

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE

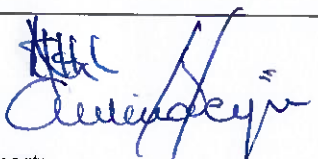


PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTRY: The Gambia

TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL Semi-Annual

DATE OF REPORT: 5th June 2019

<p>Project Title: Increased Women and Youth participation in decision-making processes and as agents of community conflict prevention</p>	
<p>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:</p>	
<p>PBF project modality:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IRF</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF</p>	<p>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund</p> <p>Name of Recipient Fund:</p>
<p>List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc): UNFPA and UNICEF</p> <p>List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental: Women's Bureau, National Youth Council, Activista, Peace Ambassadors, The Gambia, National Youth Parliament and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding - The Gambia (WANEP),</p>	
<p>Project commencement date¹: December 1, 2018</p> <p>Project duration in months:² 24 months</p>	
<p>Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project</p>	
<p>Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):</p> <p>UNFPA: \$ 930,000</p> <p>UNICEF : \$ 370,000</p> <p>: \$</p> <p>: \$</p> <p>Total: 1,300,000</p> <p><small>*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</small></p> <p>How many tranches have been received so far: 1st Tranche</p>	
<p>Report preparation:</p> <p>Project report prepared by: Alieu Jammeh</p> <p>Project report approved by: Kunle Adeniyi</p> <p>Did PBF Secretariat clear the report: </p> <p>Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report:</p> <p>Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: No</p>	

¹ Note: commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

² Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

Signed by

Aliou Jammeh, Project Manager, Signature  Date 14/06/19

Kunle Adeniyi, UNFPA Representative, Signature  Date 14/06/19

Ndella Faye-Colley, PBF Secretariat Coordinator, Signature  Date 14/06/19

Seraphine Wakana, UN Resident Coordinator, Signature  Date 14/6/19



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

1.1 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 implementation cycle of the project has commenced in earnest. For the sake of improving work plan development and adding clarity to the planned activities, an international consultant was hired to work with the CO staff and the implementing partners. In the interest of setting baselines and targets, preparatory work has commenced with the drafting of terms of reference for a consultant to oversee a baseline survey to be conducted soon. A draft position paper has been developed for submission to the Constitutional Review Committee which being finalized. Preparatory activities such as assessment of implementing partners, the development of the consolidated project master plan and the individual work plans have been signed with partners.

The modalities for transfer of funds are finalized and disbursement to respective implementing partners have been done. The final direct implementing partners of the project include both government agencies and civil society organisations. These are the Women's Bureau under the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the National Youth Council which is under the Ministry of Youths and Sports. The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) include West Africa Network for Peacebuilding-The Gambia, Activista, National Youth Parliament and Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia.

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

on track

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 unique thing about the project is that it is highly focused on building the capacity of women and youth to improve their capacity to advocate for inclusion and participation in decision making process. The involvement of government agencies and the work with the community structures such as the Village Development and Ward Development Committees is a good approach to prepare the foundation for ownership of the peace initiatives by the government and community leaders. The participation of CSOs will also enhance the community outreach in the most remote areas to promote mutual understanding of the importance of women and youth participation in decision making processes. The project aims to raise the awareness of community leaders, most of whom are men to support the active participation of women and youth in decision making processes and early warning systems to promote peace and inclusive development. To engender the inclusion of all, irrespective of education or social status, interactive sessions would be organized and appropriate messages developed to reach and be understood by all. The project is also interesting as it will use

creative arts through the production of peace songs by young Gambian musicians to promote women and youth participation in decision making to promote peace.

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):

Human interest stories on women and youth's role in peace building would be developed with the use of photographs and videos during field implementation activities. The project is also supporting the expansion of and women's leadership in community-based early warning systems to mitigate conflict by adapting Early Warning Systems tools to incorporate social cohesion. The training and engagement of women and youth as community monitors for the National Early Warning Systems would be conducted. The monthly radio dissemination of early warning briefs at community levels to address conflict generating factors are contributing towards peace building progress. The production of peace messaging songs by reknown Gambian artists in different local languages, which would be followed by tour with live performances and video documentary of the tour, would ultimately contribute towards major project peace building progress.

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):

The activity implementation has just started and the impact on humans is yet to be felt. However, some interesting stories are being noted as participants from the two-day leadership training organized for past and aspiring women politicians expressed their inspirations to run for political positions in the next legislative or local government elections. The expressions shared by participants reinforced their consciouness for women to support women candidates irrespective of their political affiliation as they support and elect men into political office using their numirical strenght.

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 project is on track and gradually progress after experiencing some delays. The challenges experienced are related to the selection process of implementing partners as many of them are not the traditional partners of UNFPA. The process of finalizing the work plans took sometime to ensure understanding and clarity among partners which faciliated the submission of itemized budgets for activities which are now completed. Finally, the projects experienced some delay in IPs accessing their funds due to administrative hitches which are now addressed.

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):

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.



1.2 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: Youth and Women participate in decision-making and early warning processes at national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

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)?*

The project worked towards strengthening and establishing a Children's Parliament. So far 105 children are involved in the newly established Children's Parliament.

Children have the opportunity to influence the decision-making process engaging with law-makers to address topics that reflect children's priority.

The main technology platform used by the project to promote information sharing by youths is the U-Report. The tool was launched in March 2019 at the Africa Youth Commission meeting in Banjul. Over 2,700 youths and children have already subscribed to the platform. Activities are still in progress to reach out to more youth and children in and out of school.

Thirty mother's clubs (approximately 600 women) have been identified. These women will be supported to develop skills and capabilities to participate in politics, promote dialogue and conflict mediation in their communities. Participation in legal and transitional reform processes is key to promote a society based on human rights values and peace. A network of Children on Transitional Justice has been established and counts in 15 schools. These children are taking part - as stakeholders to the writing or revision of several acts and bills, namely the revision of the Children's Act 2005.

Outcome 2: National and local leaders, including elected representatives, promote and support sustainable reintegration contributing to enhanced social cohesion and inclusion national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

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

Women, youth and Children could have an important role in building democracy and respectful for Human Rights in any country. To achieve this outcome, they have to participate in decision making processes. Support of Regional Youth Committees (3) to mobilize and sensitize local leaders has just started and is aimed at reaching out to over 150

children/youths. These committees will also be in charge of supporting dialogue initiatives within and beyond their communities and sensitize NAMs to promote children, women, and youth participation.

Outcome 3:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select one

Progress summary: (see guiding questions under Outcome 1)

Outcome 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select one

Progress summary: (see guiding questions under Outcome 1)

1.3 Cross-cutting issues

<p><u>National ownership:</u> How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The national government is beginning to take ownership through the leadership and participation of two government agencies namely Women's Bureau and National Youth Council as lead implementing partners. The National Assembly is also involved in providing support to the newly established Children's Parliament. The minister and permanent secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare participated and official opened two key events already organised such as the launch of the Children's Parliament and the training of the women politicians which demonstrate their interest to support the implementation of the project activities. In addition the decentralized structures such as the Technical Advisory Committees, the Multi-disciplinary Facilitation Teams and the Ward Development Committees are foundations for ownership at community level.</p>
<p><u>Monitoring:</u> 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)?</p>	<p>A detail monitoring plan is being developed to guide M&E activities. Already an activity roadmap has been developed with details on implementation dates of all activities and target communities.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> 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)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><u>Catalytic effects (financial):</u> Did the</p>	<p>Donors have expressed interest to work and support the</p>

<p>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)</p>	<p>Children's Parliament, but considering its early stage of development, no specific attempts to apply for funds have been made yet. Although project implementation has just begun, there are plans to give the project interventions a lot of visibility to encourage partners to support the project.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Not yet</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Regional and community structures are being targeted by the project to ensure that gains made by the project would be sustained through these structures. The project also aims to advocate for legal and policy reforms to entrench some of the objectives of the project. All these efforts seek to sustain project gains.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>No risks that could threaten the achievement of results has been identified.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Promoting and supporting mother's clubs is the paramount activity to support gender equality and women participation in the Gambian political and social context. In addition to that, more than half of the children members of the Children's Parliament are girls (59). In addition the 50 women trained on women's leadership to promote political participation and national level decision making processes are meant to enhance gender equality.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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 Youth and Women participate in decision-making and early warning processes at national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership	Indicator 1.1 % of VDCs/WDCs that meet the 30% quota for women representation	TBC	TBC	N/A	Baselines and targets to be determined from the results of a baseline survey yet to be conducted.	
	Indicator 1.2 % of VDCs/WDCs that meet the 30% quota for youth representation	TBC	TBC	N/A	Baselines and targets to be determined from the results of a baseline survey yet to be conducted.	
	Indicator 1.3					
Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1 # of surveys and needs assessment	0	2	0	Process has commenced with the drafting of terms of reference completed.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	conducted					
	Indicator 1.1.2					
Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1 # of youth mobilized and sensitized on the importance of participation in decision making processes	0	2,000	0	Activities being implemented.	
	Indicator 1.2.2					
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1 # of institutional mechanisms supported for the participation of young people in policy dialogue and programming, including peace building processes	0	3	1	Activities yet to be implemented.	
	Indicator 1.3.2					
	Indicator 1.3.2	0	50	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	



	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	# of youth engaged in a mentorship program with VDC/Ward Development committee in target regions					
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1 # of youth trained and participating in decision making processes	0	20	0	Activities being implemented	
	Indicator 1.4.2 # of impressions generated through social media and U-Report	0	750,000	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	
Outcome 2 National and local leaders, including elected representatives, promote and support	Indicator 2.1 Legislation enacted prescribes quota of representation of women in electable offices	No	Yes	No	Activities are being implemented, the zero draft of the Position Paper has been circulated for review.	



	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
sustainable reintegration contributing to enhance social cohesion and inclusion national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership	(i.e, National Assembly, Area Councils and Municipal Councils)					
	Indicator 2.2					
	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1 # of women trained and participating in decision making processes Indicator 2.1.2	0	50	0	Activities being implemented	

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	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1 # of functional community based early warning systems in target regions	0	4	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	
	Indicator 2.2.2					
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1 # of WIPNETS and Mother's clubs established and promoting peace in target regions	0	4	30		
	Indicator 2.3.2					
Output 2.4	Indicator 2.4.1					
	Indicator 2.4.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1 # of women and youth that participated in legal and transitional	0	200 Women 200 Youth	600 Women 200 Youth (200 Children*Youth)	*The Transitional Justice Club have a variable # members each year based on the school enrollment	



	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	reforms					
	Indicator 3.2 # of child/youth friendly educative materials used by young people in their advocacy processes	0	4	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1 # of women and youth that participated in legal transitional reforms	0	400	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	
	Indicator 3.1.2					
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1 # of child/youth friendly educative materials used by young people in their advocacy	0	3	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	



	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	process					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
	Indicator 3.4.1					
Output 3.4	Indicator 3.4.2					
	Indicator 4.1					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					
	Indicator 4.1.1	0	400	50	Implementation just started with the training of 50 women. Additional number of women will benefit from this sensitization.	
Output 4.1	# of local leaders mobilized and sensitized on the importance of women and youth participating in decision making					



	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1 # of community dialogues sessions supported	0	20	0	Activities yet to be implemented.	
	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

2.1 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: *on track*

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and when do you expect to request the next tranche if applicable:

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

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters limit):

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: 182,843

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.



Annex D - PBF project budget

Note: If this is a budget revision, insert extra columns to show budget changes.
Table 1 - PBF project budget by Outcome, output and activity

Outcome/ Output number	Outcome/ output/ activity formulation:	Budget by recipient organization in USD UNFPA	Budget by recipient organization in USD UNICEF	Percent of budget for each output reserved for direct action on gender equality (if any):	Level of expenditure/ commitments in USD (to provide at time of project progress reporting):	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification, for example if high TA or travel costs)
OUTCOME 1: Youth and women participate in decision-making and early warning processes at national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness						
Output 1.1: Youth are engaged, equipped and supported to participate in political decision making processes at all levels						
Activity 1.1.1:	Evidence generation for programming e.g research, surveys etc	68,000	-			
Activity 1.1.2:	Social mobilization and capacity building for youth networks and organisations.	80,000	-		6010	
	Establish strengthen children and youth parliament	25,000	30,000	50	20987	
Activity 1.1.4:	Support young people to promote participation in politics and decision making processes.	40,000	-		1182	
Activity 1.1.5:	Promote use of technology and innovations for information sharing by youths	50,000	45,794		10000	
Subtotal		263,000	75,794		38,178	
Output 1.2: Women are engaged, equipped and supported to participate in political decision making processes at all levels						
Activity 1.2.1:	Support the capacity building of women and the Women's Council to promote participation in politics and decision making processes.	80,000	-		24618	
Activity 1.2.2:	Support the establishment of community based early warning systems	30,000	50,000		1002	

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Activity 1.2.3:	Support women including mothers clubs to promote dialogue and conflict mediation at all levels	40,000	40,000					26,493	
Subtotal		150,000	90,000					52,112.78	
Output 1.3:	Women and youth are supported to participate in ongoing national processes including legal, legislative, constitutional and other transitional reforms at all levels								
Activity 1.3.1:	Support women, youth and children to effectively participate in legal and transitional reforms processes.	30,000	30,000					25,775	
Activity 1.3.2:	Support the production of youth and child and youth friendly tools.	15,000	15,000					300	
Subtotal		45,000	45,000					26,076	
TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 1:		458,000	210,794					116,367	
OUTCOME 2: National and local leaders, including elected representatives, promote and support sustainable reintegration contributing to enhanced social cohesion and inclusion national, regional and community levels to promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership.									
Output 2.1:	National and local leaders including political parties recognize and accept the importance of youth and women's participation in decision making								
Activity 2.1.1:	Sensitize local leaders and decentralised structures to promote women and youth participation in decision making	30,000	30,000					15,997	
Activity 2.1.2:	Support community dialogues initiatives among women, youth and local community	25,000	25,000					1,599	
Subtotal:		55,000	55,000					17,596	
Output 2.2:	National and local leaders promote and facilitate the involvement of women and youth in ongoing national processes and reforms								
Activity 2.2.1:	Sensitize national leaders including NAKs to promote children, women and youth participation in ongoing legal and transitional processes	35,000	35,000					1,907	
Activity 2.2.2:	Engage national leaders to secure written commitment towards political investment in youth and women.	15,359	0					0	
Subtotal:		50,359	35,000					1,907	


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TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 2:								
Project personnel costs if not included in activities above	140,000		90,000		19,503			
Project operational costs if not included in activities above	87,800		45,000		30247			
Project M&E Budget	28,000				4098			
Baseline & Endline	30,000				90			
Evaluation	20,000							
SUB-TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	869,159		345,794		170,304			
Indirect support costs (7%):	60,841		24,206		11,921			
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	930,000		370,000		1,300,000			182,226

Alieu Jammeh, Project Manager, UNFPA - Signature:  Date: 14/06/19

Kunle Adeniyi, UNFPA Representative, Signature:  Date: 14/06/19

Ndella Faye-Colley, PBF Secretariat Coordinator, Signature:  Date: 14/6/19

Seraphine Wakana, UN Resident Coordinator, Signature:  Date: 14/6/19



TRAINING OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND PEACEBUILDING (URR, WCR AND GREATER BANJUL)

HELD AT THE METZY RESIDENCE HOTEL

ON

MAY 29th – 30th 2019



Participant, UNFPA representatives and WANEP at the start of the training of Women in Leadership and Peace-building at the Metzzy Residence Hotel, Senegambia

Executive Summary

This report is the product of a two-day training of women in leadership and peace building to increase women's participation in decision-making processes as agents of community conflict prevention.

The training was organised out of the realisation that there are strong traditional and cultural forces that impinge on the participation of women in development endeavours and that disparities still exist between men and women in power-sharing, participation and control over decision-making processes at all levels of the society.

After an intensivetwo-daytraining filled with presentations, sharing of experiences and interactive discussions, participants came up with recommendations to address their challenges, which will be shared with the Constitutional Review Commission.

It is envisaged that the adoption of the recommendations concluded at the end of the training will go a long way in promoting the participation of women in decision-making processes within the security sectors are upheld and will lead to stronger institutions that are structurally capable of working effectively to serve and protect people of The Gambia.

Introduction

WANEP-The Gambia in collaboration with UNFPA through the peace-building fund deem it paramount to engage youth and women to participate in decision-making and early warning processes at national, regional and community levels that promote peace, inclusiveness and national ownership.

This two-day training in leadership and peace building for women is part of a series of activities, which will be implemented over the next fifteen months geared towards empowering youth and women.

During the life span of the project, 50 women aspiring for leadership positions were identified from Upper River Region, West Coast Region and Greater Banjul to contest as female candidates during the electoral cycle 2021-2023. Over the course of the two-day training, the potential female candidates were through the essentials of campaign planning, message development, public speaking, media relations, fundraising, campaign management and the role of women in peace building to enhance their viability in the political arena and increase their winning chances.

The training brought together 45 women from the nine political parties and WANEP-The Gambia's network member organizations working with women's issues.

“I expect to have more knowledge on peace building as well as when and how to apply this knowledge. Sometimes one thinks he/she is solving an issue while we are causing conflict. From this training, I am looking to learn the strategies to manage and navigate conflict.”
Mariama Sanneh, People’s Progressive Party

“My expectation from this training is that we should all see ourselves as leaders. This training should break all societal barriers that stop women from taking leadership positions. We all know that our traditional values limit women’s participation and this training will help us learn ways to navigate those obstacles and access decision-making platforms.” Fatou Camara, GAMCOTRAP

“When we talk of conflict resolution, women are always at the forefront. When we step out from this room after this training, we should see ourselves as leaders and agents of positive change.” Binta Dampha, NCP

Presentations

The first day of the training was divided into three presentations: ‘Historical Background of Women in Politics in Africa: Case Study of The Gambia’, ‘Gender, Human Rights and Women’s Participation in Elections’ and ‘Understanding Constitutional and Legal Provisions for Women’s Participation’.

The first presentation, ‘Historical Background of Women in Politics in Africa: Case Study of The Gambia’ was facilitated by Mr Hassoum Ceesay, Director General of National Arts and Culture. Mr Ceesay informed the participants that women have been fighting for leadership positions in the early days of the republic and gave examples such as Hannah Jawara, the first president’s first wife who contested for parliamentary elections. At the end of this session, participants were allowed to ask questions and share contributions, which are as follows:

Ndey Yassin Secka, Nominated National Assembly Member asked, “I have noticed that all of the women mentioned here had the economic power to access the political spaces they did. Are there any women who thrived politically based on their perseverance and ambitions alone?”

Bintou Drammeh Gambia Moral Congress asked, “Why did the Sir Dawda Jawara, the first president’s wife, Hannah Jawara lose the election despite her having the advantage of her husband being a President?” To which Mr Ceesay responded that the newspapers published unfavourable stories and opinions about her, which contributed greatly to her losing the election.

“When we advocate for gender equality, we are told that we are undermining our traditions and culture but this presentation has taught me that women have been fighting for the inclusion of women in the political space and occupying political seats in the early days of the republic.” Binta Janneh Jallow, Network against Gender Based Violence

understanding their objectives. At the end of this session, participants given the opportunity to ask questions and share contributions, which are as follows:

A delegation from the peace-building fund, which included Rebecca Adda- Donto (Peace and Development Advisor, United Nations, Resident Coordinator's Office), Hyunjong Kim (Peace and Development Specialist, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office), Sarah Camper (Head of United Nations Reform Unit) and Jelena Zelenovic (Peace-building Fund). Two participants then shared stories of their political engagement and challenges faced.

"I participated in last year's local government election and although I did not win, I do not consider myself a loser. I was contesting with five men and during the debates, I was discriminated against because I was unmarried. We have the opportunity to build ourselves up today. Let us do that and support each other." Ludimilda DasyIva, GPDP

During my time as National Assembly Member, I had a range of interesting experiences. Most of my colleagues did not share my views. I faced a lot challenges. I was once detained for 4 months due to my resistance to Bills that were brought to the parliament. One of those Bills was to empower the former President with the authority to dismiss any elected Member of Parliament, alkaloes, village chiefs etc. I refused and was arrested arbitrarily. As mothers, we build peace in our homes and communities, why won't they let us build peace in our country through the political offices. We should fight for representation at the decision-making platforms."

Ms Njie gave a rundown of the agenda for the day and then opened the floor for the participants to share what they have learned. A few remarks are as follows:

"Through this training, I have learned that without dialogue, there will be no peace. We need to be careful about how we engage in politics. Ya Kumba Jaiteh gave us the provisions that guarantee the rights of women politically, and social-economically."

Yesterday, I learned a lot including how to have confidence in myself and opt for political positions. I was also really inspired to by the Gambian women politicians the historian informed us about yesterday. Because of this training, I know the important role women play in the peacebuilding process."

Ms Camper started by apologizing for interrupting the training and stated that this is a rare opportunity for the delegation to see in practice an activity that the peace-building fund is able to support. She commended the enthusiasm and passion of the female politicians and asked the women what they hope to change for their country with the voice that they have. Ms Camper then asked her second question, "How do you see yourselves participating in the on-going reform processes? Do you have any specific ideas on how you want to be involved in the transitional justice process?"

Mariama Jammeh facilitated the second presentation on the Role of Women in Peacebuilding. She started by screening a documentary named 'Side by Side' which documented interventions from various post-conflict countries to promote sustainable peace

At the end of the training, participants were handed post-test questionnaires to gauge the effectiveness of the training and the knowledge gained.

The training then ended with Ms Jammeh delivering the closing remarks, thanking the attendees for the time, cooperation and participation in this training. She added that this training is the beginning of a long term engagement and that WANEP looks forward to working with female leaders to effect sustainable peace and achieve a new dispensation where gender equality in the political spaces thrive.



Communiqué

WANEP Training of Women in Leadership and Peace-building (Upper River Region, West Coast Region and Greater Banjul)

We, the West African Network for Peace(WANEP) – The Gambia;

Having hosted a two-day training of women in leadership and peace-building in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the Peacebuilding Fund to increase women's participation in decision-making processes as agents of community conflict prevention on May 29th – 30th 2019 at the Metzzy Residence Hotel

Recognizing the pertinent need for women to take part in and influence the political sphere for the sake of representative and participatory democracy

Note with appreciation the measures taken by the Constitutional Review Commission to ensure an inclusive constitution-making process that will reflect the views of all citizens including women.

Regret that there are strong traditional and cultural forces that impinge on the participation of women in development endeavors and that disparities still exist between men and women in power-sharing, participation and control over decision-making processes at all levels of the society,

Believing that there may be competent and capable female officers to manage significant political positions and participate in the decision-making processes in the political sphere share the following recommendations made by 50 female politicians from all the nine political parties in The Gambia:

1. Introduce gender quotas as transitional mechanisms
2. Promote girls' and women's rights, and participation in conflict prevention, mitigation of humanitarian crises, and peace-building processes
3. Promote access to decision-making spaces and political processes for all women, especially the most marginalized
4. Create training and leadership pathways that are gender sensitive
5. Foster inclusivity in leadership, civic engagement, and decision-making in public and private spheres
6. Ensure political environments are free from gender-based discrimination and violence•



CRC30 YEARS
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



INCREASED WOMEN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND AS AGENTS OF COMMUNITY CONFLICT PREVENTION

#GMBWomen4Peace #GMBYouth4Peace #UNPeacebuilding

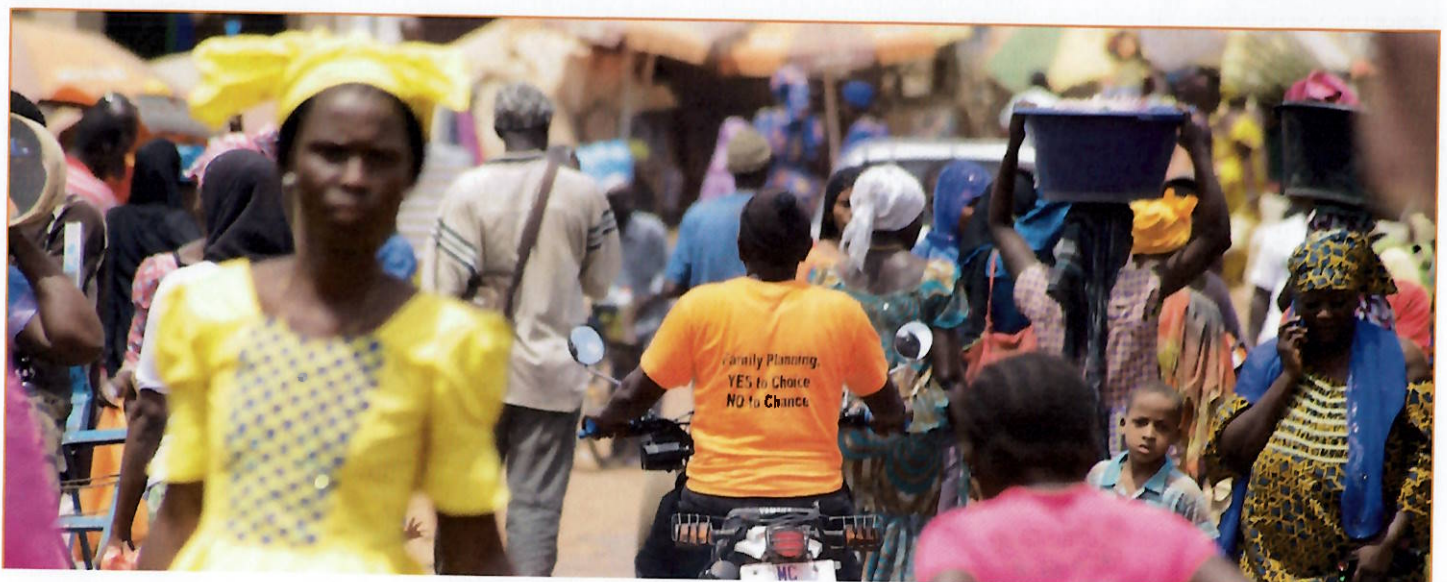
December 2016 was a defining moment in The Gambia, as citizens democratically put an end to twenty-two years of authoritarian rule. The extraordinary achievement took place against the context of decades of constricted democratic spaces, restricted civil liberties and pernicious political reprisals that had significantly eroded public trust in the government.

The short-lived political crisis that followed the presidential election, exposed many factors driving the country's fragility but it also underscored the critical, and often overlooked, sources of Gambia's progress and resilience. Whereas the voter turnout has been steadily declining over the years, for example from 90% in 2001 to 59% in 2016, the mobilization of women and youth in the 2016 presidential elections, presented a formidable opposition and their role in the organization of the political response in the aftermath of the election, contributed to the peaceful transfer of power.

The impact of women and youth on the 2016 elections, provided a significant glimpse into the importance of their active engagement and participation, yet this class of Gambians continue to be the most marginalized, excluded and vulnerable groups in the country. Respectively, women and youth constitute 51% and 60% of the national

population, yet, access to healthcare, education, employment and political representation, is limited if a Gambian is born female or is under the age of 25. The human potential of the Gambian woman and youth has systematically been stifled and undermined, as they exist at the intersection of multiple forms of persistent discrimination and exclusion.

In redressing the country's twenty-two-year legacy of authoritarianism, the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) set forth a new vision in its 2018-2021 National Development Plan (NDP) which included the goals of 'reaping the demographic dividend through an empowered youth' and 'empowering the Gambian woman to realize her full potential'. Through the United Nations Secretary-General's Peace building Fund's Women and Youth Project (PBF-WY), the UNFPA is supporting the GoTG to harness the positive contributions and transformational impact of women and youth's inclusion and participation in political decision-making processes and as agents of community conflict prevention. This initiative seeks to increase its impact and advance the implementation of age and gender-responsive Peace building as articulated in UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, UNSCR 2250, and UNSCR 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security.

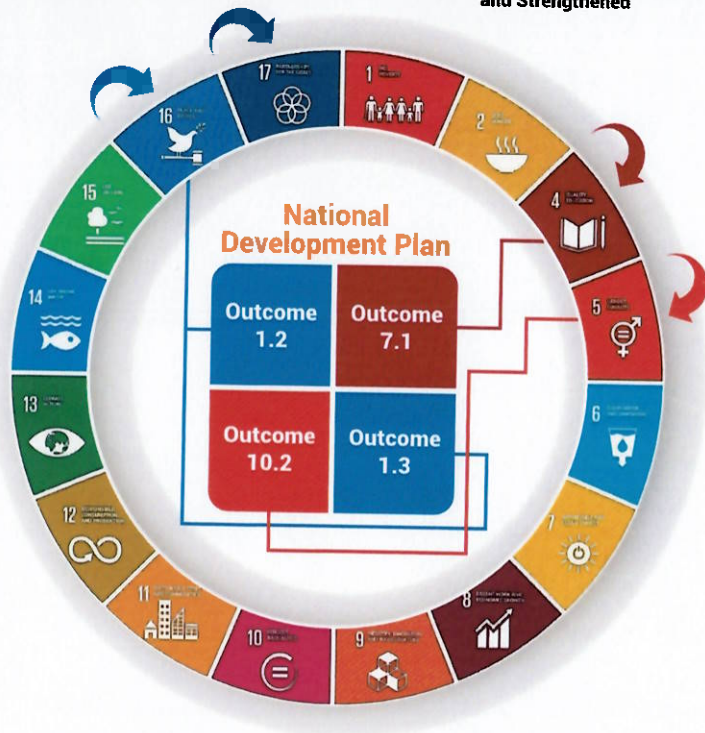
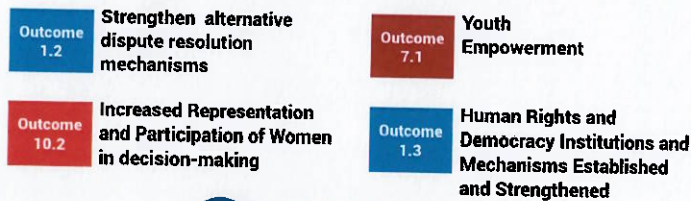




IN ADDITION TO MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S NDP GOALS, THE PBF-WY PROJECT ALSO SEEKS TO PRODUCE CATALYTIC EFFECTS TOWARDS SDG GOALS: #3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING; #5 GENDER EQUALITY; #16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS AND; #17 PARTNERSHIPS.

THE THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE PBF-WY PROJECT AND THEIR KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

THE PBF-WY PROJECT DRAWS ON THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME AND OUTPUT ACTIVITIES SPECIFIED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NDP.



Pillar 1: Engage women and youth for participation in decision-making processes.

Enhance the social capital of women and youth by developing leadership skills, promoting civic engagement and education, strengthening institutional mechanisms of women - and youth - focused organizations, enabling networking and mentorship pathways with national leaders and establishing spaces for peer-to-peer and intergenerational dialogue exchange.

Pillar 2: Develop enabling environments for increased inclusion.

Encourage integrated partnerships between national leaders, women and youth by conducting sensitisation and advocacy campaigns with government structures, training media practitioners on age and gender perspectives, linking grassroots feedback to national-level policy-making and securing written commitments from political parties towards increased investments in, and inclusion of women and youth.

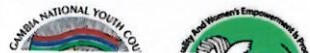
Pillar 3: Strengthen community resilience during and after the transitional reforms processes

Foster social cohesion by facilitating community dialogue sessions to promote shared values, expanding the role of women and youth in National Early Warning Systems, undertaking community centered conflict mediation events and routine information sharing to address conflict generating factors.



History has shown that, the practice of democracy in The Gambia has not been without its challenges and the PBF-WY project, seeks to support the Government of The Gambia to achieve and sustain ambitious goals at this fragile but promising juncture. To address the issues of socio-political exclusion, structural violence and negative socio-cultural norms and stereotypes that are oftentimes drivers of conflict and instability, the PBF-WY project brings together government counterparts, CSO partners and UN agencies (UNFPA and UNICEF) to encourage the meaningful participation and inclusion of women and youth in safeguarding and sustaining the country's peace and security.

Government Partners



CSO Partners

