



UN PEACEBUILDING FUND

Gender Promotion Initiative II

Call for proposals

Launch in New York on 3 September 2014 on the occasion of the Peacebuilding Commission / UN Women Special Event on “Women, Everyday Peacebuilders”.

Deadline for Submission of Concept Notes: 3 October 2014

1. Introduction

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is launching a second Gender Promotion Initiative (henceforth GPI2). Through this initiative, the PBF aims to deepen the integration of women's empowerment and gender equality in the overall peacebuilding portfolios supported by PBF in selected countries. The GPI2 will also increase PBF's overall funding allocation to projects dedicated to advance gender equality and/or empower women, to help reach the Secretary-General's target that at least 15% of UN-managed funds in support of peacebuilding should be dedicated to such projects. This second GPI is included in the PBF's [2014-2016 Business Plan](#) and has received wide support from both donor and recipient countries during the PBF stakeholders meeting held in June 2014.

For general guidance on the PBF and its two funding facilities, please refer to the [2014 PBF Guidelines](#) available on the PBF website.

2. Rationale

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) recognizes that systematic inclusion of women in peacebuilding is essential to the just reconstruction of political, legal, economic and social structures, and to the advancement of gender equality goals. This is not only a matter of women's and girl's rights, but of effective peacebuilding.

The Security Council has highlighted, through the adoption of a broad normative framework of several resolutions, the importance of increasing women's participation in preventing, resolving and recovering from conflict, as well as the necessity to address the impact of conflict on women. The importance of women's role in the economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy of war-torn societies has also been the focus of the Secretary-General 2010 report on "*Women's Participation in Peacebuilding*". The report defined a *Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding* outlining commitments in 7 areas, to ensure that women's priorities are addressed, their participation is guaranteed and a gender perspective is applied to all aspects of peacebuilding. Under the areas on financing, the Secretary-General committed the UN system to allocate at least 15% of UN-managed funds in support of peacebuilding to projects that "*address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or*

7 Commitments of the SG's Action Plan for Women's Participation in Peacebuilding:

1. **Women are fully engaged in**, and timely gender expertise is provided to, **all peace talks**;
2. **Post-conflict planning** processes, including donor conferences, involve women substantively and apply methods that result in comprehensive attention to gender equality;
3. **Adequate financing** – targeted and mainstreamed – is provided to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality and promote women's empowerment. A target of 15% was set in the report;
4. **Deployed civilians** possess specialized skills, including expertise in rebuilding state institutions to make them more accessible to women;
5. Women can participate fully in **post-conflict governance**, as civic actors, elected representatives and decision-makers in public institutions, including through temporary special measures such as quotas;
6. **Rule of law initiatives** encourage women's participation in seeking redress for injustices committed against them and in improving the capacity of security actors to prevent and respond to violations of women's rights; and
7. **Economic recovery** prioritizes women's engagement in employment-creation schemes, community-development programmes and the delivery of frontline services.

empower women” as their principle objective¹.

Women, Peace and Security issues remain high on the international agenda, particularly conflict-related sexual violence, and there are positive developments in women’s participation in conflict resolution, mediation and peace processes, particularly since 2010. However, recent research² shows that a distinctive gap remains between policy commitments and the operational reality of implementing gender-responsive peacebuilding, in spite of accelerated efforts across the UN, NGOs and Governments to bridge this gap.

Together with its partners, the PBF wants to strengthen the participation of women in political processes, enhance their voices in post-conflict planning processes and address their specific post-conflict needs. The PBF recognizes that rebuilding after conflict is the opportunity to “build back better” by addressing gender inequality and reaffirming women’s civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, PBF underscores the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s report on *“Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding”* that, in post-conflict settings, targeted interventions are required to break patterns of violence and to capitalize on the leadership roles women may assume during conflicts.

Since becoming operational in 2007, the PBF has adopted proactive measures to support peacebuilding approaches that promote gender equality as part of its strategy to prevent relapse into conflict. A gender marker was adopted in 2009 to track these commitments. As an overall principle, and as reaffirmed in its 2014-2017 Business Plan, PBF works to make sure that its entire portfolio is gender mainstreamed, i.e. that all peacebuilding interventions it supports consider gender issues as part of the conflict analysis, priority setting, budget allocation, implementation, as well as in monitoring and evaluation.

In 2011, to help meet the SG’s 15% target, PBF launched a first Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI), calling for targeted projects on women’s empowerment and gender equality. This first GPI allocated US\$ 6.1 million to 8 projects (in Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), which as of August 2014 are mostly still being implemented. In great part thanks to this GPI, PBF reached the mid-term 10% target that had been defined by the Policy Committee for 2012. However, in 2013, PBF saw the proportion of projects targeted gender equality as main objective decrease to 7.4%, demonstrating that proactive, exceptional measures remain indispensable to promote gender in peacebuilding programmes and projects. The 2013 independent Global [Review of the PBF](#), as well as the independent [Thematic Review on Gender and Peacebuilding](#) commissioned by PBSO in mid-2013, both recommended that a second Gender Promotion Initiative be launched to continue actively promoting and funding gender-responsive peacebuilding.

3. Objectives of the second Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI2)

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”*.

¹ 2010 Secretary-General’s Report on Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding ([S/2010/466](#))

² E. O’Gorman, [Independent Thematic Review on Gender and Peacebuilding](#), March 2014.

Within this overarching mandate, the GPI2 aims to:

- Strengthen the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment within existing peacebuilding initiatives on the ground and within PBF portfolio at country-level;
- Support innovative projects, focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, that have the potential for catalytic effect and peacebuilding outcomes;
- Contribute to collective operational learning for the UN system on gender-responsive programming, through the gathering, analysis and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices;
- Continue raising awareness of the Secretary-General Seven-Point Action Plan and its commitment to increase funding of gender-responsive peacebuilding projects; and
- Help the PBF in meeting the 15% target.

4. **Eligibility**

The GPI2 is open to selected countries among those that have been declared eligible by the Secretary-General to receive PBF funding. Because the GPI2 aims to support greater integration of women's empowerment and gender equality in a country's overall peacebuilding portfolio, only countries that are currently recipient of PBF's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) or are implementing several IRF (Immediate Recovery Facility) projects are eligible to apply.

All UN recipient organizations of PBF funding are eligible to apply for funding under this Initiative.

Please see in [annex 1](#) the list of PBF recipient countries and recipient UN agencies that are eligible to apply to the GPI2.

5. **Thematic focus**

While recognizing the impact of conflict on women and the need to prioritize protection measures, PBF is seeking to support priority projects that empower women and enhance their role as active agents of change. **The Gender Promotion Initiative will support projects whose main objective is gender equality / women's empowerment (i.e. projects that qualify as Gender Marker 3) 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 also support the implementation of the Secretary General's Seven-Point Action on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding and/or of Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security³, as relevant in the national context they will be implemented in, will be viewed favourably.

6. Application Process and Criteria

The **application process** for the GPI2 will be structured in two rounds:

- 1) First round: Recipient UN Organizations should submit a concept note (2-3 pages max., see template in [annex 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 select 5 to 10 project ideas for round 2.
- 2) Second round: Recipient UN Organizations whose concept note was selected at round 1 should submit a full project proposal ([Template 2.1 of the PBF Guidelines](#)). Technical support for the development of the full proposal will be available from PBSO and partner UN organizations, both through surge support and remote technical guidance, 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 Recipient UN Organizations together with their implementing partners. UN Organizations are encouraged to partner with national

³ SCR 1325 (2000), SRC 1820 (2008), SCR 1888 (2009), SCR 1889 (2009), SCR 1960 (2010), SCR 2106 (2013) and SCR 2122 (2013).

and international NGOs/CSOs with demonstrated field presence and technical capacities to implement projects or project components in gender-responsive peacebuilding.

- Concept notes can be submitted in English or French.
- The maximum amount of funding awarded per project will be US\$1 million.
- 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.
- Countries should not submit more than two proposals. Joint submissions are encouraged.
- Because the GPI2 intends to contribute to operational learning on gender-responsive programming, all projects are required to foresee a final external evaluation.
- To ensure complementarity with the larger peacebuilding agenda in the country, the project submission should include evidence of the endorsement by the PBF Joint Steering Committee. This should be done through a formal cover letter addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support of PBSO 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 project submission should include an endorsement from the Senior UN Representative, 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.
- All PBF financing is disbursed through the Fund's Administrative Agent (the MPTF Office) to a Recipient UN Organization. Implementation is guided by the rules, regulations and policies of the Recipient UN Organization.

7. Review criteria

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

- a. Gender-responsive peacebuilding:** The PBF is looking for projects specifically designed to advance gender equality and empower women within broader peacebuilding initiatives on the ground. Projects aiming at integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in on-going peacebuilding efforts such as SSR, land reform, conduct of elections, national dialogue, etc., will be viewed favourably. The proposed intervention should score a gender marker 3.
- b. Strategic:** Projects must be of direct and immediate relevance to peacebuilding, and fall within one of the 4 priority areas of the PBF.

- c. The **Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding**, outlined in the Secretary-General's Report on Women and Peacebuilding, should be used as guiding principle for the development of projects. Projects supporting the implementation of one or several of the seven commitments will be viewed favourably, as will projects supporting the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security including, where it exists, the **National Action Plan on SCR1325**.
- d. 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)⁴. The theory of change should clearly express the relationship between gender equality/empowerment outcomes and peacebuilding outcomes.
- e. 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.).
- f. **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 natural resource management, cross-border initiatives, innovative ways to integrate gender in SSR processes, counter-terrorism (in line with Security Council Resolution 2122), projects involving the use of new information and communication technologies, etc.
- g. **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.
- h. Projects that leverage **commitments and action** on gender-responsive peacebuilding from **governments or national institutions**. Additional consideration will be given to projects fostering partnerships on gender-responsive peacebuilding among national structures (e.g.: Ministry of Gender and Ministry of Defence, or Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Justice, etc.)
- i. 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.

8. Technical Support

⁴ 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.***"

PBF has observed that the availability of gender and peacebuilding expertise is key for the quality of the design and the success of the implementation of targeted programmes. The GPI2 will therefore prioritize the availability of gender and peacebuilding expertise for country teams, from the initial days of conceptualization to the final evaluation of each project:

- Applicants are encouraged to undertake informal consultations with PBSO to discuss project ideas during round 1.
- Technical support will be provided, either in person (surge) or remotely, for the development of full project proposals on the basis of selected concept notes.
- Through a partnership with United Nations Volunteers (UNV), national and international experts on gender and peacebuilding will be placed, starting early 2015, in up to 5 countries lacking dedicated capacities, to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

9. Inter-agency Steering Group

An inter-agency Steering Group, including key partner UN entities, is being formed to guide the GPI2 from inception to the final closure of projects. The Steering Group will contribute to the overall conceptualization of this second GPI, review concept note and provide recommendations (but will not participate in the Project Appraisal Committee, to avoid conflict of interest). The Steering Group will provide hands-on technical support and guidance, including through surge deployment, for the development of full project proposals. Once projects will have been selected, the Steering Group will play an oversight and monitoring role and meet on a periodic basis to assess implementation's progress and challenges. Finally, the Steering Group will ensure that high quality external evaluations are carried out for each project and widely share lessons learned from this round of gender-responsive peacebuilding programming.

10. Timeline

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Round I: Call for Concept Notes | 3 September 2014 |
| Deadline for submission of concept notes | 3 October 2014 |
| Meeting of Project Appraisal Committee for selection of project ideas | Mid-October 2014 |
| Round II: Development of project proposals <i>(for project ideas selected at round I only)</i> | Mid-October 2014 |
| Deadline for submission of full project proposals | Mid-November 2014 |
| Final approval of projects by Project Appraisal Committee | December 2014 |

11. Resource persons

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

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ANNEX 1: Eligible Countries and UN Agencies

| Countries Eligible for the GPI2 (as of August 25, 2014) | |
|---|------------------|
| Burundi | Mali |
| Central African Republic | Myanmar |
| Comoros | Nepal |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Niger |
| DRC | Papua New Guinea |
| Guinea Conakry | Sierra Leone |
| Guinea Bissau | Somalia |
| Kyrgyzstan | Yemen |
| Liberia | |

| UN Recipient Agencies Eligible for the GPI (as of August 25, 2014) | |
|--|------------|
| UNDP | WFP |
| UNICEF | UNEP |
| UNOPS | UNESCO |
| UNHCR | UN-HABITAT |
| UNFPA | UNIDO |
| IOM | UNODC |
| FAO | UNRWA |
| UNDPA | UNCDF |
| UN Women | DKPO |
| OHCHR | WHO |
| ILO | |

ANNEX 2 : GPI2 Concept Note - Template

Project's title:

Project's justification and expected outcome(s):

i) Explain how the proposed project contributes to the overall peacebuilding process in the country; ii) Describe the expected outcomes in terms of gender equality / women's empowerment; iii) Demonstrate how the project fills a strategic peacebuilding gap.

Theory of Change:

i) Describe the causal relationship between the proposed intervention and the expected peacebuilding and gender equality / women's empowerment results; ii) Indicate how the expected results will be measured.

Proposed Interventions:

i) Specify geographic zone(s) of intervention; ii) Describe target groups; iii) Explain thematic areas of intervention and proposed activities; iv) Indicate risks that could affect project implementation.

Proposed Recipient UN Organization(s):

i) Give the names of Recipient UN Organizations; ii) For joint proposals, specify lead agency.

Implementing Partners:

i) Explain who will be the implementing partners from civil society, including at the local level (international and national NGOs); ii) Explain who will be the national counterpart(s).

Budget:

i) Give overall budget figure.

The concept note should be 3 pages maximum.

Concept notes should be submitted to PBSO no later than October 3, 2014, through a formal cover letter addressed to the Officer-in-Charge of the Peacebuilding Support Office (gluckk@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 project submission should include an endorsement from the Senior UN Representative, 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.