



Peacebuilding Fund Update – September 2015

New Programming, Strong Recommendations – But Still Needing Scaled-up Contributions

Since the Peacebuilding Fund's Stakeholders meeting at the end of June, **the Fund has made new commitments in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Sri Lanka, Niger and Myanmar amounting to \$37.7 million.** This programming includes \$12 million to help catalyze the DRC's Trust Fund for stabilization in the east – including \$4 million in an innovative matching allocation to spur bilateral contributions. The Immediate Response Facility has been used to support risk management and rule of law programming in Somalia, utilizing the government-led New Deal Compact governance structure to identify priority programmes. In Sri Lanka, the IRF has been used to seize new opportunities to promote national reconciliation, by supporting the resettlement in the north. In Niger, the Fund is being used to help strengthen national institutions to prevent conflict in a volatile region. In Guinea-Bissau, the Fund is supporting the new Government's priorities to promote dialogue, support security sector reform, strengthen rule of law and promote increased engagement of women and youth. In Myanmar, the Fund will support the second phase of a programme to assist the Government – and ethnic armed groups – address issues of child soldiers.

Since the Stakeholders meeting, **the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the peacebuilding architecture has also been published, with a number of recommendations focusing on the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund.** The Peacebuilding Support Office welcomes the recommendations, many of which build upon current practice.

- The UN Senior Peacebuilding Group welcomes the overall thrust of the report that focuses on political settlements, conflict prevention and the concept of '**sustaining peace**'. The links to the

achievement of *all* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are clear, and in particular the Peacebuilding Fund sees itself as a key vehicle to attain **SDG 16** on peaceful and inclusive societies in conflict-affected countries.

- The Secretary-General has endorsed the call for **predictable financing** using the symbolic target of 1 percent of peace operations or \$100 million per year, whichever is greater. Voluntary contributions at sufficient scale to meet this target, benefiting from existing mechanisms, would be simplest. But they are not forth-coming. The use of assessed contributions would ensure that global public funds, in the midst of expanding crises and demand, continue to be invested in prevention.
- PBSO sees a clear role for the Fund in **supporting the entire UN system and the full spectrum of peace operations**. The Fund helps bring UN Country Teams and Missions together, and can support transitions to UN Country Teams after Mission departure as for example in Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia or even Haiti. The Fund supports the work of many agencies – including UNDP, OHCHR, UN Women, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR and others – and does so by encouraging coherence with strategies elaborated by the UN Secretariat and Missions on the ground. In non-mission settings, the PBF has also been a force behind coherent strategies to sustain peace.
- PBSO is encouraged to pursue the Fund’s **expansion of the use of the Immediate Response Facility (IRF)**, already underway as foreseen in its Business Plan 2014-2016. The IRF in recent years has expanded from roughly 25 percent to 50 percent of the portfolio, and is being used in creative ways such as through the IRF package in Mali, that has also a national Executive Committee to promote national ownership.
- The Secretary-General remains committed that his Fund attain the goal **that 15 percent of peacebuilding financing support gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal objective**. PBSO believes that this goal should be attainable within the standard mechanisms that it already has, so long as national partners are sufficiently prioritizing support to women. PBSO is committed to continuing the ad hoc Gender Promotion Initiative until the target is met.
- PBSO supports the **promotion of the engagement of civil society**. PBSO believes that it needs to report better on its engagement with civil society, and ensure that civil society is more engaged in design processes and receives financial support. In Madagascar, earlier this year, for example, the PBF piloted a process in collaboration with ACCORD and Search for Common Ground to better assist civil society in conflict analysis and peacebuilding programme prioritization.
- In countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, PBSO has already been working over recent years to tighten **the collaboration between the Commission and the work of the**

Fund. PBSO welcomes the recommendation for the Commission to increase its engagement with other countries declared eligible for the PBF by the Secretary-General, and stands ready to act on this recommendation when called upon by the Commission.

- Alongside the Fund’s new work in the area of regional, cross-border programming, PBSO also welcomes the **recommendation to further strengthen the work of regional organizations**. The Fund aims to achieve this by working with national partners – in countries already declared eligible for the Fund – to identify opportunities where regional organizations can be supported to better assist national peacebuilding processes.

Despite the positive assessment of the Fund and the calls for its strengthening by the Advisory Group of Experts – as well as by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations – **the status of contributions of the Fund has not improved – rather slightly worsened – since the Stakeholders meeting**. PBSO forecasts contributions amounting to \$50 million in 2015. If the Fund programmes the full \$100 million dollars in 2015 as per its target, **its financial status on 1 January 2016 will be approximately \$30 million** (as compared to an ideal starting point for the year of \$100 million). If this scenario continues, the Fund will have to scale-back or at least delay approving new programmes in 2016, while it waits for additional contributions.

PBF Allocations and Available Programmatic Funds, 2006-2015

Data for 2015 is forecasted / provisional.

(in millions of US dollars)

