

PBF Catalytic Effect Guidelines



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I. PBF CATALYTIC EFFECT: DEFINITION, TYPES AND FREQUENT EXAMPLES

What is a PBF catalytic effect?

A PBF allocation (either at the portfolio or project level) is considered to have a catalytic effect when it creates momentum for the removal of barriers that block longer-term/sustained peacebuilding support or for the engagement of additional stakeholders in existing peacebuilding efforts. In addition, a PBF investment is also considered to have a catalytic effect when it facilitates new initiatives that bring-in new resources to peacebuilding priorities in the country.

PBF catalytic effect, national ownership and sustainability

Based on the consultations with relevant stakeholders, find that there is a link between national ownership, sustainability, and catalytic effects.

It was found that PBF projects enjoy a level of national ownership given the nature of the PBF and the direct involvement of the national counterparts from the beginning of any process either at the portfolio or project level. However, ***national ownership could also be strengthened or consolidated*** because of a PBF allocation. Sound examples of this strengthening or consolidation are when there are concrete government follow-on actions or policy developments linked to a PBF investment and/or the integration of efforts kick-started by the PBF into national budgets. Strengthened national ownership can also be represented by, for instance, the engagement of new local stakeholders at the community level.

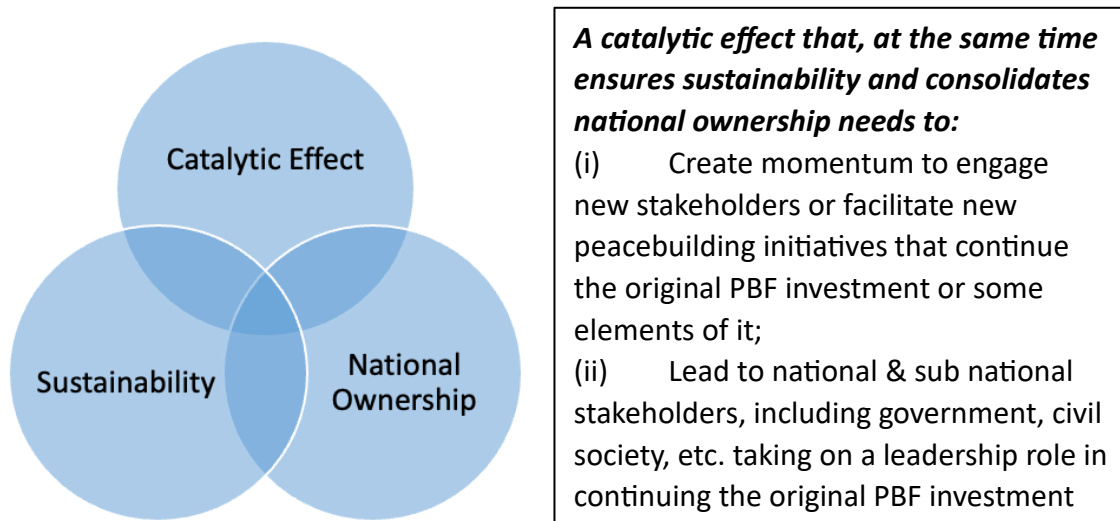
On the other hand, there might be cases in which catalytic effects do not necessarily imply a stronger or more consolidated national ownership. For instance, when they lead to the engagement of new international partners, including donors, IFIs and others, in peacebuilding efforts in the country.

Concerning sustainability, there might be cases, especially when PBF catalytic effects revolve around engaging new stakeholders in certain processes or facilitating new peacebuilding efforts that come with new funding, where these catalytic effects might also ensure the sustainability of the original PBF investment and its specific outcomes. This happens, for instance, when the PBF catalytic effects imply the continuation of key outputs and activities that were funded by the original PBF allocation and are now taken forward by other stakeholders and/or with other financial support.

Summing up, the design and measurement of PBF catalytic effects should be done in complementarity with those design and measurement efforts concerning sustainability of the PBF investment and consolidation of national ownership. This should be done taking into account that in certain cases, all three might be represented in the same single effect (e.g. when a catalytic effect implies that a PBF allocation, or some elements of it, were taken forward by national stakeholders who took the lead (thematic, financial, etc.) once the PBF investment finished). There might be some other cases in which a catalytic effect could also ensure sustainability but not necessarily the consolidation of national ownership or, conversely, it could also consolidate national ownership but not necessarily sustainability of the original PBF investment. Finally, there could also be cases where the PBF catalytic effects might neither ensure sustainability nor consolidate national ownership.

The following graph describes those situations in which a catalytic effect can also contribute to ensure sustainability and consolidate national ownership:

GRAPH 1:



Non-Financial and Financial Catalytic Effects

A PBF catalytic effect could be of a non-financial and/or of a financial nature. After consultations with stakeholders, including, PBF Secretariats, PBSO staff, selected funding partners it was determined that the non-financial catalytic effect is of greater value in order to understand the peacebuilding impact of the fund.

In this regard, the catalytic effects were prioritized to focus more on non-financial catalytic effects and if deemed relevant, calculation of catalytic effect may be useful. It was also found that similar to non-financial catalytic effects, financial effects are more relevant at a country/project level as opposed to the fund as a whole. This enables the fund to monitor, measure and communicate the effectiveness of project partners in leveraging the funds for continuing work on peacebuilding priorities.

PBF non-financial catalytic effect: removes barriers to unblock stalled political, institutional or other processes to sustain peace at different levels (national, local, etc.) and/or creates the conditions to engage additional stakeholders into existing or new peacebuilding efforts in a specific country setting. Ideally, PBF non-financial catalytic effects would imply a change in the political will and/or institutional practices of national, local and/or international stakeholders, at different levels, that allows other peacebuilding efforts – different but complementary to those initially supported by the PBF allocation - to move forward. Non-financial catalytic effects could also encompass other impacts, such as unleashing wider learning in the peacebuilding sector (across countries and the sector more widely) or contribute to reduce or mitigate risks to peacebuilding efforts in a specific context.

PBF financial catalytic effect: takes place when a PBF investment facilitates new initiatives that bring-in new resources to peacebuilding priorities in the country, including financial, human, institutional and other. These can include the integration of peacebuilding efforts kick-started by the PBF into national budgets as well as the financial support of multilateral - including IFIs - and bilateral donors, and the private sector, among other, to peacebuilding efforts connected to those initially supported by the PBF.

PBF financial catalytic effects go beyond replicas or scaled up versions of previous PBF investments, although those are very clear examples of these effects. Financial catalytic effects could also be linked to specific PBF project components, programmatic approaches used, coordination mechanisms set up or concrete capacities built or strengthened through the original PBF investment, among other options.

Frequent examples of PBF catalytic effects

Some of the most frequent cases of PBF catalytic effects include:

The PBF investment is used as a proof of concept to try new innovative approaches to peacebuilding that allow addressing pending peacebuilding needs and/or that can be taken on by other stakeholders in the same or other country settings. For instance, a PBF project in Colombia supported the incorporation of an LGBTIQ+ approach into the mandates of three transitional justice institutions established under the 2016 Peace Agreement. As a result, Colombia's Truth Commission became the world's first of its nature to specifically recognize the distinct forms of violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ individuals during the armed conflict, and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace became the first one to investigate violence motivated by discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals in the context of the armed conflict.

The PBF investment (or key components of it) is replicated, taken to scale and/or provides the basis for investments by other stakeholders, including in other geographical areas. For example, in South Sudan, building on two earlier PBF-funded projects, the European Union (EU) Delegation funded a project to strengthen access to education and livelihoods and enhance reintegration and community cohesion in areas affected by displacement and returns. With a total budget of \$25 million, a key component of the project addresses peacebuilding, social cohesion and reconciliation in areas affected by displacement, through dispute resolution and conflict mitigation around housing, land and property issues. The PBF is also co-funding this EU project, contributing \$1.5 million to fund an initiative specifically focused on strengthening community level capacities for the peaceful resolution of housing, land and property disputes and conflicts. As such, through a complementing role, the PBF's funding allowed to conduct gender-sensitive reviews of customary laws, strengthen the effectiveness of local dispute resolution mechanisms and rehabilitate community-prioritized infrastructure and services, enabling the EU project to further advance its broader objectives.

The PBF investment creates the conditions for other stakeholders to start or re-start peacebuilding efforts, particularly in challenging environments. The UN has worked in Southern Madagascar (Grand Sud) since 2017 to address marginalization, tensions and strengthen state presence, security, and resilience for vulnerable communities. PBF's investments in this region have made significant contributions to reduce insecurity and promote social cohesion in the Grand Sud, in partnership with several UN agencies and local authorities and civil society organizations. PBF investments promoted engagement with young men and women from diverse communities, including marginalized groups, offering

trainings and creating economic opportunities for those who were most in need and facilitated exchanges between representatives of state services and the communities to gain a better understanding of local needs. Benefiting from the Fund's programming, other development partners have been able to initiate and expand interventions in this region that had been previously difficult to engage in due to high levels of insecurity, criminality, and lack of confidence between the communities and the state. For example, the peace plans developed by the communities and local authorities, with support from the PBF through inclusive consultation processes are now being integrated into the Local Development Plans funded by the World Bank for four years and totaling \$200 million.

The PBF investment catalytic effect that reduces risks in contexts of climate insecurity allowing for other resources, including green funding, and stakeholders to engage in peacebuilding is less frequent but with potential to grow in the next few years. The PBF project "Climate Security in the Pacific" was the region's first initiative to enhance understanding of climate security. The initiative helped empower low-lying atoll nations by building local, national, and regional capacity to address climate security priorities and engage in global advocacy. Under this project, initial inclusive consultations facilitated the selection, design and implementation of community-level initiatives to enhance resilience and address climate security priorities. In its broader mission to drive policy change and enhance climate security, the project played a vital role in informing national and regional policy-making, including through specialized climate-security risk assessments. At the national level, these assessments identified key climate security risks and priorities, offering valuable insights into the pathways and strategies to counteract these threats. In addition, the project helped produce the regional Pacific Climate Assessment Guide, a methodology that countries in the region can use to develop their own climate-related security analyses and support outcomes based on national priorities. The project also set up a collaboration with a regional community of practice on climate security, that serves as a dynamic platform, to exchange information, mobilize relevant expertise, foster collaborative efforts, and identify key areas for climate security interventions within the region.

II. PBF ALLOCATION STAGES AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DESIGNING, MONITORING, ASSESSING AND REPORTING CATALYTIC EFFECTS

PBF catalytic effects must be thought of as of the beginning of any PBF programming process in a country setting, either at the portfolio or the project level. Responsibilities for designing, monitoring, assessing and reporting PBF catalytic effects will vary along the programming cycle.

a) Portfolio/Project Design and PAC approval

At the Portfolio level design stage, considerations on the intended PBF catalytic effects should be included, if possible, in the Eligibility Request, SRF or UNSDCFs when the latter include a peacebuilding pillar. In those countries where there is a PBF Secretariat already functioning (i.e. countries that are requesting re-eligibility), the PBF Secretariat will be the main responsible to integrate these considerations. In countries with no PBF Secretariats, those in charge of leading the consultations and consolidating the required documents, usually the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), will be responsible for integrating considerations on the intended catalytic effects.

At the project level design stage, as per current practice, intended catalytic effects should be included in the Project Document by the leading Agency in close consultation and agreement with the other RUNOs. PBF Secretariats have an oversight role ensuring that these considerations are effectively integrated into the project document.

Finally, the Eligibility and Project Appraisal Committee members play an oversight role, ensuring that intended catalytic effects have been integrated into the Eligibility Request or Project Document respectively, or recommending to do so, according to these guidelines, if that was not the case.

b) Portfolio/Project Implementation and Monitoring

At the portfolio level, tracking and monitoring of PBF catalytic effects are currently reported through the Annual Strategic Reports and project progress reports. As such, in countries with functioning JSCs, it is encouraged that their members engage once a year in discussions that include tracking of PBF catalytic effects at the portfolio level. In those countries where a UNSDCF integrating a peacebuilding pillar replaces an SRF, it is encouraged to suggest the set-up of a peacebuilding results/outcome group that can follow up on whether PBF investments are having catalytic effects both at the portfolio and project level. The PBF Secretariat in each country will be responsible for encouraging these discussions and for reporting the results of such monitoring/tracking.

At the project level, keeping track and reporting on catalytic effects is the responsibility of the leading Agency in close consultation and agreement with the other RUNOs. PBF Secretariats have an oversight role ensuring that the monitoring of these effects is effectively integrated into the project report.

Finally, PBSO desk officers provide oversight checking that such monitoring is, in fact, integrated in the reporting and recommending it to be included it when it had not been the case.

At the time of these guidelines, no change is advised in the reporting format.

c) Portfolio/project final report & evaluation

At the portfolio level, the final Strategic Annual Report should ideally include a section on PBF catalytic effects. As such, in countries with functioning JSCs it is encouraged that their members engage, at the end of the eligibility period, in discussions PBF catalytic effects achieved at the portfolio level. In those countries where a UNSDCF integrating a peacebuilding pillar replaces an SRF, it is encouraged to suggest the set-up of a peacebuilding results/outcome group that can also have similar discussions at portfolio and project level. The PBF Secretariat in each country will be responsible for encouraging these discussions and for reporting such effects in the final SAR when such information is available.

At the project and portfolio level, final project reports should ideally include an assessment of PBF catalytic effects. This would be the responsibility of the leading Agency and Secretariats in close consultation and agreement with the other RUNOs. PBF Secretariats have an oversight role ensuring that the final assessment of these effects is effectively integrated into the final project report.

PBF catalytic effects assessment must be included in all PBF portfolio and project evaluations and undertaken as per the process described below.

III. DETERMINING AND ASSESSING PBF CATALYTIC EFFECTS: KEY CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY

PBF catalytic effects will be assessed, during the evaluation of the specific PBF allocation (i.e. portfolio or project), based on their significance as per a set of guiding questions provided below. While the monitoring of catalytic effect is done on an annual basis, considering the self-reporting nature of the process, project and portfolio evaluations are where the final catalytic score is verified and assessed by an external evaluator.

PBF allocations can have: 1) no catalytic effect; 2) some catalytic effect; or 3) significant catalytic effects. Prior to assessing how significant PBF catalytic effects have been, it is necessary to determine whether a claimed catalytic effect is, indeed, a consequence of the specific PBF allocation being evaluated.

Determining the catalytic effects requires three-steps:

STEP ONE: Determine whether a claimed effect is effectively a PBF catalytic effect.

Rating: **(1)** no catalytic effect **(2)** yes, catalytic effect

STEP TWO: Assess the significance of the PBF catalytic effect/s identified in step one by the evaluator.

Rating: **(2)** some catalytic effect **(3)** Significant catalytic effect

STEP THREE: If relevant, calculate financial catalytic effect.

STEP ONE: Determining whether a claimed effect is effectively a PBF catalytic effect

The below criteria will help determine whether a claimed catalytic effect is, indeed, the consequence of the specific PBF allocation being evaluated:

PBF allocation prior in time to the claimed catalytic effect: Any claimed catalytic effect of a PBF allocation, either at the portfolio or project level, must necessarily take place after their implementation has started. Given that catalytic effects can take place any time after a PBF portfolio or project starts, PBF Secretariats, RUNOs and NUNOs are advised to set-up a tracking mechanism that identifies and registers them as they take place.

Removal of barriers to peacebuilding or facilitating new peacebuilding efforts: A PBF catalytic effect can be reflected in the removal of barriers to political, peacebuilding and other processes that address peacebuilding priorities, and to the engagement of additional stakeholders in existing peacebuilding efforts. It can also be represented in explicit new peacebuilding efforts that were facilitated by the PBF investment.

Either the removal of existing barriers or the facilitation of new peacebuilding efforts could encompass different types of engagement and support. Some examples include: (i) capacity development, including skills and knowledge transfer by, to and within local stakeholders that were originally supported by a PBF investment and then taken forward by other stakeholders; (ii) mechanisms, policies, processes kickstarted by the PBF that lead to a change in perceptions, attitudes and/or behaviors of key stakeholders who then engage in complementary peacebuilding efforts; (iii) inclusive consultative processes funded by the PBF that lead to broader processes, such as national dialogues, peace processes, constitutional reforms, electoral processes; (iv) as a result of a PBF investment, especially at the portfolio level, there is strengthened coordination and alignment, within the UN System,

concerning peacebuilding and conflict prevention priorities in the country, and/or increased dialogue between the UN System, national stakeholders, and other partners on how to prioritize and address peacebuilding challenges in a specific country setting.

Links with PBF Allocation: PBF catalytic effects need to be reflected in peacebuilding efforts - including policies, programmes, projects, etc. - that show some kind of link with the original PBF allocation. Ideally, the claimed catalytic effect would be aligned with the PBF priority or focus area addressed by the specific PBF allocation being assessed.. This happens for instance, when the original PBF allocation focused on conflict prevention/management (PBF focus area 2.3) and the claimed catalytic effect is also related to conflict prevention/management.

As such, this link allows to demonstrate an objective connection between what is being claimed as a PBF catalytic effect and the original PBF investment.

Prior interaction between the PBF and stakeholders: PBF catalytic effects are usually the result of explicit interaction between the UN, RUNOs, NUNOs and other stakeholders, including national or local governments, civil society, donors, among other. This interaction not only contributes to ensure local ownership of the original PBF engagement, but it also fosters dialogue and coordination of actions in support of peacebuilding priorities.

Those PBF allocations that cannot determine any catalytic effect as per the criteria described in the above section should report **(1)** No Catalytic Effect, and the assessment stops at this stage.

The PBF allocation reporting **(2)** go to step 2 below:

STEP TWO: Assessing the significance of the PBF catalytic effect/s identified (scoring 2- some catalytic effect or 3- significant catalytic effect)

When it has been determined that a claimed catalytic effect is the result of a PBF allocation, such effect should be assessed on the basis of the following guiding questions:

To determine the significance of a PBF catalytic effect¹, evaluators of PBF allocations will not only determine whether the assessment of such effect responds to one or more of the above questions but also the degree to which it does so.

For instance, the assessment of a PBF catalytic effect that responds positively to all three questions would most certainly demonstrate to be of a significant nature, whereas one that responds to only one could represent “some catalytic effect”. However, there could also be cases in which an assessment determines that the PBF catalytic effect contributes to “only” remove barriers to political or peacebuilding processes, but of such a magnitude (e.g. dialogues or peace talks that lead to political or peace agreements; inclusive consultations that lead to constitutional, legislative or institutional reforms, etc.) that it merits qualifying those effects as significant.

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS FOR CATALYTIC EFFECTS

- 1) Has the PBF allocation contributed to any of the following:
 - a. Remove barriers to political, peacebuilding and other processes such as de-risking, that address peacebuilding priorities and/or barriers to the engagement of additional stakeholders in existing peacebuilding efforts?
 - b. Facilitate explicit new peacebuilding efforts that bring in new resources to address peacebuilding priorities in the country? (If yes, verify amount for catalytic effect calculation as per step 3).
- 2) Is the catalytic effect a direct result of project interventions and activities or is it an outcome/impact level result of PBF’s presence in the country?
- 3) Was the PBF catalytic effect the result of explicit interaction (e.g. discussions, joint assessments, joint planning, etc.) between the PBF team and other key stakeholders who, as a result, engaged in existing or new peacebuilding efforts?

¹ I.e. Some Catalytic Effect or Significant Catalytic Effect.

In summary, based on the guidance, criteria and questions provided in this note, it will be up to the evaluators of PBF project/portfolio to first determine whether a claimed catalytic effect is, indeed, the result of a PBF allocation and then how significant such effect has been.

As such, evaluators should provide specific analysis and information that backs up these assessments in their reports.

The strongest and most clearly articulated PBF catalytic effects reported will be featured by PBSO.

Step Three: Measuring PBF Financial Catalytic Effects

Financial catalytic effects continue to be self-reported in the project reports as per ongoing practice (Kobo report) and will be analyzed by PBF UNHQ. As part of the Step 2, and as part of the final evaluation, the evaluators will also assess the financial catalytic effects, based on:

- Projects progress reports (being cautions of potential duplications in reporting)
- Other documents provided by the RUNOS and NUNOs as part of the evaluation desk review and the evaluations tools (interviews, surveys, etc)

The assessment can be done at both project and portfolio level against the overall PBF contribution.

Financial Catalytic effect of project/portfolio = Resources mobilized (in USD) ÷ Total PBF contribution for project/portfolio

While the calculation of financial catalytic effect is not essential for the overall rating, it can influence the rating a project/portfolio receives.