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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** The Central African Republic

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

**YEAR of report:** 2020

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| **Project Title:** Towards Youth Inclusive and Gendered Peace Processes in the Central Africa Republic  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:PBF-IRF-** [00119345](http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00119345) | |
| **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:**  **NUNO: ACCORD (Convening Agency)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 19December 2020  **Project end date:** 16 June 2021  **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**  ACCORD $ 801,408.88  Total: **$ 801,408.88**  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget:  12% ($ 86 737,15) - for the period of January to May 2020.  \*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: **$ 240,422.44**  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment:  **$ 39,116.50** | |
| **Project Gender Marker:**  **Project Risk Marker:**  **Project PBF focus area:** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Edouard Cishahayo, Office Coordinator  Project report approved by: Samah Osman, Project Manager  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):

All preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed. The project finalized the recruitment of key personnel, namely the Office Coordinator and the Project Officer. During the proposal development stage, two local youth-led organisations were consulted and selected as implementing partners, namely, URU and the National Council for Central African Youth (CNJCA). Following the inception meeting, ACCORD entered into a formal partnership agreement with the implementing partners.

The official launch of the project took place on 27 January 2020, in Bangui. In February 2020 consultants were contracted to support URU in carrying out the baseline study of the project as well as the participatory research on youth in the three intervention areas (Bangui, Bambari and Bossangoa). Both reports are currently being finalized will be validated before the end of June 2020.

Several working sessions with implementing partners were organized during the inception period to gain a common understanding of the expected results of the project, their respective outputs as well as the various activities associated with it.

Moreover, the project developed a detailed action plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan and steering and technical committees are in place.

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):

- A documentary on the impactful initiatives of young people in connection with peacebuilding in CAR will be produced over the next five months and the documentary premier will provisionally be launched in December 2020;

- Inter and intra-generational dialogues workshops will be organized by in Bangui, Bambari and Bossangoa;

- Consultation and dialogues with policy and decision-makers on the barriers to youth inclusion in peace and decision-making processes;

- Participation of young people in the electoral process: the CNJCA will organize advocacy campaigns for the participation of young people in the December 2020 elections, including at the level of the National Election Authority (ANE);

- Launching the secondment and internship scheme with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry in charge of the Promotion of Women, Family, and the Protection of Children.

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):

Not applicable

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 web links to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

Progress on this indicator will be reported upon in the annual report, upon implementation of the second and third outcomes.

**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:** **A nuanced and gendered understanding of the conflict trajectories, challenges, opportunities, and trends surrounding youth inclusion in peace processes**

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

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

The baseline study was carried out and provided the reference levels for the indicators in the results matrix. The participatory research on youth has helped to strengthen the capacities of 30 youth directly involved in this research, on both quantitative and qualitative research methodology. It has also strengthened the capacities of the entire URU team (implementing partner) in scientific research and data analysis.

The results of this research (a policy brief will be developed for this purpose) will be widely disseminated to key stakeholders such as policymakers, civil society organizations and youth-led associations and will serve as a reference document for the meaningful inclusion of youth in informal and formal peace process in the Central African Republic.

Due to the economic sanctions on CAR, challenges were encountered initially in transferring the funds in a timely manner. This caused delays in the baseline survey process. The project team reworked the technical documents (sampling methodology, questionnaires, and focus groups guidelines) with the consultants. In addition, the project team was greatly involved in monitoring and providing supports to the enumerators to ensure the quality of the data. Furthermore, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic caused further delays in the deployment of enumerators to the provinces (Bambari and Bossangoa).

**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)*

In carrying out the baseline survey and youth research, it was ensured that at least 35% of the enumerators were young women. Additionally, 38% of the baseline respondents were women whereas women represented 35% of the participants in the youth research (Bangui).

Moreover, the baseline indicators and the data collected from the youth research are disaggregated by gender. The participatory youth research report will specifically highlight the barriers faced by women, opportunities and perspectives.

**Outcome 2: Youth participation is addressed at policy level, and formal and informal engagement mechanisms are put in place to strategically link youth to decision making processes.**

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

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

The youth research seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of how youth navigate conflicts and how they engage with peace. It will highlight the barriers and challenges, as well as drivers, opportunities and perspectives surrounding youth inclusion in peace processes in CAR.

The CNJCA will, therefore, leverage the findings of the youth research to engage with policymakers and youth groups on an evidence-based policy approach. Through a series of workshops, roundtables, consultations, and community dialogues, CNJCA will engage with government agencies, parliamentarians, CSOs and other key stakeholders to devise recommendations and action plans. Activities under this outcome will take place from July to December 2020 and will culminate in the development of an operational framework with an indicative roadmap on meaningful participation of youth in peace processes.

**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)*

**N/A.** will be reported in the upcoming annual report.

**Outcome 3: Youth networks and platforms are set up/strengthened to cultivate a community of practice**

The activities related to this result will start in August 2020 and will be informed by the results/report of the participatory research on youth as well as the needs assessments which will be carried out by the end of June 2020.

As part of the activities under Outcome 1 URU (implementing partner) is currently gathering information on youth-led initiatives contributing to peace processes in CAR. Additionally, through its network and chapter across CAR, the CNJCA will carry out a training needs assessment. The findings of the mapping exercise and needs assessment will serve as basis for activities under Outcome 3, aimed at strengthening the capacities of young people to prevent conflicts, engage in formal and informal peace processes, and support youth networks and platforms. The activities will take place from August 2020 to April 2021.

**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)*

**N/A.** will be reported on in the upcoming annual report.

**Outcome 4: No further outcomes.**

**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**

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| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)    - Quality control of the data collection tools of the two studies;  - Training of data collection and entry agents for the two studies;  - Data cleaning and consolidation from the two studies;  - Review of the draft reports from the two studies;  - Technical support to implementing partners for the development of the concept notes on each and every activity;  - Technical support to partners for budget planning relating to each and every activity;  - Control of the adequacy between expenses and supporting documents, after completion of each activity. | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? | Evaluation budget (response required):  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: |
| **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)* | - There were delays in the initial transfer of funds due to the sanction. The South African Reserve Bank had to approve ACCORD’s application for the transfer of funds to CAR, and this took longer than initially anticipated. This has resulted in a slight delay in the implementation of the baseline research activities. However, the preparatory activities were pre-financed by ACCORD and URU and this challenge has since been addressed.  - We have also encountered an issue with higher bank charges and a query will be submitted to the banks.  - The implementing partners need very regular monitoring, both in terms of programming activities and budget programming.  - The implementing partners require financial management and accounting training.  - It has been agreed with the partners that for each activity, a concept note briefly describing the objectives, expected results, methodology and budget, will be drawn up. To this end, capacity-building sessions on the drafting of this type of document were carried out with the partners (URU and CNJCA). A template was also shared with them. |

**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**  **A nuanced and gendered understanding of the conflict trajectories, challenges, opportunities, and trends surrounding youth inclusion in peaces processes** | Indicator 1.1  **Number of governement institutions who report an increased understanding of the challenges and opportunities around youth inclusion in peaces processes, as a resultat of the research** | **15** | **35** | **30** | **15** | **The milestones for all the indicators are set for December 2020, ie after 12 months of implementation** |
| Output 1.1  **Participatory research on how youth navigate conflict and engage with peace** | Indicator 1.1.1  **Number of youth trained in participatory research methods (disagregated by age, gender and location)** | **0** | **60** | **60** | **30** |  |
| Indicator 1.1.2  **Number of joint analysis workshops that are carried out in collaboration with youth, research centers/universities, etc...** | **0** | **6** | **6** | **2** |  |
| Indicator 1.1.3  **Policy brief and a state of youth report are produced** | **0** | **2** | **2** | **2** |  |
| Output 1.2  **A narrative of change is cultivated through promoting impactful youth-led initiatives** | Indicator 1.2.1  **The impact of youth-led initiatives is assessed and stories are documented** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2  **% of community members/CSOs/Government institutions who report an increased awareness of youth contributions to peace processes as a result of project activities** | **48%** | **60%** | **60%** | **48%** |  |
|  | Indicator 1.2.3  **Number of youth engagement events organized (i.e intergenerational dialogues, peace hackathons, etc...)** | **0** | **6** | **4** | **0** |  |
| **Outcome 2**  **Youth participation is addressed at the policy level, and formal and informal engagement mechanisms are put in place to strategically link youth to decision making processes.** | Indicator 2.1  **Inclusiveness of the peace and implementation processes (Number and % of women, number and % of youth, direct engagement of women and youth CSOs, advocacy positions of women and youth organizations reflected in outcomes docs) increased.** | **19%** | **30%** | **25%** | **19%** | **Activities related to Outcome 2 will start in July 2020, as they are intended to be informed by the youth study outcome** |
| Indicator 2.2  **Formal and informal youth engagement mechanism are set up.** | **6** | **10** | **8** | **6** |  |
| Indicator 2.3  **% of youth who report an increase in their participation in decision-making processes as a result of project activities (disaggregated by age, gender and location)** | **19.2%** | **30%** | **25%** | **19.2%** |  |
| Output 2.1  **Systemic barriers to youth participation are addressed, with emphasis on the double burden faced by young women.** | Indicator 2.1.1  **% of project beneficiaries who report an increased understanding of the gendered barriers to youth participation in peace processes (disaggregated by age, gender and location)** | **66.9%** | **75%** | **70%** | **67%** |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2  **Number of intergenerational dialogues organized (disaggregated by location)** | **0** | **4** | **4** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 2.1.3  **% of community members who report an improved level of trust in government institutions and processes (disaggregated by age, gender and location)** | **15.5%** | **25%** | **20%** | **15%** |  |
| Indicator 2.1.4  **% of community members who report a change in attitude in relation to the role of youth in peace processes.** | **14%** | **25%** | **20%** | **14%** |  |
| Output 2.2  **Technical assistance and capacity building is provided to ministries dealing with youth and peace issues.** | Indicator 2.2.1  **Number of ministries and government institutions trained in mainstreaming youth and gender issues** | **10** | **25** | **25** | **10** |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2  **Number of youth focal points who participated in capacity building programs (Disaggregated by age, gender and location)** | **0** | **120** | **40** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 2.2.3  **Number of seconded youth experts in the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry in charge of the Promotion of Women (Disaggregated by age and gender).** | **0** | **24** | **24** | **0** |  |
| Output 2.3  **Development of an operational framework on meaningful participation of youth in peaces processes.** | Indicator 2.3.1  **Youth policies are reviewed/updated** | **0** | **8** | **6** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 2.3.2  **An operational gendered youth framework on youth inclusion in peace processes is developed and stipulates a minimum representation of women to be 30% in its guidance** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 2.3.3  **Gendered youth framework is validated with the condition that gender is mainstreamed in its guidance** | **0** | **1** | **1** | **0** |  |
| **Outcome 3**  **Creating a network of trained youth that is linked to networking and coaching resources, during and after the project.** | Indicator 3.1  **% of trained youth who report improved peacebuilding skills as a result of the training provided through the project (disaggregated by age, gender and location)** | **33%** | **45%** | **40%** | **33%** | **Activities related to Outcome 3 will start in September 2020** |
| Indicator 3.2  **% of youth who feel that access to capacity building, platforms and networks enabled them to collectively articulate their needs and priorities in the implementation process** | **34%** | **45%** | **40%** | **34%** |  |
| Indicator 3.3  **Number and % of youth who network accross geographic and other divides (disaggregated by age and gender)** | **9%** | **20%** | **15%** | **9%** |  |
| Output 3.1  **The capacities of youth-led organizations to engage in formal and informal peace processes are strengthened** | Indicator 3.1.1  **Number and percentage of youth who report an increased capacity to engage in formal and informal peace processes as a result of project activities (disagregagated by age, gender and location)** | **35%** | **45%** | **40%** | **35%** |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2  **Number of needs assessments carried out** | **0** | **8** | **8** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2  **Number of capacity building workshops/trainings organized** | **0** | **6** | **2** | **0** |  |
| Output 3.2  **Youyh networks and platforms are set up to cultivate a community of practice, and allow exchange of experiences and lessons learned** | Indicator 3.2.1  **Number of youth forums organized (disaggregated by geogrphic area)** | **0** | **6** | **2** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2  **Number of youth network that are supported though the project** | **0** | **12** | **4** | **0** |  |
| Indicator 3.2.3  **Number of peer-mentorship/internship schemes established as a result of the project** | **0** | **8** | **4** | **0** |  |