

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



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country(ies):</b> South Sudan  |   |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Supporting Women's Peacebuilding Efforts in Western Equatoria (WES) and Western Bahr el Ghazal States (WBG).  |   |
| <b>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):</b>  |   |
| <b>PBF project modality:</b>  | <b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IRF  | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund  |
| <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b>  |   |
| <p><b>List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.):</b> UN Women (Convening Agency), UNESCO (Implementing Agency)</p> <p><b>List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):</b></p> <p><b>Strategic partners:</b><br/>United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)</p> <p><b>International Financial Institution:</b><br/>African Development Bank</p> <p><b>Government:</b><br/>Ministry of Peacebuilding (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of General Education and Instructions (national and subnational levels)<br/>South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of Youth and Sports (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of Environment and Forestry (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of Labour (national and subnational levels)<br/>Ministry of Public Service (national and subnational levels)</p> <p><b>CSO as implementing partners.</b><br/>National women-led and women-focused organizations and CSOs</p> |   |
| <b>Project duration in months<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>: 36 Months</b>   |   |
| <b>Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:</b> Western Bahr El Ghazal State (Wau County, Jur River County), Western Equatoria State (Yambio County, & Nzara and Tambura County)   |   |

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

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: N/A</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative<sup>3</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):</b></p> <p><b>UN Women:</b> \$ 1, 800, 000</p> <p><b>UNESCO:</b> \$ 1, 400, 000</p> <p><b>Total:</b> \$ 3, 200, 000</p> <p><i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.</i></p> <p>Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): African Development Bank (AfDB) Contribution - \$ 950, 000.</p> <p>Besides the Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) contribution of USD 3,200,000 (UN Women: USD 1,800,000; UNESCO: USD 1,400,000), the project also benefits from parallel financing by the African Development Bank (AfDB), which has committed USD 950,000 in direct support to UN Women-led activities. This AfDB's contribution is complementary to the PBF-funded activities but is managed separately under AfDB's own systems and procedures. It specifically strengthens women's leadership, economic resilience, and grassroots peacebuilding through micro, small and medium enterprise (MS&amp;ME) business development, access to finance, and markets. The parallel financing arrangement allows the project to leverage AfDB's existing investments in women's economic empowerment while ensuring that PBF resources focus on linking these gains to peacebuilding and governance outcomes.</p> |   |
| <p><b>PBF 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (70%):</b></p> <p>UN Women: \$ 1, 260, 000</p> <p>UNESCO: \$ 980, 000</p> <p>Total: \$ 2, 240, 000</p>  | <p><b>PBF 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche* (30%) :</b></p> <p>UN Women: \$ 540, 000</p> <p>UNESCO: \$ 420, 000</p> <p>Total: \$ 960, 000</p> |
| <p><b>Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):</b></p> <p>The project aims to support women-led peacebuilding initiatives in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal States by addressing the gendered drivers of conflict that continue to undermine stability in both locations. In Western Bahr el Ghazal State (WBeGS) and Western Equatoria State (WES), women's vulnerability to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) is exacerbated by violence linked to political events at the national level and by localized conflicts driven by crop farmer–herder clashes<sup>4</sup>, land disputes, and resource competition. These dynamics are compounded by weak governance systems and institutions, limited service delivery, and economic hardships<sup>5</sup>, which disproportionately affect women and girls and deepen pre-existing vulnerabilities.</p>  |   |

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eyeradio.org/wau-state-herders-rape-seven-females-says-official/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.eyeradio.org/women-at-the-receiving-end-as-south-sudans-crisis-deepens/>

<https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes/index.html>

In addition to bearing the brunt of these conflicts, women's participation in peacebuilding and economic recovery processes in WBG and WES remains limited. Traditional gender norms, patriarchal institutions, and widespread economic marginalization restrict women's access to resources, influence, and decision-making spaces. As a result, peacebuilding processes frequently fail to reflect the priorities and needs of women, and local tensions persist or escalate. Conflict analysis highlights that when women lack the means, confidence, and institutional channels to participate meaningfully in peace structures, the legitimacy, inclusivity, and sustainability of peace efforts are weakened<sup>6</sup>.

This project responds to these challenges by strengthening women's capacities, enabling their collective voice, and linking grassroots efforts to national-level peace and governance processes. Through Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) financing, the project will reinforce community peace infrastructures and accountability mechanisms so that women can participate more meaningfully in local conflict prevention, early warning, and problem-solving forums. These interventions are designed to address the underlying causes identified in the problem analysis and to contribute to peacebuilding commitments under the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the second-generation South Sudan National Action Plan (SSNAP-2) on UNSCR 1325, and related national policy frameworks.

Complementing the PBF investment, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is providing a bridge fund of USD 950,000 to supplement UN Women-led activities. AfDB financing will focus on market access, Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), and enterprise development, strengthening women's economic independence and creating the means and influence necessary for their participation in peacebuilding. This integrated approach reflects the project's theory of change: that when women gain economic power, institutional access, and collective platforms, they are better able to shape peace and governance processes and contribute to reducing community-level violence.

Overall, the project will enhance the leadership and participation of women and young women girls in peace and recovery processes, improve access to sustainable livelihoods through women-led enterprises, and strengthen community mechanisms for conflict resolution and social cohesion. It will also reinforce local institutions to integrate gender perspectives into peacebuilding and economic governance, thereby contributing to durable peace and stability in both states.

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

Structured consultation meetings were convened to ensure inclusivity, consensus, and alignment of the proposed project before its submission to PBSO:

**Stakeholder Consultations (UN Women-led)**

UN Women and UNESCO organized a series of structured consultations to ensure broad ownership and evidence-based project design.

- **Initial partner consultations on project design from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025:** The first consultation brought together key partners, including UNMISS, AfDB, PBF, UNESCO and IOM to review conflict dynamics in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal. A follow-up consultation with the same partners deepened the

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discussion, including brainstorming on the problem tree, which informed the Theory of Change.

- **Consultations with relevant ministries from 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025:** A dedicated session with technical experts from line ministries, including the Ministry of Peacebuilding, as well as bilateral engagement with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare provided guidance on aligning the project with government priorities. Other ministries and partners consulted were Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Interior, the Women Union (Women's General Association) Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Working Group, South Sudan Women Coalition, South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSUNDE), and South Sudan Women's Bloc.
- **Consultations with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) and CSOs on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025:** A separate consultation meeting was held with women-led organizations specifically working in or with affiliation in WES, WeBG, and Juba, to co-design community-level peacebuilding solutions. During the concept note development stage, WLOs were specifically engaged to refine activities and targeting. In attendance were Women and Child Protection Initiative (WACPI), Women's Action for Relief and Transformation (WART), Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative, Women for Change, Women and Children Rehabilitation Initiative (WCRI), Eve Organization for Women, Women Advancement Organization, Voice for Change, Support for Women in Governance Organization (SWIGO), Rural Women for Development, Crown the Woman, Girl Child Africa Foundation (GCAF), Women Initiative for Development Organization (WIDO), South Sudan Women Entrepreneurs' Association (SSWEA), and Titi Foundation.
- **Community Dialogue on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025:** Two simultaneous dialogues in Wau and Yambio (state level), facilitated by Hope Africa South Sudan, on behalf of UN Women and UNESCO, captured local perspectives on peacebuilding priorities and the role of women and girls in fostering economic resilience.
- **Ongoing engagements:** Additional inputs from government counterparts, civil society actors, and other stakeholders (UNMISS Gender Affairs Unit, UNMISS Rule of Law and Security Institutions Section, etc.) have been taking place since the inception of the concept note have been taking place both at the national and subnational levels. In addition, the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), together with UN Women experts from the Regional Office and Headquarters, was also consulted as part of the process. Women in South Sudan's Security Sector Network (Juba), East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Center for Inclusive Governance, Peace, and Justice, Center for Strengthening Community Voices – South Sudan, Advance Africa Initiative, Lomere Development Organization (LDO), Female Journalists Network (FJN) have also been consulted thus far.

**Project Gender Marker score<sup>7</sup>: 3**

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 90% or USD 2,880,000

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

<sup>7</sup> **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

**Score 2** for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE

**Score 1** for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)

**equality and women's empowerment**<sup>8</sup>:

The project will primarily support women in peacebuilding processes in the targeted locations. But specifically, the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment through interconnected interventions. Women and girls will receive integrated basic literacy and numeracy skills, trainings and mentorship to strengthen their leadership, negotiation, and mediation skills, entrepreneurship skills, giving them the platforms to enable them to take on meaningful roles in peacebuilding processes. The project will also ensure that grassroots women's peacebuilding initiatives are connected to national networks, creating pathways for local voices to influence broader policy, advocacy, and institutional reforms in South Sudan in line with the R-ARCSS and SSNAP-2 on UNSCR 1325. It will expand women's access to entrepreneurial opportunities, building on the efforts supported by AfDB's direct contribution. By strengthening women's economic security through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and enterprise development, the project will provide the resources, networks, and platforms to actively mediate conflicts, foster social cohesion, and lead community reconciliation efforts. Through advocacy and community engagement, the project will challenge discriminatory norms and practices, promote inclusive governance reforms, and support economic empowerment initiatives that reduce gender-based marginalization and enhance women's agency.

Strengthening women's economic agency thus becomes a pathway to reinforcing their role as peacebuilders, enabling them to address the root causes of conflict, reduce vulnerabilities to violence, and contribute to more inclusive and resilient peace. This approach directly responds to global commitments under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Pillar 4) and subsequent resolutions, and the SDGs (5 & 16), Beijing+30, which emphasize that women must be recognized not merely as victims of conflict but as transformative leaders, decision-makers, and key drivers of peace and security. By grounding women's economic empowerment as a means to strengthen peacebuilding leadership, the project ensures gender equality is not treated as a parallel objective but as a core peacebuilding imperative. At the regional level, it will contribute to the realization of the AU's Agenda 2063, the Maputo Protocol (Article 10), and the Intergovernmental Agency for Development's (IGAD) Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (2023-2030).

In line with the PBF Gender Marker 3, the project integrates gender equality across the outcomes and all outputs, ensuring that every intervention advances women's rights, amplifies their agency, and strengthens their leadership in peace and economic resilience. Gender equality is thus the defining feature of the project's theory of change and central to its anticipated peacebuilding impact.

**Project Risk Marker score<sup>9</sup>: 1**

**Is the project piloting new approaches:** Yes  No

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

<sup>8</sup> Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

<sup>9</sup> Risk marker 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

**Select PBF Focus Areas** which best summarize the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)<sup>10</sup>: 2.3

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

**Primary Contribution**

- **Outcome 4:** Women, youth and vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural rights.
- **Secondary Contributions**
- **Outcome 1:** Transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance institutions are strengthened at national and sub-national levels
- **Outcome 2:** People, especially women and youth, benefit from sustainable, diversified, and inclusive economic growth.
- **(Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s)** to which the project contributes:

**SDG 4: Quality Education**

- Target 4.3: Equal access to affordable technical, vocational, and higher education
- Target 4.4: Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success

**SDG 5: Gender Equality**

- Target 5.5

**SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

- Target 16.7
- Target 16.1
- Target 16.3

**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

- Target 8.3

**SDG 13: Climate Action**

- Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters
- Target 13.5 Promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management

**Type of submission:**

- New project**  
 **Project amendment**

**If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:**

**Extension of duration:**  Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date):

**Change of project outcome/ scope:**

**Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:**

**Additional PBF budget:**  Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX

**Brief justification for amendment:**

<sup>10</sup> **PBF Focus Areas** are:

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

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

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

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

Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.

**PROJECT SIGNATURES:**

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|--|---|
| <p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>11</sup></b><br/> <b>UN Women</b><br/>         Delphine Serumaga<br/> <i>Signature</i> [Redacted]<br/>         Country Representative<br/> <i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>               | <p><b>Representative of National Authorities</b><br/>         Hon. Pia Philip Michael<br/> <i>Signature</i> [Redacted]<br/>         Undersecretary, Ministry of Peacebuilding<br/> <i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>  |
| <p><b>UNESCO</b><br/>         Yayoi Segi-Vltchek<br/> <i>Signature</i> [Redacted]<br/>         Head of Office/UNESCO Representative<br/> <i>Date &amp; Seal</i> 24 Feb 2026</p>                                        | <p><del><b>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</b></del></p>  |
| <p><b>Head of UN Country Team</b><br/>         Anita Kiki Gbeho<br/> <i>Signature</i> [Redacted]<br/>         Deputy SRSR/Resident<br/>         Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator<br/> <i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>  | <p>Elizabeth Spehar<br/> <i>Signature</i> [Redacted]<br/>         Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support<br/> <i>Date &amp; Seal</i> 19 March 2026</p>   |

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

- a) A brief summary of gender-responsive **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project, focusing on the driving factors of tensions/conflict that the project aims to address, and an analysis of the main actors/ stakeholders that have an impact on or are impacted by the driving factors, which the project will aim to engage. This analysis must be gender- and age-responsive.

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

Since early 2025, a series of major political developments have intensified conflict dynamics across South Sudan, placing increased pressure on the government and undermining country's ability to enjoy durable peace and ensure conducive environment to conducting credible and peaceful elections in December 2026. This has also spelled bad news for women and girls in South Sudan who continue to be disproportionately affected. However, when it comes to addressing the root causes and the impacts of these conflicts, women always take the back seat. Some evidence<sup>12</sup> shows that women's exclusion stems from interconnected barriers<sup>13</sup> such as patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, and governance structures that limit women and girls' access to decision-making platforms, insecurity and violence that restrict women and girls' access to peacebuilding forums, and the economic and mobility constraints that shape their ability to participate consistently.

At the national level, political transition under the R-ARCSS has been slow, hindered by insecurity driven by intercommunal violence, limited institutional capacity, persistent political disagreements, and a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, all of which further limit women's safe participation in leadership and public decision-making. For example, the 35% Affirmative Action has largely not been implemented while SGBV/CRSV has become prevalent across the country. These political and economic dynamics also create a governance environment where women's security concerns, land claims, and leadership roles are deprioritized, reinforcing patriarchal governance structures that systematically exclude women and girls from meaningful participation and limit their influence over peace processes.

#### **Local Conflict Dynamics and Women's Marginalization in Western Bahr el Ghazal**

Political instability emanating from the national level has also affected governance structures at the subnational level. Recent developments have highlighted the gendered implications of political reshuffles. For example, internal political party dynamics resulted in the removal of the only woman serving as a governor at the time, underscoring the fragility of women's leadership gains.<sup>14</sup> This also contributed to declining women's representation in state-level decision-making. High turnover, opaque appointment practices, and inconsistent public records make it difficult to track appointments and dismissals or to enforce compliance with gender-balance commitments and inclusive governance practices. Grievances over weak governance structures and unresponsive local authorities feed disillusionment and resentment and further entrenches marginalization of women who rely more heavily on customary justice for land disputes, marital conflict, and protection from violence. Communities report that disputes often escalate to violent conflicts because traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution are undermined by political interference or the presence of arms. Respondents in Wau and Jur River pointed to land grabbing by elites and manipulation of ethnic identities by political actors as direct causes of conflict. Following the Nasir incident and the subsequent abrogation of key provisions of the R-ARCSS, Western Bahr el Ghazal State experienced a resurgence of violence. Armed confrontations between opposing forces escalated, resulting in near-daily clashes across all three counties of the state. These developments deepened insecurity, disrupted community stability, and further eroded confidence in the peace process and the broader conditions required for inclusive governance, civilian protection and advancement of women peace and security agenda. This conflict blends almost seamlessly into the tribal-based violence between Dinka cattle herders from Warrap State and the Luo farmers in WBeGS. Cattle migration remains a flashpoint, with repeated violations of the Marial Bai Agreement such as armed herders moving into crop fields, bypassing agreed corridors, or failing to pay compensation igniting violence around Jur River, Gette, and Marial Bai.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [https://documents.sfg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Search\\_for\\_Common\\_Ground\\_WPS\\_Snapshot\\_2020.pdf](https://documents.sfg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Search_for_Common_Ground_WPS_Snapshot_2020.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://docs.southsudanngoforum.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/WomenPeacebuildingSouthSudanStudy.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> SPLA-IO general rejects Sarah Cleto's removal, orders forces to defy new governor - Sudans Post

<sup>15</sup> Bahr el Ghazal conference calls for cattle movement timelines, firearms ban, and compensation mechanisms - Eye

Despite the establishment of review mechanisms and mobile courts, accountability remains weak, and farmers often retaliate when losses are uncompensated. For women, these dynamics carry distinct burdens: women are often present on farms during incursions, making them more vulnerable to assault, intimidation, and sexual violence when clashes erupt.

In the same vein, women described being stopped, questioned, or harassed at checkpoints, which restricts their movement to markets, health centres, and peace dialogues' venues, further shrinking civic spaces for female participation. These instances happened in rural payams such as Kuajiena and Gette where women reported mobility restrictions due to armed youth checkpoints, preventing them from safely accessing peace dialogues' venues, and local government meetings.<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, local authorities rarely enforce accountability for sexual violence occurring during cattle migration or armed clashes, reinforcing women's distrust of formal systems and reducing their willingness to participate in local governance. The weakening or politicization of traditional dispute-resolution institutions has eroded spaces where women historically mediated community tensions, diminishing their influence in local peace processes. Communities have further noted the rise of parallel, politicized peace committees, which undermine legitimate community structures and reinforce the perception that mediation is partisan. Such dynamics entrench exclusionary decision-making, weaken inclusive community forums, and restrict women's ability to contribute to conflict resolution or influence peace outcomes.

### **Local Conflict Dynamics and Women's Marginalization in Western Equatoria State**

In WES, politics intersect with national conflict dynamics. It was noted that unresolved questions around the R-ARCSS implementation and the militarization of youth groups by competing elites have contributed to insecurity in Yambio and the surrounding counties. Women reported that these political disputes translate directly into daily protection risks for them, including fear of movement, increased exposure to harassment at checkpoints, and reduced access to markets and farms. As one focus group discussion (FGD) participant remarked: *"Security in the future depends on the settlement of current political disputes, especially at the national level. The political situation affects the level of security at the local level."*<sup>17</sup> highlighting how national political paralysis disproportionately affects women who already navigate restricted mobility.

The leadership changes in Western Equatoria State in early 2025 triggered significant political tensions and raised concerns regarding the stability and inclusiveness of local governance structures<sup>18</sup>. These shifts disproportionately affected women through heightened displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased sexual- and gender-based violence risks during flight.<sup>19</sup> In Tambura and Yambio, overlapping chains of authority between political, military, and traditional leaders have blurred lines of accountability, with armed youth frequently acting on behalf of political patrons. The WES case study<sup>20</sup> reports that local administrators and chiefs are often bypassed by political players, who impose parallel taxation and security controls. Women traders reported being specifically targeted by illegal taxes and harassment along these routes. This dual authority system undermines local governance and reinforces elite capture of state resources. Women in rural payams of Nzara, Ezo, and Ibba reported

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Radio

<sup>16</sup> South Sudan Study On The Status Of And Opportunities For Reparations For Survivors Of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

<sup>17</sup> CAD-UNDP Conflict Analysis 2024

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eyeradio.org/kiir-explains-futuyos-removal-as-splm-io-pursues-dialogue/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/sacked-governor-urged-to-return-after-fleeing-yambio>

<sup>20</sup> PBF WES Case Study June 2025

that insecurity and the presence of armed youth patrols prevent them from traveling safely to community meetings, chief's courts, or peace dialogues and speaking in mixed political forums exposes them to accusations of political alignment

Ethnic and political tensions long predated 2021, with earlier conflicts involving the Arrow Boys, LRA incursions, and clashes since 2013. These recurring cycles of violence have produced gender-differentiated consequences, with women and girls bearing the brunt of displacement, insecurity, and weakened livelihoods. The manipulation of local politics has inflamed ethnic tensions, as seen in Tambura, where Balanda–Azande divisions since 2021 displaced thousands and destroyed property. For women, displacement translated into disrupted farming activities, heightened exposure to sexual violence along escape routes, and increased dependence on hosts or humanitarian aid, weakening their economic autonomy. In Yambio, residents describe an environment where “*when you appreciate the efforts of a political party, you are often misunderstood by other parties,*”<sup>21</sup> reflecting the climate of fear created by parallel night patrols of different armed forces. This politicized insecurity limits women’s mobility far more than men’s, restricting their access to markets, health facilities, schools, and social support networks. FGDs in Yambio and Tambura noted that women who speak publicly in mixed spaces risk being labeled as politically aligned, which discourages their participation and weakens community-level accountability. Girls also internalize these risks early, often being discouraged from speaking up, attending youth forums, or participating in school debates further shrinking the future pipeline of women leaders. These dynamics shrink civic space and discourage women from engaging in political dialogue or advocacy. Women’s exclusion from public decision-making reinforces existing power asymmetries and ensures that community grievances—and especially those affecting women and girls are not raised, negotiated, or resolved.

In Tambura, local conflicts are further driven by cattle migration pressures and the militarization of youth. Cattle herds are increasingly moved into cultivated zones, stoking land disputes and overlapping with political rivalries. People reported parallel and politicized peace committees that are seen as linked to government actors, which erodes trust in local dispute resolution. For women, who already face cultural barriers to participating in these committees, political capture of these structures further excludes them and reduces their ability to shape outcomes that affect their lives such as land access, safety, and resource allocation. Across counties outside Juba (also where the national capital city is located), women described hesitation to raise issues in public and a lack of reliable ways to hold leaders to account. The commitment to increase women’s representation is widely seen as concentrated in the capital, with limited follow-through in counties. The spread of small arms and periodic intimidation further narrows the civic space. For women and girls, this often translates into school dropouts, fear of traveling alone, increased domestic violence, and reduced economic activity, as insecurity limits their ability to farm, trade, or move freely. Where churches and interfaith groups convene dialogue, communities often find neutral spaces that work. Participants pointed to Bor as an example where church mediation helped ease tensions, including between Nuer communities, and suggested this approach could be adapted in WES with women leading the way. Religious and inter-church networks remain among the few trusted platforms where women can safely express concerns, making them critical entry points for inclusive peacebuilding.

The absence of clear boundaries between political, military, and community leadership has created an environment where security actors frequently interfere in civil affairs, including land administration and dispute resolution. Local officials in Tambura and Yambio reported that political appointees often override customary authorities, resulting in parallel governance systems and escalating local

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<sup>21</sup> Hope Africa South Sudan Community Dialogue August 2025

tensions.<sup>22</sup> Because traditional mediation systems are increasingly controlled by male elders aligned with political factions, women are often excluded from decisions on land, compensation, and inter-ethnic reconciliation.

### **Social Norms that Reinforce Women’s Exclusion in Peacebuilding Arenas**

South Sudan is a patriarchal society<sup>23</sup>. Harmful cultural norms like early marriages and relegating women to the role of housekeepers perpetuate women’s exclusion and limit their involvement in community decision forums such as customary dispute resolution platforms. Women are seen as caregivers and doing most of work at home while men are allowed to participate in community affairs limiting women’s and girls’ roles in taking part in community discussions. Local conflict dynamics such as revenge killings and cattle rustling carried out by young men not only undermine community stability but also reinforce the structural gendered dimensions of conflict where their resolution is seen as a men’s issue with women and girls taking a back seat in their resolutions. Women’s participation in dispute resolutions is constrained not because of a lack of capacity or willingness, but because of insecurity, lack of inclusive platforms, and negative social systems shaped by masculine and militarized environment. Although these social dynamics are being remade through reform efforts, they do not go far enough to ensure active and sustained women and girls’ participation their communities.

In WBG (particularly Jur River and Wau counties), participants in peace dialogues highlighted how gender roles and harmful cultural practices such as the evictions of widows from their land, the use of forced marriages and elopement have led to tensions and the dispossession of women of their land rights. A dialogue participant in Wau stressed that *“land is not just an economic asset but a matter of dignity and identity, and when taken by force it tears apart relationships.”*<sup>24</sup> But most of these decisions, such as on land and SGBV issues, that affect women are taken without meaningful participation of women and girls yielding outcomes that are on many occasions disadvantageous to them. A dialogue participant in Wau stressed that *“land is not just an economic asset but a matter of dignity and identity, and when taken by force it tears apart relationships.”*<sup>25</sup> Particularly in Wau and Jur River counties, community assessments reveal deep social stressors rooted in family-level disputes, alcohol abuse, and the erosion of social cohesion. In Gette Boma of Jur River, participants described how *“about 60% of the population... are tipplers,”*<sup>26</sup> linking excessive drinking to high rates of unemployment, domestic violence and neighborhood quarrels that sometimes turn deadly. Such localized disputes are exacerbated by weak dispute resolution systems, and trauma left unaddressed by years of conflict. Women in these areas face heightened risks of exploitation and violence, which limits their capacity to participate openly in public and political spaces. These dynamics correspond directly to the “social norm drivers” of exclusion in reducing women’s voice, mobility, and influence. In mid-2025, WBG became the first state to adopt a comprehensive customary law developed through a participatory process involving chiefs, women, youth, and state officials, designed to curb harmful practices and provide predictable community rules. However, the durability of this progress depends on neutral enforcement and insulating community institutions from political interference – something that has not been achieved yet. Together, these factors sustain an environment of mistrust and volatility, where communities are left vulnerable to elite manipulation and cycles of local violence.

In Western Equatoria, women and girls are still disproportionately affected by early and forced marriage, limited access to education, and gendered expectations that undermine their agency and

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<sup>22</sup> PBF WES Case Study June 2025

<sup>23</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/perceptions-gender-and-conflict-sensitivity-considerations-south-sudan>

<sup>24</sup> CAD-UNDP Conflict Analysis 2024

<sup>25</sup> CAD-UNDP Conflict Analysis 2024

<sup>26</sup> Hope Africa South Sudan Community Dialogue August 2025

expose them to exploitation and gender-based violence. Since 2021, political tensions have displaced over 80,000 people, with women and children comprising the majority. Displacement has gender-differentiated consequences where women face increased caregiving burdens, reduced income opportunities, and heightened vulnerability to sexual violence in temporary shelters and insecurity further limit women's participation in civic and peacebuilding spaces, creating a vicious cycle of exclusion and vulnerability.<sup>27</sup> A United Nations Secretary-General's report found that women were at the receiving end of negative social norms, widespread psychosocial trauma, CSRV as a result of the 2021 Tambura violence which had displaced thousands of people<sup>28</sup>. In Greater Mundri West and Greater Mundri East, community meetings usually begin with men speaking while women remain silent. Participants described it simply as "*women are not talking.*" Suggesting that women simply do not contribute to dialogues and should simply not be part of them, but fear of reprisals linked to the presence of armed holdout groups, together with the wider spread of guns, keeps many women from speaking. Some women reported intimidation for supposed political loyalties, including comments like "*why are you siding with the others.*"<sup>29</sup> The PBF case study highlights that these groups act as 'de facto security committees', accountable neither to chiefs nor to local government, and their activities have eroded social trust. In Tambura, displacement triggered by clashes between Azande and Balanda groups has fractured inter-communal relations, making women's traditional mediation roles more precarious. However, as shown by Naomi Pendle<sup>30</sup>, women are not just victims but also those who can encourage violence on some occasions. Therefore, their inclusion in peacebuilding processes should be of utmost importance when addressing violence in communities. But in the conversations around conflict mitigation and community violence reduction in South Sudan, women and girls remain at the periphery.

### **Women's Economic Marginalization**

Across both WBG and WES, women's economic insecurity directly reinforces their political marginalization, as limited access to resources, income, and mobility undermines their ability to influence peacebuilding, engage in governance, and participate in decision-making structures. Economic empowerment is therefore a necessary foundation that strengthens women's legitimacy, mobility, and influence, but it must be reinforced by improved governance accountability and inclusive institutional frameworks. Without addressing both economic and political exclusion simultaneously, women's leadership in peacebuilding will remain constrained. A central tenet of this project is the recognition that women must be seen as agents of security and peace, not just as survivors of conflict. Across both states, women already play critical roles in peacebuilding. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, women's groups have mediated land disputes between returnees and host communities, while Village Savings and Loan Associations in Jur River have evolved into early-warning platforms that share conflict alerts and support dialogue. In Western Equatoria, faith-based women's networks have led trauma-healing circles for survivors of displacement and sexual violence, while women traders in Nzara and Mundri have organized associations to negotiate safer access to markets in insecure environments. These examples show how women actively prevent violence, strengthen accountability, and legitimize governance processes at the local level.

Although the above examples illustrate how women's peacebuilding contributions stemming from their economic undertakings have positively impacted the communities, many of them remain economically marginalized. In both states, livelihood losses from crop destruction, disrupted trade routes, environmental degradation, and market insecurity directly reduce women's ability to have

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<sup>27</sup> PBF WES Case Study June 2025

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/auto-draft/SG-Report2021for-web>.

<sup>29</sup> Consultation with WLOs working in WES and WBG

<sup>30</sup> Pendle, N.R. (2018), 'The dead are just to drink from: recycling ideas of revenge among the western Dinka, South Sudan.' *Africa*. 2018;88(1):99-121.

decent income and give them the independence to go out and take part in public engagements, including in peace dialogues. A clear illustration is in WES, insecurity along trade corridors (Yambio → Tambura, Yambio → Nzara, Mundri → Juba) has sharply reduced income opportunities for women traders due to illegal taxation, ambushes, and harassment at checkpoints while in WBG, repeated farmer–herder clashes in Jur River, Gette, and Marial Bai disrupts agricultural production and destroy household livelihoods. This situation significantly weakens women’s voice in community affairs, with direct implications for local stability and peacebuilding. In Yambio (WES), women-led organizations (WLOs) reported that insecurity and loss of income have severely constrained their ability to travel and conduct mediation activities, despite being trusted actors with a track record in resolving community disputes, these groups were unable to respond to escalating tensions in Tambura simply because they lacked the resources to reach the affected communities at a critical moment.<sup>31</sup> Women farmers in Jur River and Wau (WBG) frequently lose harvests during farmer–herder incidents or due to unresolved land disputes between returnees and host communities, where crop destruction during cattle incursions and failures in mediation repeatedly spark local clashes.

Livelihood insecurity also pushes households into negative coping strategies that deepen social tensions including early marriage for daughters, transactional sex, or withdrawal of girls from school to contribute to household labor.<sup>32</sup> Girls are particularly affected when families can no longer afford school fees or prioritize boys’ education during times of scarcity. Climate shocks, reduced funding has further constrained their ability to sustain these efforts. Supporting women themselves through skills development, leadership opportunities, and access to resources is therefore critical to strengthening their resilience and ensuring that peacebuilding efforts are inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to South Sudan’s evolving context.<sup>33</sup>

### **Consequences for Peace, Stability, and Community Cohesion**

Shrinking civic space thus disproportionately silences women, undermining their role in reconciliation and peacebuilding. The above compounding pressures deepen inequality and fragility, reinforcing the urgent need for integrated, resilient peacebuilding strategies tailored to the realities of affected communities and explicitly grounded in gender-responsive conflict analysis<sup>34</sup>. In WBG and WES, the central peacebuilding challenge is the erosion of legitimate, inclusive local dispute-resolution mechanisms, political interference, parallel peace committees, and cycles of cattle migration violence that undermines trust in community structures, while women and young women remain excluded and are disproportionately impacted by these challenges. Development-only interventions cannot address these risks unless they are explicitly linked to women’s meaningful participation, influence, and leadership in peace structures. Together, these interlocking drivers illustrate why Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria remain highly fragile. They demonstrate the urgent need for interventions that not only strengthen livelihoods but deliberately connect economic empowerment to peacebuilding, governance, and accountability mechanisms. Without such an integrated approach, women’s voices will remain sidelined, and the opportunities for inclusive and sustainable peace in these regions will continue to erode. PBF support is critical because it links grassroots dispute resolution to national peace processes, ensuring women’s leadership is institutionalized and sustained.

Amid growing concerns over the legitimacy of the R-ARCSS, which is increasingly under strain, there is a pressing need to reframe peacebuilding efforts toward strengthening community resilience. This is an opportune moment to explore innovative and locally driven approaches, shifting implementation

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/news/scars-gender-based-violence-south-sudan>

<sup>33</sup> South Sudan: Taking steps towards the inclusion of women in peace-building

<sup>34</sup> Caught Between Crises in South Sudan: Flood-Induced Migration of Dinka Bor Cattle Herders into the Equatoria Region

to the grassroots level and equipping women, and young women, with the skills, networks, protection mechanisms and resources needed to build resilience. At the same time, interventions must remain adaptive to South Sudan's evolving political and security dynamics. Grassroots initiatives should be intentionally connected to national peacebuilding processes, creating a coherent, multi-level approach where local priorities inform higher-level strategies and reinforce community-level resilience. The conflict drivers and actors in South Sudan are diverse and context-specific, affecting different segments of the population in distinct ways.

The intersection of political exclusion, economic marginalization, and social conservatism has made women's leadership highly precarious. Many WLOS operate without stable funding, relying on ad-hoc donor support. According to the WES case study<sup>35</sup>, female peace activists and women's rights defenders face targeted intimidation, often from political youth wings or armed groups aligned with local elites. Their safety concerns, coupled with resource scarcity, have forced some networks to suspend operations in high-risk counties such as Tambura and Ezo. Nevertheless, women continue to lead informal peacebuilding initiatives organizing trauma-healing dialogues, supporting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and facilitating local reconciliation. These efforts remain largely invisible to formal peace processes but are critical to sustaining community resilience.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**<sup>36</sup>, how it ensures **national ownership**. If this project is designed in a PRF country, describe how the main objective advances a relevant strategic objective identified through the Eligibility Process. Elaborate on the catalytic nature of the project and how national ownership, including but not limited to, national and subnational entities are built in.

The project reflects the humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus by combining short-term livelihood recovery with long-term peacebuilding, transition, and good governance. It introduces new ways of working that bring together IFIs and peacebuilding actors, including state and non-state actors to address South Sudan's fluid context. The approach aligns with South Sudan's national development priorities, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and UNCT peacebuilding objectives. It ensures national ownership by engaging subnational authorities and linking local women-led organizations to state and national platforms, explained below.

At the national level, it supports the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which extends the 35 percent quota for women's participation to all decision-making bodies. It also contributes to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (SSNAP II), which prioritizes the inclusion of women in governance and peace processes. In addition, the project is consistent with the National Development Strategy (2021–2024)<sup>37</sup>, which identifies inclusive governance and women's empowerment as central priorities for sustainable peace. The project also aligns with national commitments emerging from the WPS Conference organized by the PBF Women's leadership project, which urged the Government to expedite the passage of key legislation such as the Anti-GBV Bill, the Women Empowerment Bill, the Family Law, and the second generation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. In addition, the communique emphasized the need to revive and strengthen the South Sudan Women's General Association (Women's Union), and to promote inclusive coalitions of women across all states. The project contributes to these priorities by supporting women-led organizations in Western Bahr el Ghazal and

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<sup>35</sup> PBF WES Case Study June 2025

<sup>36</sup> Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

<sup>37</sup> Under review for extension

Western Equatoria and linking them with national-level platforms to ensure their voices shape governance and policy processes.

National ownership is built into the design of the project. The Ministry of Peacebuilding and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Finance will be fully engaged to ensure alignment with government priorities and oversight of implementation. At the state level, the project will involve authorities in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Central Equatoria, while at the community level it will channel at least 40 percent of resources directly to women-led organizations, accompanied by institutional and technical capacity support. This will ensure that both national institutions and grassroots actors take ownership of the project and sustain its results.

Within the UN framework, the project directly supports the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023–2025), particularly Outcome 4 on empowering women, youth and vulnerable groups to exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights. It also contributes to Outcome 1 on inclusive governance and Outcome 2 on sustainable economic growth. The project reflects the Humanitarian-Development-Peace approach of the UN Country Team by ensuring that investments in women’s livelihoods are directly linked to peacebuilding and governance results.

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

The proposed project fills critical strategic gaps in gender equality and youth inclusion in peacebuilding in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria States by addressing the persistent underrepresentation of women and young women in formal governance and peace processes. It complements ongoing peacebuilding and humanitarian investments in Western Equatoria, Juba, and Western Bahr el Ghazal by providing the missing bridge between economic empowerment and formal peacebuilding structures, thereby ensuring that local resilience efforts translate into durable governance and peace dividends. This deliberate alignment with broader PBF, AfDB, and UN-led initiatives creates a coherent contribution to sustaining peace and avoiding duplication. While women and youth are active in informal community peacebuilding, they are often unrecognized as key stakeholders and remain excluded from formal governance and decision-making spaces. Existing economic empowerment initiatives do not provide pathways into peacebuilding or negotiation roles but serve as a means to reinforce women’s agency. This project fills that gap by deliberately connecting livelihood gains with leadership and peacebuilding opportunities, ensuring that women’s collective agencies translate into durable contributions to conflict prevention, governance, and inclusive development. In both states, women’s exclusion from peace processes is not simply due to the absence of political will, but to the structural economic inequalities that limit their mobility, voice, and legitimacy in public life. When women lack independent income or control over resources, they are less able to participate in local decision-making, finance peace initiatives, or sustain leadership roles in governance structures. Economic dependency reinforces gender hierarchies and social norms that position women as beneficiaries rather than agents of peace. By contrast, when women gain economic power through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), enterprise development, and collective market access they gain visibility, confidence, and bargaining power within their communities. These tangible gains create the social and financial capital necessary for women to engage credibly in dialogue, mediation, and local governance. The project thus deliberately builds on the gains of both AfDB and PBF-funded initiatives. From the AfDB side, it leverages investments in infrastructure, MSME development, and vocational training, extending their impact by embedding a

peacebuilding dimension. From the PBF side, it scales up achievements in women’s leadership, peace dialogues, and accountability mechanisms, ensuring that women’s voices remain central in governance and security sector reform.

This project also complements ongoing initiatives led by UNFPA and IOM in overlapping geographic areas, reinforcing effective coordination, coherence, and collective impact. UNFPA/Saferworld’s “*Women Lead: Localizing Women, Peace and Security Agenda for Inclusive and Participatory Peacebuilding*” focuses on shifting social norms and increasing women’s visibility in decision-making spaces. Building on this, the proposed project operationalizes those gains by establishing concrete mechanisms such as savings groups, business committees, early-warning platforms, and using those platforms to further disseminate the SSNAP II. Similarly, complementarity will be ensured with IOM and UNESCO’s *Derin Salaam: Redefining youth spaces and networks for peace and security in South Sudan* project, where trained young women can be connected to VSLA and enterprise initiatives, enabling them to apply their non-violent conflict resolution skills in market spaces while simultaneously benefiting from economic empowerment. Taken together, these projects align strategies and reinforce the leadership of women and youth as central drivers of inclusive conflict transformation in both states.

| <b>Project name (duration)</b>   | <b>Donor and budget</b>            | <b>Project focus</b>  | <b>Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal</b>  |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| The South Sudan Women's Social and Economic Empowerment project (SSWSEEP) funded by the world Bank and runs from February 2023 to December 2026. | World Bank, approx. USD 27,550,000 | The focus of the project is to improve the lives of women and girls by increasing their access to livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities, and comprehensive services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It aims to empower women and adolescent girls economically and socially, strengthen community engagement, and build the capacity of the government particularly the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. The | The SSWSEEP project strengthened women’s economic resilience, entrepreneurship, and support services, creating a solid foundation, systems and structures like the safe spaces, youth centers and entrepreneurs’ groups. Building on this, the peacebuilding project will use those platforms to expand women’s roles as leaders and decision-makers in conflict prevention and governance, leveraging their economic gains to boost participation in peace processes. |

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|   |                            | Key areas include creating safe spaces, providing training and financial support for women entrepreneurs, improving GBV services like a national hotline and safe house, and strengthening institutional frameworks and project management.  |   |
| Women in South Sudan's Security Sector: A Path to Inclusive and Transformative Leadership is funded by the Peacebuilding fund (PBF) and runs from June 2024 to July 2027. | PBF, approx. USD 3,000,000 | The project focuses on increasing women's meaningful participation and leadership in South Sudan's security sector by addressing systemic barriers, providing tailored training and mentorship, and challenging cultural norms that limit women's roles. It aims to create a gender-responsive security environment that better meets the specific security needs of women and girls. By strengthening coordination among security institutions, women's networks, and stakeholders, the project seeks to transform the security sector into an inclusive, supportive space where women can lead and contribute to sustainable peace and security. | The security sector project laid essential groundwork by breaking down barriers to women's leadership within South Sudan's formal security institutions, making them more gender-responsive and attuned to women's needs. This created a safer, more enabling environment that the peacebuilding project builds by expanding women's roles in community peacebuilding, economic empowerment, and governance. Women leaders gained in the security sector become crucial allies for grassroots peacebuilders and entrepreneurs, helping secure markets and improve dispute resolution. All these efforts will be linked to the security sector networks at the state and national level. |

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| <p>Private Sector Development in a Fragile Context: Capacity Building and Access to Finance for Youth and Women Project. Funded by the African development bank. 02/03/2022 - 12/31/2025</p> | <p>AfDB, USD 950,000</p>    | <p>The project seeks to enhance economic opportunities for women and youth by facilitating the establishment and growth of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) through targeted business development services, technical training, and improved access to finance. The project also focuses on strengthening the institutional capacities of government and private sector entities to effectively support MSE growth and the economic empowerment of these groups.</p> | <p>The AfDB's project laid the economic groundwork by empowering women and youth through skills training, finance access, and institutional support for micro and small enterprises. Building on this foundation, the peacebuilding project will transform these economic gains into platforms for women and youth to actively lead peace efforts, engage in governance, and resolve conflicts. This sequence will strengthen both economic resilience and social cohesion, ensuring marginalized groups are not only beneficiaries but key drivers of lasting peace in South Sudan.</p> |
| <p>UNESCO AfDB-Funded TVET Project (2023–ongoing)</p>  | <p>AFDB – 9,300,000 USD</p> | <p>Provided skills development and value chain support through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)</p>  | <p>Proposed project extends women's peacebuilding capacities into economic and educational spheres, creating synergies between skills development and peacebuilding</p>  |
| <p>PBF-Support to a people driven and gender responsive permanent constitution making process</p>  | <p>PBF-4, 000,000</p>       | <p>The project has promoted women's meaningful participation in the constitution making process.</p>   | <p>The proposed project will re-enforce women's participation in the constitutional making process majorly through consultations their decisions will contribute to a</p>  |

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|  |                   |   | permanent constitution for South Sudan.  |
| Women's Leadership and Political Participation During South Sudan's Transitional Period, funded by the peacebuilding fund (PBF), runs from January 2023 to January 2026. | PBF-3,000,000 USD | The project has promoted women leadership in political participation; addressing negative perceptions of women leadership; and increased the capacity for meaningful involvement of women, youth and marginalized groups in the transition process. | The proposed project aims to strengthen women's leadership within local peacebuilding structures and enhance their representation in economic and political spheres. By fostering inclusive participation, the initiative will contribute to increased influence of women in policymaking processes that advance sustainable peace and gender-responsive governance. |
| Derin Salaam: Redefining youth spaces and networks for peace and security in South Sudan   | PBF- 3,800, 000   | Empowering South Sudanese youth as peacebuilders by strengthening their leadership, civic engagement, and participation in reconciliation and governance processes.   | Young women that have undergone integrated TVET skills from "Derin Salaam" project will be enrolled in the VSLA services. Additionally, the labor market survey that would be conducted in that project can be used to inform the livelihood interventions in this project.  |
| Women Lead: Localizing Women Peace and Security Agenda for Inclusive and Participatory Peacebuilding in WBG-Warrap Conflict Cluster                                      | PBF - 3, 000, 000 | Women Lead emphasizes WPS localization and women's political/peace participation  | While Women Lead focuses on changing norms and decision-making spaces, this project an opportunity for collaboration with the UNFPA project in disseminating the SSNAP II  |

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| <p>Promoting Young Women’s Meaningful Political Participation in South Sudan (2024–2026)</p> | <p>600, 000</p> | <p>Building the capacity of diverse young women to engage safely and meaningfully in political and peacebuilding processes including those from marginalized groups and communities in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, and Western Equatoria,</p>   | <p>This project reinforces these objectives by linking economic empowerment to peacebuilding outcomes. By jointly designing or co-hosting selected training sessions in Western Bahr- El Ghazal, it would give young women access to livelihoods while promoting their inclusion in peacebuilding.</p>  |
| <p>UNMISS</p>  | <p>N/A</p>      | <p>UNMISS complements the project through support to women’s caucuses and women-led peace initiatives; deployment of mobile courts and capacity-building for security, justice, and rule-of-law actors on SGBV/CRSV prevention and response; Protection of Civilians (PoC) activities across tiers 1–3; civic engagement and civil–military dialogue platforms to strengthen civilian protection and social cohesion; trauma healing and reconciliation initiatives led by faith-based actors; Quick Impact Projects, including gender equality initiatives; and gender-responsive climate resilience and conflict-prevention activities, including peaceful resource-sharing during</p> | <p>UNMISS provides mandate-driven protection, political engagement, and support to women’s participation, justice, and reconciliation mechanisms, this project complements those efforts by institutionalizing women’s leadership and economic empowerment as sustained peacebuilding mechanisms. The project links women-led livelihoods, peace forums, and early-warning structures to UNMISS-supported women’s caucuses, local peace and ceasefire mechanisms, and civic engagement platforms, ensuring continuity, local ownership, and durability of peacebuilding outcomes beyond time-bound mission interventions.</p> |

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|  |  | seasonal transhumance in Greater Bahr el Ghazal. |  |
|--|--|--|--|

The project has a catalytic character. It is the first pilot collaboration between the Peacebuilding Fund and an International Financial Institution in South Sudan, through the African Development Bank. Its innovative aspect lies in the complementarity of financing, which ensures a holistic and well-coordinated intervention from design through to implementation. This collaboration takes the form of parallel financing, where each entity maintains its own project document while ensuring full alignment of objectives and activities. By linking women’s economic empowerment, supported by AfDB’s contribution of USD 950,000, with women’s leadership in peacebuilding, the project offers an innovative model that can influence future programming in South Sudan and beyond. The forums created through women’s economic initiatives such as cooperatives and savings groups will provide practical platforms for strengthening women’s peacebuilding networks at state, national and regional levels, ensuring that change is embedded and sustainable. The project is closely aligned with the AfDB’s Gender Strategy 2021–2025, which emphasizes women’s access to finance, skills development, and opportunities in markets and infrastructure as central to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. By linking women’s economic empowerment directly to peacebuilding outcomes, the project operationalizes this strategy in fragile and conflict-affected contexts like Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria. The AfDB’s commitment to supporting vulnerable groups including women, youth, and displaced populations resonates with the project’s focus on grassroots engagement and the establishment of sustainable women-led networks. This alignment not only reinforces national ownership but also enhances the long-term sustainability of the initiative by ensuring coherence with AfDB’s regional development agenda and gender equality priorities.

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

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

The overarching goal is to position women and young women not only as beneficiaries but as active decision-makers and drivers of peace at community, state, and national levels. By doing so, the project directly addresses structural drivers of fragility and the evolving South Sudan context, including women’s exclusion from governance, economic structural drivers of conflict, and recurrent cycles of localized conflict. The implementation strategy combines three interlinked pathways. It strengthens women’s (especially young women’s) participation and leadership in formal and informal peacebuilding mechanisms, ensuring that women’s voices shape conflict prevention, mediation, and governance processes. The project also deliberately engages men and boys as allies in promoting positive masculinity and transforming harmful norms that perpetuate exclusion. Second, it expands women’s access to climate-resilient livelihoods and enterprise opportunities, enabling them to build sustainable economic security. The approach acknowledges that while women’s coalitions play a

critical role in peacebuilding, divisions and fragmentation among them remain, and this project will therefore invest in strengthening collaboration and accountability within women's networks. Third, builds strong linkages between grassroots women's networks and national forums, ensuring that community voices inform higher-level peacebuilding frameworks while national and regional commitments reinforce women's influence at the local level.

Gender equality in peace processes is not only a normative goal but a pathway to sustainable peace, reducing a relapse into conflict and strengthening legitimacy of governance structures. There is consensus that women's participation in peace processes strengthens the substance, durability and outcomes of such processes, especially considering that women bring additional perspectives on the drivers of conflict as well as on solutions to the conflict<sup>38</sup>. Women and girls, who often bear the brunt of exclusion, unemployment, and new forms of mobilization, also bring distinct perspectives and practical solutions to conflict prevention and peacebuilding making their participation critical to durable solutions. Women's participation in peace processes is supported by international frameworks like UNSCR 1325 and recognized for enhancing the quality and sustainability of peace through inclusive, gender-sensitive approaches. The UN Secretary-General's WPS 2025 report underscores that women's economic empowerment is not merely an add-on but a foundational pillar for lasting peace and stability.

At the 4th Annual National Conference on Women, Peace and Security (22–23 October 2024), more than 300 delegates issued a communique that links women's economic empowerment to peacebuilding. The communique called for protection of the 35 percent affirmative action, urgent funding for outstanding R-ARCSS tasks, and enactment of key gender laws; it also urged targeted programmes that expand women's access to finance, skills and markets so they can take part in mediation, constitution making and election preparation. It asked for support to women's groups in flood-affected areas and for regular public reporting on progress. These positions align with this project's approach of using women's economic platforms as entry points to dialogue, market safety, and early warning, and linking grassroots evidence to state and national forums, while reinforcing leadership and accountability mechanisms to secure women's and young women's meaningful roles in peacebuilding.

- b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'** – explain the assumptions about why you expect the project interventions to lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis. What are the assumptions that the theory is based on? Note, this is not a summary statement of your project's outcomes.

*(Note: Change may happen through various and diverse approaches, i.e. social cohesion may be fostered through dialogue or employment opportunities or joint management of infrastructure. The selection of which approach should depend on context-specific factors. What basic assumptions about how change will occur have driven your choice of programming approach?)*

**Theory of Change** The overarching goal of project is to reduce conflict and foster lasting peace in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal by addressing the root causes of resource-based tensions, weakened dispute-resolution mechanisms, and patriarchal norms through sustainable, inclusive community-based peacebuilding strengthening sustainable, inclusive community-based

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<sup>38</sup> According to a 2023 UN Women report, countries that fully implement gender provisions in peace agreements see a 35% increase in women's political participation on average. In South Sudan's context, where the African Union has reported a "significant implementation gap" in R-ARCSS gender provisions (AU Peace and Security Council, 2022),

peacebuilding mechanisms. That promotes meaningful youth and women's leadership and participation. This will be achieved by advancing women's meaningful economic empowerment, leadership, and participation as central drivers for transforming social norms, enhancing equitable resource-sharing, and strengthening local governance and conflict resolution structures.

**Context and Rationale:**

Conflict in these states is driven by complex factors including political instability, localized violence, weak governance, and exclusion of women from decision-making processes. Women bear the brunt of violence and marginalization yet remain sidelined in peacebuilding and governance. Their crucial role in both the conflict and its resolution is overlooked, even though women often act as community peacemakers and caretakers of social cohesion. Meanwhile, traditional methods of resolving disputes have been eroded by political meddling and ongoing armed conflicts, making it harder to rebuild trust and unity. This project recognizes the vital role women play and aims to empower them to take an active part in peacebuilding by including them in governance processes, supporting their leadership, and restoring community-based dispute resolution mechanisms with gender-sensitive approaches. By doing so, it seeks to not only reduce violence but also strengthen social cohesion.

**Pathway to Change:**

**If** women and young women receive integrated support to build literacy, leadership, negotiation, mediation, and entrepreneurial skills and have sustained access to necessary resources (such as training, information, mentorship, and technical support).

**If** grassroot women-led peacebuilding initiatives are connected to national and state peace frameworks such as R-ARCSS and UNSCR 1325 implementation.

**If** community-based peace infrastructures and accountability mechanisms are strengthened and made more inclusive and responsive to women's needs and meaningful participation.

**If** women's economic security is bolstered through access to savings groups, Linkage to markets, and entrepreneurial skill development to strengthen their resilience and agency.

**If** harmful social norms and patriarchal attitudes that limit women's leadership and participation are challenged and transformed through community dialogues, male engagement, and sustained advocacy.

**If** localized conflict drivers including cattle migration disputes, land governance weaknesses, militarized youth groups, and parallel politicized peace committees are addressed through inclusive early-warning, dialogue, and accountability mechanisms that deliberately center women's meaningfully participation and leadership.

**If** civic space is protected and women human rights defenders, peace activists, and women's networks can safely participate without intimidation or political reprisals.

**If** women and youth gain the skills, confidence, and safe platforms to participate in peace and governance processes.

**if** peace and dispute-resolution structures are revitalized, depoliticized, and gender-responsive

**Then** women will increase their meaningful participation, leadership, and legitimacy in peacebuilding mechanism and governance processes, and communities will experience improved conflict resolution, social cohesion, and resilience, which will contribute to the reduction of conflict and build the foundation for sustainable, inclusive peace at local and national levels.

**Because** economic empowerment, inclusive and gender-responsive peacebuilding forums and processes collectively reduce competition over resources, shift powerbrokers' attitudes, and create space for women to lead conflict prevention and resolution efforts, leading to reduced community violence and increased safety.

**Key Assumptions:**

- Women’s meaningful engagement in peacebuilding and governance can transform local power dynamics and reduce conflict triggers.
  - Economic empowerment can enhance women’s legitimacy, voice, and ability to negotiate and lead in peace and recovery efforts.
  - Strengthened inclusive community-based peacebuilding mechanisms linked to state and national processes can create a multi-level framework that supports sustainable peace.
  - Addressing gender norms and patriarchal practices through community engagement and advocacy can create enabling environments for women’s rights and leadership.
  - Women’s leadership in peacebuilding leads to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes. Economic empowerment provides the stability and space needed for sustained participation in governance and peacebuilding. Integrated TVET equips women and youth with necessary skills to engage in sustainable livelihoods. Linkages between grassroots and national platforms reinforce both local and institutional impact. Civic space remains open enough for women’s organizing and advocacy, and women’s networks and coalitions can collaborate despite divisions; project facilitation will help bridge these divides.
  - Male leaders and household heads will support women’s participation if engaged through positive masculinity programming.
  - Government and subnational authorities will continue to support women’s meaningful participation and leadership and ownership of peacebuilding initiatives.
  - Partnerships with AfDB, UNESCO, and other UN agencies will create synergies that expand scale and sustainability.
  - Armed youth groups, parallel peace committees, and localized political-military alliances will not escalate violence to a level that halts community engagement.
  - Community leaders, including chiefs and religious leaders, are willing to accept women’s roles as mediators and negotiators.
  - Economic shocks (inflation, currency depreciation, climate impacts) will not completely undermine livelihood gains.
  - Women human rights defenders and activists can operate safely with project-supported protection measures.
- c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components** (outcomes and outputs), ensuring sufficient attention to gender, age and other key differences that should influence the project approach. In describing the project elements, be sure to indicate important considerations related to sequencing of activities. Ensure that where relevant UN’s Community Engagement Guidelines are adhered to.

**Outcome 1: Women and girls in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal actively influence and lead peacebuilding processes, to prevent conflicts.**

The project responds to the peacebuilding challenge of weakened and politicized local dispute-resolution systems, recurrent farmer–herder clashes, and the systematic exclusion of women and youth from decision-making in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria. Women’s economic empowerment is the means through which women gain the time, resources, and legitimacy to confidently participate and lead peacebuilding efforts. Strengthened livelihoods reduce the economic pressures that fuel localized conflict, while the collective organization of women around savings groups and enterprises provides them with platforms to generate early-warning information, monitor agreements, and advocate for accountability.

**Output 1.1: women and youth -led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) supported through tailored TVET, business development, entrepreneurship services, and improved access to financing and national and regional markets.**

This output, funded primarily by the AfDB, will seek to strengthen women and youth's economic resilience by mobilizing 600 individuals into 20 VSLAs (each VSLA will comprise 30 people) as an entry point for entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, while also supporting 100 existing MSMEs. Through business development services including training in entrepreneurship, business management, digital financial literacy, marketing, value chain integration, and compliance with food safety and product quality standards participants will establish 20 new MSMEs and seek to improve the performance of 30 high-potential enterprises. The AfDB-supported financing facility will provide interest-free loans to these 150 MSMEs (emerging from the 20 VSLAs – with each MSE comprising 5 members), delivered through trusted financial intermediaries and mobile platforms, thereby expanding financial inclusion in underserved areas and building trust with formal institutions. Complementing this, UNESCO will contribute peacebuilding education under Activities 1.3 and 1.5, ensuring that economic groups are conflict-sensitive and embedded in local peace structures. Existing forums will be reinforced, not duplicated with the grassroots peacebuilding activities tied to the VSLA forums: VSLAs will maintain early-warning notebooks; women-led market committees will co-design safe trading arrangements; finance and market linkages will be paired with light risk-mitigation skills; and lessons from shocks such as floods and cattle migration will be integrated into business coaching. In this way, enterprise growth is deliberately linked with peace functions, creating sustainable pathways that combine economic empowerment with inclusive community resilience.<sup>39</sup>

**Output 1.2: Women's participation and meaningful leadership in formal and informal peacebuilding, governance and Conflicts resolution mechanism are significantly increased.**

This output addresses the persistent underrepresentation and silencing of women especially young women in formal and informal peacebuilding processes. It builds on and strengthens women's demonstrated agency in local mediation, church-led dialogues, and networks like the South Sudan Women's Bloc, while tackling the structural barriers of harmful norms, political patronage, and weak accountability that continue to undermine the 35% quota. Training for women leaders and WLOs will be accompanied by structured peer learning, follow-up support, and practical engagement with existing peace structures to ensure that skills translate into tangible conflict-resolution outcomes. The project will facilitate collaboration between trained women leaders, local authorities, and ICCCSM structures to review and update existing seasonal peace roadmaps on cattle migration and land disputes, ensuring that women's perspectives inform prevention and response mechanisms. This output equips women leaders and organizations to engage confidently in mediation, advocacy, and public decision-making in line with national commitments and quota adherence. Evidence generated from women-led VSLAs and market committees will demonstrate how inclusive economic participation strengthens local cooperation, reduces resource-based tensions, and improves accountability between communities and authorities. Civic education and strategic communications will counter stigmas, foster positive masculinities, and strengthen young women's safe engagement in electoral and constitutional processes. By reinforcing existing women's forums rather than

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<sup>39</sup> For instance, under the UN Women–AfDB livelihood initiative in Aweil (2023), mixed-gender VSLAs successfully facilitated joint market management and early-warning reporting without increasing tensions, improving trust and cooperation between women and traditional leaders.

creating parallel ones, the project directly responds to fragmentation within the women's movement, anchoring women's participation in both state and national accountability frameworks.

**Activity 1.2.1 – Integrated leadership, mediation, and protection training for women leaders and WLOs (UNESCO).** Training will cover negotiation and mediation, land and compensation basics, parameters of the Marial Bai agreement, roles of cattle-migration coordination bodies, civil–security relations, small-arms risk awareness, and personal/digital safety. Modules will also tackle harmful cultural norms that silence women, strategies for engaging male allies and promoting positive masculinities, and targeted sessions for young women to strengthen their participation in decision-making spaces. Participants will practice scenario-based problem-solving that mirrors local disputes. Target: 250 women and girls trained.

**Activity 1.2.2 – Evidence-based advocacy and institutional engagement for quota adherence and legal reforms.** Using the project baseline and Gender Observatory inputs, coalitions will produce concise policy briefs and meet duty bearers on quota adherence, GBV response, and economic inclusion measures. Policy advocacy will highlight the continued backsliding on women's representation (e.g., the removal of Sarah Cleto in WBG), document instances of weak quota enforcement, and press for the passage of gender bills such as the Anti-GBV Bill and the Women's Empowerment Bill. Meeting notes and commitments will be published to encourage compliance. Target: three policy briefs produced; six engagement sessions with duty bearers; two public quota-tracking scorecards released.

**Activity 1.2.3 – Strategic communications and civic engagement for elections and constitution-making.** Civic sessions will strengthen community understanding of governance, accountability, and citizens' rights under the R-ARCSS, ensuring that women and youth can participate meaningfully in ongoing reforms including, but not limited to, electoral and constitutional processes. Campaigns will explicitly address the exclusion of young women, the risks of GBV and harassment during public participation, and the misinformation that discourages women's civic engagement. Messages will be adapted through faith-based platforms and local media to shift harmful norms. Faith actors will also be supported to integrate messages of peace, coexistence, and shared accountability within sermons and community dialogues, reinforcing long-term reconciliation and trust-building. In collaboration with UNFPA/Safer World, dissemination of the SSNAP-2 will also be conducted. Target: three campaigns delivered; 1,000 participants reached in civic sessions (at least 60 percent women and 30 percent young women); two women's delegations supported to national forums.

**Output 1.3: Inclusive, Gender-responsive community peacebuilding structures are established and/or strengthened.**

Conflict analysis highlighted how local peace mechanisms in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal are often politicized, parallel, or male-dominated, leaving women, youth, and displaced groups excluded from decision-making. This output fills that gap by strengthening inclusive, gender-responsive peace structures that embed women, youth, and faith leaders alongside chiefs, farmer–herder reps, and security actors. Standing agenda items such as cattle migration, land disputes, market safety, and GBV risks will ensure community priorities are consistently addressed. Inclusive forums (chiefs, farmer–herder reps, peace forums, women from VSLAs/MSMEs, youth, and faith-based leaders) meet on a seasonal calendar to negotiate migration timing, land access, GBV risk, and market safety, producing community roadmaps

and local agreements for escalation to state bodies. Community peace roadmaps will consolidate existing local agreements and formalize seasonal agreements with clauses on land use, migration corridors, and compensation templates, while ensuring women's perspectives are not just present but integral to dispute resolution. By tackling harmful cultural norms that silence women and embedding GBV prevention/referral into peace forums, this output ensures women and youth are not only included but empowered to lead conflict mitigation at grassroots level.

**Activity 1.3.1 – Establish and strengthen inclusive peace structures with farmer–herder representation (UNESCO).** At least six peace platforms will be mapped and formalized or created, where absent. Representation quotas will ensure women, girls, people with disabilities, and displaced populations are systematically included. Linking them up with the existing peace structures such as the Youth Peace Forums already set up by UNESCO, these peace structures will act as vehicles of peace in their local communities.

**Activity 1.3.2 – Early warning and response integrated with VSLA “situation rooms” and climate alerts.** VSLA focal points will relay alerts on flood risks, cattle movements, and market incidents to county peace committees and police/UNMISS contacts, with simple colour-coded status boards and monthly reviews of actions taken. Alerts will also track GBV incidents, intimidation of women leaders, and youth mobilization patterns, directly responding to conflict analysis findings that weak monitoring leaves women and girls unprotected. Trained youth from Derin Salaam: Redefining youth spaces and networks for peace and security in South Sudan could be linked with VSLA/enterprise initiatives to apply their non-violent conflict resolution skills in market spaces, while also benefiting from economic empowerment. Trained youth from Derin Salaam: Redefining youth spaces and networks for peace and security in South Sudan will be linked with VSLA/enterprise initiatives to apply their non-violent conflict resolution skills in market spaces, while also benefiting from economic empowerment. This will feed into the Gender Observatory established at the National level under the PBF Women's Leadership project. Target: 10 VSLAs linked to formal early-warning channels; 12 alerts actioned over the project; six joint reviews conducted.

**Activity 1.3.3 – Community peace roadmaps and strategy with climate and migration clauses.** Roadmaps will encompass all local agreements, record pre-season meetings, crop-protection protocols, watering-point schedules, and compensation templates, with signatories from farmer-herder reps, chiefs, women leaders, and administrators. The existing agreements will be revised to incorporate measures to protect women's land rights, ensure compensation for crop destruction, and address harmful cultural norms (e.g., dispossession of widows and forced marriage disputes) as conflict triggers. Documents will be displayed publicly and shared upward to state forums for follow-up. Target: three community roadmaps endorsed; six pre-migration meetings held; six local agreements signed and publicly posted.

**Output 1.4: Peacebuilding mechanism capacities at community level and state level are strengthened to ensure transparent accountability for women's participation in peacebuilding and governance**

Bi-annual state dialogues publish public scorecards on women's participation and the implementation of local peace pacts, while targeted institutional support strengthens MSME policy, inclusive recovery, and gender mainstreaming, complemented by legal outreach on land, compensation, GBV referral, and market-harassment redress. The output consolidates results through public review and institutional support. Bi-annual state dialogues will review

progress on women's participation, quota adherence, and implementation of local peace pacts and will publish simple scorecards that drive compliance. Capacity support will be provided to strategic institutions on MSME policy, inclusive recovery, and gender mainstreaming, alongside community legal outreach on land rights, compensation procedures, survivor-centred GBV referral, and market-harassment redress, with a focus on displacement-affected areas.

**Activity 1.4.1 – State-level accountability dialogues and public scorecards.** Dialogues will convene WLOs, authorities, private sector, security liaisons, and faith-based representatives to track commitments, remove bottlenecks, and agree on corrective actions. Scorecards will include tracking women's participation in decision-making, implementation of peace agreements, GBV response, and quota adherence, addressing the lack of accountability identified in the conflict analysis. Public scorecards will summarize progress and the next steps. Target: four state-level dialogues held (two per state); three public scorecards issued; at least 70 percent agreed upon actions completed by the next session.

**Activity 1.4.2 – Targeted institutional support** Selected ministries and agencies will receive tailored support on MSME policy and gender mainstreaming, including light ICT upgrades for data capture and reporting. Support will prioritize stakeholder institutions with roles in land administration, compensation, and quota enforcement, addressing structural drivers of exclusion identified in WBG and WES. Legal clinics and town halls will focus on land rights, compensation procedures, GBV referral services, and redress for harassment of women in markets including digital safety trainings. In collaboration with Lawyers platforms, these legal clinics and town halls will help communities understand land, compensation, and reporting procedures and how to access survivor-centred GBV referral services. Target: four institutions receive capacity support; 6 legal clinics and three town halls delivered; at least 60 percent of clinic attendees report improved understanding of procedures.

**Activity 1.4.3 – Organize public and private sector dialogues blended with cultural events (UNESCO).** Quarterly dialogues will troubleshoot market access, fees, safety, and bureaucracy. Sessions will deliberately include women and girls to address barriers flagged in consultations (e.g., harassment, predatory fees, checkpoints), while using cultural approaches such as dance and music to foster cohesion and shift harmful gender norms. It will include community leaders, private-sector actors, police/UNMISS liaisons, and faith-based representatives, with concise action notes, timelines, and responsible offices for follow-up. Target: At least six dialogues held; at least two include police or UNMISS participation; six action notes issued and tracked. The dialogues will be done by incorporating cultural dances and music as a way of promoting peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

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

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

The project will be implemented in Western Bahr el Ghazal (Wau, and Jur River Counties) and Western Equatoria (Yambio, and Tambura Counties). These states were selected because they represent areas of recurring farmer-herder conflicts, displacement, and climate shocks where women and youth are disproportionately impacted. In Tambura (Western Equatoria), violence displaced over

80,000 people in 2021<sup>40</sup> leaving behind entrenched grievances, most of them women and children, while in Western Bahr el Ghazal, recurrent flooding and drought have destroyed livelihoods, leaving women reliant on informal markets and subsistence farming. Despite constitutional quotas, women's political participation remains inconsistent, and their exclusion from community and state-level decision-making perpetuates cycles of fragility and mistrust.

The project will target approximately 2100 direct beneficiaries, of whom 80 percent (1680) will be women and 30 percent (1,050) specifically young women aged 18–35. Within the broader target, 50 percent (1,750) will be adult women above 35, ensuring that both young and older women are empowered. Thirty percent (1,050) of beneficiaries will be men and boys, recognizing their role in transforming gender norms and contributing to peacebuilding. Of the total beneficiaries, 600 will be engaged primarily through economic empowerment initiatives such as VSLAs, entrepreneurial training, and MSME development, with a strong peacebuilding lens integrated throughout while the other 1500 whom are members of existing VSLAs will receive continuous business support. A further 500 beneficiaries will be engaged directly through leadership and peacebuilding platforms, including women-led coalitions, accountability mechanisms, and community dialogue forums. This subgroup will follow the same aggregation (80 percent women and youth, 30 percent young women, and 30 percent men and boys), with special focus placed on those with demonstrated leadership potential and influence in their communities, such as women leaders, traditional authorities, mediators, and local government actors.

Beneficiary selection will follow a participatory, community-driven process informed by consultations with women's organizations, the Women's Union, youth groups, and state authorities. The process will prioritize inclusivity, do-no-harm principles, and safe-meeting protocols, ensuring confidential feedback channels and survivor-centered referrals. Selection will be guided by the following criteria:

**1. Vulnerability and Marginalization:** Priority will be given to individuals facing heightened structural, social, or economic vulnerabilities, including:

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees
- Widows and female-headed households
- Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), using survivor-centered and confidential referral pathways
- Persons with disabilities
- Minority clans and socially excluded groups

**2. Gender and Age Inclusion:** Primary beneficiaries will be women and young women (18–35 years), particularly those excluded from economic opportunities, leadership, and peacebuilding processes. Young women and youth (18–24 years) will be prioritized where they demonstrate interest or potential to engage in peacebuilding, governance, or community leadership roles.

**3. Community Engagement and Leadership Potential:** Participants should demonstrate willingness to engage in community-driven initiatives, peacebuilding, and governance processes, contributing to sustainable social cohesion and resilience. Alongside women and young women, the project will ensure participation of men and boys, persons with disabilities, IDPs, minority clans, and representatives of faith-based organizations to promote inclusivity and shared responsibility.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-tambura-conflict-flash-update-no-1-14-september-2021>

### III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

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

| Agency  | Total budget in previous calendar year | Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)  | Location of in-country offices                              | No. of existing staff, of which in project zones | Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project                           |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Convening Organization:</b><br><b>UN Women</b> | 13,721,380                             | Government of South Sudan, PBF, Government of Japan, African Development Bank, Women Peace Humanitarian Fund, Government of Norway, government of Germany, Government of Netherlands, United Nations Development Programme, UNAIDS-UBRAF | Juba, Yambio-Western Equatoria, Wau-Western Bahr El Ghazal, | 48   | WPS Specialist, M&E Analyst, WEE Specialist, Finance Associate, Procurement Associate |
| <b>Implementing partners:</b>                     |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Recipient Organization:</b><br><b>UNESCO</b>   | 12,900,821.55                          | PBF, JICA, AfDB, Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC), Education  | Juba, Central Equatoria State                               | 28   | Chief of Education, Programme Officer, Project Assistant                              |
| <b>Implementing partners:</b> TBD                 |  |  |   |  |   |

|                            |  |   |  |  |  |
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| Implementing partners: TBD |  | Cannot Wait (ECW), Global Partnership for Education (GPE), SIDA, funds from UNESCO HQ |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|

- b) **Project management and coordination** – Indicate the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explicitly indicate how the project implementation team will ensure sufficient gender or youth expertise. Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements and ensure links with PBF Secretariat if it exists. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex A.1** and attach key staff TORs.

Project coordination and oversight will be anchored in a Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of UNMISS, UN Women, UNESCO, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the PBF Secretariat, the Ministry of Peacebuilding, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and implementing partners. The TWG will provide technical guidance, review progress, ensure alignment with national priorities, and promote a conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive approach to implementation. UN Women will act as the convener of the TWG and alongside UNESCO, will manage day-to-day coordination, facilitate inter-agency collaboration, and consolidate reporting in line with PBF requirements to be shared by UN Women. Regular joint field missions and quarterly TWG reviews of early-warning insights, seasonal calendars, and scorecards will support adaptive management and reinforce government ownership at national and state levels.

At the UNMISS Mission Headquarters (MHQ) level, the TWG engagement will be led by the Office of the Chief of Staff, with representation from relevant UNMISS components, including Civil Affairs, Political Affairs, Human Rights, Rule of Law, the Gender Affairs Unit, UNPOL, and the UNMISS Force, as well as any additional sections required based on evolving context and operational needs. This arrangement ensures coherence between the project and UNMISS’s political, protection, gender, and rule-of-law priorities and facilitates strategic guidance aligned with the Mission’s mandate.

At the field level, TWG coordination will leverage UNMISS presence and be led by the Heads of Field Offices, with participation from the same substantive UNMISS sections, UNPOL, and Force components, adapted to sub-level context. Field-level TWGs will focus on operational coordination, contextual analysis, and strengthening linkages between community peacebuilding initiatives supported under the project and UNMISS protection, stabilization, and civic engagement efforts with representation at the national TWG.

Through its participation in the TWG at both headquarters and field levels, UNMISS will provide strategic and contextual guidance; facilitate linkages to the protection of civilians, political engagement, and rule-of-law mechanisms; and support coherence between community-level peacebuilding initiatives and broader stabilization and peace consolidation objectives. These coordination arrangements are designed to remain effective, adaptive, and sustainable, ensuring continuity of UNMISS engagement through structured participation, regional hub arrangements, and mobile engagement modalities, regardless of potential future adjustments to the Mission’s physical footprint.

- WPS Specialist (consultant) (100% PBF): Responsible for overall coordination, peacebuilding technical leadership, and donor reporting.
  - Programme Analyst NPSA 9 (100%, PBF): Supports the role of the WPS Specialist and provides technical and operational support to programme implementation, including knowledge management, donor reporting inputs, and coordination with CSOs and government counterparts.
  - HR Assistant NPSA 9 (20%): Provides Human Resource support for the office – including the project
  - Chief of Education (2% UNESCO, P3, Fixed Term Appointment): Overall oversight of the Education Sector projects at the UNESCO Office (including this project)
  - Programme Officer (100% UNESCO, SB-5, Service Contract): Overall oversight of the project
  - Project Assistant (100% UNESCO, SB-2, Service Contract): Supports the administrative and logistical aspects of the project implementation
  - Communications Officer (10% UNESCO, P2, Project Appointment): Takes charge of the communications and visibility aspects of the project activities at the UNESCO Office (including for this project)
  - Finance and Administration Officer (2% UNESCO, P3, Fixed Term Appointment): Provides oversight and support for the administration and financial responsibilities at the UNESCO Office (including for this project).
- c) **Risk management** – Identify project-specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include a Do No Harm approach and risk mitigation strategy.

| Project specific risk                                   | Risk level (low, medium, high) | Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Risk of partial or failed implementation of the R-ARCSS | Medium                         | Right now, the peace agreement remains partially in place, with ongoing but uneven commitments from the parties involved. Some progress is steady while key challenges linger unresolved, keeping the door open for both hope and uncertainty. Should this situation persist, the project will focus on sustaining momentum by reinforcing women's meaningful participation within existing frameworks, ensuring their voices remain central even if the broader peace process stalls. Beyond this, three main paths could unfold. First, if parties decide to withdraw |

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|---|-------------|---|
|   |             | from the agreement altogether, or second, if certain chapters fail to be implemented, the project will pivot to support women's engagement in alternative or parallel peace processes. Finally, if full implementation moves forward with all parties actively engaged, the project will proceed as originally designed, maintaining flexible programming, leveraging UN and regional political ties, and strengthening women-led networks to adapt to changing peace dynamics. Implementation. |
| Patriarchal norms and resistance from male leaders or community members may limit women and youth participation.                                  | Medium Risk | The project will implement positive masculinity activities to engage men and household heads as allies; conduct community sensitization campaigns; work with community and traditional leaders to shift norms gradually. Use success stories from women leaders to demonstrate benefits.  |
| Cultural resistance and negative social norms limiting women's participation  | Medium      | To mitigate backlash, the project will run community sensitization campaigns, engage male champions and faith leaders, and amplify positive narratives of women's leadership. Peer networks will provide psychosocial support to women facing resistance.   |
| Security risks from ongoing localized conflicts, cattle migration, and armed youth groups threaten safety of participants and disrupt activities. | Medium      | Coordinate closely with local security actors, UNMISS, and community peace committees; establish safe routes and market safety committees; use conflict-  |

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|   |        | sensitive approaches in all activities; train participants in personal and digital security.   |
| Environmental risks (climate change, floods, natural disasters) disrupting access   | Medium | Risk analysis and contingency planning will be integrated into all activities. Early warning systems will be linked with VSLAs and community peace structures to anticipate shocks. Alternative delivery modalities, such as shifting activities to unaffected areas or remote delivery, will ensure continuity. |
| Economic shocks and climate-related events (floods, droughts, migration) disrupt livelihoods and markets affecting MSMEs and VSLAs. | Medium | The project will integrate climate and migration alerts into early warning systems; provide contingency planning and flexible business coaching; diversify income sources; promote resilient agricultural and business practices.  |
| Limited access to finance and market linkages for women and youth entrepreneurs restricts economic empowerment impact               | Medium | The project develops tailored financing facilities with mobile money and fraud prevention; broker market linkages and off-take agreements; support formalization of MSMEs; provide business development services focused on fragile markets.   |
| Fragmentation among women's groups, youth, and peacebuilding coalitions reduces collective influence and sustainability.            | Medium | The project will facilitate coalition-building and conflict resolution within networks; use project facilitation to bridge divides; encourage inclusive leadership and regular communication; leverage existing trusted platforms rather than creating new ones.   |
| Limited civic space and potential backlash against women's organizing and   | High   | The project monitors civic space dynamics continuously; engages local authorities and security   |

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|---|--------|--|
| advocacy due to political or social restrictions.   |        | actors in promoting safe organizing; uses discreet communication channels; align activities with UN Community Engagement Guidelines to ensure protection.  |
| Weak institutional capacity and coordination at state and local levels hinder implementation of gender provisions and peace agreements.   | Medium | The project provides targeted capacity building and ICT support to key ministries and agencies; facilitate regular multi-stakeholder dialogues; publish public scorecards to increase transparency and accountability.   |
| Exclusion of women and youth from formal governance and peace processes   | Medium | The project will create safe spaces and strengthen networks for women and youth; facilitate linkages between grassroots and national platforms; provide capacity building and advocacy training.   |
| Backlash, intimidation, or harm to women and girls participating in project activities or assuming leadership, mediation, or economic roles that challenge traditional gender norms within communities, including heightened exposure to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TGBV). | Medium | Adopt a conflict- and gender-sensitive approach to community engagement; conduct context-specific risk assessments prior to activities; engage male allies, traditional and faith leaders to promote acceptance of women's roles; strengthen women's capacities for self-protection from TGBV through digital safety awareness, responsible use of communication platforms, and peer-support mechanisms; integrate protection awareness and referral pathways for women at risk; ensure safe participation modalities, confidentiality, and survivor-centered referrals; and regularly monitor and adapt activities in response to emerging risks. |

#### Coordination and Implementation Arrangements with the African Development Bank (AfDB)

This project is implemented through a parallel financing arrangement between the PBF and AfDB, designed to ensure complementarity, coherence, and mutual reinforcement of peacebuilding and economic empowerment interventions. Under this model, each financing partner retains responsibility for its respective resources, fiduciary oversight, and implementation procedures, while aligning activities under a shared theory of change and coordinated implementation framework. The arrangement enables AfDB-supported women's economic empowerment and private sector development interventions to be deliberately linked with PBF-funded peacebuilding, governance, and social cohesion outcomes, thereby maximizing impact without duplication and strengthening sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Coordination with the AfDB is governed by the AfDB's established project implementation, coordination, and institutional arrangements, and is fully aligned with the project's parallel financing model.

### **Institutional roles and implementation arrangements**

The AfDB-financed component of the project will be implemented through a multidisciplinary AfDB project team, comprising technical experts from relevant units at country, regional, and headquarters levels. This team will oversee project supervision, fiduciary compliance, and technical quality in line with AfDB policies and procedures. UN Women will be responsible for overall oversight, coordination, and day-to-day management of the AfDB-supported activities, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Peacebuilding and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) will serve as the Executing Agency (EA), while UN Women will act as the Third-Party Implementing Agency (TPIA) for the AfDB-financed component. Relevant ministries at state level will support beneficiary mobilization and coordination with local authorities.

UN Women was selected as the Third-Party Implementing Agency based on its comparative advantage and prior experience implementing AfDB-supported programming in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, particularly under the Private Sector Development in Fragile Context Project. This choice reflects:

- UN Women's mandate and longstanding experience in advancing women's rights and women's economic empowerment in South Sudan.
- Its strong operational presence and partnerships with women-led and civil society organizations, including extensive experience establishing and supporting Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs);
- Its established partnerships with MoYS, the Ministry of Peacebuilding, and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare;
- Robust internal control, financial management, and results-based management systems, supported by dedicated human resource capacity for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting;
- A unique comparative advantage in integrating peacebuilding, climate adaptation, and women's economic empowerment in fragile settings.

At the operational level, AfDB- and PBF-supported teams will work together through harmonized planning and coordination arrangements. A consolidated implementation framework and rolling workplan will be developed and updated periodically to reflect sequencing, layering, and complementarities between AfDB-supported economic empowerment activities and PBF-supported peacebuilding and governance interventions. This will allow joint planning of timelines, geographic coverage, beneficiary targeting, and monitoring activities, while respecting each partner's fiduciary and reporting requirements.

In practice, the TWG will serve as the primary in-country coordination and oversight mechanism bringing together UN Women, UNESCO, AfDB, the PBF Secretariat/RCO, relevant government counterparts, UNMISS, and implementing partners. Through regular TWG meetings at national and state levels, project teams will jointly review progress, align sequencing of activities, and address implementation bottlenecks across both financing streams. TWG discussions will explicitly cover linkages between AfDB-supported economic empowerment activities and PBF-supported peacebuilding, governance, and social cohesion interventions, ensuring that programming remains mutually reinforcing. Operational coherence will be maintained through joint planning discussions within the TWG, including alignment of geographic focus, beneficiary targeting, and implementation timelines, while respecting each partner's reporting and fiduciary requirements. Regular joint progress reviews and monitoring under the TWG will provide a practical forum for shared learning, adaptive management, and coordinated monitoring, without establishing additional parallel coordination structures. At state level, TWG-linked coordination forums will facilitate routine information-sharing and alignment among project teams, government counterparts, and partners, ensuring that AfDB and PBF interventions are integrated in delivery and responsive to evolving context.

- d) **Monitoring and evaluation** – Describe the M&E approach for the project, including M&E expertise in the project team and main means and timing of collecting data? Include: a budget break-down for both monitoring and evaluation activities, including collection of baseline and end line data and an independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. To ensure alignment, as relevant, indicators from the existing Strategic Results Frameworks or UN Cooperation Frameworks should be included. Fund recipients are obligated to reserve at least 5-7% of the project budget for M&E activities, including sufficient funds for a quality, independent evaluation. Projects are recommended to invest in community-feedback loops (including with women), Community-based monitoring systems or output and/or outcome data collection mechanisms.

The project will implement a robust, adaptive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to track progress in real time, integrate lessons learned, and maintain accountability to women, communities, government partners, and donors. This system will combine traditional monitoring with participatory, community-driven methods, following the UN's Community Engagement Guidelines and prioritizing gender responsiveness throughout.

At the heart of the M&E approach is a dedicated M&E Analyst cost shared with UN Women to support the project. The M&E Specialist will be leading data collection, analysis, and reporting efforts. This role is supported by a Programme Analyst, while UN Women's Country Office M&E Specialist provides quality assurance and technical backstopping. To ensure rigor and independence, short-term consultants will be contracted for baseline and endline data collection, and a fully independent evaluator will conduct the final evaluation. The process will begin with a comprehensive baseline assessment during the first six months. This study will establish benchmarks for women's leadership in peacebuilding, economic empowerment indicators, and partner institutional capacity, with all data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to reflect diverse experiences, in line with UNSDCF indicators. Baseline data will also capture early-warning practices used by Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs), market safety measures implemented by women-led committees, and the status of local peace agreements.

Monitoring will occur quarterly using a mixed methods approach that blends surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques, ensuring rich qualitative

and quantitative insights. Multiple community channels such as VSLAs, women-led market safety committees, and grassroots peace platforms will serve as sentinel sites for data collection, maintaining a community-led focus. Women peacebuilders and youth will play active roles in data gathering, fostering local ownership and culturally sensitive approaches. Monitoring will include tracking financial disbursements, participation in training programs, conflict mediation efforts, and accountability dialogues at both state and community levels. Community feedback loops will be integral, featuring women-only consultation forums, VSLA-based peace and livelihood monitoring, and community scorecards to provide continuous input on project performance.

A mid-term review at month 18 will assess progress, identify challenges and risks, and recommend adjustments to keep the project on track and responsive to changing contexts. This review will include a detailed gender analysis to ensure women's empowerment remains central. The final evaluation, conducted independently between months 34 and 36, will measure the project's impact on strengthening women's leadership, enhancing economic resilience, and advancing peacebuilding outcomes. It will also evaluate how grassroots women's initiatives link to national peacebuilding and governance processes, and the extent to which women's participation has influenced policy reforms and institutional changes.

Data management will leverage digital tools like Kobo where feasible, with strict protocols to safeguard sensitive information given the context of peacebuilding and gender equality work in fragile settings. Reporting will follow regular cycles, including quarterly progress reports and annual narrative updates shared through stakeholder meetings and dissemination workshops. Capacity building will be central to the project M&E system. The project will train implementing partners, government officials, and community monitors on M&E methods, gender-sensitive data collection, conflict analysis, and use of digital tools, enhancing data quality and national ownership. The training will also support the integration of the feedback and complaints mechanism into the overall M&E framework.

Another key feature to the project M&E system is the robust community feedback and complaints mechanism. This will be established early in the project through consultations with communities, women-led organizations, and stakeholders to identify culturally appropriate, accessible channels and feedback will be collated during quarterly field monitoring visits. Multiple entry points including community focal points in VSLAs and peace committees, complaint channels, suggestion boxes, and women-led safe spaces will ensure inclusivity and confidentiality. Trained community monitors will handle grievances impartially, respond promptly, and maintain protections against retaliation. Feedback will be analysed regularly to inform adaptive management and improve project implementation.

M&E responsibilities will be embedded in the role of the WEE and M&E Specialist, who will serve full-time on the AfDB project and provide leadership in data collection, analysis, and reporting. The Specialist will be supported by a Programme Analyst, while UN Women's Country Office M&E Specialist will provide backstopping and quality assurance. To strengthen rigor and independence, short-term consultants will be engaged to carry out baseline and endline data collection, and a fully independent evaluator will conduct the final evaluation. A mid-term review will be conducted at month 18 to assess progress, identify risks, and propose course corrections, ensuring adaptive management in a changing context. In the final phase, an endline evaluation and a final project evaluation will be conducted between months 34 and 36, led by an independent evaluator, to assess relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and contribution to peacebuilding and gender equality. This final evaluation is expected to be conducted as a joint PBF–AfDB evaluation. The Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat/RCO will be invited to participate in African Development Bank supervision missions,

including joint field visits, to support shared learning, coherence, and joint assessment of results across the parallel financing arrangement.

#### M&E Budget

| S/No | Budget items  | Cost in USD   |
|------|---|---|
| 01   | Baseline  | 30,000  |
| 02   | Midterm Review  | 30,000  |
| 03   | Quarterly field monitoring visits where we take perception surveys, community feedback and complaints | 50,000  |
| 04   | Endline Data Collection   | 22,950  |
| 05   | Project Evaluation  | 65,000  |
| 06   | Project Evaluation  | 30,000 (AFDB Fund)  |
|      | Total   | 197,950 (6.19% of overall budget including 30,000 AFDB budget)<br>227,950 |

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

The project has been designed with sustainability in mind from the outset, ensuring that its results can endure beyond the project’s lifetime. The exit strategy rests on three interlinked pillars: institutional integration, strengthened women’s networks, and economic resilience. Given the current limitations in government commitment and institutional capacity, sustainability is intentionally not reliant on government uptake alone; instead, the project combines institutionalization with community-owned and economically grounded mechanisms that allow activities to continue even without external funding. A key measure for sustainability is embedding the project’s approaches within national and subnational institutions. The project will work closely with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the National Bureau of Statistics, where UN Women already has a technical presence. This ensures that peacebuilding mechanisms, accountability frameworks, and economic empowerment initiatives are reflected in government systems and policies, and that data collection and reporting remain functional beyond the life of the project.

Localization is at the center of implementation. Activities such as community dialogues, women-led market committees, and VSLA “situation rooms” are designed and managed by local actors, with government and CSOs playing facilitative rather than directive roles. To enhance sustainability, the project will link these community-based early-warning platforms to the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRRC), which holds the national mandate for early warning, reconciliation, and local peace structures integrating women’s early-warning and incident-tracking tools into SSPRRC reporting channels, and establishing

routine information exchange between women's groups and county peace committees, the project ensures that locally generated alerts feed into a formal system that outlives the project cycle. By aligning migration calendars, market access, and compensation templates with ongoing livelihood cycles, peacebuilding becomes part of routine community governance rather than a standalone intervention.

The Allow Me App which is already used in Juba to support authorization and movement coordination will be introduced to women's networks in target counties to facilitate safer mobility for reporting incidents, attending mediation sessions, and accessing markets. Digitizing parts of the early-warning and movement-clearance process strengthens timeliness, reduces reliance on male intermediaries, and expands women's ability to trigger and participate in local response mechanisms. By embedding early-warning functions in SSPRRC structures while enabling women's safe reporting through accessible digital tools, the project creates a durable, community-driven system capable of sustaining peacebuilding gains beyond the project period.

Seasonal peace roadmaps will be owned by chiefs, farmers, herders, and women leaders, ensuring that they are embedded in community practice and not dependent on external facilitation. Local mediators, youth peace ambassadors, and faith-based groups will be trained to sustain conflict resolution processes, ensuring continuity even after the project ends.

Because these groups generate savings, profits, and revolving capital, they maintain regular meetings independent of donor funding. Peacebuilding activities such as seasonal dialogue planning, incident tracking, and mediation are integrated into these existing economic routines. This means that the continuation of peacebuilding is not dependent on additional grants but sustained through the operational life of the enterprises themselves. As long as women continue trading, saving, and managing markets, the embedded peace mechanisms continue to function. Economic resilience directly underpins the durability of peacebuilding in three ways. 1, income reduces women's dependency and increases their legitimacy in community decision-making spaces, enabling them to sustain leadership roles beyond project funding. 2, savings groups provide small, locally managed funds that can cover low-cost peace functions such as convening meetings, transport for mediators, or communication for early warning alerts. 3, women-led market committees reduce day-to-day tensions around pricing, access, and harassment, addressing recurrent triggers of local conflict without requiring external facilitation.

Another measure is the strengthening of women's organizations and networks so they can continue their advocacy and service delivery independently. By building their capacity in financial literacy, business development, and conflict resolution, and linking them to regional and national coalitions, the project enables women to sustain their participation in peacebuilding. Special emphasis is placed on equipping women-led groups to generate their own income through savings schemes, micro-enterprises, and market committees, ensuring they can fund small-scale mediation, advocacy, and community awareness activities without reliance on donors. The economic empowerment component, supported through AfDB contributions, also creates income-generating opportunities that reinforce resilience and provide a practical base for women's continued leadership in peacebuilding by integrating peace functions such as early-warning, mediation, and dialogue facilitation into women-led economic groups and by establishing coordination linkages with relevant UNMISS-supported structures, including women's caucuses, local peace and ceasefire mechanisms, and civic engagement platforms. Through these linkages, women-led economic platforms and peace

forums supported under the project will be embedded within existing protection, political, and stabilization ecosystems, enhancing continuity, legitimacy, and sustainability beyond the project lifecycle

The newly formed women peace structures will also be integrated (or work closely) with the existing Youth Peace Forums (YPFs) – set up by UNESCO under the previous UN PBF project and active in both Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal States – from the start of the project. Also ensuring complementarity of the PBF interventions, their integration (or close working relationship) will ensure that they also become self-sustaining by learning from the operations of the YPFs as the YPFs have been functioning even beyond the project cycle.

UN Women and UNESCO will work with AfDB and other partners to identify complementarities, align with AfDB's livelihood and infrastructure initiatives, and engage with bilateral donors supporting the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Success stories and evidence will be documented and shared with the donor community and organization platforms to demonstrate impact and attract further investment. Where possible, synergies will be pursued with World Bank-supported women's centers and PBF projects led by IOM and UNFPA to ensure continuity and reduce duplication. By strengthening profitable enterprises and revolving savings mechanisms, it creates the financial base that allows women's groups to self-fund small-scale mediation, dialogue, and advocacy activities. In this way, livelihoods are not an add-on to peacebuilding; they are the financial engine that sustains it.

The exit strategy is also anchored in the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus by linking immediate livelihood and empowerment needs with longer-term governance and peacebuilding priorities. Activities that require no further external support, such as community dialogue forums, trained local mediators, and accountability platforms, will be handed over to communities and government actors. To reduce dependency on follow-up funding, sustainability plans include: (i) locally managed revolving funds within VSLAs, (ii) institutionalization of community peace roadmaps into county government planning cycles, and (iii) legal empowerment of women's groups to register as cooperatives for access to local government and private-sector financing.

An independent evaluation at the end of the project will provide recommendations for scaling and replication. This approach ensures that the project strengthens institutions, empowers women's networks, and mobilizes sustained support, leaving a foundation for lasting peacebuilding and economic resilience in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria. Sustainability rests on embedding tools in government systems (MoPB, MoGCSW, MoYS, and the National Bureau of Statistics), institutionalizing seasonal dialogue routines, and strengthening women's and faith-based networks to carry forward early-warning, market-safety, and advocacy functions. AfDB co-financing and targeted donor engagement support follow-on financing; community roadmaps and market committees require minimal recurring cost and can be maintained locally.

#### **IV. Project budget**

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

direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.

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

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

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

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

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

| Question  | Yes | No | Comments   |
|---|-----|----|--|
| <b>Planning</b>   |     |    |  |
| 1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline?   |     | No | All participating agencies adhere to a rigorous, transparent, and competitive process for identifying project partners. Call for proposals based on the project objectives and results are advertised and selected partners are screened, and a risk-based capacity assessment is conducted for selected partners. The risk-based assessment includes sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risk and compliance. Partner onboarding will be conducted within the first two months the implementation of the project. |
| 2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission.  | Yes |    | The required expertise already exists within UN Women and will be utilized. Advertisement will therefore be limited to positions requiring external recruitment and is expected within the first month of project approval.  |
| 3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline  | Yes |    | Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria states, with activities in Wau, Jur River, Tambura, and Yambio.   |
| 4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.                        | Yes |    | Initial consultations were done during concept note development with ministri and WLOs. At the proposal stage, consultations were held with WLOs, community leaders and stakeholders, government as well as partners. Broader sensitization with state and county authorities will be conducted during the inception phase.  |
| 5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline? | Yes |    | Lessons from the 2024 SSR project, AfDB WEE initiatives, and previous PBF projects were integrated. Additional conflict analysis and baseline will be done within the first six months.  |
| 6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline?  | Yes |    | 80% women (including 30% young women and 50% adult women), 20% men and boys, with an additional 500 women leaders targeted for leadership strengthening. Specific targeting will be conducted at the inception of the project in locations of implementation   |
| 7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?                                   |     | No | The Ministry of Peacebuilding, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the National Bureau of Statistics have expressed commitment.  |

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?                                  | Yes | UN Women leads as the convening agency and UNESCO leads on education and community peacebuilding; partners through a Technical Working Group.  |
| 9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?          | N/A | The baseline survey and the onboarding of partners, detailed workplan development during the inception phase, which could typically take around 3-4 months.                            |
| <b>Gender</b>   |     |  |
| 10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)? | Yes | In addition to the existing Gender, Economic, and WPS expertise from the recipient agencies, in UN Women regional and HQ advisors' offices were consulted to provide technical inputs. |
| 11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?   | Yes | WLOs in Wau, Aweil, and Yambio were consulted during concept note development. Further consultations are planned in the inception phase.   |
| 12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?   | Yes | All indicators are disaggregated by sex and age.   |
| 13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?                    | Yes | Over 40% of project resources are allocated to local women's organizations through sub-grants and capacity building, with explicit GEWE justifications in Annex D.                     |

#### Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

|  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| 10. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money? | No  |   |
| 11. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in   | Yes | Unit costs for travel, consultancies, and procurement have been benchmarked against previous PB |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| <p>past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.</p>   |            | <p>supported projects in South Sudan and against AfDB supported interventions. They are in line with standard UN operational rates and reflect the challenging logistics of the target areas.</p>  |
| <p>12. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.</p>   | <p>Yes</p> | <p>The budget is proportionate to the scope of work covering two conflict-affected states with significant logistical and access challenges. It aligns with the scale of intended beneficiaries—3,500 direct participants (80% women, 30% youth) and broad community-level peacebuilding mechanisms—and sufficient to achieve the outlined outcomes.</p> |
| <p>13. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Staffing costs are kept below 20% of the total budget with operational and travel costs justified by the need to operate in fragile, dispersed, and hard-to-reach communities. All costs are clearly visible in the budget narrative and reasonable for the South Sudan context.</p>  |
| <p>14. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?</p>  | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Staff costs are proportionate to the required workload. The project emphasizes the use of national expertise, with international inputs minimized to advisory roles. Most technical, coordination, and implementation responsibilities are assigned to national staff based in Juba, Wau, and Yambio.</p>   |
| <p>15. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.</p>                        | <p>No</p>  |  |
| <p>16. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.</p>   | <p>No</p>  |  |
| <p>17. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.</p>   | <p>Yes</p> | <p>AfDB will contribute USD 950,000 complementary funding, specifically targeting women's economic empowerment activities with</p>   |

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  | possibility of a scale up in 2026. UN Women also leverages in-kind support through its technical presence in the National Bureau of Statistics, as well as ongoing coordination with UNMISS to provide logistical support where needed. |
|--|--|--|---|

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

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

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

### **AA Functions**

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

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

### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations**

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

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

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

| Type of report                      | Due when | Submitted by  |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Semi-annual project progress report | 15 June  | Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in |

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

#### Financial reporting and timeline

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Public Disclosure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Reporting:**

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

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

## Financial reports and timeline

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

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

### Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

### Public Disclosure

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

### Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

### Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

### Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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

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

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (NOTE: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (NOTE: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.<sup>41</sup>
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

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<sup>41</sup> Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

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

| Outcomes   | Outputs | Indicators   | Means of Verification/<br>frequency of collection                  | Indicator<br>milestones   |
|--|---------|--|--|---|
| Outcome 1: Women and youth in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal actively influence and lead peacebuilding processes, to prevent conflicts<br><br>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to. As relevant, alignment to UNSDCF and/or Strategic Results Framework indicators recommended at outcome and output levels)<br><br>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR) |         | Outcome Indicator 1: Percentage of Women and Men in the target communities reporting reduction in community level conflicts.<br><br>(Aligned with SRF Indicator 3.a)   | Baseline, midterm, endline evaluation and Annual perception survey | Baseline: TBC<br>Milestone year 1: TBC<br>Year 2: TBC<br>Year 3: TBC<br>Overall: TBC<br><br>The Baseline and the milestone will be set after the baseline is conducted in the first quarter of the project. |
|  |         | Outcome Indicator 2: Percentage of women and men in target communities who feels that conflicts within their community are resolved satisfactory through the inclusive community-based conflict resolution mechanisms. | Baseline, midterm, endline evaluation and Annual perception survey | Baseline: TBC<br>Milestone year 1: TBC<br>Year 2: TBC<br>Year 3: TBC<br>Overall: TBC  |
|  |         | Outcome Indicator 3: Percentage of women and men in target communities who perceive that women and young people meaningfully influence peacebuilding processes.  | Baseline, midterm, endline evaluation and Annual perception survey | Baseline: TBC<br>Milestone year 1: TBC<br>Year 2: TBC<br>Year 3: TBC<br>Overall: TBC  |

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| <p>Output 1.1: women and youth -led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) supported through tailored TVET, business development, entrepreneurship services, and improved access to financing and national and regional markets.</p> | <p>Output Indicator 1.1: Individuals trained on business development, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy (50% women).</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2: Number of VSLAs graduated to SACCOs (at least 50% women led).</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2: Number of public-private dialogue forums held</p> | <p>1500</p> <p>30</p> <p>4</p>  | <p>1500</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>  |
| <p>Output 1.2: Women's participation and meaningful leadership in formal and informal peacebuilding, governance and Conflicts resolution mechanism are significantly increased.</p>  | <p>Output Indicator 1.2.1: Percentage of women and youth reporting increased confidence, knowledge, and skills to engage in governance and peacebuilding processes.</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.2: Meeting minutes Resolution lists tracker</p>   | <p>Annual perception surveys on confidence and engagement in governance/peacebuilding processes.</p> <p>Pre- and post-training assessment data</p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Milestone<br/>Year 1: 5<br/>Year 2: 5<br/>Year 3: 5<br/>Overall: 15</p> | <p>Baseline: TBC<br/>Milestone:<br/>Year 1: TBC<br/>Year 2: TBC<br/>Year 3: TBC<br/>Overall: TBC</p> |
| <p>Output 1.3: Inclusive, Gender-responsive community peacebuilding</p>  | <p>Output Indicator 1.3.1: Number of inclusive peacebuilding platforms established or strengthened with Quotas for Women, Youth and persons with disabilities and displaced person participation.</p>   | <p>Meeting lists<br/>Meeting minutes<br/>Activity progress report</p>   | <p>Baseline:0<br/>Milestone:<br/>Year One: 6<br/>Overall: 6</p>                                      |

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|  | <p>structures are established and/or strengthened.</p>   | <p>Number of early-warning reports on conflict and GBV produced by the inclusive community-based peacebuilding mechanism and acted upon through coordination with the county, state and/or national peacebuilding mechanism.</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.3.2: Number of collaborative initiatives between community-based peacebuilding platforms and the county, state and/or National peacebuilding platforms</p> | <p>Activity progress report</p> <p>Project activity progress Report</p>                 | <p>Baseline:<br/>0Milestone:<br/>Year One: 2<br/>Year Two: 5<br/>Year Three: 5<br/>Overall: 12</p> <p>Baseline:<br/>0Milestone:<br/>Year One: 4<br/>Year Two: 4<br/>Year Three: 4<br/>Overall: 12</p> |
| <p>Output 1.4:<br/>Peacebuilding mechanism capacities at community level and state level are gthened to ensure transparent accouny</p> | <p>Output Indicator 1.4.1: Number of public dialogues held that focus on women's participation in peacebuilding, with regular attendance and feedback from diverse women's groups.</p> | <p>Dialogue reports and public scorecards<br/>Action-tracking matrices<br/>Meeting minutes and progress reports from participating institutions</p>   | <p>Baseline:<br/>0Milestone<br/>Year 1: 2<br/>Year 2: 3<br/>Year3: 3<br/>Overall: 8</p> |   |

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|  | <p>for women's participation in peacebuilding and governance.</p> | <p>Output Indicator 1.4.2: Percentage of Women, Youth and people with disability meaningfully participating in peacebuilding initiatives.</p> | <p>Community dialogue and peacebuilding meeting attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity progress report</li> </ul> | <p>Baseline: TBC<br/>Milestone<br/>Year 1: TBC<br/>Year 2: TBC<br/>Year 3: TBC<br/>Overall: TBC</p> |
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