

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:**  Sudan

**TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: ANNUAL**

**YEAR OF REPORT:**  2021

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** Strengthening the Political and Peacebuilding Role of Women in Sudan’s Transition  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: PBF/IRF-409** | |
| **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:**  Search for Common Ground (Search) – INGO.  **Additional implementing partners:** Human Rights Initiative (MAMAN) - CSO, Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services (Badya) - CSO, Um Serdiba Association for Development (Um Serdiba) - CSO |
| **Date of first transfer:**  17 Feb 2021  **Project end date:** 16 Aug 2022  **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**  Search for Common Ground $899,287.58            $        $        $  Total: $ 899,287.58  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of **TOTAL** project budget: 9%  \*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:  $827,395.56  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment:  . $11,166.63 (Leadership and Peace Training for young women)  . $6,672.24 (CGA Training for Women)  . $11,756.84 (Women leaders’ networks)  . $3,939.04 (Multimedia campaign)  . $20,651.38 (Young women-led community initiatives for reconciliation) | |
| **Project Gender Marker: 3**  **Project Risk Marker: 1**  **Project PBF focus area:** *Priority Area 1: Responding to imminent threats to the peace process, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue* | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Abby Felts, Program Associate for Central and East Africa, Search for Common Ground  Project report approved by: PBF Secretariat  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes | |

***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.*
* *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

**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 project remains on track in relation to implementation of activities. During the reporting period, training was organized for young women, along with initiatives for reconciliation and women leaders’ networks that were established.

There were a number of difficulties encountered in relation to conducting monitoring visits from implemented activities due to the absence of a DM&E coordinator. The current coordination is in place and is currently monitoring and evaluating current and previous activities to record relevant outcomes.

Additionally, Search’s local partners all now have an identified focal point person for this project to ensure most effective coordination and implementation.

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):

Key activities anticipated to be implemented in the next six months will focus on targeting women and civil society actors, and will include:

* Leadership and Peace Training for Young Women;
* Mentorship Reflection and Training for Established Women Leaders;
* Peer-to-Peer Mentorship and Support Sessions
* Peace Agreement Forums in South Kordofan and West Kordofan;
* Women Leaders’ networks;
* Reflection and Planning Forums;
* Multimedia Campaign (radio programs);

The above activities have been updated to reflect what activities will be implemented given the current environment in Sudan. Activities targeting government stakeholders and political leaders, as well as advocacy visits, are tentatively pushed to May 2022. Search will keep communicating with UNPBF to discuss a possible shift of these activities, as the situation evolves.

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):

N/A

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):

In Gadarif state, Search’s partner MAMAN provided local women’s groups with improved seeds and training by an expert. This helped build capacity among farming communities to accelerate the transition to a more productive and sustainable agriculture, resulting in increased income and stable source of livelihood.

*“Farming has been a struggle for me due to the poor quality of seeds. Search for Common Ground’s partner MAMAN gave us seeds including okra, luba and sorghum. While the luba and sorghum were negatively affected by the heavy rain, the okra was a huge success. From the green okra I was able to feed my family, sell it and exchange at the local markets for other vegetables (Lemon and Tomatoes) and meat, and also gave my relatives some as a gift. In addition to the green okra, we used the dry one to make powdered okra (waika, typically used in traditional Sudanese stew) for my family and to sell. From the profit I made, I was able to pay for my children’s education.”*

**- Al-Touma Bashir from Umm Senibra village, mother of five children (4 girls and 1 boy) and head of her househol**d

*“Before receiving the improved seeds, the okra did not grow well. After the planting of the seeds given by MAMAN, the improved seeds of the okra and luba were a success, it grew quickly and with large quantities which we ate from and sold. The luba improved the fertility of the soil for next year’s farming. The rain season this year was heavy, which affected the growth of some seeds. I wish that the organization came earlier in the season. We are low-income families who only depend on farming. Our income did increase due to the improved seeds but not enough to full take care of our families. If I can be supported with livestock (animals such as goats), we could make use of the available water and grass.”*

**- Munira Ibrahim from Umm Sneibra village**

**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: Young women leaders have increased capacity and confidence to lead efforts to participate in peace and security at the community level**

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

*On-track*

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

Related to Outcome One, **1 Leadership and Conflict Transformation Training for Young Women (A.1.1.1)** was conducted from August 2-4, 2021 at the Taal Vista Hotel in El-Gadaref state. The specific objectives of the training workshop was to increase the skills of women in leadership, increase their skills in facilitating difficult discussions, and increase women’s knowledge in key principles of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS -1325 Resolution) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS- 2250 Resolution) agendas. A total of 28 young women leaders participated in the training, all from El-Gadara and its localities and ranging between the ages of 20-35.

Also related to Outcome One, the activity of **Young Women-led Community Initiatives for Reconciliation** (A1.2.3) is ongoing. It involved Search and its partners implementing ten Young Women-led Community Initiatives for Reconciliation activities in South Kordofan (SK) State and Gadarif State. The initiatives were implemented in Kadugli, Al Rief Alshargi. Agloze, and Alfula. The implementing organizations were project partners, Umserdiba Association for Development and Badya, as well as Land Mine Victims’ Organization, Humanitarian Organization for Environment and Peace, and Nidal Organization, all local organizations who pitched the community initiatives to the Umserdiba Association for Development.

Recognizing that women continue to face difficulties when fetching drinking water in remote areas, including dealing with the high price of water, community initiatives sought to help alleviate these challenges by providing local community organizations the opportunity to identify most pressing needs and implement initiatives accordingly. Five initiatives took place in June 2021, including hand water pump maintenance in Kadugli led by Land Mine Victims Organization, benefiting an estimated 1800 beneficiaries; hand water pump maintenance also led by Land Mine Victims Organization for a girls school in Kadugli, benefiting an estimated 1,000 beneficiaries; rehabilitation and maintenance of two generators at the Kadugli teaching hospital led by Umserdiba Association for Development, benefiting an estimated 1800 beneficiaries; hand water pump maintenance in Al Rief Alshargi locality led by Humanitarian Organization for Environment and Peace, benefiting an estimated 370 beneficiaries; and water yard maintenance in Altongaro Village led by Nidal Organization, benefiting an estimated 1316 beneficiaries.

Three additional initiatives were implemented in June 2021 by Human Security Initiative Organization (MAMAN) in Umm Senibra village on June 16, 2021 (43 women, 7 youth (5 of which were women beneficiaries) and another in Tarfa village on June 17, 2021 (25 men and 35 women beneficiaries), both involving support women farmers by providing women with improved, high-quality and high-yield seeds from crops to increase income. Another initiative led by MAMAN this reporting period involved the Rehabilitation of Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital in Gedaref State (in Tarfa Al-Qudnbuliya village) from June 16-June 22, 2021.

An additional initiative was implemented on August 22, 2021 led by Badya in Alfula, West Kordofan. The initiative involved 20 women from Alfula big Market (informal sector) receiving 20 metallic tables equipped with saving boxes as well as umbrellas. This initiative was designed as part of Badya’s need assessment for women working in the informal sector at Alfula Big Market that they conducted in July 2021, ensuring that it was relevant to the communities needs.

**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)*

Based on local consultations conducted during the design of this project and Search’s on-going work in Sudan, women have expressed a need for increased skills in leadership, skills for facilitating difficult discussions, and key principles of women, peace, and security (WPS) and youth, peace, and security (YPS) agendas. In response, the young women leaders that were identified and selected based on a mapping and analysis conducted by on-going projects in Sudan were able to take part in the trainings and the opportunity to increase their capacity and confidence to lead efforts to advance peace and security in their own communities.

During this quarter, women were supported to collaborate with established women and young men to design and implement community initiatives for peace that directly respond to and address the concerns and recommendations from the forums. By providing an opportunity for women to not only lead discussions but showcase their leadership capacity through concrete actions, young women leaders have built their confidence to act as leaders and additionally, communities are increasingly being able to see the tangible benefits of women’s leadership, ultimately the start of shifting opinions on women’s leadership.

**Outcome 2: Women’s political engagement and advocacy during the transition are strengthened**

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

*On-track*

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

Related to Outcome 2, one **Women’s Leaders Network (A2.1.3)** (the “Women Voices Network) was supported during this reporting period on August 17, 2021 in Alfoula, South Kordofan. Search, with support from our local partner, Badya Centre for Integrated Development, supported the Women Leaders Network through harnessing it to increase information-sharing and coordination among women in South Kordofan. The specific objective(s) of the activity is to analyze the productivity status of the network (ask questions about its activeness etc.), and introduce the project, its activities and emphasize how the project can contribute to strengthening the network, while also highlighting main areas of support the network may need.

In regards to the current productivity status of the network, the network was initially established under another project implemented by Badya, and thus has some financial support to hold meetings and to be active through social media platforms (WhatsApp etc.). On the other hand, the coordination team considered this type of activity as limited and it was recommended that to best reach more women in the region, the network should start operating activities on the ground in a more face to face nature, and utilize good communication skills and other leadership skills among network’s members. Ultimately, this activity contributed to strengthening women’s political engagement and advocacy during the transition.

The main areas of support identified by the network coordination team included additional capacity-building in soft skills, as well as report writing and proposal writing as areas to be trained in for the purpose of being able to independently apply for fund and run initiatives. The facilitator explained that such training and sessions can be part of the coordination meetings that will be supported under the project. Additionally, at the end of the meeting, the team agreed on having a meeting with the rest of the network members with a purpose of gathering views and opinions about how they can maximize the outcomes of their participation in this project.

**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 Women Voices network is a newly established women network in Alfula, West Kordofan, it receives technical and materialistic support from our partner, Badya Center for integrated development (Badya). The aim of establishing this network was to contribute to women’s effort to gather among one another to implement strategies so they have a more recognized role post Sudan’s December revolution. The majority of the network’s members are from a revolutionary women group called “Alfula Women Gathering (Tajamu Nisaa Alfula)” that was voluntarily created to coordinate women’s participation in street marches during the revolution. The aim of selecting this network to be supported by the project is that the Women Voices network consists of a diverse array of young women who have a clearly defined set of essential needs to strengthen their leadership capacities.

This project's aim of strengthening existing women’s networks, harnessing them to increase information-sharing and coordination among diverse women contributes to helping the women networks to build on women’s successful networking during the revolution, and ultimately reaching even more women and young women. Importantly, the networks such as that supported this quarter, are equipped with the capacity to regularly host experience sharing and support sessions concerning opportunities to engage with the government, taking on roles in the legislative council, and overcoming obstacles and barriers to participation.

**Outcome 3: Women’s roles and contribution as leaders are amplified and accepted at the local, national, and international levels.**

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

*Off-track*

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

Related to Outcome 3, the only relevant activity implemented involved a **social media campaign** was launched our Search’s Facebook on International Peace Day, a video and post, using three hashtags #buildingPeaceInSudan #SFCG #InternationalDayofPeace.

The design of the **radio magazine** to be produced and broadcast as part of the project also kicked off. Search will combine resources from its EU-funded and USG-funded projects to produce a radio magazine in collaboration with locally based radio stations. The program will aim at bringing the voices of peace and freedom to citizens in the target states, highlighting their participation in building a better Sudan for all Sudanese. Jingles will include “Sudan is our home, Our participation can make it a peaceful Nation” and “Working together as Women and Men, can make a prosperous Social Unity.” Journalists who will produce the show engaged in the development of two sample themes for the first radio programs to be produced as pilots with the target audiences and the public at large. These themes include: the role of Sudanese women in the community, and tribal conflicts in the community.

The radio magazine will start production and airing as soon as the political and security situation allows.

**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**

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  *As a follow-up effort to the Young Women-led Community Initiatives for Reconciliation in mid-August 2021, Search’s project officer conducted a monitoring visit to the women who were part of this activity at Alfula and collected feedback.* | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  *Yes, the baseline has been completed and the project indicator table reflects the findings.*  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  *N/A* | Evaluation budget (response required):  *$28,000*  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. (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)* |  |

**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:

$

1. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

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**  **Young women leaders have increased capacity and confidence to lead efforts to participate in peace and security at the community level** | Indicator 1.1  % of targeted young women who report feeling prepared to speak and lead on peace and security | TBD | % change from baseline at endline, as determined by baseline values |  | 23.12% |  |
| Indicator 1.2  % of targeted young women who report having opportunities to influence peace and security in Sudan | TBD | % change from baseline at endline, as determined by baseline values |  | 50% |  |
| Indicator 1.3  % of community members who believe that women can contribute positively to peace and security | TBD | 70% at endline |  | 50% |  |
| Output 1.1 | Indicator 1.1.1  % of trained young women who demonstrate increased knowledge of concepts related to leadership, conflict transformation, UNSCR 1325 and 2250 | TBD | 80% post activity |  | N/A |  |
| Indicator 1.1.2  % of target women (young women and established women leaders) who believe collaboration with women from a different group (age, ethnic, religious) is effective to advance peace and security | TBD | 80% post activity |  | N/A |  |
| Output 1.2 | Indicator 1.2.1  % of targeted young women who report working with established women leaders on peace and security in the past six months | TBD | 70% at endline |  | 48.82% |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2  % of targeted established women leaders who report having engaged regularly with young women leaders in the past six months | TBD | 80% at endline |  | 47.5% |  |
| Indicator 1.2.3  # of community-based peace and security initiatives led by women | TBD | 12 at endline |  | 10 initiatives ongoing in South Kordofan and Gadarif |  |
| **Outcome 2**  **Women’s political engagement and advocacy during the transition are strengthened** | Indicator 2.1  % targeted women who believe that they can make a positive difference on peace and security issues in their communities project | TBD | 80% at endline |  | 66.7% |  |
| Indicator 2.2  % of community members who believe women are key actors in political processes and advocacy in their communities | TBD | % change from baseline at endline, as determined by baseline values |  | 33.5% |  |
| Indicator 2.3  % of targeted women who report having opportunities to influence political processes and policy decisions in Sudan (and can provide at least 1 example) | TBD | 80% at endline |  | 64.2% |  |
| Output 2.1  Women political leaders have increased knowledge and skills to engage diverse and marginalized groups | Indicator 2.1.1  % trained government representatives who have increased skills in engaging diverse perspectives | TBD | 80% after each training |  | N/A |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2  % trained women who demonstrate increased skills in building consensus and advocacy | TBD | 80% after each training |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.1.3  # of advocacy plans and policy priorities jointly designed across generational divides (young women and established women leaders). | TBD | at least 6 by endline |  | N/A |  |
| Output 2.2  Platforms for women leaders to engage with the community and policy makers on peace processes are developed and strengthened | Indicator 2.2.1  % community members who feel they have opportunities to contribute feedback to peace processes | TBD | % change from baseline at endline, as determined by baseline values |  | 1.25% (Female: 60% and Male: 40%) |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2  % of targeted women, young women, and youth who report collaborating with diverse groups on advocacy points in the past six months | TBD | 70% at endline |  | 40.8% |  |
| Indicator 2.2.3  # policy/advocacy meetings with local, regional and national authorities | TBD | at least 12 by endline |  | N/A |  |
| **Outcome 3**  **Women’s roles and contribution as leaders are amplified and accepted at the local, national, and international levels** | Indicator 3.1  % of targeted women who feel their contribution is recognized in peace, security, and political processes | TBD | 60% at endline |  | 41% |  |
| Indicator 3.2  % of targeted government representatives who demonstrate increased acceptance and support for women’s engagement. | TBD | 80% at endline |  | 50% |  |
| Indicator 3.3  % of community members who agree or strongly agree with the statement “women are capable of contributing and leading on peace and security” | TBD | % change from baseline at endline, as determined by baseline values |  | 50% |  |
| Output 3.1  Community perceptions and attitudes towards the roles and capacity of young women leaders are positively transformed | Indicator 3.1.1  % of surveyed community members who demonstrate increased awareness of women’s and young women’s leadership (can cite at least one example) | TBD | 60% at endline |  | 50% |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2  # of stories of young women’s leadership produced | TBD | at least 20 by endline |  | N/A |  |
| Output 3.2  Sudanese policy makers have increased awareness of women’s (and in particular young women’s) roles in peace processes | Indicator 3.2.1  % of targeted decision-makers at the local, sub-national and national levels who demonstrate increased awareness of the importance of women’s and young women’s inclusion | TBD | 70% at endline |  | 50% |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2  # of recommendations developed to support young women’s inclusion in peace and political processes | TBD | at least 5 by endline |  | N/A |  |