

United Nations Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund Evaluation Quality Assessment Synthesis 2022

**Independent Review of UNPBF Evaluation Report
Quality and Selected Trends**



DeftEdge Corporation
538 Fayette Blvd.
Syracuse, NY 13224 USA.
psa@deftedge.com

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
BACKGROUND	7
OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE	7
METHODOLOGY	8
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PORTFOLIO	8
FINDINGS ON EVALUATION QUALITY	9
OVERALL QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF 2022 PORTFOLIO.....	9
RATINGS BY CHARACTERISTIC.....	9
RATINGS BY SECTION.....	11
PERFORMANCE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	27
PERFORMANCE ON DISABILITY INCLUSION.....	29
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	30
ANNEXES	33
ANNEX 1. UNPBF 2022 EVALUATION REPORT RATINGS	33
ANNEX 2. UNPBF EVALUATION QUALITY ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE (USED FOR 2022 REVIEWS).....	38

List of Figures

Figure 1 Evaluations by region and lead agency	8
Figure 2 Overall quality of 2022 evaluations	9
Figure 3 Ratings by region	10
Figure 4 Ratings of GYPI projects.....	11
Figure 5 Ratings for Executive Summary	12
Figure 6 Ratings for Background.....	13
Figure 7 Ratings for Purpose, Objectives, Scope	15
Figure 8 Ratings for Design and Methodology	17
Figure 9 Ratings for Findings.....	20
Figure 10 Ratings for Conclusions and Lessons	22
Figure 11 Ratings for Recommendations	23
Figure 12 Ratings for Report Structure and Presentation	25
Figure 13 GEWE ratings	28
Figure 14 Ratings by GEWE Criterion.....	28
Figure 15 Average GEWE scores.....	28
Figure 16 Ratings for Disability Inclusion.....	30

List of Tables

Table 1 Reports rated as 'Very Good'	9
Table 2 EQA scores by lead agency.....	10
Table 3 Weighting by Criterion	11
Table 4 Ratings by Section (2022).....	11
Table 5 Ratings by Question – Executive Summary.....	13
Table 6 Ratings by Question - Background.....	14
Table 7 Rating by Question - Evaluation Purpose, Objectives, Scope	16
Table 8 Ratings by Question – Design and Methodology.....	18
Table 9 Ratings by Question - Findings.....	21
Table 10 Rating by Question – Conclusions and Lessons Learned	23
Table 11 Ratings by Question - Recommendations.....	24
Table 12 Ratings by Question – Report Structure and Presentation	26
Table 13 Top rated evaluations for GEWE.....	29
Table 14 Disability inclusive evaluations	30

List of Acronyms

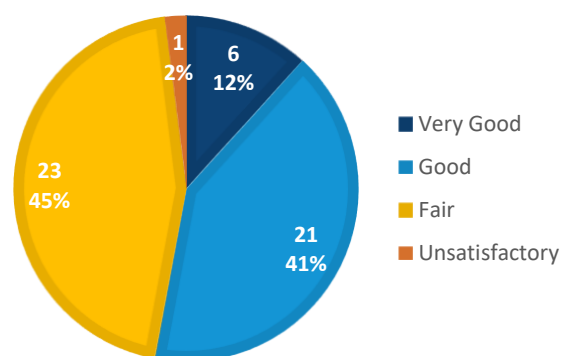
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DI	Disability Inclusion
EQA	Evaluation Quality Assessment
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GYPI	Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative
LGBTI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and others
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNPBF (or PBF)	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

Executive Summary

This synthesis report provides an overview of the quality of evaluations conducted in 2022 of projects supported through the United Nations Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). In addition to providing an analysis of the extent to which the evaluations met expectations, the objectives of this report include offering recommendations and examples of good practices to support and improve evaluation quality and reporting on peacebuilding results.

Ratings are determined according to the PBF quality assessment grid which was developed to align with UNEG evaluation standards and PBF priorities. The 2022 portfolio of evaluation reports was the first to undergo quality assessment. The portfolio included 51 evaluations led by 20 implementing partners in seven regions. Thirty-three percent were of Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) project evaluations. The evaluations covered three of PBF’s four strategic area, the majority being of projects that addressed Coexistence and Peaceful Resolution of Conflict.

The overall performance of the portfolio was considered to be satisfactory. Based on a four-category scoring system, six reports received a ‘Very Good’ rating, 21 reports were rated as ‘Good’, 23 reports were assessed as being ‘Fair’, and one report that was assessed as ‘Unsatisfactory’.



Central Africa had the highest number of ‘Very Good’ evaluations and was the best performing region overall. The second highest performing region was Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by West Africa. UNICEF was the lead agency for four evaluations, and these had the highest average ratings amongst implementing partners, with the second highest average scores being found in evaluations led by FAO. Evaluations led by UN entities generally scored higher than those led by civil society organizations (CSOs). Evaluations of GYPI projects had marginally lower overall ratings than the rest of the portfolio but performed significantly higher for gender responsiveness.

The evaluation quality assessment (EQA) grid has nine sections. The highest scoring section was *Findings* where 21 reports (41%) were rated as ‘Very Good’. The next highest rated sections were *Background and Purpose/Objectives/Scope*, followed by *Report Structure/Presentation*. The lowest scoring was the *Executive Summary*, which was mainly due to this section not reflecting the conflict drivers and intended peacebuilding outcomes of the project or being too lengthy. The *Recommendations* section was the second lowest scoring section. Given the importance of both for decision-makers, these two sections should be prioritized for improvement. The portfolio as a whole did not excel in its coverage of cross-cutting themes; few evaluations explicitly addressed the human rights aspects of the assessed projects, just over half met expectations for gender responsiveness, and just one third considered persons with disabilities.

Beyond the cross-cutting components, the portfolio mostly aligned with the minimum United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards for evaluation but was less successful in meeting the additional expectations that PBF has for evaluations of its funded projects. These include the need to address conflict dynamics and peacebuilding-related outcomes, and apply or mainstream the criteria of

Catalytic, Time-Sensitivity, and Risk Tolerance & Innovation as relevant to the subject of the evaluation. Although there were notable exceptions, and examples of good practices are highlighted throughout the *Findings*, shortcomings were apparent in the extent to which the peacebuilding context and intended peacebuilding results were addressed. In some cases, even though the relevance of the intervention to peacebuilding was implicit, the evaluation did not provide a specific explanation or analysis of the causal connections (how the activities were actually contributing to, or establishing the conditions for, a more peaceful environment).

To support further improvement in evaluations of funded projects, it is recommended that:

1. Implementing partners and evaluators be further encouraged to attend to PBF priorities and expectations for methodological rigour including by: articulating how project activities are expected to lead to peacebuilding results in a theory of change, having a manageable number of evaluation questions to help ensure thorough and evidence-based findings, including more substantial discussion of the methodological approach and an evaluation matrix in the evaluation report, incorporating conflict-sensitivity and the PBF-specific criteria into the evaluation framework, using a conflict analysis to frame the discussion of peacebuilding effectiveness, ensuring human rights and other cross-cutting themes are adequately covered, ensuring recommendations directed to PBF are in line with the Fund's mandate, having a crisp Executive Summary that makes the peacebuilding results and recommendations clear for decision makers, and being clear on the alignment of the intervention with the PBF priority windows.
2. PBF consider revisions to the EQA template so that key issues specific to PBF are still mainstreamed within each section of the template but have dedicated sub-questions that are not combined with other expectations. This will make these requirements more apparent and enable a more effective analysis of the extent to which PBF-specific expectations have been met.
3. PBF develop additional guidance that addresses the shortcomings found in this synthesis and includes the examples of good practice; and share such guidance and the revised version of the EQA template with implementing partners. Suggested priority areas for communicating expectations and illustrative examples are (a) the formulation of Executive Summaries and Recommendations to ensure optimal utility for decision makers, and (b) how PBF-specific requirements should be reflected in each section of evaluation reports.

Background

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the United Nations' leading financial instrument to invest in prevention and peacebuilding, in partnership with the wider UN system, national and subnational authorities, civil society organizations, regional organizations and multilateral development banks. The Fund's priority windows include supporting cross-border and regional approaches, facilitating UN transition contexts, and fostering inclusion through women and youth empowerment. PBF does not implement projects directly, and instead funds projects which are implemented by UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and CSOs. The four areas of focus for funding are: implement and sustain peace agreements, dialogue and peaceful coexistence, peace dividends, and re-establishing basic services.

In 2022, PBF engaged DeftEdge¹ to assist in developing a process to provide independent, external feedback on the quality of evaluation reports for its funded projects. The full list of evaluations assessed in this first year is provided in Annex 1. Even though several of the main partners, particularly UN entities, have their own evaluation quality assurance and assessment systems, these do not necessarily cover the peacebuilding aspects and outcomes which are central issues for PBF, and further, their evaluation quality assessment processes are often not applied to project-level evaluations. There are also partners that do not have formal processes in place to provide feedback on evaluation quality.

Quality assessment is an ex-post exercise that assesses the final evaluation report against specific criteria reflected in the Evaluation Quality Assessment (EQA) grid. These criteria are informed by the standards set for evaluations, both by PBF and more generally by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). The PBF EQA grid is divided into multiple sections – broken down further into sub-criteria (in the form of questions) – critical to the quality of the evaluation report. A rating is given for each section, and then an overall rating is awarded, reflecting the varied weights of the section. Comments are provided for each sub-criterion along with a narrative summary of the overall results. This assessment reflects the quality of the final evaluation report alone which is considered a proxy for the overall evaluation process.

Four-category scoring system

Evaluations submitted to UNPBF are rated according to an evaluation quality assessment (EQA) template made up of nine sections in which peacebuilding aspects are mainstreamed. The template is provided in Annex 2. It shows that each question is marked as 'Yes', 'Partially', or 'No'. This leads to a rating for each section and then the overall rating for the evaluation is determined by total weighted scores:

'Very Good' (90% +), **'Good'** (75-89%), **'Fair'** (50-74%), **'Unsatisfactory'** (less than 50%).

Objectives and Scope

The objectives of this EQA synthesis review are threefold: 1) to provide an analysis of the quality of evaluation reports of evaluations commissioned by PBF and its implementing partners; 2) to offer recommendations to improve evaluation quality, proposing any needed changes to the EQA grid and to guidance on evaluation quality that PBF provides as part of its funding agreements; and (3) to provide

¹ DeftEdge has substantial experience in this area having provided independent evaluation quality assessment services for UNFPA, UNODC, and UNICEF.

feedback and good practice examples to implementing partners on how evaluating and reporting on the results of peacebuilding projects can be further improved.

This synthesis report provides an overview of the quality of evaluations that were undertaken in 2022 and submitted to PBF by the first half of 2023. Although the assessment process is intended to also include evaluations commissioned directly by PBF, there were no evaluations of this nature completed during this review cycle.

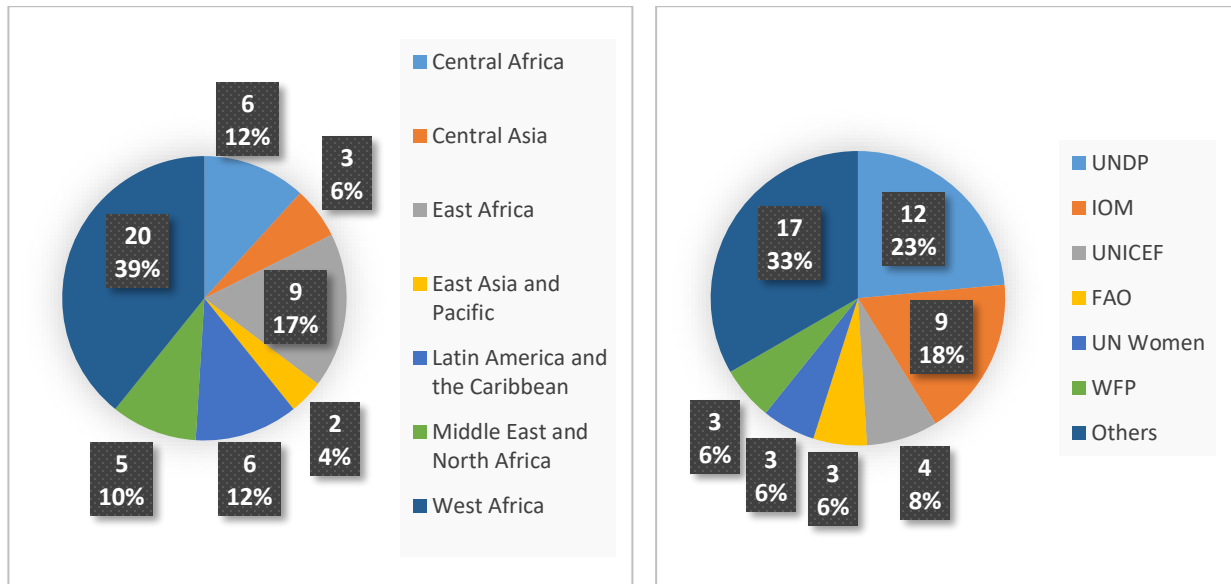
Methodology

To conduct the analysis, DeftEdge uses a database that captures the overall quality rating of each evaluation report, as well as the ratings for each section, the scores and comments for each question, and the summarized comments. The ratings and comments are then examined for patterns. The aim has been to draw out which aspects are done well within the evaluation report (as a proxy for the evaluation itself) and which aspects of the evaluation would benefit from improvement. Examples of good practice are pulled out to support organizational learning. The analysis then considers the strengths and areas for improvement across the whole portfolio of evaluation reports, and variations between themes, location of the intervention, implementing partners, and other variables.

Characteristics of the Portfolio

The 2022 portfolio included a total of 51 project-level evaluation reports. As shown in figure 1, the projects were conducted in seven regions, primarily in West and East Africa, and were commissioned by 20 lead agencies, the most frequent being UNDP.

Figure 1. Evaluations by region and lead agency



Findings on Evaluation Quality

Overall quality assessment of 2022 portfolio

The overall quality of evaluations submitted to UNPBF in 2022 is considered to be satisfactory. As shown in figure 2, out of the 51 evaluation reports that were assessed, six reports (12%) received a 'Very Good' rating, 21 reports (41%) were rated as 'Good', and 23 reports (45%) were assessed as being 'Fair'. There was just one report that was assessed as 'Unsatisfactory'. The **average overall score was 74%** which is in the lower range for the 'Good' rating (75-89%).

The ratings for all reports can be found in Annex 1, with the six most highly rated reports shown in Table 1.

Figure 2 Overall quality of 2022 evaluations

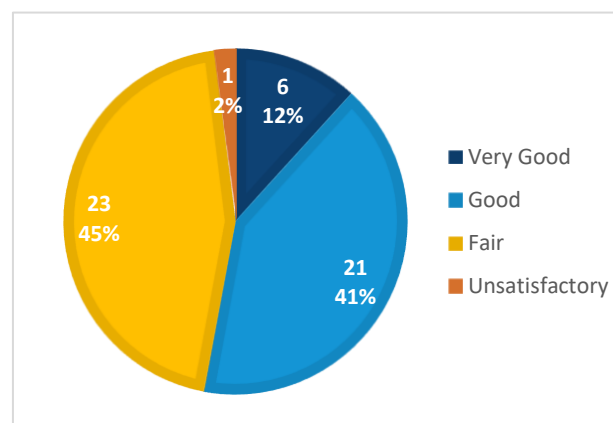


Table 1 Reports rated as 'Very Good'

Project Number and Title	Country	Implementing Organization	Score
PBF/IRF 299 (300): Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger	Mali and Niger	UN Women, UNODC	96%
PBF/CMR/A-2: Appui à la participation des femmes et des jeunes aux initiatives de consolidation de la paix, de renforcement des mécanismes de cohésion sociale et de vivre ensemble au Cameroun	Cameroun	UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF	93%
PBF/IRF-414: Juventudes Salvadoreñas construyendo paz y resiliencia: Derecho a la ciudadanía participativa e incidencia en los municipios de Jiquilisco y Tecoluca	El Salvador	UNFPA, UNESCO, NIMD	93%
PBF/IRF-284: D'appui à la participation citoyenne des jeunes et des femmes à la gouvernance locale et à la consolidation de la paix au Tchad	Chad	UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, OHCHR	91%
PBF/IRF-353 (354/355): Promotion d'une Transhumance Pacifique dans la Région du Liptako-Gourma (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger)	Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger	FAO, IOM	90%
PBF/IRF-310: Appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020	Guinea	UNICEF, UNDP, UNV	90%

Ratings by characteristic

In terms of regional performance, **Central Africa had the highest number of 'Very Good' evaluations** and was the best performing overall (Figure 3). The second highest performing region was Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by West Africa.

Figure 3 Ratings by region

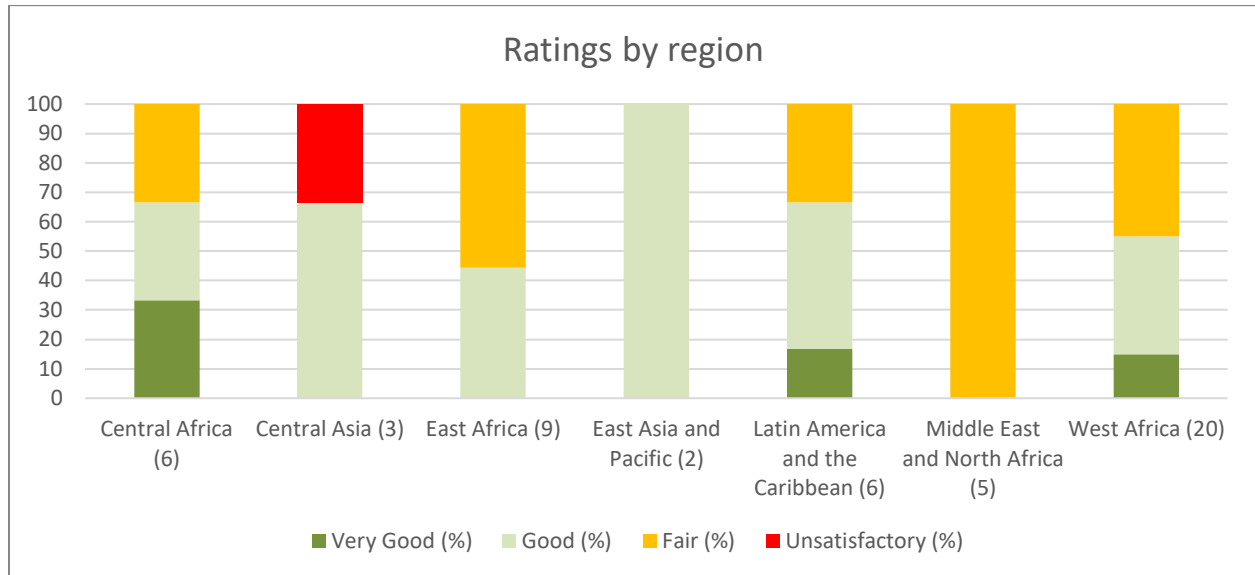


Table 2 shows the average rating by percent score for each lead agency and the number of evaluations in which they led. **UNICEF had the highest ratings** with an average score of 86% for the four evaluations they led, following closely by FAO. UNDP and IOM, which both led the highest number of evaluations, had average ratings of 71% and 72% respectively. None of the UN entities had evaluations that scored below 70%.

Table 2 EQA scores by lead agency

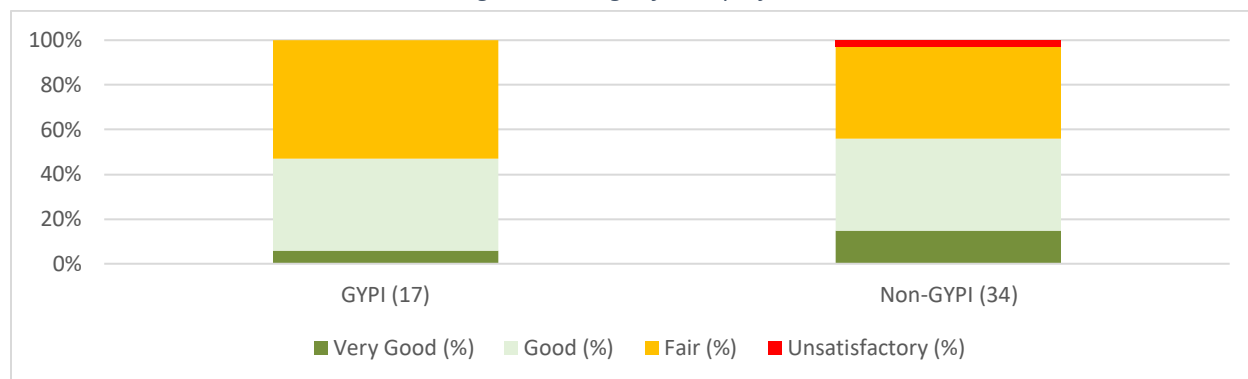
Lead Agency	Number as Lead	Average Rating
UNICEF	4	86%
FAO	3	85%
Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation	1	84%
Interpeace	1	83%
UN Women	3	82%
Search for Common Ground	1	80%
UNFPA	2	80%
ILO	1	79%
UNESCO	2	79%
WFP	3	74%
IOM	9	72%
UNDP	12	71%
UNODC	1	70%
Accord ²	2	69%
Cordaid	1	69%
Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa	1	68%
Fund for Congolese Women – FFC	1	65%
Fundación mi Sangre	1	61%

² Association for Community Cooperation and Rural Development

Stichting ZOA	1	55%
SAF/FJKM ³	1	54%

There was a slightly lower level of performance seen in evaluations of GYPI projects than the rest of the portfolio (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Ratings of GYPI projects



Ratings by section

This part of the synthesis delves further into the evaluations by examining how the portfolio fares across each of the section of the EQA template. Table 3 identifies each section along with the respective weightings that contribute to the overall rating of the evaluation reports. The *Methodology* and *Findings* sections are the most heavily weighted with each being worth 25% of the final score.

Table 4 below provides a breakdown of ratings — 'Very Good', 'Good', 'Fair', and 'Unsatisfactory' — by section for the 2022 reports (the scoring for the gender section is discussed separately). **The highest performance was seen in the Findings category, with 21 reports (41%) achieving a 'Very Good' rating.** This was followed by *Background*, where 20 reports were rated as 'Very Good.' The *Purpose, Objectives and Scope* and *Design and Methodology* categories also performed well. In contrast, **the lowest scoring section was**

Table 3 Weighting by Criterion

Section	Weighting (%)
Executive Summary	5%
Background	5%
Purpose, Scope, Objectives	5%
Methodology	25%
Findings	25%
Conclusions / Lessons	15%
Recommendations	10%
Structure / Presentation	5%
UN-SWAP (Gender)	5%

Executive Summary, with just two reports receiving a 'Very Good' rating, followed closely by *Recommendations*. There were limited instances of 'Unsatisfactory' section ratings.

Table 4 Ratings by Section (2022)

Criterion	'Very Good'	'Good'	'Fair'	'Unsatisfactory'	Average Score (%)
Executive Summary	2	10	33	6	59%

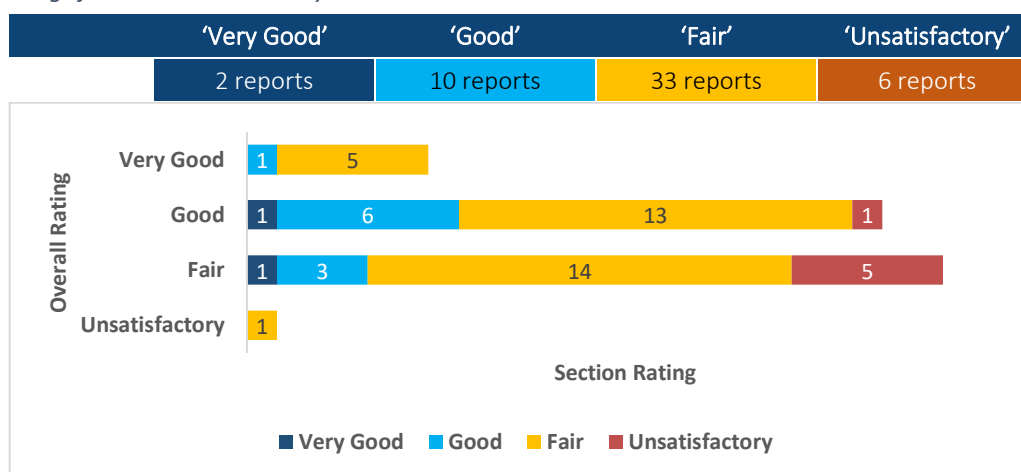
³ Sampan'asa Momba ny Fampanandrosoana/ Fianganan'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasikara

Background	20	16	12	3	80%
Purpose, Objectives And Scope	16	21	13	1	80%
Design And Methodology	7	18	22	4	71%
Findings	21	16	14	0	82%
Conclusions & Lessons	13	17	15	6	72%
Recommendations	4	12	31	4	66%
Report Structure And Presentation	11	19	19	2	77%

The subsequent discussion further explores the ratings for each template section and discusses the underlying questions and their corresponding scores. In certain instances, these questions are presented in abbreviated format, with the complete text shown in the attached EQA template (**Annex 2**). **The presentation for each section of the template begins with a figure showing the total number of reports achieving each rating category and a graph showing this breakdown according to the overall rating of the reports.** For example, the top section of figure 5 below shows the number of reports that were rated as ‘Very Good’, ‘Good’, ‘Fair’ and ‘Unsatisfactory’ for their *Executive Summary*. The bar graph then shows that of the six reports that had a ‘Very Good’ overall rating (depicted in dark blue), for the Executive Summary section, one of these had a ‘Good’ and five had a ‘Fair’ rating. There were only two reports that had ‘Very Good’ for their *Executive Summary*, and one had a ‘Good’ overall report rating and the other had only a ‘Fair’ rating overall.

Criterion 1. Executive Summary

Figure 5 Ratings for Executive Summary



The *Executive Summary* is of high importance as it is often the only section of the evaluation report that is read in full. It needs to provide a clear and concise overview of the main components of the evaluation, and of particular interest to UNPBF, is the need for this section to address the conflict and peacebuilding aspects relevant to the intervention. Figure 5 shows only 2 reports scored ‘Very Good’ and that this was a weak area for most reports, including those with overall report ratings of ‘Very Good’.

As can be seen in Table 5 below, **the majority of the reports only partially met expectations for the first question on clarity of the presentation and the provision of an analytical summary that captures the complexities of conflict drivers and desired peacebuilding outcomes.** Twenty-two reports (43%)

successfully met this criterion, four reports failed to meet this standard, and one report did not include an *Executive Summary*.

Only nine reports (18%) included all of the elements as stipulated for a complete *Executive Summary* and seven reports did not meet this standard at all. Commonly missing were a description of the intervention’s core components, the intended audience of the evaluation, data collection processes, stakeholder groups consulted, and the total number of evaluation respondents. In several cases, the use of undefined acronyms and detailed footnotes made the summary less accessible.

Eighteen reports (35%) met the criterion for being of relevant conciseness and depth for key users. Twenty-five reports only partially met this criterion, and seven reports did not meet it. A significant number of summaries exceeded the recommended five pages. Partial ratings were given to summaries that were 6-7 pages, and No was given to those that were eight pages or longer. This indicates that while some evaluations strike the right balance between depth and conciseness, there is room for improvement to ensure utility for key stakeholders.

Table 5 Ratings by Question – Executive Summary

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
Is clearly presented and reflects an analytical summary of conflict drivers and desired peacebuilding outcomes	22	25	4	0
Includes all necessary elements (overview of the intervention, evaluation purpose, objectives and intended audience, evaluation methodology, key conclusions on findings, lessons learned if requested, key recommendations)	9	34	7	1
Is of relevant conciseness and depth for key users (max of 5 pages)	18	25	7	1

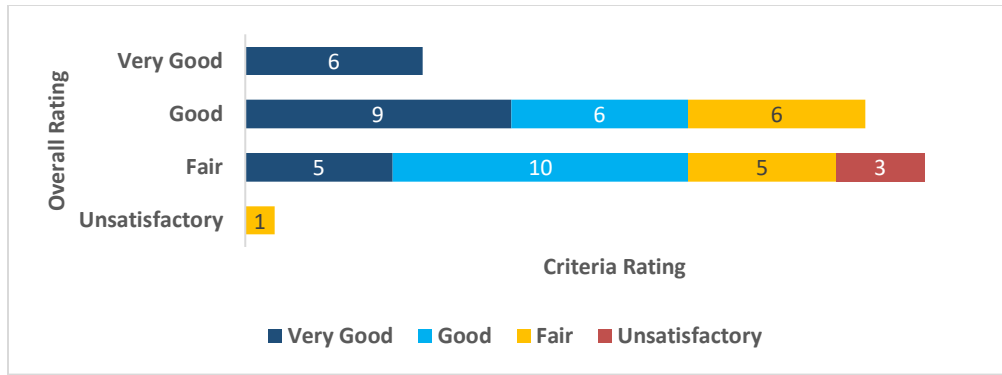
Example of good practice for Executive Summary

PBF/KGZ/A-7 Joint Project “Communities Resilient to Violent Extremism”: The report comes with an executive summary that effectively addresses key criteria for good practice in evaluation reporting. At four pages, it maintains an appropriate balance between conciseness and completeness. The summary serves as a standalone section, incorporating all necessary elements including lessons learned. Furthermore, it provides an analytical summary that delves deeply into conflict drivers and peacebuilding outcomes, enhancing its utility for decision-making and stakeholder engagement.

Section 2: Background

Figure 6 Ratings for Background





A solid introductory and *Background* section helps the reader to understand the project and the environment in which it operates and gives the context for the analysis appearing in the rest of the report. Figure 6 shows that the 2022 portfolio generally performed well in this regard with 20 reports (39%) being rated as ‘Very Good,’ and several showcasing good practices. There is a strong correlation between reports that had high overall ratings and that scored highly in this section.

At the question level (see Table 6), 38 reports (75%) provided an adequate description of the intervention. The remainder provided minimal or no information about what the project actually did in terms of its components or activities. In several cases the description only covered the intended outcome-level results, and these were typically framed in a general way that did not give further insight into what the project entailed or where it was carried out. Although the project’s status was usually clear, reasons for any extensions were rarely explained. The alignment of the intervention with the PBF Priority Windows – Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI)/Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), cross-border, or transition windows – was infrequently mentioned, and reports were not rated for this aspect as evaluators would not necessarily be aware of these categories.

More reports had shortcomings in the description of intended beneficiaries with less than half (24 or 47%) providing an adequate explanation, including of beneficiary needs and interest in relation to peacebuilding. The context of the intervention was usually apparent; 31 (61%) reports were rated as Yes although the level of detail varied considerably. In terms of links to national peacebuilding plans/strategies and the PBF country-level results framework, 41 (80.4%) addressed national plans or strategies. PBF results frameworks were infrequently mentioned, which is understandable as they were only introduced in July 2022 and in just a few piloted countries.

Thirty-six reports (74%) were rated as ‘Yes’ for identifying the implementing agencies, national implementing partners, and other stakeholders. However, **relatively few reports provided any kind of mapping of stakeholders** in which the roles, responsibilities, geographic areas of operation, etc., were explained. Good examples of stakeholder maps can be found in [PBF/IRF-299 \(300\): Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger](#) and [PBF/IRF-389: Renforcement du leadership des femmes dans la prévention et lutte contre l'extrémisme violent, à travers la participation à la justice pénale, la promotion de la cohésion sociale et de l'identité culturelle](#).

Table 6 Ratings by Question - Background

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
--	-----	-----------	----	-----------

Clear description of the intervention, status, and link to PBF priorities	38	12	1	0
Clear description of intended beneficiaries	24	24	3	0
Clear description of the context of the intervention, including a conflict analysis	31	16	4	0
Linkages drawn to national peacebuilding plans and PBF Strategic Results Framework	42	5	3	1 ⁴
Identification of implementing agency(ies), national implementing partners, local communities, social institutions, and other stakeholders	36	13	0	0
Identification of the contributions and roles of key stakeholders (mapping)	20	18	13	0

Example of good practice for Background

PBF/IRF-299 (300) Appui aux initiatives transfrontalières de dialogue communautaire avec les acteurs du secteur de la sécurité et de la justice pour la consolidation de la paix au Mali et au Niger: The report effectively outlines the intervention's objectives, locations, and implementation timeline, also highlighting a no-cost extension of 9 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It notes the alignment with two key focus areas of the PBF Strategic Plan 2017-2019, specifically the Cross-Border and Regional Window and the Women and Youth Empowerment Window, and linkages are drawn to Niger's National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and Mali's national security sector reform, emphasizing the project's contributions to SDG5 and SDG16. Beneficiaries are clearly identified, segmented by gender and youth status. The report is further notable for a robust analysis of structural causes of conflict, including the climate-security nexus, and describes various cultural, socio-economic, and privilege factors. There is a strong stakeholder analysis that includes the roles of the national implementing agencies and of community actors, as well as the project's Steering Committee and Technical Coordination Committee.

PBF/IRF-319 Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB): This report has a good background description of the intervention including a thorough analysis of the Liberian context of peace and security, human rights and gender equality, violence against women and girls, challenges in peacebuilding, and Covid-19 and its effects on women.

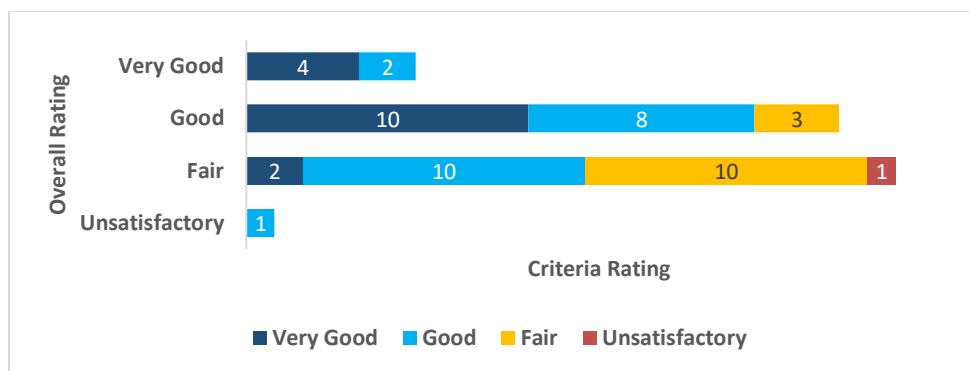
PBF/IRF-389 Renforcement du leadership des femmes dans la prévention et lutte contre l'extrémisme violent, à travers la participation à la justice pénale, la promotion de la cohésion sociale et de l'identité culturelle: Although covered under Relevance rather than in the Background section, this report is exemplary for addressing linkages. There is a thorough explanation of alignment with Mauritania's Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity, the government framework for gender, the SDGs (goals 4 and 5), UN Resolution 1325, PBF Strategic Framework priorities, the Youth and Gender Equality Initiative and UNODC/ UNESCO strategies

Section 3: Evaluation Purpose, Objectives and Scope

Figure 7 Ratings for Purpose, Objectives, Scope



⁴ In this case, the project took place in an emergency setting as a response to the Covid-19 crisis, and therefore reference to a development framework was considered not fully applicable.



This section looks at whether evaluators make clear the overall purpose, users, and objectives of the evaluation exercise as well as what is to be covered and excluded. It considers whether stakeholder participation is discussed, and in particular how vulnerable groups are involved. Also incorporated into this section of the template is an assessment of the extent to which the report clearly articulates the intervention’s intended main results and logic. Figure 7 shows that the majority of reports performed reasonably well (with 16 rated as ‘Very Good’ and 21 as ‘Good’) although there were some shortcomings in this section. There was correlation to some extent between overall and section ratings.

Table 7 shows that within the portfolio, 36 reports (71%) defined the purpose, the intended users, and indicated intent to focus on peacebuilding outcomes. The same number addressed the evaluation's scope in some way, although often the focus was on the evaluation criteria that was to be covered rather than the geographic, chronological (timeframe) and thematic parameters. About the same number also explained how stakeholders were involved, mainly in terms of their participation as respondents, although there could have been more of an emphasis on steps taken to ensure the most vulnerable groups were engaged.

Notably, almost all reports (94%) described the intervention's intended objectives and main results. However, **only half (51%) made clear the casual pathways between what the project did (activities and outputs) and the intended outcomes** through either a narrative description or graphic depiction of the theory of change (ToC). In several cases, outcomes and outputs were labeled incorrectly. There were different treatments of the ToC; in approximately 20% of cases, an ‘if-then’ formulation was used and typically these were very brief and generally stated. It is considered good practice for evaluators to assess and then reformulate the ToC if shortcomings were found; this was done in a few cases. UNPBF also places an emphasis on assessing whether there is a solid set of valid assumptions articulated as part of the ToC, and in only 20 reports (39%) was this level of analysis conducted.

Table 7 Rating by Question - Evaluation Purpose, Objectives, Scope

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
Purpose of evaluation is clearly defined, including key intended uses and users.	36	12	3	0
Clear and complete description of evaluation objectives, which should include assessment of results related to peacebuilding.	41	6	4	0
Clear and relevant description of the scope of the evaluation.	36	12	3	0
Stakeholder participation in the implementation of the evaluation process is discussed.	37	13	1	0
Clear description of the intervention's intended objectives / main results.	48	3	0	0

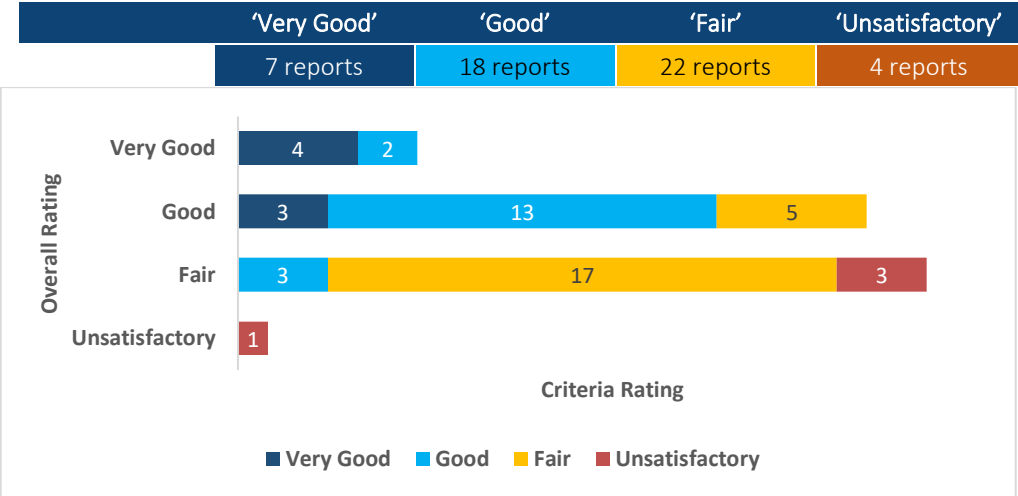
Causal relationship between outputs and outcomes is presented in narrative and/or graphic form.	26	21	4	0
The theory of change is assessed and, if required by the ToR, it is reformulated/improved by the evaluators. Assumptions are clearly articulated and are assessed for validity by evaluators.	20	20	10	1

Example of good practice on Purpose, Objectives, Scope

PBF/IRF-284 D'appui à la participation citoyenne des jeunes et des femmes à la gouvernance locale et à la consolidation de la paix au Tchad: The report effectively describes the project in the background section, outlines the objectives of the evaluation, and provides a clear understanding of its potential utilization. Particularly notable is a table that identifies the different grouping of users and their interest in the evaluation. The evaluation is very specific about the accountability and learning purposes. It is also one of the few reports where evaluators carefully assessed and revised the theory of change, including the underlying assumptions.

Section 4: Design and Methodology

Figure 8 Ratings for Design and Methodology



This is one of the two most heavily weighted sections of the assessment template which contributes to the high correlation seen between the overall report and section performance. Performance across the portfolio varied (see figure 8), with just seven reports (14%) rated as 'Very Good', and 'Fair' being where the most reports landed (22 or 43%).

As per table 8, the **evaluations largely featured appropriate questions and sub-questions that aligned with their objectives, including in areas related to conflict and peacebuilding.** A majority (32 or 63%) achieved full alignment. Although the relevant Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) criteria were consistently used, there was variation in how Effectiveness and Impact were applied – frequently Effectiveness looked only at output level results with short-term outcomes being addressed under Impact; often this reflected how the questions were presented in the terms of reference (ToR). There was also variation in the application of Conflict-Sensitivity and the UNPBF-specific criteria (Catalytic, Time-sensitivity, and Risk tolerance & innovation). These could

be addressed separately or within other criteria and as long as at least one of these criteria was covered, the expectation was considered to be met. **Few evaluations covered all of the PBF-specific criteria with Catalytic being the most frequently taken up.**

Evaluations as a whole did reasonably well in having an adequate and appropriate design, methods and data sources within constraints faced. EQA reviewers looked for those that went beyond standard approaches of document review, interviews with implementing partners and government officials, and group discussions with beneficiaries. The ability to establish causal relationships between outputs and outcomes was rated as fairly strong (35 reports or 69%), which is crucial for determining the actual effects of interventions on peacebuilding. The same number appeared to adequately address the limitations and constraints of the evaluation process.

Several significant shortcomings were also found. Most notably, **only 16 reports (31 %) explained how the evaluation process was conducted in a conflict-sensitive manner and took ethical considerations into account.** These are critical issues for all evaluations and particularly for those undertaken in the peacebuilding context. Although most evaluators likely did use appropriate practices, it is important that these be stated in the evaluation report as per [UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations \(2020\)](#). Another concern is that evaluation matrixes were not provided for 20 reports (39%). Often evaluators noted that the matrix was part of the inception report, but it is important to also include them in the evaluation report to increase the transparency and show the level of rigour of evaluation process. Only 27 reports (53%) described how collected data was analyzed – the expectation being that this would be explained for both qualitative and quantitative data.

It is further expected that the methodology will be explicit about how the process was responsive to human rights, gender equality and the principle of leave no one behind. Performance varied in this regard with only 21 evaluations (41%) adequately explaining if and how these cross-cutting issues were addressed.

An overall observation was that **the Methodology section in most evaluations could have been more comprehensive.** A common EQA reviewer comment in this section of the template was that further explanations were needed.

Table 8 Ratings by Question – Design and Methodology

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
Evaluation criteria and questions are appropriate for meeting the objectives and purpose of the evaluation, particularly those related to conflict and peacebuilding.	32	18	1	0
In addition to the questions and sub-questions, the evaluation matrix includes data sources and methods.	22	6	20	3
Evaluation design and set of methods are relevant, robust, and engage stakeholders in multiple ways.	37	14	0	0
Data sources are appropriate and adequate- these would normally include qualitative and quantitative sources.	39	11	0	0
Clear and complete description of the methods of analysis.	27	9	15	0
Methodology allows for drawing causal connections, including contribution to peacebuilding change.	35	14	2	0
Clear and complete description of limitations and constraints faced by the evaluation.	35	11	5	0

Clear description of how the methodology was responsive to human rights, gender equality, and leave no one behind.	21	25	5	0
Conflict sensitivity and ethical considerations are described and apparent within the evaluation process.	16	15	20	0

Examples of good practice for Design and Methodology

PBF/IRF-310 Appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020: This report has a very strong design and methodology section with peacebuilding questions mainstreamed into other criteria. Data sources are clearly outlined with secondary sources including baseline and endline data as well as programmatic and financial reports. The sample size was robust with 180 beneficiaries being consulted (women and men, religious leaders, community organizations, etc.) as well as 13 UN and 5 government representatives. Methods for qualitative and quantitative analysis are outlined, as are limitations and mitigation strategies. The methodology is sensitive to the need for gender-responsiveness: for example, evaluators conducted FGDs with a mix of women and men as well as with women only to capture their voices, and data is disaggregated by sex, age, and vulnerability. The report also includes a section on ethical safeguards which makes explicit reference to the obligation of evaluators, principles of confidentiality and the do-no-harm approach.

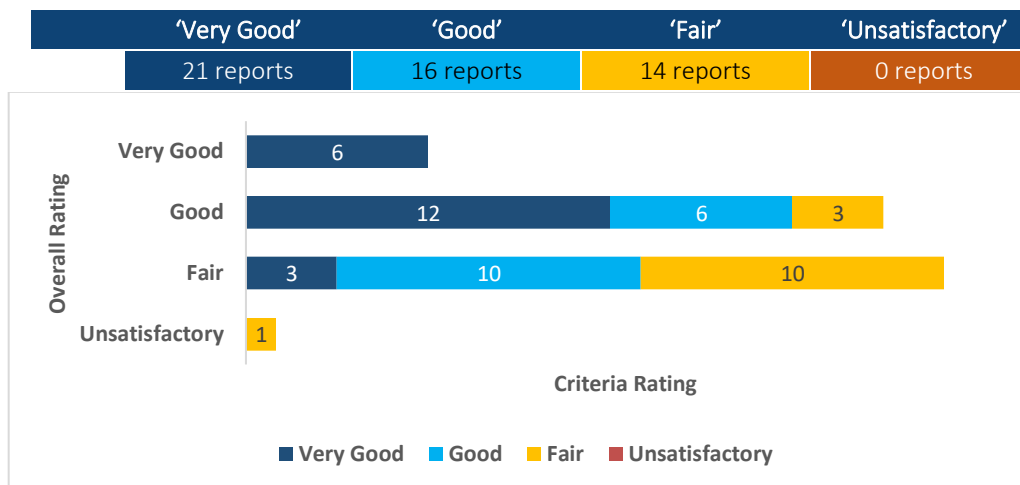
PBF/CMR/A-2 Appui à la participation des femmes et des jeunes aux initiatives de consolidation de la paix, de renforcement des mécanismes de cohésion sociale et de vivre ensemble au Cameroun: This report provides a particularly good example of evaluators consistently linking the project activities to peacebuilding results so that causal connections between what the project did and the higher-level effects were clear. This was also one of the few reports to use PBF-specific criteria in a stand-alone manner (instead of mainstreaming related questions into other criteria). In addition to OECD-DAC criteria, the evaluation looked at catalytic effect, risk tolerance and innovation. It was also notable for having a complete evaluation matrix.

PBF/IRF-299 (300) Appui aux initiatives transfrontalières de dialogue communautaire avec les acteurs du secteur de la sécurité et de la justice pour la consolidation de la paix au Mali et au Niger: This evaluation also does well in establishing the causal connections between activities and intended results. In both this and the above report a complete evaluation matrix is attached that shows the indicators for each question and it is used in the analysis. They both include results tables in the discussion on Effectiveness that show achievement according to each indicator and there is a narrative description that further articulates the linkages. An example in this report is a discussion on the revitalization of peace committees and the types of training activities that were carried out, including the purposeful integration of women and young people. Participant quotes, including this one attributed to a women leader, serve to reinforce the finding: *“The culture of peace and living together, the audacity to talk about meetings involving women and young people in conflict management before this project were unimaginable in our locality. This project has also taught us negotiation and mediation techniques that continue to prove themselves.”*

PBF/IRF-366 Proyecto: Diálogo de apoyo y construcción de Derechos Humanos por la Paz en Bolivia: A noteworthy aspect of the methodology is the inclusion of a protocol on data protection (in annex 5 of that report). The protocol sets out how issues of confidentiality, anonymity, informed consent, and the safe storage and deletion of data will be ensured by the evaluation team.

Section 5: Findings

Figure 9 Ratings for Findings



Findings is the other of the two most heavily weighted sections of the report; as with *Design & Methodology*, the scores here count for 25% of the overall rating. In this case, there was a high correlation with the overall performance with all six of the reports with ‘Very Good’ overall scores having the same rating for this section score (figure 9). Although there were some issues, **this was the highest scoring section** in the template with just 14 reports (27%) being rated below ‘Good.’ This was also the only section to have no reports rated as ‘Unsatisfactory’.

As shown in table 9 below, **the stronger areas were the evaluations' alignment with existing frameworks for the intervention:** 45 reports (88%) received a 'Yes' rating for making explicit reference to an intervention's results framework or ToC, and most frequently this was a comparison of actual and planned achievements. Reference to baseline and monitoring data was another strong point, with 42 (82%) evaluations scoring a 'Yes.' In the majority of these cases, the evaluators used monitoring data but noted that baseline data was weak or missing. There were relatively few evaluations that actually used baseline data or that referred to or used perception surveys, mostly because this information was not available; the [PBF/IRF-310 Appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020 \(Guinea\)](#) report highlighted in the ‘Section 4 Methodology’ (above) being one that did.

There are several areas where improvements clearly are needed. **One significant weakness lies in marshaling sufficient levels of evidence to comprehensively address evaluation questions and criteria;** almost half (25 reports) received only a 'Partially' rating for this question. While some evaluations were commended for directly reiterating the evaluation questions in their findings section, a number of reviewers raised concerns about the absence of a systematic approach, noting that findings sometimes "loosely follow the questions without mentioning them" or “do not fully answer questions”. A similar issue was noted regarding the use of data, with 23 evaluations (45%) rated as 'Partially.' This was usually due to inadequate citing of evidence or an overreliance on certain sources (particularly internal monitoring data), compromising the triangulation process. **An indicative reviewer comment is** “While the evaluators note in the Methodology section that quantitative and qualitative data was triangulated to strengthened and reinforced the findings, more citing of primary data and the views of specific stakeholder groups would have been useful.” In other words, it is not sufficient to have a general statement that findings were triangulated.

A major challenge for several evaluations was the high number of evaluation questions that were posed in the ToR and to which the team tried to respond. In such cases, the findings section would likely have been **more coherent if a more concise list of questions was established during the inception phase of the assignment.**

The question on the identification of causal factors and unintended results also had lower ratings. Usually there was mention of the constraints affecting achievement of results, but several evaluations went beyond that by including a subsection on ‘enabling and hindering factors’. The most frequent reason for a ‘Partially’ rating was **not addressing unexpected results** (positive or negative). This is important for peacebuilding project given the contested space in which many of them operate, and because this is a central practice of the Do No Harm approach.

Coverage and analysis of cross-cutting themes also appear to be a weaker point, with 27 evaluations falling into the 'Partially' category. Gender issues were the most frequently and thoroughly covered⁵ with fewer reports addressing human rights and leave no one behind. Even though most PBF projects focus on vulnerable populations affected by conflict, it is important for evaluations to consider if the interventions are inclusive of the most marginalized groups (including those with disabilities, youth, the elderly, single-parent households, LGBTI+, refugee and displaced peoples) and the extent to which they were carried out with a human rights lens.

A key priority for UNPBF is the peacebuilding change aspects of funded projects. The *Synthesis Review: PBF Projects and Portfolio Evaluations 2017-2019* noted that *“Effectiveness is interpreted differently across the evaluations, sometimes more as general development effectiveness rather than peacebuilding effectiveness, which requires engaging drivers of conflict and peace as identified in a conflict analysis.”* This was also the case in the 2022 evaluation reports whereby the analysis of *Effectiveness* was limited to output-level results in a substantial portion of reports, and the *Impact* criterion was used to address progress towards outcome-level results related to peacebuilding. The latter could have been further elaborated on in many cases and linked to the conflict analysis. As defined by OECD-DAC, the *Impact* criterion refers to the longer-term, higher-level and enduring effects of an intervention which would typically not be seen within the timeframe of PBF-funded projects. Therefore, in most cases, the discussions about outcome-level results for these projects would be better placed under the *Effectiveness* criterion.

Table 9 Ratings by Question - Findings

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
Findings marshal sufficient levels of evidence to systematically address all questions & criteria, including conflict-related issues	24	25	2	0
Explicit reference to the intervention's results framework/ToC.	45	6	0	0
Evaluation uses credible forms of qualitative and quantitative data.	28	23	0	0
Findings are clearly presented	35	14	2	0
Causal factors (contextual, organizational, managerial, etc.) and unintended results are clearly identified.	35	16	0	0
There is adequate coverage and analysis of x-cutting themes	24	27	0	0
Findings refer to and make use of the intervention's baseline and monitoring data, including perception surveys.	42	6	0	3

⁵ There is a more comprehensive discussion on gender equality and empowerment beginning on page 25.

Examples of good practice for Findings

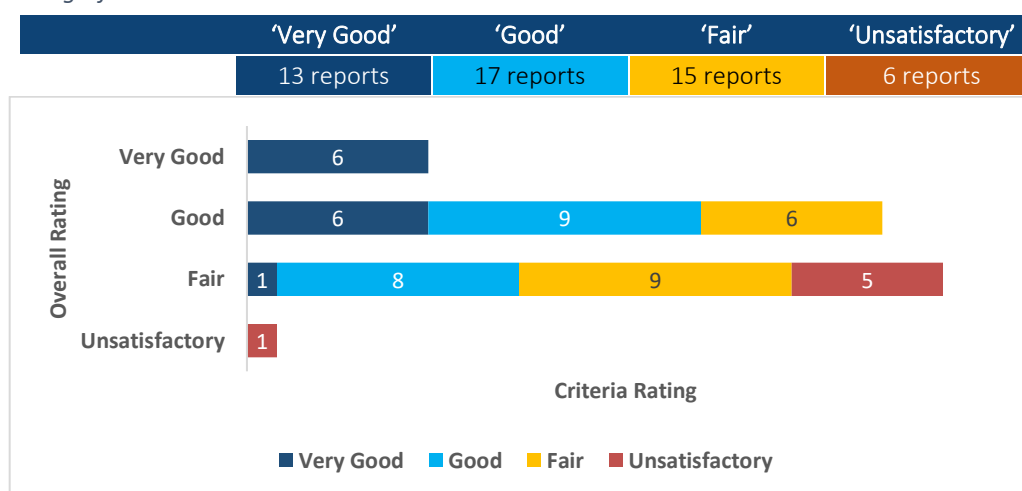
PBF/IRF-353 (354/355) Promotion d’une Transhumance Pacifique dans la Région du Liptako-Gourma (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger): The findings are supported by a strong evidence base that underwent a clear triangulation process. They are clearly presented through the use of numbered finding statements and highlight well the progression between outputs and outcome-level results. In doing so, they report on concrete peacebuilding outcomes, such as conflict mitigation among transboundary farmers following land damages linked to transhumance. In addition, the findings offer a thorough assessment of the reconstructed theory of change and its assumptions, which can be considered good practice.

PBF/IRF-299 (300) Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger: Findings are clearly presented and well-evidenced with the perspectives of different stakeholders brought out. The selective use of participant quotes to highlight peacebuilding progress under Impact is particularly useful.

PBF/GIN/A-13 Projet de Prévention des conflits intercommunautaires en Guinée forestière par une économie mutualisée et l’amélioration de la gouvernance foncière: This report is notable for using the results of the baseline and final perception surveys. Evaluators also applied a rating system to provide a numerical score for each criterion which boosted the amount of quantitative data provided. The analysis of gender equality is a clear strength of the report, especially in terms of women's access to land and their participation in local decision-making.

Section 6: Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Figure 10 Ratings for Conclusions and Lessons



As shown in figure 10, performance in the *Conclusion & Lessons* section had a strong correlation with the overall report ratings and the widest spread of ratings. This section also had the most reports rated as ‘Unsatisfactory’ (along with *Executive Summary*).

Table 10 below indicates that just half of the reports were assessed as having *Conclusions* that were clearly written and inclusive of cross-cutting themes. The **most common shortcoming was inadequate coverage of the cross-cutting themes that were addressed in the findings**. It is also expected that the conclusions

will provide a succinct but higher level of analysis of the main results of the evaluation, and just over half of the reports (53%) met this criterion. Issues included presenting findings-level information that was repetitive of, and did not add value to, the information provided in *Findings*. In some cases, there was a reiteration of the bolded key findings statements from the previous section. Another concern noted was that the conclusions were all framed in the past tense in a number of reports. It is good practice for conclusions to capture strengths and weaknesses of the intervention but to also be forward-looking and show opportunities to build upon in the future.

Most reports included a Lessons Learned section, although this is only a requirement of UNPBF evaluations if requested in the ToR. Of the 55 reports that had lessons, **30 (59%) met the stated expectations for lessons being clearly articulated and derived from the findings, and being applicable to other situations.**

Table 10 Rating by Question – Conclusions and Lessons Learned

	Yes	Partially	No	Not Rated
Conclusions are clearly formulated and reflect all of the criteria that were to be covered as well as the cross-cutting themes.	25	20	6	0
Conclusions add insight and analysis beyond the findings.	27	22	1	1
Identified lessons stem logically from the findings and have wider applicability and relevance beyond the object of the evaluation.	30	9	6	6

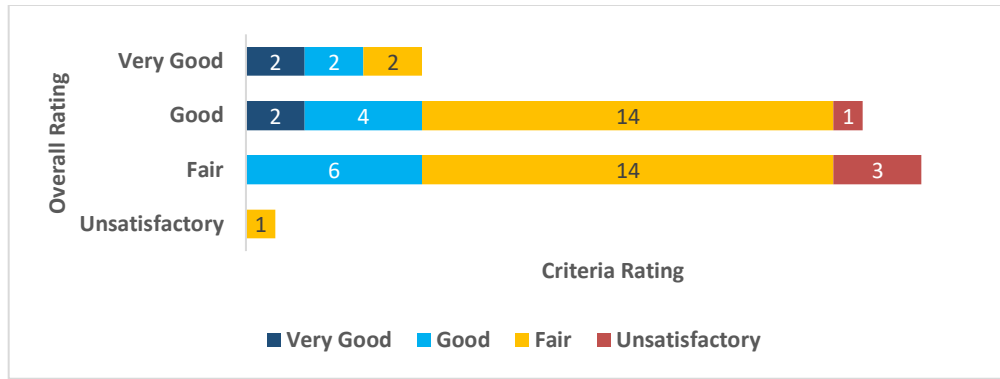
Example of good practice for Conclusions and Lessons Learned

PBF/IRF-284 Du projet d’appui à la participation citoyenne des jeunes et des femmes à la gouvernance locale et à la consolidation de la paix au Tchad: The conclusions successfully highlight strengths and weaknesses, are analytical, and connect well with the findings while addressing cross-cutting themes. The report also features very succinctly written lessons learned and good practices applicable to similar projects or contexts. An example of the former is, “*Endogenous and community-based conflict resolution mechanisms exist in both urban and rural environments. The strengthening and revitalization of the latter opens up a field for the participation of women and young people*”. Also notable is that best practices were developed with stakeholders.

Section 7: Recommendations

Figure 11 Ratings for Recommendations





The *Recommendations* section was **the second weakest areas in the 2022 portfolio with only four reports being rated as ‘Very Good’** and the majority, 31 (16%), being rated as ‘Fair’. Figure 11 also shows there was not a strong alignment between this section’s ratings and overall scores as within the six reports that had ‘Very Good’ overall ratings, two had ‘Fair’ ratings for Executive Summary.

In respect to the first question in Table 11, although most reports had recommendations that were clearly expressed and generally aligned with the findings/conclusions, a common issue was that shortcomings in cross-cutting themes identified in findings were not reflected in the recommendations. The second question assessed usefulness and feasibility and just 19 reports (37%) were rated as Yes. Those that did not get full points (a) did not provide enough detail or guidance for how the recommendations could be acted upon, (b) had an excessive number of recommendations (one report having over 70) which makes this section unwieldy and reduces its potential usefulness to decision-maker, and/or (c) had a recommendation on pursuing further PBF-funding which is not realistic given that this is a one-time funding window. However, the most common shortcoming concerned identifying the stakeholder that would be responsible for implementing the recommendation - only 14 reports (27%) did this.

Table 11 Ratings by Question - Recommendations

	Yes	Partially	No
Recommendations align with the evaluation purpose, are clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings and conclusions. They address any major weaknesses identified in the findings, including in addressing cross-cutting themes.	29	21	1
Recommendations are useful and realistic within the peacebuilding (and PBF) context. They are actionable for primary intended users and uses (specific and relevant to the intervention); guidance is given for implementation, as appropriate.	19	31	1
Clear identification of stakeholders responsible for action for each recommendation (i.e., PBF, fund recipient, government counterpart and including the lead if multiple actors responsible).	14	26	11

Examples of good practice in Recommendations

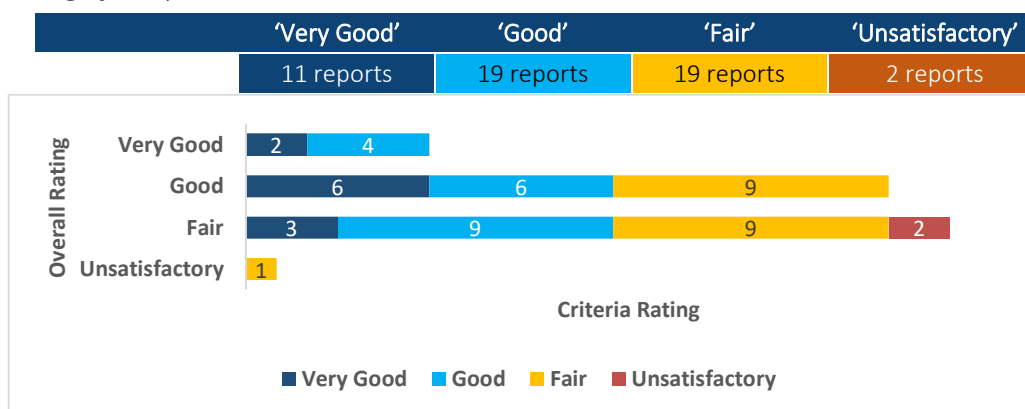
PBF/IRF-299 (300) Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger: Recommendations in this report are clearly formulated. They are based on findings and conclusions and identify the respective findings. They come with adequate guidance to be implemented and are directed towards intended users. As per good practice, the introduction to this section notes that the recommendations were discussed with stakeholders prior to their inclusion in the report.

PBF/IRF-319 Liberia Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and gender responsive budgeting: This report provides a good model for effective presentation of recommendations.

Conclusions	Recommendations	Responsible (s)	Priority
<p>Conclusion 1 Based on findings 1, 10, 12</p>	<p>1.1 UN Women, OHCHR and Donor (PBF) should conduct a vulnerable and marginalized group assessment in the counties and communities targeted by WPS interventions. The findings should inform the design of an appropriate marginalized group and vulnerable strategy & plan that will inform further programming on how WPS projects will involve PWDs and marginalized women & men at various levels. Refer to available UN guidelines and examples:</p> <p><i>VMGF guideline led by UN Women for inspiration:</i> https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2020/03/ap-COVID-19_Community-Engagement_130320.pdf</p> <p><i>UN Guide one LNOB principles:</i> https://unsdg.un.org/resources/leaving-no-one-behind-unsdg-operational-guide-un-country-teams</p>	<p>UN Women OHCHR Ministry of Gender</p>	<p>Immediate</p>

Section 8. Report Structure and Presentation

Figure 12 Ratings for Report Structure and Presentation



The readability and usefulness of an evaluation report are often a function of good structure and presentation. Just 11 reports (21%) received a 'Very Good' rating by meeting most all of the criteria for

this section, and there was not a strong correlation between the overall report and section ratings (figure 12).

As shown in Table 12, although most were reasonably well written, had a logical structure, and were easy to navigate, there are areas for improvement. Just 30 reports included the required information in the opening pages (the project number was frequently missing) and only about the same number were a reasonable length (the preferred maximum for project evaluations being 50 pages for the main body of the report).

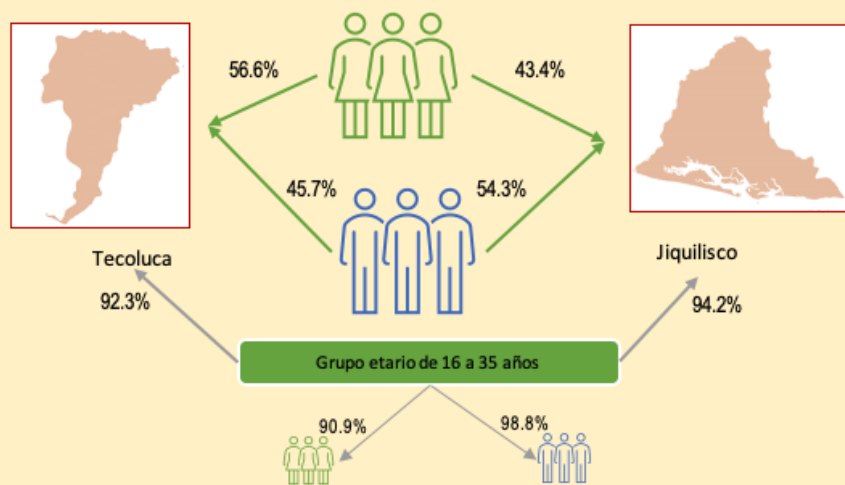
The area with the highest number of non-conforming reports was the completeness of the annexes. **Only 17 reports (33%) had all of the minimally required elements, and several did not include any annexes.** The most commonly missing elements were the evaluation terms of reference, evaluation matrix, and data collection tools. Another frequent weakness was underutilization of visual aids such as graphs, charts, and infographics to convey key information. These were also expected to be labeled and referenced in the text. Just 21 reports (21%) fully met this criterion.

Table 12 Ratings by Question – Report Structure and Presentation

	Yes	Partially	No
Opening pages include name and project number of evaluated object	30	21	0
Annexes should include terms of reference, evaluation matrix, list of stakeholder groups participating as informants, results framework/program logic, documents consulted	17	23	11
Structure is easy to identify and navigate	38	12	1
Structure follows an easily discernible logical flow.	41	9	1
Report is of reasonable length	33	7	11
Report is easy to understand	38	10	3
Frequent use of well-chosen visual aids	21	30	0

Examples of good practice in use of visual aids

PBF/IRF-414 Juventudes Salvadoreñas construyendo paz y resiliencia: Derecho a la ciudadanía participativa e incidencia en los municipios de Jiquilisco y Tecoluca: This is a well-formatted report that makes extensive use of visual aids throughout the document, one of which is shown here and is explained in the text of that report.



Performance on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The three criteria of the UN-SWAP Evaluation Scorecard on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)⁶, shown in Figure 14, are included in the EQA template. This enables all evaluation reports to be assessed on how well gender equality concerns were integrated into the evaluation scope of analysis and methodology, as well as into findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Although UNPBF does not report on the scores for the integration of GEWE in evaluations of interventions it funds⁷ – that is the responsibility of implementing partners that are part of the UN system that commission evaluations – UNPBF is interested in understanding the extent to which its portfolio of funded projects is gender responsive.

⁶ The UN System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) is part of the accountability framework for coordination of gender mainstreaming in the UN system. It is also referred to as Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).

⁷ As with all other UN entities, PBF reports on UN-SWAP performance overall. However, for evaluations, it only reports on gender scores for those it directly commissions, such as strategic and thematic evaluations.

Each criterion is given a rating of ‘Fully Integrated’ (3 points), ‘Satisfactorily Integrated’ (2 points), ‘Partially Integrated’ (1 point) or ‘Not at all integrated’ (0 points). These scores are then tallied to arrive at the UN-SWAP score. As per UN-SWAP terminology, evaluations with 7 to 9 points are seen as ‘Meeting Requirements’, those with 4 to 6 points are seen as ‘Approaching Requirements’, and 3 or fewer are considered to be ‘Missing Requirements’.

There was mixed success in achieving expectations. As shown in figure 13, **26 reports (51%) ‘Met Requirements’, 23 (45%) ‘Approached Requirements’, and 2 (4%) reports were rated as ‘Misses Requirements’.**

Figure 13 GEWE ratings

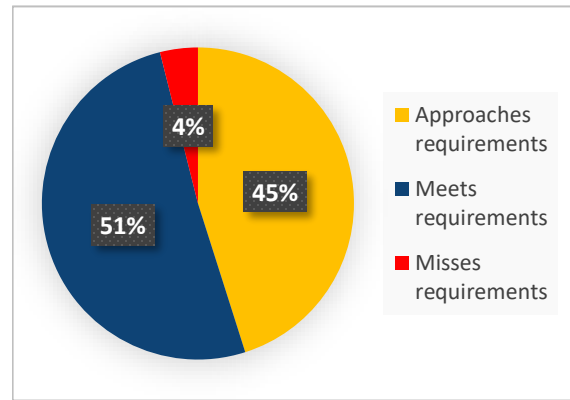


Figure 14 Ratings by GEWE Criterion

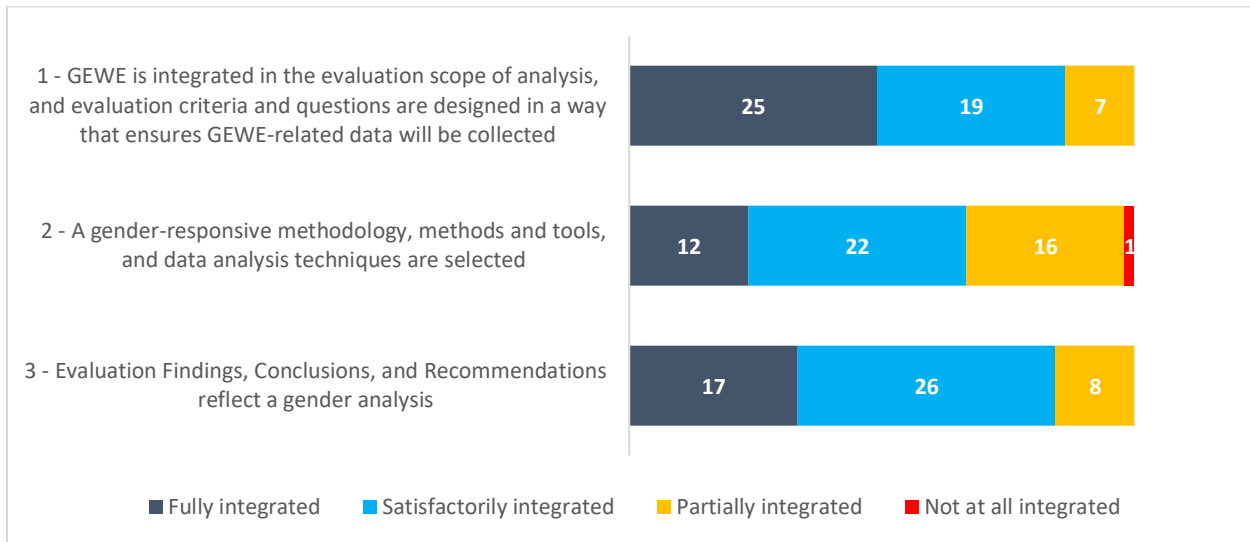
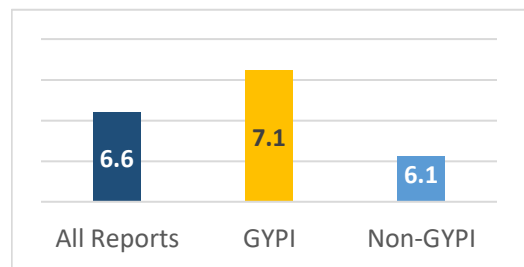


Figure 14 above presents data on the number of reports fully, satisfactorily, or partially integrating gender components by criterion. It shows that the evaluations scored lower, on average, on Criterion 2 – Gender responsive methodology. The performance for Criteria 1 and 3 were similar. A factor in the lower ratings for Criterion 2 is the scant explanation in many reports of the methodology used. The expectation is that that evaluators will be clear about how the evaluation process was gender sensitive, including how participant safety and ethical considerations were addressed and how the perspectives of the most vulnerable women (and girls where relevant) were sought. It is also important for the number of participants to be gender disaggregated.

In terms of numeric scores, the average GEWE score for the portfolio (based on the UN-SWAP 9-point scale described above) was 6.6. As would be expected, the evaluations of GYPI projects performed better with an

Figure 15 Average GEWE scores



average of 7.1 (figure 15). Table 13 lists the five reports that achieved the top score of 9, and three of these were of GYPI projects.

Table 13 Top rated evaluations for GEWE

	Lead Agency	GYPI
PBF/IRF-346 (347) Cross-border Engagement between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to Strengthen Social Cohesion and Border Security	UNDP	No
PBF/IRF-319 Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting	UN-Women	Yes
PBF/IRF-417 Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project	Cordaid	Yes
PBF/IRF-310 Appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020	UNICEF	Yes
PBF/MDG/B-2 Renforcement de Mecanisme Institutionnel Inclusif Pour la Consolidation de la Paix dans le Sud	UNDP	No

The evaluation of **PBF/GIN/A-13 Projet de Prévention des conflits intercommunautaires en Guinée forestière par une économie mutualisée et l'amélioration de la gouvernance foncière** was also notable, particularly for covering peacebuilding aspects from a gender perspective. This included women's access to land and their participation in local decision-making. The analysis referred to PBF's Gender Marker 2 and also included a number of quotes/testimonies from female participants that effectively illustrated the peacebuilding outcomes, including:

Before, everyone lived separately and didn't socialize with each other, and we didn't have land to work on. With the project, we work together, we eat together, we get to know each other better. This also helped to reduce tensions and conflicts between us. The project allowed us to have paid activities together, which would be difficult without union. This is what we are looking for: "peace to work". Regarding access to land, the people of the village are well informed that women now have the right to inheritance, before widows could not inherit the land of their late husband nor that of their family of origin . . . now we know it's possible. [testimony of a female beneficiary]

Performance on Disability Inclusion

The 2019 United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and its associated accountability framework has an indicator for evaluation. This assesses the extent to which *"an entity considers disability inclusion in all phases of the evaluation process and in every type of evaluation that it does"*.

As with UNSWAP ratings for GEWE, UNPBF does not report on UNDIS results for evaluations it does not directly commission as that is also the responsibility of the implementing UN agency. The current PBF template does not integrate a rating for disability inclusion into the overall scoring for the evaluation; it does, however, include a space for the EQA reviewers to indicate if persons with disabilities were considered in any way. As shown in Figure 16, **nine evaluations (18%) were assessed as being disability inclusive, and 14% were partially so.** Table 14 below highlights those that demonstrated good practice in this regard.

Figure 16 Ratings for Disability Inclusion

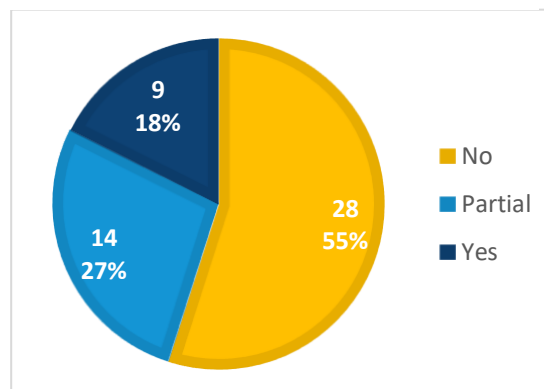


Table 14 Disability inclusive evaluations

PBF/IRF-346 (347) Cross-border Engagement between Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia to Strengthen Social Cohesion and Border Security: The evaluation is partially disability inclusive in its design and methodology. It includes a specific analysis on Effectiveness and Fundamental Rights that discuss persons with disabilities.
PBF/IRF-417 Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project: The report specifically notes the lack of disability considerations in the project’s design and includes a recommendation to address this gap.
PBF/IRF-299 (300) Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger: Disability is considered as a cross-cutting criterion which assesses both the involvement of people with disabilities and the effectiveness of accounting for their specific interests.
PBF/IRF-288 Pérenniser la paix en Tunisie par l’inclusion des jeunes au niveau local: Disability inclusion is evident in the evaluation matrix and findings, with the findings noting key activities to support accessibility and an outcome related to increased participation of persons with disabilities in community activities.
PBF/IRF-334 Vers une mise en oeuvre inclusive de l’accord de paix en République Centrafricaine: Disability inclusion is addressed through a specific question, as a cross-cutting theme, and integrated into findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
PBF/IRF-414 Juventudes Salvadoreñas construyendo paz y resiliencia: Derecho a la ciudadanía participativa e incidencia en los municipios de Jiquilisco y Tecoluca: The evaluation includes persons with disabilities in the sample, and their perspectives are integrated into the findings.
PBF/TCD/A-2 Empowering vulnerable young people in central Chad to become agents of peacebuilding: The evaluation includes a question considering people in vulnerable situations, and recommends that future programming consider all social strata, including people with disabilities.
PBF/IRF-319 Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting: The analysis considers the extent to which the project was disability inclusive.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The 51 evaluations undertaken in 2022 for PBF-supported projects varied considerably in the extent to which they aligned with quality standards for evaluations. Just over half met the threshold for ‘Good’ with six being exemplary (rated as ‘Very Good’) for the way in which they were carried out and presented. In respect to performance by geographic area, lead agency, and type of intervention, the evaluations conducted in Central Africa had the highest ratings. For the most part, those led by UN entities did better,

particularly those led by UNICEF. The GYPI projects had slightly lower overall ratings but did significantly better in meeting the requirements for gender responsiveness. The portfolio as a whole did not excel in its coverage of cross-cutting themes; few explicitly addressed the human rights aspects of the assessed projects, just over half met expectations for gender responsiveness, and just one third considered persons with disabilities.

Beyond the cross-cutting components, the portfolio mostly aligned with the UNEG norms and standards for evaluation but was less successful in meeting the additional expectations that PBF has for evaluations of its funded projects. Although there were notable exceptions, and examples of good practices are highlighted throughout the *Findings*, shortcomings were apparent in the extent to which the peacebuilding context and intended peacebuilding results were addressed, and in meeting some aspects of methodological rigour.

Recommendation Area 1: Implementing partners and evaluators should be encouraged to attend to the following issues when conducting evaluations of PBF-funded projects:

- a) Being more precise in articulating the underlying assumptions and how the project activities were expected to lead to the various levels of peacebuilding results in the theory of change, and then using and testing the theory of change in the analysis.
- b) Having a manageable number of evaluation questions (in the range of one to three per evaluation criterium) so that each can be fully addressed and substantiated by multiple sources of evidence (triangulated); and using the questions to structure the *Findings* section of the evaluation report.
- c) Providing more detail in the methodological approach overall, including in how sampling and data analysis were carried out and in how the process was inclusive and conflict sensitive, and took into account UNEG ethical principles and a Do No Harm Approach.
- d) Attaching evaluation matrices to the final report to show that a systematic approach was used to structure the evaluation process including in how progress was measured and sources of evidence for triangulating findings.
- e) Incorporating Conflict-Sensitivity and the PBF-specific criteria of Catalytic, Time-sensitivity, and Risk Tolerance & innovation, along with the relevant OECD-DAC criteria in the evaluation framework.
- f) Looking more closely at peacebuilding effectiveness, which requires engaging drivers of conflict and peace as identified in a conflict analysis (the latter being expected in the background section of the report).
- g) Ensuring human rights, gender equality, leave-no one behind, and disability inclusion are adequately covered.
- h) Ensuring recommendations directed to PBF are realistic and in line with the Fund's mandate.
- i) Including crisp Executive Summaries so that peacebuilding results and recommendations are concisely articulated, and of maximum utility to decision makers.
- j) Being clearer on alignment of the intervention with the PBF Priority Windows - Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI)/Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), cross-border, or transition windows

Recommendation Area 2: To support further improvement in evaluations of funded projects, it is recommended that PBF:

- a) Consider revising the PBF EQA template so that issues specific to PBF have their own sub-questions (in sections where this is relevant) and are not combined with other expectations. This will make these requirements more apparent and enable a more effective analysis of the extent to which PBF-specific expectations have been met.
- b) Develop additional guidance that addresses the shortcomings found in this synthesis in addition to highlighting the examples of good practice. Such guidance should be concise and translated into French and English, and then shared along with the EQA template with implementing partners.

Annexes

Annex I. UNPBF 2022 Evaluation Report Ratings

Project number	Title of report	Country	Overall EQA Rating	GEWE Rating	DI Rating ⁸
PBF/KGZ/A-6	Final Evaluation Report "Inclusive Governance and Justice System for Preventing Violent Extremism"	Kyrgyz Republic	'Unsatisfactory'	Approaches requirement	No
PBF/KGZ/A-7	Final Evaluation of the joint project "Communities Resilient to Violent Ideologies"	Kyrgyzstan	'Good'	Approaches requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-359	Final Project Evaluation: Understanding and Dealing with Conflict Factors Along the Agadez Migration Routes (Niger)	Niger	'Fair'	Misses requirements	No
PBF/IRF-353 (354 / 355)	Évaluation finale du projet Promotion d'une Transhumance Pacifique dans la Région du Liptako-Gourma (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger)	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger	'Very Good'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-269	Evaluation of the project "Restoration of peace and dialogue between communities affected by cross-border transhumance" in the Central African Republic and Chad	(Central African Republic/Chad)	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-327	Final Evaluation Report and Perception Survey Foniké Project, Social Entrepreneurs For Peace In Guinea	Guinea	'Good'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-346 (347)	Cross-border Engagement between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to Strengthen Social Cohesion and Border Security	Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia	'Good'	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-357 (358)	Evaluation of "Support project for the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in the border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo"	Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo	'Fair'	Approaches requirement	No
PBF/IRF-308	Empowering women and girls affected by migration for inclusive and peaceful community development and peacebuilding	Kyrgyzstan	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/GIN/A-13	Projet de Prévention des conflits intercommunautaires en Guinée forestière par une économie mutualisée et l'amélioration de la gouvernance foncière, Rapport de l'évaluation finale	Guinea	'Good'	Approaches requirements	Partial

⁸ The ratings for Disability Inclusion (DI) were not calculated into the overall EQA ratings, and are only provided for information purposes.

PBF/GIN/B-9	Evaluation finale du projet de renforcement de la confrerie des chasseurs traditionnels (Donso) pour la protection de l'environnement et la cohésion sociale en Haute Guinée	Guinea	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/GMB/A-1	External Evaluation for the Project "Strengthening Holistic and Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia"	Gambia	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-307	Evaluación final del Proyecto Creando nuevas avenidas de resiliencia para sostener la paz desde las mujeres Kaqchiquel, Q'eqchi' y mestizas	Guatemala	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-309	Projet d'Appui à la Réduction de l'Instrumentalisation et des Violences Politico-Sociales des Jeunes Taxi-Motards en période Electorale	Guinea	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-319	Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)	Liberia	'Good'	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-341	Support to the Reintegration of Ex-FDIR Combatants and Dependents Repatriated to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in November 2018	Rwanda	'Fair'	Approaches requirement	Partial
PBF/IRF-366	Evaluación: "Proyecto: Diálogo de apoyo y construcción de Derechos Humanos por la Paz en Bolivia"	Bolivia	'Good'	Meets requirements	No
PBF/IRF-380	Projet Action Concertée des Jeunes Leaders Communautaires pour la Consolidation de la Paix et du Renforcement de la Cohésion Sociale en Guinée Forestière	Guinea	'Good'	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/HTI/B-1	Projet de renforcement des capacités des autorités nationales pour le contrôle des armes et des munitions	Haiti	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-389	Renforcement du leadership des femmes dans la prévention et lutte contre l'extrémisme violent, à travers la participation à la justice pénale, la promotion de la cohésion sociale et de l'identité culturelle	Mauritania	'Fair'	Meets requirements	No
PBF/IRF-406	Final Evaluation of the Project "Nô landa Djuntu: New leadership for meaningful participation, peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau"	Guinea-Bissau/West Africa	'Good'	Meets requirements	No

PBF/IRF-411	Protection and Support of Enabling Environments for Women and Human Rights Defenders in Liberia	Liberia	‘Good’	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-412	Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through Promoting Women Leadership and Participation in Civic and Political life and their Strengthened Role in Conflict Resolution	Liberia	‘Fair’	Meets requirements	Partial
PRB/IRF-415	Promouvoir la résolution pacifique des conflits à travers le renforcement du leadership des femmes dans les processus de prise de décision	Madagascar	‘Fair’	Meets requirements	No
PBF/IRF-417	Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project	Sierra Leone	‘Fair’	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-306	Evaluación del Proyecto UNJP/GUA/035/PBF “Construir la cohesión social de las comunidades que reciben jóvenes retornados como un puente hacia una reintegración pacífica y efectiva”	Guatemala	‘Good’	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-299 (300)	Final evaluation of the project "Support for cross-border initiatives of community dialogue with actors of the security and justice sector for the consolidation of peace in Mali and Niger"	Mali and Niger	‘Very Good’	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-273	Integrated Approach to Building Peace in Nigeria’s Farmer-Herder Crisis	Nigeria	‘Fair’	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-284	Évaluation sommative du projet d’appui à la participation citoyenne des jeunes et des femmes à la gouvernance locale et à la consolidation de la paix au Tchad (Décembre 2018 - juin 2022)	Chad	‘Very Good’	Meets requirements	No
PBF/IRF-288	Projet « Pérenniser la paix en Tunisie par l’inclusion des jeunes au niveau local »	Tunisia	‘Fair’	Approaches requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-310	Evaluation Sommative: Appui aux femmes leaders communautaires pour la prévention des éventuels conflits liés aux élections législatives et présidentielles de 2020 (Septembre 2019-Septembre 2021)	Guinea	‘Very Good’	Meets requirements	No
PBF /IRF 318	Terminal Evaluation for the Youth Action for Reduced Violence and Enhanced Social Cohesion Project in Wau, South Sudan	South Sudan	‘Fair’	Approaches requirement	No
PBF/IRF-320	Evaluation finale du projet REAP "Répondre aux menaces à la paix et à la cohésion sociale liées aux migrations non maîtrisées par l'appui à l'autonomisation et à la promotion des femmes à Madagascar"	Madagascar	‘Good’	Meets requirements	No
PBF/IRF-322	Empowering Yemeni Youth Towards Peace	Yemen	‘Fair’	Meets requirements	No

PBF/IRF-334	Evaluation finale de projet "vers une mise en oeuvre inclusive de l'accord de paix en Republique Centrafricaine"	Central African Republic	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	Yes
PBF/IRF-336	Evaluation finale du projet "Tanora Masoivohon'ny filaminana eto iarivo - Jeunes ambassadeurs de paix"	Madagascar	'Fair'	Misses requirements	Partial
PBF/IRF-340	Evaluación Del Desarrollo Del Proyecto Participación: Mujeres Jóvenes Construyendo Paz En Urabá	Colombia	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-414	Evaluación final del proyecto "Juventudes Salvadoreñas construyendo paz y resiliencia: Derecho a la ciudadanía participativa e incidencia en los municipios de Jiquilisco y Tecoluca"	El Salvador	'Very Good'	Meets requirements	Yes
PBF/MDG/B-2	Evaluation Finale « Renforcement De Mecanisme Institutionnel Inclusif Pour La Consolidation De La Paix Dans Le Sud » (RMIIICPS)	Madagascar /Eastern Africa	'Good'	Meets requirements	No
PBF/MDG/D-1	Projet de prévention de la violence, de la délinquance juvénile et de l'insécurité dans les régions de Diana et Sava du Nord de Madagascar	Madagascar	'Good'	Approaches requirements	Partial
PBF/MRT/A-1	Consolidation de la paix à travers l'engagement des femmes et de la jeunesse et le renforcement des capacités des communautés dans la région frontalière du Hodh El Chargui	Mauritania	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/MRT/A-2	Evaluation Finale: Projet de consolidation de la paix à travers le renforcement de la cohésion sociale et l'amélioration de l'accès équitable aux ressources naturelles dans les zones frontalières du Guidimakha	Mauritania	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/TCD/A-2	Final evaluation of the project "Empowering vulnerable young people in central Chad to become agents of peacebuilding"	Chad	'Good'	Approaches requirements	Yes
PBF/CMR/A-2	Evaluation finale du projet PBF « Appui à la participation des femmes et des jeunes aux initiatives de consolidation de la paix, de renforcement des mécanismes de cohésion sociale et de vivre ensemble au Cameroun »	Cameroon	'Very Good'	Meets requirements	No
PBF/MDG/B-3	Evaluation finale du projet CAP-MADAGASCAR Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)	Madagascar	'Fair'	Approaches requirements	No
PBF/IRF-404	Final Evaluation Of The Project To Promote The Participation Of Women In Peacebuilding Through The Paillotes Of Peace In Tanganyika	DRC	'Fair'	Meets requirements	No

PBF/PNG/ A-2	Sustaining Peace in Bougainville Project (2018-2022) & Post-Referendum Support Project (2019-2022) in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea / East Asia and Pacific	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/SLE/ D-2	Mitigating Localised Resource-Based Conflicts and Increasing Community Resilience in Pujehun and Moyamba Districts of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone/West Africa	'Good'	Approaches requirement	No
PBF/SLB/E -1	Independent Evaluation of Inclusive Governance of Natural Resources for Greater Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/SSD/ A-2	Breaking the Cycle of Violence (BCV) – Rehabilitating Justice and Accountability mechanisms for the Transformation of Survivors and Perpetrators of Violent Conflict into Agents for Peace - 4th October 2019 to 3rd April, 2022 South Sudan	South Sudan/East Africa	'Good'	Meets requirements	Partial
PBF/CIV/ D1	Les Jeunes comme moteurs de prevention des discours de haine et des conflits socio-politiques et communautaires	Cote d'Ivoire	'Fair'	Meets requirements	No

Annex 2. UNPBF Evaluation Quality Assessment Template (used for 2022 reviews)

PBF Evaluation Quality Assessment Tool

Version: 9-Dec-22

0

REPORT RATING SUMMARY

Overall Rating	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
•••• Very Good (90%+)	4	
•••- Good (75-89%)	3	
••-- Fair (50-74%)	2	
•--- Unsatisfactory (<50%)	1	

REPORT DETAILS

Title of report	
Project number	
Implementing organization(s)	
Year of report	2022
Coverage (countries/region)	
ToRs present	
Date of review	
Review firm	DeftEdge

CLASSIFICATION OF EVALUATION REPORT

Priority Area	
Implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue	
Coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict	
Revitalization of the economy and generation of immediate peace dividends	
Re-establishment of essential administrative services	

Evaluation object: Project

EQA Summary:

--

SECTION RATINGS

SECTION A:	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (weight 5%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 1.	Can the executive summary inform decision-making?		
i	Is clearly presented and reflects an analytical summary of conflict drivers and desired peacebuilding outcome (i.e., goes beyond activity-level reporting).		
ii	Includes all necessary elements (overview of the intervention, evaluation purpose, objectives and intended audience, evaluation methodology, key conclusions on findings, lessons learned if requested, key recommendations) as per the ToR. It serves as a standalone document that contains all the necessary information to inform decision-making. It does not introduce new information from what is presented in the rest of the report.		
iii	Is of relevant conciseness and depth for key users (Maximum of 5 pages unless otherwise specified in ToR).		
SECTION B:	BACKGROUND (weight 5%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 2.	Is the object of the evaluation clearly described?		
i	Clear and relevant description of the intervention including objective(s), location(s), timelines, cost/budget, and implementation status (including any extensions and rationale for why extension was granted). Reference is given to whether the project is part of one of the PBF priority windows: Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI)/Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), cross-border, or transitions.		
ii	Clear and relevant description of intended beneficiaries, in terms of numbers reached, with disaggregation by location, gender, age . . . (as appropriate to the purpose of the evaluation). Also includes clear and relevant description (where appropriate) of the status and needs of the rightsholders/beneficiaries of the intervention. Their needs and interests in relation to peacebuilding are apparent.		
Question 3.	Is the context of the intervention clearly described, including the conflict drivers being addressed?		

	i	Clear and relevant description of the context of the intervention, including a conflict analysis that addresses the conflict setting and conflict drivers and manifestations, as well as other key issues (i.e., policy, socio-economic, political, cultural, power/privilege, institutional, international factors).		
	ii	Linkages drawn to national peacebuilding plans and PBF Strategic Results Framework (for interventions funded after 2020, if applicable).		
Question 4.		Are key stakeholders, their relationships and contributions clearly identified?		
	i	Identification of implementing agency(ies), national implementing partners, local communities, social institutions, and other stakeholders.		
	ii	Identification of the specific contributions and roles of, key stakeholders including, the different implementing UN agencies if more than one is involved. Where relevant, the linkages between stakeholders is also made clear (e.g., stakeholder map).		
SECTION C:		EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE (weight 5%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 5.		Is the purpose of the evaluation clearly described?		
	i	Purpose of evaluation is clearly defined, including key intended uses and users.		
	ii	Clear and complete description of evaluation objectives, which should include assessment of the results related to peacebuilding. Any changes made to the objectives included in the ToR are explained.		
Question 6.		Is the scope of the evaluation clear and realistic?		
	i	Clear and relevant description of the scope of the evaluation: what will and will not be covered (thematically, chronologically, geographically with key terms defined), as well as, if applicable, the reasons for this scope. The intent to consider peacebuilding /conflict mitigation should be clear.		
	ii	Stakeholder participation in the implementation of the evaluation process is discussed.		
Question 7.		Is the theory of change, results chain or logic well articulated?		
	i	Clear description of the intervention's intended objectives / main results.		
	ii	Causal relationship between outputs and outcomes is presented in narrative and/or graphic form (e.g., results chain, logic model, theory of change). The presentation incorporates conflict dynamics, including the drivers of conflict the project aims to address.		
	iii	The theory of change is assessed and, if required by the ToR, it is reformulated/improved by the evaluators. Assumptions are clearly articulated and are assessed for validity by evaluators.		
SECTION D:		EVALUATION DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY (weight 25%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 8.		Does the evaluation use questions and the relevant evaluation criteria that are appropriate for the purpose of the evaluation, including PBF-specific criteria? Evaluations of PBF-funded projects are to cover the OECD/DAC criteria of Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Ownership, Coherence, and Conflict-sensitivity. Further, as specified in the ToRs, the PBF-specific criteria of Catalytic, Time-sensitivity, and Risk tolerance & innovation are to be included as standalone criteria or integrated into the above.		
	i	Evaluation questions and sub-questions are appropriate for meeting the objectives and purpose of the evaluation, particularly those related to conflict and peacebuilding. The relevant criteria are specified and are aligned with the questions.		
	ii	In addition to the questions and sub-questions, the evaluation matrix includes data sources and methods.		
Question 9.		Does the report specify adequate methods for data collection, analysis, and sampling?		
	i	Evaluation design and set of methods are relevant and adequately robust for the evaluation's purpose, objectives, and scope; and are fully and clearly described (including the rationale for selection of tools). Stakeholder groups are engaged in multiple ways to support triangulation (i.e., data collection goes beyond KIIs for government officials/ implementers and FGDs for beneficiaries).		
	ii	Data sources are appropriate and adequate- these would normally include qualitative and quantitative sources (unless otherwise specified in the ToR) - and are all clearly described.		
	iii	Sampling strategy is provided - it should include a description of how diverse perspectives are captured (or, if not, provide reasons for this).		
	iv	Clear and complete description of the methods of analysis.		
	v	Methodology allows for drawing causal connections between outputs and expected outcomes, including capturing how the intervention has contributed to peacebuilding change.		
	vi	Clear and complete description of limitations and constraints faced by the evaluation, including those related to security-related travel limitations, availability and adequacy of baseline or monitoring data, or other gaps in the evidence that was generated and mitigation of bias, and how these were addressed by the evaluators (as feasible).		
	vii	Clear description of how the methodology was responsive to human rights, gender equality, and leave no one behind.		

Question 10.	Are ethical issues and considerations described? The evaluation should be guided by the ethical standards for evaluation.		
i	Conflict sensitivity is described and is apparent within the conduct of the evaluation (i.e., is there evidence that the evaluators considered conflict dynamics when engaging stakeholders, and ensured no one was put risk; are questions framed in a way that is sensitive to local conflict factors; are power dynamics amongst participants taken into account?) Other ethical safeguards appropriate for the issues relevant to methodology are also described (i.e., confidentiality, data security, respect for dignity and diversity, right to self-determination, fair representation, do no harm approach when consulting beneficiaries and particularly minors and vulnerable groups).		
SECTION E:	EVALUATION FINDINGS (weight 25%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 11.	Do the findings clearly address all evaluation objectives and scope?		
i	Findings marshal sufficient information to systematically address all of the evaluation's questions, sub-questions, and criteria (including conflict-related issues).		
ii	Explicit reference to the intervention's results framework/ToC in the formulation of the findings.		
Question 12.	Are evaluation findings clearly presented? Are they derived from the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of the best available, objective, reliable and valid data and by accurate quantitative and qualitative analysis of evidence?		
i	Evaluation uses credible forms of qualitative and quantitative data. It presents both output and outcome-level data as relevant to the evaluation framework. Triangulation is evident through the use of multiple data sources.		
ii	Findings are clearly presented. They are supported by, and respond to, the evidence presented, including both positive and negative. Findings are based on clear performance indicators, standards, benchmarks, or other means of comparison as relevant for each question. There is an indepth level of analysis of outcome-level results in particular.		
iii	Causal factors (contextual, organizational, managerial, etc.) leading to achievement or non-achievement of results are clearly identified in the analysis. Unintended results, and the reasons for these, are also considered.		
iv	There is adequate coverage and analysis of cross-cutting themes – human rights, gender equality, and leave no one behind. Disaggregated data is presented to show differential results (distribution of results across different groups) as relevant to the intervention.		
Question 13.	Does the evaluation assess and use the intervention's Results Based Management elements?		
i	Findings refer to and make use of the intervention's baseline and monitoring data, including mid-line, end-line and perception surveys.		
SECTION F:	EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED (weight 15%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 14.	Do the conclusions clearly present an objective overall assessment of the intervention?		
i	Conclusions are clearly formulated and reflect all of the criteria that were to be covered as well as the cross-cutting themes. They are derived appropriately from the findings, clearly presenting the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention. They do not introduce new information.		
ii	Conclusions add insight and analysis beyond the findings. They reflect the purpose and objectives of the evaluation and are sufficiently forward looking (if a formative evaluation or if the implementation is expected to continue or have additional phase).		
Question 15.	Are logical and informative lessons learned identified? [N/A if lessons are not presented and not requested in ToR]		
i	Identified lessons stem logically from the findings and have wider applicability and relevance beyond the object of the evaluation. They are clearly and concisely presented yet have sufficient detail to be useful for organizational learning.		
SECTION G:	RECOMMENDATIONS (weight 10%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 16.	Are recommendations well grounded in the evaluation?		
i	Recommendations align with the evaluation purpose, are clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings and conclusions. They address any major weaknesses identified in the findings, including in addressing cross-cutting themes.		
ii	Recommendations are useful and realistic within the peacebuilding (and PBF) context. They are actionable for primary intended users and uses (specific and relevant to the intervention); guidance is given for implementation, as appropriate.		
Question 17.	Are recommendations clearly presented?		
i	Clear identification of stakeholders responsible for action for each recommendation (i.e., PBF, fund recipient, government counterpart and including the lead if multiple actors responsible).		
SECTION H:	REPORT STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATION (weight 5%)	#DIV/0!	Comments on Rating
Question 18.	Does the evaluation report include all relevant information?		

	i	Opening pages include name and project number of evaluated object, timeframe of the evaluation, date of report, location of evaluated object, names and/or organization(s) of the evaluator(s), name of organization commissioning the evaluation, table of contents - including, as relevant, tables, graphs, figures, annexes; list of acronyms/abbreviations, page numbers.		
	ii	Annexes should include terms of reference, evaluation matrix, list of stakeholder groups participating as informants (numbers of participants disaggregated by stakeholder group, and gender, if latter not provided in methodology section), results chain/ToC/logical framework (unless included in report body), data collection instruments (such as survey or interview questionnaires), list of documentary evidence - unless otherwise specified in the ToR. Other appropriate annexes could include additional details on methodology, information about the evaluator(s), etc.		
Question 19.		Is the report logically structured?		
	i	Structure is easy to identify and navigate (for instance, with numbered sections, clear titles and sub-titles, well formatted).		
	ii	Structure follows an easily discernible logical flow. Context, purpose, and methodology would normally precede findings, which would normally be followed by conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations.		
Question 20.		Is the report well presented?		
	i	Report is of reasonable length; it does not exceed number of pages that may be specified in ToR. If not specified, project evaluations should not exceed 50 pages, and portfolio evaluations should not exceed 60 pages.		
	ii	Report is easy to understand (written in accessible way for intended audience) and generally free from grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors. Respectful language is used.		
	iii	Frequent use of well-chosen visual aids (such as infographics, maps, tables, figures) to convey key information. These are clearly presented, labeled, and referenced in text.		
SECTION I:		UN-SWAP (weight 5%)	0%	
Question 21.		Does the evaluation meet UN SWAP evaluation performance indicators? (Note: this question will be rated according to UN SWAP standards with detail provided below)	0	
	i	GEEW is integrated in the evaluation scope of analysis, and evaluation criteria and questions are designed in a way that ensures GEEW-related data will be collected.		
	ii	A gender-responsive methodology, methods and tools, and data analysis techniques are selected.		
	iii	The evaluation Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations reflect a gender analysis.		
Disability Inclusion		Evaluation is disability inclusive in respect to (a) its overall design, (b) methodology, and (c) analysis. [This element is not rated.]	Not Rated	

SWAP Rating Guidance

<p>i GEEW is integrated in the Evaluation Scope of analysis, and evaluation criteria and questions are designed in a way that ensures GEEW-related data will be collected.</p> <p>a. Does the evaluation assess whether sufficient information was collected during the implementation period on specific result indicators to measure progress on human rights and gender equality results?</p> <p>b. Does the evaluation include an objective specific to assessment of human rights and gender equality considerations or was it mainstreamed in other objectives?</p> <p>c. Was a standalone criterion on gender and/or human rights included in the evaluation framework or mainstreamed into other evaluation criteria?</p> <p>d. Is there a dedicated evaluation question or sub-question regarding how GEEW was integrated into the subject of the evaluation?</p>
<p>ii A gender-responsive methodology, methods and tools, and data analysis techniques are selected.</p> <p>a. Does the evaluation specify how gender issues are addressed in the methodology, including: how data collection and analysis methods integrate gender considerations and ensure data collected is disaggregated by sex?</p> <p>b. Does the evaluation methodology employ a mixed-methods approach, appropriate to evaluating GEWE considerations?</p> <p>c. Are a diverse range of data sources and processes employed (i.e. triangulation, validation) to guarantee inclusion, accuracy and credibility?</p> <p>d. Does the evaluation methods and sampling frame address the diversity of stakeholders affected by the intervention, particularly the most vulnerable, where appropriate?</p> <p>e. Were ethical standards considered throughout the evaluation and were all stakeholder groups treated with integrity and respect for confidentiality?</p>
<p>iii The evaluation Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations reflect a gender analysis.</p> <p>a. Does the evaluation have a background section that includes an intersectional analysis of the specific social groups affected by the issue or spell out the relevant normative instruments or policies related to human rights and gender equality?</p> <p>b. Do the findings include data analysis that explicitly and transparently triangulates the voices of different social role groups, and/or disaggregates quantitative data, where applicable?</p> <p>c. Are unanticipated effects of the intervention on human rights and gender equality described?</p> <p>d. Does the evaluation report provide specific recommendations addressing GEWE issues, and priorities for action to improve GEWE or the intervention or future initiatives in this area?</p>