

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

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Editorial

by Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support.

We need more peacebuilding. The moral and programmatic case for more conflict prevention is overwhelming. Violent conflicts are on the rise, fragilities are growing due to the ongoing health and financial effects of Covid, and new risks – ranging from a global food security crisis to increasing deviation from constitutional order – are expanding. In this environment, investing in prevention, costing just a fraction of what eventually is allocated to humanitarian and security crisis response, should be scaled-up, not pushed aside.

To highlight results and the positive impact on the ground that we have supported as UN Peacebuilders, I am pleased to share the first edition of the Peacebuilding Fund's newsletter. The stories in this newsletter illustrate how the PBF supports UN system efforts to address root causes of violent conflicts, rather than just treating the symptoms.

For example, the newsletter highlights public hearings held by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission in The Gambia which helped bring some closure and justice to those who suffered human rights abuses during the 22-year dictatorship.

We also hear from young peacebuilders in Somalia as they pave the path for peace through dialogues with communities and addressing inter-clan clashes to prevent the escalation of violent conflict. The empowered women of Colombia — once victims of the armed conflict— discuss newly acquired skills that have transformed lives and livelihoods through the Fund's innovative model of encouraging catalytic, peace-positive, private sector investments.

All of these examples are a testament to the fact that peacebuilding works: with the right support, at the right time, grounded in nationally-owned efforts and privileging strong partnerships with women, youth and civil society actors. The Fund's impact, however, would not have been possible without the wise investments of our donor

partners. During the High-level meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding held by the General Assembly on April 27, we witnessed the widespread support of the Member States for peacebuilding action and their reiteration of the need for adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding. This broad support was reflected most explicitly in the cross-regional group statement by 108 member states advocating for increased financing and action on peacebuilding. [In the Summary of the President of the General Assembly of the High-Level meeting](#), it is stated that the “benefits of assessed contributions towards adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for peacebuilding was affirmed. While calling for the need to expand the donor base it was stressed that voluntary contributions are not enough.”

As a lead-up to the High-level event, round tables held on April 25 generated a rich discussion that highlighted existing and new perspectives on options to advance financing for peacebuilding and strengthened engagement to this end — a central feature of the New Agenda for Peace, as laid out in the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda.

Carrying over from the dedicated Roundtable on local peacebuilding on April 25, a significant number of statements by member states encouraged more investment in local peacebuilding. Recommendations included working more at sub-national level, with grassroots organizations, and in remote or border areas where conflict drivers are often exacerbated. At the PBF, we are already pursuing the objective of strengthening local peacebuilding through our Gender and Youth Promotion initiatives (GYPI) and our commitment to inclusive peacebuilding approaches. We will be pursuing this further in 2022 with a new kind of pilot to decentralize the GYPI (as GYPI 2.0) in Guatemala, Haiti, Gambia and Niger. Read more in this edition.

The recently launched Thematic Review on Local Peacebuilding – commissioned by the Fund in partnership

with PeaceNexus Foundation and UN Volunteers Programme – identifies the ways that we can do local peacebuilding better. For example, the Review points out that we need to make sure that we are truly supporting community-based organizations, not just the larger NGOs in the capital city. And local organizations deserve our full support – including financial support — not just ‘capacity building’. We look forward to putting these ideas more fully into practice in the course of this year.

I would like to thank all partners who joined the PBF’s first virtual visit of 2022 to see the results and challenges being addressed by the Fund on Climate Security in the three Pacific atoll nations of Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. As with all of our previous visits, this one also provided an opportunity to our donor partners to engage with the Governments and UN Partners and to see for themselves how the PBF is supporting conflict prevention in relation to the ‘greatest existential issue’ of climate security in the atoll states — with a regional/multi-country initiative led by

UNDP and IOM. We hope this visit will increase international support and raise awareness as we help equip and empower the Atoll states and regional actors to adequately address security challenges emanating from or linked to climate change.

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) remains committed to working together with all of our partners to strengthen inclusive peacebuilding. PBSO continues to support the Peacebuilding Commission’s objectives of greater scope, more flexible engagement and deeper collaboration with the work of the PBF. Our Strategy and Partnerships for Peacebuilding Branch will pursue its work to bring the UN system closer together, as it helps to craft and advocates for good peacebuilding practice.

Sustaining peace is at the core of the United Nations. At PBSO, we are committed to excellence in pursuit of this mission.

Peacebuilding Stories

The Gambia: Reconciliation through Reforms and Democratic Transition

The 22-year dictatorship of former President Yahya Jammeh severely weakened the state institutions and the security apparatus. The regime was characterized by harassment, torture, murder of political figures, journalists, activists, and students, and significant sexual and gender-based violence against women and children.

“He (Yahya Jammeh) held people under custody, tortured them and that was the end” said **Isatou Ceesay**, a victim of the witch hunt campaign.



“We were so embarrassed to go out. We are not witches,” said **Tombong Njie**, another victim of the witch hunt campaign.



Isatou, Tombong, and many other Gambians still carry the scars of the abuses of the dictatorship’s witch hunt campaign that started in 2009 and lasted several years. Victims of the brutal campaign struggled to escape the stigma associated with witches.

In 2016, the Gambians voted out President Jammeh, and the new President, Adama Barrow, was sworn into office in February 2017. However, the nation of two million people faced a severe political and social crisis with the absence of justice institutions and rampant human rights abuses. The political transition required urgent reforms to overhaul the country’s institutions, promote democratic governance, address past human rights abuses and establish respect for the rule of law.

The Peacebuilding Fund, an early supporter of the historic democratic transition in The Gambia, acted quickly and approved funds in May 2017 to help initiate the most critical transition processes, including security sector reform and transitional justice. With \$4.7 million approved by the PBF, implementing partners UNDP and OHCHR accompanied the Government on a new reform agenda to help establish credible transitional justice processes and mechanisms promoting reconciliation and sustainable peace in The Gambia. The initiative helped address the truth about the large-scale human rights violations and abuses that occurred during former president Jammeh’s regime and restore the confidence and trust of the public in state institutions.

“The Secretary-General’s PBF enabled the UN to become engaged very quickly on key transition reform issues following the end of a 22-year long dictatorship. The Fund’s support came at the right time and paved the way for participatory reform processes,”

- **Seraphine Wakana, UN Resident Coordinator, The Gambia.**

The consultations with the Gambians started at a very early stage and ensured national awareness and ownership of the process. After in-depth consultations, including communities living in remote areas, technical and advisory support was provided for drafting the bills. The National Strategy on Transitional Justice, prepared collaboratively with the government authorities and CSOs and validated by the population, effectively reflected the Gambians' national priorities for justice.

Responding to these priorities, the Fund's support laid the foundation for establishing two major institutions in December 2017: The National Human Rights Commission and the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC).

The National Human Rights Commission became operational in 2019 with five commissioners and paved the way for increased awareness of human rights. The commission monitors and addresses human rights status and violations, assists victims of human rights violations and contributes to national policies on human rights.



Following nationwide consultations, the TRRC, an 11-member body designed with a composition reflecting ethnic, religious, and gender diversity, commenced its work in January 2019. It helped foster national reconciliation through a participatory and accessible process with the participation of victims and their families, witnesses, and perpetrators in public hearings and investigations.

In January 2019, TRRC began its first public hearing by inviting victims and perpetrators to give their personal testimonies. The Commission's public hearings and outreach activities generated great public interest and broad popular participation, including youth and civil society.

“People now aspire to live in peace in this country. Victims’ lives have become better thanks to the help they got from the project. The project has brought back hope in The Gambia,” said another victim of the witch hunt campaign.

The Commission held over 872 days of public hearings from Jan 2019 – to May 2021. 393 witnesses testified, including 78 women. 22 thematic hearings were held on human rights violations, including torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrests, unlawful detention/killings, and sexual and gender-based violence. These hearings were broadcast live to people's homes on Television, radio, and online platforms like YouTube and Facebook.

“The PBF enabled the TRRC office to open, provided key equipment, technical support to the Commissioners and the staff, helped ensure victims access to the TRRC proceedings, provided inputs to the strategies and policies. It enabled the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to provide access to victims to the proceedings, reach out to the remotest areas, and enable the functioning of the Women’s Affairs Unit, reconciliation unit, and Investigations unit,” said **Adelaide Sosseh**, Deputy Chairperson of the TRRC.



Adelaide Sosseh, Deputy Chairperson, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC).

Some 2,000 people benefitted from the Victim Participation Support Fund, which facilitated logistics to engage with the TRRC and provided psychosocial support and essential medical interventions. Specific partnerships with CSOs included the voices of marginalized groups including sex workers and LGBTI. In addition, 30 persons benefitted from comprehensive witness protection.

Beyond the hearings, over 34,000 Gambians have been directly engaged in the context of community-led outreach missions on the transitional justice process. PBF's timely and catalytic support helped strengthen the transitional justice mechanisms. In addition, outreach activities such as workshops held in close partnership with civil society organizations, religious and traditional leaders, and media professionals helped ensure nationwide awareness and inclusive engagement around the transitional justice process.

Advancing reconciliation in a historic moment, the TRRC submitted its Final Report to President Adama Barrow on 25 November 2021, comprising 17 volumes of thematic reports on atrocities and other human rights violations. **427 findings and 218 recommendations are included in the Report.** The Report addresses unlawful killings, torture, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, inhuman and degrading treatment, “witch-hunting”, fake HIV/AIDS treatment, and general and widespread abuse of public office. President Barrow was re-elected President during peaceful elections in December 2021, and he now has the responsibility to respond to the TRRC recommendations with his Government in May 2022.

An on-going PBF project of \$3.5 million is currently supporting the implementation and monitoring of the TRRC recommendations.

Colombia:

Incentivizing Private Sector Investments in Conflict-Affected Communities

In Colombia, decades of violence and armed conflict created significant obstacles to human development and sustainable peace. Cauca, one of the Colombian regions, was heavily affected by the conflict until the signing of a Peace Agreement in August 2016. In the aftermath of the conflict, its people, especially women, struggled to create steady sources of income for their households. As part of the stabilization strategy set in the Peace Agreement and to attract and encourage private sector investments in communities most affected by the conflict, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) financed an innovative, one-of-a-kind initiative through the Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in Colombia in 2018.

The 'blended finance' facility supports local agro-businesses and conflict-sensitive investments in conflict-affected territories prioritized under the Peace Agreement. By investing PBF's resources through blended finance instruments, the facility helped to significantly reduce the risks for seven private companies that otherwise would not invest in these types of high-risk ventures.

Through this specific initiative, implemented by the alliance between the startup Wegrou and Mercy Corps, 50 women, all heads of households and coffee producers in El Tambo, Cauca, have been empowered to start their business and get direct access to promote their coffee internationally.

"I have always grown coffee; my parents and grandparents always grew coffee. I raised my children on coffee. Coffee is in my roots; this is what I've been given in life," says **Mélida Montero**, a victim who witnessed the consequences of the armed conflict. For her, coffee is more than a drink. It's a way of life in her municipality of El Tambo, Cauca in Colombia. As the owner of a small farm, she now runs her own small-scale coffee production business together with 49 other women entrepreneurs.



Mélida Montero.

Trained in marketing and equipped with the technical knowledge in organic coffee production, these women coffee growers developed their own brand of organic roasted coffee, '50 Amigas – Valiant collective', representing the rich history of the Cauca mountains and the tenacity of its women. The small-scale coffee production of their brand has helped them to significantly improve their incomes.

"I've been able to give my children everything because of coffee. We're not rich, but we always have food. And I can support other family members when they have a need," **Mélida**, one of the 50 Amigas, adds proudly.

With the use of technological tools, the entire coffee production process is 100 percent traceable and transparent via Indiegrow, a digital platform, and marketplace developed by Wegrou. The platform also helps link the women producers to the international markets, initially starting with the U.S.

"We take care of the planet and our own farm. That makes me feel so proud. I'm teaching my children to take care of the environment, too. I like what I do. We're working on using solar energy on the farm, and we compost," says **Argenis Rosas**, another member of the 50 Amigas.



Argenis Rosas

Within this blended facility developed by the MPTF in Colombia, the PBF has explicitly tried to catalyze peace-positive private investments. As a result, the facility leveraged six times the capital invested by private sector actors. PBF, with an initial investment of \$2.2 million, leveraged almost \$13 million from non-state actors, thus, strengthening sustainable production cycles for more than 2,300 farmers, and providing over 5,500 loans to farmers and micro-entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector.

“These 50 Amigas, we are fighters. We don’t give up. You’re helping me fulfill that dream. Thank you for believing in us,” said Argenis.



In response to the Secretary-General’s call to explore innovative finance solutions for peacebuilding, the PBF supported seven private sector investments in conflict-affected areas through different blended finance instruments.

To know more about ‘50 Amigas’ and buy their coffee please visit them at www.indiegrow.com

Somalia: Paving the Way for Peace in Uncharted Territory

Limited state resources, the absence of functioning national institutions, and weakened government infrastructure have placed significant constraints on Somalia’s peace and state-building efforts. In addition, the Somali people suffer from limited access to essential services, inter-communal clashes related to land-based disputes, and inter-clan grievances resulting in retaliatory interactions that further perpetuate violence among the Somali people.

Weak coordination between Federal, State, and District level governance mechanisms/entities significantly restrict the extension of state authority, especially in the rural areas. The absence of basic governance apparatus such as transferring funds through the national Government to local levels for infrastructure development severely limit Somali people’s access to basic facilities.

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), through UNDP, accompanied the Government’s effort to expand its presence and capacity at the local and federal levels in territories recovered from the extremist militant group, Al-Shabaab. To improve infrastructure-related services, federal funds were, for the first time, channeled through a new Federal Government system to state and district levels. Seen as a high-risk intervention, this move into uncharted territory brought an unprecedented change in delivering basic services to the Somali people. In addition, the effective set-up of accountability mechanisms in administrative and financial departments and the successful linkages between the federal, state, and district levels increased the citizens’ confidence and trust vis-à-vis the Government’s role in the stabilization process.



“Every month, I get my salary from the Central Bank. When I see the message from the Central Bank on my cell phone, can you imagine what this is like? It has been 30 years, and now we have a Central Bank again. Just receiving this message is enough to motivate me to keep working – even if there was no money,” said a **Liaison Officer** working in the Federal Government, Somalia.



The PBF-funded initiatives proved catalytic and impactful in paving the way for peace in Somalia. An independent portfolio evaluation of the PBF’s investments in Somalia between 2015-2019 confirmed this and stated that there was an “Increased donor confidence about being more willing to channel funds through the Federal Government after observing the success” of the PBF-funded project. The Report further underscored that “In spite of its small size, the (PBF) portfolio is perceived to be highly impactful for generating positive consequences because of its emphasis on innovation and risk-taking. PBF supported the engagement in newly emerging States with relatively weak institutions and a volatile social context to allow for UN agencies to engage earlier than would have been possible with traditional donors.”

The PBF also significantly contributed to mitigating inter-clan disputes and negotiations through local reconciliation processes. Violent clashes among clans are common in Somalia due to internal displacement exacerbated by the dwindling access to natural resources.

In the city of Abudwak, Galmudug state, the people, especially women and youth, suffered the devastating impacts of clan conflicts for many years. In a recent initiative, as part of the Fund's annual Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, the first UN-led civil society local peacebuilding project focused on bringing youth people together, implemented by the Life and Peace Institute in partnership with Somali Peace Line. More than 500 young Somalis, including around 270 females, participated in over 630 community dialogues. The dialogues brought together young people, community members and clan elders in Baidoa, Jawhar and Caabudwaaq to jointly address inter-clan conflicts, community needs and foster supportive relations. The dialogues also discussed enhancing collaboration among the security agencies, district administration and community elders. In addition, the sessions connected young people from opposing clans and helped resolve differences in a non-violent manner. Moderated and attended by hundreds of young men and women belonging to various clans, these dialogues discussed how concrete actions could be implemented to prevent the escalation of violent conflict within communities.

One young male participant from Abudwak said, "I never thought I could have friends from other clans and trust them. I can now see youth who were previously engaged in hostilities now engaging in peacebuilding. Instead of being destructive we are now united on improving our community. We motivate each other."



The first-ever peace march held in Abudwak in November 2020 engaged thousands of young women and men to join forces and advocate for an end to hostilities with messages of peace. In addition, a "No More Discrimination" campaign was launched on radio and social media platforms in support of marginalized groups. The dialogues, locally broadcasted on television, engaged youth to act as messengers of peace and contribute to peacebuilding processes.

The **Chairperson of Abudwak Women's Organization** recognized the role of the youth in the march and said, "I acknowledge and applaud the youth organizers of this event; truly, you are an inspiration."

Our Partners

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is grateful to all its donor partners for their continued trust and support.



Germany is a strong advocate of the PBF and is the largest contributor. The Fund's strategy 2020-24 core priorities align with the German Government's top peacebuilding objectives: sustainable transitions, cross-border and regional peacebuilding efforts and the inclusion of women in peace processes.

Ambassador Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations: "Investing in peace is a central tenet of the Secretary-General's common agenda and it is one that Germany has always endeavored to uphold. Germany contributed 45 million Euros to the Peacebuilding Fund in the year 2021 alone, a new record. Going forward in 2022, we will continue to contribute not just financially. We will also maintain active engagement in the Peacebuilding Commission. Our goal is to send a strong signal to member states: In times of increasing presence of violent

conflict, it becomes ever more important to finance peace. Together, we need to step up our collective efforts, and invest in peace – not just for today, but in a way that will grow well into the future."

In an effort to make funding more predictable, Germany made its first multi-year pledge in 2020. Germany's contribution to the PBF promotes its commitment for peaceful conflict resolution across the globe, and its principled foreign policy across the broad spectrum of the UN's work from peace, climate and security to human rights.

Germany's PBF support is crucial for the UN system's ability to build and sustain peace and to strengthen the involvement and role of women in crisis prevention, conflict management and post-conflict peacebuilding, while also protecting women and girls from violence in armed conflicts. In 2021, the Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding Thematic Review, commissioned in partnership with the German Federal Foreign Office, with support from UN Women, highlighted the need for core operational support to women's organizations and approaches that go beyond the participation of women in existing forums and processes.

Germany recognizes PBF's tremendous capacity of supporting Governments, the United Nations entities and partners to deliver results and its ability to respond with flexibility to peacebuilding opportunities.

Germany is also supporting the Fund's Joint Impact Assessment Project – PeaceField1 – that aims to disseminate targeted content on the importance of local dialogue, peaceful coexistence, intergroup trust, and conflict prevention by using data on the radio broadcasting range and inter group conflicts in the Mali/Niger border areas. The project will also conduct impact evaluation of some USD 20 million PBF's investment in Sudan.

The PBF's considerable investments in the Sahel region are in line with Germany's persistent engagement and commitment to the Sahel's development and stability, including to the Coalition for the Sahel and the participation in MINUSMA.

The PBF is grateful to Germany for responding to the Secretary-General's call for quantum leap support to increase the contributions to the Fund. Germany's leading contribution puts into action the understanding that prevention saves lives and resources.



Sweden is one of the largest donors to the PBF. This year, the Government of Sweden made its first multi-annual contribution, recognizing that flexibility and foreseeability is key for the long-term endeavour in building peace. The new contribution underscores Sweden's consistent support to the PBF: Sweden is now the second top donor to the PBF for the 2020-2024 Strategy period.

Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN: "Since its creation, the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund has established itself as a beacon of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. Through engagement in over 35 countries and with an innovative design and catalytic approach, the Fund has made a real difference. Sweden welcomes the PBF's strong track record on gender-responsive peacebuilding with over 40% of investments addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. Taking into account the adverse effects of climate change in peacebuilding efforts is another aspect that Sweden supports. With our annual core contribution of over 29 million USD, Sweden remains one of the biggest donors to the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Investing in the PBF is an investment for peace, for saving lives and a commitment for building back better, for everyone."

Sweden is actively working to ensure that peacebuilding is an integrated part of all activities conducted by the United Nations. The funding by Sweden enables the PBF to focus on critical prevention and peacebuilding activities globally and contribute to greater UN coherence and collaboration. Sweden also strongly advocates the Fund's emphasis on tackling conflicts resulting from global warming in its Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Women leaders at the grassroots level are at the heart of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Sweden's contribution to the PBF promotes gender equality and strengthens women's rights, representation and access to resources, one of Sweden's most important foreign policy priorities. It also encourages further efforts to strengthen financing of local initiatives, including women peacebuilders and youth in peacebuilding.

The Fund is grateful to Sweden for responding to the Secretary-General's call to support PBF to enable it to act effectively to sustain peace in countries at risk of or affected by violent conflict.



Norway has been a firm supporter of the PBF since its inception in 2006. In 2020, Norway made a multi-year agreement totaling 500 million Norwegian Kroner, ensuring greater predictability and sustainability for the Fund. Norway is the third largest donor to the PBF for the 2020-2024 Strategy period.

Ambassador Mona Juul, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York: "For several decades Norway has been engaged in peacebuilding efforts around the world. We see peacebuilding as an enabler of development, security, reconciliation and social and economic justice. The Peacebuilding Fund is an essential tool for advancing and sustaining peace for vulnerable communities. The Fund has shown itself to be agile, catalytic and risk-tolerant, precisely what we need to see more of in a UN setting. A predictable and flexible funding base is critical if the PBF is to continue assisting with peacebuilding in the world's most vulnerable regions. Norway has been one of its most consistent contributors since 2005 and we will continue to be so. Investing in peace is cost-effective and it provides dividends for the entire global community."

Norway encourages and supports greater expertise in innovative financing at the Peacebuilding Support Office. This has helped the Fund in fostering partnerships with the private sector including its innovative, one-of-a-kind blended finance project in Colombia. The initiative supports local agro-businesses and peace-positive investments in conflict-affected territories prioritized under the Peace Agreement.

The Fund works in a coherent way with Norway's consistent emphasis on preventing and resolving conflicts, and strong diplomatic engagement to bring about sustainable peace in the world's most conflict-affected regions. Norway's contribution to the Peacebuilding Fund reiterates Norway's deep commitment to strengthen women's full and substantive participation in peacebuilding and monitoring of peace agreements and ensures that a more gender-balanced perspective is integrated into peace and security efforts. Promoting conflict resolution and reconciliation is a central aspect of Norwegian foreign policy -- further leveraged by PBF's risk-tolerant, catalytic and agile support and enhanced cooperation within the UN's country teams.

The Fund is grateful to Norway for responding to the Secretary-General's call for Quantum Leap support to increase the contributions made to the Fund for advancing and sustaining peace for vulnerable communities.



Egypt has been a strong advocate of the centrality of conflict prevention and peacebuilding to the work of the United Nations.

Building and sustaining peace is at the core of the UN charter. Egypt has been a strong advocate of the centrality of conflict prevention and peacebuilding to the work of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is grateful to Egypt for contributing USD 20,000 in 2021 for conflict prevention in fragile contexts. This contribution From Egypt will support the PBF in implementing the Secretary-General's strategy of preventing conflict by enabling rapid and risk-tolerant initiatives in crisis and fragile contexts.

Ambassador Osama Abdel Khalek, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN in New York and the Chair of the African Peacebuilding Caucus: "Working in complementarity with other funding mechanisms and partners, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is uniquely positioned to serve as an important instrument of the United Nations, through rapid disbursement of funds and a catalyst for comprehensive peacebuilding programming. Member States have a collective responsibility to fulfill their obligations to take concrete actions and make significant commitments to ensure peacebuilding saves more lives and resources. I reiterate Egypt's full support to fund peacebuilding through assessed contributions including with sufficient funding through peacebuilding components of the UN peacekeeping missions and the Special Political Missions."

Egypt has been a champion of efforts to increase financing for peacebuilding. The PBF works coherently with Egypt's consistent emphasis on prioritizing investment in prevention in alignment with the principle that peacebuilding efforts must always be nationally owned to bring sustainable peace in the world's most conflict-affected regions.

In 2021, Egypt as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, organized the PBC's annual session on Financing for peacebuilding. The session offered the opportunity to reaffirm the centrality of peacebuilding and to explore and develop concrete options in response to the 2020 General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/RES/75/201- S/RES/2558) as well as the Secretary General's report on Our Common Agenda, to inform the Commission's inputs to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held on 27 April 2022. The session also focused on discussions with key partners on relevant good practices and approaches for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

Egypt has also continued its collaboration on financing for peacebuilding with the Peacebuilding Support Office through the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA). In October 2021, the Permanent Mission of Egypt together with the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding organized a high-level panel discussion on "Financing for peace operations and transition contexts."

In addition, at the recent High-Level Meeting on 27 April 2022, Egypt delivered a joint statement on behalf of 108 countries in support of increased financing for peacebuilding. In the statement, the countries urged for discussions held during the meeting to be translated into concrete commitments, and called for "an action-oriented outcome of this high-level meeting, in the form a negotiated resolution, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding."

Latest News and Publications

The Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives (GYPI) 2022



The GYPI are expressions of the Fund's commitment to inclusive peacebuilding. The initiatives are launched in collaboration with partners including UN Women and UNFPA. The Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) supports the empowerment of women and the advancement of gender equality in peacebuilding and since 2011 the Fund has invested over \$114 million in 96 GPI projects in over 30 countries. The Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) supports youth engagement and participation in peacebuilding and since 2016, PBF has invested over \$105 million in 83 YPI projects in close to 30 countries. In 2021, PBF invested in a total of 19 GPI project (\$25.7 m) as well as 19 YPI projects (\$25.7 m) focused on the themes of protection of civic spaces as well as promotion of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

The two initiatives are now open for concept notes and welcome proposals from both civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies, funds and programmes. The initiatives are launched in collaboration with partners including UN Women and UNFPA. Responding to challenges and identified gaps, this year's GPI is seeking proposals on supporting women's civil society organizations, groups and networks in strengthening their institutional capacity for sustainable contribution to peacebuilding.

This year's YPI is seeking proposals on 1) fostering youth-inclusive political processes and promoting the political participation of diverse young people, 2) promoting safety, security, and protection of diverse young people and 3) a combination of theme 1 and 2. More information, including the call for proposals is available on the website. Introductory webinars have already taken place, recordings are available on the website, and thematic webinars will take place in the beginning of May. The deadline for concept notes is 6 June 2022.

In addition, a pilot to nationalize GPI called "GPI 2.0" is being launched in 4 countries in 2022: the Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti and Niger. These countries are not eligible for regular GPI but will remain eligible for YPI. The core idea of the GPI 2.0 pilot is to decentralize the initiative to country level, under leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and Country Team. The goals of the pilot are to enhance national ownership, better integrate support for WPS commitments into longer-term country level peacebuilding strategies and expand access of national civil society organizations to PBF resources.

GENDER & YOUTH PROMOTION INITIATIVES 2022

Eligible countries:

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- El Salvador
- The Gambia (only YPI)
- Guatemala (only YPI)
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Haiti (only YPI)
- Honduras
- Kyrgyzstan
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger (only YPI)
- Papua New Guinea
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan

Climate Security and PBF: Virtually Visiting the Pacific



To highlight the impact of the UN Peacebuilding Fund's support on Climate Security, the Peacebuilding Support Office held a virtual partner's "visit" to its climate security project in the Pacific on 18 May. The meeting chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator in Fiji, included the UN Resident Coordinator for Micronesia, representatives from UNDP and IOM, Ministers and Vice-Ministers from the Governments of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Republic of Marshall Islands, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and the local civil society. Representatives from over 15 Member States and PBF donors also engaged from their New York and regional offices.

Climate security has been identified as the greatest existential threat for the Pacific small island states, as highlighted in the Boe Declaration of 2019 and also during the Secretary-General's visit to the region of the same year. Yet this problem continues to suffer from lack of understanding and preparedness. UNDP and IOM is implementing the initiative with \$3.2 million in PBF financing, supporting key government departments, including the Office of the President in Kiribati, the Climate Change Directorate in the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Department of Climate Change in Tuvalu. The project supports inclusive community dialogues on links between climate change and security as well as detailed risk assessments, as the basis for an informed and joint understanding of the climate-related issues. The initiative is also supporting the initiation of pilot community activities to address identified risks. It promotes greater understanding of climate security along with regional and global advocacy through policy support and production of diverse knowledge products as well as support to the establishment of a Pacific Climate Security Expert network.

The participants also heard community perspectives with one civil society representative spotlighting how climate-induced relocation resulted in land disputes between family members and is a growing concern in the Island of Tuvalu as severe coastal erosion forces families to relocate to safe areas inland thus creating new tensions. The participants emphasized the strategic nature of the support, both in terms of knowledge generation and global awareness, but also in terms of providing concrete pilot solutions to interlinkages between climate change and land, food security and migration-related conflict. The meeting participants called for the continuation and the expansion of the initiative and for further support from the Member States on this issue in the regional and global fora, including through the Peacebuilding Commission.



Local Peacebuilding Thematic Review



The 2022 Thematic Review on Local Peacebuilding, commissioned by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in partnership with PeaceNexus Foundation and UN Volunteers programme, is informed by youth-led primary research in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, and the Western Balkans, and explores how 'local' peacebuilding is conceptualized and approached, what factors enable or inhibit the effectiveness of local-level peacebuilding interventions, and how the Peacebuilding Fund and other donors can support local actors better. Some of the recommendations include:

- **Support financial independence and institutional strengthening of local peacebuilding partners for sustainability of project results** by integrating income generation activities into projects, committing to longer-term and flexible funding mechanisms, or facilitating partnerships between local governments and local civil society.
- **Strengthen country-wide stakeholder mapping** with a focus on local conflict hotspots to ensure that selection of partners goes beyond the well-connected, capital city based national or local elite organizations, and extends to those who represent the spectrum of actors and social groups who are relevant to local conflict dynamics and populations.
- **Connect with, mobilize, and recognize volunteers** to help build sustainability, promote local ownership and leverage the networks and knowledge of local actors.
- **Expand the use of participatory approaches to monitoring and evaluation**, including 'everyday peace indicators', perception surveys and community-based monitoring and evaluation tools and processes to better measure local-level results and provide feedback for adaptation.
- **Deliberately build local-national linkages into peacebuilding projects and sufficiently resource both levels of interventions**, exploring ways in which local-level efforts can be catalysts for more structural or institutional change.