

PBF Investments in Advancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Peacebuilding

Introduction

Overview

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) responds to country requests for support to diverse conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, including those focused on urgent and often neglected needs for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). From 2017 to 2024, the **PBF invested** over **\$61 million** across **47 projects** in **21 countries** for **MHPSS-related activities in peacebuilding**, with cumulative project budgets totaling **\$115.8 million**.

PBF Funding in Focus

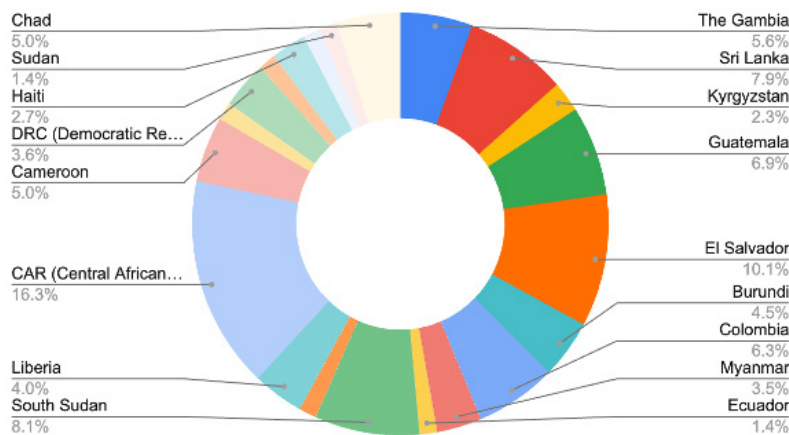
- **7 years** of PBF-funded MHPSS-focused programmes (2017-2024)
- **47 projects** advancing MHPSS integration in peacebuilding
- **21 countries in 4 regions** achieved MHPSS outcomes
- **19 implementing partners** representing UN and CSOs
- **\$61 million** invested in MHPSS outcomes to date
- **\$115 million** in project support from the PBF

The PBF has been largely supporting MHPSS efforts as part of programming focused on improving **social cohesion**, supporting **access to justice** for survivors and protection of victims, supporting the community **reintegration** of former combatants, **preventing violent extremism**, and **empowering youth and women** to act as agents of peace locally and nationally.

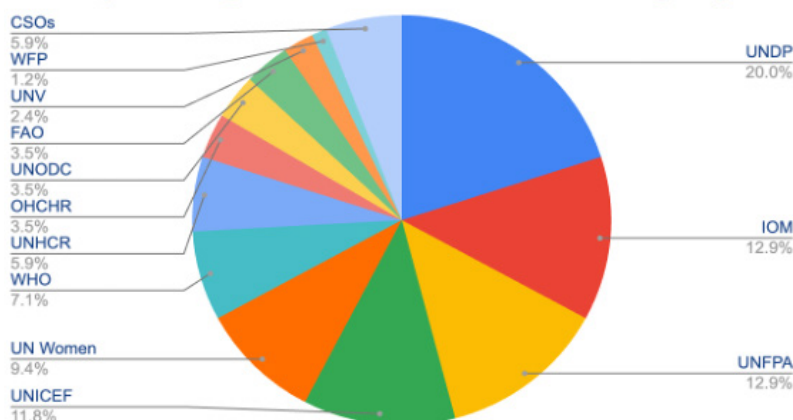
“Before the project, our wounds spoke louder than our voices. Now, we meet those we once feared and plan markets together.”

- Youth Participant in Sibut, CAR (PBF/IRF- 467)

Percentage of PBF Funding for MHPSS by Country

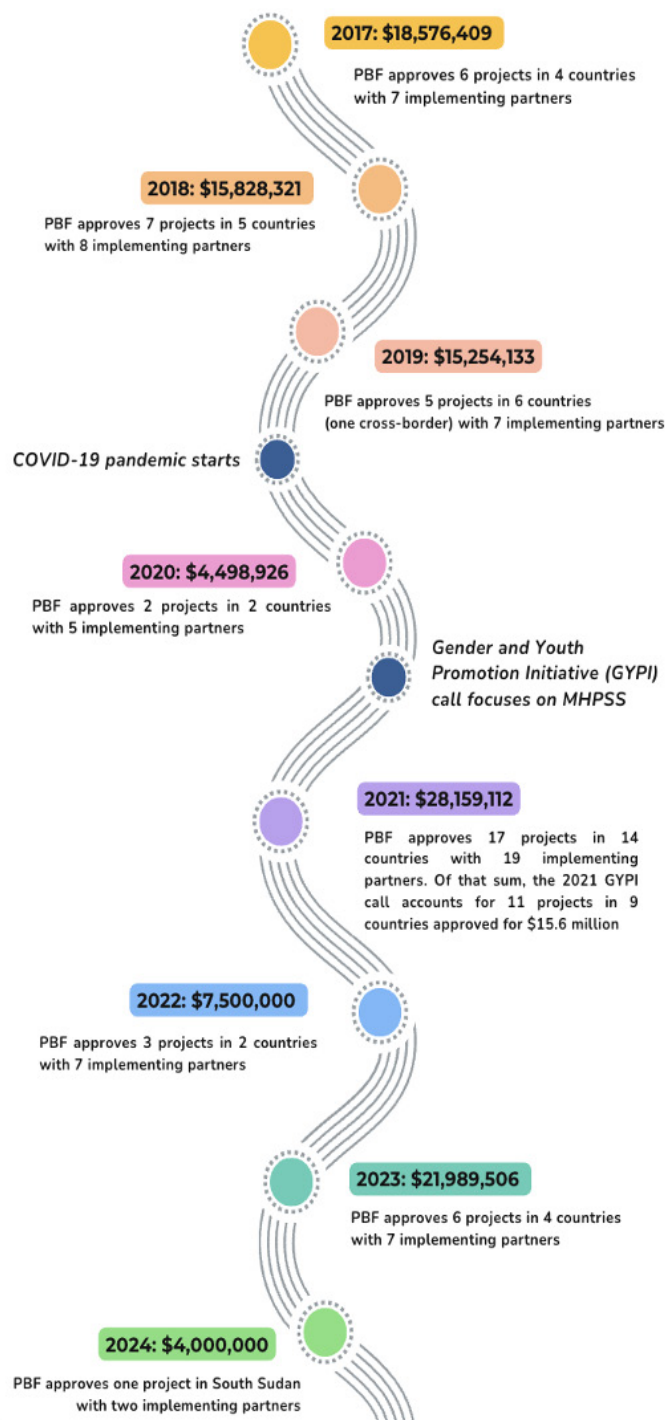


PBF Implementing Partners in MHPSS Peacebuilding Projects



Photos: Youth-led meeting in Sibut, Central African Republic

PBF Funding MHPSS



Approaches to MHPSS in Peacebuilding

MHPSS offers a strong entry point for peacebuilding, by linking mental health and psychosocial support services with community stability, norm shifting, institutional strengthening, and trust and confidence building. Several ways that PBF-funded projects have achieved MHPSS outcomes in peacebuilding include:

- Strengthening resilience among survivors and supporting individual and collective healing from GBV and conflict-related trauma.
- Supporting displaced populations and facilitating reintegration of returnees and former combatants, including through MHPSS and socioeconomic empowerment.
- Shaping conflict- and culturally-sensitive, gender-responsive MHPSS service delivery.
- Creating safe spaces for peer-to-peer recovery in conflict-affected communities.
- Empowering local youth and women to lead community-based MHPSS and peacebuilding efforts.
- Reinforcing justice systems for trauma-sensitive justice and reconciliation processes.

Good Practices and Enabling Factors for MHPSS Integration in Peacebuilding

1. **Link MHPSS activities with socioeconomic support** to strengthen peace dividends and address conflict drivers.
2. **Enable community-level leadership for trauma healing by centering women, youth and traditional leaders.** MHPSS actions that are rooted in local contexts, engage local leaders and value traditional and culturally appropriate trauma healing enable community ownership and transform taboos.
3. **Engage government institutions in multi-sectoral partnerships with community members** in committees for oversight, project steering committees, or working groups for design and implementation.
4. **Establish long-term, scalable funding mechanisms for project continuity and sustained impact.** The integration of mental health into national budgets could sustain project results.



Photo: Focus group discussion with women in Burundi

“ When I joined the National Police, my goal was revenge but, with the trauma healing activities, I took the path of forgiveness. ”

- Woman Police Officer Participant, Burundi (PBF/IRF- 465)