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## Peacebuilding Fund Update – December 2015

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### *New grants to Madagascar, CAR and central Asia Funding gap of \$34m to achieve 2016 target*

#### *1. \$24 million in new allocations expected in the last quarter of 2015*

Since 30 September, **the Fund has made \$24.1m in new commitments in Central African Republic, Guinea, Comoros, Madagascar and to a Tajik – Kyrgyz cross border Project.** In CAR, Under-Secretary-General Ladsous announced \$1m in PBF support for the elections to help build momentum towards an inclusive and peaceful electoral process. The PBF Immediate Response Facility (IRF) has been also used to allocate \$3m to support the restoration of state authority and socio-economic revitalization of communities in the north, center and east of CAR, closely coordinated with other actors' efforts to provide support outside of Bangui. Thirdly, another \$3.5m IRF allocation to CAR aims to support community violence reduction, in particular aimed at communities with populations not eligible for formal DDR. Elsewhere, PBF allocated small but important funding in electoral contexts to increase women and civil society engagement, including in conflict prevention efforts, and to increase security (\$0.8m in Guinea and \$0.4m in Comoros). In Guinea as well, PBF has funded a second phase of a reconciliation project, being led by Christian and Muslim leaders, which will undertake country-wide consultations in the coming months (\$0.8m). In Madagascar, PBSO has allocated \$11.5m towards a three year Peacebuilding Priority Plan developed by the national Joint Steering Committee focusing on security sector reform, good governance and a holistic package of support to the south of the country, which has been particularly affected by insecurity, marginalization and other peacebuilding challenges. The Priority Plan development benefited from a number of inclusive preparatory workshops, including a pre-workshop dedicated to the involvement of civil society. Lastly, within the portfolio in Kyrgyzstan, in early December PBF approved its first ever cross border project, a cooperation and trust building initiative along the tension-filled Kyrgyz/Tajik border.

Looking forward to 2016, a number of activities are under development. These include support to the peace agreement in South Sudan, additional support to expand UN stabilization work in Somalia beyond Mogadishu, significant work supporting peacebuilding in Sri Lanka in support of the Government's ambitious plans, possible support to the implementation of the Nationwide

Ceasefire Agreement in Myanmar, support for security sector reform in Burkina Faso, possible accompaniment during the UN Mission draw down phase in Haiti, possible financing of some activities related to the Colombian peace process, assistance to Sierra Leone during the next phase of PBC accompaniment, and the launching of a new Gender Promotion Initiative (see below). Other possible ideas include support for dialogue in Libya, conflict prevention work in northern Cameroon and potential renewal of grants in currently supported countries that face continued peacebuilding challenges. Sufficient funding will be required, however, to meet this ambitious pipeline.

## 2. *Annual Advisory Group meeting, October 2015*

The fourth PBF Advisory Group met for its second meeting of 2015 on 27-28 October. In order to strengthen the partnership between the PBF and the World Bank, the meeting was convened in Washington DC, generously hosted by the World Bank's Fragility, Conflict and Violence group. Many sessions were co-organized with the Bank.

During the two-day meeting, the Group discussed the recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, collaboration with the World Bank on analysis and planning in general, focused on experiences in the Central African Republic, learned about PBSO's thematic review on employment and peacebuilding, and heard a joint presentation on challenges in monitoring and evaluation for peacebuilding. A working lunch, hosted by the World Bank Senior Advisor to the President, Mr. Colin Bruce, was organized with select Executive Directors of the World Bank.

The Advisory Group *inter alia*:

- expressed some shock at the inability of Member States to support the Fund to its target, despite the clear and positive recommendations of the Review, and agreed to write directly to the Secretary-General to advise increased advocacy.
- called for annual workplanning with the World Bank including consideration of ways to better collaborate around the undertaking of fragility assessments, monitoring and evaluation and planning strategies, including for the Bank's Turnaround Facility;
- welcomed PBSO's organization of a review in the area of employment and peacebuilding, noting the challenges the PBF (and others) has faced in this area;
- encouraged the idea of undertaking joint PBF / Bank evaluations in one or two countries in the coming 6-9 months;
- encouraged PBSO's work on the PBF Performance Management Plan, valuing PBSO's intention to have both organizational (management) and thematic components;
- advised PBSO to invest more efforts in collecting and analyzing lessons learned; and
- looked towards planning its own field visits in the coming 6 months.

## 3. *PBF and the recommendations of the AGE report.*

The report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and the recommendations focusing on the Secretary-Generals Peacebuilding Fund continued to guide PBFs actions in its work towards 'sustaining peace'. PBSO has welcomed the overall thrust of the report that focuses particularly on political settlements and conflict prevention. Many of the

Review's recommendations in fact already build on PBF practice, and the PBF is taking steps to advance them further (see September 2015 PBF Update). As noted above, for example, in the development of the Madagascar Peacebuilding Priority Plan the UN has taken proactive steps to increase the involvement of civil society. Moreover, as noted below, PBSO will be launching a new round of the Gender Promotion Initiative in early 2016. In the area of increased interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission, recently the case of Somalia was discussed at an Organizational Committee (PBC) meeting in November, highlighting the work of the Fund.

The report's calls for more predictable financing for peacebuilding however, remains unanswered. Member States are discussing the issue as part of the intergovernmental process in response to the Advisory Group of Experts recommendations. PBSO remains of the view that, with a sufficient number of voluntary multi-year agreements predictable financing for the PBF can be achieved. However, in the absence of such agreements, the discussion of the possibility of accessing assessed contributions may have to be pursued.

#### 4. Third PBF Gender Promotion Initiative

In early 2016 PBF is planning to launch its third Gender Promotion Initiative, by issuing an exceptional call for proposals focused on gender and peacebuilding. For the past 5 years, the PBF has been actively working towards meeting the Secretary General's target that at least 15 % of UN managed funds in support of peacebuilding should be dedicated to projects whose principal objective is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women. Thanks to the previous two Gender Promotion Initiatives launched in 2011 and 2014, the PBF has been able to increase financial allocations to gender equality up from 2.1% in 2011 to 9.3% in 2014. This third Gender Promotion Initiative will seek to fund innovative projects focused on gender equality and women's empowerment that have the potential for catalytic effect and peacebuilding outcomes and should contribute to the continued operational learning for the UN system on gender-responsive peacebuilding programming. This initiative will also complement other efforts by the PBF to strengthen gender mainstreaming throughout its entire portfolio, such as adopting gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation norms and standards and developing guidance for country teams on the gender marker.

#### 5. Peace and Development Advisors

Earlier this year, PBSO has formally joined the governance structures of the UNDP-DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacity for Conflict Prevention.

The Joint Programme is offering a vehicle through which DPA, UNDP, and PBSO are working increasingly closely together in defining priority countries and programmatic needs for conflict prevention and peace building. The Joint Programme strengthens the Resident Coordinator system helping, to deal with challenges related to conflict analysis and programming, which are critical to PBF investments. Furthermore, the deployment of Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) to help oversee and provide advice on PBF initiatives is strengthening the impact of the UN's interventions at country-level, while also ensuring that the expertise provided by PDAs drive the UN's broader engagement on peace building.

PBSO is committed to co-financing at least 10 PDAs by 2016. Increased resources available to the PBF would allow for greater investments into the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme.

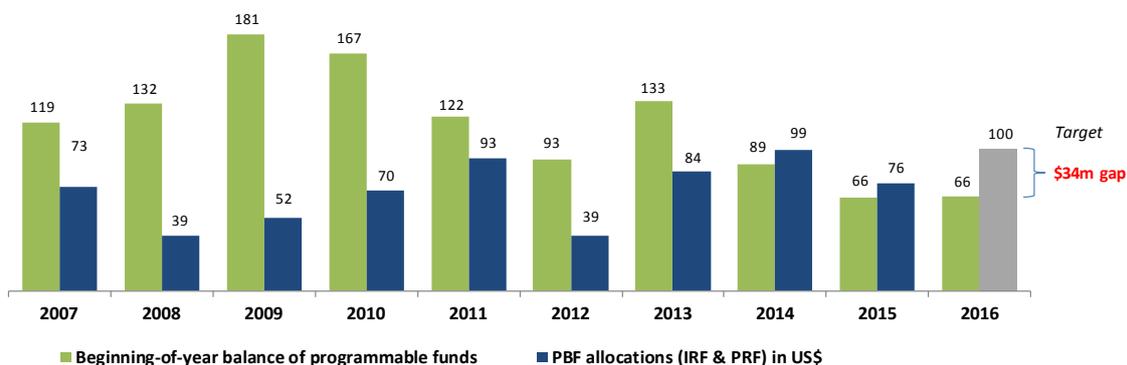
## 6. Donor Contributions

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 International Panel on Peace Operations – the status of contributions of the Fund remains very concerning. Regrettably, PBF has already pulled back from its programming target in 2015 in order to ensure a minimum level of funds to begin 2016, currently estimated at \$66m. The PBF remains grateful for its long-standing partners and welcomes some new and returning donors in 2015 (see table below). Governments around the world are being called upon more than ever to finance crisis response - whether in the category of "humanitarian" assistance or through mandated peace operations. Investing in crisis response is ethical, generous and must be done. Tax payers (and voters) by and large support it. But diverting financing from peacebuilding and conflict prevention to finance the crisis response is short-sighted. More investment -- as risky and as uncertain as it may be in settings that are politically chaotic and unacceptably violent -- is needed, not less, in institution building, state-society relations and inclusive political processes.

**Chart 1: PBF Allocations and Available Programmatic Funds, 2006-2016**

*2016 starting with a gap of \$34m to achieve \$100m target*

(in millions of US dollars)



**Table 1: Contributions 2015**

Contributor/Partner	Commitments	Deposits
UNITED KINGDOM (DFID)	23,391,800.20	17,228,472.00
SWEDEN	6,730,544.52	0.00
NETHERLANDS	5,469,835.01	5,469,835.01
AUSTRALIA	4,175,365.34	0.00
NORWAY	3,645,643.46	3,645,643.46
FINLAND	2,219,456.00	2,219,456.00
RUSSIA	2,000,000.00	0.00
CHINA	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
IRELAND	529,100.00	0.00
REPUBLIC of KOREA	520,000.00	520,000.00
LUXEMBOURG	461,381.50	461,381.50
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	250,000.00	250,000.00
QATAR	200,000.00	200,000.00
CHILE	101,450.00	101,450.00
POLAND	37,704.00	37,704.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,732,280.03</b>	<b>31,133,941.97</b>

#### 7. PBF in the Media

At the FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum 2015 entitled “Re:think Peacebuilding” around 140 peacebuilders came together to discuss opportunities and challenges for peacebuilding in the face of a world in turmoil and against the backdrop of a number of international review and agenda setting processes. The PBF participated on the Panel: “Far, far away? The United Nations and local peacebuilding”

A summary of the discussion as well as FriEnt’s Favorites as bullet points can be found [here](#).

In September, the Washington Post published an article on the relevance of funding modalities to the United Nations. The PBF is mentioned as an effective tool to distribute funding to the U.N system, especially in countries with Mission settings, giving the example of CAR. The full article: “Ignore the old complaints about U.N funding. Here are some new ones.” Can be found [here](#)

#### 8. Staying updated

Financial figures on PBF allocations and Donor Contributions can be found on the [MPTFO web site](#)

Frequently updated country pages with information on where, what and how the Fund works and highlights of some key results can be found on the PBF [website](#)

Documentation on the Review can be found on the [Peacebuilding Review website](#).

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