



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Leveraging the UN to Prevent the Lapse and Relapse into Conflict

As the UN fund of first resort to sustain peace, the PBF provides fast, flexible and risk-tolerant financing to UN efforts supporting political solutions aimed at preventing the lapse and relapse into conflict

1. A unique Fund that provides fast and flexible financing for UN conflict prevention and peacebuilding work

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is currently supporting more than 200 projects in 27 countries by delivering fast, flexible and risk-tolerant funding to UN entities engaged in preventive and peacebuilding interventions. The PBF was established in 2006, through General Assembly Resolution A/60/180 and Security Council Resolution S/RES/1645 (2005), to respond to the 'market failure' resulting in development financing often being insufficient, slow and inflexible at critical moments of transition. The PBF enables partners to enhance coherence and pool risk by providing impactful, jump start or bridge financing for UN preventive and peacebuilding programmes. Evidence from the UN 2015 Peacebuilding Architecture Review and the 2014 Independent Review of the PBF demonstrate that its risk tolerance and responsive funding processes are enabling it to effectively fill this niche. PBF funding enables the UN to seize political opportunities it would likely otherwise miss. Working with a wide range of UN entities, including through political and peacekeeping missions, leverages the expertise and legitimacy of the UN system to deliver targeted prevention and peacebuilding results.

*In 2014, the PBF responded rapidly to **Guinea-Bissau's** post-coup political transition and used the window of opportunity around the democratic elections by providing a package of support, through UNIOGBIS and UNDP, to enable more inclusive, transparent and peaceful elections, in a highly volatile and mistrustful context.*

*In 2015, following the rapid spread of Ebola in West Africa, PBF quickly authorized the re-programming of its project on national reconciliation in **Guinea** towards the volatile Forestiere region, where the first case of Ebola was recorded. This enabled sensitization of the deeply distrustful communities on the implications of the epidemic and preventive measures and strengthening resolution mechanisms, helping the region to be the first in Guinea to be declared Ebola-free.*



Also in 2015, the PBF responded to the new momentum in **Sri Lanka**, created by the recently elected Government's priorities around unity and national reconciliation and its 100-day programme. The Fund made a rapid allocation to UNDP, UNHCR and OHCHR, to assist government-led resettlement of the last displaced persons – a long-standing core grievance since the end of the conflict in 2009 – followed by allocations in support of national consultation to design credible and effective transitional justice mechanisms as well as capacity building for reconciliation mechanisms.

2. Drives strategic and coherent programming on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, leveraging partnerships across and beyond the UN

The PBF drives and strengthens cross-UN collaboration and coherence, creating joint management structures and incentivizing integrated programming at country level. Operating in support of political solutions, the PBF empowers the strategic capacity of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Residents Coordinators to emphasize conflict prevention and peacebuilding in planning processes and catalyze programmatic integration with peacekeeping and political missions. The PBF proactively builds partnerships at the international level, encouraging political accompaniment through the Peacebuilding Commission and, at a national level, working with the World Bank Group and Regional Organizations, as a financial instrument of first resort in situations of high risk or volatility. National governments, UN leadership and civil society share equal voice in governance arrangements at country level, and evaluations demonstrate the role of these partnerships for effective delivery and national ownership.

*In **Mali** in early 2014, while the Peace Accords were still being negotiated, the PBF approved a cantonement project in the North of Mali, enabling the peacekeeping mission to start cantonement and early DDR activities with the armed groups, helping to incentivize the finalization of the agreement. At the end of 2014, the PBF approved a further package of support in northern Mali, providing the population with early peace dividends in areas particularly marginalized and mistrustful of authorities, providing the mission's stabilization strategy with a tangible programmatic component to help build the confidence of the local population.*

*In **Liberia**, the PBF's support over the period of 2013 to 2016 was made in full alignment with the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement and priorities and in line with the Government's own Agenda for Transformation, enabling the country to kick-start the implementation of the National Reconciliation Roadmap. This support proved crucial during the Ebola epidemic, as the five regional Land Commission Centers, supported by the PBF, offered a network through which trusted communications about the health response were delivered to local communities.*

*In 2016, the PBF is preparing to support the initiative of the African Union Commission to increase the monitoring of and advocacy for human rights in **Burundi**, by funding the extension of the AU human rights observers' deployment, whose initial funding was only sufficient to cover the first two months. This support will also help to strengthen the strategic and operational collaboration between the UN and AU human rights observers, both of which are supported through PBF.*



3. Very tight focus on vulnerable and conflict-affected states, and ability to finance regional initiatives and cross-border work, building on thorough conflict analysis

PBF spending is entirely focused on vulnerable and conflict-affected states, in line with its mandate. Independent evaluations, the peacebuilding Architecture Review, and the Multilateral Aid Review of the United Kingdom demonstrate a strong record of delivery in these contexts, especially given PBF's relatively high programmatic risk tolerance. PBF's operating model is well adapted to fragile contexts. Conflict analysis and conflict-sensitive programmes are mandatory for all projects. The PBF priority areas of investment – political dialogue, mediation, peace processes, social cohesion, reconciliation, conflict resolution and re-establishment and extension of core government services – are aligned with international evidence on effective prevention and peacebuilding. Increasingly, the PBF is looking into financing regional and cross-border initiatives, to address those drivers of radicalization and conflict that extend beyond national boundaries.

*In late 2015, the PBF approved its first cross-border project between **Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**, enabling a series of confidence-building measures to take place along this volatile border. In particular, the project will support the two national governments and civil community organizations to initiate dialogue between distrustful communities and seek joint solutions to common problems such as access to water and pasture land.*

*In 2016, the PBF will finance cross-border initiatives in the **Sahel Region** (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger), building on the Sahel Strategy and the thorough conflict analysis carried out by UNDP and UNOWA, with a focus on the prevention of violent extremism.*

4. Robust attention to inclusion in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, particularly women and youth

The PBF takes action to meet the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind”. This entails a focus on excluded and marginalized groups. PBF programming is based on country conflict analyses and peacebuilding strategies that frequently point to the role exclusion and inequality play in conflict, and lead to direct work on inclusion of the most marginalized.

The PBF funds a significant body of work supporting inclusion of youth and women in peace processes. It is only one of three UN entities that have achieved the 15% target of investments supporting projects that have gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective. The PBF is spearheading implementation of Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, by making dedicated financing available for innovative youth-focused initiatives through a special call for proposals led by Non-Governmental Organizations.

*In **Niger**, the PBF funded a package of support in the volatile Tahoua border region with Mali, focusing on vulnerable youth at risks of frequent migration and radicalization. The package included support for their social inclusion in the communities as well as livelihood support. At the end of the project in 2015, 71% of the targeted vulnerable youth were able to sustain themselves financially; at least 79% of the youth had remained in the same area without further movements,*



which may have exposed them to risk of violence and recruitment; there was also about 80% reduction in the illicit activity in the area and a general perception of increased social cohesion.

*In **Burundi**, during the 2015 crisis, the PBF enabled a group of 512 women community mediators to address more than 5,000 local conflicts in all the provinces, helping to reduce tensions within the communities, and between communities and the security forces, undertaking a series of local dialogues, while also empowering women leadership.*

5. Effective approach to risk management at country and fund level

The PBF has a comparative advantage in relatively high risk programmatic settings. It has developed a rigorous, proactive approach to risk management in its corporate governance through the designation of a risk marker system and through policies that ensure tighter management focus on high-risk/high-return programmes. Collectively, these measures enable the Fund's comparatively higher risk tolerance to other Funds and contribute directly to the PBF's organizational effectiveness and added value.

*In **Somalia**, the PBF responded quickly to the political window of opportunity created by the recovery of territories from the extremist forces and the President's request to support the Federal Government's stabilization strategy. PBF funding, implemented by the Security Council mandated mission and the UN Country Team, has supported the extension of state authority in newly recovered areas in the South-Central Region, including the establishment of Caretaker Administrations in five centres, with 15 more planned by the end of 2016. The PBF has also provided an initial financial contribution to stress test the National Public Financial Systems. The objective of the initiative is to facilitate the utilization and reinforcement of evolving country systems, demonstrating through resources delivered under a peace and security mandate that these risks can be monitored, shared and managed.*

*In **Central African Republic**, following the 2013 crisis, PBF has been supporting the security sector, which was at the core of the conflict dynamics, including through the rehabilitation and provision of security by the police and gendarmerie (including the payment of salaries during four crucial months, which the Government was not able to cover, in collaboration with the World Bank) as well as the voluntary relocation of more than 800 ex-Seleka fighters from their camps in Bangui to their communities of choice and origin. By mid-2015, approximately 75% of those who volunteered to be relocated were still disengaged from fighting.*