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12 December 2014

Dear Mr. Gressly,

I am pleased to inform you that the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) has approved funding from the Peacebuilding Fund's Immediate Response Facility (IRF) for the package of three IRF projects received on 25 November 2014:

- 1) "Appui au Renforcement des capacités de résilience aux conflits des femmes et des jeunes dans la région de Gao et Tombouctou" amounting to \$2,111,110 to be jointly implemented by UNDP and UNIDO;
- 2) "Solutions pour la réintégration durable et pacifique des personnes déplacées internes (PDI) et des réfugiés rapatriés dans les régions de Gao et de Tombouctou" amounting to \$2,500,000 to be jointly implemented by UNHCR and IOM;
- 3) « Projet de l'éducation pour la consolidation de la paix au Nord du Mali » amounting to \$2,111,110 to be implemented by UNICEF.

This decision was based on an assessment of the proposals by PBSO in consultation with the inter-departmental UN Peacebuilding Contact Group.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the three IRF projects in the implementation phase, I would like to attract your attention to the recommendations annexed to this letter.

As you are aware, monitoring and reporting on peacebuilding impact is a core responsibility of the Fund's mandate. For projects approved under the IRF, I rely on you and your office to undertake the following responsibilities on my behalf:

- a) ensuring timely submission of the semi-annual project report from UNDP to the MPTF Office copied to PBSO;
- b) monitoring project progress and results, in line with the project Results Framework, and advising PBSO in a timely fashion if and when project amendments are required; and

Mr. David Gressly

OiC, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Mali
Bamako

cc: Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office

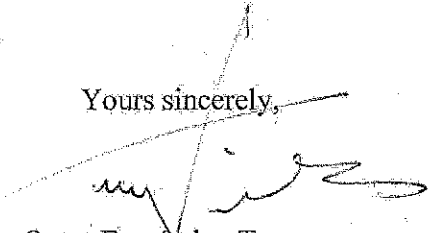
c) ensuring timely submission of the end-of project report within three months of the activity completion.

Please note that the templates for all the reporting obligations can be found on the PBF website: <http://www.unpbf.org/application-guidelines/annex/>.

I will give instructions to MPTF Office to transfer the approved funds to the RUNOS, once we receive the signed copy of the three Projects.

We look forward to our partnership to support peacebuilding in Mali.

Yours sincerely,



Oscar Fernández-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General
for Peacebuilding Support

Annex 1:

Recommendations for the implementation phase of the approved IRF projects

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- a) All 3 projects should clearly mention how the RUNOs will work together with MINUSMA Regional Centers to ensure access to project sites in rural areas outside the cities of Gao and Timbuktu.
- b) All the projects should strengthen their analysis of gender dynamics and, in particular women and girls' needs and priorities, in the areas they are targeting, (e.g. major barriers to women and girls to access basic services and income generation opportunities and to be part of decision-making) and how the project will seek to address them through the current results and activities. If this information is not available at the moment, it should be part of the baselines that will be produced during the project implementation phase.
- c) Joint projects, such as the UNDP/UNIDO and the IOM/UNHCR should have a truly joint reporting mechanism, by which it should be clear how the RUNOs achieve project results together and the different activities are mutually reinforcing each other.
- d) All projects should make sure in the implementation phase that close collaboration is established with the local authorities to strengthen national ownership of the projects at local level.
- e) It is recommended to foresee a new PBSO mission in early 2015 to support the RUNOs developing their annual work plans and finalising the M&E results and plans in a way that addresses PBSO's comments.

More specifically, here are some additional recommendations per project:

1) UNDP/UNIDO project:

- a) Include as a criterion of selection of beneficiary women and youth the inter-community dimension of the selected groups as part of both the UNDP and UNIDO component to foster social cohesion.

- b) Include, if available, more details on the specific situation of the women in the targeted areas and explain further which strategy the project will follow to ensure that women will have incentives and will effectively participate to the activities of the project, including the centres d'ecoute.

2) UNICEF project:

- a) Include some analysis of what the situation of girls and education is in Northern Mali and what prevents them from attending school/ leads to drop out, e.g. issues related to the harmful practices against girls ('pratiques nefastes')
- b) Clarify how the project strategy or activities will ensure that girls will be fully included, i.e. how the project will make sure that enough sensitisation is made at community level to ensure that 40% of the targeted children brought back to school will be girls (in particular, clarify linkages between outcome 1 and outcome 3).

Kindly note that unless these changes are made to the proposal, PBF will record the proposal as a gender marker 1.

- c) Add an indicator on % or number of child soldiers returning to school and on % of children targeted by the project not enrolled in conflict activities for the length of the project.

3) IOM/UNHCR project:

- a) Provide more specific information concerning the 11,000 households/63,000 beneficiaries identified in terms of direct and indirect beneficiaries (repatriated/IDPs and hosting communities).
- b) Include more analysis of the specific situation of women returnees and IDPs and include additional information on how to provide incentives for the association of IDP and returnee women to decision-making in the communities, access to land, protection against GBV, etc.

Kindly note that unless these changes are made to the proposal, PBF will record the proposal as a gender marker 1.