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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** Papua New Guinea

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual**

**YEAR of report:** 2022

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| **Project Title: Gender transformative psychosocial support for peace and community resilience in Hela Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG)**  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00130034** | |
| **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:**  **UNWOMEN (Convening Agency)**  **UNFPA** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 10 January 2022  **Project end date:** 6 July 2023  **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):**   * *Please enter the total amounts in US dollars allocated to each recipient organization* * *Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.* * *For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the detail in the attached budget.*  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Recipient organisation** | **Budget Allocated ($)** | **Amount Transferred to date ($)** | **Amount spent to date ($)** | | **UNWOMEN** | **741,371.11** | **518,959.78** | **36,038** | | **UNFPA** | **758,628.89** | **531,040.22** | **0** | | **TOTAL** | **1,500,000.00** | **1,050,000.00** | **36,038** |   Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: **0.02%**  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **The budget templates are available** [**here**](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/application-guidelines)  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 95.28%  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women’s empowerment: $1,429,190.20  Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women’s empowerment: 0 | |
| **Project Gender Marker: 3**  **Project Risk Marker: 1**  **Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict Prevention Management** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Caroline Nyamayemombe, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women PNG CO with inputs from Lucy Stevens, Programme Specialist, UNFPA  Project report approved by: Themba Kalua, Country Representative, UN Women PNG CO  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: No | |

***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):

***Project staff recruitment completed.*** Two staff were included in the project budget for recruitment, and a field-based Men and Boys Engagement Coordinator (SC/SB4). UNFPA has upgraded the position of MHPSS Technical Specialist (P3/TA) to a Fixed Term Appointment (FTA) through additional funding in order to attract more experienced and committed candidate. UNFPA has secured co-funding for this position to commence following the end of the project, with the view for the FTA position to be dedicated to this project for its duration in line with the intention articulated in the original project documents. Through this process, UNFPA identified and confirmed a strong candidate to assume on a short-term consultancy in July and then shift to the permanent contract once issued. Recruitment for the position of Men and Boys Coordinator has been completed and selected staff will assume duty on 20 June 2022.

***Foundations for project implementation have been laid.*** UN Women staff based in Tari have initiated socializing of the project with key stakeholders consulted during its formulation and creating synergy with existing and planned initiatives. Institutional arrangements with the LEP centres which are expected to be central in the implementation of group based psychosocial support activities are continuing. UNFPA have been drawing on their internal MHPSS expertise including at a regional level to inform design of the curriculum.

UN Women’s partner Melanesian Institute has continued its support to the LEP coordinators as part of the Creating Conditions for Peace project. During the reporting period UN Women completed the monitoring framework to be used in the programme, baseline assessment design and tools. Melanesian Institute re-visited the terms of reference for the LEP coordinators, and a reporting tool was introduced in preparation of project monitoring. Training of baseline data collectors is expected to happen during the last week of June. UNFPA have continued partnership with the Diocese of Mendi through complementary programming, by implementing the peace-building interventions under the Highlands Joint Programme and to support this GYPI MHPSS joint programme. As part of UNFPA’s support to DOM, UNFPA is in the process of recruiting an additional staff for DOM to strengthen its capacity to implement both programmes.

***The security situation is volatile and has hampered planned progress.*** Violence broke out around Tari Town on 14 March and persisted to the end of April. According to local sources, clan from Angore (Komo-Magarima District) went to Tari and reportedly attacked local persons in retaliation for previous killing. The fighting occurred in the vicinity of the Tari market in town and resulted in four persons critically injured and several houses being destroyed. Pursuant incidents of clashes between police & armed men in Tari led to the shooting of two police officers and the death of one, burning down of police houses in Pai police barracks; sporadic retaliatory fighting; road closure from Pai Barracks to Tari Town as armed men occupied that section of the road; chopping down of tress and damage to power supply lines; threats to Tari Hospital staff and destruction of a UN staff member’s accommodation. Due to the escalation, the UN Designated Official approved for UN personnel to be relocated to Mendi.

It has become apparent that the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGEC) is struggling to maintain law and order with police forces themselves being targets for retaliation. While reinforcement forces were provided for the issuing of the electoral writs in May, Hela will likely remain volatile until after the elections in August. The deterioration of security has complicated access by implementing partners based outside of Tari (such as Melanesian Institute and UN staff based outside) causing delays in implementation. In response to these challenges, UN Women is in the process of selecting Tari based organizations to support implementation in the three LEP locations. UNFPA anticipates Diocese of Mendi to start implementation after elections. Another mitigation measure considered was to relocate training activities to Mt Hagen. However, on 10 May, there was an outbreak of violence in Mt Hagen and with intermittent periods of calm, the overall security situation remains volatile.

The project is set to experience a slow down during the period June to August 2022. Potential mitigatory actions include relocating certain training activities to other safer regions such as Port Moresby.

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

**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: Conflict related trauma especially among affected men women, young men and young women in Hela Province is addressed as part of peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.**

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

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

Progress has been made towards delivery of two out of the four project outputs. UN Women completed a stakeholder mapping for research institutions to complete the research into the intersection of gender and age-related social norms, inter-group violence and mental health and psychosocial support in Hela Province. A call for proposals to complete the selection process competitively has been launched. (Output 1.1).

UNFPA has collated MHPSS curricula technical materials for the development of a contextualised group-based non-specialised curriculum. A desk review will be done to inform the development of the contextualised materials by the MHPSS Specialist (Output 1.2).

John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has been engaged to provide training and supervision for its Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) to increase MHPSS and health workers skills in MHPSS. CETA is an evidence-based treatment approach suitable for low- and middle-income settings which is tailored towards helping address mental health issues including post-traumatic stress disorder. CETA has been implemented in Papua New Guinea in conflict and post-conflict settings before. While acknowledging the great diversity across PNG, given CETA’s global standing and application to the PNG context in the past their participation is a significant contribution to addressing conflict related trauma. UNFPA is exploring options for adapted training modalities given contextual challenges in discussions with John Hopkins in order to confirm the first training. Selection of MHPSS and health candidates for participation in CETA training and coaching will commence in September when the security situation is expected to have returned to normalcy with the conclusion of elections. (Output 1.3).

**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 collation of MHPSS curricula and materials for the development of a contextualised group-based non-specialised curriculum has prioritised resources with gender transformative conceptual framework. Engagement of research partners was done based on the institution’s specialised in gender responsive programming and/or MHPSS. Throughout the reporting period, GBV service mapping and referral pathways have continued to be updated to reflect the changing security context in order to ensure uninterrupted access to services as part of project activity implementation and in line with a do no harm approach.

**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 the outcome 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**  Conflict related trauma especially among affected men women, young men and young women in Hela Province is addressed as part of peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. | **Indicator 1a**  Percentage of men, women, young men, young women in project sites reporting improved understanding of the gendered, age specific impacts and drivers of conflict including trauma. | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | **n/a** | Baseline assessment was planned to take place in March. However, conflict broke out in Tari and the situation has not been stable. The new plan is to conduct the baseline during the month of June where there is high military and police presence deployed for the elections. |
| **Indicator 1b**  Percentage of affected men, women, young women and men in project sites who report improved mental health and psychosocial wellbeing to address conflict related trauma. | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | **n/a** | Baseline assessment was planned to take place in March. However, conflict broke out in Tari and the situation has not been stable. The new plan is to conduct the baseline during the month of June where there is high military and police presence deployed for the elections. |
| **Indicator 1c**  Percentage of men, women, young women and young men in project sites who report applying MHPSS and social and emotional skills to local peacebuilding processes. | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | Subject to baseline assessment | **n/a** | Baseline assessment was planned to take place in March. However, conflict broke out in Tari and the situation has not been stable. The new plan is to conduct the baseline during the month of June where there is high military and police presence deployed for the elections. |

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

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 national general election schedule runs from the issuing of the writs on 12 May, polling between 9-22 July and return of writs on 29 July 2022. The national general election is already impacting implementation and is anticipated to continue to impact the security context of project locations, and thus implementation until at least August/September. The prioritised activities within this context are the onboarding of staff, project baseline assessment, contracting of lead research institute and launching of research, adaptation of training curriculum, and contracting of additional locally based partners and training of community facilitators.

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):

None in this reporting period due to the timeframe of the implementation and nature of activities completed.

You can also upload upto 3 ﬁles in various formats (picture ﬁles, powerpoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and 3 links to online resources

OPTIONAL

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  Design of monitoring and evaluation framework and monitoring tools | Do outcome indicators have baselines? **Baseline assessment was postponed due to community access challenges.**  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? **No** |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  **NO** | Evaluation budget (response required): n/a  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. | Name of funder: Amount:  **UNFPA USD 242,000 (rounded off)**  (35% of the MHPSS Specialist’ Fixed-Term Appointment Compensation) |
| **Catalytic Eﬀect (non-ﬁnancial):** Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer‐term peacebuilding change to occur?  ***Please select***  No catalytic eﬀect  Some catalytic eﬀect  Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Very Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Don't Know  Too early to tell | If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-ﬁnancial) catalytic eﬀect |
| **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)* | Significant security challenges related to the upcoming election have occurred starting as early as March and have triggered an increase in the frequency of intercommunal violence in project locations. Outbreaks of violence have resulted in movement restrictions on affected populations and implementing partners active in project locations as well as challenges in accessing project locations by agencies and partners based outside of these locations. In general, these outbreaks of violence follow a short cycle; an outbreak is coupled with short-term displacement with continued violence and heightened insecurity lasting around one to three weeks before pre-outbreak context resumes. While this cycle provides some opportunity to continue programming, the fluctuating short-term cycle has posed a significant challenge to planning especially given standard procurement processes.  In addition to mitigation measures described earlier, UNFPA and UN Women continue to revise workplans to pivot to non-field based activities when needed (e.g. recruitment, procurements, baseline research, remote conflict tracking etc); and prioritising implementation in more permissible locations; use of alternative training/engagement locations where feasible (balanced against budget and do-no-harm considerations); and, to every extent possible, implement field activities within available windows of relative calm when they present themselves.  However, given the impact of security challenges and the continued unstable situation, foreseeable until at least end of August in light of the national general elections, it is anticipated that delays in implementation may continue impacting the overall timeline of the project. |

**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 NOTE THAT THIS SECTION IS OPTIONAL***

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

No adjustments have been made with regards to COVID-19.

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

No adjustments have been made with regards to COVID-19.

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.*)

n/a