

Questions & Answers on the UN Secretariat entities access to PBF funds

Background: The UN Controller's office has signed, on behalf of the UN Secretariat, the Memorandum of Understanding, copy attached, with the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office (MDTF-O), the administrative agent for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), enabling the UN Secretariat to become a Recipient of Peacebuilding Fund allocations. This decision implies that UN Secretariat entities like DPKO and DPA can now directly access the resources of the PBF in line with the General Assembly approved Terms of Reference (A/63/818) and the accompanying PBF Guidelines (October 2009).

How will this ruling affect PBF procedures?

None of the basic PBF procedures will change because of this ruling. The country-driven programming mechanisms remain the same. The practical difference is an expansion of implementing partners from the current 16 to 18 (i.e. plus DPKO and DPA). Joint Steering Committees and UN leadership now have a wider array of implementing partners to draw upon when identifying the right organization to implement priority activities.

Will more funds become available for countries?

No further funds are available because of this change, Funds will be allocated to country priorities as identified through the current procedures: by the Joint Steering Committee and through a jointly agreed upon Priority Plan in the case of a Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) allocation; by the ASG, PBSO in collaboration with the UN system and development partners in the case of an Immediate Response Facility (IRF) allocation. For countries with already approved priority plans, no additional funds are foreseen as a consequence of this new development.

Will new countries become eligible?

No, the decision-making processes about which countries become eligible for funding remain unchanged. Country eligibility is determined by the Secretary-General, as advised by PBSO and in consultation with the Senior Peacebuilding Group. The Fund has a self-imposed limit of 20 countries at any point in time, which remains unchanged in order to ensure focused attention and impact.

Can global or regional programmes be funded?

The Peacebuilding Fund is built on a country-driven model emphasizing national ownership. This model remains unchanged. The PBF does not fund regional or global UN programmes per se but national programmes with regional dimensions which have common and standardized activities across the board, e.g. in drug trafficking and transnational crime like the WACI Initiative, can be funded..

Can the Peace and Development Adviser (PDA) programme be supported?

Funding of the PDA programme is not usually within the scope of the Peacebuilding Fund. However, the Fund has done so exceptionally, but only as *part of a larger package of peacebuilding programmes supported by the PBF*, in order to ensure the efficiency of the provision of UN support to country peacebuilding priorities. Such support has, in any

case, also been limited so far to a maximum of 50 percent of the cost of the PDA and is included in the priority plan in the case of the PRF.

Can UN capacities / staff be supported by the Peacebuilding Fund?

The purpose of the Peacebuilding Fund is to support nationally owned peacebuilding priority actions, utilizing the existence of UN organizations to deliver this support. UN staff/capacity can exceptionally be supported insofar as it is agreed to by the Joint Steering Committee and is critically necessary for the successful implementation of the activities supported by the Fund.

Can PBF finance UN Mission regular and extra-budgetary activities, including staff?

No, the PBF cannot be used to finance and/or bridge funding gaps in UN Mission's programming budget for quick-impact projects that should be funded from its regular and extra-budgetary sources. Activities funded by the PBF must be in the priority plan.

Will UN Mission funding requests require UNCT endorsement as well?

Yes, PBF requires the involvement of an inclusive Joint Steering Committee, and consultation across the UN family, in the prioritization of activities. UN Mission and UNCT leadership should both be involved in discussions about priorities, whether for IRF activity proposals or PRF Priority Plans.

For additional information on the Peacebuilding Fund, please refer to the following documents:

- PBF Terms of Reference (A/63/818)
- PBF Guidelines, refer to the MDTF-O Gateway - http://www.unpbf.org/docs/application_guidelines.pdf