



PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)	
Project Title: Women lead the way towards peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina	
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.): UN Women – UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) – UN United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – UN List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): UN agencies and RC office in BiH – UN Agency for Gender Equality of the BIH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, FBIH and RS Gender Centres – Government Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska – Government Ministry of Health of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Government 20+ Women's CSOs to be selected based on the outcome of the local vulnerability mapping and the relevant programme selection procedures	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 42 (36 + 6 NCE) (three and half years) Expected project start: September 2023 Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Local communities and cross-entity municipality clusters across BiH (to be selected after the local vulnerability mapping and impact criteria as well as consultation with Ministries of Health in both Entities; estimated 15 in total out of 142 municipalities in BiH – targeting slightly more than 10% of BiH Municipalities).	
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): UN Women: USD \$2,303,500 IOM: USD \$1,717,900 UNFPA: USD \$978,600 TOTAL: USD \$ 5,000,000 Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):	

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

PBF 1st tranche (30%): IOM: \$ 515,370 UNWOMEN: \$ 691,050 UNFPA: \$ 293,580 Total: 1,500,000	PBF 2nd tranche* (40%): IOM: \$ 687,160 UNWOMEN: \$ 921,400 UNFPA: \$ 391,440 Total: 2,000,000	PBF 3rd tranche* (30%): IOM: \$ 515,370 UNWOMEN: \$ 691,050 UNFPA: \$ 293,580 Total: 1,500,000
Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs): The overall goal of the project is to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda through the amplified agency of women in sustaining peace and social cohesion and the improved delivery of services for conflict-affected and marginalized women in BiH. It rests on the key concept of human security, which emphasizes the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights. Human security is a multidimensional concept that extends beyond traditional notions of national security to focus on the well-being of individuals and communities. It encompasses a range of concerns such as economic stability, food security, health, environmental sustainability, as well as protection from violence and oppression. By adopting a people-centered approach, human security aims to empower individuals and communities to mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance resilience, thereby contributing to sustainable development and peace. It also focuses on strengthening the relevant institutions involved in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as well as strengthening women's and girls' voices, agency and partnerships in addressing key human security concerns that are affecting their well-being and socioeconomic position. Building on this perspective, the project will contribute to improving policies and services for women, especially for the conflict affected and marginalized, enabling them to strengthen participation in and accountability of local governance and addressing more effectively their human security needs, thus contributing to the localized implementation of the WPS agenda in BiH.		
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): Four consultations were held with 27 CSO representatives and peacebuilders from across BiH, both online and in-person in Banja Luka, Bratunac and Tuzla in July and October 2022. All of the participating CSOs focused on women in peacebuilding, and many also work with marginalized groups, including: Foundation Lara Bijeljina, which works with women from different ethnic groups; Association Snaga Zene and Horizonti Tuzla, which work with migrants and the internally displaced; Maja Kravica, which works with women from rural areas; Tuzla Open Center, which focuses on women's rights and LGBTQI+ communities; Front Slobode Tuzla, which focuses on youth; Viva Zene, which focus on women victims of war, torture and gender-based violence; and ORC Tuzla, which is youth led and youth focused association. These participatory and inclusive consultations captured participants' perspectives on the challenges they face, and their recommendations for the continued and effective implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on 1325 and the wider WPS agenda. The consultations were also held with the Agency for Gender Equality of the BIH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Federation BIH Ministry of Health, FBIH and RS Ministries of Interior, RS and FBIH Employment Agencies, UNCT Social Cohesion Working Group, Resident Coordinator's Office BiH, international development partners and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).		
Project Gender Marker score⁵: 3		

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).

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 100% of the budget (\$5,000,000) is dedicated to gender equality.

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment⁶:

The project is designed to strengthen gender equality and the WPS agenda in BiH. The project will strengthen national-level coordination and implementation of the WPS agenda by: (a) strengthening the capacities of institutions to adopt and implement accountability frameworks related to WPS; (b) providing support for women-led CSO's engagement and leadership in the localization of the WPS agenda and identification of risks and opportunities; (c) strengthening public institutions (health care systems, police, social welfare and justice departments) as well as CSOs to deliver increased and inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women; (d) engaging a wide array of traditional and non-traditional actors in strengthening social cohesion and promoting a culture of peace; and e) amplifying women's role in peacebuilding through targeted investment in media and local and national dialogue on WPS.

The proposed interventions aim to bridge the significant gap that hinders women's participation in decision-making processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). These interventions focus on both localizing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at the community level and promoting its advancement at the national level. In particular, the service delivery components of the project are designed to support conflict-affected and marginalized women.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1 – medium risk

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)⁸:

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: BiH and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2021–2025) Strategic Priority Area III (People-centred governance and rule of law), Outcome 4 (By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services and ensure rule of law), and Strategic Priority IV: Citizen and Community Engagement for Social Protection, Outcome 5: By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities, and has cross-cutting contribution to other outcomes, such as good governance (due to variety of human security issues nationally and locally).

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:

SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 5 Gender Equality; SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals

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): 6 months, 31 March 2027

Change of project outcome/ scope: ☐

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

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).

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

Additional PBF budget: ☐ Additional amount by recipient organization: USD

Brief justification for amendment: The proposed no-cost extension is requested to consolidate and institutionalize emerging peacebuilding outcomes generated under the Joint Programme, including strengthened inclusive participation, enhanced trust and cooperation between institutions and communities, and the localization of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, in light of significant external factors beyond the project's control and the systemic findings confirmed through the Baseline Study and Mid-Term Review.

1. Structural context and evidence from the Baseline Study

The 2024 Baseline Study and its Summary of Key Findings confirmed long-standing structural gaps in the localization of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including:

- Weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across governance levels
- Insufficient availability and use of gender-disaggregated data
- Uneven implementation of WPS commitments between state, entity, cantonal and municipal levels
- Persistent underrepresentation of women in the security sector
- Limited institutional linkages between WPS, humanitarian response, and broader peacebuilding processes
- Fragmented engagement between civil society organizations (CSOs) and formal institutions

These structural gaps have direct peacebuilding implications. Weak monitoring and data systems limit institutional accountability and transparency, undermining trust in public institutions. Fragmented implementation across governance levels constrains coherent, inclusive governance, while limited linkages between institutions and civil society reduce opportunities for sustained dialogue and participation. Together, these gaps weaken the foundations for inclusive and locally owned peacebuilding processes.

The Joint Programme has made significant progress in initiating corrective processes to address these systemic gaps. However, by their nature, such structural reforms require sustained engagement beyond initial activation in order to become embedded in institutional practice and cross-sectoral cooperation. The requested extension is therefore not to initiate new lines of work, but to consolidate, institutionalize and interlink processes already underway.

These findings are further reinforced by the Mid-Term Review, which identified the need for an extended timeframe to consolidate multi-level processes, strengthen institutional embedding, and ensure the

sustainability of both institutional and community-level peacebuilding results.

2. External factors affecting implementation

Implementation has been affected by several external factors and contextual constraints, including:

- General and local elections, including the RS Presidential Elections, and related political sensitivities
- Prolonged government formation processes and shifts in institutional leadership
- Delays in the adoption of the new National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security
- Severe floods and landslides affecting multiple project localities
- Periods of broader political uncertainty affecting policy prioritization and inter-institutional coordination

These contextual dynamics did not reflect programme-specific constraints, but rather a broader political and administrative environment characterized by electoral cycles, transitions in leadership, and shifting institutional priorities. In particular, the delayed adoption of the WPS NAP created uncertainty around strategic alignment and sequencing of activities at different governance levels, requiring recalibration of timelines to ensure coherence with national frameworks once adopted. While delays in NAP adoption affected strategic sequencing, the Programme ensured continuity of implementation through existing institutional frameworks and local-level processes, mitigating dependency on formal adoption timelines.

Despite these disruptions, the Programme applied robust adaptive management measures, including:

- Revising methodologies to preserve neutrality in politically sensitive contexts
- Sequencing activities to align with institutional transition timeline
- Integrating disaster-response and recovery considerations into WPS-related processes in flood-affected communities
- Adjusting interventions to reflect evolving institutional capacities and leadership structures

These adaptations ensured continued relevance and, critically, enabled the Programme to sustain dialogue, cooperation and engagement between institutions and civil society actors during periods of political transition and crisis. However, the time required for institutions and CSOs to re-engage following these disruptions has compressed the operational window for consolidation of results. The extension would provide the necessary time buffer to translate these efforts into durable peacebuilding outcomes and institutional practices.

3. Consolidation of institutional processes

The Programme has successfully:

- Reconnected local and state-level CSOs with institutional WPS processes
- Activated coordination mechanisms with the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) and entity/local focal points
- Initiated dialogue between non-traditional actors (cultural institutions, youth actors, media) and formal WPS stakeholders
- Launched capacity-building processes for local CSOs across multiple localities
- Established collaboration with other peacebuilding programmes to ensure synergies and elevate impact

These processes have contributed to strengthening trust between institutions and communities, enabling more inclusive participation in decision-making and fostering more responsive and gender-sensitive security governance.

However, these processes remain in transition from activation to institutionalization. The extension period would enable:

- Finalization and operationalization of local WPS action plans and targeted interventions
- Strengthening of vertical linkages across municipal, entity and state levels
- Formalization of CSO-institution partnerships to ensure continued engagement and sustainability beyond the project lifecycle
- Consolidation of coordination structures into sustainable mechanisms rather than ad hoc platforms

Without this consolidation phase, there is a risk that promising connections remain project-dependent rather than embedded in governance structures. This includes the risk of losing momentum in building sustained state-community linkages, which are critical for inclusive governance and long-term peacebuilding.

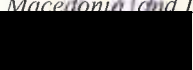
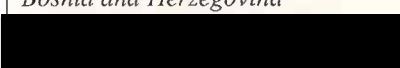
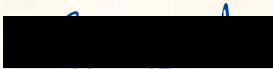
4. Sustainability and capacity considerations

Both the Baseline Study and community based monitoring confirm that many local CSOs operate with limited technical, financial and organizational capacities. The Programme's current capacity-building support and inter-CSO networking have laid a foundation for coalition building and joint advocacy. However, coalition development and joint action toward higher governance levels require additional time to mature. The no-cost extension would allow:

- CSO coalitions to operationalize joint advocacy initiatives
- Cross-community and cross-entity collaboration to move from dialogue to coordinated action
- Demonstrable sustainability of institutional-civil society partnerships

	• Meaningful engagement of women from flood-affected communities who were temporarily excluded from processes due to disaster impacts This period will provide a critical test of sustainability, enabling assessment of whether strengthened capacities translate into autonomous, locally led action. 5. Strategic added value The extension will: • Consolidate emerging peacebuilding outcomes by strengthening institutional legitimacy and trust between communities and public institutions • Advance inclusive governance by embedding women's participation and leadership in peace and security processes • Strengthen accountability through improved monitoring, data systems and institutional coordination, as advised by the recommendations stemming from the mid-term review • Reinforce state-community linkages by formalizing partnerships between institutions, CSOs and non-traditional peacebuilding actors • Support locally owned peacebuilding by enabling CSO coalitions and cross-community collaboration to transition from dialogue to coordinated action The requested extension will ensure that existing Peacebuilding Fund investments translate into durable, inclusive and locally owned peacebuilding outcomes. Importantly, the extension entails no additional financial request. It optimizes existing resources to ensure that outcomes are fully realized and embedded. 6. Governance endorsement The Project Board formally endorsed the no-cost extension request in December 2025, including the 2026 workplan, with activity-level justification provided for each extending activity and deliverable. The extension is therefore supported by national and UN partners at governance level and reflects a collective assessment of what is required to secure durable results. <i>Attachments:</i> • <i>Annual Workplan from January 2026 to March 2027, as presented to and endorsed by the Project Board in December 2025</i> • <i>Minutes from the 3rd Project Board meeting in December 2025</i>
--	--

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Recipient Organization(s)⁹ <i>William David Womble, Chief of Mission of the IOM country office in BiH, with coordination functions for the Western Balkans</i> Signature  IOM Date & Seal 1/7/24	Representative of National Authorities <i>Sevlid Hurtić, Minister</i> Signature  BIH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees Date & Seal 
Recipient Organization(s) <i>Justine Coulson, UNFPA Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Country Director for the Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of North Macedonia and Director for Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)</i> Signature  UNFPA Date & Seal 1-7-2026	
Recipient Organization(s) <i>Jo-Anne Bishop, UN Women Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> Signature  UN Women Date & Seal 01/07/2026	
Head of UN Country Team <i>Arnhild Spence, UN Resident Coordinator</i> Signature  UN Resident Coordinator's Office Date & Seal	Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) for <i>Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</i> Signature  Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) 13 July 2026 Date & Seal

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

Nearly three decades after the end of conflict, relations between the different groups and communities remain fragile and BiH continues to struggle with the legacy of war-related trauma, gender inequality, discrimination and the exclusion of women and vulnerable groups from decision-making and equitable participation in community life. War-related trans-generational trauma persists, with surveys showing 40% of young women and men in BiH say they fear ethnic strife,¹⁰ even though they have no first-hand experience with conflict. This attitude can be explained through trans-generational transfer of pain, trauma and distrust between women and men who survived the war and younger generations that inherited skewed, filtered and sometimes downright falsified narratives that propagate fear.

This sack of trust, acceptance, forgiveness and division between communities and the prevalence of hate speech impedes reconciliation, dialogue, social cohesion and lasting peace. This requires focused peacebuilding and reconciliation support working with key stakeholders, such as State institutions, CSOs, women's groups, media, youth and academia to facilitate diverse and equal dialogue and interaction. At the same time, women peacebuilders and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence women have faced persistent vilification in the media. This disparagement stems from the clash between their activism, which aims to foster reconciliation and justice, and the narratives propagated by ethno-nationalists. The latter groups have sought to construct narratives that legitimize their actions and ideologies, often at the expense of the truth and the dignity of these courageous women. This tension amplifies the challenges women peacebuilders and survivors face, not only undermining their work but also perpetuating gender-based discrimination and inequality.

Finally, the WPS agenda is confronted with multifaceted challenges that threaten to erode its gains. Notably, there has been a resurgence of gender backlash fueled by the strengthening of radical right-wing movements, militarism, and militarization both within the country and in its neighboring regions. This, coupled with a shrinking civic space, serves to further marginalize the WPS agenda in both patriarchal and political dimensions (purely because it is so evidently women-driven). Additionally, the absence of a holistic and intersectional approach to implementing the WPS Agenda exacerbates the challenges. Such a fragmented approach undermines the comprehensive treatment of gender, peace, and security issues, thereby hindering the full realization of the WPS Agenda's objectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Several large-sample, quantitative global studies have explored the relationship between gender exclusion and violent conflict, finding that women's status relative to men's, especially their vulnerability to violence, is a significant predictor of a country's propensity for violent conflict. The degree to which women are included in political, economic, and social life is a key factor influencing a society's propensity for conflict. Moreover, gender inequality is often a reflection of overall levels of exclusion in a society and its tendency to resort to violence as a means of resolving conflict.¹¹

According to the UNSDCF 2021–2025 for BiH, gender discrimination and traditional gender roles, a gender divide in the labour market, occupational segregation, gender-based violence and gender-based exclusion that are still widespread in BiH, reflected in indicators ranging from labor-force participation to the composition of the BiH parliament, remain critical concerns in the country.¹² Women's participation in the labour force is the lowest in the region, at 35% in 2019; women have a far lower employment rate than men (25% compared to 44%); and despite legal provisions, a gender pay gap

¹⁰ UNFPA BiH. 2021. *Youth Emigration Survey*.

¹¹ World Bank. 2018. *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*.

¹² United Nations Bosnia and Herzegovina. 2020. *Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework: A Partnership for Sustainable Development. 2021–2025*. p. 19–20.

persists.¹³ After the 2020 Municipal Elections and the 2022 Parliamentary Elections, it is evident that women are still under-represented in politics and public life. Only 5 out of 140 (3.6%) elected mayors and 19.64% elected mandate holders in city/municipality councils were women. In the General Elections, 142 women (27.41%) out of 518 officials were elected. One woman and two men were elected to the BiH Presidency, which was a historic step given that BiH had never before had a woman elected as a member of the BiH Presidency. At the same time, only 7 women (16.67%) were elected to the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27 women (27.55%) were elected to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 16 women (19.28%) were elected deputies to the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska (RS), and 91 women (31.49%) were elected to the cantonal assemblies. A woman was appointed for the first time as the chairperson of the BiH Council of Ministers, but there are still no women among key party leaders. There is also no systematic promotion of gender equality in the civil service, and the representation of women in top management varies from only 19% in the Republika Srpska entity to 41% in the state institutions.

Gender-based violence against women remains one of the biggest problems facing BiH women, as recognized by the GREVIO¹⁴ in 2022; their report has identified an urgent need to enhance the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in relation to all forms of violence against women, beyond domestic violence, as well as a worrying judicial and sentencing practices such as the predominant use of mitigating circumstances, the large use of plea-bargaining agreements and the imposition of very lenient sentences.

Journalists also continue to experience violence, harassment, and threats, with gender-based attacks and pressure against journalists being on the rise since 2019.¹⁵ In its resolution on the adoption of the EC's 2021 Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Parliament deplored the continued failure of the state to safeguard media freedom, noting specifically the increase in attacks on women journalists. The resolution also insisted on eliminating political interference and protecting the safety and well-being of journalists, including on protecting them from intimidation and strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP). SLAPP lawsuits, fines and judicial prosecution were observed against women human right defenders as well, aiming to suppress their activist work. The most recent defamation lawsuits were addressed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders,¹⁶ underlining that such lawsuits may contribute to discouraging the activists' legitimate advocacy work and to have a chilling effect on other activists engaging in environmental protection in the region.

In terms of exercising women's civil and political rights, the UNSDCF posits that there is still ongoing gender inequality and underrepresentation, and that the country's Gender Equality Law is being violated (the Law stipulates that neither gender should be represented at less than 40% in legislative, executive, and judicial bodies at all levels. However, this is hardly the practice in the country).

Conflict-affected women¹⁵ are among the most vulnerable categories of the population in BiH, especially survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)¹⁶, who in many cases still suffer physical and psychological trauma and remain in a situation of displacement, with housing, employment, health and psychosocial support needs.¹⁷ UNSCR 2467 (2019) firmly positions CRSV

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. It is an independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, commonly known as the Istanbul Convention

¹⁵ Women that have been affected by the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region between 1992 and 1995, as deliberated in 13th session of CEDAW, 1994

¹⁶ Estimated between 20,000 to 50,000 CRSV, according to United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee

¹⁷ United Nations BiH. 2021. UN Common Country Analysis of BiH.

as rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda. It emphasizes that “advancing gender equality and women’s political, social, and economic empowerment is critical to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and that the safety and empowerment of women and girls is important for their meaningful participation in peace processes, preventing conflicts and rebuilding societies, and that therefore women’s protection and participation are inextricably linked and mutually-reinforcing”.¹⁸

As recently confirmed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth during his visit to BiH in late 2022, the transitional justice process in BiH has reached a stalemate, leaving the grievances of victims almost entirely unaddressed, and holding the country back from moving towards sustainable peace and development. The Special Rapporteur urged addressing outstanding issues such as reparations, memorialization, and education without further delay.

BiH has historically been one of the leading countries in recognizing the crime of CRSV and one of the first ever to design measures to provide redress, reparation and restitution to survivors (tMinistry of Human Rights and Refugees: Program for improving the position of women victims of war rape, sexual abuse and other forms of torture in BiH for the period 2013-2016), including measures and successes in regards to:

1. Registration procedures for the category ‘civilian victim of war’ in both entities (survivors of war time rape) have dropped the requirement of 60% bodily disability when filing claims in FBiH¹⁹ and have introduced the possibility of filing claims in the RS²⁰, although with an ethnically-skewed database, primarily focusing on Serb survivors of war-crimes
2. Free-legal aid (FLA) to survivors and witnesses of war-crimes with FLA centers across the country trained to support survivors and provide them with information on registration procedures and available systems of support
3. Provision of medical and psychosocial care and support to survivors and their families
4. Economic empowerment of survivors was institutionalized with both entities’ Employment Bureaus now setting aside earmarked funds to specifically support survivors of war-time rape
5. General consensus with community leaders was built around joint condemnation of stigmatization of survivors.

However, conflict affected and marginalized women still do not receive adequate social support and benefits. Gaps include the status and recognition of CRSV survivors, especially in the RS where the registration process is carried out by the RS Center for war-crimes research, which built an ethnically-skewed data-base of rape survivors primarily focusing on Serb survivors of war-crimes. Evidence for this comes from the book of testimonials issued by the RS War Crimes Center in 2016 that summarizes their data base and that features survivors of crimes perpetrated by Bosniacs, with survivors coming from Serb or Croat communities. At the same time, the Center was tasked with providing legal defense and representation to defendants in cases of committed war-crimes in BiH, creating a perception of bias and mistrust amongst the survivors. All potential CRSV survivors who are not in the data-base need to file a claim for special status of civilian victim of war at local level, at the precinct of in which the crime of CRSV was committed. This creates significant problems due to stigmatization of survivors in this process, as local levels are not equipped, capacitated nor trained on how to depose survivors in a way that is both impartial and not re-traumatizing. This is a significant gap that prevents the RS CRSV reparations process to function properly, as evidenced by the fact that non-Serb survivors are registered in negligible numbers in Republika Srpska, even though some of the most high-profile and most massive CRSV crimes (Foca, Prijedor, Bijeljina) have happened in Republika Srpska.

¹⁸ United Nations Security Council. 2019. Resolution 2467 (2019). 23 April. p. 2.

¹⁹ <https://federalnakomisija.ba/kako-do-statusa/>

²⁰ <https://www.rcirz.org/>

Additionally, there is no centralized point at state or entity-levels where survivors can easily access information on available services, entitlements and programs; at the same time, decision makers have trouble understanding the intricacies of technical implementation of existing laws and regulations around civilian victims of war because framework legislation is entity-wide, while implementation is local, and dependent on local resources and capacities. This is important to note with the high-level of decentralization and fragmentation of the country's governance system with entities, cantons and cities free to design, implement, but also fund services – all resulting in a mish-mash of solutions and approaches that can be confusing for survivors seeking support and information.

Therefore, there is a need to further unify, adopt and localize standard operating procedures and resource packages within health and psychosocial service-providers, and a need for improved cooperation between the Government and those CSOs dedicated to serving conflict affected and marginalized women. Moreover, conflict-affected women and survivors of violence are often unaware of what is being done for them by a plethora of actors and stakeholders. This happens because there is no centralized point at entity-level where survivors can access information on available services, entitlements and programmes.. Often, women peacebuilders are left marginalized, excluded from these processes, and their contributions overlooked by the very fact that it was CRSV survivors and women peacebuilders have been instrumental in elevating the issue of CRSV to global prominence. They have actively sought justice through institutions like the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and have courageously shared their stories. Despite these contributions, they have been largely excluded from decision-making roles and given limited media exposure, typically only during victim commemoration events. Moreover, they have been sidelined from meaningfully influencing the country's peace agenda, including a lack of consultation on educational programs and history curricula.

Addressing CRSV victims' needs adequately and appropriately is critical also because not doing so is resulting in transgenerational trauma. The effects of transgenerational trauma are not only psychological, but also familial, cultural and social, impacting community trust and cohesiveness in current and future generations – sometimes described as living in "survival mode".²¹ Research shows that enhancing physical security and the sense of security by preventing and responding to GBV and by improving inclusive access to health services, especially for marginalized and conflict-affected populations, contributes to peacebuilding^{22,23}. Rights-based GBV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) services and strengthening local systems and capacities to deliver those services in a responsive way contributes to building trust and connecting conflict-affected and marginalized communities to the health system and the local government services, therefore enhancing peace. Victims CRSV are at the core of this pressing issue. Supporting these victims is not merely a matter of justice for the individuals affected, but it also serves as a crucial step in the broader, unfinished process of reconciliation and "dealing with the past." This process has unfortunately stalled, impeding the country's ability to truly heal and move forward. The marginalization and stigmatization of CRSV victims exacerbate existing tensions, making it imperative to integrate their needs and voices into efforts aimed at national recovery and peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The accumulated pain and trauma experienced by survivors of CRSV is not confined to one generation but often transfers intergenerationally. This perpetuates a cycle of suffering and hinders the healing and reconciliation process within the broader community.

²¹ Bezo, B. and S. Maggi. 2015. "Living in 'survival mode': Intergenerational transmission of trauma from the Holodomor genocide of 1932–1933 in Ukraine," *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 134. Pp. 87–94.

²² D. Chigas and P. Woodrow, *Adding up to Peace: The Cumulative Impacts of Peace Programming*, 2018, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects. Available at <https://www.cdacollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ADDING-UP-TO-PEACE-The-Cumulative-Impacts-of-Peace-Initiatives-Web-Version.pdf>

²³ Percival, V., Richards, E., MacLean, T. et al. 2014. Health systems and gender in post-conflict contexts: building back better? *Confl Health* 8, 19.

Moreover, this intergenerational transfer of trauma contributes to the birth of new myths and victimhood narratives that serve to reinforce divisions and animosities. Such myths and narratives undermine efforts for peace and social cohesion, complicating the journey towards a harmonious and reconciled Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Apart from the continued gaps in dealing with women victims, according to the 2020 United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) of BiH, the 1992–1995 war left behind “chronically fragile” institutions, complicating the country’s ability to secure human rights, including women’s rights, which is key to sustaining the fragile peace.²⁴ In addition, there are still over 300,000 internally displaced people in the region, who often face discrimination, economic insecurity and violence. The country is also struggling to address new challenges brought on by an increase of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers since late 2017. However, according to the CCA, neither state- nor entity-level institutions in BiH have created permanent offices or coordination mechanisms to link governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); meanwhile, CSOs representing vulnerable groups are unable to influence policy processes and are insufficiently involved in drafting or implementing the commitments in strategic documents.²⁵ The lack of public debate is linked to weak civic participation, and especially women’s participation, in decision-making and monitoring. Most importantly, the UN analysis notes that BiH lacks institutionalized participatory mechanisms, particularly for women and members of groups facing discrimination.²⁶

In addition, women do not currently have an adequate access to political and civic spaces to ensure their full and quality participation in decision-making, reconciliation, security, social cohesion and transitional justice processes and mechanisms. Women were first responders during the 1990s conflict, yet were not invited by either side to take part in the negotiations towards a peace agreement, nor have their perspectives, experiences and needs been reflected in the Dayton Peace Accords, neither in its implementation. In terms of background the Dayton Peace Accords are a set of agreements that were signed in December 1995 to bring an end to the Bosnian War, a conflict that had ravaged Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1992. Brokered primarily by the United States and held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, the accords established the framework for the country’s current political structure, which includes two largely autonomous entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily inhabited by Bosniaks and Croats, and Republika Srpska, mainly populated by Serbs. While the accords effectively halted the conflict, they have also been criticized for entrenching ethnic divisions and complicating long-term reconciliation efforts.

They are also not reported on in the regular reports on the situation in BiH to the Security Council. Women’s exclusion also characterizes the current European Union (EU) accession negotiations, as no women were included in the negotiations for the Stabilization and Association Agreement between BiH and the European Union in 2015. Moreover, women comprise only 23% of female ambassadors of BiH, 17% of female general consuls, and 40% of female permanent mission leaders²⁷. Women make up 34% of negotiating delegations for the conclusion of international documents on police cooperation, re-admission, protection of classified information, protection and rescue²⁸.

Nevertheless, during the war and post-conflict period, women activists and organizations have informally continued to play a prominent role in reconciliation and in bridging divides between conflict-affected communities. In particular, CSO-led WPS efforts in BiH have entailed: protecting the victims of war and survivors of CRSV and providing them with psychosocial assistance and access to justice through specialized courts; finding missing persons; establishing women’s peacebuilding

²⁴ United Nations Bosnia and Herzegovina. 2020. *UN Common Country Analysis: Bosnia and Herzegovina*. 12 March. p. 29.

²⁵ Ibid. p. 51.

²⁶ Ibid. p. 55.

²⁷ UN Women 2021, Country Gender Equality Profile in BiH, p.21.

²⁸ 6th BiH CEDAW Periodic Report, 2017

networks across the country, such as Peace with Women's Face²⁹ (consisting of 13 CSOs); convening community-level dialogues for peace and uniting divided communities, including through education for youth; providing essential services and support to vulnerable populations; supporting gender aspects of transitional justice; and infusing a gender perspective into peacebuilding, etc. Women survivors were also at the forefront of the quest for truth and justice, including as witnesses before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), as well as in post-conflict peacebuilding at the community level, putting immense strain on them and their organizations.

The women's movement in BiH was also the engine behind the adoption of the country's first National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on WPS in 2010 (the first country to adopt one in Southeast Europe). BiH has so far developed three consecutive NAPs on UNSCR 1325 that provide a road map to ensure the increased and meaningful representation and participation of women in peace and security. The implementation so far has demonstrated several key challenges related to the role of women in decision making, support to CRSV survivors, ensuring sustained institutional funding, development and implementation of the clear monitoring framework, promotion of the WPS agenda in the context of support to peacebuilding and social cohesion and collaboration with the non – institutional actors. As one of its expected outcomes, the most recent NAP, for 2018–2022, included: "Enhanced cooperation and coordination with civil society organizations, academic community and the media."³⁰ CSOs also have a role in monitoring NAP implementation, with dedicated representatives on the Coordination Board, alongside members of security sector institutions. Further investments are needed in the course of the upcoming Action Plan to ensure consistent engagement of the CSOs across the country and the relevant feedback loops to inform AP implementation and reporting fully from the CSO perspective.

Moreover, despite multi-year efforts to implement the WPS agenda in the country, women in BiH still face barriers to participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and decision-making at all levels. BiH is currently developing its fourth NAP on UNSCR 1325 and negotiating its approval with all the key stakeholders. Establishment of the new composition of the Coordination Board is envisaged as part of the Action Plan approval. While NAPs have been progressive in recognizing lasting and emerging human security concerns, like radicalization and migration, their coverage of other issues (such as transitional justice, reparations and trust-building) and their overall implementation has been increasingly plagued by the need to achieve political consensus among entities. In the third NAP for 2018–2022, RS institutions did not participate in the Coordination Board and there was no reference to activities implemented in that entity. The main challenges related to the WPS agenda in the country cited by CSOs during the consultations were: the lack of funding, lack of political will or support from officials, lack of institutional coordination and cooperation, and their inability to influence the development of laws, policies, or strategies. A representative of Peace with Women's Face (which gathers 13 women's organizations) said the NAP on 1325 has been impacted by complex administrative structures, lack of political will and the inability to find a way to overcome challenges in keeping together the structures and focus of the implementation, primarily the Coordination Board on 1325. Conversely, CSOs noted that in municipalities where women unite towards change, results are visible, particularly where women are present in local decision-making bodies. After nearly three decades of activism in peace-related matters by CSOs, women's associations, international entities, and governments, there is now a pronounced public fatigue regarding discussions of what are considered 'difficult' or polarizing issues. This fatigue is particularly noticeable among younger

²⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/mirsazenskimlicem/>

³⁰ Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. 2017. *Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 "Women Peace and Security" in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2018-2022*. p. 29.

generations, who have grown up in the era of social media and instant news. Recognizing this, the United Nations began to explore new platforms where people remain open to engagement. Concurrently, surveys by the UN's Public Pulse and USAID's Public Opinions revealed that religious communities are the second-most trusted institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, trailing only security and armed forces. While it's true that faith-based organizations have sometimes exacerbated divisions, this fact makes it all the more imperative to engage with them constructively, rather than excluding them from dialogues and initiatives.

Arts, culture, sports, and faith-based content are unique tools that can offer powerful mediums to address the legacy of war, supporting conflict affected and marginalized women and peacebuilders in BiH. Experience of post-conflict BiH leans heavily into the sphere of artistic expression, producing countless award-winning plays, movies, and exhibitions that examine the profound question of how the war and experience of violence still shape the culture of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Impacts of these activities are evident – for example, movie *Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams* won numerous international awards and has directly influenced and expedited the adoption of changes to the Law on civilian victims of war in FBiH which directly improved lives of CRSV survivors in the country. Cultural activities, encompassing shared traditions and heritage, foster collective identity and solidarity, creating safe spaces for dialogues, reconciliation, and women's active involvement in peacebuilding processes. Meanwhile, sports can serve as a universal language promoting teamwork, resilience, and empowerment, while also providing opportunities for women to assert their agency and leadership in post-conflict recovery – reflecting UN's approach to faith, arts and culture as the spaces in which the dialogue is very much alive and we can't afford to ignore it – because the ethno-nationalists are definitely not ignoring them. The CSOs also identified key priorities for improving social cohesion, WPS and peacebuilding:

1. Strengthen the capacity of institutions and key stakeholders (police, armed forces, social protection institutions, health sector, etc.) for gender-sensitive programming and service-provision.
2. Connect local peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts and national-level policy dialogues on inclusive security³¹ and gender equality and empowerment of women.
3. Support localization of the WPS agenda as a framework for social cohesion and human security in the local communities, especially those at risk of instability.
4. Provide direct funding and build organizational capacity of CSOs to implement the WPS agenda at the local level and bridge the divides and bring together multi-ethnic groups.
5. Integrate the economic empowerment and recovery pillar under WPS linked to women's poverty and unpaid care work as underpinning drivers of inequality in BiH affecting women's ability to participate in the civic space.(improved economic status and therefore independence and ability to participate in the civic space, improved financial sustainability of CSOs supporting marginalized and conflict-affected women)
6. Support women's political empowerment, participation in (local) decision-making processes, and leadership in driving social cohesion and zero-tolerance for all forms of violence.
7. Strengthen, expand and amplify women's peacebuilding activism at the local and national level (for example Peace with Women's Face).

This PBF project, the first comprehensive UN WPS initiative in the country, aims to address all the key priorities identified by the CSOs, especially by enabling women activists, CSOs and institutions to address the major human security concerns (issues affecting the human security, socio-economic

³¹ Inclusive security refers to an approach to peace and security issues that actively involves a diverse range of stakeholders, including marginalized or underrepresented groups such as women, ethnic minorities, and youth, among others. Unlike traditional security paradigms that often prioritize military and state-centric views, inclusive security emphasizes the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives

wellbeing, access to decision making and physical safety of women) which will be identified jointly through the local vulnerability mapping, consultations and community-level dialogue platforms. Other key recommendations shaping this project are those of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which in its 2019 concluding observations,³² recommends that BiH: ensure that adequate resources are allocated to implementing the third NAP on 1325 for 2018–2022; ensure that authorities at cantonal and district levels and women’s rights organizations are effectively involved in the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the third NAP, including on its Coordination Board, and in the development of any subsequent plans or strategies related to post-conflict reconstruction processes; ensure the full and meaningful participation of women, including those belonging to disadvantaged groups, at all stages of the peacebuilding process and further increase the representation of women in decision-making positions. The Committee’s VAW-related recommendations include the need to: support survivors with free legal aid, accessible shelters, medical treatment and psychosocial counselling; allocate adequate funding to CSOs running hotlines to ensure that they can operate around the clock and be confidential and accessible by women; and assess capacity-building for judiciary, law-enforcement and service-providers on applying VAW laws and on gender-sensitive investigation and interrogation methods, among others.³³

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/supports existing governmental and UN strategic frameworks³⁴ and how it ensures national ownership.

The proposed project is in line with BiH’s international human rights treaty obligations, including under the CEDAW Convention. It specifically seeks to address CEDAW Committee recommendations (2019), which urged BiH to ensure the full and meaningful participation of women, including those belonging to disadvantaged groups, at all stages of the peacebuilding process, further increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in line with UNSCR 1325; and ensure that authorities at cantonal and district levels and women’s rights organizations are effectively involved in implementation. The project is also aligned with BiH’s voluntary commitments under the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Critical Areas of Concern D: Violence against women and E. Women and armed conflict; as well as with UNSCR 1325 and subsequent WPS resolutions (including 2467). The project is equally in keeping with the country’s 2030 Agenda commitments, particularly SDG 3 on health and well-being (in particular targets 3.7 and 3.8); SDG 5, on gender equality and women’s empowerment (in particular targets 5.5 and 5.C); SDG 16 on achieving peaceful and inclusive societies (especially targets 16.6 and 16.7); and SDG 17 on partnership to meet the goals (particularly targets 17.15 and 17.17 and through its focus on cooperation with governmental institutions and the advancement of the WPS agenda in government strategies and development plans).

The proposed project is also in line with national-level commitments embodied in the country’s third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2018–2022³⁵ as well as the currently evolving Action Plan. It is also in line with the BiH Gender Equality Law,³⁶ EU accession requirements, the Stabilization and Association Agreement for BiH, and the SDG’s Framework adopted by the Council of Ministers.³⁷ The project will enhance women’s participation in local decision-making processes, as well as track 2 processes for peacebuilding and social cohesion to overcome divisions and increase peace and security in the country. Through facilitating the spaces for country-wide dialogue and

³² CEDAW Committee. 2019. Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Bosnia and Herzegovina. CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/6, 12 November.

³³ Ibid., pp. 4–5, 8.

³⁴ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, National Youth Policy, etc.

³⁵ Gender Equality Agency for BiH, 2018–2022.

³⁶ Gender Equality Law is adopted by Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in 2003 (revised in 2010).

³⁷ <https://zamisli2030.ba/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SDG-Framework-for-BiH-English.pdf>

vertical exchanges between the work on local and national levels the project will support the depth and scope of the WPS agenda in the country and enrich implementation of the NAP.

The project is also fully aligned with the UNSDCF 2021–2025 for BiH, which is underpinned by the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to leave no one behind. In particular, it will contribute to Strategic Priority Area III (People-centred governance and rule of law), Outcome 4 (By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services and ensure rule of law), and Priority Area IV (Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion), Outcome 5 (By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities). In addition, project contributes also to the Outcome 1 of the UN PBF Strategic Results Framework (Improved trust within and between different communities in BiH (through joint advocacy, inclusive dialogue, gender-responsive initiatives, safeguard of cultural diversity positive interaction within and between communities, and inter-generational trauma-healing), to contribute to long-term stability) by joining forces between three UN agencies, local government structures and CSO's, while also supporting the Outcome 2 focussed on greater institutional responsiveness and also the Outcome 3 of the PBF Strategic Results Framework focussed on dealing with the past. The proposed project also embodies the letter and spirit of IOM, UNFPA and UN Women's Common Chapter in their respective strategic plans, which commit each agency to accelerate efforts to work in a coherent and collaborative way to deliver on the SDGs. Certainly, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) currently lacks a comprehensive approach to Transitional Justice, one that extends beyond criminal justice to address restitution, reparation, and reconciliation. In 2023, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in BiH will engage in a coordinated effort to develop an overarching approach to dealing with the past. This consultative process will review existing efforts, identify gaps, and explore opportunities for advancement.

To build back better from COVID-19, and respond to continuing challenges, UN Women in consultation with other UN agencies, developed the *Road map for advancing the WPS Agenda in BiH* for the 2021–2022 period. It complements existing and ongoing collaborative UN efforts with government counterparts, the international community and CSOs, including women's organizations. Among the three major priority actions of this roadmap, two particularly reflect the UN's commitment to advance WPS implementation in BiH. They include advocacy efforts for relevant BiH institutions to advance the WPS agenda in BiH and the implementation of the NAP 1325. The project will support the collaboration between women's CSOs, the Coordination Board for NAP 1325 and relevant local authorities.

The project also reflects the recommendations of a Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which calls on the UN to facilitate grass-roots women's organizations and women human rights defenders' access to participate in the planning and delivery of basic services in crisis contexts.³⁸

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.

In the previous years several UN Agencies undertook a joint initiative aimed at improving the socio-economic position of the CRSV survivors, which ensured improvements in the registration procedures for the category 'civilian victim of war' in both entities (survivors of war time rape). The requirement of 60% bodily disability when filing claims was dropped, there were advancement in the Free-legal aid (FLA) to survivors and witnesses of war-crimes, with FLA centers trained to support survivors and provide them with information on registration procedures and available systems of support, improved provision of medical and psychosocial care and support to survivors and their families, economic

³⁸ <https://wps.unwomen.org/building/>

empowerment of survivors was institutionalized with both entities' Employment Bureaus now setting aside earmarked funds to specifically support survivors of war-time rape as well as general consensus with community leaders on joint condemnation of stigmatization of survivors. However, despite some positive steps, the previous initiative was not able to comprehensively address this due to a number of factors: piecemeal funding (project only ever achieved 60% of intended resource mobilization targets with 2 out of 4 partner agencies having to drop out, pulling away knowledge, expertise and networks; fluctuating political support – 3 elections happened during its implementation; and the lack of coordination on the part of partner governments). In particular, strong gaps remain in the referral system which require further work and unification, as well as work to adopt and localize standard operating procedures and resource packages by local health and psychosocial service-providers in BiH.

It is also important to consider that while the United Nations, through the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, is contributing to the peacebuilding agenda in BiH, there are currently very few other international actors directly contributing to the same, or to WPS. One particular project which has WPS agenda in its focus is "Gender perspective for responsible institutions in the security sector", which is implemented by the Ministry of Security of BiH and the INFOHOUSE Foundation, financed by the American Embassy in BiH. The goal of the project is the integration of the gender perspective in the democratic political processes of the security sector, which is important but limited in focus.

All this highlights how paramount this proposed new intervention is to filling strategic gaps and to ensuring that women are both empowered to promote peace and cohesion for the future of BiH and that their needs are adequately addressed through more responsive and accountable institutions. It is also important to highlight that the current governments in BiH (State and Federation) are for the first time in the post-war history formed based on the programme coalition. There is a very strong push and interest for EU membership based on the awarded EU candidacy status in December 2022. Amongst the key criteria for EU membership is also political criteria. The upcoming regular annual EU Progress Report (coming out in October 2023) is expected to note the lowest percentage of women in Parliaments in BiH. At the same time, it is the first time that there is a woman in BiH Presidency, as well as a woman as a Chair of BiH Council of Ministers. The combination of governments focused on achieving progress in many areas based on their programme coalition, EU candidacy status and a more present discussion on the need to include more women in decision-making are reasons why now is the right momentum and key opportunity to bring in the gender responsive and WPS perspective, through this comprehensive joint UN engagement on WPS.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Sweden Support to UN Women Strategic Note (2019 – 2023)	Sweden, USD 5,500,000	Strategic interventions across the key programme areas – ending violence against women, gender responsive governance, women's economic empowerment and coordination and communications for GEWE	PBF funding will enable strong engagement in the WPS; strong complementarity and cumulative effect is expected on the local level in engagement of the local women-led organizations and partnership with the local governments (strong accumulated experience through the Gender Responsive Budgeting and EVAW work to date)
Women driving resilience in the rural economy and tourism (2022 – 2025)	Sweden, USD 1,800,000	Empowering women in rural areas to drive agricultural resilience and innovation, development of	Strong complementarity in the local approach, in facilitating collaboration between the women-led organizations and local governments and decision-makers. Two projects will be focusing

		rural businesses and tourism	on the different target groups of women, with the PBF funded project having stronger focus on the women led CSOs and women facing multiple discriminations
Bosnia and Herzegovina Resilience Initiative (2017–2024), implemented by IOM	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Phase 1) EUR 18,000,000. Austrian Development Agency (Phase 2) EUR 1,500,000	Strengthening positive political and social actors and discourses to provide alternatives to extremist and radicalizing voices and influences.	Small grants mechanism aiming to prevent radicalization and support active youth participation in communities, while also supporting local media to create positive content challenging hate speech and divisive rhetoric.
Empowering Trust and Cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Communities (2022–2024) implemented by IOM, UNDP, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), in cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) and European Union (EU)	EU Foreign Policy Instrument, EUR 3,500,000	Strengthening coherence of civil society to lead trust building work and increasing positive interaction between and within targeted communities.	The project is empowering civil society to lead trust building and increase positive interaction between and within target communities, in different communities comparing to this project. Target organizations do not involve women led CSOs.
Sustaining peace and social cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina through enhanced inter-municipal and inter-entity cooperation on local services (SPSC); (2022 – 2024), implemented by IOM and UNDP	Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund USD 3,500,000	The project supports and sustains constructive dialogues between local authorities and citizens, bringing together diverse stakeholders, with an emphasis on engagement of young women and men, to facilitate exchanges on challenges of common interest, including delivery of social and other public services.	IOM and UNDP work with municipal authorities and other local actors to organize and sustain community dialogues and civic engagement, strengthen social structures and services, and create opportunities for young men and women to engage in meaningful exchanges with youth and leaders across communities and the inter-entity boundary line. This project targets social services in remote and rural communities, with the focus on transgenerational trauma, education and youth activism.
Strengthening the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narratives, respect for diversity, and trust in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo*, implemented by UNFPA (2022-2024) * References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)	PBF-funded project USD 500,000 (and a total of \$4.5 million for the full regional project)	The establishment of broad support networks for youth peacebuilding efforts across the region	Differences: The mentioned PBF project focuses on the of young people in peacebuilding, while the WPS project focuses on the role of women, prevention and protection of GBV survivors and social cohesion Complementarity: Supports peacebuilding efforts in the reasoning, addressing divisive and negative narratives from the past through non-conventional channels

Moving us closer: promotion of social cohesion in divided communities, implemented by UNFPA (2022)	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs USD 300,000	Generating positive impact by tackling discrimination among divided communities	Mutual understanding of divided communities on peacebuilding and social cohesion, youth and gender
Bodyright: technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), implemented by UNFPA (Continuous, UNFPA Core)	Core USD 20,000	Tackling Technology Facilitated GBV by holding policymakers and IT companies responsible and accountable for the protection of bodily autonomy	Contributing to fighting stigma and hate speech online and therefore tackling divisive narrative. Improving women's voice and participation in the public sphere.

II Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy

a) A brief description of the project focus and approach

The project recognizes the essential link between achieving lasting peace and prosperity and advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The project's **overall goal** is to advance the WPS agenda and to contribute to improved social cohesion through the amplified agency of women in sustaining peace priorities and in calling for improved delivery of services for conflict-affected and marginalized women. This will be achieved by involving women and girls in addressing key human security and social cohesion concerns at national and local levels, building trust between citizens and local governments and among divided communities and improving public services, including for conflict-affected women in BiH. The project seeks to reactivate progressive forces in BiH and reinvigorate the WPS agenda in a coherent, comprehensive, and complementary way, by organizing national-level policy dialogues on security, defense, inclusive political processes and gender equality, as well as by supporting women's leadership in resolving human security concerns and driving social cohesion at the local level.

Its **strategy** rests on local-level engagement to discuss and address key human security concerns and empower key conflict-affected women's advocates, organizations and activists to demand transparent and inclusive policies, service-delivery, participation and leadership in peacebuilding and decision-making. Structured, inclusive and participatory processes are recognized means to improve communities' ability to resolve conflict and restore social bonds. It also restores trust in the capacities of local leadership through promoting and restoring transparent, accountable leadership. Local empowerment thus can be translated both into local and national policy. The localization of peace also counters people's sense of being removed from national human security processes.

The proposed project will focus on: (a) strengthening the capacity of BiH institutions to adopt and implement accountability frameworks, and WPS commitments; (b) supporting women peacebuilders, advocates and CSOs' engagement and leadership to localize the WPS agenda and identifying key risks and human security concerns; (c) strengthening public institutions (health care systems, police, social welfare and justice departments) and CSOs' capacities to deliver increased and more inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women and girls; (d) building trust and cross-community collaboration by engaging non-traditional actors in promoting a culture of peace and advancing the WPS agenda; and e) amplifying women's role in peacebuilding through targeted investments in media and local and national dialogues on WPS.

The approach takes a people-focused, bottom-up strategy based on the premise that local ownership and participation leads to more effective service-delivery, policymaking, and implementation. The

proposed interventions seek to **address the root causes and barriers** (providing knowledge and resources to women leaders, enabling dialogue between CSOs and institutions, bringing women and women's perspectives into the national and local decision making) by closing the overwhelming gaps women face in decision-making spaces, from advancing the WPS agenda nationally to ensuring its localization at the community level. They equally seek to increase access to basic services for conflict-affected women and violence survivors through continued efforts to unify, adopt and localize the implementation of SOPs and resource packages by health and psychosocial service-providers in the large number of health centres where SOPs have not yet been localized (a current gap in the referral system that prevents a unified approach). The proposed interventions will increase the number of trained medical professionals, the geographic distribution of referral mechanisms, and scale-up local infrastructure to support survivors of violence therefore increasing inclusive access to health services, especially for marginalized and conflict-affected populations and contributing to building trust and connecting marginalized communities to the health system. The project also favors employment and economic opportunities for women, with particular attention on conflict affected and marginalized women.

In particular, the project is designed to support women facing intersectional marginalization associated with the impacts of war and conflict – women returnees, women from minority ethnic groups, violence survivors, civilian victims of war, young women living in deeply divided communities and women with disabilities as a part of the LNOB. It will support women's leadership in the implementation of women-led catalytic initiatives aimed at addressing key WPS and human security concerns through community mobilization and collaboration. It will convene mayors, community leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, local police and military personnel, media and non-traditional actors, as well as all other key local actors to formulate local actions to support human security and integrate UNSCR 1325 and the supporting WPS resolutions into community development plans,³⁹ as a sustainability measure.

This engagement is especially important since one of the challenges to developing and implementing the several generations of NAPs on UNSCR 1325 has been the lack of direct participation of CSOs and women's groups, even though the NAPs cite enhanced cooperation and coordination with CSOs and media as one of the expected outcomes. The risk of overall political blockade in NAP 1325 implementation will be mitigated by the complementary focus on local-level ownership through both institutions and CSOs.

b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'**

If the WPS agenda is advanced through coherent and inclusive strategy development and implementation at national, entity and local levels shaped by women's strengthened participation and leadership, including in enhancing the responsiveness of public service-delivery to women's WPS needs, especially those that are CRSV survivors.

and if women's voices and roles in sustaining peace and social cohesion are amplified through collaboration, transformative narratives and country-wide dialogues.

then there will be greater trust in institutions and between communities, there will be improved and more inclusive public services, including for conflict-affected women, and women and girls will play a more proactive role in implementing a localized WPS agenda, ensuring greater levels of human security and the conditions for a more sustainable peace;

because public institutions will have the necessary capacities and commitment to ensure quality and inclusion, and many of the key barriers to women's involvement in building peace and social cohesion will have been removed.

³⁹ Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. 2018. Localization toolkit.

It equally rests on **assumptions** about the willingness of stakeholders to engage. For example, it assumes that there will be political will within the State and security-sector and other institutions to involve more women and women-led CSOs in the WPS agenda and peacebuilding and that women and women-led CSOs will be interested in actively engaging. It also assumes that Non-traditional actors will have an interest in promoting gender equality, social cohesion and the WPS agenda and that local communities and authorities will be interested in cooperation with women led CSOs and co-financing gender focused initiatives. It assumes that women-led CSOs will increasingly see the relevant authorities as partners in achieving the WPS goals and objectives. These assumptions rest on very important context of political momentum for change based on the results of the 2022 General Elections and the progressive agenda of the new government as well as prioritization of sustained peace and focus on social cohesion building among both national and international development actors.

It equally assumes that the availability of improved quality essential services will increase women's confidence in seeking support and using such services and that there will be both a commitment and sufficient resources to increase the quality and delivery of quality essential services for conflict-affected and marginalized women.

c) Provide a narrative description of key project components (outcomes and outputs),

There are two key outcomes in the proposed project.

Outcome 1: The WPS agenda is advanced through coherent implementation at national and local levels shaped by women's participation and leadership, including in enhancing the responsiveness of public service-delivery.

This will be achieved through three specific outputs: 1) Institutions' (State Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Ministry of Defense, entity Ministries of Interior and Justice, relevant cantonal stakeholders and selected local governments) capacities are strengthened to adopt and implement quality accountability frameworks, and to implement WPS commitments; 2) The WPS agenda is localized in BiH, through strengthened leadership of women peacebuilders, human rights advocates and women's organizations, enabling the identification of and response to key human security concerns, including threats of violence, tension and division; and the need for reconciliation and trust-building; and 3) Public institutions (health care systems, police, social welfare and justice departments), CSOs and associations have strengthened capacities for increased and inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women.

Activities to achieve these outputs include:

1.1. Institutions' capacities to adopt and implement quality accountability frameworks for WPS, and to implement WPS commitments are strengthened;

- 1.1.1. Support research and age-based-data collection on the key aspects of implementation of the WPS agenda in BiH since 2010, including localization at the entity and cantonal levels, including gaps and lessons learned, and identification of the key human security concerns with high impact potential for women's engagement (UN Women)
- 1.1.2. Support relevant institutional partners involved in the development and implementation of the UNSCR 1325 to further develop individual competencies and institutional capacities for the effective implementation of commitments under the WPS agenda and increase the participation and leadership of women (UN Women)
- 1.1.3. Provide technical advice and foster institutional and non-institutional dialogue and collaboration on policymaking, programming and budgeting related to the WPS agenda (UN Women)

- 1.1.4. Support the relevant institutions and their coordination mechanisms in applying targeted and agile approaches to addressing prevailing and emerging social cohesion and peacebuilding concerns, including for the wider engagement of national and local stakeholders, enabled by the learning from the WPS localization and collaborative engagement between the CSOs and governments on addressing the key human security concerns (UN Women)
- 1.1.5. Organize targeted support and structured coaching for local governments to apply a comprehensive, civil society-inclusive approach to address key human security concerns and the local implementation of the WPS agenda (UN Women, IOM)

1.2. The WPS agenda is localized in BiH, through strengthened leadership of women peacebuilders, human rights advocates and women's organizations, enabling the identification of and response to key human security concerns, threats of violence, tensions and divisions;

- 1.2.1. Conduct local vulnerability mapping to identify the most vulnerable groups, the nature of discrimination and provide recommendations for local institutions on target criteria for inclusive WPS policies (UN Women)
- 1.2.2. Support organizational and individual capacities and knowledge of women peacebuilders, human rights activists and women's organizations to identify and respond to threats, including increased levels of violence, tensions, divisions and divisive narratives at the local level, and to support the building of trust and cohesion (IOM, UN Women)
- 1.2.3. Support local women's organizations by enabling women's engagement and strengthening women's leadership at the local level, in partnership with local institutions and private sector partners, aimed at addressing the key human security concerns affecting women (UN Women)
- 1.2.4. Organize networking events within and between communities for WPS actors and stakeholders to support the establishment of new (and capacity-building of existing) issue-based local women's advocacy coalitions (IOM)
- 1.2.5. Support women and women's grass-roots organizations through a small grants mechanism to implementing initiatives to ensure lasting responses to building and sustaining peace and development in the country (IOM)

1.3. Public institutions (health care systems, police, social welfare and justice departments), CSOs and associations have strengthened capacities for increased and inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women.

- 1.3.1. Strengthen the capacities of selected health-care-providers appointed by the Ministry of Health in both entities to deliver increased and inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women (UNFPA)
- 1.3.2. Accompany the revision and implementation of a resource package for interlinked service-provision among health, welfare and justice departments under the guidance of the Ministry of Health in both entities (UNFPA)
- 1.3.3. Ensure sustainability of the stakeholders' capacities for improved, comprehensive service-delivery through training-of-trainers on the joint response among the health, welfare and justice sectors on the developed joint resource package (UNFPA)
- 1.3.4. Localize and accredit Standard Operating Procedures for inclusive service-provision for conflict-affected and marginalized women (UNFPA)
- 1.3.5. Strengthen the organizational capacities and sustainability of associations and CSOs to provide specialized psychosocial support and adequate services to conflict-affected and marginalized women (UNFPA)

- 1.3.6. Build the capacity of associations and CSOs supporting victims of war and violence to improve their financial sustainability through pilot social enterprises to support their operational costs; improve their advocacy skills; and develop visibility guidelines and social media strategies (UNFPA)
- 1.3.7. Strengthen the capacities of police as first responders to enable gender-sensitive service-provision for conflict affected and marginalized women and to support social cohesion by enhancing the trust in institutions (UN Women)

Outcome 2: Women's voices and roles in sustaining peace and social cohesion are amplified through collaboration, transformative narratives and country-wide dialogues on WPS

This will be achieved through two specific outputs: 1) Increased cross-entity and cross-community collaboration and trust-building is fostered through the engagement of non-traditional actors in the promotion of a culture of peace and advancing the WPS agenda (culture, sports, music, creative industry, private sector, etc.); 2) Women's role in peacebuilding and social cohesion narratives is amplified through targeted investment in media, local and country-wide dialogues on addressing WPS. It is important to note that the proposed activities under this output will have a close link, coordination and mutual exchange of lessons learned with the concurrent project Dialogue for Future (DFF), due to be supported by the PBF and implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO. During the implementation of the two projects the teams will work to achieve complementarity between the targeting of dialogues both in terms of involved stakeholders and topics in focus. Youth and women are constituencies which share exclusion from the decision making and a potential for changing the narratives and power dynamics for driving the country forward, and this will be the main aim of synergies between the two projects.

Proposed activities envisioned to achieve these outputs include:

2.1. Increased cross-entity and cross-community collaboration and trust-building is fostered through the engagement of non-traditional actors in the promotion of a culture of peace and advancing the WPS agenda (culture, sports, music, creative industry, private sector, etc.)

- 2.1.1. Conduct a mapping of the creative industries, arts, sports actors and private sectors champions and match them with WPS actors and the identified key human security concerns (UN Women, IOM)
- 2.1.2. Support partnerships between non-traditional stakeholders (artists, cultural workers, including respected community and religious leaders who may be the holders of patriarchal norms in the communities) and conflict-affected and marginalized women to develop and promote inclusive and non-discriminatory narratives on the needs of the marginalized groups, the importance of WPS, the linkages between the peaceful future of the country and improved cooperation and trust between divided communities (UNFPA)
- 2.1.3. Support joint initiatives between women's CSOs and actors from the field of arts, culture and sports aimed at addressing the key human security concerns affecting women and supporting peacebuilding and social cohesion (UN Women, IOM)
- 2.1.4. Support cross-entity collaboration, exchanges and joint approaches between young women and girls using arts, culture, sports, and women's activism to support social cohesion and inclusive and lasting peacebuilding (UN Women, IOM)

2.2. Women's role in peacebuilding and social cohesion narratives is amplified through targeted investment in media, local and country-wide dialogues on addressing WPS.

- 2.2.1. Organize and support media campaigns and cross-country public outreach to amplify the examples of women's leadership in resolving social cohesion and human security concerns in BiH (IOM, UN Women)
- 2.2.2. Support national-level dialogue on inclusive security and gender equality (including on promoting a gender perspective and balance in security and defense sectors) and international exposure of BiH perspectives and experience on advancing UNSCR 1325 (UN Women)
- 2.2.3. Facilitate national and local-level consultations and fora for women-led CSOs to share their expertise, needs and priorities with government representatives and local leaders (UN Women, IOM)
- 2.2.4. Strengthened capacities of female journalist and content creators in reporting on conflict- affected and marginalized populations and stigma through cooperation with universities, media hubs and academia (UNFPA)

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

d) Project targeting.

As noted, 27 CSOs were consulted in the design of this proposal, many of which work with and for women facing multiple and intersecting forms of marginalization. The project will be implemented in partnership with all relevant women's CSOs, including taking into the account perspectives and serving the most vulnerable women's groups, including conflict affected and marginalized women, migrant and internally displaced women, rural women, youth, + , etc. Underpinned by Agenda 2030's Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, as a central, transformative pillar of this project, an inclusive and participatory approach to beneficiary selection and targeting criteria will be taken. Conflict-affected and marginalized women and girls in BiH represent key excluded groups. However, within this group, certain women and girls facing intersection forms of discrimination are even harder to reach, so the project will specifically seek out their inclusion. The project will target primarily women peacebuilders, CSOs, activists, women from marginalized communities or ethnic minorities, women returnees, survivors of war-time rape and their families, and children conceived of wartime rape. Estimations on the number of survivors of CRSV in BiH ranged from 20,000 to 50,000. In terms of registered survivors who are accessing benefits and entitlements, there are already around 3,000 survivors, however it is important to note that only a fraction of survivors is registered officially, and that many more access services and support as survivors of 'gender-based violence' as it is far less stigmatizing and traumatizing this way. The mapping activity (1.1.1) will help to ensure that the project interventions identify clearly the major WPS needs by young women and where young women can be particularly prioritized within the existing support by the project.

The selection of beneficiaries from target communities will be done in close partnership with CSOs and relevant government authorities based on the LNOB principle. The project will conduct local-level vulnerability mapping, disaggregated by sex, age and other factors to identify the most vulnerable groups, the nature of discrimination and provide recommendations for local institutions on criteria for inclusive policies.

The selection of partners and specific locations for proposed interventions will be based on the local vulnerability mapping as well as consultation with Ministries of Health in both Entities and the criteria such as reaching communities where social cohesion is the weakest. UN Women and UNFPA will work to complete the mapping and consultations while the project is being initiated to ensure that the

finding seamlessly inform the project implementation. The envisaged period is mid-August – end October 2023.

Targeting of political decision-makers and other institutional actors will be ensured in all relevant activities.

Primary partners for UNFPA include: entity ministries of health (in coordination with state ministry of civil affairs); cantonal health ministries; public health centers; centers for mental health; social welfare centers; ministries of justice at state, entity and cantonal levels, including courts, prosecutorial offices and free legal aid centers; entity level ministries of labor; cantonal ministries of labor and local employment bureaus; universities; media outlets; faith-based organizations; sports clubs; theatres and arts academies, museums.

III Project management and coordination

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 in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: UN Women Implementing partners: selected CSOs, BIH Agency for Gender Equality	USD 2,762,273	Sweden, EU, UNDP	Sarajevo	24 (all based in Sarajevo)	Expert staff related to CSO engagement, gender equality, institutional partnerships, gender-responsive governance, EVAW, WEE
Recipient Organization: IOM Implementing partners: Local women-led CSO's, History Museum BiH	USD 36,605,546.23	EU, UK Government, Austrian Development Agency, Italian Embassy, Norwegian Embassy	Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bihać	249 (Total), out of which 9 (Banja Luka), and 79 (Bihać Office)	Community and Youth Engagement experts, Psychologists, Gender Advisor
Recipient Organization: UNFPA in BiH Implementing partners: Selected CSOs, Ministry of Health in FBiH and RS	2,213,210 USD	UNFPA Core funding, PBF SDC EU Italy Czechia	Sarajevo, Bihac, Banja Luka	18, Sarajevo, Bihac, Banja Luka	Programme Analyst; and Gender Team Lead

Through the combination of direct selection (in sync with the vulnerability mapping) and open call for proposals, the three UN agencies will provide financial support to local civil society organizations and/or non-formal groups to implement activities that are responding to identified needs. Projects that are designed through Community Based Planning (CBP) approach will be supported through direct

selection, as well as those projects that come as a results of networking events to strengthen and/or create issue-based coalitions. An open call for proposals will be published to support projects that focus on cross and inter-community projects to ensure layering, sequencing and durability to established coalitions, and a systemic approach to structures and services at all levels. Those could potentially include support to further develop necessary new and/or strengthen existing services and ensure their professionalization, availability, and sustainability through cooperation with relevant authorities or other institutional stakeholders. Calls for proposals and selection of CSO partners will be done in a coordinated manner by the three Agencies.

An open call for proposals (CFP) will be announced by UN Women to select CSOs to implement the community-based initiatives. The process of selecting beneficiaries will be transparent and based on the drafted Terms of Reference of the CFP.

UNFPA will leverage its strong and long-lasting cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Republika Srpska and Ministry of Health of FBiH to ensure ownership and sustainability in the implementation of the project. Additionally, UNFPA will rely on its existing networks and partnerships built over the years to tackle the issue of CRSV, GBV and to empower youth towards peacebuilding: ; CSO Snaga Zene (Tuzla); Mozaik Foundation (Sarajevo); BiH Inter-Religious Council (Sarajevo); Udružene Zene Foundation (Banja Luka); and CSO Izvor (Prijedor). UNFPA has invested in these organizations as Implementing Partners over the years, boosting their capacities both in technical terms (project management, financial operations and accountability) and substantive terms (expertise, visibility, outreach). This will allow operations to be launched swiftly and across the whole country, simultaneously.

b) Project management and coordination

IOM, UNFPA and UN Women BiH will engage in direct implementation of all activities, in cooperation and coordination with identified stakeholders. The RCO/PDU will provide support through political advice and guidance. RCO/Human Rights Advisor will support for the human rights and dealing with the past aspects of the project. IOM, UNFPA and UN Women will mobilize relevant regional and global expertise from their own networks and engage additional experts to provide support to policy design and/or implementation of activities.

UN Women will coordinate the work of all participating agencies and all project staff will also report to the UN Women WPS Programme Coordinator to ensure coherence in the project approach.

The agencies will employ staff to implement the project as follows:

- UN Women will engage the following Project Team members for the full durations of the project to ensure both overall coordination among the agencies and direct implementation of UN Women component: WPS Programme Coordinator (NOC, FTA), who will have a double role of direct implementation of the UN Women component of the project and coordinating with the UNFPA and IOM on all aspects of project implementation and reporting to the Steering Board and donors; WPS Field Coordinator (SB4/1) will have the primary responsibility of implementing activities in the local communities (primarily grants to the CSOs and collaboration with the local governments; WPS Outreach Coordinator (SB4/1) will be tasked with coordinating institutional collaboration and support and work with the non-traditional actors; programmatic and administrative support will be provided by WPS Assistant (SB3/1) and the Operations Associate (SB3/2).
- IOM will engage the following Project Team members: A Project Coordinator (G6, full time) tasked to coordinate the project, including annual planning, implementation, budget monitoring

and reporting, in close cooperation with Project Team members. The Project Coordinator will coordinate closely the UN Women WPS Programme Coordinator and will be responsible for coordinating with UN Women and UNFPA to provide information and inputs into narrative reports to the donor; supported by a team of Grants/Project Assistant (G3, full time), to ensure smooth implementation of project activities and achievements of project objectives and to ensure timely implementation of small grants mechanisms; Community Engagement Specialist (G5, full time) to implement activities in selected locations and act as liaison with the communities; Outreach Engagement Specialist (G4, full time) for the design, implementation and monitoring of the media components and campaigns on the project and coordination with UN Women on the joint activities related to media, campaign and engagement of non-traditional actors; Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant (G4, full time) for the overall support in monitoring, evaluation and reporting, ensuring that data and information are collected in a systematic manner to monitor and measure progress in line with the set performance indicators and agreed standards. Additionally, IOM will ensure senior management oversight and administrative support.

- UNFPA will onboard a Program Manager who will handle day-to-day project management (NOB, to be onboarded, 55%), under the overall supervision of the already onboarded Gender Team Lead (NOC, costs covered by UNFPA) and Programme Analyst (P2, 50%, 12 months). Programme Manager will coordinate closely with the UN Women WPS Programme coordinator. Additionally, Finance and Programme Assistants will join the team (SB3, 100%) and support an already onboarded Program Assistant (SB3, 50%) to ensure adequate programmatic and financial support for implementation, while a Communication Assistant (SB3, 100%, already onboarded) will provide effective visibility to the project and the donor. Lastly, ad hoc consultants may also be engaged on an as-needed basis to support and report to the supervisor and project manager and M&E specialist (10%, NOC) will provide the required assistance for monitoring activities at regular intervals (consultancy, quarterly).

A PBF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will be established to provide the strategic oversight of the PBF portfolio. It is co-chaired by the UN RC and the Government and includes members from the UN, government, CSOs and international partners. The PBF Secretariat will support the establishment and the functioning of the Steering Committee. Detailed information on the JSC is per the JSC Terms of Reference.

A Technical level advisory Board will be established for this project. The membership will be determined in the inception phase of the project.

c) Risk management.

Project-specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Potential lack of willingness to integrate the WPS agenda from government entities, including the security sector.	Low	A joint work plan for the project implementation will be drafted in close cooperation with government stakeholders. UN agencies will maintain continuous communication and consultation with relevant governmental institutions and provide policy advice, technical expertise and support. One of the mitigation measures

		in the political obstacles will be to use the well established institutional infrastructure of Gender Action Plan and the Coordination Boards at the entity and state level for advancing the WPS agenda as well RC and PDU will engage as needed and requested by agencies.
Potential resistance from institutions to conduct monitoring activities, given the demands of EU accession.	Low	Technical assistance will be provided to identify the milestones for WPS implementation. The project will also work with responsible ministries and institutions and involve practitioners in validation and follow-up activities. The objective will be to temporarily supplement capacities while maintaining full institutional ownership.
Adverse political developments, including possibly heightened security threats, effectively preventing project activities.	Low	Participating agencies will track developments on an ongoing basis to inform necessary project adjustments in case of a high-level security risk. Close consultations with RCO/Peace and Development Unit
Key stakeholders do not actively engage in, or withdraw, from the project.	Low	Participating agencies will regularly communicate with key stakeholders and provide regular quality assurance advice at the technical level, ensuring that feedback and concerns are addressed from the outset.
Outward migration, limited human capital	High	Through its field presence and partnerships, the project will regularly monitor the situation, including fluctuation of beneficiaries, especially young women and endeavour to ensure that young women are engaged in activities.
There may be issues with ensuring cross-entity and cross-community cooperation on issues of peace and security due to the political context and interests.	Medium	The women peacebuilding movement has already established strong cross-entity and trans-political networks and cooperation that will be a foundation for reaching out to relevant actors.
Force majeure (e.g. natural hazards, disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, etc.)	Low	The project will have a flexible approach, including reprogramming of activities to respond to emerging needs.
Change in government priorities during project implementation could affect the involvement of media and local decision-makers (local elections planned for October 2024)	Medium	Ensuring the formal commitment of local government units (through MoUs or similar agreements) and wide involvement of local government representatives beyond only political appointees.
Governments at all levels in BiH may be reluctant to undertake new policy commitments and allocate public funds for policy implementation and service provision.	Medium	The project will prioritize activities according to the strategic needs expressed by institutions. Partners will work with public institutions to ensure budgetary needs are embedded in their annual budgets.
Creation of ad-hoc services and increased advocacy around conflict affected and	Medium	The project's 'do no harm' approach will employ a survivor-centric and gender-sensitive approach towards addressing the

marginalized women foment stigma for conflict-affected women.		issue of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). It will acknowledge the immense physical and psychological harm caused by CRSV and the stigma that survivors face in their communities, often resulting in further trauma. This means survivors' stories are shared only with their explicit informed consent, and their identities are kept confidential unless they choose otherwise. We appreciate the bravery of public figures who have openly shared their experiences with CRSV and aim to use their stories, only with their permission, to help normalize discourse around the issue and destigmatize survivors, not focusing on their victimhood or the horrors they have endured, but on their resilience, their quest for restorative justice, and their need for comprehensive care and support. Through this approach, we aim to encourage survivors to access the services they need, foster understanding and empathy within communities, and drive systemic changes in addressing CRSV. Moreover - the DNH approach, while initially focused on CRSV survivors, must be extended to encompass risks faced by women activists more broadly. Women activists are often at the forefront of advocating for human rights, gender equality, and social justice, but their visibility can also make them targets for backlash, harassment, or violence, especially in settings where patriarchal norms and political marginalization persist. To achieve this, we will ensure anonymity and confidentiality so that identities of all participants are safeguarded during consultations, data collection, and reporting. Special measures like pseudonyms and secure data storage systems should be employed. At the same time, we will conduct sensitivity training sessions for all staff, partners, and stakeholders involved in the project to equip them with the skills to handle potentially harmful situations or discussions that may arise during the project's lifecycle. Finally, we will apply community-based approaches by involving local community leaders, CSOs, and trusted authorities to build a supportive environment that minimizes the risk of backlash against both CRSV survivors and women activists.

Delay in NAP 1325 adoption	High	Implementation anchored in existing institutional frameworks and local-level processes; flexible alignment once adopted. Furthermore, mobilized support by the Ambassadors to influence BiH authorities to adopt the 4 th NAP 1325.
----------------------------	------	--

d) Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring: Monitoring will be closely coordinated among IOM, UNFPA and UN Women. It will constitute a critical element of the project to ensure the smooth implementation of activities and delivery of assistance to beneficiaries. The main tools for organizing the monitoring system encompass the logical framework and the risk analysis. IOM, UNFPA and UN Women will be responsible for setting up a joint project monitoring plan, defining data to be collected, data sources, monitoring frequency, responsibilities, analysis and reporting on progress, resources, the level and rate of expenditures, and risks and assumptions. Each recipient organization/partner will ensure that data on beneficiaries and assistances, as well as supporting documentation, are collected in a culturally appropriate, safe, efficient and timely manner, enabling tracking of progress against outcome and output indicators, identification of areas for improvement and the introduction of corrective measures (if needed).

Prior to project kick-off, IOM responsible M&E staff will develop a Project M&E Toolkit containing a clear set of guidelines and templates for measuring outcome and output level indicators for the IOM components, as well as components of the UN Women that are designed at the Output 1.2 of the project log frame. Furthermore, the Toolkit will provide clear instructions on tracking organized events, participation at those events, capturing feedback, tracking media posting and visibility and storing information. Methodologies for data collection will be inclusive of implementing surveys (with direct target groups), interviews and focus group discussions with key informants and review of available products of project activities (such as community initiative reports). Regular monitoring will include the collection of feedback from project partners, and beneficiaries across all targeted social groups (different ethnic backgrounds, gender, age, etc.), to ensure that all activities are carefully coordinated among them, and to be able to identify and adequately manage challenges and ensure smooth and proper activity implementation. It will ensure that activities are reaching the intended beneficiaries, addressing their needs and that lessons learned and best practices can be produced. The collection of progress data, and baseline and endline outcome data, will be organized using online systems (to the extent possible), reducing the required costs for monitoring by responsible staff (M&E and partners).

UNFPA will ensure continuous monitoring of the activities through an assessment tool which will be designed by M&E Consultant, under the supervision of UNFPA M&E Specialist. The assessment tool will focus on regular communication with local communities and government partners, as well as quarterly assessment in order to understand the level to which capacities built throughout the project are applied by relevant institutions in their daily provision of support towards conflict affected and marginalized women. In addition, the consultant will design pre and post questionnaires to monitor the progress of relevant target groups in terms of acquiring new knowledge and skills towards financial sustainability as well as reduced stigma towards conflict affected and marginalized women.

Monitoring of associated risks will be done by project management using the risk management plan. Communication and feedback between IOM, UNFPA and UN Women project management and staff will be key to monitoring pre-identified risks, and for identifying new potential risks, and to ensure that proposed mitigation/treatment plans are still relevant.

In addition to the community-based monitoring and internal evaluation system for collecting baseline and endline data on social cohesion, the project will commission independent external evaluation.

External evaluation company will be selected to support set up project baseline, mid-term review and final evaluation methodology. The evaluation company will assess existing M&E tools and practices to collect data for the entire project components, provide inputs on the additional tools to be used and employed to ensure evaluability of the project impact, as well as to validate existing internal evaluation system against project framework, and to collect data for baseline to measure impact, outcomes and outputs of the project. In addition, company will implement mid-term review (through interviews, focus groups, and similar techniques) and provide project with the inputs how to navigate implementation to boost project impact. And finally, external final evaluation to measure the extent to which programme outcomes are being realized, capture lessons learned, build on experience, and make recommendations that support the better achievement of outcomes for the design of future actions. The evaluation framework will be structured according to the OECD-DAC Criteria for Evaluation (relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability), and the resulting report will be a crucial learning document that will be shared with all project partners. The Result Framework will be further refined once the initial project mapping study/ baseline are completed to ensure indicators are SMART and targets are appropriate set.

Budget proposal to fund monitoring and evaluation:

Cost description	No. Days	Estimated Amount (USD)
IOM: Management and Oversight (20%), Programme Management (50%) UNW: Project staff (100%) UNFPA: M&E Specialist (10%) + M&E Consultant	N/a (this is project staff who will be working on the M&E)	253,035.00
External evaluation company	15	6,000.00
Evaluability assessment and support to baseline data collection		
External evaluation company	55	27,000.00
Mid-term review		
External evaluation company	80	47,000.00
Final external evaluation		

e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability

To ensure that the results of this programme are sustained, the project will be fully implemented in coordination and participation with national stakeholders and partners such as the Gender Equality Agency, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees BiH, Ministry of Security, and pertaining security agencies, Ministry of Defense, RS Ministry of Health and Social Protection and FBiH Ministry of Health, entity gender centres and relevant line ministries, local administrations, with full national ownership and political support of programme implementation and achieving results. The project is targeting a wide range of institutional, CSO, academia, arts, culture, sports and activist stakeholders. There are several components of the project, in particular national and local dialogues which are designed to ensure that there is mutually reinforcing effect of the results and the feedback loop to inform the WPS agenda design and implementation vertically and horizontally.

In building the relevant capacities for women's formal and non-formal groups and local entities in gender-responsive approaches to peacebuilding and social cohesion, the project will support local collaboration mechanisms seeking to improve responsiveness to women's human security needs and increase women's participation in decision-making and leadership in the localization of WPS. As the project has a focus on increasing the capacity of service-providers and rights-holders – including women's groups, women's organizations, advocates and CSOs – ensuring that gender perspectives are embedded in policies and service-provision, the project will seek to increase the capacities of existing mechanisms and, if needed, support the establishment of new ones within government structures. The experience of work on gender responsive budgeting and the momentum of the public finance management reform (introduction of programme based budgeting) will be used to enable relevant institutions and CSOs to plan and advocate for the financial sustainability of the WPS work and results through budget and donor financing. With this approach, the project is looking to boost networking and strengthen both women's groups and government structures, thereby ensuring sustainability, durability and local ownership. Ministries of Health in both entities have expressed the need and commitment for the improvement of quality of services for conflict-affected and marginalized women, therefore providing ownership and sustainability to the project activities in which they are involved. While the project is set to reach only 10% of the communities in BiH, it will focus on those most profoundly impacted by the conflict. These selected communities play a crucial role in shaping public opinion on both reconciliation and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Moreover, the United Nations is not the sole actor working in this space. We aim to collaborate closely with all organizations and agencies involved in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and WPS, with the objective of maximizing impact, avoiding duplication of efforts, and fostering synergies.

An Advocacy and Communications Plan for the Project will be developed upon the start of the project, encompassing the different elements. The Plan will be developed together with RCO/PDU and will take in consideration cooperation with the PBF Secretariat Communications Officer and overall communication on PBF funded initiatives in BiH.

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	x		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	x		Staff requirements are outlined and recruitments will be initiated
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline		x	Target locations will be identified through the research and vulnerability mapping that UNWOMEN will implement through the project with IOM as well as consultation with Ministries of Health in both Entities;
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.		x	While consultations with institutions involved in creation of Action plan to implement 1325 agenda have been consulted, local governments will follow once target locations are selected.
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?	x		
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	x		Yes, as per SOPs of each PUNO.
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	x		
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	x		
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)?	x		

11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	x		
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	x		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	x		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
10. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	x		
11. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	x		
12. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	x		
13. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	x		UN Women staff will be tasked with both the overall project coordination and the implementation of UN Women project component. Given the challenges in the country and the need for multilayered coordination, and noting the breath of WPS agenda there is a need to have the project team which will have a major substantive contribution and ensure administrative functioning and implementation of the project.

		Considering that the majority of activities under UNFPA portfolio will be implemented in collaboration with public institutions such as the MoHs, UNFPA will mostly work directly in the implementation of the activities, recurring to Implementing Partners only for some specific activities, therefore requiring the below mentioned staff. Details in regards to the months, % and positions have been provided; IOM's nature of the approach to work at local level requires direct implementation of the project activities. Meaning that our staff will be heavily involved in the community assessment, facilitating local processes on community-based programing, partially also involved in training local CSO's and individuals in community mobilization and supporting them in co-creation of the proposed activities, and initiatives. IOM globally has a manual on Community Based Programing (CBP) which clearly states IOM's model of work. This is why IOM proposed staffing to be able to cover 15 local communities with planned activities.
14. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	x	

15. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		x	
16. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.		x	
17. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.		x	Additional funding not available.

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 recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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

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

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE:** If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE:** If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.⁴⁰
- 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.

⁴⁰ 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
Outcome 1: The WPS agenda is advanced through coherent implementation at national and local levels and shaped by women's participation and leadership, including in enhancing the responsiveness of public service-delivery. SDG targets this outcome contributes to: Target 3.7 by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all; Target 5.5: Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making; Target 5.C. Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality; Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.		Outcome Indicator 1.1 # of national and local bodies in which gender equality and women-focused CSOs actively participate in the implementation and localization of the WPS agenda Baseline: 1 bodies at the national/state, and 0 at the local level Target: at least 11 structures benefiting from the active participation of women led CSO's in the processes for the implementation of 1325 (out of which 1 at national level and 10 in local communities)	Official decisions or membership lists of WPS-related coordination bodies; Signed meeting minutes and attendance lists confirming CSO participation; Validated progress reports referencing CSO engagement; Formal documentation of establishment of local WPS coordination mechanisms; Relevant MoUs or cooperation agreements supporting structured participation.	Progress at the end of year 2 End of project progress
		Outcome Indicator 1.2 % of addressed gaps identified during the implementation of the WPS Agenda in the country by the project Baseline: 0% Target: 80%	Document Review; Interviews/Guided Discussions (WPS assessment and mapping reports; external evaluation inception/midterm/final report; implementing partners' reports; field visit reports; project documentation and other relevant reports and records).	Baseline Progress at the end of year 2 Endline
		Outcome Indicator 1.3 Increased responsiveness of public service-delivery towards women in selected communities Baseline: 17% Target: at least 5% increase	External evaluation midterm/final report; Research results	Baseline Progress at the end of year 2 Endline
		Outcome Indicator 1.4 Improved planning, monitoring, and reporting framework for the implementation of the Action Plan on 1325, including at the local level Baseline: No Target: Yes	Officially adopted or formally revised M&E Plan; Monitoring framework or indicator matrix; Official decisions or documented endorsement; AP 1325 Annual or periodic reports; Meeting minutes confirming operationalization; Evidence of integration of local-level monitoring	Endline of project progress.

Target 17.15: Respect national leadership to implement policies for the Sustainable Development Goals. Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.			processes; External evaluation or structured guided discussions (where applicable))	
		Outcome Indicator 1.5 % of engaged service providers that report increased skills and confidence to provide inclusive services for conflict affected and marginalized women Baseline: 0% Target: 50%	Pre- and post-training assessments measuring changes in skills and confidence; Surveys and feedback forms completed by trained service providers; Qualitative interviews or focus group discussions with service providers on perceived improvements in their capacity; Training attendance records to verify participant engagement; Reports from implementing agencies documenting skills development and service delivery improvements	Endline of project progress.
	Output 1.1: Institutions' capacities to adopt and implement quality accountability frameworks, and to implement WPS commitments are strengthened.	Output Indicator 1.1.1 # of CSOs and government/institution representatives who improved skills for the monitoring of implementation of NAP on 1325 Baseline: 0 Target: 20	Data for this indicator will be verified through a combination of participation records and documentation reflecting monitoring-related engagement. Primary evidence (minimum requirement): Signed participant lists confirming participation in monitoring-focused activities; and Agendas and/or meeting minutes indicating a clear monitoring-related component. Evidence of skill strengthening (at least one of the following): Structured self-assessment or competency-based reflection forms; Meeting minutes reflecting active engagement in monitoring discussions; Documentation of contribution to monitoring tools (e.g., M&E plans, indicator matrices, reporting templates); Technical working session records summarizing monitoring-related exchanges. Supporting documentation (where	End of the year progress.

			available): Implementing partner narrative reports; Drafted or revised monitoring documents; Follow-up documentation related to monitoring processes.	
		Output Indicator 1.1.2 # of CSOs and government/institution representatives who improved skills for planning, monitoring and reporting on localization of WPS Agenda Baseline: 0 Target: 30	Signed participant lists confirming participation in WPS localization-related activities; Agendas and/or meeting minutes indicating a clear planning, monitoring, or reporting component; Structured self-assessment or reflection forms; Meeting minutes documenting active engagement in localization-related discussions; Documentation of contribution to local action plans, monitoring frameworks, or reporting tools; Coaching or mentoring session records; Local action plans or draft frameworks; Follow-up mentoring reports; Partner narrative reports; Case studies or documented examples of application.	End of the year progress.
		Output Indicator 1.1.3 # of women-led CSOs participating in the WPS Agenda structures and processes Baseline: 0 Target: 20	Data will be sourced from: Observation; Community dialogue reports; Implementing partner reports; Meeting minutes; Event reports; Participants list	End of the year progress.
	Output 1.2: The WPS agenda is localized in BiH, through strengthened leadership of women peacebuilders, human rights advocates and women's organizations, enabling the identification of and response to key human security concerns, threats of violence, tension and division.	Output Indicator 1.2.1 # of stakeholders, disaggregated by type, who participated in the design of localization of WPS Agenda Baseline: 0 Target: 100	Field visit reports Community dialogue reports Implementing partner reports Meeting minutes Activity event reports Participants lists	End of consultation process

		Output Indicator 1.2.2 # of women-led and women-focused issue-based formal and non-formal coalitions capacitated for advocating for the implementation and localization of the WPS agenda in BiH within and between local communities Baseline: 0 Target: 15	Document Review; Implementing partners' reports, Activity Event reports; Field visit reports; Advocacy plans/initiatives; MoUs signed.	Progress report; End of the year reports;
		Output Indicator 1.2.3 # of women-led and women-focused actions initiated for localization of WPS agenda Baseline: 0 Target: 15	Field Visit Reports Implementing partner reports Meeting minutes Activity event reports Participants list	Progress report; End of the year reports;
	Output 1.3: Public institutions (health care systems, police, social welfare and justice departments), CSOs and associations have strengthened capacities for increased and inclusive services for conflict-affected and marginalized women.	Output Indicator 1.3.1 # of public sector and CSO service provider professionals trained to deliver services to conflict-affected and marginalized women who report improved knowledge Baseline: 0 Target: 300	Participants lists, Self-assessment results, Training reports	Guidelines developed 300 professionals trained Progress recorded at the end of the year
		Output Indicator 1.3.2 # of women-led CSOs that established or improved social enterprises to contribute to their financial sustainability Baseline: 0 Target: 2	Pre-and post assessment for capacity building activities, social media reports, press clipping, evidence of engagement of additional stakeholders such as institutions, private sector representatives and engagement of other donors that can serve as a proof of catalytic effect	2 businesses registered 20 people trained Progress recorded at the end of the year.

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 2: Women's voices and roles in sustaining peace and social cohesion are amplified through collaboration, transformative narratives and country-wide dialogues on WPS SDG Targets that this Outcome contributes to: Target 5.5: Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making; Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.		Outcome Indicator 2.1 # of initiatives launched by WPS-HA Compact signatories to advance the WPS agenda Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Official reports and announcements from WPS-HA Compact signatories. Meeting minutes, agreements, or declarations detailing the initiative's launch. Media coverage or press releases confirming the launch of an initiative. Government or CSO reports outlining actions taken under the initiative. Financial records or policy documents demonstrating implementation	Progress at the end of year 2 Endline project progress
		Outcome Indicator 2.2 % of women active in community life with increased agency for community engagement on WPS (e.g. confidence, participation or leadership in decision-making) as a result of access to social resources (e.g. information, opportunity, social ties) Baseline: 0 Target: 75%	Relevant Document Review, External evaluation inception/midterm/final report; Pre-post training assessment; Implementing partners' reports; Field visit reports	Progress report; Endline project progress
		Outcome Indicator 2.3 Increase in positive attitudes within targeted communities towards the role of women in peace processes Baseline: 62% Target: 5%	Document Review; (Perception) Survey; Interviews/Guided Discussions (e.g. external evaluation inception/midterm/final report; pre-post training assessment; implementing partners' reports; field visit reports)	Progress report, End of the year reports
	Output 2.1: Increased cross-entity and cross-community collaboration and trust-building is fostered through the engagement non-traditional actors in the promotion of a	Output Indicator 2.1.1 # of public, social, or community events organized to promote a culture of peace and the advancement of the WPS agenda (disaggregated by type) Baseline: 0	Document review Observation reports Implementing partners' reports Event reports; field visit reports Project documentation and other relevant reports and record	100,000 people reached through media campaign 10 events organized

	culture of peace and advancing the WPS agenda (culture, sports, music, creative industry, private sector, etc.).	Target: 30		Progress at the end of the year-
		Output Indicator 2.1.2 # of joint initiatives between women's CSOs and actors from the field of arts, culture and sports that promote women leadership in peacebuilding and social cohesion Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Implementing partners reports detailing joint initiatives and outcomes. Submitted concept notes and proposals outlining planned collaborations. Event reports summarizing activities and participation. Field visit reports documenting observations and outcomes from joint initiatives.	Progress at the end of the year.
		Output 2.1.3 # of cross-entropy WPS-related initiatives that promote inclusive and lasting peacebuilding efforts in the area of arts, culture, sports and activism Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Relevant Document Review, Implementing partners' reports, Activity event reports; Field visit reports; Signed MoUs.	Progress at the end of the year.
	Output 2.2: Women's role in peacebuilding and social cohesion narratives is amplified through targeted investment in media, local and country-wide dialogues on addressing WPS	Output Indicator 2.2.1 # of journalists and content creators trained who report improved knowledge on reporting on WPS Baseline: 0 Target: 30	Participant lists, self-assessment and training reports	Progress at the end of the year.
		Output Indicator 2.2.2 # of feature stories in the media, including articles, reports, and products on WPS published Baseline: 0 Target: 45	Social media data analytics by each implementing agency summarizing its partner reports and United Nations social media accounts Records on created and published content Media content analysis and/or qualitative media analysis	Progress at the end of the year.
		Output Indicator 2.2.3 # of reach to the social media campaign (disaggregated by gender) Baseline: 0	Social media analytics tools (e.g., Facebook Insights, Twitter Analytics, Instagram insights). Records of created and published content related to the campaign.	Progress at the end of the year.

		Target: 1,500,000	Social media campaign reports compiled by implementing agencies and partners	
		Output Indicator 2.2.4 # of WPS-HA Compact signatories to advance the WPS agenda Baseline: 0 Target: 10	Official list of signatories to the WPS-HA Compact. Formal commitment documents (letters of endorsement, agreements, or declarations). Reports or communications from UN Women and partners documenting new signatories. Meeting minutes or records from dialogues and advocacy events leading to signatory commitments.	Progress at the end of the year.
		Output Indicator 2.2.5 # of dialogues thematizing WPS agenda organized in cooperation and with the support of government stakeholders Baseline: 0 Target: 30	Official records or reports from UN Women, IOM, government partners, and/or CSOs documenting the dialogue. Meeting minutes or summaries highlighting key WPS-related discussions. Event programs/agendas listing government stakeholders as co-organizers or participants. Media coverage or official press releases confirming the event's occurrence and focus.	Progress at the end of year.

Annex D: Project Team terms of reference

WPS Programme Coordinator (UN Women)	- Coordinate implementation of project activities and achievement of the overall project objectives as stated in the project document including supervision of the project team; - Monitor budget; verify availability of funds; obtain necessary approval and update budget related information. - Establish linkages and build partnerships with counterparts in relation to the implementation and coordination of project activities. - Support coordination of activities related to incorporation of different approaches into project activities.
--------------------------------------	---

	- Overall management of the project, leadership, conceptual guidance and technical advice to the implementation team and counterparts' efforts under the joint multi-donor efforts. - Provides policy advice and technical guidance during the implementation. - Establishes and maintain partnership and advocacy with relevant institutional partners and other stakeholders. - Support knowledge management and gender equality mainstreaming throughout activities, work plans, budgets, reports, and analyses.
WPS Field Coordinator (UN Women)	- Lead the project components dedicated to the localization of the WPS. - Support Capacity building of women's CSOs - Responsible for the engagement and management of the CSO and local government Ips - Field visits and partner consultations - Knowledge management and two way feedback loop to inform the state and entity level interventions
WPS Outreach Officer (UN Women)	- Lead the project components dedicated to the engagement of media, creative industries and non-traditional partners. - Support partnerships between women's CSOs and non-traditional partners - Field visits and partner consultations - Support national level exchange and dialogues – strong focus on knowledge management based on the lessons learned from the project outreach and implementation
WPS Assistant (UN Women)	- Overall administrative support for the project - Be responsible for day-to-day project correspondence, information sharing and filing, ensuring that appropriate follow-up actions are taken. Assist in project files update. - Support administrative coordination of project implementation, involving liaison with diverse organizational units and external partners to initiate requests, obtain necessary clearances, process, and follow-up on administrative actions, etc
Operations Associate (UN Women)	- Operational support in procurement and HR related processes - Operational management of the CSOs Ips - Operational management of the government grants
Project Manager (UNFPA)	- Coordinate implementation of UNFPA's project activities contributing to the achievement of the overall project objectives as stated in the project document including supervision of the UNFPA's team - Plan, organize and closely monitor implementation of project's outputs and objectives - As a budget holder monitor budgetary related matters (UNFPA component), - Maintains of regular communication with partners and stakeholders - Provides regular updates and communication to Gender team leader at UNFPA - Coordinates project's related activities the coordination with UN Women and IOM
Program Assistant (UNFPA)	- Overall administrative support for the project - Be responsible for day-to-day project correspondence, information sharing and filing, ensuring that appropriate follow-up actions are taken. Assist in project files update.

	- Support administrative coordination of project implementation, involving liaison with diverse organizational units and external partners to initiate requests, obtain necessary clearances, process, and follow-up on administrative actions, etc
Finance Assistant (UNFPA)	- Operational support in finance related processes including drafting of the financial reports - Operational management of the Implementing partners
JPO/ Program Analyst (UNFPA)	- Overall management of the project, leadership, conceptual guidance and technical advice to the implementation team and counterparts' efforts under the joint multi-donor efforts during the inception phase. - Provides policy advice and technical guidance during the inception phase and implementation. - Establishes and maintain partnership and advocacy with relevant institutional partners and other stakeholders - Support knowledge management and gender equality mainstreaming throughout activities, work plans, budgets, reports
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (UNFPA)	- Quality control over projects' procedures and documents, and ensure activities are in line with UNFPA and donor's guidelines and requirements - On behalf of UNFPA support evaluation processes for the project.
Communication Assistant (UNFPA)	- Support to developing key communication content; - Support to administration of UNFPA project web and social media content; - Contribution and conceptualization and design of various promotional materials related to the project; - Ensure project's communication standards are followed
Project Coordinator (IOM)	- Coordinate closely with UN Women and UFPA to ensure collaboration and adequate project implementation and provide information and inputs into narrative reports to the donor; - Coordinate implementation of the project including supervision of the project team and manage the project's activities in accordance with IOM guidance/rules, regulations and procedures; - In close cooperation with senior management, review the narrative, technical and budgetary components of the project and ensure they capture all aspects required to fulfil the goals and objectives of the project; - Coordinate smooth implementation of project activities and achievement of the overall project objectives as stated in the project document; - In coordination with the senior management, establish linkages and build partnerships with counterparts in relation to the implementation and coordination of project activities; - Regularly monitor and analyze the project environment and progress, using applicable M&E and risk management tools where relevant, and advise on timely readjustments of strategies and corrective actions as necessary; - In coordination with the senior management ensure effective monitoring of project performance, and the preparation of reports.
Grants/Project Assistant (IOM)	- Ensure smooth implementation of project activities and achievements of project objectives and ensure timely implementation of small grants mechanisms; - Support administrative coordination of project implementation, involving liaison with diverse organizational units and external parties to initiate requests, obtain necessary clearances, process and follow-up on administrative actions, etc; - Monitor budget; verify availability of funds; obtain necessary approval and update budget-related information;

	- Liaison with diverse organizational units and external parties to initiate requests, obtain necessary clearances, process and follow-up on administrative actions, etc; - Participate in meetings and conferences; assist in coordinating implementation activities with partners and stakeholders relevant to the project; - Assist in monitoring the work of implementing partners and report non-compliances to the supervisor.
Community Engagement Specialist (IOM)	- Ensure implementation of activities in selected locations and act as liaison with the communities; - Support the overall implementation and monitoring of project activities, including frequent field visits to project's target locations; - Be responsible for day-to-day project correspondence, information sharing and filing, ensuring that appropriate follow-up actions are taken; - Organize activities in the local communities, such as meetings, events, workshops and training sessions with project partners and beneficiaries, as required by the project; - Maintain communication with the project teams and well as IOM implementing partners in the local communities; - Retrieve, compile, summarize, and present information/data on specific project topics; - Monitor the budget and the implementation of project activities, identifying shortfalls in implementation and bringing them to the attention of the supervisor.
Outreach Engagement Specialist (IOM)	- Ensure design, implementation and monitoring of the outreach components on the project; - Support coordination with UN Women and UNFPA on the joint activities related to media, campaigns, and engagement of non-traditional actors; - Support the overall implementation and monitoring of project outreach activities; - Be responsible for day-to-day project correspondence, information sharing and filing, ensuring that appropriate follow-up actions are taken; - Organize activities and assist in implementing activities focused on outreach, campaigns and media with project partners and beneficiaries, as required by the project; - Monitor and support the implementation of all project outreach activities in a timely and efficient manner and coordinate with the project team and the project.
Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant (IOM)	- Provide overall support in monitoring, evaluation and reporting; - Ensure that data and information are collected in a systematic manner to monitor and measure progress in line with the set performance indicators and agreed standards; - Assist in activity level monitoring and data collection as per project requirements; - Assist with the drafting of M&E plans during activity development in close coordination with the project team, UNW and UNFPA; - Assist with periodic assessments and evaluations as relevant to the assigned location and project requirements; - Undertake regular monitoring visits to project partners and provide reports as required; - Assist in data review and analysis, discerning lessons learned and documenting obstacles/challenges and resulting mitigating measures, refining and/or managing project databases and any other information sharing and management tools and systems.