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Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

Peacebuilding Fund

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In 2024, support from the Peacebuilding Fund amounting to \$116,223,494 was approved for 48 initiatives in 32 countries and territories. Across the three priority windows of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy, \$16,250,000 was approved for supporting cross-border and regional approaches, \$29,627,609 for facilitating transitions, and \$31,808,690 for women's and youth empowerment. Despite a growing demand for conflict prevention and peacebuilding worldwide, lower contribution amounts in recent years led to a reduced level of approvals. Thirty-three donor partners contributed \$143 million to the Fund, an 8.5 per cent increase compared with 2023. However, this amount was again well below the maximum level of \$180 million in 2020 and far from the goal (and the funding compact indicator) of \$500 million per year. The landmark decision by the General Assembly to provide predictable support from assessed contributions is a commitment on the part of Member States and represents their acknowledgement of peacebuilding as a core mandate of the United Nations. This important development notwithstanding, voluntary contributions remain critical to achieving the Fund's full potential to address growing demand. The forthcoming review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2025 provides an opportunity to build on the Pact for the Future to advance the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda, including peacebuilding financing.



I. Introduction

1. The present report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, is the fifteenth annual report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution [63/282](#). It covers the fifth year of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy. The report will be complemented by a certified financial report issued by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office no later than 1 May 2025.

2. In 2024, record levels of conflict and conflict fatalities underlined the urgent need for peacebuilding. The heightened level of conflict also led to a shift in resource allocation by Member States, diverting funds from prevention to humanitarian response and even military spending, creating a stark disparity between the scale of challenges faced and the prevention resources available. During 2024, the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs had to significantly reduce approvals related to the Fund, down to \$116 million from \$202 million in 2023. Yet there are signs of increasing demands for prevention efforts. The Pact for the Future has underscored Member States' commitments to greater prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace action. It further highlights the importance of national prevention and peacebuilding strategies, which will be supported in the extension of the Fund's Strategy through 2026, including in collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission.

II. Global performance and lessons learned

3. Following consultations with the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group in May 2024, the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy was extended until 2026. The extension will allow for the next full strategy, starting in 2027, to consider results from the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, align more precisely with the strategy period of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and benefit from learning from the first two years of the use of assessed contributions. Notably, the extension will allow the Fund to respond in a timely fashion to the emphasis placed by Member States in the Pact for the Future on national prevention and peacebuilding strategies by adding support to such strategies as a new priority, along with the existing three windows – namely, a focus on mission transition settings, cross-border programming, and women's and youth inclusion. The extension of the Strategy, as endorsed by the Advisory Group, includes support for countries seeking to develop or implement a national prevention and peacebuilding strategy. In particular, if a country seeks the support and accompaniment of the Peacebuilding Commission to pursue its peacebuilding strategies, this will send a clear signal of commitment.

4. During 2024, preparations started for implementing General Assembly resolution [78/257](#), in which the Assembly approved \$50 million from assessed contributions per annum from the United Nations regular budget to fund the newly established Peacebuilding Account, subsequently channelled as a grant to the Peacebuilding Fund, starting on 1 January 2025. To align with the regular budget cycle, a selection of countries eligible for the Fund's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility was discussed with the Advisory Group as possible recipients of assessed contributions during 2025. The countries – Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and South Sudan – were prioritized for their status as transition settings and/or engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission in recent years. Limiting the selection to 5 of more than 20 eligible countries (in accordance with resolution [78/257](#)) ensures focused allocation for easier tracking. Final project ideas

were listed in annex 3 to the proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect. 3)), with supplementary details to be provided to the Fifth Committee as requested.

5. The management of the Fund is carried out in close synergy with the Peacebuilding Commission. On 25 April, the Commission convened an ambassador-level meeting on the Fund's activities, featuring briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia and the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations. In addition, in its resolution 78/257, the General Assembly mandated the Secretary-General to revise the Fund's terms of reference. The Commission assisted in this process by convening structured consultations called for in the resolution, entailing two expert-level and one ambassador-level meeting open to all Member States. The Secretary-General's revisions were presented in his report (A/79/541), of which the Assembly took note in resolution 79/262. The revised terms of reference incorporate resolution 78/257 into the Fund's foundational document and establish an annual strategic dialogue between the Commission and the Fund's manager to advise on Fund priorities, including using assessed contributions. Lastly, countries seeking support from the Commission will be considered for support by the Fund, as envisaged when establishing the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, as this demonstrates strong political will for peacebuilding. In 2024, for example, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe sought the support of the Commission to assist with its rule of law reform objectives. Accordingly, the Fund prioritized a new proposal by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support these efforts.

6. Thirty-three countries made voluntary commitments to the Fund during 2024, totalling \$143 million. This was the first time in four years that voluntary contributions increased over the previous year. While a welcome development, the amount was significantly below the Strategy target of \$385 million and the Secretary-General's call for a "quantum leap" to \$500 million per annum. As a result, project approval levels dropped in 2024 compared with 2023, and some payments were delayed. The Secretary-General appealed in writing to all Member States in April 2024 to replenish the Fund. A few Member States responded by generously increasing their contribution for the year. At the end of its original 2020–2024 Strategy period, the Fund had received \$802.2 million, thus remaining significantly behind its \$1.5 billion target.

7. To demonstrate the impact and challenges of the Fund's work, three partner visits were organized in 2024. Donor partners, two Advisory Group members and a representative of the Peacebuilding Commission visited South Sudan from 14 to 19 April to learn how the Fund supports work in peacebuilding and nation-building. During a visit to Papua New Guinea from 7 to 11 October, donor partners and an Advisory Group member visited Fund-supported programmes supporting local peace processes in remote areas also affected by natural disasters. From 21 to 25 October, a high-level partner visit to Chad focused on the Fund's backing of peacebuilding initiatives in the context of the country's political transition.

8. Forty-eight programmes were approved for support through the Fund in 2024, amounting to \$116,223,494 across 32 countries and territories. Most of the new programmes (72 per cent) were approved in priority countries eligible for the Fund's larger Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility. By the end of 2024, country-level partners were implementing 216 ongoing initiatives. The Secretary-General approved requests from Chad and the Gambia to renew eligibility for a further five-year period. The eligibility of Mali was extended for one year to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in the country. Overall, the number of eligible countries had declined slightly by the end of 2024 due to expiration in some countries and relapse into conflict in others.

9. Of the 24 eligible countries in 2024, 21 have established joint steering committees. These committees are co-chaired by a government representative and the resident coordinator, with members including other government officials and representatives of the United Nations country team, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations. In Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Sierra Leone, the committees are integrated into existing governance structures, such as those for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. In Liberia, committee members joined a visit of the Peacebuilding Commission country configuration Chair (Sweden) to Fund-supported projects. In Guatemala, the committee visited a project demonstrating results in youth empowerment and participation in civic spaces. The joint nature of programmes remains a core principle and requirement for financing by the Fund, driving United Nations coherence under the coordination and guidance of resident coordinators.

10. In 2024, significant resources continued to be allocated in line with the three priority windows of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy: supporting cross-border and regional approaches, facilitating United Nations transitions and fostering inclusion through women's and youth empowerment. Of the approved funding in 2024, 14 per cent went to cross-border and regional initiatives and 25.5 per cent supported transitions. The targets for these two windows were revised in accordance with recommendations of the Board of Auditors in 2023 and the Strategy's midterm review. The target for cross-border programming was adjusted to 10 per cent, reflecting the complexity, high transaction costs and longer timelines of the initiatives. Similarly, the transition window target was revised to remain within 5 per cent of the previous year's results (19 per cent in 2023), acknowledging fluctuations in funding requests from transitioning countries. Of the approved funding, 27.4 per cent was dedicated to the inclusion of women and young people against a target of 25 per cent. When accounting for gender equality and women's empowerment integrated across all projects, the allocation increases to 43 per cent, as outlined in section III.C.

Table 1
Peacebuilding Fund portfolio by priority window, 2024

	<i>Priority window 1: cross-border and regional approaches</i>	<i>Priority window 2: facilitating transitions</i>	<i>Priority window 3: women's and youth empowerment</i>
Total commitment (United States dollars)	16 249 999.88	29 627 608.57	31 808 689.88
Number of new projects	4	12	10
Countries and territories	9	8	15
Fund recipients	9	12	8
Share of portfolio (percentage)	14	25.5	27.4
Total number of active projects	21	66	62

11. In 2024, the Fund's decentralized Gender Promotion Initiative 2.0 was extended to seven countries with the aim of better integrating women and peace and security programmes into national prevention and peacebuilding strategies by supporting local programme design and community engagement, involving civil society and informal networks. In the Niger, for example, a national action plan on women and peace and security was implemented by two women's organizations leading grass-roots initiatives that worked with traditional leaders to mobilize them as male champions for women's rights. Between 2022 and 2024, in response to the 2021 thematic review on local peacebuilding, an inception phase pilot to deepen localization efforts was

supported with PeaceNexus. These pilots engaged local actors in conflict analysis and programme design on youth, media literacy and civic education in Kyrgyzstan, and on climate, peace and security in Madagascar.

12. In 2024, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs launched its youth and peace and security strategy for 2024–2026 to accelerate the implementation of the agenda. One key component is the youth and peace and security pilot initiative, which supports Member States in developing national strategies to enhance youth participation in peace and security. A pilot programme in Burundi, supported by the Fund, will aim to advance the country's national strategy on youth and peace and security, focusing on conflict prevention, youth participation and protection.

Table 2
Peacebuilding Fund allocations, 2024

(United States dollars)

	<i>Immediate Response Facility</i>	<i>Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility</i>	<i>Total</i>
Albania	1 194 900.03	–	1 194 900.03
Bolivia	1 500 000.00	–	1 500 000.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina ^a	898 800.00	–	898 800.00
Burkina Faso ^a	–	7 000 000.00	7 000 000.00
Cameroon ^a	–	500 000.00	500 000.00
Central African Republic ^a	–	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00
Chada	4 790 617.00	–	4 790 617.00
Colombia	–	2 705 130.00	2 705 130.00
Côte d'Ivoire ^b	2 500 000.00	–	2 500 000.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^{a,b}	–	7 000 000.00	7 000 000.00
Gambia ^a	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	6 000 000.00
Guatemala ^a	–	8 080 000.00	8 080 000.00
Guinea ^a	–	5 058 690.00	5 058 690.00
Guinea-Bissau ^a	–	1 183 698.00	1 183 698.00
Haiti ^{a,b}	–	5 600 000.39	5 600 000.39
Honduras ^a	–	3 000 000.89	3 000 000.89
Iraq	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Lesotho	1 524 750.00	–	1 524 750.00
Liberia ^{a,b}	2 282 706.00	–	2 282 706.00
Madagascar ^a	–	3 500 000.00	3 500 000.00
Mali ^{a,b}	–	6 771 606.00	6 771 606.00
Mauritania ^a	–	1 108 520.00	1 108 520.00
Mozambique	3 999 003.79	–	3 999 003.79
North Macedonia	852 702.45	–	852 702.45
Sao Tome and Principe	2 523 916.00	–	2 523 916.00
Serbia	1 150 895.00	–	1 150 895.00
Sierra Leone ^a	1 717 294.00	1 428 939.00	3 146 233.00
Somalia	–	2 572 304.18	2 572 304.18
South Sudan ^a	–	11 537 472.30	11 537 472.30
Sri Lanka	2 000 000.00	–	2 000 000.00

	<i>Immediate Response Facility</i>	<i>Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tunisia	2 307 886.00	–	2 307 886.00
Kosovo ^c	652 702.40	–	652 702.40
Global	7 280 960.05	–	7 280 960.05
Total	43 177 132.72	73 046 360.76	116 223 493.48

Source: Peacebuilding Support Office and Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, December 2024.

Note: The table reflects funding decisions taken in 2024. Financial transfers, in tranches, follow project approval and may occur in subsequent years.

^a Setting eligible for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility.

^b Setting is considered a mission transition, understood, in the context of the Fund, as a setting from which a mission has departed within the past 10 years.

^c References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

III. Results and peacebuilding gains

A. Priority window 1: supporting cross-border and regional approaches

13. Addressing the transboundary nature of conflicts often requires collaborative solutions across and along borders to prevent escalation and build sustainable peace. Four new cross-border or borderland initiatives were approved in 2024, including in north-eastern Côte d'Ivoire on the border with Ghana, where one initiative expanded on lessons learned from earlier activities, focusing on community engagement in natural resource management, including access to water for people and livestock. A second project supports sustainable forest management in the Sierra Leone and Liberia border region, increasing youth engagement in productive enterprise and local government. A third initiative was focused on youth engagement in peacebuilding across the Western Balkans, promoting youth exchanges, positive narratives and inclusive decision-making. Cross-border programmes require significant investment in project design phases given the number of partners involved. Other projects in the pipeline include an initiative supporting women's access to water in the Mali, Mauritania and Senegal region, the extension of a Burkina Faso-Côte d'Ivoire cross-border activity and an initiative addressing challenges and opportunities linked to access to water in the Trifinio region between El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

14. As at 31 December 2024, the Fund's active portfolio under this window amounted to \$75.6 million, with 21 ongoing initiatives. Active projects demonstrate significant progress in strengthening local peace infrastructure and enhancing early warning systems, effectively managing and mitigating conflict dynamics. Samples of results of projects with at least one year of implementation include the following. In the border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo, management of early warning alerts by local mechanisms increased from 67 per cent to 92 per cent; implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNDP, the project bolstered conflict prevention mechanisms by establishing 13 local early warning systems connected to government entities, facilitating real-time reporting on violent extremism and natural resource-related conflicts, thereby improving their management and/or resolution. In the border area of Mauritania and Senegal, 20 community conflicts were resolved through 50 community dialogues. UNODC and IOM supported community conflict prevention structures that engaged over 4,000 people and promoted dialogue

between pastoralist and farming communities, with women's participation reaching 37 per cent in these committees.

15. Falling within the scope of this priority window, borderlands represent critical zones where interconnected communities face unique challenges and opportunities for peacebuilding. In 2024, projects in borderlands contributed to rebuilding trust in local authorities and strengthening communal governance structures. In the Diffa Region of the Niger, community trust in local authorities increased from 60 per cent to 80 per cent after IOM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported the rehabilitation of local social infrastructures in the communes of Bosso, Gueskerou and Kablewa, according to project monitoring. This facilitated the return of local authorities and service delivery, while 12 communal peace committees supported inclusive decision-making and conflict management. In Ghana, UNDP and UNFPA supported the establishment and strengthening of 24 community peace committees across the North-East, Upper East and Upper West Regions. These committees led local mediation efforts, reduced conflict resolution waiting times and improved access to mediation in remote northern border areas. They actively worked to prevent chieftaincy-related conflicts and mediated tensions between Indigenous communities, Fulbe herders and refugees from Burkina Faso.

16. Climate change adaptation and inclusive natural resource management are critical to preventing conflicts exacerbated by environmental degradation and resource scarcity, in particular in border regions where communities often share resources in fragile ecosystems. In the Gambia and Senegal, a project endline survey shows that tensions between women and border authorities were reduced by 90 per cent as a result of a project led by IOM and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). A total of 10 bushfire management committees were created in the Gambia, while in Senegal 9 fire management committees were revitalized and 20 new ones were created, with women making up 53 per cent of members, contributing to reducing bushfire incidents. Amid rising tensions between border communities related to the use of the Dajabón/Massacre River, a project by IOM and UNDP revitalized the Haiti-Dominican Republic Mixed Bilateral Commission, enabling better communication between the border police of the two countries and facilitating their daily operations. In the Haitian border community of Carice, 100 young women and men from local organizations were trained in reforestation and ecosystem protection. In addition, 130 members of youth-led organizations in the locality of Pedernales in the Dominican Republic received training in business plan development and financial support to implement income-generating activities.

B. Priority window 2: facilitating transitions

17. Supporting United Nations special political missions and peacekeeping operations and facilitating transition processes have been central goals of the peacebuilding architecture since its inception. In 2024, nearly \$30 million was allocated to 12 initiatives. Highlights include three programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo focusing on transitional justice in Kasai and Kasai Oriental Provinces, catalytic support for the national demobilization, disarmament, community recovery and stabilization programme in Tanganyika Province focused on Bantu and Twa social cohesion, and a gender promotion initiative. The newly approved projects also include an initiative in Somalia engaging with religious networks for peacebuilding. In Haiti, a new area-based programme was approved, focusing on strengthening State presence, supporting community participation in governance and implementing socioeconomic activities in zones at risk of increased

violence. New programmes approved in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Mali also count towards the Fund's target of supporting projects in transition settings.

18. As at 31 December 2024, the Fund's active portfolio dedicated to enabling country teams and their partners to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and communities to sustain peace in transition settings amounted to \$172 million, with 66 ongoing initiatives. Samples of results of projects with at least one year of implementation include the following. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Fund supported peacebuilding priorities in provinces affected by the phased withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). An initiative implemented by IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNDP helped to strengthen local security governance in Tanganyika Province by supporting the activation of four local security committees. These committees developed five local security plans aligned with community priorities, addressing land disputes and implementing mediation mechanisms to reduce tensions and prevent escalation.

19. Building on the legacy of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Fund supported efforts to strengthen social cohesion in cross-border areas with Burkina Faso. Implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP, one initiative contributed to fostering trust between defence and security forces and communities, increasing community-reported interventions from 20 per cent to 80 per cent. Over 30 local conflicts were resolved through peace and consultation committees, while inter-community activities led by young people and women reduced inter-ethnic tensions. The final project evaluation highlights the national appropriation of the child protection committees, which play a critical role in supporting understaffed social services by intercepting and referring cases of child trafficking, demonstrating their effective integration into the national child protection system and thus their potential for durability.

20. In Burundi, the Fund supported initiatives to advance women's leadership, foster social cohesion and empower marginalized groups, focusing on sustainability and advocacy. A project implemented by the American Friends Service Committee and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) made substantial strides in promoting women's engagement in peacebuilding and rights-based advocacy. Since its inception, the Women Mediators Network has resolved over 81 per cent of the 10,000 local conflicts it handled, addressing issues such as land conflict and gender-based violence, with unresolved cases referred to local authorities. Training of social workers and young women has been prioritized to ensure the sustainability of psychosocial support and conflict resolution efforts beyond the project's duration. Over 6,000 individuals, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, received psychosocial support, with over 3,000 people successfully reintegrated socially and economically. The Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security organized 14 awareness-raising sessions on the creation and value of cooperatives for peace and community development, conducted leadership training for vulnerable young women and selected 35 income-generating initiatives to encourage the formation of cooperatives. Christian Aid Ireland expanded 13 women-led grass-roots networks, increasing membership from 5,298 to 7,405, including returnees, internally displaced persons and Batwa women. These networks created community action plans, launched 26 microprojects for economic empowerment and advocated for gender-sensitive policies, influencing 13 communal development plans and boosting women's interest in the upcoming election by 80 per cent, according to a project survey.

21. In Guinea-Bissau, the Fund supported initiatives to strengthen conflict resolution, legal frameworks, equitable health access and youth empowerment as the continuation of efforts of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. FAO and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) conflict resolution initiative between farmers and herders has, according to officials, decreased the rate of conflict incidents from approximately 80 cases per month to 1 case per month on average since project implementation. Guinea-Bissau launched its first-ever national human rights strategy and action plan, the Child Protection Code and the national policy on child protection. Implemented by OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF, the project supported the submission of landmark reports to international human rights mechanisms and a record 21 reports from local civil society organizations to the universal periodic review mechanism. In 2024, 126 cases of violence against children (50 against boys and 76 against girls) were reported and responded to by child protection services using the data management platform supported by the project.

22. In Haiti, under the leadership of the Office of Citizen Protection, a national campaign to raise awareness of women's political participation was launched across 10 departments, advocating for greater inclusion and representation of women in governance, through a project led by UN-Women.

23. In Liberia, a project implemented by Integrity Watch, UNDP and UN-Women focused on deepening decentralization and fostering transparency and accountability was aimed at addressing mistrust and contributing to strengthening the social contract. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission trained 90 personnel (including 35 women) from the Central Bank, the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission, the Internal Audit Agency and the judiciary across 10 counties. The project also trained 320 participants (including 115 women) from civil society organizations and student groups on key anti-corruption laws, reaching over 5,000 individuals. In addition, 82 corruption cases have been reported through an online platform that was upgraded and expanded by the project, with 20 cases under investigation.

24. In Mali, following the termination of the mandate and withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the Fund supported initiatives to sustain and strengthen peacebuilding and stabilization efforts. Search for Common Ground, in partnership with the local organization Le Jalon, trained 180 influencers and produced 171 fact-checking articles, reaching 9 million people through digital campaigns combating fake news and hate speech. Complementing these efforts, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization and the National Independent Electoral Commission operationalized an early warning tool with the support of UNDP and UN-Women. The Observatoire des Droits Humains et de la Paix organized workshops with local stakeholders, including political parties, to identify indicators of electoral violence risks and develop a response framework. Through another project in the Koulikoro and Kayes Regions implemented by UNDP and UN-Women, 141 land commissions were revitalized and contributed to the peaceful resolution of 78 land-related conflicts. In addition, in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA and UNODC, the Fund supported institutional strengthening by training 49 cross-border conflict prevention committees with Guinea and reactivating 12 multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks. Cross-border local development plans were revised to better integrate conflict prevention and gender equality.

25. In the Sudan, the Fund supported initiatives to enhance women's leadership in peace processes and empower young people as critical actors in peacebuilding and security. A project implemented by Search for Common Ground facilitated the participation of 14 women civil society leaders from across the Sudan in talks co-hosted by Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United States of America in Geneva

in August 2024, which were aimed at reaching agreement on humanitarian access and a ceasefire. Supported by the Fund and the Carter Center, the Youth Citizen Observer Network produced 58 reports that provided credible, ground-level insights into conflict dynamics. Based on data collected from 18 States, these reports informed national and international policymakers, as well as a briefing to the Security Council in October 2024.

C. Priority window 3: fostering inclusion through women's and youth empowerment

26. Empowering women and young people to prevent violence and strengthen community cohesion is essential for effective conflict management and resolution and for fostering inclusive peacebuilding. All projects supported by the Fund are required to allocate a minimum of 15 per cent of the budget towards gender equality and women's empowerment, according to the Fund's gender marker system that covers score 1 (15 per cent to 29 per cent allocation), score 2 (30 per cent to 79 per cent allocation) and score 3 (80 per cent to 100 per cent allocation). For the eighth year in a row, the Fund exceeded its internal target allocation of 30 per cent, achieving an allocation of 43 per cent to gender-responsive investments across all newly approved projects. The modality for gender promotion has evolved, with a decentralized approach to the Gender Promotion Initiative 2.0 leading to greater emphasis on local women-led organizations. Highlights in 2024 include approving three new Gender Promotion Initiative 2.0 programmes in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guatemala. In addition, a programme was approved in South Sudan that focused on increasing the involvement of women in the security sector. Youth inclusion is being pursued through its integration into regular country-led programming. In Mali, a youth programme focused on the Ségou and Koutiala Regions is aimed at increasing the involvement of young women and men, host populations and displaced persons in local governance, economic recovery and social cohesion.

27. As at 31 December 2024, the Fund's total active portfolio dedicated to enabling country teams and their partners to increase the inclusion of women and young people amounted to \$115.5 million, with 62 ongoing initiatives. Samples of results of projects with at least one year of implementation include the following. In the Central African Republic, UNDP and UN-Women set up an early warning system that addressed 220 allegations of human rights violations and convened consultations to draft legislation for human rights defenders. The project enhanced the institutional capacities of 56 women-led civil society organizations in collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. In the Niger, the organizations Réseau des Femmes pour la Paix and Femmes, Action et Développement managed 103 land conflicts, developed a pool of 30 mediators and addressed 30 allegations of human rights violations, in a project led by OHCHR and UN-Women. A project led by the civil society organization Adkoul facilitated the resolution of a decade-long dispute in Tassara, Tahoua Province, by holding intergenerational dialogues. In El Salvador, UNDP, UNODC and UN-Women promoted the recognition of women peacebuilders involved in the 1992 Peace Accords through symbolic reparations and public acknowledgments.

28. Empowering women and ensuring gender equality is fundamental to building inclusive and sustainable peace, with women driving local development and resilient societies. In Guinea, Care International supported the creation of a national council of women and girls, enabling women's appointments in 11 consultation frameworks and facilitating their access to credit through partnerships with two microfinance institutions. Since February 2023, 24 community savings entities have been established,

with collective savings totalling approximately \$48,000. In the Guidimakha Region of Mauritania, around 90 per cent of communities surveyed reported favouring land access for women and young people without restrictions due to targeted awareness programmes. A project led by OHCHR, UNFPA and UNICEF established a clinic that provided legal support services, including organizing 10 legal sessions with consultation frameworks, which resulted in the resolution of 35 out of 50 legal cases on critical issues such as early marriage and education. In Somalia, the Fund supported the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development in strengthening eight women-led civil society organizations, enabling them to lead peacebuilding initiatives. These organizations achieved an average endline score of 4.08 out of 5 on the grass-roots organizations capacity assessment, reflecting significant improvements in their organizational capacities.

29. Engaging young people in civic and leadership roles strengthens their agency in shaping peacebuilding efforts and addressing exclusion and marginalization. In Chad, the Ministry of Youth's work with young people resulted in 41 entrepreneurial projects that generated employment. Supported by UNICEF and UNFPA, the Ministry reached over 2,000 young people with leadership and business training, which resulted in increased agency and employment. A project by Conexión Guatemala contributed to a 48 per cent increase in trust between young people and public institutions in the Petén Department, according to the project survey, through the accreditation of 95 rural youth representatives to community decision-making bodies. In the Gambia, five local development plans included the priorities of young people as a result of 10 regional dialogues involving 246 young people (50 per cent women), with support from the International Center for Transitional Justice. As indicated in the project survey, 86 per cent of youth participants reported feeling confident in engaging with decision makers, and 78 per cent reported improved quality of engagements. In Moldova, a Young Peacebuilders Network consisting of 78 young people from both sides of the Nistru River was established with the support of OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women and has already reached out to and met with the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and committed to establishing a permanent platform on youth and peace and security.

30. Addressing mental health needs and providing psychosocial support builds resilience and empowers communities to recover from conflict, with women and young people as key stakeholders. In Hela Province in Papua New Guinea, the Tigibi Youth Hub and Komo Bosavi Women Learning Empowerment Protection Centre were formed by 382 men and women to support a culture of peace and resilience in the communities. Supported by UNFPA and UN-Women, these community members gained knowledge in peacebuilding, lay counselling and trauma-informed care, which empowered them to address conflict-related trauma more effectively. In the Central African Republic, over 4,000 community members (44 per cent women) benefited directly from trauma-healing initiatives led by 640 youth educators trained by DanChurchAid, with technical support from the World Health Organization.

31. Inclusive projects that address the needs of marginalized communities, such as Indigenous populations, are aligned with the goals of this priority window currently focused on women and young people and are vital to advancing peacebuilding efforts. Expanding efforts to explicitly include Indigenous and other marginalized peoples and strengthen their participation in conflict resolution could contribute substantially to social cohesion and the fostering of equitable and sustainable peace in many contexts. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a project by FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF contributed to reducing the marginalization of the Indigenous Twa community in Tanganyika Province. According to the project's midterm evaluation, it installed 13 water points benefiting 1,855 households (55 per cent Twa), reintegrated 481 out-of-school

children (250 Twa) and trained 150 young people (36 Twa) in vocational skills. In addition, 275 women (101 Twa) received financial support for income-generating activities, and legal land titles were secured for 60 households. Seven reconciliation ceremonies and 45 community committees (up to 60 per cent Twa representation) fostered coexistence. Furthermore, the project strengthened local structures such as infrastructure management and village protection committees. By building their capacity to manage basic services and resolve conflicts, these efforts enable communities to sustain peace and autonomously manage services after the project's conclusion.

32. In Guatemala, Indigenous young people developed 73 public policy proposals that were presented to local authorities, 38 of which were included and budgeted for in municipal work plans with support from an initiative implemented by IOM, OHCHR and UNFPA. These policy proposals represent a broad range of issues prioritized by young people, including on improving youth participation, the prevention of gender-based violence, and conflict prevention and resolution.

D. Additional programmes and trends in Peacebuilding Fund results and financing

33. Based on demand, a significant number of programmes were approved in 2024 beyond the three priority windows. In South Sudan, one new initiative was focused on sustainable solutions and social cohesion in Upper Nile State, while another is aimed at reducing community violence and increasing peaceful economic use of the White Nile and Sobat Rivers and other natural resources. The Sahel continued to be a priority for the Fund, with programmes in Burkina Faso, for example, using an area-based approach in the south-western part of the country as preventive action and for building the resilience of displaced and host communities. In Mali, a new project is focused on land management, supporting the activation of local land management committees and the national-level observatory. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, a programme was approved to strengthen institutional structures, including the Ombudsman's Office, develop the first national action plan on women and peace and security by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and support civil society dialogue efforts to prevent electoral violence.

34. For the first time, a programme was approved in Iraq, focused on implementing the Agreement for Restoring Stability and Normalizing Conditions in the Sinjar District in the northern part of the country. The aim of the programme is to strengthen social cohesion, support the return and reintegration of displaced persons and increase civil society engagement in the inclusive implementation of the Agreement. Two initiatives were also approved, in Tunisia and Sri Lanka, on support for social dialogue within public service, the private sector and labour unions, to promote inclusive economic recovery.

35. In line with the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, the Fund supported critical conflict prevention efforts globally that work to address root causes and foster sustainable peace. In Mauritania, a project by FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and IOM reduced agropastoral and local conflicts by approximately 80 per cent through enhanced early warning systems, village committees and increased community engagement, according to project monitoring. Disaster preparedness campaigns improved comprehension of prevention measures from 41 per cent to 96 per cent among 1,669 stakeholders. In the Bria and Bouar areas of the Central African Republic, 724 youth and 493 community leaders reported improved relationships and reduced tensions. This comes with support from UNFPA and WHO, which revitalized local peace committees and facilitated dialogue

in conflict-prone areas. In Ecuador, 47 municipalities use a methodological guide to design and implement local plans for security and citizen coexistence developed with the support of UNDP, UNODC and UN-Women.

36. The Fund continued its support to deliver solutions for those displaced by conflict and violence while supporting efforts on prevention and reducing future forced displacement. In Costa Rica, IOM, UNDP and UNHCR responded to human mobility challenges by creating a regional committee on migration and human mobility in the Northern Zone, bringing together public institutions and civil society. Community initiatives fostered peaceful coexistence, while a human security risk monitoring system was developed to identify, assess and reduce risks for host communities, refugees and migrants. In the Philippines, IOM, UNDP and UNHCR supported early warning and response systems in 16 municipalities that reported 283 conflict triggers between September and November 2024. Those were subsequently referred to the regional Ministry of Public Order and Safety in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. The system for the identification of conflicts and engagement with the Ministry were catalytic for the enactment of rights-based legislation for internally displaced persons in that region, the first in the country and in South-East Asia.

37. The Fund also continued to support efforts to address conflict drivers exacerbated by the effects of climate change and/or weak natural resource management in vulnerable regions. In Kyrgyzstan, six local socioeconomic development plans in Batken and Leilek districts were developed, addressing gender equality, climate security and conflict prevention dimensions raised by local women's groups. This initiative by FAO, the Public Foundation "Roza Otunbayeva Initiative" and UN-Women supported women activists in actively contributing to the work of the Central Asian Women Leaders Caucus, influencing policies on gender-sensitive security and climate-resilient water management and driving commitments across five Central Asian nations. In Guatemala, the departmental governorships of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, along with representatives of eight public institutions linked to agrarian conflict management, established a registry for agrarian conflict resolution, enabling local institutions to address Indigenous community disputes in real time, with the support of FAO, OHCHR and the World Food Programme (WFP). In February 2024, the National Congress of Honduras unanimously adopted a legislative decree addressing challenges to sustaining peace because of extractive activities in protected areas, such as national parks. The law prohibits extractive activities in all protected areas in the country, strengthens their conservation and orders the restoration of the Carlos Escaleras Mejía National Park in close consultation with communities. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and legislative commissions led this process with support from OHCHR and WFP.

38. In 2024, the Fund contributed to significant outcomes in security sector reform, the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and political dialogue. The Central African Republic strengthened its national programme for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation by rehabilitating and equipping regional offices and developing a gender equality strategy in collaboration with IOM, UNDP, UN-Women and MINUSCA. Burkina Faso adopted the National Security Law and the National Security Policy and disseminated the latter to 484 institutional actors (86 women) for awareness and implementation, with support from UNDP and UNODC. In Chad, the National Human Rights Commission and five courts of appeal had improved performance according to data provided by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It resulted in a 6 per cent increase in the enforcement of court rulings (50 per cent on gender-based violence) and a 60 per cent reduction in case review times in the Sarh and Mongo appeal courts. Implemented by OHCHR and UNDP, the project also provided legal aid which contributed to the release of 94 detainees and

regularized 78 cases. In Colombia, members of parliament representing victims of armed conflict presented eight legislative proposals, with support from UNDP and OHCHR, leading to reforms that extend victim registration and legislation directing seized criminal assets to victims. In Peru, the Government approved the National Human Rights Policy to 2040, the first public policy on human rights, with the support of OHCHR and UNDP. In addition, technical assistance provided to the Public Prosecutor's Office for investigations into the use of force in the context of nationwide protests contributed to advancing accountability and reducing tensions in regions impacted by protests.

39. The Fund also sustained its support for reconciliation initiatives globally, addressing governance gaps and fostering social cohesion through tailored, context-specific approaches. In Burkina Faso, OHCHR and UNDP supported consultations with 201,700 participants (40 per cent women, including displaced persons) that resulted in the adoption of a unified national reconciliation strategy and a pact for social cohesion. In Guinea, a national reconciliation strategy was adopted, and 3,680 officials (990 women) received training on the management and monitoring of national reconciliation, with support from OHCHR, UNDP and UNFPA. In September 2024, South Sudan enacted laws establishing the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority, fulfilling key elements of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, with support from OHCHR, UNDP and UNHCR. In Kyrgyzstan, individuals in the project locations reported an increased sense of shared civic identity and trust, from 44 to 50 per cent, as reported in the evaluation of the project implemented by OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF. Youth participation in community decision-making rose from 37 to 41.5 per cent. Legislative achievements included the adoption of the Law on Youth and the development of the integrated national action plan on social cohesion.

40. In parallel, the Fund helped to deliver impactful employment and social services initiatives, enhancing community resilience and promoting peace dividends. In Mali, FAO, IOM and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supported 250 young entrepreneurs (58 per cent women) with matching grants, microcredit and mentorship from a public-private committee, significantly boosting the perception of their socioeconomic contributions being recognized by the communities (from 14 to 83 per cent), according to the project survey. In Sierra Leone, 200 young women and 45 women leaders provide clean water to 25,000 people in vulnerable communities through 25 solar powered water kiosks. The project, implemented by ILO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, also increased community members' support for women managing water-related conflicts (from 33 per cent to 85 per cent, according to the project survey), enabling effective, gender-responsive conflict resolution and reducing reliance on polluting water sources in the communities. In Colombia, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supported environmental peacebuilding efforts by 32 coffee-producing organizations led by peace signatories. These groups operate their environmental assistance unit, helping over 1,200 coffee growers adapt to climate change. Communities in the Jaguar Corridor in Guaviare, central Colombia, preserved biodiversity while creating green economic opportunities and supporting ecotourism. Nineteen community tourism and rural development projects that received technical and financial support in partnership with the small grants programme are contributing to the conservation of 470,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest.

41. Fund support for local-level peacebuilding has been instrumental in empowering communities to lead conflict resolution, foster social cohesion and build resilience locally and in alignment with broader national strategies. In the Tahoua province of the Niger, 255 conflicts were peacefully resolved, many related to natural

resource management. The project, implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNFPA and UN-Women, engaged community members in early warning mechanisms across seven communes. In the Central African Republic, 12 local peace and reconciliation committees resolved 32 inter- and intra-community conflicts involving more than 3,000 people. In accordance with the recommendations of the Bangui National Forum in 2015, these committees were revitalized by UNDP and UN-Women. Efforts contributed to a decline in the percentage of violent incidents in the areas targeted by the project in the north-west and south-east regions, from 65 per cent in 2021 to 25 per cent in 2023, according to project monitoring.

42. With the support of the Fund, the United Nations-International Financial Institutions Partnership Facility continues to strengthen partnerships with international financial institutions, recognized as key actors in promoting peace in the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace.¹ The Facility provides liaison and advisory support in transition and conflict prevention through scoping and monitoring missions. From December 2023 to November 2024, 13 grants totalling \$1.4 million were approved to enhance collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions. This support facilitated the engagement with the World Bank's prevention instruments, the piloting of joint annual reviews and the promotion of coordinated analyses with multilateral development banks. The Facility also supported the integration of conflict-sensitive approaches into recovery processes and strategic alignment efforts, including a co-financed initiative with the African Development Bank in the Central African Republic. With the African Development Bank financing a \$30 million youth- and women-focused agricultural development project, complementary funding of \$2 million was approved by the Fund through IOM and WFP to enhance conflict sensitivity and address the needs of displaced persons, returnees and host communities. An external evaluation was commissioned to draw lessons from activities since 2019 and inform the Facility's cost extension in March 2025. The evaluation indicated that the Facility sits at a "strategic edge" in advancing the partnership with international financial institutions on prevention and peacebuilding and remains highly relevant in a changing policy landscape. It also recommends streamlining its offer to regional and field teams, in line with good practices collected since 2019.

43. The Fund continued to serve as an administrative pass-through for the global Saving Lives Entity, led by UNDP and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, focusing on small arms control, with preferred financing by several voluntary donors.²

IV. Peacebuilding Fund oversight and management

A. Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group

44. In 2024, the seventh Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group held its final meeting in May, met with the Secretary-General and discussed the Fund's connector role, impact and funding, as well as the profile of the Fund in the context of the deliberations on the Summit of the Future and outcome in the form of the Pact for the Future. In appointing the eighth Advisory Group in November, the Secretary-General increased the membership from 10 to 12 eminent individuals. They were selected from among the nominations submitted by Member States on the basis of expertise,

¹ Information on the Partnership Facility is available at <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/partnerships/un-worldbank-partnership>.

² Information about the Saving Lives Entity is available at <https://disarmament.unoda.org/salient/> and www.undp.org/rolhr/community-security/salient.

with consideration given to gender equality and geographical diversity. The Group held a virtual introductory meeting in December.

B. Budget and personnel

45. In 2024, direct cost expenditures for managing the Fund amounted to an estimated \$4,809,591. The Financing for Peacebuilding Branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs comprises one Chief (D-1) and four Professional (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 2 P-3) and two General Services staff members. The Fund continued to benefit from partnership arrangements with the Junior Professional Officer Programme and staff members on secondment from OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women.

C. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation

46. In 2024, 76 per cent of reporting projects were on track to deliver outputs. In addition, 61 per cent of 139 projects that have been under implementation for more than one year demonstrated evidence of significant contributions to peacebuilding outcomes,³ for which examples have been listed in section III.⁴ Forty-three projects were reported as off track in 2024, a significant increase from previous years, primarily due to delays in payments to ongoing projects in the light of a liquidity shortage, political transitions and administrative delays. Of 33 projects off track in 2023, 17 were back on track for timely completion and 1 was closed.

47. The *2024 Thematic Review on Synergies between Human Rights and Peacebuilding*, commissioned in partnership with OHCHR and Switzerland, showcased lessons from 92 projects in 45 contexts.⁵ The *Review* highlighted that consultative processes are key to national ownership. The Fund-supported projects with human rights dimensions were more likely to be taken forward by relevant civil society and government actors if the project had benefited from participatory design and implementation processes. Another finding relates to socioeconomic needs – advancing economic, social and cultural rights is not only a necessary element for peacebuilding in most cases but can also be impactful towards achieving civil and political rights. Moreover, investing in the capacities and linkages between civil society organizations and broader networks was highlighted as particularly catalytic and important for sustainability. The next *Thematic Review*, on youth and peace and security, is expected to be published in the second quarter of 2025.

48. At the end of five years of eligibility for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility, the Peacebuilding Support Office commissions a portfolio evaluation. In 2024, five were commissioned in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Mali and Mauritania, respectively. The reports are expected to be ready by early 2025. Early findings from the Mauritania and Democratic Republic of the Congo evaluations highlighted the successful

³ Evidence of significant contribution to peacebuilding outcomes entails results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviours or institutions. It applies only to projects that have been under implementation for one year or more.

⁴ Following the recommendations of the Board of Auditors in 2023 (see [A/78/5 \(Vol. I\)](#)), the Peacebuilding Support Office now requests only those projects that have been under implementation for one year or more to report on whether they have been able to generate peacebuilding results. The data for 2024 are therefore not directly comparable to those in the reports for 2023.

⁵ Erica Gaston and others, *2024 PBF Thematic Review: Synergies between Human Rights and Peacebuilding in PBF-supported Programming* (New York, United Nations University, 2024). Available at www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/human_rights_and_peacebuilding_TR.

mobilization of national and local actors for peacebuilding. They underscored that national ownership was crucial for the relevance, success and sustainability of projects. However, the evaluations highlight the need for more synergies at the country level beyond the United Nations partners. The Mauritania evaluation findings indicate that projects focused on social justice and access to rights had the highest performance. With the Fund's support, Mauritania has seen increased participation by women and youth in preventing violent extremism and managing conflicts. The impact on women has been significant, in particular in social cohesion, economic empowerment and decision-making. Despite lacking an overall national peace strategy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo portfolio evaluation indicated strong performance in inclusive governance and the systematic involvement of local authorities and civil society organizations. Many projects include women and youth leaders supporting social behaviour changes. In addition, the Fund has addressed urgent needs for pacification and the restoration of social ties in provinces from which MONUSCO has withdrawn since 2021.

49. At the project level and in line with the Fund evaluation policy, the evaluations for 43 projects were completed in 2024. Furthermore, the Fund commissioned the second cohort evaluation of 38 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative projects approved in 2021, with a thematic focus on mental health and psychosocial support. The evaluation is expected to be completed by May 2025.

50. Three years into the Fund's impact evaluation and dissemination initiative, PeaceFIELD, 2024 marked the publication of the impact evaluation of the Fund-supported interventions in East Darfur, the Sudan. The Impact Hub of the Peacebuilding Support Office organized a launch event and two-day technical training on conducting impact evaluations based on this experience, for peacebuilding experts, Member States, policymakers and practitioners. The endline data collection for the Guatemala case study was also completed, with preliminary findings suggesting that the Fund's support of the Polochic Valley project of FAO, OHCHR and WFP helped prevent 5 to 16 agrarian conflicts annually.

V. Conclusion

51. I look forward to increasing the Fund's support for peacebuilding in 2025, benefiting from all Member States' contributions to the Fund through assessed funding and individual voluntary contributions. Noting the requirement in General Assembly resolution [78/257](#) that voluntary contributions should remain the primary funding source, the Office will explore the convening of a replenishment event for the Fund in the latter part of 2025 or 2026. It will also seek to increase its collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission through various means, as advised by my Advisory Group, including by considering requests for the Fund's financial support from countries that seek regular engagement with the Commission, and notably for national prevention and peacebuilding strategies. Initiatives for measuring the effectiveness and impact of peacebuilding interventions, including by the Peacebuilding Impact Hub, will continue. Countries fully eligible for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility of the Fund will continue to be prioritized, while some funds will be reserved to promptly respond to new and/or unforeseen requests and opportunities. The Fund will be a key instrument to help advance commitments made in the Pact for the Future, in particular a shift from reactive measures to nationally owned, sustainable, long-term prevention strategies and approaches that empower communities and foster resilience.