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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** **LIBERIA**

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

**YEAR of report:** 2021

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| **Project Title:** Protection and Support of Enabling Environment for Women Human Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders in Liberia-PROSEED  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:00125938** | |
| **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 organisations:**  **Kvinna till Kvinna NUNO (Convening Agency)** |
| **Date of first transfer:** Feb 12, 2021  **Project end date:** Aug 12, 2021  **Is the current project end date within six 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 organisation):**  **Recipient Organisation Amount**  Kvinna till Kvinna $ 495 000.00  Total: $ 495,000.00  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 34**%**  \*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: 459 000  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: **92%** | |
| **Project Gender Marker: 3**  **Project Risk Marker: 1**  **Project PBF focus area: (2.3) Conflict prevention/management** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Aisha Kamara Kolubah, Program Manager  Project report approved by: Aisha Lai, Head of Office  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 inception activities include the following

As part of the kick of the project, two Kick-off Meetings were held with implementing partners and key stakeholders, including Government line Ministries, UN Agencies, Sida, IrishAid, and the Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat. The first meeting was held with the partner organisations

and Kvinna till Kvinna staff; it focused on the rollout of the project outlook, including planned activities, key deliverables, timeline, financial management, anti-corruption, and donor compliance. The second external meeting focused on providing detailed information about the project and strengthening relationships with relevant stakeholders at the national level. A similar process was done at the community level with local leaders to provide information about the project and solicit buy-in from communities.

As a result of all the engagement, the PROSEED project is now positioned in the targeted locations in Grand Bassa County-Gornigar Town, Gorzohn, Cortroe; Margibi County- Kataka, Harbel, Dolo Town and Kpans Town; Montserrado County- Low-cost Village, Chicken soup Factory and Rivercess County- Gbardea's town, Sand Beach Adam & Eve Creek.

The partner organizations (POs); Liberian Women Empowerment Network- LIWEN, Community Healthcare Initiative- CHI, and Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia- LEGAL, have commenced the community engagement and program activities. Project participants have been mobilized and participating in the implementation of the activities at the community level.

In addition, the project staff (for both Kvinna till Kvinna and the partners) have been recruited and deployed. All the equipment has been procured and assigned to relevant staff.

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):

The initial workshop for Integrated Security was completed, and the refresher is planned for February 2022. The workshop will target the same participants (Women and LGBTI Human Rights Defenders, Women Human Rights Defenders Network members, and staff from Independent National Commission on Human Rights staff) who attended the Training of Trainers. The refresher workshop will follow up on implementing the Integrated Security Plan developed by participants and utilization of the knowledge and skill gained.

There is a plan to strengthen the Women Human Rights Defenders Network of Liberia, supported by Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organizations. The event will bring together Women Human Rights Defenders from the national and sub-national levels to promote coordination, Networking, and dialogue with key stakeholders for the protection of their rights. The event is intended to call on the government and other actors to prioritize the safety and security of WHRDs. The activity will take place late November 2021.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarise **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):

Project activities that will lead to this are currently ongoing. Dialogue reports from the Partner Organizations (POs) indicate that Traditional and Religious Leaders showed a willingness to support the project. The team will continue to engage the relevant stakeholders to ensure the result against this is achieved.

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 people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):

Cllr. Margaret Nigba is a lawyer and a member of the Female Lawyer Association and Women Human Rights Defenders Network of Liberia. She is one of the young female lawyers who has defended women's rights and LGBTQIA+ people. Cllr. Nigba has been active in defending human rights but did not consider her security and safety from an integrated approach. She mentioned that the training provided by the project has helped in shifting her approach to defending human rights. "The integrated security workshop has helped us (Women Human Rights Defenders) a lot because it has changed the way we approach things. I was able to develop a small plan that I am now using to structure my work. Top on my list is my mental health and wellbeing; this is something that I did not consider in my work. It has brought so much calm to me as I can do my work and at the same take care of myself". Cllr. Nigba told the team during a follow-up meeting of the workshop. She further talked about how she has shared the knowledge with her co-workers and team of lawyers. "The information was very informative, and I could not keep to myself. I have shared this with three other lawyers and two of my co-workers. I am currently working with them to develop and implement their integrated security plan. I hope that other women human rights defenders will get this information and support because we do not have time to take care of ourselves most of the time.

Cllr. Margaret is among other human rights defenders who participate in the Integrated Security Workshop and serve as a champion.

**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 work plan.
* "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.

Not applicable for this period

**Outcome 1: Strengthened protection and resilience of Women Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders to safely claim human rights for all and challenge current patriarchal structures**.

**Rate the current status of the Outcome progress: On track**

**Progress Summary:** *(3000-character limit)*

Kvinna till Kvinna conducted two capacity-building trainings and continues to provide mentoring and coaching sessions (eight coaching and mentoring sessions) for POs. The training focused on the overall programme management and organizational development. As a result of the engagement, the three POs submitted financial and narrative reports with less quarry. Additionally, a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) was held with selected POs' staff. The ToT strengthened the capacity of POs to lead the PVA and Needs assessment. The POs successfully conducted the needs assessment in selected communities. With the tools and skills provided, POs worked with communities and stakeholders to identify needs and do an in-depth examination of their vulnerability. Communities were empowered and motivated to take appropriate actions to address their vulnerabilities. They facilitated participatory sessions to analyse vulnerability and power relations. This led to the smooth start-up of program activities.

During the reporting period, 20 persons participated in the Integrated Security Workshop. Pparticipants expressed satisfaction about the training because it was the first of its kind in Liberia. The integrated Security Approach extends the conversation and the practice of Integrated Security to optimize mental health and emotional wellbeing through self-care and the collective care paradigm. Through the Integrated Security Approach, Women and LGBTQIA+ rights defenders understood the challenges of mental health and emotional wellbeing, especially for frontline activism and protection. They discussed safety at personal levels and their response to insecurity. This discussion allowed them to gauge their understanding of the importance of holistic self-and collective care through mental health and emotional wellbeing practices. Women and LGBTQIA+ rights defenders became familiar with practical tools for holistic mental health and emotional wellbeing and self-and collective care as a key component of their overall training on Integrated Security.

Participants from the follow up meeting mentioned that they now feel confident to be called human rights defenders. Women Human Rights Defenders in the communities have started utilizing skills and knowledge to protect themselves and defend the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people. 64% of the participants mentioned that they have developed a personal integrated security plan and used it to carry out their work. Following up with the LGBTQIA+ rights defenders, they noted that the training had enabled them to develop a plan for the Network chaired by Security and Safety Committee.

Feedback from participants indicates that there has been an increased understanding of the integrated security approach among human rights defenders, and it is evident that they are utilizing skills and knowledge.

As the result of the support (technical and financial) support given, the Women Human Rights Defenders Network of Liberia hosted its first convening to review strategic documents and set up its leadership structure. At the end of the convening, a draft action plan was developed and expected to run for one year. The strategic documents, including the action plan, will guide and strengthen the engagement, especially around resource mobilization and visibility of the Network. The Network will now serve as a platform to coordinate and provide safe space for WHRDs in the country.

**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)*

Kvinna till Kvinna is deliberate about using intersectionality and human rights-based approaches to ensure that project participants are reached. The Integrated Security Workshop targeted a cross-section of women considering intergenerational discussions on women human rights defenders. Additionally, to ensure women's empowerment, community women were part of the workshop. The Women Human Rights Defenders session had over 60% of the younger generation, while the LGBTQIA+ session had over 75% of the young generation.

For the engagement with WHRDs, older women (40 and above) made up 55% of participants, while young women (28-35) made up 45%. The Network's leadership structure did consider both the young and older generation and targeted non-binary people. This is to ensure women human rights defenders are represented in the various spaces and from various backgrounds.

In the PVA and program management workshop for POs, female participants made up 75% and male 20%. 5% of the male participants identified themselves as women. Young people (25-35) made up 75% of the participants, 5% were middle age (36-49), and 20% were 50 and above.

Engagement with the WHRDs, older women (40 and above) made up 65% of participants, while young women (28-35) made up 35%. KtK and POs will continue to engage and ensure that young women are reached under this intervention so as it lay the foundation for sustainability as older women retire.

**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)*

Kvinna till Kvinna and partners continue to make efforts to ensure the younger generation plays an active role in the implementation of the project. Under this outcome, the younger generation made up 24% of the participants, and Montserrado County reported that over 45% of the partners were young people. In total, 55% of participants were women leaders from the communities.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

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| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)  *No monitoring was conducted by the project during the reporting period.* | Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? No |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  *No. This is not applicable for this period* | Evaluation budget (response required): $18500.00  If the project will end in the next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500-character limit)*: |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate the name of the funding agent and the amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: Amount: |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500-character limit)* | No major concern at the moment; however, the amount budgeted for monitoring was understated. The amount budgeted for monitoring is US$ 4,620, while the amount allocated for end-of-project evaluation 18, 500. We are considering requesting reallocation. |

**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.*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable for this quarter.

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 stigmatisation 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.*)

Not applicable in all ways. However, the use of masks, washing hands, and social distancing are consistently reinforced during gatherings for training and group discussions.

**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**  Strengthened protection and resilience of Women Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders to safely claim human rights for all and challenge current patriarchal structures | Outcome indicator 1a: % of HRDs who report one concrete example of how the project has contributed to them feeling more secure in their work (disaggregated by sex, age, location, and stakeholder group) | **0** | **50%** | **50% by end of project.** | Not applicable at the moment. Progress will be captured in the evaluation and end of project reports. |  |
| Outcome indicator 1b: % of leaders who report having developed pledges for action (disaggregated by sex, age, location, and stakeholder group) | **0** | **20%** | **20% by end of project.** | Not applicable at the moment. Progress will be captured in the evaluation and end of project reports. |  |
| Outcome indicator 1c: % of participants who report participating in developing advocacy plans in their communities (disaggregated by sex, age, location, and stakeholder group) | **0** | **30%** | **30% by end of project.** | Not applicable at the moment. Progress will be captured in the evaluation and end of project reports. |  |
| **Output 1.1** WHRD and LGBTQI Rights Defenders are provided with tools to understand and assess risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities and strategies for integrated security to safely and effectively claim their space and defend right-holders rights.  **List of activities:**  **1.1.1** Organisation of "Integrated Security Workshops" for WHRD and LGBTQI RDs.  **1.1.2** Networking and exchange between human rights defenders.  **1.1.3** Capacity building of partner organizations | **Indicator 1.1.1**  Increased knowledge on risk assessment and integrated security strategies among WHRDs and LGBTQI RDs (24 participants, expected 18 self-identifying as women, 6 self-identifying as men) | **5%** | **30** | **30% by end of training.   Activity: 1.1.1** | Based on the training report, a total of 8 WRHDs and 12 LGBTQIA+ participated in the Integrated Security Workshop and mentioned increased understanding of risk assessment and integrated security plan |  |
| **Indicator 1.1.2**  Increased capacity to conduct training on risk assessment and Integrated security strategies among 6 staff of INHRC (3 women, 3 men) and 6 staff of the Women Human Rights Defenders Network (6 women); through the training of trainers | **0%** | **75%** | **75% by end of training**  **Activity: 1.1.1** | **Same as above** |  |
| Output Indicator 1.1.3 # of WHRDs, LGBTQI RDs, and youth between 15-29 years participating in the networking event. | **0** | **80**  **20 WHRDs(female), 20 LGBTQ RDs (10 amle, 10 female), 40 youth 40 youth (20 men and 20 women) in the networking event.** | **After completion of activity: 1.1.2** | **Activities leading to this are not due this period. Progress will be reported in the next reporting period.** |  |
| Output Indicator 1.1.4 % of WHRDs, LGBTQI RDs and youth between 15-29 years participating in the event have coordinated after the event. | **0** | **50%** | **3-5 months after networking event** | **Same as above** | **Sane as above** |
| **Indicator 1.1.5**  Partner organisations have addressed gaps (in terms of policies and systems) | **0** | **At least 2 key organizational gaps (in terms of policies and systems) are addressed by each of the partner organizations** | **After completion of Activity 1.1.3** | **Based on the feedback from the partners' reports, it evident that they have improved systems and policies to implement and deliver on the project. There were less feedback on both financial and narrative reports** |  |
| **Output 1.2**  Increased understanding of Human Rights-Based approach and acceptance and protection of WHRDs and LGBTQI Rights Defenders by the community, traditional and religious leaders  **List of activities:**  1.2.1 Participatory needs assessment  1.2.2 Dialogue sessions with influential leaders  1.2.3 Trainings with traditional & community religious leaders  1.2.4 Follow-up dialogues and monitoring visits | **Indicator 1.2.1**  # Dialogue sessions conducted with traditional & community leaders and religious leaders, 65% men, 35% women. | **0** | **8** | **After implementation of activity 1.2.2** | **Initial dialogues sessions were held reaching out to 173 persons from the four counties. Feedback from the report indicates that there increased knowledge and participants were excited and are willing to support the project** |  |
| **Indicator 1.2.2**  Increased knowledge on HRBA and HR-related content among project participants | **The training is pending** | **20%** | **20% at end of project.** | **Activities leading to this is are not due this period. Progress will be reported in the next reporting period.** | **Same as above** |
| Output Indicator 1.2.3  Increased acceptance of WHRDs and LGBTQI RDs among project participants | **The training is pending** | **20%** | **20% at end of project** | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Output 1.3**  Women, girls and boys (including sexual minorities), analyse, understand and respond to GBV, Harmful Traditional Practices, and other violations of their rights.  **List of activities:**  1.3.1 Needs assessment and dialogue  1.3.2 Support the groups to set up their forums and leadership structures.  1.3.3 Support to established forums and community groups to develop action plans  1.3.4 Support implementation of action plans on advocacy and awareness raising  1.3.5 Follow-up and monitoring visits | **Indicator 1.3.1**  Rightsholders' forums and groups report having improved their leadership and structures. | **0%** | **70%** | **After completion of activity 1.1.1** | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Indicator 1.3.2**  The targeted rightsholder groups have increased knowledge and skills to raise awareness on women's rights and/or LGBTQI rights in their own communities. | **5%** | **30%** | **30% end of project** | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |
| **Indicator 1.3.3**  The targeted community groups have seen the pledges of action partially or substantially completed. | **0%** | **70%** | **70% end of project.** | **Same as above** | **Same as above** |