


BASIC FACTS

Total Portfolio	US\$ 278, 000,000
Pledges (since 1 January 2008)	US\$ 6,800,000
Commitments	US\$ 271,000,000
Deposits	US\$ 248,000,000
Funds Allocated	US\$ 122,800,000
Number of projects approved	70
Number of Donors	44
Countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone	

new approvals
Window I Burundi: Start-up of 2 new projects; budget increase and extensions for 5 ongoing projects

In November 2008, the Burundi Joint Steering Committee (JSC) adjusted budgets of 5 approved PBF projects in the total amount of US\$ 840,868. The projects address the PBF priority plan areas: Human Rights, Democratic Governance and Security Sector Reform. To date Burundi allocated US\$ 32.8m out of its US\$ 35m funding envelope.

Window I Sierra Leone: Revised Priority Plan

In October 2008, the Priority Plan was revised to include Energy and Power as a priority area for PBF funding. Support to the energy sector especially the electricity sub sector is geared to address the short term needs of electricity in Freetown, Bo and Kenema.

Window I Central African Republic: First 11 projects approved

Out of 67 received projects proposals, the CAR Steering Committee selected 11 projects for PBF funding. The projects address areas of Security Sector Reform, Good Governance and revitalization of communities affected by conflict. Implementing organizations included UNICEF, UNECSO, UNIP, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNHCR and FAO.

Window II Nepal: Priority Plan finalized

A funding envelope was set at US\$ 10 million in August 2008 based on a PBF priority plan that focuses on the following areas: Strengthening State Capacity for Sustaining Peace; Community Recovery and Conflict Prevention and Reconciliation. Nepal has proposed the inclusion of PBF funding in the UN Peacebuilding and Development Fund. Identification of projects is underway.

Window II Liberia: 5 new projects approved

In August 2008, the Liberian JSC approved 5 new projects in the total amount of US\$ 5,025,919. The projects address the PBF Priority Plan areas: Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation; Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict and Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management.

Window II Guinea

The priority plan is not yet officially submitted. On its submission the plan will be reviewed in consideration of the current political situation.

Window II Comoros: Priority Plan submitted

In early December 2008, PBSO received a final draft of the Priority Plan for Comoros. The preliminary priority areas identified for funding are: Security, stability and DDR; governance and social cohesion; revitalizing the economy and reinforcing national capacities for peace consolidation.

meetings & workshops
Three Briefings to PBC and donors

15 September 2008: PBSO presented a PBF performance report (from January to September 2008) to Member States.

17 December 2008: PBSO briefed and shared an Issues Paper on the revision of the Terms of References of the PBF.

15 January 2009: the PBF progress (up to 30 December 2008) was presented to donors. The meeting also provided an opportunity for PBSO to inform donors on the status of the OIOS evaluation.

Advisory Group Meeting 15 – 16 October 2008

The Third Meeting of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Advisory Group, chaired by HE Ms Marjatta Rasi took place at the UN Secretariat, New York. The Advisory Group Members reviewed PBF financial and performance reports, and shared ideas on reviewing the PBF Terms of References. The Group also received a briefing on the preparation of the Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Early Recovery. In the afternoon of October 16, the Secretary-General interacted with Advisory Group Members on how the Fund can be expanded and strengthened to better support UN peacebuilding processes.

Liberia Peacebuilding Office Workshop in Boston

Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs Peacebuilding Office and CDA Collaborative Learning Projects convened a two day strategy/planning workshop from 17-18 December 2008 in Boston. The workshop was an opportunity for PBSO to train new staff and support the initiation of comprehensive monitoring and evaluation.

OIOS Evaluation Report finalized

OIOS submitted its final report in December 2008 and PBSO's management response is nearly finalized.

Approved Peacebuilding Fund Portfolio		
Facility	Country	Amount (US \$)
Window I (Countries on the PBC agenda)	Burundi	32.8 million
	Sierra-Leone	32.7 million
	Guinea-Bissau	5.7 million <i>1st tranche</i>
	CAR	6.0 million <i>1st tranche</i>
Window II (Countries recommended by the Secretary-General)	Liberia	10.3 million
	Nepal	TBD
	Côte d'Ivoire	5.0 million
	Guinea	TBD
	Comoros	TBD
Window III (Emergency Funding)	Côte d'Ivoire	1.0 million
	CAR	0.8 million
	Guinea	1.0 million
	Liberia	0.8 million
	Burundi	1.0 million
	Kenya	1.0 million
	Haiti	0.8 million

Source: PBSO, January 2009

KENYA : Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme

Supporting community-based peacebuilding

Project background

The Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) was a response to the post election violence in Kenya subsequent to the announcement of the disputed presidential election results on 27 December 2007. Sporadic violence broke out in many parts of the country, characterised by violence, looting, burning of houses and rape. Tensions continued for several months in 2008 and also took an ethnic dimension that resulted in killings and the displacement of thousands of people. Many people were traumatised physically and psychologically as well extensive loss of livelihoods and decreased access to basic services.

Project strategy and objectives

The prevailing situation in the country at that time called for a quick and radical response. The NVS was thus initiated in March 2008 by UNDP, UNV and the Government of Kenya to tone down the violence and support delivery of services to the needy. The scheme envisaged to cover 21 districts that were epicentres of violence following the elections, with co-sharing funding from UNDP (US\$ 955,110), PBF (US\$ 1,000,000) and UNV (US\$ 800,000).



Neighbourhood volunteers from Kwanza district in Kenya's Rift Valley Province take the volunteers pledge and commitment.

The scheme taps on the inherent resources and capacity of the people within the community including youth leaders, retired professionals and community opinion leaders whose actions facilitated in the turn-around effects on tension caused by the post election violence. Community members are engaged as volunteers and through training and sensitisation to promote self healing, harnessing reconciliation, peacebuilding and recovery within the neighbourhoods. **Volunteerism** in this project presented a distinctive contribution which facilitated inclusion and participation of stakeholders.

Volunteers are trained and oriented in order to strengthen their capacity to contribute to mechanisms of harnessing the community towards reconciliation, basic counselling/psycho-social support, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, recovery and revitalising the ethos of nationhood. In addition, a cascade approach of training was adopted whereby a core team of trained trainers trained the neighbourhood volunteers who subsequently conducted training and sensitization within their respective neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood Volunteers assist in the reconstruction of a school that was burnt down during the post election violence.

Project progress

In the process of fulfilling the project objectives, training modules have been developed, while the project has recruited, oriented and trained 210 trainers, 928 neighbourhood volunteers, 19 district coordinators and 30 media practitioners. The process of the launch includes a commitment ceremony for the neighbourhood volunteers (see picture). The project has now been launched in 11 districts located in Nairobi, Rift Valley, Coast, and Nyanza provinces. In the remaining 10 districts training of neighbourhood volunteers has been undertaken.

Project results

In August 2008, 51 neighbourhood volunteers were recruited from two Nakuru neighbourhoods (Kaptembwa and Baruti) which were the most affected by the violence. The volunteers have been focusing on conflict resolution and peacebuilding; counselling; and support to humanitarian response. In recognition of the Nakuru youths' exposure to political manipulation and conducts of violence, the project has targeted at risk youth to sensitize and encourage them to participate in community peace initiatives. In addition, neighbourhood volunteers have provided counselling/psycho-social support to traumatized persons and assisted in the distribution of basic food, sanitation and medical essentials to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). NVS interventions have enabled early closure of Nakuru camps and the resettlement of IDPs from the violence. Over time, the NVS approach has proven to be practical and effective in supporting community-based peacebuilding and reconciliation. For example, the role played by the trained neighbourhood volunteers has led to:

- Containing potential conflict flare-ups in the Nairobi West District – Kibera settlement during the build-up for the local council elections in July 2008;
- Mediating peaceful coexistence between tenants and landlords in Nairobi North District – Mathare North settlement and Nairobi East –Dandora settlement;
- Successfully preparing ground for the return of IDPs in the district of Burnt Forest through community dialogue.

Efforts are now underway to mobilize additional funding to scale-up the NVS programme to other regions of the country.

Source: Extracted from UNDP, January 2009; Photos: UNDP Nairobi