

# SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE

## PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

<b>Country(ies):</b> Malawi	
<b>Project Title:</b> Strengthening Malawi's Peace Infrastructure for conflict prevention and sustaining peace in borderland districts.	
<b>Project Number from MPTE-O Gateway (if existing project):</b>	
<b>PBF project modality:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	<b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b>
<b>List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.):</b>  <i>Convening Agency:</i> UNDP <i>Supporting Agencies:</i> UNFPA, UN Women  <b>List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):</b>  <u>Government:</u> Ministry of National Unity Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare  <u>Parastatal:</u> Malawi Human Rights Commission Public Affairs Committee  <u>Local CSO:</u> Paralegal Advisory Service Institute Youth and Society Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJP) Femwise Human Rights Defenders Coalition Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) Citizen Alliance Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC) Organization for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Initiative (OSSEDI) Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE) Action Aid Malawi Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA) Banja Lamtsogolo (BLM - Marie Stopes International)	

<p>Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM)</p> <p><i>International NGO:</i> Plan International Save the Children</p>	
<p><b>Project duration in months<sup>1 2</sup>:</b> 24 months (starting January 2023)</p> <p><b>Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:</b> Borderland districts of Karonga, Machinga, and Mangochi</p>	
<p><b>Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative<sup>3</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative<sup>4</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project</p>	
<p><b>Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):</b></p> <p><b>UNDP:</b> \$ 1,800,000</p> <p><b>UNFPA:</b> \$ 600,000</p> <p><b>UN Women:</b> \$ 600,000</p> <p><b>TOTAL:</b> \$ 3,000,000</p> <p><i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.</i></p> <p><b>Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNDP TRAC has been an ongoing source of funding to UNDP's Social Cohesion programming. In 2022, this amounted to USD 707,000.</li> <li>- Ireland and Iceland have contributed USD 837,312 to the SDG-AF joint programme on Border Security and Conflict Prevention, carried out jointly by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM and UNODC.</li> <li>- Japan has committed USD 1 million through the 2022 JSB fund for the project on "Promoting Peace and Socio-Economic Empowerment through National Peace Architecture and Sustainable Livelihoods", to be carried out in Thyolo and Nsanje.</li> <li>- UN Women has secured USD 1 million for UNSCR 1325 Support from the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PBF 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (50%):</b></p> <p>UNDP: \$ 900,000</p> <p>UNFPA: \$ 300,000</p>	<p><b>PBF 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche* (50%):</b></p> <p>UNDP: \$ 900,000</p> <p>UNFPA: \$ 300,000</p>

<sup>1</sup> Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

<sup>2</sup> The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.

<sup>3</sup> Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative

<sup>4</sup> Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

UN Women: \$ 300,000 Total: \$ 1,500,000	UN Women: \$ 300,000 Total: \$ 1,500,000 Expenditure of 75% of the funds of the 1 <sup>st</sup> tranche is required for disbursement of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> tranche.
<p><b>Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):</b></p> <p>This project seeks to strengthen and build the capacity of national and subnational infrastructures for peace and conflict prevention, with a special focus on borderland communities.</p> <p>The project will take a three-pronged approach to achieve this goal and focus on supporting the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees focusing on the three target districts, while also empowering community-level structures to identify and reduce root causes of conflict and potential triggers of violence; and strengthening the capacities of law enforcement actors in border security in targeted borderland districts to identify trends that could contribute to potential conflict, respond effectively to these early warning and enhance the protection of human rights for border communities.</p> <p>All of these interventions will be underpinned by an effort to mobilize and support women and youth in target districts as agents of peace at the district level. The project will also aim to strengthen existing mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and women and girls' access to safe spaces in target districts, and strengthen the capacities of youth and women-led organisations and networks in the target districts to support their active participation and representation in decision-making processes and socio-economic opportunities.</p> <p>The Project will also engage government and civil society to improve the protection mechanisms for women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence, early/child marriage and human trafficking and addressing incentives and sensitization that can discourage the proclivity of youth towards conflict due to disenfranchisement and/or radicalization in the affected communities.</p>	
<p><b>Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups):</b></p> <p>Consultations for the project were triggered by the risk analysis of the reviewed Malawi Common Country Analysis undertaken between 2020 and 2021, which looked at internal conflict dynamics and socio-economic risks, as well as the analysis of regional insecurity within Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). These analyses resulted in a UNCT agreement to prioritize community-based human rights protection, conflict prevention and dialogue in borderland communities. The PDA Team led a participatory conflict assessment in four borderland districts with Mozambique in May 2021, in coordination with the Ministry of National Unity, which is the main counterpart for the UN in the implementation of the Malawi National Peace Architecture and Peace Policy. The Ministry led the technical consultations within the government, including the Ministries of Gender and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Homeland</p>	

Security, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, which complemented the consultations conducted by the UN in the border communities.

The UN also engaged civil society organisations to inform the activities put forward in this proposal, including the Public Affairs Committee (PAC), Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Independent (Police) Complaints Commission, Paralegal Advisory Service Institute (PASI), Malawi Council for the Handicapped, Youth and Society, Kayira Youth Initiative, Young Politicians Union, Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJP), Africa Women Leaders Network, National Youth Council of Malawi, Women and Faith, NGO Gender Coordination Network.

**Project Gender Marker score<sup>5</sup>: 2**

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 50.67% - \$ USD 1,520,156.22

***Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment* <sup>6</sup>:**

This project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that specific women-only workshops are held, in preparation for wider mixed gender events. This is because the paternalistic culture in Malawi means that many women will be afraid to speak of their challenges and issues in front of men and therefore need to have their own events in order identify priorities as identified by women. Output 1.4 is focused on the implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325, including development of district strategies for its localisation to ensure that women and women-focused organisations and networks actively participate in the peace processes at both the national and subnational levels. The project will also target male opinion leaders and members of district committees with training and capacity on the role of women in decision-making and peace and security discussions, and identify male champions for women's inclusion and empowerment support at district and local levels. Thereafter, mixed activities will mainstream gender in their implementation and that a minimum of 40% of women are included in the different activities in line with the provision of the Peace and Unity Act and the Gender Equality Act. At the same time, training curricula will include specific components related to the protection of women and girls, women and youth peace and security to ensure that issues pertaining to women and girls are mainstreamed at all levels of the project.

The second outcome of the project is specifically focused on strengthening mechanisms for SGBV prevention and facilitate women and girls' increased access to safe spaces at district, community and at designated border crossing points in the target districts. Both outputs under outcome two are focused preventing SGBV and empowering women with skills and knowledge to enhance their participation and representation at decision-making processes and to take advantage economic opportunities in their localities. UN Women and UNFPA would further ensure that to ensure that

<sup>5</sup> **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

**Score 2** for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE

**Score 1** for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)

<sup>6</sup> Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

conflict analysis have a gender lens on the impact of conflicts, violence and tension on women and girls' rights and would include mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and providing safe spaces for women and girls. In the target borderland communities. Again, separate gender-specific sessions will be conducted: women will need to understand their rights in these matters and men need to be sensitized on what is meant by respecting those rights. Thereafter, there can be mixed sessions where examples of different forms of abuse can be acted out and discussed.

**Project Risk Marker score<sup>7</sup>: 1**

**Select PBF Focus Areas** which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)<sup>8</sup>:  
2.3 – conflict prevention/management

**If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes:**

The project contributes to outcomes and outputs under Pillars 1 and 2 of the current UNDAF:

Pillar 1 – Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions

**Outcome 1:** Rights holders in Malawi access more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralized levels that use quality disaggregated data, offer integrated service delivery and promote civic engagement, respect for human rights and rule of law.

**Outcome 2:** Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi is enhanced

**Outcome 3:** Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy.

Pillar 2 – Population Management and Inclusive Human Development

**Outcome 5:** Girls and boys 6-17 years particularly the most marginalized receive an integrated package of quality, health, nutrition, HIV, education and protection services.

**Outcome 6:** Men, women and children access high impact comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights and services.

**Sustainable Development Goal to which the project contributes:**

The project responds to SDG 16 to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:**

The project contributes to the targets of SDG 16, 3.4 and 5.2, 5.3.

The project also contributes to the priorities of the **New Malawi Long Term Vision (Malawi 2063)** by aligning itself with the following prioritized Enablers from the first 10-year Malawi

<sup>7</sup> **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 1** = medium risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 2** = high risk to achieving outcomes

<sup>8</sup> **PBF Focus Areas** are: (1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue; (2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management; (3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services; (4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)





United Nations  
Peacebuilding

Implementation Plan (MIP-1): 1. Mindset Change, 2. Effective Governance System and Institutions, 5. Human Capital Development.

<b>Type of submission:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>New project</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project amendment</b>	<b>If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:</b> <b>Extension of duration:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): <b>Change of project outcome/ scope:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Additional PBF budget:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional amount by recipient organization: USD <b>Brief justification for amendment:</b> <i>Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.</i>
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### PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<b>Recipient Organization(s):</b>  UNDP Resident Representative Date & Seal	<b>Representative of National Authority:</b>  Hon. Timothy Pagonachi Mumbo Minister of National Unity Date & Seal
<b>Recipient Organization(s):</b>  Letty Chiwara UN Women Country Representative Date & Seal	<b>Representative of National Authority:</b>  Ne... UN... Representative Date & Seal
<b>Head of UN Country Team</b>  UN Resident Coordinator Date & Seal	<b>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</b>  Elizabeth Spehar Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal 31/01/2023

## **I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)**

### **a) A brief summary of **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project**

Malawi, though always considered a peaceful country, has underlying conflict dynamics and socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities that threaten social cohesion, community security and peaceful coexistence, especially in the borderland communities.

At the national level, the events that followed the contested presidential election results in 2019 and 2020 exposed Malawi's vulnerabilities to conflict and social and civil unrest. The period between the 2019 tri-partite election period up until the 2020 fresh presidential elections witnessed an escalation of security risks and conflicts between civil society and the police, civil society and the government, as well as conflicts between communities. Civil society entities would call for regular demonstrations (around once a month) and the police tended to use disproportionate responses leading to an escalation of violence upon each occasion. The civil demonstrations and violence went beyond the grievances related to the perceived flawed elections and spread to district and community levels and other organised groups. The Resident Coordinator's Office, through the OHCHR Senior Human Rights Advisor, would tabulate the frequency and severity of these incidences in its Prevention Platform monitoring tool, regularly shared with relevant parts of the UNCT. The socio-political turbulence ended up being fanned by many other long-standing issues in the country, such as unresolved human rights and social inequalities, and the worsening economic precarity of the majority of the population. The public's discontent around elections provided a useful opportunity to vent these. To complicate matters, the combined electoral and economic uncertainty tended to retrench parts of the population into exacerbated sentiments around tribalism/ethnicity and increasing interfaith tensions, meaning that the country hit a peak of national disunity, serving as a warning of the direction the country could go in future if adequate peacebuilding and social cohesion measures are not mobilized in time.

These demonstrations and the mistrust they heightened between citizens and state institutions brought to the fore the need for independent institutional mechanisms for dialogue, mediation and coordination and linking national and local level conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. The post-2019 electoral violence also exposed the need for mobilising and strengthening community-level human rights and conflict prevention mechanisms, structures and actors to effectively deal with human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, community development and emerging regional and border security concerns, particularly in borderland communities like Karonga, Mangochi and Machinga, where existing tensions around issues of the border, religion, ethnicity, social inequality and limited economic opportunities could be exacerbated by extremists violence in neighbouring countries.

The rapidly deteriorating economic situation and its impact on livelihoods is also exerting pressure on social cohesion and peace in the country. The Russia-Ukraine crisis has exacerbated an already fragile economic situation, largely instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The headline inflation rate (year on year) for June 2022 is 23.5%, with food inflation at 31.2%. Fuel at the pump suffered a 20% increase in April and a further 40% in June. If the situation continues, it could impact Malawi's ability to import essential goods (fuel and medicines) and aggravate poverty, inequality, and unemployment, especially among vulnerable populations. The economic situation has political and social implications for the country. From April-June 2022, over 15 protests relating to the rising cost of living were organised. Though these protests were largely peaceful, they have since started to become violent with ethnic

undertones. The police have tended to deploy teargas during demonstrations, including student demonstrations. The local councils have also attempted to restrict the right to demonstrate by denying groups permits. Thus as the economic crisis continues to worsen, combined with a general feeling that the country is being mismanaged (see Afrobarometer of July 2022), it has the potential to ignite already existing political, ethnic and religious tensions between different parts of the country and increase negative rhetoric against non-Malawian business interests, especially Malawians of Asian descent, thus leading to similar socio-political turbulence as witnessed between the Tripartite and Fresh Presidential Elections, if not worse.

The impact of COVID-19 has also exerted significant economic and social pressure on communities, with women and girls feeling the impact all the more strongly. As revealed by the COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment Report (2020), about 3 in 4 women and men of all age groups indicated that they had suffered decreases in income as a result of the pandemic (73% and 76% respectively). The most common experiences that women and men had during the pandemic were financial difficulties (67% and 68% respectively), eating less or skipping a meal altogether because of lack of money or other resources (62% and 64% respectively), not eating at all for a day or more because of lack of money or other resources (46% and 51% respectively), and loss of employment of the head of household (18% and 19% respectively). Economic recovery efforts from the pandemic are not yielding much progress due to rising inflation which has aggravated the situation as many communities are finding it hard to afford commodities for daily living.

In this context, and bearing in mind the conflict in neighbouring Mozambique, particularly in the Cabo Delgado region, the UN undertook a conflict assessment in the four borderland districts of Mangochi, Machinga, Mulanje, and Phalombe in May 2021 and a follow-up assessment in July 2022 which included Karonga district (i.e., Karonga, Mangochi, Machinga, Mulanje, and Phalombe) as they were deemed to be particularly vulnerable to the internal shocks already existing in Malawi and the potential external shocks if the conflict in Mozambique was to significantly spillover. The objective of the assessments was to identify and analyse potential conflict and socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities of border communities, and potential spillover effects of refugees, asylum seekers, illicit cross-border trade and trafficking of weapons, people and illicit goods, among other more general potential drivers of conflict, such as poverty, unemployment, political disenfranchisement, resource access, and inter-religious and inter-ethnic conflicts.

The report showed border communities exhibit weak capacities for effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding around existing internal conflict dynamics and vulnerabilities, such as inter-religious tensions, land conflicts, exclusion of women and youth, irregular migration, child trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, and border porosity. Therefore, border communities and their current institutional coping mechanisms cannot support dialogue and mediation to prevent conflict and maintain peace, let alone if further exacerbated by additional border issues. In case of conflicts and crises, this has the potential to destabilize the whole of Malawi if not checked in the border regions.

With these considerations firmly at the fore, the UNCT, under the leadership of the RC, is proposing this project to support the establishment and operationalisation of the Malawi Peace Commission to lead and coordinate national and subnational capacities for peace, conflict early warning and responses and mainstreaming conflict prevention into national and district development plans. The project will also mobilise and strengthen local peace infrastructure and rule of law institutions and acts at the



district level to support conflict prevention, peacebuilding and human rights protection. The project will be implemented in the three borderlands districts of Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi.

These three borderland communities in Malawi manifest a mix of conflict dynamics and socio-economic vulnerabilities. However, the main conflict dynamic and socio-economic vulnerabilities that inform the development of this project include the following:

*Interfaith conflicts:* interfaith disputes and tensions are a major conflict driver in Mangochi and Machinga districts. These conflicts have mainly been between Christian and Muslims and are triggered by the use of the Hijab in Christian-assisted schools, negative religious preaching and rhetoric from both Christian and Muslim preachers and religious representatives, particularly during and around sermons, as revealed by the research, reporting and consultations that led to the UN mediated MoU between Christian and Muslims communities brokered in September 2021. According to the 2018 population census, there are approximately 2.5 million Muslims in Malawi and over half of Malawian Muslims live in Mangochi and Machinga district. Muslims comprise 72.6% of the population in Mangochi district and 66.9% of the population in Machinga. The revealed lack of structures for dialogue and mediation at the district and community level has made the resolution of these conflicts very difficult. The interreligious conflict has also been impacted by other factors, including the politicisation of religion by different political parties that are associated to certain religious denominations as well as ethnic groups, and have the potential to lead to actual conflict and spread to other Muslim-populated districts like Salima and Nkhoskhota.

*Chieftaincy-related conflicts:* Chieftaincy-related conflicts are also becoming a major source of tension within ethnic groups and between ethnic groups in many parts of the country, including the three project districts of Karonga, Mangochi, and Machinga, particularly between the majority 72.3% Yao, the 9.5% Lomwe, the 8.0% Chewa and the 4.2% Ngoni groups. Moreover, the elevation of traditional leaders without following customary rules and regulations is often contentious. These succession conflicts also occur within the royal families. Chieftaincy has been highly politicised and ‘monetised’ as the appointment and elevation of the chiefs, in many cases, have ceased to follow traditional guidelines and become more arbitrary, often based on personal relationships for such appointments and elevations. The politicised installations and promotions of chiefs continue to be a sore point among local communities and ethnic groups in many parts of the country, but is a particular concern in the target districts of this initiative as it comes on top of many other layers of challenges as described above.

*Weak peacebuilding and human rights protection systems and the rule of law mechanisms:* The three target districts have formal and informal peacebuilding structures, networks and actors (i.e., mother support groups, youth and work networks, and traditional and religious groups, and other community-based organisations). These networks are very important in community-level conflict mediation because they use indigenous conflict mediation mechanisms, largely relying on the wisdom and goodwill of village elders and the hope that they will arrive at mutually satisfying responses to emerging issues; however, these structures and mechanisms are weak and need technical capacity, coordination and networking support in order to have a more meaningful impact. In most cases, they tend to be blind to human rights protection issues as they are based on social customs and norms. These networks are thus not able to effectively handle and support issues relating to sexual and gender-based violence, child and early marriage, defilement or other human rights issues. It is expected that

establishing the Peace Commission will improve coordination and capacity, especially in conflict analysis, data collection, mediation and early warning and response mechanisms.

*Perceived marginalisation of borderland communities from national development:* Communities in the borderlands complain that they have tended to be isolated and only come into focus during elections when political parties and candidates either see them as an opportunity to increase votes by using them as a proxy to register foreigners or viewed as a threat and so are accused of being non-Malawians that should be excluded from the electoral process<sup>9</sup>.

Malawi also faces new and emerging regional security, conflict and humanitarian threats. The conflict in Mozambique raises concern, given that the two countries share a long, porous border. The presence and operations of the joint SADC and Rwandan forces in the Cabo Delgado region have forced the non-state armed groups operating in Cabo Delgado into nearby provinces, including the Niassa Province in Mozambique, which shares borders with communities in Mangochi and Machinga in Malawi. This puts Malawi at high risk of the spillover of the conflict/ or its effects, including an influx of refugees and asylum seekers from affected areas in Mozambique. Since January 2022, there have been reports of the arrival of Mozambicans from Lichinga and other communities of the Niassa Province fleeing the violence<sup>10</sup>. UNHCR has confirmed that 36 Mozambicans have been registered as asylum seekers<sup>11</sup>. But communities indicate that the number is much higher than the official reported figures, as some of the people are living with relatives and have not reported to the authorities.

The Songwe border in Karonga between Tanzania and Malawi also presents a significant risk to Malawi, as it is the main gateway from illegal/irregular migration into Malawi from migrants seeking to go to South Africa or Mozambique. There are also concerns that the coast of Lake Malawi, which serves as the borderline between Malawi and Tanzania, could be used to smuggle supplies into Mozambique<sup>12</sup>. There is also the potential for the exploitation of socio-economic vulnerabilities and existing conflict dynamics and vulnerabilities of borderland communities such as border porosity (referring to the illicit movement of people – including soldiers or terrorists – weapons and other illicit goods), weak community-level institutional capacities of rule of law and local peace infrastructure and networks, deprivation and marginalization of youth and women.

The spillover effects of the crises in neighboring countries are reportedly also being felt by borderland communities through increase human rights abuse cases at border crossing points due to enhanced border security presence and patrols on the Mozambican side of the border, as reported by the SADC Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM) in its February 2022 Communiqué and the two joint UN assessments in borderland communities. Local communities reported to the assessment mission of an increase in human rights abuses at border entry points and surrounding border areas. There have been reports of rapes and defilement and general harassment of Malawians, including extortion and confiscation, goods of business persons by border security personnel, and other unknown groups operating in the area. Though these cases are reported to the police, not much is being done to prevent

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<sup>9</sup> Local community perception expressed during conflict assessments in conducted by the UNCT in May 2021 and July 2022.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nyasatimes.com/mozambican-refugees-start-flooding-mangochi/> (accessed on 12 July 2022).

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR Malawi report on arrival of asylum seekers from Mozambique due to the violence in Northern Mozambique shared at the April UNCT Meeting.

<sup>12</sup> District Security indicated that at a meeting between them and their Tanzania counterparts in early 2022, the issue of the potential for lake Malawi to be used as access points for nonstate armed groups to smuggle supplies and people into Mozambique was highlighted. There is currently no evidence that this is happening, but the risk of this becoming an issue in coming years was strongly highlighted

their occurrence or prosecution of perpetrators. This, according to communities, is largely due to low capacity of the police to follow up, investigate and prosecute, unprofessional attitude of the police to such cases, bribery and corruption and the porous nature of the border area<sup>13</sup>. This has created insecurity in border communities and is impacting cross-border economic and livelihood activities like farming and informal trade, especially for women and young people who depend on these activities for survival.

The above dynamics are compounded by impacts of Tropical Storms Ana and Gombe in January and March 2022. Fifteen southern districts, including target districts for this intervention, have been hit by cyclones Ana and Gombe. The heavy rains and floods that accompanied the cyclones have washed off over 71,000 hectares of crops and destroyed basic infrastructure and resulted in the displacement of over 22,000 Malawian households and loss of lives of over 33 people. The floods have also displaced over 100 Mozambican households into Malawi. The impact of the cyclones would have an impact on food security and social cohesion, as there are already tensions between Malawian and Mozambican communities over access to land and food resources, and humanitarian aid.

### **Situation of Women and Youth**

Malawi has a population of 17.5 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.6 % as of 2019. Of this, women comprise 52 percent and play a significant role in contributing to the country's economy, and half of the total population are youth ages 10-35 years<sup>14</sup>. 20% of Malawi's youth experience multiple deprivations in health, education and employment. The deprivations are higher among young Malawian adults (aged 18-29) - 28.6% - than adolescents (aged 15-17) - 5.0%, among young women (27%) rather than men (18%) and among rural (23%) rather than urban youth (18%), mainly due to employment and education factors<sup>15</sup>. Young women continue to disproportionately experience discriminatory norms, legal loopholes and limited autonomy, despite the existence of a protective legal framework.

A total of 75 percent of the agricultural labour force is made up of women. They produce 70 percent of household food, though the majority are constrained in terms of access to productive resources. In cases where land is accessible, women would have less than 0.8 hectares on an average, resulting in incredibly low production. Other key factors that affect productivity include their inability to access labor, credit, and extension services. Additionally, poverty is widespread, especially in rural areas and is more feminised such that women, especially female-headed households, are the most affected and are among the poorest in terms of income distribution. The population of female-headed households in Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi is at 29 per cent, 47 per cent and 41 per cent respectively<sup>16</sup>.

Gender inequalities still persist in Malawi for reasons such as high illiteracy and cultural practices, which have a negative impact on women's progress in the country. Malawi was in 2019 ranked 142/162 on the Gender Inequality Index, a reflection of high levels of inequality in women's empowerment, economic activities, and reproductive health. Currently, among decision makers, women comprise 38% of Cabinet Ministers, 21% are Members of Parliament whilst 14% are Councillors. The Public Service has 26% of women in decision-making level positions. More effort is needed to fulfill the 40/60 proportion on gender equality provide for in the Gender Equality Act.

<sup>13</sup> Socio Economic Conflict Risk Assessment Findings, 2022

<sup>14</sup> 2020-2021-Youth-Budget-Brief, UNICEF

<sup>15</sup> 2018 housing and population census

<sup>16</sup> 2018 Malawi population and housing census, page 211

There are limited women-led structures or groups working on peace building and conflict prevention. Existing and active is largely within the faith domain i.e., the Women in Faith Peace Building Network. Other structures where women are participating on peace building and conflict prevention are the District Peace Committees. As provided for in the National Peace Policy (2017), women take part in the District Peace Committees that were established in the piloted 6 districts of Karonga, Kasungu, Mangochi, Machinga, Salima, Nkhatabay and Mulanje. The National Peace Policy espouses representation of the following in the District Peace Committees, 3 men, 3 women, 2 people with special needs and 1 youth<sup>17</sup>.

Violence against women and girls is still a fundamental issue of concern, with Malawi continuing to experience increased cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Evidence suggests that 42% of married women have experienced spousal violence, while 9% were married before the age of 15 years, and those married by age 18 are 46 percent<sup>18</sup>. Nearly one in five females and one in eight males 13-17 years experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse. The 2013 VAC study found that whilst two-thirds of females and males aged 18 to 24 years who experienced child sexual abuse prior to age 18 years had told someone about an incident, fewer than 10% received professional services.

Malawi's National Youth Policy places participation of young people at the centre stage "to ensure that youth meaningfully participate in the social, economic and political life of the nation and contribute to growth and sustained development of the country". Youth participation and representation in decision-making processes and peace and security initiatives at national and subnational level remains a big challenge. UNDP is already working with the government and youth organisations towards developing a National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security. A consultant has been engaged and this PBF project can provide critical contribution to the consultations process for the NAP to make them inclusive and support the localization of the NAP through the development district action plans and strategies to support youth active participation and representation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives. This initiative intends to support this process under Output 2, particularly through supporting the development of a women and youth peacebuilding situational analysis and mapping in the target borderland districts to support the development of the YPS NAP by engaging youth ambassadors in the target borderland districts in youth- and women-led working groups to support the development of the NAP.

On the economic front, transition for most of the youth is challenging as indicated in 2014 by many youths who are not in employment nor in education and training (NEET) (13.8%), informal employment (93%) and qualification mismatch (81% undereducated)<sup>19</sup>. Demand-driven education and skills development programs are needed. Economic growth has to be accompanied by investment in education and infrastructure to connect youth to employers. These programs however, are to be designed and funded based on the skills demanded by the job market and as these matters are outside the scope of this initiative, the project management team will, as a minimum, interact with other relevant parts of the UN and development partners to advocate for focusing efforts in these areas.

<sup>17</sup> National Peace Policy, (2017)

<sup>18</sup> Chikhungu LC, Amos M, Kandala N and, Palikadavath S., September 2021, Married Women's Experience of Domestic Violence in Malawi: New Evidence from a Cluster and Multinomial Logistic Regression Analysis

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/countries/malawi/Youth-well-being-policy-review-Malawi.pdf>

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_443480.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_443480.pdf)

However, significant challenges also lie in the actual meaningful facilitation of young people's participation in decision-making processes and economic opportunities at district and area development committee which has substantially been limited to inviting small groups of youth to take part in once-off meetings or events.

### **Target district analysis**

The choice of target districts has been informed by a comprehensive analysis of the conflict dynamics, trends and socioeconomic risks, threats and vulnerabilities, and the potential ripple effects that intervening in these districts would have on other districts. Based on the assessment of the landscape and discussions with development partners on the ground, there is significant potential for attracting additional resources to replicate and scale up demonstrated results from this PBF project in terms of early warning and early action systems, peacebuilding around electoral and political conflicts, interreligious violence, gender-based violence, cross-border issues, including border disputes, child/human trafficking, and new threats to peace like violent extremism through our social cohesion and election support work. The analysis is informed primarily by the revised CCA and the current Cooperation Framework conflict/risk analysis and response strategy, data from the UN Joint Conflict Assessment and the Malawi Prevention Platform (MPP) housed under the UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) and data from the Ministries of National Unity and Homeland Security. This primary data is complemented by data and reports from national partners and stakeholders like the Public Affairs Committee, Centre for Multiparty Democracy, Malawi Electoral Commission and INGO partners such as Plan and Goal.

### **Karonga**

Karonga is a northern district which shares borders with Tanzania. The district has a population of 365,028 (F: 188,831, M: 176,197). The district is one of the hotspots for political and electoral violence. The district has been witnessing increasing levels of political and electoral violence over the years. Since 2019, every election, including by-elections, has witnessed serious violent clashes between rival political parties and has resulted in the destruction of property and human injuries. In 2019, over 10 houses, the District Commissioner's Office, a forestry department office and a police station were torched following the disputed 2019 election results. In 2020, over 5 houses were torched, and a number of people sustained serious injuries during a by-election in the district. In 2019, three people (F:1, M:2) were murdered upon being suspected of practising witchcraft. Additionally, witchcraft accusations led to the destruction of 17 homes in Karonga, where 8 women were affected and, although not linked to socio-political or ethnic issues, should at least be addressed through education and sensitization measures.

Due to the district's proximity to Tanzania and the porous nature of the borders, the district has become a transit point for human trafficking and illegal migration to Mozambique and South Africa. The district is also set to host the relocation of the main refugee camp, which is generating tensions between communities and between communities and government. High levels of poverty, sexual and gender-based violence, youth and women exclusion in the governance space, perceptions of ethnic exclusion and marginalization in national affairs are critical. The district has 10 wards and only one is led by a female councillor. For Members of Parliament, the district has 5 constituencies and currently there is no female MP.<sup>20</sup> Representation of women is also low in the District Executive Committee, the Area

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20 2019 Elections Results Analysis, UN Women (2019)



Development Committee, and the Village Development Committee, at 14%, 17% and 20% respectively.<sup>21</sup>

### **Machinga and Mangochi Districts**

Machinga and Mangochi are neighboring districts that also share borders with the Niassa Province of Mozambique. Machinga has a population of 735,438 (F: 384,696, M: 350,742), with 492,560 Muslims. Mangochi has a population of 1,148,611 (F: 603,111, M: 545,500), with 834,644 Muslims. The two districts are hotspots for interreligious violence between Christians and Muslims, using the matter of religious dress code in schools as a vehicle for that mutual distrust and antagonism. The dispute escalation into violent conflict in 2019 leading to loss of life and destruction and closure of six primary schools. The schools were only reopened in 2021 through mediation by Public Affairs Committee with the support of the UN.

The districts are also known for political violence and witnessed scenes of intense political violence including the burning of vehicles and violence attacks including declaration of no-go zone areas for political parties during elections. For instance, in 2019 a woman was undressed on her way to a political rally in Mangochi. Three vehicles, one of which belonged to a female member of a political party, were torched in the same district. The two districts, but particularly Mangochi, is also grappling with cross-border conflicts between communities from the Makanjira and Chimbunila in Mozambique. These conflicts emerge due to misunderstanding on border demarcations, for example covering farming fields, various infrastructures like schools, among others.

This has also been aggravated by a re-demarcation exercise which some communities allege are not correct. As such, most of the communities do not respect the re-demarcation and hence come into conflict with Mozambicans when they cross the borderline. The conflict has been a long-standing one and turn violent from time to time. The most recent violent clashes between communities from Mozambique and Malawi occurred in 2017 and 2021 over a disputed stretch of land to which communities on both sides are laying claim. The 2017 clashes led to the killing of at least one Malawian.<sup>22</sup> The Makanjira community claims that the said stretch of land has traditionally belonged to them. A recent border demarcation by the two countries has done little to resolve the disputes. The two communities have been accusing each other of wrong-doings, including ill-treatment by police, the confiscating of motorcycles by police, and stealing of livestock. However, the Makanjira community also alleged that sometimes their wives and daughters are raped when they go to fetch firewood on Mozambique's side<sup>23</sup>.

High levels of illiteracy compared to other districts, child marriages, high population growth, climate insecurity, household poverty/food insecurity, high crime rate, high incidences of sexual gender-based violence, and weak capacity of security and rule of law institutions are also significant socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities in the two districts. The effect of the above on women and girls' access and agency to sexual and reproductive health rights issues is potentially huge. As part of the baseline study planned at the inception phase of the project, additional data analysis will be done to understand the scope and extent of the impact of conflict dynamics and socio-economic vulnerabilities on women and girls in the three target districts.

<sup>21</sup> Karonga District, Social Economic Profile 2017-2022

<sup>22</sup> <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/shooting-at-malawi-mozambique-border-as-tension-rises-in-mangochi/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.nyasatimes.com/communities-along-mozambique-malawi-border-urged-to-coexist-maintain-peace/>

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**<sup>24</sup>, how it ensures **national ownership**.

This project builds on the national priorities set by the Government of Malawi in the **Long-Term National Development Plan** (Malawi 2063), the National Peace Policy adopted in 2017, the Peace and Unity Act passed in March 2022, which are in line with the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda* and the **Gender Equality Act of 2013**. Under the Malawi 2063 and its first 10 years implementation plan (MIP1), particularly enablers 1, 2 and 5 on **Mindset Change, Effective Governance Systems, and Human Capital Development**, respectively.

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<sup>24</sup> Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

The table below shows the areas and indicators this proposal is aligned with:

Enabler	Focus Area	Outcomes	Strategies	Prioritised Interventions
Mindset Change:		Reduced cultural-driven crimes	Rooting-out harmful cultural practices	Legislate criminalization of all harmful cultural practices
		Institutionalized national unity	Building national unity	Facilitate the enactment of the National Unity Bill
Effective Governance Systems and Institutions	Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Social Cohesion)	Inclusive development planning processes	Mainstreaming human rights and cultural diversity in the development processes	Facilitate the progressive development of a civil society that is fully capable of holding Government accountable and defending citizens' rights
				Ensure strict adherence to all international charters of human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, African Charter on Human and People's Rights; and charters that protect vulnerable groups like children, women, refugees, persons with disabilities and minority groups
				Operationalize child centered governance institutions such as the newly adopted National Children's Commission
				Implement human rights awareness programs using various media
	Sustainable Peace and Security	Improved national safety and security services	Promoting peace and security at all levels	Establish the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission
			Establishing partnerships with other countries' security agencies to build local capacity and curb cross-border crimes such as terrorism, cyber crimes, etc.	Conduct peace and security awareness campaigns/ public anti-violence campaigns in all the regions and on different media Enhancing community policing
Human Capital development	<i>Gender Equality</i>	Improved gender equality	Advancing gender equality at national and local levels and processes	Fully implement Gender Policy and enforce the Gender Equality Act increase women and youth representation and participation in decision-making positions through deliberate policies
		Eradication of gender-based violence	Strengthening processes in handling violence issues	Enforce laws that protect the rights of women, girls, boys and men against all forms of violence; and laws to end child marriage
		Enhanced policy environment for social protection.	Strengthening national child protection systems to reduce vulnerability, violence, abuse and exploitation.	Increase child participation in the national development decision making processes
				Advocate and enforce child rights and laws at all levels

The project aims to support operationalisation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and support the strengthening of human rights protection and sexual and gender-based violence referral systems at project target districts.

At the national level, the UN has supported the development and implementation of the National Peace Architecture since 2012 and the National Peace Policy, which was adopted in 2017. Further support in this area has included financial and technical inserts to the Public Affairs Committee, through which the Women in Faith Peace Building Network was established, the Center for Multiparty Democracy, and the Office of President and Cabinet on dispute resolution, mediation, and political dialogue. However, in the absence of institutional mechanisms and structures like the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (established in June 2022) and District Peace Committees (the first six established in 2018), UN support and engagements have tended to be ad hoc in response to specific conflict issues like interreligious and political conflicts and lacked coherency, long-term sustainability and national ownership. The UN thus resolved to support the government and civil society actors to encourage, promote and capacitate homegrown solutions to build trust in national institutions, mechanisms and structures, and support their linkage with regional and continental peace structures at SADC and AU levels. This will be done through support for regional networking and engagements on issues of peace, socio-economic opportunities and exchange of early warning data. UNDP supported the establishment and approval of the National Peace Policy (September 2017), the capacitating and monitoring of the first District Peace Committees, the support to Public Affairs Committee and the insider mediation group (in conjunction with RCO), and the drafting and passing of the Peace and Unity Commission Bill. Furthermore, UNDP supported the establishment of the National Women in Peace Building Forum though currently not active<sup>25</sup> due to limited capacity, financial resources and linkage with other existing peace structures. The forum lacked a strong national level leadership supported with vibrant district and community base linked with other existing peace structures and institutions to ensure its sustainable functionality. As such this project will aim to support such a critical forum with capacity building activities in leadership, organization management and networking. The existence of the forum was possible due to the UN's unwavering stance on neutrality, convening power, technical expertise and honest broker and provider of advice based on the UN values.

At the local government level, each district has a six-year development plan (2017 – 2022) outlining the strategic development problems and strategies for response. The Ministry of Local Government has initiated data collection for the new development plans. The Project is aligned with the development issues and the strategies of the three target districts and the new District Development Plans are due by March 2023. The table below shows selected relevant areas to which the project is aligned to:

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<sup>25</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawian-women-gather-peace-building-conference>



Issue/ Problem	Development Objectives	Strategies
High vulnerability of vulnerable and marginalized people	To reduce vulnerability of vulnerable and marginalized people	Train district level structures (DTWGC, DGTWG, AEC) on gender and rights issues
		Community awareness on human rights and GBV
		Coordination platform for essential services for vulnerable and marginalized people.
Increased defilement	To reduce incidences of defilement cases from 66 cases in 2017 to 0 cases by 2022	Capacity building
Early marriages	Promote Youth Friendly Health Services	Youth Friendly Health Facilities
		Conduct awareness meetings on disadvantages of early marriages

### **Joint UN-Government UNSDCF**

The current UNSDCF (2019-2023) is aligned with national and international development instruments, notably the Government's Long-term development plan and its first 10-year implementation plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). This PBF project is aligned with the following pillars and outcomes of the current UNSDCF:

UNSDCF Pillar	UNSDCF Outcome Area	UNSDCF Focus Area
Pillar 1 – Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Rights holders in Malawi access more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralized levels that use quality disaggregated data, offer integrated service delivery and promote civic engagement, respect for human rights and rule of law.	1.1: Harmonisation of legal and organizational frameworks 1.2: Decentralisation and local governance 1.3: Civil engagement and participation 1.4: Data for development
	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi is enhanced.	2.1: Improved coordination and management of the National Gender Machinery 2.2: Implementation and monitoring of all global, regional and national obligations and commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls 2.3: Production, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data





	<b>Outcome 3:</b> Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy.	3.1: Establish real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace 3.2: Strengthen participatory governance
Pillar 2 – Population Management and Inclusive Human Development	<b>Outcome 5:</b> Girls and boys 6-17 years particularly the most marginalized receive an integrated package of quality, health, nutrition, HIV, education and protection services.	5.4: Percentage of girls (aged 15-19) who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence and sought help to stop the violence
	<b>Outcome 6:</b> Men, women and children access high impact comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights and services.	6.1: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (married & unmarried women) 6.2: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care 6.3: Percentage of women, adolescents and youth utilizing integrated comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services. 6.4: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months

### ***The UN-support National Peace Architecture***

Malawi also developed a National Peace Architecture in 2014 and a National Peace Policy launched in 2018, both developed with the support of the UN through UNDP. In March 2022, Malawi also passed the Peace and Unity Law, which now paves the way for the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees and area committees where needed. This PBF project is aligned with and informed by the objectives of these legal and policy frameworks

- c) A brief explanation of how the project fills any strategic gaps and complements any other relevant interventions, PBF funded or otherwise. Also provide a brief **summary of existing interventions** in the proposal's sector by filling out the table below.

Malawi developed National Peace Architecture in 2014 with support from UNDP. The National Peace Architecture is the overarching framework for enhancing national conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities. Its implementation is overseen by the Ministry of National Unity with the support of the UNDP Social Cohesion programme. Through UNDP support to government under the National Peace Architecture, the Government of Malawi launched the National Peace Policy adopted in 2017 and the Peace and Unity Act passed in 2022. With the enactment of the Peace and Unity Act, Malawi now urgently needs support to activate and operationalize the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and its District and Area Committees.

Through the support of UN Women, the government has also launched the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, and there is a need for the action plan to be operationalised and implemented to support women's representation at all levels of conflict mediation, prevention and peacebuilding.

UNFPA has been supporting SGBV and the creation of safe spaces and referral systems for women and girls. However, given growing internal conflict dynamics, socio-economic challenges and regional security implications, SGBV and other human rights abuses cases have seen a significant rise in borderland communities, especially in the three target districts. There is thus need for additional support to expand SGBV and safe spaces referral systems and provide SRHR services to borderland communities.

This PBF project is thus strongly aligned and mutually reinforcing with the UN's prevention agenda in Malawi. It is also strategic and innovative on several levels. Firstly, the project is a result of a participatory process that involved borderland communities through the UNCT socio-economic risks assessment in 2021 and 2022. The interventions of the project are thus informed by communities themselves, and so there is greater ownership of the project. Secondly, the choice of borderland communities is innovative in that they present unique challenges and opportunities that, if harnessed, can contribute significantly to peace and conflict prevention. Borderlands are fertile grounds for exchanging ideas that could transcend just conflict prevention to democratic consolidation and economic growth through informal cross-border trade. The Project will leverage the uniqueness and the opportunities presented by borderland communities to build community networks and platforms that can support dialogue, economic exchange, and early warning systems. Thirdly, the project will leverage existing digital tools to enhance socio-economic risk monitoring, reporting, and early warning and response.

The catalytic tenet of this PBF project is related to its alignment with these existing UN conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response initiatives in support of the Government of Malawi, namely, the implementation of the National Peace Architecture, the newly enacted Malawi Unity and Peace Commission Act (2022), the newly adopted Malawi National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, and the UN-supported government Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP). The UN is also about to launch a joint UN project, “Borderland Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malawi”, through the SDG Acceleration Fund scheme funded by Iceland and Ireland, which aims to strengthen capabilities to mitigate and respond to existing and projected conflict through community-led conflict prevention and peacebuilding infrastructure in two border districts (Mangochi and Mulanje).

The UN will leverage the results of the PBF project to mobilise additional resources and expertise to support scaling up the community-based approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and human rights protection in Malawi. The lessons and good practices from the PBF project will also support and inform the second (expanded) phase of the SDG Acceleration Fund project to other districts that are currently not covered under the current SDG and this PBF project. A core rationale for the focus on borderlands in this PBF project is also to afford the UN gain valuable insights and lessons on how borderlands could provide critical linkages and intelligence on cross-border issues to inform programming on early warning and conflict prevention.

Furthermore, the PBF project will contribute to increasing the UN footprint in the borderland areas and the holistic implementation of support for strengthening National Peace Architecture. The Peace and Unity Commission will absorb the capacity-building and coordination mechanisms that would be established and resourced under the PBF project. The PBF project, therefore, seeks not to reinvent the wheel, but to reinforce and strengthen national objectives. The PBF project's interventions further focus on building the capacities of local communities and networks. This approach, the UN believes, will empower communities to lead conflict prevention and human rights protection and build sustainability of the interventions. Refer to the table below for a detailed list of existing conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social protection interventions. However, not all of them are implemented in all districts or even the selected districts targeted by this project.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Social Cohesion project in Malawi (Jan 2020 – Dec 2022)	UNDP USD 707,000	Implementation of the National Peace Architecture including the development of the legal framework for the establishment of a national institutional framework for peace	The UNDP project is complementary to the PBF project as it has a significant focus on institutionalization of peacebuilding and conflict prevention through the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission. Six pilot District Peace Committees have been establishment and are supported through UNDP support. Two of the district peace Committees are in the target districts. Though the Social Cohesion programme would complement the PBF project, the focus of the two are different as the PBF project will build on the social cohesion project by leveraging by existing capacities of District Peace Committees, the national peace policy, and peace agreements/MoU between Muslims and Christians to strengthen the knowledge based and capacities of local actors.
SDG AF on Border Security and Conflict prevention (February 2022 – January 2023)	Iceland and Ireland USD 837,312	Community led conflict prevention and peacebuilding.	This is a Joint UN conflict prevention project that would be implemented in 2 of the districts targeted in the PBF proposal. The PBF implementing partners who are also implementing partners for the SDG AF project will leverage the expertise and methodology of community consultation and trainings on dialogues and advocacy channels.
Support to credible, inclusive, and peaceful electoral process (2017-2022)	UNDP EU USAID FCDO Norway Ireland  Planned budget: USD 8 M	Electoral support	Aimed at strengthening the capacity of MEC and CMD to address the multi-dimensional challenges of election administration, including improving capacity, engaging and generating ownership among influential stakeholders in the electoral process, strengthening horizontal dialogue at the community, district and national levels to improve the coherency, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of national and international efforts to support Malawi's electoral process, mitigation of potential related conflict and democratic development.

			This includes targeted support to the MPLCs at the district level, which are local inter-party mechanisms for resolving political disputes.
Spotlight Initiative (2019-2022)	EU USD 6 M	Safe spaces for the elimination of violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices.	The Spotlight Initiative Programme in Malawi targets the most at-risk groups, to accelerate efforts towards the elimination of violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices. The initiative is tailored to promote Agenda 2030's guiding principle of "leaving no one behind". A deliberate effort is projected to ensure those facing multiple and intersecting discrimination play a key role not only as beneficiaries but also as key stakeholders, to shape and guide the program design and implementation. The initiative envisions a comprehensive prevention strategy that addresses structural issues and linkages to SRHR. Innovations through practical application will further enhance efforts to capitalize on lessons learned and link to existing efforts under the UN and other development partners' programming on SGBV, Human Rights, Girls Education, etc. contributing knowledge and good practices in improving women's and girls' life and that of the most left behind through access to quality, integrated essential services that include SRH, justice, and psychosocial support in line with international human right standards and guidelines.
UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (2021-2024)	UN Joint Programme USD 40 million	Comprehensive sexuality education, combatting teen pregnancy and supporting girls that drop out of school return.	Empowering young people to prevent and report issues of GBV, skills building in prevention of GBV incl. promotion of positive masculinity.
SDG Acceleration Fund (2021-2022)	USD 837,312	Safe spaces of engagement for women and adolescent girls including rehabilitation of key medical facilities.	Identifying and working with most vulnerable communities on change of behaviour and inclusion programmes.
SDG Learning never Stops (2021-2022)	UN USD 700,000	To improve the access to education for children and adolescent girls in Malawi in crisis like situations, especially for the most vulnerable children with special education	Targeting most vulnerable children to ensure their continued access to education amidst Covid-19 pandemic.



		needs, within a school environment, able to ensure the well-being of learners.	
Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (2021-2022)	UN Women USD 1,106,620.98	Ending Sexual Gender Based Violence/ Violence Against Women and Girls, addressing harmful practices and promoting women's participation and capacity building in conflict prevention and peace building in line with UNSCR 1325 pillars.	Complementarity is on interventions related to Women's Peace and Security through the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 Malawi National Action Plan pillars especially capacitating women's groups to engage in conflict prevention and peace building.

## II. Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

### a) A brief **description of the project** focus and approach

As described in the earlier analysis, the target borderland communities of this initiative are faced with a multitude of internal challenges and internal tensions that make them particularly vulnerable to external shocks, such as any kind of overspill from the current conflict in Mozambique. This means that there is a particular urgency to provide those districts with capacities and mechanisms that will allow them to have greater resilience to face those shocks and not end up being destabilized which could have consequences for the entire country in terms of national unity and social cohesion at a time of particular socio-economic strain for Malawi as a whole.

To address this, the project will aim to strengthen the capacities of Malawi's infrastructure for peace at an institutional level through the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, by supporting its establishment and operationalisation especially in the three target districts; and at community level by mobilising and working directly with community members and CSOs to support peacebuilding, conflict prevention, human rights protection and socio-economic empowerment.

Therefore, due to the currently weak and ad hoc peacebuilding, dialogue and conflict monitoring mechanisms in the country and target districts, one of the key pillars of the first outcome will focus on **strengthening the capacity of Malawi's Peace Infrastructure** and the national and decentralized levels. This will require supporting the full capacitation of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, based on an updated capacity assessment in the inception phase of the project identifying strategic hardware and software investments as well as complementary training. With the dearth of conflict data in the country, one of the essential areas that will require immediate attention is the obtention, analysis and logging of data on incidences and on the responses that have been coordinated by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission. In turn, this will require the full activation of as many District Peace Committees as possible, with an emphasis on the District Peace Committees of the three target border Districts. The District Peace Committees will effectively be the eyes and ears of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission on the ground and will be supporting the data gathering as well as leading the field responses to emerging crises and tensions.

Malawi Peace and Unity Commission staff and District Peace Committee members will need to be sensitized and trained on the SOPs that will be developed following the spirit of the sub-Articles of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission Act. Within those SOPs, the mutual obligations between the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and the District Peace Committees will be set out, such as on reporting, data gathering, monitoring mechanisms and on when the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission will need to provide centralized support to certain District Peace Committees when required, and in what form that support will come. The District Peace Committees themselves will need to have their members trained in community outreach techniques, on monitoring of emerging community-level tensions and on how to mediate between aggrieved parties. Data gathering and reporting to Malawi Peace and Unity Commission will also be a vital capacity-building measure.

During electoral periods, the Malawi Electoral Commission activates the district-level Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs) which have a similar mandate and membership but report to MEC and

only handle election-related issues. However, as electoral periods tend to exacerbate tensions around long-simmering community issues, it is vital that these two structures find a regular and meaningful level of engagement, particularly during the campaign periods and particularly in the target districts. This will particularly require the temporary exchange of information between the two district-level entities that will then be shared with both Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and MEC.

Another key actor on Malawi's peacebuilding landscape is the quasi-religious Public Affairs Committee (PAC). This entity has enjoyed a close relationship with the UN/UNDP over the years and has frequently played an important role in bringing down socio-political tensions in the country but also bringing to light important issues that the governing Administration needs to address before matters become openly conflictual. Therefore, this entity will also be the recipient of capacity building and convening support under this initiative while also ensuring that a regular framework of consultation is established between PAC and Malawi Peace and Unity Commission. The other advantage of PAC is that it has a strong field presence as almost every Church and Mosque is ultimately a field representation of PAC HQ and can therefore also be included in the work of District Peace Committees at the field level.

Another key pillar of Output 1 will be on **Enhanced professional and operational capacity of law enforcement actors in border security in targeted borderland districts**. As covered in the analysis, the overtly porous borders of the three target border Districts with Mozambique potentially present a deeply destabilizing factor on top of the internal challenges that these Districts already face. The potentially large-scale movement of insurgents, weapons and other illicit goods from Mozambique to the target communities could end up not only destabilizing the target Districts but the entire country. As such, it is imperative that the capacities of security and law enforcement entities are heightened so that they can better deter the illicit movement of goods and people across the border, which will require a mix of support from high-end strategic hardware and software and training of immigration and police officers.

Also critical will be the ability for security and law enforcement officers to establish strong relationships with local community leaders. This will allow for essential intelligence gathering, through witness accounts, of any insurgents, immigrants and refugees (carefully respecting the UN definition of such groups) and illicit items that might be crossing over the Mozambican border and circulating in the local communities. The prompt identification of foreign elements is not only a matter of protecting the stability of the relevant communities but also for the protection of these foreign elements before they might be arbitrarily 'dealt with' by local populations. There are frequent accounts – not always verifiable – of summary graves that seem to be of refugees, immigrants or even insurgents, meaning that interventions in this area must be for the protection of both sides. Therefore, community outreach techniques that are to be covered by this initiative, become primordial to establish a constructive level of trust and a working relationship between law enforcement entities and the local communities.

For border controls to be truly effective, authorities and security agents on both sides of the Malawi – Mozambique border need to have strong coordination and information-sharing capacities. In that light, the project will support the convening of both sets of authorities and also support the roll out of intelligence and data gathering frameworks that will be of mutual support to containing and tracking illicit flows of people and goods, with a focus on armed insurgents and their weapons.

The last Pillar of Output 1 focuses very much on supporting the most grass-roots level of conflict monitoring and mediation and optimizing any useful existing infrastructure that can feed more formal platforms of engagement. This pillar, therefore, looks to ensure that **Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities and districts are strengthened**. A starting point for this pillar would be to conduct a conflict analysis baseline assessment in the target Districts, capturing both the principal areas of intra and inter-community tensions as well as the current mechanisms that communities are using to mediate or attempt to resolve those tensions.

The emphasis in this pillar is to try and maximise the effectiveness of existing modalities where at all feasible, not to replace them. However, following that logic means trying to get these grass roots mechanisms to work more closely with the District Peace Committees in terms of coordination and information or data gathering, so that a more complete picture of the local dynamics can be established.

To ensure that this conflict analysis is as accurate as possible, it will be important for the project to establish women only workshops before workshops of mixed representation. This is because Malawi's pervading patriarchal society often means that women are afraid to express themselves in front of their male counterparts, especially if it is to express disgruntlement on what the male contingent is doing that affects their sense of peace and security. Having workshops that are demographically specialized can be a source of community tension in themselves (as men do not like to feel that events are happening behind their backs) and project representatives will need to do manage these baseline assessments with care and sensitivity.

This aside, Outcome 1 will also ensure full inclusion of youth and women in National Peace Architecture systems and structures through meaningful partnerships and co-leadership building, strengthening networks to support intergenerational dialogues, participatory capacity building, increasing knowledge and access to information on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and early warning, and empowering youth and women networks, traditional leaders to mitigate the impact of cross-border insecurity and human rights risks in borderland communities.

While outcome one is mainly focused on strengthening the capacity of national peace infrastructure to lead and coordinate conflict prevention, peacebuilding and early warning and response, the **second outcome** will focus on strengthening resilience, SGBV prevention and SRHR referral systems and capacities of stakeholders working for women and adolescent girls, including SGBV survivors, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings. Outcome two will also support women socio-economic empowerment in the three target districts.

One of the pillars of this Outcome will prevent the radicalization of youth through strengthened mechanisms for conflict prevention and peace in targeted borderland districts. Access for youth to business advisory services and microgrant schemes based on the approval of business plans will play a key part to such empowerment in the target districts and communities, and thus act a layer of protection against the temptations of being recruited and radicalized by outside insurgents.

The empowerment of women will also require that the project supports the coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organizations, groups and structures (identified in the conflict analysis above) to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in

peacebuilding, conflict prevention. To this end, it will be vital to ensure that women and girls capacities are strengthened through the mentorship activities in the safe spaces and economic empowerment schemes to build resilience and strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Women and girls also need heightened protection in the target districts to enable access for women and adolescent girls, including SGBV survivors, to requisite services at border crossings. Such support is usually even harder to access in areas that experience heightened tensions.

b) **Provide a project-level ‘theory of change’**

**IF** Malawi’s Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace Committees are capacitated to lead and coordinate local capacities for conflict analysis, early warning and peacebuilding at national and local levels;

and **IF** platforms are strengthened/created in borderland communities to enhance coordination, joint analysis and interventions on local conflict and human rights dynamics and socio-economic risks;

and **IF** human rights protection and gender empowerment mechanisms are strengthened to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking and child marriages;

**THEN** Malawi will have a strong infrastructure for peace at national and decentralized levels, particularly in the target border districts, that will be resilient to internal and external dynamics that would otherwise destabilise the border regions and potentially have nefarious impact for Malawi’s national unity;

**BECAUSE** peace actors, communities and human rights and rule of law institutions will have a better understanding of conflict and human rights dynamics, be equipped with skills to mediate disputes before they grow into conflict, and will have platforms to engage with local and national authorities on issues before they escalate, thereby increasing trust and their capacity to prevent conflict and jointly design locally-owned and driven, policies and response programmes that address the root causes of conflicts, human rights violations and consolidate peace.

c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components**

**Outcome 1: Malawi’s Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding and human rights protection in borderland communities strengthened.**

**Output 1.1:** Malawi’s national peace architecture is operationalised, with focus on borderland communities, and existing capacities are strengthened.

This output aims to support follow on and expand the existing efforts at capacitating the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and subnational District Peace and Unity Committees to lead and coordinate national and subnational conflict prevention, peace education and awareness and early warning and response mechanisms.

As part of its conflict prevention agenda, Malawi developed the National Peace Architecture in 2014 and the National Peace Policy in 2017 through broad consultation with the government, civil



society and academia. The National Peace Architecture is overseen by the Ministry of National Unity with the support of the UN through the UNDP Social Cohesion programme. The National Peace Policy provides for the development of a national legal framework for the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the promotion of peace, conflict prevention and conflict-sensitive national and subnational development planning. The Malawi Peace and Unity Bill was passed into law in March of 2022.

The Ministry of National Unity and the country now need urgent support for the establishment, operationalising and building capacities of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and its District structures to lead national efforts at conflict prevention and conflict management at national and subnational levels. The full capacitation of the Commission will also be timely to support capacity building and coordination of early warning and response at the district and community levels, and ensure that socio-economic risks and integrated into national development planning processes. The Commission will also be critical in facilitating consensus building and dialogue towards the 2025 elections, which from the early warning signs and indications, would be more fiercely contested than the 2019 elections. The setting up and building of the capacities will provide Malawi with independent, neutral, inclusive institutional mechanisms for dialogue around key electoral and political issues before and after the 2025 elections.

*Activity 1.1.1.: Strengthen the peacebuilding coordination capacities of the Ministry of National Unity and support the operationalization of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission.*

The Ministry of National Unity is a new ministry established in 2020 and does not have the requisite operational capabilities to effectively lead and coordinate the implementation of the National Policy and the newly passed Peace and Unity Act, which provide the overarching framework for building national capacities for peace and sustaining peace in the country. The project will thus provide technical expertise, including the provision of capacity-building training to the ministry to provide effective policy leadership on social cohesion, national unity and sustaining peace including the review the National Peace Policy to ensure its relevance to the current peace and conflict prevention needs of borderland communities in the light of emerging cross-border threats.

**Actions:**

- Support the peace and conflict resolution structures to take advantage of existing data management and public information platforms to communicate the mandate of research undertaken by and dialogues led by MPUC.
- Support the capacitation and operationalisation of the MPUC in Lilongwe.

*Activity 1.1.2.: Support the continued rollout of DPCs, including equipment needs, with an emphasis on target borderland districts.*

The enactment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Law in March 2022 and which has become operational since 5 September 2022, now paves the way for the establishment of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees and area committees where needed. The project will support the capacitation of the Peace and Unity Commission and those District Peace and Unity Committees that are yet to be established – particularly in the target Districts – through capacity-building training for commissioners, secretariate staff, and members of the district committees, including training on training leveraging the UN-

supported inter-university network for peace. The project will also provide training on conflict analysis, mediation, dialogue facilitation and negotiations to the Commission and its district committees. The project will further provide equipment support (including 1 vehicle for the Commission only, and computers and office desks for the Commission and the three District Peace and Unity Committees in the targeted borderlands districts. The equipment will be one-off support to fully operationalise the Commission and support it in setting up early warning and response mechanisms and linking them to district early warning systems that will be established under the SDG AF project in Mangochi and Mulanje and under the PBF project in Karonga and Machinga.

#### **Actions:**

- Develop clear SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPCs based on the MPUC Act, ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels.
- Train DPCs in monitoring, coordination and community outreach, including linkages between DPCs and MPLCs, in the target districts.
- Support the Public Affairs Committee in its role of mediating and coordinating potential inter-faith and community conflict drivers.

**Output 1.2:** Enhanced professional and operational capacity of law enforcement actors in border security in targeted borderland districts.

Human rights abuses, including rape and defilement, are among the major concerns expressed by borderland communities during the two assessments conducted by the UNCT in 2021 and 2022. Border security personnel and human rights organisations and networks have indicated that the lack of capacity by institutions on human rights protection, especially on handling, investigating, and management of victims of abuse, accounts for why such crimes are prevalent in borderland communities. Due to the porosity of the borders, perpetrators escape across the border to Mozambique or Tanzania to escape arrest and prosecution. Human rights actors identified the absence of police action when cases are reported and the absence of psychosocial support to victims and survivors of abuse as major concerns. The project will, therefore, support capacity-building training and courses for the police and other border security official and CSOs and community-led human rights networks on key topics such as victim protection, psychosocial support to survivors of SGBV and related forms of violence and exploitation. The project will also train community leaders, the judiciary and police units to strengthen the design and implementation of the rule of law and human rights legal frameworks. Although the project will not play a frontline role in following up on the prosecution and sentencing of perpetrators of such crimes, other parts of the UNDP governance portfolio, particularly support to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, support to the judiciary and support to the Malawi Human Rights Commission will allow for inter-institutional tracking of progress being made on cases.

#### **Activity 1.2.1.: Provide training to security actors on information gathering, monitoring and enforcement of border control measures.**

The existence of many informal border entry points makes it difficult for border security personnel to effectively monitor and collect data relevant to cross-border movements and human rights abuses at informal border crossings. The project will provide technical expertise

and training on monitoring and applying border control measures to border control officials. The project will also support police, immigration, chief and youth and women networks to conduct joint monthly flow monitoring in formal and informal border entry points through population mobility mapping exercise (PMM) and deployment of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The project will further provide logistics for monitoring results to be shared with DPUCs, Police-community platforms and other forums. Throughout this activity, the fact that women and girls have increased vulnerability as trafficked people, immigrants, refugees or even members of host communities, will be at the forefront of the delivery of all expertise and training to local counterparts. Specific training materials and modules on the rights and protection needs of women, girls and children and pregnant migrants, cross-border women traders and victims of SGBV and child trafficking. This will ensure that screening processes at border crossing points are gender sensitive and are able to detect and protect victims of abuse at border crossing points in the screening processes

#### **Actions:**

- Provide technical expertise on monitoring and applying border control measures to border control officials.
- Conduct monthly flow monitoring in formal and informal border entry points through population mobility mapping exercise (PMM) and deployment of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).
- Train border security personnel on human rights relating to the rights and protection needs of women, girls and children and other vulnerable groups.

#### **Activity 1.2.2.: Support the establishment of police-community liaison platforms in each of the beneficiary districts to promote cooperation and information sharing.**

Effective community security demands close collaboration between security personnel and members of communities. The project will support the establishment and strengthening of police-community platforms in each of the three target districts to promote cooperation and information sharing. The project's support will focus on the review/development of guidelines for police-community platforms and logistics for monthly meetings. The security personnel being trained in this area will be particularly sensitized to the threats and vulnerabilities to women and girls and female members of the security forces will always be included in these operations in order to establish stronger trust with the females of particular communities in the target Districts.

#### **Actions:**

- Support the establishment of joint police/community border patrols in target borderland communities.
- Conduct police / community engagement activities and dialogue to increase dialogue and early warning on potential community-level conflict.

#### **Activity 1.2.3.: Provide technical expertise and support to local government authorities, Police and immigration service to strengthen coordination mechanisms in borderland districts.**

The project will work with the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Department to conduct ToTs on human rights protection for 30 police, immigration, judiciary and Human Rights Commission trainers. The 30 ToT will then train

district police and immigration officers in the three target districts. A combined 150 police, immigration, judiciary and other stakeholders will be trained in the three project districts on topics like preventing SGBV, victims' protection, investigating and prosecution of SGBV cases, and screening and handling of immigrants and asylum seekers. At least 60 beneficiaries of the training in each of the three target districts will be women. Training materials will be developed in collaboration with the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Service. Pocket guidelines on human rights protection for border security personnel will be designed, printed and distributed to the security personnel and other stakeholders in the three target districts. The guidelines will be translated into local languages. About 4,000 (2000 in local languages and 2000 English copies) guidelines will be printed and distributed in the three districts. The project will support the MPUC, the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Department to conduct ToTs on conflict management for 15 police and immigration trainers. The 15 ToT will then train district police and immigration officers in the three target districts. A combined number of 80 police and immigration officers will be trained in the three project districts. Training materials will be developed in collaboration with the Malawi Police Service and Immigration Service.

#### **Actions:**

- Training of trainers on human rights protection, SGBV for border security personnel and other stakeholders.
- Training of trainers to security personnel on conflict prevention and the management of conflicts.

#### **Output 1.3:** Community level infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities capacitated.

Local peacebuilding in this project refers to peacebuilding initiatives owned and led by people in their local context. It often includes long-standing and informal institutional structures and activities undertaken by chiefs and other community-based networks, including youth and women associations. For that reason, it is important for the project to adopt an approach that would support grass roots mechanisms and see how they can complement or be integrated into more conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. This approach entails identifying and supporting locally-led and owned initiatives and mechanisms and providing technical and resource support. To this end, the project would seek representative and legitimate civil society, including the informal economy, religious and ethnic networks, specialist NGOs, grassroots peace initiatives, and the media, who can play an important monitoring and consultative role for formal state and district systems.

##### *Activity 1.3.1.: Establish a baseline for the project by conducting a mapping and needs and capacity assessment in the target borderland districts.*

To ensure the project's capacity building trainings and support to local peacebuilding networks and actors are need driven and respond to capacity gaps of local partners, the project will conduct a capacity needs assessment and mapping with a specific focus on women and youth-led networks, first as a baseline, and annually to map progress of activities. The project will engage a consultant to lead the mapping, and support the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, District Peace Committees in the project districts to map and document local knowledge systems and tools for conflict management. The mapping and analysis will focus on identifying

and document good practices in traditional (i.e., “indigenous”/homegrown) conflict management systems and processes for conflict prevention, mediation, negotiations, early warning and response mechanisms. This will include mechanisms used by women within the traditional conflict management space.

**Actions:**

- Conduct a multi-agency mapping of local formal and informal mechanisms, including women and youth led and their requisite capacities for social cohesion and peacebuilding.

*Activity 1.3.2.: Build capacity of inclusive local peace networks in early warning and early response data analysis and provide technical support to strengthen coordination, data analysis and information exchange among local actors.*

The capacity of local peace and conflict prevention actors and networks to collect, analyse and report on conflict and socio-economic risks is central to the success of conflict prevention in borderland districts. Yet from the conflict assessment conducted by the UNCT in 2021 and 2022, local peace actors lack the capacity to collect analyse and report of conflict and socio-economic risks to support the early warning and response mechanisms.

The data will be generated through a localized version of the Crisis Prevention Platform. UNDP, with the support of the Crisis Bureau, has developed the Malawi Prevention Platform/crisis risks dashboard (CRD). The CRD supports UN risks data collection and analysis and serves as an early warning and response mechanism for the UN system. The project will support the MPUC and DPUCs, to develop and maintain similar platforms as part of the development of their early warning and response systems. The project will use the current CRD as a base model to train and provide technical support to the MPUC to develop a national platform for conflict data collection and analysis as part of their early warning system.

The project will provide training on conflict and socio-economic data collection and analysis members of the district Committees, and youth and women peace networks in the three target districts to ensure they can contribute to the data needs of early warning systems and mechanisms that would established in the three project districts. The training will have 50/50 representation of women and youth led/ or centered network. The project will further support logistics for convening monthly meetings for peace networks to discuss the data from the early warning systems and map ways to response to risk and issues that may be flagged from the early warning system. The meetings will also enhance coordination and information sharing among local actors.

**Actions:**

- Train DPCs and community leaders on conflict prevention platform, data collection and analysis.
- Develop an easy-to-use mobile app for the conflict prevention platform, including equipment required to operationalise. (linked to the national platform in 1.1.1).
- Facilitate coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities.



**Output 1.4:** Women and youth participation and representation in peace infrastructure at all levels enhanced.

This output covers activities aimed at facilitating participatory engagements of youth and women-led organisations and networks in the target borderland districts to enable them to access knowledge and enhance their awareness on matters relating to women, peace and security, gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Furthermore, this output will ensure efforts are made to enable cross-learning and networking among youth and women groups in the three target districts to facilitate sharing of lessons, best practices and collaborative efforts in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In advancing the Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, this output will support the development of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250, and the localization of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, which was launched in 2021. The project will do this through the provision of capacity building for women and youth in peacebuilding, human rights monitoring, reporting, and mediation. The project will also provide logistics support for peer-to-peer learning and facilitate the representation and participation of women and youth in district and national level conflict prevention, human rights and early warning systems.

*Activity 1.4.1.: Provide the GoM technical expertise for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and development of a National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.*

To promote and enhance the participation, representation and leadership of women and youth in peace and security initiatives and structures, the project will support the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 by capacitating women actors and organisations in the community and district to actively participate and be represented in the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, district peace committees and other peace and security structures in their districts and communities. The UN is working with the Ministry of Gender, the Office of President and Cabinet, women-focused CSOs and other stakeholders to implement the National Action Plan UNSCR 1325, which was developed and launched in 2021. This project will therefore focus on supporting the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of National Unity, and women CSOs, specifically in the three target districts, to developing and implement district plans and strategies for implementing the NAP. The project will provide logistics for working sessions and engagement of a consultant to support this process. Women organisations and groups will be supported to produce and share regular evidence of their impact through a community of practice for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

This project will also work with the Ministry of Youth, Ministry of National Unity to support the development of the National Action Plan for the operationalisation of the UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security to position young people to meaningfully participate in the social, economic and political life of the nation. This initiative will engage national and district government institutions with youth-related mandates, subnational-level engaging youth groups, and establish youth ambassadors in the target borderland districts to support the development of the NAP.

**Actions:**



- Develop women and youth peacebuilding situational analysis and mapping in the target borderland districts to support the implementation of WPS NAP and consultations on the YPS NAPs.
- Engage youth ambassadors in the target borderland districts in youth- and women-led working groups to support the development of the NAPs.
- Support the consultations, iterations, validation and launch of the YPS NAP at both district and national levels.
- Partner with women and youth-led organisations/groups to support knowledge creation and sensitisation engagements through community dialogues and media campaigns to reinforce gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Support youth and women-led engagements, including inter-religious and community dialogues in conflict prevention and management, peacebuilding, and diffusion of radicalization prevention of harmful practices.
- Review and integrate women and youth-inclusivity into existing resources/tools, structures for training and activities carried out under this project.
- Women and youth organizations and groups are supported to produce and share regular evidence of their impact through a community of practice for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

*Activity 1.4.2. Mobilise and capacitate women to actively participate in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes*

Women peace actors and networks at district and community level have weak capacity with little coordination and this limits the ability of women and women-led organizations to actively participate and lead conflict prevention and peace processes at the local level. The project will therefore conduct a mapping of women networks, actors and organizations and their capacity needs and provide capacity building training in key areas of peacebuilding, including mediation, conflict analysis and peace education. The project will further support networking among women's organisations and actors and between them and human rights and rule of law actors at the district level.

**Actions:**

- Support the strengthening of coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organizations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Support capacity building through training, peer to peer learning and facilitating their representation and participation in district and national level conflict prevention and management platforms and early warning systems in target borderland districts.
- Review and integrate women-inclusivity into existing resources/tools, structures for training and activities carried out under this project.

**Outcome 2: Women and youth in target districts are activated as drivers of peace at the district level.**

**Output 2.1:** Mechanisms to empower women and adolescent girls to prevent sexual and gender-based violence strengthened in target districts.

Through this project, district and community-level mechanisms for preventing and monitoring SGBV, as well as building survivor resilience, will be strengthened through training, coordination and exchange of information among women networks, women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) and human rights groups /organizations. The project will also strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organizations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in human rights protection (SGBV, child trafficking, child marriages), peacebuilding, and conflict prevention. Women and girls' access to safe spaces will be increased to widen the information channels and garner peer support for resilience building. Safe spaces are a transformative approach to resilience building, coupled with knowledge and skills building in a non-threatening environment for women and girls.

Youth organizations and networks in the three target districts shall be mobilized and capacitated to support conflict prevention and local peace and security initiatives. The project will work with women- and youth-led organizations/groups to support knowledge creation and sensitisation engagements through community dialogues and media campaigns to reinforce gender-responsive conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

*Activity 2.1.1.: Strengthen SGBV prevention mechanisms, capacities and SRHR referral systems for women and adolescent girls, including vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings.*

Safe spaces for women and girls, especially survivors of abuse, are an important resilience and protection mechanism, especially for borderland communities that have to deal with border dynamics. But such mechanisms are not functional in most borderland areas, including the three target districts of the project. SGBV prevention mechanisms and SRHR referral systems are lacking in borderland communities, especially at border crossing points and transit centers to support victims, especially migrant women and girls. The project will strengthen resilience, SGBV and SRHR referral systems and build the capacity of stakeholders working with women and adolescent girls, including SGBV survivors, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings. The project will provide capacity-building training to women and adolescent girls on a range of topics in the safe spaces on human rights, conflict prevention and peace building among others. This will also extend to healthcare providers, teachers, social workers, mother and youth support groups and other stakeholders. The project will further support the strengthening of youth-friendly spaces in health facilities and secondary schools in the target districts to develop and ensure stronger, robust and responsive SRHR services and referral pathways and systems for adolescent girls.

#### **Actions:**

- Provide capacity-building training for school, hospital and community-level SRHR service providers and referral systems focal persons and stakeholders working for women and

adolescent girls in the target districts and communities including the provision of requisite services at border crossings.

- Conduct mapping and capacity assessment of human rights institutions, mechanisms and organisations to monitor and prevent SGBV and protect victims of abuse.
- Organise capacity-building training for district and community-based human rights institutions, organisations, and actors based on the capacity assessment.
- Provide training to teachers, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and other opinion leaders identified during mapping on SGBV prevention and capacitate them to become SGBV prevention advocates within their institutions and at the community level.
- Conduct women's safe spaces and adolescent girls' mentorship to enhance their peer support and capacity to prevent and mitigate risks of gender-based violence, harmful practices and other forms of violence at border crossings and in borderland communities.
- Train the rule of law actors, including the police, immigration, the judiciary, and district and community organisation on resilience building, survivors support and mentorships of young women and adolescent girls.

*Activity 2.1.2.: Strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organisations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in resilience building, human rights protection and SGBV (including defilement and child marriage) prevention at the community level*

Women-led CBOs and youth groups will be sensitised on resilience building, human rights issues including SGBV, violence against children, child trafficking, child marriage issues affecting communities so that they are equipped with the knowledge and thereby spread the same among their communities. This will be done through media campaigns and sensitisation engagements through community-based media like community radio stations and open community awareness sessions. Women groups will also be capacitated to effectively participate in dialogues and engagements including existing cross-border district level engagements to ensure SGBV issues are mainstreamed into these discussions. Capacity building through training and meetings with service providers will also be done to ensure SGBV survivors access quality and survivor-centred SGBV services community level, especially at border crossings.

#### **Actions:**

- Create platforms for SGBV prevention and SRHR providers and stakeholders to interact, share data, experiences and good practices and develop joint advocacy on human rights and SRHR.
- Support the development and implementation of district and community advocacy strategies on SGBV prevention and SRHR.
- Train women groups and support women groups to effectively participate in dialogues and engagements including existing cross-border district level engagements to ensure SGBV issues are mainstreamed into these discussions.

- Organized community-level advocacy and public awareness on SGBV prevention and reporting mechanisms and psycho-social and counseling services for victims and families of victims.
- Conduct media advocacy campaigns on SGBV prevention using community-based radio.
- Women's groups will also be capacitated to effectively participate in dialogues and engagements including existing cross-border district-level engagements to ensure SGBV issues are mainstreamed into these discussions. Capacity building through training and meetings with service providers will also be done to ensure SGBV survivors access quality and survivor-centred SGBV services at community level, especially at border crossings.

**Output 2.2:** Youth and women-led organizations and networks in the target districts mobilized and capacitated to support their active participation and representation in decision-making processes and socio-economic opportunities.

This output covers activities aimed at facilitating the engagement of women and youth entrepreneurs, women- and youth-led organizations, networks and actors in the target borderland districts through capacity training and vocational skills to enable them to access knowledge and enhance their awareness and participation in economic opportunities at district and community level. Economic empowerment of women at the community level not only positively impacts their own life situations, but is also central to mobilising their potential for sustainable development, peacebuilding and poverty alleviation. Women spend a higher percentage of their income on the well-being of their families (i.e., feeding, educating and healthcare of children) and, when economically empowered, produce more long-term benefits for their families. The economic independence of women is important as it counteracts exploitation, feminisation of poverty, discrimination and general social inequalities.

*Activity 2.2.1.: Support economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities for women and youth to enhance the participation in local governance and discourage susceptibility to human rights violations (SGBV, child marriages and child trafficking)*

Poverty has been identified as a major factor driving the limited participation of young people in local government decision-making processes and economic opportunities at the district and community levels. Poverty also contributes to the susceptibility of young people to manipulation by politicians and other actors for violent acts and conflict during demonstrations and political campaigns during and after elections. The Project will therefore support young people and women with economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities. This will include training on livelihoods, basic business management strategies and linkage to financial schemes and businesses.

#### **Actions:**

- Implement economic empowerment schemes to integrate women and youth in the economy as an incentive to reduce their participation in conflict.
- Conduct community level sensitisation and mobilization for community-level youth and women entrepreneurship groups and business networks.
- Conduct training for youth and women groups/CBOs in business and business networks in group dynamics, business and credit management, basic business income and expenditure skills and training in value addition skills.
- Support mentoring and coaching of youth and women business owners and networks in business management skills.
- Explore opportunities for linking youth and women in business and business networks to financial institutions.

***Activity 2.2.2.: Support political empowerment and opportunities for women and youth to enhance their participation in local governance and decision-making processes***

Though the Gender Equality Act demands that decision-making processes at all levels of government should include at least 40 percent representation of women, the reality especially at the local council and community level is different. Women continue to be excluded in decision-making processes and, where they are included, they are not provided with the requisite skills and support to be able to meaningfully participate and influence local development and ensure that women issues are adequately integrated into local development plans and initiatives. The project will therefore design target capacity building training and support to women representatives in key council and community level structures including all committees of the councils. The training will focus on equipping women representatives and leaders, including women councillors in communication, advocacy and basic analysis of development issues. The project will further support local councils in the three project districts to review and strengthen the monitoring of gender strategies to enhance women representation and active participation in council structures and decision-making processes

**Actions:**

- Conduct gap analysis of district gender strategies and processes and support local councils with expertise to review and strengthen their gender strategies.
- Train youth and women representatives in council structures in key areas like gender responsive budgeting, budget analysis, social accountability mechanisms and advocacy.
- Train youth and women representatives in council structures, women counsellors, women leaders, and project beneficiaries on human rights mechanisms, reporting, advocacy and linking women networks to the Malawi Human Rights Commission processes.
- Train youth and women beneficiaries from project support economic empowerment on advocacy and how to engage the local councils and area committees on women issues
- Identify and capacitate youth and women members of the MPUC and DPUCs as peace ambassadors in targeted borderland districts using the AU Model and orient them on their

work in the MPUC and District Peace Councils, as a means to galvanize youth representation and participation in conflict prevention and peace processes.

**See Annex C with all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.**

**d) Project targeting.**

**Project's geographical zones**

The proposed final beneficiaries of the project are national and local government officials, youth, women, CSO actors, district peace committees in Mangochi and Karonga, traditional leaders and religious leaders in the borderline districts of Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi with a focus on borderland Traditional Authorities (communities) namely Traditional Authority Mwakaboko, and the Songwe area in the Karonga; Traditional Authorities Bwanyambi, Makanjira and Katuli in Mangochi; and Traditional Authorities Chesera, Gokwe and Nchinguza in Machinga. These communities are in direct contact with communities on the other side in Mozambique and Tanzania and so are directly impacted both positively and negatively through their social, economic and cultural exchanges with the other side of the borders. This exposes borderland communities to cross-border risks, including trafficking, illegal and irregular migration communities, human rights and potential vulnerability to the same type of violence and threats that affect their neighbours.

**Target Beneficiaries**

The project will target 921 representatives from local government officials, security officials, members of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, members of District Peace and Unity Committees, adolescent boys and girls (including students), men and women (including young mothers and the mother support groups), teachers with targeted approaches and solutions tailored to specific needs of the age, gender, and other community groups. Women and women-led organisations will be specifically targeted throughout the project because this group is especially vulnerable to conflicts and human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, child marriages, rape/defilement, and prevention efforts that may bring the highest peacebuilding (social cohesion) dividends. Over 500 indirect beneficiaries including members of organisations of direct beneficiaries and families (about 60 families are expected to benefit from improvements in the lives of women entrepreneurs.

In Outcome 1, the project will target 305 direct beneficiaries in the three districts. The focus will be on local government officials, the Ministry of National Unity, Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, District Peace and Unity Committees, security officials, chiefs, religious leaders, youth and women peace networks and actors at the district and community levels. The selection of participants will follow consultations with the government primarily through the Ministries of National Unity, Gender and Social Welfare, and Local Government, the security and justice sectors. Expected participants from the government are officials that may influence policymaking and programme and strategy design within their institutions but also connect and coordinate programme and policy implementation at local level. The project is also expected to reach over 500 indirect beneficiaries, including members of the organisations whose representatives will benefit from the capacity building. The district councils will also benefit from the socio-economic risk analyses that will be produced by the project. It should be noted that only when the mapping and baseline assessment work is completed, expected within the



first two months of the inception phase of the project, will precise numbers on beneficiaries be set out in the project's monitoring framework.

Under Outcome 2, around 500 (50% female) youth and women from the borderland districts of Karonga, Machinga and Mangochi will be supported through livelihood support activities or trainings throughout the project duration. 116 students, social welfare staff, health officials, teachers, security focal points will also benefit from capacity building and technical support on preventing SGBV and provision of SRHR services. The over 60 families, 2 secondary schools, and 6 health facilities of the participants are expected to indirectly benefit from these activities, given that an improved income, capacities and skills will positively impact the administration of SRHR and other health related services in health facilities and schools and the socio-economic well-being of the entire households. The selection of these beneficiaries will be undertaken together with the members of the community, including mother support groups, women cooperatives, traditional authorities and to the possible extent, health officials, civil society organizations or social enterprises. The beneficiaries will be enrolled in the programme on a voluntary basis. The targeting of the beneficiaries will be inclusive, to ensure that marginalized individuals, those suffering from HIV and disabilities can also participate. Finally, the compiled beneficiary lists will be verified and approved by UNFPA and UN Women, the cooperating partner and the local authorities. These lists will be used for beneficiary registration and enrolment into interventions.

## Project management and coordination

### a) Recipient organizations and implementing partners

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
<b>Convening Organization: UNDP</b> <b>Implementing partners:</b> Ministry of National Unity Ministry of Gender Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Ministry of Homeland Security (Malawi Police Service, Immigration) National Statistics Office Malawi Human Rights Commission Public Affairs Committee  CSO partners: Femwise Citizen Alliance Centre for Alternatives for Victimised Women and Children (CAVWOC) Nayuchi Aids Network Services (NANES) Organization for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Initiative (OSSEDI) Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) Youth and Society (YAS)	USD 31 mil	EU FCDO Norway USAID Flanders Germany Japan Canada Ireland Iceland UNDP TRAC	Lilongwe, Karonga, Mzuzu, Zomba	130, 1	Senior Economist Chief Technical Advisor (Elections) Governance Portfolio Manager (with Human Rights and SSR expertise) Gender and Development Specialist Conflict Data Analysis Associate Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Officer Procurement Specialist Finance Associate
Recipient Organization: UNFPA		EU	Nkhatabay		

<b>Implementing partners:</b> Ministry of Gender Ministry of Health Ministry of Youth Ministry of Education National Statistics Office  CSO partners: Girls Empowerment Network Youthnet and Counselling Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE) Action Aid Malawi Nayuchi Aids Network Services (NANES) Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA) Banja Lamtsogolo (BLM - Marie Stopes International) Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM)	<b>USD 25Million</b>	FCDO Norway USAID Flanders Germany Ireland Iceland KOICA MPTF CERF DFID UNFPA Core resources	Mzimba Dowa Kasungu Ntchisi Mchinji Salima Dedza Mangochi Machinga Chiradzulu Chikwawa Nsanje Lilongwe	64 staff members both at the National Office and the satellite district offices	Assistant Representative with sexual reproductive health, gender and human rights expertise National Gender Programme Specialist National Disability Expert Youth and Adolescent Health Expert
Recipient Organization: <b>UN Women</b>	USD 6.7 mil	EU Norway Standard Bank Iceland WPHF Government of Malawi (World Bank) Government of Korea Women Count	N/A	21	Country Representative; Gender and Governance Programme Specialist; Gender and Governance Programme Associate; Programme Management Specialist; Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist; Communication for Development Officer; Programme Specialist Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Programme Specialist, Women Economic Empowerment;
<b>Implementing partners:</b> Ministry of National Unity Ministry of Gender Ministry of Health Ministry of Youth Ministry of Education National Statistics Office CSO partners: NGO Gender Coordination Network Academia Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) Center for Multiparty Democracy					



District Council					Consultant-Gender in Humanitarian Action
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## **b) Project management and coordination.**

UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women will be project recipients. UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women have been selected to lead this proposal because of their technical expertise, programmatic relevance, and capacity to implement the two outcomes of this proposal effectively. UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women lead the implementation of Pillar 1 of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Malawi (i.e., Peace, Inclusion, and Effective Institutions). UNODC, IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF would support UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women at the outcome level by providing technical support for delivering specific actions of the proposal. This allows the project to benefit from the technical expertise in particular areas of the proposal. This will also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes and results by ensuring that impacts are absorbed into UNCT support programmes in the country.

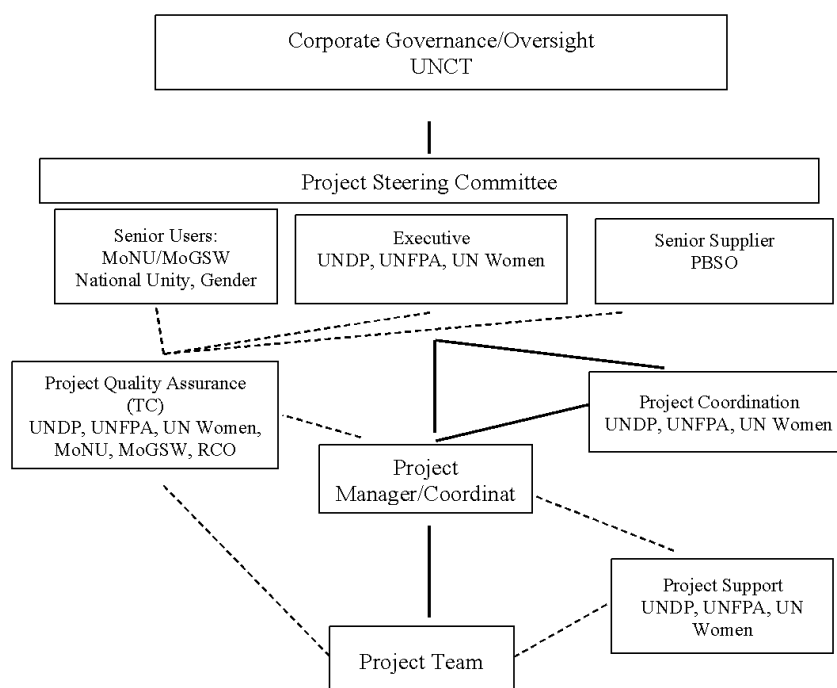
UNDP has long supported Malawi's conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and social cohesion agenda. More recently, it supported the National Peace Policy, which was launched in October 2017, and the establishment of the first six District Peace Committees from 2017 to 2019. It has also had a long involvement in supporting the Public Affairs Committee, focusing on insider mediation capacity support. It has also supported the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) over several electoral cycles, emphasising electoral peace and dispute resolution, such as the 2014 PAC-CMD electoral peace accord or local peace treaties signed at the district level between local representatives of political parties. UNDP will also draw from existing knowledge resources and technical expertise from its regional and global offices on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. UNDP will further draw on the expertise of the Crisis Prevention Bureau to expand the existing Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) indicators and enhance data collection and analysis on the risks of conflicts and crises.

UNFPA has extensive experience supporting the prevention of SGBV and youth empowerment. UNFPA currently co-leads the UNCT Youth Group (with UNICEF), ensuring UN Malawi's coordinated and coherent approach to youth empowerment, participation, and representation across all the three Pillars of UNSDCF. UNFPA also leads the Gender-Based-Violence Sub-cluster under the Protection Cluster in emergency settings - both complex (political) emergencies and natural disasters, backed by robust operational capacity and technical expertise in terms of SGBV prevention response and data management. UNFPA's corporate strategic plan highlights addressing gender inequality and social norms, empowering adolescents and youth, and applying human rights-based and gender transformative approaches, including effective male engagement as priority output areas as well as key accelerators for change. UNFPA will further draw on its expertise in south-south cooperation, including in the SADC area, to support the exchange of best practices and policy level coordination through SADC in data and digitalisation and monitoring in areas such as the attainment of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as south-south peer exchanges.

UN Women, as a UN entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, has expertise and experience in advancing Women's Peace and Security in line with UNSCR 1325. In its current Strategic Plan (2022-2025), Women, Peace and Security is among the four key thematic impact areas wherein UN Women seeks to achieve transformational results for gender equality. In Malawi, UN Women has worked with Government and civil society organisations in promoting women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-building processes at district and national levels. In collaboration with other agencies like UNDP, the agency has carried out interventions to address

Violence Against Women in Elections by ensuring an engendered National Peace Policy, participation of women in Peace Structures such as the District Peace Committees, including innovative interventions such as the Gender Elections Engagement Room systematically working with security agencies like Police to provide a conducive environment for women’s electoral and political participation. UN Women has also supported the development of Malawi’s first ever UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan and continues to support its implementations to actualise the WPS targets under its four pillars of Participation, Conflict Prevention, Protection, Relief and Recovery.

### Project Governance Structure



### Project Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) will be chaired by the Minister of National Unity and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. Resident Representatives of participating agencies and government representatives will be part of the SC. Among the responsibilities, the Steering Committee will: provide strategic direction and oversight and review progress for the project implementation; maintain strategic dialogue within the Steering Committee members (Ministers of Gender, National Unity, Homeland Security, Local Government, Traditional Authorities of the three districts, MHRC and representatives of community based youth and women organization/networks), and partners; make decisions and address bottlenecks in response to unexpected changes, risks and issues arising during the project implementation; appraise and approve strategic project documents, annual work plans, progress and final reports and the evaluation report. Specific Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee will be produced in the project initiation phase. Project governance meetings will take place regularly based on monitoring assessments and a rapidly evolving situation on the ground to provide strategic guidance and oversight.

### Technical Committee



The Technical Committee (TC) will oversee Quality Assurance for the Project based on the strategic direction of the SC and shall be consulted by the Project Manager and focal persons from participating agencies on progress as well as issues of significance to operational and technical issues. Project tolerances (i.e., constraints in terms of time and budget) will be an ongoing area of assessment for the TC throughout the life of the Project to support the management and priorities of the outputs. The committee will concentrate on the management and technical aspects of the Project, such as planning and budgeting, financial and technical reports, and risk management. The TC will also conduct preliminary analysis and layout options for discussion and adoption during SC meetings and may propose agenda items for the SC meetings. The TC will be made up of the same representative as the SC but at the technical (Director and Principal secretary level for government and representatives of the traditional authorities and youth and women networks. The TC will be Chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of National Unity and co-chaired by the UNDP Deputy Representative as the lead agency.

The project staffing will be financed through the PBF contribution and the contributing agencies. Through the PBF contribution, the project has included a budget for a Project Coordinator, M&E and Communications Officers. These positions will work with all agencies, partners and the Secretariat to ensure the smooth implementation of all project activities. In addition, the Peace and Development Adviser, Peace and Development Officer, and Peacebuilding UNV will provide technical and coordination support from the RCO; the Conflict Data Analysis Associate and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Programme Officer will provide technical and logistical support from UNDP; and Gender, SRHR, and Training officers will support the implementation of activities from UNFPA and UN Women. Additional financial, procurement and management support will be provided by staff in UNDP as Lead Agency.

### c) Risk management

Contextual Risk	Risk Level (low, med, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Conflict situation in Mozambique worsens to such proportions that the overspill of insurgent and refugees becomes uncontrollable	Medium	The Malawi and Mozambique Governments and the UN would need to organize humanitarian measures for food, water and shelter. Liaison with the SADEC Mission to Mozambique to coordinate political efforts would also be required
The internal situation in Malawi through ongoing economic shocks leads to widespread socio-political turbulence affecting the roll out and relevance of the project	Low	The UNCT will continue to provide advisory measures to the Presidential Delivery Unit and through the Foresighting projects to the National Planning Commission as well as income generating schemes to reduce the scale and impact of the current economic challenges.
The political situation in the country breaks down heading towards the next Tripartite elections in 2025, interrupting the roll out and relevance of this initiative	Medium	The UNCT will continue to provide platforms for political party engagement and consultation acting as a pressure release valve on the relationship between the parties
Regional relations between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania	Low	UN/UNCT of all three countries would work closely with the stakeholder governments and

breakdown due to a blame-game attitude on the situation in Cabo Delgado and its regional effects, which would jeopardise the implementation of the project		ensure that the planning, agenda and briefings of each meeting allows for the most constructive and mutually supportive meetings and relations possible
Lack of commitment from relevant government entities to implement project activities for political and other reasons	Low	The Resident Coordinator will have ongoing conversations at the national level to ensure that government remains committed to project outcomes and activities. This will be replicated at the district level
Local authorities resist project activities because of cultural and religious concerns	Medium	Ensure constant consultation and active engagement with local authorities and stakeholders in the initiation and planning activities throughout the implementation. Engage traditional authorities, opinion leaders including women and youth representatives to ensure early detection and response to issues and concerns
Local authorities and stakeholders do not feel ownership over the implementation of activities	Medium	Ensure constant consultation and active engagement with local authorities and stakeholders before, during and after the implementation of activities mainstreaming a local-owned approach at different levels (district, traditional authority, Group Village Head Men etc.)
Local authorities are viewed as perpetrators, or not seen as plausible remedies, in the extension of SGBV-related programming.	Medium	Ensure extensive consultation is conducted with target communities to understand their relationships with local authorities, especially community police representatives, and work with national- and district-level officials to address any issues before engaging the community. The project will also conduct an HRDDP assessment to ensure all support to and engagement with the police is provided in a manner that is consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and is compliant with and promotes respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.
Unwillingness of youth to participate in activities due to perceived fear of offending their parents and cultural sensitivities	Medium	Establishing communication channels at community level owned by community members that can enhance trust and understanding about the project objectives; avoid sensitive language that may cause harm or negative misperception from the community; Ensuring safe spaces and enabling environment for participants based on UN and government's security guidance. Creating spaces (communication platforms) where young people can cooperate with authorities and their voice can be heard (district, traditional authority, Group Village Head Men etc.).

Low capacity of local partners to implement and support project activities	Medium	Supporting local partners in planning, implementation, on-job support on modern methods to work with youth.
Potential of resurgence of high COVID-19 cases in targeted districts of the project	Low	Applying flexible approaches to ensure activities are implemented aligned with national measures in place to respond to COVID-19 in both countries; Using adapted formats and methodologies to ensure safety and security of participants.
Occurrence of high impact natural disaster(s)	Medium	Assessing the effect on targeted communities and government priority shifting and adjusting the mode of implementation of activities accordingly.

### **Integrating the Principles of ‘Do No Harm’ in the project**

In a project such as this, operating in a complex environment of domestic and international dynamics, it would be very easy to unwittingly expose certain project beneficiaries and stakeholders to further dangers to their welfare. This can come around in a variety of ways, such as:

- Perceived favourable treatment to certain demographic elements that are not understood by the other parts. For instance, if the gender focused aspects of the project are not well understood by the majority of male counterparts, it could exacerbate the poor treatment of women by certain male elements. Or, if a certain community – that has a specific ethnic or religious composition – is seen as getting a disproportionate amount of support from the project by a neighbouring community of a different ethnic or religious composition, this could worsen the existing relations between the two;
- The project unwittingly triggers negative consequences on those it is trying to help by using the local communities for intelligence gathering on the illicit movement of people and goods that might end up in members of those communities behaving like vigilantes and taking the law into their own hands when they come across insurgents, immigrants or refugees;
- The project unwittingly contributes to a deterioration of international relations with the stakeholder authorities blaming one another for a situation through fora that is supported by the initiative

Bearing in mind the potential for such risks, it is of cardinal importance that the project undertakes the following measures:

- Sensitises and educates all project beneficiaries and stakeholders on the objectives and intentions of this initiative well upstream to its actual implementation;
- Ensures local-level buy-in (through sensitization and consultation) to all sub-initiatives of the project at the national and decentralized levels;
- Ensures a balanced approach on the end-targets of the resources of the project;
- Accompanies all activities with an underlying campaign on human rights protection;
- Ensures a strong monitoring framework that will, among other things, ensure that project beneficiaries are not enduring worsening conditions

#### **d) Monitoring and evaluation**

- The monitoring will be carried out by participating UN Agencies in coordination with relevant government’s counterpart and institutions with dedicated budget allocated for each of the recipient UN agencies. The monitoring exercises will be coordinated by the Project Manager with support

of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for a coherent approach consistent with this project document and the PBSO compliance requirements.

- During the inception phase, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will develop a detailed M&E workplan and revise results framework indicators accordingly wherever necessary.
- Agencies will work closely to ensure joint coordination and support at the implementation stage (both field and Country Office levels). The project objectives, indicators and targets will serve as references for the project's monitoring and evaluation. The project team will collect and report all project and programme data in a gender- and age-disaggregated format.
- The project will be monitored through assessing the progress against indicators in the Results and Resources Framework. The project monitoring will use gender- and age- disaggregated data, where both of these are available. The initial data collection and assessments of the project will become the baseline of the project with the aim of assessing best implementation strategies, M&E parameters, and a realistic timeline.
- Agencies will apply various tools, including project documentation analysis, on-site monitoring, questionnaires and interviews with project beneficiaries before and after events, collection of stories. The agencies will also be supported by Field Monitoring Officers and their own monitoring capabilities at the field level. M&E carried out by Agencies is participatory and involves beneficiaries evaluating the results of the programmes and trainings (through post-training questionnaires, discussions etc.). Results of the monitoring will be reported to PBF through semi-annual and annual reports.
- The project monitoring will largely focus on project outputs to ensure that project implementation is on track and is reaching the intended beneficiaries.
- 'Lessons learned sessions' with partners, authorities and other stakeholders will regularly be held (e.g., through organising monitoring visits of government partners to project sites and meeting with project beneficiaries) to enhance implementation and assess achievements (and make experiences from the project available to other countries and PBSO so that similar projects can be built on lessons learned and best practices).
- Based on ongoing monitoring and reflection on lessons learned, the project will take stock of how the cross-border dynamics, programmatic approach, and project partners have influenced the project and vice-versa, to adapt the project's approach, if necessary, prior to disbursement of the 2nd tranche.
- The external evaluation at the end of the project will be carried out by an independent expert, in line with UN Evaluation Group standards. The evaluation will assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the intervention, focusing on the project's peacebuilding impact, its conflict sensitivity, catalytic effect and risk tolerance. UN agencies and their government counterparts will debrief on the evaluation's findings and recommendations to inform subsequent strategies, plans and activities for peacebuilding in both countries. USD\$ 26,000 has been budgeted for this.

- To support replicability and cross learning from the interventions of the project, knowledge management, generation through public interest and success stories and other communication products will be produced and disseminated. The project through the M&E and Communication officers will work with and support project partners and beneficiaries document and share their stories to encourage other districts and community actors. The project will also convene information sharing platforms and forums Partner community dialogue sessions and media campaigns including the use of social media to disseminate knowledge products. 8 percent of the budget (USD\$ 205,761.32) has been allocated to monitoring and communications activities, as per the budget breakdown. This includes the salary for the M&E officer and funds for the project team to travel to the project districts for the implementation and monitoring activities of the project. This budget allocation will also cover the external evaluation of the project

**e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability**

- The project's approach towards sustainability is focused on ensuring national and local level ownership by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, Districts Peace Committees, borderland community women and youth networks to ensure that the national capacities of the Peace and Unity Commission, Local Government Authorities and community-based stakeholders on conflict prevention and human rights protection are revitalized and/or built. The project will place a significant focus on developing and strengthening sustainable community level structures that will be able to survive even after the intervention has finished, and will complement theoretical trainings, such as community policing, with on-the-job mentoring and guidance to increase sustainability.
- The Project Steering Committee will develop a partnership strategy to ensure regular flow of information and coordination with national and international development partners—particularly the Iceland and Irish Embassy who are supporting a joint UNCT pilot project on conflict prevention in Mangochi and Mulanje and have expressed interest in extending funding support to borderlands programming in Malawi. Other partners including FCDO and Canada have also expressed interest in supporting borderland conflict prevention and human rights protection programming. It is, therefore, expected that this project will serve as seed funding that can catalyze other sources of financing to allow the UN to scale up its programmatic activities in the region with significant socio-economic needs but where the programmatic presence so far has been limited. The project team will regularly report on its resource mobilization activities and progress in the bi-annual progress reports.
- The project implementation and coordination team will capture lessons and best practices of this project and ensure due dissemination among the relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure effective transfer of knowledge and experience. Also, the implementation team will actively look for synergies with ongoing projects in the region.

## **2 Project budget**

*Provide brief additional information on projects costs, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. The proposed budget for all projects must include*

*sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. The proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.*

*Please note that in nearly all cases, the Peacebuilding Fund transfers project funds in a series of performance-based tranches. PBF's standard approach is to transfer project funds in two tranches for UN recipients and three tranches for non-UN recipients, releasing second and third tranches upon demonstration that performance benchmarks have been met. All projects include the following two standard performance benchmarks: 1) at least 75% of funds from the first tranche have been committed, and 2) all project reporting obligations have been met. In addition to these standard benchmarks and depending on the risk rating or other context-specific factors, additional benchmarks may be indicated for the release of second and third tranches.*

The total budget of this project is USD\$ 3,000,000 for 24 months. Funds will be divided into two tranches for UN recipients with the second tranche being released upon demonstration by the project that the first tranche has been expended or committed to at least 75% between the recipients and upon completion of any regular PBF reports due in the period elapsed. The release of the second tranche is dependent upon the results achieved with the funds of the first tranche.

The Project Manager/Coordinator will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project. Each agency will be responsible for the management of their funds.

Detailed budget information per activity and category is available in Annex D.

In the first Excel budget table in Annex D, please include the percentage towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) for every activity. Also provide a clear justification for every GEWE allocation (e.g., training will have a session on gender equality, specific efforts will be made to ensure equal representation of women etc.).



### Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	Y		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	Y		
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Y		
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	Y		
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?	Y		Based on the lessons learnt from the 2019/2020 post-election violence and UNCT led conflict assessments, as elaborated in the text.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	Y		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	Y		
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Y		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	N/A		
Gender			

10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	Y		
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Y		
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Y		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Y		

### Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	Y		
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	Y		
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	Y		

4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	Y		
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	Y		
6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		N	
7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.	Y		As part of the support for the establishment and operationalization of the MPUC, the project will purchase one vehicle to support the operations of MPUC, and aid MPUC in monitoring and operational engagements with the DPCs in the three target districts
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	Y		UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women will support the project from their core resources to cover the cost of the staff that will support the implementation of the project. Further funding to UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM and

			UNODC has been secured through the SDG-AF project on <i>Border Security and Conflict Prevention</i> , funded currently by Iceland and Ireland, and UNDP has secured funding from the 2022 JSB provision for <i>Promoting Peace and Socio-Economic Empowerment through National Peace Architecture and Sustainable Livelihoods</i>
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## **Annex B.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations**

*(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)*

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

### **AA Functions**

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations**

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

## Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
<b>30 April</b>	Annual reporting – Report <b>Q4 expenses</b> (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<i><b>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</b></i>	

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

<b>31 July</b>	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
<b>31 October</b>	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to been refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

## Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

## Public Disclosure



The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website ([www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund)) and the Administrative Agent's website ([www.mptf.undp.org](http://www.mptf.undp.org)).

## **Annex B.2: Project Administrative arrangements for Non-UN Recipient Organizations**

*(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)*

### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:**

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each recipient in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

### **Reporting:**

Each Receipt will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

<b>Type of report</b>	<b>Due when</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

additional PBF allocation if the context requires it		
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## Financial reports and timeline

Timeline	Event
<b>28 February</b>	Annual reporting – Report <b>Q4 expenses</b> (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<b>30 April</b>	Report <b>Q1 expenses</b> (January to March)
<b>31 July</b>	Report <b>Q2 expenses</b> (January to June)
<b>31 October</b>	Report <b>Q3 expenses</b> (January to September)
<i><b>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</b></i>	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the Administrative Agent, no later than three months (31 March) of the year following the completion of the activities.

## Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the Recipient Non-UN Recipient Organization will be determined in accordance with applicable policies and procedures defined by the PBSO.

## Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website ([www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund)) and the Administrative Agent website ([www.mptf.undp.org](http://www.mptf.undp.org)).

## Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

An independent project audit will be requested by the end of the project. The audit report needs to be attached to the final narrative project report. The cost of such activity must be included in the project budget.

## Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognise their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will

as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

### **Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:**

In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds directly, NUNOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its agent, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Prior to submitting a finalized project document, it is the responsibility of each NUNO to liaise with PBSO and MPTFO and provide all the necessary documents (see below) to demonstrate that all the criteria have been fulfilled and to be declared as eligible for direct PBF funds.

The NUNO must provide (in a timely fashion, ensuring PBSO and MPTFO have sufficient time to review the package) the documentation demonstrating that the NUNO:

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE:** If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE:** If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.<sup>26</sup>
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

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<sup>26</sup> Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

### Annex C: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated targets)

*The project will develop a detailed M&E workplan during the inception phase and revise results framework indicators to focus on impact wherever possible.*

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
<p>Outcome 1: Malawi's Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) to support peacebuilding and human rights protection in borderland communities strengthened.</p> <p>Related SDG Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</li> </ul>		<p>Outcome Indicator 1 ai: Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (40% women and Youth representation) established and providing mediation services by December 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 1</p>	<p>News reports (print and electronic)</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Appointment of Commissioners of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission by Q1 of 2023</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 1aii: % of disputes/conflicts referred to the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Committees satisfactorily resolved through mediation services</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Project M&amp;E Reports</p> <p>Mediation reports from MPUC and DPCs</p> <p>Interviews from disputing parties</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism</li> </ul> <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p>		Target: 80% (for both MPUC and DPCs)		
		Outcome Indicator 1 bi: Improved human rights protection in border communities based on perception of communities (especially women) Baseline: 0 Target: 80%+ of community members surveyed feel human rights protection has improved		
		Outcome Indicator 1 bii: Perception of local peace networks and organisations on DPUCs effectiveness in conflict monitoring and prevention capacities Baseline: 0 Target: 80%+ of local peace networks and organisations believe DPUCs are effective in conflict monitoring and prevention	Perception survey report, DPUC activity reports Capacity training reports DPUCs conflict monitoring and prevention activity reports Project M&E reports	DPUCs trained on conflict monitoring and prevention (conflict analysis, mediation, dialogue facilitation) by the Q1 of 2023
	Output 1.1: Malawi's national peace architecture is operationalized, with	Output Indicator 1.1.1: District Peace and Unity Committees in	News reports (print and electronic)	Members of the District Peace and Unity

	<p>focus on borderland communities, and existing capacities are strengthened.</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the peace and conflict resolution structures through development of a data management and public information platform to communicate the mandate of research undertaken by and dialogues led by MPUC.</li> <li>- Support the physical establishment of the MPUC in Lilongwe.</li> <li>- Develop clear SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPCs based on the MPUC Act, ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels.</li> <li>- Train DPCs in monitoring, coordination and community outreach, including linkages between DPCs and MPLCs, in the target districts.</li> <li>- Support the Public Affairs Committee in its role of mediating and coordinating potential inter-</li> </ul>	<p>the 3 target districts established/strengthened to coordinate and lead conflict prevention and early warning and response systems (with 40% representation of women and youth).</p> <p>Baseline: 1 Target: 3</p>	<p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Committee in Machinga identified by Q2 of 2023.</p> <p>District Peace and Unity Committees in Karonga and Machinga revitalised and resourced by Q2 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.1.2 SoPs and guidelines for MPUC and DPUCs ensuring adherence to gender and PwD quotas at national, district and community levels per the provisions of the Peace and Unity Act adopted.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 (1 SoP, 1 guidelines handbook each for the MPUC and the DPUCs).</p>	<p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p> <p>News reports (print and electronic)</p>	<p>Draft SoPs and training Manuals and guidelines adopted by Q1 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3 Percentage of MPUC and DPUC members trained on conflict management and resolution</p>	<p>Training evaluation reports</p>	<p>Orientation and training of MPUC and DPUCs conducted by Q2 of 2023.</p>



	faith and community conflict drivers.	and actively leading mediation and education on conflict prevention  Baseline: 0  Target: 100	Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements  Project M&E reports	
	Output 1.2: Enhanced professional and operational capacity of law enforcement actors in border security in targeted borderland districts.  List of activities under this Output: - Provide technical expertise on monitoring and applying border control measures to border control officials. - Conduct monthly flow monitoring in formal and informal border entry points through population mobility mapping exercise (PMM) and deployment of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). - Support the establishment of joint police/community border patrols in target borderland communities.	Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of security actors receiving training on border control measures.  Baseline: 0  Target: 300 (100 per district with 50% women representation)	Training evaluation reports  Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements  Project M&E reports	Training of security actors conducted by Q3 of 2023.
		Output Indicator 1.2.2 a: Number of police-community liaison platforms established and functioning  Baseline: 0 Target: 3 (1 per district with at least 30% women representation)	Minutes / reports from platforms  Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements  Project reports	Police-community liaison platforms established and functioning by Q3 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct police / community engagement activities and dialogue to increase dialogue and early warning on potential community-level conflict.</li> <li>- Provide training, conferences and travel for national and district-level coordination.</li> </ul>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.2 b: Number of regular joint initiatives established by police-community liaison platforms to address crime and conflict.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 3 (monthly meetings, community initiatives, trend monitoring, etc.)</p>	<p>Minutes / reports from platforms</p> <p>Police reports</p> <p>Community reports</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Police-community liaison platforms established and functioning by Q3 2023.</p>
	<p>Output 1.3: Infrastructures for peace and resilience in borderland communities and districts are strengthened.</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a multi-agency mapping of local formal and informal mechanisms, including women and youth led and their requisite capacities for social cohesion and peacebuilding.</li> <li>- Train DPCs and community leaders on conflict prevention platform, data collection and analysis.</li> <li>- Develop an easy-to-use mobile app for the conflict prevention platform,</li> </ul>	<p>Output Indicator 1.3.1: Number of local peace and resilience infrastructures identified and capacitated to monitor and report on socio-economy risks at community level.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 15 (5 in each district with at least 1 women-led and 1 youth network)</p>	<p>Training evaluation reports</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Mapping exercise completed to identify local peace and resilience networks and their capacity needs completed by Q1 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.3.2: % of local peace and resilience infrastructures capacitated to monitor and provide monthly</p>	<p>Project M&amp;E reports</p> <p>Local partner activity reports</p>	

	<p>including equipment required to operationalise. (linked to the national platform in 1.1.1)</p> <p>- Facilitate coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities.</p>	<p>reports on socio-economy risks at community level following.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 100%</p>		
		<p>Output Indicator 1.3.2: Percentage of local peace and resilience networks and DPUCs using new data collection tools to monitor and report on socio-economic and conflict risks at community level.</p> <p>Baseline:0 Target:100%</p>	<p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>User friendly data collection tools and mobile applications developed and tested by Q1 of 2023.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.3.3: Number of coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 27 (bi-monthly in each district for 18 months).</p>	<p>Minutes / reports from coordination sessions</p> <p>Ministry of National Unity Reports/press statements</p> <p>Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Coordination sessions within and across the targeted borderland districts and communities by Q2 2023.</p>

	<p>Output 1.4: Women and youth participation and representation in peace infrastructure enhanced.</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:  <i>Provide the GoM technical expertise for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and development of a National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a women and youth peacebuilding situational analysis and mapping in the target borderland districts to support the WPS and YPS NAPs.</li> <li>- Engage youth ambassadors in the target borderland districts in youth- and women-led working groups to support the development of the NAPs.</li> <li>- Support the consultations, validation and launch of the YPS NAP at both district and national level.</li> <li>- Ensure the active participation of women at the district and community level in the roll out of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.</li> </ul>	<p>Output Indicator 1.4.1: National Action Plan for UNSCR 2250 adopted by December of 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p>	<p>Project partner/school monitoring reports/ Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Draft National Action Plan validated by June 2023</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.4.1: Number of Youth Ambassadors engaged and working actively to support the NAPs.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 40 ambassadors engaged and are providing regular reports on their engagements on implementation of NAPs</p>	<p>Partner activity reports Project M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>Youth Ambassadors appointed in both districts by June 2023.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appoint women and youth ambassadors in targeted borderland districts using the AU Model and orient them on their work in the MPUC and District Peace Councils, as a means to galvanize youth representation and participation in conflict prevention and peace processes.</li> <li>- Women and youth organizations and groups are supported to produce and share regular evidence of their impact through a community of practice for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.</li> <li>- Provide mentorship and learning initiatives to women and youth leaders and groups in conflict prevention and peacebuilding to empower them to take leadership roles in conflict prevention and the promotion of peace.</li> </ul>			
Outcome 2 Women and youth in target districts are activated as drivers of peace at the district level.		<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1: % of women representation at MPUC and DPUCs</p> <p>Baseline: (MPUC: 0%; 2 existing DPUC: 20%)</p>	Composition list of the MPUC and DPUCs.	

<p>(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods</li> </ul> <p>(Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR)</p> <p>Malawi went through the UPR in 2020 and though most of the recommendations are relevant to this project, outcome 2 contributes to the following 3 UPR recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>122.108 Intensify further public awareness-raising and capacity-building for duty bearers on addressing child trafficking and violence against children (Philippines)</li> </ul>		Target: 40% as provided for in the Peace and Unity Act and the Gender Equality Act		
		Output Indicator 2.1.2: number of women organizations using improved conflict analysis and mediation skills in their conflict prevention work	Pre and post-training capacity reports Project M&E reports Quality of partner conflict analysis reports	
		Baseline: 0		
		Target: 5 organisations in each of the three target districts		
		Output 2.1: Mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence strengthened and women and girls' access to safe spaces increased in target districts.		
		List of activities under this Output:		
		- Strengthen SGBV prevention mechanisms, capacities and SRHR referral systems for women and adolescent girls, including		
		Output Indicator 2.1.1a: Number of women organisations providing public education and advocacy on SGBV prevention in communities.	Project partner/school monitoring reports/ M&E reports Project reports	
		Baseline: 0		
		Target: 5		
		Output Indicator 2.1.1b: % of women and men with increased	Police data Court records	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>122.160 Continue to take measures to promote gender equality and to end all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination</li> <li>122.102 Continue to fight against human trafficking and its root causes, as well as against the sexual exploitation of women and girls, in accordance with targets 5.2 and 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, by setting up programmes to increase skills and women's income</li> </ul>	<p>vulnerable survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to enable access to requisite services at border crossings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen coordination of and linkages among existing women-led organisations and groups, structures to facilitate consolidated agency, collaborative advocacy and voice of women in human rights protection and SGBV (including defilement and child marriage) prevention at community level</li> <li>- Review and integrate women and youth-inclusivity into existing resources/tools, structures for training and activities carried out under this project.</li> <li>- Conduct women's safe spaces and adolescent girls' mentorship to enhance their capacity to prevent and mitigate risks of gender-based violence, harmful practices and other forms of violence at border crossings and in borderland communities.</li> </ul>	<p>knowledge of SGBV, its prevention and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Baseline: TBD</p> <p>Target: 80+%</p>	<p>Project M&amp;E reports</p> <p>Perception survey</p>	
		<p>Output Indicator 2.1.2 a: Number of security personnel with improved understanding and application of SGBV prevention and safe space needs for women in border crossing points</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 60</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.2 b: % of women and human rights organisations who believe that SGBV has reduced by the end of the project</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>Project pre and post training assessment reports</p> <p>Partner/school monitoring reports</p> <p>M&amp;E reports</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Perception survey</p> <p>Data from Malawi Police Service reports</p> <p>Malawi Human Rights Commission reports</p> <p>Reports from local human rights</p>	

		Target: 80+%	organisations and networks	
		Output Indicator 2.1.3: Number of women and girls who use the safe spaces created under the project in the target districts.	Project partner/ monitoring reports/ M&E reports	Availability of vibrant youth and women networks in the community
		Baseline: 0		
		Target: 450		
	Output 2.2: Youth and women-led organisations and networks in the target districts mobilised and capacitated to support their active participation and representation in decision-making processes and socio-economic opportunities.  List of activities under this Output: - Implement economic empowerment schemes to integrate women and youth in the economy as an incentive to reduce their participation in conflict and susceptibility to abuse. - Support economic empowerment and livelihood opportunities for women and youth to enhance the	Output Indicator 2.1.1: % of beneficiaries who can show that their lives have improved as a result of the project's interventions (e.g., are more active in decision-making, have improved their business or taken advantage of opportunities)  Baseline:0  Target: 80%	Project impact assessment Project M&E reports	
		Output Indicator 2.1.2: number of women successfully enrolled	Project M&E reports	

	<p>participation in local governance and discourage susceptibility to human rights violations (SGBV, child marriages and child trafficking)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct community level sensitisation and mobilisation for community-level women entrepreneurship groups and business networks.</li> <li>- Conduct training for women in business and business networks in group dynamics, business and credit management, basic business income and expenditure skills and training in value addition skills.</li> <li>- Support mentoring and coaching of women business owners and networks in business management skills.</li> </ul>	<p>in livelihood programmes under the project by December 2023</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 60</p>		
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