

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country: Somalia	
Project Title: Transitioning PCVE in Somalia: From UNTMIS to Somali Ownership	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: ☐ IRF ☒ PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ 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 Somalia;; United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Office of National Security (ONS), Office of the President, Federal Government of Somalia, Tubsan National Center, Higher Institute of Security Studies, Elman Peace Centre, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) Somalia alumni , Somali Survivors Organization,	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 24 months Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Country-wide	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: ☐ Gender promotion initiative ³ ☐ Youth promotion initiative ⁴ ☒ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions ☐ Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNDP: \$ 600,000 UNOCT: 200,000 Total: USD 800,000	

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 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

PBF 1st tranche (75%): UNDP: 420,000 UNOCT: 140,000 Total: 560,000	PBF 2nd tranche* (25%): UNDP \$ 180,000 UNOCT: 60,000 Total: 240,000	
Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs): The Somali Government made a decisive policy shift in 2022, endorsing a peacebuilding approach to address violent extremism – formally anchored through the next-generation Joint UNSOM (now UNTMIS)-UNDP PCVE Program, <i>Islaamku Waa Nabad</i> (Islam Is Peace). This shift, led by the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Federal Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (MEISA), marked a departure from security-focused PCVE interventions towards a conflict transformation strategy grounded in community-driven reconciliation. The transition of the PCVE interventions from UNTMIS to the Government of Somalia presents a key moment to transfer these efforts fully into national ownership, contributing to a cohesive national strategy. This project is designed to ensure that transition of the PCVE file succeeds. Its starting point is comprehensive research into under-explored local conflict dynamics including the links between climate, peace and the mechanisms that communities already employ to manage disputes, strengthen cohesion, and reduce violence. Building on analyses by UNTMIS and UNDP, this project fills a critical knowledge gap through deepening understanding by identifying what concretely works at the grassroots level and translating community-led peacebuilding practices into actionable insights to inform government policy and programming. These findings will directly feed into the refinement of Somalia's National PCVE Strategy and strengthen institutional capacity on conflict transformation approaches and tools. Beyond policy, the project will help translate research into action by identifying practical entry points to enhance and scale up localized peace initiatives, ensuring they contribute to improved governance, stronger social cohesion, and tangible reductions in violence. In doing so, the initiative reinforces national ownership and lays the foundation for a long-term, evidence-based peacebuilding strategy.		
Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBPSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups): This project builds on an extensive consultation process undertaken over 18 months as part of the design of the joint PCVE programme, <i>Islaamku Waa Nabad</i> (2022-26). The programme document, co-signed by the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (MEISA), was the product of numerous dialogues with stakeholders at all levels of government, federal member states, and civil society, including women's and youth organizations. The research focus is a key component of this umbrella document. The project was further validated through the UN–Government Phase I UNTMIS transition workshop, where PCVE was identified as a Phase I transition priority and the research component		

of the Joint PCVE Programme was confirmed in the agreed transition roadmap. Building on this, in February, ONS, UNTMIS, UNDP and UNOCT convened a roundtable consultation involving government counterparts, MEISA, and civil society representatives, including the Somali Survivors Organization, a grassroots organization led by a young woman survivor of a suicide attack. Discussions focused on the experiences and needs of victims and survivors of violent extremism, the application of behavioural insights approaches, and the relevance of the proposed research.

Additional consultations were held with civil society organizations actively engaged in PCVE work, including the Elman Centre and Somali Survivors Organization, both of which have extensive field presence and experience in data collection related to violent extremism, including contributions to UNDP's *Journey to Extremism* research. These organizations are also current implementing partners in other UNDP-supported initiatives. As part of the PCVE transition process, UNDP and UNTMIS further organized two consultation workshops on PCVE lessons learned in August and September 2025, bringing together academia, religious networks, women and youth representatives, Tubsan National Centre, MEISA, and ONS. These consultations reinforced the importance of research-informed programming for peacebuilding outcomes.

Building on this, the present proposal was specifically discussed with the ONS – through consultations with the National Security Advisor and the Director General – as well as with the Director General of the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), the anchor ministry for PBF in Somalia. These steps ensured that the project design reflects national priorities and is firmly embedded in the UNTMIS transition process.

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 2

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 266,225.20 (33.22%)

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

The project aims to involve a minimum of 40% of women in research and also UNDP will take advantage of engaging their three implementing partners, which are women lead (Elman Peace Centre , Somali Survivors and Brain Story)

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Is the project piloting new approaches: Yes ☒ ☐

Does the project design incorporate climate, peace and security related considerations:

Yes ☐ Its starting point is comprehensive research into under-explored local conflict dynamics including the links between climate, peace and the mechanisms that communities already employ to manage disputes, strengthen cohesion, and reduce violence. The project will ensure the linkages

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**

⁷ **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

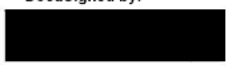
Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

with ongoing related to Climate Peace and Security	
Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (<i>select ONLY one</i>)⁸: 2.3 – Conflict Management If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes: Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: SDG 16.1: <i>Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</i> SDG 16.3: <i>Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</i>	
Type of submission: ☒ New project ☐ Project amendment	If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification: Extension of duration: ☐ Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): Change of project outcome/ scope: ☐ Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: ☐ Additional PBF budget: ☐ Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

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)

United Nations Development Programme <i>Lionel Laurens</i> <i>Resident Representative</i> <i>UNDP Somalia</i> Signature  DocuSigned by: 2947F85F0EE14DA... Date & Seal 05-May-2026	Representative of National Authorities <i>Awes Hagi Yusuf Ahmed</i> <i>National Security Advisor</i> <i>Office of National Security of the</i> <i>President</i> <i>Federal Government of Somalia</i> Signature  Date & Seal <i>19 April 2026</i> 
United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia <i>George Conway</i> <i>Deputy Special Representative of the</i> <i>Secretary-General, Resident and</i> <i>Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia</i> Signature  MARQUES PEREIRA PEREIRA on 10/05/2026 11:09:26 +03'00' Date & Seal <i>[Handwritten signature]</i>	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism <i>Mr. Alexandre Zouev</i> <i>Acting Under-Secretary General for Counter-Terrorism</i> Signature  Date & Seal 1 May 2026
Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO) <i>Elizabeth Spehar</i> <i>Assistant Secretary General for</i> <i>Peacebuilding and Peace Support</i> <i>Office</i> Signature  Date & Seal 14 May 2026	

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

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

Somalia has lived through seventeen years of protracted conflict, persistent instability, and fractured governance. The security situation involving the Somali Government and Al-Shabaab continues despite repeated territorial advances by the Somali National Army and African Union forces and counter-advances by Al-Shabaab. Al-Shabaab has entrenched itself across parts of southern and central Somalia by building parallel systems of governance, delivering services, and exploiting grievances caused by structural inequality, weak governance, and lack of trust in state institutions. These conditions create fertile ground for the group's influence and allow it to sustain recruitment, particularly among marginalized groups. Its narratives promote faith-based unity as an antidote to exclusionary clan politics, and its tactics range from propaganda and indoctrination through schools to taxation and parallel justice. By filling the governance vacuum, Al-Shabaab presents itself as an alternative authority, undermining the legitimacy of the Somali state. Without deliberate and sustained action to address governance gaps, exclusion, and inequality, the group will continue to position itself as an alternative to the Somali state.

The drivers of conflict in Somalia are layered and mutually reinforcing, rooted in structural exclusion across political, economic, and social spheres. Youth, who constitute the majority of the population, face systemic exclusion from economic life, political representation, and education pathways that connect to meaningful livelihoods, limiting their ability to engage constructively in community decision-making, mediation, and reconciliation processes. Women remain sidelined from formal governance and decision-making structures despite being central actors in family, clan, and community-level mediation. Their peacebuilding roles are often informal and unrecognized, while barriers such as gender-based violence, economic insecurity, and restricted access to public spaces constrain their safe and meaningful participation in formal reconciliation and governance processes.

Marginalization in Somalia manifests in multiple and intersecting ways and is not confined solely to numerical minority status. Minority clans, often referred to as the "0.5 clans" in political arrangements, experience structural marginalization that closely mirrors the exclusion faced by women and youth, particularly in access to political representation, economic opportunities, and protection. Similarly, minority sub-clans within majority clans face comparable patterns of exclusion and vulnerability. In this sense, marginalization operates across clan, gender, age, and socio-political positioning, producing layered disadvantages that reinforce one another. These intersecting exclusions create grievances that are actively exploited by groups such as Al-Shabaab, which strategically engage marginalized youth, women, and clan minorities by offering narratives of belonging, moral order, and unity through faith.

The proposed research will specifically examine how women, youth, and other marginalized groups navigate and overcome these structural barriers, and how they already contribute to peacebuilding, mediation, and reconciliation despite systemic exclusion. By generating evidence on the constraints,

risks, and enabling factors shaping their participation, the research will inform more inclusive mediation and reconciliation approaches that recognize and strengthen the roles of women, youth, and marginalized communities, including those targeted under stabilization initiatives, as agents of peace rather than passive beneficiaries.

The conflict is sustained by these inequalities, but it is also shaped by fluctuating government approaches. The Somali Government has alternated between military confrontation and complementary soft-power approaches, but it has not yet built a strategy to address Al-Shabaab holistically that yields the desired results. Recent years show movement toward an alternative vision. In 2022, the Somali Government adopted a peacebuilding approach to address violent extremism through the Joint UNSOM-UNDP PCVE program, *Islaamku Waa Nabad*, signaling a policy shift toward community-driven reconciliation and conflict transformation. The Office of National Security and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs have taken the lead, marking an important shift toward complementing military-centered approaches with community-driven investments into peaceful co-existence. This shift aligns with global debates that increasingly call for integrating peacebuilding and prevention into counter-terrorism frameworks, as reflected in international dialogues convened by UNOCT and DPPA. UNOCT's normative and policy expertise in linking prevention of violent extremism with peacebuilding provides an additional global reference point for Somalia's evolving approach. Somalia's policy orientation is therefore not an isolated case, but part of a broader international recognition that preventing violent extremism requires governance reform, reconciliation, and inclusion.

In Somalia, local practices already provide foundations for alternative approaches to addressing violent extremism. Across the country, a range of actors are engaged in localized peacebuilding and conflict management. Community elders mediate disputes and negotiate humanitarian access; religious leaders, the *ulema*, influence social and political discourse; civil society organizations connect state institutions with communities where government presence is weak. Women contribute through family-based and informal mediation, while youth bring energy and numbers, though often excluded from formal structures, they nevertheless mobilize in community initiatives. UNDP also supports the Ministry of Youth and Sports, including establishing a school of democracy to ensure the participation of youth in electoral and democratic process. The school started in December 2025 . The Somali business community also plays a critical role, leveraging economic influence to sustain dialogue and broker agreements. Together, these actors represent a functioning, if fragmented, peace infrastructure with existing capacities and leverage that are already shaping local realities of conflict management.

Concretely, these capacities are visible in the practices and agreements that Somali actors are brokering on the ground. Humanitarian access negotiations, non-aggression pacts between local communities and armed actors, low-level defections and reintegration efforts, as well as community dialogue agreements, all demonstrate the presence of home-grown peacebuilding mechanisms. Though often undocumented and uneven, these initiatives highlight that localized reconciliation and conflict management is not aspirational but already under way.

Yet, conflict analysis to date has tended to overlook this dimension of Somalia's traditional peace infrastructure. The emphasis has remained largely on top-down or externally driven approaches, leaving insufficient attention to the capacities that communities themselves bring to bear. This gap is

particularly relevant now, as the conflict enters its eighteenth year. Three dynamics frame the current moment. First, Al-Shabaab has made significant territorial gains, underscoring the limitations of a military-only strategy. Second, there are limited substantial gains after years of military offensives and the FGS decided to have a blend of whole of society approach besides military operations reinforcing the need to broaden the approach beyond battlefield advances. Third, Al-Shabaab is shifting posture at the community level – adopting more pragmatic and, at times, conciliatory approaches to local populations, while consolidating governance structures that are perceived as increasingly reliable. Recognizing, analysing, and systematically supporting Somalia’s indigenous peacebuilding capacities within this shifting landscape is therefore essential for a coherent and sustainable long-term conflict transformation approach.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that existing conflict analyses including that of International Crisis Group analysis have not fully captured these dynamics. While they map the drivers of conflict and the role of armed actors, they often overlook the informal yet significant contributions of local peace infrastructures and the adaptive strategies communities are already deploying. Additional research is therefore needed to document and assess these capacities in a systematic way, so they can inform national policy and be integrated into broader conflict transformation frameworks. This will be particularly critical at a moment when the special political mission is departing and the Government of Somalia is assuming full responsibility for the PCVE file. A conflict analysis that incorporates these overlooked dimensions will not only enrich the government’s strategic approach but also ensure that the transition consolidates national ownership and leverages Somali-led solutions at a decisive juncture.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**⁹, how it ensures **national ownership**. If this project is designed in a PRF country, describe how the main objective advances a relevant strategic objective identified through the Eligibility Process. Elaborate on the catalytic nature of the project and how national ownership, including but not limited to, national and subnational entities are built in.

National ownership is not only central to the design of this project; it is the project’s very purpose. The initiative emerges directly from the first phase of the UNTMIS-to-Government transition process, during which a joint transition workshop was convened between the United Nations and the Federal Government of Somalia. In that workshop, prevention and countering violent extremism (PCVE) was highlighted as a core transition file, milestones were agreed, and the Government explicitly requested support in advancing a research component to underpin its evolving national approach. This request was subsequently reflected in the transition roadmap, which recognizes the need for dedicated research on PCVE as a predefined element of the *Islaamku Waa Nabad* Joint UNTMIS-UNDP PCVE Programme. The current proposal therefore responds to an articulated government priority, embedded in the official transition framework, and requires PBF support to be realized. UNOCT’s engagement complements UNDP’s implementation leadership by ensuring that Somalia’s transition process

⁹ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

benefits from the United Nations' global counter-terrorism expertise. Through its Nairobi Programme Office, UNOCT will provide ongoing technical guidance and facilitate policy coherence between national strategies and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities active in the region. As part of the transition roadmap, the mission and UNDP has conducted two workshop on PCVE lessons learned and foster joint way forward. The first one was a joint workshop with Higher Institute of Security Studies which was attended by representatives from Tubsan National Centre, MEISA, ONS academia, religious scholars including representatives from women scholars' association, youth. The workshop was an internal UN agencies lesson learned workshop. UNDP and UNTMIS presented lessons learned from past PCVE programming. The second workshop, the UN agencies – UNDP, IOM, UNHCR and UNTMIS agreed on common vision and a coordination mechanism. Both workshops agreed on the importance of research to better understand the situation so that research informed programming and can be conducted.

The transition of the PCVE file from UNTMIS to Somali institutions represents both an opportunity and a risk. Without coherent strategy and sustained capacity-building, Somalia could revert to fragmented, security-focused responses. With the right support, however, the Government can seize this moment to consolidate inclusive, Somali-led solutions grounded in a long-term conflict transformation strategy.

The project is fully aligned with Somalia's existing strategic frameworks. It builds directly on the National PCVE Strategy, the National Reconciliation Framework, the Somali Stabilization Strategy, and the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, all of which emphasize prevention, reconciliation, and inclusion as essential to long-term stability. At the UN level, the project contributes to UNSDCF Outcome 1.3, which commits to fostering a peaceful, inclusive, and cohesive society, and advances the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism by operationalizing peacebuilding approaches rooted in dialogue and consensus-building.

Anchoring in Somali institutions ensures sustainability and legitimacy. The Office of National Security (ONS), under the Presidency, serves as the project's lead partner and provides the strategic authority necessary for this sensitive file. As the custodian of Somalia's national security architecture and the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the ONS also holds responsibility for the PCVE National Strategy as a subset of that broader mandate – in close coordination with other mandated entities such as the Tubsan Center for PCVE under the Office of the Prime Minister. The ONS leadership ensures long-term strategic vision while directing relevant counterparts, including line ministries and specialized agencies, to operationalize agreed priorities. Positioning the ONS at the center of this project therefore guarantees that the transition of the PCVE file is firmly rooted in Somali national ownership and aligned with the country's overarching security and peacebuilding agenda.

The approach is catalytic. At its core, the project begins by generating robust evidence through research on local conflict management mechanisms and the broader capacities of Somalia's peace infrastructure. These findings will not remain academic: they will directly inform the Government's revision of its national strategies, ensuring that policy frameworks are evidence-based, inclusive, and responsive to local realities. In this way, the research will be institutionalized at the policy level, embedding conflict transformation principles within the Government's strategic vision.

Beyond policy, the catalytic nature of the project lies in its ability to translate insights into practice. The results of the research will be mainstreamed into government systems and processes, increasing institutional understanding of conflict transformation approaches, tools, and process design. This will enable Somali institutions to better identify where localized peace infrastructures can be supported, where they can be expanded, and where they offer practical entry points for peaceful coexistence at the community level. By building this bridge between knowledge and practice, the project ensures that the Government is equipped not only to recognize but also to act upon opportunities for inclusive peacebuilding.

In doing so, the project shifts Somalia's response toward a coherent, nationally owned conflict transformation strategy. It strengthens the capacity of Somali institutions, supports inclusive participation across demographic and social groups, and creates practical entry points for reconciliation at both local and national levels. At the same time, it serves as a blueprint that can attract additional support from international partners once the project concludes. By demonstrating tangible peace dividends and producing scalable lessons, the initiative positions Somalia to consolidate national ownership while encouraging sustained investment from member states and partners in the next phase of its peacebuilding journey.

- 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.

Somalia's peacebuilding landscape is crowded and active, yet fragmented. Multiple programmes strengthen elements of the local peace infrastructure – supporting religious leaders, women's networks, youth initiatives, community mediators, and justice and policing reforms – often tailored to specific geographies or constituencies. In parallel, major investments continue along the state-building track. However, these two tracks frequently run in isolation. Without sustained consensus-building, state-building can itself become a source of tension; institutional reforms advance, but they are not consistently grounded in locally negotiated parameters for peaceful co-existence and shared governance norms.

This project fills that strategic gap and complements ongoing interventions. It will (i) generate a shared evidence base on how localized peace infrastructures function and where they offer practical entry points; (ii) support the Government – led by the Office of National Security – in reflecting those findings in national strategies and guidance; and (iii) provide a connective framework so that existing UN and partner efforts (including on policing, justice, women's participation, youth engagement, and mediation) contribute as coherent “pieces of the puzzle” toward a unified peacebuilding approach. In doing so, the project does not duplicate current activities; it aligns and amplifies them, helping translate community-level lessons into policy and practice, and ensuring that state-building advances are embedded within a wider conflict-transformation vision.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Religious Scholars (<i>Ulema</i>) as insider mediators building peace in Somalia	PBF USD 2.5 million For 36 months	Support religious scholars on Conflict prevention/management.	This proposal is the first of its kind that conducting research on Al-Shabaab, especially in evolving context of elections and transition. And will be used by the all stakeholders including government of somalia for interventions on conflict transformation
State-building and Reconciliation Support	Somali Joint Fund (SJF) formally known as (MPTF) USD 27 Million over 4 years.	Reconciliation of inter communal conflicts at state levels.	The commonality between this proposal and the project is their quest for communal peace. But this proposal focuses on conflict between Government of Somalia and Al-Shabaab.
Women Peace and Protection (WPP)	PBF and Somali Joint Fund (SJF) formally known as (MPTF) USD 6.6 Millions	Support Women peace and protection and meaningful women participation in peace making process.	The proposal mutually amplifies insider mediation efforts of religious leaders and women's networks in selected locations by embedding women mediators in local peace processes, integrating WPS principles into training at the Higher Institute of Security Studies, and ensuring women's structured participation in community-led reconciliation and policy dialogue
Joint Justice and Correction JJCP	Netherlands: Total estimated budget: USD 16,334,989	Focus on promoting people-centered justice sector reform and service delivery.	While JJCP strengthens rule of law institutions, judicial accountability, and corrections services, this project addresses the upstream drivers of violent extremism through reconciliation, mediation training, and localized peacebuilding pilots. Coordination with JJCP ensures that lessons from local mediation and peace agreements inform justice sector reforms, and that formal justice processes remain responsive to the needs and experiences of women, youth, and marginalized groups engaged through this project.

Joint Police Project (JPP)	EU, and Japan USD 1.6 million. EURO 9 million.	Strengthening capacity of security institutions (Somali police/ community policing)	The research will inform the work of the Joint Police Project by identifying local conflict dynamics, community grievances, and trust deficits that shape relations between security actors and civilians. Findings on how communities negotiate access, manage disputes, and respond to violent extremism will guide JPP's community policing strategies and help tailor training modules for police to engage more effectively with diverse groups.
Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) Somalia (Global Programme on PCVE, of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism - UNOCT/UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT))	Partners - TUBSAN, Global Community Engagement & Resilience Fund, Management Institute for National Development and UNFPA - Somalia and UNESCO Regional Office for EA	YEEP seeks to increase the peacebuilding potential of young people and their resilience against violent extremism by increasing their awareness of violent extremism trends and vulnerabilities	YEEP Somalia alumni offers a national youth engagement network with trained alumni and partners across federal member states. YEEP can serve as a direct research and outreach channel for this project, supporting mapping activities, youth leadership inclusion in reconciliation pilots, and integration of youth peace findings into conflict analysis outputs. Other opportunities include linking YEEP with religious scholars to jointly promote the peaceful message of Islam and also link with the Ministry of Youth and Sports on School of Peace and Democracy
IOM Programming	IOM has been working with UNSOM (now called UNTMIS) since 2013 in supporting the FGS's National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants	IOM recognizes the importance of promoting a meaningful, effective and inclusive participation of CSOs at the grassroots level	The research will contribute to IOM programming on the handling of defectors by documenting local practices of negotiation, non-aggression pacts, and community reconciliation that shape how defectors are received. It will provide evidence on community perceptions of reintegration, including barriers linked to stigma, clan dynamics, and gender roles. These insights will

			help IOM adapt its rehabilitation and reintegration support so that it is more conflict-sensitive, locally legitimate, and aligned with Somali social norms.
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II. Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

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

Project Focus and Approach

The project supports Somalia in transitioning PCVE responsibilities from UNTMIS to full Somali ownership, in line with Security Council Resolution 2753 and the government’s explicit request to assume this role as early as possible. Its overarching goal is to reduce Al-Shabaab’s influence and strengthen peace through Somali-led conflict management, reconciliation, and inclusion. By addressing fragmented strategies and reinforcing national ownership, the project provides a catalytic platform to shift from short-term, security-driven interventions toward a sustainable, long-term conflict transformation strategy that is gender- and age-responsive.

Implementation Strategy

The project’s approach is structured around three interlinked components that build on one another:

1. Evidence Generation (Research):

A comprehensive research effort will examine local conflict management practices, including humanitarian access negotiations, defection handling, reconciliation initiatives, and informal agreements such as non-aggression pacts. This research will focus on how different actors – elders, Ulema, women mediators, youth leaders, and minority groups – contribute to violence reduction and community cohesion. It will identify which Somali mediation capacities are most effective for different disputes, where critical gaps exist in reach or impartiality, and how localized peace infrastructures can be scaled or connected to broader national processes. To strengthen access to community youth constituencies and ensure youth-inclusive data validation, the project will leverage UNOCT’s Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) Somalia alumni network. YEEP alumni will be used as community entry points to facilitate safe youth consultations, identify localized peace infrastructures, and increase access to hard-to-reach youth constituencies, particularly those outside formal state structures.

UNOCT will provide thought leadership and technical inputs drawing on its global experience, ensuring that Somalia’s research effort benefits from comparative international lessons. As a non-resident partner, UNOCT will support the process from its Programme Office in Nairobi,.

In close coordination with UNDP, UNOCT will lead the design of the research framework's methodological standards, ensuring alignment with global good practice on the integration of conflict analysis, behavioural insights, and gender- and age-responsive approaches in PCVE research. This will help ensure the integration of internationally recognised behavioural science approaches within the research design, linking analysis of incentives, community attitudes, and decision-making patterns to the wider conflict transformation objectives of the project. It will also contribute to the peer review of draft analytical outputs to guarantee methodological rigor and cross-context comparability.

The research will be conducted by an international firm that has extensive experience in similar research. The research team from the firm will be responsible for data collection and engaging with local partners and enumerators. Drawing from UNOCT global experience and UNDP's experience in the local context for similar research projects, the research will be guided by a strict ethics and data protection protocol, including informed consent, confidentiality, do-no-harm principles, trauma-sensitive engagement, and secure data handling procedures, to ensure the safety, dignity, and protection of all participants given the sensitive nature of violent extremism-related research. UNDP has also engaged with Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich University to support in ensuring research ethics and agreed to create a train the research team during the onboarding process on conflict sensitivities, research ethics and create a Tipp sheet for the research research team. CSS has the supported the Religious Scholars as Insider Mediators in Somalia Project with expertise input and knowledge management. CSS also created a similar Tipp sheet for GIST Research before they conducted the ongoing PBF conflict analysis.

2. Policy and Institutional Strengthening:

Research findings will directly feed into the revision and refinement of national strategies, including the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the National PCVE Strategy, ensuring they are evidence-based and inclusive. UNOCT will support this process by deploying a dedicated consultant to translate research findings into concrete policy recommendations. This will help ensure that proposed revisions to the National PCVE and Counter-Terrorism Strategies are evidence-based and actionable, while leaving the final decision-making fully with Somali authorities.

At the institutional level, capacity will be strengthened through systematic training on mediation and conflict-sensitive governance. These trainings will be anchored in the Higher Institute of Security Studies (HISS), a government-owned academic institution mandated to train officials across federal and federal member state governments. HISS already plays a central role in equipping civil servants with the skills needed to address emerging governance and security challenges. During the transition and handover of the PCVE file, UNTMIS initiated a knowledge transfer process by embedding a PCVE curriculum within HISS, ensuring that expertise could be sustained beyond the mission's presence. Building on this foundation, the project will mainstream and expand the curriculum into a broader conflict transformation training track. This approach not only institutionalizes new skills in a Somali-owned manner, but also ensures that future generations of government officials are systematically exposed to evidence-based approaches to mediation, reconciliation, and conflict-sensitive governance.

By rooting these efforts in HISS, the project leverages existing national infrastructure to secure long-term sustainability. It also ensures coherence across institutions, as HISS provides a

platform through which national and subnational actors can be trained in line with a shared vision of PCVE and conflict transformation. In this way, anchoring conflict transformation capacity in HISS both consolidates the UN's transition efforts and guarantees Somali ownership moving forward.

3. Local Application and Pilots:

Pilot initiatives at the community level will translate research insights into practice. These pilots will test violence reduction strategies, strengthen trust between communities and local governance actors, and promote inclusive reconciliation processes. They will convene Ulema, clan elders, women mediators, youth leaders, and grassroots CSOs to co-design and implement mediation and reconciliation efforts. Lessons from these pilots will be systematically documented, creating a knowledge base for scaling by the Government and partners.

Addressing Root Causes of Conflict

At the heart of Somalia's conflict dynamics lies systemic marginalization. Power-sharing within government structures remains deeply shaped by clan politics, which not only excludes minority clans but also produces layers of exclusion even within majority clans. Only a small elite benefits from political participation and access to resources, leaving the vast majority of citizens outside decision-making processes. Women and youth are particularly affected, sidelined from formal governance and denied meaningful influence despite being central to family, community, and social cohesion. This entrenched exclusion creates fertile ground for Al-Shabaab's narratives, which present themselves as alternatives to clan-based politics and as providers of justice, order, and protection where the state is absent or distrusted. This is in contrast with Al-Shabaab's violence and complex attacks in major cities controlled by the government which engulfs many civilian lives.

This project directly addresses these root causes by identifying, documenting, and supporting the roles of actors already engaged in community-level peacebuilding – elders, ulema, women mediators, youth leaders, civil society organizations, and minority clan representatives. By recognizing their contributions and strengthening their capacities, the project ensures that groups traditionally excluded from formal governance are systematically included in conflict transformation processes.

Embedding women, youth, and marginalized voices in both research and pilots creates pathways. Women and youth enumerators will be proactively included for data collection and analysis. For participation that challenge exclusionary structures and broaden ownership of peace processes. In doing so, the project not only reduces the drivers of sympathy for and recruitment into Al-Shabaab but also the research would help in enhancing inclusive, participatory peacebuilding at the local level can serve as an antidote to structural inequalities. By linking these localized practices to national strategies, the initiative contributes to re-shaping the broader governance framework in a way that is more representative, legitimate, and resilient.

Project-Level Theory of Change

The project is grounded in the assumption that local conflict drivers – such as exclusion, weak governance, and limited trust in state institutions – can be mitigated through Somali-led, evidence-based interventions that link community-level peace infrastructures to national policy frameworks. If under-researched local practices are systematically analysed and translated into national strategies, and if Somali institutions are equipped with the capacity to apply these lessons, where possible, then the Government will be better able to manage conflict inclusively, increase trust and legitimacy and promote access to non-violent dispute resolution, and reduce reliance on A-Shabab

b) Narrative description of key project components

Outcome: Strengthened national ownership of conflict transformation and PCVE through evidence-based policy, institutional conflict transformation capacity, and inclusive community-led peacebuilding pilots.

Output 1: Strategic policy and action on PCVE are informed by rigorous research

A six-month research phase which will be conducted by international firm that have access to the research areas and that have experience to conducting similar researches in the past. The firm will prepare proposal that details the research design, methodology, how the firm intends to engage research enumerators, participants and manage risks associated with it and to ensure the inclusion and proactive capturing of the perspectives of youth and women. The firm liaise with UNDP and UNOCT on the research progress.

The research will examine local conflict management structures and their role in mitigating violence and managing conflict dynamics. This will include an analysis of:

- Local conflict management mechanisms, including the roles of women and youth, such as humanitarian access negotiations, non-aggression arrangements, and localized ceasefires.
- The political positioning, and governance practices of non-state armed actors, including their patterns of interactions with state institutions and actors as part of broader conflict environment.
- Lessons drawn from past conflict management experiences, including the resolution of the Baidoa siege.
- Areas of interaction and overlap between non-state armed actors and the Somali Government, including economic interests, governance practices, and the application of Sharia law.
- Existing initiatives, such as support to ulema under PCVE projects, which will be reviewed to understand their contributions to prevention, outreach, and disengagement from violent extremism

This research will generate concrete policy recommendations for Somali Government-led peacebuilding approaches and inform international partners on conflict-sensitive programming and validation workshop will be conducted including all relevant partners .

Output 2: Somali institutions and staff have sufficient capacity to design and implement conflict transformation strategies

Based on research findings, this component will equip Somali institutions with the tools to operationalize engagement strategies and lead sustainable peace efforts. Interventions will include:

- Training for government staff on negotiation, conflict mediation, and conflict-sensitive governance.
- Design and institutionalize a training course and curriculum on conflict analysis and conflict transformation approaches and tools at Somalia's Higher Institute of Security Studies (HISS), creating a sustainable platform for building the capacity of government officials currently engaged in, or seeking to engage in, conflict management, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding.
- Harmonization of PCVE strategies across government institutions to ensure alignment and coherence.

A specialized mediation INGO will deliver targeted training to enhance negotiation capabilities and support Somali-led engagement efforts.

Output 3: Peacebuilding strategies are tested through piloting of localized peace initiatives

In parallel to Output 2, this phase will translate research findings into action by implementing localized peacebuilding pilots in select areas. These pilots will:

- Test violence mitigation strategies, including trust-building measures and localized governance models aimed at violence reduction and local conflict transformation.
- Engage communities and key actors to refine peacebuilding approaches for scalability.
- Ensure ongoing research and knowledge management to document lessons learned and inform future programming.

By working directly with affected communities and government institutions, this phase will lay the groundwork for replicable, scalable peacebuilding interventions. The research will inform what mechanism are working well at community levels that can be supported by the government to scale it up.

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

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

The project's targeting reflects its three interlinked components, ensuring that both national institutions and community-level actors benefit in ways that reinforce one another.

1. Research Component

The research will focus on areas where localized peace infrastructures – such as clan elders, ulema, women mediators, youth leaders, and CSOs – are already engaging in reconciliation and violence reduction. Geographic zones will therefore be selected based on:

- Presence of active local reconciliation and conflict management practices.
- Relevance to Al-Shabaab influence or governance structures , based on newly recovered areas
- Feasibility of safe access for evidence-gathering.

Beneficiaries at this stage are primarily communities themselves, whose experiences and practices will be documented. Special emphasis will be placed on gathering perspectives from women, youth, and marginalized groups to ensure the evidence reflects age- and gender-responsive realities.

2. Policy and Institutional Strengthening Component

At the national level, the primary beneficiary is the Office of National Security (ONS), which holds the mandate for national security, counter-terrorism, and PCVE at large. Through its leadership role, ONS will use the research findings to inform the National CT and PCVE Strategies and coordinate a harmonized government-wide approach.

A secondary institutional beneficiary is the Higher Institute of Security Studies (HISS), which will host and mainstream training on mediation and conflict-sensitive governance. Beneficiaries here include officials at both federal and member state levels who will be trained through HISS,

with an expected reach of at least 300 officials (disaggregated by sex and age, with a minimum target of 30% women and 40% youth officials where feasible).

3. Pilot Initiatives Component

Pilot initiatives (mainly by CSOs) will be implemented in select districts that meet the criteria of active local peace infrastructures, relevance to conflict dynamics, and feasibility of engagement. and will include youth-led peacebuilding contributions, using YEEP Somalia youth champions and CSO members to co-facilitate dialogues and monitor behaviour-change indicators in selected areas. Beneficiaries will include:

- Community leaders: elders, ulema, insider mediators.
 - Women and youth organizations: engaged as mediators and dialogue facilitators.
 - Marginalized clans and minority groups: systematically included to broaden participation.
- Each pilot site is expected to bring together 50-70 stakeholders, with a cumulative target of 1,200 community-level participants (disaggregated approximately as 40% women, 40% youth, and 20% elders and other leaders).

Overall Targeting Logic

By structuring beneficiaries across research, policy/institutional strengthening, and pilots, the project ensures that evidence is drawn from communities, translated into national strategies, embedded into institutions, and then reapplied in practice. This layered targeting guarantees that both Somali institutions and diverse community actors are empowered, while systematically addressing the exclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups that drives recruitment into violent extremism. To ensure a strict do-no-harm approach, all research and pilot activities will be designed and implemented through conflict-sensitive and trauma-informed methodologies, including careful site selection, anonymization of sensitive data, voluntary participation, and continuous risk analysis to avoid exposing individuals or communities to retaliation, stigmatization, or heightened insecurity; engagement with women, youth, and marginalized groups will be conducted through trusted local intermediaries and peace infrastructures, with adaptive safeguards in place to pause or adjust activities should security, political, or social risks emerge.

III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

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

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: UNDP	2 million	1 million from PBF	Banadir, Jubaland, Southwest,	15 (different locations)	The project will be led by a Project Manager (P4),

Implementing partners: UNOCT		1 million from KOICA	Hirshabelle, Puntland, Galmudug	South Central Somalia)	supported by a National Project Officer.
Office of National Security, Higher Institute of Security Studies					
Implementing partners: INGO(will be specified at a later stage)					

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

To ensure smooth implementation of project activities and coordination with all concerned stakeholders as well as with other interventions working on peacebuilding, the project team will be comprised of: Project Manager, National Officer based in Mogadishu. The National Officer will be partially funded (40%) by PBF. The Project Manager will be partially funded by this project (5%). The Project Manager and National Officer responsible for this project will divide time between this project, Religious Scholars (*Ulema*) as insider mediators building peace in Somalia project (funded by PBF) and Peacebuilding and PVE project in East Africa project (funded by KOICA). The project will establish a project-level steering committee (SC) with the project's counterpart ONS. It will monitor project progress, provide strategic guidance and advise on how the project may need to be adapted and obstacles addressed. This SC will as far as possibly include other stakeholders to enhance the role of the project of supporting the transition from UNTMIS to FMS, FGS and the UNCT. The project will consult with the PBF Secretariat team, RCO and the Mission on project implementation, impact, monitoring, lessons learned and best practices.

UNOCT will serve as a thematic co-lead for PCVE and behavioural insights within the Project Steering Committee, ensuring that research findings, policy revisions, and pilot results are captured through a unified analytical framework. The Nairobi Programme Office will coordinate UNOCT's technical inputs and reporting, maintaining regular liaison with ONS and UNDP to ensure coherence with national transition milestones.

- c) **Risk management** – Identify project-specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include a Do No Harm approach and risk mitigation strategy.

Project specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Security concerns, particularly in AS-influenced areas	High	Engaging local trusted actors and ensuring flexibility in implementation modalities.
Divergent perspectives on engagement, including hesitancy within government institutions.	High	Strengthening policy coherence and demonstrating the effectiveness of localized peacebuilding efforts.
Community distrust of government-led initiatives due to historical grievances	High	Ensuring inclusivity by working through non-governmental actors and grassroots peacebuilders.
Corruption and theft/misuse of the funding	Medium	Clear contractual modalities, and full transparency with funding decisions (preserving confidentiality where needed)
Political divisions between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States could lead to obstacles in a collaborative project implementation in furtherance of joint objectives	Medium	Through its focus on coordination and collaboration between federal, state and local levels of government, communities, and the anchoring of this project in academic institutions, this intervention is designed to build and foster strong relationships at the technical levels between all local, FMS and FGS partners.
Harm, or retaliation against research participants, community intermediaries, local mediators, enumerators, or CSO partners due to their participation in research related to violent extremism, mediation, or Al-Shabaab-affected contexts.		By applying a strict do-no-harm and trauma-informed research procedure, including informed consent, voluntary participation, and the right to withdraw at any stage. Furthermore, collecting identifiable or traceable information will be avoided unless strictly necessary; anonymize respondents, locations, and narratives at source.
Leakage or misuse of sensitive data, loss or theft of devices, interception of communications, or misinterpretation of findings leading to harm or stigmatization of communities.	High	This will be mitigated by minimizing data collection to essential information only; remove identifiers at the earliest stage of analysis. Clear guidance on data handling, storage, and disposal to all partners and researchers will be developed and provided before the data collection begins.
Perceptions that the UN or Government is legitimizing, negotiating with, or accommodating Al-Shabaab; backlash from political actors or clan interests; media	High	The research will be clearly framed as evidence-generation for prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding, and not engagement or negotiation with listed armed groups. Continuing consultation will be done with relevant government entities during the design and a validation workshop.

controversy or politicization of research findings.		
Research findings are not translated into policy or practice; institutional uptake stalls due to limited capacity, resources, or political will within ONS, HISS, or other stakeholders	Medium	The research will be co-designed with government counterparts to ensure direct relevance to policy and training needs, with findings integrated into national CT/PCVE strategies. Outputs will be packaged into practical policy briefs, training modules, and pilot applications to encourage operational uptake, while institutional ownership will be strengthened through targeted capacity-building and embedding responsibilities within existing mandates, and pilot initiatives will be used to demonstrate applicability and generate demand for scale-up and resourcing.

d) Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action ^[1]
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk. Monitoring will include field visits to assess the progress of the project activities.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken. Field monitoring results will be used to adapt project implementation as needed.
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.

Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.
Project Report	In addition to complying to PBF reporting requirements, progress reports will also be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, semi-annually and end of the project (final report)	PBF reporting and organizing project board meetings.
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.

^[1] Monitoring and Evaluation activities will be charged through DPC and additional, dedicated M&E budget reflected as such in the RRF as and where required.

Evaluation plan:

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid-Term Evaluation	RCO Somalia	UNSDCF Outcome 1: Somali people actively engage, participate in and benefit from a decentralized federal system	TBC	Responsible Parties, Donors	10.000 USD

		that upholds the rule of law, ensures safety and peace, operates effectively and transparently, and safeguards human rights.			
End-of-Project Evaluation	RCO Somalia	UNSDCF Outcome 1: Somali people actively engage, participate in and benefit from a decentralized federal system that upholds the rule of law, ensures safety and peace, operates effectively and transparently, and safeguards human rights.	TBC	Responsible Parties, Donors	40.000 USD

e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability

The transition of PCVE responsibilities is complicated by divergent interpretations within the Somali Government and among international partners. Ministries, UN agencies, and Member States define prevention and countering violent extremism differently, which has led to fragmented strategies and weak coordination. This lack of a shared approach has limited impact and created duplication.

The transition period provides an opportunity to correct this fragmentation. It allows Somali leadership to consolidate approaches and shift toward a more unified and sustainable strategy. To succeed, prevention must go beyond root-cause mitigation. It must cover the entire conflict continuum, from early warning and defection management to reconciliation and reintegration. A conflict transformation approach, built on mediation, dialogue, and reconciliation, is essential in contexts where military gains are not durable.

These findings will guide the Somali Government in designing inclusive policies, ensure national ownership, and create a stronger foundation for legitimacy.

To sustain progress, leadership from the Presidency and the Office of National Security is critical. National frameworks already exist, including the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the National PCVE Strategy, the National Reconciliation Framework, and the Stabilization Strategy. Mainstreaming a harmonized understanding of PCVE across these frameworks will help avoid duplication and foster a coherent long-term vision. Linking these national frameworks with the Ulema Network and community-based mediation structures will also secure broader buy-in.

The project's catalytic role is to generate evidence, build capacity, and bridge the gap between fragmented international support and Somali-led policy. By anchoring mediation training at the Higher Institute of Security Studies, embedding research findings into strategy reviews, and linking community reconciliation to national frameworks, the project supports a sustainable transition. Over time, this will help move Somalia from fragmented, security-heavy interventions to Somali-owned conflict management and conflict transformation that include women, youth, and marginalized voices as part of the national peacebuilding infrastructure. The transition will further benefit from UNOCT's ongoing regional coordination role under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. UNOCT will help ensure that Somalia's experience and lessons learned feed into regional and

continental frameworks, strengthening the sustainability and replicability of Somali-led approaches across the Horn of Africa.

IV. Project budget

Provide brief additional information on projects costs, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. Proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.

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

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

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

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question		Yes	No	Comment
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			
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?		N	The project is planning to conduct research before implementing other outputs.
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?		N	The budget is within the specified criteria. No higher than usual staffing was made.
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.		N	
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.	N		

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 PBPSO 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 PBPSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBPSO 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 PBPSO;
- 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 PBPSO 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 PBPSO (for narrative reports only) with:

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

Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
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 PBPSO 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 PBPSO, 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 PBPSO 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 PBPSO (for narrative reports only) with:

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

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

Timeline	Event
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 PBPSO.

Public Disclosure

The PBPSO 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 recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a

Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBPSO, 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 PBPSO 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 PBPSO 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.¹⁰
- 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.

¹⁰ 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
Outcome: Strengthened national ownership of conflict transformation and PCVE through evidence-based policy, institutional capacity for mediation, and inclusive community-led peacebuilding pilots. SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels SDG 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. SDG 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.		Outcome Indicator 1a: % in target communities perceive violence as an illegitimate means for social change. Baseline: 68.5% of community members surveyed perceive violence as an illegitimate means for achieving social change. 17.4% believed violence is usually effective, 8.9% thought it is sometimes effective, and 5.2% unsure. (2025, Baldoa and Dhusamareb) Target: 80% in target communities perceive violence as an illegitimate means for social change. % of priority recommendations adopted into PCVE strategy and YPS strategy .	Perception survey in target communities	Annual
		Outcome Indicator 1b: Number of cross-border, regional, national, and sub-national policies, strategies, and action plans for conflict prevention and peacebuilding: a) Prevention of violent extremism, b) Reconciliation, c) Reintegration, d) Conflict-sensitive and peace-positive climate adaptation and mitigation (UNDP CPD Indicator 1.3.3) Baseline: 7 (2024) Target: 20 (CPD 2030)	Desk review of policy/strategy/action plans	Annual
	Output 1: Strategic policy and action on PCVE are informed by rigorous research	Output Indicator 1.1: # of PCVE policy recommendations identified and presented to government Baseline: 0 Target: 8	Desk review of research documents	6 months
	Output 2: Somali institutions and staff have sufficient capacity to operationalize mediation and engagement strategies	Output Indicator 2.1: # trained on negotiation, conflict mediation, and conflict-sensitive governance. Baseline: 0 Target: 120 by gender and age Output Indicator 2.2: Extent of knowledge transfer as a result of trainings	Training reports, in-person verification	6 months
			Pre/post training questionnaire	6 months

	Output 3: Peacebuilding strategies are tested through piloting of localized peace initiatives	Baseline: TBC through pre-training testing Target: TBC through post-training testing		
		Output Indicator 3.1: # of local peace initiatives piloted Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Field visit	6 months
		Output Indicator 3.2: # of community members engaged in pilot initiatives Baseline: 0 Target: 500(minimum 30% women and 50% youth	Attendance sheets, engagement reports	6 months