

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



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

(Length : Max. 12 pages plus cover page and annexes)

Country (ies): South Sudan	
Project Title: Protecting women and girls in South Sudan: Addressing GBV as catalyst for peace Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project): PRF 00117249	
PBF project modality: <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc): UNFPA (Convening Agency) UNDP UN Women UNICEF	
List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental: Government: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice and Judicial Affairs, South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS), Judiciary of South Sudan (JoSS) National NGOs: CIDO, Nile Hope, SPIDO HACT, The Grand Debaters, SWENN International NGOs: IRC, Care International, Intersos, ARC, SAADO	
Expected project commencement date¹: 22 August 2019 Project duration in months:² 18 months + 6 months extension (new end date: 22 August 2021) Geographic zones for project implementation: Northern Behr el Gazal (Aweil), Jonglei (Bor, Akobo)	
Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNFPA \$ 1,000,000 UNDP \$ 500,000 UN Women \$ 500,000 UNICEF \$ 1,000,000 Total: \$ 3,000,000	

¹ Note: actual 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.

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

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): No
 Project total budget: \$3,000,000

PBF 1st tranche: UNFPA \$700,000 UNDP \$350,000 UN Women \$350,000 UNICEF \$700,000 Total: \$ 2,100,000	PBF 2nd tranche*: UNFPA \$300,000 UNDP \$150,000 UN Women \$150,000 UNICEF \$300,000 Total: \$ 900,000		
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Two-three sentences with a brief project description and succinct explanation of how the project is time sensitive, catalytic and risk-tolerant/ innovative:

This project aims to address the alarming situation of Gender Based Violence³ (GBV) in South Sudan that is driven by gender inequality, deep patriarchal beliefs, values and norms; civil and inter-communal conflicts and weak institutional and technical capacities to prevent and respond to GBV. The high prevalence of GBV currently hinders women's participation in the peace process and undermines any progress to sustainable peace in South Sudan as it prevents an inclusive process and exemplifies the general lack of security, justice and protection for the population. The project is launched at an opportune time, when the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) has recently been signed (12 September 2018). Implementation of local level peace building initiatives as proposed by this project, will greatly contribute to ensuring that people in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, have the agency to participate in building social stability and peace at different levels, which is a precondition to sustaining peace. The project helps reconcile and bring peace in Bor and Aweil by addressing the structural and systemic drivers of GBV through the collective expertise and experience of UN entities together.

The project is important now and catalytic because:

- (i) It ties in with the implementation of the R-ARCSS and efforts to ensure an inclusive peace process.
- (ii) It has a strong focus on community involvement and engagement and offers the potential for long term transformational change. It aims at strengthening women's role in society and enhancing women's' and girls' role in local peace processes and social cohesion initiatives.
- (iii) Partnerships and collaboration among different stakeholders implementing complementary components will not only increase stakeholder ownership of the project but will also ensure that the experiences and expertise of a diverse range of partners is drawn on. The project envisages working closely with relevant line ministries; Health, Gender, Justice, Interior, community groups, both formal and informal community leadership structures and other implementing stakeholders, thus increasing acceptability of the project and enhancing sustainability.

³ See page five (5) for definition of GBV as applied throughout the project.

The project is innovative because it tests new models and approaches: e.g. 1) *One Stop Centres* where medical, psychosocial, legal advice and reintegration services are provided under one roof to GBV survivors; the provision of comprehensive interventions under one roof is innovative in South Sudan because it supports survivors overcoming crucial challenges to claiming essential GBV related services such as scattered institutions, poor access to timely and relevant legal and other services. The model is successfully demonstrated in Juba, Maluankon and Rumbek. Successful upscaling of implementation in Bor and Aweil would provide proof of concept and justification for expanding to other locations. This will also act as a basis for more resource mobilization for the model through the Joint Programme on GBV and peacebuilding from development partners. 2) Against the backdrop of a judiciary that is unable to establish its presence in remote areas, *mobile courts* have been established by UNDP in Ruweng, Pibor, Yambio, Yirol, Kapoeta, Bentiu, Terekeka, Kuajok and Cuiebet, attending to a range of cases including GBV. Mobile courts for GBV have also proven successful in Bentiu and Malakal POC sites where accountability is perceived to have increased due to recent convictions of perpetrators. Consequently, the mobile courts represent an innovative way of taking justice to areas where such services are unavailable, thereby providing resolutions to disputes that potentially escalate into violence and providing remedies for survivors of GBV. The lessons learned from implementation of this PBF supported project will establish best practices on the interdependence between addressing GBV and sustaining peace. Initial experience from Aweil and Bor, will serve as the basis for expansion to other localities, where GBV is also rampant and has been used as a weapon of war.

Summarize the in-country project consultation and endorsement process prior to submission to PBSO, including through any PBF Steering Committee where it exists:

The development of the project went through a consultative process in the states and at national level to identify critical gaps and priority interventions to address GBV. Communities, especially women and girls from the five States of Western Bahr el Ghazel (Wau), Eastern Equatoria (Torit), Northern Bahr el Ghazel (Aweil), Central Equatoria (Juba), and Jonglei (Bor); key line ministries (Gender, Health, Justice and Interior) and the GBV Sub-cluster members at national and state levels were consulted. Further to this, the 10 UN entities in the UN Joint Programme and partners were also consulted, and peacebuilding priorities. The project was further reviewed by the Programme Management Team and endorsed for submission by the UNCT.

Project Gender Marker score: 3 ⁴

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 100%

Project Risk Marker score: 1 ⁵

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*): 3.2 ⁶

If applicable, UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes: **Outcome 4: Empowering women and youth**

⁴ **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective
Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective
Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget)

⁵ **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁶ *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)

If applicable, Sustainable Development Goal to which the project contributes: **SDG 5-Gender equality and SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institution**

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: **6 months**
Change of project outcome/ scope:
Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:
Additional PBF budget: Additional amount by recipient organization

Justification for amendment:

While the project started with significant progress on outputs 1, 3 and 4, the construction of Women's Empowerment Centre under output 2 on Strengthened women's groups participation in local peace processes in Bor, Aweil and Akobo and increase civic engagement on GBV Prevention and response faced initial challenges with regards to identification of location and land due to the state level political challenges.

During 2020, South Sudan established the transitional government as per the Revitalized agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). There was however a delay in appointing state local authority. UN Women's approach is that before establishing the centres, consultations on consensus of ownership needs to be conducted with the state local authority and state Ministry of Gender and the Women association in the respective location.

The year 2020 was also an unprecedented year challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic affected the operations of many institutions such as governments, UN, local partners, and service providers. The Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown hampered the timely delivery of construction and building materials meant for the establishment of Women empowerment Centre's in Bor and Aweil; hence the delay in finalization and operationalization of these centres. Covid-19 restrictions limited the number of participants in each training setting as well community outreach activities- this led to an adjustment of the traditional training setting of having 15-20 participants to Covid-19 sensitive setting e.g. training less (10) participants per training. This in turn led to slow reach of the set target number of participants in BOR, AWEIL and AKOBO.

During 2020, one of the participating agencies, UN Women, launched the operationalization of online partner agreement process, with approvals done by Regional offices. Project managers required training before using the new electronic system. Due to these delays UN Women was not able to implement all the activities within the initial 18 months, however significant progress has been achieved as is reported in the annual report submitted on 15 November 2020. Progress made to date under output 2 to date against output activities is as follows:

1. **Establish local women's peace huts/ empowerment centres/ Community centres:** In Aweil the Women empowerment centre has been constructed through a participatory approach, however

fencing and ensuring that the centre is functional will be finalized during the extension period of the project. In BOR, land has been allocated for the construction of three (3) women empowerment centers/peace huts in addition to renovation of one existing women's center.

2. **Train women groups on facilitation skills for advocacy on issues they have identified as relevant based on their needs, as for example protection and response to GBV and community social cohesion:** 44 women in Akobo (<18 years, 10 widows, 6 single parents, 11 elderly, 17 women with specific need) acquired facilitation skills through training to intervene in cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) through protection and response services while following and including COVID-19 prevention and response messages.
3. **Mapping of existing initiatives and mechanisms by local women's groups:** A mapping of women led initiatives and mechanisms on local peace building processes and participation of women was carried out. The results of this mapping highlight the need of updating referral pathways in Bor and Akobo with continues need for removing barriers that limit women participation in peace building processes.
4. **Conduct dialogue meetings with elders, community leaders and local authorities on GBV in Bor, Akobo and Aweil:** 129 people (9 females and 21 males in Akobo and 59 female and 40 male in Bor) including elders, community leaders, women living with disabilities, and local authorities were reached out through community level dialogues on VAWG/SGBV. The dialogues highlighted child marriage, physical abuse, and access to resources and destructive cultural practices as the common forms of abuse. Insufficient wash facilities, fetching firewood on the outskirts of the payams as well as overcrowded households were highlighted as factors that heighten the risk of abuse. As action from the dialogue sessions, community based 'neighborhood watch' groups were formed in Akobo and Bor. These groups comprise of 10 men and 20 women who gather on fortnight to feedback on protection concerns around the community. The communities enabled to provide ongoing tracking, referrals and reporting on violence against women, group/family counseling, prevention of and ongoing discussions on ending violence against women and girls through the groups. A total of 1,337 community members (948 female and 17 male in Akobo, 97 female and 60 male in Bor and 158 female and 57 male in Aweil) were reached to awareness focused on S/GBV prevention and response services, peace building and conflict mitigation mechanisms, livelihood activities available at Women and Girls Friendly Space (WGFS), women's rights, dangers of mob justice or revenge killings and dangers of early and force marriage. Awareness was conducted through door-to-door as well as small gathering events within COVID- 19 restrictions in Akobo and neighborhoods assemblies in Bor.

We are, therefore, requesting a no cost extension of the project with six (6)

	<p>months with a new end date of 22 August 2021. The no cost extension will facilitate the finalization of approved activities in the current project document and budget expenditures as is. No changes to approved activities and budget are proposed. Activities for completion include the operationalization of the Women empowerment centres constructed in Bor and Aweil and ensure women associations utilize the centres. Furthermore, the extension will facilitate the implementation of findings from mapping assessments conducted on women's participation in local peacebuilding mechanism in the respective project locations as well as the launch of the action plans developed by the community action groups .</p>
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PROJECT SIGNATURES



<p>Recipient Organization(s) Name of Representative: Dr. Mary Otiene Signature:  22-February 2021 DocuSigned by: 3DECFB5E8250486</p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities Name of Government Counterpart: Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille</p>
<p>Name of Agency: UNFPA Date & Seal:</p> <p>Name of Representative: Andrea Suley Signature:  18.02.2021</p>	<p>Signature: </p> <p>Title: Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Date & Seal: 20/2/21</p>
<p>Name of Agency: UNICEF Date and Seal: 18.02.2021</p> <p>Name of Representative: Dr. Samuel Gbaylec Doe Signature: </p>	
<p>Name of Agency: UNDP Date and Seal: 17-02-2021</p> <p>Name of Representative: Peterson Aagoola Signature: </p>	
<p>Name of Agency: UNWOMEN Date and Seal: 18.02.2021</p> <p>Head of UN Country Team Name of Representative: Alain Noudéhou Signature: </p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Name of Representative Signature:</p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office Date & Seal:</p>

