



FINAL REPORT

Cohort Evaluation of the UN PBF 2021 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI)

Data Collected

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Submitted by

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
CAR	Central African Republic
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DMEL	Design, Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning
DRC	Democratic Republic of The Congo
EQ	Evaluation Question
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GPI	Gender Promotion Initiative
GYPI	Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative
IGA	Income Generation Activity
INGO	International NGO
IP	Implementing Partner
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psycho-Social Services
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
UN AFP	United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
YPI	Youth Promotion Initiative
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction to 2021 Cohort Evaluation: The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the United Nations' financial instrument of first resort to prevent violent conflict and to build and sustain peace. The PBF commissioned CLIC to conduct an external summative cohort evaluation of the 2021 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) projects approved in 2021. The two themes of the GYPI 2021 call were 1) Promotion and Protection of Civic Spaces, Notably Regarding Land, Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Issues; and (2) Promotion and Strengthening of Mental Health and Psychosocial Well Being for Women and Youth as Part of Local Peacebuilding processes. The 2021 Cohort included 38 projects across 21 countries with budgets of under US\$1,500,000.

Scope and Methodology: This evaluation assesses the performance, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, and catalytic impact of the 2021 Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) GYPI Cohort using the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria. It used the United Nations ethical and quality standards. It applied a human rights, age-sensitive and gender-sensitivity approach while also integrating a complementary analytical lens of localization. The evaluation drew on a desk review of 176 documents, 75 interviews with key stakeholders, and four country case studies (Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, and Kyrgyzstan). environmental governance, as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

The evaluation faced challenges due to inconsistent information quality, staff turnover, lack of a centralized contact database, and difficulties reaching key stakeholders. Efforts like snowball sampling were largely ineffective. Stakeholder emphasized positive outcomes over areas needing improvement. To mitigate these issues, the team triangulated data and used multiple analytical approaches.

Key Findings: The evaluation found a high degree of relevance across the cohort. Projects aligned well with local conflict and peacebuilding dynamics and effectively connected gender equality and youth empowerment objectives to local drivers of conflict. MHPSS was recognized as foundational to peacebuilding, particularly in contexts of gender-based violence, displacement, and historical trauma. However, the degree to which MHPSS was systematically integrated varied across projects. Civic space initiatives succeeded in fostering local empowerment but faced challenges in embedding systemic or legally anchored change. Disability inclusion was inconsistently addressed across the cohort.

Coherence was strong, with projects aligning meaningfully with the Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agendas, as well as UN strategic frameworks and national government priorities. Conflict sensitivity was embedded in project design and operations, although the robustness of conflict analyses and the integration of gender-sensitive lenses varied. Most projects demonstrated adaptive management in response to evolving conflict risks and promoted collaboration and equitable resource access.

Projects were generally effective in delivering peacebuilding outcomes, notably in strengthening social cohesion, empowering women, and youth leaders, expanding decision-making spaces, and fostering economic resilience. MHPSS activities primarily focused on strengthened institutional capacities and provided community-level psychosocial support. Civic space initiatives led to the creation of youth-led governance structures, expanded access to land rights, and supported women's civic leadership. Positive unintended effects included expanded local engagement and social cohesion gains, although negative consequences such as group favouritism and male resistance to women's empowerment initiatives were noted.

Efficiency was a challenge across the cohort. While partnership development was often smooth, 31 out of 38 projects required extensions due to administrative, financial, and contextual delays. Financial delays and parallel reporting requirements from the recipient UN entities' compliance particularly affected non-UN implementing partners and CSOs working with various UN entities, requiring various Coordination structures such as steering committees and local coordination mechanisms helped maintain project delivery, but turnover of community partners and the impact of insecurity sometimes weakened continuity.

Sustainability prospects were strongest where projects built on existing national or local structures and established durable partnerships with government and civil society actors. Frequent government turnover and financing limitations remained significant barriers. Initiatives such as integrating peacebuilding themes into national policies, supporting women's and youth networks, and strengthening strategic institutions contributed positively to sustainability potential, although consistent follow-up will be necessary to preserve gains.

Catalytic change was evident across the cohort. Approximately 60% of projects reported achieving some or significant catalytic change, while 18% reported very significant catalytic change. Financial catalytic effects were notable, with approximately one-third of the projects mobilizing an additional USD \$27.4 million in new resources to expand peacebuilding efforts. Several projects successfully scaled geographically or expanded to reach new constituencies. For projects that reported were able to scale-up or create broader platforms the enabling factors included building on pre-existing local mechanisms, strong local ownership, alignment with national policies, and strategic partnerships with government, civil society, and donors.



Summary of Key Lessons Learned: Key lessons learned include the critical role of engaging local implementing partners and civil society organizations to ensure legitimacy and sustainability, the need to acknowledge that, while GYPI initiatives are designed as short-term, catalytic investments to address immediate gaps and test scalable concepts, achieving longer-term peacebuilding outcomes requires complementary strategic planning with partners from the design stage to enhance sustainability and impact, the need to recognize power dynamics within partnerships, the political dimensions of working with CSOs, the continued importance of strengthening women's leadership in peacebuilding, and the value of diversifying partnerships, including engagement with the private sector and academic institutions, to improve youth programming and longer-term sustainability. It is important to note that success in implementing and creating inclusive spaces varied across the GYPI cohort, reflecting the need for adaptive and context-sensitive approaches.

Summary of Key Recommendations:

1. Peacebuilding Fund

- i. Reflect on the purpose and ambition of the GYPI grants: The GYPI initiative sets out to support catalytic, innovative, and sustainable programming. However, these ambitions must be balanced with the realities of fragile and conflict-affected settings where timelines are short and local dynamics are complex.
- ii. Support learning, inclusion, and improved coordination through guidelines and reporting: Continue integrating emerging themes like MHPSS and land rights by promoting double loop learning (i.e., learning that involves rethinking strategies, not just fixing problems). At the same time, develop clearer operational guidelines—on branding, consent, youth age, and participant lists—and include

- questions on inclusion and disability in reporting to move beyond box-checking and reward good practice.
- iii. Clarify and recognize the UN's strategic role in project delivery: Encourage UN entities to be transparent about their role and budget use through consistent reporting. While often behind the scenes, their work is strategic and should be better documented and visualized.
 - iv. Devise an actionable plan to incentivize quick start-ups to ensure that projects are ready for implementation within 2 to 3 months maximum. To reduce delays, consider releasing an initial tranche of funding early to enable essential steps like staff hiring and contracting, while linking subsequent disbursements to readiness milestones.
 - v. Foster real-time learning and strengthen inter-project knowledge exchange: Create a dynamic sister-project learning program and facilitate timely information sharing within PBF, peers, and stakeholders. Regional exchanges can enhance learning relevance and uptake.
 - vi. Make annual conflict sensitivity training mandatory for all stakeholders participating in the projects, covering conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding principles, and MHPSS. Use reporting to reflect on practices like inclusive participant selection and tension mitigation.
 - vii. Ensure stronger localization through financing and policy support: Monitor and enforce that at least 40% of funding reaches national or subnational CSOs (directly and indirectly), with tailored support to build their capacity. Where national demand exists, encourage and fund efforts aligned with the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, including the development and implementation of YPS National Action Plans (NAPs).
 - viii. Ensure Adequate Timeframes and Flexible Funding for MHPSS: MHPSS projects should ideally run for at least three years and up to five years rather than the typical one to two years, to allow for meaningful, sustainable impact considering the nature of trauma and healing. This can be supported by further mainstreaming MHPSS across peacebuilding projects. Future projects should allocate more substantial and flexible budgets to effectively respond to these needs since psychosocial support for vulnerable populations, particularly survivors of gender-based violence, often involves unanticipated costs (e.g., transportation for legal follow-ups).

2. GYPI Implementers

- i. Partner locally and build inclusive, context-aware design processes: Work with IPs (such as CSOs and community-based organizations) that have deep contextual knowledge and community legitimacy. Engage them meaningfully from design through implementation, and where appropriate, bring in government agencies to ensure systemic buy-in.
- ii. Enhance implementation by tackling inefficiencies and embedding conflict sensitivity: Aim for implementation periods of at least 16 months and proactively address delays. Facilitate learning, collaboration, and high-quality reporting: Coordinate learning across projects and regions and develop peer-learning structures. Improve the quality and frequency of reporting, ensuring it captures process-level data and allows for consistent follow-up and adaptation.
- iii. Mainstream MHPSS with economic support and local relevance: Combine trauma healing with economic assistance to address both psychosocial and material needs, recognizing that in many conflict-affected settings, trauma is compounded by poverty, displacement, and unmet basic needs. Involve relevant culturally appropriate actors—such as community leaders or traditional healers—and embed local practices that shift healing from the individual to the community level.
- iv. Ensure broad, inclusive youth and civic engagement: Support transparent, well-resourced youth-led programming, and avoid technocratic demands that weaken grassroots agendas. Engage a broader range of actors—like academia or private sector—only after a proper conflict and stakeholder analysis and maintain youth leadership in coordination roles. Embed community-based

- youth coordinators in projects to strengthen engagement through consistent communication, local coordination, and trusted, context-sensitive leadership
- v. Protect civic space and support gender-responsive action: Continue to create space for young men and women to engage in public life and support women-led and LGBTQI+ CSOs. Promote intergenerational mentorship and ensure the safety of human rights defenders.
 - vi. Define clear responsibilities for sustaining impact beyond the project cycle: Clarify who will support participants post-project, especially when manuals or protocols are produced. This avoids shifting long-term expectations onto under-resourced CSOs.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the United Nations' financial instrument of first resort to prevent violent conflict and to build and sustain peace. From 2006 to 2024, the PBF has allocated more than \$2 billion to 74 recipient countries¹ through diverse peacebuilding programmatic approaches, including those focused on climate security, human rights, security sector reform, rule of law, and gender equality and youth empowerment in peacebuilding, among others.

The Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) 2021 Call for Proposals consisted of the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) which supports the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) calling for the recognition of women's valuable role in prevention and resolution of conflict; and the Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) The YPI supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) which recognizes the importance and positive contribution of youth toward the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

The GYPI 2021 Call for Proposals prioritized two themes: (1) Promotion and Protection of Civic Spaces, Notably Regarding Land, Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Issues; and (2) Promotion and Strengthening of Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) for Women and Youth as Part of Local Peacebuilding processes. A total of 22 countries were eligible for PBF funding for GYPI 2021. To be declared eligible for GYPI, CSOs had to be assessed as technically, financially, and legally sound by PBF and its fiduciary agent, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Projects were awarded based on a multi-prong criterion, including innovation, gender/youth approach, peacebuilding approach, consultation and partnership with local actors, conflict analysis, focused interventions targeting, linkages between project and existing peacebuilding priorities, implementation capacity, and value for money.

A total of 29 recipient entities received direct funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, of which 15 were UN agencies, 13 INGOs, and one national academic institution. In addition, 283 entities – be it national CSOs, government entities, or International NGOs (INGOs) - also implemented project related activities.

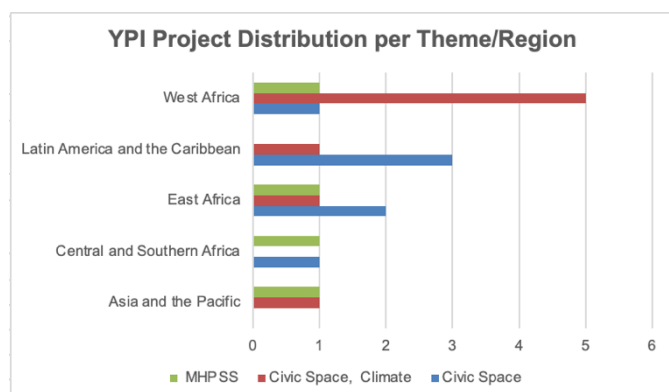
As per Figure 2 below, a total of 19 projects were funded under the GPI, with six projects implemented in West Africa, five in East Africa, two in Central and Southern Africa, five in Latin America and the Caribbean and two in Asia and the Pacific. Nine projects focused on the theme of civic spaces and land and environmental issues while 7 focused on MHPSS.

Scope of GYPI

In 2021, the PBF funded a total of 38 projects for an approved budget of \$51.9 million US dollars. Projects were implemented in 21 countries with several countries implementing more than one project

¹ United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/pbf000>

Figure 1 YPI Project Distribution per Theme/Region



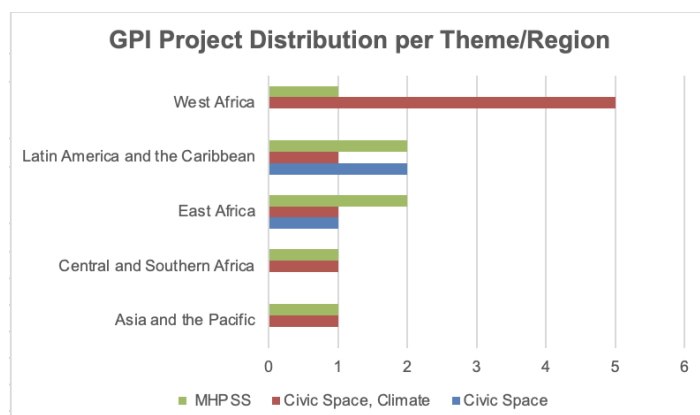
Similarly, as illustrated in Figure 1, the YPI funded 19 projects with seven implemented in West Africa, four in East Africa, two in Central and Southern Africa, four in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two in Asia and the Pacific. Fifteen projects focused on civic spaces and land and environmental issues, four on MHPSS (For a complete list of projects and objectives, see Annex I).

Of the 11 GYPI projects that focused on MHPSS—7 under GPI and 4 under YPI the four

YPI projects emphasized trauma recovery, resilience-building, and inclusive youth engagement—including youth from diverse backgrounds—as essential foundations for lasting peace. For example, in Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)), the project supported trauma healing and community reconciliation through a youth-centered approach. In civic space and civic space–climate projects, the objectives similarly emphasized inclusive governance and social cohesion, while also addressing environmental risks and land-related conflicts. For instance, in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) and Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), projects supported youth participation in land conflict resolution and sustainable natural resource management.

Similarly, the 7 GPI MHPSS projects focused on trauma-informed support, community healing, and the empowerment of women and youth as peacebuilders. For example, projects in Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) and the Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)) worked to restore psychosocial well-being among conflict and SGBV survivors, while South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) and Papua New Guinea (Project [00130034](#)) addressed harmful gender norms and intergroup violence through gender-transformative approaches.

Figure 2 GPI Project Distribution per Theme/Region



))) addressed harmful gender norms and intergroup violence through gender-transformative approaches. Under the GPI civic space and climate stream, projects emphasized women's leadership in peace and resource governance, aiming to expand access to land and natural resources (Burundi Project [00130463](#), Mali Project [00130336](#)), strengthen inclusive governance structures (DRC Project [00131128](#), Guinea-Bissau Project [00130107](#)), and increase women's participation in civic and political life

(Colombia Project [00130079](#), Somalia Project [00130704](#)). Several projects also addressed climate-security risks (Mauritania Project [00129746](#), Papua New Guinea Project [00129773](#)) and promoted safe, inclusive spaces for conflict prevention and community resilience (Sierra Leone Project [00130053](#), Honduras Project [00130443](#)).

The cohort evaluation examines GYPI's contribution to gender equality, youth empowerment, and peacebuilding with a focus on civic space and mental health.² It recognizes that groups of people, for example women, youth, or indigenous peoples, are not homogenous groups with similar needs and challenges. It further recognizes that within each category there is a range of issues that may or may not intersect and which will be considered in this study.

The table below shows the total budget by theme for each of the YPI and GPI projects.

	MHPSS	Civic Space	Civic Space, Climate
YPI	5099732.22	9698342	10949960.05
GPI	10497342.9	3785000	11452327.69
Total Budget	15597075.1	13483342	22402287.74

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The 2021 Cohort Evaluation is designed to provide insight into the funding mechanism and the aggregate key results, lessons learned, and recommendations based on the 38 GYPI-funded projects. The evaluation will provide analysis on how and to what extent the 2021 project cohort contributed towards peacebuilding, gender equality, WPS, and YPS agendas. Moreover, the evaluation collected and synthesized illustrative success stories with a focus on the GYPI Mental Health and Psychosocial Support projects (MHPSS).

The objectives of the evaluation included: (1) Evaluate the overall cohort with a focus on the extent to which gender, youth, and human rights, and disability inclusion were effectively mainstreamed across the GYPI projects to inform future program development, (2) Provide an overview of the GYPI project results with a focus on learning related to achievements, challenges, innovation, catalytic change, conflict sensitivity and progress towards sustainability, ownership and localization, (3) Produce four individual case studies including three projects focused on MHPSS as this theme was identified by the PBF as an emerging area, requiring a specific focus to bridge the knowledge gap on Peacebuilding and MHPSS while facilitating cross-project comparisons to identify common patterns and distinctive outcomes across the evaluation criteria, (4) Derive key lessons from the cohort on successful peacebuilding approaches and operational practices regarding gender-and youth-responsive peacebuilding, with a specific focus on civic spaces and MHPSS, the thematic priorities outlined in the 2021 GYPI call. The lessons should inform future program design, and (5) Collect key stories of change, lessons learned, and cohort and project level recommendations.

1.2 METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN

Evaluation Approach and Methodology - The evaluation used a goal-based approach, and a utilization-focused approach grounded in principles of conflict sensitivity, trauma-informed practice, and localization as a key driver for change and ownership. Its objective was to generate actionable learning for the PBF and its partners by evaluating the cohort-level performance of the 38 projects approved under the 2021 GYPI.

² The following scope came from the PBF Evaluation TOR (July 28, 2024). The entire Cohort Evaluation should have an adequate focus on the 2021 GYPI themes, namely: 1) Promotion and protection of civic spaces, notably regarding land, indigenous peoples and, environmental issues and 2) Promotion and strengthening of mental health and psychosocial well-being for women and youth as part of local peacebuilding processes.

These included 19 projects under the GPI and 19 under the YPI, spanning themes such as youth empowerment, women's participation, civic space, and MHPSS.

The evaluation was structured around a core set of evaluation questions (EQs) based on the PBF project evaluation framework and assessed using five adapted OECD-DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability (see Annex II for list of evaluation questions).

Relevance	
EQ1. To what extent did GYPI projects' conflict/context analyses and theories of change connect the three dimensions – 1) gender equality and youth empowerment, 2) respective thematic focus, and 3) conflict drivers/peacebuilding needs?	
EQ2. Were the 2021 GYPI themes relevant for the overarching peacebuilding needs of women and/or youth in PBF eligible countries that year?	
EQ3. To what extent did GYPI projects build on previous or ongoing PBF-funded projects in respective countries, and what was GYPI projects' complementarity or value added?	
Efficiency	
EQ4. How efficient were GYPI projects in formalizing partnerships with national or local implementing entities, particularly CSOs?	
EQ5. How well did GYPI projects coordinate with implementing partners, in-country stakeholders (including governments) and project participants on their progress and results, and were resources used efficiently?	
Effectiveness	
EQ6. To what extent did the GYPI call 2021 contribute directly to the 2020-2024 Strategy, promoting the positive engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding through innovative approaches? To what extent did the GPI projects support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda? To what extent did the YPI projects support the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda?	
EQ7. What are some of the <i>peacebuilding</i> results (at the outcome level) achieved by 2021-approved GYPI projects?	
Sustainability & Ownership	
EQ8. How strong was the commitment of the governments and other national stakeholders to sustaining the results of PBF GYPI support and continuing initiatives on women's and young people's participation in peacebuilding?	
EQ9. How did the GYPI projects enhance and contribute to the development of national capacity (national and local governments and local CSOs) in order to ensure suitability of efforts and benefits?	
Coherence	
EQ10. To what extent did GYPI projects complement work done through the previous cohort of GYPI projects, and among different entities, especially contributing to greater UN system-wide coherence?	
Conflict sensitivity	
EQ11. How well did GYPI projects apply conflict sensitivity during design and implementation?	
EQ12. What unintended (positive or negative) peacebuilding results did GYPI projects contribute to?	

Catalytic	
EQ13. Has PBF GYPI funding been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding and/or women's and youth empowerment? Did the projects leverage additional resources?	
Innovation	
EQ14. What lessons can be drawn from GYPI projects' innovative or adaptive approaches (if any) to inform future programming?	
Localization	
EQ15. How much of the PBF funding was passed on to local partners?	
EQ16. Were GYPI projects able to foster a sense of local ownership over project design, implementation and sustainability of peacebuilding results or processes?	
EQ17. What lessons can be drawn from GYPI partnerships with local CSOs? What was the value added of the joint UN /CSOs projects to achieve the GYPI objectives?	

The evaluation was guided by the UNEG Norms and Standards and Ethical Guidelines, the 2014 United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Guidelines on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations and integrated a gender- and youth-sensitive approach.³ It also considered existing UN PBF technical guidance on Catalytic effects. Data protection and management were governed by the Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles adopted by the UN High-Level Committee on Management.

MHPSS and peacebuilding were identified by the PBF as an emerging area of study. A total of 11 out of the 38 projects focused on MHPSS (29% of the portfolio). In preparing the Inception Report the evaluation team reviewed recent guidance on MHPSS and peacebuilding including the Interagency (IASC) Guidance Integrating MHPSS and Peacebuilding, Mapping and Recommendations for Peacebuilders (January 15, 2024) and UNDPs' Integrating MHPSS into Peacebuilding (2022), and International Alert's Peace of Mind: The Role of Mental Health in peacebuilding. This guidance was not available to practitioners during implementation. The evaluation team balanced examining projects focusing on MHPSS while also conducting a comprehensive cohort evaluation, which was the primary task of this evaluation. Therefore, the evaluation conducted three case studies on MHPSS to gather more in-depth information on MHPSS and peacebuilding.

A Focus on MHPSS

MHPSS and peacebuilding was identified by the PBF as an emerging area of study. A total of 11 out of the 38 projects focused on MHPSS (29% of the portfolio).

1.3 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

1.3.1 DESK REVIEW AND INCEPTION

The evaluation began with a meta-review of all 38 GYPI projects and previous cohort evaluations, forming the foundation for analysis. Over 176 documents were reviewed, including project proposals, 47 annual

³ United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). (2024). *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations*.

reports, 61 semi-annual reports, 25 final reports, and 6 evaluation reports. This review identified patterns, lessons learned, and promising practices in youth and women's peacebuilding programming, while also surfacing gaps and inconsistencies. Insight from the desk review informed the interview phase and later enabled a cross-examination of the objectives outlined in project proposals against actual performance outcomes. This phase also included development of rubrics to assess evidence for key EQs, creating a consistent and transparent scoring framework across the evaluation.

1.3.2 PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

To complement the desk review, a robust primary data collection phase was implemented, drawing on qualitative methods. Purposive and representative sampling was used to select stakeholders across PBF HQ and Secretariat staff, to fund recipients, national and local implementing partners, and to direct project participants. This ensured inclusion of diverse perspectives from those most involved in or affected by GYPI interventions.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): KIIs provided in-depth, flexible, participatory discussions while ensuring consistency in covering core questions across thematic areas. A semi-structured approach was used when interviewing a total of 76 individuals, including 43 recipient entities staff, 21 PBF HQ and Secretariat staff and 12 implementing partners (including CSOs). Interviews took place between December 2024 and April 2025.

Case Studies: A total of four case studies were conducted to provide more in-depth information on regions or themes. In-country case studies took place in Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) and Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)), one remote case study in Colombia (Project [00130079](#)) and one in Central Africa Republic (Project [00130464](#)). The CAR case study relied on secondary sources while and primary data was collected for the Colombia (Project [00130079](#)) was remote. The case studies in Burundi and Kyrgyzstan were on-site case studies. These studies were selected in collaboration with the PBF evaluation manager and were based on criteria that included geographic distribution and the project themes. The methodology included desk studies, interviews, focus groups and site-visits (for the on-site case studies). Case studies are stand-alone documents that are found in Annex V.

Table 1 Number of stakeholders reached

Type of Stakeholder Engaged	Interview		Case Study		Totals	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
PBF Staff	14	7	2 – COL 1 – KYR	1 – KYR 1 – BRI	17	9
Recipient Entity	21	22	3 – COL 2 – KYR 4 – BRI	1 – KYR 1 – BRI	30	24
Implementing Partner (IPs) (INGO/CSO/)	4	8	2 – COL 4 – KYR 3 – BRI	1 – COL 1 – KYR 8 – BRI	13	18
Government or government agencies (IP and non-IP)	0	0	3 – COL 9 – KYR	1 – COL 2 – KYR 7 – BRI	12	10
Project Participant	0		5 – COL 30 – KYR 48 – BRI	6 – KYR 20 – BRI	83	26
Totals	39	37	116	50		
Totals	76		166		242	

Data Analysis and Validation – Data analysis drew on both thematic coding and quantification techniques to ensure rigor and clarity. Qualitative transcripts from KIIs and FGDs were systematically coded in Excel to identify recurring patterns. Where feasible, data from open-ended responses were quantified, and numerical values assigned to specific indicators to show high-level aggregate performance results. This mixed-methods integration enhanced the robustness of the evaluation, allowing the team to triangulate qualitative richness with quantitative precision. All findings were validated through three participatory validation workshops with PBF and project implementation staff.

Reporting and Dissemination – The final phase synthesized all insights into a comprehensive evaluation report featuring: (1) Evidence-based findings, recommendations, and lessons learned, (2) Integrated case study narratives and stories of change, (3) Practical implications for GYPI design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

Evaluation Limitations – The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agendas are broad and multifaceted. While we had sufficient data to conduct in-depth analysis - and did so in the case studies - the portfolio-level review limited our ability to highlight the voices and unique contributions of individual projects. As a result, the aggregation process may have led to the under-reporting or under-representation of certain achievements and challenges. Moreover, the breadth of EQs and the large number of projects limited the depth of analysis. In addition, access to key stakeholders for some projects was limited due to renewed conflict (DRC Project [00131128](#)), virtual communications issues, and the departure of key individuals.

The availability and quality of information varied considerably from one project to another. Contributing factors included: the extent to which outcomes (as opposed to activities or outputs) were tracked; whether appropriate indicators were used and applied; whether evaluations were conducted, and their robustness and scope; the existence of complementary studies (e.g., perception studies, longitudinal or comparative analyses); and the availability of project staff or beneficiaries to provide insights.

Staff turnover and transitions to new roles significantly affected our ability to follow up with key stakeholders, secure interviews, or even receive responses to our emails - especially among civil society partners and government officials - making it difficult to gather consistent and detailed feedback. Moreover, some projects had been closed for more than 12 months, and many participants had a difficult time recalling key information. PBF's absence of a centralized contact database for implementing partners (IPs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and government officials involved in the projects hindered the evaluation team's ability to engage with these key stakeholders. Although a snowball sampling approach was employed to reach additional CSO partners, this method proved largely ineffective and time consuming. Given the power relations between donor and recipient, as well as competition for limited resources, the evaluation team noted over-reporting on positive results and under-reporting of areas of improvement. The evaluation team triangulated various data sources, aggregated at cohort level, and integrated various analytical lenses to minimize the impact of these limitations.

2 KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

2.1 RELEVANCE AND CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

2.1.1 ADDRESSING CONFLICT DRIVERS, COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING NEEDS, AND CONFLICT SENSITIVITY INTEGRATION

Across the cohort portfolio, GYPI projects demonstrated a high degree of alignment between their conflict and context analyses, thematic focus, and the peacebuilding needs of women and youth. Most projects successfully connected gender equality and youth empowerment to local drivers of conflict such as exclusion from governance, land disputes, conflict, and post-conflict trauma, conflict-related GBV, and climate-change related pressures. The promotion and protection of Civic Spaces and MHPSS themes were found to be highly relevant across all PBF projects. These themes were globally set by the PBF, but the evaluation showed that local actors were able to adapt them to national contexts via consultations and engagement in technical conversations with stakeholders.

Alignment with Peacebuilding Needs

Most projects successfully connected gender equality and youth empowerment to local drivers of conflict such as exclusion from governance, land disputes, conflict, and post-conflict trauma, GBV, and climate-change related pressures.

2.1.2 ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF THE CONFLICT

Evidence from data showed that overall, the cohort projects were able to tailor interventions to address conflict drivers such as land disputes, resource governance, displacement, and inter-tribal tensions. Projects were particularly relevant when they addressed root causes of conflicts and when they were context-specific and grounded their work in local conflict-related dynamics.

In Somalia's Marka District, decades-long land and water disputes was addressed by empowering youth and women to participate in resource governance, therefore complementing national peace plans (Project [00129735](#)). In Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)), a focus on climate-related water insecurity linked gender inequality, urban marginalization, and civic unrest, framing youth and women as central to climate resilience and conflict prevention. In Liberia (Project [00131553](#)), land disputes, exclusion from justice systems, and post-conflict fragility were met with initiatives that engaged women and youth in inclusive peacebuilding platforms. Other projects, particularly in Latin America focused on creating an enabling environment by increasing the leadership of youth and women's organizations to improve their local conditions.

Addressing the drivers of conflict with MHPSS initiatives: MHPSS was positioned as foundational to peacebuilding, especially in contexts marked by GBV, displacement, historical trauma, or exclusion, and recognizing that unresolved trauma fuels cycles of violence. MHPSS was seen as a gateway to restoring broken social fabric and rebuilding trust. Key examples of conflict drivers addressed by MHPSS are:

Addressing GBV and Social Fragmentation: The Gambia project (Project [00130106](#)) directly addressed the trauma of SGBV survivors, linking trauma-informed counseling with economic recovery and community resilience. The project recognized that healing from violence was essential for reintegration and social cohesion in a fragile, post-authoritarian setting. In Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), the project focused on women and girls in the conflict-stricken area of Cité Soleil, integrating psychosocial support with dialogue and civic engagement. CSOs played a central role in co-designing activities, strengthening local ownership and

sustainability. Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) and CAR (Project [00129734](#)) projects emphasized psychosocial recovery from GBV and displacement, aligning trauma care with goals of reconciliation and peace. Specifically in Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), MHPSS was integrated into both community and institutional peacebuilding frameworks. Over 2,500 women and 1,000 police officers participated in psychosocial support and nonviolent conflict resolution training. Women reported increased self-confidence, improved family relations, and greater participation in peace activities. Safe spaces enabled open dialogue on trauma and gender-based violence, while women-led cooperatives not only provided income but were also used to resolve family disputes.

Addressing militarized masculinity and normalized violence: Sudan (Project [00130002](#)) project tackled militarized masculinities and intergenerational trauma through nonviolent conflict resolution, trauma healing, and promoting non-violent masculinities. MHPSS was linked to behavior change and long-term social transformation.

Addressing youth marginalization and recruitment into violence: Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) and CAR (Project [00130464](#)) projects identified youth exclusion and vulnerability to radicalization as conflict drivers. Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) specifically supported young people, especially women, through safe spaces, peer support, and mentorship. In Batken, youth displaced by cross-border violence received psychosocial care from local mentors, some of whom were also affected by the conflict. The youth-led MHPSS initiatives helped reduce stigma, foster interethnic dialogue, and catalyze new initiatives, including women-led businesses. In fact, one participant launched a food production enterprise employing 20 women. Interventions combined psychosocial care, youth-led initiatives, and income-generating activities (IGAs) to reduce recruitment risks and improve civic participation. In Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)) trauma healing was positioned as a precondition for reconciliation, linking MHPSS with youth empowerment and local peacebuilding efforts in regions affected by displacement and economic strain.

Addressing Youth Marginalization

In Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) specifically supported young people, especially women, through safe spaces, peer support, and mentorship. In Batken, youth displaced by cross-border violence received psychosocial care from local mentors,

Conversely, the depth of integration of MHPSS varied, so while some projects embedded the theme within their peacebuilding frameworks, others lacked systemic or holistic strategies to deploy MHPSS in support of addressing the diverse drivers of conflict. Issues of exclusion of key populations, such as persons with disabilities, were found. The South Sudan project (Project [00130571](#)) for example overlooked specific psychosocial needs of youth with disabilities, limiting the reach of its mental health interventions. In GPI projects the focus was mostly on women, with limited male engagement. Other challenges identified were the lack of sufficient integration of government institutions in MHPSS activities leading to unsustainable results, absence of institutional shifts, or engagement in restorative justice for those harmed by the system or positioning of MHPSS as a key foundation for peacebuilding. In many contexts, deep-rooted societal stigma and taboos surrounding mental health limited demand, capacities and prioritization of psychosocial services.

Addressing the drivers of conflict with Civic Space initiatives: Civic space initiatives under the GYPI portfolio focused on addressing drivers of conflict such as social exclusion, weak governance, land disputes, climate stress, GBV, and youth marginalization. The cohort projects with their theme focusing on civic spaces were able to achieve local-level impacts and showed notable community engagement. Many projects, however, struggled to translate this grassroots engagement into systemic sustainable change or inclusive long-term participation. Key examples of conflict drivers addressed by Civic Spaces initiatives are:

Addressing Structural and Political Exclusion: Several projects successfully tackled exclusion from local governance structures, particularly for women, youth, and displaced populations, by expanding civic participation and leadership. The Sudan project (Project [00130052](#)) responded to repressive governance, intergenerational tensions, and resource constraints in West and Central Darfur. Youth and women were engaged in leadership roles through civic platforms, aligning with the Juba Peace Agreement and UNSCR 2250. In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) the project focused on displaced youth including young girls and women from the Littoral to the Northwest/Southwest regions. Local associations co-led training programs, community radio, and health campaigns, fostering civic inclusion and rebuilding trust. And in Niger (Project [00130502](#)) the project designed with CSO's input, reflected youth concerns around exclusion and recruitment by violent groups. Civic engagement platforms created space for alternative, peaceful participation, and in Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) the initiative bridged marginalized youth with formal governance systems, addressing political disenfranchisement and creating opportunities for civic learning.

Addressing land disputes, competition over resources, and environmental degradation: Land-related conflicts and environmental pressures were tackled through participatory governance and dispute resolution mechanisms. In Somalia (Project [00129735](#)) the project integrated women and youth into inclusive water and land governance, addressing inter-clan tensions and environmental resource competition, while also tackling the exclusion of women activists. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)) the project responded to inheritance conflicts and land-related disputes through participatory governance models. However, early-stage design missed community input, limiting buy-in. The CAR (Project [00130570](#)) project engaged youth in managing farmer-herder tensions in transhumance corridors. CSO involvement evolved over time into more formal partnerships supporting local dispute resolution. *Addressing gender inequality and GBV:* Projects sought to expand civic participation for women, but often lacked structural mechanisms to address harmful norms, GBV, or ensure legal protection. In The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)) SGBV survivors were supported through community engagement and trauma-informed civic participation. However, broader institutional responses to GBV remained limited. In Mali (Project [00130336](#)) women were excluded from land governance; the project addressed this by establishing peace credit systems to empower women in governance and climate adaptation. Yet, absence of strong legal protections limited structural change. In Liberia (Project [00131553](#)) civic reflection-action circles and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms were introduced, but concerns were raised over sustainability beyond the project lifecycle. In Colombia (Project [00130079](#)) and Honduras (Project [00130443](#)), women's organizations learned about and developed self-care routes but lacked a guarantee of long-term protection from the state.

Addressing Youth Marginalization and Economic Vulnerability: Projects widely addressed youth exclusion, but many lacked economic sustainability strategies. In Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)) the project tackled youth marginalization through civic engagement, mental health support, and conflict resolution. Haiti (Project [00129744](#)) built civic dialogue spaces for youth in marginalized urban areas, emphasizing ancestral governance structures. The project addressed both post-colonial exclusion and trauma, though institutional impacts were modest.

Despite notable achievements in addressing conflict drivers, several structural limitations were observed across the portfolio of civic space initiatives. First, many projects suffered from limited legal and institutional anchoring. While they expanded participation and engagement at the local level, they often lacked advocacy components or legal protections, ultimately weakening their potential for systemic influence. For instance, in South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)), although women and girls' participation in community dialogues and customary courts increased significantly, these gains were not embedded into formal statutory systems. The newly appointed women judges operated within traditional justice mechanisms that remained outside formal legal frameworks, limiting their ability to enforce systemic protections for survivors

of GBV. Similarly, while chiefs committed to banning early and forced marriage through community declarations, these commitments were not codified into enforceable state-level laws, leaving behavior change vulnerable to reversal. Additionally, and similar to MHPSS initiatives, disability inclusion remained a significant gap as few initiatives integrated accessibility measures or targeted the participation of persons with disabilities in civic spaces. For example, projects in Mali (Project [00130336](#)) and Mauritania (Project [00129746](#)) did not mainstream this critical inclusion lens, missing opportunities for more equitable engagement. Other projects excelled at targeting initiatives to empower and engage with marginalized, economically vulnerable, indigenous, and LGBTQI+ youth (Colombia Project [00130080](#), Honduras Project [00129762](#), El Salvador Project [00130003](#), Guatemala Project [00129774](#)) and women CSOs representing diverse populations (Colombia Project [00130079](#)) and human rights defenders (Honduras Project [00130443](#)).

2.1.3 ALIGNMENT WITH PEACEBUILDING NEEDS OF WOMEN AND/OR YOUTH

Thematic focus on youth civic inclusion, women's empowerment, and MHPSS was validated as necessary, timely, context-specific and impactful, particularly in fragile or transitional contexts like Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Sudan, and Niger. Many projects recognized the connection of age, gender, and ethnicity to be empowering, advancing local ownership and fostering of agency and inclusion, especially of marginalized groups – the M'bororo Fulani in Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), indigenous groups in Niger (Project [00130502](#)) and Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), marginalized groups of women in Jubaland and Southwest states of Somalia (Project [00103704](#)) and rural youth girls in Haiti (Project [00130791](#)). Overall, the reviewed projects were well-aligned with the 2021 GYPI priorities and highly relevant to addressing exclusion, trauma, and conflict dynamics in their respective contexts and were able to contribute to shifting structural inequalities (Papua New Guinea Project [00129773](#) and South Sudan Project [00130571](#)). Strong examples include youth-led governance in Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), trauma-informed approaches in CAR (Project [00130464](#)), and inclusive civic engagement in The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)). Across most cases, the themes were described as 'highly relevant' to the peacebuilding needs of women and youth. In the CAR – "(Project [00130464](#)) Before the project, our wounds spoke louder than our voices. Now, we meet those we once feared and plan markets together." – Youth Participant, Sibut

Alignment with Peacebuilding Needs

Strong examples include youth-led governance in Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), trauma-informed approaches in CAR (Project [00130464](#)), and inclusive civic engagement in The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)).

- **Burkina Faso** (Project [00130026](#)): The project themes—including land governance, youth empowerment, and conflict resolution— led the communities to quickly embrace and appropriate the project activities because they addressed real, lived needs, including tensions over land, marginalization, and insecurity.
- **Cameroon** (Project [00130027](#)): Civic space and social cohesion themes were considered highly relevant in addressing tensions and lack of cohesion resulting from the displacement of populations, particularly due to linguistic and ethnic divides in the Northwest and Southwest regions.
- **The Gambia** (Project [00130106](#)): MHPSS was highlighted as critical due to an increase in mental health issues especially with the return of migrants after being deported, compounded by weak institutional capacities in mental health services.
- **Haiti** (Project ID [00129744](#)) and Haiti (Project ID [00130791](#)): The projects addressed core issues such as women's inclusion, leadership, and protection from violence, with the thematic choices viewed as 'comprehensive and interconnected' and were able to revive ancestral governance structures and create unprecedented spaces for youth to engage with state institutions in the face of structural exclusion.

- **Somalia** (Project [00130704](#)) and **Sudan** (Project [00130052](#)): The projects were praised for empowering young men and women to play a central role in conflict resolution, tackling exclusion and GBV in fragile sociopolitical contexts with bottom-up approaches that aligned with national plans and grassroots peace efforts.
- **Niger** (Project [00130502](#)): The themes were considered highly relevant as they explicitly aligned with the WPS and YPS agendas and national plans like the Resilience Plan and UN Cooperation Framework, ensuring double coherence with both community needs and international frameworks.
- **CAR** (Project [00130570](#)) focused on preventing youth recruitment into armed groups—a top priority for national peace and security efforts.

Underscoring Relevance of the MHPSS theme to peacebuilding needs: MHPSS was widely acknowledged as critical in addressing gaps in recovery of trauma and of violent conflict, displacement, and gender-based violence. In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) and Central African Republic (CAR) (Project [00129734](#)), projects provided psychosocial care to survivors of conflict and GBV, recognizing trauma as a core barrier to sustainable peace. Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) and Niger (Project [00130502](#)) used MHPSS to build resilience among displaced youth, especially girls and women, linking psychosocial recovery to civic reintegration.

However, while some projects fully integrated MHPSS activities, the lack of integration of MHPSS components in others remained a challenge facing long-term healing and social cohesion. Projects in Mali (Project [00130613](#)) and Mauritania (Project [00129746](#)) for example recognized mental health needs as critical to sustainable peace but did not include dedicated support structures, reducing their ability to fully meet identified community needs for healing. Also, some of the projects that did include MHPSS components did not always connect it to key root causes of the conflict, such as livelihood support, therefore limiting their sustainability (CAR Project [00129734](#)).

Relevance of MHPSS

Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) and Niger (Project [00130502](#)) used MHPSS to build resilience among displaced youth, especially girls and women, linking psychosocial recovery to civic reintegration.

Underscoring Relevance of the Civic Spaces and Climate Theme to Peacebuilding Needs: Civic Space creation responded to exclusion from governance and dialogue. Many projects aimed to counter systemic exclusion of youth and women from governance and civic dialogue by creating inclusive platforms for participation, especially where youth and women's voices are often sidelined and not included in official, informal and ancestral governance structures (Guatemala Project [00129774](#)). These efforts were especially relevant in fragile (post-conflict or post-authoritarian) contexts such as The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), Sudan, Somalia, Colombia, El Salvador, and Honduras, where political transitions and historical marginalization had left youth and women on the edges of decision-making.

In Sudan (Project [00130052](#)), youth were supported to access local peace processes and civic engagement in Central and West Darfur, responding to their unmet aspirations following the 2019 revolution, repressive governance structures and intergenerational tensions. In Honduras (Project [00129762](#)) ancestral land conflicts previously excluded youth, but PBF-supported projects facilitated intergenerational knowledge transfer and civic participation in environmental governance. In Somalia (Project [00130704](#)), women journalists and activists were supported in a fragile context of gendered violence and exclusion from public life, building their safety and political participation. Civic Spaces were also critical for the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples and displaced youth, who gained visibility in conflict resolution through inclusive civic dialogue and legal frameworks (e.g., Niger, Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, and Central African Republic projects). In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) land

governance was addressed through youth empowerment coupled with creation of economic opportunities, making involvement in dialogue platforms more appealing, and sustained youth participation beyond the project end. In Niger (Project [00130502](#)) there was a focus on youth coaching, civic participation, and economic resilience, addressing vulnerabilities that feed into extremism and instability.

These many achievements did not alleviate concerns especially around geographical scope, insufficient institutional engagement, particularly in formal governance and justice systems, or over-reliance on assumptions. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) for example and despite high thematic relevance, the spread across 12 villages only in two under-covered regions was seen as a missed opportunity, with suggestions that a more concentrated approach could amplify visibility and long-term change. In Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)) and Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) the projects were acknowledged as relevant but based on a questionable assumption that migrant returnees would drive conflict. Even so, the effort to provide hope and engagement for youth in a territory with a lot of movement was considered worthwhile.

Relevance of Civic Space

In Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)) and Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) the projects were acknowledged as relevant but based on a questionable assumption that migrant returnees would drive conflict. Even so, the effort to provide hope and engagement for youth in a territory with a lot of movement was considered worthwhile.

2.1.4 INTEGRATION OF CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND THE 'DO NO HARM' APPROACH

Conflict-Sensitivity at the Project Design Level

Most GYPI projects included some form of conflict analysis during the design phase, but the depth, inclusivity, and thematic clarity varied. While many identified intergroup tensions and resource-based disputes, only a few demonstrated a robust gender-sensitive lens. For instance, Somalia (Project [00130704](#)) examined the weaponization of gender-based violence (GBV), shedding light on how sexual violence was used as a strategic tool in conflict, while South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) explored how patriarchal norms and intercommunal violence reinforced cycles of instability. Resource competition and youth exclusion emerged as common themes, particularly in Niger (Project [00130502](#)), where the project linked social divisions to limited employment opportunities and land disputes. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Project [00131128](#)), the analysis focused on historical land conflicts between Twa and Bantu communities, emphasizing power imbalances in local land governance structures. Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)) used water scarcity as an entry point to demonstrate how environmental stressors intensified local tensions. However, the inclusion of marginalized voices in conflict analyses was inconsistent. Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)) conducted a broad assessment but did not prioritize minority ethnic perspectives, whereas CAR (Project [00130570](#)) provided a more inclusive approach by mapping tensions among herders, farmers, and other marginalized groups, recognizing the complexities of rural power dynamics.

The level of stakeholder consultation to integrate conflict considerations varied greatly across projects. Some projects exhibited high levels of engagement during both design and implementation. Notably, Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) and CAR (Project [00130464](#)) conducted participatory evaluations that actively involved displaced youth, civil society organizations, and government institutions to co-create interventions responsive to community needs. In Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)), almost 1,000 youths participated in a baseline survey, and local CSOs (such as IYD, DIA, and Peace Initiatives) co-designed activities like Kyrgyz-language podcasts that challenged stigma in culturally resonant ways. Conversely, other projects like Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)) and Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)) mentioned

consultations but offered little evidence that this input influenced project design. Gender-sensitive consultation was limited overall, with Somalia (Project [00130704](#)) standing out for integrating gender through advocacy initiatives and legal reform support, such as promoting the Sexual Offences Bill. Although resource-based conflict drivers were frequently acknowledged in analysis, they were not always accompanied by in-depth mapping of the actors involved or detailed consultation with those most affected, particularly marginalized groups.

Conflict-Sensitivity at the Project Implementation Level

During implementation however, and across the reviewed cohort projects, there was a commendable effort to remain sensitive to evolving conflict contexts. Most projects operated in ambiguous, unstable and ever-changing environments, where violence, displacement, political volatility, and institutional shifts posed persistent challenges. In response, some projects were able to implement flexible and adaptive mechanisms that allowed projects to remain relevant and safe, and even if not always formally institutionalized.

Mechanisms for Conflict Sensitivity and Responsiveness to Shifts in both Design and Implementation

Adaptable activities' design: some projects embedded flexibility in the initial design of the activities to remain responsive to the shifts in the context. Papua New Guinea (Project [00129773](#)) for example designed peacebuilding training to be modular, allowing adaptation to emerging community concerns by adding training modules as needed. In Colombia (Project [00130080](#)), topics for youth capacity strengthening were chosen after an extensive data collection that identified narratives.

Adaptive operational responsiveness: it was found by multiple projects that operational responsiveness is key to continuity. Projects often had to relocate activities to safer areas, adjust schedules around insecurity or seasonal conditions, and reallocate budgets based on emerging priorities. For instance, in Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), a setting marked by intensifying gang violence, project offices and safe spaces for survivors were relocated, and activities shifted toward humanitarian support to meet the growing needs of displaced populations. Proxy service delivery mechanisms were employed in hard-to-reach zones to maintain continuity of care and support. Fewer projects adapted to ensure that they were including key stakeholders or more groups. Therefore, there was a bias towards adaptive programming to avoid doing harm instead of doing good. In Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities were not fully included in climate-related activities. And in Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#), Project [00130464](#)), young people and survivors were not involved in shaping reintegration efforts. These gaps limited the potential for deeper, more inclusive peacebuilding.

Conflict Sensitivity

In Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities were not fully included in climate-related activities. And in Central African Republic (Projects [00129734](#), [00130464](#)), young people and survivors were not involved in shaping reintegration efforts. These gaps limited the potential for deeper, more inclusive peacebuilding

Coordination, feedback circles and engagement of stakeholders: Project coordination and feedback mechanisms involving stakeholders served as early warning systems. Technical coordination committees, complaint mechanisms, and regular multi-stakeholder meetings enabled teams to track changes, identify emerging risks, and adjust activities in real time. These structures often included local authorities, CSOs, community representatives, and implementing partners, ensuring that interventions remained grounded in

local realities and retained legitimacy. For example, in Mali (Project [00129745](#)) prior to any public activity, teams sought validation from local security forces and decentralized government services, reflecting a valid approach to conflict risk management. In politically sensitive areas, like gold mining regions along the Mali–Guinea border, maintaining strict neutrality and avoiding alignment with controversial local actors was crucial to avoiding escalation. Projects like Mali (Project [00130336](#)) also used quarterly conflict risk assessments to categorize threats as high, medium, or low, allowing them to proactively adjust activities. In the case where operating was along tribal fault lines, coordination with local security actors enabled informed decisions about timing and safety of activities. When elections, strikes, or political transitions created new sensitivities—as in Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) the project had to maintain a low profile or shifted to virtual delivery of trainings to avoid politicization.

Promoting Collaboration and Equitable Access to Resources: Reducing competition over resources and fostering collaboration through inclusive approaches was key to ensuring conflict-sensitivity. These strategies were crucial in preventing tensions and ensuring that diverse community groups—including women, youth, displaced populations, and host communities—could access resources fairly and peacefully. One of the central approaches was the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms and community-led mechanisms and local committees, such as local land monitoring groups and peace promotion structures, further strengthened communication and collective problem-solving within and between villages and enabled communities to identify challenges related to land and resource access and co-create solutions rooted in local knowledge, without dependence on external actors. Examples of these are the Dimitra Clubs and agropastoral field schools (CAPs) in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)). And to avoid triggering new conflicts, especially in areas where land access was contentious, projects prioritized the reclamation of unused or degraded land rather than redistributing fertile plots already in use. In Mali, Project [00130336](#) supported the development of local conventions for natural resource management, establishing clearly agreed rules and penalties—such as standardized water usage fees for farmers and herders. These conventions helped regulate access and reduce potential conflicts over shared resources.

2.2 EFFECTIVENESS AND COHERENCE

2.2.1 PEACEBUILDING OUTCOMES, RESULTS, AND ALIGNING WITH PREVIOUS AND EXISTING PEACEBUILDING INVESTMENTS

Advancement of the WPS agenda and Civic Engagement:

Evidence collected demonstrated direct and meaningful contributions to the WPS agenda by actively promoting women's participation, protection, and leadership in peacebuilding contexts. Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) and The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)) effectively engaged women and youth in peacebuilding through a combination of economic empowerment, mental health support for GBV survivors, and leadership training. These efforts aligned closely with the WPS pillars of participation, protection, and prevention. Haiti (Projects [00129744](#), [00130791](#)) focused on empowering women and expanding access to MHPSS services in conflict-affected areas. Women-led support networks were established to provide psychosocial care and community-based recovery, reinforcing women's agency in reconciliation processes. Colombia (Project [00130501](#)) provided training in conflict management, supported

Advancement of the WPS agenda and Civic Engagement

Haiti (Projects [00129744](#), [00130791](#)) focused on empowering women and expanding access to MHPSS services in conflict-affected areas. Women-led support networks were established to provide psychosocial care and community-based recovery, reinforcing women's agency in reconciliation processes.

women's economic empowerment and contributed to political representation, with three Indigenous women elected to local councils—a clear advancement of the WPS participation pillar. South Sudan project (Project [00130571](#)) integrated psychosocial services with peacebuilding, supporting GBV survivors in regaining agency and leadership roles. In Honduras (Project [00130443](#)) and Colombia (Projects [00130079](#) & [00130501](#)) women leaders and representatives of CSOs worked with government agencies to better understand support mechanisms and create pathways for protection of human rights defenders and victims. Mali (Project [00129745](#), [00130336](#)) and DRC (Project [00131128](#)) projects emphasized community-based conflict resolution and climate-related peacebuilding, especially around land governance and natural resource management. The 'Artisanas de Paix' initiative in DRC promoted gender-sensitive land governance, positioning women as central actors in peacebuilding and local decision-making. And in Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)), the project enhanced women's civic and economic participation, training them in conflict resolution and income-generating activities, thereby boosting their resilience to resource-based and climate-related conflicts.

Advancement of the YPS agenda and Civic Engagement:

YPI projects provided a strong foundation for advancing the YPS agenda across diverse and often fragile contexts. Through localized participatory interventions these projects activated the five core YPS pillars, Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and to a lesser extent, Disengagement and Reintegration, helping reposition youth as central actors in peacebuilding rather than passive victims or at-risk populations. Examples from Colombia (Project [00130080](#)), El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)) and Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) show consistent support to youth as decision-makers and agents of change, particularly young women in Sudan through the Youth Citizen Observer Network that enabled youth to engage directly in civic oversight and local governance. Several YPI initiatives also focused on the protection and safeguarding of vulnerable youth, such as in El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)) and Honduras (Project [00129762](#)) that implemented GBV prevention programs that prioritized Indigenous and at-risk youth, as well as efforts in Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), and DRC (Project [00131128](#)) that advanced protection by promoting LGBTQI+ inclusion and civic participation, ensuring youth from marginalized backgrounds were not excluded from public life. The cohort also contributed meaningfully to violence prevention, especially through economic empowerment and community engagement in countries such as Niger (Project [00130502](#)) where youth centers were constructed and linked with IGAs, business kits, and coaching, providing alternatives to instability or extremism, and in CAR (Project [00130570](#)) tackled farmer-herder conflicts by enabling youth-led peace initiatives like market rehabilitation and community events. While direct disengagement and reintegration were less common, the Guatemala project (Project [00129774](#)) touched on the reintegration of returnee migrant youth. Although the expected reintegration tensions didn't materialize, the project successfully redirected efforts toward civic leadership and community-based action. Partnerships were also fostered through inter-agency and multi-stakeholder engagement, which played a crucial role in embedding youth in peace processes. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) and Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), projects collaborated closely with national youth councils and local authorities, ensuring youth voices could shape policy and programming.

Youth and Civic Engagement

Examples from Colombia (Project [00130080](#)), El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)) and Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)) show consistent support to youth as decision-makers and agents of change, particularly young women in Sudan through the Youth Citizen Observer Network that enabled youth to engage directly in civic oversight and local governance.

Strengthening Policy and Governance Structures in Support of Peacebuilding: Projects strengthened local and national governance structures, often by translating legal provisions into practice. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the inclusion of youth in land reconciliation frameworks had rarely been implemented prior to the PBF project. Through partnerships with the Conseil National de la Jeunesse, youth were integrated into formal mediation bodies. In Haiti (Project [00130791](#)), a major institutional outcome was the formation of the Women's Alliance (Alliance des Femmes), a coalition of women-led organizations that was

later invited to contribute to national constitutional and electoral reform processes. The appointment of a member as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Constitutional Reform highlighted the integration of women leaders into formal governance. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)), state and civil society actors were jointly mobilized to respond to the needs of GBV survivors, marking a shift toward more coherent and institutionalized multisectoral service delivery.

Forward Moving Multi-Sectoral Dialogue to Shift Narratives for Peacebuilding: Across all contexts, dialogue and coordinated platforms played a central role in reducing tensions. In Burkina Faso (Projects [00129742](#) & [00130002](#)), regular coordination between local authorities, opinion leaders, and community members allowed tensions to be “addressed before escalating.” In Cameroon (Project [0013027](#)), there was an emphasis on the importance of national leadership: “*The active support of the Prime Minister’s Office in encouraging support to IDPs*” was cited as instrumental in achieving peaceful coexistence. Integration plans for IDPs were developed collaboratively with communities. In Chad and Mali (Projects [00129745](#), [00130336](#), & [00130613](#)), security assessments and local intelligence gathering were conducted before each event. In politically sensitive areas, project teams “avoided alignment with controversial actors” and coordinated only with “recognized state-appointed officials” like sub-prefects. Projects also facilitated family-focused dialogues and community healing spaces, helping build shared understanding around sensitive issues like mental health, GBV, and the role of women and girls.

Fostering an Enabling Environment

In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the inclusion of youth in land conflict mediation structures was described by a recipient entity as a “*qualitative and quantitative shift in participation*” ensuring long-term ownership of peace processes.

Fostering a Peacebuilding-Enabled Environment through CSOs Strengthening (with a special Focus on Women): Strengthening local civil society was central to sustainability. In Haiti (Project [00130791](#)), local community-based organizations (CBOs) in high-risk areas like Cité Soleil received support to increase their awareness and prevention work on GBV. One interviewee noted, “*Leaders who were previously uninformed are now engaged advocates for reducing violence.*” In multiple locations, the Women’s Alliance became a sustained platform for collective advocacy on gender equality and women’s participation in governance. Projects also supported the formation and scaling of grassroots groups like in the case of Burkina Faso’s Dimitra Clubs, which promoted dialogue, cohesion, and locally led peacebuilding initiatives (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#)). Youth and women’s associations were mobilized to lead community initiatives, including infrastructure repair, which increased their visibility and legitimacy as actors of change.

Fostering a Peacebuilding-Enabled Environment through Leadership Development with Critical Skills: Projects invested heavily in youth and women’s leadership. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the inclusion of youth in land conflict mediation structures was described by a recipient entity as a “*qualitative and quantitative shift in participation*” ensuring long-term ownership of peace processes. In Haiti (Project [00130791](#)), youth trained under the project, including members of the Organisation de la Jeunesse Haïtienne (OJIH), were recognized at the national level. One youth-led group was selected to lead the profiling of youth candidates for ministry appointments, a clear sign of state recognition. Leadership development also took place through practical engagement. Youth participated and inclusion of young women in community improvement projects, like market rehabilitation and school furniture production, which, as one interviewee from the recipient entity noted, “*symbolized restored collaboration and created safe shared spaces*” and “*repositioned youth as peace actors rather than sources of conflict*” by giving them economic alternatives and formal roles in community decision-making.

2.3 THEMATIC PEACEBUILDING RESULTS: MHPSS

2.3.1 EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF MHPSS RESULTS

Across multiple countries, MHPSS projects delivered results at both institutional and community levels and made direct and measurable contributions to peacebuilding by addressing trauma, reinforcing service systems, and creating inclusive pathways for recovery. By combining psychosocial support with institutional reform and community mobilization, the initiatives contributed to strengthening the foundations of peacebuilding by supporting health systems, advancing survivor-centered care, and embedding mental health as a core component of peacebuilding strategies.

1. Institutional Strengthening and Service Expansion: MHPSS projects played a critical role in enhancing the capacity of healthcare systems, justice institutions, and frontline service providers to support survivors of GBV and conflict-induced trauma. Some examples include:

- **The Gambia** (Project [00130106](#)) led one of the most comprehensive institutional responses by training 150 CSOs, government agencies, and frontline workers in survivor-centered MHPSS. The project also developed and validated a national SOP and training manual on MHPSS, expanded one-stop centers from 5 to 11, with 8 fully equipped and staffed to deliver medical, legal, and psychosocial support, and supported the National Human Rights Commission's Advisory Note on Mental Health Rights and conducted creative advocacy, reaching over 500 people via songs and messages promoted by Ask Bajen Community Advocates. These initiatives have continued, with the Ministry of Health validating a new mental health policy in 2024 that integrates MHPSS into the broader healthcare system and promotes human rights for individuals with mental and substance use disorders. The National Human Rights Commission has also published an Advisory Note on the Right to Mental Health, emphasizing the need for the enactment of the Mental Health Bill, 2019.
- **Central African Republic** (Project [00129734](#)) established 15 community structures providing professional MHPSS. These centers offered group counseling, community healing dialogues, and peer-led support groups, integrating local spiritual beliefs and traditional practices to ensure relevance and effectiveness. Traditional practices included community rituals, the involvement of elders and spiritual leaders, and culturally rooted storytelling circles—approaches that were adapted and embedded into psychosocial interventions to strengthen trust, legitimacy, and community ownership. 70.5% of the population expressed satisfaction with the quality of services. By equipping women with skills to address trauma and facilitate reconciliation, the project bridged mental health support with community justice, fostering inclusive and culturally resonant pathways to peace. One woman pointed out:

"We, the women, thanks to the training received from AFJC funded by the PBF and UNFPA, and the AVEC activities carried out with UN Women, have seen an improvement in our social well-being. I set up a sewing workshop at home and involved my sons and daughters in the activity. Since then, I've observed that they go out less and are increasingly interested in participating. This activity, beyond its economic value, has become a space for intergenerational dialogue and healing, helping strengthen family bonds and rebuild trust."

- **Haiti** (Project [00129744](#)) strengthened therapeutic infrastructure, rehabilitating a dialogue space and reinforcing Fontaine Hospital in Cité Soleil, thereby improving and providing access to psychological care and community-based mental health support mechanisms.
- **South Sudan** (Project [00130571](#)), integrated MHPSS services into peace efforts by giving access to 492 GBV survivors to support, raising the awareness of 232 women and girls on GBV and MHPSS, training 80 local leaders on gender, peace, and mental health linkages, and advocating for local mental health priorities with four CSOs, increasing institutional accountability.
- **Kyrgyzstan** (Project [00130462](#)) saw the implementation of 12 youth-led action plans on MHPSS topics, such as psychological trauma and gender-based violence, resulting in 13 community-level outcomes,

including capacity building, sustainable support structures, and policy engagement. The project facilitated 410 sessions with a total of 2,029 participants (self-help groups), an exchange between mentors and Uzbekistani activists and psychologists, and Youth Forums in Osh and Batken to promote open dialogue on youth mental health and personal development. These activities fostered personal growth among participants, particularly in emotional resilience, self-confidence, and leadership skills. Many individuals reported that they overcame psychological barriers, developed public speaking skills, and took on community leadership roles. Moreover, youth group participants in Batken demonstrated strong abilities in conflict analysis, while translating it into community-action, such as addressing early marriage among minorities and bullying at school.

- **Burundi** (Project [00130913](#)) directly targeted approximately 1,000 police officers across 17 local police stations, with 44 officers trained as MHPSS facilitators. Rather than being passive recipients, police acted as active agents of change, applying nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, adopting trauma-informed approaches, and fostering trust within their communities. This led to several outcomes: behavioral shifts toward community-centered engagement; the development of peer support structures, where police also accessed services for their own trauma; and the institutional uptake of MHPSS, with some police stations integrating it into daily operations and allocating internal funds to expand the initiative. The project also sparked a catalytic effect, including the initiation of independent mental health activities and the establishment of the Humura Center. Police involvement was framed not only as a beneficiary group but as co-constructors of peace and resilience.

2. Community-Level Empowerment and Healing: MHPSS efforts were rooted in local contexts, enabling community ownership, collective healing, and behavioral change:

- In **Papua New Guinea** (Project [00130034](#)), 93.8% of participants (56 women, 38 men) applied acquired psychosocial skills in peacebuilding activities, directly supporting community reconciliation and trauma recovery.
- In **The Gambia** (Project [00130106](#)), MHPSS expanded into community-based support systems by creating community healing circles for survivors to share experiences and foster mutual support, operating a '199 Helpline' through which nearly 500 GBV survivors received confidential psychosocial assistance, while training 60 university students across 8 faculties to offer psychosocial support, and building regional referral networks, distributing dignity kits, and training 65 community members in areas like Foni and Kerr Mot Ali in psychosocial first aid.
- In **Haiti** (Project [00129744](#)), 2,814 individuals accessed MHPSS services, and 1,247 additional recipients (82% adults) received follow-up care. The project supported culturally grounded women-led networks Women Peace Mediators and "Marraines" (Mentor Women) who provided counseling and referral services, creating a sustainable and accessible support system embedded within the community.
- In **Burkina Faso** (Project [00129742](#)), 15 youth associations were engaged in MHPSS outreach and mental health promotion as part of broader peacebuilding activities targeting young people affected by conflict and displacement.
- In **South Sudan** (Project [00130571](#)), chiefs and traditional leaders, after participating in trauma-informed dialogues, publicly committed to banning early and forced marriages — a visible shift in community attitudes. Youth Peace Forums (20 forums established) also created spaces where young people from divided ethnic groups (Dinka and Nuer) reconciled, reducing revenge killings and promoting nonviolent conflict resolution.

Community Level Empowerment

In **Papua New Guinea** (Project [00130034](#)), 93.8% of participants (56 women, 38 men) applied acquired psychosocial skills in peacebuilding activities, directly supporting community reconciliation and trauma recovery.

3. MHPSS as a Vehicle for Peacebuilding: Mental health emerged as both a standalone need and as a critical entry point for peacebuilding. Several projects linked psychosocial well-being with community stability, trust-building, and social reintegration:

- In **The Gambia** (Project [00130106](#)), the training of police officers in mental health and GBV led to a positive shift in police-community relations and helped rebuild public trust in law enforcement. In conflict-affected areas, projects supported the resettlement and reintegration of displaced individuals through

combined psychosocial and livelihood support, ensuring trauma recovery was paired with economic empowerment. This shift is illustrated by the testimony of a trained Community Police specialist: *“The culture of silence is breaking in the rural communities, due to numerous sensitizations and because of proactive policing. People no longer regard the police officers as strangers in their midst. Police officers patrolling the streets actively engage with the communities to mitigate criminalities, including SGBV offences, low level crimes and violations, before there is a call for their service. This helps in preventing more serious crimes in the communities from occurring.”*

- In **South Sudan** (Project [00130571](#)) and **Haiti** (Project [00130791](#)), community-led dialogue sessions addressed harmful social norms, engaged religious and traditional leaders, and supported intergenerational healing, contributing to social cohesion and post-conflict resilience. In South Sudan specifically, community-led dialogue sessions were organized at the inter-county and interstate levels (e.g., bringing together Lakes, Warrap, and Unity States) to address conflicts fueled by harmful gender norms, cattle raiding, and revenge killings.
- In **Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, and El Salvador**, mainstreaming elements of MHPSS programming into capacity strengthening activities was beneficial to youth and women participants. In the case of Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), the project team documented a young adolescent girl sharing breathing and stress-alleviating exercises with family members. In the case of Colombia (Project [00130079](#)) CSOs implemented arts-based programming to advocacy and education activities.

2.3.2 OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF MHPSS RESULTS

Despite these achievements, MHPSS projects faced structural and operational challenges. A recurring issue was the short duration of most projects (12–18 months), which limited their ability to address entrenched psychosocial trauma or institutionalize long-term support mechanisms. Insecure and remote areas remained inaccessible due to violence or weak infrastructure, leaving critical needs unmet.

Mental health stigma persisted, particularly at the start of implementation, limiting the effectiveness of outreach activities and initial service uptake. In some cases, such as Cité Soleil in Haiti, where SGBV was widespread, local leaders were initially uninformed or disengaged (Project [00130791](#)). Though capacity-building efforts helped shift this, it delayed impact. There were also concerns about project design and ownership. Some interventions were perceived as top-down, designed by UN or government partners with limited inclusion of grassroots CSOs in early planning stages. This occasionally impacted buy-in and long-term sustainability.

Funding delays, particularly when paired with administrative bottlenecks, created liquidity issues that slowed momentum. Even in successful interventions, like the menstrual pad production center, long-term market access and institutional support were not always guaranteed. The sustainability of change related to MHPSS activities remain to be seen, as trauma-healing often takes time to take effect. The two case studies show a limited national capacity to continue with MHPSS activities. In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), for example, while 44 police officers were trained as MHPSS facilitators and stations began integrating trauma-informed practices, the initiative stalled due to the lack of approved follow-up funding. Despite the police’s own budget allocation and the establishment of a mental health center (Humura), the project’s activities within the force were discontinued once project funding ended. This illustrates how short-term MHPSS projects are insufficient to address entrenched, intergenerational trauma. Individuals and institutions often require prolonged support, and without systemic investment, initial progress risks being lost. In CAR (Project [00130464](#)), the “Disarmament of the Heart” project faced delayed fund transfers and recruitment bottlenecks, especially in securing national MHPSS experts, which led to the postponement of key psychosocial activities and ultimately required a no-cost project extension. Although the project succeeded in improving well-being and integrating MHPSS into peacebuilding, its long-term impact remains uncertain due to limited national funding and heavy reliance on external donors.

Obstacles to MHPSS results

In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), while 44 police officers were trained as MHPSS facilitators and stations began integrating trauma-informed practices, the initiative stalled due to the lack of approved follow-up funding.

2.3.3 MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT: CAR, GAMBIA, AND BURUNDI

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | Support for the healing process of individual and collective trauma in the communities of Bria and Bangassou with a view to preventing conflicts and violence

In Bria and Bangassou, the combined efforts of UN Women, the Local Initiative for Peacebuilding and Reintegration in Africa (LIRA), the Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique (AFJC), and UNFPA supported community healing as part of conflict and violence prevention. Since March 2022, over 100 mental health practitioners were trained and more than 15,000 people received support through mobile



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psychosocial services, listening centers, and rehabilitated community spaces like youth centers. *Clarice*, a 45-year-old widow and mother of eight, began healing after years of trauma, including repeated assaults, and witnessing her husband's murder during political violence. *"Thanks to the psychosocial support team, I am slowly recovering and now attend group discussions organized in Bria,"* she shared. The initiative—implemented in collaboration with national ministries—emphasizes local capacity building and community-led care.

GAMBIA | Promoting peace and social cohesion through provision of mental health services and psychosocial support

In The Gambia, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) reclaimed their dignity through community-led dialogues and mental health support spearheaded by the Women's Association for Victim's Empowerment (WAVE), with support from UNDP, UNFPA, and OHCHR. During a dialogue in Farafenni, Modou Satou Secka, a survivor exiled during the Yahya Jammeh regime, shared, *"For over 13 years we never had the opportunity to have a peaceful conversation... I am hopeful that we will continue to support each other henceforth."* Through the integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into peacebuilding, survivors now have access to trained professionals in 11 facilities, helplines that served nearly 500 people, awareness campaigns through radio and local communicators, and over 1,200 trained community members in handling GBV services and promoting MHPSS who provided initial support. As WAVE's founder, Priscilla Yagu Shalom Ceesay, emphasized, *"The partnership is providing a sustainable platform where victims can be supported and empowered to be drivers of change."*



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BURUNDI | Strengthening Sustainable Peace through Improving the Psychosocial Well-Being of Women Affected by Crisis-Related Trauma and GBV, and of Police Officers Working at the Community Level

In Burundi, decades of crisis displaced women and exposed them to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNDP supported restoring the mental health and economic resilience of survivors, returnees, ex-combatants, and police officers. *“When I joined the National Police, my goal was revenge... but with the*



trauma healing activities, I took the path of forgiveness,” shared Marie*, a police officer. Over **2,500 women** in **11 communities** accessed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), with **95%** reporting improved incomes. Aria*, a local administrator, noted, *“Before the project, there were 50 complaints a month... now I can go a whole week without one.”* Delivered with government and local partners, this work is part of UNDP’s broader effort to integrate MHPSS

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2.4 THEMATIC PEACEBUILDING RESULTS: CIVIC SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT

2.4.1 EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF CIVIC SPACES AND THE ENVIRONMENT RESULTS

Across a diverse range of projects, civic space and natural resource and environmental peacebuilding projects demonstrated tangible success in promoting youth and women’s inclusion, conflict resolution, sustainable resource management, and community resilience. These projects were particularly impactful in fragile settings marked by displacement, environmental degradation, and deep-rooted land-related conflict by addressing drivers of conflict, particularly around land access, political exclusion, and environmental stressors.

1. Expansion of Civic Spaces and Youth Empowerment: Projects across Sudan, Cameroon, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras prioritized expanding civic spaces for youth participation in governance, peacebuilding, and decision-making.

- In **Sudan** (Project [00130705](#)), the Youth Citizen Observer Network was established, producing over 100 recommendations and training 51 female observers in monitoring peace processes. Despite strong engagement, challenges remain in influencing powerholders and mitigating political violence.
- **Cameroon** (Project [00130027](#)) saw the development of youth engagement strategies in all target communes. Financial support reached 188 youth (including 112 women), and five Rapid Arbitration Community Instances were created to mediate disputes. Youth-led civic engagement also expanded through regional digital platforms and youth-led radio programs. This project worked towards integration of IDPs in local communities
- In **Colombia** (Project [00130080](#)), 3,832 youth participated in conflict transformation activities, with 7,270 benefiting from the “Voces de Poder” initiative, which aimed to reshaped public perception of youth in peacebuilding.

- **El Salvador** (Project [00130003](#)) implemented 19 peace initiatives, involved youth in four dialogue spaces, and achieved three commitments promoting gender equality and peace. Over 2,000 individuals—including tourism operators—were engaged in promoting a culture of peace.
- In **Honduras** (Project [00129762](#)), the project helped establish an interinstitutional coordination mechanism that engaged civil society, developed four reform proposals, and produced tools for land and justice actors to prevent conflict.

2. Strengthening Women's Civic Leadership and Peace Participation:

Several projects promoted women's empowerment and advocacy in civic and governance structures.

- In **Somalia** (Project [00130704](#)) 150 women activists strengthened their understanding of GBV-related risks and improved their awareness of available protection mechanisms. Five public advocacy action plans were launched, targeting 30 duty bearers and CSOs.
- In **Colombia** (Project [00130501](#)) three women's roundtables were created, including both participants and members of other peace organizations. These roundtables meet periodically to carry out previously defined actions. Contingency plans, such as the life plan and the peacebuilding plan, were formulated and implemented at the roundtables. Through the creation of community life plans, the women's network managed to establish a strong connection between its members and the rest of the community. The project supported 90 beekeeping livelihoods by women and restored 225 hectares of forest.
- In **Burundi** (Project [00130463](#)) the project supported land rights for women and increased trust in community-level justice systems. Vulnerable women gained land certificates through direct support. A total of 2,874 individuals — including 1,983 women and 892 men — received land certificates with direct support from the project.
- In **Honduras** (Project [00130443](#)) 11 initiatives were implemented to protect women human rights defenders, including emergency funds and self-protection plans.

Women's Civic Leadership

In Somalia (Project [00130704](#)) women activists reported stronger knowledge of GBV and better access to protection mechanisms. Five public advocacy action plans were launched, targeting 30 duty bearers and CSOs.

3. Inclusive Land Access and Climate Resilience: Multiple projects made significant contributions to addressing land-related conflict and environmental vulnerability. Some examples include:

- **Burkina Faso** (Project [00130026](#)) provided 84 youth with secure land tenure and enabled 100 to engage in productive economic activities.
- **Mali** (Project [00130613](#)) facilitated land access for 2,470 youth, trained 675 individuals, and reached 3,500 civil society members with conflict resolution training.
- In **Liberia** (Project [00131553](#)), youth defended 57 accountability spaces and helped implement functional land systems, contributing to local justice and peaceful coexistence.
- In **Niger** (Project [00130502](#)) and **Guinea-Bissau** (Project [00129743](#)), youth-led initiatives were launched to manage land and facilitate dialogue. In Guinea-Bissau, 1,160 youth formed 40 land management groups.
- In the **DRC** (Project [00131128](#)), members of marginalized groups reported increased participation in land dispute mechanisms (25.1%) and training in conflict resolution (22.9%). Over 80% of marginalized individuals expressed optimism for the future, with 41 documented cases of improved land access.
- In **Burundi** (Project [00130463](#)), 69% of land certificates issued now include both spouses' names. Women also represent 32.5% of local development committees and 37.5% of conflict management structures.
- **Mali** (Projects [00129745](#) & [00130336](#)) launched 12 advocacy initiatives and raised legal awareness among 6,580 people regarding resource governance.
- **Guinea-Bissau** (Project [00130107](#)) reported that 84% of women were involved in land development and management-related decision-making, and 82% of women-led households achieved food security.

- **Mauritania** (Project [00129746](#)) saw 39% of refugee and host community women engage in conflict prevention, with 35 hectares of degraded land restored.
- In **Sierra Leone** (Project [00130053](#)), 64.3% of women took part in water management structures, though 84.6% of community members still cited water access as a key conflict driver.

4. Community-Led Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion: Projects focused on revitalizing community infrastructure, shared economic opportunities, and collective reconciliation:

- In **Guinea-Bissau** (Project [00129743](#)), Mali (Project [00130613](#)), and Niger (Project [00130053](#)), youth-led initiatives such as market rehabilitation, peace events, and environmental sensitization activities were instrumental in building trust.
- In **Sudan** (Project [00130052](#)), joint intercommunal projects such as school furniture production and market restoration brought together youth from opposing groups, creating symbolic spaces of peace.
- The “**maisons des jeunes**” (youth centers/associations) across various countries offered safe spaces for civic dialogue, training, and collaboration between youth and local authorities (Burkina Faso – Project [00129742](#), South Sudan – Project: [00130571](#)), Sudan – Project [00130052](#), El Salvador – Project: [00130003](#), etc.).
- In **Guatemala** (Project [00129774](#)), youths are actively engaging with government officials creating a new model of engagement and dialogue, complemented by youth-led community projects.

5. Environmental Education and Economic Empowerment: Projects integrated climate-sensitive practices and IGAs to promote economic stability and intergroup collaboration.

- Training on sustainable land use, often formalized through local conventions, helped reduce resource-based tensions.
- In projects across **Cameroon** (Project [00130027](#)), **Mauritania** (Project [00129746](#)), **Colombia** (Project [00130080](#)), and **Burkina Faso** (Project [00130026](#)), youth received business kits, coaching, and support to launch IGAs. These contributed to self-reliance, confidence, and post-project community engagement.
- **CSO engagement** was also central: 35 organizations, selected through transparent processes, were trained and mobilized to deliver local peacebuilding activities. In some cases, they replicated activities independently, signaling high potential for sustainability.

Community-Led Peacebuilding

The “**maisons des jeunes**” (youth centers/associations) across various countries offered safe spaces for civic dialogue, training, and collaboration between youth and local authorities (Burkina Faso – Project [00129742](#), South Sudan – Project: [00130571](#)), Sudan – Project [00130052](#), El Salvador – Project : [00130003](#)

2.4.2 OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF CIVIC SPACES AND CLIMATE PEACEBUILDING RESULTS

Despite achievements, projects with the theme civic spaces and climate faced important challenges, many related to security and political instability. Armed group activity, especially in border regions, rendered some areas completely inaccessible, undermining geographic equity and limiting project scope.

Political upheaval created administrative delays and uncertainty, shifting focus toward humanitarian response, limiting long-term peacebuilding impact, and requiring no-cost extensions to complete planned activities. In such cases, despite strong community engagement, the lack of continuity in national governance structures hindered follow-through on policy commitments and slowed institutional reform.

Additional challenges included the uneven capacity of local CSOs, many of whom lacked legal registration, or the financial systems required to manage project funds. This necessitated upfront investment in administrative support, delaying program delivery. Some projects faced gaps in institutional engagement, particularly when state ownership did not materialize as planned.

2.4.3 CIVIC SPACE: BURKINA FASO, COLOMBIA, AND DRC

BURKINA FASO | Facilitating Access to Land and Youth Participation in Land Conflict Prevention

In Burkina Faso, a project implemented by FAO and UN-Habitat, supported youth-led peacebuilding in response to rising land conflicts and displacement. Active in six communes across Boucle du Mouhoun and Hauts-Bassins, the initiative strengthened young people's legal access to land and their role in local conflict prevention. “*The project has led to a heightened awareness and active involvement of young people in local initiatives for conflict prevention and land management. They are now integrated into local mechanisms and contribute to the prevention and management of land-related conflicts, enhancing community resilience and peacebuilding efforts.*” said Project Focal Point. Key achievements included land conflict assessments, spatial planning tools, and strengthened collaboration between youth councils and land services. Partners consolidated lessons learned to replicate successes in other regions.



COLOMBIA | Co-creating peace: Participation of diverse young women in urban-rural civic space in Nariño and Cauca

In Colombia's Cauca and Nariño regions, a project implemented by UN Women and IOM, empowered over 4,000 diverse young women to co-create peaceful spaces and strengthen civic participation. Through capacity-strengthening, leadership training, and partnerships with local institutions, the project sought to reestablish trust and dialogue lost during the 2021 social unrest. “Thanks to the project, we now participate collectively in civic peace spaces and have strengthened our unity as young women,” said Silvana



Cumbalaza of Nariño. The initiative funded 16 youth-led CSO peace initiatives promoting innovative collaboration and supported artistic networks

like Artiguambras and Batucada Empoderada, helping young women become agents of non-violent change. As Sandra Aguilar Carabalí shared, “The project allowed us to raise our voices without fear and believe in ourselves.”

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Democratic Republic of the Congo | Peacemakers: Building inclusive peacebuilding networks in Tanganyika and resolving land issues in displaced Twa and Bantu communities

In Tanganyika, (Democratic Republic of the Congo) with UNFPA, FAO, UNESCO, and UNHCR, the project helped reduce intercommunal conflict between Twa and Bantu communities through peace committees, youth and women-led dialogues, and inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms. Over 200 youth and 300 women gained leadership and mediation skills, while economic reintegration supported 1,000 women and 600 farmers. Infrastructure like schools, a maternity clinic, and community centers fostered shared spaces and peaceful coexistence. One young participant shared, “Through the project, the crack that has run through the communities has been narrowed—now Twa and Bantu live together and share meals.”



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2.5 UNINTENDED PEACEBUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION RESULTS

2.5.1 POSITIVE UNINTENDED RESULT

One of the most common unintended positive outcomes was the strengthening of social cohesion and local engagement. For instance, in Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)) a project inadvertently fostered cooperation between historically divided groups, while in the DRC (Project [00131128](#)) shared farming initiatives strengthened social cohesion between the Twa and Bantu communities beyond the project's original scope. Similarly, in Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)), civic engagement platforms, which were initially designed to mediate water-related conflicts, became spaces for addressing broader community challenges and other pressing local issues, such as sanitation and neighborhood disputes. In doing so, these platforms have contributed to building a stronger foundation for social cohesion and local peace infrastructure by enabling communities to address daily sources of tension in a constructive and inclusive manner.

Several projects led to broader youth and women's empowerment than initially planned, resulting in increased leadership and advocacy roles. For example, in CAR (Project [00130570](#)) youth peace champions trained under the project began organizing independent dialogues and addressing local development challenges. Similarly, in South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) initial resistance from male leaders turned into advocacy for women's rights, further amplifying gender equality goals. In Colombia (Project [00130080](#) and [00130079](#)), five indigenous women were elected to local councils – which was a historic first, and an additional 2 women were elected to municipal councils.

Projects often led to stronger local governance structures, with increased community ownership of decision-making processes. For instance, in CAR (Project [00130464](#)), increased awareness of land rights unexpectedly led to more disputes, as communities became more aware of legal mechanisms to challenge existing land management practices. This is not unusual in peacebuilding projects that also aimed to increase knowledge. In Mauritania (Project [00129746](#)) the project unexpectedly fostered partnerships between refugees and host communities by mobilizing volunteers from both communities to jointly implement large-scale “green” initiatives such as reforestation degraded areas, leading to joint economic activities and governance initiatives. Likewise, in Haiti (Project [00130791](#)) the project strengthened informal networks, leading to spontaneous support groups and new local collaborations.

Several projects yielded economic benefits beyond their initial objectives, particularly through job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities. In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) displaced young women leveraged transportation subsidies to start poultry businesses, enhancing financial independence. In Mali (Project [00129745](#)) renewable energy initiatives enhanced women’s participation and created new income-generating opportunities.

Similarly, in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) the project included a broader reach than anticipated, with displaced populations benefiting despite not being the original target, and an unexpectedly high number of territorial diagnostics completed. Strong community enthusiasm around environmental and natural resource management -related issues spurred the practical adoption of techniques and even led to the community-initiated creation of a local conflict resolution platform in San Blas commune. The formation of permanent dialogue mechanisms, such as land vigilance committees, and deepened collaboration among local stakeholders further strengthened the project’s sustainability.

Several projects had unintended impacts on awareness and policy advocacy, influencing broader discussions on governance, gender, and conflict resolution. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), media engagement on land governance issues fostered public discourse, leading to increased societal support for peaceful conflict resolution. Similarly, in Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), awareness campaigns on mental health and gender-based violence reached beyond target groups, influencing broader community understanding.

Positive Unintended Result

In Mauritania (Project [00129746](#)) the project unexpectedly fostered partnerships between refugees and host communities by mobilizing volunteers from both communities to jointly implement large-scale “green” initiatives such as reforestation degraded areas.

2.5.2 NEGATIVE UNINTENDED RESULTS

A recurring theme was the perception of favoritism, where some groups felt excluded from project benefits. In South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) micro-grant allocations led to competition and jealousy among community groups, exacerbating local tensions. In Somalia (Project [00129735](#)) resource allocation disputes required additional mediation, delaying project activities. Similarly, in Sudan (Project [00130705](#)) while youth and women’s leadership were strengthened, older men and those outside urban networks perceived the project as favoring specific groups. In CAR (Project [00129734](#)) while peacebuilding efforts increased trust in justice mechanisms, nearby community members that were not part of the project on-targeted populations felt excluded, leading in some instances to possible resentment.

In several cases, women’s involvement in traditionally male-dominated spaces led to resistance. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)) women’s increasing roles in land management provoked backlash from male traditional community-level power structures, while in Somalia (Project [00130704](#)) female journalists and activists faced heightened security risks due to their visibility. In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)) while economic empowerment had positive effects, some male household members initially reacted negatively to women gaining financial independence, causing temporary domestic disagreements and conflicts before adaptation and resolution.

Negative Unintended Result

In Mali (Project [00130613](#)), formalizing land rights for youth and women led to heightened competition over resources, triggering disputes between dominant and marginalized groups.

Reliance on external support remained a concern. In Niger (Project [00130502](#)) while the project empowered youth and women leaders, some groups became dependent on external resources, raising sustainability challenges. Similarly, in Liberia (Project [00131553](#)), entrenched traditional norms resisted land rights reforms, requiring further dialogue and engagement to mitigate tensions. Moreover, in Kyrgyzstan (Project [00130462](#)), over-reliance on PBF funding created uncertainty for self-support groups after the project ended. Projects with target groups that have traditionally been marginalized tend to receive obstruction from the traditionally dominant groups. This was also seen in some cases where increased awareness sometimes led to unanticipated tensions. In Mali (Project [00130613](#)), formalizing land rights for youth and women led to heightened competition over resources, triggering disputes between dominant and marginalized groups.

While the project in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) did not yield direct negative unintended outcomes, several unforeseen implementation challenges emerged that might carry reputational risks. A national ban on cash transfers prevented the rollout of planned “cash-for-work” activities, necessitating a shift to in-kind assistance. Operational delays from implementing partners, including misalignment between coordination structures in the East and implementation teams in the West, combined with slow fund disbursement, led to repeated reprogramming of activities. Additionally, mismatches between project plans and national policies required reactive, on-the-ground negotiations (e.g.: quota requirements for youth inclusion in existing governance structures).

2.6 ALIGNING WITH PREVIOUS AND EXISTING PEACEBUILDING INVESTMENTS

Across the board, GYPI projects generally demonstrated good coherence with previous PBF work and broader UN strategies. In many contexts, they deepened thematic focus, introduced innovations (e.g., MHPSS, climate resilience), and expanded geographic reach. However, a few projects operated in silos or lacked sustained system-wide integration, highlighting areas where future programming could be strengthened through more deliberate planning, coordination, and learning across initiatives.

2.6.1 BUILDING ON PREVIOUS OR ONGOING PBF-FUNDED PROJECTS

Strong Complementarity with Ongoing PBF Programming: Some GYPI projects clearly extended existing PBF-funded efforts, adding value through thematic deepening or geographic shift. In South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) the project scaled existing PBF-supported youth and civic engagement activities, adding a strong MHPSS component for women and girls. In Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), earlier projects focused on judicial reform and youth employment. The GYPI project introduced GBV response mechanisms, inclusive civic spaces, and psychosocial care—filling a major service gap. Mali (Project [00129745](#)) aligned closely with both PBF eligibility cycles. While earlier efforts focused on the north, the GYPI initiative shifted to Mopti, targeting natural resource governance and the empowerment of women and youth in a more preventive framework. Also, in Mali (Project [00130336](#)) the project operated alongside another PBF initiative, co-developing a joint dialogue framework in Nara, demonstrating efficient resource use and greater coherence.

Community-Led Peacebuilding

In South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)) the project scaled existing PBF-supported youth and civic engagement activities, adding a strong MHPSS component for women and girls.

New Projects with Varying Alignment in Priorities: Several projects operated without direct PBF predecessors but complemented existing frameworks or filled thematic gaps. In Mali (Project [00129745](#)), the project introduced new themes like climate resilience and youth governance, building on prior UNDP and UN Women activities without duplicating efforts. Mixed results on alignment occurred however, such as DRC (Project [00131128](#)) where critical land and ethnic conflict were addressed, but lacked clear links to past PBF initiatives, suggesting a missed opportunity for strategic continuity.

First-Time PBF Engagement: A few projects marked first-time engagement with PBF, particularly in the YPI cohort. In Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) and El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), projects were completely new to PBF but built on existing UN partnerships and community-based peacebuilding efforts. In CAR (Project [00130570](#)), the project introduced MHPSS into peacebuilding programming, a gap in the national policy landscape, bringing substantial added value.

2.6.2 COMPLEMENTARITY WITH PREVIOUS GYPI PROJECTS AND GREATER UN SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE

Expanding on Previous GYPI Efforts: Several GYPI projects directly built on earlier GYPI programming, ensuring thematic continuity and geographic expansion. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), the project advanced earlier work in land governance and conflict prevention by introducing a peacebuilding lens into land law implementation. Sierra Leone (Project [00130053](#)) built on prior GYPI efforts by extending gender-sensitive conflict resolution mechanisms and tackling water scarcity, an emerging driver of local conflict. In Liberia (Project [00131553](#)), longstanding collaboration with CSOs like WEDOL and LIWEN was maintained from previous projects. While these partnerships continued, the project added a new MHPSS component to respond to evolving needs.

Leveraging Cross-Agency Collaboration

Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)) aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the African Union Agenda 2063, reinforcing themes of inclusive governance and women's leadership

Leveraging Cross-Agency Collaboration and Strategic Frameworks: Many GYPI projects effectively aligned with broader UN and regional strategies, increasing coherence across agencies. The World Bank operates major initiatives like the Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Strategy, which supports conflict prevention, resilience and peacebuilding efforts across fragile contexts⁴. Similarly, the European Union drives the Global Gateway strategy, a major investment initiative aimed at supporting sustainable development, governance, and conflict resolution in partner regions, particularly Africa and the Middle East⁵. The African Development Bank, through its Transition Support Facility, provides critical funding to fragile states to promote economic recovery and social cohesion⁶. By strategically connecting GYPI interventions to such regional and global initiatives, projects can expand their influence, attract complementary financing, and reinforce long-term systemic

change. In Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), the project worked closely with UN Women, the Spotlight Initiative, and national development priorities to integrate MHPSS, GBV prevention, and civic dialogue. Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)) aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the African Union Agenda 2063, reinforcing themes of inclusive governance and women's

⁴ World Bank. (2020). *World Bank Group strategy for fragility, conflict, and violence 2020–2025*.

⁵ European Commission. (2021). *Global Gateway: Up to €300 billion for the European Union's strategy to boost sustainable links around the world*.

⁶ African Development Bank. (2023). *Updated operational guidelines of the Transition Support Facility (TSF)*.

leadership. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the project supported the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the UN Support Plan for the Sahel, and aligned with ECOWAS Gender Strategy and the 2030 Agenda, particularly around rural land governance and climate resilience. Niger (Project [00130502](#)) ensured joint implementation with UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA, focusing on youth, gender, and climate peacebuilding—reflecting good inter-agency alignment. In some contexts, inter-agency synergy created new multisectoral platforms. Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) demonstrated effective collaboration between FAO and UN-Habitat, integrating land governance, pastoralist inclusion, and natural resource planning.

Challenges in Integration: Despite notable successes, coherence was uneven in some cases. In Mali (Project [00130613](#)), while thematically aligned with land and youth engagement priorities, the project operated somewhat in isolation, relying on familiar partners without leveraging broader system-wide approaches. Similarly, Haiti (Project [00130791](#)), though built on earlier peace dialogues, remained focused on localized implementation. Limited cross-sectoral integration and inconsistent coordination reduced its potential to address structural barriers.

2.7 EFFICIENCY AND PARTNERSHIP

2.7.1 PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The 2021 Cohort projects developed strong partnerships, with efforts to include IPs and CSOs during the design and planning phases. A total of 33 out of 38 project proposals named some but not all the IPs. Overall, decision-making largely remained with UN recipient entities in the design phase, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

Prior relationships between IPs and the UN facilitated smoother onboarding and newer partners often struggled with administrative requirements. They required additional and more consistent support. Across the board, projects were hampered by significant start-up delays, related to hiring processes and inconsistent financial disbursement practices. Delays were also caused by government signature delays and insecurity. These delays compressed the implementation period, placing undue stress on IPs and CSOs and limiting the potential for sustainable outcomes. Despite these challenges, many partners demonstrated adaptability strategies.

Partnership Development and Project Design Engagement – Partnership development was generally smooth, although administrative and financial delays often strained relationships. The overall project design was primarily led by the recipient entities, UN agencies or INGOs. Many national IPs were included in the project design processes – either through direct discussions with UN counterparts or by contributing data to inform project design. In fact, early engagement with IPs and CSOs led to improved alignment with community needs (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#), CAR Project [00130570](#), and Mali Project [00130336](#)). IPs shared that the UN was receptive to their inputs, particularly at activity-level. While IPs were consulted, the ultimate decision makers on strategy were the recipient entities. This held true, even when IPs were responsible for key project activities.

There were IPs and CSOs that were not involved in the project design process. Instead, they responded to calls for proposals to implement key activities after the project had already been awarded (Colombia Project [00130079](#)). In at least one case, partnerships were formalized only after several months of ongoing negotiation and capacity assessments (South Sudan Project [00130571](#)). While some IPs had formal agreements in place prior to project award, delays still occurred in identifying CSOs or CBOs to collaborate with (Solomon Islands Project [00130844](#)).

Prior Relationship and Engagement with PBF: Most IPs and CSOs interviewed had a prior engagement with at least one of the recipient UN entities. This helped to streamline the formalization of partnerships and reduced the learning curve. In some cases, the IPs were the best placed organizations to work with, given their geographical and technical knowledge. In other cases, recipient entities shared that they had to choose either an IP that had technical knowledge or regional/participant level know-how

because they were unable to find an IP with both types of knowledge. There were many CSOs that recipient entities wanted to fund and work with, but they did not meet the prerequisites, such as having legal entity. When this happened, recipient entities worked with umbrella CSOs that could provide grants to smaller CSOs and CBOs. Some recipient entities acknowledge that they tend to work with the same IPs and CSOs because they are well established and have high capacity. For IPs, PBF funding is a critical component that sustains their work.

For some IPs and CSOs, the 2021 projects represented their first engagement with a UN entity. Likewise, for certain UN agencies, the 2021 projects marked the first time they were leading PBF recipient entities. These leading agencies, including IPs, needed more support from PBF Secretariat to understand administrative, financial, and reporting requirements. UN agencies and PBF Secretariat reported providing technical, financial, and operational support to new partners. IPs in Latin America shared that they continued to use the operational and financial best standards even after projects close out, and even if they had not received any other UN funding since the 2021 Cohort projects.

Administrative and Start-up Delays – Some of the individuals interviewed reported a six-to-eight-month delay between project approval and activity implementation. A few projects experienced delays exceeding eight months. The primary causes were administrative processes, including hiring procedures, recruitment of project staff, the selection of IPs or CSOs, and grant management processes. The varying administrative and bureaucratic procedures across UN agencies further contributed to delays. For example, national IPs shared that different UN recipient entities followed distinct financial, signature, and reporting processes. In El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), delays arose from challenges in completing the project baseline and identifying enough youth participants, complicated by security concerns and geographic access barriers. A few projects noted that the financial transfers were made in December, too close to the end of the calendar year, which delayed project start-up due to national and religious holidays. Several UN and PBF staff interviewed suggested delaying financial transfers until all documentation has been signed off.

Purposeful Implementation Delays - In some cases, projects and partners may opt to slow down project implementation in order to set the correct conditions for implementation. For example, two projects cited delays due to the need to build trust and establish relationships with local communities (Niger Project [00130502](#) and PNG Project [00129773](#)). In this case, the option to slow down project implementation is adequate, responsive, and responding to conflict or context analysis.

Government and Insecurity Delays - Several projects also experienced delays due to external factors such as government approval of projects (Guatemala [00129774](#)), elections and change in governments (Colombia [00130080](#), Honduras [00130443/00129762](#), Guatemala [00129774](#)), insecurity or conflict (El Salvador Project [00130003](#); Burkina Faso Project [00129742](#); Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#); CAR Project [00130570](#); Haiti Project [00129744](#), Guatemala Project [00129774](#), Honduras Project [00129762](#)), and limited access to certain regions (CAR Project [00130570](#) 0). In some instances, these factors caused significant start-up delays or coordination challenges, particularly in Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), Somalia (Project [00129735](#)) and South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)). In other cases, the UN and IPs chose to postpone implementations until conditions were deemed safer for operation (El Salvador Project [00130003](#)).

Financial Delays - Timely financial disbursement was a challenge in several projects but not all. In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), significant delays occurred due to technical issues with the Quantum system, which affected procurement, payments, and fund transfers to local partners. In Burkina Faso, interviewees noted

administrative delays, procedural mismatches, and capacity gaps among local partners. These issues slowed down fund transfers, reduced efficiency, delayed implementation, and generated tension among stakeholders (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#), Mali Project [00129745](#)). In Honduras (Projects [00129762](#), [00130443](#)) and Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), IPs noted delays in financial transfers. One implementing partner in Honduras covered project costs for over three months to avoid halting activities (Project [00130443](#)), while another opted to delay project implementation, leading to strained timelines among CSO staff (Honduras, Project [00129762](#)). Two CSOs reported that their payments were handled by two UN recipient entities with varying disbursement schedules (Honduras Project [00130443](#), PNG Project [00129773](#)). Others shared that although fund transfers were timely, the total funding was insufficient to meet the terms of reference (Cameroon Project [00130027](#)). Some projects reported no or only minor financial transfer delays.

Financial Delays

In Honduras (Projects [00129762](#), [00130443](#)) and Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), IPs noted delays in financial transfers. One implementing partner in Honduras covered project costs for over three months to avoid halting activities (Project [00130443](#)), while another opted to delay project implementation, leading to strained timelines among CSO staff (Honduras, Project [00129762](#)).

Impact of Administrative and Operational Inefficiencies - Overall, at least 31 out of the 38 projects received cost or no-cost extensions. Considering that it is common to have six-to-eight-month project start-up delay, the actual implementation period is cut in half and as a result the 18-month period is not sufficient to implement the project design. The administrative, operational, and financial delays led to inefficiencies and created cascading effects throughout the project cycle. These delays impacted implementation, pressuring IPs and CSOs to deliver activities within a compressed timeframe. IPs and CSOs adopted flexible and adaptable strategies to stay on track. However, this often came at a cost – many reported heightened workload pressures and the need to hire additional consultants to cover all the remaining activities within the project's limited duration. Participants were frequently required to complete several trainings in a short period, limiting the time available for absorption and reflection between sessions. One project coordinator noted the challenge of coordinating access to high school youth, given the overlapping demands from multiple consultants and CSOs. The limited implementation time is not ideal to build trust and ownership, transfer processes, find alternative funding, or create sustainable structures that are self-maintained.

2.8 COORDINATION OF PARTNERSHIPS TO ENABLE IMPLEMENTATION⁷

Coordination and communication between project partners were reported as effective between recipient entities and IPs. Regular meetings, consultations, and collaborative planning sessions were common across projects and helped foster communication, ensure alignment with local needs, and support implementation.

Steering Committees and local monitoring bodies were often established to ensure alignment with national and regional priorities, as observed in projects from Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#), Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), and South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)). In some cases, these bodies facilitated ongoing communication and smooth project execution. However, in other projects, the Steering Committee played a largely symbolic role and did not meet regularly. The irregularity of meetings and often unambiguity of the role of the Steering Committee impacted sustainability and ownership of the project outcomes after project closing (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#)).

⁷ This section answers EQ5 under the Efficiency Criteria: How well did GYPI projects coordinate with implementing partners, in-country stakeholders, and project participants (including government) on its progress and results? Were resources used efficiently?

Stakeholder Engagement

Communication strategies included the use of digital tools (e.g., WhatsApp groups, email updates, community radio broadcasts) to maintain stakeholder engagement - particularly in geographically dispersed projects such as Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)), and Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#))

Beyond the formal Steering Committees, many projects formed coordination mechanisms to facilitate communication between UN recipient entities and IPs. These coordination groups were typically led by the leading recipient entity, and it met weekly, biweekly or monthly. It served as an effective platform to plan, dialogue, and troubleshoot. Communication strategies included the use of digital tools (e.g., WhatsApp groups, email updates, community radio broadcasts) to maintain stakeholder engagement - particularly in geographically dispersed projects such as Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)), and Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), or with large number of youth project participants such as Colombia (Project [00130080](#)) and Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)). In some cases, additional mechanisms were created to support monitoring (Burkina Faso Project [00129742](#)) or to facilitate community or regional level dialogue (Cameroon Project [00130027](#)).

Additional local coordination efforts were created to support peacebuilding outcomes. For example, in Burkina Faso, platforms such as Dimitra Clubs were established to promote grassroots ownership, especially among youth and women – though political instability sometimes affected their activities (Project [00130026](#)). Other coordination mechanisms included Youth Advisory Committees (Haiti Project [00130791](#)), and Local Peace Committees (Central African Republic Project [00129734](#)) which played a key role in promoting community-level dialogue, peace, and reconciliation. One project noted the inclusion of marginalized groups, such as Twa women, in coordination efforts as a best practice (DRC Project [00131128](#)). In Guatemala, youth formed local councils to identify needs and priorities and elected two representatives, one female and one male youth to represent them (Project [00129774](#)).

MHPSS Best Practice - Working with Ministries of Health and other Government Institutions.

Projects delivering MHPSS coordinated with Ministries of Public Health. In Haiti, the Ministry formed part of the Steering Committee and supported mental health training and medication distribution. Over 1,200 women and girls received psychosocial support, including via the "Alo Toya" helpline, and community leaders were engaged to identify and respond to local needs.

In Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)), a Steering Committee, Project Coordination Committee (PCC), and Technical Monitoring Committee (TMC) brought together government ministries, CSOs, and agencies to oversee MHPSS delivery via mobile clinics, youth-led mental health activities, and relocation strategies for IDPs in insecure areas.

In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), a Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Ministry of the Interior provided strategic oversight, facilitating the institutionalization of police-focused mental health initiatives and their integration into national governance frameworks. The project delivered psychosocial and resilience training to 2,500 women and girls, and 15 women beneficiaries were elected to leadership roles—enhancing women's participation in local decision-making. One of the most significant peacebuilding outcomes was the transformation of police–community relations. Through targeted training on mental health and gender-based violence, and by embedding psychosocial support into routine policing, the project helped rebuild trust between security forces and local communities.

2.8.1 FACTORS ENABLING COORDINATION

Local presence strengthens coordination and project delivery - Proximity to project sites played a critical role in facilitating coordination with project participants. UN recipient entity and IPs relied heavily on their regional offices to facilitate outreach, coordination, and logistical support – making the presence of a regional UN office a major value-add. While most IPs/CSOs worked independently on their respective components, some projects – such as in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) —achieved high levels of partner collaboration, with team members even co-locating across partner offices to improve communication and problem-solving.

In contexts, where the recipient entity lacked a regional presence, efforts were made to partner with CSOs that had strong local networks or presence. For example, in addition to UN regional offices, CONDEH, a Honduran government agency, hired key staff across four implementing states to strengthen outreach to women human rights defenders and their CSOs. Conversely, CSOs without regional presence struggled with activities that required strong contextual understanding, such as participant identification, baseline assessments, and logistical support (El Salvador Project [00130003](#), Colombia Project [00130080](#)).

Community-based youth coordinators essential in YPI projects -

Hiring three youth coordinators embedded within communities proved to be an effective strategy for maintaining strong youth participant engagement, as seen in the project implemented in Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)). The three coordinators managed relationships with youth groups and local government stakeholders. They understood the local context and easily navigated day-to-day logistics. Moreover, they demonstrated “leadership in action” to program participants. The creation of WhatsApp groups to communicate with youth participants also proved valuable, particularly for improving transparency and building trust with participants (Guatemala Project [00129774](#), Colombia Project [00130080](#)). Many projects hired full time project coordinators.

Enabling Coordination

Hiring three youth coordinators embedded within communities proved to be an effective strategy for maintaining strong youth participant engagement, as seen in the project implemented in Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)).

Community engagement efforts face challenges with partner turnover

- In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)) and in Haiti (Project [00129744](#)) community dialogues, workshops, and capacity-building sessions were held to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness. However, some projects struggled to adapt based on community input. For example, in Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)) international NGOs were perceived as inflexible making it difficult to respond to evolving local conditions. Several IPs/INGOs/CSOs had to be replaced during project implementation leading to rebalancing portfolios (Guinea Biseau Project [00129743](#), El Salvador Project [00130003](#), and Colombia Project [00130501](#))

Financial and compliance Support provided to IPs or CSOs - UN agencies, including PBF staff, provided operational and financial training to CSOs and women’s organizations to help them meet compliance and reporting requirements. This support was well-received in El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)) and Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), where local partners expressed continued commitment to UN standards. In Colombia, CSOs already had established financial systems and were selected based through a competitive process and given their existing capacity and long-standing expertise (Project [00130079](#)).

2.9 RESOURCE USE AND EFFICIENCY

Resource utilization varied across projects. Long start-up delays led to inefficiencies and placed pressure on CSOs, who had to deliver on predetermined indicators and activity plans within compressed timeframes.

Resource Use and Efficiency

Some projects also maximized limited budgets by leveraging local knowledge and infrastructure. In the Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)) and Papua New Guinea (Project [00129773](#)), community engagement and existing infrastructure was used to reduce costs and enhance sustainability.

Aware of these challenges, some projects adopted creative strategies to improve efficiency. In Colombia, one project operating in two states was coordinated by different UN agencies but implemented by the same CSOs to streamline operations (Project [00130079](#)). In many projects, the workload was divided by component between recipient entities and IPs. For example, in El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), responsibilities were divided based on each UN agency's technical expertise, though delays in one area often cascaded and created bottlenecks in others. Projects that partnered with technically strong CSOs and allowed the UN to take on a behind-the-scenes convening role were among the most efficient, as seen in both Honduras projects ([00129744](#) and [00130791](#)).

Some projects also maximized limited budgets by leveraging local knowledge and infrastructure. In the Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)) and Papua New Guinea (Project [00129773](#)), community engagement and existing infrastructure was used to

reduce costs and enhance sustainability. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the KOBO platform was used for efficient data collection and monitoring. Colombia used a platform developed by a national University to analyze youth narratives and determine skill building topics based on data collected (Project [00130080](#)).

2.10 SUSTAINABILITY AND OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS

2.10.1 STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINED IMPACT⁸

The 2021 Cohort Projects adopted multi-pronged strategies to strengthen national capacities. The most common approaches included working with or enhancing existing government structures, building the capacity of local governments, empowering civil society organizations (CSOs), and strengthening youth leadership. Most projects implemented multiple strategies simultaneously, while achieving key results that could lead to sustained impact and change.

The most frequent combination involved working concurrently with government officials or structures—at either the national or local level—while also supporting women and youth leaders. This approach was consistently applied across various contexts. Below are five examples of how projects applied multi-prong and multi-level strategies to strengthen national capacity.

Integrating Laws and Enhancing Legal Frameworks - In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), the project supported the National Land Commission in integrating land laws into legal frameworks and enhanced the Ministry of Public Works' capacity for spatial data management. At the local level, 15 Sectoral Land Commissions were reactivated and trained in conflict mediation, while 57 traditional leaders and youth received tailored training in land conflict prevention. The project promoted community-led peace efforts through awareness campaigns, participatory planning, and the dissemination of a national guide on land delimitation.

Building Bridges between Government Agencies and Women Human Rights CSO Defenders - In Honduras (Project [00130443](#)), the UN played a critical role to build trust between women human rights defenders' organizations and CONDEH, a government agency mandated to investigate human rights violations. The UN's convening power supported building trusting relationships between the government agency and human rights defenders, while simultaneously strengthening the capacity of civil society and the

⁸ This section answers EQ 9 using the Sustainability Criteria: How did the GYPI projects enhance and contribute to the development of national capacity (national and local governments and local CSOs) in order to ensure suitability of efforts and benefits?

government agency. The UN also supported CONDEH to improve their capacities to provide differentiated support to indigenous, Afro-descendant, and marginalized women.

Strengthening Strategic Government Institutions - In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), the project enhanced national capacity by strengthening government institutions like the Ministry of Gender and NHRC to address SGBV through MHPSS services, specialized courts, and human rights frameworks. It institutionalized responses with tools like the Mental Health Advisory Note and tailored training programs. Locally, it empowered CSOs such as NGBV and WILL with resources and training to lead community healing, advocacy, and conflict resolution. Community structures, including youth, women, and traditional leaders, were trained in peacebuilding and advocacy to sustain efforts. Sustainability was supported through ongoing skill application, structural commitments, resource mobilization, and inclusive participation of diverse groups in governance and peacebuilding (Project [00130106](#)).

Sustainability and Ownership

In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), the project enhanced national capacity by strengthening government institutions like the Ministry of Gender and NHRC to address SGBV through MHPSS services, specialized courts, and human rights frameworks

In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), the project worked with the National Youth Council (CNJ) and its regional branches, while also establishing local community dialogue platforms - DIMITRA clubs with the aim to build mechanisms for inclusive governance and conflict-sensitive community development. Capacity-building sessions were conducted across six municipalities, equipping local actors, particularly youth, with skills in land management and agro-pastoral resource planning. By involving both government departments and civil society partners, the project sought to use a collaborative approach to peacebuilding.

Enabling the Environment and Strengthening Youth Leaders - Across Latin American, projects supported the increase in the leadership skills of young women and men identifying as marginalized, indigenous, or LGBTQI+. In Colombia (Project [00130501](#)) and El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), youth formed groups and implemented youth-led sub-projects to improve their communities or advance economic goals. In Honduras, youth learned important information about land rights (Project [00129762](#)). In all three projects, local government officials accompanied the process. Interviews shared that local government officials had shifted their perception of youth and their role in communities. In Colombia, an in-depth study on youth narratives was created that later informed programming focusing on political participation, mental health, and social innovation. The project reported increased knowledge of resilience, conflict resolution, creative thinking, management of emotions and frustrations (Colombia Project [00130080](#)).

Project Close out Processes

While sustainability processes need to be mainstreamed throughout project implementation, a well-structured project exit strategy is an essential component of effective handover. The close-out processes and execution varied widely across the project cohort. Some projects reported well-planned and participatory close out processes that prioritized sustainability, local ownership and knowledge transfer (Burundi Project [00130026](#), South Sudan Project [00130571](#), Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#)). Others held formal close-out meetings (Gambia Project [00130106](#) and Guinea Bissau Project [00129743](#)) or celebratory events to engage youth, such as soccer matches and showcases of community project achievements (Somalia Project MPTF [00130704](#), Colombia Project [00130079](#), Colombia [00130080](#)). A few projects noted efforts to engage with governments and agencies to support sustainability (Colombia Project [00130080](#), South Sudan Project [00130571](#)).

Even with a well-planned exit strategy sustainability is not guaranteed. In Colombia [00130080](#)), a project made strides by securing over 100 intent agreements across sustainability pillars. However, the implementation of the sustainability agreements was not followed thoroughly by the UN recipient entities due to lack of funds.

Three IPs or CSOs in different countries described the close-out plan as disorganized, insufficient in communication, and sustainability (Cameroon Project [00130027](#), Solomon Islands Project [00130844](#),

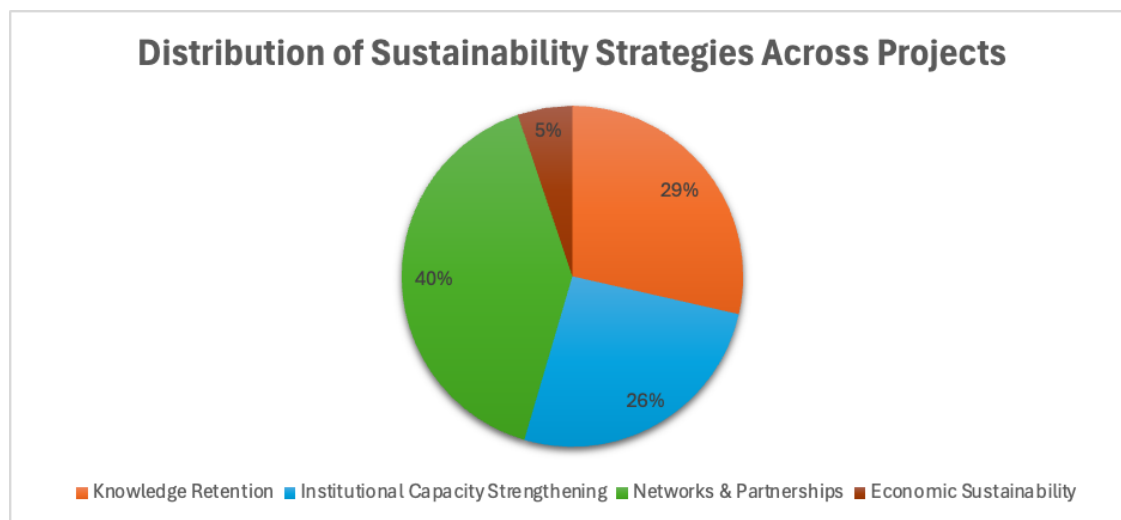
and Colombia Project [00130079](#)). One project in Honduras felt that they were unable to sit with government counterparts to share close-out processes (Project [00130443](#)). In South Sudan, the project close-out was severely disrupted by the outbreak of a war (South Sudan Projects [00130002](#), [00130052](#), [00130705](#)).

2.10.2 CONTINUATION OF PEACEBUILDING GAINS POST-PROJECT COMPLETION⁹

Sustainability Strategies in Proposal Design - All projects outlined a sustainability strategy and reported on it, in an annual basis. Projects sought to mainstream sustainability through four key strategies: knowledge retention of participants, creation of networks and partnerships, institutional capacity strengthening, and economic sustainability. Most projects used more than one strategy per project.

The resulting classification shows a diverse portfolio of sustainability strategies. Most projects emphasized networks & partnerships (40%), underscoring the value of multi-stakeholder engagement and long-term collaboration. Knowledge retention (29%) and institutional capacity strengthening (26%) also featured prominently, reflecting investments in systems, training, and knowledge transfer. In contrast, Economic Sustainability was cited by only a small number of projects (5%), pointing to a notable gap in integrating financial or livelihood components. However, for the most part economic sustainability was addressed; it often encompassed economic empowerment initiatives—such as livelihood support, financial literacy, and income-generating activities—particularly targeting women and youth. Only a handful of projects focused on creating livelihood strategies as a project outcome. This suggests that economic empowerment, if clearly framed, can serve as a meaningful dimension of long-term peacebuilding resilience.

Figure 3 Distribution of Sustainability Strategies Across Projects



2.10.3 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL OWNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

While projects embedded several strategies in the project design, the implementation of these approaches was often hindered by the short implementation timeline of the projects. The short implementation period,

⁹ This section answers EQ 8 under the Sustainability Criteria: How strong was the commitment of the governments and other national stakeholders to sustaining the results of PBF GYPI support and continuing initiatives on women's and young people's participation in peacebuilding?

relatively periphery engagement with government officials, and lack of funding hindered long term sustainability of outcomes.

Ownership for Sustainability – Projects that were able to work within existing structures tended to increase government ownership and increase the likelihood of sustainability. For example, in Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), the National Roundtable for the Prevention and Approach to Social Conflict (and a subgroup on social conflict related to land), the Roundtable for Comprehensive Care at COPINH, and 17 regional dialogue spaces (mesas de dialogue) remained active after project close out. In El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), the project continued to disseminate the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Gender-Based

Ownership for Sustainability

In Niger (Project [00130502](#)), the government and national stakeholders actively supported youth and women's participation through partnerships with CSOs, youth councils, and women's groups. These efforts enabled ongoing engagement in peacebuilding, leadership, and economic initiatives, with continued activity by peace committees and community-based structures.

Violence and work with the Ministry of Tourism. During the life of the project, there were 50 signatories to the Code of Conduct, while it was reported that now there are 180 companies that have signed on. Moreover, cases that violate the Code of Conduct have been diverted to tourist police and courts. A government agency - Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CONDEH) in Honduras – was able to secure funds to disseminate a manual to improve response channels through a differential approach created as part of the project. However, it was unable to advocate for an increase in national budget to sustain additional staff provided by the project (Honduras [00130443](#)). In Papua New Guinea, provincial governments have institutionalized gender-responsive climate security agendas and made commitments to train female staff (Project [00129773](#)). In Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)) also presented a relatively strong government commitment, with the Ministry of Youth and the Office of the Prime Minister supporting youth networks across all provinces. In Mali (Project [00129745](#)), partnerships with PNUD, ONU Femmes, and ministries aligned peacebuilding activities with national strategies.

In Niger (Project [00130502](#)), the government and national stakeholders actively supported youth and women's participation through partnerships with CSOs, youth councils, and women's groups. These efforts enabled ongoing engagement in peacebuilding, leadership, and economic initiatives, with continued activity by peace committees and community-based structures. Government agencies facilitated coordination, and income-generating activities contributed to sustaining livelihoods.

A total of three indigenous women leaders in Colombia and five women in South Sudan were elected to represent their constituencies. Women leaders in Colombia were elected to local Indigenous Councils that participated in two PBF funded projects (Project [00130501](#) and Project [00130079](#)) while Somali women were elected to their customary courts (Project [00130571](#)). This represents a significant progress in gender inclusion.

Elections and Staff turnover is a hindering Factor to Government Ownership - Frequent turnover of governments at the local, regional, and national government levels is a barrier to ownership and sustainability. In El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), none of the three mayors involved in the project remained in office and most of the public servants changed roles. In Colombia, a national change in government created challenges in maintaining support for youth-led initiatives (Project [00130080](#)). Similarly, in Guinea-Bissau (Project [00129743](#)), frequent political transitions and ministerial turnover disrupted project implementation and hindered long-term institutional partnership. Even when governments remained in place, CSOs and women's organizations often lacked the convening and influencing power to ensure that agreements are followed through. Women-led CSOs also mentioned in interviews that engagement with governments is not always prudent or recommended given their context. In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), the retirement and reassignment of trained police officers, coupled with the lack of internal budget to sustain MHPSS programming, led to the cessation of project activities within the police force.

In Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), the local government demonstrated a high level of commitment, marked by direct government funding and institutional integration. In this case, the government included project components in their 2025 national budget and is working towards incorporating youth-focused initiatives into annual operational plans (e.g., through CONJUVE and SEGEPLAN). This level of institutionalization sets Guatemala apart as one of the few cases where government actions move beyond collaborative implementation toward systemic embedding of youth-inclusive governance.

2.10.4 NATIONAL ACTORS' COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Women's Networks and Partnerships - The formations of networks and groups were not as sustainable as predicted due to the lack of continuous follow-up. For example, in two projects (Colombia [00130079](#), Honduras [00129762](#)), women's CSOs had opportunities to interact and share experiences. Both projects aimed to form networks and stated in semi-annual reports that network development was part of the sustainability strategy. However, 18 months after project completion, these networks remained only partially and informally active. While some women's groups continue to meet in ad hoc ways, neither project provided funding or structural support was available to sustain the networks. As a result, the women do not operate as a cohesive collective or engage in joint advocacy. In Mali (Project [00130336](#)), interviews reported that community mediators continue to resolve conflict independently of government support with active networks.

Youth-led Programs and Community Projects - Sustaining youth-programming beyond the life of a project is difficult for various reasons including the short life stage of young adolescents. Initiatives require strong partnerships with institutions supporting youth, including schools and academic. It also requires key community leaders that can continue to train the next generation of leaders. Many of the projects in the cohort included youth-led initiatives.

UN recipient entities shared that they did not have the capacity to follow up in a systematic way with youth engaged in projects in El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), or Colombia (Project [00130080](#)). They only remained in touch with a handful of youth. The lack of a systematic way of communicating and encouraging youth to sustain community projects can lead to disillusionment at a critical life stage. Efforts were made to link youth to employers (El Salvador Project [00130003](#)) and/or academic institutions (Colombia Project [0013008](#)), but these efforts were not at the center of the project design and partners were not IPs or CSOs.

CSOs working in communities continued to maintain relationships with youth and follow-up with them, even if this was not their role or responsibility. In the case of El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), a CSO continued to follow-up with youth in the communities even if they had not received any further UN grants and reported limited funding. In the case of Honduras, a CSO remains active in the community and continues to work with the youth (Project [00129762](#)). In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), a CSO continues its work with young internally displaced women on GBV and health issues. This implicit role puts an informal responsibility on IPs and CSOs to continue to provide programming without funding after project close-out. IPs and CSOs also have the most to lose from a short programming cycle given that they may lose community trust and legitimacy as they are in the frontlines of unmet expectations or participant disillusionment.

Local Ownership and Commitment to Community Wellbeing – Interview data shows strong commitment by communities to continue to improve their day-to-day wellbeing. For example, in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), interviewees shared that there was a high likelihood of ongoing conflict resolution committees, agro-pastoral field schools, and land recovery efforts. In Central African Republic (Project [00130570](#)), it was reported that community markets and youth-led furniture making continues. In another project in Central African Republic, the project offered a community-based reintegration program for ex-combatants that provided vocational training kits for various trades – notably including carpentry (menuiserie) (Project [00130464](#)). Similar findings were also found in Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), where the project focused on strong involvement of CBOs that strengthen leaders and youth activities (girls and boys clubs, a youth library) and integrates a persistent advocacy effort. In Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)), the creation of youth caucuses and their linkage to national youth structures ensured continuity in civic participation and a youth voice in governance. In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) and Central African Republic (Project [00130570](#)), local peace committees, Dimitra Clubs, and Local Peace Champions (LPCs) ensured grassroots ownership. The development of action plans and inclusion of women and youth in leadership roles fostered continuity.

Local Ownership

In Solomon Islands (Project [00130844](#)), the creation of youth caucuses and their linkage to national youth structures ensured continuity in civic participation and a youth voice in governance.

CSOs interviewed across Latin America shared that they remain steadfast in supporting of their constituents, even if they have not received subsequent funds. They demonstrated commitment to peacebuilding efforts and arts-based methods, as seen in the Colombia Case Study (Project [00130079](#)). In Mali (Project [00130336](#)), interviews reported that community mediators continue to resolve conflict independently of government support with active networks.

Financing remains a key barrier to sustaining project outcomes. While many initiatives have successfully strengthened governance structures and built CSO capacity, they continue to rely on external donor or government funding. In Somalia (Project [00130704](#)), CSOs gained expertise in GBV prevention and advocacy, but their long-term impact depends on securing sustained government support. Similarly, Sudan (Project [00130705](#)) established non-partisan youth observation networks and conflict resolution training, but the project's reliance on donor resources raises concerns about the sustainability of these mechanisms. Mali (Project [00130613](#)) enhanced land governance structures and institutionalized youth and women's roles in civic engagement, but gaps in government financial commitments may hinder long-term self-sufficiency. A short implementation period, typically 7 to 12 months, reduces the likelihood of sustainability efforts.

Sustainability Approach of MHPSS and Peacebuilding Outcomes

MHPSS was embedded to varying degrees as a sustainability approach across GYPI-supported projects. In several contexts, local structures, women-led organizations, and community-driven efforts helped extend psychosocial support beyond the project lifecycle. However, deeper sustainability — particularly through institutionalization and long-term national commitment — remains uneven and, in some cases, aspirational.

In South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)), community-led initiatives emerged as a strong foundation for sustainability, with women reinvesting income to expand safe spaces and collaborate with local authorities. In addition to formal MHPSS services, the project also drew upon traditional and culturally grounded practices. For example, youth groups participated in drama performances and sports festivals, which created safe and meaningful spaces for emotional expression and social healing. In one case, two youth groups who had been in conflict reconciled during a joint sports event — underscoring how such collective practices not only supported mental health but also promoted reconciliation and strengthened social bonds.

In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)) the desk review shows that 93% of survivors reported satisfaction with MHPSS services, citing their timeliness, helpfulness, and confidentiality as well as the full participation of women-led organizations. Going further, the project integrated creative and culturally grounded approaches to support community healing. Over 500 people were engaged through two original songs developed to promote the SGBV helpline and amplify the work of Ask Bajen Community Advocates. In addition, women's groups organized storytelling and singing sessions, offering safe spaces for emotional processing and collective healing. Community dialogues facilitated the reintegration of survivors of witch hunts and SGBV, while livelihood activities such as vegetable gardening helped foster both economic stability and social cohesion. Together, these efforts show how traditional practices and local knowledge were meaningfully incorporated into MHPSS to build resilience and promote reconciliation at the grassroots level. The likelihood of sustainability highly depends on the government, including the Ministry of Health, which launched an investment case for mental health but the gaps in funding and institutional capacity persist.

In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), trauma-informed approaches were introduced across police stations and community structures, with mental health awareness included in training sessions, regular discussions, and reporting routines. The project funded the integration of MHPSS within police structures and trained both community members and police officers (relais) to provide ongoing psychosocial support. This helped make police-community interactions more sensitive and supportive. While long-term government funding is still uncertain, there is active collaboration with ministries and local CSOs, showing strong national engagement and potential for sustaining the work beyond the project.

In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), trained local actors participated actively, but institutional uptake was limited, casting doubt on the durability of support systems. Similarly, in the Central African Republic (Project [00130570](#)), local authorities were engaged, yet MHPSS efforts lacked formal structures or funding to persist independently. In Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), although survivor satisfaction was high, sustainability was closely tied to the broader justice process and dependent on future state investment. Even in South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)), where community ownership was strong, institutional integration is still emerging, and sustained support will require time and deliberate effort. There is also a lack of clarity regarding access to financial support for mental health services and the establishment of policies to combat harassment and facilitate these services (CAR Project [00129734](#)).

These cases underscore a critical insight: while community engagement and culturally grounded practices have extended the reach of MHPSS, the link to peacebuilding outcomes, such as reconciliation, social cohesion, and trust in institutions, remains fragile without long-term support. Several projects demonstrated how trauma healing efforts, when tied to collective rituals, safe spaces, or participatory justice, contributed to stronger community relationships. However, interview data reveals that the healing process takes time, and two or three-year projects are often insufficient to address deep-seated trauma or embed peacebuilding mechanisms. As highlighted in trauma-informed peacebuilding frameworks (AFSC, 2024)¹⁰, building a conducive environment for healing requires sustained trust, continuity of care, and systemic integration. To achieve this, longer and better funded projects are needed.

2.11 INNOVATION

2.11.1 INNOVATION IN PEACEBUILDING APPROACHES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Innovation Overview Across the 2021 GYPI Cohort

Across the 2021 GYPI cohort, innovation was more frequently expressed through adaptation than radical change. Most projects modified existing approaches to meet local realities, leveraging community input and context-responsive design. The most transformative innovation overall was the strategic integration of

¹⁰ American Friends Service Committee. (2024). *Trauma-informed peacebuilding practice: An introduction*. <https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/trauma-informed-peacebuilding-practice-an-introduction.pdf>

MHPSS into peacebuilding. Seven projects focused primarily on MHPSS, while several included MHPSS training sessions in response to emerging mental health awareness in peace and development fields.

GPI projects primarily focused on institutional and operational adjustments, modifying governance structures and working modalities to increase gender-sensitive peacebuilding rather than introducing entirely new methodologies. Many GPI projects sought to embed women's participation in decision-making, ensuring that existing peacebuilding models became more inclusive.

In contrast, YPI projects were more likely to introduce new processes and experiment with different engagement models, especially in thematic areas like economic resilience and climate adaptation. While some Civic Space YPI projects relied on adaptation, many projects in climate and economic resilience introduced innovative approaches to improve youth participation in peacebuilding. Because youth populations are highly diverse and often face economic exclusion, these projects frequently adapted youth-led civic engagement or livelihood models to increase participation. Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) employed adaptive peacebuilding approaches, modifying civic engagement strategies to ensure that young people had a meaningful role in local governance. Niger (Project [00130502](#)) was a mixed case, while its climate-related interventions were classified as adaptation, its economic integration approach was innovative in how it connected climate resilience with youth livelihoods. Similarly, Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) expanded land-based economic opportunities for youth, demonstrating a new model for integrating natural resource management with youth resilience strategies.

Innovation in Peacebuilding

Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) employed adaptive peacebuilding approaches, modifying civic engagement strategies to ensure that young people had a meaningful role in local

It is worth noting that IPs and CSOs interviewed in Latin America did not find the programming innovative. For the most part, the work implemented was part of the core work that they do. Similarly, UN agencies were working within their mandate and working on activities and models that they perceived where they can add value. One IP that had territorial expertise mentioned that working with youth was a new area for them (Honduras Project [00129762](#)). The project enabled CSOs to do more of what they tend to do in the ways that they already do their work (Colombia Project [00130079](#)). In the case of El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), the project was able to bring concepts of peacebuilding to the Surf School and increase consciousness that surfing is for all youth, including marginalized rural youth (Project [00130003](#)).

2.11.2 EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Innovations in delivery of MHPSS activities which included Case Management Systems for which community case managers were trained and deployed in conflict zones to identify individuals in distress and refer them to specialized mental health services in the aim of reducing vulnerability to radicalization and promoting resilience. MHPSS Integration in Police Training in The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)) is another example of innovation where mental health and GBV sensitivity were integrated into police training to sensitize police forces on dealing with people with trauma, leading to a more positive attitude towards law enforcement and enhanced trust with communities. The locally led Community Healing Circles were formed for survivors to share and grieve collectively, therefore reducing stigma around mental health and fostering cohesion. One-Stop Centers and Remote Support Projects like Haiti (Projects [00129744](#) & [00130791](#)) established integrated centers offering legal, psychosocial, and health services. In more restricted environments, apps like Allo Toya allowed survivors to safely access MHPSS remotely. And finally, in Sudan (Project [00130705](#)) a new MHPSS curriculum developed by UNFPA and IOM was introduced for the first time, filling a national gap in trauma-responsive programming.

Digital Innovation

Projects like 'Fondation Toya's Allo Toya' in Haiti (Project [00129744](#), [00130791](#)) used mobile applications for survivor support and enabled survivors to discreetly request psychological help via the app bypassing social stigma and logistical barriers.

Digital and Technological Innovations: Projects like 'Fondation Toya's Allo Toya' in Haiti (Project [00129744](#), [00130791](#)) used mobile applications for survivor support and enabled survivors to discreetly request psychological help via the app bypassing social stigma and logistical barriers. In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) Digital Platforms for Civic Engagement was a network of interconnected platforms that was developed to boost youth communication and civic dialogue across communes.

Innovatively Using Local Governance and Decentralization: introducing meaningful innovations in local governance and decentralization, demonstrating how community-level structures can be strengthened to support peacebuilding. Examples are Local Implementation Units, where, in urban communes, localized units were created via administrative acts, enabling decentralized and

autonomous coordination of municipal actors. Another example is projects that embedded inclusive planning mechanisms from the outset. Vulnerable groups, such as women, IDPs, and youth, were actively involved in needs identification, targeting, and decision-making processes. Also, in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) a comprehensive Guide of Good Practices was developed and disseminated across stakeholders, compiling successful methods like community dialogue, spatial planning, and land management, enabling knowledge transfer and replication.

Community-Based Peacebuilding Platforms: Agro-Pastoral Field Schools (CAPs) are an example of functional community learning spaces where farmers and pastoralists co-identified resource conflicts and devised sustainable, locally derived solutions, reducing dependency on external actors. Forums for Youth Exchange, are also an example of bringing youth together to share experience, foster intercommunity collaboration, and build cross-boundary solidarity through collective peacebuilding. Finally, Youth-Led Community Rehabilitation in CAR (Project [00130570](#)) were innovative dual-purpose activities which combined awareness-raising with practical impact, such as youth-led market rehabilitation, school furniture production, and clean-up campaigns.

Innovations around Land Tenure and Resource Governance: Formalized Land Transfers were introduced that documented and secured land access for both host and displaced youth, preventing future land reclaim disputes and fostering trust. For example, almost 100 youth in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) and around 2,500 in Mali (Project [00130613](#)) secured tenure rights through this method. Technological Tools for Land Monitoring were also established and utilized as Innovative digital mapping stations to generate data on land ownership, with youth trained in their operation. This was a key deliverable in a joint FAO–UNOCHR project, promoting transparency in land rights. In Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)), youth participated in Off-Soil Agriculture Training, focusing on soil-less farming methods, promoting efficient land use and creating new livelihood opportunities.

Innovation in support of Gender and Social Norm Transformation: Women survivors of violence were trained in the production of reusable menstrual pads and diapers, generating income while addressing unmet reproductive health needs. In Papua New Guinea (Projects [00130034](#) and [00129773](#)) and Sudan (Project [00130002](#)), workshops challenged gender norms by engaging men in open discussions about women's rights and roles in peacebuilding, helping shift historically entrenched gender discrimination behaviors. And in DRC (Project [00130002](#)) there was improved land access and political participation for previously marginalized Twa women, with 25% reflecting positive change in community perception.

Environment and Climate-Linked Peacebuilding: Mali (Project [00130336](#)) identified and trained youth as environmental advocates (Youth Climate Change Ambassadors) linking climate resilience and youth empowerment with local peacebuilding efforts. Efforts to reduce wood and charcoal use introduced renewable energy solutions in Mauritania (Project [00129746](#)) as both an environmental and peacebuilding measure.

Recognized Formal System-Wide Innovations: Two projects in Haiti, came together to create synergies by jointly establishing a forum to support women survivors of violence, enabling cross-learning and alignment across interventions. A research-action initiative with universities in Haiti (Project [00130791](#)) and the Youth and Academia Pipeline, enabled students to research WPS themes, intern at NGOs, and complete thesis work. At least 50% of interns were offered employment, embedding long-term capacity into the peace ecosystem. And in Colombia (Project [00130501](#)) women-led governance structures were strengthened alongside contingency planning and environmental rehabilitation (e.g., 225 hectares restored through beekeeping cooperatives).

Lessons Learned for Future Innovation

- Local ownership and participation through engaging local influencers and traditional authorities from the outset is key.
- Cross-learning and knowledge transfer through tools like practice guides and peer learning facilitate replication and catalyze broader uptake of successful ways of working.
- Integrating economic empowerment with mental health support increases participant engagement and enhances the overall effectiveness of interventions.
- Platforms that foster intergenerational exchange build resilience.
- Flexibility, agile design, and contextual responsiveness show value and preserve momentum especially in conflict settings.
- Inclusivity and intergroup collaborations build trust.

2.12 CATALYTIC CHANGE AND SCALE UP

2.12.1 TYPE OF SCALING-UP

Several projects provide concrete examples of scaling-up as illustrate in Table 2 below, demonstrating both geographic expansion and increased outreach to more people. For example, in Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) and Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)) scaling efforts focused on reaching more people, expanding their participation base rather than extending into new regions. In Burkina Faso, the project worked in the continuation and expansion of local mechanisms, such as Dimitra Clubs and agro-pastoral field schools, as well as replication of tools and practices by trained participants in new localities. Additionally, the project complemented national land governance frameworks and was integrated into the Burkina Faso Sahel Emergency Program, helping implement a previously stalled land conflict resolution law from 2006.

In contrast, in Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)), The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), and Sudan (Project [00130002](#)) projects opted to scale-out into different regions, demonstrating geographic expansion rather than just increasing participation in existing areas. The project in the Central African Republic sought to support future peacebuilding efforts in multiple locations, including the Lower River, North Bank, and Greater Banjul. In The Gambia, the initiative scaled not only geographically but also by ensuring inclusivity across different groups—expanding peacebuilding efforts while also creating broader platforms for both women and youth.

Scaling-out in Gambia and Sudan

Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)), The Gambia (Project [00130106](#)), and Sudan (Project [00130002](#)) projects opted to scale-out into different regions, demonstrating geographic expansion rather than just increasing

In Mali (Projects [00129745](#) and [00130336](#)), scaling-up focused more on functional and thematic expansion rather than geographic spread. These projects expanded outreach through renewable energy initiatives and women's leadership networks while also creating new community peace committees and advocacy groups. One of the projects (Project [00130336](#)) integrated women into natural resource governance and introduced innovative tools like the Peace-RECs credit system to link economic empowerment with peacebuilding.

Not all projects aimed to scale up pre-existing initiatives. Some projects marked GYPI's entry into new geographic areas, offering a fresh layer of programming: in Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) and El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), the projects were the first of their kind in those locations under PBF funding. They focused on youth-led civic engagement and introduced local governance collaboration mechanisms. In Honduras (Project [00130443](#)), GYPI introduced climate adaptation and engagement with Indigenous women—areas not previously covered under earlier PBF or GYPI initiatives. In the Central African Republic (Project [00130570](#)), the project expanded the organization's presence into new zones and complemented other youth and MHPSS-focused efforts.

In Burundi (Project [00130913](#)), the project catalyzed strong institutional interest in expanding MHPSS within peacebuilding frameworks. Its integration of MHPSS into community policing and women's recovery efforts was recognized by national police leadership and government officials as a model for further action. As noted in the case study, the project “holds the potential for greater impact in its next stage,” with follow-up steps already underway, such as police allocating funds to extend MHPSS activities to other provinces. This positions the Burundi project as a catalytic effort that inspired momentum toward broader institutional integration and program continuity.

Table 2 Types of Peacebuilding Scale-Up and Number of Projects*

Type of Scale Up	Number of Projects
Scaling of Peacebuilding Initiatives	25 projects
Creating Platforms for Women	16 projects
Creating or Expanding Platforms for Youth	17 projects

*Several projects integrated multiple dimensions, such as both scaling and platform creation for women and youth, showing a holistic approach to peacebuilding.

2.12.2 CREATE BROADER PLATFORM FOR PEACEBUILDING

Women’s organizations - Projects in Colombia and Honduras worked with existing local human rights women’s and young women activist organizations by providing them with small grants to implement cultural and political initiatives (Colombia [00130079](#)) and provide capacity to strengthen women human right defenders (Honduras [00130443](#)).

A Broader Platform for Peacebuilding

One project (Colombia [00130501](#)) sought to empower indigenous women and build their capacity while simultaneously creating employment opportunities. This project saw a positive unexpected result of witnessing three female indigenous project participants be elected to Indigenous councils, a historic

Projects that worked towards improving capacities of youth, also included female youth. Young women used their new capacities and skills to propose and implement youth-led initiatives that specifically aimed to support their peers’ unmet needs, such as information on how to prevent adolescent pregnancies (El Salvador Project [00130003](#)). One project (Colombia [00130501](#)) sought to empower indigenous women and build their capacity while simultaneously creating employment opportunities. This project saw a positive unexpected result of witnessing three female indigenous project participants be elected to Indigenous councils, a historic first.

Youth empowerment - For the most part, these projects were working with vulnerable youth affected directly or indirectly by violence, including in Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, and El Salvador. Latin American projects sought to increase the capacity of youth while providing them with tangible opportunities to apply new skills including through governance (Guatemala Project [00129774](#)), youth-led community grants (El Salvador Project [00130003](#)), or youth-led entrepreneurial opportunities (Colombia). These projects reported an increased level of empowerment and peacebuilding skills by the youth who participated (El Salvador Project [00130003](#)). In South Sudan, youth committees were created to actively address communal conflicts and GBV cases (Project [00130571](#)).

While some PBF projects sought sustainable ways to continue to engage with youth, UN and CSO agencies shared limited funding, which was the key factor that prevented continuous engagement after project close off. PBF Project coordinating and technical staff – primarily UN agencies – shared their inability to effectively follow-up or implement sustainable supporting mechanisms for youth – despite often setting up comprehensive sustainable plans involving academic, private sector, and CSO actors. In interviews, UN agencies and CSOs reflected on how the short duration and compressed timelines were negatively affected by long operational and bureaucratic processes.

2.13 PROGRAMMATIC CATALYTIC EFFECT

2.13.1 PROGRAMMATIC CATALYTIC CHANGE

PBF considers that a project has created a catalytic effect when it creates a momentum for the removal of barriers that block longer-term or sustained peacebuilding or for the engagement of additional stakeholders in the existing peacebuilding effort.

The majority of projects in the 2021 Cohort self-reported some or significant catalytic change (60%) or very significant catalytic change (18%) in their Annual or Final reports. A total of 8 projects reported no catalytic change or too early to report on a catalytic change (21%). The PBF projects reported catalytic changes in the following areas:

Example of Catalytic Change by thematic
MHPSS
Reduce barrier of MHPSS implementation and integrating peacebuilding • Strengthened national psychotherapeutic care and trauma support in peacebuilding, linking formal, transitional, and community justice systems. (CAR Project 00129734) • Developed tools (protocol, studies, mobile app) to support future interventions and attract investment in psychological care. Community justice manual provides a roadmap for expansion. (CAR Project 00129734) • Created women-friendly spaces which continue to support trauma healing, empowerment, and advocacy for women's rights. (South Sudan Project 00130571) • Developed projects in new geographic areas: Some projects marked GYPI's entry into new geographic areas, offering a fresh layer of programming: in Guatemala (Project 00129774) and El Salvador (Project 00130003), the projects were the first of their kind in those locations under PBF funding. They focused on youth-led civic engagement and introduced local governance collaboration mechanisms. In Honduras (Project 00130443), GYPI introduced climate resilience and engagement with Indigenous women—areas not previously covered under earlier PBF or GYPI initiatives. In the Central African Republic (Project 00130570), the project expanded the organization's presence into new zones and complemented other youth and MHPSS-focused efforts. Unblock institutional and cultural barriers: • Decentralized state structure to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS). (Burkina Faso Project 00129742) • Trained 205 non-specialists to continue providing MHPSS support. (Burkina Faso Project 00129742) • Improved access to MHPSS services and increased referrals to Bundung health facility. (Gambia Project 00130106) Shift enabling culture towards acceptance of MHPSS support • Created a Manual on Positive Masculinity in Sudan. (Project 00130002). The project's bottom-up approach addresses the shortage of psychosocial support agents by engaging community counselors, breaking mental health taboos, and reframing MHPSS as a peacebuilding tool.
Increase Peaceful Conflict Resolution on Land Rights and Environmental Issues affected by Conflict
• Established that land certification has the potential to prevent conflicts and enables landowners to secure microfinance loans for income-generating activities. (Burundi Project 00130463) • Organized community meetings on land conflict resolution, led by government institutions in collaboration with local partners. (Liberia Project 00131553) • Enabled the Mesa Interinstitucional de Prevencion y Abordaje de la Conflictividad and its subgroups, along with other mechanisms like the Comisión Tripartita, to address land and territory conflict which has expanded nationwide with technical and political support from the project. (Honduras Project 00129762)

• Used the collaborative natural resource management model, initially developed under this project, and now applied in Hirshabelle and Galmudug with funding from a different partner. (Somalia Project 00129735) • Worked with the Ministry of Mines and Energy to improve sector transparency, testing a grievance mechanism and refining a community development agreement between communities and extractive actors. (Solomon Islands Project 00130844) • Collaborated with Regional decision-makers who are enforcing equitable natural resource management laws, and strengthening the role of traditional authorities in conflict resolution. In Koulikoro, judicial actors have engaged in open exchanges with communities, restoring trust and credibility. The Cofos system is now a prerequisite for resolving land conflicts, with 30 agro-pastoral conflicts peacefully settled and 100 revitalized Cofos actively addressing disputes. (Mali Project 00130336) • Organized community meetings on land conflict resolution, led by government institutions in collaboration with local partners. (Liberia Project 00131553)
Governance and Civic Spaces
Reduce barrier of participation • Expanded Regional conflict management observatories, and networks were strengthened to document cases and produce conciliation reports. (Burkina Faso Project 00130026). • Established a replicable youth governance model in Guatemala. (Project 00129774). • Established a conflict management committee. (Guinea Bissau Project 00130107). • Strengthened CONADEH and created a network with women's organizations. (Honduras Project 00130443). • Arranged an interstate dialogue in South Sudan which led to the adoption of the "Green Book," improving conflict resolution and reducing GBV cases through cross-state collaboration. (South Sudan Project 00130571). • Enabled sustainable conflict prevention which requires investing in peace cultures and formal/informal institutions for non-violent resolution, such as councils of notables, to ease court backlogs. However, better coordination of these groups is needed. (Burundi Project 00130463). • Worked for municipal and regional adoption of action plans to continue with peace and stability initiatives at community level (Cameroon Project 00130027).
Reduction of Drivers of Conflict
• Created employment or livelihood opportunities for women (Colombia 130501) and survivors (Gambia Project 00130106). • Provided alternative means of engagement for youth, including young women with government process and community-driven projects.

2.13.2 FINANCIAL CATALYTIC EFFECT

A PBF project is also considered to have a financial catalytic effect when it facilitates new initiatives that bring-in new resources to peacebuilding priorities in the country.

About a third of the projects reported a financial catalytical effect. These projects were able to leverage the PBF project to receive additional funding from other donors or sources. A total of USD\$27,462,594 were leveraged in new projects based on PBF project achievements or contributions to expand reach within the PBF funded initiatives.

The new funding was used to complement existing efforts or expand results to new geographies or nationwide. For example, a private sector actor contribution of US\$38,000 was used during the life of the PBF Colombian project to expand the research and create employment opportunities for youth participants. In El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), the PBF project achievements were leveraged to receive US\$118,000 from the International Development Bank (IDB) to nationalize the Code of Conduct on Tourism against

gender-based violence. In Honduras (Project [00129762](#)), US\$11million was received to continue with activities that were begun in the PBF project. Another project implemented in Honduras (Project [00130443](#)) leveraged relationships with the convening UN agency to continue to work towards similar project goals.

Across the 13 projects assessed (see Table 3), some projects recorded modest financial catalytic ratios, with mobilized funds representing less than 10% of the original PBF contribution. However, the qualitative analysis confirmed that catalytic momentum was nonetheless achieved. This highlights that the significance of a catalytic effect is not solely determined by the volume of additional financial resources, but also by the project's ability to influence peacebuilding processes, remove barriers, and mobilize new stakeholders.

Overall, projects collectively leveraged an estimated US\$27,462,594 in additional funding against a total PBF contribution of approximately US\$51,482,704.81, yielding an average financial catalytic ratio of 0.53. (See Annex X for more details). This result shows that, on average, each \$1 of PBF investment attracted an additional \$0.53 in external support, highlighting a meaningful catalytic effect across the portfolio. The funding mobilized by the projects that reported a catalytic effect came largely from government sources, UN agencies, and multilateral donors. Notably, contributions were secured from the Government of Japan, UN entities such as UNFPA and UNDP, as well as from the European Union and other multilateral institutions. The data also shows some engagement with non-traditional actors, such as the Platform for Dialogue and Action (PDA), which contributed \$100,000 to Burundi (Project [00130913](#)). (Refer to Annex 6.9 for the full table)

Table 3 Total Amount Mobilized per Project

Project Country	Project MPTF #	Total Project Expenditures	Amount Mobilized	Score= total resources mobilized by the project – divided by project expenditures	Non-Financial Catalytic Effect – self reported	Notes
Burundi	00130913	1,500,000	50,000	0.03	Significant	Low financial ratio (3.3%), but significant non-financial catalytic effect reported — overall significant catalytic effect.
Central African Republic	00129734	1,499,963	1,046,583	0.69	Significant	Moderate financial ratio (70%) and significant non-financial catalytic effect — overall significant catalytic effect.
Central African Republic	00130464	1,500,000	1,876,231	1.25	Significant	High financial ratio (125%) and significant non-financial catalytic effect — overall significant catalytic effect.

Cohort Evaluation of the UN PBF 2021 Gender and Youth Project Initiatives (GYPI)

Colombia	00130080	1,400,000	38,745	0.02	Some	Low financial ratio (2.8%), but some non-financial catalytic effect reported — overall some catalytic effect.
El Salvador	00130003	1,500,000	118,000	0.07	Significant	Financial ratio ~8%, but significant non-financial catalytic effect reported — overall significant catalytic effect.
Honduras	00129762	1,500,000	11,000,000	7.33	Significant	Very high financial ratio (733%) and significant non-financial catalytic effect — overall significant catalytic effect.
Kyrgyzstan	00130462	599,732	35	0.0000084	Some	Very low financial ratio, but some non-financial catalytic effect — overall some catalytic effect due to qualitative dominance.
Mali	00129745	1,500,000	500,000	0.33	No	Moderate financial ratio (33%), but no non-financial catalytic effect — overall no catalytic effect due to qualitative dominance.
Mali	00130336	800,000	2,500,000	3.12	Some	High financial ratio (312%), but only some non-financial catalytic effect reported — overall some catalytic effect.
Papua New Guinea	00129773	1,500,000	385,000	0.25	Significant	Moderate financial ratio (25%) and significant non-financial catalytic effect — overall significant catalytic effect.
Solomon Islands	00130844	1,499,960	50,000	0.03	Some	Low financial ratio (3.3%), but some non-financial catalytic effect — overall some catalytic effect.

South Sudan	00130571	1,500,000	23,000	0.01	Significant	Very low financial ratio (1.5%), but significant non-financial catalytic effect reported — overall significant catalytic effect due to qualitative dominance.
Sudan	00130705	1,498,342	9,875,000	6.59	Too early to tell	Very high financial ratio (659%), but non-financial catalytic effect not confirmed — overall no catalytic effect due to qualitative dominance.

In addition, some of PBF projects reported that some government institutions included in their budgets for funding to continue or expand project activities. This includes police stations funding mental health activities in non-project police stations (Burundi Project [00130913](#)), local municipal governments to fund youth-led initiatives (Guatemala Project [00129774](#)), and mayor's office to continue MHPSS support (Kyrgyzstan Project [00130462](#)).

In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), the project successfully mobilized local resources by involving municipal authorities and CSOs in co-financing initiatives, demonstrating shared ownership and commitment to sustainability. However, while the project expanded its scope and impact, the scale-up was limited by continuing to rely on external funding without full institutional integration into local or national governance systems.

2.14 LOCALIZATION

2.14.1 FUNDING, RESPONSIBILITIES, OWNERSHIP, AND DECISION-MAKING

Funding to National Partners

The 2021 Cohort approved budget for a total of \$ 51,482,704.81 to implement 38 projects. A total of 29 recipient entities received direct funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, of which 16 were UN agencies, 13 INGOs, and 1 national academic institution. A total of \$35,789,323.59 was disbursed to UN agencies (69.7%) with the rest provided to INGOs and one CSO to lead projects \$15,693,381.22.

The largest recipient of funds was UNDP who worked on 9 projects, following UNFPA with 8 projects. By theme, UNFPA received the largest share of funding for MHPSS, whereas UNDP secured the highest funding for Civic Space and Climate-related projects.

The 2021 Cohort worked with an additional 283 entities, grouped into 125 National CSOs, 76 Subnational CSOs, 16 INGOs, 55 government entities, and 11 regional CSOs (see figure below) who received indirect funding as implementing partners (IPs). The recipient entities disbursed a total of \$14 MUSD (28.6% of the total approved budget) among the 283 entities. Out of the total funding amount of \$14,294,406.19,

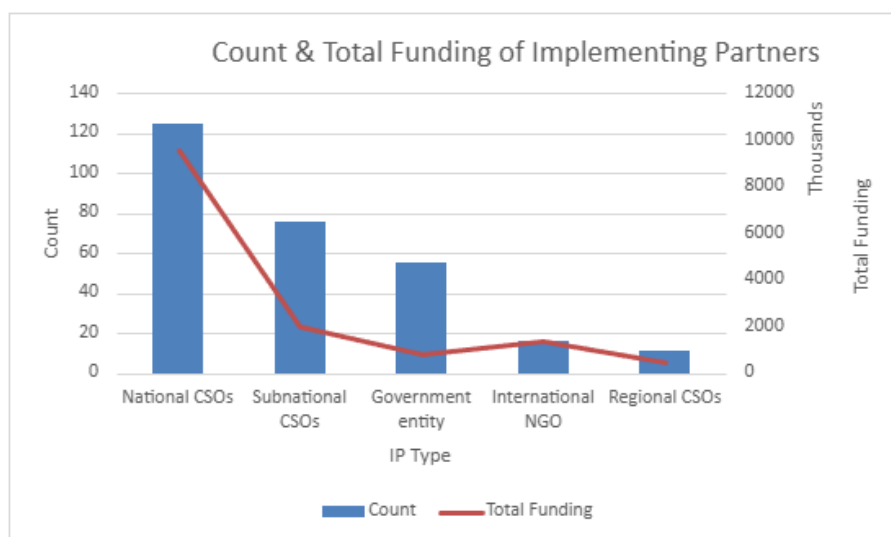
approximately \$12 MUSD was allocated to local or national CSOs; government entities received \$812,336.12, international NGOs¹¹ were allocated \$1,4 MUSD, and 'other organizations' received \$41,586.

The total allocation to local, national, and regional CSOs - directly or indirectly was \$12,784,967 This is around 24.8% of the total budget, which is significantly below the 40% PBF requirement. ¹²

Table 4 Type of Implementing Partner and total indirect funding allocation

Type of Implementing Partner	Total Number of Partners	Total Funding to Implementing Partners (USD)	% of Total		
CSOs ¹³	212	12,034,867	84		
Government Entities	55	812,336	6		
International NGOs	16	1,405,617	10		
Other (unspecified)	3	41,586	0.3		
Total	283	\$14,294,405.16	100		

Figure 4 Count & Total Funding by Implementing Partner



National CSOs were funded more than other types of actors. This may be correlated to the type of activities that implementing actors were asked to deliver. The smaller shares for subnational CSOs and regional actors shows that there continues to be barriers to funding localized or community-level entities. Moreover, there were a total of 16 INGOs that recipient entities also partnered with.

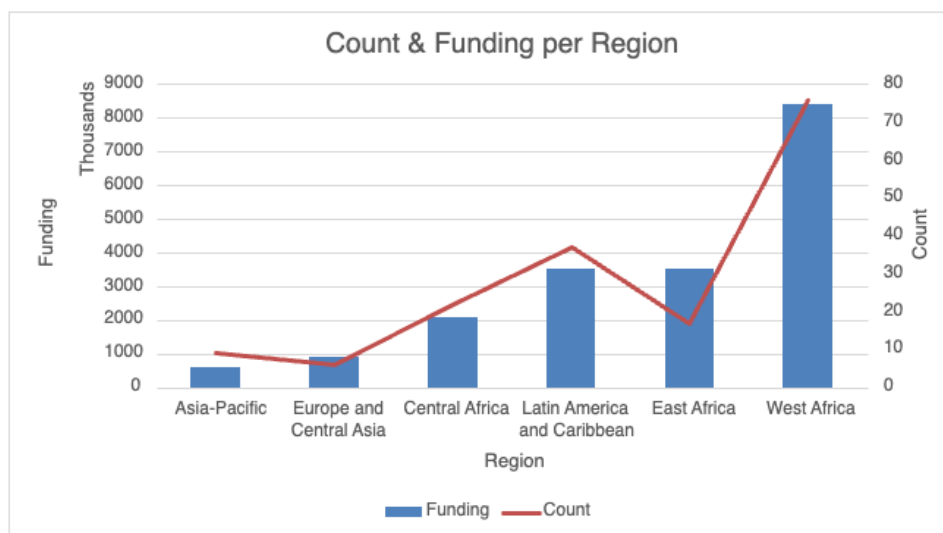
These organizations received more funding than government agencies.

¹¹ This figure includes funding to INGOs as IP and not recipients.

¹² Per the 2021 GYPI Funding Guidelines, "all projects are required to allocate at least 40%—and preferably more—of the requested grant to local civil society partners, including networks, in particular women- and youth-led organizations. This can include direct sub-grants, capacity building of implementing partners, and direct payment for implementation of activities." This target explicitly excludes funding to INGOs, UN agencies, and government entities.

¹³ This includes national, local and regional CSOs. National CSO operates at the national level, with activities, presence, or mandate that span the entire country. Local CSO operates locally at the district or community level. Regional CSO refers to a civil society organization that operates across multiple areas or administrative regions within a single country.

Figure 5 Count & Total Funding per Region



Activity Type by Implementing Partner Type – IP and CSOs were funded to perform different types of activities. Training was the most widely implemented activity, with strong representation from nearly all partner types, especially national and subnational CSOs. Out of a total of 212 CSOs, the majority were engaged in training-related activities, accounting for 192 instances. In contrast, non-CSO entities, though fewer in number (71), were primarily involved in advocacy-related activities, with 50 such instances recorded. Governmental entities and international NGOs were less prominent overall but had visible engagement in certain activities (e.g.: infrastructure and services, health, and grants), where technical expertise or formal coordination may be required. Regional CSOs appear less frequently across most activities. However, the figure raises useful analytical considerations, such as:

- The concentration of certain activities within specific partner types (e.g., training and advocacy among CSOs) may point to standardized role assignments that reflect institutional strengths or dependencies in how activities are delegated.
- The narrower spread of actors involved in infrastructure, M&E, or health may suggest either specialization or limited diversification of implementing roles in those areas.

Figure 6 Type of Activity per Implementing Partner Type

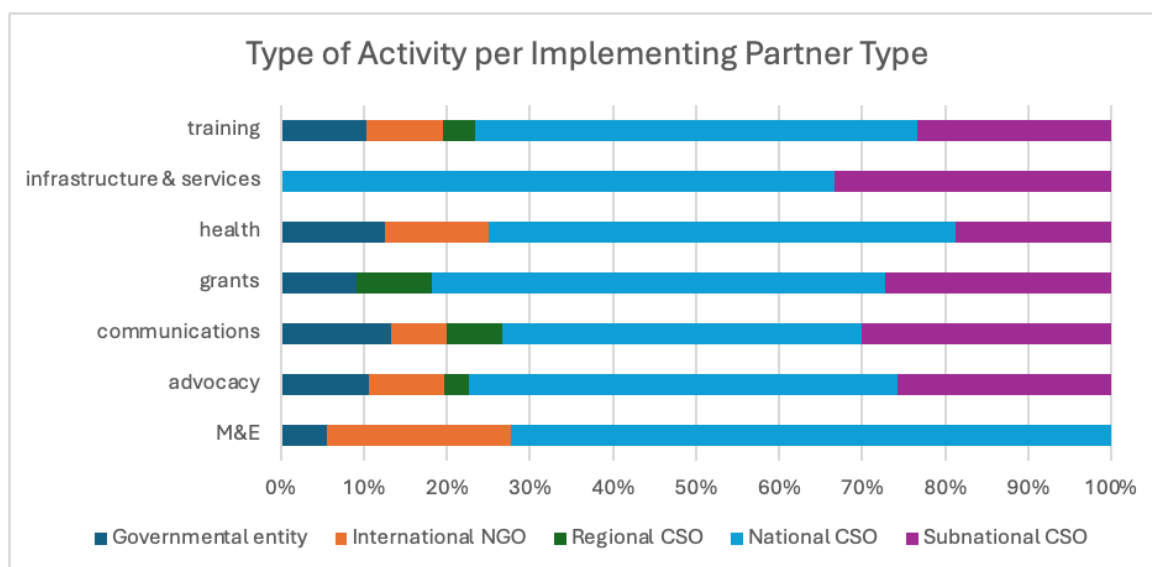
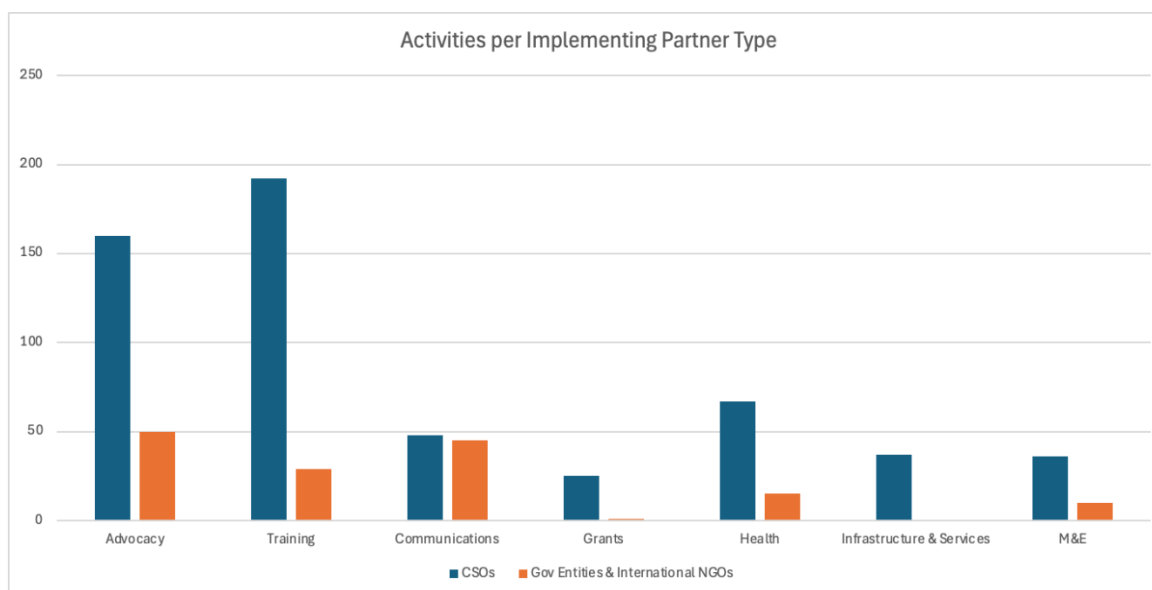


Figure 7 Activities per Implementing Partner Type



2.14.2 LOCALIZATION AND DECISION MAKING¹⁴

Consulting as opposed to Co-Creating in Design Processes. - Most of the projects funded by the PBF were led by UN agencies or INGOs. The proposals were based on UN Strategy Country Frameworks which responded to agreements with governments (see Coherence section). Many of the projects undertook preliminary data collection with project participants to inform project design (Colombia Project [00130501](#), Honduras Project [00129762](#), and PNG Project [00129773](#)). Burkina Faso (Project [00130026](#)) involved partnerships with local institutions, ensuring a more participatory design approach. Cameroon (Project

¹⁴ This section looks at EQ 16 under Localization Criteria: Were GYPI projects able to foster a sense of local ownership over project design, implementation and sustainability of peacebuilding results or processes?

[00130027](#)) and the Central African Republic (Project [00130464](#)) also demonstrated strong local participation at the design stage, engaging civil society organizations (CSOs), municipal authorities, and youth leaders in shaping project objectives.

Most recipient entities engaged with IPs during the design process. They shared that IPs provided valuable context to project design (see Partnership section). IPs interviewed validated that they were consulted, and that the conveying agency was open to dialogue but reaffirmed that the recipient entities, including UN agencies took the lead in the design process. While recipient entities consulted and valued IP and stakeholders' input into project design, the process tended to be more of a consultation as opposed to a co-creation process. Ultimately, the responsibility and therefore final decisions on project design were made by the recipient entities, which were mostly with UN entities.

Responsibility of Implementation lay with IPs, while Ownership and Strategic Vision with Recipient entity - Ownership and strategic vision of the project remained with the recipient entity throughout the life of the project. This was true whether it was a UN or an INGO holding the role of recipient entity. The recipient entity was responsible and had ownership over the budget and strategic vision.

UN agencies also made a subtle but important distinction when interviewed about which of the UN agencies was leading and which one was not. They alluded to differences in responsibilities, role, and power. While for the most part, UN agencies shared that they worked well with one another, it was also apparent that there were differences in approach, implementation, and priorities. The decision on which organization to lead is made prior to project submission and under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

It was common for leading agencies, including in projects led by INGOs, to play technical advisory or supervisory roles throughout the project. IPs and CSOs for the most part reported a positive relationship with UN or INGOs. They reported respectful and collegial communication but also found that UN's focus on transparency and accountability systems, such as regular reporting, can be overwhelming for CSOs.

Across the cohort, IPs and CSOs were overwhelmingly responsible for day-to-day implementation of key project activities, including baselines, training, advocacy, communication, and activity reporting. IPs played a central role in executing community-based initiatives and engaging with local populations. IPs interviewed shared that they adhered to pre-approved workplans, terms of references, budgets, and indicators. The execution of plans was often validated by UN or INGO project coordinators. In other words, while IPs had responsibility to implement critical activities, the recipient entities had overall oversight. The recipient entity budgets were overwhelmingly larger than the IPs or CSOs, even though the responsibility of execution often lay with IPs and CSOs. The overall roles and responsibilities arrangement was replicating a funder/ implementer model and can be described as vertical relationship dynamic. This is not to say that the relationship, communication, and cooperation was not effective. In fact, many partnerships were mutually beneficial. However, there remains a contractual and hierarchical relationship bounded by responsibilities, roles, and control over budget.

Local Decision-Making

Across the cohort, IPs and CSOs were overwhelmingly responsible for day-to-day implementation of key project activities, including baselines, training, advocacy, communication, and activity reporting. IPs played a central role in executing community-based initiatives and engaging with local populations

There were some exceptions to this model. For example, in the case of Mali (Project [00130336](#)), day-to-day decisions for the project were made directly by the IP, as the project received direct funding from the PBF Secretariat. This direct funding arrangement gave the organization full responsibility for decision-making at the operational level. In the case of Colombia (Project [00130501](#)), the convening agency was an academic institution which stated that decisions were made in collaboration with the other two IPs. These two arrangements were in contrast with most other projects where funding was managed indirectly through a recipient entity, led by a UN agency or INGO, which was responsible for decision-making.

Some of the CSOs that received grants often had to apply to be part of the project. In the case of Colombia, there was an open call for proposals with clear criteria for participation. CSOs or CBOs that were not legally registered in the countries secured funds through umbrella CSOs that disbursed funding. This same approach was used in other projects, including Honduras. On the surface, this arrangement appears as an effective workaround to reach more CSOs. In practice, umbrella CSOs take on the role to execute, disburse funds, report, and manage relationships with peer-organizations. These umbrella CSOs were not necessarily IPs with clear roles, responsibilities, and planned budget and found that often the requirements of being the umbrella organization was beyond their capacity. One such umbrella organization stated that they were only able to use 20% of the funds for staff¹⁵, which put a strain on the CSO. This organization had taken on the role to manage the relationship, administrative, financial, monitoring, and programmatic quality of six other grassroots organizations (Colombia Project [00130079](#)). Their mode of operations was also horizontal joint decision-making and thus they made strong efforts to co-decide with the other CSOs as opposed to lead from an accountability role (Colombia Project [00130079](#)).

The Secretariat of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in most countries also played a coordinating and oversight role, which supported alignment with PBF priorities and provided support for project formulation, monitoring, oversight, site visits, and capturing lessons-learned (Haiti Project [00130791](#), Guatemala Project [00129774](#), Honduras Projects [00129762](#) and [00130443](#), El Salvador Project [00130003](#)). They also provided technical assistance to CSOs, particularly those that had no previous experience with UN bodies.

Best Practice – Responsiveness to Participant Needs through Flexible and Comprehensive Programming.

UN and IPs interviewed shared that one of the value-adds of the GYPI grants were the flexibility in the grants and the ability to pivot or adapt. In three instances in Latin America, projects collected data from baselines and consultations to inform project implementation after project approval. For example, in Colombia there was a narrative analysis with informed training topics priorities. In Honduras, IPs shifted youth training to ensure that historical understanding of the conflict was provided to Indigenous youth once it was determined the low level of knowledge among youth of the conflict dynamic (Project [00129762](#)). In Honduras, additional MHPSS training was given to Indigenous youth to support self-esteem, and training topics were adapted based on interest and prior knowledge, including ancestral knowledge.

"A validation process for the methodologies was developed with young people, allowing the identification of some interests and needs focused on solving problems related to territorial violence, lack of employment, and difficulties in accessing higher education. This exercise helped to appropriately guide the methodological route and each of the lines of work with the different actors, seeking to generate meeting points to promote the role of youth as agents of change and their participation in safe civic spaces. Additionally, emphasis was placed on initiatives for social change." UN Staff – Colombia (Pacífico).

Project Close out and Ownership of Sustainability - While sustainability processes need to be mainstreamed throughout project implementation, a well-structured project exit strategy is an essential component of effective handover. The close-out processes and execution varied widely across the project cohort. Some projects reported well-planned and participatory close out processes that prioritized sustainability, local ownership, and knowledge transfer (Burundi Project [00130913](#), South Sudan Project [00130571](#), Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#)). Others held formal close-out meetings (Gambia Project [00130106](#) and Guinea Bissau Project [00129743](#)) or celebratory events to engage youth, such as soccer matches and showcases of community project achievements (Somalia Project [00130704](#), Colombia Project [00130079](#), Colombia

¹⁵ The 20% funding for staff cap is common among UN entities.

Project [00130080](#), El Salvador Project [00130003](#)). A few projects noted efforts to engage with governments and agencies to support sustainability (Colombia Project [00130080](#), South Sudan Project [00130571](#)).

Even with a well-planned exit strategy, sustainability is not guaranteed. In Colombia (Project [00130080](#)), a project made strides by securing over 100 “intent” agreements across sustainability pillars. However, the implementation of the sustainability agreements was not followed-up thoroughly by the UN recipient entities due to lack of funds.

Three IPs or CSOs in three different countries described the close-out plan as disorganized, insufficient in communication, and sustainability (Cameroon Project [00130027](#), Solomon Islands Project [00130844](#), Colombia Project [00130079](#)). One project in Honduras felt that they were unable to sit with government counterparts to share close-out processes (Project [00130443](#)). In South Sudan, the project close-out was severely disrupted by the outbreak of a war (South Sudan Projects [00130002](#), [00130052](#), and [00130705](#)).

Close-out of projects

Three IPs or CSOs in three different countries described the close-out plan as disorganized, insufficient in communication, and sustainability (Cameroon Project [00130027](#), Solomon Islands Project [00130844](#), Colombia Project [00130079](#)).

Without additional financial resources, it is unlikely that those institutional entities – be it government, IPs, or CSOs – will be able to sustain project outcomes. Women’s networks in two countries were not active at the time of the evaluation and youth-led community projects were not systematically followed upon (see Sustainability Section). Ownership of sustainability or continuous support to marginalized communities fell on CSOs, that often did not receive additional or follow-on funds from UN entities. While there is a lot of will at the community level to continue to implement project outcomes, this evaluation was not able to validate those outcomes beyond the case studies.

2.15 VALUE ADD OF PARTNERSHIPS AND LESSONS WORKING WITH CSOs¹⁶

2.15.1 VALUE-ADD OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM

UN Policy Credibility

The UN’s technical and policy credibility, along with its advocacy role, was highlighted across multiple contexts including in the Central Africa Republic (Project [00130464](#)), Haiti (Project [00129744](#)), Mali (Project [00130613](#)), Niger (Project [00130502](#)), and South Sudan (Project [00130571](#)).

The UN Country Team’s added value lies in its ability to bring credibility, convening power, and policy influence to advance key objectives. UN agencies had an opportunity to work together, often forming partnerships with other agencies that do not often work jointly, such as FAO and OHCHR (Honduras [00129762](#)) IPs and CSOs appreciated the capacity-strengthening workshops facilitated by the UN (CAR Project [00130464](#), Honduras Project [00130443](#), Haiti Project [00129744](#), South Sudan Project [00130571](#)). These workshops covered operational and thematic areas, such as advocacy, financial management, monitoring, women’s rights, and digital security. One CSO shared that they continue to apply key knowledge from digital security and communication training provided by the UN (Honduras Project [00130443](#)). In El

Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), another CSO reported making changes to their administrative practices due to technical support received by the UN (Project [00130003](#)). The UN’s technical and policy credibility, along with its advocacy role, was highlighted across multiple contexts including in the Central Africa

¹⁶ This section answers EQ17 under Localization criteria: What lessons can be drawn from GYPI partnerships with local CSOs? What is the value-add of working with the UN?

Republic (Project 00130464), Haiti (Project 00129744), Mali (Project 00130613), Niger (Project 00130502), and South Sudan (Project 00130571).

In several contexts, the UN played a role in bridging social divides. In Honduras, for example, the UN brought together CSOs and a government agency that previously lacked trust in each other (Honduras Project 00130443). These relationships have continued beyond the project. Another Honduran CSO emphasized that the UN's presence was key in convening key stakeholders to engage in dialogue spaces (Honduras Project 00129762). In Colombia, however, CSOs mostly interacted with IPs and had limited engagement with UN entities, aside from participating in the closing ceremony (Project 00130079).

Across nearly all countries—from Burkina Faso (Projects 00129742 and 00130026) to South Sudan (Project 00130571)—partnerships with IPs and CSOs allowed UN agencies to build trust and engage meaningfully with communities. In Kyrgyzstan (Project 00130462) and Cameroon (Project 00130027), CSOs used local languages and cultural knowledge to tailor mental health and peacebuilding interventions. Similarly, in Papua New Guinea (Project 00130034) and Solomon Islands (Project 00130844), CSOs helped reach remote areas and lead culturally sensitive dialogue.

The value of these joint UN-CSO efforts included bridging gaps between national and local governance structures, expanding outreach in underserved communities, and strengthening local peacebuilding capacities. These partnerships can lead to greater inclusivity and more holistic peacebuilding strategies. However, a key lesson remains: early engagement, long-term financial sustainability, and institutionalizing partnerships are essential to maintain results beyond the project's lifespan.

2.15.2 Lessons about Working with IPs and CSOs¹⁷

Engaging Implementing Partners (IPs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is crucial for ensuring the legitimacy, credibility, and acceptance of community-level projects. Their strong local ties help build trust and encourage meaningful participation. The proximity of IPs and CSOs to local communities brought valuable contextual knowledge, cultural understanding, established relationships, representation, and legitimacy to the projects. In many cases, their involvement was critical—without them, projects could not have been implemented, and outcomes would not have been achieved. IPs and CSOs were instrumental in reaching target populations, as seen in Cameroon (Project 00130027), Mauritania (Project 00129746), the Solomon Islands (Project 00130844), South Sudan (Project 00130571), Honduras (Project 00129762), and Liberia (Project 00131553).

For example, in Cameroon (Project 00130027), organizations like Horizons Femmes and Mother of Hope Cameroon conducted needs assessments, provided technical assistance, and facilitated community access, helping to integrate displaced youth and women. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, CSOs served as intermediaries between communities and provincial authorities, such as Local Land Committees (CPLs) and CONAREF, supporting policy advocacy on land governance (Project 00131128). Many IPs and CSOs across the cohort represented diverse groups and had long-standing experience in areas such as human rights, advocacy, youth engagement, land rights, and gender-based violence prevention. Across all contexts, clear communication, mutual respect, and early engagement were seen as key elements of successful partnerships.

Short project implementation period placed undue pressure on IPs and CSOs, often leading to unrealistic expectations for sustainability and long-term impact. A key challenge across many projects was the mismatch between limited timelines and the need for sustained engagement to achieve meaningful change. In Burkina Faso (Projects 00129742 and 00130026), extended engagement is necessary for meaningful

¹⁷ This section answers EQ17 under Localization criteria: What lessons can be drawn from GYPI partnerships with local IPs and CSOs?

social change. However, short funding cycles often lead to abrupt transitions and sometimes result in a loss of community trust. Similar concerns were raised in the Central African Republic (Project [00129734](#)) where the project-ending left communities without sufficient support structures to maintain progress.

Without long-term funding, IPs and CSOs often raise community expectations that they later cannot fulfill. While these local partners bring essential legitimacy and access, they also bear the political and social costs when funding ends and support cannot continue.

Recognizing local partner capacity and power dynamics within the partnership - While many projects highlighted the positive contributions of local partners, some recipient entities noted that certain CSOs lacked the institutional capacity to manage large-scale interventions (Sierra Leone Project [00130053](#), Guinea-Bissau Project [00129743](#)). In Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), CSOs were key to project success but faced significant administrative and logistical challenges, often working with limited staff and resources. In Central African Republic (Project [00130464](#)), over-reliance on CSOs sometimes led to an imbalance of power dynamics, where few organizations dominated resources and decision-making, sidelining smaller community-based organizations.

In contrast, in Colombia, IPs and CSOs carried out much of the implementation with minimal oversight from recipient entities (Project [00130079](#)). These variations suggest that in some contexts, local partners could take on greater responsibilities. Alternative partnership models could be explored to elevate the roles and responsibility of national IPs.

Navigating political dynamics of CSOs and country context is necessary from the beginning of the project in several Latin American countries, recipient entities and IPs reflected on the political agendas and affiliation of IPs and CSOs.¹⁸ While they did not regret their partnerships, they emphasized the importance of recognizing that IPs and CSOs are not always neutral actors in political processes. Some Latin American CSOs noted that their political goals occasionally diverged from those of the UN. For example, in Colombia, one CSO appreciated a training provided by a government agency but questioned whether the feedback they gave was used to improve systems and support (Project [00130079](#)). Several CSOs and convening partners also stressed that PBF project goals should not be tied to outcomes like formal dialogue with governments—especially in contexts where such engagement might not be politically strategic. Each PBF project operates in a political environment, and not all IPs or CSOs are in a financial position to decline funding. Recognizing this dynamic is critical to ensuring that these organizations can preserve their legitimacy, roles, and political stances after a project ends.

At the same time, in some contexts, government actors were reluctant to fully engage CSOs (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#)). This points to a broader systemic challenge, where CSOs often work in silos and struggle to integrate their efforts into formal governance systems. In Guinea-Bissau (Project [00130107](#)), fragile state institutions also made collaboration difficult, with limited policy enforcement to sustain peacebuilding initiatives.

Strengthening women's participation and strengthening women-led CSOs, particularly in diverse and often challenging contexts continues to be a value-add - Several projects, including Cameroon (Project [00130027](#)), recognized the importance of involving women in conflict resolution and social cohesion efforts. However, barriers to full participation persisted. In Burkina Faso (Project [00129742](#)), cultural norms and local resistance limited women's ability to assume leadership roles. Some projects found that while women were included in dialogues, they were often relegated to secondary roles, with decisive authority remaining in male-dominated structures. Similarly, in Haiti (Project [00129744](#)) while gender-sensitive policies were introduced, resistance from male-dominated leadership circles limited their effectiveness. In Colombia (Projects [00130501](#) and [00130079](#)), IPs noted the reluctance of indigenous women to participate in project activities.

¹⁸ This section does not include the names of the country projects to ensure that IPs and CSOs can remain anonymous for security reasons.

Despite these challenges, supporting women-led CSOs proved valuable in several cases, such as Honduras (Project [00130443](#)) and Colombia (Project [00130079](#)). The funding provided was appreciated and helped expand outreach to other women, including young women. Young women also played leadership roles in youth-led activities in El Salvador (Project [00130003](#)), Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)), and Colombia (Project [00130080](#)).

Partnering with diverse stakeholders is an important part of sustainable strategy—including the private sector and academic institutions—in youth programming can improve long-term sustainability and expand impact. While youth engagement and empowerment were a common feature across many projects, the effectiveness of these efforts varied. In Central African Republic (Project [00130570](#)) youth-led initiatives successfully improved leadership skills and economic opportunities. However, in other cases, youth were involved without clear long-term strategies for continued engagement. Without institutional support or follow-up mechanisms, some projects observed that youth beneficiaries may revert to previous vulnerabilities, including susceptibility to violence or economic instability (El Salvador Project [00130003](#), Colombia Project [00130080](#), Honduras Project [00129762](#)). In Mali (Project [00130336](#)) youth participated in peacebuilding dialogues, but the absence of employment opportunities left them at risk of radicalization and involvement in conflict.

Partnerships with academic institutions to accredit training courses offer a promising path towards continuity (Guatemala Project [00129774](#), Colombia Project [00130501](#), Colombia Project [00130080](#)). Additionally, involving the private sector in youth-led governance efforts presents a long-term youth engagement, especially in response to economic instability, a key concern among youth in Latin America (El Salvador Project [00130003](#), Colombia Project [00130501](#), Colombia Project [00130080](#)). Forming associations, like ASOMUAPI for women beekeepers, may be a shift toward self-managed, economically empowered Indigenous women that have some peacebuilding skills.

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Learnings and recommendations are embedded throughout the report. The analysis of this section includes pulling high-level lessons and recommendations related to serving PBF decision-making on future programming.

3.1 LESSONS LEARNT

1. Themes of the Cohort were highly relevant and applicable across contexts and conflict phases, but objectives must be realistic given the timelines and actual implementation period

Choosing broad themes enabled country implementing agencies to be able to adapt the theme to the context and draft highly relevant projects that were coherent with country strategy and that implemented the WPS and YPS agendas. The inclusion of MHPSS and environment and land rights including land rights - as key themes was considered innovative and pushed recipient entities and IPs to work in new areas and intervene in complex environments in new partnerships and with new tools. While the Cohort was able to create important peacebuilding changes, the ability to address trauma, protect and empower women defenders, and work on land rights needs long-term investments that go beyond 18 months. When recipient entities were asked about lessons learned, nearly all projects noted that an 18-month timeline was too short for sustainable peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts. Consider developing a basket of indicators to help assess similar outcomes across themes or develop learning communities.

2. Proximity and presence of IPs and CSOs at community level was key to achieving peacebuilding outcomes.

Being close to the local communities and having in-depth knowledge of context is crucial for implementing peacebuilding projects. Direct presence allows for real-time day to day monitoring, quick issue resolution, and better coordination between technical (governmental) and operational (NGO/CSO) partners. Also, local-level presence ensures daily follow-up and accountability in project delivery. In the absence of UN regional offices, project-based coordinators based in the communities was a solution that may be replicated (Burkina Faso Project [00130026](#), El Salvador Project [00130003](#), Guatemala Project [00129774](#)). Many GYPI implementers spoke about trust as a key factor in projects and the need for continuous transparency between partners and with project participants. Creating processes from the beginning that build trust and mutual accountability are essential components in peacebuilding projects that need to be thoughtfully considered.

3. Strategic and Diverse Partner Selection ensured credibility.

Choosing partners with local presence, prior experience, and credibility, especially those who already have networks and operational capacity in the intervention zones is important. Consult other agencies that have worked with potential partners to assess credibility and past performance. Avoid engaging partners who lack financial autonomy or flexibility, as this can cause serious delays in implementation. Consider bringing other partners, such as the private sector and academic sectors, into the design process as implementing partners to ensure sustainable results. In youth programming, consider the role that the private sector can play in supporting employment and financing youth-led community projects in the short term and long term.

4. Adaptability and Context and Conflict Awareness

The security situation and accessibility of intervention zones must be assessed carefully and ongoingly. Plans should be flexible and agile enough to adjust to changing circumstances. Incorporate institutional and governance constraints early in the planning, as navigating administrative systems can cause time losses if underestimated. While there are circumstances that will arise that are outside the control of the government, UN agencies and INGOs must work diligently to close the administrative and operational bottlenecks to execute more rapidly.

5. Early and Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement.

Engage technical government structures from the beginning. Their contextual knowledge and legitimacy are key to project success. Strong government and community involvement, including from the activity design stage, builds ownership and sustainability. Also, involve traditional and religious leaders, especially in land-related issues and MHPSS, as their influence is critical for local acceptance and peacebuilding. Include men in gender-related activities.

6. Flexibility in Project Management

Project frameworks should allow for adaptive management when partners underperform—either through direct implementation by the agency or reallocation of responsibilities. Also, rigid timelines and financial procedures can hinder execution; realistic planning and flexible response mechanisms are needed.

7. Focus on Indigenous Communities

The focus on indigenous youth and women as a key area of exploration is an important undertaking particularly among already marginalized and vulnerable, poor communities. Opportunities to learn from other communities such as the Honduras (Project [00129762](#)) and Guatemala (Project [00129774](#)) exchanges can add peer-to-peer learning, connectivity, and mutual understanding of struggles that affect Latin American indigenous youth.

8. Consider mainstreaming MHPSS into peacebuilding projects instead of having a stand-alone trauma focused project MHPSS approaches are primarily focused on providing services and strengthening the capacities of service providers. However, a few projects in Latin America integrated mental health, well-being, and cultural practices into their peacebuilding programs. These targeted sessions, centered on accessible skills and concepts, supported healing outcomes and equipped youth with valuable skills. Additionally, the integration of youth-led community programming—relying on activities such as sports, dance, murals, and theatre—served as a means of healing, particularly in contexts and cultures where entire communities have experienced trauma.

9. Women's Programming— Women-led CSOs can effectively reach diverse populations that may have unique needs. Funding increased their reach, program quality, and provided critical resources. When funding umbrella CSOs, (a CSO that provides small grants to non-registered entities) try to support processes that do not replicate a vertical relationship, particularly among peer organizations.

10. Youth Programming – Design, implement, and fund sustainability of youth-led programming. Considering anchoring mechanisms that go beyond municipalities and create a coalition of actors that can support youth as they continue to develop their leadership. Continue to include means towards economic empowerment, as it is a driver of conflict.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PBF AND GYPI IMPLEMENTERS

Recommendations	
Overall	<u>Peacebuilding Fund</u> Reflect on the purpose of the GYPI grants. The GYPI proposal emphasizes several criteria that encourage potential recipients to design ambitious programs that are catalytic, innovative, and sustainable, with the overarching goal of contributing to peacebuilding outcomes. However, these expectations may be overly ambitious, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings where communities face ongoing trauma and deep-seated mistrust among key stakeholders. Additionally, the implementation period is short. The simultaneous pursuit of innovation, sustainability, and catalytic impact—while also achieving tangible peacebuilding results—poses a significant challenge in such complex contexts. Continue to pursue emergent themes while supporting, at a minimum, double learning loops - Encourage the continued integration of emerging and relevant themes—such as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), environment, and land rights—to enable GYPI grantees to expand and deepen their expertise, thereby addressing the multifaceted and interrelated root causes of conflict. Establishing expectations for double loop learning through reporting and fostering a PBF learning culture will help grantees continuously examine their assumptions about methodologies, their relationship to emerging themes, and the impact on peacebuilding outcomes. Consider creating PBF operating guidelines to support recipient entities. This may reduce some of the administrative and operational coordination if there were, for instance, guidance on branding, consent agreements, age of youth, participants lists, etc.

	Consider adding a question in the semi-annual report with regards to inclusivity and disability. PBF can also create a checklist or roadmap to incentivize projects to consider different types of disabilities or group safeguards as they design, implement, and report on key activities. Create a culture where inclusion and disability are more than a check-mark exercise and reward projects that adhere to best practices by increasing their profile.
Design	<u>GYPI Implementers</u> Partner with IPs with strong contextual and geographic knowledge. Continue to partner with local actors who possess strong contextual knowledge and established credibility within target communities. Prioritize inclusive processes that go beyond consultation, moving toward co-creation and locally led design, ensuring meaningful engagement of implementing partners (IPs) and project participants throughout implementation. Enhance role and responsibilities of IPs - Maintain partnerships with local actors who have deep contextual knowledge and established credibility within target communities. Emphasize inclusive processes that move beyond mere consultation toward co-creation and locally led design, ensuring the meaningful involvement of implementing partners (IPs) and project participants throughout the entire implementation process. Consider working with government agencies as full IPs - Where appropriate, engage relevant government agencies as full implementing partners to foster institutional buy-in and support long-term systemic change <u>Peacebuilding Fund</u> Increase articulation of UN's role and responsibility. Ensure that GYPI implementers—particularly UN recipient entities—clearly articulate their roles and responsibilities within project frameworks, thereby providing a transparent rationale for their associated budget allocations. During semi and annual reporting, recipient entities are encouraged to articulate their role and achievements to increase transparency and ownership. Much of the work carried out by UN recipient entities is often behind the scenes but remains strategic to achieving peacebuilding outcomes—for example, organizing critical meetings, managing complex relationships, and upholding essential standards. This work should be better documented, recognized, and celebrated.
Implementation	<u>GYPI Implementers</u> Address administrative and operational inefficiencies to maximize the implementation period. Take proactive steps to address inefficiencies and minimize delays during the project start-up phase to ensure the implementation period is not unnecessarily shortened. Projects should aim for a minimum implementation period of 16 months to allow sufficient time for meaningful engagement, effective delivery, and adaptive learning. <u>PBF</u> Devise an actionable plan to incentivize quick start-ups to ensure that projects are ready for implementation within 2 to 3 months maximum, to avoid administrative and operational delays particularly for IPs, CSOs, and project participants. To reduce delays, consider releasing an initial tranche of funding early

	to enable essential steps like staff hiring and contracting, while linking subsequent disbursements to readiness milestones. Introduce mandatory conflict sensitivity training - Implement mandatory, annual conflict sensitivity training for all GYPI implementers. Additionally, revise the semi-annual reporting format to include a reflective question on how conflict sensitivity is being operationalized in practice—moving beyond basic "do no harm" principles. For instance, implementers could be asked to reflect on how participant selection criteria promote inclusion and mitigate potential tensions. Enable learning cross-project and cross-regions. Facilitate greater cross-project learning and thematic exchanges among GYPI implementers. These learning opportunities could be coordinated through regional offices to enhance their relevance, accessibility, and impact. Consider developing a dynamic sister-project learning program and enable projects to share more information in a timely basis with PBF, counterparts, and participants. PBF can establish a sister-project program in which projects with similar approaches and objectives are paired to facilitate real-time learning and exchange of experiences. The goal would be to capture lessons learned and reflect jointly on approaches and systemic change. Further adapt reporting formats to integrate additional data related to processes and lessons learned. In the absence of project-level evaluations, ensure reporting is of high quality, with sufficient room, and there is more consistent follow-up post submission of reports. Continue to encourage feedback mechanism with participants to ensure continuous flow of information.
Programmatic	<u>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</u> Systematically integrate and mainstream trauma healing or well-being into Peacebuilding Initiatives Systematically integrate and mainstream trauma healing or wellbeing activities into peacebuilding initiatives, whether they address trauma directly or indirectly. This may increase conversations and add nuance to existing training and leadership models. Additionally, the sustainability phase of all GYPI projects must carefully assess risks and adhere to "do no harm" principles, particularly within MHPSS programming. It is also crucial to combine MHPSS interventions with targeted economic support to address both psychosocial trauma and basic needs in order to enhance the sustainability of peace outcomes. Engage Appropriate Actors Throughout MHPSS Programming Engage relevant culturally appropriate actors before, during, and after the implementation of MHPSS activities. Establishing long-term, scalable funding mechanisms is critical to adequately support victims of violence and individuals who have experienced traumatic events. Moreover, involving appropriate government actors is both necessary and responsible to ensure sustainable, lasting impact if MHPSS services will be provided. Integrate and value traditional and culturally appropriate trauma healing or well-being and healing practices that center communities. This will help move programming from an individual-level to a community level that could have potentially greater impact. While many projects expanded access to MHPSS services, continued support for the integration of traditional and contextual healing practices—including arts-based and community-led approaches—is essential. Community-led activities could ensure that trauma healing and/or well-being moves beyond individuals to support

entire communities that may have experienced trauma. Consider the involvement of religious, spiritual, and cultural leaders to ensure that interventions are locally relevant, inclusive, and sustainable. Anchor justice and reconciliation processes within trauma-informed gender and age responsive MHPSS framework to enable inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding. Systematically integrate gender and age responsive MHPSS into justice and reconciliation mechanisms by embedding culturally sensitive trauma healing and well-being into truth-telling, reparation, and reintegration programmes. Prioritize MHPSS as a fundamental condition for meaningful participation and long-term reconciliation particularly for survivors of conflict-related violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. <u>Civic Space, Inclusion, and Youth Programming</u> Civic Space and Inclusion – Success in implementing and creating inclusive spaces varied across the GYPI cohort. Leverage best practices from projects that have successfully engaged marginalized groups, including economically vulnerable youth, indigenous communities, LGBTQI+ youth, women-led civil society organizations (CSOs), and human rights defenders. Providing direct grants to CSOs that represent diverse populations offers a viable and effective approach to expanding a project's reach and ensuring broader, more inclusive participation. Consider the capacity, mechanisms, and support needed to accompany youth in youth-led programming to set up processes that are transparent and enable leadership. Working with youth may necessitate having additional resources to support youth programming. Consider the type and level of support that youth and youth CSOs may have and may need, as well as their existing experience with political systems, violence, and institutions. Youth and their organizations may require additional training and knowledge sharing exercises to close unexpected critical gaps. Youth CSOs are likely to require financial, administrative, reporting, and institutional capacity strengthening. Young women may need access to long term economic opportunities to continue to participate in civic spaces. Embedding community-based youth coordinators can further strengthen engagement by ensuring consistent communication, trusted local leadership, and effective coordination with stakeholders. Continue to build civic spaces and increase participation of young men and women in public spaces without undermining social movements and their agendas. Efforts to build civic spaces and increase the participation of young men and women in public life must be pursued without undermining social movements and their agendas. Power dynamics and the incentives tied to funding may pressure some CSOs to accept grants that do not fully align with their political missions. Requiring CSOs to participate in "hyper-saturated" agendas, to adhere to rigid technocratic and time-consuming requirements, or to adjust their core mandates to fit a particular vision of 'peacebuilding' risks diluting the impact of grassroots movements that are essential drivers of social change and that are needed to address and shift root causes of conflict. Engage with a broader spectrum of actors through a thoughtful and integrated approach, while considering context, potential risk to all actors, and role of actors in conflict and peace - To foster sustainable and community-level change, it is essential to move beyond solely youth-led initiatives by engaging a broader spectrum of actors. This includes partnering with private sector entities, academic institutions, and other key stakeholders to amplify impact and promote long-term viability. Integrating income-generating opportunities within projects can further

	strengthen youth resilience and economic independence. That said, this should only be done after a complete conflict analysis, including stakeholder analysis of the current and historic role of these actors in exacerbating and mitigating conflict. At the same time, placing youth-led coordinators at the core of project coordination ensures that youth voices remain central, while benefiting from the broader support, expertise, and resources of an expanded collaborative network. • When appropriate also actively engage a wider range of stakeholders—including private sector actors, academic institutions, and relevant authorities (such as the police)—not merely as participants but as implementing partners (IPs) with clearly defined responsibilities. Their involvement should contribute to the financial and institutional sustainability of initiatives, particularly those led by youth. Continue to support spaces for women and young women to advocate their needs and ensure safety of human rights defenders. Efforts to increase capacity of women and young women were effective and yield high results, particularly if the approach included participatory, co-creative women-led initiatives. Consider integrating and budgeting for differential approaches while also ensuring that projects support and engage with women of disabilities and LGBTQI+ women. Intergenerational mentorship and accompaniment may also lead to important outcomes while generating new networks for young women
Localization and Sustainability	<u>GYPI Implementers</u> Define responsibilities for post-project follow-up to ensure greater and continuous support to participants Sustainability strategies must clearly outline who will be responsible for following up with participants after the project concludes, particularly for initiatives working with youth and vulnerable communities. This will help ensure that the responsibilities of post-project engagement does not fall solely on CSOs, which often operate with limited budgets. When developing tangible manuals, codes, or protection protocols, consider who will support implementation and ongoing mentorship. <u>PBF</u> Consider mechanisms to enforce criteria that 40% of funding goes to CSO. Monitor and enforce that 40% of funding is allocated to national and subnational CSOs. Support recipient agencies to implement emergent practices of CSO-led grants with capacity strengthening mechanisms. Ensure that CSOs can continue to play their political role and have agency over their programming. Support the development of national Youth, Peace and Security Action Plans. The PBF YPI grants operationalize the YPSs; however, many countries lack national YPS agendas. While some Ministries of Youth have clout and power, not all – some countries do not even have a representative dedicated to advocate for their needs. Establish youth-led coordination committees or integrate youth representatives into coordination bodies led by recipient entities to ensure inclusion and improve information sharing. Ensure that such participation is substantive by aligning coordination roles with shared responsibilities, overlap in activities, and joint planning processes.

4 CONCLUSION

The 2021 Cohort Evaluation of the GYPI underscores the significant contributions to peacebuilding, particularly in programming that integrated MHPSS and worked within civic spaces to advance youth and women's participation, as well as land rights and environmental issues. The projects demonstrated strong relevance and coherence in addressing drivers of conflict, helping to operationalize the WPS and YPS agendas, and supporting UN Framework objectives. While some projects excelled, others need to better integrate gender-sensitive approaches and disability inclusion.

The projects reviewed significantly advanced the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda by fostering women's active participation, protection, and leadership in peacebuilding efforts across diverse contexts. Initiatives in Burundi, The Gambia, Haiti, Colombia, South Sudan, Honduras, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Guinea-Bissau effectively combined diverse activities, such as economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and leadership training, empowering women and youth, to support the engagement of women in conflict resolution and governance. Notably, these projects reinforced women's roles as influential agents of peace, highlighting their essential contributions to leadership, reconciliation and community resilience.

The projects also supported the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda across diverse and fragile contexts. These initiatives activated the five core YPS pillars—Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and, to a lesser extent, Disengagement and Reintegration—empowering youth as active decision-makers rather than passive victims or violent perpetrators. Notable efforts spanned multiple regions, with significant examples of youth-led civic engagement and leadership in Sudan, El Salvador, Honduras, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, and the DRC, and economic empowerment initiatives in Niger and CAR. Strategic partnerships, particularly evident in Burkina Faso and Guatemala, further enhanced youth influence on policymaking and peacebuilding processes.

Across multiple contexts, MHPSS projects made contributions to peacebuilding by addressing trauma, enhancing institutional capacities, and fostering inclusive recovery processes. Through integrated approaches combining psychosocial interventions with health system reform and community engagement, these initiatives established mental health as a potential fundamental pillar of sustainable peace, advancing MHPSS practice.

Civic engagement and environmental peacebuilding projects advanced youth and women's inclusion, strengthened conflict resolution mechanisms, and fostered sustainable resource management. These initiatives successfully addressed core drivers of conflict such as land disputes, political exclusion, and environmental stressors, particularly in fragile settings impacted by displacement and degradation. Central to their success were efforts to enhance governance, facilitate dialogue, empower civil society, and integrate climate-sensitive economic activities. Emphasizing youth and women's leadership, projects significantly contributed to community resilience, sustainable reconciliation, and women's empowerment in governance and advocacy.

The findings reaffirm the importance of strategic local partnerships and adaptive management but also highlight the lack of viable strategies for ensuring continuous engagement and sustained results. The majority of the GYPI projects approved in 2021 direct recipients were AFPs and INGOs, and only 25% was directly or indirectly channeled to the national and local CSOs as recipient entities or implementing partners, failing to meet the 40% requirement to distribute funds to civil society organizations. Moving forward, addressing administrative and operational inefficiencies, and implementing a robust localization agenda may help ensure that project outcomes are more sustainable.

5 ANNEXES

5.1 ANNEX I. LIST OF PROJECTS AND OBJECTIVES

Country	Project ID	Summary of project aim	Recipient Entities	Start Date	End Date	Total Budget	GPI/YPI	Theme
Burkina Faso	00129742	L'objectif principal du projet est de contribuer à soigner les blessures invisibles, causées par les traumatismes physiques et psychologique subis par les individus et les communautés affectés par les conflits et les violences, à Pissila, Barsalogho et à Fada N'Gourma, et qui entravent les efforts de réconciliation et de consolidation de la paix, à travers une approche intégrée et innovative, qui met les jeunes et leurs associations au centre, en tant qu'agents des changements positifs.	WHO, UNFPA	06-Dec.-21	16-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	MHPSS
Burkina Faso	00130026	Le projet vise à faire des jeunes des vecteurs de la prévention des conflits fonciers et de consolidation de la paix, en y intégrant également une considération des risques environnementaux liés au changement climatique, à la surexploitation et	FAO, UNHABI TAT	06-Jan.-22	06-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

		aux mauvaises pratiques d'utilisations des ressources naturelles, de développement socio-économique dans les zones à forte croissance de population, y inclus les zones impactées par le déplacement interne ; cela pour leur permettre de jouer un rôle plus actif dans les instances et structures de prévention et de gestion des conflits tout en améliorant leur accès durable et légal aux espaces de production agrosylvopastorale, d'exploitation et de transformations diverses en lien avec les ressources naturelles dans les zones rurales et péri-urbaines.						
Burundi	00130463	L'objectif principal du projet est de renforcer et promouvoir les mécanismes d'accès à la terre pour les femmes et les groupes plus vulnérables (Batwa, rapatrié(e)s ou déplacé(e)s, personnes en situation de handicap, etc.) à travers l'amélioration de leur participation, la protection et la	Stitching Cordaid	14-Feb.-22	11-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		promotion de leurs droits fondamentaux en particulier le droit d'accès à la terre						
Burundi	00130913	L'objectif primordial de ce projet est de contribuer au renforcement de la cohésion sociale et de la capitalisation de la paix dans 10 communes des provinces de Rumonge, Makamba et Rutana, à travers le rétablissement du bien-être psycho-social et mental des femmes et jeunes filles affectées par les conflits armés (ex-combattantes, des rapatriées et communautés hôtes), des survivantes des VSBG (Violences Sexuelles et Basées sur le Genre), ainsi que des policières et policiers œuvrant dans ces communautés.	UNDP, CORD Burundi	18-Mar.-22	17-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	MHPSS
Cameroon	00130027	Le projet entend contribuer à une meilleure intégration des jeunes déplacés du Nord-Ouest et Sud-Ouest dans les communes d'accueil des régions du Littoral et de l'Ouest afin d'instaurer une culture de paix durable. Il vise spécifiquement à	IOM, UNESCO	07-Jan.-22	06-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space

		renforcer la coexistence pacifique entre jeunes hommes et femmes déplacés (JHFD) et jeunes des communautés d'accueil dans les régions du Littoral et de l'Ouest.						
Central African Republic	00129734	Le présent projet souhaite offrir aux populations affectées par les conflits à Bria et Bangassou, et particulièrement les femmes et les jeunes les plus vulnérables, une prise en charge adaptée et efficace des troubles de santé mentale qui affectent leur bien-être individuel, leurs capacités d'initier et maintenir des relations pacifiées en communauté et ainsi leur permettre d'être mieux à même de contribuer à la consolidation de la paix. Le Projet intervient sur les déterminants qui affectent la santé mentale à plusieurs niveaux : en contribuant à l'architecture nationale et communautaire de compréhension et prise en charge de la santé mentale, sensibles au conflit et adapté aux réalités locales ; en mobilisant un	UNWOM EN, UNFPA	16-Dec.-21	14-Jun.-23	\$1,499,963.45	GPI	MHPSS

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		réseau d'agents psychosociaux communautaires plus proches des personnes affectées ; et en engageant les communautés, particulièrement les leaders locaux et organisations à base communautaire, sur la préservation de leur santé mentale et la gestion collective des traumatismes, à travers les mécanismes de justice communautaire inclusifs et les projets à intérêts communautaires. La prise en charge ciblera en priorité les femmes activistes, en appui à leurs initiatives locales de consolidation de la paix, les jeunes filles et garçons et les catégories les plus vulnérables, mais aussi les leaders locaux engagés dans les processus de réconciliation.						
Central African Republic	00130464	The project's overall goal is to increase young people's readiness and confidence to engage in reconciliation processes in the Central African Republic (CAR) through addressing trauma and	DanChurchAid	11-Feb.-22	09-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	MHPSS

		psychosocial needs of young men and women in the targeted locations (Sibut in Kémo prefecture and Kaga-Bandoro in Nana-Gribizi prefecture in Central African Republic) so as to enable them to take positive steps towards breaking the cycle of fear and revenge. Youth that will get access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) will be able to use the increased resilience and strengthened connection with their communities and act as agents of change across conflict divides. The project will specifically target 800 young people between the age of 18-35 (including at least 400 women) working in the informal economy. This is a category of youth which stands out clearly in the conflict analysis as being most immediately affected by the conflict dynamics surrounding the return of displaced communities from Kaga Bandoro to Sibut. At the same time, the same youth have a big potential to make a						
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		difference in these conflict dynamics, due to their unique position in the wider communities' information flow.						
Central African Republic	00130570	Recognizing the relevance of youth leadership and the opportunities to engage them as actors for peace in farmer-herder communities, Search for Common Ground (Search) is proposing a project with the overall goal of promoting the inclusive, sustainable, and meaningful participation of young men and women in civic spaces and peacebuilding efforts related to transhumance-related land and environmental issues in Bamingui-Bangoran	Search for Common Ground	21-Feb.-22	17-Aug.-23	\$800,000.00	YPI	Civic Space
Colombia	00130079	El proyecto "Co-creando la paz" promueve la participación inclusiva de las mujeres jóvenes de Nariño y Cauca en el cuidado de los espacios cívicos como contribución a la resolución del estallido social, transformación de conflictos y el sostenimiento de la paz en los municipios de Ricaurte y Pasto en Nariño y Santander	UNWOMEN, IOM	12-Jan.-22	11-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space

		de Quilichao y Popayán en Cauca. Mediante estrategias innovadoras codiseñadas con mujeres jóvenes diversas, especialmente campesinas e indígenas, se aumentará su participación y liderazgo en los espacios cívicos y en la toma de decisiones, mejorando la coordinación de sus organizaciones con los entes de gobierno y fortaleciendo la capacidad de diálogo y reconocimiento de las mujeres jóvenes como constructoras de paz, de modo que disminuya la estigmatización y se consoliden como una experiencia catalítica de participación juvenil que contribuya a la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres en los espacios cívicos y la consolidación de paz.						
Colombia	00130080	La estrategia tiene como objetivo fortalecer el rol de los y las jóvenes y sus organizaciones como agentes activos de cambio y	UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO	12-Jan.-22	11-Jul.-23	\$1,400,000.00	YPI	Civic Space

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		movilizadores sociales para la consolidación de la paz local y la reconciliación, así como para la transformación no violenta de conflictos, la gestión de riesgos y la prevención de la violencia en sus territorios.						
Colombia	00130501	Promover la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las Mujeres en el contexto de la consolidación de la Paz, en las subregiones del Urabá Chocoano, Urabá Antioqueño y el Bajo Cauca, a través de la integración del Fortalecimiento de Estructuras de gobernanza, Desarrollo socioeconómico, Adaptación al Cambio Climático y Alianzas intersectoriales; para mitigar los conflictos.	FESU	16-Feb.-22	15-Aug.-23	\$750,000.00	GPI	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	00131128	The project "Artisanas de Paix" (AP,) aims to remove women-led conflict transformation initiatives that address the Twa - Bantu conflict in Nyunzu Territory from the margins to a more prominent role. This intervention will focus on four	Tearfund	24-Mar.-22	23-Sept.-23	\$996,564.00	GPI	Civic Space, climate

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		health-areas (Makumbo, Malemba, Mukimbo, Ngombe-Mwana and Ngoy), identified by UN-OCHA (August 2021) as areas of return for IDPs affected by the Twa-Bantu conflict. AP will focus on two main hindrances to conflict transformation raised in Tearfund's Conflict Analysis (June 2021): (1) gender and ethnic discrimination, by providing capacity building (technical and financial support) to the REFETANG, an existing dynamic and ethnically diverse women-led CSO (WL CSO) active in conflict transformation in Nyunzu Territory, and (2) land-disputes which are at the core of violence between minority and dominant groups, and the perpetuation of discriminatory land-tenure laws towards women.						
El Salvador	00130003	El objetivo principal del proyecto es el de prevenir y transformar la violencia de exclusión a la que se enfrentan las personas jóvenes en los municipios	UNDP, UNFPA, ILO	06-Jan.-22	04-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space

		de La Libertad, Tamanique y Chilitupán, a través de la promoción de espacios cívicos inclusivos, seguros y significativos donde las personas jóvenes participan en la toma de decisiones, igualdad de género y empleo decente por la paz						
Gambia	00130106	The main goal of this Project is to contribute to peacebuilding and social cohesion through reduce the short- and long-lasting effects of SGBV on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of survivors, their families, and communities. The Project's interventions center first and foremost on the promotion and protection of the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of SGBV survivors through the provision of services, community engagement, knowledge sharing and learning, as well as strengthening local and national institutional efforts and capacities to continuously address SGBV and promote mental	UNDP, UNFPA	13-Jan.-22	12-Jul.-23	\$1,497,379.40	GPI	MHPSS

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		health in The Gambia.						
Guatemala	00129774	Impulsar la creación de nuevos modelos de participación segura y protección de las juventudes mayas y mestizas en San Pedro Necta y Cuilco Huehuetenango; para que sean incluidos en los espacios de gobierno comunitario y municipal desde los cuales puedan fortalecer la cohesión social, el ejercicio de la democracia y sus derechos, y consolidar la paz en el territorio.	UNFPA, IOM, OHCHR	17-Dec.-21	15-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space
Guinea-Bissau	00129743	The project aims to pilot a series of mechanisms and approaches that can be leveraged by communities and institutions addressing land governance issues at different levels to reduce the competition for land among individuals, families, and communities, and minimize the conflict among different institutions involved in land governance. The project will have a specific focus on youth inclusion in land governance: youth will be the entry point to leverage existing	FAO, UNHABITAT	16-Dec.-21	16-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		capacities and innovate existing structures contributing to make the legal framework more clear, effective, and inclusive.						
Guinea-Bissau	00130107	The project aims to mitigate conflicts over land and water aggravated by climate change in Guinea-Bissau, ensuring that those most affected by them, namely women, can contribute and shape the response. It promotes peace through the creation of sustainable safe dialogue spaces for communities to discuss climate-related issues and collectively identify adaptation solutions, which can be conveyed in a more organized, participatory, and inclusive manner to authorities at all governance levels.	UNDP, WFP	13-Jan.-22	12-Jul.-23	\$1,406,693.69	GPI	Civic Space, Climate
Haiti	00129744	Contribuer à réduire la violence communautaire à travers un renforcement du leadership social des jeunes femmes victimes de conflits, favorisé par un accès au bien-être psychosocial. Il vise à contribuer à donner aux nouvelles générations de	UNWOMEN, WHO/OPS	16-Dec.-21	16-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	MHPSS

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		femmes des quartiers fragiles et marginalisés les moyens de devenir des agents de paix et de changement à travers le bien-être psychosocial, tout en comblant l'écart générationnel et entre les sexes						
Haiti	00130791	L'action vise à renforcer les dynamiques communautaires pour la consolidation de la paix en réduisant les conflits violents et les incidences de violences basées sur le genre, à travers des initiatives collectives de médiation, et de santé mentale menées par des femmes et des jeunes à Cité Soleil, Saint Martin et La Saline. L'action se focalisera, à travers une approche communautaire, à contribuer à l'élimination des barrières aux différents facteurs de consolidation de la paix au sein des populations des zones ciblées.	Concern Worldwide	09-Mar.-22	08-Sept.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	MHPSS
Honduras	00129762	El proyecto apunta a prevenir y gestionar la conflictividad asociada al uso, posesión, tenencia, demarcación y titulación de las	OHCHR, FAO	16-Dec.-21	30-May-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		tierras y territorios en comunidades campesinas e indígenas de los departamentos de Intibucá, La Paz, Atlántida/Yoro y Colón, a través del fortalecimiento institucional de actores estatales claves en el tema de la regularización de la tierra; el desarrollo de herramientas que contribuyan a prevenir y gestionar la conflictividad; la participación significativa de hombres y mujeres jóvenes en los asuntos que les afectan en sus territorios por medio de la ampliación del espacio cívico y uso de herramientas tecnológicas; y mediante la adecuación normativa e institucional para garantizar la protección integral de personas defensoras de derechos humanos relacionada a la tierra y territorio.						
Honduras	00130443	Generar entornos de participación más seguros y favorables a nivel local para que las defensoras de los derechos a la tierra, los recursos naturales-ambiente y de los pueblos	UNWOM EN, UNHCR, Trocaire	09-Feb.-22	01-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space

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		indígenas puedan ejercer su liderazgo político y social. Alcanzar este objetivo permitirá en el mediano y largo plazo, contribuir a promover la participación y el liderazgo de las mujeres defensoras en la vida pública, y en lograr la reducción de las conflictividades que se presentan en sus territorios						
Kyrgyzstan	00130462	The project's main goal is to improve young people's meaningful participation in community decision-making and peacebuilding by reducing the psycho-social barriers, transforming harmful gender norms that contribute to conflict and violence, and gender-sensitively addressing their mental health concerns and priorities.	Saferworld	18-Feb.-22	10-Aug.-23	\$599,732.22	YPI	MHPSS
Liberia	00131553	This project will seek to enhance the leadership and capacity of young women organizations and networks in four counties (Bong, Margibi, Gbarpolu and Sinoe) to organize and lead community actions to constructively	ActionAid UK	22-Apr.-22	24-Oct.-23	\$1,200,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		assert claims for their land rights and inclusive land and natural resource governance in order to prevent conflict and ensure peace is maintained in Liberia.						
Mali	00129745	L'objectif du projet est de promouvoir l'égalité des sexes dans la gestion juste et inclusive des ressources naturelles grâce à un leadership des femmes et jeunes filles - surtout celles des communautés affectées par le conflit - pour réduire l'impact cumulatif des chocs induits par le changement du climat, spécifiquement les conflits violents, tout en soutenant la cohésion sociale et les systèmes de gouvernance locale par les femmes et jeunes filles.	UNDP, UNWOM EN	17-Dec.-21	16-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate
Mali	00130336	Le présent projet vise à promouvoir la participation active des femmes et des jeunes dans les instances/initiatives de gouvernance foncière en démontrant la valeur ajoutée de leur implication et de leur contribution pour une gestion plus pacifique et durable des ressources	ONG AZHAR	01-Feb.-22	01-Aug.-23	\$800,000.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate

		naturelles dans un contexte marqué par les conflits. Pour y parvenir, le projet travaillera à (i) rendre « sensible au genre» les textes de références : Loi d'Orientation Agricole et Charte Pastorale (LOA, CP), (ii) former une masse critique de femmes, jeunes, autorités coutumières, organisations de la société civile (OSC) et les groupements d'agriculteurs et pasteurs sur la gouvernance foncière inclusive, (iii) former également les organismes gouvernementaux et autres acteurs de l'administration Malienne afin qu'ils assurent l'application adéquate des textes à tous les niveaux, (iv) améliorer l'impact et la durabilité des interventions d'atténuation des conflits soutenues par les bailleurs, en assurant une synergie avec les autres acteurs limitrophes qui mettent en œuvre des projets relevant de cette thématique et en développant des stratégies de communication pour diffuser les						
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		connaissances et encourager la réplique des interventions réussies.						
Mali	00130613	La finalité du projet est de contribuer à la consolidation de la paix en soutenant l'accès pacifique et sécurisé des jeunes femmes et hommes au foncier agricole à travers la combinaison d'actions basées sur les droits et d'actions de renforcement des mécanismes alternatifs de résolution des conflits.	HELVET AS Swiss Intercoop eration	01-Feb.-22	01-Aug.-23	\$750,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate
Mauritania	00129746	Face aux constats de déficit des mécanismes locaux inclusifs de concertation pour la prévention des conflits liés à la pression sur les ressources naturelles et les dégradations environnementales, le projet a pour objectif de permettre la mise en place de mécanismes de concertation multiformes et inclusifs favorisant le brassage, la cohésion et le dialogue entre les populations hôtes et réfugiées autour d'activités communes de régénération de l'environnement.	UNDP, UNHCR	17-Dec.-21	16-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate

		Ce projet accordera une importance particulière à la participation des femmes incluant également des jeunes dans la prévention des conflits et le renforcement de la cohésion sociale, à travers un appui permettant de pleinement développer et exprimer le potentiel des femmes leaders dans ce cadre.						
Niger	00130502	L'objectif du projet est de contribuer à la consolidation de la paix en facilitant l'accessibilité des jeunes femmes et hommes aux espaces civiques et aux ressources naturelles dans la région de Diffa. Les objectifs spécifiques du projet sont : L'opérationnalisation des espaces civiques et l'optimisation de leur accès aux jeunes femmes et jeunes hommes de la région de Diffa ; Le renforcement des capacités de résilience des jeunes femmes et jeunes hommes dans la préservation, l'accessibilité et la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles (eau et terres) ; La	IOM, Search for Common Ground	17-Feb.-22	15-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

		mobilisation des jeunes femmes et hommes pour le renforcement de la cohésion sociale et la prévention de l'extrémisme violent.						
Papua New Guinea	00129773	Women in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea are exposed to disproportionate and increasing risk of climate-induced conflicts due to heightened vulnerability of local communities arising from climate change and variability. Through the climate-gender-conflict nexus, UNDP and IOM will jointly implement gender-transformational conflict prevention interventions that aim to empower women leadership in climate-induced conflict prevention to reduce the risk exposure of vulnerable local communities. The project will empower women leaders as conflict-sensitive community resilience activists through training, sharing best practices, while strengthening inclusive peacebuilder networks advances gender equality. Targeting high-risk	UNDP, IOM	17-Dec.-21	15-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate

		communities, the project will leverage on empowered women leadership to support the enhancement of community resilience in confronting climate shocks while reducing the risk of climate-induced conflicts through the facilitated development of enhanced Community Peace For Development Plans (CPDP) as well as the implementation of priority aspects of individual CPDPs. The project will also be focused on addressing knowledge gaps within the climate-gender-conflict nexus given the recent emergence of such an approach within the prevention agenda with the aim of integration with development of local and provincial frameworks through gendered analyses and assessments, and climate and gender-sensitive peace and security strategies						
Papua New Guinea	00130034	The project will address conflict-related trauma amongst men, women and youth as part of peacebuilding and	UNWOM EN, UNFPA	07-Jan.-22	06-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	MHPSS

		conflict prevention efforts. The project aims to address the underlying causes of conflict responsible for the cycle of inter-group violence, and resultant conflict-related trauma, in Hela province by providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to women, men and young men and women.						
Sierra Leone	00130053	The Women for Water and Peace Project (W4WP) will contribute to the mitigation of water-based community conflicts and prevent their potential eruption into violence by tackling one of the dominant threats to peace in five (5) wards in Freetown (Wards of Mayinkineh - Ward 401, Rokupa - Ward 408, Dworzark - Ward 435, Lumley - Ward 422, and Crab Town- Ward 443): a lack of equitable access to water. The approach to be used will have multiple impacts, including strengthening the participation of women in conflict resolution mechanisms at the local community level, increasing	UNCDF, ILO	10-Jan.-22	09-Jul.-23	\$1,499,070.00	GPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		economic self-reliance and improving decent livelihood opportunities, and enhancing social cohesion.						
Solomon Islands	00130844	This project led by UNDP in partnership with WVI, will have the core objective that young women and young men in Rennel and Bellona are empowered as agent of changes through the recognition of their traditional role in conflict resolution and their participation in the identification of innovative locally-owned solutions for the sustainable management of communal land, bridging traditional governance and statutory system. More specifically, this project will provide a range of critical supports to create an enabling environment for youth participation as agents of change in building local peace and dialogue and in facilitating inter and intra-generational transmission of knowledge.	UNDP, World Vision	14-Mar.-22	10-Sept.-23	\$1,499,960.00	YPI	Civic Space, Climate
Somalia	00129735	The overarching goal of the project is to reduce inter-communal conflict over natural resources in Marka	FAO, IOM	16-Dec.-21	14-Jun.-23	\$1,500,000.05	YPI	Civic Space, Climate

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		District by supporting young people and women from the Biyomal and Habargidir sub-clans to lead the development of inclusive and participatory resource management mechanism and governance systems.						
Somalia	00130704	The project goal is to enhance the safety of women activists and journalists (including those from marginalized groups and selected local women's organizations and networks) in Jubaland and South West states of Somalia, and broaden the civic space for their meaningful participation in peacebuilding and political processes. It aims to address three intertwined conflict drivers that negatively affect women activists' civic and political participation: 1. Patriarchal social norms; 2. Exclusion of women from key decision-making arenas, such as formal and clan-based dispute resolution, security provision, and political institutions; 3. Weaponization	Saferworld	02-Mar.-22	31-Aug.-23	\$785,000.00	GPI	Civic Space

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		of GBV to maintain the status quo.						
South Sudan	00130571	Women and girls enjoy better mental health outcomes through improved access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender-based violence (GBV) referral pathways, strengthened government policies and freedom from GBV caused by conflict, enabling them to meaningfully participate in economic and political decision-making and social life at household, community, state and national levels.	Saferworld	21-Feb.-22	17-Aug.-23	\$1,500,000.00	GPI	MHPSS
Sudan	00130002	The project aims to address drivers of the ongoing conflict and insecurity in West Darfur through an innovative programmatic approach focused on preconceived notions of masculinity and normalization of conflict. Through an evidence-based programme, this project aims to understand and address the impact of militarized masculinity on young men and women whilst exploring how social perceptions of conflict have	UNFPA, IOM, WHO	06-Jan.-22	04-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	MHPSS

		been normalized over time contributing to preconceived notions of “the other.” This project is based on the idea that without resolving traumas of the past and supporting Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), a bridge towards a non- violent future is harder to build. Therefore, this project focuses on a crucial integration of MHPSS and peacebuilding through trauma healing and improved interaction opportunities among youth – bringing together usually isolated key actors: clinicians, gender experts, social psychologists and conflict resolution experts. It is worth noting that this type of project has not been implemented in Sudan before, and will be piloted for the first time in West Darfur, a region that has witnessed cycles of conflict and where evidence has shown that peace efforts should go beyond socioeconomic recovery, governance &						
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		institution building, justice and rule of law.						
Sudan	00130052	This project will contribute to existing peacebuilding efforts in Sudan's West and Central Darfur states, utilizing an approach that prioritizes youth empowerment and civic engagement/leadership. The overall objective of the project is to support young men and young women from target locations in Darfur to claim civic spaces to which they have limited or no access through strategic communications and digital engagement, youth-led community initiatives, and facilitation of youth inclusion in decision-making fora. By leveraging on youth-led social media activism in Sudan, this project takes an innovative approach to peacebuilding through the application of technology as a tool for furthering peace. In addition, the project deliberately shifts away from other youth-related programming	UNHCR, UNDP	10-Jan.-22	09-Jul.-23	\$1,500,000.00	YPI	Civic Space

		conducted in Sudan/Darfur by operationalizing the idea of 'youth-led' through its interventions. Thus, rather than being overly prescriptive, interventions under this project include dialogues and micro-projects through which young men and women will facilitate discussions with their communities and design/implement activities that reflect their own peacebuilding priorities. Moreover, instead of focusing only on community-based interventions, the project seeks to incorporate young people into the governance structures from which they have been excluded, thereby acknowledging and addressing the need for wider systemic change. A final, and crucial, innovation of this project is its active outreach to young men and women from marginalized communities, including young nomads from rural and peri-urban areas, who have historically been excluded from						
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		humanitarian and peacebuilding activities in Darfur.						
Sudan	00130705	The project goal is to support a nation-wide and multi-faceted corps of youth-based observers, Youth Citizen Observer (YCO) Network, which, through independent grassroots monitoring, local peacebuilding, public reporting and advocacy, will help expand youth political participation and protect civic space.	The Carter Center, Inc.	02-Mar.-22	31-Aug.-23	\$1,498,342.00	YPI	Civic Space

5.2 ANNEX II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

List of Documents Reviewed

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5.3 ANNEX III. LIST OF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Evaluation Questions	
Overall Cohort	Case Studies
Relevance	
- To what extent did GYPI projects' conflict/context analyses and theories of change connect the three dimensions – 1) gender equality and youth empowerment, 2) respective thematic focus, and 3) conflict drivers/peacebuilding needs? (EQ1) - Were the 2021 GYPI themes relevant for the overarching peacebuilding needs of women and/or youth in PBF eligible countries that year? (EQ2) - To what extent did GYPI projects build on previous or ongoing PBF-funded projects in respective countries, and what was the GYPI projects' complementarity or value added? (EQ3)	- Was the project relevant to conflict and peace factors identified in the conflict analysis? (EQ1.1) - Was the project appropriate and strategic in light of the main peacebuilding goals and challenges in the country at the time of the project's design? (EQ2.1) - Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries? Were they consulted during design and implementation and monitoring of the project? (EQ3.1) - Did the project's theory of change clearly articulate assumptions about why the project approach is expected to produce the desired change? (EQ4.1)
Efficiency	
- How efficient were GYPI projects in formalizing partnerships with national or local implementing entities, particularly CSOs? (EQ4) - How well did GYPI projects coordinate with implementing partners, in-country stakeholders (including governments) and project participants on its progress and results and were resources used efficiently? (EQ5)	- How efficient was the overall staffing, planning, coordination, and timely delivery within the project (including between fund recipients and implementing agencies)? (EQ5.1) - To what extent did the project use available/local resources (human, financial, material) efficiently to deliver on project objectives? (EQ6.1)
Effectiveness	
- To what extent did the GYPI call 2021 contribute directly to the 2020-2024 Strategy, promoting the positive engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding through innovative approaches? To what extent did the GPI projects support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda? To what extent did the YPI projects support the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda? (EQ6) - What are some of the peacebuilding results (at the outcome level) achieved by 2021-approved GYPI projects? (EQ7)	- To what extent did the project achieve its intended objectives and contribute to the project's strategic vision? (EQ7.1) - How appropriate and clear was the project's targeting strategy in terms of geographic and beneficiary targeting? (EQ8.1)

Sustainability & Ownership	
- How strong was the commitment of the governments and other national stakeholders to sustaining the results of PBF GYPI support and continuing initiatives on women's and young people's participation in peacebuilding? (EQ8) - How did the GYPI projects enhance and contribute to the development of national capacity (national and local governments and local CSOs) in order to ensure suitability of efforts and benefits? (EQ9)	- To what extent did the project contribute to the broader strategic outcomes identified in nationally owned strategic plans, PBF eligibility packages, UNSDCF or annual strategic reports of UN Resident Coordinators? (EQ9.1) - Did the project design include an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/local ownership, use of national capacity etc.) to support positive changes in peacebuilding after the end of the project? (EQ10.1)
Coherence	
To what extent did GYPI projects complement work done through previous cohort of GYPI projects, and among different entities, especially contributing to greater UN system-wide coherence? (EQ10)	To what extent were the project's design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting aligned with those of other ongoing peacebuilding projects in-country, including other projects funded by the PBF? (EQ11.1) and used lesson learnt from the past projects?
Conflict sensitivity	
- How well did GYPI projects apply conflict sensitivity during design and implementation? (EQ11) - What unintended (positive or negative) peacebuilding results did GYPI projects contribute to? (EQ12)	- Did fund recipients have or receive support when needed to enhance internal capacities for the adoption of a conflict-sensitive approach in the projects? (EQ12.1) - Was the project responsible for any unintended (positive or negative) results? (EQ13.1)
Catalytic	
Has PBF GYPI funding been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding and/or women's and youth empowerment? Did the projects leverage additional resources? (EQ13)	Was the project financially and/or programmatically catalytic? (EQ14.1)
Innovation	
What lessons can be drawn from GYPI projects' innovative or adaptive approaches (if any) to inform future programming? (EQ14)	- How novel or innovative was the project approach to promote the positive engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding? (EQ15.1) - Did GYPI projects establish any innovative practices that could be adapted to, scaled or replicated in other contexts? (EQ16.1)
Localization	
- How much of the PBF-funding was passed on to local partners? (EQ15) - Were GYPI projects able to foster a sense of local ownership over project design,	- What recommendations can be made for localization based on lessons learned? (EQ17.1) - How useful were the local partnerships in achieving peacebuilding objectives.(EQ18.1)

implementation and peacebuilding results or processes? (EQ16)

- What lessons can be drawn from GYPI partnerships with local CSOs? What was the value added of the joint UN/CSOs projects to achieve the GYPI objectives? (EQ17)

5.4 ANNEX IV. INTERVIEW GUIDES

Semi-Structured Interview Guide CSOs

Country:
Project:
Person Interviewed:
Position:
Date:

1. Can you briefly introduce yourself and how you were involved in the PBF project (insert name)?
2. What specific problem was this project designed to address or solve? (EQ1)
 - 2.1. To what extent did the conflict dynamics/problem change during the past two years? (EQ3.1) **(Case study only)**
 - 2.2. The project funded several activities; were these the right actions to mitigate conflict and increase peace? (EQ3.1/EQ2.1) **(Case Study Only)**
 - 2.3. Given the conflict and context of the country, do you think this location was a strategic geographic location to implement this project; why or why not? (EQ9.1) **(Case study only)**
3. What is the most significant peacebuilding outcome or change that resulted from this project? (EQ7)
 - 3.1. What would it mean to have safety, security, or social cohesion? (EQ4.1) **(Case study only)**
Has the project created greater safety, security, or social cohesion? Why or why not?(EQ4.1) **(Case study Only)**
4. Were there any unintended results or consequences, either positive or negative, which emerged from this project? [Probe for positive and negative unintended results] (EQ12)
 - 4.1. [Probe: Did any unexpected opportunities arise during the project that helped promote social cohesion or peacebuilding? (EQ11)]
 - 4.2. How did you recognize and act on these opportunities? (EQ11)

Partnership and Localization

5. Were you involved in the design of the project? If so, how?(EQ16)
6. What were the key peacebuilding needs of women and youth in your community for 2021 and what about now? (EQ2)
 - 6.1.1. How did the project determine project participants? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 6.1.2. Within each group of project participants, to what extent did the project consider diversity of perspective? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 6.1.3. If groups were already formed, what considerations did you take so that new voices or perspectives were also included? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 6.1.4. What considerations were made to include individuals from different groups or social backgrounds? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 6.1.5. How did GYPI projects ensure that the targeting strategy did not result in further divisiveness at the local level? Were women and youth involved in designing the targeting strategy? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 6.1.6. How was the do-no-harm approach deployed while creating safe civic spaces and MHPSS services in a manner that did not jeopardize the local peacebuilding outcomes? (If applicable) (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
7. Do you believe that the project and its activities are responsive to the needs of local CSOs, youth groups, and/or women's groups? Why or why not? (EQ16/EQ1/EQ2)

8. Were the 2021 GYPI themes relevant (insert the theme of the project) for the overarching peacebuilding needs of women and/or youth in your countries in 2021? Why or why not? (EQ2)
 - 8.1. Given the conditions in which the country/community was in 2021, about two years ago, do you believe that the funds allocated for this project (or activities) were appropriate and strategic? Why or why not? (EQ2.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 8.2. When the project was designed, what assumptions did the project make about how change would take place? Did these assumptions hold? [Interviewer reminds the interviewee about the Theory of Change] (EQ4.1) **(Case study only)**
9. How did the 2021 projects complement ongoing or existing work done by your organization? (EQ10)
 - 9.1. How did this project fit into your CSOs strategic plan? (EQ10.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 9.2. What would your organization like to achieve in the long-term for peace? (EQ10.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 9.3. How did you leverage, or complement, for 2021 projects, the ongoing or existing design, monitoring, implementation, and evaluation work done by your organization? (EQ12.1) **(Case study only)**
10. Can you describe the relationship between your team and IP/convening agency? (EQ16)
 - 10.1. Did the project have to compromise quality along the implementation? If so, when and how? (EQ6.1) **(Case study Only)**
11. Can you describe the process for formalizing partnerships with convening agencies and implementing agencies? In which ways was the process efficient and in which ways was it inefficient? (EQ4)
 - a. How long did it take you to formalize your partnership with partners or local groups? (EQ4)
 - b. How long did it take for the project to become operational? (EQ4)
 - c. Were financial transfers completed on a timely basis? (EQ4)
 - d. How long did it take to receive the first tranche of funds? Were funds delivered in a consistent and timely manner (EQ6.1) **(Case Study Only)**
 - e. Did you have all the financial and human resources to execute the project on a timely basis? (EQ5.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - f. Did the project experience any unexpected delays? If so, what caused these delays and how did the team mitigate these? [Probe for staffing, coordination, planning, activities] (EQ5.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - g. Did most activities take place within the agreed-upon work plan and timelines? Why or why not? **(Case study Only)**
12. On a scale from very satisfied to very dissatisfied - how satisfied are you with the frequency and quality of communication with your partners (CSOs/IPs) regarding: (a) project progress, and (b) project results? (EQ5)
13. On a scale from very satisfied to very dissatisfied - How satisfied are you with the frequency and quality of communication from your partners (CSOs/IPs) regarding: (a) project progress and (b) project results? (EQ5)
14. Who was responsible for project management and day-to-day decision-making in the project? (EQ16)
15. How often did you consult or work with local CSOs, youth groups, or women's groups (or were consulted by them) to improve project implementation?
16. What advice would you give to someone looking to partner with a CSO in a similar capacity? (EQ16)
17. What lessons have you learned working with CSOs/IPs/ convening agencies?

Conflict Sensitivity

18. Did the project set up any mechanisms to remain responsive to emerging issues (security, safety, elections) or changes in the local context during the project? (EQ11)
- 18.1. How would you define conflict sensitivity? (EQ13.1) **(Case Study only)**
- 18.2. What support were you given by implementing partners or convening agencies to increase your capacities related to conflict sensitivity? (EQ13.1) **(Case study only)**
- 18.3. What additional support do you think IPs, CSOs, or governments need to increase their capacities related to conflict sensitivity? (EQ13.1) **(Case study only)**
19. Can you describe any approaches or practices you used to minimize competition and promote collaboration and equitable access to resources among different community groups? (EQ11)
20. How was the do-no-harm approach deployed while creating safe civic spaces and MHPSS services in a manner that did not jeopardize the local peacebuilding outcomes?

Catalyst

21. How did the country project(s) enhance (value-add) or complement previous or ongoing activities of your organization – whether funded by the PBF or not? (EQ3/14)
- 21b. How were project funds used to a) replicate, b) increase research, and c) increase resources or institutional buy-in? (EQ 14)
22. Can you share an example of how you were able to leverage this project to create additional peacebuilding impact or opportunities, either within the organization or in the community it served. Were you able to form new relationships?
- 22a. What strategies did you use to maximize the project's reach or value? (EQ14) Were any local resources leveraged as part of this project to deliver the project more efficiently or achieve project objectives [insert change]? For example, did you partner with a local university? Was there co-funding for activities or staff positions? (EQ7.1) **(Case Study Only)**
- 22b. Were any relationships or existing connections leveraged during the project? (EQ7.1) **(Case Study Only)**
- 22c. Were these strategies to leverage local resources effective? (EQ7.1) **(Case Study Only)**

Innovation

23. Were there any innovative elements or activities in the project for your organization (anything new or new ways of working)? If so, what were they? (EQ15)
24. Did you need to adapt project implementation to achieve better results or in response to changes in context or priorities? If yes, how did you adapt? (EQ15)
- 24.1. Which aspects of the project can be scaled? Which ones can be replicated and what are the facilitating or hindering factors? (E17.1) **(Case study only)**
25. What lessons did you learn about innovation and adaptation that could inform future programming? (EQ15)

Sustainability and Close out

26. Can you describe the project-close-out process with partners? (EQ4)
- 26.1. Did the project design and implementation include an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/local ownership, use of national sub-national/local capacities etc.) to support sustained positive changes in peacebuilding after the end of the project? (EQ 11.1) **(Case study only)**
27. How did you prepare the community and stakeholders for the project's conclusion to avoid disruptions or unintended consequences? (EQ11)

28. What actions did the projects take to build the capacity of government or national stakeholders to continue with project initiatives? (EQ9)
 29. What commitments have the government or national stakeholders made to ensure that women and youth groups continue to participate in peacebuilding activities? (EQ8)
 30. What is the likelihood that project outcomes [reference significant change question] will continue? What about the activities? Why or why not? (EQ16)
 - 30.1. What are the facilitating and hindering factors that will enable the continuation of peacebuilding results? [Probe for financial, institutional, and political support] (EQ16)
 31. What advice would you give to someone looking to partner with a CSO in a similar capacity? (EQ16)
 32. What lessons have you learned working with convening agencies and IPs? (EQ18) Can you describe the relationship between your team and the IP/convening agency? (EQ16)
- Lesson Learned and Recommendations**
33. What is the most important lesson you have learned as a result of this project?
 34. What recommendations do you have for improving the funds' approach or process?
 35. What advice or recommendations would you give others who may want to implement a similar project (MHPSS or civic space)?
 36. Is there a story of change that was important for you?
 37. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like to share at this time?

Semi-Structured Interview Guide Peacebuilding Fund Staff

Country:
Project:
Person Interviewed:
Position:
Date:

Relevance – Proposal Design

1. Can you briefly introduce yourself and describe how you were involved with the PBF 2021 Cohort?
2. Can you share with us the process of designing the call for proposal and how and why the 2021 Cohort themes were chosen (PBF)? What processes, if any, did you have to engage with local country offices and CSOs during the design phase? (EQ2)
3. From your perspective - how does the 2021 Cohort align with other PBF commitments, such as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda or the Youth and Peace and Security (YPS) agenda? (EQ6/1)

4. How does the 2021 Cohort align with other previous cohort PBF commitments, and support the overall UN system-wide coherence? (EQ11/10)

5. **For PBF secretariat staff** - How did the 2021 Cohort or country projects complement or add value to ongoing or previous PBF work? (EQ3/EQ10)

Efficiency

6. Can you describe the process for formalizing partnerships with convening agencies and implementing agencies? In which ways was the process efficient and in which ways was inefficient? (EQ4)

6.1. How long did it take you to formalize your partnership with national or local partners? (EQ4)

6.2. Were there any challenges related to financial transfer? Were these completed on a timely basis? (EQ4)

7. How satisfied are you with the level of coordination from convening agencies and IPs with regards to project progress and results? What was done well and what are some areas for improvement? (EQ5)

Effectiveness

8. What is the most significant peacebuilding outcome or change that was produced as a result of the Cohort? (EQ7)

9. In which ways was the Cohort successful and in which ways was it unsuccessful? (EQ7)

10. What unintended results or consequences, both positive and negative, emerged from this Cohort? [Probe for positive and negative unintended results] (EQ12)

10.1. [Probe: Did any unexpected opportunities arise during the project that helped promote social cohesion or peacebuilding?] (EQ11)

10.2. How did you recognize and act on these opportunities? (EQ11)

Conflict Sensitivity

11. How does the fund integrate conflict sensitivity into its design and implementation of grants? (EQ11)

12. Did any conflict sensitivity issues come up and if so, how did the PBF remain responsive to emerging issues or changes in the local context throughout the project's lifecycle? (EQ11)

Catalyst

13. What elements of the Cohort would you say were innovative or adaptive and why? How were project funds used to a) replicate, b) increase research, and c) increase resources or institutional buy-in? (EQ13)

14. Can you share an example of how you were able to **leverage** this cohort to create additional peacebuilding impact or opportunities, either within the organization or in the community it served, or form new relationships?

14.1. What strategies of the PBF did you use to maximize the project's reach or value? (EQ13)

Innovation

15. Were there any **innovative elements or activities** in the Cohort? If so, what were they? (EQ14)

16. What lessons did you learn about innovation and adaptation that could inform future programming? (EQ14)

Sustainability and Close out

17. What is the fund's approach towards supporting sustainability of results? (EQ8)

18. Can you describe the project-close-out process? What worked well and what can be improved? (EQ4)

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

19. What is the most important lesson you have learned as a result of this Cohort?

20. What recommendations do you have for improving the funds' approach or process, particularly its desire to fund local entities?

21. What recommendations do you have to improve partnerships? (EQ17)

22. What advice or recommendations would you give others who may want to implement a similar project (MHPSS or civic space)?

23. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like to share at this time?

Semi-Structured Interview Guide Recipient Entity, Implementing Agency

Country:

Project:

Person Interviewed:

Position:

Date:

Project Achievement

1. Can you briefly introduce yourself and say how you were involved in the PBF project (insert name)?

2. What specific problem was this project designed to address or solve? (EQ1)

2.1. When designing the project how did the project determine geographic location? **(EQ9.1) (Case study only)**

2.2. To what extent did the conflict dynamics change during the past two years? (EQ3.1) **(Case study only)**

2.3. The project funded several activities; were these the right actions to mitigate conflict and increase peace? **EQ3.1/EQ2.1 (Case Study Only)**

3. What is the most significant peacebuilding outcome or change that resulted from this project? (EQ7/ EQ8.1)

3.1. Has the project created greater safety, security, or social cohesion? Why or why not? **(EQ4.1) (Case study Only)**

4. What unintended results or consequences, both positive and negative, emerged from this project? [Probe for positive and negative unintended results] (EQ12 /EQ14.1)

4.1. [Probe: Did any unexpected opportunities arise during the project that helped promote social cohesion or peacebuilding? (EQ11)]

4.2. How did you recognize and act on these opportunities? (EQ11)

4.3. What needs to change in your community for there to be more peace/social cohesion? (EQ1.1)

Partnership and Localization

5. Can you describe the relationship between your team and local CSOs/ or IPs? (EQ16)
6. How were local CSOs involved in the design process? (EQ16)
 - 6.1. How were the needs of local CSOs, youth groups, and/or women's groups considered and integrated during both the design and the implementation phases? What could have been improved? (EQ16/EQ1)
7. What were the key peacebuilding needs of women and youth in 2021? What about now? (EQ2)
 - 7.1.1. How did the project determine project participants? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 7.1.2. Within each group of project participants, to what extent did the project consider diversity of perspective? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 7.1.3. If groups were already formed, what considerations did you take so that new voices or perspectives were also included? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 7.1.4. What considerations were made to include individuals from different groups or social backgrounds? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 7.1.5. How did GYPI projects ensure that the targeting strategy did not result in further divisiveness at the local level? And were women and youth involved in designing the targeting strategy? (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
 - 7.1.6. How was the do-no-harm approach deployed while creating safe civic spaces and MHPSS services in a manner that did not jeopardize the local peacebuilding outcomes? (If applicable) (EQ9.1) **(Case Study)**
8. Were the 2021 GYPI themes relevant for the overarching peacebuilding needs of women and/or youth in your county in 2021? (EQ2)
 - 8.1. Given the conditions that the country/community was in for 2021, about two years ago, do you believe that the funds allocated for this project (or activities) were appropriate and strategic? Why or why not? (EQ2.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 8.2. When the project was designed, what assumptions did the project make about how change would take place? Did these assumptions hold? [Interviewer reminds the interviewee about the Theory of Change] (EQ4.1) **(Case study only)**
9. How did the 2021 projects complement ongoing or existing work done by your organization? (EQ10)
 - 9.1. How did this project fit into the UN/IP or CSO strategic plan? (EQ10.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 9.2. What would your organization like to achieve in the long-term for peace? (EQ10.1) **(Case study Only)**
 - 9.3. How did you leverage, or complement existing design, monitoring, implementation, and evaluation for 2021 projects with ongoing or existing work done by your organization? (EQ12.1) **(Case study only)**
10. Can you describe the process for formalizing partnerships with convening agencies and implementing agencies? In which ways was the process efficient and in which ways was it inefficient? (EQ4)
 - 10.1. How long did it take you to formalize your partnership with partners or local groups? (EQ4)
 - 10.2. How long did it take for the project to become operational? (EQ4)
 - 10.3. Were financial transfers completed in a timely basis? (EQ4)
 - 10.3.1. How long did it take to receive the first tranche of funds? Were funds delivered in a consistent and timely manner (EQ6.1) **(Case Study Only)**
 - 10.3.2. Did you have all the financial and human resources to execute the project on a timely basis? (EQ5.1) **(Case study Only)**

10.3.3. Did the project experience any unexpected delays? If so, what caused these delays and how did the team mitigate these? [Probe for staffing, coordination, planning, activities] (EQ5.1) (Case study Only) 10.3.4. Did most activities take place within the agreed-upon work plan and timelines? Why or why not? (Case study Only) 10.3.5. Did the project have to compromise quality along the implementation? If so, when and how? (EQ6.1) (Case study Only) 11. On a scale from very satisfied to very dissatisfied - how satisfied are you with the frequency and quality of communication with your partners (CSOs/IPs) regarding: (a) project progress and (b) project results? (EQ5) 12. On a scale from very satisfied to very dissatisfied - How satisfied are you with the frequency and quality of communication from your partners (CSOs/IPs) regarding: (a) project progress and (b) project results? (EQ5) 13. Who was responsible for project management and day-to-day decision-making in the project? (EQ16) 14. How often did you consult local CSOs, youth groups, or women's groups (or were consulted by them) to improve project implementation? (EQ3.1) 15. What advice would you give to someone looking to partner with a CSO in a similar capacity? (EQ16) 16. What lessons have you learned working with CSOs/IPs/ convening agencies? Conflict Sensitivity: 17. What mechanisms did you implement to remain responsive to emerging issues or changes in the local context throughout the project's lifecycle? (EQ11) 17.1.What support did you offer implementing partners, CSOs, or governments so that they are able to increase their capacities related to conflict sensitivity? (EQ13.1) (Case study only) 18. Can you describe any approaches or practices you used to minimize competition and promote collaboration and equitable access to resources among different community groups? (EQ11) 19. How was the do-no-harm approach deployed while creating safe civic spaces and MHPSS services in a manner that did not jeopardize the local peacebuilding outcomes? 19.1.What additional support do you think IPs, CSOs, or governments need to increase their capacities related to conflict sensitivity? EQ13.1) (Case study only) Catalyst 20. How did the country project(s) enhance (value-add) or complement previous or ongoing PBF funded initiatives? (EQ3/13) 20.1. How were project funds used to a) replicate, b) increase research, and c) increase resources or institutional buy-in? (EQ13/EQ15.1) 21. Can you share an example of how you were able to leverage this project to create additional peacebuilding impacts or opportunities, either within the organization or in the community it served, or form new relationships? (EQ15.1) 21.1.What strategies did you use to maximize the project's reach or value? (EQ13) 21.1.1. Were any local resources leveraged as part of this project to deliver the project more efficiently or achieve project objectives [insert change]? For example, did you partner
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with a local university? Was there co-funding for activities or staff positions. EQ7.1) (Case Study Only) 21.1.2. Were any relationships or existing connections leveraged during the project? EQ7.1) (Case Study Only) 21.1.3. Were these strategies to leverage local resources effective? (EQ7.1) (Case Study Only) Innovation 22. Were there any innovative elements or activities in the project? If so, what were they? (EQ14) 23. Did you need to adapt project implementation to achieve better results or in response to changes in context or priorities? If yes, how did you adapt? (EQ14/EQ3.1)) 23.1. Which aspects of the project can be scaled? Which ones can be replicated and what are the facilitating or hindering factors? (E17.1) (Case study only) 24. What lessons did you learn about innovation and adaptation that could inform future programming? (EQ14/ EQ16.1) Sustainability and Close out 25. What actions did the projects take to build capacity of government or national stakeholders to continue with project initiatives? (EQ9) 26. Can you describe the project-close-out process with partners? (EQ4) How did you prepare the community and stakeholders for the project's conclusion to avoid disruptions or unintended consequences? (EQ11) 26.1. Did the project design and implementation include an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/local ownership, use of national sub-national/local capacities etc.) to support sustained positive changes in peacebuilding after the end of the project? (EQ 11.1) (Case study only) 27. What is the likelihood that project outcomes will continue? (EQ16) 27.1. What commitments have the government or national stakeholders made to ensure that women and youth groups continue to participate in peacebuilding activities? (EQ8) 28. What are the facilitating and hindering factors that will enable the continuation of peacebuilding results? [Probe for financial, institutional, and political support] (EQ16) 29. What advice would you give to someone looking to partner with a CSO in a similar capacity? (EQ16) What lessons have you learned working with CSOs? Lesson Learned and Recommendations 30. What is the most important lesson you have learned as a result of this project? 31. What recommendations do you have for improving the funds' approach or process? 32. What recommendations can be made for localization based on the experience of this project (EQ18.1) (Case study only) 33. What recommendations do you have to improve partnerships? (EQ16) 34. What advice or recommendations would you give others who may want to implement a similar project (MHPSS or civic space)? 35. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like to share at this time?

5.5 ANNEX V. SUMMARY OF RESOURCES MOBILIZED

Country	Project ID	Name of Funder	Total Amount (USD)
Burundi	00130913	PDA	50000
Burundi	00130913	PDA	50000
Burundi	00130913	Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme Secretariat	50000
Central African Republic	00129734	Gouvernement Japonais - (996583); UNFPA - (50000)	1046583
Central African Republic	00129734	Gouvernement Japonais - (996583); UNFPA - (50000)	1046583
Central African Republic	00129734	Gouvernement Japonais - (996583); UNFPA - (50000)	1046583
Central African Republic	00130464	EU - (1870777); DANIDA - (5454)	1876231
Central African Republic	00130464	EU - (1870777); DANIDA - (5454)	1876231
Central African Republic	00130464	EU - (1870777); DANIDA - (5454)	1876231
Central African Republic	00130464	E - (1870777); DANIDA - (5454)	1876231
Colombia	00130080	DSV - (38745)	38745
Colombia	00130080	DVS - (37500)	37500
El Salvador	00130003	PBF - (118000)	118000
Guinea-Bissau	00130107	NCE Funding Window- Flexible Funding Opportunity - (200000)	200000
Guinea-Bissau	00130107	NCE Funding Window- Flexible Funding Opportunity - (200000)	200000
Guinea-Bissau	00130107	NCE Funding Window- Flexible Funding Opportunity - (200000)	200000
Honduras	00129762	EU - (8000000); PBF - (3000000)	11000000
Honduras	00129762	EU - (8000000)	8000000

Kyrgyzstan	00130462	Chynhyz Rysov - Mayor of Razzakov city (Batken province)	35
Kyrgyzstan	00130462	Chynhyz Rysov - Mayor of Razzakov city (Batken province)	34
Kyrgyzstan	00130462	Chynhyz Rysov - Mayor of Razzakov city (Batken province)	34
Mali	00129745	SUEDE - (500000)	500000
Mali	00129745	Suède - (500000)	500000
Papua New Guinea	00129773	UNDP Funding Windows - (235000); UNDP Trac2 - (150000)	385000
Solomon Islands	00130844	UNDP	50000
South Sudan	00130571	Sarah Hayward Legacy Fund	23000
South Sudan	00130571	Sarah Hayrward Legacy Fund	25251
South Sudan	00130571	Sarah Hayward Legacy Fund	25000
Sudan	00130705	Anonymous	97500000
Sudan	00130705	U.S. Government	9875000
Sudan	00130705	U.S. Government	9875000

5.6 ANNEX V. CASE STUDIES

Under Separate Cover