

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**



PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

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| Country(ies): Sudan | |
| Project Title: Supporting Sustainable Peace in Blue Nile State through Gender-Responsive Natural Resource Governance, Inclusive Conflict Resolution Mechanisms and Climate-Resilient Livelihoods Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project): 00128019 | |
| PBF project modality: <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF | If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund: |
| List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): UNEP, UNDP, UN Women | |
| List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Commission (Government) • Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources (Government) • Ministry of Health and Social Development, Unit for Combating Violence Against Women and Girls (Government) • Ministry of Agriculture (Government) • Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources (Government) • Ministry of Finance (Government) • Women Awareness Initiative (WAI) - (NNGO) • Peace and Development Center, University of Blue Nile (Government) • Dosh for Social Development - (NNGO) • National Organization for Rural Development (NORD) - (NNGO) • Aafaq for Peace and Development Organization (APDO) - (NNGO) • Practical Action (INGO) • Sudanese Organization for Research and Development (SORD) - (NNGO) • Addition for disasters Assistance and Development (ADD) - (NNGO) • Community Environmental Action Planning Committee CEAP - Committee-Community Based Organization - (CBO) • Community Management Committees CMCs - Community Based Organizations - (CBO) | |

Project duration in months: ~~30 months~~ 36 months (6 month no-cost extension)

Given the highly sensitive and complex nature of Blue Nile State, the inter-communal conflict of 2022, and the recent Sudan conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces SAF and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which started in April 2023, the project will be implemented ~~over a 30~~ in 36-months period (as opposed to ~~24~~ 30 months). The ~~extended~~ original implementation timeframe ~~will allow~~ allowed for a slightly longer inception period to ensure partners who were new to the regions (UNEP and UN Women) have sufficient time to build strong relationships with local counterparts and essentially to compensate for the gaps in programming due to security restrictions related to the above events as well as the intercommunal conflict in July 2022. It will also allow the project greater flexibility to adapt to new developments in the peace process.

Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Blue Nile state, communities of Alkaili and Gambarda in Al Kurmuk locality, and Samsur and ~~Dearang~~ Derang in Baw locality, ~~Daem~~ Deim Saad and Yara in Geissan locality. Al Kurmuk and Geissan localities are affected by the current war in the sense that SPLM al-Hilu faction' clashed with the Sudanese Armed Forces and attacked some areas in these localities causing communities from those areas to flee, and creating general instability, however the situation has not further deteriorated in those two localities. The current Sudan war affected all the three project localities and made them to suffer from sharp increase in the prices of commodities and fuel. This is reflected in the high transport cost and agricultural production inputs in this season.

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:

Gender promotion

initiative Youth

promotion initiative.

Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions (X)

Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):**UNEP: \$ 994,222.60****UN Women: \$ 1,367,901.91****UNDP: \$ 1,620,000.00****TOTAL: US\$ 3,982,124.51**

³The 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.

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):

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| <p>PBF 1st tranche (70%): UNEP: \$ 695,955 UN WOMEN: \$ 957,531 UNDP: \$ 1,134,000</p> <p>Total: USD 2,787,487</p> | <p>PBF 2nd tranche* (30%): UNEP: \$ 298,266 UN WOMEN: \$ 410,370 UNDP: \$ 486,000</p> <p>Total: USD 1,194,637 The second tranche will be requested in October 2023 after checking that 75% and above of the first tranche is spent.</p> |
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Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):

This project aims to support and engender the peace process in Blue Nile state by enhancing climate resilient livelihoods options for women, youth, and other marginalized groups, improving the local governance of natural resources by ensuring the full and equal representation of women, and strengthening the local conflict resolution mechanisms that underpin the development prospects of all groups. Building on the lessons learned from a pilot conducted by the Joint UN Programme for Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace in North Kordofan, the project will promote the empowerment of women change agents, capitalizing on their important roles as natural resource managers and the increased economic and care burdens women face in the post- conflict context.

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):

At concept stage, consultations included discussions with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the Two Area Advisor (WFP), the Peace Commissioner, the Joint Steering Committee, and the Wali of Blue Nile State.

During project development, UNEP, UNDP, and UN Women conducted joint consultations in selected communities in Baw and Al Kurmuk localities as well as in Damazine from 22 to 26 March 2021. Focus groups discussions and interviews were conducted with a range of community members and key stakeholders to understand conflict dynamics, as well as key issues related to natural resources and the environment, and gender and social inclusion. As gender equality is a primary objective of the project, the field consultations included a specific focus on understanding the barriers and opportunities associated with women's empowerment. In each community, the team conducted focus groups discussions with women to assess what structures are already in place that the project could support or build on. The local consultations validated the contextual analysis presented in this project document and provided important information to guide the implementation of the project. ~~A summary report detailing local consultation findings is attached to the submission of the project document.~~ After the onset of the conflict in April 2023, additional consultations with communities have been conducted to scope for changed needs. This informed some of the newly suggested activities detailed in relevant sections.

Project Gender Marker score: 3

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 80.94 percent (US\$ 3,223,082.89)

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment: The primary objective of this project is to promote durable peace in Blue Nile State through the empowerment of women and girls as active agents of change in natural resource management and conflict resolution. Gender equality and women's empowerment will therefore be central to the delivery of the two major project components. These include: 1) specifically targeting women to develop climate-resilient livelihoods including of enhancing women's safety through violence prevention activities and provision of justice for survivors of GBV; 2) strengthening inclusive governance mechanisms by building women's capacities for leadership and planning (through the Community Environmental Action Planning process); building women's capacities for dialogue and mediation; increasing the participation of women in peacebuilding mechanisms and processes. The first component will include activities specifically aimed at capacity building of rule of law institutions such as police and judiciary bodies to provide clear understanding and guidance on how allegations of sexual violence against women and girls are to be handled and investigated as well as the disciplinary consequences attached to breaching the standards laid out in the various conduct procedures.

Project Risk Marker score: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*):

2.3 – Conflict Prevention and Management

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: The proposed interventions will directly support the implementation of the following outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018–2021: 1) economic development and poverty reduction, 2) environment, climate resilience and disaster risk management, 4) governance, rule of law, and institutional capacity development, and 5) community stabilization. Gender equality and women's empowerment is prioritized across all focus areas.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: This project will contribute directly to the achievement of three key Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs 16, 5 and 13. First and foremost, the project will contribute to SDG 16, which aims 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." By supporting women's livelihoods and strengthening their participation and leadership in all aspects of natural resource governance and conflict resolution, the project will also contribute to SDG 5 on "achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls". In addition, the development of climate resilient livelihoods and the strengthening of natural resource governance and management will contribute to the achievement of SDG 13 on climate action. Finally, the project will also contribute indirectly to SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 10 (reduced inequalities).

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| <p>Type of submission:</p> <p>New project amendment</p> | <p>If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:</p> <p>Extension of duration: Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): 6 Months, from 28 January to 28 July 2024.</p> <p>Change of project outcome/ scope:</p> <p>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:</p> <p>Additional PBF budget: Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX NA</p> <p>Brief justification for amendment:</p> <p>The project implementation has faced some challenges since its onset. The inception phase was prolonged because of the military takeover in October 2021, which was followed by the inter-communal conflict between the Hausa and some tribes that consider themselves indigenous of the Blue Nile State, in the localities of Wad Elmahi and Geissan. This conflict caused a lot of displacement and the loss of many lives. In the second quarter of 2023, a war erupted between SAF and RSF which caused a big population movement including to the Blue Nile State. All these events together, compounded with the heavy rainy season which impeded access to the project sites between June to October annually, have consumed some of the project's implementation time and therefore, the project partners would require six months additional time to be able to finalize the activities as dictated by the integrated workplan.</p> <p>Despite the challenges faced, the project managed to implement many activities in the integrated work plan as outlined below:</p> <p>Inception phase: Project staff were recruited. Project baseline assessment was conducted, and its results were validated in a workshop convened in Ed Damazine. The results of the baseline were used to finalize the project integrated work plan, the log frame indicators and M&E plan. The baseline results have also informed the gender, climate, and security assessment report under finalization.</p> <p>Eight Implementing Partners (IPs) from national NGOs were recruited by the three UN agencies to implement the project activities.</p> <p>Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) Process: Three IPs implemented the CEAP process. CEAP facilitators training was conducted in Ed Damazine, where 24 gender balanced CEAP facilitators including from beneficiary communities were trained for five days. The IPs collaborated with the project communities and formed six gender-balanced and youth dominated CEAP committees of 24 members across the three localities. These CEAP committees were later merged with Community Management Committees (CMCs). The IPs and CEAP committees facilitated the CEAP process and produced six CEAP plans, 64% of these plans are under implementation</p> |
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by the project. The remaining CEAP plans are ready to be submitted to the government and to donors for technical and financial support.

The project team jointly developed a communication strategy and risk management plan. The project also introduced and developed in a participatory way six two-dimensional maps for natural resources management and decision making. The maps have been digitized, and the mapping report is ready for sharing. In support of the implementation of communication plan, a video that shows communities consulting around maps and discussing their local environment and natural resources issues was produced.

Two-Dimensional mapping communication's activities

- Production of short video (3:38 minutes), entitled (Sitting Around the Map).
- Story on UNEP's Africa Environmental Highlights, issue 2, June 2023.
- High resolution photos for the three localities.
- High resolution maps for the three localities.

Formation of Community Management Committees (CMCs), peace committees and trainings provided in the six project sites: Six CMCs (one per site) were established and trained in project management, bookkeeping, natural resources management and small business making. Likewise, six peacebuilding committees were formed at each project site. The members of the peace committees per each site ranged between 40-42 individuals out of which 38% were women. The committees were trained in peacebuilding covering concept of conflict, conflict sensitivity, types of conflicts, root causes of conflicts, peace culture, negotiation, mediation, cultural diversity, and human rights. 25 women were trained on the production of improved stoves in Derang.

Livelihoods and economic empowerment activities in the six project sites:

Four metric tons of certified Sorghum seeds, 260 kg Okra and 260 kg Cowpeas seeds were distributed to 400 men and 100 women farmers in Samsur and Derang in Baw locality. Additionally, 4 metric tons of certified Sorghum seeds, 750 kg Okra and 750 Kg Cowpea were distributed to 400 men and 100 women farmers in Alkaili and Gambrda in Al Kurmuk locality. Also, 4 metric tons of certified Sorghum seeds, 250 kg Okra and 250 kg Cowpea seeds were distributed to 400 men and 100 women in Yara and Deim Saad in Geissan locality.

Six functioning cooperative committees (groups) of 50 women per site were established. On the other hand, 24 individuals (8 women + 16 men) were trained on mobile phone maintenance with the distribution of 4 men and 2 women/per site; and restocking of goats reached 50% completion in Deim Saad and Yara and 95% completion in Samsur. The vegetable farm and seedling nursery for 25 women are established in Samsur and Yara only due to the availability of water. Progress in nursery establishment is at 55% and greenhouse preparation at 60%. Training in nursery techniques was provided and it included land preparation, greenhouse construction and seedling production. 700 seedlings of shade trees, 700 seedlings of Guava, 500 seedlings of Citrus species were produced, and seedlings production of other tree species is ongoing.

The construction of the water yard progressed to the point of contracting a drilling company, however, after the outbreak of the war the company declined the contract, and following consultation with the communities, this activity was replaced by providing tractors and accessories to be implemented during the no cost extension period under activity 1.1.2. in Diem Saad and Yara communities. Other additional activities will include small ruminant restocking as well as equipping the laboratory of a health center in Samsur, Bau locality, under activity budget line 2.2.1.

Mapping and capacity assessment of women organization, GBV service provides and construction of women centers: The capacity assessment and mapping of women organizations and GBV service providers in Blue Nile is 100% complete. 19 women organizations were found working in the state. The capacity assessment results were validated in a workshop attended by 35 women in Ed Damazine.

Community protection networks (CPNs) were found in eight villages across five localities. These CPNs were established in collaboration with Save the Children, UNFPA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare, and the Childhood Care Council. The mapping identified six local and six national organizations providing GBV services, and 3 international organizations/Agencies providing financial and technical support. Establishment and reactivation of three protection networks in three localities (Geissan in Yara and Deim Saad, Al Kurmuk in Gambarda and Alkaili, Baw in Derang) is complete.

Women Centers: Three plots with legal documents from the local authorities and the government authority, in Yara of Geissan (1000m²) Alkali of Al Kurmuk (1000m²) and Samsur of Baw (600m²) have been secured. Also, three women organization were established in the communities of (Gambarda-Yara and Derang).

Socio-economic rights, natural resources management (NRM) and protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV), leadership and advocacy workshops for women organizations: In Al Kurmuk locality, 4 out of 6 planned workshops on social and economic rights, NRM and protection from GBV were conducted in Gambarda and Alkaili, where 46 participants from stakeholder, women led organization and community leaders attended the workshop, 28 of the participants were women. Two out of four same workshops were also convened in Geissan, they were attended by 46 participants including 30 women. In Baw, three workshops out of four were implemented in Derang and Samsur which were attended by 69 participants including 54 women. At the state level, two workshops were implemented for 46 female participants.

Peacebuilding Centers, show club and a nursery: One peace center and a nursely have been constructed in Deim Saad, and a show club has been established in Yara. Two show clubs for 50 youth and 60 women in Derang and Samsur were rehabilitated. The previously planned two peace centers in Derang and Gambarda are replaced with restocking of goats under activity 1.1.2.

Project implementation rate: The current implementation rate is estimated at 84%.

Operational challenges linked with the current conflict:

- The security situation in Blue Nile is not as challenging as the states where heavy armed conflict is taking place, but still volatile to an extent.
- Financial (access to cash and inflation) and logistical challenges are valid due to the impact of the war in Khartoum.
- Some implementing partners' personnel were relocated to other cities.
- Access to the field is easy for Baw, difficult for Geissan and not possible for Kurmuk due to the rainy season.

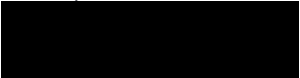






Some ways / solutions to facilitate project implementation: Banks have started to gradually release cash to partners and relocation of partners to Medani and Kosti, and this will improve operations. The end of the rainy season will improve access to the field from mid-October onwards. Partners are advised to open new accounts in banks operating in Blue Nile e.g., Bank of Khartoum.

Changes in the budget and log frame: No reallocation of funds in UN Women and UNDP budgets however, UNDP planned to replace some activities with new ones after consultation with beneficiary communities under the same budget line. UNEP did budget relocation between some budget lines to meet overspent in other budget lines. Most of the changes in the log frame are based on the baseline results and not because of the no cost extension.

Planned activities from now through the no cost extension period:

- Completion of seeds distribution
- Restocking of goats in Derang and Gambrda
- Seedling production for Samsur beneficiaries
- Provision of tractors and harvesting equipment
- Support to health center in Samsur
- Continuation of the literacy classes in Baw and Geissan localities
- Socio-economic rights, natural resource management and protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV), leadership and advocacy workshops for women organizations.
- Revive 3 locality-based women protection networks in the 3 project localities.
- Specialized trainings for justice sector workers on conducting gender-sensitive investigations and prosecutions, police officers on gender-sensitive collection of reports and for service providers at locality level and state level (Social workers, health workers on case managers)
- Finalization and dissemination of gender, climate, and security report.
- Monitoring and evaluation missions
- Coordination and communication of project activities.
- Endline data collection
- Final evaluation

Project Signatures

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| <p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative: Cecilia Aipira, Director of Disasters and Conflicts Branch</i></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p><i>Name of Agency: UNEP</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> | <p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative: Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, Resident Representative</i></p> <p>DocuSigned by: </p> <p>Signature: </p> <p><i>Name of Agency: UNDP</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal: 26-Nov-2023</i></p> |
| <p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative: MS. Adjaratou Fatou Name and Title of Government Counterpart: Mr. Suliman Ndaiye, Representative</i></p> <p>Signature:  </p> <p><i>Name of Agency: UN Women</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal:</i></p> | <p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p><i>Name of Government Entity: Peace Commission</i></p> <p>Signature:</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> |
| <p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p><i>Name of Representative: Clementine Nkweta-Salami</i></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p><i>Title: Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HCT)</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p> | <p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative: Brian Williams for Elizabeth Spehar</i></p> <p>Signature: </p> <p><i>Date & Seal: 31/01/2024</i></p> <p><i>Chief, Financing for Peacebuilding, Peacebuilding Support Office</i></p> |

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, focusing on the driving factors of tensions/conflict that the project aims to address and an analysis of the main actors/ stakeholders that have an impact on or are impacted by the driving factors, which the project will aim to engage. This analysis must be gender- and age-responsive.

After the exclusion of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM–N) from the peace process in 2011, Blue Nile State experienced protracted armed conflict between the SPLM–N and the Government of Sudan, leaving the northern half of the State under government control and the southern half held by the SPLM–N. In 2017, the SPLM–N split into two factions under the leadership of Abdelaziz al–Hilu and Malik Agar, respectively, further complicating an already complex political situation. Clashes between the SPLM–N factions and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) resulted in significant loss of life, human displacement, and the destruction of livelihoods.¹

Conflict between the SAF and SPLM–N factions is primarily over territorial control, but natural resources play an important role in defining conflict as extractive resources (namely gum Arabic and gold) contribute to financing operations of the different groups.² This has implications for other layers of conflict which center more squarely on natural resources and the environment, including conflict over land and water between farmers and herders or among of farmers. Over the last two years, however, the intensity and frequency of armed clashes between the SAF and SPLM–N factions in Blue Nile and the surrounding states decreased significantly, falling from 89 in 2016 to 23 in 2018, and then 10 in 2019.³ On 3 October 2020, a landmark peace deal was signed between SPLM–N leaders of the Malik Agar faction and the Sudanese government.⁴ A significant milestone in the journey to peace was achieved on 28 March 2021, when the head of the Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah al–Burhan and leader of the SPLM–N leader Abdelaziz al–Hilu signed a Declaration of Principle (DoP) recognizing "the impartiality" of the state in term of religious matters, and inter alia agreeing to form a single national army at the end of the transition period. This was considered a significant step forward on achieving a comprehensive peace.

In many respects, the signature of the Two Areas Protocol of the Juba Peace Agreement offers a critical opportunity to embark on a process of reconciliation, peacebuilding, and sustainable development in Blue Nile State. However, it needs to be understood that the situation remains extremely fragile and prone to setbacks, especially if peace dividends are not rapidly visible and that the relationship between the two SPLM–N factions is difficult. There is an evident need to rebuild trust between communities – many of whom have been in trapped in the crossfire of conflict – and their government. During field consultations in the project area, community members in Baw locality (under SPLM–N Malik Agar territories) reported a promising outlook for peace as SPLM–N Malik Agar faction was the first to sign the peace agreement, while community members in Al Kurmuk who – prior to the signing of the Declaration of Principles – continued to witness conflict between SPLM–N al Hilu faction and the

¹ UNDP. "Contextual Analysis: Two Areas and Adjoining States- Sudan, through the Lens of Mobility, Displacement and Development. July 2020. Pg. 25.

² UNDP. "Contextual Analysis: Two Areas and Adjoining States- Sudan, through the Lens of Mobility, Displacement and Development. July 2020. Pg. 47

³ UNDP. "Contextual Analysis: Two Areas and Adjoining States- Sudan, through the Lens of Mobility, Displacement and Development. July 2020. Pg. 47

⁴ See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/3/sudans-government-rebels-set-to-sign-landmak-deal>

Sudanese government emphasized the imperative of inclusive, community-driven processes for building durable peace.

The conflict between the SPLM-N and the SAF -- which has been cause of population displacement, environmental exploitation, and extreme poverty -- constitutes a political crisis with severe consequences for other longstanding tensions centered on access to and control of natural resources, including land, water and extractive resource sites. These include conflicts over poor management of land distribution and compensation linked to the resettlement of refugees and the return of populations who had been displaced by war. During field consultations in Baw and Al Kurmuk localities, for instance, some community members reported that land which was abandoned or became inaccessible due to insecurity during war has now been cultivated by others, fueling disputes over land borders between farmers. Conflicts also occur between farmers and herders over farming/grazing land and migratory routes when farms expand into transit routes or grazing areas or when animals cross through agricultural lands. Communities report that the combination of the expansion of large-scale agricultural schemes and environmental degradation have led to a scarcity of available land for grazing and small-scale agriculture. To manage disputes, seasonal committees are formed in each community, with about seven members including the sheikh and his community advisors as well as representatives from each community. Typically, these committees include representation from male youth, but not from women. Finally, conflicts between communities and the government or private companies sparked by displacement of local communities to make space for large mining companies or land reform projects are occurring as the war has weakened environmental oversight and good governance.⁵ In Samsour village, for example, community members reported that there is an ongoing conflict between the community and private company over a river, which has traditionally served as a source of water for irrigation during the dry season. The conflict has not yet been resolved, but the government has formulated a committee together with representatives from the Native Administration to address the conflict. Community members reported that police have been called to intervene at various points.

This precarious situation is exacerbated by the worsening impacts of climate change. Across Sudan, rainfall has become more erratic, dry spells longer and floods more frequent, while population and livestock growth have increased demand for fertile land, reliable water sources, and sustainable livelihoods.⁶ In rural areas, where food and livelihood security depend on rainfed agriculture and access to fertile land, these impacts risk leaving communities more vulnerable to risks of poverty. In the target localities in Blue Nile State, community members describe ground water shortages as chronic. Women, who are primarily responsible for water collection, regularly walk three to four hours daily to reach reliable water sources. Climate change impacts, including increasingly erratic rainfall, are making agriculture -- the primary source of income in all target communities -- less productive and drying up once reliable grazing areas. At the same time, conflict and insecurity undermine the capacity of communities to adapt and build resilience to climate change, limiting access to finance and mobility that would enable climate-resilient livelihoods and weakening the natural resource governance and management structures. This has led communities to adopt negative coping mechanisms that further degrade the environment. This includes, for example, unsustainable logging of forests to make charcoal as well as expansion of artisanal mining practices. Several communities report that armed groups and

⁵ UNDP. "Contextual Analysis: Two Areas and Adjoining States- Sudan, through the Lens of Mobility, Displacement and Development. July 2020. Pg. 25

⁶ CSEN. "Climate-Fragility Risk Brief: Sudan." November 2020. https://climate-security-expert-network.org/sites/climate-security-expert-network.org/files/documents/csen_climate_fragility_risk_brief_sudan.pdf

citizens alike are engaged in illegal tree cutting in forests as few alternatives for sustainable livelihoods exist, rendering existing environmental laws all but void. The combined impacts of climate change and conflict in Blue Nile risk locking communities in a negative, reinforcing cycle that could increase competition over resources, exacerbate loss of livelihoods, and further fuel to migration and displacement.⁷

This “conflict–climate trap” has important gender implications. Overall, Sudan struggles with issues of women empowerment and women have been disproportionately affected by conflict in Sudan. There persists a narrative of women as victims of conflict in Sudan, which reduces women’s agency. Despite some recent progress, women remain marginalized in economic and political structures, often denied rights to land ownership, and largely excluded from existing decision–making processes and conflict resolution mechanisms. The position of women and girls throughout Sudan is further diminished due to their lack of access to and control of resources and viable coping strategies needed for survival as well the protection of their basic human rights and recourse to justice. At the national level, Sudanese laws have not yet been fully harmonized with international treaties and agreements guaranteeing women’s rights, while economic inequality and discriminatory social or cultural practices persist across the country, limiting women’s access to land tenure as well as other economic resources.⁸

These trends are evident in the Blue Nile State. In target localities, women play essential roles in natural resource management and in supporting the livelihoods of families and communities through their participation in agricultural production, harvesting of forest products, charcoal production, artisanal mining, as well as water and fuel collection. Linked conflict–climate risks, or climate–related security risks, have increased women’s economic and resource–related responsibilities, especially as the deteriorating economic situation in the target localities has led to the out–migration of young men in search of alternatives to faltering livelihoods or recruitment of youth (in particular young men) by the SPLM or the Popular Defense Forces established by the former regime, resulting in a significant increase in female–headed households. As women’s traditional roles become more challenging – for example walking greater distances through insecure areas to reach reliable water or forested areas – women heads of households also increasingly serve as primary providers for their families, taking on new economic responsibilities previous reserved for men.

Despite women’s expanding natural resource–related roles, women (across all socio–economic and ethnic grounds) in the target localities have generally been marginalized economically and politically. During field consultations in the localities of Baw and Al Kurmuk, women reported having only limited access to advanced farming technology and new means of production as compared to men, as well as greater levels of illiteracy and more limited education. Generally, men own land, control finances, and make decisions related to crop production. Women have not been engaged in the existing conflict resolution mechanisms that address disputes and grievances over natural resources including the Native Administration and mediation committees (typically led by the Sheikh with participation from elderly men and young men with conflict carrying capacity). Only one of four target communities in Al Kurmuk and Baw reported any participation of women in local mechanisms established to resolve or prevent conflict: in Alkaili village, seven women were represented in a 25–member committee responsible for brokering a local peace deal between government–controlled areas and SPLM–N al Hilu–controlled areas establishing free movement of people and trade. Yet while women earned a seat at the table

⁷ CSEN. “Climate-Fragility Risk Brief: Sudan.” November 2020.

⁸ Sudan National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security: 2020-2022.

influence remained extremely limited reporting that the peace agreement did not reflect any specific demand or needs of women in the two areas. In the other three target communities (~~Samsour~~ Samsur, ~~Dearang~~ Derang, and Gambarda), women are entirely excluded from participation in formal or informal decision-making bodies.

The economic and political exclusion of women not only limits the potential of communities to materialize peace dividends in a post-war context, but also exposes women to elevated risks of violence, including early marriage for girls, sexual and gender-based violence experienced while carrying out burdensome natural resource-related roles, and domestic abuse. Threats to women's safety is made worse by increased scarcity of natural resources, in which women face exposure to risk in remote areas (such as during water collection) as well as in private spaces, when for example, women are unable to fulfill their prescribed gender roles. In a recent study, women and men reported cases of GBV in Blue Nile State include domestic violence, restricted movement of women, rape, and forced marriage. The study indicated that the 2020 pandemic and the resulting economic decline exacerbated GBV across Sudan (and indeed the globally) as respondents reported increased rates of early marriage and domestic violence in particular.⁹

However, there is no established reporting or legal mechanisms to support women survivors of SGBV or – where such systems exist – they remain inaccessible to community members. Blue Nile State mirrors Sudan with an extremely limited legal framework through which justice and accountability can be served crimes of GBV. According to recent interviews with local experts, there are “no formal mechanisms to prosecute and punished perpetrators of violence”.¹⁰ Across Sudan respondents in the recent study *Voices of Sudan* noted GBV cases are resolved outside formal mechanisms, if at all. One man in Al Kurmuk noted that “courts take a long time to rule on cases.”¹¹ The actual scale of the problem is therefore not known.

While demographic shifts linked to complex environmental and security crises can create distinct burdens and vulnerabilities for women, they can also create new opportunities for economic empowerment and leadership. Recognizing – and capitalizing on – the opportunities for women's empowerment posed by shifting power dynamics is an important entry point to enhance women's roles in participation in other leadership positions, including natural resource governance and conflict resolution and mitigation. For example, experiences from other parts of Sudan, such as Darfur and North Kordofan, showed that empowering women with sustainable livelihoods as they take on economic responsibilities previously reserved to men can allow women to demonstrate their leadership capabilities for natural resource management. Women's enhance economic empowerment and more prominent role in natural resource management can ultimately contribute to shifting community perceptions of women's role in governance or peacebuilding mechanisms and create an avenue for more meaningful participation.¹²

The current landscape also includes new opportunities for leveraging the peacebuilding potential of youth. At a national level, youth – especially young women -- played a major role in the revolution and change through their leadership of the processions and protests that led to the overthrow of the regime. In Blue Nile, young people play important roles through several national organizations operating in the

⁹ CVAW, UNFPA, EU. “*Voices of Sudan: A qualitative assessment of GBV in Sudan.*” June 2021 DRAFT. Pg. 30

¹⁰ *Voices of Sudan*, 34

¹¹ *Voices of Sudan*, 34

state, such as the Youth Forum, as well as through their leadership in peacebuilding activities and community dialogues for peaceful coexistence between pastoralists, farmers and various components of society. As young people return to their homes following the signing of the peace agreement, community members stressed the importance of leveraging their capacity for peace and development.

The ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum on 15th April 2023 and eventually expanded to Kordofan and Darfur states. This conflict resulted in an unprecedented number of internally displaced persons (IDP) estimated to exceed 3,5 million as of August 2023 and nearly 1 million refugees.

Hundreds of families arrived at the Blue Nile State searching for secure places in Ed Damazine, other cities, and villages. The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in the Blue Nile State estimated the IDPs to be 126,400 individuals as of September 2023. Areas in the localities of Geissan and Al-Kurmuk were attacked by Al Hilu faction in July, and as a result, some of the community members from these two localities fled to other areas. This situation deprived displaced people to grow crops this season and hence their vulnerability has increased. SAF responded to the attack of Al Hilu faction and the situation was brought under control and normalized in the Blue Nile State.

This conflict impacted the local markets, the availability of cash became a persistent challenge unresolved to date because of the dysfunctionality of the banking system. The supply of goods became limited after local stocks were depleted and transport networks became irregular. The prices of most of the essential commodities have rapidly increased. Fuel is available in the state, but its price in rural areas, especially during the rainy season increased dramatically which impacted the local economy and transportation. Meanwhile, markets in less impacted areas are strained, as the influx of displaced people has put pressure on local resources. Flours, sugar, oil, and other consumable goods are available, supplied or delivered from Wad-Madani and Port Sudan.

Communication networks are also affected by this conflict, but electric power supply and water remain relatively stable. Civil servants' status in the Blue Nile State is highly affected by this conflict as they did not receive salaries for several months. This situation dramatically increased existing vulnerabilities and as a result, criminal cases and looting as well as cases of psycho-social challenges and traumas have significantly increased.

The Blue Nile Ministry of Agriculture and Forests planned to cultivate 2,000,000 feddans of sorghum in the Region, but up to date they have achieved only 200,000 feddans through large-scale mechanized farming. Subsistent economy groups and the small-scale farmers have managed to cultivate crops, those falling in conflicts areas, like the Dam towns and the South Al Kurmuk villages, have cautiously cultivated their field, because of unpredictable security situation. This year, the rate of rainfall is low compared to previous years, Blue Nile Region usually witnesses floods in August, but this was not observed this year and there are no expectations of floods during the remaining months of the rainy season due to the lower rainfall compared to last year. With the rainy season, there is an increased risk of outbreaks of water-borne and vector transmitted diseases compounded by challenges in access to public health facilities in the cities and rural areas.

The impact of the war in the Blue Nile State comes on top of a cluster of long-standing conflict causes. The conflict with the SPLM-N al-Hilu has been unresolved while recurring intercommunal conflict has affected the state, particularly in the second half of 2022 (for an analysis of root causes of conflict and drivers of violence see also the PBF-supported, UN Sudan, Peacebuilding Assessments - Blue Nile, March 2023). Support to communities in the Blue Nile State has been contextualized with both the current

pressures (since 15 April 2015) as well as previously existing conflict causes, drivers of violence and divisions between communities in mind.

Building sustainable peace in Blue Nile therefore requires an integrated approach to addressing tensions over land and natural resources which lie at the heart of the conflict while promoting the leadership and essential capacities of women in natural resource management and conflict resolution. Such efforts are crucial to support the implementation of the recent peace agreement between the SPLM-N and the government of Sudan. While there is no “one size fits all” method for peacebuilding, the integrated approach developed through the Joint Programme for Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace includes three core principles for delivering integrated programming: 1) using sequenced interventions, seeking to meet immediate livelihood needs first before engaging women in governance and peacebuilding activities, to both invest in climate-resilient livelihood options and to build trust with the community, 2) supporting training and capacity building for women in conflict mediation and resolution related to natural resources at local levels and linking these efforts to the broader peace architecture, and 3) leveraging women’s participation in natural resource governance and management to shift community attitudes about the capacity of women to engage in leadership and decision-making more broadly. Central to the development of this methodology has been the strong interagency partnership between UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and UN DPPA established to design and implement the pilot project in North Kordofan, which contributed distinct yet complementary expertise on natural resource management and climate adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, dialogue and mediation, and women’s leadership and capacity building.

This project will contribute to addressing drivers of conflict in Blue Nile -- including extreme poverty, competition over increasingly scarce resources, and exclusive or ineffective governance structures -- by building climate resilient livelihoods, improving the governance of natural resources and strengthening the local conflict resolution mechanisms that underpin the development prospects of all groups. Specifically, it will promote the empowerment of women change agents, capitalizing on their important and distinct roles as natural resource users and the increased economic and care burdens women face in the post-conflict context. Women’s empowerment in decision-making roles is critical not only for more sustainable natural resource management, but also for the protection of women left exposed to risks of sexual and gender-based violence, harassment, and discrimination.

The project, originally designed to enable women to overcome and alleviate tensions across former conflict divides in their respective communities, continued to contribute to resolve accumulated stressors further exacerbated throughout the project duration due to 1) continuously increasing inflation, 2) local conflict and subsequent displacement (2022-2023), 3) Sudan civil war in April 2023. The reprogrammed activities are directly responding to clear and acute needs for access to livelihoods and health care in a context increased in security and wide displacement through life-sustaining activities (Programme Criticality Level 2¹).

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**¹³, how it ensures **national ownership**. If this project is designed in a PRF country, describe how the main objective advances a relevant strategic objective identified through the Eligibility Process

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https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported_files/Programme%20Criticality%20Framework%20FINAL%20HLCM%2025102016.pdf

Blue Nile State is embarking on this crucial transition to peace against the backdrop of a national transition taking place in a fundamentally changed political landscape, brought about by the 2019 revolution that resulted in the end of the 30-year rule of Omar Al-Bashir. Following a months-long negotiations process between the Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), a political agreement and Constitutional Declaration were signed for a three-year transitional period on 17 August 2019, providing the road map for establishing a new government.

The Constitutional Declaration (Chapter 15) calls for “achiev[ing] a just and comprehensive peace, end[ing] the war by addressing the roots of the Sudanese problem and handling its effects, taking into account the provisional preferential measures for regions affected by war and underdeveloped regions, and treat[ing] issues of marginalization and vulnerable groups and the groups most harmed” within six months of the establishment of a Peace Commission, while committing to “apply UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the relevant African Union resolutions regarding participation of women at all levels in the peace process, and apply regional and international charters regarding women’s rights.”¹⁴ Building comprehensive and sustainable peace and supporting women’s empowerment also figures prominently as the first priority in the General Framework for the Programme of the Transitional Government. The signature of the Juba Peace Agreement in October 2021 with the Sudan Revolutionary Forces (SRF), the Sudan Liberation Movement – Minni Minawi, and SPLM–N leader Malik Agar presents the first step in a longer trajectory to an inclusive and comprehensive peace. On 28 March 2021, another milestone was achieved with the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement – North, signed by the Chairman of the Traditional Sovereign Council of Sudan and SPLM–N Abdelaziz Adam Al-Hilu establishing a ceasefire and outlining a set of priorities for the unification of armed forces. As implementation of the peace agreement begins in Blue Nile in areas formerly under the control of the SPLM–N Malik Agar faction, the Declaration of Principles paves the road for continued peace negotiations with the Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement and the Transitional Government of Sudan.

The proposed PBF interventions will also contribute to envisaged outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018–2021, using an integrated approach to address several key focus areas, specifically: 1) economic development and poverty reduction, 2) environment, climate resilience and disaster risk management, 4) governance, rule of law, and institutional capacity development, and 5) community stabilization. Gender equality and women’s empowerment is prioritized across all focus areas and will contribute to the Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilisation Programme, the comprehensive programmatic framework that is being developed for programming in support of the UNITAMS mandate.

¹³ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

¹⁴ Draft Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transitional Period, Chapter 15, §67

¹⁵ Sudan NAP on UNSCR 1325 (2020-2022).

The project outcomes are also strongly aligned to the Sudan National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2020–2022) which aims to secure the participation of women in peacebuilding and decision-making at all levels, promote women's rights before, during and after armed conflict, and ensure the protection of women against gender-based violence. The project will help to achieve the specific outcome to ensure “women issues are mainstreamed in the public policies protecting the environment from pollution, environmental risks and climate changes.”¹⁵ To ensure national ownership, the project will work with national institutions and will continue to foster existing relationships with the Peace Commission, the Peace Center in Blue Nile University, and UN sister agencies and will advocate for uptake of lessons learned at the national level.

Successful project outcomes will also strengthen peacebuilding commitments outlined in the Juba Peace Agreement that was signed between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudan The Revolutionary Front (SRF) / Sudan Liberation Movement – Minni Minawi promoting equitable power and wealth sharing, sustainable development, economic empowerment of SPLM–N areas, increased women’s representation in governance, support to the development of an environmental policy that is appropriate for the state/region, vocational trainings and capacity building and improvement of agricultural infrastructure to combat effects of climate change, efficient natural resource management, reconstruction and development of war-affected zones and other priorities to address the root causes of conflict.

- 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.

The proposed project responds to a call within Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) that the integrated mission, the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission for Sudan (UNITAMS), assist peacebuilding, civilian protection and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas and to support Sudanese-led peacebuilding, in particular conflict prevention, mitigation and reconciliation, community violence reduction with a particular focus on inter-communal conflict, mine action, collection of small arms and light weapons consistent with international standards, and durable solutions for IDPs and refugees, and their safe, voluntary and dignified return, reintegration and relocation with host populations as appropriate. It therefore contributes to the implementation of the programmatic framework currently under development to support the implementation of the UNITAMS mandate under Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) – the Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilisation Programme.

It is complementary to ongoing initiatives in the target region, including the stabilization efforts already under the UNDP’s Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP) and Building Resilient Communities in Blue Nile State jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and FAO.

| Project name (duration) | Donor and budget | Project focus | Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Building Resilient Communities in Blue Nile State</p> <p>September 2019– August 2021</p> | <p>KOICA</p> <p>US\$ 3 million (split between UNDP, UNICEF and FAO)</p> | <p>Building community resilience through access to sustainable livelihoods, climate smart agriculture and socioeconomic/productive assets with enhanced access to quality basic education and alternative learning opportunities in improved learning environment while promoting social cohesion among different groups in Rosareis locality, Blue Nile State</p> | <p>Different geographic area; contributing to relationships with authorities in Damazine and perception of UNCT interventions</p> |
| <p>Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP)</p> <p>March 2015 –March 2022</p> | <p>SIDA (Sweden) Japan</p> <p>US\$ 4 million</p> | <p>Building community resilience to improve stability, social cohesion and prevent conflict by addressing a wide range of socioeconomic, environmental and conflict aspects through a community-based approach</p> | <p>This PBF project will leverage achievements of the C2SP project in targeted communities, building on existing socio-economic, peacebuilding and governance interventions but focusing specifically on supporting the agency, leadership, political and economic empowerment of women. Building on this foundation will improve the project’s “value for money”.</p> |

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 – describe the project’s overarching goal, the implementation strategy, and how it addresses the conflict causes or factors outlined in Section I (must be gender- and age- responsive).

Recent experiences in Sudan – most notably the successful pilot project¹⁶ of the Joint Programme of UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and PBSO on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace in North Kordofan – have shown that natural resource governance and management interventions are a strong entry point for women’s empowerment in local governance and peacebuilding. In situations where women are typically excluded from decision-making, natural resources can provide a “neutral” entry point for engaging women in political dialogue and mediation of conflicts, as women typically derive forms of legitimacy from their traditional resource-related roles that are not conferred to them on other issues.

Sustainable natural resource management and use also represent key opportunities for women’s economic empowerment in a context where sustainable alternative livelihoods are needed due to the impacts of a changing climate. Specifically targeting women in the development of climate-resilient livelihoods – and supporting them to organize economically – ensures not only income gains for women, but the resilience and stability of entire communities. Empowering women economically through natural resource-based interventions can also provide important platforms for cooperation for women from opposing groups, which contribute to strengthening social cohesion.

In Blue Nile State, young people play important roles through many national organizations operating in the state, such as the Youth Forum, as well as at local levels through participation in community dialogues to enhance social cohesion between farmers, herders and other segments of society. However, young people – both women and men -- face many challenges in rural areas including illiteracy from years of missed education and lack of employment opportunities. As youth make up the bulk of returnees in the target communities, strengthening the economic inclusion of young people with conflict carrying capacity is essential for preventing a relapse into conflict and leveraging their capacity for peace and sustainable development.

Experiences from the pilot project demonstrated that sequencing project interventions to focus first on meeting immediate livelihood needs before turning to activities around leadership and governance can help not only to build trust within the community but also to demonstrate women’s capacities and build legitimacy within the community early on in the project. Adapting to the specific needs and environment in Blue Nile State, as well as the broader changing political context in Sudan, this project will build on the lessons learned and experiences from the above-mentioned pilot project. With the overarching goal of contributing to **sustainable and inclusive peace in the Blue Nile State**, the proposed intervention will have two main components:

1. *Building climate-resilient livelihoods for women and other marginalized groups* in support of post-conflict recovery and conflict prevention

Inclusive and sustainable socio-economic recovery is a fundamental pillar of peacebuilding. In contexts affected by climate change, access to reliable climate-smart livelihood options is not only an important contribution to post-conflict recovery, but is also critical for building resilience to

climate-related stresses and shocks that risk undermining long-term stability. However, pervasive gender-based inequalities across Blue Nile state – including disparities in land ownership, access to finance, or expectations of women to provide in the care economy – limit women’s access to

¹⁶ See; https://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/Sudan_Gender_NRM2019.pdf

opportunities and resources for economic recovery. Building on the interventions of UNDP's Community Security and Stabilization Project (C2SP) in the selected communities, this component will seek to develop climate-resilient livelihoods that will generate rapid but sustainable income, with a particular focus on options for women's livelihoods through training and skills development, access to resources and legal support. To help women overcome gender-based barriers to economic inclusion, the project will support and establish women's cooperatives to enhance their collective access to markets. Livelihoods interventions will be used to shift community perceptions of women as leaders, as well as those of women themselves, for example by promoting women's leadership in mixed gender groups, providing space for women to demonstrate their leadership qualities and laying the foundation for subsequent interventions on enhancing women's participation in governance. This component will include a special focus on enhancing women's protection and access to justice, as ensuring women's safety is an essential first step to women's empowerment. Connections will be made between women's associations, community governance structures and local government, financial institutions and markets which are key in sustaining gains in women's economic and political empowerment and consequently distribution of peace dividends and strengthening roles in peacemaking.

These activities will include a specific focus on building relationships of trust among and between natural resource users at community level, for example through bringing together women and men from different livelihood groups (e.g. farmers and herders) or women and men from displaced and host communities. Patriarchal system and social norms are noted as a huge barrier for women and girl's empowerment across communities. To improve the position of women and girls in the community, the intervention will target changing social norms and challenge the patriarchy system and other harmful traditional practices. Unless women and girls are positioned as an essential part of this process, the impact on natural resources management and livelihood outcomes of the project will not be adequately met. They will thus not only provide income-generating opportunities but also foster social cohesion.

2. *Strengthening the foundations of peacebuilding at the local level* through participatory and inclusive governance and conflict resolution mechanisms in rural communities.

Supporting inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable livelihoods will help establish trust within and between groups and lay the groundwork for building strong local-level governance and conflict resolution mechanisms to manage the needs of different livelihood groups and address grievances through dialogue. The project will particularly focus on building women's leadership for local-level planning, governance and conflict prevention around natural resources, leveraging their community roles in natural resource management. This component will include two sets of activities. The first will center on supporting inclusive governance processes to enable natural resource planning and governance, as well as dialogue and mediation processes. This will include supporting women to lead a Climate and Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) process in each of the selected communities and strengthening women's roles in relevant natural resource conflict resolution committees or mechanisms. In all project locations, these activities will work directly with existing governance structures and mechanisms to ensure long term sustainability. The second set of activities will focus on linking local efforts to the peacebuilding process in Blue Nile state and engaging with communities who have supported both SPLM-N factions, that of both Malik Agar and Abelaiziz al-Hilu to ensure that this programme is conflict-sensitive. Activities will

include establishing peacebuilding centres at the local level the enable the full and meaningful participation of women, and supporting women-led dialogue forums with state-level peacebuilding institutions.

Partially as a result of the aforementioned considerations, but also because negotiations will continue with Abdel Aziz Al-Hilu, even as implementation begins on the peace agreement with the SRF and SLM-MM, this PBF programme places a great deal of importance on conflict sensitivity and on being equitable. To this end, peacebuilding efforts in the Two Areas will need to be guided by community engagement. Locally-led initiatives have already done some work in this arena and thus strategic engagement to build upon those lessons learned and foundation present great opportunity to help stabilize the two states.

- b) Provide a **project-level' theory of change '**– explain the assumptions about why you expect the project interventions to lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis. What are the assumptions that the theory is based on? Note, this is not a summary statement of your project's outcomes.

The project assumes that investing in women's leadership and capacities will contribute to building inclusive and participatory governance and conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level that will strengthen the peacebuilding architecture in Blue Nile State and bolster the prospects for long-term peace and development. The project also assumes that engaging men and boys is essential for shifting community attitudes and gender norms about women's roles as leaders.

As such, the project theory of change is as follows:

IF post-conflict economic recovery effectively leverages the unique capacities of women for climate resilient livelihoods and natural resource management in Blue Nile State **and IF** women's voices, capacities and agency are more effectively used in the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes

THEN then the foundation for durable peace will be strengthened

BECAUSE inclusive economic structures and decision-making processes will not only meet the distinct needs of different gender and social groups, but will also enable women to fully contribute their unique capacities, skills and knowledge for climate adaptation, environmental management, mediation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

- c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components** (outcomes and outputs), ensuring sufficient attention to gender, age and other key differences that should influence the project approach. In describing the project elements, be sure to indicate important considerations related to sequencing of activities.

The project will have two sets of activities to achieve the proposed outcomes, which will be implemented sequentially, starting with livelihood-related activities (outcome 1) and followed by interventions to strengthen inclusive governance and conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level (outcome 2). As described above, lessons from earlier projects – including the pilot project

implemented in North Kordofan – have shown that meeting immediate economic needs through support to livelihoods not only builds trust in the project within communities, but also increases that perception of women as knowledgeable and capable natural resource managers (within their communities), which in turn facilitates strengthening their roles in natural resource governance and dispute resolution mechanisms.¹⁷

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

- Output 1.1: Strengthened climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods options for women and girls and access to critical socio-economic infrastructure/services provided in selected communities

UNDP's C2SP programme in the selected communities will serve as the primary delivery mechanism for livelihoods activities. C2SP has already established community-based management committees within the target communities, composed of representatives from all present ethnic, gender and age groups. This approach has been proven efficient in ensuring community ownership of the projects, assets and tools provided and sustainability upon the agencies' exit. The committees are legally registered bodies, allowing for the target groups to generate income through collaborative action from the activities allowing to sustain them after the project end dates, and in some cases– expand further. This ensures an optimal return of investment while promotes collaboration between groups. This approach also would allow to build upon the project-established activities specifically for Blue Nile and replicate in light of climate security and gender assessments conducted in other communities sharing similar characteristics.

As a result of C2SP's interventions – which targeted at least 40 percent participate of women across activities -- women's growing participation in governance and economic ventures has increased, providing a basis for further expansion of livelihoods interventions focused on sustainable natural resource management and climate change adaptation. Building on the structures established under C2SP, the project interventions will seek to develop viable, community-specific livelihood options integrating climate-smart agricultural practices and natural resource conservation objectives, such as agroforestry, establishment of nurseries and reforestation activities, improved agricultural practices and tools (improved farming techniques, energy from renewable sources etc). Additionally, interventions in support of this outcome will aim at providing and multiplying peace dividends through modest but targeted investments in local socio-economic infrastructure development (access to water, roads, clinics or others). Activities under this output, led by UNDP, are organized around the following dimensions:

¹⁷ The North Kordofan pilot project sought to measure the extent to which the various natural resource-related activities on livelihoods, governance and conflict resolution had actually resulted in shifting perceptions of women's capacities and leadership. The results were highly positive among both women beneficiaries themselves, and within the broader community as 100% of individuals surveyed in both groups agreed that women had important roles and contributions with respect to conflict over natural resources, a marked increase from the first round of perception surveys in which only 54.5% of individuals perceived women's roles in this way.

- Training and skills development, including training in sustainable agriculture and livestock management as well as functional literacy and business basics, and mentorship of members of the Conflict Management Committee and women who have already benefited from trainings under the C2SP project.
- Provision of key agricultural assets and inputs, including agricultural and livestock inputs; **The project team couldn't deliver the planned solar irrigation unit in two communities: Samsun Community, in Bau Locality and Deim Saad, in Geissan Locality nor the construction of a water yard in Yara Community, in Geissan Locality. The reason for non-delivery of the activity is the company contracted by UNDP declined the contract due to security reasons following the outbreak of the conflict of the 15th of April 2023. This component will be replaced by the procurement and delivery of a tractor and related accessories to support farming under activity 1.1.2. in Deim Saad and Yara communities in Geissan locality. The delivery of these particular activities is the result of consultations with the concerned communities and Community Management Committees (CMCs).**
- Support to small business development and access to finance (e.g. microcredit support);
- Institutional support to establish and/or capacitate women's groups, cooperatives, and community-based organizations to pool resources and access markets; and
- Support to establish new or strengthen existing value chains for the revival of the local economy.

While this intervention will support both women and men, at least 60 percent of target beneficiaries will be women from all ethnic and livelihood groups present in the target communities and 60 percent of all beneficiaries will be youth (both young men and women). As mentioned above, 80% of funds will be allocated towards gender equality and women's empowerment. In this light, the inclusion of men and boys as target groups is essential for both shifting their perception of women as capable leaders and for preventing violence linked to norms of masculinity. In community consultations, for example, respondents expressed concern for conflict as young men return to their villages with expectations of to serve as primary providers for their families, but without opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Mixed gender groups will not only address immediate livelihoods concerns for conflict prevention but will also reinforce shared responsibility and shared leadership as essential principles for advancing gender equality.

- Output 1.2: Proactive measures to protect women from natural resource-related violence and enhance access to justice adopted in selected communities.

Recognizing the importance of safe and reliable access to natural resources in order to enhance livelihood opportunities for women, interventions under this outcome area will include a special focus on women's protection and access to justice by building accountability mechanisms for gender-based violence. Women's safety is essential not only to ensure their basic rights, but also for reliable access to and use of natural and other economic assets, and thus women's full participation in the economy, governance mechanisms, and peacebuilding processes. To achieve this goal, the project will implement the following activities under the leadership of UN Women:

- Establish "~~one-stop centres~~ women centers" that address the comprehensive needs of gender-based violence survivors at the local level, including health care, police and justice sector responses, and on-going social support, provided within the context of a health care institution. This approach is a system of integrated medical, legal, and counseling services which can be physically co-located and/or can consist of a referral network that ensures

- access to other essential services.
- Support the development of enabling legal and policy frameworks to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, end impunity for perpetrators, ensure access to justice for women and girls and ensure that the law promotes a protective environment for women's political and economic participation.
- Support transitional justice mechanisms to provide redress for conflict and natural resource-related abuses and violations that women face through transitional processes.

- Provide training to justice sector personnel to ensure timely provision of gender-responsive investigations and prosecutions and ensure that victims are provided with legal support.
- Establish specialized women and children protection desks in police stations staffed by officers who are trained to receive reports from victims/survivors: this will include a focus on recruiting female officers and the development of a communications campaign to encourage and promote safe reporting tools and mechanisms;
- Train police officers to receive and investigate reports from victims/ survivors of gender-based violence.

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

- Output 2.1: Inclusive local governance mechanisms are established within selected communities, which enable the participation of women and girls, and other marginalized groups in the planning and management of natural resources, as well as the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Central to conflict prevention and peacebuilding at the local level is the strengthening of inclusive and effective natural resource governance and dispute resolution mechanisms. To strengthen the natural resource governance capacities of women at the community level and ensure that local governance structures consider the specific needs of different groups of women and men, the project will facilitate Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) processes in the selected communities. The CEAP approach, which was developed by UNEP in Sudan and has been applied in Darfur and North Kordofan, brings different groups together to jointly analyze challenges related to natural resource use, access and control, develop action plans to address key issues, and implement prioritized actions. The process will be conducted with equal participation of women and men, with women serving in leadership positions. The participation of men is essential for the contributing to shifting women's leadership capabilities as well as for ensure that women's meaningful participation in decision-making is mainstreamed across existing structures. Specifically, activities under this output, led by UNEP, will be as follows:

- UNEP, UNDP and UN Women to conduct an integrated assessment of the gender dimensions of environment and climate-related risks to peace and security in Blue Nile state to assess broader trends and risks related climate change projections, pervasive gender inequalities, and the developing security situation. The analysis will be conducted using a combination of geospatial data analysis to determine key environmental trends and local-level socio-economic, gender and conflict analysis, based on surveys and community consultations. The resulting analysis will not only inform community-level planning, but also feed into conflict tracking and subsequent conflict analysis for the state. It will be shared with relevant research and peace institutions and state-level authorities as well as local community institutions, women's groups and women's organizations;
- Facilitate and support gender-equal community environmental action planning (CEAP) processes in target localities, conducting training of community facilitators and providing continuous technical support on issues such as methodologies for participatory resource mapping or inclusive natural resource governance/management options for conflict prevention, to help prioritize critical actions and implement at least one priority action in each community to realize peace dividends;

- Support communication and advocacy of resulting environmental action plans to local and State-level authorities, including through the documentation of good practices and lessons learned.

It should be highlighted that the CEAP process will build on – and be conducted through – existing governance and/or conflict resolution structures and mechanisms (e.g. natural resource management committees, peace committees/centers etc.) to avoid duplication and foster sustainability. Furthermore, implementation of prioritized issues will be closely linked to livelihoods activities under Output 1.1. Experiences in North Kordofan have shown that CEAP can be a powerful tool for strengthening and legitimizing women’s leadership, as well as for enhancing social cohesion by providing a forum to share and resolve existing grievances linked to natural resources through a collaborative process.

- Output 2.2: New channels are established to link local-level peacebuilding processes to the peace process in Blue Nile **State**.

This output centers on linking conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts at the local level to the broader peace architecture in Blue Nile state through conflict tracking at the local level and harmonized capacity building with state level actors (including joint workshops and trainings) and establishing women-led dialogue forums. The project intends to establish and equip local peace centers, then train members and integrate in state peace building process. Linkages between state and local levels is essential for ensuring that the peace process addresses key issues linked to natural resource access, use and control and that community voices – including those of women – are heard in the process. Activities, implemented by UNDP, will include:

- Establishing or strengthening, equipping and capacitating local peacebuilding centers to support local peacebuilding initiatives and support women’s full and meaningful participation. Engaging these bodies in conflict analysis and conflict-tracking will be essential to building capacity and understanding of local peace dynamics, and to ensuring that communities have concrete roles; these bodies will be linked with higher peacebuilding institutions such as the Peacebuilding Department of Blue Nile University and state-level peacebuilding mechanisms;
- Establishing and supporting women-led dialogue forums in which women from different ethnic/tribal/livelihoods groups can engage with state-level authorities and peacebuilding institutions and mechanisms.
- **The project team managed to construct one peacebuilding center out of 4 establishments during the project implementation prior to the events of the 15th of April 2023. The constructed peacebuilding center is in Deim Saad Community in Geissan Locality. The remaining funds from this activity will be reallocated to support 1 small ruminant restocking in Samsun community, in Baw Locality under activity 2.2.1 budget line. In addition to that, the project team will also equip the laboratory of the primary health unit in Samsur community, in Bau locality under the same budget line. Depending on security-related access challenges in Kurmuk Locality, the project team still considers similar livelihood support activities in the SPLM-N Al-Hilu controlled territories. The delivery of these particular activities is the result of consultations with the concerned communities and Community Management Committees (CMCs).**

- d) **Project targeting** – provide a justification for geographic zones, criteria for beneficiary selection, expected number and type of stakeholders/beneficiaries (must be disaggregated by sex and age). Indicate whether stakeholders have been consulted in the design of this proposal.

Do not repeat all outputs and activities from the Results Framework.

The project's activities will be carried out in Blue Nile State in three localities: Al Kurmuk and Baw were initially selected for implementation, based on a consultation with project partners and relevant stakeholders operating in Blue Nile. Upon consequential positive developments in the Peace process and through exchanges with PBF secretariat and UNITAMS, two additional communities in Geissan locality were selected for project implementation. These localities were selected with sensitivity to the various conflict dynamics between al Hilu and Malik Agar factions of the SPLM-N and the Sudanese

government, with SPLM–N presence under the leadership of Abdelaziz al–Hilu in the southern half of Al Kurmuk and Eastern parts in Geissan, and Malik Agar SPLM–N controlled areas in the eastern half of Baw.

Within each of these localities, two communities were pre–selected by the project development team in close consultation with field partners, based on a narrow set of criteria, including: (i) opportunities for synergies with existing UN and partner interventions (including the past or current presence of C2SP interventions), (ii) sensitivity to conflict dynamics, (iii) presence of natural resource–related challenges, (iv) accessibility issues, and (v) capacity of UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and other partners to implement project interventions.

The selection of communities was validated through joint field–level consultations, which included meetings with local leaders, women’s groups, government officials, civil society, and other key stakeholders from each community and at the state level in Damazine, the capital of Blue Nile state. The four selected communities are: Alkaili and Gambarda in Al Kurmuk locality, Samsur and Derang in Baw locality, Deim Saad and Yara in Geissan locality.*

Alkaili and Gambarda are both situated in government–controlled areas, but community members report significant support for SPLM–N al Hilu. Today, the communities are relatively stable, but both have been caught in the crossfire between government forces and SPLM–N. In 2020, the Native Administration in Alkaili brokered a local peace deal bringing together the two SPLM–N factions and the Sudanese military, reportedly ending violent confrontations in the area and allowing for peaceful co–existence. Both communities are rich with environmental resources, including forests, rivers, and different types of flora and fauna, but years of war have led to mismanagement, misuse, and limited development.

Samsur and Derang are situated in areas with a strong presence of SPLM–N Malik Agar faction and express optimism for the newly signed Juba Peace Agreement. Derang is located in the center of Blue Nile state, connecting Damazine, Al Kurmuk, and Baw localities. A central market and the availability of resources (namely chrome metal and forest resources) attract young people searching for job opportunities. Samsur is characterized by large privately–owned agricultural schemes, a chronic water problem, and increasing conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, farmers and private investors, and between groups of farmers.

In all target communities, women face challenges linked to their roles as natural resource managers, including walking long distances in search of water or firewood and taking on new responsibilities as heads of household, but only one community – Alkaili – has a women’s union or network to advocate for women’s rights or support women to organize. Across communities, gender–based violence has been exacerbated by years of war and patriarchal norms.

* At the time of writing, further developments in the Juba Peace Process are unfolding, including a possible agreement between SPLM–N Al Hilu and the Sudanese Transitional Authorities. The selection of communities in Geissan were considered with specific consideration of the conflict dynamics, recognizing the importance of supporting communities under SPLM–N Al Hilu control as well as the limitations in accessing such communities. Deim Saad and Yara have therefore been selected as target communities because while dominated by Abdelaziz Al Hilu supporters, they are formally under government control and are accessible from Damazine. However, if new communities are made accessible as a result of further developments in the peace process before the start date of the project, the project will adapt to the conditions as necessary to maintain a conflict–sensitive approach. This may include changing target communities in coordination with PBF secretariat and UNITAMS.

Deim Saad and Yara communities in the Eastern, mountainous part of Geissan were previously occupied by SPLM–N Al-Hilu and while formally under government control are still dominated by Abdelazis Al-Hilu supporters but accessible from Damazine. They both have a history of conflict between pastoralist and farmers communities and host large numbers of refugees and former refugees returning after the ceasing of hostilities. Depletion of and competition over resources have been registered and detailed consultations are to be held replicating those conducted in other localities for a more in depth understanding of current conflict dynamics.

The total number of project beneficiaries will be ascertained on the basis of the data collected during community consultations (in progress at the time of writing). A minimum of 60 percent of beneficiaries will be women, ensuring that all key groups (e.g. livelihood groups, ethnic groups, different age groups etc.) are appropriately included. Youth, defined as under the age of 35, will constitute a minimum of 60 percent of beneficiaries. This includes a special focus on young women and men with conflict carrying capacity and skills for peacebuilding.

III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- a) **Recipient organizations and implementing partners** – list all direct recipient organizations and their implementing partners (international and local), specifying the Convening Organization, which will coordinate the project, and providing a brief justification for the choices, based on mandate, experience, local knowledge and existing capacity.

| 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 |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Convening Organization: UNEP | US\$ 4.5 million | European Union | Khartoum ElFasher | 14 | Integrated natural |
| Implementing partners: Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources Sudan Meteorological Authority Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Practical Action Sudan SOS Sahel DDRA | | UK Aid | | | resource management, environmental governance and mainstreaming, climate-related security risks, community engagement, biodiversity conservation, communication s and M&E |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----|--|
| Recipient Organization:UNDP | \$85 million (*in 2020) | Sweden Japan | Khartoum Damazin | | Peacebuilding,conflict |
| Implementing partners: Peace Commission Higher Councilfor the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry of Finance andEconomic Planning | | | Kassala Nyala Geneina El Fasher Port Sudan Kadugli | | prevention, stabilization, socio-economicexpertise, governance, rule of law, climate security, displacement, human security,climate finance, communication s and M&E |
| Recipient Organization:UN Women | \$3.5 million | UNAMIDSIDA (Sweden) Italy | Khartoum ElFasher Port Sudan | 20 | Women, Peace and Security; M&E; EconomicSecurity; Communications |
| Implementing partners: State Ministry of Health and Social Development, Unit for Combating Violence AgainstWomen in BlueNile Peace and Development Center, University ofBlue Nile Women Awareness Initiative (WAI) | | | | | |

The project will be jointly implemented by UNEP, UN Women, and UNDP, in collaboration with local partner organizations in Blue Nile state such as El-Rahma Women Association in Baw Locality; Women Initiative for Awareness Raising and Shali - El-Feel Women Association for Education and Development in Kurmuk Locality; Ministry of Health and Social Development, Unit for Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in Blue Nile State; and Peace and Development Center, University of Blue Nile (all TBC). The organizations' deep rooted history working in Sudan and their unique mandates—to strengthen environmental governance and foster the sustainable management of natural resources, to promote gender equality, and to support peace and sustainable development – will allow UNEP, UN Women and UNDP to bring complementary expertise to a project aimed at building holistic, inclusive peace by

addressing root causes of conflict and insecurity in Blue Nile state, and mitigating climate-related risks to stability and the long-term prospects for peace.

UNEP has been providing environmental support to Sudan since the 1990s through the implementation of environmental programming and technical support to policymaking at federal and state levels, including by supporting the Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources and Physical Planning of Sudan, succeeded by the Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources in early 2020 to develop the country's first State of the Environment and Outlook Report, launched in October 2020. UNEP also has extensive experience in implementing environmental programming at the field level in contexts affected by conflict, notably in the Darfur and North Kordofan states.

With a mandate to promote gender equality, UN Women will contribute extensive experience and knowledge delivering gender-responsive strategic action, bridging humanitarian, peacebuilding and development responses. UN Women has expertise in providing technical support and coordination in gender mainstreaming and strengthening women and girls' meaningful participation and leadership in economic security, especially in humanitarian, conflict, and post-conflict settings. UN Women's work in Sudan includes promoting women's participation in peacebuilding and sustaining their influence to ensure peace processes are inclusive and responsive to the needs and priorities of women and girls.

Finally, UNDP works in Sudan to sustain peace and support strategic development initiatives to promote inclusive, transparent, and efficient governance systems and support the transitional period, the implementation of the peace agreements and the green economic recovery of communities. Through partnerships with national and sub-national government entities and civil society, UNDP strives to eliminate poverty, invigorate local economy, sustain the environment, and advance peace and social cohesion by leaving none behind. With its broad geographical presence in Sudan and ongoing work on stabilization and recovery in the Southern states, including in Blue Nile state, UNDP will capitalize on its knowledge of conflict dynamics in the region and across Sudan to embed additional conflict sensitivity during the inception, planning and execution of activities.

The proposed project builds on an existing partnership between the three organizations, with a history of successful project implementation in Sudan. In particular, the project Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace in North Kordofan, Sudan – implemented by the three organizations – demonstrated not only the value of bringing together the distinct skills each organization offers, but also the capacity of the partnership to design interventions that complement existing projects and initiatives. Through this partnership, the project achieved significant peacebuilding results including towards sustainable economic recovery (87% of women who received livelihoods support from the project reported increased income) and more inclusive peacebuilding structures (the number of women affiliated to the local Conflict Mitigation and Peacebuilding Center, the main conflict resolution mechanism in the area, doubled during the project lifespan from 10 to 20 out of 50 members). Specifically, the pilot project in North Kordofan built on existing infrastructure and relationships established under UNDP's Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP). UNDP's ongoing work in Blue Nile State will similarly offer existing project infrastructure to build on as well as valuable experience working in a complex context.

Implementation arrangements for the proposed project will follow a similar approach undertaken in the North Kordofan pilot project in both project design and delivery. The history of partnership between these three agencies will enable the organizations to apply lessons learned and good practices from their experiences working together.

- b) **Project management and coordination** – Indicate the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explicitly indicate how the project implementation team will ensure sufficient gender or youth expertise. Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements and ensure link with PBF Secretariat if it exists. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex A.1** and attach key staff TORs.

As noted above, the project will be implemented by Recipient UN Organizations (RUNO) UNEP, UNDP and UN Women, with UNEP serving as the convening agency, responsible for project coordination in country. The project team will include representatives from each agency, bringing together distinct and complementary expertise, including an environmental and natural resource specialist, livelihoods experts, and gender, peace, and security experts. A core implementing team will be based in Blue Nile state, with some team members sitting in Khartoum with regular missions to the field locations.

While the project team will work as one, each agency will commit staff and personnel to the implementing team. From UNEP, the implementing team will consist of a Chief Technical Advisor (international consultant) responsible for interagency coordination, project management, technical oversight of UNEP-led activities, and liaison with stakeholders and partners, as well as a Monitoring and Evaluation officer (national consultant) responsible for guiding and managing implementing partners for the delivery of natural resource governance and management related activities, as well as project-level M&E. The project will coordinate with and be informed by the work of the Climate Security Mechanism (joint DPPA-UNDP-UNEP programme), one of the focus field locations of which is Sudan where a national coordinator will be based to help provide technical support to integrated climate security programming approaches. The project will also receive technical support from HQ-based UNEP experts on gender, climate and security (who managed the Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace upon which the approaches used in this project are based). This will include the provision of technical support throughout project implementation, and support to impact/outcome-level monitoring, reporting and documentation of lessons learned.

From UN Women, the project team will include a Project Coordinator (SB4 Step 4) and a Programme Assistant (SB3 Step 4) to be based on Blue Nile state to provide expert knowledge on issues related to women's protection and to map leadership training needs of project beneficiaries and partners at the state level. They will be supported by the Programme Specialist, Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, and the M&E Programme Analyst based in Khartoum. From UNDP, a well-established team based in Blue Nile state will be responsible for leading livelihood-related activities.

Each RUNO will be accountable for specific project activities as outlined in Annex C and will engage local implementing partners directly. However, the project implementation will depend upon an integrated staffing structure, in which will meet regularly to coordinate delivery and carry out joint monitoring missions to assess progress against the project work plan. In some cases, staff will work across agencies on common deliverables such as the CEAP process, in which UNEP will lead the dialogue process in which communities identify common challenges and develop joint solutions, while UNDP will support implementation of these solutions. For this process, staff will work jointly on activities, including through a common implementing partner. Similarly, livelihoods activities will provide a platform for engaging the community on interventions under output 1.2 (GBV). Both UNDP and UN Women project teams will be co-located in Blue Nile State and will support regular field visits from Khartoum-based UNEP project coordination team. UNEP staff in Khartoum will facilitate engagement with national level partners, including government counterparts, on behalf of the project.

Project oversight will be ensured by a Steering Committee (SC) comprised of the signatories to this document, or their designated representatives. Additionally, other entities may be invited to join the SC (subject to approval by all partners) or as observers to specific discussions. The SC will be responsible for: a) providing strategic guidance for the implementation of this project; b) reviewing programmatic activities and instructing for disbursement of funds accordingly; c) reviewing and approving regular consolidated narrative and financial updates and reports; d) maintaining close collaboration with GOS and national counterparts to ensure flexible adaptation of the activities to changes in implementation and priorities. The activities of the SC will also be linked to other PBF

coordination mechanisms at the locality, state and regional level. The SC will work closely with these entities for complementarities of their activities and better coordination. The frequency of the SC meetings will be agreed by partners. However, SC meetings will be held once bi-annually at minimum.

- c) **Risk management** – Identify project-specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include a Do No Harm approach and risk mitigation strategy.

| Project specific risk | Risk level (low, medium, high) | Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations) |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Security: Security situation in one or more of the localities deteriorates to the point of hampering daily movements and delaying key activities.</p> | <p>Medium High</p> | <p>Prioritize localities with lower security risk in selection processes, including those in which the project team already has a field presence; work with and through local partners who are less constrained by security challenges; select localities in consultation with security experts; where possible, develop fall back options; adopt a flexible approach.</p> |
| <p>Conflict: Interventions risk exacerbating tension between conflict actors, notably SPLM factions or between SPLM and the SAF due to perceived support to/exclusion of some groups.</p> | <p>Medium High</p> | <p>Select localities in consultation with key stakeholders and political and conflict advisors; where possible, intervene in localities in which different groups dominate the political structure; engage conflict actors through an initial consultation process. Close collaboration with established community structures like CEAP and CMC.</p> |

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| <p>Health: The COVID-19 pandemic limits movement within state or capacity to gather in groups, delaying key Activities</p> | <p>Medium Low</p> | <p>Build in back-up plans for flexibility should COVID or other restrictions limit in-person face-to-face interactions; this may include alternate sequencing of activities, limiting group sizes, and investing in telecommunications/ onli ne communication where possible.</p> |
|---|------------------------------|---|

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <p>Backlash: The project's focus on women's empowerment and gender equality is not accepted by the community and sparks potential backlash.</p> | <p>Medium</p> | <p>To ensure buy-in, all stages of project design and implementation will be carried out in close collaboration with community members and key stakeholders, including community leaders and government officials. The inclusion of men and boys in all project activities will ensure the project does not alienate key segments of society. The project will adopt sequenced interventions, beginning first with livelihoods activities to sensitize the community to women's capacity to lead and build trust with the community, before moving to activities centered on enhancing women's participation in governance. Women's safety will be the first priority – a specific focus on enhancing women's protection will ensure women have reliable channels for reporting concerns related to their safety and well-being.</p> |
| <p>Data: The quality of data collected is poor and/or does</p> | <p>Low Medium</p> | <p>Provide targeted technical and capacity-building support for the establishment of a</p> |

| | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| <p>not allow for best practice or lessons learned to be identified.</p> | | <p>rigorous data collection mechanism, including the design of comprehensive monitoring and reporting plans, training on report writing, proposal development etc.</p> |
| <p>Volatile economic context: Unpredictable and often high levels of inflation in Sudan impact buying power or availability of essential items</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>Regularly monitor economic situation and budget conservatively to account for possible economic shocks.</p> <p>Keep close communication with IPs to ensure mitigating measures are applied dynamically</p> |

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| <p>Coordination: Lack of communication and collaboration among partners and stakeholders results in delays, duplications or poor results.</p> | Low | <p>Establish and enforce a schedule of regular partner meetings at the working level to ensure frequent information exchange, address any emerging issues and foster a collaborative and mutually supportive atmosphere; establish specific roles and responsibilities for communication and collaboration with different stakeholder groups.</p> |
| <p>Unrealistic expectations: Heightened, unrealistic expectations among the collaborating partners contributes to disappointment or breaks trust between project team and communities.</p> | High | <p>A robust public awareness and sensitization campaigns at the national, state and local levels on the objectives of the Project and capacity in terms of resources; dissemination of public information materials, meetings, and regular updates made at meetings etc.</p> |
| <p>Capacity: Weak capacity of Implementing Partners and Government Service Providers will affect efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.</p> | High | <p>Capacity building support will be provided to Government and local community service providers as part of programme activities to ensure sustainability; selection of IPs will be based on past climate change experience and experiences working in project area. Build on existing MOUs with already existing Programmes and IPs to ensure more competent IPs are contracted.</p> |
| <p>Operational: Operational challenges due to the fact that UNEP and UN Women are not yet present in Blue Nile State</p> | Medium | <p>An integrated staffing model grounded in a coordinated interagency approach will mitigate operational risks associated with working in a new region for the first time. The coordinate approach was tested during a first joint mission to conduct joint consultations with target communities in February 2021, coordinated by UNDP's on</p> |

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| | | the ground support. The project has deliberately selected communities where UNDP is present and/or which are less isolated and relatively accessible. |
| Access: To cash and to the field At the onset of the war, access to cash was not possible for a long time, also access to the field was restricted to life saving activities by HAC, UNDSS also restricted movement to the field | Medium | IPs attempt to use their own resources while banking systems improve. Relocation of partners to Reduce restrictions of clearance to the field beyond lifesaving intervention specially for UN Staff. |

- d) **Monitoring and evaluation** – Describe the M&E approach for the project, including M&E expertise in the project team and main means and timing of collecting data? Include: a budget break-down for both monitoring and evaluation activities, including collection of baseline and end line data and an independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. Fund recipients are obligated to reserve at least 5–7% of the project budget for M&E activities, including sufficient funds for a quality, independent evaluation.

The project will apply lessons learned and good practices developed through the Joint Programme for Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace pilot initiative in North Kordofan, Sudan to monitor and measure progress towards the stated objectives and evaluate the project’s impact. The project will employ a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods – including household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and perception surveys – to collect data against a set of “hard” and “soft” indicators, measuring changes in livelihood security or agricultural productivity; perceptions related to gender, peace, and security; trust between/among groups; language in law, policies and plans; access to information of different groups; access to/control over resources etc. A full set of indicators can be found in Annex C.

All M&E practices will employ gender and conflict-sensitive methods to ensure a “do-no-harm” approach is applied throughout all M&E activities, putting the safety and well-being of the community first. This includes collecting sex and age disaggregated data and ensuring data is representative of the community recognizing the range of identify factors that can shape people’s experience (ethnicity, socio-economic status, political status, race, ability etc.). During community interaction, discussions should take place in safe, neutral spaces, separated by sex (as relevant) and facilitated by people who are familiar with local customs and practices.

Each RUNO will be accountable for regular monitoring of their project activities. This will include regular monitoring by field staff and/or local implementing partners, in addition to semi-regular field visits from members of the implementing team, including the project coordinator (every 2 to 6 months). An interagency monitoring and evaluation committee will be established, consisting of representatives of

each organization –led by UNEP –who will meet at least every 3 months to coordinate joint M and E missions, share results and assess/identify bottlenecks.

The M&E plan will include four key components:

1. **Collection of baseline data:** A baseline study will be conducted during the inception phase of the project. In addition to providing information for project indicators, the baseline study will help shape project activities, assess target groups, and already start the process of sensitization to project interventions. The baseline will also measure communities’ perceptions on key issues relevant to the project outcomes, and may include issues such as: women’s perception on their own roles, community perceptions of women’s roles, distribution of natural resources across groups, conflict dynamics, tensions and discrimination etc.; these elements will be quantified as per the key areas as identified during community consultations.
2. **Regular monitoring of project activities and annual narrative/financial reporting:** The Progress and Financial reports will be in accordance with UNDG guidelines and explanatory note for standardized progress and financial reporting, respectively. A harmonized reporting format will be adapted and developed jointly by UNEP, UNDP and UN Women. The three organizations will be responsible for progress and financial reporting in relation to their respective outputs in the work plan as per the agreed reporting schedule in Annex B1.
3. **Collection of end line data:** A final round of data collection will be conducted at the end of the project to measure progress against the baseline indicators.
4. **Independent evaluation:** An independent evaluation team will be contracted to review and evaluate the Outcomes of this project following its completion. The evaluation team will be comprised of national and/or international experts with proven experience on gender and climate resilience programming. All members of the team will be independent with absolutely no connections to the design, formulation or implementation of this project. The evaluation will be facilitated by the convening agency and will include a desk study, a review of programme documentation and outputs, in-person interviews with key stakeholders and beneficiaries, field visits as needed, and other data collection. A budget of USD 30,000 has been allocated to conduct the final programme evaluation.

| M&E activity | Schedule | Budget (US\$) |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Baseline data collection | Project inception phase (March–June 2022) | 30,000 |
| Regular monitoring of project activities by PUNOs | June 2023, December 2023, March 2024, and June 2024 | 100,000 |
| End line data collection | May–June 2024 | 50,000 |
| Independent evaluation | October 2024 | 60,000 |
| Total M&E budget | | 240,000 |

- e) **Project exit strategy/ sustainability** – Briefly explain the project’s exit strategy to ensure that the project can be wrapped up at the end of the project duration, either through sustainability measures, agreements with other donors for follow-up funding or end of activities which do not need further support. If support from other donors is expected, explain what the project will do concretely and pro-actively to try to ensure this support from the start. Consider possible partnerships with other donors or IFIs. **The project established community structures (Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP), Committees, Community Management Committees (CMCs), cooperatives and women groups structures) are safeguards for the project sustainability.**

Sustainability of results lies at the heart of this project’s objective and approach. Key elements of this project’s sustainability strategy can be summarized as follows:

- The project’s **community-based approach** is centered around building on **community ownership** across the location where it is implemented. Previous activities from various programming interventions point out that community buy-in and involvement from the inception phase is essential for planning the implementing agencies’ exit strategy. **Through the CEAP process/approach, community environmental actions plans were developed for the six project sites across the three localities. The produced CEAP plans reflect community priorities in the first place, and they are owned by the communities in the respective sites. The project is implementing some of the CEAP plans (46%), which are within the scope and budget of the project. The remainder will be marketed to the government and the agencies working in the Blue Nile State. A dissemination plan is in place to reach the donor community in the country as well.**
- The project will aim to **build on and support existing local structures**, including local natural resource management and governance structures, as well as conflict resolution or peacebuilding mechanisms, with the aim of mainstreaming gender considerations and accelerating the meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making, to live on beyond the project’s lifespan. **The project established community structures in the six project sites in the form of CEAP Committees. Four of the CEAP Committees were merged with Community Management Committees (CMCs) in Baw and Al Kurmuk localities. The two project sites in Geissan locality did not have CMCs because UNDP did not work in that locality before this project. Therefore, new CMCs were established and merged with the CEAP Committees. Native administration and youth are represented in these committees, and it is worth mentioning that all these committees are gender balanced. CMCs act as permanent structures in communities established by UNDP in four of the project sites and endorsed by locality authorities with the long-term goal of facilitating the communities. They are merged with CEAP committees to reduce the number of committees and have one platform which could discuss with external actors on any intervention.**
The project will invest in **capacity development of communities, authorities and relevant civil society platforms, at the local and state**, along with the enhancements of official policy/strategy frameworks, will ensure that the gender-responsive natural resources management practices have a good institutional sustainability potential.
- **Climate-related risks** will be considered and included in the design and formulation of all country-level initiatives, in order to ensure that results are to the extent possible resilient to the shocks and stresses associated with climate change, including both slow and sudden-onset disasters.
- The project will **equip women and men with sustainable economic options** to enhance resilience to climate and security related shocks. All livelihood activities will be designed based on a detailed socio-economic and market assessment and will include climate-smart agriculture, improved tools

and practices, new market niches. Whenever possible livelihoods activities will be linked to green livelihood options such as access to renewable energy, tree planting and other opportunities, factoring the needs of local private sector actors.

- The project will lay a very important new ground on collaboration in Blue Nile state around the root causes and triggers of local conflict allowing to apply new synergies to previously unaddressed local challenges. This will result in testing new solutions for upscaling across Blue Nile State in light of the call of the Peace Commissioner to the UN system to offer as much assistance as possible to communities affected by conflict in Blue Nile and the Two Areas. The solutions to be applied in the project will allow replication and upscaling to communities previously inaccessible and controlled by non-signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement as soon as access is provided. This will allow for evidence and result-based resource mobilization locally.

IV. Project budget

The budget has been allocated between the three receiving agencies, UNEP, UNDP, and UN Women with UNEP serving as the coordinator. The project has been designed to maximize delivery capacity, building on existing operational structures and staff already present in Blue Nile state under UNDP's C2SP programme. A dedicated monitoring and evaluation expert and funds reserved for an independent evaluation will ensure quality control through regular monitoring allowing the project to learn and adapt as well as thorough documentation of lessons learned. As Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) is a core objective of this project, at least 80 percent of the budget for all activities is dedicated to GEWE. This may include targeted funding for men and boys. A detailed budget is attached in Annex D.

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. Proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. 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.

Please specify below any context-specific factors that may be relevant for the release of second and third tranches. These may include the successful conduct of elections, passage of key legislation, the standing up of key counterpart units or offices, or other performance indicators that are necessary before project implementation may advance. Within your response, please reflect how performance-based tranches affect project sequencing considerations.

The revised project budget shows the current level of expenditure, available balance, and the reallocations if any across the budget lines for the no cost extension period. Some activities like the

water yard with solar irrigation system and two of the peace centers were replaced by other activities. A tractor with harvesting equipment will be provided in Yara instead of the water yard and the solar system, whereas the irrigation system associated with the nursery in Samsur is replaced with the provision of support to the health center. The other two peace centers in Derang and Gambrda are replaced with restocking, the same budget lines will be used for the replaced activities.

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **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 | Y | N | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Planning | | | |
| 1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline | | N | IPs to be confirmed through a competitive procurement process during inception phase of the project |
| 2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission | Y | | See attached |
| 3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline | Y | | See p. 13 for details |
| 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 | | Consultations in Blue Nile State, 22–26 March |
| 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 | | Preliminary analysis based on the findings of the consultations being finalized, in addition to 2020 UNDP contextual analysis in 2 areas and adjoining states |
| 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 | | Active MoUs and ongoing partnerships through respective programming |

| | | |
|---|-----|-----------------|
| 8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations? | Y | See section III |
| 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 | Y e s | N o | 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. | X | | |
| 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. | X | | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>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?</p> | X | |
| <p>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?</p> | X | |
| <p>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.</p> | X | <p>UNDP previously established community-based bodies in the targeted areas under C2SP programming, which are legally registered bodies composed of members of the communities. This approach allows for the gains from the activities to be reinvested in maintenance ensuring sustainability and ownership of equipment and assets.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | | X |

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>x</p> | <p>UNDP is providing in kind operational support through C2SP programming and ensures better value for money through capitalizing on structures build under C2SP. Additionally, technical expertise from climate security and peacebuilding interventions is provided through staff supporting the project. UN Women will bring support from Programme Specialist WPS and M&E Analyst as well as Information and Communication Officer. We shall also provide a vehicle for the project. UNEP will bring in-kind technical support from HQ-based staff specialized in gender, climate & security linkages, as well as expertise on climate-security analysis</p> |
|--|----------|--|

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

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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 31 July | Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June) |
| 31 October | Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September) |

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be 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) and the Administrative Agent's website (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:

| Type of report | Due when | Submitted by |
|---|--|--|
| 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 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 reports and timeline

| Timeline | Event |
|--|--|
| 28 February | Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year) |
| 30 April | Report Q1 expenses (January to March) |
| 31 July | Report Q2 expenses (January to June) |
| 31 October | Report Q3 expenses (January to September) |
| <i>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</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) and the Administrative Agent website (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 recognize 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.¹⁸
- 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.

¹⁸ 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)

| Outcomes | Outputs | Indicators | Means of Verification / frequency of collection | Indicator milestones |
|--|---------|--|--|----------------------|
| <p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>The socio-economic stability of conflict-affected communities is strengthened through the development of gender-transformative climate resilient livelihood options for women, men, and other groups</p> | | <p>Outcome Indicator 1a</p> <p>Percentage of population who report increased income, disaggregated by sex/age/group.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Average income per household per month in the three localities 30,000-60,000 SDG per month.</p> <p>Target: 90% of targeted beneficiaries across the three localities (Baw, Geissan, and Kurmuk) 28,000 people (60% women, 60% youth)</p> | <p>Project quarter and annual reports, Project evaluation reports Household survey</p> | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, Target (5.a): Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p> | <p>Outcome Indicator 1b</p> <p>Percentage of population who have improved access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and services, disaggregated by sex/age/group.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (7) Schools (22) Water infrastructure (18 handpumps+2 hafirs and 2 water yards), 7 health units</p> <p>Target: 51% of the total population across the three localities (Baw, Geissan and Kurmuk) 28,536 people report improved access to basic socioeconomic infrastructure.</p> | <p>Project quarter and annual reports, Project evaluation reports Household survey</p> | |
| <p>SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; Target (7.1) By 2030, ensure universal access to</p> | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>affordable, reliable, and modern energy services</p> | | <p>Outcome indicator 1e Number of cases of gender-based violence reported to established structures disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: TBD Due to the cultural sensitivities around GVB issues, the project team didn't receive any reports or indication of cases from the communities, therefore, the monitoring of this outcome indicator is no longer viable.</p> | <p>Women centers records. Locality police records Mapping of women's organizations and their interventions</p> | |
| <p>SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; Target (8.5) By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities,</p> | | <p>Number of women who access legal advice on GBV cases and whose cases are investigated and prosecuted, disaggregated by age and group.</p> <p>--</p> | | |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|---|
| <p>and equal pay for work of equal value SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries; Target (10.3) Ensure equal opportunity and</p> | <p>Output 1.1</p> | <p>Strengthened climate-resilient livelihood options for women and girls and access to critical socio-economic infrastructure/services provided in selected communities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> | <p>Output indicator 1.1.1: Number of persons enrolled in vocational training and life skills activities, disaggregated by sex/age/group (min. 60% women)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: minimum 10 per community at least (30) persons, 5 per community (60% are women)</p> | <p>Training workshop reports, quarter reports</p> |
|---|-------------------|---|--|---|

SDG 15 Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Target (15.5) Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity.

SDG 16 on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Target (16.b): Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

1. Vocational training, functional literacy and business training provided.
~~Socio-economic infrastructure and assets (including renewable energy devices) constructed/provided to foster local economy and agricultural production (including small farming)~~ Provision of Socio-economic assets (including tractor with accessories, and medical laboratory equipment)
2. Support to small business and provision of microcredit support
3. Restocking or distribution of goats to vulnerable women-headed households.

Output Indicator 1.1.2
Number of

socio-economic
~~infrastructure~~ assets provided.

Baseline: 0

36 Socioeconomic infrastructure projects available

Target: ~~1 per community~~

2 additional socioeconomic infrastructure projects completed both in Geissan, (there are already socio-economic projects conducted in Baw and Al Kurmuk conducted by UNDP)

Output Indicator 1.1.3

Number of persons (min 60% women) supported to start small

business/agriculture/climate-smart farming activities, disaggregated by sex/age/group.

Baseline: 0

Target: ~~50 per community~~ 4277 persons 60% of which are women, and 60% youth.

Records of the socioeconomic assets provided.

Signed loan lending documents.
Pics of running business

Names of saving groups established, membership, Reports of group implemented activities.
Correspondence with microfinance funding institutions

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Output Indicator 1.1.4 Number of cooperatives, savings groups and community-based organizations established and formalized to pool resources and support access to markets and value chains</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: At least one per community 6 total cooperatives/credit and saving groups (One per project community) 6 CBOs created (One per target community).</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.1.5 Number of women headed households supported by restocking of small ruminants.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 466 HH</p> | |
|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>enhance access to justice adopted in selected communities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish women centers that address the comprehensive needs of gender-based violence survivors. 2. Provide training to justice sector personnel on conducting gender-sensitive investigations and prosecutions. 3. Establish specialized women and children protection desks in police stations. 4. Train police officers to receive reports from victims/ survivors of gender-based violence | <p>Output Indicator 1.2.1 Number of one-stop centers to support GBV established. Number of women centers established in target communities with referral system.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: Build 4 one-stop centers in three localities 2 in Al Kurmuk, 1 in Baw and 1 in Geissan Build 3 women Centers in 3 localities (1 in Kurmuk, 1 in Baw and 1 in Geissan)</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.2 Number of security and justice sector personnel, community sheiks and service providers trained in gender-responsive justice.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: Train 800 including 300 females; justice personnel in 3 localities 400, among which at least 100 are women</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.3 Number of specialized women and children desks established in police stations. Number of women protection networks revived and capacitated at locality level.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 gender desks established, 1</p> | <p>Workshop training reports</p> <p>Reports of women networks</p> | |
|--|---|---|---|--|

~~per police station in three localities, 2
in Kurruk, 1 in Baw and 1 in Geissan.
6 networks across the three localities~~

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | <p>. Output Indicator 1.2.4 Number of reports received by police officers from victims' survivals of GBV. Number of policy dialogues on protection from GBV held between justice sector, police, community leaders, service providers, and women groups.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 600 reports received from victims/ survivors of GBV in four targeted police stations in three localities at least 4 during the project duration.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Local-level governance and conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened through gender-responsive inclusive and participatory processes in selected conflict-affected communities.</p> <p>SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment, Target (5.a): Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; Target (8.5) By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people</p> | <p>Outcome Indicator 2a</p> <p>Number of disputes related to natural resource use, access and control submitted and resolved (fully or partially) for arbitration to local conflict resolution mechanisms or authorities.</p> <p>Baseline: 100 6 Target: 100 18 disputes resolved by local committees. E.g., CEAP committee.</p> | | |
| | <p>Outcome Indicator 2b</p> <p>Percentage of population who reports having a positive perception of other livelihood and natural resource user groups, disaggregated bysex/age/group.</p> <p>Baseline: 100 4920 individuals provided by other livelihoods (2000) male, (2920) female in Baw locality, and 3720 male and 2000 female in Kurmuk Target: 60% of project beneficiaries</p> | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</p> <p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries; Target (10.3) Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting legislation, policies, and actions in this regard.</p> <p>SDG 15 Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Target (15.5) Take</p> | | <p>Outcome Indicator 2c</p> <p>Percentage of population who reports that their needs and interests are being addressed in the peace process in Blue Nile through governance mechanisms, disaggregated by sex/age/group.</p> <p>Baseline: TBD 4 peace building committees (2) in Baw, and (2) in Kurmuk with (120) members (102) males, and (18) females. Target: 60% 10 % of the total population in the targeted communities.</p> | | |
| <p>Output 2.1</p> | | <p>Output Indicator 2.1.1</p> | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>SDG 16 on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Target (16.b): Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p> | <p>Inclusive local governance mechanisms are established within selected communities, which enable the participation of women and girls and other marginalized groups in the planning and management of natural resources, as well as the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes.</p> <p>2.1.1: Conduct an integrated assessment of environment and climate-related risks to peace and security in Blue Nile state.</p> <p>2.2.1: Conduct community led CEAP processes in target localities.</p> <p>2.2.3: Support communication and advocacy of resulting environmental action plans to local and State-level authorities, including through the documentation of good practices and lessons learned.</p> | <p>Number of integrated gender climate-security assessments completed.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.2</p> <p>Number of participatory and inclusive processes/structures established.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (4CMC, and 4 Peace building committees in Baw and Kurmuk)</p> <p>Target: 6 one per community 10 (6 CEAP committees in Geissan, Baw and Al Kurmuk, in addition to 2 CMC and 2 Peace building committees in Geissan).</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.2.1 Percentage of women and youth in established processes or structures</p> <p>Baseline: 0 33% Target: 60% women and 60% youth in each community structure per community.</p> | <p>Gender, climate, and security report</p> <p>CEAP Plans</p> <p>Perception</p> | |
|--|--|--|---|--|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | <p>Output Indicator 2.1.2.2 Percentage of women and youth in established processes or structures who feel their voice matters, is heard, and has an impact.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 60% women and 60% youth</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.3</p> | <p>surveys reports in the target communities.</p> | |
|--|--|--|---|--|

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | <p>Number of participatory environmental action plans adopted.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6 (one per community)</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.4</p> <p>Percentage of participants who feel their specific concerns and needs are reflected and addressed in the participatory environmental action plans, disaggregated by sex/age/group.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 99 80 % of CEAP committee members.</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.5</p> <p>Number of prioritized actions implemented to address key community concerns linked to natural resources.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: at least 6 (at least one per community)</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.1.6</p> | |
|--|--|---|--|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>Output 2.2</p> <p>New channels are established to link local-level peacebuilding processes to the peace process in Blue Nile state.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen or establish local peacebuilding centers to support local peacebuilding process and support women's full and meaningful participation in the peace process. 2. Establish women-led dialogue forums with peacebuilding state-level institutions | <p>Output Indicator 2.2.1</p> <p>Number of local peacebuilding centers established/capacitated to support women's full and meaningful participation.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6-1 peacebuilding center in one locality</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.2.2</p> <p>Percentage of peacebuilding centersmembers who are women.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 60% 38% of the members</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.2.3</p> <p>Number of women-led dialogue forums with state level peacebuilding institutions</p> | <p>Pictures of the established peacebuilding centers</p> | |
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