

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country (ies): Tajikistan	
Project Title: Empowering youth for a peaceful Tajikistan Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <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 type of organization (UN, CSO etc): UNDP (Convening Agency) UNICEF UN Women	
Expected project commencement date¹: 1 January 2020 Project duration in months: 18 months Geographic zones for project implementation: Tajikistan	
Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNDP: 850,000.00 UNICEF: 750,000.00 UN Women: \$ 400,000.00 TOTAL: \$2,000,000.00	
PBF 1st tranche: UNDP: \$ 595,000.00 UNICEF: \$ 525,000.00 UN Women: \$ 280,000.00 Total: 1,400,000.00	PBF 2nd tranche*: UNDP: \$ 255,000.00 UNICEF: \$ 225,000.00 UN Women: \$ 120,000.00 Total: \$600,000.00
Two-three sentences with a brief project description and succinct explanation of how the project is time sensitive, catalytic and risk-tolerant/ innovative: The project aims to increase the resilience of Tajikistan's young people to violent narratives in areas where risks of violent extremism are exacerbated by vulnerability to extreme poverty and outward migration dynamics, through endowing them with capacities, skills and competencies that open	

¹ Note: actual commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

socio-economic opportunities, enable them to participate in political life, and enhance their community participation, sense of belonging and confidence in government.

The project is timely, as risks of exclusion in the country are increasing due to persistent economic hardship, social, economic and political exclusion of young people and especially women, and the erosion of social cohesion due to changing identities and shifting social norms. The project will define effective models of prevention work for the scale-up and policy, and will catalyze both policy implementation in the country as well as international attention to this problem with a strong focus on inclusion.

The project is innovative, as it introduces a new type of programming around the prevention of violent extremism risks with a focus on youth development and participation. First, the project relies on multi-dimensional and comprehensive responses that focuses on addressing root causes, with a long-term look, as opposed to short-term and securitized approaches. Secondly, the project does not see young people as trouble makers or victims, but aims to build trust in them and empower them. Third, the project has a strong focus on strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment through introducing new approaches and perspectives, which has been missing from these type of programmes in the country. In this sense, the project aims to catalyze further funding and interest to this type of programming that focuses on alleviating exclusionary dynamics and preventing multi-dimensional risks.

Summarize the in-country project consultation and endorsement process prior to submission to PBSO, including through any PBF Steering Committee where it exists:

The project has been consulted at a Concept stage with the State Committee on Youth and Sports (CYS), State Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CWFA), General Prosecutor's Office. Partners reconfirmed relevance of the project and its alignment to country's priority.

The full project document has been reviewed and endorsed by the Government of Tajikistan, including by project's main partner – the State Committee on Youth and Sports under the Government of Tajikistan. The relevance of the project topic was reconfirmed in meetings with selected civil society organizations, and potential partners. The Steering Committee will be created after the project commencement.

Project Gender Marker score: 2²

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: 35% of the total budget (USD 700,306.29)

Project Risk Marker score: 1³

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project: (2.3) Conflict prevention/management⁴

² Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget)

³ Risk marker 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁴ PBF Focus Areas are:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes:

Outcome 2: People in Tajikistan benefit from equitable and sustainable economic growth through decent and productive employment, stable energy supply, improved access to specialized knowledge and innovation, and a more favorable business environment, especially for entrepreneurs and farmers.

Outcome 5: Women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are protected from violence and discrimination, have voice that is heard and respected as equal members of society

Sustainable Development Goal to which the project contributes: SDG 16, SDG 5, SDG 8

Type of submission:

New project

Project amendment

PROJECT SIGNATURES

<p>Recipient Organization⁵</p> <p>Name of Representative: <i>Pratibha Mehta</i></p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Name of Agency: <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i></p> <p>Date & Seal</p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p>Name of Government: <i>Tajikistan</i></p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Title</p> <p>Date & Seal</p>
<p>Recipient Organization</p> <p>Name of Representative: <i>Euciana Cătesini</i></p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Name of Agency: <i>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</i></p> <p>Date & Seal</p>	<p>Recipient Organization</p> <p>Name of Representative: <i>Ms. Aina El-Yassir, Regional Director</i></p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Name of Agency: <i>UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)</i></p> <p>Date & Seal</p>
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p>Name of Representative: <i>Pratibha Mehta</i></p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Title: <i>UN Resident Coordinator</i></p> <p>Date & Seal</p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p>Name of Representative </p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office</p> <p>Date & Seal</p>

⁵ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

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- sensitive.

Risks of violent extremism remains a concerning issue for policy makers in Tajikistan⁶. These risks are nourished by an interplay of two sets of factors: ‘push factors’ - structural conditions that make the overall socio-economic environment more conducive, and individuals more vulnerable to violent extremism, and ‘pull factors’ - catalyst factors that exploit and interact with structural conditions to draw people into violent extremism. ‘Push’ factors are related to the persistent political, social, and economic exclusion experienced by specific groups of young men and women and their immediate communities and beyond. Rising inequality, shrinking civic space for engagement, and lack of inclusive development contribute to these inclusion – exclusion dynamics.

These ‘push factors’ create an exclusionary environment where youth at risk can be ‘pulled’ by the offerings from violent groups. For example, local grievances can be manipulated into violent extremism by domestic and foreign recruiters through various communication methods with financial incentives as well as the offer of a sense of belonging to a group and other psycho-emotional benefits.⁷ This strategy works particularly well where institutions and public services to address the grievances and improve living conditions of the vulnerable groups do not work effectively. Perpetrators of violent extremism use ideology and religion to justify their actions, even when they are motivated by global, political, context-specific or personal issues.

According to the report on “The Missing Peace”⁸, most young people, even in the face of strong social, and economic grievances, remain peaceful. Identifying ‘extremism’ as the problem, relying on securitized approaches and narrowing social, economic and civic spaces for young people does not provide sustainable solutions and might be counter-productive. This project relies on identifying the social, economic and gender-based exclusion, with a view to expanding alternative pathways available to young people. An analysis on the inclusion-exclusion dynamics has provided the results presented below.

Socio-economic situation, dynamics of socio-economic inequality and exclusion:

The population in Tajikistan reached 9 million at the end of May 2018, and it remains the fastest growing (and youngest) country in Central Asia, with an average annual growth of 2.1%. Despite economic gains in recent years (average 5.7% GDP growth between 2009 and 2016),⁹ Tajikistan continues to be one of the poorest countries in Central Asia¹⁰. According to official statistics, 29.7% continue to live below the official poverty line, and 14% live in extreme poverty. 53% of the workforce is in the agricultural sector, dominated by low-pay/low-productivity and informal employment. It is worth reiterating that, while extreme poverty is not directly linked to violent extremism, it increases

⁶ E.g. the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy of Tajikistan. Materials of the Dushanbe PVE conference in 2016 and 2018.

⁷ E.g. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a0899d40f0b64974000192/Drivers_of_Radicalisation_Literature_Review.pdf “Religion and ethnicity have been recognised as powerful expressions of individual and group identity. There is robust evidence that radicalisation is a social process and that identity is a key factor in why individuals become involved in violent movements.

⁸ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Progress_Study_on_Youth_Peace_Security_A-72-761_S-2018-86_ENGLISH.pdf

⁹ United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018 Report, https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2018_Full_Web-1.pdf. The Government of Tajikistan reports about an average 7% growth annually in recent years.

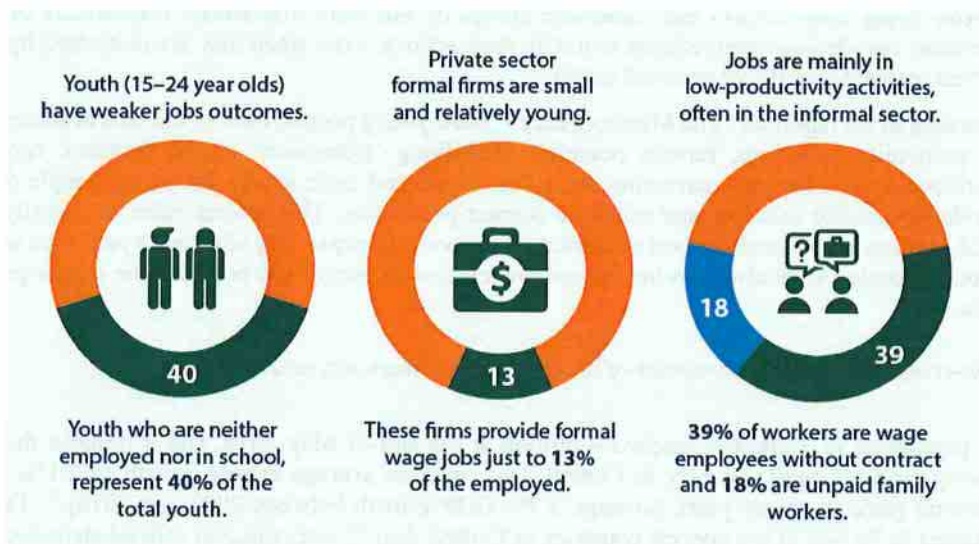
¹⁰ <https://data.worldbank.org/country/tajikistan> (retrieved on 7 June 2019).

risks of economic exclusion, and systematically addressing the exclusion is the best way to prevent violence, including violent extremism.¹¹

Tajikistan’s potential workforce is growing fast—faster than many of its neighbors in Europe and Central Asia. However, there are some structural features that shape the job challenges in Tajikistan: a) Tajikistan is a mountainous and landlocked country; b) Tajikistan is an agrarian country where almost 3 out of 4 still live in rural areas; c) A fast growing and young population; d) The legacy of transition and slow-paced structural reforms. Due to these factors, the Tajik economy today is not able to create enough jobs, informal sector represents a large and growing source of jobs, several jobs are seasonal or temporary and there are major inequalities in terms of labor market outcomes.

These statistics indicate a particularly bleak picture of economic and social exclusion and inequality for young people, and especially young women throughout the country. Young people make 66% of the population of Tajikistan, and every year around 150,000 young people enter the labour market, but labor underutilization among youth remains at 20.5%, while the official youth unemployment rate amounts to 10.6 % (twice higher than among those who were aged 30-75 years and more than 1.5 times exceeded the national average)¹². Furthermore, almost 30% (29.3) of young people of 15-24 years old were not in job, education or training (NEET), and about 90% of these NEET youth consisted of young women. Moreover, the NEET rate for female youth is considerably higher than for male youth. Almost a third of employed young people are in unpaid (informal) jobs compared to 15 percent of adults. Youth are also significantly less likely to be self-employed (5 percent compared to 11 percent among adults). These are the key drivers for increased levels of poverty and social exclusion among youth.

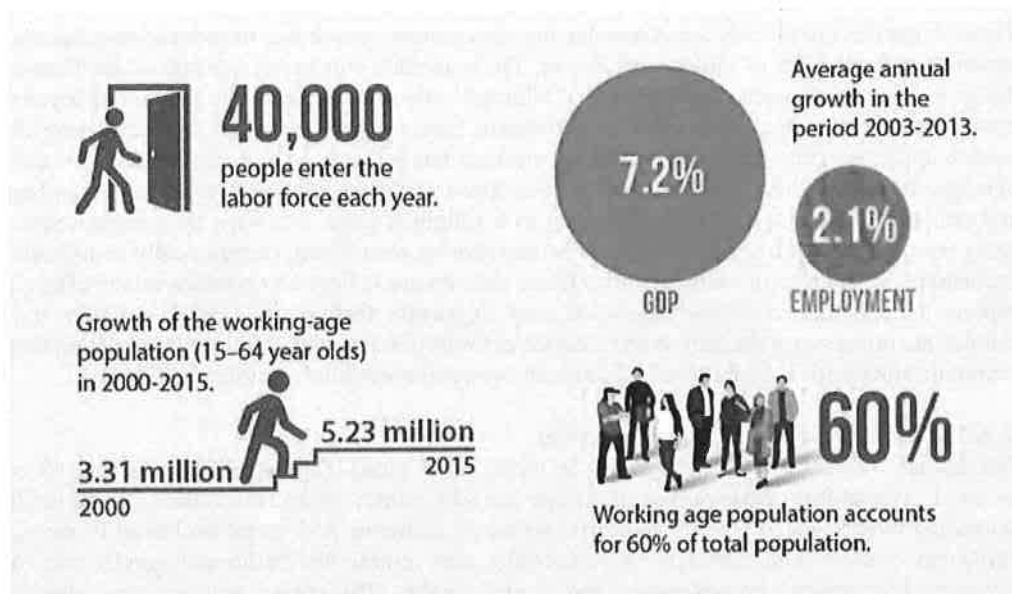
Chart 1. Youth Employment in Tajikistan (2017)¹³



¹¹ Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Progress_Study_on_Youth_Peace_Security_A-72-761_S-2018-86_ENGLISH.pdf

¹² It should be noted that the registered unemployment in Tajikistan amounts to 0.5%.

¹³ WB Report “Tajikistan: Addressing Challenges to Create More and Better Jobs”, January 2017, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/tajikistan-addressing-challenges-to-create-more-and-better-jobs>



Furthermore, young people and adolescents, especially girls, have limited access to education, knowledge, and skills that could lead to their social and economic advancement and bring them financial and personal security. Girls aged 11-17 are approximately twice as likely as boys to be deprived in school attainment and attendance. The gap between what education system is providing in terms of learning achievements and skills, and what children, young people, communities and economies need is growing. In addition to immediate risks, the harsh economic situation creates long-term fragility risks for the country, especially with the considerable ‘youth bulge’, and contributes to the migration and “brain-drain” of the most skillful workforce (females make up approximately 18% of the migrants). It is important to note that economic conditions and societal norms exclude a large portion of women from the economy, especially those living outside major urban areas. Moreover, children and young people in Tajikistan have limited access to health services, including mental health and psychological services, that are tailored to their needs.

Parents play an important role in the life of young people and can sometimes be the ones creating obstacles for their active participation. FGDs conducted by UNICEF in 2018 showed that some parents believe that young people cannot take independent decision on issues concerning their lives until they reach the age of 35. This widespread belief is an integral element of limiting environment for youth participation in the life of society. Moreover, most recent Demographic and Health Survey (2018) indicates that 67 percent of children of age up to 14 face violence. Adolescent Baseline Study 2018 showed that 47 percent of adolescents of age 10-19 face violence in schools. Hence, positive parenting interventions are necessary.

Shift in identity and social cohesion dynamics:

Beyond economic and social exclusion and inequalities, the collapse of Soviet Union and civil war have led to the quest for new identities and belonging. The relationship between secular and religious spheres in the country are still being shaped; and may impact the future of the national project and social contract. While the increasing presence in religion in society is not a concern, as the UN – World Bank study Pathways for Peace also suggests, young people’s desire for a social community and belonging¹⁴ lead to their challenging of existing norms that facilitate social cohesion, leading to intergenerational clashes, in a society where religion is defining identities of younger generations more than the older. If combined with socio-economic exclusion, more radical external ideologies might attract some young people in such an environment.

¹⁴ UN – WB Pathways for Peace study

These dynamics are already a concern for the government, which has introduced regulations that are meant to prevent risks of violent extremism. These include enhancing the role of the Committee on Religion, and greater control of Council of Ulemas¹⁵, moving imams to the public employee status to ensure more control over their activities and others. Some experts argue this has led to deterioration of trust to appointed religious leaders. The government has initiated a campaign to return of all students of religion who have been studying abroad, introduced various regulations related to rites and traditions, and promoted western and national clothing over religious attire. In a way, the religious space which many young people are attracted to, has become heavily securitized, paradoxically contributing to the exclusionary dynamics of young people. These policies are believed to produce mixed effect, as some experts believe that excessive regulation may aggravate feeling of imposed religion and trigger clandestine protests, particularly in the absence of multi-dimensional policies that aim to address socio-economic and political factors that lead to exclusion and contribute to violent extremism.

Gender equality and economic empowerment:

The annual “Global Report on the Gender Gap 2018” ranks Tajikistan 123th out of 149 countries assessed¹⁶ (worst from those ranked in Europe and CIS countries), and the country’s position has been worsening over years. Women’s and girls’ political, economic and social exclusion is widespread in Tajikistan, with a trend towards re-traditionalization reinforcing traditional gender roles that are detrimental to women’s empowerment and gender equality. This creates new economic dependencies, exacerbates existing gender stereotypes, increases violence against women and excludes women from the political and socio-economic sphere.

Young women find it difficult to be included in the political life of Tajikistan. They make only 19% of the Tajik Parliament members (12 out of 63 MPs). Women are unequally represented in civil service (22%), especially in managerial civil service positions (18.7%). Women make only 7% of high-ranking government officials, and as little as 16% of lowest administrative tiers’ representative bodies (in settlements and villages).

Table 1. Tajikistan comparison against other ranked states in Central Asia¹⁷

Country	Global Gender Gap Index		Economic participation and opportunities		Education		Health		Political participation	
	Rank	Index value	Rank	Index value	Rank	Index value	Rank	Index value	Rank	Index value
Tajikistan	123	0.638	126	0.547	118	0.940	74	0.976	121	0.088
Kazakhstan	60	0.712	32	0.741	30	1.00	42	0.979	94	0.130
Kyrgyzstan	86	0.691	78	0.662	79	0.991	1	0.980	93	0.130

Women face also structural exclusion in the economic sphere. Women earn less than men, women-headed small and medium enterprises (SMEs) make less than 1% of all SMEs in the country (only around 2000 enterprises). There is limited investment in women’s vocational education, and most women are employed in low-paid labour industries, such as agriculture, education and healthcare. Many economic indicators of women position in the economy are worsening over years, underlining the increasing gap between men and women in the country. For instance, between 2003 and 2013, the disparity between male and female employment rates increased from 21 to 35 percentage points.

¹⁵ The Committee on Religion, Regulation of National Traditions, Ceremonies and Rites under the Government of Tajikistan is the government body responsible for development and implementation of the state policies related to the religion and rites in Tajikistan. The Council of Ulemas – is the religious organization responsible for organization of religious life in Tajikistan (legal interpretations, praying rules etc.).

¹⁶ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf. The report notes: “Tajikistan takes this year’s bottom spot in the region, slipping 28 places due to a widening Economic Participation and Opportunity gender gap, driven by updated data availability regarding women’s share of legislators, senior officials, and managers as well as labour force participation and estimated earned income” (page 22)

¹⁷ Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are not ranked in the report.

At the social level, social norms and traditions contribute to the women's vulnerability. Although there is no official data, most experts¹⁸ agree about existing practices of early, unregistered, polygamous marriages in Tajikistan, which deprive women of legal protection of their rights, and contribute to the exclusion from education, and other life opportunities. Other social phenomena, like massive migration gives rise to the problem of abandoned women, who – without education, employment and capital – often found in poverty and hopelessness.

Furthermore, young women are often the first victims to follow their male family members, who got to radical groups; their number in Tajikistan may reach hundreds (no less than 200 in 2015 as per government data). Too often women are perceived as mere “followers” of their husbands into the world of violent extremism and less often as initiative supporters or recruits.

Political and social participation and trust in government:

The lack of meaningful opportunities for young people, including women and girls, to participate in political and social life leads to feelings of disenfranchisement and powerlessness over political developments, as well as a lack of trust in government institutions. UN does not have representative data on trust to public institutions, but available data show that space for public mobilization and participation is limited and channels for articulation of interests of youth need to be enhanced.

A survey of 100 students in 2017 indicates these feelings of disenfranchisement: The overwhelming majority of students were not interested in politics, stressed that unemployment is a key problem for them (94,1%), and more than half of them believed that complaining about corruption would cause additional problems for them, for their relatives and family members. In short, while trust to the central authority remains very high, with simultaneous relative distrust to informal leaders and non-governmental organizations (see below chart), people feel distanced from it. In the meantime, civil society is not strong enough to convey people's voices to the government, which contributes to the dynamic of political exclusion.

Table 2. Trust level of respondents to state and non-governmental institutions. The scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the lowest (lack of trust) and ten is the highest (absolute trust).

The level of respondents' trust to:	Age groups		Gender	
	14-30 years old	Over 30 years old	Men	Women
Central authorities	8,72	8,72	8,67	8,77
Oblast (Regional) authorities	8,61	8,58	8,51	8,66
District executive authorities	8,54	8,44	8,46	8,49
Respected people of their village/jamoat	7,87	8,18	8,02	8,12
International organizations	7,98	8,04	8,08	7,97
Heads of avlod (larger family)	7,94	8,00	7,96	8,00
Local executive authorities	7,77	7,82	7,85	7,76
Army	7,46	7,52	7,51	7,49
Social protection system insitutions (pensions, insurance)	7,15	7,23	7,28	7,14
Courts	6,86	6,93	6,78	7,01
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	6,88	6,73	6,90	6,67
Police	6,67	6,74	6,74	6,69
Television and radio	6,72	6,65	6,73	6,63
Local councils of representatives	6,49	6,45	6,40	6,52
Heads of local councils	6,02	6,11	5,99	6,17
Newspapers	6,04	6,07	6,19	5,94
Political parties	4,92	4,89	4,81	4,99

¹⁸E.g. <https://www.bhr.tj/sites/default/files/articles/2018-01/ngo-report-iccpr-2013.pdf>;
<http://www.notabene.tj/Doc/Kaz/compl/RU-Domestic-violence-in-Taj-March-2017.pdf>; recent press article:
<https://news.tj/ru/node/269638>

Religious leaders	4,83	4,77	4,93	4,66
Informal leaders	4,58	4,33	4,57	4,28

Experts argue, that recent policy of attracting young people to state administration is adequate and timely, and can mitigate negative trends among youth. A qualitative research conducted by the OSCE in 2018¹⁹ showed that young people feel they are perceived as excluded, and their opinions are usually neglected, not taken into consideration at school, family, social settings. Youth is also excluded from decision making at community level, e.g. participation in session of local mahalla committee and bringing up the issues of youth concern to the attention of local authorities, is as low as 7% at the national level, according to the Adolescent Baseline Study conducted by Strategic Center under the President with technical support of UNICEF.²⁰

Current situation: Risks of violent extremism in Tajikistan:

In line with the findings of these studies, a minority of young people in Tajikistan have fallen prey to radicalism. In November 2018, the first Deputy of the State Security Service Mansurjon Umarov informed that 1899 citizens of Tajikistan were fighting in ISIS.²¹ The largest share of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) - almost 30% - come from Dushanbe and around Dushanbe – 567 people. 87% of FTFs are young people under 30 years old (1652): According to official information, the Security Service of Tajikistan in 2018 has neutralized 6 terrorist groups that planned series of attacks in the country, including an attack on the Russian military base.

Importantly, there are indications that some of these violent movements might be emerging in Tajikistan. On 29 July 2018, 7 foreign cyclists were assaulted south to Danghara town in a vehicle-ramming and stabbing attack - 4 of them were killed (2 citizens of United States, 1 of Netherlands, and 1 of Switzerland), 2 injured (all associated with the crime were Tajik citizens). This was the first realized terrorist attack in the country for years. ISIS claimed responsibility for the act, stating perpetrators were ‘ISIS soldiers’, although the government put the blame on banned Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan. Prior to that, the Interior Ministry of Tajikistan reported about 36 foiled terrorist attacks in the country in 2017, and 11 in 2018 (4 were carried out). According to the official information by the Ministry, 873 terrorist and extremist crimes were solved, and 298 members of terrorist and extremist organizations were detained in 2018. Most recently, in May 2019, according to the government, members of extremist organizations, including ISIS, instigated a prison riot attempting escape, leaving 29 prisoners and 3 prison guards dead after a special operation by government forces.

Project rationale: Addressing multi-dimensional risks of exclusion to prevent risks of violent extremism

The project aims to prevent risks of violent extremism and mitigate future risks of violent extremism, that are increasing due to persistent economic hardship, social, economic and political exclusion of young people and especially women, and the erosion of social cohesion due to changing identities and shifting social norms. In addition, increasing number of reports on return of FTFs and how to support the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of them are emerging concerns for governments in the region. This would be an opportunity for Tajikistan to showcase its ability to address emerging needs in an adequate and timely manner.

The regional and global context add to this urgency. Despite global decline in fatalities since the peak in 2014, terrorism remains within 67 countries experiencing at least one death.²² The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, multiple UNSC Resolutions on countering terrorism as well as UN SG

¹⁹ Presentation of the OSCE PVE activities during the PVE coordination platform, 27 July 2018. The presentation is available at request.

²⁰ Adolescent Baseline Study 2018. Strategic Research Center under the President of Tajikistan.

²¹ The report was not clear whether the information presents the summary of all FTFs from Tajikistan (with historical data of those who were participating in military actions in the Middle East and Afghanistan) or number of current fighters. The former seems more plausible.

²² Global Terrorism Index. <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/12/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>

Report on Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism reflect a concern of the international community about the persisting risk of violent extremism. According to estimates provided at the 2016 Conference in Dushanbe, between 2,000 and 7,000 individuals from Central Asia (and Russia) joined terrorist organizations in Iraq and Syria, Central Asians are the third largest group behind Europeans and North Africans in ISIL, making Russian to become the 3rd largest language used in ISIS. USG Vladimir Voronkov, during UN Security Council meeting on ISIS on 11 February 2019 noted, that "ISIL has continued its attempts to expand its area of activity in Central Asia".

Tajikistan is a peaceful country with low risk of terrorism and in 2017 was ranked 74 out of 134 countries in the World Terrorism Index (in comparison, the Netherlands ranked 78th on this list)). However, many aforementioned dynamics of exclusion and inequality run the risk of exacerbating various socio-economic, historical and political grievances that could create potential risks of violent extremism. The UN-World Bank "Pathways for Peace" study²³ says that patterns of persistent exclusion and institutional weaknesses run the risk of exacerbating prospects for conflict and violence. It emphasizes that the motivations that usually draw people towards radical groups are their perceptions of injustice, low prospects for earning income and economic empowerment, and desires for a social community and belonging. The study points out to the adeptness of radical groups at exploiting local grievances, which thrive at areas where there is heightened conflict risk. The use of social media sometimes fuels this dynamic.

All these factors are prevalent in Tajikistan. The government has been trying to address risks of violent extremism in society, both at the policy and operational level. Yet, combatting violent extremism is a sensitive issue. If efforts to combat violent extremism lead to the further marginalization of certain groups, particularly young people, vicious cycles of persistent exclusion and violent extremism might prevail. If prevention work solely relies on securitized approaches, the underlying dynamics leading to violent extremism – socio-economic exclusion, mistrust in government, issues related to identity and belonging – remain unaddressed, exacerbating risks for the future. As such, this project aims to introduce a comprehensive approach to preventing of violent extremism in Tajikistan, aiming to address potential conflict drivers as well as immediate risks of violence.

First, the project relies on multi-dimensional and comprehensive responses that focuses on addressing root causes, with a long-term look. Prevention work that focuses unduly on religion and youth can be considered inadequate to addressing the full phenomenon of violent extremism. If the focus is only on religion, extremism arising from xenophobia or nationalism is missed. If the focus is only on youth extremism, intergenerational extremism that is passed between generations is missed. An inadequate response is further exacerbated by a lack of recognition that radicalism is not in and of itself a problem, thereby missing the important role that can be played by religion and youth in prevention. Instead of focusing on generalized target groups, effective prevention policies and actions need to address the underlying problems that create an environment conducive to violent extremism. This is one of the main goals of this project: addressing issues at the political, governance and socio-economic level to change the overall approach to the prevention of violent extremism.

Secondly, the project does not see young people as trouble makers or victims. On the contrary, it aims to build trust in them and empower them. The Youth Study on the "Missing Peace"²⁴ helpfully underscores that many young people, even in the face of social, political and economic inequality and injustice, remain peaceful. This is the case in Tajikistan. Thus, unnuanced policy responses might be counterproductive and might alienate young people. Finding tailored solutions based on a good understanding of issues is key. Instead of remedial and short-term approaches, the study calls for systematically addressing drivers of exclusion and promoting resilience is needed: invest in the capacities, agency and leadership of young people, find solutions to move them from persistent exclusion to meaningful inclusion, and build constructive national partnerships towards this end.

Third, the project has a strong focus on strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment through introducing new approaches and perspectives. The project does not look at

²³ (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28337>)

²⁴ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Progress_Study_on_Youth_Peace_Security_A-72-761_S-2018-86_ENGLISH.pdf

women as victims or perpetrators of violent extremism. On the contrary, many have been and continue to be on the frontlines of prevention efforts, including shaping community and family values, influencing decision making of potential recruits, identifying and intervening at early signs of violent extremism, female imams preaching religious tolerance, women using different forms of media to promote counter narratives, and female police officers engaging with local communities to collect information. Therefore, innovative and dynamic initiatives are essential in promoting messages and offering alternatives that counter these harmful narratives, while empowering them to be a part of efforts to challenge gender norms that promote exclusion and inequality and creating the space for them to take part in social, economic and political life. To be effective, change interventions need to carefully frame information, strengthen women's agency and/or use prompts and environmental cues to overcome unconscious biases to 'nudge' young women and men and adolescents towards better habits.

Women and girls play a vital role in preventing the spread of extremist ideology and activity. On the one hand – in their roles as mothers, they are strategically located at the core of their families: they can shape the values of community members. Women's roles vary between societies, but women's roles as mothers, sisters and wives offer an opportunity for women and young women to act as powerful role models against violent extremism, as the shapers of familial and social norms, and promoters of tolerance and societal engagement. Women are a potential bearer of peaceful messages in communities: efforts must focus not only on gender equality in security and defense matters, but on engaging women as mothers and wives to counter the threat of violent extremism from inside the family structure.

Building on these two components – **multi-dimensional approaches to preventing violent extremism and prioritizing empowerment of young men and women** - the project will focus on young people to create an environment that builds peacebuilding competencies and contributes to solving multiple layers of social cohesion issues that might perpetuate violent extremism. **The project also has a strong socio-economic component, based on the understanding that sustainable solutions to peacebuilding in Tajikistan require an inclusive development approach** anchored in tolerance, political and economic empowerment and a reduction of inequalities and injustice. At the same time, it is important not to stigmatize youth, since a broad group and the complex violent extremism phenomenon is not age-specific. Approaches for peacebuilding through improvement of socio-economic opportunities of youth to work with youth need to employ tools and avenues that are reflecting changing world of new communication, technologies, new learning models and joint work. A quickly changing labour market, which requires new sets of skills and competencies, poses its own challenges to young people who need to be increasingly adaptive, innovative and forward looking. In this regard, economic empowerment initiatives for youth need to search for application of skills and knowledge to non-traditional sectors of economy with high value-addition, using platforms and methods of knowledge and peer-to-peer exchange.

The project also aims to find a new consensus between the government and communities, particularly of young men and women, on how to promote sustainable and inclusive solutions to socio-economic exclusion, allow young people to inform and take part in policy discussions towards this end, and empower young people to identify their own issues and find solutions. A space should be created for youth to be able to express their views and thoughts on various issues, including religion. It is equally important to support the Government of Tajikistan in identifying the problems and root causes that might lead to violent extremism and help it towards taking action in this area.

The timeliness of the project is strengthened by the political situation favorable for PBF programming, in which prevention of violent extremism is one of the highest priorities of Tajikistan, which adopted and implements the National Strategy of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism 2016-2020 but is lacking resources and innovations to achieve all goals. Such windows of opportunity are not frequent in Tajikistan. This entry point is critical for the PBF to step in to develop and catalyze models and solutions of inclusive and comprehensive youth involvement that can be used by the government and other development partners and create entry points for the UN in peacebuilding.

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

project complements/ builds on any other relevant interventions in this sector/area, including any lessons from previous PBF support.

The project responds fully to the national priorities and is closely aligned with the UN engagement in the country. Prevention of violent extremism is already an important priority of the government of Tajikistan. The government in 2015 adopted and started implementation of the National Strategy of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism 2016-2020. Towards that end, the Government has established a coordination platform for the Strategy's implementation and adopted an Action Plan which lists activities to achieve the Strategy's goals.

The Strategy and the Action Plan includes among others the following objectives/activities:

- Eliminating the socio-economic prerequisites of extremism and violent extremism (the relevant chapter of the strategy mentions e.g. "Reducing the level of socio-economic marginalization of the population necessitates socio-economic policies directed on the increase of living standards and culture of the population, building motivation to constructive, healthy lifestyle, providing opportunities to the socially vulnerable groups of population to adapt and participate in public life, analysis and eliminating the causes of social marginalization and so on".
- Prevention of extremism and violent extremism among minors and young people (the relevant chapter of the strategy refers among other to the improvement of education and "ensuring the possibility of boys and girls getting an education that meets the present day requirements for the level of knowledge, allowing to understand political processes, mechanisms of the emergence of public and religious conflicts...". It also mentions that "An important condition for the prevention of radicalism and extremism among youth is the mobilization of youth itself to preventive work with their peers"
- Addressing gender specific issues, indicating that "the state policy in ensuring gender equality should be focused on yet more strengthening of issues related to the creation of equal opportunities for self-fulfillment in all social spheres, regardless of her sexual identity, enhancing social activity and the role of women in public life, as well as ensuring equality between men and women in marital relations."

The project will help connect the Strategy and the Action Plan to the implementation of the youth policy in Tajikistan, enabling inclusive and comprehensive approaches to the prevention of violent extremism. The State Programme on Social Development of Youth of Tajikistan 2019-2021 sets priorities of participation of young people in political, social and economic life; effective employment and economic independence of youth.

UN is supporting the government in the coordination efforts in this regard, as well as contributed to High-Level Conferences on PVE (in 2018) and Counter-Terrorism (in 2019). The 2018 Conference Outcome Document ("Dushanbe Declaration") supported "the adoption and implementation of measures aimed at preventing violent extremism, particularly among youth and in close cooperation with civil society actors, facilitating a whole-of-society approach.". In addition, participating Member States emphasized "the need to prioritize preventive action through efforts by the Central Asian States and others in education, by creating opportunities for young generations, establishment of inclusive and participatory form of government and promoting shared values of tolerance, respect and peace, all of which constitute key means to prevent violent extremism". They also stressed "that effective and gender-sensitive implementation of policies is a crucial element in the prevention of violent extremism. This includes empowering women as agents of change in building community resilience as well as combating discrimination of women in society, as well as broader efforts towards gender equality.

Addressing violent extremism envisages addressing socio-economic roots of the risk, thereby has direct relevance to SDG implementation in the country. UN MAPS mission conducted in December 2016 recommended to the Government of Tajikistan to focus on youth engagement and empowerment as a key accelerator for achievement of nationalized SDG goals. There is an opportunity for the government to prioritize youth much more in its policies, especially those related to private sector and job creation. Only through meaningful youth participation and specific attention to young people in the

implementation of the SDGs, the risk of leaving them behind can be turned into an opportunity: a catalyst for change, that contributes to peace and development in the country.

The National Development Strategy (NDS) for the Republic of Tajikistan 2016-2030²⁵ - the key strategic document identifying long-term development pathway of the country, - views the youth budge as “demographic window of opportunity” and has a special emphasis on development of youth potential as part of its key strategic goal aimed at human capital development. Besides objectives aimed at more effective utilization of youth labor potential, the NDS priorities the need for institutional reforms for implementation of youth policies, taking into account gender aspects and measures to increase potential of proactive youth and youth's contribution to social stability and progress. The national vision for youth social engagement and economic empowerment is in line with SDG goals and targets, and particularly with SDG 3, 5, 8, 10 and 16 and supported with national efforts to ensure proper data collection, monitoring of development and ensuring effective financing of youth programming in the framework of SDG 17.

The National Development Strategy of Tajikistan up to 2030 views the youth entrepreneurship is an important accelerator of economic growth and job creation in Tajikistan. Entrepreneurship and in particular Small and Medium Sized enterprises (SMEs) are important for Tajikistan's economy and may represent an important potential source of new employment for youth.²⁶ Moreover, the cultures that value and reward entrepreneurial behavior such as calculated risk taking and independent thinking promote a propensity to develop new solutions to social challenges. Entrepreneurship is not solely based on seeking profit. Different actors, both in public and private sectors, civil society and social economy organizations, combining a social and an entrepreneurial dimension, can address principal societal challenges. This tendency is called ‘social entrepreneurship’, and the new types of organizations that have emerged, ‘social enterprises’, where young people perform as young problem solvers for their communities, at the same time, acquiring skills for life and creating their social enterprise. The cultural and creative sectors can present great opportunities for transforming young people's creativity and human capital into smart growth and jobs. In the digital era the youth policies embracing new technologies, innovative and smart solutions present a powerful tool to promote social inclusion and social engagement especially among the youth.

Several UN Agencies are supporting the government through programmatic efforts, including capacity building initiatives through projects and programmes (UNDP, IOM, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF etc.).

UNDP has extensive experience on implementing activities aimed at preventing violent extremism in several districts, including Isfara, B. Gafurov, J. Rasulov, Devashtij. Particularly, Strengthening Community Resilience and Cooperation for Prevention of Violent extremism (PVE) in Central Asia, the regional UNDP project funded by the Government of Japan, with Tajikistan's budget around 639,000.00 USD. The Project priority is to address social and economic exclusion experienced among at-risk youth of the target areas by providing specific groups of women and men with tailored ‘decent’ employment/entrepreneurship support and on-demand skills development activities. Activities related to the entrepreneurial skills development services for youth, provision of apprenticeship places, youth involvement in the provision of community-level social and economic services are envisaged within the project, which will be synergetic with 1 and 2 Component of the project.

Since 2015 **UNICEF** in Tajikistan, building on its institutional comparative advantages on violence prevention, skills-building and adolescent empowerment, has been implementing a comprehensive peacebuilding programme with a focus on making young boys and girls less susceptible to extremist and nationalist narratives that fuel conflict, and more actively tolerant of other ethnic groups. UNICEF peacebuilding programme has been supported with grants from CSSF/DFID and its involvement in PBF funded multiagency and multi-country programme “Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development” in contested border areas between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Moreover,

²⁵ <http://medt.tj/ru/strategiy-i-programmi/hcp-2030>

²⁶ In developed countries, e.g. European Union, SMEs represent 99% of all businesses, and in the last 5 years they have created around 85% of new jobs and provided two-thirds of total private sector employment in the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes_en

UNICEF, within its dedicated Adolescent and youth development programme, support the Government of Tajikistan in development and implementation of youth policies as well as youth participation at local government and national levels.

UN WOMEN supports governmental authorities and civil society organizations to implement UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its subsequent resolutions. These resolutions, making up the core of the international women, peace and security (WPS) agenda, provide a critical framework to advance inclusion of women in peace processes, conflict prevention and security sector reform. In Tajikistan through its Program Office, UN Women promotes gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment and integration of gender perspectives into national development efforts. UN Women has been cooperating with the Government in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to empower women to take part in peace building, conflict prevention and other security related efforts. The GOT developed and implemented a National Action Plan 1325 for the period 2014-2018; and the Technical Working Group on NAP 1325 under the Presidential Administration was created to coordinate the implementation of the NAP 1325 amongst different governmental structures (Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Security Committee, Prosecutor's General, CWFA, etc.). To support the National Committee for Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Technical Working Group, UN Women rendered technical assistance in designing a new National Action Plan 1325 for the period of 2019-2022 in line with the National Gender Strategy for 2016-2020 and in conducting wide range of public consultations with the stakeholders.

UN Women (*in Tajikistan and in Central Asia*) has extensive expertise and experience working at community level in building and sustaining peace, targeting women and youth as well as the implementation of projects funded by the PBF and other donors. In this project, UN Women will enjoy partnership with local NGOs (NGO "Gender & Development" as one of its responsible partners) and will engage youth (Y-Peer Volunteers' network) and sport federations (National Federation of Taekwondo and Kickboxing of RT)

Other projects of international organizations working in the area of prevention of violent extremism

UNODC has been implementing activities aimed at crime prevention (and indirectly violent extremism) through supporting youth involvement in sports in Dushanbe (training of trainers, and sports events). It also strengthened national and regional frameworks for preventing and countering violent extremism through developing regional arrangements, such as a Regional Network on Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE). **UNRCCA** work in PVE – within its Counter-terrorism project - is focusing on building capacities and awareness of state officials on PVE and supporting regional dialogue networks of officials on that topic. **IOM** provided business reintegration packages to "the most vulnerable" labor migrants, which having ban to enter Russia (including providing assets for launching the business, and training).

In addition, UNODC, UNOCT and UNDP plan a scoping mission that would allow Tajikistan to participate in STRIVE-Asia project, which – if Tajikistan selected – will aim, preliminarily, at 1) supporting the National Action Plans on PVE; 2) building capacities of law enforcement and local communities on prevention (i.a. building linkages and trust between duty bearers and citizens), and 3) strengthening community resilience in addressing (socio-economic) root causes of violent extremism.

Non-UN actors are also implementing projects and initiatives aimed at prevention of violent extremism. For example, **OSCE** (in cooperation with UNESCO) in 2018 has conducted 18 trainings for teachers and parents in selected schools of Tajikistan on PVE in education system and identification of early signals of violent extremism among youth and parents' reaction. OSCE in 2018 and 2019 has also been working on the handbook on PVE in prisons as well as trained local psychologists on rehabilitation/reintegration in prisons. **Hedayah**, within its global EU-funded STRIVE programme, also supports Tajikistan in research, capacity building of state officials and media. **USAID** and the **EU** through Internews and Institute for War and Peace Reporting has been supporting initiatives that build capacity of journalists and media on communicating about violent extremism. Most of the abovementioned projects are relatively small (with budgets often not exceeding USD 200,000).

This project is complementary to on-going projects, by leveraging mandates of three Agencies in the same initiative to address multiple problems at the same time. It builds and deepens the experience of the regional project implemented by UNDP, as well as prior work of UNICEF and UN Women by focusing its attention on both pull and push factors, as well as introducing the interregional social cohesion perspective to implementation.

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

- a) A brief **description of the project content** – in a nutshell, what results is the project trying to achieve, and how does it aim to address the conflict analysis factors outlined in Section I (must be gender- and age- sensitive).

Outcome 1: Adolescents and young people, both men and women, are empowered to participate equally in political, social and economic life and are more resilient to radicalistic and violent narratives.

Output 1. Adolescents and young people have better competencies and skills that foster their opportunities in social and economic life.

The output will be aimed to build **skills and competencies** that allow people to be competitive and better placed in political and economic life, expand their livelihood options, and open new avenues **for employment, self-realization and participation**. This output addresses push factors related to the lack of perspectives of young people for self-fulfillment, inadequacy of the education and skills to the modern labour market requirements, and lack of skills that enable to identify extremism propaganda and counteract it. As a result of the output implementation, the young people will be equipped with critical competencies and relevant employable skills corresponding to market demands and thus will be able to diversify their livelihood options. The skill development approach will be based on the results of the sensemaking exercise to define the existing demand of the domestic labor market but also to assess potential for promoting new professional and soft skills, in the social, economic spheres and jobs that might be more attractive for the young people. Skills development will be promoted through the mix of proven and innovative solutions, including use of the modern technologies and tools.

This project is not a traditional job-generation project, where we create enterprises, give credits, give specific technical skills, due to timeline of the project, peacebuilding focus and resources (but also because there are other projects working in this area in Tajikistan). It is rather focused on building overall competencies which broaden life choices and confidence among young people, especially young girls and women leaders. These competencies can be used in various social contexts, and prepare young people for the future challenges, regardless which personal development path they chose – to be public servants, businesspersons, civil activists, artists or politicians. Competencies we aim to ‘open mind’ of young people, have active attitude, and above all to instill values of dialogue, tolerance and non-violence. The project will support families and communities to enhance their capacities for non-violent problem resolution, positive parenting, and community resilience to violent extremism narratives.

Yet, the project will partly focus on future employability of young people, and it is important that skills and competencies that are enhanced in this project correspond to the market demand and increase the chances of employability or entrepreneurship among targeted youth. For the project to be adequate it has to understand what are opportunities for young people in Tajikistan, and why we propose to focus on innovative, IT and other spheres, and not focusing on e.g. agriculture or craftsmanship. In other words, the experience shows, that young people are no longer interested in traditional carpentry or mechanic jobs, they want to be programmers, startupper, web designers, tourism operators, and this project will give them exposure and skills for the jobs of the future, the demand of the future, and not giving them skills that will simply reinforce their migration probability.

Considering the data in the analysis section, the project's strategy should focus on skills that potentially open opportunities for high-quality jobs in the innovative areas (production, IT, tourism and others), or have higher productivity. The project through its activities and events will promote professional networking and social capital of the young people and link employers and potential investors with young job-seekers (especially women) to expand their opportunities for economic empowerment, especially for vulnerable groups.

Activities:

1. **Generate evidence for analysis of data on perceptions, needs and priorities of young people and inform decision-makers.** A research will be implemented with engagement of the professional think tank or research institution, in the beginning of the project to create evidence on youth perceptions, needs and priorities centered on inclusion and exclusion, to inform other activities in the project, including future policy discussions with the government, civil society and academia on youth in Tajikistan. The methodology of research will consider perspectives of different youth groups and representation of the youth-led civil society organizations and community groups. The results of the research will be validated through the focus group discussions and triangulated with existing data and research findings at the domestic and global level. Young people will be at the focus of this research, and in addition to being respondents (informants), youth-led CSOs will be involved during validation exercise, as well as public awareness campaign and dissemination of research results. Government will be involved in the research from the onset to ensure that the findings are acknowledged and the project takes it as a basis for the interventions.

2. **Enhancing peacebuilding competencies among adolescents and youth.** The purpose of the activity is to build ten core peacebuilding competencies among youth (including most marginalized), that directly increase their resilience to violent narratives. These competencies include: critical thinking, decision-making, problem-solving and conflict resolution, leadership, communication, goal setting, empathy and respect, negotiation and other skills. UNICEF has a global toolkit on enhancing peacebuilding competencies, which was tested in Tajikistan. The project will expand the application of this Toolkit through series of trainings on peacebuilding competencies delivered through non-formal education platforms (centres for additional education, Youth Centres), and with engagement of proactive youth-led civil society organizations.

Moreover, competencies will be provided through another learning approach known as interactive Forum theaters authored by Augusto Boal. Forum theater will be delivered as an interactive competency-building methodology at youth centers in *jamoat* (municipality) and district levels, where young people gather for learning and leisure activities. Forum theater allows to reflect on attitude and response to a specific behavioral pattern (including violence, intolerance and others). To creating enabling environment for competency building among adolescents and youth, including most marginalized, Youth Centers of the Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs will be renovated.

3. **Promoting the role of women as contributors to peace, resilience, and well-being of the communities.** The purpose of activity is to strengthen young women's role and voice in advocating for non-violent culture and civic competencies in various secular and religious settings, as well as for preventing violent extremism in communities.

Two institutional arrangements will be used for this purpose:

- 1) On the one hand, the project will support Active Women Groups (AWG) through especially tailored training program "My safe and peaceful Community". The program includes regular awareness raising sessions to build knowledge on prevention of violent behavior and to enable them to carry out actions for building tolerance in their communities. AWGs will conduct local dialogues (round tables) with young people and decision makers from municipalities to address causes of violent extremism of young people and take action. Some of these actions will be funded by the seed funding for local initiatives that build resilience of young people, especially women and girls.

- 2) On the other hand, the project will carry out trainings for women religious leaders (*bibi-otuns* – respected women opinion-makers in Tajik communities) to equip them with skills for promoting non-violent culture and civic competencies in various secular and religious settings. The trained *bibi-otuns* will reach out to women and girls with age-appropriate and gender-sensitive messages on tolerance and PVE at community gatherings, thereby contributing to fostering personal and communities’ attitudes that strengthen resilience to violent narratives and social cohesion.
4. **Strengthening social entrepreneurship and innovative youth employment opportunities.** The underlying rationale for this activity is to reduce the impact of push factors for violent extremism by creating opportunities for economic self-realization and social impact by young people. The activity will be composed of three sets of sub-activities that are aimed at building skills of young people, including most marginalized, that are necessary for social entrepreneurship and innovative employment, and provision of opportunity for them to develop social enterprise, start-ups and local businesses.

Firstly, 21st century and entrepreneurship skills of adolescents and youth will be built through diverse capacity building modalities, including UPSHIFT social entrepreneurship skills bootcamp²⁷, master classes, entrepreneurship skills trainings and hackathons. All skill development initiatives will utilize modern IT technologies, digital apps and online platforms, which are attractive for the young people and can increase their interest in trainings. Youth Centers, Centers for Additional Education, Vocation Training Institutions and schools will be used as spaces for the above-mentioned activities. The project will also invest in capacities of these spaces in target areas to render innovative skill development services for youth.

Secondly, the graduates of skills-building initiative described above that will come up with entrepreneurial solutions, including to pertinent issues in their communities, will be supported with business incubation of specific ideas/solutions. This includes mentorship and orientation support for enhancing the social enterprise and start-up products. Business incubation activities will be carried out based on such existing platforms as Adolescent Innovation Labs, Business Constructor and State Business Incubators (established by the Government in provincial centers and Dushanbe) that have been developed and functioning in the country as well as by employing opportunities in private sector and business support institutions.

The most promising innovative business and social entrepreneurship projects will be supported with seed-funding and other business service support, including linking the potential young entrepreneurs with investors, private sector and venture funds in country and abroad, via different platforms, e.g. *StartUp Choikhona*.

The project will also support employment of young women through vocational training – the project will provide financial support of select women to take the vocational training. The women will be identified by the Active Women’s Groups as at-risk group. In addition to that, the staff of selected vocational schools with specific responsibilities for youth and adolescent issues will be equipped with relevant teaching materials, skills, and competencies (trainings) – on modern methodologies and teaching skills.

5. **Supporting parenthood models in the family and community that instills non-violent means of problem resolution and builds pro-peace skills in children and youth.** The project will activate Parent-Teacher Associations in schools, in targeted districts, the members of which (parents) often act also as gatekeepers for promoting positive parenting at community

²⁷ UPSHIFT is UNICEF best practice social innovation programme that is aimed at both providing skills and opportunity for youth-led social enterprise (see: <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/UPSHIFT>). The UPSHIFT social entrepreneurship curriculum is delivered in Innovation Labs established in 8 towns and districts within existing informal vocational training spaces such as Youth Centres and Centres for Additional Education in Tajikistan. Through this curriculum, adolescents and youth, including the most marginalized, will develop social entrepreneurship skills and have opportunity to create innovative projects and solutions to address challenges affecting themselves and their communities as well as start social enterprises, including through application of digital platforms. This will serve as a first step for successful transition of young people from school to work life

level, and are already existing associations in schools. Parent-Teacher Associations enable enhance the youth-focused activities of the project, by bringing parents into the initiative, and ensuring that parents have skills and competencies that are supportive to children, promoting positive models of engagement. The project will conduct trainings for parents to teach them how to establish bridges with their children, support them in their initiatives, talk about different risks in young people's life (especially the risk of violent extremism), prevent violent extremism through a series of capacity building events, linking them with psychologists and religious leaders. This activity will target to work with parents of the children and youth beneficiaries of the project. Parenting intervention will contribute to prevention by covering broader circle around children and youth up to community level.

The implementing Agencies will also carry out advocacy campaigns on youth and women in economic, social and economic life through developing and disseminating advocacy materials, including short videos, infographics and the articles to promote tolerance, social cohesion and non-violent conflict resolution.

Output 2. Adolescents and young people have more opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making and peacebuilding processes to strengthen non-violence values and action.

The output, on the one hand, aims to empower youth to identify their own priorities and generate solutions, feel the power of helping others and agency of changing the community around them. On the other hand, the output will capacitate the government staff to support youth development and participation with a view of safeguarding their rights as well as developing and implementing youth-friendly policies and programmes. In this way, the output will address pull factors that relate to the feeling of not being heard, lack of confidence, sense of purpose, justice and belonging. As the first project output supports young people as receivers of capacity building, this output will support young people as agents of change and promote their actions for the community good. The activities under both outputs will be closely interconnected with referral chain created to ensure that activities complement and leverage the effect by providing complex and integrated package of trainings, capacity building and advocacy for the same group of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

1. **Strengthening capacity of current and future duty-bearers.** The project will build capacities of government employees with a special focus on young professionals to work with youth and implement youth-focused policies. The activity will target government employees, including staff of committee on youth affairs, law enforcement bodies that deal with young people on daily basis, local authorities and other relevant duty bearers (on approaches of work with young people and youth-friendly policies and practices aimed at youth development as well as prevention of violence and violent extremism). The activity will support inter-districts exchange and study tours on broad participation of rural youth exercising their rights to participate and make voice in decision making process. Selection of the government professionals will be done in close coordination with the national and local departments of the Committee on Youth and Sports as well as regional and district authorities. The relevance criterion will be key in selection - people dealing directly with youth policies and young people.

In addition to the above, based on the National Action Plan on SCR 1325, young potential female leaders will be identified in consultation with communities, local authorities and AWGs as local candidates to the female cadre reserve of the CWFA RT (potential candidates for leadership posts at various level of the government). The successful candidates will go through leadership course provided by CWFA RT. The course curriculum will be revised to include modules on Peace, Security and PVE.

2. **Promoting youth participation in decision-making through youth involvement in local governance and community development jointly with local authorities.** Within the scope of this activity Youth-friendly local governance model will be established in several districts of Tajikistan, where young people take part in defining priorities in district development plans and implement joint initiatives with local governments. Young people will be engaged into district development planning through the youth council under local authorities (youth action group).

The project will also promote the involvement and integration of youth-led CSOs and groups into decision making process through the District Development Working Group. This activity will be implemented through support to local governments, youth CSO network, inter-regional dialogue led by youth CSOs and involving them into the District Development Working groups in target districts as well as building capacity of youth NGOs on leadership, local development processes and PVE.

3. **Promoting joint actions of young people within the spirit of volunteerism.** This activity is based on a premise that sustainable and peaceful development to significant extent depend on active local volunteer movement. This activity will, thus, support volunteerism, through promotion of volunteer initiatives, among youth people for community engagement and promotion of non-violence values in community development and social cohesion. Values of diversity, human rights, rule of law and good governance will be mainstreamed as reference points guiding youth actions and decisions. In order to carry out volunteer initiatives, the current NAVT (National Association of Volunteers of Tajikistan) volunteers are expected to go through competency-building trainings planned within the scope of the project. The volunteer initiatives will be supported with small funds for community-based social projects.
4. **Building adolescent and youth wellbeing and resilience through the peer-to-peer support systems in formal and non-formal education as well as rehabilitation of adolescence in conflict and contact with the law.** This activity will include strengthening the peer-to-peer mechanism - Student Councils – in schools as platforms for advocating and building tolerance and pro-peace values in schools and broader communities. Student Councils contribute both to active youth participation in school life, as well as they are the mechanism that empower school children to be competent advocates on issues of their concern, including but not limited to violence, health and other in school and beyond. Student Councils will also serve as a link between students and mental health services provision for adolescents and youth (.e.g by facilitating the referral of adolescents to school psychologists). The strengthening of Student Councils will be carried out through trainings (teaching them on peer-to-peer support), and supporting initiatives by school students with guidance and mentorship.

Another focus of the activity will be supporting rehabilitation services for adolescents coming into conflict and contact with the law, who represent at-risk group of adolescents that are highly susceptible to radical narratives. Adolescents that came into conflict with the law will be enrolled (with the support of the project) in rehabilitation programme within Centers for Additional Education, as an alternative to sending these adolescents to closed institutions (juvenile colony and special school). This rehabilitation and reintegration programme will support prevention of recidivism or joining violent groups by these adolescents.

The well-being of young people will be also addressed through another mechanism, involving trained sports coaches (of Sport Federations) and volunteers. The project will enhance capacities of sport coaches to work with young people on non-violent values and attitudes, as well as healthy lifestyle, and some essential life skills and orientations. Coaches then will conduct counselling sessions and engage in activities with young people by undertaking advocacy actions, and organizing workshops with peers.

- b) **Project result framework**, outlining all project results, outputs, activities with indicators of progress, baselines and targets (must be gender- and age- sensitive). Use **Annex B**; no need to provide additional narrative here.
- c) Provide a **project-level ‘theory of change’**.

IF young people are afforded the necessary space and endowed with relevant capacities and expertise to identify and find solutions to their own problems, identity issues and multiple grievances such as injustice, exclusion and rejection;

IF policy makers at the local and national level are sensitized on the needs and priorities of young people, particularly on the socio-economic and decision-making front, and engage with young people on these issues;

IF the dynamics of gender-based inequality among young women and men are addressed, both at the socio-economic and political levels, and both young women and men have more equitable access to economic resources, decision-making processes and social services;

THEN youth will have greater confidence in themselves and in local and national governance and justice systems and believe in possibility of personal growth (vertical mobility), and they will be endowed with the necessary economic and political skills and capacities to be equal contributors in society;

AND THEN young people will be more resilient to violent extremism narratives that play on multiple grievances such as injustice, exclusion and rejection, hopelessness, and have the capacity to be change agents at the forefront of efforts to prevent violent extremism;

BECAUSE the motivations of young people to join violent extremist organizations, such as perceptions of injustice, low prospects for earning income and economic empowerment, desires for a social community and belonging, anxiety and lack of sense of purpose will be mitigated; and avenues for self-realization and self-esteem will be open for young people reducing the proclivity to engage into violent extremism.

- d) **Project implementation strategy** – explain **how** the project will undertake the activities to ensure most effective and efficient achievement of results, including justification for geographic zones, criteria for beneficiary selection, timing among various activities, coherence between results and any other information on implementation approach (must be gender- and age-sensitive). No need to repeat all outputs and activities from the Result Framework.

The project will be working at **three levels** by raising awareness among and building capacities of **individuals, communities and institutional level**) to foster **behavior, attitudes, capacities and actions that prevent violent** extremism. The project will address both **push and pull factors** – on the one hand by strengthening young people's socio-economic and political options to enable pro-peace choices (Output 1), and on the other by opening avenues of self-realization and enhancing dialogue and communication among] young people, as well as between young people and duty bearers, will enhance identity and “radiate” the pro-peace values among communities (Output 2). Equipping with adequate skillset of duty bearers for interaction with young people will build trust between government and young people.

The key cross-cutting approach (activities) in both project outputs will be fostering interregional cohesion, by bringing young people from different regions (administrative provinces of Tajikistan, called ‘viloyat’) for joint actions and training. This will strengthen peace dividends of the project by breaking stereotypes between young people from different regions, enhancing dialogue and communication among them, enable them to collectively identify their needs and priorities, and strengthening capacities of Tajik youth, including young women and girls, to work in relatively diverse environment.

The project will assess its results by measuring changes in confidence in themselves, trust towards the authorities. and positive changes in behavior and attitudes towards young people from other regions and against violent solutions of conflicts among project beneficiaries.

The project will also strongly mainstream both gender sensitivity and conflict sensitivity in the programming. The project will adopt the ‘do-no-harm’ principle ensuring that project beneficiaries are not under the risk for participating in the activities (and are not stigmatized).

Gender issues and their intersection with other identity markers such as age, geographic location and ethnicity will be important in planning actions and activities. In addition to empowering girls and boys, who are final beneficiaries, the component will build awareness among teachers, parents, transform community perceptions about modern gender roles and obtain the institutional endorsement that ensures long term sustainability.

At the community and government level the project will focus at building the capacity of government staff, including staff of committee on youth affairs, law enforcement bodies that deal with young people on daily basis, local authorities staff and other relevant duty bearers. This will contribute to creating of capacity for the government staff on working with young people, enhance the enabling environment and support building trust between the government and young people.

Target groups

The project will target the adolescent boys and girls, men and women (including young mothers) in the age between 10 and 30 years old²⁸ with targeted approach and solutions tailored to specific needs of age, gender, and rural/urban groups of youth – because this group is especially vulnerable to violent extremism narrative, and prevention efforts may bring highest peacebuilding (social cohesion) dividends.

The project aims to specifically focus on the following categories of vulnerable adolescents and young people:

1. Adolescents and youth from economically disadvantaged rural areas and from regions with limited in-country mobility (in which exchange between regions is blocked/limited – see below in respective section on proposed geographical zones).
2. Adolescent and youth that is not in education, employment and training (including e.g. early married women)
3. Adolescent and youth (especially young girls and women) from families where one or more breadwinners are in labour migration abroad or ‘incomplete’ families (e.g. women-headed, single parent families)
4. Adolescents in conflict with the law (adolescents and young people between 10 and 18 years old that have committed a juvenile delinquency and therefore need a special support and rehabilitation for preventive purposes; this group of adolescents are also known as juveniles in a context of juvenile justice)
5. Adolescents and young people with disabilities

As mentioned above, a ‘do-no-harm’ approach will be applied in beneficiary targeting. Mitigation of risks starts from the communication – the project title does not refer to violent extremism, and the messaging to local authorities and partners will emphasize the project’s focus on strengthening young people’s confidence and enhancing their life opportunities and participation (without direct reference to PVE).

Additional measures to ensure the implementation of the ‘do-no-harm’ principle will be taken at different stages of project implementation:

- Conflict analysis: During the inception phase, the theories and thinking on PVE, conflict and peacebuilding will be made clear for participants and beneficiaries to understand the assumptions that will inform the activities and their participation.
- Do no harm: The project will aim to ensure that different segments of the population take part in and benefit from project activities and risks of project beneficiaries being exposed to increased scrutiny by authorities or become the source of grievances or retaliation by the wider

²⁸ Youth is defined as 18-30 years old according to the law of Tajikistan. However, General Comment # 20 of the Committee on Child Rights adopted in February 2017 confirmed that young people have to be supported at an early stage of their development, which is a period of adolescence (10-19). Adolescent is a period when children/early youth face multiple challenges related to their transition to adulthood, while getting acquainted with a new worldview and reality of adult life. It is highly recommended that this transition period should become one the main period of youth empowerment, as supporting young people after the age of 20 might not produce the same results.

communities are mitigated. The project staff will be acquainted with the do-no-harm principles. The beneficiary selection, to be determined during the inception phase, will be designed in a way to mitigate potential harm to project participants and beneficiaries, in close consultation with PBSO. During the inception phase, there will also be additional thinking on potential sources of tension and risks that might negatively affect beneficiaries, with additional mitigation measures proposed as needed.

- Implementation: As the project is being implemented, the potential and actual impacts – intended or unintended – of project activities on peacebuilding dynamics will be continuously monitored and fine-tuned throughout the programming cycle.

The project will not specifically target or select groups that might be under risk of insecurity (due to surveillance etc.) – e.g. children in families of former terrorist fighters, or children of people convicted of extremism in Tajikistan. The project will focus on the pool of young people not having life opportunities. These children may be found among beneficiaries among the general pool of young people.

Beneficiaries will be selected only in areas of geographical focus of the project – all selection procedures and criteria presented below are applied to project target areas only.

The methodology of beneficiaries' selection will depend on the type of intervention and the procedure and additional criteria are presented below.

The selection of adolescents and youth for the peacebuilding competencies programme will be carried out through an open call. Information about possibility of applying will be disseminated in schools and out-of-school facilities (youth centres, centres for additional education, and cultural centres), as well as community authorities. Based on received applications, UN Agencies will use the vulnerability criteria presented above, and select young people based on profiling of young people. It is important to underline, that UN Agencies will encourage schools to identify adolescents and young people that have so called 'behavioral challenges' at school, to make sure that no one is left behind.

For the entrepreneurship programme, a similar approach will be used, but before the call for application, UN Agencies will carry out outreach workshops (schools and out-of-school, as well as communities, universities) to explain the goals of the entrepreneurship programme, commitments required from participants and gains they will receive. These outreach programmes are conducted by the staff of the youth centre, coupled with an NGO (as youth centre staff sometimes lack sufficient capacity), and will introduce programme to young people that are also out of school through engaging with local (community) authorities. Young people will learn how to apply to UPSHIFT, and fill in the documents. Selection will be carried out on the basis of the definition of the problem they would like to solve through a social entrepreneurship solution, as well as criteria presented above.

After the UPSHIFT training course, based on their performance young people will apply again as a group for social entrepreneurship project implementation, or individually for advancing their business idea. The application includes e.g. definition of the problem they want to address through social entrepreneurship solution. Performing participants of the training will be invited to the (business) acceleration programme. After the acceleration (mentorship etc.) programme, those young people who were able to complete their project and will pitch their business ideas for Startup Choikhona and other platforms, and some most innovative ideas will receive support from this project.

The selection of duty bearers the selection will be carried out in consultations with the relevant state institutions – through the entry point the local committees of youth and sports, based on the relevance of their TORs to the programme (officials will have to have responsibilities related to the engagement and working with youth).

Selection of young women to the training programmes and vocational education will be carried out through (in cooperation with) the existing network of Active Women Groups (AWGs), by using the vulnerability criteria presented above focusing on at-risk groups of women (the call for interest will be coordinated by AWGs in cooperation with local women committees to make sure information reaches to all potential young women). After the initial training, selection of women for seed funding will be based on performance and evaluation of the idea (of the community project). The religious leaders

(bibli-otuns) will be selected based on geographical presence with consultations with local authorities/community leaders (who are able to identify bibli-otuns); UN Agencies will also use the networks used in previous projects.

For supporting parenthood models – Agencies will activate the parents-teachers associations (existing but often not actively operating parents groups). The selection of PTAs is based on geographical area, and the selection will be conducted in cooperation with local educational authorities, and schools in geographically vulnerable areas will be selected.

For the activities related to enhancing young people’s participation in decision making – the selection of young people will be carried out through the open calls, and criteria presented above will be applied. Agencies will cooperate with youth committees, and National Association of Volunteers of Tajikistan to ensure that the call for interest reaches diverse groups of young people, and some young people are nudged to participate, especially those who have already previous experience of participation in community initiatives.

Selection for the volunteerism activity – a group of volunteers has already been set up under the Committee of Youth in each district of Tajikistan. This group, however is often dormant, or have very low capacity. The project will target primarily this group to build up their capacities, and in addition will identify most vulnerable of them.

Adolescents in conflict with the law will be identified in cooperation with the social care services and centres for additional education (juvenile support service), as well as Child Rights Units – on the basis of existing databases of these services, and in consultations with the specialists based on their profiling.²⁹

Innovative and catalytic aspects of the project

The project is innovative, as it introduces a new type of programming around the prevention of violent extremism. First, the project relies on multi-dimensional and comprehensive responses that focuses on addressing root causes, with a long-term look, as opposed to short-term and securitized approaches. The project is innovative by linking the PVE work with the focus on interregional social cohesion, and engaging at different levels, proposing young people different platforms of engagement that are age-specific. The project is synergetic to strategic priorities and programs implemented by participating UN agencies in Tajikistan, and builds upon the lessons, results, networks and partnerships of ongoing UN and non-UN activities in the relevant spheres. At the same time, integrated implementation of proposed project activities by all three agencies will ensure stronger coordination of efforts across the whole UN country programming and eliminate overlaps with ongoing projects and programs. E.g. the proposed project will replicate successful practices, such as engagement of youth activist groups at the local level, and consider the lessons accumulated through implementation of UNDP regional project on preventing violent extremism funded by the Government of Japan.

Secondly, the project does not see young people as trouble makers or victims, but aims to build trust in them and empower them. The project is innovative by moving away from the securitized approaches that are focusing on monitoring of risks (e.g. projects on identifying signals of violent extremism among young people by parents and teachers) or supporting community policing. Several projects and some government actions were focusing on campaigns about the risks of violent extremism among different groups. This project, instead, addresses the roots causes of the violent extremism phenomenon, and proposes multi-dimensional and long-term solutions that contribute to the mitigation of the violent extremism risk. Furthermore, the project puts young people in the centre of its activities, not only as passive beneficiaries but also as implementers. The entire theory of the project is built on youth and gender empowerment. Although some projects are doing it, still the engagement of young people in

²⁹ A Child Rights Unit (Committee) exists in every district, and in case there is a child, which carried minor delinquency (but does not qualify to be sent to special correctional institution), the child is sent to the juvenila support centre (in the centre for additional education) to receive additional support and care.

designing activities for them, and empowering them to make decisions about the course of project itself and the direction of community actions remains combined with peer-to-peer support and actions will make the

Third, the project has a strong focus on strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment through introducing new approaches and perspectives, which has been missing from these type of programmes in the country. In this sense, the project aims to catalyze further funding and interest to this type of programming that focuses on alleviating exclusionary dynamics and preventing multi-dimensional risk. The project is catalytic by supporting the network of youth-focused NGOs in Tajikistan, and bringing various actors at play to empower young people. The catalytic effect is achieved by unblocking resources and mechanisms at district levels that allow young people to extend their life opportunities. The project will build capacities of local authorities and CSOs to implement PVE projects through engagement of youth in a systematic manner and through different channels. At the same time, PVE programming is a relatively new programming area, and project will generate lessons learnt and modalities of involvement that will make the case for other international actors to design adequate and relevant programmes for prevention of violent extremism in the country.

Geographical focus

Considering the importance of delivering tangible results, as well as considering presence of other projects in the country (e.g UNDP's or IOM's projects on PVE), the UN team in Tajikistan proposes to limit interventions to 3 regions of Tajikistan, and total 5 districts in these regions, as follows:

- Khatlon oblast: Kulob, Baljuvon
- Sughd oblast: Isfara
- GBAO: Khorog
- DRS: Shahrinav

Partners in Dushanbe city will be a source for expertise, awareness raising and exchange of experience initiatives. The proposed geographical focus meets key goals of PVE and interregional social cohesion, since involves communities with presence of different ethnic groups.

The regions where the project will be implemented, as well as the lower-tier administrative units within each region were selected based on the following criteria:

- Risk of violent extremism (measured through a number of people joining extremist organizations as well as the priority districts list shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 2019, and public information by the country's law enforcement)
- Vulnerability to poverty (Extreme poverty, data by State Committee for Statistics, UN and the WB analytical documents)
- Outward migration dynamics (as a proxy indicator of situation when young people cannot find employment and participate in the community).
- Priority geographical areas identified during consultations with the Government of Tajikistan

Risk of VE

According to the report of the State Security Service³⁰, the biggest number of recruits to ISIS came from the following areas:

- City of Dushanbe – 239 people
- Bokhtar area of Khatlon region – 253 people, especially from Kushoniyon (Bokhtar) - 67, Kubodiyon – 74, Shahritus – 76, Balkhi district – 36
- Kulyab area of Khatlon region – 136 people, including Kulyab – 99, Farkhor district - 37; Sughd oblast – 264 people, including Isfara – 111, Istaravshan – 84, Buston – 12, Spitamen – 35, Kanibadam – 22.
- GBAO – Vanj district - 37

³⁰ <http://akhbor-rus.com/-p1350-122.htm>

- DRS - 328 people, including city of Vahdat, Tursunzoda – 39, Rudaki – 107, Shahrinav – 54.

The review of recruitment by independent experts confirmed these numbers showing that majority of recruited people came from: Isfara, Istarvshan and Spitamen in Sughd region, Kulyab and Farkhor in Khatlon oblast, Vanj district of GBAO, and Rudaki district in DRS, as well as the capital – Dushanbe.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its letter to UNDP (within the regional UNDP-led project) has also identified a list of priority districts, and they are presented in the table below.

Vulnerability due to poverty

The geographic distribution of the poor in Tajikistan remains highly uneven. According to the official poverty estimates for 2015, Dushanbe has the lowest poverty rate in Tajikistan (20 percent) followed by Sughd (22 percent) while Khatlon (36 percent), DRS (37 percent) and GBAO (39 percent) can be deemed far poorer regions. Poverty and extreme poverty rates are much higher among rural (35 percent poor and 20 percent extremely poor) than urban populations (23 percent poor and 11 percent extremely poor). In addition the poverty reduction rate since 2012 has been slower in rural areas than in urban areas. Overall about 76 percent of Tajikistan's poor population lives in rural settlements.

It is important to underline that there are intra regional fluctuations in poverty rates too. Based on information from the 2010 census and the Tajikistan Living Standard Survey (TLSS) 2009 (rather than the HBS), poverty levels vary from 13 percent in Tursunzoda (DRS) to 76 percent in Roshtqala (GBAO). Some districts are also densely populated and host large numbers of poor people. These include the capital Dushanbe, as well as Bokhtar, Kulyab and Yovon districts of Khatlon; Rudaki and Hisor districts of DRS; and Bobojon Ghafurov, Isfara and Istaravshan districts of Sughd. Geographically remote, sparsely populated, mountainous areas have far higher average poverty rates than more densely populated centres and lowlands districts, but host fewer poor people (in absolute numbers). This is particularly the case for some of the most mountainous sparsely populated districts in GBAO and to a lesser extent in DRS and Sughd.

The districts with by far the lowest rate of multi-dimensional poverty were found in Sughd and include Khujand (13 percent) and Buston (15 percent). Yet, in Kuhistoni Mastchoh, which also lies in Sughd, almost the entire population (93 percent) is considered to be multi-dimensionally poor. In DRS, 11 of the region's 13 districts showed multi-dimensional poverty rates of over 70 percent with five of them above 80 percent (Varzob, Lakhsh, Sangvor, Nurobod, Tojikobod). In GBAO, six out of eight districts have multi-dimensional poverty rates above the national average of 64 percent. In Khatlon, 21 out of 25 districts revealed multi-dimensional poverty rates above the national prevalence.

Outward migration

From the rural districts of the Republic of Tajikistan there are districts, in which majority of male population migrates for work. These are, in Sughd oblast: Isfara, Spitamen, Kanibadam, Asht, Ayni, Panjakent, and Shahrستان districts; in Khatlon oblast: Bokhtar (Kulob), Vakhsh and Farkhor districts. In DRS – Leninskiy, Kofarnikhon and Varzob districts; GBAO is the region with the highest percentage of migration³¹, different sources mention Khorog, Ishkashim and Vanj as regions vulnerable to migration.

Consultations with the government

The Government of Tajikistan (State Committee on Youth and Sports Affairs) during consultations in September 2019, added the following criteria to the geographical scoping selection:

- Relative lower involvement of international development partners in the area (remote areas receiving less attention)
- Priority areas of the Government (within overall development policy, with specific focus on sensitive areas)
- Gaps in capacities programmes implemented by the Government in districts

³¹ It is estimated that 1/3 of all employment age people of GBAO are in migration:
<https://www.news.tj/ru/node/235838>

Based on these areas, the Government of Tajikistan proposed the following districts:

- DRP region: Shahrinav
- Khatlon region: Baljuvon
- GBAO: Khorog

The government reconfirmed data preliminary analysis above, and supported the activities in Kulyab (Khatlon region) and Isfara (Sughd region) districts.

1. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- a) **Recipient organizations and implementing partners** – list 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 know-how and existing capacity.

UNDP will serve as the Convening Agency for the Project. With global mandate and key expertise in governance, poverty reduction and disaster risk management, UNDP country team in Tajikistan has a set of comparative advantages, which allows for effective implementation of the programme interventions both at the national and subnational levels:

- b) UNDP Tajikistan covers all intervention levels – at macro, meso and micro levels;
- c) UNDP is a trusted partner for public authorities, civil society and donors in providing development policy support and advice, as well as cost effective implementation services to achieve visible results in a transparent, accountable and timely manner;
- d) Knowledge, Advisory and Advocacy Services relate to UNDP's substantive contribution to the development dialogue at large and UNDP's conceptual and intellectual leadership in particular areas; and
- e) With its own resources, UNDP supports innovative pilot interventions to test, observe and - when results are positive – to expand such interventions in other regions of the country.

UNDP's Integrated development approach will be applied to offer the target groups (i.e. urban and rural youth in risk) comprehensive skills and knowledge development options, innovation support, supporting youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups that will prevent them from violence extremism issues. The aim of proposed interventions is expected to demonstrate and promote efficient integrated youth innovation development solutions to improve wellbeing and economic opportunities for young people through strengthened business skills and innovation education, better access to skills and finance. A combination of 'soft' and 'hard' interventions focusing on economic empowerment of rural young people, including girls, addressing their legal concerns and creating better conditions in provision of innovative skills and knowledge, and other services is proposed to address the needs of the target beneficiaries.

Anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committed to the principles of universality, equality and leaving no one behind, the UNDP vision for the period of 2018-2021 is to help countries achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development and building resilience to crises and shocks. Throughout its work UNDP is focusing on strengthening inclusive and accountable governance systems and processes as crucial to sustainable development and human security.³² UNDP is packaging its solutions on supporting diverse pathways towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, building on the UNDP comparative advantage and long track record in governance. Within

³² As set out in General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012 on follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

the proposed project UNDP will seek to build inclusive, effective and accountable institutions and mechanisms for advancing social cohesion. This requires ensuring the inclusion of women, youth, people with disabilities and other traditionally marginalized groups, working in partnership with agencies such as UNICEF, UN-Women and others. Considering development challenges faced by the target groups, UNDP is utilizing the mix of solutions beyond addressing poverty thresholds, in order to assist vulnerable groups and communities with transitions and structural shifts including economic diversification, redressing widening inequalities including gender inequalities, technology and skills alignment, etc.

UNICEF has a mandate to safeguard the rights of all children, everywhere. That mandate is rooted in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which sets out universal and indivisible rights that apply to every child, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Across 190 countries and territories, UNICEF works to help children survive, thrive and fulfill their potential, from early childhood through adolescence, it supports child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality education and skill building, HIV prevention, and the protection of children and adolescents from violence and exploitation.

In Tajikistan, UNICEF has been working since 1993 to help the Government fulfill its obligation to empower children to fully claim and enjoy their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The overall aim of the current country programme of UNICEF Tajikistan (2016-2020) is to accelerate progress towards the realization of the rights of all children, with special attention given to closing equity gaps at different stages of the life, but capturing early development, education, child protection and adolescents empowerment. Amongst others the country program aims to unlock the potential of adolescents, by empowering them to participate fully in all aspects of life, making them resilience to violence and active agents of social cohesion in their communities. It will involve adolescents in their becoming change makers, promoting an inclusive, tolerant and peaceful society, and will promote the right to a 'second chance' for children in the second decade of their lives.

UN WOMEN, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, the UN Women leads and coordinates UN system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action globally. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors, including implementation of the UN SCR 1325 Resolution.

UN Women accords a high priority to elimination of violence against women with focus on signing the draft bill on domestic violence, and ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. UN Women in Tajikistan also works on secular-religious dialogue, women's access to justice, and is involved in numerous inter-agency projects through UN Women-led Gender Thematic Working Group.

UN Women increasingly works to enhance the role women play in prevention and response efforts including their role in promoting social cohesion at the community level. It is critical that prevention and response efforts prioritize women's rights, empowerment, participation and leadership— both at the community level as well as in national decision-making. UN Women supports the State agencies in implementation of the National Strategy on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2016 – 2020, where the proposed solutions include strengthening the state gender policy, promotion of gender equality in public and private life, awareness raising and psycho-social support, and involvement of women in all aspects of policy formulation that concern them.

- f) **Project management and coordination** – present the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex C**.

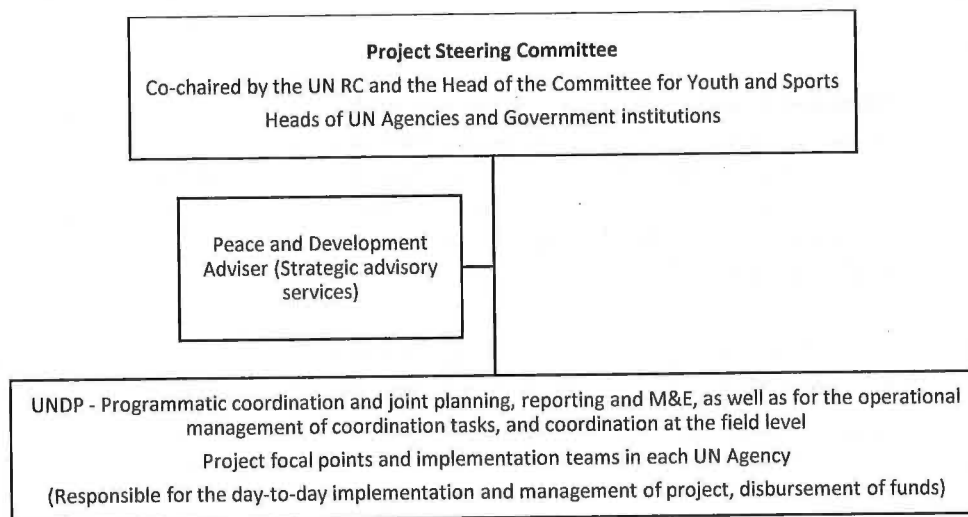
UNDP will perform the role of the Convening Agency in this project and will be responsible for operational management of coordination efforts of participating UN Agencies, and the project envisages USD 100,000 to cover coordination (shared) expenses disbursed to UNDP. The Convening Agency in partnership with other RUNOs will be responsible and accountable to the Project Steering Committee for delivery and results of the Joint Project.

UNDP will be responsible for the programmatic coordination of UN Agencies, and support RUNOs in joint planning (among others, development of the joint Workplan), coordination with national authorities, facilitating the Steering Committee meetings, joint reporting, as well lessons learnt and evaluation. PDA will have strategic coordination role and advise UN Agencies on conflict sensitive programming, and facilitate the cohesive and coordinated approach to implementation of participating UN Agencies.

Each UN Agency has programmatic and financial responsibility for the funds disbursed to it, and will designate a focal point to the joint team to ensure collaboration. Each Agency will be responsible for the delivery of respective results under the project's Workplan. UNDP will ensure the coordination of field activities in Tajikistan provinces.

The Project Steering Committee will provide strategic direction and oversight over the project and will have decision-making authority. The Steering Committee gives guidance to the Project Coordination Team, led by the Peace and Development Adviser, who will be responsible for ensuring coordination of the project implementation at the national level. The Steering Committee reviews and endorses the annual work plans, reviews implementation progress. The Board approves any substantial changes in the budgets or activities.

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan and the Head of the Committee for Youth and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as senior beneficiary of the Project. The Steering Committee is comprised of Heads of RUNOs (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women) or their designated representatives, as well as representatives of Government institutions, including, but not limited to, the State Committee of Women and Family Affairs, Office of the General Prosecutor. The Steering Committee will meet within first 3 months of the Project inception to adopt the Project's Work Plan, and will meet to review the project results.



The project will have an inception phase of up to 3 months, during which the project will undertake a validation exercise to reconfirm the geographical focus of the project, design the Workplan, and other tools (e.g. communication plan, gender mainstreaming plan), meet with new project working on PVE and peacebuilding in the country, to ensure that project's focus remains strategic. The baselines will be reviewed and updated after the finalization of the research within Activity 1.1.1. (which serves as a baseline for the project). Agencies will review indicators after the end of the inception phase.

- g) **Risk management** – assess the level of risk for project success (low, medium and high) and provide a list of major project specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include any Do No Harm issues and project mitigation.

Risks to the achievement of PBF outcomes	Likelihood of occurrence (high, medium, low)	Severity of risk impact (high, medium, low)	Mitigating Strategy (and Person/Unit responsible)
Change of state policies related to the PVE, especially in the view of upcoming elections 2020 or increasing terrorist threat in the country	Low	Low	Regular communication with national partners, monitoring of the situation and flexible adjustment of project activities to the situation. PDA to monitor the situation.
Deterioration of the security situation, including in provinces of Tajikistan and border areas	Low	Medium	Monitoring of the situation, review of the implementation timeline, applying security measures for UN staff and partners.
Distrust to local authorities among young people, and unwillingness of youth to participate in activities that are associated with the prevention of violent extremism	Medium	Low	Establishing project communication principles that avoid the language that is explicitly refers to the PVE. Creating spaces (communication platforms) where young people can cooperate with authorities and their voice can be heard (e.g. District Development Groups).
Low capacity of local partners to implement and support project activities	Medium	Medium	Supporting local partners in planning, implementation, on-job support on modern methods to work with youth.

- h) **Monitoring and evaluation** – What will be 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 break-down of M&E budget that the project is putting aside, including for collection of baseline and end line data for indicators and independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. Ensure at least 5-7% of the project budget is set aside for M&E activities.

The project will be monitored through assessing the progress against indicators in the Results and Resources Framework. The project monitoring will use gender-disaggregated data.

It is envisaged that the project will have an inception phase will aim at better planning and developing tools for implementation (M&E plan, Communication plan etc.). The project will establish the project's joint Work Plan, which will allow for the monitoring of progress against a planned timeline. For Monitoring and Evaluation of project activities, the project team members from all participating agencies will directly and regularly monitor the day-to-day project activities in the field, as well as assess the project's efficiency, progress and effectiveness. The monitoring will be carried out by project officers of participating UN Agencies, with application of various tools, including project documentation analysis, on-site monitoring, questionnaires and interviews with project beneficiaries before and after events, collection of stories. M&E carried out by Agencies is participatory, and involve beneficiaries evaluate the results of the programmes and trainings (through post-training questionnaires, discussions etc.). Agencies also have their specific methodologies to measure the

impact, e.g. UNICEF has a specific methodology to measure the improvement of peacebuilding competencies among beneficiaries. Results of the monitoring will be reported to PBF through semi-annual and annual reports.

Agencies will work closely to ensure joint coordination and support at the implementation stage (both field and CO levels). The project objectives, indicators and targets will serve as reference for the project's monitoring and evaluation. The project team will collect and report all project and programme data in a gender-disaggregated format.

Monitoring is designed to ensure that the project reaches appropriate beneficiaries, men and women, with interventions that are conflict-sensitive (based on regular conflict analysis).

Results-oriented monitoring and evaluation will be conducted during the project implementation, with an emphasis on tangible improvements in beneficiaries' lives. The project monitoring will largely focus on project outputs, to ensure that project implementation is on track and is reaching the intended beneficiaries. The project *evaluation* will focus on assessing the project relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, focusing on higher-level peacebuilding impacts. The project also plans to have the endline survey among beneficiaries, results of which will be compared with the baseline study (which covers the whole country), which will be serving as a reference/control group to measure project results/impacts.

RUNOs will regularly undertake 'lessons learned' sessions with partners, authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. through organizing monitoring visits of government partners to project sites and meeting with project beneficiaries) to enhance implementation and assess achievements (and make experiences from the cross-border PBF IRF project available to other countries and PBSO so that similar projects can built on lessons learned and best practices).

The external evaluation in the end of the project will be carried over by an independent expert, in line with UN Evaluation Group standards. The evaluation will assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the intervention. USD 20,000 is dedicated to this evaluation (and is part of the coordination budget of UNDP). Total M&E budget of this project is 5%.

- i) **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 to try to ensure this support from the start.

- What is the exit strategy for PBF support, including any provisions for sustainability or a clear strategy on seeking support from other sources?

The project's approach towards sustainability is focused on ensuring national and community ownership, involving stakeholders at all levels through enhanced dialogues. The sustainability of the project will depend on stability both in the sense of security and political, as well as continued commitment of all stakeholders.

The project's objectives are based on national priorities and a series of national legislative and strategic documents. Such approach ensures inherent ownership over the project's interventions and targets the core needs of the authorities.

UNDP will capture lessons and best practices of this project and ensure due dissemination among the relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure effective transfer of knowledge and experience. Also, the project will actively look for synergies with the past and ongoing projects of UNDP in Tajikistan and other UN and development organizations.

Sustainability of the project interventions will be provided through institutionalization of the interventions within the existing system of education and youth affairs and system strengthening work that UNICEF is carrying out at the moment in terms of skills and competency building, peer-to-peer

support, Student Council strengthening, violence prevention (VAC) and justice for children. The PBF funds will be in most of the cases used for catalytic purposes and UNICEF leverage its strong collaboration with the Government, its expertise in the fields of skills, competencies, youth participation and violence prevention and its regular resources for establishing sustainability of the interventions.

UN Women is world-known leader on creation teams of champions and supporters to change the perception and vision of the role and rights of women and girls on sustainable basis. UN Women will use a proven approach when non-formal education goes beyond in-class training and provides opportunities to utilize knowledge through interaction with the wider community, thus equipping young women with life skills and key competencies. Encouraging young women and men to claim their rights to lead and participate in community development will be the key strategy to sustain reducing vulnerability to violent ideology.

2. Project budget

Please provide a brief justification for the proposed budget, 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 funds for independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit.

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **Annex D**.

Annex A.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 close 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 costs 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 (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent's website (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Annex A.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 (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent website (<http://www.mptf.undp.org>)

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations 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 project³³
- 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.

³³ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

Annex B: Project Results Framework

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	indicator milestones
<p>a# Outcome 1: Adolescents and young people, both men and women, are empowered to participate equally in political, social and economic life and are more resilient to radicalistic and violent narratives.</p>	<p>Output 1.1. Adolescents and young people have better competencies and skills that foster their opportunities in social and economic life.</p> <p>List of activities</p> <p>1.1.1. Generate evidence for analysis of data on perceptions, needs and priorities of young people and inform decision-makers.</p> <p>1.1.2. Enhancing peacebuilding competencies among adolescents and youth.</p>	<p>1 a Proportion of adolescent and young girls and boys who consider that they participate in decision-making on issues of concern to them and contribute to the development of their communities (including social cohesion) in targeted districts. Baseline: tbd Target: increase by 10% compared with the baseline</p> <p>1 b Proportion of adolescents girls and boys who believe that non-violent means are the best approach to address differences and conflicts in targeted areas. Baseline: tbd Target: increase by 10% compared with the baseline</p> <p>1 c Proportion of young men and women, who believe they have good access to economic opportunities and social services in targeted areas. Baseline: tbd Target: increase by 15% compared with the baseline</p> <p>1.1.1. # of research papers (reports) prepared that analyse needs, priorities and perceptions of youth, and disseminated to policy makers at the national and local level Baseline: 0 Target: 1 (UNDP)</p> <p>1.1.2. Number of adolescent girls and boys, young men and women and young girls and boys, including from at risk groups, who have acquired peacebuilding competencies, skills for personal empowerment, social entrepreneurship and employability (professional skills) in targeted areas</p>	<p>Baseline (research in Activity 1.1.1 which will serve as reference data) and endline surveys (survey among beneficiaries to catch the change).</p> <p>Baseline and endline research</p> <p>Baseline and endline research</p> <p>Report on perceptions, needs and priorities of young people</p> <p>Meetings' materials with national and local government</p> <p>Pre-post questionnaire; Project progress report.</p>	

	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: Number – 2500 (UNICEF)</p> <p>1.1.3. # of young people engaged into discussions and solutions finding on peacebuilding issues theater-forums</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 400 (UN Women) (50% of girls)</p>	<p>Project data (photos, reports by implementing organizations, lists of participation etc.)</p>	
<p>1.1.3. Promoting the role of women as contributors to peace, resilience, and well-being of the communities.</p>	<p>1.1.4. # of young women built their capacities through My safe and peaceful community programme through outreach of AWGs work and local dialogue</p> <p>Target: 2500 (UN Women) (100% young women)</p>	<p>Project documentation (photos, reports of implementing organizations)</p>	
	<p>1.1.5. # of trained biototus supported and reached out to # of young women with messages on non-violent culture and civic competencies</p> <p>Target: 48 trained biototus reached out to 2000 (100% of women)</p>	<p>Project documentation</p>	
<p>1.1.4. Strengthening social entrepreneurship and innovative youth employment opportunities;</p>	<p>1.1.6. # of young people obtained knowledge and skills through # events within various training platforms (hackathons/bootcamps, acceleration and incubation programmes etc.) – that build skills and competencies making young people more resilient to extremist narrative</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 700 (UNDP) young people through at least 20 events and incubation support</p>	<p>Project reports and information</p>	
	<p>1.1.7. Number of innovative solutions, social enterprise developed and implemented by adolescent and young boys and girls; # of social entrepreneurship projects designed and supported (through micro-grants)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 29 (25 - UNICEF and 4 - UNDP)</p>	<p>Project evidence/data – lists of projects, entrepreneurship projects files etc.</p>	
	<p>1.1.8. Enhancing capacity of Creative Corners under the Youth centres/ VTIs through equipping them with new competencies related to the innovative economy, to provide them with opportunities for economic empowerment</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 3 Creative Corners (UNDP)</p>	<p>Project reports and information</p>	

	<p>1.1.9. # of target youth presented business ideas in the Startup Choithona initiative Baseline: 0 Target: 25 (UNDP)</p> <p>1.1.10. # of projects designed and received funding from small innovation fund to test, launch and expand start-up projects to promote leadership and incentive taking among young people in the economic sector Baseline: 0 Target: 6 (UNDP, av. amount #20,000)</p> <p>1.1.11. Number of young women and girls from the Communities, identified by Active Women's Groups of 8 Jamoais, are supported to get professional skills through educational facilities of the Ministry of Labor Baseline: 0 Target: 100 (UN Women)</p> <p>1.1.12. Number of activities, including economic activities, developed by women and girls for their communities (family, school, mahala), supported by the seed funding Baseline: 0 Target: 24 (UN Women)</p> <p>1.1.13. Peace and Safety component is incorporated in the professional vocational training programme of the MoLME RT (incl. career orientation) for young women Baseline: none Target: yes (UN Women)</p> <p>1.1.14. Number of PTAs activated to support pro-peace parenthood models in the community Baseline: 0 Target: 10 PTAs activities, 500 parents engaged (UNICEF)</p> <p>1.1.15. # of advocacy materials/products developed to promote tolerance, social cohesion and non-violent conflict resolution Target: 6 (UN Women)</p>	<p>Training workshops materials (list of participants, photos etc.)</p> <p>Project data</p> <p>Project data (incl. reports of implementing organizations, other evidence); list of supported young women</p> <p>Project documentation</p> <p>Evidence of incorporation – the copy of training materials of the vocational education programmes, information from the Ministry</p> <p>Project data (incl. reports of implementing organizations, other evidence); monitoring data</p> <p>Project materials</p>	
	<p>1.1.5. Supporting parenthood models in the family and community that instills non-violent means of problem resolution and builds pro-peace skills in children and youth.</p>		

<p>Output 1.2 . Adolescents and young people have more opportunities for meaningful participation in decision making to strengthen non-violence values and action.</p> <p>List of activities:</p> <p>1.2.1. Strengthening capacity of current and future duty-bearers.</p>	<p>1.2.1. Number of government employees capacitated on work with youth and youth focused policies in targeted areas, and local development policies that engage young people</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 125 (50 - UNICEF and 75 - UNDP)</p> <p>1.2.2. Number of young women leaders are capacitated on peacebuilding issues through CWFA's training module for women leaders, conducted in cooperation with CWFA.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target:30 (UN Women)</p>	<p>Project progress report</p> <p>Training materials (project data)</p>	
<p>1.2.2. Promoting youth participation in decision-making through youth involvement in local governance and community development jointly with local authorities.</p>	<p>1.2.3. Number of communication platforms or networks supported by the project to facilitate sustained participation of adolescents and youth, especially young women in targeted areas.</p> <p>Baseline: tbd Target: 8 (UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women)</p> <p>1.2.4. Number of young people, including from at-risk groups, who have participated in the decision-making within supported platforms (e.g. attended sessions of local councils, meetings of youth councils – within youth-friendly governance model, public hearings, and participated in review and implementation of local development programmes).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2000 young people (UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women)</p>	<p>Project data</p> <p>Project data (list of participants of events) and reports on the support provided within platforms</p>	
<p>1.2.5. # of youth initiatives introduced in the local development programmes, and local budgets</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: at least 12 (at least one per district)</p>	<p>Project progress report; Protocol of local government meetings</p>	
<p>1.2.6. # young people whose capacities on local development and decision-making were built through # of capacity building events (trainings, workshops etc.)</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: 300 (UNDP) of young people through 10 capacity building events</p>	<p>Project materials (lists of participants, agendas, etc.)</p>	

	<p>1.2.3. Promoting joint actions of young people within the spirit of volunteerism.</p> <p>1.2.4. Building adolescent and youth wellbeing and resilience through the peer-to-peer support systems in formal and non-formal education as well as rehabilitation of adolescence in conflict and contact with the law.</p>	<p>1.2.7. # of inter-district youth and duty bearer exchange programmes and study tours Baseline: 0 Target: 4 (2 – UNDP, 2 – UNICEF)</p> <p>1.2.8. # of media outputs (publications or brochures) that document best practices and success stories on youth participation in decision-making in local development – disseminated for scale-up in other regions of Tajikistan Baseline: 0 Target: 2 (UNDP)</p> <p>1.2.9. # of volunteer projects supported involving # of young people - volunteers Baseline: 0 Target: 25 projects involving at least 50 young people (UNICEF, UN Women)</p> <p>1.2.10. Number of adolescents and young people engaged in peer-to-peer support in targeted areas Baseline: 0 Target: 1000 (UNICEF)</p> <p>1.2.11. Number of adolescents in conflict with the law diverted from justice system and rehabilitated through juvenile support services. Baseline: 0 Target: 70 (UNICEF)</p> <p>1.2.12. Number of sport leaders and young volunteers passed the specially tailored Youth programme on life skills counselling for boys and girls, and involved # of young people Baseline: 0 Target: 20 sport leaders involved 800 young people, both girls and boys (UN Women)</p>	<p>Project materials (lists of participants, exchange programmes agenda etc.)</p> <p>Available materials</p> <p>Project data (reports, photos, other evidence)</p> <p>Project data (reports by implementing partners, field monitoring results).</p> <p>Project documentation;</p> <p>Project materials</p>	
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Annex C: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
1. Have all implementing partners been identified?			
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise?			
3. Have project sites been identified?			
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project?			
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done?			
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified?			
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?			
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?			
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?		N/A	

Annex D: Detailed and UNDG budgets (attached Excel sheet)

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