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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** Yemen

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

**YEAR of report:** 15 Nov. 2020

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| **Project Title:** Furthering the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Yemen  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** **00113346** | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  Country Trust Fund  Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:** | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**  **UNFPA (Convening Agency)**  **UN Women** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 11 Dec 2018  **Project end date:** 31/12/2020  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  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):**  **Recipient Organization Amount**  UNFPA $ 850000.00  UN Women $ 650000.00        $        $  Total: $ 1500000.00  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 100%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 50% ($750,000)  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 750000.00 | |
| **Project Gender Marker:**  **Project Risk Marker:**  **Project PBF focus area:** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Areej Al- Khawlani- Project Coordinator  Project report approved by: Nestor OWOMUHANGI- UNFPA Representative  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: | |

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

* *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
* *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
* *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: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

UNFPA conducted a baseline assessment, 2 TOT workshops for young people who subsequently conducted 7 trainings targeting 176 young people on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda. Also, mapping of youth-led CSOs, networks initiatives and individuals was finalized in the six targeted governorates. Seven consultative meetings were conducted in the six governorates, two of them were conducted online in Sana’a and Dhamar due to COVID 19. A situational report on YPS and the context of stabilization, relief and recovery and identify gaps was developed. Also, the YPS Alliance members were selected in collaboration with UN Women.

UN Women (i) developed the YPS (TOT) Manual, (ii) engaged more than 10,500 young people through an online survey and dialogue platforms, (iii) gathered information focused on the role and priorities of women and youth in peace and security through a series of 3-day consultative workshops (Beirut, Aden and Sana'a), (iv) used the data collected to develop 5 consultation papers that provide a comprehensive overview and understanding of Yemeni youth's priorities for peace, and (v) conducted 5 FGDs and 10 KII to develop the advocacy & strategic communications strategy for the YPS Alliance. Additionally, UN Women incorporated all the data collected on YPS topics and priorities in a comprehensive policy paper that will be used to actively advocate with relevant peace actors for the inclusion of Yemeni youth in peacebuilding and state-building processes.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

Due to the limitation imposed by the COVId-19 pandemic (including social distancing and travel ban), UNFPA and UN Women were forced to review sequencing of activities, prioritizing online over offline implementation modalities for the rest of the duration of the project. As a result, the scope of the activities remained the same while implementation modalities were modified as required. For instance, two regional meetings were initially planned to take place offline in Amman. Due to the pandemic-related situation, the two gatherings are planned to be held inside Yemen instead of Amman in the upcoming two months.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

This project seeks to operationalize UNSCR 2250 in Yemen operating at three levels of impact - individual, institutional and enabling environment - thus contributing to the overall objective that “young women and men are empowered to participate in and influence the peacebuilding process in Yemen and further the YPS agenda”.

Yemen is characterized by a fragmented political context and limited results have been achieved to date to reach a peace agreement between the parties to the conflict. However, during the reporting period, the project focused on strengthening knowledge, skills and capacities of young women and men who are active in civil society using a TOT modality to cascade relevant skills, maximizing impact and optimizing project funds. Also, the project built on Yemeni civil society organizations and networks as critical mechanisms to mobilize and communicate with broader Yemeni society. This was done specifically by engaging young Yemeni women and men through consultative meetings, online survey and dialogues, and using the information collected to develop comprehensive consultation papers to be used for the development of gender- and youth-responsive policy and programmes.

Also, the project contributed to bringing about a change at the structural level, as the project established recently a national Youth, Peace and Security Alliance. The newly established Alliance is comprised of members from different ideological, political, social and economic backgrounds. It includes young women and men leaders and activists from different organizations and communities, with civil and political affiliations in the Yemeni society.

The Alliance will serve as a tool to contribute to the achievement of inclusion of young women and men in all phases of peace, security and humanitarian processes, promoting youth’s participation in Track I diplomacy, including peace talks, transitional governance and state-building efforts. As such, the Alliance will be catalytic in advancing the Youth Peace and Security Agenda in Yemen, creating an unprecedented investment stream to support youth leadership and participation, and give young women and men the political platform and support they need to advance peace in the country. The Alliance will also seek to influence negotiations and roadmaps for peace while interacting with different local, national and international actors to make the voices and aspirations of young Yemeni women and men listened to.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

Following the embellishment of the Youth Alliance” Youth Peace and Security Pact”, two workshops were conducted targeting the Pact members to develop their local governance tools and provide them with needed skills on alliances management. The participants in the workshop expressed their feeling that this Youth Pact may contribute to re-engaging youth in decision-making processes, it will be an effective tool to advance the peace and security agenda in Yemen, and give young men and women the political platform and support they need to promote peace in the country and influence negotiations to communicate the voices and aspirations of young people. “Politicians in their speeches always praise the role of youth and their importance, but what is in fact is that youth issues and their participation in decision-making are undermined. The future of Yemen means our future. This alliance will carry the bag that is filled with our dreams, ambitions and youth issues”, Said by one of the Youth Pact members. And when others were asked to express their opinion about the alliance, the following sentences were given:

* "Yemeni youth throughout the country are well aware of their suffering in light of these circumstances that have placed many restrictions among the people of the country, so the existence of a youth entity in which young people from all governorates and all entities are present will help in converging views and coordination among them, and this may constitute a powerful means of pressure that contributes to alleviate these restrictions and difficulties that everyone faces”. Said by Saqr Manqoosh, a YPS Pact member.
* “The Youth Pact began to bring about change from the first day, as it created a positive momentum among the members and sent them hope again that there is still an opportunity to achieve what they fought for and what they dreamed of in a country where peace and development will prevail. I feel that this Pact will not wait until the opportunity arises, but it will surely create opportunities out of nowhere, and it will extract the seeds of peace from the winds of violence to sow in Yemen.” Said by Roza Al- Hakimi, a YPS Pact member
* “In my opinion, young people are the main dynamo of any change process, but they lack effective communication tools and an umbrella that brings them together in their various affiliations to achieve common goals and put pressure on all parties responsible for decision-making. We hope that this Pact, which has followed in the footsteps of the Women Pact, will be a cause to bring about greater consensus, which is the consensus of political forces in Yemen.” Said by Ola Al- Saqaf, a YPS Pact member.

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

*Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list 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.*

* *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
* *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

*If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

**Outcome 1:** **The needs and priorities of young men and women and provisions for youth inclusion are articulated in the peace agreement and post-conflict stabilization, relief and recovery plans**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

Project activities are still in progress.

Within Output 1: UN Women developed a YPS training manual used by UNFPA to enhance the capacity of trainers in the field of youth participation in peace and security. Moreover, 2 TOT workshops were conducted that targeted young men and women and trained them on the manual. Also, UNFPA conducted 7 workshops in the six governorates in which 176 young people were trained. As a result of the capacity building activities, in the targeted governorates it was witnessed that the volunteer activism and initiatives related to peacebuilding are increasing. The knowledge gained from the training workshops and the developed manual enabled them to join other activities related to peacebuilding, to get job opportunities and to be nominated to participate in regional and international events.

UN Women also implemented an online survey and an online dialogue platform that engaged more than 10,500 young people nationwide and provided valuable qualitative and quantitative information on youth priorities regarding YPS-related topics. Moreover, UN Women organized a 3-day consultation workshop focused on Yemeni young women in Beirut, highlighting the role of women and youth in peace and security. The workshop resulted in the identification of concrete steps that women and youth could take upon returning home to improve their participation and inclusion in peace and security processes.

UNFPA also conducted a baseline assessment in the six targeted governorates.

Within Output 2: UNFPA accomplished the mapping of individual youth, formal youth-led CSOs, and informal youth group leaders in the six targeted governorates. Also seven consultation meetings were conducted in the six governorates, two of them were conducted online due to Covid 19, and seven detailed reports were produced to develop position papers to be used to inform the peace process. Moreover, the preparatory phase for the establishment of the Youth Peace and Security National Alliance was initiated in collaboration with UN Women, including the elaboration of a guidance note concerning the future structure and membership of the mechanism. The YPS Alliance members were selected in collaboration with UN Women; UNFPA conducted two workshops with the YPS Alliance members in Aden to define the Alliance’s governance structure. UN Women organized a 3-day consultation workshop: the initiative focused on UNSCR 2250 and the role of young women and men in the peace building process as well as on their priorities. The workshop results contributed to the development of consultation papers to advocate with strategic actors of peace processes including TrackI actors.

Within Output 3: UN Women is in process of developing an advocacy & strategic communications strategy with clear mechanism for the Alliance’s engagement with Track I, II & III diplomacy actors. The strategy is based on a comprehensive set of information collected in collaboration with Yemeni youth and relevant stakeholders through extensive online consultations, focus groups with CSOs (in Aden, Hadramout ,Dhamar, Taiz and Egypt) to inform the strategy from track III perspective, and expert interviews carried out with researchers, track II peace actors, diplomats and officials. The strategy will then be elaborated taking into account all inputs provided to ensure a conflict-sensitive and peace-oriented communication.

Within Output 4: UNFPA developed a situational report on YPS and the context of stabilization, relief and recovery and identify gaps. Also, UNFPA contracted additional expertise to prepare and share project outputs and reports with the Secretary-General’s Progress Study Advisory Board for YPS and global partners, and follow-up feedback, establish a Youth Watch Commission consisting of experts from UN Women, UNFPA & young leaders to produce the YPS strategic framework, and establish youth- and women-led join monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the peace agreement.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

The project aimed to make a significant contribution to gender equality, with 50% of project’s funds is directed to activities which seek to contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment. In addition, being 50% of project beneficiaries women, the project also aimed at the empowerment of young women in the public sphere and to enforce the principles of equality, inclusivity and human rights. Furthermore, all training materials actively promote inclusivity and equality. Finally, the project partnered young men and women with more experienced female activists and leaders, by facilitating an exchange of experience and skills between the Yemeni Women’s Pact for Peace and Security (Tawafuq) and the Youth Peace and Security Alliance.

**Outcome 2:**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

**Outcome 3:**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

**Outcome 4:**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit) | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection?  Several meetings between the project teams were carried out to formalize the governance and management modalities, clarify the inputs and tasks needed to achieve intended outputs, roles and responsibilities for implementing those tasks, to clearly identify the participating stakeholders and target groups for the intervention and to develop the M&E plan accordingly.  Moreover, the inception phase also allowed the implementing partners to understand potential implementation challenges, identify the risks, and prepare a risk mitigation strategy. Meetings were also held to discuss the challenges facing the project and how to address them.  Furthermore, the M&E plan was developed and ongoing monitoring of project activities is applied. |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? | Evaluation budget (response required): 40000.00  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:  End line assessment and final evaluation will be conducted after completing the implementation of all the project activities.  However, the baseline assessment that was conducted during the inception phase of the project provided a basis for future monitoring and evaluation of progress and how to measure project progress.  An external project evaluation has been planned and budgeted at the conclusion of the project. A No Cost extension for additional 6 months was granted the project, and the external evaluation will take place at the end of the project. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: Amount: |
| **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)* |  |

**PART IV: 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** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  **The needs and priorities of young men and women and provisions for youth inclusion are articulated in the peace agreement and post-conflict stabilization, relief and recovery plans** | Indicator 1.1  **Number of youth and gender related provisions in draft peace agreements/ceasefires, position papers presented by YPS alliance and minutes of meetings with decision makers in various parties and government** | **0** | **2** |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 1.1  **Young men and women are equipped to engage and participate actively in Track II dialogues, including in online dialogues.** | Indicator 1.1.1  **Number of young people with increased knowledge about the YPS agenda (disaggregated by age, sex and geography)** | **0** | **180** |  | **206** | **There was some savings in Activity A1.a.4 thus one more additional workshop was conducted in Taiz** |
| Indicator 1.1.2  **Number of young people participating in monthly on-line dialogues (disaggregated by age, sex and geography)** | **0** | **500** | **338** |  | **Due to the poor internet connection and security conditions UN Women faced difficulty in meet the indicator of the number of young people participating in these online sessions. Thirty-one online sessions were held via ZOOM and 338 participants from** **the six targeted governorates.** |
| Output 1.2  **A national YPS dialogue structure including Government, UN and civil society is established with clear governance mechanisms and decision-making processes.** | Indicator 1.2.1  **Existence of a functional YPS structure with clear governance mechanisms and decision-making processes.** | **No** | **Yes** | **Yes** |  |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2  **Number of technical proposals and/or position papers developed informing the peace process** | **UNFPA consultation paper on 2250** | **6** |  | **6** |  |
| Output 1.3  **A collaboration between the national YPS dialogue process and youth-led CSOs is established to conduct joint advocacy and communications activities, engaging with additional Track II & III constituencies around inclusive peace.** | Indicator 1.3.1  **Existence of a functional advocacy committee comprised of national YPS dialogue process and youth-led CSOs** | **No** | **Yes** |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.3.2  **Proportion of youth-led CSOs members with positive perception on levels in youth inclusion in the peace process** | **0** | **50% of survey respondents feel that youth participation, capacity and satisfaction has improved** |  |  |  |
| Output 1.4  **A strategic framework for UNSCR 2250 in Yemen is developed, reflecting the UNSCR 1325 model with the aim to foster political, programmatic, financial and technical support of YPS partners including government, UN agencies and Track I, II & III actors.** | Indicator 1.4.1  **Existence of a Strategic Framework for UNSCR 2250 and mechanism for its implementation in Yemen** | **No** | **Yes** |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 2** | Indicator 2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.1 | Indicator 2.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.2 | Indicator 2.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.3 | Indicator 2.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |