project, these seed grants have further strengthened safe spaces, enabling them to enhance community efforts to prevent and respond to issues like child marriage, trafficking, and gender-based violence. They not only support survivors and raise awareness but also promote social harmony by encouraging school attendance and fostering peaceful coexistence.



*The DCDO of Machinga together with the DYO handing over the symbolic seed money to Sale Mentors*



*Machinga District Community Development Officer addressing the Mentors during the seed money grant activity at T/ANgokwe*

Women and adolescent girls have started their own small businesses, both individually and in groups, to support themselves. These include rice farming and selling food or household items. As their businesses grow, other women in the community have also joined them. They are working together, sharing ideas and supporting each other. This has helped them earn money, take care of their families, and feel more confident.

25 safe spaces, 10 youth clubs in Mangochi; 30 safe spaces in Machinga and 33 in Karonga were provided with seed fund alongside business trainings with the aim of empowering women, girls and already existing youth networks economically, enabling them to become active participants in peace building and conflict prevention within their communities. The businesses which are being done using the seed funds have proved to be successful. eg One girl borrowed about K200,000 from the group to start a business selling slip-ons and bags, and she now has about K1,200,000 in her account. This has boosted her resilience and participation in community activities including peace building and conflict resolution.

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*A woman proudly stands by her field growing Rice and supporting her family with help from the seed grant in TA Kilupula*



*Youth safe space members start a goat pass-on program with help from CDA and the TA focal person in TA Kilipula*

Is the project 1+ year in implementation? please select

**FOR PROJECTS 1+ YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION ONLY:**

**Is the project demonstrating outcome-level peacebuilding results?** please select

*Outcome-level peacebuilding results entail results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviours or institutions.*

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

**Outcome 1: Strengthen Malawi's Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding and human rights protection in borderland communities**

The project has made significant progress in strengthening Malawi's national and local peace infrastructures. At the national level, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) was supported to conduct high level dialogues with presidential aspirants, in partnership with the Public Affairs Committee (PAC), thereby consolidating national commitment to peaceful elections. These efforts positioned MPUC as a credible, non partisan convener, promoting a shift in political discourse towards peaceful competition. In addition, the MPUC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PAC and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) to harmonize efforts for inclusive peace dialogues. MPUC also issued a joint communique with civil society organizations to reinforce collaborative advocacy on peacebuilding and unity.

At the subnational level, the project contributed to strengthening the functionality of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Mangochi, Machinga, Blantyre, Lilongwe and Karonga as well as City Peace and Unity Committees (CPUCs) through capacity building and technical accompaniment. Notably, these infrastructures for peace in these districts achieved approximately 40% representation of women, demonstrating progress towards inclusive participation in local peace structures. Moreover, the project facilitated multistakeholder

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conflict prevention trainings in borderland Traditional Authorities (TAs), enhancing local capacities for early warning, conflict resolution, and human rights promotion.

Community policing structures were also enhanced, particularly in Machinga, where four TA areas benefited from capacity building trainings. These sessions improved coordination between community members and police, strengthened local crime prevention, and fostered joint problem solving. The project also supported a national level technical review of the community policing policy, which informed a more structured and standardized approach to community security across the country.

**Outcome 2: Strengthen human rights protection mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence child trafficking and child marriages**

The project delivered strong results in enhancing protection mechanisms for women, girls, and youth in vulnerable borderland areas. Safe space mentorship programs and adolescent girl forums were conducted to build capacity for prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), harmful practices, and human rights violations. These initiatives helped enhance awareness of rights, build resilience, and link vulnerable groups to critical services and information.

SGBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) referral systems were also strengthened through stakeholder capacity development, improving coordination and access to services for survivors. Women led organizations and structures were linked and supported to form collaborative advocacy platforms, which increased their visibility and influence in peacebuilding and conflict prevention at both community and district levels. Prior to the elections, 225 (116 females and 109 males) comprised of GBV service providers, CSOs and Community stakeholders in Blantyre, Mangochi, Machinga, Karonga and Lilongwe, have been trained to enhance their capacity to effectively support survivors to have access to comprehensive, coordinated and survivor-centred service in the election period and beyond. These included District Peace and Unity Committee, Police, Health, Gender, Community Development, Social Welfare, and MHRC. At community level, the workshop targeted representatives from Youth networks, Mother Groups, Women Forums, Disability networks, Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) and NICE. The training was particularly organised with an aim to map, develop and disseminate GBV referral pathways to support survivors of GBV during the general elections period and beyond. The referral pathways have been disseminated at District Council Offices, DSWO, DGO, DCDO, MHRC Offices, Police Stations, One Stop Centre, CVSUs, ADCs, Markets, Schools, Health centres among other places. These referral pathways were very useful during the elections as they were also shared with the tally centre to allow those with grievances to be referred to appropriate services. The GBV referral pathways will continuously be updated during District Gender TWG meetings, ADC level meetings as well as at CVSUs

Furthermore, the project catalysed youth participation in peace and security processes. With technical support from the project, Malawi launched its first ever National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250), following consultations with youth organizations and key stakeholders. The project also supported localized consultations in target districts to inform district strategies for the implementation of the NAP on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), ensuring gender-responsive approaches to peacebuilding.

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Further, youth peacebuilding organizations were mapped, and a capacity needs assessment was conducted to inform future training efforts. Youth ambassadors were identified and engaged to promote positive participation in electoral and peace processes. These efforts collectively contributed to increasing the agency of youth and women in addressing root causes of violence and building inclusive, peaceful communities.

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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: Strengthen Malawi’s Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding and human rights protection in borderland communities**

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 1a: Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (40% women and Youth representation) established and providing mediation services by December 2023	0	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission was officially established on 3rd November 2023 following the appointment of the first cohort of Commissioners.</li> <li>• 37.5 % of Commissioners are women.</li> <li>• 12.5% of Commissioners are Youth</li> </ul>
Indicator 1b Perception of local peace networks and organisations on DPUCs effectiveness in conflict	0	<b>80% + of local peace networks and organisations believe DPUCs are effective in conflict</b>	85%	85%	<b>Community Members:</b> 88% (7 of 8 groups) agreed that DPUCs effectively identify and respond to potential or ongoing conflicts.

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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)
monitoring and prevention capacities		<b>monitoring and prevention</b>			<b>Traditional Leaders:</b> 83% confirmed that DPUCs are effective and fair in resolving disputes. <b>Religious Leaders:</b> 86% viewed DPUCs as effective, citing fairness, inclusion, and proactive mediation. <b>Community Policing Forums:</b> All that interacted with DPUCs attested to their effectiveness in conflict prevention and resolution. <b>District Councils:</b> All three councils assessed DPUCs as trusted, impartial, and capable of reducing conflict incidence.
Indicator 1c: MPUC, PAC, and DPUCs play an effective role in conflict prevention and mediation in the context of the 2025 September elections	<b>2019 election characterized by considerable violence, with MPUC not established and unable to properly</b>	<b>MPUC visibly engaged in conflict prevention and mitigation activities, supported by PAC and DPUCs</b>	MPUC actively engaged in pre election peacebuilding activities during the reporting period, including convening high level dialogues with presidential aspirants to promote peaceful	The initiatives by MPUC and PAC demonstrate a significant institutional shift from 2019 toward a functioning,	At project inception, MPUC was not yet operational and played no role in past electoral cycles. As of this reporting period, MPUC is fully established, actively coordinating peacebuilding activities at national level, and collaborating with PAC and DPUCs.

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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)
	<b>support conflict mediation</b>		<p>conduct. The MPUC also signed formal MoUs with the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), strengthening institutional partnerships for coordinated conflict prevention.</p> <p>PAC has convened a national multi stakeholder dialogue and initiated consultations for a National Peace Declaration with political leaders. PAC also facilitated the signing of peace</p>	coordinated, and increasingly inclusive peace infrastructure directly supporting conflict prevention and mediation around the 2025 electoral cycle.	PACs engagement with political stakeholders and the reconstitution and operationalization of DPUCs in the three districts marks a significant shift from 2019. While the elections are yet to take place, the visibility and activity level of these institutions in pre-election peace efforts reflects strong momentum toward achieving the end of project target.

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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>pledges by presidential aspirants</p> <p>At district level, DPUCs have been trained on conflict prevention and peacebuilding and are already participating in local mediation efforts in collaboration with Multi Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs). This demonstrates that all three institutions MPUC, PAC, and DPUCs are now actively contributing to conflict prevention ahead of the 2025 elections.</p>		

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**Output 1.1: Malawi's national and subnational infrastructure for peace established, operationalised, and capacities are strengthened**

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 District Peace and Unity Committees in the 3 target districts established/strengthened to coordinate and lead conflict prevention and early warning and response systems (with 40% representation of women and youth).	1	3	4	7	<p>During the reporting period, the project supported the reconstitution and capacity strengthening of DPUCs in Karonga and Mangochi. The project also supported the establishment of two DPUCs two CPUCs in Blantyre and Lilongwe, and cumulatively a total of 7 Peace and Unity Committees are functional since the start of the project.</p> <p>The gender representation threshold of 40% has also been achieved in all DPUCs as required by the peace and unity act.</p>
Indicator 1.1.2 SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPUCs ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels per the provisions of the Peace and Unity Act adopted.	0	<b>4: 1 SoP, 1 guidelines handbook each for the MPUC and the DPUCs.</b>	0	<b>4: 1 SOP and 3 strategic documents were developed to support work for</b>	<p>The project supported the development of SOPs for establishing DPUCs and APUCs as well as development of three strategic documents for the MPUC: Strategic plan, Communication strategy and Resource mobilization strategy</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)
				the MPUC and DPUCs	
Indicator 1.1.3 Percentage of MPUC and DPUC members trained on conflict management and resolution and actively leading mediation and education on conflict prevention	0	100	100%	100%	All DPUC members have been trained on conflict management and resolution to support their work on peacebuilding in their communities.

**Output 1.2: Enhanced capacity security and the rule of law institution and actors to effectively monitor and protect human rights and support conflict prevention**

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 1.2.1 Number of security actors receiving training on border control measures.	0	300	0	334	No activity was conducted during the reporting period.

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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)
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of police-community liaison platforms established and functioning	0	3	9	9	<p>9 Community policing platforms have been established with support from the PBF project.</p> <p>The project however operationalised all 48 Community Policing Forums (CPF) through the distribution of CPF equipment</p> <p>187 (118M, 69F) people benefitted from the Machinga community policing trainings during the reporting period.</p>
Indicator 1.2.3a Number of roadshows/public outreach conducted on ICC Mandate and services available to the public	0	5	5	5	5 Roadshows were conducted in the project implementation districts during the reporting period.
Indicator 1.2.3b Number of cases reported by the public on crimes by law enforcement agencies related to election security disaggregated by gender.	360	400	406	406	The ICC received 46 cases, and 3 are female and 43 males in relation to election security, and 14 of the cases have been forwarded to police for disciplinary action and the 32 remaining are under investigations.

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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)
Indicator 1.2.4 Improved human rights protection in border communities based on perception of communities (especially women)	0	<b>80%+ of community members served feel human rights protection has improved</b>	70%	90%	<p>A total of 29 (Machinga) and 32 (Karonga) stakeholders were trained. These included youth networks (DYN), civil society organizations (CSOs), government representatives, and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs). Participants each included 45 males (1 with a disability) and 16 females. This training enhanced capacity of stakeholders to monitor and respond to SGBV cases, as well strengthening referral mechanisms for survivors through a multi-sectoral approach. Most of the stakeholders expressed that they will strengthen the safe spaces for women and girls in their border areas.</p> <p>In addition, prior to the elections 225 (116 females and 109 males)</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)
					comprised of GBV service providers, CSOs and Community stakeholders in Blantyre, Mangochi, Machinga, Karonga and Lilongwe, have been trained to enhance their capacity to effectively support survivors to have access to comprehensive, coordinated and survivor-centred service in the election period and beyond. These included District Peace and Unity Committee, Police, Health, Gender, Community Development, Social Welfare, and MHRC. At community level, the workshop targeted representatives from Youth networks, Mother Groups, Women Forums, Disability networks, Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) and NICE. The training was particularly organised with an aim to map,

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					develop and disseminate GBV referral pathways to support survivors of GBV during the general elections period and beyond. The referral pathways have been disseminated at District Council Offices, DSWO, DGO, DCDO, MHRC Offices, Police Stations, One Stop Centre, CVSUs, ADCs, Markets, Schools, Health centres among other places. These referral pathways were very useful during the elections as they were also shared with the tally centre to allow those with grievances to be referred to appropriate services . The GBV referral pathways will continuously be updated during District Gender TWG meetings , ADC level meetings as well as at CVSUs

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**Output 1.3: Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities and districts are strengthened with specific focus on women and youth led networks and mainstreaming gender and youth across local infrastructures for peace**

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 1.3.1 Number local peace and resilience infrastructures identified and capacitated to monitor and report on socio-economy risks at community level.	0	<b>15 (5 in each district with at least 1 women-led and 1 youth network)</b>	6	20	5 DPUCs and 2 CPUCs have been capacitated since project inception. 13 groups have been capacitated on the same since project inception comprising of 3 District Council, 10 women forums.

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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)
			participants (96 M, 80F).		57 actors were identified (17 in Karonga, 24 in Mangochi and 16 in Machinga)
Indicator 1.3.2 Percentage of local peace and resilience networks and DPUCs using new data collection tools to monitor and report on socio-economic and conflict risks at community level.	0	100%	100%	100%	All participants of the training benefited from the new MPUC data collection tool early warning reporting
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities.	0	27 (bi-monthly in each district for 18 months).	6  6 sensitization sessions were conducted during the reporting period, informing communities of the presence of MPUCs and also plans to formulate / reconstitute peace and unity committees. Locations are (Karonga, Mangochi, Blantyre city, Blantyre district,	11	These include sensitization and capacity building sessions on the peace and unity act implementation which includes the establishment of MPUC and DPUCs as well as the reconstitution pf pilot DPUCs.

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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)
			Lilongwe city and Lilongwe district)		

**Outcome 2: Strengthen human rights protection mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking and child marriages**

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 2a 80% reduction in secondary school dropout rate of girls in the 3 districts by end of the by the end of the project	<b>Average of 10 girls drop out of secondary school per year in each of the 3 districts</b>	5 in the first year; 2 by the end of the project			
Indicator 2b Number of New family Planning Clients	<b>0</b>	Number of New family Planning Clients			

**Output 2.1: Women and girls have increased access to safe spaces and empowerment schemes.**

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<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator progress for reporting period</b>	<b>Indicator progress since project's start</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of women and girls who receive safe space support and training on SGBV, its prevention and reporting mechanisms	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>345</b>	<p>The review process included three sessions and reached 74 female participants (mentors). It also engaged 120 female stakeholders across key institutions such as police, Community Victim Support Units (CVSU), Child Protection Workers (CPW), women's movements, Area Development Committees (ADCs), and youth groups. A total of three action plans were developed to guide future activities.</p> <p>Thirteen SGBV cases were reported, of which five were successfully managed. Additionally, four human trafficking cases were reported and handled, and thirteen conflicts were addressed during the review period. Five success stories were</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)
					documented as part of the reflective learning. As part of the wider project indicators, 74 women's organizations were actively involved in public education and advocacy on SGBV prevention making substantial progress toward the target .
Indicator 2.1.2 Number of women successfully enrolled in livelihood programmes under the project by December 2023	0	60	158		25 safe spaces with an average of 10 members each , 10 youth clubs in Mangochi; 30 safe spaces in Machinga and 33 in Karonga were provided with seed fund alongside business trainings with the aim of empowering women , girls and already existing youth networks economically, enabling them to become active participants in peace building and conflict prevention within their communities. The businesses which are being done using the

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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)
					seed funds have proved to be successful . eg One girl borrowed about K200,000 from the group to start a business selling slip-ons and bags, and she now has about K1,200,000 in her account.
Indicator 2.1.3 Number of women and Youth participating in the Area and Village Development committees	0			345	

**Output 2.2: Youth organisations and networks in the target district mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives**

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 2.2.1 National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 adopted by December of 2023	0	1	1	1	The project has launched and disseminated the YOUTH NAP 2250 to district level and community areas in Mangochi,

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<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator progress for reporting period</b>	<b>Indicator progress since project's start</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
					Machinga and Karonga reaching out to a total of 25 stakeholders, including 49 members of the District Youth Network (DYN), representatives from government departments, security agencies, CSOs, the private sector, and faith-based organizations, participated in the session. At the community level, dissemination was conducted with youth leaders, community representatives, and local organizations engaged in discussions on youth participation in peacebuilding reaching to 345 youths and other community members. Dissemination was also conducted through the radios at community level as well as YONECO FM which is at National level. Action plans were developed and they focused on engaging youth ambassadors to support the NAPs through public education,

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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)
					advocacy, and community engagement. Strategies included organizing awareness campaigns, training sessions, and stakeholder meetings to promote the NAPs and address implementation challenges.
Indicator 2.2.2: Civic education effectively rolled out to young people in border and election hotspot target areas	TBC	TBC		6	UNFPA in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and other district stakeholders conducted Youth Symposiums in Blantyre, Thyolo, Nsanje, Karonga, Lilongwe, Machinga and Mangochi reaching 351 Youths (156 Females and 195 males). The symposiums aimed to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools to actively participate in peacebuilding processes, particularly in the context of the 2025 tripartite elections and beyond. The symposium also

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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)
					served to popularize Malawi's National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. At the end of the training, Youth developed action plans on non violent activities during elections and beyond so that they're active participants on Peace Building and conflict prevention in their communities.
Indicator 2.2.3 Number of women successfully enrolled in livelihood programmes under the project by December 2024	0	60	510	967	This number includes women and youths in the safe spaces

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**Please repeat the outcome level and output level reporting for each indicator under each outcome and their respective outputs**

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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.)? please select

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).

<b><i>Event Description</i></b>	<b><i>Tentative Date</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Target Audience</i></b>	<b><i>Event Objectives (900 characters)</i></b>
PBF Project end term evaluation	February 2025	All target districts	Project beneficiaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact of the PBF project across all target districts</li> <li>2. To document achievements, challenges, and lessons learned in conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions</li> <li>3. To capture beneficiary perspectives on project outcomes, inclusivity, and responsiveness to local conflict dynamics</li> </ol>

### **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

<b><i>Type of stakeholder</i></b>	<b><i>What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)</i></b>	<b><i>Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)</i></b>
Women's Groups and Safe Space Beneficiaries	Prior to the project, many women faced economic hardship, lacked knowledge of SGBV rights and reporting channels, and had limited participation in community peacebuilding. The project introduced safe spaces, mentorship, and seed funding, which improved their financial independence, awareness of rights, and enabled their active roles in community mediation and peace advocacy.	Women reported a shift in their household with increased decision-making power and respect due to their ability to contribute financially.  <i>“Before the grant, I had no voice at home. Now, even my husband consults me on family matters because I bring in income.”</i>

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District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs)	DPUCs lacked capacity, visibility, and gender inclusive representation. The project supported their reconstitution, provided mediation training, and facilitated their engagement in community dispute resolution. They now serve as credible, community rooted peace infrastructures.	<i>"I no longer ask for money every day because I can now buy basic needs for the house. My husband respects me more now."</i> Member, Mangochi DPUC
Youth Networks and Leaders	Youth in the target districts were often excluded from decision making and viewed as potential agitators during elections. Through YPS NAP dissemination, peacebuilding trainings, community journalism training, and interface meetings, youth are now recognized peace actors and informed advocates in political processes.	<i>"We were only called when there was trouble. Now we are part of the solution. The youth are leading peace talks and engaging duty bearers with confidence."</i> Youth Peace Ambassador, Karonga
Borderland Security Actors and Duty Bearers	Previously, border security personnel lacked SGBV prevention training, while communities faced abuse or lacked trust in law enforcement. Through the project's trainings and cross border engagements, officials now have better human rights knowledge, and trust with communities is improving.	<i>"We have seen a big change in how we engage women at the border. Awareness has increased, and our approach is now more respectful and coordinated."</i> Border Police Officer, Mangochi
Community Policing Forums	Before the project, Mpondasi village in Mangochi District faced frequent theft, mob justice, and violent disputes. Communities often took the law into their own hands, which strained relations with the police and created fear among residents.	<i>"Before, people took the law into their own hands. Now, we bring suspects to the police. We talk. We don't fight. We stopped beating — now we're building peace."</i> Community Policing Member, Mpondasi, Mangochi
	Community Policing Forums (CPFs) were trained in peacebuilding, mediation, and early-warning systems, bringing together citizens, traditional leaders, and the police to prevent violence and build trust. For community members, this restored a sense of safety and cooperation. For the police, it strengthened collaboration and	

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reduced conflict. For CPF members, it reshaped how justice is handled and encouraged non-violent solutions.

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*):

**1. Building Community Peace in Mangochi: How Local Leadership and Policing Partnerships are Reducing Violence**



**Mponda Village, Mangochi**

The morning sun rises over Mangochi's sandy lakeshore, casting a soft glow on the Shire River extending out of Lake Malawi and winding quietly past Mpondasi village. Fishermen push their boats into the current while women prepare for the day's market, their laughter mingling with the distant calls of waterbirds.

Along a narrow path, a man walks, not toward his fields, but to meet fellow community members for their routine patrols. In this riverside community, citizens are working together to protect their own peace.

For years, the village struggled with theft, mob justice, and violent disputes. When tempers flared, machetes were drawn before anyone thought of calling the police. It was a cycle of fear and revenge that left scars on both victims and communities. But today, people like Emmanuel Jere, a 51-year-old farmer and father of three, are proving that peace can start with ordinary citizens willing to act differently.

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“In the past, people took the law into their own hands,” Emmanuel says, his face breaking into a quiet smile. “Now, we bring suspects to the police. We talk. We don’t fight.”

His story reflects a broader change sweeping through Mangochi, a district that is discovering that lasting peace grows not from punishment, but from partnership.

## **2. A District Learning to Live in Harmony**



**Inspector James Kumbikano of the Malawi Police, who is the Community Policing Coordinator for Mangochi (second from left), interacting with some of the Community Policing Forum (CPF) members at Mangochi Police Station**

Mangochi District, stretching along the southern tip of Lake Malawi, is home to over half a million people who rely on farming, fishing, and trade. Its proximity to the Mozambican border makes it both a hub of opportunity and a corridor of risk, from cross-border trafficking to disputes over land and resources.

For years, these challenges strained the relationship between the police and communities. Reports of theft or violence were often followed by vigilante action rather than lawful arrest. With limited vehicles and manpower, the police could not respond everywhere in time, and trust eroded with each unaddressed crime.

That began to change with the engagement of Community Policing Forums (CPFs) members through training in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and early-warning and response. These were implemented by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) in partnership with

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the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). In villages like Mpondasi, CPF members now help mediate disputes, prevent violence, and connect communities directly to law enforcement.

### **Turning Fear into Cooperation**

Assistant Commissioner Limbani Bekete, Officer in Charge at Mangochi Police Station, has seen the difference firsthand.

“These days, communities are taking the initiative for their own security,” he says. “They report threats, they bring suspects to us, and they save us time and resources. We have a strong relationship because we built trust.”

Inspector James Kumbikano, who coordinates community policing in the district, says the impact has been profound.

“People welcomed the trainings with open arms,” he says. “They saw value in gaining new skills. Now, they can resolve disputes peacefully even in border areas where tensions used to run high.”

The sessions reshaped attitudes on both sides. Police officers learned to engage communities with empathy, while CPF members gained a clearer understanding of the law and their own limits.

“When respect flows both ways,” Kumbikano adds, “security becomes a shared responsibility.”

### **3. A Farmer’s Story of Restraint and Resolve**



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**Emmanuel Jere (in the middle) shaking hands with Inspector James Kumbikano of the Malawi Police**

When Emmanuel joined the Mpondasi CPF, he saw it as a way to give back to his community. He never imagined his calm voice would one day stand between a mob and its target.

One harvest season, villagers caught a man stealing maize. “People shouted, ‘Let’s beat him!’ Emmanuel recalls. “But I told them, ‘Let the law take its course. The police and courts can handle it better than us.’”

With another CPF member, he escorted the suspect on their bicycles to the police station, protecting him from mob justice. A few weeks later, when another man was caught stealing goats, Emmanuel again intervened before the mob could harm him.

“It wasn’t easy,” he admits. “Some people still wanted to take revenge. But we managed to calm them, and we called the police. The goats were returned, and the man lived.”

His quiet leadership earned him respect across the community. “Before, that man would not have survived,” he says.

“Now, people think twice before acting in anger. They see there’s another way.”

**A Community United by Peace**

Today, Mpondasi feels different. The same people who once feared one another now walk side by side during patrols and village meetings. Chiefs, police officers, and CPF members meet regularly to share ideas and celebrate their success.

“We’ve learned that peace begins with us,” says Inspector Kumbikano. “Our job is to guide them, not to command them.”

For Emmanuel, that lesson has become personal. “We used to be feared,” he says softly. “Now people trust us. We keep the peace because it’s ours to protect.”

As evening settles over Mpondasi, Emmanuel joins his fellow forum members for another patrol along the Shire River. Their torches glint faintly, a symbol of vigilance and unity.

Once, these paths echoed with fear. Now, they carry the steady rhythm of a community that chose peace over violence.

“We stopped the mob” Emmanuel says. “Now we’re building peace.”

**4. How Machinga Worked Toward a Peaceful Election**



**Senior Chief Mizinga (in the middle) holding hands with two district party governors for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and People's party**

When the dust of the campaign trail finally settled in Machinga District, in Malawi's southern region, something remarkable happened. A place long associated with political tension began to show a different face, one of unity, vigilance, and hope.

For years, and especially during the tense six-week lead-up to election, Machinga had carried a difficult reputation. Stone-throwing, clashes between party supporters, torn flags and violent scenes during primaries had become part of its political story.

But in 2025, that story took a new turn. With steady leadership from the Chairperson of the District Peace and Unity Committee (DPUC), Senior Chief Mizinga, and support from the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the district managed to hold peaceful elections, with minimal number of incidents during and after the polls.

Local leaders remember how volatile the district once was. Malawi Congress Party (MCP) Constituency Governor Benard Milembo recalls primary elections as a flashpoint, saying, "Many candidates had concerns about how the primaries were conducted."

Others carry memories of even more turbulent times. Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Constituency Governor Mussah Austin and District Governor Idrussi Akimu speak of years when political followers routinely hurled stones at each other.

This was particularly troubling in the 2008–2009 period. They also remember the early multiparty era of the mid-90s, when rallies were disrupted and even chiefs faced attacks.

Against that history, the calm observed during polling and after the announcement of results in the 2025 elections represents a significant shift, particularly when viewed against the violent incidents reported in Mselema and other areas in the lead-up to voting.

However, Machinga's progress did not happen overnight or by chance. It was the result of deliberate, coordinated efforts to prevent conflict from erupting.

Senior Chief Mizinga's leadership helped soften hardened political relationships. He remembers how earlier elections were defined by insults, shredded party cloth and youth mobilised for violence. "That was common in the past," he says. "But things have changed since the committee was established and we committed ourselves to building peace."

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**Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Constituency Governor Mussah Austin (right) and Malawi Congress Party (MCP) Constituency Governor Benard Milembo holding hands as a sign of peace.**

A major part of this change came through early-warning and conflict-prevention training supported by MPUC. The training equipped chiefs, political leaders and youth groups to identify signs of trouble and intervene early.

“We stay alert for early warning signs and act quickly,” Senior Chief Mizinga explains. “We don’t wait for situations to escalate; we try to defuse them early.”

One of those early-warning moments came when party flags were torn down at Sitola, a location known in the past for its political frictions. Instead of letting anger build, the DPUC immediately mobilised local leaders, youth representatives and political party officials for a rapid-response dialogue. They reminded everyone that incidents like this often ignite larger conflicts. With the parties engaged, tensions began to ease. “Since then, there have been no further issues in that area,” the Chief noted. It became a powerful example of the early-warning system in action.

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Another turning point was the peace pledge, in which political parties publicly committed themselves to peaceful campaigns and respect for election outcomes. According to Milembo, the pledge “brought peace and harmony during the elections.” After signing, he travelled across his zones, spreading the message. “We encouraged them to accept the outcome and they listened,” he says.

The message resonated across party lines. Austin recounts how he convened more than twenty zone governors to reinforce peace. “If we want people to join us, we need to act with maturity,” he explains. That maturity paid off, supporters from rival parties even began treating him as a friend.

Akimu shares this sentiment, recalling how it became clear that “we are all in the same boat, if one of us creates trouble, we all suffer.”

In the days before voting, peacebuilding efforts became more visible. Youth, chiefs, police and political representatives held community engagements and public meetings to show that Machinga was choosing a new path. The presence of the DPUC in communities reassured many and strengthened expectations of non-violence.

Election day came and went without incident. Party leaders communicated across the divides, and supporters remained calm, even in areas once known for hostility. As Milembo reflected, “This year’s elections ran smoothly… There were no cases of violence during or after polling.” After the results were announced, the DPUC remained vigilant, ready to intercept any concerns before they escalated. Leaders reminded communities that politics is temporary, but relationships endure. As one governor put it, “We do politics together.”

The 2025 election became a defining moment for Machinga. Through committed leadership, strong peace structures, and support from the Peacebuilding Fund, the district proved that even places scarred by long histories of tension can rewrite their narrative. This year, unity triumphed over conflict, a lesson that will guide Machinga long after the ballots are gone.

5. At the age of 19, Halima Adam’s journey exemplifies the impact of support systems on educational access and personal resilience. After experiencing a serious illness during Standard 5, Halima was compelled to leave school, which led her to believe that her educational aspirations were out of reach.

Her situation improved dramatically when she was introduced to a program known as the Safe Space at Mpalanganga Safe Space. Within this supportive environment, Halima found encouragement and inspiration from her peers, prompting her to make the transformative decision to re-enroll in school. This renewed commitment to her education has significantly enhanced her perspective on life.

Currently, Halima is a proud Form 1 student, showcasing the effectiveness of peer support and the crucial role of safe spaces for young individuals, particularly girls who may feel discouraged. Her experience serves as a testament to the potential for recovery and fulfillment, emphasizing that, with adequate support, it is possible to achieve one’s dreams at any stage of life.

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**Figure shows Hanisha explaining her story**

Hanisha Kampanda is a 25-year-old woman from Kalinga village in the Makanjira area of Mangochi district. She grew up in a poor family, which led her to drop out of school in Form One due to financial constraints. Currently married with two children, Hanisha faced significant challenges in providing for her family, prompting her to consider becoming a commercial sex worker as a means to meet their basic needs.

A pivotal moment in her life occurred when she joined the Mpalanganga Safe Space, a program supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This initiative aims to empower individuals by providing resources, support, and a community environment. Through the Safe Space, Hanisha was introduced to a village savings and loans initiative, which enabled her to access a loan of K220,000.

Seeking further guidance on business management, Hanisha consulted Mr. Yunusu Bwanali, a local business adviser. With the loan, she launched a small business selling clothing, handbags, scarves, and slip-ons. Her commitment and hard work paid off significantly; her business flourished, and her savings grew. As of now, Hanisha has accumulated K1.2 million in her bank account, marking a significant turnaround in her financial situation.

With her newfound financial independence, Hanisha is able to support her children by covering their school fees and meeting other essential needs. Looking ahead, she has aspirations to expand her business by investing in livestock, particularly goats, which she intends to raise and sell to generate additional income.

Hanisha's journey underscores the importance of safe spaces, community support, and personal resilience. It is not merely a story of financial success but a testament to what can be achieved when individuals are empowered to take control of their lives and strive for a better future.

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**Figure shows Shakila on her business**

At just 19 years old, Shakila Salimu is a powerful example of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. Her journey highlights the significant challenges many young women face, particularly in impoverished communities. After becoming a second wife and dropping out of school at 17 due to an unplanned pregnancy while in Standard 7, Shakila's early life was marked by significant hardships. Without a reliable source of income, she struggled to provide for herself and her child, often lacking essentials like food, soap, and clothing.

The turning point in Shakila's life came when she took a loan at Mpalanganga Safe space local village banking group supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Through this initiative, she was granted a loan of K60,000, which she wisely invested in starting a small business selling tomatoes, cooking oil, and fish. This entrepreneurial venture not only provided her with a steady source of income but also empowered her to take control of her financial situation.

With unwavering determination and a strong work ethic, Shakila successfully expanded her business. As a result, she achieved financial independence and significantly increased her savings. Today, she proudly provides for her family by purchasing food and clothing, as well as covering her child's school fees.

Shakila's story underscores the importance of access to financial resources and community support in promoting change and empowerment for young women, especially those navigating difficult circumstances. Her experience serves as a testament to the impact of microfinance and community initiatives in fostering economic independence and improving the quality of life for families.

### **Activity Pictures**

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**Figure shows Mpalanganga safe space club**



**Figure shows members of Scorchers safe space showcasing poultry farming**



**Figure shows Tikondane Safe space**



**Blantyre GBV service providers mapping functional referral pathways**

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).

**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 working<sup>19</sup> [please explain]
- Mobilized additional resources [please explain]
- Improved or initiated policy frameworks [please explain]**

The project contributed to improving national policy frameworks by supporting the Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture, Department of National Unity, to initiate the review of the expired National Peace Policy (2017–2022). A consultative process involving key peace stakeholders led to the development of an Issues Paper and a draft review report, laying the foundation for a more inclusive, responsive successor policy. The process emphasized alignment with the Peace and Unity Act and integrated lessons learned from the operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs).

Additionally, the project supported a technical review of the National Community Policing Policy, working closely with the Malawi Police Service and other

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<sup>19</sup> 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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stakeholders. This review informed a more structured and standardized national approach to community security, promoting joint problem-solving between law enforcement and communities and reinforcing accountability, trust, and citizen centered policing.

The project also played a crucial role in supporting the development and national launch of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250) and contributed to localized consultations for the implementation of the NAP on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325). These frameworks mainstreamed the roles of youth and women in peacebuilding, enhancing their participation in decision-making at both policy and grassroots levels.

**Strengthened capacities [please explain]**

The project significantly strengthened capacities at national, district, and community levels. At the national level, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) was equipped to lead high level electoral peace dialogues with presidential aspirants and to formalize its partnerships through the signing of MOUs with the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD). These efforts reinforced MPUC's credibility and coordination role in national peacebuilding.

At the subnational level, District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Mangochi, Machinga, and Karonga were reconstituted and trained on mediation, early warning, election dispute resolution, and community engagement. The project facilitated a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Election Dispute Resolution Framework to enable timely grassroots responses to electoral tensions.

Additionally, capacity-building sessions were conducted for community policing forums, traditional leaders, youth clubs, and women's groups to improve their conflict mitigation and resolution skills. Over 967 women and youth also benefited from mentoring, seed grants, and business skills training to improve economic resilience and reduce susceptibility to violence.

Border security actors were trained in SGBV prevention, human rights monitoring, and referral pathways, which improved protection mechanisms at entry points and reduced incidence of abuse. Youth were also capacitated in early warning reporting and community journalism, strengthening their voice and participation in peace processes.

**Partnered with local/grassroots civil society organizations [please explain]**

The project strategically partnered with local, women-led CSOs across Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi to implement district and community-level interventions. These grassroots organizations led in conducting youth trainings on conflict prevention and advocacy, facilitating safe space mentorship sessions, organizing community awareness meetings, and strengthening SGBV referral and response mechanisms.

Local CSOs also supported the mapping of women and youth networks, conducted capacity-building sessions for safe space mentors, and led psychosocial support interventions for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Through these

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partnerships, the project was able to foster community ownership, sustainability, and cultural relevance in peacebuilding work.

The CSOs were instrumental in creating community advocacy platforms and facilitating dialogues that promoted peaceful conflict resolution and social cohesion. This bottom-up approach enabled the project to respond more effectively to context-specific needs and amplify grassroots voices in national peace discourse.

- Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will [please explain]
- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

**☒ Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]**

The project exemplified strong inter-agency coordination under the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) framework. UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA worked collaboratively, bringing together their thematic strengths to deliver integrated peacebuilding, gender, and human rights programming.

UN Women provided leadership in supporting the Women Peacebuilding Movement, training women leaders from district structures and championing the UNSCR 1325 NAP localization. UNFPA focused on youth engagement, safe spaces, and SRHR advocacy, including the mapping and capacity building of youth networks and supporting the launch of the YPS NAP.

UNDP, as the lead agency, steered national-level engagement with MPUC, the Ministry of Unity, and the technical review of peace and policing policy frameworks. The agencies conducted joint monitoring missions, ensuring unified reporting and harmonized support to the government and local partners. This collaboration allowed for efficient resource use, reinforced the ‘One UN’ approach, and enhanced the visibility and credibility of peacebuilding efforts nationally and locally.

Who are we working with (*3000 characters*):

- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- Strengthened partnerships between UN Agencies [please explain]**

The project is implemented through strong collaboration among UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA, each contributing its technical expertise:

- UNDP leads on infrastructure for peace, government engagement, and policy support.
- UN Women supports women’s participation in peacebuilding, SGBV prevention, and advocacy through women-led movements and UNSCR 1325.
- UNFPA leads youth engagement, safe spaces, and support for SRHR services.
- These agencies also jointly conducted a monitoring mission, coordinated on training activities, and aligned programming to maximize impact under the One UN approach.
- In 2023-2024, the project also worked with IOM to monitor and collect data of mobility in border communities, particularly at informal border routes

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**Partnered with local civil society organizations [please explain]**

The project is working closely with local, women-led and youth-serving CSOs in Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi, who are directly implementing activities at community level. These include:

- Facilitating safe space mentorships, awareness campaigns, and SGBV response mechanisms.
- Leading youth trainings, community dialogues, and psychosocial support services.
- Supporting peace journalism, conflict mediation, and local monitoring and reporting on human rights violations.
- CSOs have also partnered in NAP2250 dissemination efforts, ensuring localized action plans and community buy-in.

**Partnered with local academia [please explain]**

**Partnered with sub-national entities [please explain]**

At district and community level, the project works with:

- District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs): supported through reconstitution, capacity building, and technical accompaniment.
- City Peace and Unity Committees (CPUCs) in Lilongwe and Blantyre: in process of being established.
- Area and Village Development Committees (ADCs and VDCs): engaged for inclusive community planning and outreach.
- Community policing forums and traditional authorities: trained and supported to enhance crime prevention and local security.

**Partnered with national entities [please explain]**

Key national partners include:

- Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC): supported to lead high-level electoral dialogues, sign MoUs with PAC and CMD, and issue a CSO communiqué.
- Public Affairs Committee (PAC): facilitated national dialogue and electoral peace commitments.
- Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD): engaged on inclusive electoral processes.
- Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture: supported to review the expired National Peace Policy.
- Malawi Police Service: engaged in the review of the community policing policy and training of police-community forums.

**Partnered with local volunteers [please explain]**

The project works with trained community peace ambassadors, youth leaders, and women mentors, who are:

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- Leading peace messaging campaigns.
- Conducting local mediation and reporting early warning signs.
- Supporting vulnerable individuals through referral networks.
- Promoting peaceful elections through grassroots dialogue.
- Volunteer engagement ensures community ownership, sustainability, and early response to conflict triggers.

**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

#### **PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE**

<b>Monitoring:</b> Please list key monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (3000 characters):  <i>Joint PBF monitoring mission</i> During the reporting period, a joint monitoring mission was conducted involving key stakeholders from the Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat, UNDP, and relevant government ministries including the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC). The mission's purpose was to undertake a comprehensive field assessment of ongoing project activities across target districts such as Kasungu and Mangochi. The team engaged with District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs), community leaders, women and youth groups, and security officials to validate reported achievements, identify implementation challenges, and recommend adjustments for improved	Do outcome indicators have baselines? please select If yes, please provide a brief description (3000 characters):  YES  If not, explain why not and when they will be available (3000 characters):  Yes, outcome indicators under the PBF project were assigned baseline values at the project design stage, reflecting the state of peacebuilding and human rights mechanisms in Malawi prior to the project's inception. For Outcome 1, the baseline reflected the limited or non-functional national peace infrastructure, specifically, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) was not yet operational, and past elections (e.g., 2019) were marked by significant violence with minimal formal mediation mechanisms. For Outcome 2, the baseline indicated limited human rights
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effectiveness. The joint mission also served as a platform to enhance coordination among PBF partners and strengthen accountability mechanisms by ensuring transparency in resource utilization and activity delivery.

*Stakeholder consultation meetings to inform the review of the national peace policy*

In alignment with national peacebuilding priorities, the project facilitated multiple stakeholder consultation meetings during the reporting period to contribute inputs towards the review and update of Malawi's National Peace Policy. These consultations brought together a diverse range of actors, including representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations, traditional authorities, youth and women groups, and development partners. The objective was to ensure that the revised policy reflected ground realities and lessons learned from local peacebuilding initiatives, including those supported by the PBF project. Discussions focused on enhancing the policy's responsiveness to emerging conflict trends, improving inclusivity and representation in peace structures, and reinforcing mechanisms for early warning and conflict prevention at community and district levels.

*PBF Monitoring activity*

In September 2025, UNDP, through the Programme Management and Support Unit (PMSU), conducted a comprehensive monitoring mission on peacebuilding projects across Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi Districts. The mission assessed the functionality, inclusivity, and effectiveness of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) and related community peace structures in conflict monitoring and prevention. Using focus group discussions and key informant interviews with district councils, community policing forums, traditional and religious leaders, and local peace networks, the assessment found that 85% of respondents perceived DPUCs as effective, trusted, and impartial in resolving community conflicts. The findings further confirmed that the committees

protection mechanisms at the community level, including insufficient safe spaces for women and girls, and fragmented efforts on SGBV prevention and youth participation in peace processes. These baselines served as benchmarks for assessing systemic change, institutional strengthening, and community level empowerment.

Elaborate on what sources of evidence have been used to report on indicators (and are available upon request) (3000 characters):

1. Monitoring Mission Reports involving UN agencies, government, and CSOs.
2. PBF KoboToolbox survey results, including perception data from local peace actors and DPUC stakeholders.
3. Training attendance sheets
4. Reports from implementing partners (e.g., PAC, UN Women, UNFPA subgrantees, CSOs) with activity level data and outcomes.
5. Documented outputs such as MoUs (MPUC with PAC and CMD), communiqués with CSOs, and action plans from youth and women's groups.
6. Field visit reports, media coverage, and outcome level documentation such as success stories

Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g. perception surveys\*? please select

YES

*\*Perception survey is a formal collection of information from a randomly selected sample of respondents through their responses to standardized questions. See [PBF Guidance Note](#) for more information.*

If yes, please provide a brief description of the efforts (3000 characters):

Yes, the project recently conducted a perception survey using Kobo Toolbox tools in collaboration with national and UN implementing agencies. These surveys assessed:

- Perceptions of the effectiveness of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in conflict monitoring and mediation.
- Stakeholder views on the inclusiveness and functionality of peace structures.
- Community perceptions on SGBV incidence reduction and improved access to referral services.

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<p>are active and recognized at the district level, though constrained by limited resources and lack of decentralization to community level. The monitoring mission provided valuable evidence for adaptive programming and highlighted the need for sustainable funding, enhanced training, and establishment of peace structures at Traditional Authority and village levels to strengthen local conflict prevention systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey revealed that 85% of respondents in the latest reporting round viewed DPUCs as effective in conflict resolution, an insightful indicator of progress. These surveys are conducted periodically to track shifts in public confidence, local ownership, and institutional legitimacy.</li> </ul> <p>Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms*? please select</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 <a href="#">PBF Guidance Note</a> for more information.</i></p> <p>YES</p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description (3000 characters):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reflection sessions and review meetings were held with beneficiaries such as women mentors, youth clubs, and CSO partners to gather feedback on interventions, challenges, and success stories. For example, in Machinga, 74 female mentors and 120 stakeholders participated in review sessions, leading to the development of action plans.</li> <li>2. Radio-based interactive programming allowed community members to share opinions and experiences on peace and security through call-in programmes especially after broadcasting information related to UNSCR 2250 and 1325.</li> <li>3. Feedback from trained community participants.</li> <li>4. District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) act as local-level conduits of feedback from their respective constituencies, regularly engaging with youth, women, and vulnerable groups to capture concerns and share them with project implementers.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation? please select</p> <p>YES</p>	<p>Evaluation budget included in the project budget (response required): \$65,000</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, is your upcoming evaluation on track? please select</p> <p>YES</p> <p>Please describe the preparations (3000 characters):</p>

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	<p>The procurement process is currently underway, the prospective consultant is in the process of submitting their financial offer and is expected to be on board by Mid January 2026</p> <p>Please mention the focal person responsible for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF:</p> <p><i>Name</i> : Nanise Saune-Qaloewai  <i>Organization</i> : United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  <i>Job title</i> : Governance Portfolio Manager  <i>Email</i>: nanise.saune@undp.org</p>									
<p><b>Catalytic effects (financial):</b>  Has the project mobilized additional non-PBF financial resources since the project's start?  please select</p> <p>YES</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="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Name of funder</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Amount mobilized since project's start (USD)</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Oxfam support to MPUC</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">\$ 80,000</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Government of Ireland</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">\$367,444</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of funder	Amount mobilized since project's start (USD)	Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD)	Oxfam support to MPUC	\$ 80,000	0	Government of Ireland	\$367,444	0
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Oxfam support to MPUC	\$ 80,000	0								
Government of Ireland	\$367,444	0								
<p><b>Catalytic Effect (non-financial)*:</b> Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur, in addition to the direct project changes?  please select</p> <p>YES</p> <p>*Please refer to <a href="#">PBF Catalytic Effect Guidelines</a> for more information.</p> <p>If yes, please select the relevant option below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Some catalytic effect  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant catalytic effect</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 (<i>3000 characters</i>):</p> <p>The project has demonstrated a strong catalytic effect by institutionalizing Malawi's peace infrastructure through strengthened partnerships (e.g., MPUC's MoUs with PAC and CMD), influencing national policy reforms (such as the Peace Policy review and launch of the Youth Peace and Security NAP), and embedding sustainable, community owned peace mechanisms like DPUCs and early warning systems.</p> <p>It has also enhanced civic capacity through local CSOs and created models for replication, laying the foundation for long-term peace and resilience beyond the project's duration.</p>									
<p><b>Sustainability:</b> 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 (<i>3000 characters</i>):</p>										

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To ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains beyond the lifespan of the project, deliberate efforts were made to institutionalize mechanisms, build ownership among local actors, and strengthen platforms for long-term engagement and resilience. At the national level, the project supported the operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC), including the development of MoUs with key stakeholders such as the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), as well as a joint communique with civil society organizations. These agreements laid a foundation for sustained multi-stakeholder coordination in conflict prevention and peacebuilding beyond project closure.

The project also contributed to the review of the expired National Peace Policy, ensuring that the next iteration aligns with evolving national dynamics and institutional mandates such as those of MPUC and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs). The policy reform process is set to ensure continued government-led coordination and coherence in peacebuilding programming.

At the subnational level, sustainability has been fostered through the reconstitution and capacity strengthening of DPUCs in Mangochi, Karonga, and Machinga, with plans underway to establish new DPUCs in Blantyre and Lilongwe and City Peace and Unity Committees (CPUCS). These structures have received training in early warning systems, mediation, and community dialogue, equipping them to serve as locally owned mechanisms for long-term conflict prevention.

Community resilience was further supported through youth- and women-led safe spaces and socio-economic initiatives. Over 900 women and youth received mentorship, business skills training, and seed funding to support income-generating activities empowering them economically and positioning them as agents of peace. This economic independence is expected to reduce vulnerability to conflict drivers like SGBV, exploitation, and political manipulation.

The project also supported the institutionalization of early warning systems and the training of youth in conflict monitoring and reporting, contributing to locally embedded surveillance and response mechanisms. In parallel, referral systems for SGBV and SRHR were strengthened and integrated into local governance and service structures, enabling continued access to protection services.

Lastly, partnerships with grassroots civil society organizations, including women-led and youth networks, ensured that knowledge, tools, and approaches developed during the project are locally owned and replicable. These actors continue to implement advocacy, dialogue, and peacebuilding activities in their communities, reinforcing community cohesion and local ownership of peacebuilding efforts well beyond the project duration.

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

1. Limited Financial and Human Resource Capacity at District Level: District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs), though reconstituted and capacitated, still face logistical and technical limitations, including inadequate funding for routine operations such as early warning data collection, mediation meetings, and community sensitization. Similarly, some District Councils and Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) lack sufficient trained personnel and resources to sustain conflict prevention and human rights protection activities, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.
2. Sustainability of Grassroots Structures: While the project has trained and empowered women and youth led networks, including safe spaces and youth clubs, sustaining their activities beyond the

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project remains a concern. Many of these groups still rely heavily on project support for operations, materials, and transportation. Without continued technical accompaniment and linkages to local government budgets or other funding streams, there is a risk of losing momentum.

### **Monitoring and Oversight Activities<sup>20</sup>**

<b>Name of the event</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Key findings</b>
Joint Monitoring Mission	Conducted in Mangochi, Machinga and Karonga with UN agencies, government representatives and local stakeholders to assess field progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- DPUCs are functional with increased inclusivity and community ownership; some logistical and capacity gaps identified for follow-up support.</li><li>- Increased youth participation in peace processes especially through NAP dissemination and Youth Early Warning trainings.</li><li>- Improved women's representation in reconstituted DPUCs and peace platforms through UN Women movements.</li></ul>
Monitoring Mission	Through the Programme Management and Support Unit (PMSU), UNDP undertook a comprehensive monitoring mission of peacebuilding projects in Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi Districts. The mission assessed the functionality, inclusivity, and effectiveness of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) and associated local peace networks in supporting conflict prevention, mediation, and community resilience ahead of the 2025 electoral period.  The exercise involved focus group discussions and key informant interviews with DPUCs, District Councils, Community Policing Forums, traditional and religious leaders, and community members.	<p><i>High Perceived Effectiveness:</i> 85% of local peace networks and community actors rated DPUCs as effective in preventing and resolving local conflicts, demonstrating strong legitimacy and public trust.</p> <p><i>Functional Peace Infrastructure:</i> DPUCs are fully operational in all 3 districts, integrated within District Councils, and collaborate with key structures such as MPUC, PAC, and Community Policing Forums.</p> <p><i>Proactive Mediation and Coordination:</i> DPUCs actively mediate disputes, including land conflicts, chieftaincy disputes, political violence, and intra-religious tensions. The Mangochi DPUC notably facilitated pre-election</p>

<sup>20</sup> 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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peace pacts among political aspirants.

*Training and Capacity Building:*  
Over 83% of trained members applied skills in mediation, early warning, and community sensitization. However, demand for refresher training and local-language materials remains high.

*Strong Community Confidence:*  
Stakeholders highlighted DPUCs' neutrality, transparency, and quick response (often resolving cases within 3–5 days) as key strengths contributing to peace and social cohesion.

*Persistent Gaps:*  
Limited operational funding, lack of identification materials, and insufficient transport/logistics constrain DPUC effectiveness and regular coordination meetings.

*Recommendations:*  
Provide core funding, decentralize peace structures to TA and village levels, strengthen training frequency, and enhance inclusive communication and outreach using community-driven approaches.