



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

United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Malawi	
Project Title: Strengthening Malawi's Peace Infrastructure for conflict prevention and sustaining peace in borderland districts.	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project): 00140045	
PBF project modality:	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):
<input type="checkbox"/> IRF	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund
Name of Recipient Fund:	
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC), Ministry of Local Government, National Unity & Culture, Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, Malawi Police Services, Malawi Human Rights Commission, Independent Complaints Commission (ICC), Public Affairs Committee, Paralegal Advisory Service Institute, Youth and Society, Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJP), Femwise, Human Rights Defenders Coalition, Plan International, Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO), Citizen Alliance, Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC), Organization for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Initiative (OSSEDI), Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE), Action Aid Malawi, Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA), Banja Lamtsogolo (BLM - Marie Stopes International), Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM)	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 24 months + 16 months ending 30 June 2026	
Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: The cost extension proposes to extend the work beyond the Borderland districts of Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi and include two additional districts identified as potential electoral violence hotspots. The new districts identified are Lilongwe and Blantyre. Therefore, the cost extension will focus on five (5) potential election hotspots districts.	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative ³	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative ⁴	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):	

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

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

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

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

UNDP: \$ 2,200,000

UNFPA: \$ 600,000

UN Women: \$ 700,000

TOTAL: \$ 3,500,000

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

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): UNDP TRAC and other donors funds will complement the project.

- UNDP TRAC – USD 700,000 in 2022-2024
- UNDP TRAC – USD 600,000
- SDG-AF Phase 1 USD 837,312 (Project ended, December 2023),
- SDG AF Phase 2, USD 367,444 (Project end date 31 March 2025)
- JSB, USD 1,000,000 USD 1 mil from JSB (Project ended, June 2024),
- The Clingendael Institute, in-kind, facilitators' fees for one training;
- UN DPO, salaries of two UN Police Advisors. DPO covers their salaries and the project all other costs (travel and DSA, logistic).

PBF 1st tranche (70%):

UNDP: \$ 900,000

UNFPA: \$ 300,000

UN Women: \$ 300,000

Total: \$ 1,500,000

PBF 2nd tranche* (30%):

UNDP: \$ 900,000

UNFPA: \$ 300,000

UN Women: \$ 300,000

Total: \$ 1,500,000

Expenditure of 75% of the funds of the 1st tranche is required for disbursement of the 2nd tranche.

PBF 3rd tranche* (_%):

UNDP: \$ 400,000

UNFPA: \$ 0

UN Women: \$100,000

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

The original project **sought** to strengthen and build the capacity of national and subnational infrastructures for peace and conflict prevention with a special focus on borderland communities along the borders with Mozambique and Tanzania. The project **aimed** to mobilise and build borderland communities' capacities for peace education, conflict prevention, and early warning and response on socio-economic, political and cross-border risks and threats. The Project also **works to** build the professional capacities of rule of law and human rights institutions, organisations and actors in the three target borderland districts. Support also includes strengthening human rights protection mechanisms relating to the protection of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence, early/child marriage, human trafficking. To ensure conflict and socio-economic risks and local peace and conflict prevention networks in these communities are mainstreamed and integrated into district and national development planning processes, this project leveraged the recently passed Peace and Unity Act to support the establishment and capacitating of the Malawi peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) focusing on the three target districts. Work in this area includes setting up

coordination mechanism and linkages including a referral process for conflict prevention and mediation and early warning and response systems. Given that this is a borderland support project and given the current developments in the Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique, the activities of the project also aimed to contribute to preventing violent extremism through incorporating through community early warning and response mechanisms, and community peace and conflict prevention education and awareness activities.

An amendment to the Project proposes to harness the current conflict prevention and mitigation activities the UN is supporting through this Project to continue to strengthen the national peace architecture to ensure more inclusive and peaceful tripartite elections, which are currently scheduled for September 2025. The amended Project therefore proposes to strengthen the core activities of the MPUC in terms of conflict analysis, prevention, mitigation, as well as strengthening their convening role by supporting their efforts to foster dialogues aimed at building consensus amongst national and district stakeholders for peaceful elections. The amended Project also seeks to extend work with DPUCs to two additional districts, which were identified as potential electoral hotspots in the March 2024 Malawi Police Service Electoral Security Needs Assessment and September 2024 Comprehensive Crime Hotspot Mapping Report for Malawi, namely, Lilongwe, and Blantyre.

The amended proposal also includes additional activities focused on engaging young people in peacebuilding in the context of the election to strengthen the role of youth in mitigating violent conflict including electoral violence. These proposed intervention areas are in line priorities areas of the recently launched National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security. Additional work with the Malawi Police Service, Independent Complaints Commission (ICC) and Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) aimed at ensuring proper oversight and accountability in the context of the elections is also included in this proposal.

In alignment to UNSCR 1325 pillars of participation, prevention and protection, work by UN Women to address Violence against Women in Elections and Politics and (VAWE/P) has also been integrated into the revised Project in response to the Need Assessments Reports which also identifies the same 5 target districts as high-risk areas for sexual violence highlighting the vulnerability of women and girls during these politically charged times. Evidence from the 2019 electoral cycle illustrates this linkage 18 women and girls were subjected to sexual violence by police officers during post-election unrest in Lilongwe⁵ as reported by as reported by the MHRC. Additionally, 138 cases of violence against women were recorded in the 2019 elections encompassing physical, psychological, and sexual. These forms of violence are often gender-specific, aiming to suppress women's political ambitions and maintain patriarchal dominance⁶. To address these, key interventions will include awareness and advocacy campaigns targeting political actors, security agencies, and communities and capacity building of women, law enforcement agencies to ensure timely prevention and response to VAWE/P. These interventions advance the protection pillar of UNSCR 1325 by safeguarding women from election-related harm, support participation by removing barriers to political engagement, and promote prevention through early warning systems and community monitoring thereby facilitating women's safety, agency, and inclusion in peaceful electoral processes. This VAWP/E work will be complemented by ongoing activities to strengthen GBV referral pathways and to create "safe spaces" for women during elections.

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

Consultations for the **original** project were triggered by the risk analysis of the reviewed Malawi Common Country Analysis undertaken between 2020 and 2021, which looked at internal conflict dynamics and socio-economic risks, as well as the analysis of regional insecurity within SADC. These analyses resulted in a UNCT agreement to prioritize community-based human rights protection, conflict prevention and dialogue in borderland communities. The PDA Team led a participatory conflict assessment in four borderland districts with Mozambique in May 2021, in coordination with the Ministry of National Unity, which is the main counterpart for the UN in the implementation of the Malawi National Peace Architecture and Peace Policy. The Ministry led the technical consultations within the government, including the Ministries of Gender and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Homeland Security, which complemented the consultations conducted by the UN in the border communities. The UN also engaged civil society organisations, including the Public Affairs Committee, Center for Multiparty Democracy, and human, youth and women’s rights organizations to inform the activities put forward in this proposal. Participating agencies also consulted the following partners and CSOs on the project: The Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Independent (Police) Complaints Commission, Paralegal Advisory Service Institute (PASI), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Malawi Council for the Handicapped, Public Affairs Committee (PAC), Youth and Society, Kayira Youth Initiative, Young Politicians Union, Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJP), Africa Women Leaders Network, National Youth Council of Malawi, Women and Faith, NGO Gender Coordination Network.

A project extension application was triggered by new risk analysis undertaken in 2023 of the Malawi Common Country Analysis, the March 2024 Malawi Police Service Electoral Security Needs Assessment Report, Malawi Police Service Annual Reports 2020 – 2023, September 2024 Comprehensive Crime Hotspot Mapping Report for Malawi and Election Dispute Resolution Framework October 2024. All these assessments indicate that the 2025 tripartite elections will be taking place in highly competitive, charged, and increasingly polarised political environment with strong regional/ethnic undertones within a challenging economic/food insecurity context with particular risk of political and electoral violence. These assessments also call for targeted investments in National Peace Architectures during the pre-election, election, and post-election phases (during formation of government) for conflict management, mediation and thereby preventing escalation into violence or public mistrust.

At several consultations held with political parties, CSOs, government, MPS, Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to share and discuss the results of the Assessments, participants attested to the fact that the MPUC, DPUCs and other local I4Ps have a key role to play in dealing with electoral (and other related violence). The pressure is now mounting on the MPUC (which was only finally established in mid-2023) to get up to speed and prove its effectiveness quickly in the lead up to the 2025 election – in order to establish its long-term role and relevance in maintaining peace in the country. Furthermore, consultations also underscored the importance of investing in young people, in terms of participation and sustaining peace in the lead up to, during and after the 2025 Elections.

The assessments and subsequent consultations also highlighted the specific gendered risks present in Malawi’s electoral context. Despite ongoing efforts to promote gender equality, women's representation in elected positions remains low, with structural barriers and pervasive violence acting as major deterrents. Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWE/P)—ranging from physical beatings, threats and harassment to psychological and online abuse—has been

consistently cited as a significant factor discouraging women from running for office or participating in political processes. This reality is exacerbated by the current polarized political climate, which intensifies hostilities and reduces tolerance for women's public leadership. Addressing these gendered risks is therefore critical not only for safeguarding women's rights but also for fostering an inclusive, peaceful electoral environment. These considerations informed the design of the project extension, which incorporates targeted interventions to protect women from electoral violence and support their active political participation in line with Malawi's UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan objectives and National Peace Architecture goals.

The proposed new areas of work were discussed with Malawi Permanent Representative to the UN in August - September 2024, with the Minister of Local Government, Unity, and Culture and Chief, Financing for Peacebuilding and UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs by the UN Resident Coordinator for Malawi and with Director for Central and Southern Africa in the United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) during his mission to Malawi from 06-08 November 2024.

The project extension has been designed in collaboration with the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (the umbrella for Malawi's National Peace Architecture) to ensure their contextual knowledge and expectations inform the proposal design, and complements the RCO PDA team, UNDP, UNFPA, and UN Women's expertise on building infrastructure for peace and youth and peacebuilding. The twenty-two stakeholder consultative workshops that supported the formulation of the 2013 "Development of a National Peace Architecture for Malawi" document also informed the design of this updated proposal. This revised proposal has also been discussed with technical staff from Ministry of Local Government, Unity, and Culture and with non-state actors working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding like the Public Affairs Committee (PAC), and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD).

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 2

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: **52.83 % - \$1,755,362**

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment⁶: This project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that **all activities mainstream gender in their implementation and that a minimum of 40% of women are included in the different activities in line with principle of 40/60 quota provided for in the Gender Equality Act (2013)**. At the same time, training curricula will include specific components related to the protection of women and girls, women and youth peace and security by ensuring that women and youth quotas in the Peace and Unity Act are met. The costed extension will also enhance **gender-sensitive mediation capacity through targeted trainings and through their inclusion in the MPUC Roster of Experts for standby mediators** ready to be deployed at national and district levels to mediate political and election related conflict in election hotspot areas.

The second outcome of the project is specifically focused on enhancing human rights protection,

⁵ **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

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

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

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

especially the prevention and mitigation of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and providing safe spaces and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services in borderland communities and election hot spot areas.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)⁸: 2.3 – conflict prevention/management

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: The project contributes to **Strategic Priority Area 2: Strengthen institutional governance, outcome 2: - By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, will experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation as well as other** outcomes and outputs under Pillars 1 and 2 of the current UNDAF:

- I) Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy;
- II) Establish real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace;
- III) **Enhance the capacity of Government, community leaders, mechanisms and policies to advance peaceful and harmonious societies.**
- IV) Strengthen participatory governance, **including women, youth and those most left behind;**
- V) Implementation and monitoring of all global, regional and national obligations and commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls;
- VI) Girls and boys 6-17 years, particularly the most marginalized, benefit from an integrated package of quality education, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and protection services;
- VII) Civic engagement and participation

If applicable, **Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes: The backbone of the project is formed by SDG 16 to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: the project contributes to the targets of SDG 16, 3.4 and 5.2, 5.3.

The project also contributes to the priorities of the New Malawi Long Term Vision (Malawi 2063) by aligning itself with the following priorities:

- I) a united, peaceful, patriotic, and proud people that believe in their own abilities and are active participants in building their nation
- II) Effective Governance Systems and Institutions
- III) Mindset Change

⁷ Risk marker 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁸ PBF Focus Areas are:

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

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

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

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

<p>Type of submission:</p> <p>New project</p> <p>Project Amendment</p>	<p>If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:</p> <p>Extension of duration: Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): 16 months ending 30 June 2026</p> <p>Change of project outcome/ scope: X</p> <p>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: X <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Additional PBF budget: Additional amount by recipient organization: UNDP: USD 400,000 UNWOMEN: USD 100,000</p> <p>Brief justification for amendment:</p> <p>The costed extension application was triggered by new risk analysis undertaken in 2023 of the Malawi Common Country Analysis, the March 2024 Malawi Police Service Electoral Security Needs Assessment Report, Malawi Police Service Annual Reports 2020 – 2023, September 2024 Comprehensive Crime Hotspot Mapping Report for Malawi and Election Dispute Resolution Framework October 2024. All these assessments indicate that the 2025 tripartite elections will be taking place in highly competitive, charged, and increasingly polarised political environment with strong regional/ethnic undertones within a challenging economic/food insecurity context with particular risk of political and electoral violence. In 2023 and 2024, the UN continues to observe growing political tensions with actual incidents of political violence. Recent contestation by political parties around voter registration is already a red flag, signaling potential conflict in the upcoming elections. Misinformation and disinformation are posing serious electoral risk in Malawi by undermining trust in the Electoral institution, distorting public perception, fueling tensions and potentially undermining the legitimacy of the elections. It has also been attributed as one of the causes for low turnout during the recent voter registration phase which concluded in February 2025, with only 65% of eligible voting population registered compared to 80% in 2019-2020 election.</p> <p>Based on these early warning indicators, incidents of political violence and the political rhetoric around the 2025 elections, point to the need for early and proactive action and the need to support political dialogue mechanisms at the highest level and community-level engagements towards peaceful elections. Furthermore, the various assessments referred to in earlier part of this document, call for targeted investments in National Peace Architectures during the pre-election, election, and post-election phases (during formation of government) for conflict management, mediation and thereby preventing escalation into violence or public mistrust.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed costed extension will enable UNDP to build on existing work with the MPUC, DPUC, young people and the Malawi Police Service to strengthen their capacities to support conflict prevention and mitigation in the</p>
--	---

context of the upcoming elections. Work by UN Women and UNFPA to address violence against women in politics and elections has also been integrated into the revised Project, complemented by work to establish and strengthen GBV referral pathways and create safe spaces for women.

Key Results achieved to date:

Outcome 1:

- Successfully established with limited operationalisation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) as the central institution for promoting unity, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, management & resolution.
- Supported the development of key policy documents: MPUC Strategic Plan, Communication Strategy, Resource Mobilization Strategy.
- Enhanced the functionality of District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Machinga, Karonga, and Mangochi, leading to 64% of referred disputes being resolved through mediation as a way of strengthening community level mediation and early warning mechanisms.
- Improved community safety and security in border areas by establishing nine community policing liaison platforms and conducting training for 334 security actors on human rights protection and conflict prevention.
- Leveraged migration flow monitoring to address risks of trafficking, smuggling, and GBV at 54 informal crossing points, reducing the potential for conflict and improving cross-border social cohesion.
- Empowered 465 youth (57% female) to act as peace ambassadors, directly engaging 9,572 peers to promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding in their communities.

Outcome 2

- Increased women's leadership in peacebuilding by mobilizing and training 14 women's movement groups, reaching over 61,000 people through community sensitizations. These efforts resolved 366 critical cases, including 48% related to child marriages and 20% linked to violence against women.
- Rescued 115 children from child marriages and human trafficking and reintegrated 69 children (58 girls) into school, enhancing their safety and future prospects.
- Established and strengthened 148 safe spaces across the three districts, providing over 3,000 women and youth with access to SRHR services, psychosocial support, and training on gender-based violence prevention.
- Finalized the development of a Youth National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250, ensuring youth voices are institutionalized in national peacebuilding frameworks.

Key targets to be achieved within the costed extension period:

Outcome 1: Strengthen Malawi's Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding, and human rights protection and to facilitate dialogues in order to build consensus for a peaceful election amongst national and district stakeholders in communities prone to election violence including in borderland communities.

Output 1.1 Malawi's national and subnational infrastructure for peace established, operationalised, and capacitated to prevent, mitigate electoral violence

- 2 national level trainings for additional insider mediators from different networks with visibility and clout to influence the government and different stakeholders towards peaceful conflict resolution mechanism (c.f Act 1.1.3)
- 5 conflict mitigation and mediation trainings held for Multi Party Liaison Committees (MPLC) and DPUCs in target districts with emphasis on the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities as trained mediators (c.f Act 1.1.2)
- Strategic engagements by PAC, MPUC with Political Parties to sign peace pledges at district level and with Heads of Political Parties for signing of Peace Pledges at the national level(c.f Act 1.1.3)
- Strategic engagements by the Resident Coordinator with key political leaders (shuttle diplomacy, good offices activity) to garner their support for the public signing and declarations for commitment to Peace during elections, thereby complementing national stakeholders' insider mediation efforts. (c.f Act 1.1.3)
- Signing of Peace Pledges by heads of political parties before the 2025 Tripartite elections. (c.f Act 1.1.3)

Output 1.2 Enhanced accountability and capacity of security and the rule of law mechanisms to effectively monitor and protect human rights and support conflict prevention and mitigation

- Re-engage community policing structures in collaboration with stakeholders to conduct inter-groups dialogues and foster contact among groups to reduce tensions (Act 1.2.2 in budget).
- Support the Independent Police Complaints Commission to work with the Malawi Human rights Commission to monitor, report on, and provide recommendation regarding human rights violations and electoral-related violence based on police and other security institutions' action (Act 1.2.4 in budget).
- Organize Roadshows by the ICC with Police, chiefs, and youth on the ICC work and services available to the public during elections in hot spot districts (Act 1.2.4 in budget).

Outcome 2: In target districts, strengthen human rights protection mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking

and child marriages

Output 2.1 Women and girls have increased knowledge on access to safe spaces and referral pathways in electoral conflict context.

- Reinvigorate awareness on mental health and psychosocial support and the functional referral pathways services for Gender Based violence (Act 2.1.1 in budget).

Output 2.2: Youth and women organisations and networks in the target borderland and election hotspot districts mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives

- Capacity of women's groups and movements strengthened to (i) enable them to actively participate as community electoral peace campaigners (ii) engage in VAWIE/P monitoring activities to document VAWIE/P incidences and (iii) periodic reports generated and disseminated on VAWIE/P to inform action by electoral stakeholders and law enforcement towards peaceful elections (Activity 2.2.2 in budget).
- Awareness-raising campaign on VAWIE/P prevention rolled out with community-based media outlets, community policing structures, DPUCs, MPLCs, youth clubs, traditional leaders, community based political party structures, and others.
- Youth-specific CVE activities in 5 target districts rolled out, including education relating to conflict prevention and management, tackling hate speech and media and digital literacy. Activities will also include multi-stakeholder dialogues that include young people, in order to discuss issues related to violence, security, and the importance of peaceful elections and provide young people with platforms to share their perspectives (Act 2.2.3)
- Capacities of youth-led organizations built to engage in violence monitoring and reporting, including by providing access to early warning monitoring tools (Act 2.2.3).

Preparation for Independent Evaluation

The extension also includes preparation for project end evaluation. A term of reference is being drafted to define the scope, requirements, and expectations of the evaluation.

Total spent budget up to date:

- UNDP: USD 1,522,714.79 spent of USD\$1,800,000 received, 84.5%
- UNWOMEN: USD 552,520.36 spent USD\$600,000 received, 92.1%
- UNFPA: 535,800.36 spent USD\$ 600,000 received, 89.3%
- Spent budget vs total budget: USD\$2,611,035.51 87.03% spent of USD\$3,000,000

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<p>Recipient Organization(s)⁹:</p> <p>Name of Representative Fenella Frost Signature </p> <p>Resident Representative, UNDP Date & Seal</p> 	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p>Name of Government Counterpart Dr Justin Sadack K. Saidi Signature </p> <p>Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet Date & Seal</p> 
<p>Recipient Organization(s):</p> <p>Name of Representative Fatma Mahomed Signature </p> <p>Deputy Resident Representative, UN Women Date & Seal</p> 	<p>Recipient Organization(s):</p> <p>Name of Representative Richard Delate Signature </p> <p>Resident Representative, UNFPA Date & Seal</p> 
<p>Head of UN Country Team Rebecca Adda-Dontoh Signature </p> <p>UN Resident Coordinator Date & Seal</p> 	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Elizabeth Spehar Signature </p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal 2 April 2026</p>

⁹ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

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

a) A brief summary of conflict analysis findings as they relate to this project

Malawi, though always considered a peaceful country, has underlying conflict dynamics and socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities that threaten social cohesion, community security and peaceful coexistence, especially in the borderland communities.

At the national level, the events that followed the contested presidential election results in 2019 and 2020 exposed Malawi's vulnerabilities to conflict and social and civil unrest. The post-2019 election period witnessed an escalation of security risks and conflicts between civil society and the police, civil society and the government, as well as conflicts between communities. The civil demonstrations and violence went beyond just the flawed elections and spread to district and community levels and other organised groups. The concerns hinge upon many other issues, such as long-standing unresolved human rights and social inequalities, poverty, tribalism/ethnicity, increasing interfaith challenges, corruption, land distribution/access, marginalisation of women and youth voices in the limited dialogue fora and economic activity, shrinking CSO space, human rights abuses against women, children and persons living with albinism, and the spectre of terrorism from neighboring countries.

These demonstrations and the mistrust they generated between citizens and public institutions brought to the fore the need for independent institutional mechanisms for dialogue, mediation and coordination and linking national and local level conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. The post-2019 electoral violence also exposed the need for mobilising and strengthening community human rights and conflict prevention mechanisms, structures and actors to effectively deal with human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, community development and emerging regional and cross-border security concerns, particularly in borderland communities like Karonga, Mangochi and Machinga, where existing cross-border tensions, interreligious tensions, ethnicity, social inequalities, limited economic opportunities and perceived marginalisation could be exacerbated by extremists violence in neighboring countries.

The rapidly deteriorating economic situation and its impact on livelihoods is also exerting pressure on social cohesion and peace in the country. The Russia-Ukraine crisis has exacerbated an already fragile economic situation. The headline inflation rate (year on year) for June 2022 is now 23.5%, with food inflation at 31.2%. Fuel at the pump suffered a 20% increase in April and a further 40% in June. If the situation continues, it could impact Malawi's ability to import essential goods (fuel and medicines) and aggravate poverty, inequality, and unemployment, especially among vulnerable populations. The economic situation has political and social implications for the country. Since April 2022, over 15 protests relating to the rising cost of living have been organised. The economic crisis has the potential to ignite already existing ethnic differences between the South and the Center and increase negative rhetoric against non-Malawian business interests, especially Malawians of Asian descent.

The impact of Covid-19 has also exerted significant economic and social pressure on communities. As revealed by the COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment Report (2020), about 3 in 4 women and men in all age groups indicated that they had suffered decreases in income as a result of the pandemic (73% and 76% respectively). The most common experiences that women and men had during the pandemic were financial difficulties (67% and 68% respectively), eating less or skipping a meal altogether because of lack of money or other resources (62% and 64% respectively), not eating at all

for a day or more because of lack of money or other resources (46% and 51% respectively), and loss of employment of the head of household (18% and 19% respectively). rebuilding efforts from the pandemic are not yielding much progress due to rising inflation, which has aggravated the situation as many communities are finding it hard to afford commodities for daily living. Inflation rose to 15.7 percent in April 2022, the highest since March 2017. Domestic food prices have been increasing, while surging global oil prices on top of supply constraints induced by the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to a jump in domestic energy prices. Higher fuel prices have been passed on to consumers after the price was adjusted by 22 percent in April 2022.¹⁰ By the end of May 2022, Malawi devalued its currency by 25% to prop up dwindling foreign currency reserves.

In this context, the UN undertook a conflict assessment in the four borderland districts of Mangochi, Machinga, Mulanje, and Phalombe in May 2021 and a follow-up assessment in July 2022 which included Karonga district (i.e., Karonga, Mangochi, Machinga, Mulanje, and Phalombe). The objective of the assessments was to identify and analyse potential conflict and socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities of border communities, and potential spillover effects of refugees, asylum seekers, cross-border trade among others. The report showed border communities exhibit weak capacities for effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding around existing internal conflict dynamics and vulnerabilities such as interreligious tensions, land conflicts, exclusion of women and youth, irregular migration, child trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, and border porosity. Therefore, border communities and institutional mechanisms cannot support cross-border dialogue, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in case of conflicts and crises.

Informed by the aforementioned, the UNCT, under the leadership of the RC, is proposing this project to support the establishment and operationalisation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) to lead and coordinate national and subnational capacities for peace, conflict early warning and responses and mainstreaming conflict prevention into national and district development plans. The need for a national peace architecture to support more sustained conflict prevention efforts was raised after an outbreak in violence in 2011 between the police and civilians.¹ Following a UN-facilitated dialogue in the aftermath of that violence, a 2013 “Development of a National Peace Architecture for Malawi” Report was published, which was informed by an inclusive consultation process and literature review on good practices from countries such as Kenya and Ghana. The Report proposed the establishment of a permanent national institutional framework for the promotion of collaborative peacebuilding mechanisms. This was followed by the approval of a National Peace Policy in 2017, but the establishment of the national peace architecture stalled after this point. As a result, the absence of an institution responsible for conflict management resulted again in ad-hoc and uncoordinated responses to the recurrence of violence in the lead-up to and aftermath of the 2019 election. The revered quasi-religious Public Affairs Committee (PAC) which has been promoting dialogue between communities and the Government was rejected as a mediator by the ruling DPP in 2019, as it was perceived as pro-opposition in its advocacy work. PAC has always suffered an identity crisis as stakeholders sometimes perceive it as an advocacy group that takes sides on issues rather than an independent interlocutor. The project aims to support the delayed establishment of the MPUC and will also mobilise and strengthen local peace infrastructures and rule of law institutions at the district level to support conflict prevention, peacebuilding and human rights protection. The project is currently being implemented in three borderlands districts of Karonga, Machinga and

¹⁰ Malawi Economic Monitor, World Bank, June 2022

Mangochi and will be extended in this next phase to two additional districts – namely, Lilongwe and Blantyre – which were identified as potential electoral hotspots in the Crime Hotspot Mapping produced by UNDP in September 2024.

The first three borderland communities manifest a mix of conflict dynamics and socio-economic vulnerabilities. However, the main conflict dynamic and socio-economic vulnerabilities that inform the development of this project include the following:

- (1) *Interfaith conflicts, mainly between Christians and Muslims*: interfaith disputes and conflicts are a major conflict driver in Mangochi and Machinga districts and have the potential to spread to other Muslim-populated districts like Salima and Nkhotakota. These conflicts have mainly been between Christian and Muslims and are triggered by the use of the Hijab in Christian-assisted schools, negative religious preaching and rhetoric from both Christian and Muslim preachers and actors. The lack of structures for dialogue and mediation at the district and community level has made the resolution of these conflicts very difficult. The interreligious conflict has also been impacted by other factors, including the politicisation of religion by different political parties and actors at national level.
- (2) *Chieftaincy-related conflicts*: chieftaincy related conflicts are also becoming a major source of tension within ethnic groups and between ethnic groups in many parts of the country, including the three project districts of Karonga, Mangochi, and Machinga. The elevation of traditional leaders without following customary rules and regulations is often contentious. These succession conflicts also occur within the royal families. Chieftaincy has been highly politicised and ‘monetised’ as the appointment and elevation of the Chiefs, in many cases, have ceased to follow traditional guidelines for such appointments and elevations. The politicised installations and promotions of Chiefs continue to be a sore point among local communities and ethnic groups in many parts of the country.
- (3) *Weak peacebuilding and human rights protection systems and the rule of law mechanisms*: The three target districts have formal and informal peacebuilding structures, networks and actors (i.e., mother support groups, youth and work networks, and traditional and religious and other community-based organisations). These networks are very important in community-level conflict mediation and peace education because they use indigenous conflict mediation mechanisms; however, these structures and mechanisms are weak and need technical capacity support, coordination and networking support. In most cases, they tend to be blind to human rights protection issues as they are based on social customs and norms. These networks are thus not able to effectively handle and support issues relating to sexual and gender-based violence, child and early marriage and defilement and other human rights issues. It is expected that establishing the Peace Commission will help bring coordination and capacity, especially in conflict analysis, data collection, mediation and early warning and response mechanisms would be very important.
- (4) *Perceived marginalisation of borderland communities from national development*: communities in the borderlands complain that they have tended to be isolated and only come into focus during elections when political parties and candidates either see them as an opportunity to increase votes by using them as a proxy to register foreigners or viewed as a

threat and so are accused of being non-Malawians that should be excluded from the electoral process¹¹.

The additional two districts that are proposed to be added to the Project are also characterized by a number of vulnerabilities and risk factors that make them more likely to be prone to electoral violence in the lead up to the September 2025 elections. These risk factors are discussed later in this section.

Malawi also faces new and emerging regional security, conflict and humanitarian threats. The conflict in Mozambique raises concern, given that the two countries share a long porous border. The presence and operations of the joint SADC and Rwandan forces in the Cabo Delgado region have forced the non-state armed groups operating in Cabo Delgado into nearby provinces, including the Niassa Province in Mozambique, which shares borders with communities in Mangochi and Machinga in Malawi. This puts Malawi at high risk of the spillover of the conflict/ or its effects, including an influx of refugees and asylum seekers from affected areas in Mozambique. Since January 2022, there have been reports of the arrival of Mozambicans from Lichinga and other communities of the Niassa Province fleeing the violence¹². UNHCR has confirmed that 36 Mozambicans have been registered as asylum seekers¹³. But communities indicate that the number is much higher than the official reported figures as some of the people are living with relatives and have not reported to the authorities.

The Songwe border in Karonga between Tanzania and Malawi also presents a significant risk to Malawi as it is the main gateway from illegal/irregular migration into Malawi from migrants seeking to go to South Africa or Mozambique. There are also concerns that the coast of Lake Malawi, which serves as the borderline between Malawi and Tanzania, could be used to smuggle supplies into Mozambique¹⁴. There is also the potential for the exploitation of socio-economic vulnerabilities and existing conflict dynamics of borderland communities such as border porosity, weak institutional capacities of rule of law and local peace infrastructure and networks, deprivation and marginalization of youth and women.

The spillover effects of the crises in neighboring countries is reportedly also being felt by borderland communities through increase human rights abuse cases at border crossing points due to enhanced border security presence and patrols on the Mozambican side of the border. Local communities report of increased cases of human rights abuses at border entry points and surrounding border areas. There have been reports of rapes and defilement and general harassment of Malawians including extortion and confiscation, goods of business persons by border security personnel and other unknown groups operating in the area.¹⁵ This has created insecurity in border communities and is impacting cross-border economic and livelihood activities like farming and informal cross-border trading, especially for women and young people who depend on these cross-border activities for survival.

¹¹ Local community perception expressed during conflict assessments conducted by the UNCT in May 2021 and July 2022.

¹² <https://www.nyasatimes.com/mozambican-refugees-start-flooding-mangochi/> (accessed on 12 July 2022).

¹³ UNHCR Malawi report on arrival of asylum seekers from Mozambique due to the violence in Northern Mozambique shared at the April UNCT Meeting.

¹⁴ District Security indicated that at a meeting between them and their Tanzania counterparts in early 2022, the issue of the potential for lake Malawi to be used as access points for nonstate armed groups to smuggle supplies and people into Mozambique was highlighted. There is currently no evidence that this is happening, but the risk of this becoming an issue in coming years was strongly highlighted

¹⁵ Socio Economic Conflict Risk Assessment Findings, 2022

The above dynamics are compounded by impacts of Tropical Storms Ana and Gombe in January and March 2022. Fifteen southern districts, including target districts for this intervention, have been hit by cyclones Ana and Gombe. The heavy rains and floods that accompanied the cyclones have washed off over 71,000 hectares of crops and destroyed basic infrastructure and resulted in the displacement of over 22,000 Malawian households and loss of lives of over 33 people. The floods have also displaced over 100 Mozambican households into Malawi. The impact of the cyclones would have an impact on food security and social cohesion as there are already tensions between Malawian and Mozambican communities over access to humanitarian aid.

Situation of Youth

Malawi is a youthful country which means that young people are important human capital for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Malawi has a population of 17.5 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.6% as of 2019. Of this, women comprise 52 percent and play a significant role in contributing to the country's economy, and half of the total population are youth ages 10-35 years¹⁶. 20% of Malawi's youth experience multiple deprivations in health, education and employment. The deprivations are higher among young Malawian adults (aged 18-29) - 28.6% - than adolescents (aged 15-17) - 5.0%, among young women (27%) rather than men (18%) and among rural (23%) rather than urban youth (18%), mainly due to employment and education factors¹⁷. Young women continue to disproportionately experience discriminatory norms, legal loopholes and limited autonomy, despite the existence of a protective legal framework.

Malawi's National Youth Policy (NYP) places participation of young people at the centre stage "to ensure that youth meaningfully participate in the social, economic and political life of the nation and contribute to growth and sustained development of the country". The NYP provides a strategic framework to tackle the needs of the youth in different thematic areas. Implementation has contributed to increased youth participation platforms and processes, as well as specifically increasing opportunities for Technical, Entrepreneurial, Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) and youth enterprise development services. On the economic front, transition for most of the youth is challenging as indicated in 2014 by many youths who are not in employment nor in education and training (NEET) (13.8%), informal employment (93%) and qualification mismatch (81% undereducated)¹⁸. Demand-driven education and skills development programs are needed. Economic growth has to be accompanied by investment in education and infrastructure to connect youth to employers. These programs, however, are to be designed and funded based on the skills demanded by the job market.

Youth participation and representation in decision-making processes and peace and security initiatives at national and subnational level remain a big challenge. The recent launch of the National Action Plan 2024 - 2029 by the Government to operationalize UNSCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security is a promising step to increase the active role of young people in YPS. However, it is important that adequate resources and required capacities are put in place to ensure effective implementation of the NAP. At the local level, support should include the development of district

¹⁶ 2020-2021-Youth-Budget-Brief, UNICEF

¹⁷ 2018 housing and population census

¹⁸ <https://web.archive.org/2018-01-18/470722-youth-inclusion-malawi-sixty-seconds.htm>

action plans and strategies to support youth active participation and representation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives.

Significant challenges also lie in the actual meaningful facilitation of young people's participation in decision-making processes and economic opportunities at district and area development committee which has substantially been limited to inviting small groups of youth to take part in once-off meetings or events¹⁹. Young people in Malawi are excluded from participation in political governance, due to among others, the prevailing culture that leadership is the domain of adults whose role in society is to be leaders and make decisions; lack of civic education on the importance young people's participation in political governance and their duties as citizens; and lack of trust in political governance structures and officials. Young people's representation at the National and Sub national legislature remains low – following the 2019 elections, only five lawmakers or 2.7 percent of the 193-member of the National Assembly were aged 30 or below²⁰. Additionally, there were 48 members of Parliament aged between 31 and 40, representing 28.8 percent. At local government level, out of 462 Wards in the local council elections, young people representation is at 11.7%. In the 2019 and 2020 elections, 70% of youth that registered to vote, participated in the voting in 2019. However, there was a decline in 2020 with only 60% of the registered youth voting²¹. Participation in political governance is limited to campaigning for their favorite candidates and voting during elections. This leaves them prone to enticement by older politicians who would like to use violence to gain political mileage. Guided by the UNSCR 2250 on Youth and Peace, young people need to be truly engaged so that they can contribute to the prevention and participation agenda in a meaningful way. The socio-economic challenges faced by young people contribute to the risk of youth becoming perpetrators of violence, as well as leaving them vulnerable to violence. The high concentration of young men with limited formal-sector employment opportunities leads to their recruitment into political movements that perpetrate violence. (see below for more in relation to election-related violence).

Situation of women

Gender inequalities still persist in Malawi for reasons such as high illiteracy and cultural practices, which have a negative impact on women's progress in the country. These cultural norms and practices in Malawi continue to pose significant barriers to achieving gender equality and the full empowerment of women. While there are no formal legal restrictions to women's participation in political and civic life, deeply entrenched patriarchal values, harmful traditions such as early and forced marriages, sexual initiation rites, and widespread gender-based violence persist as major obstacles. These norms not only reinforce the perception of women as subordinate to men but also contribute to limited access to education productive resources and exclusion from leadership²². Malawi was in 2019 ranked 142/162 on the Gender Inequality Index, a reflection of high levels of inequality in women's empowerment, economic activities, and reproductive health. Currently, among decision makers, women comprise 38% of Cabinet Ministers, 21% are Members of Parliament whilst 14% are Councilors. In terms of women participation in elections, there have been some small improvements over time. There were 257 women who competed in the national parliamentary elections in 2014, compared to 309 women competing in the 2019 parliamentary elections. There

¹⁹ Adolescent and Youth Situation Analysis Malawi, 2015

²⁰ <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/MW/MW-LC01/data-on-youth/>

²¹ <https://mwnation.com/youth-participation-in-politics/>

²² Beijing+30 Malawi Country Report, August 2024

were 417 women who participated in the local government elections in 2014 compared to 659 women in 2019. In terms of representation in National Parliament there was a drop from 32% of elected women representative in 2014 elections to 23% in the 2019 elections. Despite this progress, challenges remain, including gender-blind political party policies, violence against women in elections/politics (VAWE/P), and negative social norms where women continue to be regarded as incapable of leadership, among others²³. Societal attitudes frequently cast doubt on women's leadership capabilities, with community and political structures often resisting women's full participation. Afrobarometer study of 2023 showed that women in leadership roles are less accepted in traditionally conservative communities, despite broader support for gender equality at policy level²⁴. The Gender and Elections Engagement Room (GEER) supported during the 2019 elections recorded 138 incidences of VAWE/P (31% physical, 12% sexual and 57% psychological)²⁵. The Public Service has 26% of women in decision-making level positions. More effort is needed to fulfill the 40/60 gender equality quota provided for in the Gender Equality Act.

There are limited women-led structures or groups working on peace building and conflict prevention. The most active are grounded largely within the faith domain i.e., the Women in Faith Peace Building Network. Other structures where women are participating on peace building and conflict prevention are the District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) piloted in 6 districts of Karonga, Kasungu, Mangochi, Salima, Nkhatabay and Mulanje and **the three newly established DPUCs in Machinga, Thyolo and Nsanje**. The National Peace Policy espouses representation of the following in the DPUC, 3 men, 3 women, 2 people with special needs and 1 youth²⁶ participating in peacebuilding and conflict prevention are the District Peace Committees (DPUCs). The National Peace Policy requires that each DPUC include 3 men, 3 women, 2 people with special needs and 1 youth. In accordance with that requirement, women take part in the DPUCs that were established in the **9 districts** (namely, Karonga, Kasungu, Mangochi, Machinga, Salima, Nkhata Bay, **Thyolo, Nsanje** and Mulanje).

Violence against women and girls is still a fundamental issue of concern, with Malawi continuing to experience increased cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Evidence suggests that 42% of married women have experienced spousal violence, while 9% were married before the age of 15 years, and those married by age 18 are 46 percent²⁷. **Data from the World Bank, the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programme and others have all shown that nearly one in five females and one in eight males 13-17 years experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse and over 41% of girls experience physical violence/ or are married before their 18th birthday.** The 2013 VAC study found that whilst two-thirds of females and males aged 18 to 24 years who experienced child sexual abuse prior to age 18 years had told someone about an incident, fewer than 10% received professional services. **The 2014 VACS report also revealed that more than 60% of all Malawians were violated during their childhood, with the majority being girls and young women. Additionally, a 2020 Spotlight Initiative report on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Professional Development Needs Assessment carried out in six districts of Malawi (i.e., Mzimba, Nkhatabay, Dowa, Ntchisi, Nsanje, and Machinga) highlighted the gravity of gender-based violence and its impact to mental**

²³ Strengthening women's political empowerment: 2019 tripartite elections report, UN Women Malawi, 2019

²⁴ Malawians demand greater government efforts for gender equality, Afrobarometer (AD633, April, 2023)

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ National Peace Policy, (2017)

²⁷ Chikhungu LC, Amos M, Kandala N and, Palikadavath S., September 2021, Married Women's Experience of Domestic Violence in Malawi: New Evidence From a Cluster and Multinomial Logistic Regression Analysis

health. Data shows that GBV (including physical, sexual, psychological/emotional) and harmful practices are prevalent and have devastating health and psychological impacts on individuals, families, and communities. The Psychological impact of violence on women, girls, and children does not only deny their right to peace and well-being but impacts their ability to actively participate in peacebuilding in their communities.

A UNCT socio-economic risk assessment in borderlands showed that GBV and other forms of violence against women account for the low representation of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and development coordination structures like the district peace and unity committees, and area and village development committees. Sexism, GBV, including violence against women in election periods and once in office, has also been identified as a key reason for the low numbers of women in political party leadership, in Parliament, and other elected offices and generally why women withdraw from public life. Evidence also shows that children and young people exposed to environments of toxicity and, directly or indirectly observed and experienced maternal abuse, tend to follow the same pathways being perpetrators or recipients of abuse.

A total of 75 percent of the agricultural labour force is made up of women. They produce 70 percent of household food, though the majority are constrained in terms of access to productive resources. In cases where land is accessible, women would have less than 0.8 hectares on an average, resulting in incredibly low production. Other key factors that affect productivity include their inability to access labor, credit, and extension services. Additionally, poverty is widespread, especially in rural areas and is more feminised such that women, especially female-headed households, are the most affected and are among the poorest in terms of income distribution. The population of female-headed households in Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi is at 29 per cent, 47 per cent and 41 per cent respectively²⁸.

Target district analysis

The choice of target districts has been informed by a comprehensive analysis of the conflict dynamics, trends and socioeconomic risks, threats and vulnerabilities and the potential replying effects that intervening in these districts would have on other districts²⁹. There is significant potential for replicating and scaling up national capacities in terms of early warning and early action systems, peacebuilding around electoral and political conflicts, interreligious violence, gender-based violence, cross-border issues including border disputes, child/human trafficking, and new threats to peace like violent extremism. The analysis is informed primarily by the revised Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the current Cooperation Framework conflict/risk analysis and response strategy, data from the UN Joint Conflict Assessment and the Malawi Prevention Platform (MPP)³⁰ housed under the UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboard³¹ (CRD) and data from the Ministries of National Unity and Homeland Security.

²⁹ For detailed and extensive analysis of conflict dynamics and socio-economic vulnerabilities of the three districts and beyond please refer to the Joint UN Conflict Assessment, National Peace Architecture Document attached

³⁰ The Malawi Prevention Platform is an internal early warning tool that enables effective monitoring, regular assessment, and understanding of crisis-related risks. It is a product of discussions between UNDP, UNRCO, and OHCHR on the need for a better appreciation of political, electoral, Human Rights, and socio-economic risks and threats in the run-up to the 2019 tripartite elections, which has been used to collect data through media monitoring since October 2018.

³¹ The Crisis Risk Dashboard is a tool for data aggregation and visualization to support contextual risk analysis conducted by UNDP and the wider UN system. It gathers a broad range of datasets to strengthen evidence-based assessments through tailored use of overlaid visuals, graphs, and maps

This primary data is complemented by data and reports from national partners and stakeholders like the Public Affairs Committee, Centre for Multiparty Democracy, Malawi Electoral Commission and INGO partners such as Plan and Goal.

Karonga

Karonga is a northern district which shares borders with Tanzania. The district has a population of 365,028 (F: 188,831, M: 176,197). The district is one of the hotspots for political and electoral violence and has been nicknamed Benghazi. The district has been witnessing increasing levels of political and electoral violence over the years. Since 2019, every election, including by-elections, has witnessed serious violent clashes between rival political parties and has resulted in the destruction of property and human injuries. In 2019, over 10 houses, the District Commissioner's Office, a forestry department office and a police station were torched following the disputed 2019 election results. In 2020, over 5 houses were torched, and a number of people sustained serious injuries during a by-election in the district. In 2019, three people (F: 1, M:2) were murdered upon being suspected of practising witchcraft. Additionally, witchcraft accusations led to the destruction of 17 homes in Karonga, where 8 women were affected. Due to the district's proximity to Tanzania and the porous nature of the borders, the district has become a transit point for human trafficking and illegal migration to Mozambique and South Africa. The district is also set to host the relocation of the main refugee camp, which is generating tensions between communities and between communities and government. High levels of poverty, sexual and gender-based violence, youth and women exclusion in the governance space, perceptions of ethnic exclusion and marginalization in national affairs are critical. The district has 10 wards and only one is led by a female councilor. For Members of Parliament the district has 5 constituencies and currently there is no female MP. 32 Representation of women is also low in the District Executive Committee, the ADC, and VDC at 14%, 17% and 20% respectively.³³

Machinga and Mangochi Districts

Machinga and Mangochi are neighboring districts that also share borders with the Niassa Province of Mozambique. Machinga has a population of 735,438 (F: 384,696, M: 350,742), with 492,560 Muslims. Mangochi has a population of 1,148,611 (F: 603,111, M: 545,500), with 834,644 Muslims. The two districts are hotspots for interreligious violence between Christians and Muslims, namely over religious dress code in schools. The dispute escalated into violent conflict in 2019 leading to loss of life and destruction and closure of six primary schools. The schools were only reopened in 2021 through mediation by PAC with the support of the UN.

The districts are also known for political violence and witnessed scenes of intense political violence including the burning of vehicles and violent attacks including declaration of no-go zone areas for political parties during elections. For instance, in 2019 a woman was undressed on her way to a political rally in Mangochi. Three vehicles, one of which belonged to a female member of a political party, were torched in the same district. The two districts but particularly Mangochi is also grappling with cross-border conflicts between communities from the Makanjira and Chimbunila in Mozambique. These conflicts emerge due to misunderstanding on border demarcations, for example covering farming fields, various infrastructures like schools, among others.

³² 2019 Elections Results Analysis, UN Women (2019)

³³ Karonga District, Social Economic Profile 2017-2022

This has also been aggravated by a re-demarcation exercise which some communities allege is not correct. As such, most of the communities do not respect the re-demarcation and hence come into conflict with Mozambicans when they cross the borderline. The conflict has been a long-standing one and becomes violent from time to time. The most recent violent clashes between communities from Mozambique and Malawi occurred in 2017 and 2021 over a disputed stretch of land to which communities on both sides are laying claim. The 2017 clashes led to the killing of at least one Malawian.³⁴ The Makanjira community claims that the said stretch of land has traditionally belonged to them. The recent border demarcation by the two countries has done little to resolve the disputes. The two communities have been accusing each other of crimes and atrocities, including ill-treatment by police, confiscating of motorcycles by police, border pass, and stealing of motorcycles and livestock. However, the Makanjira community also alleged that sometimes their wives and daughters are raped when they go to fetch firewood on Mozambique's side³⁵.

High levels of illiteracy compared to other districts, child marriages, high population growth, climate insecurity, household poverty/food insecurity, high crime rate, high incidences of sexual gender-based violence, and weak capacity of security and rule of law institutions are also significant socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities in the two districts. The effect of the above on women and girls access and agency to sexual reproductive health and rights issues is huge.

The September 2024 Conflict Hotspot Mapping produced by UNDP identified areas in Mangochi (M'baluku) and Machinga as having a high likelihood of being prone to electoral violence, based on the existing crime profile as well as historic trends and the local political context. As discussed in the next section, these sensitivities recommended those areas as warranting additional resources for conflict prevention activities in the lead up to the September 2025 elections,

Two additional districts: Lilongwe, Blantyre

Specifically, the September 2024 Crime Hotspot Mapping found that:

- Nine districts (Dowa, Lilongwe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Phalombe, Nsanje, Ntcheu) were identified as hotspots across crime categories, indicating a concentrated geographic pattern of crime and violence. The districts have recorded high rates of murder, robbery, breakings, rape, and cases of having sexual intercourse with a minor.
- The qualitative analysis in these two districts (**Blantyre and Lilongwe**) also revealed that competition among political parties, hunger, poverty, lack of economic opportunities, cultural beliefs, drug and substance abuse contribute to high crime rates. Criminal gangs and Street kids under the age of 18 were identified groups reportedly responsible for many crimes.
- The spatial analysis revealed a strong correlation between districts with high murder cases and high robbery cases, and protest/violence-prone areas. Given that linkage, the assessment recommended that targeted resources be allocated to these areas ahead of the 2025 General Elections to enhance security, mitigate violence, and promote community stability.
- The districts which share borders with Tanzania and Mozambique and Zambia such as Chitipa, **Karonga**, Nsanje, Mchinji, Kasungu and **Mangochi and Machinga** are especially vulnerable to various illicit activities, including Human Trafficking, infiltration of illegal firearms and politically motivated acts of violence. This is often exacerbated by economic hardship, weak law

34 <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/shooting-at-malawi-mozambique-border-as-tension-rises-in-mangochi/>

35 <https://www.nyasatimes.com/communities-along-mozambique-malawi-border-urged-to-coexist-maintain-peace/>

enforcement, and political instability³⁶. These crimes undermine national security and economic stability, leading to increased violence and distrust in state authorities.

- Election-related violence hotspots in Malawi have shown distinct patterns of violence, particularly during pre- and post-election periods³⁷, namely, they experienced heightened political tensions, economic disparities, and social unrest. Contributing factors included the mobilization of political groups, public demonstrations, and the presence of rival factions, which can escalate into violent confrontations³⁸. Inadequate law enforcement resources during these critical periods further exacerbate the situation, increasing community vulnerability. All these have also been observed in the five targeted districts for the costed extension³⁹.
- The study identified **Karonga, Lilongwe (Malembo, Msundwe, Kaphiri), Mangochi (M'baluku), Machinga and Blantyre** as areas where political violence is likely to occur. These Districts are often characterized by deep-rooted political factionalism, with clashes between rival parties over campaign territories, rally venues, and voter bases⁴⁰. Political parties frequently use intimidation tactics, particularly against women and vulnerable populations to manipulate the voting process.
- **Lilongwe and Blantyre**, as political centers, have historically been vulnerable to voter intimidation. This intimidation often involves youth militias or vigilante groups operating in high-risk areas, such as Nsundwe⁴¹ and Kaphiri in Lilongwe, and various neighborhoods within Blantyre City. For Lilongwe, a particularly disturbing episode occurred in the Nsundwe area on October 8, 2019, where community members blocked a road to prevent access to a presidential rally. This confrontation led to the death of a police officer, after which heavily armed police allegedly conducted retaliatory operations in the area. The Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) reported that 18 women and girls were subjected to sexual violence by police officers during these post-election disturbances. This case became emblematic of the intersection between violence and the vulnerabilities faced by women and girls in politically charged contexts. Additionally, Districts like Phalombe, Mangochi, and Nkhotakota have exhibited patterns of violence influenced by ethnic and regional voting preferences. Common triggers for pre-election unrest include hate speech, unlawful demonstrations, and violent protests, which frequently target specific ethnic or political groups.

Updated election-related conflict analysis

In March 2024, the Malawi Police Service (MPS) produced an Elections Security Needs Assessment Report, and in September 2024 UNDP finalized a Crime and Violence Hotspot Mapping Report. The analysis contained in the crime and violence hotspot mapping demonstrated a correlation between murder hotspot districts and protest/violence-prone areas across Malawi. The report identified Dowa, Lilongwe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Phalombe, Nsanje, Ntcheu districts as hotspots for both murder and robbery based on analysis of crime statistics from 2021-23. Further, GBV was also identified as a significant issue in these areas, with high rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and harmful traditional practices like child marriage due to gender inequality and cultural norms. Mzimba, Kasungu, Dowa, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Zomba, Mulanje, Blantyre, and Chikwawa districts are identified as hotspots for both Rape and Violence/Protests as they scored 18-139 cases

³⁶ Global Organized Crime Index. Accessed on 25/09/2024 on <https://ocindex.net/country/malawi>

³⁷ Malawi Police Service Electoral Security Needs Assessment Report, March, 2024

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ <https://times.mw/pangas-axes-hack-people-on-dpp-parade-in-lilongwe/>

⁴⁰ <https://malawiexclusive.media/political-analysts-condemns-dpp-for-sponsoring-political-violence-in-machinga/>

⁴¹ <https://malawi24.com/2024/10/28/dpp-condemns-violent-attacks-by-alleged-mcp-supporters-in-lilongwe/>

in a spatial analysis from 2021 to 2023. The Northern Region-Mzuzu, Mzimba, and Karonga scored high in the reports of violence related to land disputes and traditional leadership conflicts due to land scarcity, traditional rivalries, and lack of access to justice.

Both of the 2024 conflict assessments show that over many years, violence in Malawi has manifested in various forms, including not only domestic violence and crime-related violence, but serious political violence which has occurred during the last five election cycles. Social issues such as poverty, unemployment, and gender inequality contribute to violence. The country has a history of political instability, particularly during elections; campaigning often exacerbates existing social issues and leads to violent confrontations. Violence often spikes during election campaigns, particularly in areas susceptible to political tension. Elections in Malawi often create a charged and polarised political environment, leading to heightened emotions, protests, and potential clashes between political groups or supporters. In such situations, the police play a crucial role in maintaining order and responding to perceived threats, often resorting to aggressive tactics that need to be monitored to ensure the safety and security of the electoral process and uphold the rights of the people. The 2019 elections saw significant unrest, including protests and clashes between rival political factions due to political polarization and lack of trust in electoral processes. The presidential election was hotly contested; in 2020, nine months after the election the Constitutional Court annulled the results and called for the elections to be held again.⁴² The second election was also marred by allegations of electoral violence.⁴³

With a large proportion of the population comprising young people, there are increasing instances of violence being instigated by and/or towards young people, often related to gang activities and drug abuse due to unemployment, lack of recreational facilities, and social disintegration. From the cases of electoral violence reported by the media in the last five general elections, it is also notable that older and senior politicians have engaged young people to perpetrate violence on their opponents. The youth wings of political parties have previously served as instruments of terror and violence, especially for parties in power. Due to high youth unemployment, many young people sign up as supporters for political parties but operate as agents of political violence for token amounts of money that neo-patrimonial patrons generate and channel towards them.⁴⁴ Malawi's United Democratic Front (UDF) youth wing, the Young Democrats, has been accused of brutal political violence,⁴⁵ while the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) youth wing, called the Cadets, has also credibly accused of violence in the past.⁴⁶ During the 2019 election campaign period, UDF/DPP coalition youth mobilized and declared several southern Malawi districts as a no-go zone for other parties. Conversely, the opposition parties were accused of supporting violence in the south and central regions. Free political participation is being undermined by youth radicalization. This is already manifesting itself as hate speech and incendiary statements as the country moves towards the 2025 elections.

⁴² <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/malawi-year-long-election/>

⁴³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53136963>

⁴⁴ https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffrica.peacelink.org%2Fnewsfromafrica%2Farticles%2Fart_6502.html&data=05%7C02%7Catupele.mataula%40undp.org%7C3f59317fa0f94eb4488208dd08966c48%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C638676164325616172%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Sa7DFVy9Pslq%2FiKF9xdQsMH5G6qKqitLene8gmhZk0Q%3D&reserved=0

⁴⁵ Spike in youth-led protests or demonstrations with violent outcomes; <https://saiia.org.za/research/malawis-young-democrats-a-view-from-inside-the-ranks/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-police-arrest-8-dpp-cadets-for-violence/>

Notably, as preparation for the 2025 elections are underway, tensions and incidences of violence have been reported. For example, in May 2024, members of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD) were allegedly attacked and injured by Malawi Congress Party (MCP) members in Dowa, ahead of a political rally AFORD members were planning to host in the district⁴⁷ In February 2024, DPP supporters were also attacked in Lilongwe by thugs alleged to be MCP supporters. Cars were damaged and among those beaten and hacked were women⁴⁸. On 12 September 2024, the Presidential convoy was stoned in Nsanje, where windscreens of several cars were smashed, and one police officer sustained serious injuries⁴⁹. It was reported this incident was a result of, allegedly, MCP supporters uprooting the opposition party DPP's flags at some of the district's trading centers⁵⁰. In view of the upcoming elections, the political environment is becoming increasingly volatile requiring key interventions to avert deterioration. Such violence has potential of deterring women from participating in electoral and political processes hence perpetuating discrimination.

Additional information from IOM's cross-border mobility monitoring also shows that some internal and cross-border movements could cause election-related conflicts. For example, some border communities in Katuli, Matamanda, and other areas allege that some Mozambicans are coming to Malawi to register for national IDs and elections⁵¹. Such allegations have the potential to create conflicts between political parties in the districts. Data from the population mobility monitoring through IOM's DTM Programme is available to be used to generate information on migration drivers, trends, and destinations of cross-border travelers. This information can inform election management activities including community awareness, conflict management and border management. The information can be used by MEC and other electoral stakeholders when conducting preparatory activities for the upcoming elections. At community level, this information could also help local leaders and the DPUCs to resolve misunderstandings between political parties at community level. This will ensure stability, cohesion and peace in the buildup to the General Elections.

Update on progress with the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission

The original Project included support to establish a two-tiered permanent peace architecture which would work at the national level through a new Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and at the local level through District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUC) operating. There was considerable delay however in providing this support and setting up these bodies. Reporting indicates that the MPUC was only officially commissioned in mid-2023 and received their first serious budget support from the Government in mid-2024.⁵²

Now that the MPUC is finally in a position to start discharging its mandate, it will need to receive intensive capacity building support in order to be able to rapidly prepare for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in advance of the 2025 general elections. In order to ensure they are independent, non-partisan and impartial, individual capacity-building training for Commissioners and technical

⁴⁷ <https://www.nyasatimes.com/chaos-in-mponela-as-mcp-and-aford-members-attack-each-other-leaving-several-injured/>

⁴⁸ <https://times.mw/pangas-axes-hack-people-on-dpp-parade-in-lilongwe/>

⁴⁹ <https://mwnation.com/ugly-scenes-mar-chakwera-tour/>

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ <https://nthandatimes.com/mozambican-national-arrested-for-attempting-illegal-voter-registration-in-mangochi/>

⁵² <https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-peace-and-unity-commission-starts-its-activities-in-the-country-with-a-k500-million-budget-allocation/>

staff is very crucial. Although the Peace and Unity Act emphasizes MPUC's independence, as a government institution, it is naïve to conclude that political actors will not interfere with the work of the commission. Internal dynamics also remain at risk, the MPUC comprises Commissioners representing different actors with different views on sticky issues.

In addition to support for the MPUC, the district peace architecture also needs rapid support. While Malawi comprises 28 districts, there are currently only 9 DPUCs in place with a need to establish more in other districts as the country moves close to the 2025 elections for them to deal with electoral violence. In the context of this Project, DPUCs have been established in 3 of the 5 Project target districts, namely Mangochi, Machinga and Karonga.

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports existing Governmental and UN strategic frameworks⁵³, how it ensures national ownership.

This project builds on the national priorities set by the Government of Malawi in the **Long-Term National Development Plan** (Malawi 2063), the National Peace Policy adopted in 2017, the Peace and Unity Act passed in 2022 which are in line with the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda* and the **Gender Equality Act of 2013** and recently launched **National Action Plans for Women Peace and Security** as well as the **Youth Peace and Security**

The project aims to support operationalisation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and support the strengthening of human rights protection and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Referral Systems at project target districts.

The project is fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework (**UNSDCF 2020-2023**), namely Pillars 1 and 2 on *Strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy; Establishing real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace; and strengthen participatory governance.*

At the national level, the UN has supported the development and implementation of the National Peace Architecture since 2012 and the National Peace Policy (NPP) which was adopted in 2017. Further support in this area has included financial and technical inserts to the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) through which the Women in Faith peace Building Network was established, the Center for Multiparty Democracy and the Office of President and Cabinet (OPC) on dispute resolution, mediation, and political dialogue. However, in the absence of institutional mechanisms and structures like the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace Committees, UN support and engagements have tended to be ad hoc in response to specific conflict issues like interreligious and political conflicts and lacked coherency, long-term sustainability and national ownership. The UN thus resolved to support the government and civil society actors to encourage, promote and capacitate homegrown solutions to build trust in national institutions, mechanisms and structures, and support their linkage with regional and continental peace structures at Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and AU levels. Furthermore, UNDP supported the establishment of the National Women in Peace Building Forum though currently not active⁵⁴ due to limited capacity,

⁵³ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

⁵⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawian-women-gather-peace-building-conference>

financial resources and linkage with other existing peace structures. The forum lacked a strong national level leadership supported with vibrant district and community base linked with other existing peace structures and institutions to ensure its sustainable functionality. As such this project will aim to support such a critical forum with capacity building activities in leadership, organization management and networking. The existence of the forum was possible due to the UN’s unwavering stance on neutrality, convening power, technical expertise and honest broker and provider of advice based on the UN values.

This PBF project is directly aligned with the enablers of Malawi’s long-term vision, namely Malawi 2063 and its first 10 years implementation plan (MIP1), particularly enablers 1, 2 and 5 on **Mindset Change, Effective Governance Systems, and Human Capital development**, respectively.

The table below shows the areas and indicators this proposal is aligned with:

Enabler	Focus Area	Outcomes	Strategies	Prioritised Interventions
Mindset Change:		Reduced cultural- driven crimes	Rooting-out harmful cultural practices	Legislate criminalization of all harmful cultural practices
		Institutionalized national unity	Building national unity	Facilitate the enactment of the National Unity Bill
Effective Governance Systems and Institutions	Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Social Cohesion)	Inclusive development planning processes	Mainstreaming human rights and cultural diversity in the development processes	Facilitate the progressive development of a civil society that is fully capable of holding Government accountable and defending citizens’ rights
				Ensure strict adherence to all international charters of human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, African Charter on Human and People’s Rights; and charters that protect vulnerable groups like children, women, refugees, persons with disabilities and minority groups
				Operationalize child centered governance institutions such as the newly adopted National Children’s Commission

				Implement human rights awareness programs using various media
				Strengthen the capacity of the Malawi Human Rights Commission to monitor, report on and provide recommendations regarding human rights violations and electoral related violence.
				Facilitate Draft and disseminate legislation that promotes the independence and efficiency of the Independent Police Commission (ICC).
				Support development of policies and Complaints handling mechanisms for the ICC
				Establish regular coordination interface with the MPS leadership with the ICC on adherence to the minimum use of force.
				Provide capacity building support to the ICC staff on specialised investigations, prosecution, and case management Systems to handle police excessive use of force and death-related cases as a result of police action
	Sustainable Peace and Security	Improved national safety and security services	Promoting peace and security at all levels	Establish the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission at national level, District Peace and Unity committees at district level.
			Establishing partnerships with other countries' security	Conduct peace and security awareness campaigns/public anti-violence campaigns in all the regions and on different media

			agencies to build local capacity and curb cross-border crimes such as terrorism, cyber-crimes, e.t.c.	Enhancing community policing
Human Capital development	<i>Gender Equality</i>	Improved gender equality	Advancing gender equality at national and local levels and processes	Fully implement Gender Policy and enforce the Gender Equality Act
				Increase women and youth representation and participation in decision-making positions through deliberate policies
		Eradication of gender-based violence	Strengthening processes in handling violence issues	Enforce laws that protect the rights of women, girls, boys and men against all forms of violence; and laws to end child marriage
		Enhanced policy environment for social protection	Strengthening national child protection systems to reduce vulnerability, violence, abuse and exploitation.	Increase child participation in the national development decision making processes
Advocate and enforce child rights and laws at all levels				

At the local government level, three **out of the five of the target districts** have a six-year development plan (2024 – 2030) outlining the strategic development problems and strategies for response. The Project is aligned with the development issues and the strategies of the 5 target districts. The table below shows selected relevant areas to which the project is aligned to:

Issue/ Problem	Development Objectives	Strategies
High vulnerability of vulnerable and marginalized people	To reduce vulnerability of vulnerable and marginalized people	Train district level structures (DTWGC, DGTWG, AEC) on gender and rights issues
		Community awareness on human rights and GBV
		Coordination platform for essential services for vulnerable and marginalized people.

Increased defilement	To reduce incidences of defilement cases from 66 cases in 2017 to 0 cases by 2022	Capacity building
Early marriages	Promote Youth Friendly Health Services	Youth Friendly Health Facilities Conduct awareness meetings on disadvantages of early marriages

Joint UN-Government UNSDCF

The UNSDCF (2019-2023) is aligned with national and international development instruments, notably the Government’s Long-term development plan and its first 10-year implementation plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). **Since the original PBF was endorsed a new UNSDCF has been developed, which runs from 2024-28. This table below shows how the updated PBF project is aligned with the following pillars and outcomes of the last UNSDCF and current UNSDCFs, which span the term of this Project:**

UNSDCF (2019-2023) Outcome Area	UNSDCF Focus Area
OUTCOME 2: Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi is enhanced.	Implementation and monitoring of all global, regional and national obligations and commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
OUTCOME 3: Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy.	Establish real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace
OUTCOME 5: Girls and boys 6-17 years, particularly the most marginalized, benefit from an integrated package of quality education, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and protection services.	Support the Government to ensure that schools are safe from violence.
OUTCOME 6: Men, women and adolescents’ access high impact comprehensive sexual and reproductive and HIV/AIDS health rights.	Prevention, management and response to GBV; Advocacy to address gender norms and harmful cultural practices.
UNSDCF (2024-2028) Outcome Area	UNSDCF Performance Indicators
Outcome 2: By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, and robust political and civic participation.	2.3 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms 2.4 Percentage of cases reported through the Observatory Hub SGBV case management system that are resolved in the previous 12 months. 2.5 Percentage of disputes resolved that have been channeled through dispute

	resolution mechanisms connected to the national peace architecture.
3. By 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	<p>3.5 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, district</p> <p>3.6 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)</p> <p>3.14 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months</p>

The UN-support National Peace Architecture

Malawi also developed a National Peace Architecture in 2013 and a National Peace Policy launched in 2017, both developed with the support of the UN through UNDP. Malawi, in March 2022, has also passed the Peace and Unity Law which now paves the way for the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees and area committees where needed. This PBF project is aligned with and informed by the objectives of these legal and policy frameworks

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.

Malawi developed National Peace Architecture (NPA) in 2014 with support from UNDP. The NPA is the overarching framework for enhancing national conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities. Its implementation is overseen by the Ministry of National Unity with the support of the UNDP Social Cohesion programme. Through UNDP support to government under the NPA, the Government of Malawi Launched the National Peace Policy adopted in 2017 and the Peace and Unity Act passed in 2022. With the enactment of the Peace and Unity Act, Malawi now urgently needs support to activate and operationalize the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and its District and Area Committees.

Through the support of UN Women, the government has also launched the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, and there is a need for the action plan to be operationalised and implemented to support women's representation at all levels of conflict mediation, prevention and peacebuilding. **With support from UNDP and UNFPA the Government launched the National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 at the start of December 2024. Following its launch, there is now a need to implement the NAP at all levels from the national to community level.**

UNFPA has been supporting SGBV and the creation of safe spaces and referral systems for women and girls. However, given growing internal conflict dynamics, socio-economic challenges and regional security implications, SGBV and other human rights abuses cases have seen a significant rise in borderland communities, especially in the target districts. There is thus a need for additional support to expand SGBV and safe spaces referral systems and provide SRHR services to borderland communities.

The project is strategic and innovative at all levels. Firstly, the project is a result of participatory processes that involved borderland communities through the UNCT socio-economic risks assessment in 2021 and 2022 and the more recent update of the Malawi Common Country Analysis, March 2024 Malawi Police Service Electoral Security Needs Assessment Report, Election Dispute Resolution Framework 2024 and September 2024 UNDP Comprehensive Crime Hotspot Mapping Report for Malawi. The interventions of the project are thus informed by borderland communities themselves, so there is greater ownership of the project, and very up-to-date conflict analysis at a granular level geographically. Secondly, the choice of borderland communities is innovative in that they present unique challenges and opportunities that, if harnessed, can contribute significantly to peace and conflict prevention. Borderlands are fertile grounds for exchanging ideas that could transcend conflict prevention to democratic consolidation and economic growth through informal cross-border trade. The Project will leverage the uniqueness and the opportunities presented by borderland communities to build cross-border community networks and platforms that can serve as platforms and forums for dialogue, economic exchanges, and early warning. Harnessing this engagement with at-risk borderland communities to pre-emptively prevent and mitigate potential election violence is also an innovative approach to peacebuilding in a complex country such as Malawi, where borderlands present specific risks that need careful long-term engagement to address. Thirdly, the project will leverage existing digital tools to enhance socio-economic risk monitoring, reporting, and early warning and response. The project will also serve as a platform for potential cross-border exchanges of lessons and collaborations amongst the UNCTs in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania and potentially other UNCTs in the region on a common approach to dialogue promotion and advocacy, public education on health and violence prevention.

The catalytic tenet of this project is related to its alignment with existing UN conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response initiatives in support of the Government of Malawi, namely, the implementation of the National Peace Architecture in accordance with the newly enacted Malawi Unity and Peace Commission Act (2022), the newly adopted Malawi National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250, UN-supported government Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP), and relevant Joint UN initiatives such as SDG Hotspots and Spotlight Projects which have a presence in some of the targeted districts. The UN also launched a joint UN project in 2022, "Borderland Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malawi", through the SDG Acceleration Fund scheme funded by Iceland and Ireland, which worked to strengthen capabilities to mitigate and respond to existing and projected conflict through community-led conflict prevention and peacebuilding infrastructure in two border districts (Mangochi and Mulanje). A second phase of the project in Nkhotakota is currently being implemented (from August 2024 to March 2025). This project is strongly aligned and mutually reinforcing. The results of this project would facilitate resources mobilisation efforts of the UN and the Government to support scaling up existing interventions and the design of new projects. Furthermore, this project will contribute to increasing the UN footprint in the borderland areas and

the holistic implementation of support for strengthening national peace architecture. The MPUC has now been established after some delay and will be a key partner for the UN in capacity-building and as a focus for election-related coordination mechanisms, which will be established and resourced under the project. This project, therefore, seeks not to reinvent the wheel but to reinforce and strengthen national objectives. The project's interventions further focus on building the capacities of local communities and networks, including DPUCs in the target Project districts. This approach, the UN believes, will empower communities to lead conflict prevention and human rights protection and build sustainability of the interventions. Refer to the table below for a detailed list of existing conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social protection interventions. However, not all of them are implemented in all districts or even the selected districts targeted by this project.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
PBF project on strengthening Malawi's Peace Infrastructure for conflict prevention and sustaining peace in borderland districts (2023-2024)	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund \$3,000,000	Enhancing the capacity of peacebuilding and conflict prevention mechanisms, particularly in borderland communities.	The project is supporting the establishment and operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) to lead conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts at national and subnational levels. It also seeks to enhance the capacity of rule of law and security institutions, such as the police and border security, to protect human rights and prevent conflicts. It also seeks to build the capacity of local peacebuilding networks including women and youth to participate in conflict resolution and prevention efforts. The project also strengthens SGBV referral systems and provides support for survivors of violence.
SDG AF on Border Security and Conflict prevention phase 2 (2024)	Government of Ireland \$367,444	Enhance conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in Malawi.	The project focuses on supporting the operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) by establishing and strengthening a

			District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) in Nkhotakota. It also seeks to build conflict identification, mitigation and prevention at national, district and community levels targeting border security officials, local community networks and district level stakeholders. It also seeks to enhance the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in peacebuilding efforts, with initiatives such as mentorship programs, conflict mediation training, and sexual and reproductive health rights education.
Japan Supplementary Budget on Promoting Peace and Socio-Economic Empowerment through National Peace Architecture and Sustainable Livelihoods (March 2023 – July 2024)	Japan \$1,000,000	Contributing to a peaceful and stable Malawi by addressing both the root causes of conflict and the socio-economic challenges that drive instability, ultimately promoting peace and development.	This project focuses on fostering peace and promoting socio-economic empowerment in Malawi by addressing peacebuilding and livelihoods enhancement through the following key areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the national peace architecture – Malawi Peace and Unity Commission 2. Building local level capacity to mitigate and resolve conflicts in areas prone to violence and instability 3. Supporting the socio-economic empowerment of women, youth, and other marginalized groups by promoting sustainable livelihoods
Malawi Electoral Support Project	Multi-donor basket fund \$8,273,600	Providing election support	The project is designed to strengthen democratic governance and support to

(MESP) (2022 – 2025)			credible, inclusive and transparent electoral process in Malawi. This will focus on strengthening the capacity of Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), supporting electoral legal reforms, promoting voter education and civic engagement, implementing mechanisms to prevent and manage electoral violence and conflicts and promoting gender equality, youth meaningful participation and social inclusion during electoral processes,
Social Cohesion project in Malawi (Jan 2020 – Dec 2022)	UNDP \$1,000,000	Implementation of the National Peace Architecture including the development of the legal framework for the establishment of a national institutional framework for peace	The UNDP project is complementary to the PBF project as it has a significant focus on institutionalization of peacebuilding and conflict prevention through the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission. Six Pilot District Peace Committees have been established and are supported through UNDP support. Two of the district peace committees are in the target districts. Though the Social Cohesion programme would complement the PBF project, the focus of the two are different as the PBF focuses much on PVE the PBF project will build on the social cohesion project by leveraging by existing capacities of DPCs, the national peace policy, and peace agreements/MoU between Muslims and Christians to

			strengthen the knowledge based and capacities of local actors in PVE.
SDG AF on Border Security and Conflict prevention (Sept 2022 – August 2023)	Iceland and Ireland \$800,000	Community led conflict prevention and peacebuilding.	This is a Joint UN conflict prevention project that would be implemented in 2 of the districts targeted in the PBF proposal. The PBF implementing partners who are also implementing partners for the SDG AF project will leverage the expertise and methodology of community consultation and trainings on dialogues and advocacy channels;
Support to credible, inclusive, and peaceful electoral process (2017-2022)	UNDP EU USAID FCDO Norway Ireland	Electoral support	Aimed at strengthening the capacity of MEC and CMD to address the multi-dimensional challenges of election administration, including improving capacity, engaging and generating ownership among influential stakeholders in the electoral process, strengthening horizontal dialogue at the community, district and national levels to improve the coherency, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of national and international efforts to support Malawi's electoral process, mitigation of potential related conflict and democratic development. This includes targeted support to the MPLCs at the district level, which are local inter-party mechanisms for resolving political disputes.
SDG Hotspot project (Jan 2020-Dec 2023)	Ireland, FCDO, UNDP \$2.3 million	District-led data management systems, coordination mechanisms.	The project has established district-level data management platforms to identify SDG Hotspot areas. This is an integrated data management tool designed to

			<p>improve decentralized implementation of services across social, economic, and environmental sectors. The approach involves:</p> <p>(a) A real-time data dashboard collected from household and service providers that digitalizes and geo-references well-being and service indicators;</p> <p>(b) a multi-stakeholder platform led by local planning authorities to strengthen the use of evidence to propel service improvements</p> <p>Coordinated, targeted “SDG Hotspot service response”, where multiple service providers come together around one multidimensional development challenge and bring a combined package of services in response to the identified needs.</p>
Spotlight Initiative (2019-2022)	EU	Safe spaces for the elimination of violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices.	The Spotlight Initiative Programme in Malawi targets the most at-risk groups, to accelerate efforts towards the elimination of violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices. The initiative is tailored to promote Agenda 2030’s guiding principle of “leaving no one behind”. A deliberate effort is projected to ensure those facing multiple and intersecting discrimination play a key role not only as beneficiaries but also as key stakeholders, to shape and

			guide the program design and implementation. The initiative envisions a comprehensive prevention strategy that addresses structural issues and linkages to SRHR. Innovations through practical application will further enhance efforts to capitalize on lessons learned and link to existing efforts under the UN and other development partners' programming on SGBV, Human Rights, Girls Education, etc. contributing knowledge and good practices in improving women's and girls' life and that of the most left behind through access to quality, integrated essential services that include SRH, justice, and psychosocial support in line with international human right standards and guidelines.
UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (2021-2024)	UN Joint Programme USD 40 million	Comprehensive sexuality education, combatting teen pregnancy and supporting girls that drop out of school return.	Empowering young people to prevent and report issues of GBV, skills building in prevention of GBV incl. promotion of positive masculinity
SDG Acceleration Fund (2021-2022)		Safe spaces of engagement for women and adolescent girls including rehabilitation of key medical facilities.	Identifying and working with most vulnerable communities on change of behaviour and inclusion programmes.

SDG Learning never Stops (2021-2022)	UN 700,000 USD	To improve the access to education for children and adolescent girls in Malawi in crisis like situations, especially for the most vulnerable children with special education needs, within a school environment, able to ensure the well-being of learners.	Targeting most vulnerable children to ensure their continued access to education amidst Covid-19 pandemic.
Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (2021-2022)	UN Women: \$1,106,620.98	Ending Sexual Gender Based Violence/ Violence Against Women and Girls, addressing harmful practices and promoting women's participation and capacity building in conflict prevention and peace building in line with UNSCR 1325 pillars	Complementarity is on interventions related to Women's Peace and Security through the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 Malawi National Action Plan pillars especially capacitating women's groups to engage in conflict prevention and peace building.
Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (2024-2026)	UN Women \$ 999,999.53	Contributing towards Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict	Complements the project through the emphasis on empowering women as active participants in conflict prevention processes and response; and promoting women's participation in decision making positions and processes

		prevention processes and response; and enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments (Institutional Funding)	
Strengthening the Independent Complaints Commission (2022-2024)	INL	Strengthening of the Independent Complaints Commission (ICC) to act as a valuable oversight body on the Malawi Police Service in not only identifying and logging cases of ethical deviance but ensuring that culpable officers are brought to trial and successfully prosecuted where warranted.	Complement the project by strengthening the ICC through separate legislation in detail to hold police accountable on police action before, during and after the 2025 general election and monitor police use of force adherence to human rights.
Malawi Electoral Support Project (MESP) 2022 – 2025	Basket Fund	Capacity: Strengthened capacity and preparedness of MEC, CMD and the MPS to effectively manage activities regarding the	It is a complement to the support for the community policing concept, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and empower citizens to support grassroots security to avoid any escalation.

		<p>electoral processes in a credible manner through capacity-building and technical assistance.</p> <p>Inclusion: Improved participation and representation of women, youth, the elderly, People with Disabilities, and People with Albinism through activities intended to foster participation and ownership of the electoral processes.</p> <p>Peace: Reduced tensions and disputes regarding the electoral process through the establishment or strengthening and of existing mechanisms contributing to conflict prevention and mitigation.</p>	
Strengthening Human Rights for vulnerable	Iceland, Norway, Ireland	Human rights mechanisms strengthen to monitor and	It is a complement to the holistic approach to ensure that legal commitment is made to take affirmative reforms to enhance

populations in Malawi		respond to the promotion and protection of citizen's rights.	the rights of citizens and make sure that individuals and vulnerable groups are empowered to demand their rights and access duty bearers.
-----------------------	--	--	---

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

Borderland and **election hotspots areas** present opportunities for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and empowerment of populations, as well as offering an opportunity to strengthen cross-border relationships and facilitate cultural exchanges. However, due to internal conflict dynamics, high levels of poverty due to limited economic opportunities and weak human rights and the rule of law mechanisms, there is need to work with and support the government, civil society organisations and communities themselves to strengthen national capacities to address and prevent the violent expression of interfaith disputes and differences, inter-communal and ethnic conflicts, chieftaincy disputes as well as reduce the effects of emerging regional security dynamics including the Mozambique conflict which could exacerbate existing conflicts/tensions in the border communities on the Malawi side. **This is even more important in the context of the upcoming general elections scheduled for September 2025 which pose their own set of conflict risks. A recent 2024 Crime Hotspot Mapping commissioned by UNDP identified both borderland and other areas that are at particular risk and warrant more intensive conflict prevention resources.**

To address the complex conflict risks Malawi continues to grapple with, the **original project aimed to:** strengthen the capacities of Malawi’s infrastructure for peace at institutional level through the MPUC, by supporting its establishment and operationalisation especially in the three target districts; and at community level to support the establishment to DPUCs, as well as mobilising and working directly with community members and CSOs to support peacebuilding, conflict prevention and human rights protection . To achieve this, the project outcomes and outputs will focus on:

The **first outcome** focuses on strengthening the capacity of Malawi’s Peace Infrastructure, rule of law and security institutions and actors **to work together** to effectively **monitor and support** conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the national, district and community levels. This will be achieved by operationalising the national peace architecture through the establishment **and now the operationalisation** of the MPUC and target DPUCs enhancing the professional and operational capacity of the rule of law and security actors in conflict and human rights monitoring and prevention, and mapping and analysing early warning and early response systems and supporting community and district infrastructures for peace and resilience. Mainstreaming Gender and **referral pathways** in the peace architecture will be key. **The amended project will also extend the work already being undertaken to strengthen Malawi’s National Peace Architecture to coordinate, foster dialogues to build consensus for a peaceful election amongst national and district stakeholders, including through DPUCs. The amended Project will also work with national rule of law stakeholders to enhance oversight over the Malawi Police Service (MPS) through Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC)**

and Independent Complain Commission (ICC) to support conflict prevention and mitigation and ensure accountability during the elections.

The outcome will also ensure full inclusion of youth and women in National Peace Architecture systems and structures through meaningful partnerships and co-leadership building, strengthening networks to support intergenerational dialogues, participatory capacity building, increasing knowledge and access to information on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and early warning, and empowering youth and women networks, traditional leaders to mitigate the impact of cross-border insecurity and human rights risks in borderland communities.

While outcome one is mainly focused on strengthening the capacity of national peace infrastructure to lead and coordinate conflict prevention, peacebuilding and early warning and response, the **second outcome** will focus on **strengthening SGBV and SRHR referral systems and capacities of stakeholders working for women and adolescent girls including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to enable access to requisite services at border crossings**. The project will ensure that women and girls have access to safe spaces and economic empowerment schemes to build resilience and strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Ensuring stronger, robust and responsive SGBV and SRHR referral systems for women and adolescent girls, including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, will ensure access to requisite services in conflict settings. **The Project will work to address violence against women in politics and during elections (VAWP/E) in the target areas. This outcome will also support more effective youth engagement in conflict prevention activities. The amended Project will also promote youth participation in the context of the national elections, with a specific focus on creating opportunities for young people to engage in early warning efforts, conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well as delivering youth specific civic and voter education.**

The project will further enhance linkage and coordination between local mechanisms to national policies and programmes to ensure that human rights issues and dynamics at district and community level inform national policy and development planning. By linking local level interventions to national level interventions, the project will **enhance synergies and information sharing thus contributing to sustainability of interventions**. Further, the project will specifically **integrate activities that facilitate gender-sensitive peacebuilding. For example, the Project will** seek to involve female security officers in peace and security capacity-building engagements. **The work to strengthen the capacities of mediators will also specifically include activities to ensure gender-sensitive mediation. Specific effort will be directed to ensuring more women are included in the Roster of Mediation Experts and there will also be resources directed to enhancing the knowledge and skills of mediators to ensure that gendered issues related to conflict and peacebuilding are better understood and addressed.**

b) Provide a **project-level ‘theory of change’**

IF institutional mechanisms for peace are strengthened **and capacitated at the national and district level, of targeted borderland** and electoral hotspot districts;

and **IF** borderland **and electoral hotspot** communities are engaged in participatory conflict mapping and analysis, conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities that promote positive linkages and build trust between authorities and communities;

and **IF** specific resources are invested in ensuring that women and girls, youth and other marginalised groups are actively engaged in conflict and violence prevention and response efforts, with a particular focus on young people in the context of elections;

and **IF** specific resources are invested in ensuring that women and girls, youth and other marginalised groups are actively engaged in conflict and violence prevention and response efforts, **including targeted initiatives to enhance their participation in electoral processes and political participation,**

and **IF** quality data and analysis on conflict dynamics and socio-economic risk are available **in the target areas** to local government authorities, **national peace architecture stakeholders,** and communities; **that enables a better understanding of conflict dynamics, human rights issues and protective factors in target communities;**

THEN Malawi will have stronger infrastructures for peace at **national and local levels which are more** capable of mobilising and coordinating community peace and human rights mechanisms for effective locally driven conflict prevention and human rights protection, **particularly in the context of elections and other potential conflict trigger events;**

and **THEN** local government authorities, communities and their partners will be better able to jointly design adequate, locally owned and driven, district policy and programming responses that **increase their mutual trust and ability to collaborate and** address the root causes of conflict, human rights issues and consolidate peace.

BECAUSE peacebuilding and human rights initiatives will be owned and firmly anchored in infrastructure for peace and community knowledge systems and conflict prevention structures that are women and youth-centred, capable of tackling the drivers of conflicts, promoting social cohesion, respect for human rights, diversity and a culture of peaceful coexistence.

c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components**

Outcome 1: Strengthen Malawi's Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding, human rights protection and to facilitate dialogues to build consensus for a peaceful election amongst national and district stakeholders in communities prone to election violence including in borderland communities.

Output 1.1 Malawi's national and subnational infrastructure for peace established, operationalised, and capacitated to prevent, mitigate electoral violence

This output aims to support the existing efforts at establishing the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and subnational District Peace and Unity Committees to lead and coordinate national and subnational conflict prevention, peace education and awareness and early warning and response mechanisms.

As part of its conflict prevention agenda, Malawi developed the National Peace Architecture in 2014 and the National Peace Policy in 2017 through broad consultation with government, civil society and academia. The National Peace Architecture is overseen by the Ministry of National Unity with the

support of the UN through the UNDP Social Cohesion programme. The National Peace Policy provides for the development of a national legal framework for the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the promotion of peace, conflict prevention and conflict-sensitive national and subnational development planning. The Malawi Peace and Unity Bill was passed into law in March of 2022. The Ministry of National Unity and the country now need urgent support for the establishment, operationalising and building capacities of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District structures to lead national efforts at conflict prevention and conflict management at national and subnational levels. The Establishment of the Commission will also be timely to support capacity building and coordination of early warning and response at the district and community level and ensure that socio-economic risks and integrated into national development planning processes. The Commission will also be critical in facilitating consensus building and dialogue towards the 2025 elections, which from the early warning signs and indications, would be more fiercely contested than the 2019 elections. The setting up and building of the capacities will provide Malawi with independent, neutral, inclusive institutional mechanisms for dialogue around key electoral and political issues before and after the 2025 elections.

1.1.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of National Unity for effective coordination of peacebuilding actors and implementation of the National Peace Policy

The Ministry of National Unity is a new ministry established in 2020 and does not have the requisite capacities to effectively lead and coordinate the implementation of the National Policy and the newly passed Peace and Unity Act, which provide the overarching framework for building national capacities for peace and sustaining peace in the country. The project will thus provide technical expertise, including the provision of capacity-building training to the ministry to provide effective leadership and coordination to peacebuilding actors and linkages between national and subnational peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. The project will also provide technical expertise (i.e., experts) to review the National Peace Policy to ensure its relevance to the current peace and conflict prevention needs of Malawi.

1.1.2 Support the establishment and operationalisation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees to prevent and mitigate electoral violence in target districts (C.f Activity 1.1.2 in Annex D)

The enactment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Law in March 2022 and which has become operational since 5th September 2022, now paves the way for the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees and area committees where needed. The project will support the establishment of the Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees through capacity-building training for commissioners, secretariat staff, and members of the district committees, including training on training leveraging the UN-supported inter-university network for peace. The project will also provide training on conflict analysis, mediation, dialogue facilitation and negotiations to the Commission and its district committees.

During the election period, MPUC should support the Malawi Electoral Commission in addressing broader peace and conflict issues while collaborating with MPLCs⁵⁵ and DPUCs. In this regard, the

⁵⁵ The Multi Party Liaison Committee (MPLC), established by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) in 2000 at the district level, is as a mechanism for resolving election related disputes (operational or administrative, not criminal in nature). It's a mechanism aimed at providing alternative venues, multiple paths to resolution, reduces the burden on the judiciary, and ensures that disputes are handled in a timely manner. It is made up of representatives of political parties

cost extension, will support the capacity-building for MPUC Commissioners in strategic areas such as mediation and shuttle diplomacy. Furthermore, to strengthen credibility and trust in the function of the Peace Commission, support will also be provided to strengthen the strategic engagement with heads of various political parties that will contest 2025 elections. These engagements will also build trust and momentum towards the public signing of peace agreements amongst candidates contesting elections facilitated by MPUC and PAC, an activity that is planned under this project.

In the five target districts, support will be provided for joint capacity building in mediation and conflict resolution for the respective DPUCs and key members of the MPLCs (e.g. Commissioner and the Head of Police). These trainings would collectively improve their ability to manage disputes at the grassroots in the election hotspot areas.

The Project will further provide equipment support in the form of computers and desks for the commission at the national level and the DPUCs in the targeted borderlands districts. The equipment will be one-off support to operationalise the commission and support it in setting up early warning and response mechanisms and linking them to district early warning systems that will be established under the project in the 5 target districts (see the next activity for more on early warning activities). The project will further support the development of clear SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPUCs based on the MPUC Act, ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels.

1.1.3 Support early warning and response systems and ensure availability of information of early warnings of election related conflicts. (C.f Activity 1.1.2 in Annex D)

To ensure effective conflict monitoring and early warning and response in communities and districts prone to election related violence including borderland communities, the project will support the establishment of district-level early warning systems in borderland and selected electoral violence hotspot districts, which will be linked to form the basis of a national early warning and response system. The district early warning and response systems will be coordinated and led by DPUCs in collaboration with community and district CSOs, Multi Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs) and peace networks, while the national early warning and response system will be managed and coordinated by the MPUC in close collaboration with peacebuilding and conflict prevention CSOs and actors at the national level. Early warning systems will be developed that allow districts and community members to report early signs of conflict, such as tensions, grievances, or violence, including by leveraging mobile applications and digital platforms for real-time data collection and reporting of potential conflict indicators. The district early warning systems will feed into the national early warning and response system to enhance coordination and information exchange, and response to conflicts. The data from the early warning and response systems will be discussed through stakeholder coordination platforms to be created under activity 1.1.4 to ensure there is a feedback/response loop. The project will also support MPUC to facilitate the holding of regular strategic meetings of MPUC and 5 hot spot DPUCs, informed by early warning, evolving dynamics, with the intention of responding to critical issues impacting peace and stability at the local level and preventing their escalation during the electoral season. These strategic meetings will be supported by technical advisory capacities.

contesting the elections and other members such as District Commissioner (DC), head of the Police in the District, representatives of Chiefs, CSOs etc. The DC chairs the MPLC and they Committee is only active during the following stages of the electoral processes: voter registration, campaign period, voting day, counting of votes and results announcements.

1.1.4 Support the MPUC and DPUCs to establish a platform for information sharing and coordination among peacebuilding and conflict prevention actors and CSO

The Peace and Unity Act mandate the MPUC and DPUCs to coordinate peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities in the country. The project will support the MPUC and DPUCs to create spaces for CSOs, **Government** and other networks to share information, data, strategies and methodologies on their conflict prevention and peacebuilding-related activities. This will help to create synergies among actors and with the MPUC and avoid duplication of interventions **by clarifying roles, mandates, areas of cooperation and reduce** competition amongst peace and conflict actors. The platform will assist peacebuilding actors and CSOs in resolving their differences and strengthen partnerships for conflict prevention and **early warning systems**.

The project will provide support for the development of terms of reference for the platforms and logistics for **regular** meetings of the national **stakeholders and selected** districts. The project will ensure the inclusion of women and youth-led CSOs and networks in the platforms (40% women).

1.1.5 Develop regulations, SoPs and guidelines for MPUCs and DPUCs

The newly passed Peace and Unity Act is very progressive and provides for the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities at all levels, including the Commission, District and Area Committees. The project will support the development of regulations, SoPs and guidelines to ensure adherence to gender and persons with disabilities quotas of the Act at the national, district and community levels. The project will also support the training and capacity building of members and staff of the Commission and District Committees on how to mainstream and integrate women, youth and persons with disabilities issues into conflict analysis, peacebuilding and education activities. The project will further train youth, women and persons with disabilities as members of the commission and district committees to enhance their active participation in the commission and committees.

1.1.6 Support inter-faith peaceful coexistence, conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue

Inter-faith conflicts and disputes are the main conflict drivers in two of the three target districts of this project (i.e., Mangochi and Machinga). Disputes over the use of the Hijab in Christian-assisted schools resulted in violent clashes in Mangochi and Machinga in 2019 that caused six schools to be closed down. The schools were reopened in 2020 through mediation and dialogue facilitation by the Public Affairs Committee (PAC). PAC provides a platform for promoting inter-faith dialogue and peaceful coexistence. It has been effective in leading the process that led to the signing of an MoU between Christian and Muslim. The MoU now needs to be domesticated to local communities in Machinga and Mangochi through community engagements on implementing the provisions of the MoU. The project will thus provide technical and funding support towards capacity building, training and refresher training to PAC's 28 Insider Mediators and 30 Women in Faith. The project will also support PAC to train local faith networks in the three districts on conflict prevention, mediation and negotiations. The project will also support local level dialogue and discussions of the Christian-Muslim MOU on dress code in school.

1.1.7 Support facilitation of conflict mediation and reconciliation initiatives in the Mangochi district

Borderland communities in the Makanjira area in Mangochi district and communities across the border in Mozambique are disputing the ownership of a stretch of land to which communities on both sides are laying claims. The conflict has turned violent recently and has strained the relationship between the communities on both sides, and this is negatively impacting socio-economic activities,

including cross-border trading and farming. The project will work with the district authorities and local leaders in Makanjira to support the facilitation of mediation and dialogue processes which have not happened because of a lack of resources and technical support. Support will include engaging Femwise to provide training on mediation and conflict prevention and logistics for mediation meetings between district officials and community leaders from both sides.

1.1.8 Strengthen insider mediation capacity to mediate disputes and prevent tensions from escalating into violence during the election season [NEW ACTIVITY] (C.f Activity 1.1.3 in Annex D)

Now that the country is preparing for the 2025 electoral period, the Project will focus specific resources to work with the MPUC, the PAC and other key stakeholders to strengthen their capacities to undertake shuttle diplomacy and insider mediation, both of which require an ability to maintain open and effective communication channels during difficult periods in the election cycle.

In this context, the Project will support the limited establishment and operationalization of a Roster of Experts (RoE) that is to be managed by the MPUC, in accordance with s.29 of the Peace and Unity Act. Only the Profile of “conflict resolution and mediation” under the RoE will be activated. These Experts are mandated to support the MPUC in its role to implement unity fostering and peacebuilding programs, whether in a specific geographical area or in the whole country. Specific effort will be made to ensure more women are included as mediators in the RoE. PAC has an existing RoE for “Insider Mediators” and trained by UN/DP in the 2014 and 2019-2020 Elections. As appropriate, the MPUC will tap into the PACs existing roster of experts, which includes faith-based leaders with peacebuilding capacities.

Under this activity, at the national level, dedicated resources will be set aside to ensure that selected mediators on the roster held by MPUC and PAC are given capacity building training (2 trainings) that builds their understanding of and skills in relation to in mediation, gender-sensitive conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

At the district level, in the five hot spot districts, these mediation trainings will be cascaded down to MPLCS and DPUCs in 5 hot spot districts to ensure a consistent, rights-based approach to mediation and facilitate the inclusion of women, youth, PWD as trained mediators (covered under Act 1.1.2)

To complement the strategic engagements of MPUC, CMD and PAC with political leaders, resources will also be set aside to facilitate the engagement of the Resident Coordinator to undertake outreaches to key political leaders to encourage their commitment to peaceful elections and public signing of peace pledges.

Resources are also set aside for the signing ceremony of the Peace Pledges by political party leaders - a joint MPUC/PAC activity.

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

Human rights abuses, including rape and defilement, are among the major concerns expressed by borderland communities during the two assessments conducted by the UNCT in 2021 and 2022. Border security personnel and human rights organisations and networks have indicated that the lack of capacity by institutions for human rights protection, especially in handling, investigating, and

management of victims of abuse, accounts for why such crimes are prevalent in the communities, including borderland areas. Due to the porosity of the borders, perpetrators escape across the border to Mozambique or Tanzania to escape arrest and prosecution. Human rights actors identified the absence of police action when cases are reported and the absence of psychosocial support to victims and survivors of abuse as major concerns. The project will, therefore, support capacity-building training and courses for the police and other border security official and CSOs and community-led human rights networks on key topics such as victim protection, psychosocial support to survivors of SGBV and related forms of violence and exploitation. The project will also train community leaders, the judiciary and police units to strengthen the design and implementation of the rule of law and human rights legal frameworks.

The amended Project extends the work with security institutions, Independent Complaints Commission (ICC) and the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) in order to ensure they have the capacities required to specifically respond to anticipated threats of police action in relation to the upcoming 2025 general elections. In response to the 2024 MPS Electoral Security Needs Assessment Report, the Project will specifically focus on strengthening civilian oversight of the police to enhance accountability and foster a more just and equitable law enforcement system. By providing independent, transparent, and community focused oversight and police action before, during, and after the election, as well as working with Independent Complaints Commission (ICC), the project will strengthen conflict prevention by ensuring police are held to the high standards which will promote public trust both in police and in the election process and results. The amended Project will also build on existing work with the MHRC to monitor, report on and provide recommendation regarding human rights violation and electoral related violence.

1.2.1 Provide training to border security actors on monitoring and information gathering on support security and human rights protection at border entry points

The existence of many informal border entry points makes it difficult for border security personnel to effectively monitor and collect data relevant to cross-border movements and human rights abuses at informal border crossings. The project will provide technical expertise and training on monitoring and applying border control measures to border control officials. The project will also support police, immigration, chief and youth and women networks to conduct joint monthly flow monitoring in formal and informal border entry points through population mobility mapping exercise (PMM) and deployment of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The project will further provide logistics for monitoring results to be shared with DPUCs, Police-community platforms and other forums.

1.2.2 Support the engagement and strengthening of police-community liaison platforms

In line with the 'people-centred' approach, the project is dedicated to empowering citizens and local authorities to participate in community policing, dialogues, and management of local security issues. This approach not only improves grassroots security but also ensures that the community feels included and valued in the security process. Effective community security demands close collaboration between security personnel and members of communities. The project will support the engagement and strengthening of police-community platforms in each of the three target districts as well as election hotspot districts identified by the Project to promote cooperation and information sharing, including by supporting the development of SOPs to guide the organisation and conduct of regular meetings and related logistics at the grassroots level.

The project will fund the printing, dissemination and operationalization of 200 copies of the Community Policing Policy and Training Manual developed under the first phase of this project. The Policy and Manual includes dedicated sessions on de-escalation techniques, mediation practices and how security issues can be raised at the grassroots levels. The Project will then support the operationalization of the Policy in the target areas, including by supporting the purchase of small equipment packages to enable community policing (e.g, reflective jackets, whistles, torches, mobile phones, boots, raincoats and mega-phones). The Project will also work with key stakeholders to develop and fully integrate the community policing concept into the police training curriculum.

At the Traditional Authority (TA) level, the project will operationalize Community Crime Prevention Panels (CPP) with local communities (Area based) to build trust and gather intelligence on human rights violations and border-related crimes, especially trafficking in person and sexual and gender-based violence. The project will also link relevant DPUCs with the Community Policing Forums at the district level and Area Peace and Unity Committees with the Crime Prevention Panel to discuss youth, peace and Security matters at the grassroots level.

The project will provide law enforcement officers with training on adherence to human rights principles, including offering workshops for community members on their rights, the role of the police, and how to engage effectively with law enforcement.

In addressing the needs and concerns of the youth population about peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and security as a critical component of YPS, the Project will also organise a Youth and the Police Symposium as part of the community policing initiative, which will bring together law enforcement officials with local communities, including young people, in order to build trust and understanding of security approaches so that they are perceived as protective rather than oppressive.

1.2.3 Training of trainers on human rights protection, SGBV for border security personnel and other stakeholders

The project will work with the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Department to conduct ToTs on human rights protection for 30 police, immigration, judiciary and Human Rights Commission trainers. The 20 ToT will then train district police and immigration officers in the three target districts. A combined number of 150 police, immigration, judiciary and other stakeholders will be trained in the three project districts on topics like preventing SGBV, victims protection, investigating and prosecution of SGBV cases, and screening and handling of immigrants and asylum seekers. At least 60 of the beneficiaries of the training in each of the three target districts will be women. Training materials will be developed in collaboration with the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Service. Pocket guidelines on human rights protection for border security personnel will be designed, printed and distributed to the security personnel and other stakeholders in the three target districts. The guidelines will be translated into local languages. About 4,000 (2000 in local languages and 2000 English copies) guidelines will be printed and distributed in the three districts.

1.2.4 Training of trainers to security personnel on conflict prevention and the management of conflicts

The project will support the MPUC, the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Department to conduct ToTs on conflict management for 15 police and immigration trainers. The 15 ToT will then train district police and immigration officers in the three target districts. A combined number of 80 police and immigration officers will be trained in the three project districts. Training materials will be developed in collaboration with the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Service.

1.2.5 Support security and local government officials' cross-border engagements with their counterparts in Mozambique and Tanzania

Borderland district officials, including the police and local council officials, have informal engagements with their colleagues/counterparts in Mozambique and Tanzania. And given that conflicts and human rights issues in borderland communities are cross-border in nature, the project will support district authorities in the three districts to formalise these engagements and expand them to include leaders of borderland communities, especially chiefs, women and youth representatives. Though this project is not a cross-border project, such cross-border engagements will greatly assist in building trust between communities and facilitating dialogue, prevention, management and peaceful resolution of disputes between Malawian borderland communities and their Mozambican or Tanzania counterparts. The project will support the logistics for quarterly cross-border meetings between border security.

1.2.6 Enhance the oversight mechanisms of the Malawi Police Services to ensure accountability during the elections. [NEW ACTIVITY] (C.f Activity 1.2.4 in Annex D)

In advance of the 2025 general elections, it is already clear that the MPS will have a key role to play in preventing and managing conflict, as recognised by their own publication of an MPS Electoral Security Assessment Report in March 2024. In order to ensure the trust of the public however, it will be essential that the MPS themselves are also “policed”, through effective oversight and accountability mechanisms. There are two such bodies that have a mandate in this regard, the Malawi Human Rights Commission and the Independent Police Commission (ICC).

The Project will strengthen the capacities of both the ICC and MHRC staff through specialised investigation skills and online analysis tools to monitor, report on, and provide recommendations regarding human rights violations and electoral-related violence because of police action, which is crucial for ensuring a fair and peaceful electoral process. This will include training for both ICC and MHRC staff on case management, specialised investigations and prosecution (as relevant).

It will also support Roadshows by the ICC with Police, chiefs, and youth on the ICC work and services available to the public during elections in hot spot districts.

Output 1.3 Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland and selected hotspot communities strengthened

Local peacebuilding in this project refers to peacebuilding initiatives owned and led by people in their local context. It includes established formal institutional structures like the district peace committees to less informal community policing and child protection committees and activities undertaken by chiefs and other community-based networks, including youth and women associations. The project

adopts an approach that would support local communities and groups to lead conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. This approach entails identifying and supporting locally-led and owned initiatives and mechanisms and providing technical and resource support. To this end, the project would seek representative and legitimate civil society, including the informal economy, religious and ethnic networks, specialist NGOs, grassroots peace initiatives, and the media, who can play an important monitoring and consultative role for formal state and district systems.

1.3.1 Conduct mapping and capacity needs assessment of peacebuilding and conflict prevention CSOs and networks.

To ensure project's capacity building trainings and support to local peacebuilding networks and actors are need driven and respond to capacity gaps of local partners, the project will conduct a capacity needs assessment and mapping with a specific focus on women and youth-led networks. The project will use internal and external expertise to conduct the capacity assessment and design a capacity building plan and training modules that will be use to training local partners of the project

1.3.2 Build the capacity of local peacebuilding networks and organisations in early warning data analysis

The capacity of local peace and conflict prevention actors and networks to collect, analyse and report on conflict and socio-economic risks is central to the success of conflict prevention in borderland **and selected hot spot** districts. Yet from the conflict assessment conducted by the UNCT in 2021 and 2022, local peace actors lack the capacity to collect analyse and report of conflict and socio-economic risks to support the early warning and response mechanisms. The project will thus provide training on conflict and socio-economic data collection and analysis to ensure they can contribute to the data needs of early warning systems and mechanisms that would **be** established in the three project districts **and other hotspot districts**. The training will have 50/50 representation of women and youth led/ or centered network. The project will further support logistics for convening monthly meetings for peace networks to discuss the data from the early warning systems and map ways to response to risk and issues that may be flagged from the early warning system. The meetings will also enhance coordination and information sharing among local actors.

1.3.3 Conduct a multi-agency mapping of local formal and informal peace, conflict management mechanisms

Given the wealth of experience that local actors have in managing and dealing with conflicts and disputes within families and communities and between communities. The project will support the MPUC and DPUCs in the project districts to map and document local knowledge systems and tools for conflict management. The mapping and analysis will focus on identifying and document good practices in traditional (i.e., "indigenous"/homegrown) conflict management systems and processes for conflict prevention, mediation, negotiations, early warning and response mechanism). This will include women mechanisms use by women with the traditional conflict management space. The project will do this through engaging and consultant and provision of logistics for participatory discussions in all three districts.

1.3.4 Establish a baseline for the needs of the project through a conflict analysis and capacity needs assessment in the target borderland districts.

In order to inform the details of project activities and measure progress against the baseline, the project will conduct annual conflict analyses, mapping, and capacity needs assessment of

peacebuilding and conflict prevention CSOs and networks, and local formal and informal mechanisms, with specific focus on women and youth-led networks at the outset.

1.3.5 Support the development and use of user-friendly digital and mobile tools/app for conflict data collection, analysis and reporting.

UNDP, with the support of the Crisis Bureau, has developed the Malawi Prevention Platform/crisis risks dashboard (CRD). The CRD supports UN risks data collection and analysis and serves as an early warning and response mechanism for the UN system. The project will support the MPUC and DPUCs, to develop and maintain similar platforms as part of the development of their early warning and response systems. Thus, the project will use the current CRD as a base model to train and provide technical support to the MPUC to develop a national platform for conflict data collection and analysis as part of their early warning. The project will bring colleagues from the Crisis Bureau to provide training and other technical support.

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

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

Through this project, Women and girls shall have increased access to safe spaces and empowerment schemes. Youth organisations and networks in the 5 target districts shall be mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives. The project will also strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organisations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in human rights protection (SGBV, child trafficking, child marriages...), peacebuilding, and conflict prevention.

The project under this output will also work with women and youth-led organisations/groups to support knowledge creation and sensitisation engagements through community dialogues and media campaigns to reinforce gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

2.1.1 Support economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities for women and youth to discourage susceptibility to conflict and human rights violations (SGBV, child marriages and child trafficking)

Poverty has been identified as a major factor driving human rights violations against women and young people, especially girls who are forced into child/early marriages and other forms of abuse because of economic gains. Poverty also contributes to the susceptibility of young people to manipulation by politicians and other actors for violent acts and conflict during demonstrations and political campaigns during and after elections. The Project will therefore support young people, and women with economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities. This will include training on livelihoods, basic business management strategies and linkage to financial schemes and businesses.

2.1.2 Conduct women's safe spaces and adolescent girls' mentorship to enhance their capacity to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and other forms of violence at border crossings and in borderland communities.

Safe spaces for women and girls, especially survivors of abuse, are an important protection mechanism, especially for borderland communities that have to deal with cross-border dynamics. But such mechanisms are not functional in most borderland areas, including the three target districts

of the project. This activity thus focuses on ensuring safe spaces for women and functional referral pathways for survivors of SGBV and other forms of violence and abuse. The project will support the creation of safe spaces in borderland communities to provide psychosocial protection to women and girls. The project will also support women and child rights organisations, networks and actors with capacity building to enhance awareness and public education of SGBV and promote the enforcement of human rights protection legislations, policies and bylaws at the district and community level. The project will also train the rule of law actors, including the police, immigration, the judiciary, and district and community organisation on victim and survivors support and safe spaces.

2.1.3 Strengthen SGBV and SRHR referral systems and stakeholders working for women and adolescent girls, including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings. (C.f Activity 2.1.1 in Annex D)

SGBV and SRHR referral systems are lacking in borderland communities especially at border crossing points and transit centers to support victims, especially migrant women and girls. The project will strengthen SGBV and SRHR referral systems and build the capacity of stakeholders working with women and adolescent girls, including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings. The project will provide capacity-building training to healthcare providers, teachers, social workers, mother and youth support groups and other stakeholders. The project will also support the strengthening of youth spaces in health facilities and secondary schools in the target districts to develop ensure stronger, robust and responsive SRHR services and referral systems for adolescent girls.

Under the amended Project, in the context of the election hotspots added to the Project's scope, under this activity, referral pathways for GBV service provision will be popularised, to ensure the SGBV survivors are able to access service, even during any period of heightened electoral tensions. Information about the referral pathways will be disseminated to communities and community GBV offices such as the victim support units, community policing contacts, Police posts, health posts, district protection committees and at the chiefs central places as well as community courts. This will ensure that SGBV during the election period can still be addressed, even if local resources are focused on election-related tensions or crime. It will also support the collection and preservation of evidence to support criminal prosecution when incidents demand so.

2.1.4 Strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organisations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Women and youth groups will be sensitised on Youth and Women, Peace and Security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding so that they are equipped with the knowledge and thereby spread the same among their communities. This will be done through media campaigns and sensitisation engagements through community-based media like community radio stations and open community awareness sessions. Also, cross-border dialogues and engagements will be held to allow cross-border learning among youths and women's groups in the context of conflict prevention and peace. Capacity building through training and meetings with service providers will be done to ensure SGBV survivors access quality and survivor-centred SGBV services at border crossings.

2.1.5 Support capacity building to effectively support and contribute to conflict and human rights early warning and response

Youth and women will be identified and designated as ambassadors using the AU Model. These will be oriented so that they play a role as Peace Advocates in their communities, working with other existing structures such as the MPUCs and DPUCs. Mentorship and training on conflict prevention and peacebuilding will be done targeting youth and women leaders to empower them to take leadership roles in conflict prevention and the promotion of peace. Awareness campaigns targeting persons with disabilities will be done and will include braille material with relevant messages produced and disseminated to those with visual impairment. A community of practice from across the districts will be established and supported to engage in sustaining dialogue as part of information sharing and learning on conflict prevention and the promotion of peace.

2.1.6 Support knowledge and best practices on SGBV prevention and SRHR practices

To support replicability and cross learning from the interventions of the project, knowledge management, generation through public interest and success stories and other communication products will be produced and disseminated. The project through the M&E and Communication officers will work with and support project partners and beneficiaries document and share their stories to encourage other districts and community actors. The project will also convene information sharing platforms and forums Partner community dialogue sessions and media campaigns including the use of social media to disseminate knowledge products

Output 2.2: Youth organisations and networks in the **borderland and election hotspot districts mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives**

This output covers activities aimed at facilitating participatory engagements of youth and women-led organisations and networks in the target borderland districts to enable them to access knowledge and enhance their awareness on matters relating to women, peace and security, gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also focuses on ensuring safe spaces for women and functional referral pathways for survivors of SGBV to access services at border crossings. Also encompasses economic recovery interventions for survivors to reduce exposure and risk of involvement in violent conflicts and behaviours. Furthermore, this output will ensure efforts are made to enable cross-border networking among youth and women groups to facilitate sharing of lessons, best practices and collaborative efforts in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. **The project will also provide logistics support for peer-to-peer learning and facilitate the representation and participation of women and youth in district and national level conflict prevention, human rights and early warning systems.**

In advancing the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, **in line with the priorities of the recently launched YPS National Action Plan (NAP), the costed extension seeks to support its implementation through capacity building for women and youth in peacebuilding, human rights monitoring, reporting, and mediation. Specifically, the cost extension will invest in activities with young people focused on conflict prevention and mitigation in the context of the upcoming September 2025 general elections. Young people have a critical role to play in their own democratic development but have often been manipulated by political leaders into operating as agents of electoral violence. The amended Project will work with youth to strengthen their understanding of democratic principles including the role of elections, as well as specifically engaging young people in early warning and conflict prevention activities.**

2.2.1 Support the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security

To promote and enhance youth participation, representation and leadership in peace and security initiatives and structures, the project will support the capacity building of youth to actively participate in the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, district peace committees and other peace structures. The **original** project did this by providing technical and logistics support to the Ministry of Youth, the National Youth Council and youth organisations and networks at national and subnational levels to develop a National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, **which was launched in December 2024**. The project will further provide logistics for local-level discussion for the localisation/domestication of the NAP in the three **original** target districts **and, under the amended Project, in the additional two hotspot areas**.

2.2.2 Support the domestication/localisation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 at the district level [\(C.f Activity 2.2.2 in Annex D\)](#)

The UN is working with the Ministry of Gender, the Office of President and Cabinet, women CSOs and other stakeholders to develop and launch the National Action Plan on 1325 in 2021. The project will support the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of National Unity, and women CSOs in the three target districts to develop and implement district plans and strategies for implementing the NAP. The project will provide logistics for working sessions and engagement of a consultant to support this process.

In line with the pillars of UNSCR 1325, in particular, prevention, protection and participation, the project will support political empowerment and opportunities for women and youth to enhance their participation in local governance and decision-making processes. This will be done through interventions that will address Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWE/P) and aim to create a safe electoral environment conducive for women's political participation.

Key activities will include capacity building training on VAWE/P targeting women in the existing women movements for conflict prevention and peacebuilding groups to enable them to actively participate as community electoral peace campaigners, mediators, mobilisers of fellow women for increased women's political participation in the upcoming elections and monitors of VAWE/P, among other roles. VAWE/P monitoring tool will be developed through a participatory engagement and utilized to monitor, document and track VAWE/P incidences and periodic reports will be generated and disseminated to facilitate dialogue with electoral stakeholders such as traditional leaders, police, political parties, youth groups, DPUCs, among others, in a bid to facilitate implementation of actions towards peaceful elections. These local electoral stakeholders will be targeted in the VAWE/P focused dialogues to interface with the women movement group members to ensure adequate follow up and influence action to address reported incidences.

Additionally, a media campaign will be undertaken to support awareness creation and amplify VAWE/P prevention drive working in collaboration with community-based media outlets such as community radio stations, community policing structures, DPUCs, MPLCS, youth clubs, traditional leaders, community based political party structures, and others.

2.2.3 Conduct mapping and capacity needs assessment of youth organisations and networks.

To ensure project's capacity building trainings and support to youth peacebuilding networks are responsive to the needs of youth organisations and networks in the target districts, the project will support capacity needs assessments and mapping to guide the development and implementation of capacity building strategies and plans. The project will use internal and external expertise to conduct the capacity assessment and design a capacity building plan and training modules that will be use to training local partners of the project

2.2.4 Promote youth participation to sustain peace during the election [NEW ACTIVITY] (C.f Activity 2.2.3 in Annex D)

Building on the work of Peace Advocates and Community of Practice supported in Activity 2.15, the Project will implement youth-specific civic and voter education (CVE) activities in border areas and selected hotspots as a way of preparing young people to peacefully participate in political and electoral processes. CVE is also considered an important component of efforts to prevent electoral-related violence and can contribute to an enabling environment for youth political participation to peacebuilding. Through the CVE, young people are informed of their rights and responsibilities as voters, the electoral process, and the impact of violence on their communities. Education relating to conflict prevention and management, tackling hate speech and media and digital literacy will also accompany these CVE activities. The project proposes to work together with youth organizations, movements and networks from Activity 2.2.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and beyond, as well as traditional and religious leaders, CBOs and local governments.

The Project will also strengthen early warning efforts by working closely with young people and their organisations, movements and networks, to collect unofficial data and information that will help identify and understand the risk factors that may lead to violence at the local level, including in the context of the elections. Working closely with UNDP's Election Support project, this intervention will focus on building capacities for violence monitoring and reporting by youth-led organizations and providing access to monitoring tools and capacity development relating to early warning. Risk mitigating mechanisms for the collection of data including protection of identity of sources and mitigation mechanisms will be embedded in the early warning interventions. The Project will also work with partners such as the MPUC, PAC and DPUCs to create spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogues that include young people, in order to discuss issues related to violence, security, and the importance of peaceful elections and provide young people with platforms to share their perspectives. The Project will also organise peace sports activities in order to provide a structured environment where youth can engage in physical activity in a safe setting to disseminate peace messages to reduce the likelihood of them engaging in risky behaviours during the election period.

See Annex C with all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.

d) Project targeting.

Project's geographical zones

The proposed beneficiaries of the project are national and local government officials, youth, women, CSO actors, district peace committees in target districts, traditional leaders and religious leaders in the borderline districts of Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi with a focus on borderland Traditional Authorities **including and other areas like Lilongwe and Blantyre**. These communities are in direct contact with communities on the other side in Mozambique and Tanzania and so are directly impacted both positively and negatively through their social, economic and cultural exchanges with

the other side of the borders. This exposes borderland communities to cross-border risks, including trafficking, illegal and irregular migration communities, human rights and potential vulnerability to the same type of violence and threats that affect their neighbors.

Target Beneficiaries

The project will target local government officials, security officials, members of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, District Peace and Unity Committees, adolescent boys and girls (including students), men and women (including young mothers and the mother support groups), teachers with targeted approaches and solutions tailored to specific needs of the age, gender, and other community groups. Women and women-led organisations will be specifically targeted throughout the project because this group is especially vulnerable to conflicts and human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, child marriages, rape/defilement, and prevention efforts that may bring the highest peacebuilding (social cohesion) dividends.

In Outcome 1, the focus will be on local government officials, the **Ministry of Local Government, National Unity & Culture**, Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, District Peace and Unity Committees, **Malawi Police Service, Malawi Human Rights Commission, Independent Complaints Commission**, security officials, chiefs, religious leaders, youth and women peace networks and actors at the district and community levels. Around 30 local government and public officials from each target district are expected to benefit directly or indirectly from capacity-building trainings and dialogue platforms. The selection of participants will follow consultations with the government primarily through the Ministries of National Unity, Gender and Social Welfare, and Local Government, the security and justice sectors. Expected participants from the government are officials that may influence policymaking and programme and strategy design within their institutions but also connect and coordinate programme and policy implementation at local level.

Under Outcome 2, around 300 (50 % female) youth and women from **three original target district** of will be supported through livelihood support activities or trainings throughout the project duration. The project is also expected to reach 300 (40% Male) students and teachers in secondary schools with public education and training. The families of the participants are expected to indirectly benefit from these activities given that an improved income is likely to positively impact the socio-economic well-being of the entire household. The selection of these beneficiaries will be undertaken together with the members of the community including mother support groups, women cooperatives, traditional authorities and to the possible extent, health officials, civil society organizations or social enterprises. The beneficiaries will be enrolled in the programme on a voluntary basis. The targeting of the beneficiaries will be inclusive, to ensure that marginalized individuals, those suffering from HIV and disabilities can also participate. Finally, the compiled beneficiary lists will be verified and approved by UNFPA the cooperating partner and the local authorities. These lists will be used for beneficiary registration and enrolment into interventions.

Under the costed extension, additional beneficiaries under Outcome 2 include Malawi Police Service, Multiparty Liaison Committees (MPLCs) and DPUCs, Community Liaison Platforms in the 5 electoral hotspot districts.

2 Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

a) Recipient organizations and implementing partners

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
<p>Convening Organization: UNDP</p>	USD 31 mil	EU FCDO Norway USAID Flanders Germany Japan Canada Ireland Iceland UNDP TRAC	Lilongwe, Karonga, Mzuzu, Zomba	130, 1	The CTA of the UNDP electoral project already in place at the CO will also be the CTA/PM of this PBF project. A Security Sector Specialist will provide support to activities under output 1. The PBF project will also benefit of the technical support of other staff recruited under the UNDP electoral project, including a conflict prevention specialist, M&E, Reporting officer, among others.
<p>Implementing partners:</p> <p>Ministries of National Unity Ministry, Gender, Local Government and Rural Development and Homeland Security (Malawi Police Service, Immigration)</p> <p>National Statistics Office Malawi Peace and Unity Commission</p> <p>Malawi Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Public Affairs Committee</p> <p>CSO partners:</p> <p>Femwise</p> <p>Citizen Alliance</p> <p>Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC)</p>					

<p>Nayuchi Aids Network Services (NANES) Organization for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Initiative (OSSEDI) Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) Youth and Society (YAS)</p>					
<p>Recipient Organization: UNFPA</p>	<p>USD 25Million</p>	<p>EU FCDO Norway USAID Flanders Germany Ireland Iceland KOICA MPTF CERF DFID UNFPA Core resources</p>	<p>Nkhatabay Mzimba Dowa Kasungu Ntchisi Mchinji Salima Dedza Mangochi Machinga Chiradzulu Chikwawa Nsanje Lilongwe</p>	<p>64 staff members both at the National Office and the satellite district offices</p>	<p>Assistant Representative with sexual reproductive health, gender and human rights expertise National Gender Programme Specialist National Disability Expert Youth and Adolescent Health Expert</p>
<p>Implementing partners</p> <p>Ministry of Gender Ministry of Health Ministry of Youth Ministry of Education National Statistics Office</p> <p>CSO partners: Girls Empowerment Network Youthnet and Counselling Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE) Action Aid Malawi Nayuchi Aids Network Services (NANES)</p>					

Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA) Banja Lamtsogolo (BLM - Marie Stopes International) Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM)					
Recipient Organization: UN Women Implementing partners Ministry of National Unity Ministry of Gender Ministry of Health Ministry of Youth Ministry of Education National Statistics Office CSO partners: NGO Gender Coordination Network Academia Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) Center for Multiparty Democracy District Council Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre Centre for Conflict Management and Women Affairs Forum for Youth and Development	USD 6.7 mil	EU Norway Standard Bank Iceland WPHF Government of Malawi (World Bank) Government of Korea Women Count	N/A	21	Country Representative; Gender and Governance Programme Specialist; Gender and Governance Programme Associate; Programme Management Specialist; Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist; Communication for Development Officer; Programme Specialist Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Programme Specialist, Women Economic Empowerment; Consultant-Gender in Humanitarian Action

FEMWISE Chapter	Malawi					
--------------------	--------	--	--	--	--	--

b) Project management and coordination.

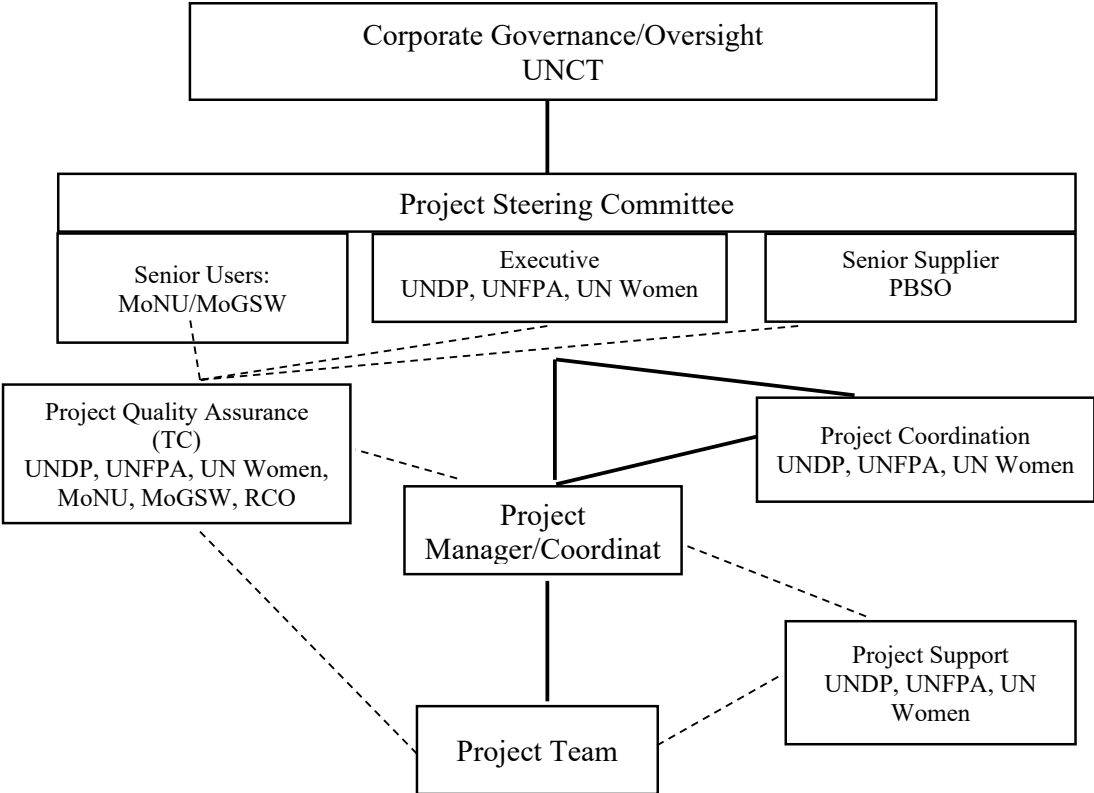
UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women will be project recipients. UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women have been selected to lead this proposal because of their technical expertise, programmatic relevance, and capacity to implement the two outcomes of this proposal effectively. UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women lead the implementation of Pillar 1 of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Malawi (i.e., Peace, Inclusion, and Effective Institutions). UNODC, IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF would support UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women at the outcome level by providing technical support for delivering specific actions of the proposal. This allows the project to benefit from the technical expertise in particular areas of the proposal. This will also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes and results by ensuring that impacts are absorbed into UNCT support programmes in the country.

As the lead agency and first recipient under this proposal, UNDP will lead the implementation of outcome 1. UNDP has long supported Malawi's conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and social cohesion agenda. More recently, it supported the National Peace Policy, which was launched in October 2017, and the establishment of the first six District Peace Committees from 2017 to 2019. It has also had a long involvement in supporting the Public Affairs Committee, focusing on insider mediation capacity support. It has also supported the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) over several electoral cycles, emphasising electoral peace and dispute resolution, such as the 2014 PAC-CMD electoral peace accord or local peace treaties signed at the district level between local representatives of political parties. UNDP will also draw from existing knowledge resources and technical expertise from its regional and global offices on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. UNDP will further draw on the expertise of the Crisis Prevention Bureau to expand the existing Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) indicators and enhance data collection and analysis on the risks of conflicts and crises.

UNFPA, as the second recipient for this project, will lead the implementation of outcome 2. UNFPA has extensive experience supporting the prevention of SGBV and youth empowerment. UNFPA currently co-leads the UNCT Youth Group (with UNICEF), ensuring UN Malawi's coordinated and coherent approach to youth empowerment, participation, and representation across all the three Pillars of UNSDCF. UNFPA also leads the Gender-Based-Violence Sub-cluster under the Protection Cluster in emergency settings - both complex (political) emergencies and natural disasters, backed by robust operational capacity and technical expertise in terms of SGBV prevention response and data management. UNFPA's corporate strategic plan highlights addressing gender inequality and social norms, empowering adolescents and youth, and applying human rights-based and gender transformative approaches, including effective male engagement as priority output areas as well as key accelerators for change. UNFPA will further draw on its expertise in south-south cooperation, including in the SADC area, to support the exchange of best practices and policy level coordination through SADC in data and digitalisation and monitoring in areas such as the attainment of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as south-south peer exchanges.

UN Women as the third recipient for this project will co-lead the implementation of outcome 2 with UNFPA with a focus on women. UN Women, as a UN entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, has expertise and experience in advancing Women's Peace and Security in line with UNSCR 1325. In its current Strategic Plan (2022-2025), Women, Peace and Security is among the four key thematic impact areas wherein UN Women seeks to achieve transformational results for gender equality. In Malawi, UN Women has worked with Government and civil society organisations in promoting women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-building processes at district and national levels. In collaboration with other agencies like UNDP, the agency has carried out interventions to address Violence Against Women in Elections by ensuring an engendered National Peace Policy, participation of women in Peace Structures such as the District Peace Committees, including innovative interventions such as the Gender Elections Engagement Room systematically working with security agencies like Police to provide a conducive environment for women's electoral and political participation. UN Women has also supported the development of Malawi's first ever UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan and continues to support its implementations to actualise the WPS targets under its four pillars of Participation, Conflict Prevention, Protection, Relief and Recovery.

Project Governance Structure



Project Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) will be chaired by the Minister of National Unity and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. Resident Representatives of participating agencies and government representatives will be part of the SC. Among the responsibilities, the Steering Committee will:

provide strategic direction and oversight and review progress for the project implementation; maintain strategic dialogue within the Steering Committee members, partners and key stakeholders; make decisions and address bottlenecks in response to unexpected changes, risks and issues arising during the project implementation; appraise and approve strategic project documents, annual work plans, progress and final reports and the evaluation report. Specific Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee will be produced in the project initiation phase. Project governance meetings will take place regularly based on monitoring assessments and a rapidly evolving situation on the ground to provide strategic guidance and oversight.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee (TC) will oversee Quality Assurance for the Project based on the strategic direction of the SC and shall be consulted by the Project Manager and focal persons from participating agencies on progress as well as issues of significance to operational and technical issues. Project tolerances (i.e., constraints in terms of time and budget) will be an ongoing area of assessment for the TC throughout the life of the Project to support the management and priorities of the outputs. The committee will concentrate on the management and technical aspects of the Project, such as planning and budgeting, financial and technical reports, and risk management. The TC will also conduct preliminary analysis and layout options for discussion and adoption during SC meetings and may propose agenda items for the SC meetings. The TC will be Chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of National Unity and co-chaired by the UNDP Deputy Representative as the lead agency.

The project staffing will be financed through the PBF contribution and the contributing agencies. Through the PBF contribution, the project has included a budget for a Project Coordinator, M&E and Communications Officers. These positions will work with all agencies, partners and the Secretariat to ensure the smooth implementation of all project activities. In addition, the Peace and Development Adviser, Peace and Development Officer, and Peacebuilding UNV will provide technical and coordination support from the RCO; the Conflict Data Analysis Associate and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Programme Officer will provide technical and logistical support from UNDP; and Gender, SRHR, and Training officers will support the implementation of activities from UNFPA and UN Women. Additional financial, procurement and management support will be provided by staff in UNDP as Lead Agency.

c) Risk management

Project specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Lack of commitment from relevant government entities to implement project activities for political and other reasons	Low	The Resident Coordinator will have ongoing conversations at the national level to ensure that government remains committed to project outcomes and activities. This will be replicated at the district level
Local authorities resist project activities because	Medium	Keep on constant consultation and information sharing with local authorities and stakeholders in

of cultural and religious concerns		the initiation and planning activities throughout the implementation. Engage traditional authorities, opinion leaders including women and youth representatives to ensure early detection and response to issues and concerns
Local authorities and stakeholders do not feel ownership over the implementation of activities	Medium	Keep on constant consultation and information sharing with local authorities and stakeholders before, during and after the implementation of activities mainstreaming a local-owned approach at different levels (district, traditional authority, Group Village Head Men etc.)
Unwillingness of youth to participate in activities due to perceived fear of offending their parents and cultural sensitivities	Medium	Establishing communication channels at community level owned by community members that can enhance trust and understanding about the project objectives; avoid sensitive language that may cause harm or negative misperception from the community; Ensuring safe spaces and enabling environment for participants based on UN and government's security guidance. Creating spaces (communication platforms) where young people can cooperate with authorities and their voice can be heard (district, traditional authority, Group Village Head Men etc.).
Low capacity of local partners to implement and support project activities	Medium	Supporting local partners in planning, implementation, on-job support on modern methods to work with youth.
Potential of resurgence of high COVID-19 cases in targeted districts of the project	Low	Applying flexible approaches to ensure activities are implemented aligned with national measures in place to respond to COVID-19 in both countries; Using adapted formats and methodologies to ensure safety and security of participants.
Occurrence of high impact natural disaster(s)	Medium	Assessing the effect on targeted communities and government priority shifting and adjusting the mode of implementation of activities accordingly.
Election insecurity is not managed effectively and violent conflict makes it difficult to implement politically sensitive election-related activities	Medium	The Project has been designed in close partnership with many of the actors whose political buy-in is necessary. The support of the MPUC and PAC, who are themselves mediators, provides a strong foundation for ensuring the Project has sufficient political support to continue even during politically sensitive periods.
Recruitment of young people from hot spot districts by political parties to engage in	High	As part of de-escalation, the project will work very closely with District Peace and Unity Committees, the Police through the Community Policing structures, Traditional leaders and young people to engage in youth specific CVE, youth specific

activities that contribute to electoral instability.		dialogue with the police and DPUC to building trust and provide platform for young people to share their perspectives.
--	--	--

d) **Monitoring and evaluation**

- Agencies will work closely to ensure joint coordination and support at the implementation stage (both field and Country Office levels). The project objectives, indicators and targets will serve as references for the project’s monitoring and evaluation. The project team will collect and report all project and programme data in a gender- and age-disaggregated format.
- The project will be monitored through assessing the progress against indicators in the Results and Resources Framework. The project monitoring will use gender- and age- disaggregated data, where both of these are available. The initial data collection and assessments of the project will become the baseline of the project with the aim of assessing best implementation strategies, M&E, and a realistic timeline.
- The monitoring will be carried out by participating UN Agencies in coordination with relevant government’s counterpart and institutions with dedicated budget allocated for each of the recipient UN agency. The monitoring exercises will be coordinated by the Project Manager with support of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for a coherent approach consistent with this project document and the PBSO compliance requirements. Agencies will apply various tools, including project documentation analysis, on-site monitoring, questionnaires and interviews with project beneficiaries before and after events, collection of stories. The agencies will also be supported by Field Monitoring Officers and their own monitoring capabilities at the field level. M&E carried out by Agencies is participatory and involves beneficiaries evaluating the results of the programmes and trainings (through post-training questionnaires, discussions etc.). Results of the monitoring will be reported to PBF through semi-annual and annual reports.
- The project monitoring will largely focus on project outputs to ensure that project implementation is on track and is reaching the intended beneficiaries.
- ‘Lessons learned sessions’ with partners, authorities and other stakeholders will regularly be held (e.g., through organising monitoring visits of government partners to project sites and meeting with project beneficiaries) to enhance implementation and assess achievements (and make experiences from the project available to other countries and PBSO so that similar projects can be built on lessons learned and best practices).
- The external evaluation at the end of the project will be carried out by an independent expert, in line with UN Evaluation Group standards. The evaluation will assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the intervention, focusing on the project’s peacebuilding impact, its conflict sensitivity, catalytic effect and risk tolerance. UN agencies and their government counterparts will debrief on the evaluation’s findings and recommendations to inform subsequent strategies, plans and activities for peacebuilding in both countries. **USD\$ 65,000** has been budgeted for this.

- **8.74 per cent** of the budget (**USD\$ 305,764**) has been allocated to monitoring and communications activities, as per the budget breakdown. This includes funds for the project team to travel to the project districts for the implementation and monitoring activities of the project. This budget allocation will also cover the external evaluation of the project

e) **Project exit strategy/ sustainability**

- The project’s approach towards sustainability is focused on ensuring national and local level ownership by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, Districts Peace Committees, borderland community women and youth networks to ensure that the national capacities of the Peace and Unity Commission, Local Government Authorities and community-based stakeholders on conflict prevention and human rights protection are revitalized and/or built. The project will place a significant focus on developing and strengthening sustainable community level structures such as the mother support groups, women cooperatives, community policing and child protection committees in the target districts and communities, and will complement theoretical trainings, such as community policing, with on-the-job mentoring and guidance to increase sustainability.
- The Project Steering Committee will develop a partnership strategy to ensure regular flow of information and coordination with national and international development partners—particularly the Iceland and Irish Embassy who are supporting a joint UNCT pilot project on conflict prevention in Mangochi and Mulanje and have expressed interest in extending funding support to borderlands programming in Malawi. Other partners including FCDO and Canada have also expressed interest in supporting borderland conflict prevention and human rights protection programming. It is, therefore, expected that this project will serve as seed funding that can catalyze other sources of financing to allow the UN to scale up its programmatic activities in the region with significant socio-economic needs but where the programmatic presence so far has been limited. The project team will regularly report on its resource mobilization activities and progress in the bi-annual progress reports.
- The project implementation and coordination team will capture lessons and best practices of this project and ensure due dissemination among the relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure effective transfer of knowledge and experience. Also, the implementation team will actively look for synergies with ongoing projects in the region.

3 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.

The total budget of this project is USD\$ 3,500,000 for 34 months. Funds will be divided into two tranches for UN recipients with the second tranche being released upon demonstration by the project that the first tranche has been expended or committed to at least 75% between the recipients and upon completion of any regular PBF reports due in the period elapsed. The release of the second tranche is dependent upon the results achieved with the funds of the first tranche.

The Project Manager/Coordinator will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project. Each agency will be responsible for the management of their funds. In terms of financial obligations with staff, the project will require the payment of following staffing configuration, who are already on board in both agencies:

Detailed budget information per activity and category is available in Annex D.

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

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	Y		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	Y		
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Y		
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.	Y		
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?	Y		Based on the lessons learnt from the 2019/2020 post-election violence and UNCT led conflict assessments, as elaborated in the text.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	Y		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	Y		
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Y		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?		N/A	
Gender			
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	Y		
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Y		
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Y		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Y		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	Y		
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	Y		
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	Y		
4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	Y		
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	Y		
6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		N	
7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.	Y		As part of the support for the establishment and operationalization of the MPUC, the project will purchase one vehicle to support the operations.

			of the MPUC. The vehicle will aid operational functioning of the MPUC
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	Y		UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women will support the project from their core resources to cover the cost of the staff that will support the implementation of the project.

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

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

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

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

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by 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) and the Administrative Agent’s website (www.mptf.undp.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reporting:

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

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist

End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF 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) and the Administrative Agent website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognise 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.⁵⁶
- 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.

⁵⁶ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<p>Outcome 1: Strengthen Malawi’s Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding and human rights protection in borderland communities.</p> <p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to 		<p>Outcome Indicator 1 a: Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (40% women and Youth representation) established and providing mediation services by December 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 1</p>	<p>News reports (print and electronic)</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Appointment of Commissioners of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission by Q1 of 2023</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 1 b: Perception of local peace networks and organisations on DPUCs effectiveness in conflict monitoring and prevention capacities</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 80%+ of local peace networks and</p>	<p>Perception survey report, DPUC activity reports</p> <p>Capacity training reports</p> <p>DPUCs conflict monitoring and prevention activity reports</p>	<p>DPUCs trained on conflict monitoring and prevention (conflict analysis, mediation, dialogue facilitation) by the Q1 of 2023</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<p>competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to</p>		<p>organisations believe DPUCs are effective in conflict monitoring and prevention</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1c: MPUC, PAC, and DPUCs play an effective role in conflict prevention and mediation in the context of the 2025 September elections</p> <p>Baseline: 2019 election characterized by considerable violence, with MPUC not established and unable to properly support conflict mediation</p>	<p>Review of media reports, review of conflict assessments produced by MPUC, Elections Project, MHRC, etc</p>	<p>MPUC Roster of Experts trained and engaging in conflict prevention activities MPUC and PAC engaging with political parties and other stakeholders to support conflict prevention</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
implement and if so, year of UPR)		Target: MPUC visibly engaged in conflict prevention and mitigation activities, supported by PAC and DPUCs		
	<p>Output 1.1: Malawi's national and subnational infrastructure for peace established, operationalised, and capacities are strengthened</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of National Unity for effective coordination of peacebuilding actors and implementation of the National Peace Policy through training of technical staff, creation of platform for regular interaction with peacebuilding actors, review of the</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.1: District Peace and Unity Committees in the 3 target districts established/strengthened to coordinate and lead conflict prevention and early warning and response systems (with 40% representation of women and youth).</p> <p>Baseline: 1 Target: 3</p>	<p>News reports (print and electronic)</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Members of the District Peace and Unity Committee in Machinga identified by Q2 of 2023.</p> <p>District Peace and Unity Committees in Karonga and Machinga revitalised and resourced by Q2 of 2023.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>National Peace Policy and Production of standard operating procedures</p> <p>Support the establishment and operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees in target district through the provision of office equipment (computers and office desks, facilitation of logistics for meetings and convening of mediation meetings.</p> <p>Develop regulations, SoPs and guidelines for MPUCs and DPUCs on mediation and dialogue facilitation and other functions through the engagement of an expert and facilitation of meetings</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.2 SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPUCs ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels per the provisions of the Peace and Unity Act adopted.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 (1 SoP, 1 guidelines handbook each for the MPUC and the DPUCs).</p>	<p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>News reports (print and electronic)</p>	<p>Draft SoPs and training Manuals and guidelines adopted by Q1 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3 Percentage of MPUC, PAC and DPUC members trained on conflict management and</p>	<p>Training evaluation reports</p>	<p>Orientation and training of MPUC and DPUCs conducted by Q2 of 2023</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>Support inter-faith peaceful coexistence, conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue through capacity building of faith leaders and communities and support for PAC led dialogue/mediation sessions and community outreach and awareness on the Christian-Muslim MoU on religious dress code in schools</p> <p>Support the establishment of early warning and response systems and train national and district level actors on how to use the system and ensure the availability of conflict early warning information, including dissemination amongst relevant actors.</p>	<p>resolution and actively leading mediation and education on conflict prevention</p> <p># of strategic engagement by MPUC with heads of Political Parties at national level</p> <p># of President Candidates and political parties that sign Peace Pledges</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 100</p>	<p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p>	

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>Support the MPUC and DPUCs to establish a platform for information sharing and coordination among peacebuilding and conflict prevention actors and CSO</p> <p>Support facilitation of cross-border conflict mediation and reconciliation initiatives in the Mangochi district through logistics for meetings between leaders of districts and communities and security officials</p> <p>Train DPCs in monitoring, coordination and community outreach, including linkages between DPCs and MPLCs, in the target districts.</p>			

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	Strengthen insider mediation capacity to mediate disputes and prevent tensions from escalating into violence during the election season			
	<p>Output 1.2: Enhanced capacity security and the rule of law institution and actors to effectively monitor and protect human rights and support conflict prevention</p> <p><i>List of activities under this Output:</i></p> <p>Provide training to border security actors on monitoring and information_gathering on support security and human rights protection at border entry points</p> <p>Support the establishment and strengthening of police-community</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of security actors receiving training on border control measures.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 300 (100 per district with 50% women representation)</p>	<p>Training evaluation reports</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Training of security actors conducted by Q3 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.2.2: Number of police-community liaison platforms established and functioning</p>	<p>Minutes / reports from platforms</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity</p>	<p>Police-community liaison platforms established and functioning by Q3 2023.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	liaison platforms through facilitation of meetings and training for members	Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Reports/press statements Project reports	
	<p>Conduct training of trainers (ToT) on human rights protection, SGBV for border security personnel and other stakeholders</p> <p>Conduct training of trainers to security personnel on conflict prevention and the management of conflicts</p> <p>Support security and local government officials' cross-border engagements with their counterparts in Mozambique and Tanzania through provision of technical advice and facilitation of logistics for meetings</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.3a: Number of roadshows/public outreach conducted on ICC Mandate and services available to the public.</p> <p>1.2.3b: Number of cases reported by the public on crimes by law enforcement agencies related to election security disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>Baseline: a) 0</p>	Desk review of case register/files, direct observation	Roadshow and Monitoring exercise starts in Q 1 to educate the public on ICC services and receive case of any abuse or incidences based on Police action in starting from Q1 to Q4

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>Conduct monthly flow monitoring in formal and informal border entry points through population mobility mapping exercise (PMM) and deployment of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).</p> <p>Enhance the oversight of the Malawi Police Services to ensure accountability during the elections.</p>			
	<p>Output 1.3: Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities and districts are strengthened with specific focus on women and youth led networks and mainstreaming gender and youth across local infrastructures for peace</p> <p><i>List of activities under this Output:</i></p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.3.1: Number local peace and resilience infrastructures identified and capacitated to monitor and report on socio-economy risks at community level.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Training evaluation reports</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Mapping exercise completed to identify local peace and resilience networks and their capacity needs completed by Q1 of 2023.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	Conduct mapping and capacity needs assessment of peacebuilding and conflict prevention CSOs and networks.	Target: 15 (5 in each district with at least 1 women-led and 1 youth network)		
	Build capacity the capacity of local peacebuilding networks and organisations in early warning data analysis through training and facilitation of early warning data dissemination sessions	Output Indicator 1.3.2: Percentage of local peace and resilience networks and DPUCs using new data collection tools to monitor and report on socio-economic and conflict risks at community level.	Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements Project reports	User friendly data collection tools and mobile applications developed and tested by Q1 of 2023.
	Conduct a multi-agency mapping of local formal and informal peace, conflict management mechanisms	Baseline:0 Target:100%		
	Establish a baseline for the needs of the project through conflict analysis and capacity needs assessment in the target borderland districts.	Output Indicator 1.3.3: Number of coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities.	Minutes / reports from coordination sessions	Coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	Support the development and use user-friendly digital and mobile tools/app for conflict data collection, analysis and reporting.	Baseline: 0 Target: 27 (bi-monthly in each district for 18 months).	Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements Project reports	communities by Q2 2023.
Outcome 2 Strengthen human rights protection mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking and child marriages (Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)		Outcome Indicator 2 a:80% reduction in secondary school dropout rate of girls in the 3 districts by end of the by the end of the project Baseline: Average of 10 girls drop out of secondary per year in each of the 3 districts Target: 5 in the first year; 2 by the end of the project	Project partner/school monitoring reports/ M&E reports Project reports	50% reduction in girls dropout by the end first year of the project

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p> <p>Malawi went through the UPR in 2020 and though most of the recommendations are relevant to this project, outcome 2 contributes to</p>		Outcome Indicator 2 b Number of New family Planning Clients Baseline: 0 Target: 40% of the women of the reproductive age in each of the 3 target districts	Hospital / Health facility family planning Registers	Family planning commodities available at the health facilities And Community Distribution agents available in the catchment areas
		Outcome Indicator 2 c Baseline: Target:		
		Output Indicator 2.1.1: number of women and girls who receive support and training Baseline:0	Project partner/school monitoring reports/ M&E reports Project reports	
	Output 2.1: Women and girls have increased access to safe spaces and empowerment schemes. <i>List of activities under this Output:</i>			

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<p>the following 3 UPR recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122.108 Intensify further public awareness-raising and capacity-building for duty bearers on addressing child trafficking and violence against children (Philippines) 122.160 Continue to take measures to promote gender equality and to end all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination 	<p>Support economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities for women and youth to discourage susceptibility to conflict and human rights violations (SGBV, child marriages and child trafficking) through training on basic business management, record keeping and vocational skills and technical support advice provided to women in business and agriculture</p>	<p>Target:300</p>		
		<p>Output Indicator 2.1.2: number of women successfully enrolled in livelihood programmes under the project by December 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target:60</p>	<p>Project partner/school monitoring reports/ M&E reports Project reports</p>	
	<p>Conduct women’s safe spaces and adolescent girls’ mentorship to enhance their capacity to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and other forms of violence at border crossings and in borderland communities.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1.3 Number of women and Youth participating in the Area and Village Development committees Baseline:0 Target:</p>	<p>Project partner/ monitoring reports/ M&E reports</p>	<p>Availability of vibrant youth and women networks in the community</p> <p>Incidence Reporting recorded through IReport Platform</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122.102 Continue to fight against human trafficking and its root causes, as well as against the sexual exploitation of women and girls, in accordance with targets 5.2 and 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, by setting up programmes to increase skills and women's income 	<p>Strengthen SGBV and SRHR referral systems and stakeholders working for women and adolescent girls, including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings.</p> <p>Strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organisations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.</p> <p>Support capacity building to effectively support and contribute to conflict and human rights early warning and response</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.2.2 Number of VAWIE/P incidence and period report produced.</p> <p>Number of dialogues facilitated with electoral stakeholders to facilitate actions to address VAWIE/P incidence.</p>	<p>Incidence Reporting recorded through IReport Platform of the Situation Room</p>	<p>of the Situation Room</p> <p>Roll out of dialogues to address VAWIE/P incidence.</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>Support knowledge and best practices on SGBV prevention and SRHR practices</p> <p>Support for capacity of women's groups and movements strengthened to effectively engage in VAWIE/P interventions as community electoral peace campaigners, monitoring, documenting and reporting incidences to inform relevant actions.</p> <p>Support for awareness-raising campaign on VAWIE/P prevention rolled out.</p>			
	<p>Output 2.2: Youth organisations and networks in the target district mobilised and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.2.1: National Action Plan for USCR 2250 adopted by December of 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Project partner/school monitoring reports/ M&E reports Project reports</p>	<p>Draft National Action Plan validated by June 2023</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p><i>List of activities under this Output:</i></p> <p>Support the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security through engagement of a technical experts and facilitation of consultation workshops</p> <p>Support the domestication/localisation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 at district level through facilitation of localize district and community level consultations and working sessions to develop district strategies for the implementation of the NAP</p> <p>Conduct mapping of youth peacebuilding organisations and</p>	Target: 1		
		<p>Output Indicator 2.2.2:</p> <p>Civic education effectively rolled out to young people in border and election hotspot target areas disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>Baseline: TBC</p> <p>Target: To be confirmed during design phase for CVE activities, once target areas and rollout approach confirmed</p>	<p>M&E reports from CVE implementation partners</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>Production of CVE curriculum and training materials</p> <p>Training of CVE trainers</p> <p>Rollout of CVE to target areas</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 2.2.3</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Target:</p>	<p>M&E reports from CVE implementation partners</p>	

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
	<p>networks and conduct capacity needs assessment to inform training and capacity development plan</p> <p>Identify and engage youth ambassadors in consultation with youth organisations and networks in the target borderland districts to support the effective implementation of the NAP.</p> <p>Promote youth participation to sustain peace during the election</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.2.4 The number of Youth-specific CVE activities rolled out in 5 target districts disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>Number of incidence and period report produced by youth led organisation in the 5 target districts</p> <p>The number of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include young people (disaggregated by gender) held with Police, traditional leaders to discuss issues related to violence, security, and the</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Incidence Reporting recorded through IReport Platform of the Situation Room</p>	<p>Production of CVE curriculum and training materials</p> <p>Rollout of CVE to target areas</p> <p>Incidence Reporting recorded through IReport Platform of the Situation Room</p> <p>Rollout of multi-stakeholder dialogues</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
		importance of peaceful elections		

ADDENDUM: CLARIFICATION ON NCE IMPACT ON PROJECT OUTCOME AND LINKAGE WITH REMAINING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Overall outcome remains relevant and unaffected by the No Cost Extension (NCE) of project:

The project outcomes of the project remain fully valid and are not going to be negatively affected by the NCE period. On the contrary, the continued implementation provides an opportunity to further consolidate results achieved to date through previously implemented activities. The sustained work of women’s movement groups established under the project remains highly relevant and critical, serving as key entry points for continued capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and facilitating women’s meaningful participation in conflict prevention, leadership roles, and mediation.

Outcome 1: Strengthening Malawi’s infrastructure for peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding, human rights protection, and facilitate dialogue for peaceful elections in communities prone to electoral violence, including borderland areas and Outcome 2: In target districts, strengthening human rights protection mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking, and child marriages, remain fully valid, relevant and unchanged, with a continued focus on the capacity-building of women, girls, and youth using a gender-responsive approach. The Theory of Change also remains unchanged and fully relevant, guiding activities that invest in women, girls, and youth to build sustainable capacities for tackling conflict drivers, promoting social cohesion, and fostering a culture of peaceful co-existence. Overall, these outcomes directly contribute to Priority Area 2 / Outcome 2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Malawi: “By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, will experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.”

Linkage with remaining activities: Activities remaining under the NCE period will build on previous gains to ensure sustained capacity development of women and girls in conflict prevention, mediation, and peace campaigning. Engagement of women through established women’s movement groups will continue to support community-level interventions, facilitate learning, resolve emerging conflicts early, and promote safe and peaceful environment. This will include conducting capacity-building of women’s movement groups, peace campaigns, and continued stakeholder engagement (building on the monitoring and documentation of VAWIE/P) to facilitate reflection and strengthen the promotion of sustainable peaceful communities in the post-election period. In addition, awareness-raising campaigns on VAWIE/P and conflict prevention will be conducted through community-based media, engaging District Peace and Unity Committees, community based political party structures, and other community-level stakeholders.

The NCE does not introduce new activities or expand the scope of the project but allows sufficient time to complete already planned activities whose implementation was constrained by delayed fund disbursement and operational limitations. These efforts will reinforce collaboration with existing structures, including District Peace and Unity Committees, traditional leaders, and other stakeholders, strengthening the overall impact of project interventions at national and sub-national levels.

Wrap-up and evaluation: UN Women commits to utilize a fast-tracked implementation strategy to ensure timely delivery of the remaining activities within the NCE period to enable effective project closure. UN Women estimates to finalise implementation of activities by 30 April and have project wrap up and evaluation commence from 01 May. UNDP will focus exclusively on coordinating and leading the joint end-of-project evaluation on behalf of all PUNOs. As such, in line with the NCE period, the planned end-of-project evaluation will be rescheduled accordingly to commence as soon as project activities are wrapped up. The adjusted schedule will ensure that all remaining activities are completed, documented, and analysed, enabling a comprehensive assessment of results and lessons learned. This approach will allow the evaluation to capture the full contribution of the project, including extended activities, and provide evidence-based recommendations to inform future similar initiatives in Malawi. UNDP, on behalf of the PUNOs, will share the adjusted evaluation timeline to ensure a coherent and joint project close out.

Summary of remaining activities under the No Cost Extension period:

- a. Hold Women movement groups and stakeholder engagements-post election dialogues on VAWIE/P and other conflicts to review response and resolution of incidences.
- b. Post election capacity building targeting the women movement groups and the community key stakeholders on gender responsive early warning

c. Production and airing of Peace campaign programme through community-based media platforms