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	End-of- Project Evaluation Empowering Yemeni Youth Towards Peace
	Yemen
	October 2021 - March 2022.

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Development Assistance Committee
Evaluation Team
Focus Group Discussions
Gulf Cooperation Council
International Advisory, Products, and Systems
Key Informant Interviews
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund
Radio Nederland Worldwide
Scope of Work
Theory of Change
United Nations
United Nations Evaluation Group
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1.1 Introduction

In relation to the communication with project staff/ management, the respondents described it as either as very good or somewhat good. Regarding delays in training implementation, respondents were divided as some reported delays and others did not.

Based on KIIs with project staff, most project staff interviewed (75 percent) felt that project funds and activities overall were delivered in a timely manner and that they did not result in missed opportunities. In addition, all

that the criteria for selecting governorates include relevance for the peace-building process and areas with an appropriate and safe level of access for civil society organizations. In addition, the Risk Assessment section was developed through a conflict-sensitive lens.

Qualitative and quantitative data collected demonstrates that the do no harm principles were respected during project implementation by ensuring fair participation to initiatives from all sides. Participants were able to apply the principles to their work and the ET team was informed that no complaints about harmful situations were reported through the hotline.

How novel or innovative was the project approach?
Can lessons be drawn to inform similar approaches elsewhere?

While available desk review did not consider the project's innovative aspects, the FGDs and KIIs provided encouraging considerations. Based on the qualitative data collected, the project is defined as particularly innovative in terms of design, approach, and implementation.

1.3 Summary of Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the findings of the evaluation and in line with the objectives:

Continue to monitor the long-term results of the project, and particularly how they relate to the final part of the Theory Of Change (TOC) which is based on the participatory and inclusive approach "for youth by youth."

Continue to strengthen the gender approach by reflecting on which activities were most successful in terms of women's representation and why.

Explore the areas such as video content production, including photography, editing and screenwriting, where women were less represented and strengthen women capacity building in those areas.

Further explore the aspect of incentives and possible implications for the project since some interviewees mentioned compensation in USD (USD 85 to USD 200) to produce parts for the media, or USD 100 to participate in a debate.

Since the war in Yemen began in 2014, the division of Yemen into areas controlled by different parties has exacerbated the polarization of the media, affecting press freedom and neutrality. This is reflected in the fact that Yemen ranks 169th in the world ranking of press freedom¹. Freedom violations and attacks to independent media and journalists in Yemen are major concerns are constantly documented in the Yemen context². One of the relevant elements that emerged during the peace talks held in Stockholm in 2018 was the lack of participation of young men and women, re

Launching the “My Solution” video series to showcase the success stories of young Yemeni peacebuilders.

	<p>Was the project relevant to the UN's peacebuilding mandate and the SDGs, in particular SDG 16?</p> <p>Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries?</p> <p>Were they consulted during the design and implementation of the project?</p>

3.2 Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation was carried out for approximately five months (October 2021 to March 2022). However, due to a series of limitations, discussed in more detail in the limitations section of this report, the total and effective time invested in the evaluation was two and a half months. This report addresses the final evaluation objectives in the TOR, as set out in the inception report following the UNEG Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports and based on the OECD/DAC criteria.

The evaluation included a mixed methods approach designed to answer the evaluation questions, including the different perspectives of respondents and in line with the established objectives with the following activities:

Review

The evaluation began with a desk review of relevant documents to allow the ET to assess achievements of the project. The documents also served as references for possible follow-up questions and/or updating of the KII questionnaires and the beneficiary survey developed by the i-APS evaluation team. The key documents reviewed include Monthly M&E reports, Quarterly M&E reports, table of indicators, Project Extension documents, and content of the training among others. A full list of the documents reviewed can be found in Annex 3.

The ET designed two online surveys to capture aspects related to the type of services that beneficiaries accessed, logistics, frequency, and preferences. The surveys were published twice by the Manasati30 team on their platforms. In addition, the surveys were available to the public for 30 days. A total of 134 beneficiaries responded to the online surveys.

Forty-five debate participants were reached, including 55% (25) males and 45% (20) females. 24 of the respondents were from Aden governorate, 13 from Taiz, two from Hadramout and two from Sana'a, a

Qualitative data collection captured a substantial understanding of beneficiaries' and stakeholders' perceptions of the project interventions and recommendations for future programming. Debate trainees, debate partners, journalists and radio staff, and 'My solution' participants were selected for interviews to obtain their perspectives on the progress and achievements of the project. There were six debate trainees interviewed; three interviews were conducted with journalists and radio staff; two 'My solution'

review, FGDs, and KIIs with project staff, debates trainees, journalists and radio staff, 'My solution' participants, and partners.

Was the project relevant to the UN's peacebuilding mandate and the SDGs, in particular SDG 16? Were they consulted during the design and implementation of the project?

SDG 16 to 'Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies'. Adherence to SDG 16 is clearly stated in the 'UNPBF Project Document'. In fact, the project stems from a series of initiatives implemented by UNESCO during the events that resulted in the 'Stockholm Agreement, in December 2018. Specifically, 'in December 2018, UNESCO set up a newsroom during the peace negotiations in Sweden to support young Yemeni journalists in providing balanced coverage of the negotiations to audiences back home. The newsroom was a success, with more than 5,000 people in Yemen following the page within a week and 80,000 views of the content produced within a month' (from UNPBF Project Document). Further consultations with journalists to follow-up on the initiative led to the organization, in September 2019, of a 'consultation meeting between the

Did the project's theory of change clearly articulate assumptions about why the project approach is expected to produce the desired change?

Was the theory of change grounded in evidence?

The "UNPFB project document" outlines the Theory Of Change (TOC) as follows, and based on a participatory and inclusive approach "for youth by youth":

If 1) youth are better informed about the ongoing peace negotiations AND 2) are better equipped with skills and knowledge, to contribute to the discussion shaping the peacebuilding efforts AND 3) they are provided with safe platforms of dialogue THEN Yemeni youth will feel empowered to voice and share their aspirations with decision-makers and duty-bearers BECAUSE they will feel a sense of agency, ownership, and participation in the peacebuilding process AND will therefore be more likely to act as a constructive force for positive change in their country by proposing solutions and taking actions in support of the peacebuilding process.

All four-project staff KII respondents were familiar with the TOC; on a scale of: very articulate, somewhat

Were there delays to project implementation? Did these delays create missed opportunities to address time-sensitive peacebuilding opportunities?

Debate training respondents were split in half, each reporting no delays or delays. None of the radio staff/journalists respondents experienced delays with the implementation of the training. The two respondents from ' were equally split when referring to delayed implementation. The respondent who answered positively explained that some delays were, in a way, expected, given the operating context. The respondent mentioned slight delays with implementation plans and payments to participants. respondents did not experience any delays in the implementation of the project activities. A comment was made by a project staff in reference to the pandemic resulting in the re-scheduling of all activities, to be implemented online. About the missed opportunity the respondent referred to related to the merging of two debates for security reasons, which hindered the participation of all intended participants, as originally planned.

(67 percent). Respondents generally described the trainers as experienced, skilled and the training material interesting; a respond

Both My solution respondents received support to realize their piece, which consisted in access to technology, information, and tools. Both respondents had audience feedback and, on a scale of very positive, somewhat positive, not positive, or I don't know, all respondents described it as very positive.

On a scale of very efficient, somewhat efficient, not efficient, or I don't know, all project staff respondents described the overall use of project resources as very efficient. Respondents generally referred to good use of human and technical resources; a respondent referred to budget underspending, saying that the budget was probably overestimated at project proposal level.

4.3 Effectiveness

The extent to which the intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance ([UNESCO, 2007. Evaluation Handbook](#))

To what extent did the PBF project achieve its intended objectives and contribute to the project's strategic vision?

To what extent did the PBF project substantively mainstream a gender and support gender-responsive peacebuilding?

How appropriate and clear was the PBF project's targeting strategy in terms of geographic and beneficiary targeting?

The ET approached this aspect through the desk review.

To what extent did the PBF project achieve its intended objectives and contribute to the project's strategic vision?

The "UNPBF project document" refers to objectives as follows:

- 'The primary objective of this project is to make peacebuilding process more inclusive and participatory by strengthening youth engagement through the use of media, communication and technology. This will be done by improving access to information for youth on peacebuilding process so they can increase their knowledge and make informed decisions. In parallel, the project will provide young Yemenis with safe spaces of dialogue, including social media, online surveys, youth debates and radio programmes to voice their needs and opinions with decision-makers and duty bearers.'
- 'Similarly, this project will aim to ensure youth feel included and consulted on the future of the country as partners in change, rather than beneficiaries' peacebuilding interventions. This is why the proposed project will support the development of safe spaces of dialogue led by youth and for youth using multiple tools and methodologies including debates, surveys, consultation workshops and participatory media programs.

The project will therefore seek to contribute to the following key outcomes:

: With improved access to information, Yemeni youth better understand the peacebuilding process and their role within this framework;

- Support the development an information platform for youth to find information on the peacebuilding process;

Has PBF funding been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding?

While the annual report does not make specific reference to this aspect, KIIs with project staff showed that as result of the PBF project, partners were able to attract additional funding for related activities. As an example, RNW media received additional funding for initiatives focusing on women and peace. Manasati30 was able to obtain additional funding and a donor expressed interest in a phase two of the PBF project.

4.8 Gender-responsive/gender-sensitive

FGD participants found the peace debates particularly innovative. On a scale of very innovative, somewhat innovative, not innovative, I don't know, debates trainees, My Solution actors and partners confirmed that the project was very innovative in its nature. On the same scale, most radio staff/journalists (67 percent) found the project very innovative, while the remaining 33 percent found it somewhat innovative. A respondent said that bringing journalists together to discuss through a platform was a very innovative initiative.

Similarly, project staff felt that the project approach was innovative; the majority brought as an example the social listening focused initiatives. Additional innovative initiatives mentioned by project staff included leveraging social media into peacebuilding and calls for proposals to implement local-level initiatives.

Regarding lessons learned, a project staff explained that online modality for sensitive topics resulted to be more inclusive. A debate trainee explained: ' .'

4.10 Limitations

The findings of the end-of-project evaluation should be interpreted with consideration of the limitations

Coherence

Qualitative interviews with debate trainees, radio staff/ journalists, 'My Solution' participants and partners found that stakeholder involvement in the project was very good.

Project documentation demonstrated complementary work, especially with other United Nations (UN) agencies, concerning the set-up of a Steering Committee and a successful engagement of stakeholders. The Annual Report refers to the successful implementation of three Steering Committee meetings.

Conflict-sensitivity

Desk review, FGD and KII confirmed a robust conflict sensitive lens at project design and implementation level, and application of do no harm principles. Qualitative and quantitative data collected demonstrates that the do no harm principles were respected during project implementation by ensuring fair participation to initiatives from all sides.

Catalytic

KIIs with project staff showed that as result of the PBF project, partners were able to attract additional funding for related activities.

Gender-responsive/gender-sensitive

While results reported in some indicators reflected ongoing challenges, and expenditures do not reflect what originally planned, the project did address gender challenges and opportunities systematically. Qualitative data indicates that the project considered the different challenges, opportunities, constraints and capacities of women and men in Yemen. On the basis of the KIIs, the project ensured the equal participation of women.

While the project allocated USD 750,000 towards ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment throughout project implementation, according to the Annual report, the actual expenditures totalled USD 548,170,

beneficiaries surveys. Based on the above, UNESCO may consider monitoring long term results of