



United Nations
Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Fund

UN Peacebuilding Fund

Youth Promotion Initiative I

Call for Concept Notes

Deadline for Submission of Concept Notes: 17 June 2016

1. Introduction

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is pleased to announce the launch of the Fund's first Youth Promotion Initiative 2016 (YPI). The initiative is an expression of the Fund's commitment to inclusive peacebuilding, recognizing the role of young people as central to the relevance and effectiveness of PBF's overall peacebuilding portfolio. Through this initiative, the Fund also seeks to advance the implementation of the recently adopted [Security Council Resolution 2250 \(2015\) on Youth, Peace and Security](#), which offers a new policy framework to support and engage young people as part of inclusive, participatory peacebuilding approaches.

Unlike past calls for proposals from PBF, this call solicits proposals from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as from UN organizations, in a selected group of eligible countries. This change responds to the recommendation of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture on empowering and including civil society in all activities related to sustaining peace and providing direct funding support to non-UN entities. It also fulfils the commitment of PBF in its [2014-2016 Business Plan](#) to directly finance NGOs. Through this approach, PBF seeks to capitalise on NGOs' broader networks and closer relationships to local populations and civil society in countries of concern, to enhance peacebuilding results.

2. Objectives

As per its [Terms of Reference](#), the PBF aims to *“support interventions of direct and immediate relevance to the peacebuilding process and contribute towards addressing critical gaps in that process, in particular in areas for which no other funding mechanism is available”*.

Within this overarching mandate, the **YPI** aims to:

- Strengthen the participation of young women and young men within existing peacebuilding initiatives on the ground and within the [PBF portfolio at country-level](#);
- Support innovative projects, focused on youth empowerment and participation, that have the potential for catalytic effects and peacebuilding outcomes;
- Enhance support to youth civil society organizations, and facilitate their partnership with international NGOs, Government and UN entities active in their country;
- Contribute to collective operational learning on youth-inclusive programming, through the gathering, analysis and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices.

3. Thematic focus

The YPI will support projects whose main objective is youth empowerment and young people's participation within the priority areas of the PBF:

Priority One: Responding to imminent threats to the peace process, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue:

- Security Sector Reform
- Rule of Law
- Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
- Political dialogue (around specific time-bound peace/political agreements)

Priority Two: Building and/or strengthening national capacities to promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict:

- National Reconciliation
- Democratic Governance
- Conflict Prevention/Management

Priority Three: Supporting efforts to revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends for the population at large:

- Employment
- Equitable access to social services

Priority Four: Establishing or re-establishing essential administrative services and related human and technical capacities

- Strengthening of essential national state capacity
- Extension of state authority / local administration
- Governance of peacebuilding resources (including JSC Secretariats)

Projects that support the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security will be viewed favourably.

The YPI will only fund projects that fully mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment; projects targeting young women specifically will be positively considered. Projects that do not integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting dimension (from conflict analysis to results framework, including dedicated budget allocation) will not be considered.

4. Eligibility

The call for proposals is open to selected countries among those that have been declared eligible by the Secretary-General to receive PBF funding. Please see **Annex 1** for the list of PBF recipient countries that are included in this call for proposals.

Unlike past calls for proposals from PBF, this call solicits proposals from both UN organizations and NGOs. In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds under YPI, NGOs must be assessed as technically and financially sound by the Fund and its Managing Agent. Technical assessment will be undertaken during the review of Concept Notes (first round), on the basis of information requested in the application template for “Concept Notes from NGOs” in Annex 3.2. The financial assessment will be

undertaken by the Managing Agent at the time of review of full project proposals (second round), for those organisations whose concept notes have been invited to the second round.

5. Application Process and Criteria

The **application process** for YPI will be structured in two rounds:

- 1) First round: Prospective applicants should submit a concept note (2-3 pages max., see relevant templates in Annex 3.1 and 3.2), including a short justification, the project's expected outcome, theory of change, overview of key activities, partners and budget. A Project Appraisal Committee composed of PBSO and external experts will review the concept notes and invite selected concept notes to be developed into full proposals.
- 2) Second round: UN entities and NGOs whose concept note was selected at round 1 should submit a full project proposal (templates for full proposal submission – including the required financial information for NGO eligibility – will be shared at the time of notification of success in the first round). Technical support for the development of the full proposal will be available from PBSO and its partners, upon request. The Project Appraisal Committee will reconvene to review the full proposals and make its final selection of projects.

Application criteria:

- Concept notes/project documents are prepared by UN entities and NGOs together with local partners in the programming countries. UN entities and NGOs must partner with national / local NGOs/CSOs with demonstrated field presence and technical capacity to implement projects or project components in youth-inclusive peacebuilding. At least 40% of the budget should go to national NGOs/CSOs. UN entities and NGOs will be held accountable for funds disbursed to its partners for the implementation of the project.
- Concept notes can be submitted in English or French.
- The maximum amount of funding awarded per project will be US\$1 million. For NGO applicants, the minimum amount per project will be US\$300,000. For UN applicants, the minimum amount per project will be US\$800,000.
- Projects should be completed within 18 months of the operational start-up date. There is no minimum duration. Cost- and no-cost extensions will be considered upon request, on a case-by-case basis, for projects having demonstrated concrete results and clear, reasonable justification.
- **For UN applicants:** the Fund will consider a maximum of two proposals per UN Country Team. Concept notes should be submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Steering Committee, along with a cover letter stating that the projects have been endorsed by the UNCT. Where there is no Joint Steering Committee in place, the concept notes should be submitted by the most-senior UN official in the country. PBSO will not accept proposals sent directly from individual UN entities. Joint submissions are encouraged.

- **For NGO applicants:** the Fund will consider a maximum of two proposals per organisation for the entire YPI. Proposals from NGOs may include activities in multiple countries, but all countries must be among the eligible countries listed in Annex 1. NGOs must be registered and have an office in the country or countries where proposed project activities will be undertaken.
- Because YPI intends to contribute to operational learning on youth-inclusive programming, all projects are required to foresee and budget sufficient resources for a final external evaluation.
- To ensure complementarity with the larger peacebuilding agenda in the country, the project submission should include evidence of how the project will support the achievement of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan.¹

6. Review criteria

The Concept notes (round 1) will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Strategic:** Projects must be of direct and immediate relevance to peacebuilding, and fall within one of the 4 priority areas of the PBF.
- Preference will be given to proposals showing how the planned interventions will influence **social and political peacebuilding processes** (e.g. dialogue efforts, policy formulation, etc.).
- A clear **theory of change** should be articulated, demonstrating the causal relationship between the proposed intervention and its intended peacebuilding impact both in the short term (expected impact by project's closing) and long term (longer term expected peacebuilding goals)². The theory of change should clearly express the relationship between youth participation outcomes and peacebuilding outcomes.
- Innovative:** Particular consideration will be given to projects that attempt to try out new, creative interventions and approaches to address a particular problem. This could include, but is not limited to, projects focused on facilitating young people's access to decision-making bodies, cross-border initiatives, innovative ways to integrate youth in SSR processes, young people's role in preventing violent extremism and terrorism (in line with Security Council Resolution 2250), projects involving the use of social media, etc. The [Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#) offers a (non-exhaustive) list of promising practices in this field and could be used as a resource.
- Value for money/Cost Effectiveness:** The project should demonstrate a focus on achieving value for money through its management and accountability mechanisms. Proposals should contain clear statements or budget explanations of why it is cost-effective or measures that will be taken to ensure cost-effectiveness.

¹ More information on the Peacebuilding Priority Plan for each country can be found on the [PBF website](#).

² A theory of change is an explanation of **how** and **why** a set of activities will bring about the changes that a project seeks to achieve: "*If we do this activity, then we will get this change, because it will improve the situation this way.*"

- f. Projects that leverage **commitments and action** on youth and youth-inclusive peacebuilding from **governments or national institutions**. Additional consideration will be given to projects fostering partnerships on youth-inclusive peacebuilding among national structures (e.g.: or Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Justice, etc.)
- g. The project should support the achievement of the PBF funded peacebuilding process and be **complementary with the larger peacebuilding agenda** in the country.
- h. Projects defined through **inclusive, bottom-up approaches**, where stakeholders and implementing partners have been consulted and have contributed to the identification of project's objectives and interventions.
- i. Projects that **fully mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment**; projects targeting young women specifically will be positively considered. Projects that do not integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting dimension will not be considered.
- j. Demonstration of **existing capacity to implement the proposed activities**. If the proposing organisation is a past recipient of PBF funding, the proposal should also include a description of the allocation (amount, implementation time period) and a brief outline of key results and delivery rates.

7. Technical Support

PBF has observed that the availability of dedicated expertise is a key for the quality of the design and the success of the implementation of targeted programmes. The YPI will therefore prioritize the availability of youth and peacebuilding expertise from the initial days of conceptualization to the final evaluation of each project:

- Interested UN organizations and NGO are encouraged to participate in webinars provided by PBSO. To participate, please RSVP by e-mail to PBSO focal point (fujimura@un.org) at least two days before each session.

Introduction to PBF	26 May 2016	10AM EST
Youth-inclusive peacebuilding	1 June 2016	10AM EST
Gender-responsive peacebuilding	2 June 2016	10AM EST
Monitoring and Evaluation (after the first round selection)	TBC	TBC

- Applicants are encouraged to undertake informal consultations with PBSO to discuss project ideas during round 1.
- Contingent on available resources, technical support will be provided for the development of full project proposals on the basis of selected concept notes.
- Through PBSO's partnership with United Nations Volunteers (UNV), national and international volunteers, experts on youth-inclusive peacebuilding will be placed as soon as possible in 2016 in priority countries lacking dedicated capacities, to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

8. Timeline

Round I: Call for concept notes	18 May 2016
Deadline for submission of concept notes	17 June 2016
Communication of acceptance or rejection of concept notes by the Project Appraisal Committee	Week of 4 July 2016
Deadline for submission of full project proposals	15 August 2016
Final approval of projects by Project Appraisal Committee	Week of 5 September 2016

9. Resource persons

For further questions on the Youth Promotion Initiative, please contact:

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ANNEX 1: Eligible Countries

Countries Eligible for the YPI	
Central African Republic	Mali
Comoros	Myanmar
Côte d'Ivoire	Niger
Guatemala	Papua New Guinea
Guinea	Sierra Leone
Guinea Bissau	South Sudan
Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Liberia	

ANNEX 2 : Rationale for Youth Promotion Initiative 1

PBF welcomes the recent adoption of Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security, which offers an important policy framework for peacebuilding interventions that meaningfully involve young women and men and support their leadership in peacebuilding. SCR 2250 affirms the important role young women and men can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts; recognizes that youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation and that a large youth population presents a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if inclusive policies are in place.

SCR 2250 specifically identifies five main pillars for action:

- 1) Participation, by calling on Member States to involve young people in conflict prevention and resolution, in violence prevention and in the promotion of social cohesion. Member States are urged to consider ways to increase representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.
- 2) Protection, recalling the obligations to protect civilians, including young people, during armed conflict and in post-conflict times, and in particular protect them from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
- 3) Prevention, by urging the facilitation of enabling environments, investments in socio-economic development and quality education for young women and young men, and the creation of mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth.
- 4) Partnership, by highlighting the need to increase political, financial, technical and logistical support for the work with young peacebuilders by relevant UN entities as well as regional and international organizations. It also highlights the importance of partnering with youth, local communities and non-governmental actors in countering violence extremism.
- 5) Disengagement and reintegration, for young women and men directly involved in armed conflict.

Among important tools that can help guide a different engagement of young people in peacebuilding contexts, the [Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#), launched in 2014, outline nine guiding principles for participative, inclusive and intergenerational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure participation and contribution of young people. Another important reference is the [Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#), which complements the Guiding Principles to provide key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation to peacebuilding to enhance quality and sustainability of peacebuilding interventions.

Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

1. Promote young people's participation as an essential condition for successful peacebuilding
2. Value and build upon young people's diversity and experiences
3. Be sensitive to gender dynamics
4. Enable young people's ownership, leadership and accountability in peacebuilding
5. Do no harm
6. Involve young people in all stages of peacebuilding and post-conflict programming
7. Enhance the knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies of young people for peacebuilding
8. Invest in intergenerational partnerships in young people's communities
9. Introduce and support policies that address the full needs of young people

The *Practice Note* highlights that despite research showing the high level of resilience and resourcefulness of young people during violence and the key role they can and do play in peacebuilding, young people have been left at the margins of peace processes or excluded altogether. Therefore, positively engaging young women and men, addressing their differentiated needs and giving them a stake in their societies during the transition period after violent conflict are important for long-term peace and security.

Since 2007, PBF has supported various initiatives to empower youth and address their specific needs in the wider contexts of peacebuilding. Since 2012, PBF has seen an increase in projects that propose to engage youth as partners for sustainable peace rather than as potential security threats. Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security now offers a high-level policy framework to support a shift in focus and engagement of the PBF to strengthen the integration of youth empowerment and their participation in peacebuilding within existing peacebuilding initiatives through its first-ever YPI.

ANNEX 3.1: YPI Concept Note Template for UN Organizations

Project Title <i>(Max 200 characters)</i>	
Country	
<p>Project justification and expected outcomes <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i></p> <p><i>i) Explain how the proposed project contributes to the overall peacebuilding process in the country;</i> <i>ii) Explain the connection of the proposed project to the existing PBF investments in the country, if any;</i> <i>iii) Describe the expected outcomes in terms of youth empowerment;</i> <i>iv) Demonstrate how the project fills a strategic peacebuilding gap.</i></p>	
<p>Theory of Change <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i></p> <p><i>i) Describe the causal relationship between the proposed intervention and the expected peacebuilding and youth empowerment results;</i> <i>ii) Indicate how the expected results will be measured.</i></p>	
<p>Proposed Interventions <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i></p> <p><i>i) Specify geographic zone(s) of intervention;</i> <i>ii) Describe target groups;</i> <i>iii) Explain thematic areas of intervention and proposed activities;</i> <i>iv) Indicate risks that could affect project implementation.</i></p>	

<p>Proposed Recipient UN Organization(s): <i>(Maximum 500 characters)</i> i) Give the names of recipient UN organizations ii) For joint proposals, specify lead organization.</p>	
<p>Implementing Partners: <i>(Maximum 500 characters)</i> i) Explain who will be the implementing partners from civil society, including at the local level; ii) Explain who will be the national counterpart(s); iii) Describe what steps you have already taken to involve local partners in the designing of this concept note.</p>	
<p>Duration: Give overall project duration.</p>	<p>months</p>
<p>Budget: i) Give overall project budget; ii) Indicate how much of the overall budget will be channelled to civil society organizations. <i>(Maximum 500 characters)</i></p>	
<p>Capacity If the proposing organisation is a past recipient of PBF funding in the country, indicate the allocation (amount, implementation time period) and a brief outline of key results and delivery rates. <i>(Maximum 500 characters)</i></p>	

The concept note should be 3 pages maximum.

Concept notes should be submitted to PBSO no later than 17 June 2016, through a formal cover letter addressed to Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support (fernandez-taranco@un.org) by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Steering Committee, with a justification of how the project will support achievement of the Priority Plan. Where there is no Joint Steering Committee in place, the concept notes should be submitted by the most-senior UN official in the country, with a justification of how the project will support the achievement of the PBF-funded peacebuilding process, and evidence of consultation with the Government and the UN Country Team.

ANNEX 3.2: YPI Concept Note Template for NGOs

Project Title <i>(Max 200 characters)</i>	
Country	
Project justification and expected outcomes <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i> <i>i) Explain how the proposed project contributes to the overall peacebuilding process in the country;</i> <i>ii) Explain the connection of the proposed project to the existing PBF investments in the country, if any;</i> <i>iii) Describe the expected outcomes in terms of youth empowerment;</i> <i>iv) Demonstrate how the project fills a strategic peacebuilding gap.</i>	
Theory of Change <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i> <i>i) Describe the causal relationship between the proposed intervention and the expected peacebuilding and youth empowerment results;</i> <i>ii) Indicate how the expected results will be measured.</i>	
Proposed Interventions <i>(Maximum 1000 characters)</i> <i>i) Specify geographic zone(s) of intervention;</i> <i>ii) Describe target groups;</i> <i>iii) Explain thematic areas of intervention and proposed activities;</i> <i>iv) Indicate risks that could affect project implementation.</i>	
Proposed Recipient Organization(s): <i>(Maximum 500 characters)</i> <i>i) Give the names of recipient organizations;</i> <i>ii) For joint proposals, specify lead organization.</i>	

Implementing Partners: (Maximum 500 characters) <i>i) Explain who will be the implementing partners from civil society, including at the local level;</i> <i>ii) Explain who will be the national counterpart(s);</i> <i>iii) Describe what steps you have already taken to involve local partners in the designing of this concept note.</i>	
Duration: <i>Give overall project duration.</i>	months
Budget: (Maximum 500 characters) <i>i) Give overall project budget;</i> <i>ii) Indicate how much of the overall budget will be channelled to civil society organizations.</i>	
Technical Capacity Assessment	
Do you have an already established presence in the country?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will new staff need to be recruited for this work?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
What is your existing organizational budget, per year, over the last 3 years?	
How many countries are you active in?	
Does your organization produce a public annual report and/or undergo financial audit?	Annual report: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Financial audit: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Describe your organization's past experience with programming on youth and peacebuilding. (Max 1000 characters)	

The concept note should be 3 pages maximum. The concept notes should be submitted to PBSO (fujimura@un.org and Dua-Agyeman@un.org) no later than 17 June 2016 by the head of the NGO, along with a formal cover letter addressed to Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Please include [YPI-NGO] in the subject line of the submission email.