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**Strengthening Capacities for Conflict Prevention and Social Cohesion in the Arab States Region**

**Final Progress Report – Initiation Plan**

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| **Implementing Partner:** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **Responsible Parties:** | United Nations Development Programme |
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**Acronyms**

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| --- | --- |
| CO  CoP  CSO  IGAD  IOM  PIP  PVE  RBA  RBAS  SDGs  UNDP  UNHCR  UN-ESCWA  VE | Country Office  Community of Practice  Civil society organization  Intergovernmental Authority on Development  International Organization for Migration  Project Initiation Plan  Prevention of violent extremism  Regional Bureau for Africa  Regional Bureau for Arab States  Sustainable Development Goals  United Nations Development Programme  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  Violent extremism |

1. **Executive Summary**

Since 2011, socio-political and economic upheaval has been experienced across several countries in the Arab States region. Internal conflict, violent extremist activity, mass displacement and attempts to come to a reckoning with the past while managing the enormous challenges of the present have all been overlaid on to existing social fissures. Weak public institutions, poorly diversified economies, inadequate social safety nets, and high unemployment (especially for women and youth) remain some of the region’s long-standing vulnerabilities. Not only have these vulnerabilities been exposed by COVID-19, they have also been exacerbated by its dire repercussions.

The Governance and Peacebuilding Team at the Regional Hub in Amman contributed to address the multiple root causes of conflict through dedicated workstreams, embedded in the Regional Programme. Through this Project Initiation Plan (PIP), UNDP-RBAS took an integrated approach and delivered activities around the inter-related themes of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and early warning; prevention of violent extremism; justice, human rights, and rule of law; gender; and migration and displacement.

The PIP focused on four inter-related outputs:

1. Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased;
2. Capacity on Prevention of violent extremism (PVE) to address cross-border violent extremism strengthened;
3. Human Mobility and Sustainable Development pathways enhanced; and
4. Capacity and awareness on Human Rights, and Justice issues strengthened.

Through the PIP technical and substantive support was provided to several UNDP Country Offices (COs) through the production of evidence-based research, development of strategic orientations, provision of funding opportunities and identification of regional initiatives, such as Insider Mediation, leading to youth and women led innovative solutions for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Additionally, regional and national actors and institutions were supported through the organization, participation in and contribution to meetings, cross-learning dialogues and seminars concerned with promoting peace and security.

1. **Introduction**

The Arab States region exibits diversity of contexts in terms of peace and development. Some countries are fragile and in protracted crises while others are stable or in transition process. Since 2011, some countries in the region have experienced socio-political and economic upheaval. Internal conflict, violent extremist activity, mass displacement and attempts to come to a reckoning with the past while managing the enormous challenges of the present have all been overlaid on to existing social fissures. Across the region, weak public institutions, poorly diversified economies, inadequate social safety nets, or high unemployment (especially for women and youth) remain some of the long-standing vulnerabilities. Not only have these vulnerabilities been exposed by COVID-19, they have also been exacerbated by its dire repercussions.

The PIP aimed to strengthen the capacity of countries and the region to effectively manage risks and shocks through sustained, inclusive, and targeted prevention efforts, address issues of migration and displacement, prevent violent extremism and increase capacity and awareness on human rights and the rule of law.

The Governance and Peacebuilding Team at the Regional Hub in Amman contributed to address the multiple root causes of conflict through dedicated workstreams, embedded in the Regional Programme. The PIP took an integrated approach and delivered activities around the inter-related themes of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and early warning; prevention of violent extremism; justice, human rights, and rule of law; gender; and migration and displacement.

The PIP’s inter-related outputs are as follows:

1. Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased;
2. Capacity on PVE to address cross-border violent extremism strengthened;
3. Human Mobility and Sustainable Development pathways enhanced; and
4. Capacity and awareness on Human Rights, and Justice issues strengthened.

The PIP was designed to contribute to Outcome 2 of UNDP RBAS’ Regional Programme (2018-2021) “ Strengthen institutions to promote inclusive participation, prevent conflict and build peaceful societies”, and specifically contribute to outut 2.3.2 “Regional capacities and multi-country evidence-based assessment and planning tools enable prevention and preparedness to limit the impact of crisis and conflict”.

1. **Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 01 November 2020 - 30 April 2022**

**Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes**

This PIP was designed to contribute to Outcome 2 of UNDP RBAS’ Regional Programme (2018-2021) “ Strengthen institutions to promote inclusive participation, prevent conflict and build peaceful societies”.

The PIP provided technical and substantive support to several COs through production of evidence-based research, development of strategic orientations, provision of funding opportunities and identification of regional initiatives, such as Insider Mediation, leading to youth and women led innovative solutions for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Strategic tools were developed to contribute to social change, gender equality and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda.

Additionally, regional and national actors and institutions were supported through the organization, participation in and contribution to meetings, cross-learning dialogues and seminars concerned with promoting peace and security.

**Section 2: Monitoring of activities.**

The Governance and Peacebuilding team monitored the implementation of the PIP through continuous exchange with CO technical staff, feedback from senior leadership, continuous surveys on priorities and entry points for programming, as well as sustained consultations with COs and partners. Field missions were carried out in the context of CO-support, and provided the opportunity to assess progress and results. The Regional Hub units leading on the four outputs have held regular calls with appointed Focal Points in COs in order to receive updates and follow-up on the activities and their implementation.

**Section 3: Progress against each output**

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| **Output 1: Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 1.1 Analysis on conflict prevention, and environment & security made available | Research and methodological note on the two topics produced and disseminated | A study on the role of non-state actors in service delivery is being finalized.  A conflict prevention analysis applying a systems thinking approach is under review.  Environmental security study is under peer-review. |
| 1.2 Regional project document/framework is produced | Conflict prevention project document/framework approved by UNDP-RBAS | A gender-responsive conflict prevention regional framework developed.  A project document focusing on Insider Mediation produced. |

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| **Output 2: Capacity on PVE to address cross-border Violent Extremism strengthened, and research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE completed** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 2.1 Number of countries targeted with technical advisory support with number of virtual exchange discussion in thematic areas. | 8 countries benefited from technical support provided and virtual exchanges/webinar on four thematic areas (Human rights & PVE; ROL & PVE; Community policing & PVE; PVE & inclusion) | 8 (Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Somalia, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, and Libya)  4 virtual exchanges/webinars were facilitated (the 8 countries mentioned above and Sudan benefitted from the exchanges)   * engaging youth on PVE * human Rights-based approach and PVE, * PVE and inclusion and coordination, * raising awareness on the application of Behavior Insights on PVE programming. |

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| **Output 3: Human Mobility and Sustainable Development pathways in the Arab Region enhanced** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 3.1A new project document/framework following a participatory approach | A new project document/ framework approved by UNDP-RBAS | A new draft regional framework |

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| **Output 4: Capacity on Human Rights and Justice issues strengthened** | | |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets** | **Progress against targets** |
| 4.1 Number of knowledge sharing events on BHR and Gender Justice | 11 | 4   1. Digital justice during and after COVID-19 2. Integrating trauma awareness into RoL programming 3. Women’s rights 4. Business and human rights |

**Key Activities:**

Under Activity 1.1, a gender-responsive conflict prevention regional framework was developed focusing on dialogue and mediation, reconciliation, social cohesion, and environmental security. In a close collaboration with the UNDP Crisis Bureau core government functions/local governance team, a regional study on the role of non-state actors in service delivery in the Arab States focusing on area of limited statehood in being finalized. The outcome of the research will offer an evidence-based guidance for UNDP COs on possible engagement models in such contexts. Moreover, a conflict prevention analysis was conducted applying a systems thinking approach. The analysis is currently under review. In addition, based on documentary review and consultations, a regional environmental security study examined the challenges posed to human security by environmental degradation, climate change, and resource scarcity, and highlights approaches in response to competition, conflict, and displacement.

Under Activity 2.1, a locally driven research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE in the Horn of Africa and on Early Warning and PVE in the IGAD Region and Tanzania was finalized, as part of the Regional Africa PVE Project, in collaboration with IGAD. The reports are waiting for final review and publication by IGAD.

Despite the delays in the data collection due to the pandemic and access restrictions imposed in the border areas, under Activity 2.2, a report entitled ‘Perceptions, Vulnerabilities, Prevention: VE Threat Assessment in Selected Regions of Southern Libya Borderlands and North-West Nigeria’ covering 5 countries (Libya, Sudan, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) was finalized in 3 languages (English, Arabic, and French) and waiting for publication and dissemination including through launching events. The report helps countries in the design of new programmatic interventions.



Regional PVE Roundtable, 6-7 June 2022.

Under Activity 2.3, strategic and technical advisory support was provided to 8 COs which contributed to the engagement with national governments in building their capacities. This included the facilitation of 4 virtual exchanges among the COs, that have PVE and PVE-relevant projects and programmes, in four thematic areas (engaging youth on PVE, Human Rights-based approach and PVE, PVE and inclusion and coordination, raising-awareness on the application of Behavioral Insights on PVE programming); support to the revisions of the Iraq PVE National Strategy towards the national action plan development, and; support to Tunisia on gender mainstreaming in the context of new PVE programming.

Under Activity 3.1, a draft regional project/framework on human mobility for the Arab States is currently under review. Discussions are ongoing for potential collaborations with Africa Resilience Hub around addressing Human Mobility cross-regionally. Additionally, a study was conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 and low oil prices on return migration within the Arab States, in the context of a multi-country study on the linkages between return and development in the country of origin. Output 3 was pursued in close collaboration with the Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility team of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York.

Under activity 4.2, as part of the Business and Human Rights work and a reflection of the regional priority on promoting gender equality, a study on women’s rights has been drafted. An event on Business and Human Rights, for example, spurred interest among UN partners in working with UNDP in the area and prompted COs to consider Business and Human Rights as a relatively new area of programming. As a follow-up, strategic and technical support to COs on Business and Human Rights is being provided to explore entry points for Business and Human Rights programming at country level (e.g. Djibouti, Saudi Arabia).

Under activity 4.3, leveraging expertise and south-to-south exchange in the context of various events, capacities on human rights and justice issues, primarily for UNDP COs, was strengthened. Topics for learning and discussion included: e-justice; trauma-informed programming; business and human rights; and women’s rights.

**Key Results:**

Output 1: Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue, and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased

In collaboration with the UNDP Crisis Bureau, a gender-responsive conflict prevention regional framework was developed based on a regional analysis, with the aim to support CO applying conflict prevention tools in line with their peace and development context. This focuses, among others, on dialogue and mediation, reconciliation, social cohesion, and environmental security. Based on an analysis conducted, a framework on Insider Mediation is being finalized and a 2-year project in this area received funding from France. It will include regional and country level activities (Lebanon, Sudan, Jordan) to boost insider mediation and build peace in the region.

Output 2: Cross-border violent extremism assessment and research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE completed

The PIP contributed to strengthening regional capacities for PVE by providing practical guidance, tools, regional coordination, and technical support to COs. Policy briefs were developed, and a regional platform for sharing experience and lessons learned among civil society, women and youth has been established following the recommendation expressed by COs and partners at a regional PVE workshop. Dedicated technical support to Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya was provided in the framework of the Regional Africa PVE Project, in close collaboration with the Regional Bureau of Africa (RBA). The mutual learning and exchanges among the COs helped the COs in their engagements with their counterparts at the country level. Strategic and technical advisory support to the COs contributed to advancing PVE agenda in these 8 countries and exploring entry points for UNDP interventions in Yemen and Syria by using Area Base programming.

Output 3: Capacity for Human Mobility and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region increased

The development of a human mobility regional project/framework will help identify programmatic entry points, foster regional exchange among COs, partnerships, and led to a more effective a coordinated approach in this area. Engagement on human mobility has continued at the regional level through the Issue-Based Coalition on Migration which is co-led by UNDP and IOM, and support provided for COs.

Output 4: Capacity and awareness on Human Rights and Justice issues among COs and Stakeholders in the Region increased

Human rights issues are pressing in the region but have advanced slowly due to a range of challenges. By leveraging expertise and south-to-south exchange in the context of various events, capacities on human rights and justice issues, primarily for UNDP COs, was strengthened. The activities, funded by UNDP’s Global Programme on Rule of Law, sought to maximize the role of the Regional Hub as a centre for gathering and disseminating knowledge and lessons, so as to support COs to apply innovative and evidence-based approaches to enhancing realization of SDGs 16 and 5.

1. **Key Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

* The request for support from the COs was often ad-hoc and did not always lead to a comprehensive analysis of the support needed. To address these challenges, the PVE team held a number of bilateral meetings with COs to specify their needs, and support was provided accordingly. There is a need to increase advocacy for the development approach to PVE promoting evidence-based research with relevant member states and holding events that raise awareness among stakeholders on the VE threat and ways to build more resilient communities.
* Due to uneven understanding of the concepts and approaches around PVE as well as rule of law and Human Rights, CO staff require technical advice and expertise, which called for continued support from the Governance and Peacebuilding Team Leader to facilitate and direct to the right technical expertise at the Regional Hub. Thematic Community of practice (CoP) meetings are vehicles to build shared understanding and . The mutual learning and exchange of experience among the COs, national counterparts, experts, and CSOs in the region also facilitated knowledge transfer and learning.
* On rule of law, there were challenges in maintaining the investments and gains in the Community of Practice due to turnover and limitations in human resources. The Unit is now strategizing and planning for a strategic and longer-term approach to shaping its Community of Practice. The approach will include being all the more driven by CO demands in deciding topics for discussions as well as considering areas of intersection with other portfolios. In 2022, there was already one informal discussion on community-oriented approaches to RoL and another being planned on e-justice to meet rising demands from COs.
* Enhancing sub-regional focus in planning and programming will help addressing issues more effectively. For example, a PVE sub-regional analysis with focus on the Levant will be developed; a sub-regional initiative on Durable Solutions in borderlands is being discussed. Moreover, the team will look into country categories to adapt tools and approaches.
* One target was ambitiously set at the launch of the PIP (output indicator 4.1) . Targets should be realistic and achievable, based on an analysis of baseline as well as available resources and capacities.

2. **Update on risks and mitigation measures**

Two main risks were identified during the PIP design phase : Prioritization due to the COVID-19 crisis leads to the overlooking of approaches focusing on the roots causes of conflict, in favor of shorter-term socio-economic programming, also driven by donor funding priorities; competing priorities in COs lead to limited collaboration to develop the regional frameworks.

With regards to the first risk identified, an early engagement with COs and sound consultative processes helped to develop strategic approaches to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Addressing the roots causes of conflict was recognized as critical aspect by COs, donors and other stakeholders. It is also recognized that there is no shortcut for transformational change in society. In terms of competing priorities, this has often come out as a issue. The approach was to make sure the team adapted to CO needs, timelines and options for engagement.

Focusing on thematic areas, on rule of law, just as for PVE, there is often a high degree of attention afforded to security-oriented approaches at country level. In order to both avoid securitized approaches where they create risk for UNDP and the stakeholders, as well as to complement good practices in community-oriented and human rights-oriented security work at country level in a way that delivers a holistic package, the Regional Hub’s RoL Unit has focused largely on justice (e.g. gender justice, e-justice, etc.) and human rights in its initiatives and proactive outreach to COs. This general orientation by the Regional Hub’s Rule of Law Unit will continue.

2. **Partnerships and Sustainability**

* Partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations was enhanced through consistent and regular engagement throughout the implementation of the Joint initiate with RBA - Africa PVE Project. A relevant example is the partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), particularly on conducting locally evidence-based research on VE and impact of Covid-19 and early warning system and PVE.
* Advancing work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding also led to closer exchanges with the League of Arab States on the topic of youth, peace and security and on mechanisms for regional conflict prevention. Indeed, the team is collaborating with League of Arab States, IOM and UN-ESCWA on supporting eight countries affected with conflict to attain SDGs.
* The UNDP offices in 8 countries, that have PVE or PVE relevant programmes, were supported to enhance the partnership at the community, local, and national levels and with the member states.
* The development of a project on Insider Mediation led to a close partnership with France, which is funding a 2-years initiative on the subject to be rolled out regionally and in Lebanon, Sudan and Jordan.
* In the area of Human Mobility, discussions are ongoing with the Africa Resilience Hub on a possible collaboration on Horn of Africa borderlands on Durable Solutions with UNHCR.

1. **Financial Summary**

**Table 1: Overview of available resources for the project duration**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Donor | Opening Balance | Contribution Received | Available Resources |
| MoFA France | - | 41,031.65 | 41,031.65 |
| Netherlands | - | 13,174.00 | 13,174.00 |
| TRAC | - | 377,326.00 | 377,326.00 |
| Total | - | 431,531.65 | 431,531.65 |

**Table 2: Overview of allocation and expenditure per output**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | MoFA France | | Netehrlands | | TRAC | | Total Budget | Total Expenses |
| Budget | Expenses | Budget | Expense | Budget | Expense |
| Output 1 | 41,031.65 | 40,034.00 | - | - | - | 106,056.64 | 41,031.65 | 146,090.64 |
| Output 2 | - | - | - | - | 275,000.00 | 118,265.33 | 275,000.00 | 118,265.33 |
| Output 3 | - | - | - | - | 102326 | 110,560.08 | 102326 | 110,560.08 |
| Output 4 | - | - | 13,174.00 | 13,174.00 | - | - | 13,174.00 | 13,174.00 |
| Total | 41,031.65 | 40,034.00 | 13,174.00 | 13,174.00 | 377,326.00 | 334,882.05 | 431,531.65 | 388,090.05 |

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| **Data contained in this report is an extract from UNDP financial records.** |

**Annex 1: Progress Review: detailed matrix of activities and results**

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| **Output 1** | **Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Annual target** | **Progress / target** |
| **Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased** | 1.1 Analysis on conflict prevention, and environment & security made available  1.2. Regional project document/framework is produced | 1.1. Lack of regional analysis on conflict prevention, and on the nexus of environmental change and security  1.2. Absence of a regional initiative to strengthen capacities for conflict prevention | 1.1. Research and methodological note on the two topics produced and disseminated  1.2. Conflict prevention project document/framework approved by UNDP-RBAS | 1.1: A study on the role of non-state actors in service delivery is being finalized.  A conflict prevention analysis applying a systems thinking approach is under review.  A regional environmental security study is under peer-review.  1.2:A gender-responsive conflict prevention regional framework developed.  A project focusing on Insider Mediation was finalized. |
| **Planned activities** | | **Results** | | |
| Activity 1.1: Produce regional conflict prevention analysis to identify entry points for policy and programme planning | | In a close collaboration with the UNDP Crisis Bureau core government functions/local governance team, a regional study on the role of non-state actors in service delivery in the Arab States focusing on area of limited statehood in being finalized. The outcome of the research will offer and evidence-based guidance for UNDP COs on possible engagement models in such contexts. A conflict prevention analysis applying a systems thinking approach is under review. A regional environmental security study is under peer-review. Based on documentary review and consultations, the study examines the challenges posed to human security by environmental degradation, climate change, and resource scarcity, and highlights approaches in response to competition, conflict, and displacement. | | |
| Activity 1.2: Design a regional project aimed at strengthening capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue, and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region | | A gender-responsive conflict prevention regional framework was developed focusing on dialogue and mediation, reconciliation, social cohesion, and environmental security. | | |
| Activity 1.3: Create and capacitate a regional network of mediators  Conduct a consultation process to identify entry points and leverage on existing resources | | A project focusing on Insider Mediation was finalized and received funding from France | | |

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| **Output 2** | **Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Annual target** | **Progress / target** |
| **Capacity on PVE to address cross-border Violent Extremism strengthened, and research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE com**  **Pleted** | 2.1 Number of countries targeted with technical advisory support with number of virtual exchange discussion in thematic areas. | 2.1: 8 countries in 2020 and 4 virtual exchanges/webinar (2 M&E, one on Hate Speech and PVE, and one in PVE and Community Policing) | 2.1: 8 countries benefited from technical support provided and virtual exchanges/webinar on four thematic areas (Human rights & PVE; ROL & PVE; Community policing & PVE; PVE & inclusion) | 2.1: 8 countries benefited from strategic and technical advisory support (Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Somalia, Tunisia, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya)  4 virtual exchanges/webinars facilitated   * engaging youth on PVE * human Rights-based approach and PVE, * PVE and inclusion and coordination, * raising awareness on the application of Behavior Insights on PVE programming. |
| **Planned activities** | | **Results** | | |
| Activity 2.1: Support IGAD's Centre of Excellence for PCVE (Djibouti) in locally driven research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE in the IGAD-region, early warning system and PVE in the IGAD-region and a Researchers Platform on PVE for the IGAD-region | | Early Warning System and PVE study as well as research on Covid-19 impact and VE nexus in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region and Tanzania were conducted. | | |
| Activity 2.2: Finalize cross-border VE-assessment in the Southern Libya Borderlands, including support in design of kick-off activities | | Report ‘Perceptions, Vulnerabilities, Prevention: VE Threat Assessment in Selected Regions of Southern Libya Borderlands and North-West Nigeria’ was finalized. | | |
| Activity 2.3: Provide Technical advisory support to 5 countries covered by the Africa regional project (Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya) and three in Mashraq of Arab Region (Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan) and virtual exchanges/webinar on four thematic areas ((Human rights & PVE; ROL & PVE; Community policing & PVE; PVE & inclusion) | | 8 Countries benefited from strategic and technical advisory support (Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Somalia, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Libya).  4 virtual exchanges/webinars facilitated on sharing lessons learned and emerging good practices | | |

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| **Output 3** | **Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Annual target** | **Progress / target** |
| **Human Mobility and Sustainable Development pathways in the Arab Region enhanced** | 3.1A new project document/framework following a participatory approach | 3.1 Migration and displacement mapping in COs; Migration and displacement approach in the Arab region | 3.1A new project document/framework approved by UNDP-RBAS | A new regional framework is under review. |
| **Planned activities** | | **Results** | | |
| Activity 3.1: Develop a full-fledged regional project/framework on human mobility for the Arab States | | A draft regional project/framework on human mobility for the Arab States is currently under review. Discussions are ongoing for potential collaborations with Africa Resilience Hub around addressing Human Mobility cross-regionally. | | |
| Activity 3.2: Develop regional resources, tools, platforms and strengthen network on migration across the Arab States region  Pursue actions identified through the regional project and emerging needs to be carried out, building on UNDP comparative advantaged, and regional and corporate requirements | | a study was conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 and low oil prices on return migration within the Arab States, in the context of a multi-country study on the linkages between return and development in the country of origin. Output 3 was pursued in close collaboration with the Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility team of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York. | | |

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| **Output 4** | **Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Annual target** | **Progress / target** |
| **Capacity on Human Rights and Justice issues strengthened** | 4.1 Number of knowledge sharing events on BHR and Gender Justice | 4.1: 0 | 4.1: 11 | 4 events   * Digital justice during and after COVID-19 * Integrating trauma awareness into RoL programming * Women’s rights * Business and human rights |
| **Planned activities** | | **Results** | | |
| Activity 4.1: Perform research to support Behavioural Insights pilot projects on Gender Justice in 2 COs+ | | Gender justice pilot projects with COs using Behavioural Insights are ongoing, leveraging on the regional and country level Accelerator Labs. | | |
| Activity 4.2: Knowledge and understanding of Business and Human Rights enhanced with regional stakeholders | | As part of the Business and Human Rights work and a reflection of the regional priority on promoting gender equality, a study on women entrepreneurs’ access to finance has been drafted. Activities included an initial, internal webinar followed by regional events with external stakeholders. The event on Business and Human Rights, for example, spurred interest among UN partners in working with UNDP in the area and prompted COs to consider BHR as a relatively new area of programming. As a follow-up, strategic and technical support to COs on BHR is being provided to explore entry points for Business and Human Rights programming at country level (e.g. Djibouti, Saudi Arabia). | | |
| Activity 4.3: Regional research, mapping and analysis to support evidence-based approaches and identify needs and priorities | | By leveraging expertise and south-to-south exchange in the context of various events, capacities on human rights and justice issues, primarily for UNDP COs, was strengthened. Topics for learning and discussion included: e-justice; trauma-informed programming; business and human rights; and women’s rights. | | |

**Annex II: Updated Risk Log**

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| **Risks** | **Mitigation Measures** |
| Prioritization due to the COVID-19 crisis leads to the overlooking of approaches focusing on the roots causes of conflict, in favor of shorter-term socio-economic programming, also driven by donor funding priorities | Early engagement of COs and consultative process, while fostering partnerships with donors on strategic approaches to sustaining peace |
| Competing priorities in COs lead to limited collaboration to develop the regional frameworks | Adaptation of the process to CO plans and timelines, with greater efforts to include views |