**SECRETARY-GENERAL’S PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**

**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** LIBERIA

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual, annual OR FINAL** Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT

**date of report:** 15 NOVEMBER 2018

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| **Project Title:** Strengthening Conflict Prevention through Establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and Improved Alternative Livelihoods in Concession Areas  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00109146 | |
| **PBF project modality:**  IRF  PRF | **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  Country Trust Fund  Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:** UNDP and FAO |
| **List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):**  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)  **List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:**  National Bureau of Concessions, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, EDUCARE | |
| **Project commencement date[[1]](#footnote-1):** 09/01/18  **Project duration in months:[[2]](#footnote-2)** 18 months | |
| **Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget\* (by recipient organization):**  UNDP:$ 1,761,070  FAO : $ 1,000,000        : $        : $  Total: $2,761,070  *\*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO’s approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account*  **How many tranches have been received so far:** One | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Eric A. Opoku Project Manager, Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, UNDP, with support from Joan Vwamu, Former Manager, and John B. Yarkpa/NPC, FAO.  Project report approved by:   Cleophas Torori, Deputy Country Director/Programmes, UNDP; Mariatou Njie, FAOR  Did PBF Secretariat clear the report: Yes  Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report: Yes  Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: No | |

***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

* *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general / common language.*
* *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
* *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

**PART 1: RESULTS PROGRESS**

* 1. **Overall project progress to date**

Briefly explain the **status of the project** in terms of its implementation cycle, including whether all preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (1500 character limit):

The Project preliminary activities were completed; paving the way for implementation. The project inception meeting was conducted. The National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) coordinated implementation by all responsible parties, including the Presidential Special Review Committee (PSRC) and EDUCARE, encouraging collaboration to avoid duplication. FAO and NBC continuously updated each other on implementation progress. Specific activities targeted women to ensure their involvement in land concession conflict mitigation, alternative livelihoods development and promotion of social cohesion. The PSRC rolled out its activities, despite recruitment challenges due to inadequate local expertise. FAO effected minor changes on activities identified due to structural difficulties that made it hard to implement as was planned. Communities with potential to implement the project, including the community access to agricultural land, have been assessed and identified with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Multi Stakeholder Platforms. Negotiations for land for agriculture and construction of warehouses and poultry houses are completed. Contracts have been awarded to 2 firms to construct 2 warehouses and 2 poultry houses. Beneficiaries’ registration is completed. An assortment of agricultural inputs including seeds, tools, and agro-machines have been procured for distribution. Rice, cassava and vegetables production sites have been selected and land clearing is ongoing.

Considering the project’s implementation cycle, please **rate this project’s overall progress towards results to date**:

In a few sentences, summarize **what is unique/ innovative/ interesting** about what this project is trying/ has tried to achieve or its approach (rather than listing activity progress) (1500 character limit).

The established Multi Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) ensure an effective system for land concession conflict mitigation & prevention, peace and social cohesion. These platforms allow dialogue between all stakeholders. MSP meetings discuss implementation progress and agree on way forward. The project is innovatively working towards formalization of the MSPs into legal entities to ensure adequate recognition and legal backing. This will safeguard agreements between the concessionaires and communities and help MSPs to focus on development programs to improve livelihoods.

Under outcome2, affected communities access to improved alternative livelihoods, particularly agro-based ones for young men and women, and the establishment of MSPs have innovatively disincentivised concession related violence. Cash payments made by concession companies to affected communities for destroyed crops have often failed to compensate for the loss of livelihoods. This project has Innovatively stimulated non-dependence on concessions as the only source of employment especially among the youth. Support to community agro-based livelihoods for affected communities will help improve food security and farmers’ incomes in the communities, while reducing youth participation in concession related violence.

In a few sentences summarize **major project peacebuilding progress/results** (with evidence), which PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):

Since 2013, Sime Darby Plantation Liberia has been coordinating the engagement forums for the Sustainable Partnership Initiative (SPI) through which challenges within the Affected Communities of Grand Cape Mount and Bomi counties were resolved. In 2018 the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) took over the leadership and converted the SPIs to multi-stakeholder’s platform (MSP)s with support from UNDP and working with all stakeholders to strengthen the non-judicial mitigation of land concession disputes and promote social cohesion. The handing over of these platforms to government ensured sustainability, neutrality and better ownership.

In a few sentences, explain how the project has made **real human impact**, that is, how did it affect the lives of any people in the country – where possible, use direct quotes that PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):

To increase citizen engagement, including meaningful participation of women in concession management for conflict mitigation, the project supported the training of 60 women in acquiring knowledge on Human rights, Gender Equality, Land and Community rights and Conflict resolutions. The trainings have enabled them to have informed engagement with the concession companies on land issues and implementation of existing MOUs between the community and the concession companies.

In the case of FAO interventions, it is early to determine or measure impact since the project is currently in its 11 months of implementation.

If the project progress assessment is **on-track**, please explain what the key **challenges** (if any) have been and which measures were taken to address them (1500 character limit).

The Key challenges experienced included lack of necessary equipment at the NBC’s MSP Secretariats which slowed down NBC's monitoring role, in addition to lack of support for MSPs to legalize their status. UNDP plans to extend support to MSP through GoL by supporting the process of legitimizing the MSPs by engaging services of legal expert and building capacity of the Secretariat to enhance effective coordination of established MSPs.

The project progress of the FAO components is moderately on track. There are however series of challenges and key amongst them is the issue of access to agricultural land for productive activities in some communities. To mitigate this challenge, we used the rural participatory appraisal to engage communities to identify alternative to crop production. This resulted in the identification of poultry production as an alternative.

If the assessment is **off-track**, please list main reasons/ **challenges** and explain what impact this has had/will have on project duration or strategy and what **measures** have been taken/ will be taken to address the challenges/ rectify project progress (1500 character limit):

N/A

Please attach as a separate document(s) any materials highlighting or providing more evidence for project progress (for example: publications, photos, videos, monitoring reports, evaluation reports etc.). List below what has been attached to the report, including purpose and audience.

\* EDUCARE Liberia - Narrative Report on Capacity Building for Community Based Structures in Conflict-Prone Concessions Affetced Comunities - Turmanburg, Bomi County

\* EDUCARE Liberia - Narrative Report on Capacity Building for Community Based Structures in Conflict Prone Concessions Affetced Comunities - Bugbon District #4, Grand Bassa County

\* MSP - Narrative Report on Press Conferences Held by Multi-Stakeholder Platform and Residents in Conflict-prone Concessions Affected Communities, Held in Bomi, Grand bassa and Grand Kru Counties.

IREDD - Report

\* National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) - Report from NBC Team Visit to Dialogue for Settlement of the Shut Down of GVL Normal Operations by Citizens at the Kpanyanh Estate, Nuwopo Community, Sinoe County

\* NBC - First Monthly Meeting Report for Community Action and Peade Development (CAPAD) - Gayah Hill, District #1, Bomi County.

\* https://www.facebook.com/educare.liberia/

\* http://iredd-lr.org/

* 1. **Result progress by project outcome**

*The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes. If your project has more approved outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

**Outcome 1:** Increased citizen engagement, including meaningful participation of women in concessions management for conflict mitigation

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *Describe main progress under this Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration), including major output progress (not all individual activities). If the project is starting to make/ has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context. Where possible, provide specific examples of change the project has supported/ contributed to as well as, where available and relevant, quotes from partners or beneficiaries about the project and their experience. (3000 character limit)?*

Under this outcome, structures for managing tensions have been created to bring order, increase trust among stakeholders and predictability to situations where competition and conflicting interests would be rife. Efforts are also being made to reform the large-scale land investment business model by modelling community engagement and transforming community rights into economic opportunities. MSP meetings were held in Grand Bassa; Sinoe; Bomi; Grand Cape Mounty; Zodua and Nimba. During these meetings the MSP leaderships were trained to: develop work plans for effective implementation and monitoring of the agreed priorities; how to negotiate with Concession companies; and how to amicably settle land conflicts/ disputes. There was also open dialogue between the community, Concession companies, Government agencies, CSOs and the media. These meetings increased confidence between the community and concession companies and informed on how they could both benefit from each other for the good of Liberia.

EDUCARE conducted training for three MSPs and are waiting for the formation of the 4th MSP (Maryland) to trained them as required. This training covered Peace and Peacebuilding; Gender and Human Rights; Conflict Management; Leadership Development and Social Cohesion.

NBC monitored LIBINC/EPO; Liberia Forest Product Inc./EPO; and Sime Darby Plantation, Liberia. The monitoring exercise was used to collect data on operations of the companies, which will be considered in the review of the concession agreements and also generated geo-partial data that will be used to update the concession cadastre.

The Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) with support from UNDP is worked with grassroots organizations and partners at the Bomi and Grand Kru to develop geo-database maps for land use in these two communities. After mapping the two concessions, GIS base maps were developed for affected communities, showing details of existing land use patterns, which would inform government policy formulation in the sector. The GIS maps clearly show the exact areas covered and what livelihood or community activity takes place at which location. Current land-use planning is based on formal maps that make no mention of customary and village boundaries. This makes communities vulnerable as the concession companies may expand their plantations on to community land without appropriate consent. Participatory land-use planning helps by addressing this since it is people-centred and uses the bottom-up approach that incorporates input from all. It also has the potential to prevent land-use conflicts since all stakeholders are involved in the mapping process.

**Outcome 2:** Improved alternative livelihoods for concession-affected communities for human security.

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

FAO in collaboration with the MSPs and stakeholders identified nine communities for project implementation - 5 in Bomi and 4 for Nimba. Land for construction identified for two warehouses and two poultry houses. Contracts have been awarded and construction activities are on-going in the two counties. Rice and assorted vegetable production including a state-of-the-art model garden are being introduced as livelihood activities. Improved poultry production is another livelihood that is on-going. The procurement of 2 crawing track tillers, 2 rice mills and 2 motorized cassava graters have been procured for distribution to beneficiaries. Assorted hand tools, vegetable seeds, poultry materials, rice seed (NERICA-19 and LAC 23), and cassava cuttings have also been procured for distribution. Two thousand-day old chicks with feed and medication will be delivered upon completion of the poultry trial productions houses. Land clearing and vegetable nurseries constructions are currently ongoing

**Outcome 3:** N/A

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

**Outcome 4:**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

* 1. **Cross-cutting issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National ownership:** How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit) | The national government has demonstrated ownership and commitment to the project by taking leadership on coordination and implementation of the project. Decisions and workplans were signed off by both UNDP and the NBC. This is also evidenced by the takeover of the MSP’s coordination and leadership role by government to ensure sustainability, ownership and neutrality. NBC has also supplemented the implementation of some activities using its allocated government resources. This was demonstrated when urgent response was needed during a conflict that emerged in Sinoe where community members were demanding that locals be recruited at the Concession Company, NBC managed to supplement the support required for them to travel to Sinoe and mitigate the conflict. UNDP only provided logistics. |
| **Monitoring:** Is the project M&E plan on track? What monitoring methods and sources of evidence are being/ have been used? Please attach any monitoring-related reports for the reporting period. *(1500 character limit)?* | The project has developed a comprehensive and costed M&E plan which envisions quarterly monitoring, spot visits and site assessments. There are project steering committee meetings which are also held every quarter to evaluate implementation. |
| **Evaluation:** Provide an update on the preparations for the external evaluation for the project, especially if within last 6 months of implementation or final report. Confirm available budget for evaluation. *(1500 character limit)* | Internal evaluation has been conducted and quarterly reports on implementation generated. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Did the project lead to any specific non-PBF funding commitments? If yes, from whom and how much? If not, have any specific attempts been made to attract additional financial contributions to the project and beyond? *(1500 character limit)* | N/A |
| **Catalytic effects (non-financial):** Did the project create favourable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. *(1500 character limit)* | The implementation of the project has created the need to legalize the MSPs to ensure they operate as legal entities. It have also initiated the transition of peace building activities to development where MSPs are considering livelihood activities to improve on the lives of the communities. |
| **Exit strategy/ sustainability:** What steps have been taken to prepare for end of project and help ensure sustainability of the project results beyond PBF support for this project? *(1500 character limit)* | The legitimization of the MSPs will ensure that they continue engaging with the concessionaires beyond the project duration, to safeguard the interest and benefits of all stakeholders especially the communities. The integration of multi-stakeholder interventions into recurrent national budgetary allocations to the NBC will ensure they implement their mandate with less constrains. |
| **Risk taking:** Describe how the project has responded to risks that threatened the achievement of results. Identify any new risks that have emerged since the last report. *(1500 character limit)* | Supporting the capacity of the Presidential Special Review Committee has been slow due to inadequate of local legal expertise in Concession management to be recruited. This has slowed down the implementation of the PSRC component. |
| **Gender equality:** In the reporting period, which activities have taken place with a specific focus on addressing issues of gender equality or women’s empowerment? *(1500 character limit)* | Training Sessions were undertaken targeting women, besides ensuring that implementation of all the activities involve gender mainstreaming. 60 women have been trained and acquired knowledge on Human rights, Gender Equality, Land and Community rights and Conflict resolutions which would enable them to have informed engagement with the concession companies on land issues and implementation of existing MOUs between the community and the concession companies. |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | Internal coordination between UN agencies is being encouraged to avoid duplication and rather ensure complementarity of their respective efforts. |

**1.3 INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT*:*** *Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** | **Adjustment of target (if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  Increased citizen engagement in concessions management for conflict mitigation | Indicator 1.1  Level of perception of effectiveness of MSP’s from all stakeholders (communities and companies most notably) in preventing concession violence | October 2017 - data to be collected | 10% increase in perception change (to be confirmed after conducting baseline) |  |  | N/A |
| Indicator 1.2  Enhanced functionality of existing Multi Stakeholder Platforms | October 2017 – 34 women | 30% of participants are women | November 2018: 60 women were trained and acquired knowledge on Human rights, Gender Equality, Land and Community Rights and Conflict resolution. | 30 more women to be trained after the formation of the 8th MSP |  |
| Indicator 1.3  Level of trust between Consession companies and MSPs | October 2017 - dto be detaermined | 4 MSPs in Maryland, Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Kru | 3 MSP meetings held in Bomi, GRand Bassa and Grand Kru | Maryland MSP not yet formed due to bad weather and bad roads. | N/A |
| Output 1.1  Multi-stakeholder Platform established and strengthened in four counties. | Indicator 1.1.1  # of additional MSPs established and functional | October 2017 - 3 | 7 MSPs established and functional | November 2018: 6 MSPs were established and training conducted on concession management and conflict mitigation. | bad weather and bad roads has delayed the formation of one MSP | N/A |
| Indicator 1.1.2  # of women in MSPs trained on peacebuilding measures and acquire leadership skills to counter concession conflicts | 34 out of 80 members | Target: 74 members (At least 40 women from the 4 MSPs actively participating in the trainings). | Orientation and capacity building for 3 MSPs has been conducted, involving 45 women and 15 men. | last training planned for the MSP that is yet to be formed | N/A |
| Output 1.2  Enhanced functionality of existing Multi-Stakeholder Platforms | Indicator 1.2.1  % of women indicating increased confidence to engage concession companies directly on land use issues | October 2017 –to be determined. | Target: all female members of the MSPs get training on on Human rights, Gender Equality, Land and Community Rights and Conflict resolution. | women in 4 MSPs trained to enhanced women participation in engagement with concessions and decision making processes. | one MSP to be formed | N/A |
| Indicator 1.2.2  # of national MSP meetings | Baseline: October 2017 - 0 | Target: 2 national dialogues | to be held in December 2018 | Late start of project implementation causing meetings to be scheduled for Decmber 2018 | N/A |
| Output 1.3  Institutional capacity of the National Bureau of Concession strengthened to effectively address land concession disputes | Indicator 1.3.1  Level of oversight performance of NBC technical secretariat | October 2017 – 0 | Tehnical secretariat installed at NBC and functional | MSP secretariate set up at NBC and conducting their mandate. | MSP secretariate set up but with limited resources for implementation | N/A |
| Indicator 1.3.2  # of CIMS concession agreements and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment active and updated | Baseline: 1 (CIMS developed but needs to be functional) | Target: 1 (strengthened and upgraded incorporating Cadastre and local network) | Not yet done | Delayed implenetation | N/A |
| Output 1.4  Capacity of the presidential Special Review Committee strengthened | Indicator 1.4.1  #of concession agreements/contracts reviewed and recommendations advanced | 0 | 10 | 1 Review recommendation forwarded to the President and assented stopping the signing of a Concession agreement. | lack of local consultancy to support the work of the committee | N/A |
| Indicator 1.4.2  # of miners permitted per cooperative | Baseline (2017) 0 | 2 | none | Delayed implementatopn | N/A |
| **Outcome 2**  Improved alternative livelihoods for concession affected communities for human security | Indicator 2.1  Level of change in attitude of young men and women to participate in violent demonstrations | data to be collected through focus group discussions in 5 communities |  | 6% | The late start of actual implementation due to some internal bureacracy | None |
| Indicator 2.2  Change in the capacity of HH to replace, increase, and improve their productive assets affected by concessions activities | Weak capacity/potential (criteria) |  | 3% | Vegetable production trainings are ongoing, it covers the procuction cycle from nursery to harvest using the farmer field school (FFS) approach. | None |
| Indicator 2.3  proportion of women in concession communities with recorded reductions in productive losses | October 17-to be determined | % to be determined | NA | Activities to empower women are on-going and the target will be determined after the baseline report is submitted | NA |
| Output 2.1  Rice, cassava vegetable and poultry productivity enhanced in two concession-affected communities | Indicator 2.1.1  # of men and women provided with training in the use of agro-processors | October 2017 – 0 | At least 50 men and 50 women with new skills in the use of agro-processors | 0 | Agro processors have just been sourced and procured and to be distributed for training and use | None |
| Indicator 2.1.2  Existence of baseline survey report on constraints faced by farmers | October 2017 – 0 (no survey report currently exists) | 1 survey report available | 0 | On-going | None |
| Output 2.2  Quality of milled rice, cassava and vegetables improved | Indicator 2.2.1  # of women accessing new agro-processing facilities in concession areas | October 2017 – 0 agro-processors | At least 1 agro-processor purchased by March 2018 | activities on-going | The lateness of procurement activities | None |
| Indicator 2.2.2  # of mini storage facilities | October 2017 - 0 | Target 2 storages established | Construction activities on-going | The lateness of procurement activities | None |
| Output 2.3 | Indicator 2.3.1  # of women who are reporting increase in income generation | Baseline: to be determined | Target: to be determined | on-going | The lateness of procurement activities | None |
| Indicator 2.3.2  : # of women reporting increment in business skills | Baseline: to be determined | Target: 2 |  |  |  |
| Output 2.4 | Indicator 2.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 3** | Indicator 3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.1 | Indicator 3.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.2 | Indicator 3.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.3 | Indicator 3.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.4 | Indicator 3.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 4** | Indicator 4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.1 | Indicator 4.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.2 | Indicator 4.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.3 | Indicator 4.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.4 | Indicator 4.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |

**PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS**

* 1. **Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures**

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, delayed, or off track, vis-à-vis project plans and by recipient organization:

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and when do you expect to request the next tranche if applicable: We received one tranch and expect to request for next tranche in early 2019.

What is the overall level of expenditure/ commitment against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far:49%

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters limit): Expenditure should be more than 90% but due to the seasonal activities of farming, procurement of most of the related implement for farming was procured late. As of the reporting period, actual expenditure is 65% and expenditure including commitment is 87%. Expenditure may exceed 90% or more before December 31, 2018.

Please state what $ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date: $500,000 and 350,000 of this amount has been allocated

Please fill out and attach the project document Excel budget Annex showing current project financial progress **(expenditures/ commitments to date),** using the original project budget table in Excel, even though the $ amounts are indicative only.

1. Note: commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)