United Nations Development Programme

Regional Bureau for Arab States

Initiation Plan

Project Title: Strengthening capacities for Conflict Prevention and Social Cohesion in the Arab States Region

Expected Regional Programme Outcome(s):

Outcome 2: Strengthen institutions to promote inclusive participation, prevent conflict and build peaceful societies

Expected RPD Output(s):   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

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: 01 November 2020/30 April 2022

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Brief Description

This Project Initiation Plan has four inter-related outputs: 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 Arab region continues to witness major conflicts driven by multiple root causes related to governance crisis and political legitimacy, economic challenges, social drivers, climate risks. In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated trends of exclusion and the gender gap. Countries in the region need to strengthen their capacity to effectively manage local 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. This PIP has been developed to initiate the various elements of two regional project documents/frameworks: the first focusing on conflict prevention and the second on human mobility.

Programme Period: 18 months	Total resources required $466,031.65
Atlas Project Number: 00131448	Total allocated resources:
Atlas Output ID: 00124505	• Regular $325,000 (TRAC)
Gender Marker: GEN 2	• Other:
	• MoFA France $41,031.65
	• Gov. of Netherlands: $100,000

Agreed by UNDP:

Paola Pagliani
Regional Programme Coordinator, RBAS

I.   PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

The sociopolitical context of the Arab region before the 2011 uprisings was extensively documented in a series of in-depth reports by the United Nations. The reports revealed high levels of illiteracy, vast disparities in wealth within nations, widespread poverty, gender inequalities, and significant deficits in health care provisions and educational benefits across the region. The bleak social realities were accompanied by authoritarian practices, corruption, and abuse of power by ruling elites, compounded by foreign military interventions, occupation, and war.

Since 2011 tremendous socio-political and economic upheaval has been experienced across several countries served by UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS). 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: an estimated 5% contraction in the economy; one quarter of the population falling into poverty; 17 million jobs lost when 14.3 million adults of working age were already unemployed; and heightened risks for the 55 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including the 26 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

As the Secretary-General noted recently, now is the time to build back better, and for Arab States to "ensure a vibrant civil society and free media and create more accountable institutions that will increase citizen trust and strengthen the social contract".

Aware of these risks, RBAS has focused its efforts on understanding and mapping risks and supporting strategic interventions that can maximize UNDP's impact. This PIP therefore will take an integrated approach and will deliver 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.

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

The Arab region continues to witness major conflicts driven by multiple root causes related to governance crisis and political legitimacy, economic challenges, social drivers, impact of climate change and resource management, and suffered from the effect of COVID-19 pandemic. Countries in the region need to strengthen their capacity to effectively manage local risks and shocks through sustained, inclusive, and targeted prevention efforts. This requires deeper and broader government, civil society and stakeholder engagement in planning and implementing strategies for prevention.

This output will be implemented in collaboration with the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding & Responsive Institutions (CPPRI) of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York. The team will develop a conflict prevention regional project/framework focusing on expanding the regional offer on dialogue and mediation, reconciliation, social cohesion, and environmental security. Gender will be mainstreamed and will provide entry points for the implementation of the women peace and security (WPS) agenda. The initiative will consider ways to support youth and civil society engagement and will include in-depth analysis.

An earlier version of the Project Initiation Plan (PIP) has been utilized to develop the regional project including three inter-related outputs: 1) Regional conflict prevention analysis to identify entry points for policy and programme planning; 2) Analysis and policy brief to review the nexus of environmental change and security in the region; 3) Regional project/framework design aimed at strengthening capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab region.

This initiative will benefit from the collaboration with the UNDP Crisis Bureau core government functions/local governance team, on a regional study to investigate the role of non-state actors in service delivery in the Arab States focusing on area of limited statehood. The outcome of the research will offer and evidence-based guidance for UNDP COs on possible engagement models in such contexts.

The endeavor will also leverage on the strengthening of early warning and early actions in the region at the country and regional levels by enhancing the Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) through a demand-driven approach targeting Jordan, Sudan, Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia. Yet, other efforts include the support to strengthening the integration of peace-sensitive analysis into the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) and the Common Country Analysis (CCA) in the region. The team through the UNDP DPPA joint programme on building national capacities for conflict prevention and DCO will develop a conflict sensitivity tool that would guide individuals/teams leading and contributing to CCAs.

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

The team will continue strengthening regional capacities for PVE by providing practical guidance, tools, regional coordination, and technical support to COs. A gendered regional analysis and policy briefs (Human rights & PVE; ROL & PVE; Community policing & PVE; PVE & inclusion) will be developed, and a regional platform for sharing experience and lessons learned among civil society, women and youth will be appraised.

Dedicated technical support to Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya continues in the context of the implementation of the Regional Africa PVE Project, in a close collaboration with the Regional Bureau of Africa. Additionally, under the Project, the team is supporting the inter-regions' cross-border VE-assessment in the Southern Libya Borderlands, and a locally driven research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE in the Horn of Africa, strengthening the strategic collaboration with IGAD.

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

Human Mobility, migration and displacement is another emerging area under which the team is embarking on developing a regional project/framework to allow UNDP to expand its migration and displacement portfolio in the Arab States. This endeavor would help to identify programmatic entry points, foster regional exchange among COs, partnerships, and lead to a more effective a coordinated approach in this area. Additionally, a study will be 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 will be implemented in close collaboration with the Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility team (RSHM) of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York.

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

This Output focuses on human rights issues that are pressing in the region, but which have advanced slowly or not at all due to a range of challenges. The activities, funded by UNDP's Global Programme on Rule of Law, seek 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.

Advancing respect for Human Rights in the region through Business and Human Rights (B+HR) will help position UNDP as a thought leader in B+HR, following a similar strategy applied in other regions. Activities will include an initial, internal webinar followed by at least one regional event with external stakeholders. As part of the B+HRs work and a reflection of the regional priority on promoting gender equality, a study on women entrepreneurs' access to finance has been drafted. In 2021, the report will be finalized, translated to Arabic, and disseminated to COs to share knowledge and identify potential entry points for programming.

Under this output, there will also be at least two gender justice pilot projects with COs using Behavioural Insights (BI), and leveraging on the regional and country level Accelerator Labs. The initiative will be developed in coordination with RBAS Gender Team Leader, and in tandem with the Asia Pacific Regional Bureau to maximize south-south learning.

Finally, work towards regional research, mapping and analysis will occur to strengthen evidence-based approaches and support the continuous identification of needs and strategic priorities.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be supervised by the Governance and Peacebuilding Team Leader at the Regional Hub in Amman under the four outcomes. The day to day management is assured by senior regional advisors at the Governance and Peacebuilding Team at UNDP Regional Hub in Amman. In particular, senior advisors are custodian of the roll-out of activities under each output as follows:

- The Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Regional Advisor is in charge of outputs I and III, to be implemented in collaboration with the Crisis Bureau in NY (Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions/CPPRI and Human Mobility Teams, respectively)
- The PVE Regional Advisor is in charge of output II, in collaboration with Crisis Bureau/CPPRI and the Regional Hub for Africa in Addis Ababa;
- The Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights Regional Specialist is in charge of output IV, to be implemented in collaboration with the Crisis Bureau in NY (Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights Team). [1]

The above team will carry out the activities in liaison with other teams in the Amman Hub, at the Crisis Bureau in NY and the Regional Programme for Arab States. The Team will draw lessons from global good practices and leveraging GPN resources as needed. International experts will be recruited under each output to implement the various activities of the PIP.

III. MONITORING

The monitoring functions will be fulfilled by the Regional Advisors of the Governance and Peacebuilding team of the Regional Hub, following UNDP procedures and with support and advice from the Regional Programme and the Regional Hub RBM. The Governance and Peacebuilding Team Leader will oversee the implementation of activities to ensure the goals are met. The final review report will be prepared at the end of the Project Initiation Plan.

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[1] She is also in charge of the complementary gender justice budget sitting under the gender equality portfolio (50k in that portfolio, which is to be combined with 30k in the RoL portfolio).

IV.   WORK PLAN

Period[2]: 01 November 2020 – 30 April 2022 (18 months)

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[2] Maximum 18 months

EXPECTED Project OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME						RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Year 2020	Year 2021				Year 2022		Source of Funds	Budget Description	Amount (estimate) In USD
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1				
Output 1 : **Capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region increased** **Indicators:** 1. Analysis on conflict prevention, and environment & security made available 2. Regional project document/framework is produced **Baseline data***:* 1. Lack of regional analysis on conflict prevention, and on the nexus of environmental change and security 2. Absence of a regional initiative to strengthen capacities for conflict prevention **Targets:** 1. Research and methodological note on the two topics produced and disseminated 2. Conflict prevention project document/framework approved by UNDP-RBAS	Activity 1.1: Produce regional conflict prevention analysis to identify entry points for policy and programme planning • Desk review of available literature on prevention in the region to inform field work • Conduct field work including interviews (in person or by phone) with UNDP and partners. • Finalize the draft and present the analysis in two webinars	X	X	X				UNDP (Conflict and Peacebuilding Advisor)	MoFA France[3]	Contractual services	10,000
	Activity 1.2: Design a regional project aimed at strengthening capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue, and infrastructures for peace in the Arab Region • Hire an international expert • Conduct up to 5 Internal consultation with UNDP experts • Conduct a desk review of available document including the prevention analysis and policy brief.		X	X				UNDP (Conflict and Peacebuilding Advisor)	MoFA France	Contractual services	10,000

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[3] As described in the narrative section of output 1, this activity is supported by the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding & Responsive Institutions (CPPRI) of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York

	Activity							Responsible party	Fund	Budget category	Amount
	Prepare the Project Document and present to team members and the regional Hub and HQ										
	Activity 1.3: Create and capacitate a regional network of mediators • Conduct a consultation process to identify entry points and leverage on existing resources • Set up platforms and mechanism to ensure cross-fertilization and exchange across mediators			X	X			UNDP (Conflict and Peacebuilding Advisor)	MoFA France	Contractual services	17,992.27
GMS											**3,039.38**
Sub-total output 1											**41,031.65**
Output 2: Capacity on PVE to address cross-border Violent Extremism strengthened, and research on the impact of Covid-19 on PVE com pleted **Indicator:** 2.1 Number of countries targeted with technical advisory support with number of virtual exchange discussion in thematic areas. **Baseline data***:* 2.1 8 countries in 2020 and 4 virtual exchanges/webinar (2	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, Gender and PVE in the IGAD-region and a Researchers Platform on PVE for the IGAD-region		X	X	X			UNDP PVE Regional Project (Co-chaired by RBA RSCA – RBAS Regional Hub) in partnership with IGAD's ICEPCVE Djibouti	TRAC	Contractual services	100,000

M&E, one on Hate Speech and PVE, and one in PVE and Community Policing) **Target:** 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)	Activity 2.2: Finalize cross-border VE-assessment in the Southern Libya Borderlands, including support in design of kick-off activities	X	X	X			UNDP PVE Regional Project (Co-chaired by RBA RSCA – RBAS Regional Hub) in partnership with IGAD's ICEPCVE Djibouti	TRAC	Contractual services	100,000
	Activity 2.3: Provide Technical advisory support to 5 countries covered by th e 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)	X	X	X	x		UNDP PVE Regional Project (Co-chaired by RBA RSCA – RBAS Regional Hub) in partnership with IGAD's ICEPCVE Djibouti	TRAC	30% of PVE Programme Specialist	75,000
Sub-total output 2									**275,000**

Output 3: Human Mobility and Sustainable Development pathways in the Arab Region enhanced **Indicator:** 3.1 A new project document/framework following a participatory approach **Baseline data:** 3.1 Migration and displacement mapping in Country Offices; Migration and displacement approach in the Arab region **Target:** 3.1 A new project document/framework approved by UNDP-RBAS	Activity 3.1: Develop a full-fledged regional project/framework on human mobility for the Arab States • Produce a document outlining output of the desk review and summarizing stakeholder consultations to inform the project document • Hire a consultant to draft a project document/framework, including a presentation summarizing the outcomes to be presented to UNDP team and partners			X	X	X	UNDP	TRAC[4]	Contractual services	25,000

	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				X	X	X	UNDP	TRAC[5]	Contractual services	25,000
Sub-total Output 3											**50,000**
Output 4: Capacity on Human Rights and Justice issues strengthened	Activity 4.1: Perform research to support Behavioural Insights pilot projects on Gender Justice in 2 COs+					X	X		UNDP (ROLSHR Specialist (with Gender TL))	GP ROL Annual funding	(5% DPC to be deducted)	34,000
Indicator: 4.1 Number of knowledge sharing events on BHR and Gender Justice	Activity 4.2: Knowledge and understanding of Business and Human Rights enhanced with regional stakeholders				X	X	X		UNDP (ROLSHR Specialist)	GP ROL Annual funding	(5% DPC to be deducted)	36,000
Baseline data: 4.1 0 **Target:** 4.1 11	Activity 4.3: Regional research, mapping and analysis to support evidence-based approaches and identify needs and priorities					X	X		UNDP (ROLSHR Specialist (with Peacebuilding specialist))	GP ROL Annual funding	(5% DPC to be deducted)	22,593
Before GMS											92,593
GMS											7,407
Sub-total Output 4											100,000

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[5] This activity is supported by the Recovery Solutions and Human Mobility (RSHM) of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York

Total GMS	10,447
Total (4 Outputs, including GMS)	**466,031.65**

Annex 1: Risk Analysis

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	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	27/06/2021	Budget allocations	Slow progress 25%	Early engagement of COs and consultative process, while fostering partnerships with donors on strategic approaches to sustaining peace	UNDP	UNDP	31/01/2022	
2	Competing priorities in COs lead to limited collaboration to develop the regional frameworks	27/06/2021	Information and buy in	Limited ownership and sustainability 10%	Adaptation of the process to CO plans and timelines, with greater efforts to include views	UNDP	UNDP	31/01/2022	