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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** **SUDAN**

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual report**

**1 August to 15 November 2021**

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| **Project Title:** Supporting Sustainable Peace in Blue Nile State through Gender-Responsive Natural Resource Governance, Inclusive Conflict Resolution Mechanisms and Climate-Resilient Livelihoods  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** PBF/SDN/B-1 | |
| **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:**  **UNEP (Convening Agency)**  **UN Women**  **UNDP** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 30/7/2021  **Project end date:** 28/1/2024  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No | |
| **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**  UNEP $994.222.60  UN Women  $1,367,901.91  UNDP $1,620.000.00  Total $3,982.124.51    Approximate implementation rate as percentage of **TOTAL** project budget: UN Women 1%, UNEP 7% committed and actual, UNDP 0%. Total 2%.  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment: UNEP $570.00+ UN Women $1,107,179.81+UNDP $1,268,814=Total $2, 945,993.81  Amount expended to date on activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment: UNEP $69,375.49+ UN WOMEN $12,000+ UNDP $0.00= Total $81,375.49. | |
| **Project Gender Marker:** 3  **Project Risk Marker:** 1  **Project PBF focus area:** 2.3 – Conflict Prevention and Management | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Abuelgasim Adam, Mary Mbeo and Desislava Kyurkchieva  Project report approved by:  Did PBF Secretariat review the report:  Yes | |

**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):

The recipient agencies received their first tranche of funding in July 2021, marking the official start of the project. Activities during this reporting period have centered on kickstarting the project, including:

(1) **recruitment of project staff**: UNEP and UN Women have finalized recruitment of project staff. UNDP has redistributed project support and implementation tasks between its programme teams based in Damazine and Khartoum.

(2**) work planning**: In September 2021, the project team held a three-day work planning session in Khartoum, marking the first interagency meeting since the start of the project. The work planning team consisted of the project CTA and Geneva-based climate-security advisor from UNEP and the project focal points from UNDP and UN Women. To avoid working in silos and to enhance the collaborative nature of the joint project, the sessions aimed to agree on joint working modalities, develop an integrated work plan, identify key joint priorities for the project inception phase and establish a joint coordination mechanism.

(3**) stakeholder consultations**: The Peace Commissioner was briefed on the project startup on 25 September 2021. He recommended a follow-up meeting to brief Mr. Malik Agar, member of the Sovereign Council which took place on 14 October 2021.

**(4) identification of implementing partners**. All agencies have agreed on their specific needs and began planning for the contracting of implementing partners.

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 key output of the work planning session was an integrated work plan, with activities detailed in the project results framework elaborated to include sub-activities and detailed descriptions as well as indictive timelines and potential implementing partners. The project team agreed that the work plan will be reviewed and finalized after the completion of the baseline assessment. A detailed inception phase workplan was also produced covering the period October-December 2021, which includes several key milestones, including the planning and conflict sensitivity workshop in Blue Nile, a baseline assessment, the establishment of the project governance structure, the identification of project implementation partners, the translation of the project document into Arabic and sharing it with government authorities. Both workplans were presented to the PBF secretariat on 10 October 2021.

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):

The project is at inception phase and implementation of activities has not yet started to show human

impact.

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

**Outcome 1**: *The socio-economic stability of conflict-affected communities is strengthened through the development of gender-transformative climate-resilient livelihood options for women, men, and other groups.*

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

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

Activities under this outcome will be undertaken by UNDP (responsible for livelihoods) and UN Women (responsible for protection and access to justice).

UN Women advertised for staff recruitment in August 2021 for positions of programme coordinator and programme assistant. This recruitment process was finalized in the second week of October 2021 for the programme staff who will be based in Damazine at UN Women offices in a co-location capacity with UNHCR who are building their offices there. Internal UN Women processes for onboarding have started which usually takes additional one month before the staff is on board. UN Women also launched a Call for Proposals in September and renewed it in October 2021 due to a lack of women led CSOs that applied; the call is only for CSO partners. However, UN Women has finalized the selection of government implementing partners, namely the Ministry of Health and Social Development (Sexual Violence Unit), Ministry of Interior (Child and Family Protection Unit), and Peace Centre, University of Damazine. Communication has been made with them to submit their concept notes for implementation of the programmes.

Additional staffing support is being considered during the next reporting period to ensure timely implementation and cost efficiency. UNDP field office in Damazine is composed of two programme staff, a national programme coordinator and a programme associate, as well as one administrative staff and two drivers.

The project team has conducted several consultations to inform project development. Research on gender, conflict, and environment was carried out by UN Women in two of the target localities in August 2021. The final report (annexed) was produced in September 2021 and the findings have been used to inform the project planning and to create a gender profile for two (Baw, Kurmuk) out of the three localities selected for project implementation in Blue Nile State, to ensure the design and the implementation of the activities that consider the social environment and promote peace and gender equality. Providing deep contextual analysis and reflecting on the root causes of the conflict and its effect on women, the study enhances the process by UN Women, UNDP, and UNEP in promoting conducive environment to women’s leadership and participation in peace building platforms, natural resource committees and for economic empowerment. Specifically, the study though delivering information on the critical areas that have been severely impacted by conflict and environmental degradation also provides data base information on gender profiles in these localities to support proper planning and intervention on proactive measures to protect women from natural resource-related violence and enhance access to justice in Baw, Kurmuk and Geissan communities.

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

A project grounded in the empowerment of women, gender equality and inclusion have been central to project activities, even at the planning and inception phase. As described above, in the initial months of project planning, under the leadership of UN Women the project team carried out a gender and environment assessment in target localities. Consultations have also been undertaken with key partners for enhancing gender equality and women’s empowerment, including the Ministry of Social Development.

**Outcome 2:** : *Local-level governance and conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened through enhanced participation of women and gender-responsive, inclusive, and participatory processes in selected conflict-affected communities*

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

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

UNEP and UNDP will lead the implementation of activities under this outcome. Progress towards this outcome similarly centered on inception activities undertaken at this early stage of programming.

A key priority during the first months of the project has been the recruitment of project staff. Following a competitive process, in August 2021, the UNEP recruited project Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) started early September. He is responsible for overall project coordination and the management of activities under UNEP’s portfolio. The recruitment of UNEP’s Natural Resources Expert, responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation was finalized in September, and he joined the team in October 2021.

UNDP conducted a scoping assessment of potential implementing partners and held discussions with UNEP considering to jointly recruit implementing partners. Common implementing partners would allow for better integration of certain activities, specifically building links between the CEAP process, peacebuilding, and livelihood activities. UNDP is also learning from experience in other programmes in the region such as the Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP) through which recent calls for proposals and capacity assessments were made for livelihood and peacebuilding interventions. These steps were aimed at assessing the capacity and mapping of potential partners and pre-identify the most suitable organizations for each locality.

UNEP finalized terms of references to engage with implementing partners for its activities in the three localities. This process will be followed by mapping and an assessment of existing implementing partners during UNEP’s first mission to Blue Nile State. A project team mission was planned to Blue in the week of 24-28 October 2021 to convene the planning and conflict sensitivity workshop but was cancelled due to uncertainties of the situation in Sudan which led to the recent political development.

A key priority for the coming months includes the development of a joint methodology for conducting the gender, climate, and security assessment drawing on relevant climate security guidance and experience from UNEP and UNDP. The methodology and the questionnaires are building on the best practices of both organizations and will build on methodologies applied for assessment by UNDP’s C2SP and UNITAMS peacebuilding assessment, in which climate related risks and risks related to competition over natural resources are factored.

As a contribution towards this process, UNDP contacted Peace and Development Centers in Blue Nile State which are organizing the data collection for UNITAMS peacebuilding assessment across all conflict affected states. The Peacebuilding assessment is implemented through UNDP and partners have been briefed on the project and its implementing localities- assessments thus will be connected to analysis by the joint project team and activities coordinated.

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

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

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| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit).  Planned activities include:  Conduction of baseline assessment and updating of project monitoring results framework. | 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?  No | Evaluation budget (response required): $60,000.00  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: N/A |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. (Please only report on NEW funding since last reporting cycle) | 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)* | A military take-over in Sudan took place on 25th October 2021. The consequences for the country and the Blue Nile State remain to be seen. This uncertain political situation in Sudan has caused delays of planned visits to Blue Nile State, including for the joint conflict sensitivity workshop scheduled to take place in October 2021. However, the project team is monitoring the situation closely and will reschedule the workshop as soon as possible. |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (please only report on NEW expenditure since last reporting cycle)*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19: $ 0
2. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

     N/A

1. Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

**PART V: 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 socio-economic stability of conflict-affected communities is strengthened through the development of gender-transformative climate-resilient livelihood options for women, men and other groups.* | Indicator 1.a  Percentage of population report increased income, disaggregated by sex/age/group | Baseline:0 | TBC |  | Preparations for baseline data collection ongoing |  |
| Indicator 1.b  Percentage of population who have improved access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and services, disaggregated by sex/age/group | Baseline:0 | TBC |  | Preparations for baseline data collection ongoing |  |
| **Indicator 1.c**  Number of cases of gender-based violence reported to established reporting structures disaggregated by sex and age | Baseline:0 | **TBC** |  | Preparations for baseline data collection ongoing |  |
| Output 1.1 | **Indicator 1.1.1**  Number of persons enrolled in vocational training and life skills activities, disaggregated by sex/age/group (min. 60% women)  **Indicator 1.1.2**  Number of socio-economic infrastructure projects completed | Baseline: 0  Baseline: 0 | Target: min 10% per community.  Target: 1 per community |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.1.3  Number of persons (min 60% women) supported to start small business/agriculture/climate-smart farming activities, disaggregated by sex/age/group  Indicator 1.1.4  Number of cooperatives, saving groups and community-based organizations established and formalized to pool resources and support access to markets and value chains. | Baseline:0  Baseline: 0 | Target: 150 per community.  Target: At least 1 per community |  |  |  |
| Output 1.2  Proactive measures to protect women from natural resource-related violence and enhance access to justice adopted in selected communities | Indicator 1.2.1a  Number of one-stop centers (OSC) to support survivors of gender-based violence established | (0) One Stop Centers in the Project Localities or in Blue Nile State | 4 (2 in Kurmuk, 1 in Geissan and 1 in Baw) |  | Ministry of Social Development is selected as the Implementing Partner and is well briefed on the OSC  Guidelines for implementation of OCS are developed | Project is still in inception phase |
| Indicator 1.2.1b  Percentage increase of women with a positive perception of their personal safety and security | 0%. | 40% increase of women’s perception |  | Ministry of Social Development is selected to undertake this activity | Project is at inception phase |
| Indicator 1.2.2  Number of security and justice personnel trained in gender-responsive justice | 0%. | 800 including 300 female justice personnel in 3 localities of Kurmuk, Baw and Geissan |  | Peace Centre, University of Damazine is selected and informed on their role in implementing this activity | Project is at inception phase |
| Indicator 1.2.3  Number of specialized women and children protection desks established in police stations | (0) women and children’s desks are found in Blue Nile State | 4 gender desks established, one per police station in 3 localities (2 in Kurmuk, 1 in Baw and 1 in Geissan) |  | Police Family and Child Protection Unit is selected and informed on their role in implementing this activity  Guidelines for implementation of gender and children’s desks are developed | Project is at inception phase |
| Indicator 1.2.4a  Number of reports received by police officers from victims/survivors of gender-based violence | 0 | 600 reports received from victims/survivors of gender-based violence in 4 targeted police stations in 3 localities of Kurmuk, Baw and Geissan |  | Both the Ministry of Social Development and Police Family and Child Protection Units are selected to implement this activity | Project is at inception phase |
|  | Indicator 1.2.4b  Percent decrease in perception of GBV in project sites during project period | 0% and will be clear during project period based on assessments | 30% decrease from baseline report |  | Police Family and Child Protection Units are selected as implementing Partner and will monitor the perception during project period | Project is at inception phase |
| Output 1.3 | Indicator 1.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 1.4 | Indicator 1.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 2**  Local-level governance and conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened through gender-responsive inclusive and participatory processes in selected conflict affected communities. | Indicator 2.1  Number of disputes related to natural resource use, access and control submitted and resolved (fully or partially) for arbitration to local conflict mechanism or authorities | Baseline: TBD | TBD |  | ToRs to engage implementing partners developed | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.2  Percentage of population who reports having positive perception of other livelihood and natural resource user groups, disaggregated by sex/age/group | Baseline: TBD | Target: 60% |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.3  Percentage of population who reports that their interest is being addressed in the peace process in Blue Nile through governance mechanisms, disaggregated by sex/age/group | Baseline: TBD | Target: 60% |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Output 2.1 | Indicator 2.1.1  Number of integrated gender climate-security assessments completed | Baseline: 0 | Target: 1 |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.1.2  Number of participatory and inclusive processes/structures established | Baseline: 0 | Target: 6 |  |  | Project at inception phase |
|  | Indicator 2.1.3  Percentage of women and youth in the established processes or structures | Baseline: 0 | Target: 60% women and 60% youth |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.1.3  Percentage of women and youth in the established processes or structures who feel their voice matters, is heard, and has impact | Baseline: 0 | Target: 60% women and 60% youth |  |  | Project at inception phase |
|  | Indicator 2.1.4  Percentage of participants who feel their specific concerns and needs are reflected and addressed in the participatory environmental action plans, disaggregated by sex/age/groups | Baseline: 0 | Target: 90% |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.1.5  Number of prioritized actions implemented to address key community concerns linked to natural resource**s** | Baseline: 0 | Target: At least 6 (At least 1 per community) |  |  | Project at inception phase |
|  | Indicator 2.1.6  Number of workshops conducted with local and state level authorities to share experiences and advocate for natural resources management priorities at the community level. | Baseline: 0 | Target: 4 |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Output 2.2 | Indicator 2.2.1  Number of local peacebuilding centers established/capacitated to support women’s full and meaningful participation | Baseline: 0 | Target: 6 |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.2.2  Percent of peacebuilding centers members who are women | Baseline: 0 | Target: 50% |  |  | Project at inception phase |
| Indicator 2.2.3  Number of women-led dialogue forums with state level peace building institutions | Baseline: 0 | Target: 6 (2 in Kurmuk, 2 in Baw and 2 in Geissan) |  |  | Project at inception phase |