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### Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

## Peacebuilding Fund

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

In 2025, the Peacebuilding Fund approved \$124,027,266.98 in financing for 48 initiatives across 28 countries. Allocations under the Fund's current Strategy, which was extended to the end of 2026, reflected its core priorities: \$23,450,483 supported cross-border and regional approaches; \$43,901,389 facilitated United Nations mission transitions; and \$23,300,000 advanced women's and youth empowerment. In line with the Pact for the Future, support was expanded to nationally-owned prevention efforts, including the development and implementation of national prevention and social cohesion strategies, as well as the strengthening of institutional capacities to manage conflict risks. Resources from the first assessed contribution helped to provide an essential foundation for these operations. During the year, 29 donor partners contributed \$132.3 million to the Fund, representing a decline of 8 per cent compared with 2024 and a significant drop from \$180 million in 2020. At the same time, global demand for prevention and peacebuilding support continued to grow, driven by increasing conflicts and the complexity of conflict dynamics. As the Fund approaches the conclusion of its 2020–2026 Strategy and prepares for the next strategic cycle, these trends underscore the importance of aligning ambition, financing and delivery under evolving circumstances in order to strengthen nationally-owned prevention and peacebuilding efforts at scale.



## I. Introduction

1. The present report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, is the sixteenth annual report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution [63/282](#). It covers the sixth year of the Fund's current Strategy period, initiated in 2020 and extended from 2024 to 2026. The report will be complemented by a certified financial report issued by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office no later than 31 May 2026.

## II. Global performance and lessons learned

2. Member States have shown strong support for peacebuilding, as seen by the adoption of General Assembly resolution [80/11](#) and Security Council resolution [2805 \(2025\)](#), reaffirming peacebuilding and sustaining peace as core United Nations priorities and underscoring support for nationally-led prevention as central to the role of the peacebuilding architecture. In those resolutions, the Assembly and the Council called for the full implementation of existing mandates on peacebuilding finance and emphasized the importance of strengthened alignment between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, including through regular dialogue with the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group. They highlighted the Fund's catalytic role in mission transitions, national prevention and peacebuilding strategies, private sector engagement and innovative financing. The Assembly and the Council also requested annual updates on partnerships with international financial institutions and reiterated the need for financing for women- and youth-led peacebuilding initiatives to address persistent gaps and enhance coherence and inclusivity.

3. Since 2020, the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office<sup>1</sup> within the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat has implemented the Fund's global Strategy, prioritizing mission transitions, cross-border peacebuilding and support for inclusion. Initially set to conclude in 2024, the Strategy was extended to the end of 2026, retaining its priorities while adding readiness to support national prevention strategies in line with the Pact for the Future. The extension allowed the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to inform the next strategy, to be developed in 2026, following an independent evaluation of the Fund's performance since 2020. In November 2025, the Fund surpassed \$1 billion in approved programmes under the current strategy period, marking progress towards the call for a quantum leap in peacebuilding financing.

4. Despite this progress, the Secretary-General's aim, as stated in previous reports, for \$500 million per annum for the Peacebuilding Fund has yet to materialize. Voluntary contributions and the number of voluntary donors have declined over the past three years: in 2025, 29 Member States contributed \$132.3 million, compared with \$143.0 million from 33 Member States in 2024, \$131.8 million from 36 Member States in 2023 and \$170.8 million from 32 Member States in 2022. To ensure impact with reduced resources, the Secretariat is applying prioritization guidance for new support requests, in line with advice from the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group and partners. This guidance emphasizes the importance of addressing regional conflict dynamics, actions centred on peace or political processes, cost-sharing in middle-income settings and a reduced footprint of fully eligible countries to maintain impact. However, applying this guidance may result in fewer resources being

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

available for prevention contexts, as conflict or post-conflict settings would receive priority.

5. The collection and use of assessed contributions mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution [78/257](#) began in 2025. In line with updated terms of reference for the Fund, finalized in December 2024, national partners designed programmes in countries listed in annex III to the proposed programme budget for 2025 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)). Administrative arrangements with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office were updated. The ongoing liquidity situation of the Organization, however, constrained the availability of assessed contributions in 2025. By 31 December, \$6 million had been transferred to the multi-year Peacebuilding Account, and, consequently, to the Fund. Ten programmes identified for funding through assessed contributions have been approved in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and South Sudan, totalling \$32,350,371. In consultation with the Advisory Group and the Peacebuilding Commission, it was agreed that the five countries receiving assessed contributions in 2025 (the four above-mentioned countries and Mali) would continue to benefit from this modality in 2026, while Guatemala, Papua New Guinea and Somalia would be added as new recipients.

Table 1  
**Peacebuilding Fund planned allocations from assessed contributions, 2025–2026**  
(United States dollars)

	2025	2026
Central African Republic	10 000 000	5 000 000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	10 000 000	5 000 000
Guatemala	–	7 500 000
Haiti	10 000 000	5 000 000
Mali	10 000 000	5 000 000
Papua New Guinea	–	7 500 000
Somalia	–	10 000 000
South Sudan	10 000 000	5 000 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 000 000</b>	<b>50 000 000</b>

6. Responding to the call to strengthen synergies between the Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission, as reiterated in General Assembly resolutions [76/305](#) and [78/257](#) and reflected in the Fund's revised terms of reference, the Commission held its first interactive strategic dialogue with the Secretariat in March 2025. Fund-financed initiatives were discussed at ambassadorial-level meetings on the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe.

7. Peacebuilding Commission members were systematically involved in the three partner visits organized in 2025. From 16 to 21 March, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support led a delegation to the Central African Republic with Fund partners, Advisory Group members and members of the Peacebuilding Commission to observe the Fund's strategic support and complementarities with the Commission's Central African Republic country configuration and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. Visits to projects in Bangui and Bambari highlighted the essential role of women and youth in peacebuilding efforts as well as the reintegration of former combatants.

From 6 to 10 October, a joint partner visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo highlighted Government-led initiatives in Tanganyika Province. The visit demonstrated how the complementarity between the United Nations and international financial institutions can support preventative action during the mission transition, for example by using the Fund's catalytic support to help to make progress towards policy milestones needed to unlock larger-scale investments. From 8 to 12 December, an expert-level delegation visited the Gambia, recognizing the Fund's catalytic role in advancing the sustaining peace agenda since 2017 and highlighting strong national ownership, locally-led peacebuilding, support to transitional justice and civic space, and cross-border cooperation, including at the Gambia-Senegal border.

8. In 2025, 48 programmes were approved for support through the Fund, amounting to \$124,027,266 across 28 countries. By the end of the year, country partners were implementing 200 ongoing initiatives. Eligibility renewals for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mauritania were approved for five years, while Sierra Leone submitted a request in December. An application for renewal of eligibility from Papua New Guinea was presented to the Secretary-General during his visit in September 2025 and will be finalized in 2026. Eligibility periods were exceptionally extended for two years in Haiti and for one year in Mali and Burkina Faso to align with United Nations planning frameworks.

9. In 2025, joint steering committees continued to guide the strategic direction of the Fund's investments at the country level, ensuring coherence with United Nations cooperation frameworks and national priorities. Joint steering committees are co-chaired by the United Nations resident coordinator and a senior government official, and include representatives of the United Nations country team, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and, in some cases, representatives of beneficiary groups and the private sector. In 2025, 19 of the 23 eligible countries held at least one joint steering committee meeting.

10. In 2025, many allocations continued to align with the Fund's three priority windows: cross-border and regional approaches, United Nations mission transitions, and women's and youth empowerment. Of the approved funding, 19 per cent supported cross-border initiatives, against a 15 per cent target, and 35 per cent facilitated transitions, against a 30 per cent target. Nineteen per cent of approved funding was advanced to women's and youth empowerment, compared with a 25 per cent target, reflecting fewer country requests under this priority window. Nonetheless, 38 per cent of allocations across newly approved projects (see sect. III.C below) explicitly included support for women's engagement as deliverables.

Table 2  
**Peacebuilding Fund portfolio by priority window, 2025**

	<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)	23 450 483	43 901 389	23 300 000
Number of new projects	7	14	8
Countries and territories	12	8	7
Fund recipients	7	12	10
Share of portfolio (percentage)	19	35	19
Total number of active projects	16	62	40

11. The Fund's support for the development and implementation of national prevention strategies was prioritized, in line with the Pact for the Future and the extended Strategy. In Papua New Guinea, the Government developed a national prevention strategy for the period 2025–2030 with support from the United Nations and the World Bank. That strategy underpins the country's re-eligibility for the Peacebuilding Fund and its eligibility for the World Bank's Prevention and Resilience Allocation, the first outside Africa. Implementation will be supported in 2026 through assessed funds. In Chad, the Government launched a national social cohesion strategy in 2025, which was presented to the Peacebuilding Commission in September, and is operationalizing it through the strengthening of peace infrastructure and prevention capacities at the national and local levels. In Sri Lanka, the Government requested the Fund's support to implement trust-building measures, including the development and initial implementation of the national policy and action plan on reconciliation and coexistence.

12. The Fund continued to support critical interventions to prevent conflicts exacerbated by environmental degradation, the adverse effects of climate change, and resource scarcity and competition. In 2025, seven new projects were requested and approved across eight countries, totalling \$23,250,483. In Papua New Guinea, a second programme in the Highlands focuses on strengthening community resilience to conflict and climate-related risks across four provinces. In Tunisia, a territorial governance initiative targets equitable access to water in Gafsa and Kairouan as an entry point to reduce resource-related tensions and build local resilience.

13. The 2025 Civil Society Organization-United Nations Dialogue on Peacebuilding, co-organized by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Crisis Management Initiative-Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, was held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December under the theme "Operationalizing a whole-of-system approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace", with women and peace and security and youth and peace and security as cross-cutting themes. The event brought together nearly 200 civil society participants worldwide, including 57 per cent women and 25 per cent youth participants. In addition, the Dialogue examined ways to expand and sustain partnerships with international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society. In 2025, a snapshot of the Fund's ongoing programmes indicates that 26 per cent of funding is planned to be redirected to civil society implementing partners, with \$35.2 million transferred during the year.

14. Under the auspices of the Fund, the United Nations-International Financial Institutions Partnership Facility, with preferred financing from voluntary donors, continued to strengthen collaboration with international financial institutions, including regional development banks, in fragile and conflict-affected settings, with the approval of 15 grants totalling \$2.1 million. Delivery highlights included a joint workshop with the World Bank on operational partnerships in crisis settings and dedicated support to expand collaboration with the World Bank in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mauritania and Papua New Guinea. In October, the Facility launched a new surge advisory team to expand support on priority contexts and themes, including private sector development.

Table 3  
**Peacebuilding Fund allocations, 2025**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Immediate Response Facility</i>	<i>Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility</i>	<i>Assessed contributions</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>a</sup>	–	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Burkina Faso <sup>a</sup>	2 000 000.00	–	–	2 000 000.00
Burundi <sup>a,b</sup>	3 001 788.94	3 000 000.00	–	6 001 788.94
Cameroon	1 500 000.00	150 000.00	–	1 650 000.00
Central African Republic <sup>a</sup>	–	1 800 000.00	15 950 484.94	17 750 484.94
Côte d'Ivoire <sup>b</sup>	2 000 000.00	–	–	2 000 000.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo <sup>a,b</sup>	–	5 388 797.53	4 000 000.00	9 388 797.53
El Salvador	1 193 906.00	–	–	1 193 906.00
Gambia	–	2 500 000.00	–	2 500 000.00
Guatemala <sup>a</sup>	1 193 907.00	–	–	1 193 907.00
Guinea-Bissau <sup>a,b</sup>	–	5 000 000.00	–	5 000 000.00
Haiti <sup>a,b</sup>	–	1 433 154.00	2 999 886.00	4 433 040.00
Honduras <sup>a</sup>	2 112 186.00	2 000 000.00	–	4 112 186.00
Kyrgyzstan <sup>a</sup>	–	8 200 000.00	–	8 200 000.00
Lebanon	3 000 000.00	–	–	3 000 000.00
Liberia <sup>a,b</sup>	–	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Libya	2 000 000.00	–	–	2 000 000.00
Madagascar <sup>a</sup>	–	800 000.00	–	800 000.00
Malawi	500 000.00	–	–	500 000.00
Mali <sup>a,b</sup>	2 500 000.00	–	–	2 500 000.00
Mauritania <sup>a</sup>	2 500 000.00	3 000 000.00	–	5 500 000.00
Papua New Guinea <sup>a</sup>	–	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Senegal	2 000 000.00	–	–	2 000 000.00
Solomon Islands	3 000 000.00	–	–	3 000 000.00
Somalia <sup>a,b</sup>	–	5 077 762.24	–	5 077 762.24
South Sudan <sup>a</sup>	–	–	9 400 000.00	9 400 000.00
Togo	2 500 000.00	–	–	2 500 000.00
Tunisia	2 605 450.00	–	–	2 605 450.00
Global	10 719 944.33	–	–	10 719 944.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 327 182.27</b>	<b>47 349 713.77</b>	<b>32 350 370.94</b>	<b>124 027 266.98</b>

Source: Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office and Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, December 2025.

Note: The table reflects funding decisions taken in 2025. Financial transfers, in tranches, follow project approval and may occur in subsequent years.

<sup>a</sup> Setting eligible for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility.

<sup>b</sup> 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.

### III. Results and peacebuilding gains

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

15. Addressing the transboundary nature of conflicts requires coordinated action across borders and in borderlands to prevent escalation and strengthen social cohesion. Highlights in 2025 include approval of a cross-border initiative in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal that uses inclusive water governance as an entry point to prevent conflict, strengthen cooperation and consolidate peace in border areas. In Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, a cost extension was approved for a project that strengthens governance in border areas by supporting local dialogue, reducing natural resource-related conflict risks and enhancing cross-border cooperation, with particular attention to the leadership and participation of women and youth.

16. As at 31 December 2025, the Fund's active portfolio under this window totalled \$69.5 million, comprising 16 ongoing initiatives. Several active cross-border projects demonstrate progress in strengthening Government-led prevention and early warning systems in fragile border areas. In Benin and the Niger, under the leadership of national and local authorities and measured through project monitoring, the proportion of conflict alerts managed by community mechanisms increased, from 86 per cent to 95 per cent in the Niger and from 78 per cent to 98 per cent in Benin. Independent monitoring recorded a reduction in reported violent incidents, from 40 in July 2023 to 20 in January 2025. This was reportedly the result of strengthened community-based early warning, transhumance monitoring and dialogue mechanisms in the Atacora and Alibori provinces of Benin and the Dosso region of the Niger, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the Lake Chad basin, across eight territories in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, local authorities facilitated the peaceful reintegration of 260 internally displaced persons and 150 former Boko Haram associates, with the support of UNDP. The Fund's catalytic role was demonstrated by the approval of a \$2.6 million grant by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to leverage the regional civil society network that emerged from the Lake Chad Basin Commission call for proposals, through which 55 local partners implemented 27 prevention initiatives.

17. Cross-border initiatives also generated tangible peace dividends by strengthening social cohesion, inclusive governance and shared livelihoods in border communities. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, communities across 54 border and forest-edge areas advanced cooperative natural resource management and climate-smart agriculture with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Forty farmer-based organizations engaged 2,000 women and youth in joint production, including the collective cultivation of formerly dispute-prone land in Liberia and the joint management of 100 hectares of inland valley swamps in Sierra Leone. In Mauritania and Senegal, 75 village-level mechanisms involving local authorities, traditional leaders, women, youth and civil society resolved more than 35 local conflicts, supported by IOM and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Government of Mauritania further strengthened the institutionalization of local governance, peace and security by establishing 384 more village committees across all border regions. In Kenya, a perception survey showed that sustained engagement between clans to resolve emerging conflicts increased from 58 per cent to 93 per cent in Garissa, Mandera and Wajir, while peace dividend projects improved access to water for an estimated 5,000 households, as a result of community-level initiatives supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP and WFP for strengthened trust and State-society collaboration in border counties.

18. Projects also strengthened governance frameworks and institutional responses to cross-border human mobility. The Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, with support from IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNDP, reinforced laws, policies and information systems addressing human mobility with a peacebuilding lens, including the adoption of a law on internal displacement in Honduras and reintegration strategies for returning refugees and migrants across the three countries, involving more than 25 partner institutions. In prioritized municipalities in Guatemala, 92 per cent of surveyed local officials and community leaders reported more peaceful coexistence and improved social cohesion between migrant and host communities.

## **B. Priority window 2: facilitating transitions**

19. In 2025, new approvals under this priority window supported national efforts to strengthen social cohesion, access to justice and inclusive participation in contexts transitioning from a United Nations mission presence.<sup>2</sup> In the western Democratic Republic of the Congo, a project funded by assessed contributions supports participatory prevention and mediation of land-related conflicts in Kwamouth and Maluku, linking inclusive land governance with private sector engagement to reduce tensions and support local economic recovery. In Mali, a new project aims to strengthen collaboration between authorities, customary leaders, security forces, women and youth in districts affected by persistent insecurity, in support of national stabilization efforts. For Haiti, an initiative was approved to strengthen community resilience and reduce vulnerability to gang violence, with a focus on socioeconomic recovery for internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities.

20. As at 31 December 2025, the Fund's active portfolio under this window totalled \$163.3 million, comprising 62 ongoing initiatives. In Burundi, communities living around Kibira National Park and the Office for Environmental Protection strengthened cooperation on forest access, with support from the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Seventeen community protection committees now function as permanent dialogue platforms between communities and park authorities. A payment-for-ecosystem-services agreement became operational in June 2025, securing \$150,000 annually for 10 years, while early infrastructure works created 150 jobs, including for women, youth and Batwa, helping to reduce livelihood-related conflict risks.

21. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fund-supported initiatives strengthened security governance, inclusive resource management and youth and women's agency. In Tanganyika Province, following the drawdown of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) from this area, the Fund facilitated locally-anchored and more accountable security governance with support from IOM, OHCHR and UNDP. According to the endline perception survey conducted as part of project evaluation, 98 per cent of respondents reported feeling safer since the introduction of community policing and security governance structures (up from 58 per cent in 2023), and 95 per cent reported increased trust between citizens and the State. In the same province, with support from FAO, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 500 conflict-affected children returned to safer learning environments, while 447 children formerly associated with armed groups and 561 other conflict-affected individuals accessed psychosocial support. In Kasai and Kasai Central, with support from OHCHR, UNDP and UNHCR, 604 victims of violence,

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<sup>2</sup> Under priority window 2: facilitating transitions, a country/territory is considered a transition context for 10 years after mission withdrawal.

around 60 per cent of whom are women and adolescent girls, had their long-stalled case files returned to judicial processing, while community monitoring structures tracked 4,750 protection incidents and supported de-escalation. In South Kivu, communities around Kahuzi-Biega National Park strengthened inclusive and accountable natural resource governance, with support from the United Nations Capital Development Fund. The park's grievance management and redress mechanism received 514 community complaints in the first three quarters of 2025 related to land access, resource use and interactions with park authorities, with 78 per cent of cases receiving a response or preliminary handling. Complaints linked to abuse of authority declined, from 14 per cent in 2024 to under 5 per cent in 2025. Complementing these efforts, youth- and women-led initiatives expanded civic agency and prevention. Supported by Search for Common Ground in North and South Kivu, 267 young women and men were dissuaded from joining armed groups under the national action plan on youth and peace and security, while an initiative supported by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation recorded significant gains in young women's leadership and rights awareness, including an increase in reported understanding of women's rights, from 40 per cent to 85 per cent, by the participants in the pre- and post-assessment surveys in Kabare.

22. In Côte d'Ivoire, national and local authorities, with support from IOM and UNICEF, strengthened the governance of pastoral dynamics and natural resource management in border areas. Ninety per cent of local actors reported improved transhumance planning, 20 localities established early warning mechanisms, and 84 per cent of 699 alerts were resolved through community mechanisms, according to project monitoring.

23. In Guinea-Bissau, inclusive mediation and governance efforts strengthened peaceful coexistence and natural resource management. In Gabú and Bafatá, mediation processes supported by FAO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) led to multiparty agreements on land and water management, grazing and farming allocation, and the protection of sacred areas. As a result, conflict incidents declined sharply, from an average of 80 per month from 2018 to 2020 to a total of 10 throughout 2024, while 106 pastoralism-related conflicts were resolved in 2025 and 149 stolen cattle were recovered and returned. Complementing these outcomes, national authorities, supported by FAO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and UN-Habitat, approved new national planning tools guiding more inclusive and conflict-sensitive water management.

24. In Liberia, community-led peacebuilding and land governance initiatives strengthened social cohesion, dispute resolution and national reconciliation frameworks. Across Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Montserrado and Rivercess Counties, women's and youth groups resolved more than 4,000 local disputes, with support from FAO and UNDP. An endline survey found that 99 per cent of community members reported greater peace and stability. Complementarily, land governance and dispute resolution initiatives supported by the Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment, UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and WFP secured Government-issued land deeds for 23 customary communities, covering nearly 30,000 acres. Newly established alternative dispute resolution mechanisms resolved 33 land-related cases and addressed high-risk conflicts in areas affected by migration pressures.

25. In Mali, youth media professionals produced content to counter misinformation and hate speech, reaching approximately 3.9 million people, with support from Search for Common Ground. Monitoring data indicate that 81 per cent of individuals reached through social media perceived these products as effective in preventing or

responding to misinformation and disinformation. Through another initiative implemented by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and UNDP, the national gender, climate, peace and security network adopted its own action plan, while local authorities in six regions adopted local plans integrating climate-related security risks and gender-responsive adaptation measures.

26. In Somalia, locally-anchored peace structures and inclusive mediation strengthened social cohesion and confidence in non-violent conflict resolution. In Hawlwadaag, Baidoa, Baraawe and Kaaraan, local administrations formally recognized and provided in-kind support to local peace committees, where women now hold 12 of 36 seats, with support from the International Rescue Committee. Endline surveys showed that the share of young people and minorities from marginalized clans who reported feeling included in local peace and governance structures rose from 42 per cent to 92 per cent, while confidence in community-led, non-violent conflict resolution reported by respondents increased from 22 per cent to 94 per cent between the baseline survey of July 2023 and the endline survey of November 2024. The Ministry of Youth and Sports endorsed a youth advisory council as a permanent platform linking community priorities with State institutions, with support from FAO and IOM. In parallel, state-level authorities in Galmudug advanced the institutionalization of faith-based peacebuilding by endorsing new Qur'anic schools and ulama council bills, informed by mediation and prevention efforts supported by UNDP. Women's participation in religious leadership rose from 25 per cent to 40 per cent in supported districts. According to project perception surveys, 45.6 per cent of respondents attributed reduced community disputes to ulama engagement.

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

27. Empowering women and young people to prevent violence and strengthen community cohesion remains central to effective conflict management and inclusive peacebuilding. In line with its gender marker system, all projects supported by the Fund are required to allocate a minimum of 15 per cent of their budget to gender equality and women's empowerment, across score 1 (15–29 per cent), score 2 (30–79 per cent) and score 3 (80–100 per cent). In 2025, such investments accounted for 38 per cent of allocations across newly approved projects, exceeding the Fund's internal target of 30 per cent for the ninth year in a row. Examples of newly approved projects include a programme in Benghazi and Darnah, Libya, that aims to strengthen local participatory planning, economic development and livelihoods to reinforce community cohesion, focusing on women- and youth-led peacebuilding. In Burundi, a youth-focused initiative supported by the Fund operationalizes the national youth and peace and security strategy.

28. As at 31 December 2025, the Fund's active portfolio under this window totalled \$96.6 million, comprising 40 ongoing initiatives. The Gender Promotion Initiative continues to operationalize a decentralized, locally-anchored approach that prioritizes women-led and youth-inclusive civil society organizations. In 2025, a new initiative was approved in Liberia to strengthen women's voice and agency by improving equitable access to justice and supporting inclusive peace and security efforts. Ongoing programmes are delivering tangible results, including in the Gambia, where UNFPA, three umbrella civil society organizations and 20 women's organizations have formed a national coalition advancing the rights of women and girls. In Colombia, civil society-led litigation supported by UN-Women enabled the representation of 624 women survivors of sexual violence before the Special

Jurisdiction for Peace and the inclusion of the needs of more than 1,200 victims in transitional justice cases.

29. Across contexts, increased participation of women and young people in peacebuilding contributed to measurable improvements in prevention and social cohesion. In southern Chad, local authorities, with support from Humanité et Inclusion, established an early warning cell that links pastoralists, farmers and herders to local peace committees. The cells comprise 256 members, of whom 48 per cent are women, compared with a baseline of 0.6 per cent female participation in local conflict management. In the Sudan, community leaders in White Nile State, supported by IOM, UNFPA and the World Health Organization, established youth-led platforms bringing together 78 young men and adolescents from different ethnic groups. Project baseline and endline data show that between 2024 and 2025, trust within communities increased from 20 per cent to 40 per cent, trust across ethnic groups rose from 10 per cent to 25 per cent, and 84 per cent of youth reported seeking mediation through community or family structures rather than engaging in physical confrontation.

30. Women's and youth empowerment also translated into concrete governance and policy outcomes. In Guatemala, 261 youth leaders, of whom 120 are young women, were formally integrated into municipal and departmental conflict management mechanisms in Alta Verapaz and the Polochic Valley, with support from Mercy Corps. As part of these mechanisms, they contributed to establishing a departmental technical unit for conflict response, strengthening municipal conflict management commissions in five municipalities and updating the departmental public policy on conflict resolution, all of which now operate with a dedicated budget allocation of \$15,000 from the Governor's Office. In El Salvador, more than 1,800 young people, including 912 young women, contributed to two draft municipal policy proposals, draft law reform initiatives on the General Juvenile Law and a youth programmatic agenda, with support from Oikos – Cooperação e Desenvolvimento and civil society partners. In Honduras, proposals by 15 youth networks supported by Save the Children and UNHCR – including municipal action plans for the prevention of violence, community security committees and the municipal children's rights council – were integrated into the 2025 workplan of the Central District's Children's Rights Council, which allocated \$15,200 for implementation.

31. Human rights-based youth engagement translated into concrete protection and accountability outcomes in crisis and post-crisis settings. In South Sudan, young women leaders and mentors in Western Equatoria State, supported by the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, issued a joint peace and accountability statement that contributed to the release of detained women's rights defenders. In Colombia, with support from Stichting War Child, Afrodescendent and Indigenous youth established a youth observatory that engaged 246 young people (63 per cent women) and produced a risk analysis on youth political participation. Complementing this, youth leaders, supported by Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education, formed a national youth network for peace and reconciliation, contributing to historic memory and search-for-the-disappeared efforts, with seven young candidates running for local youth councils and two elected. In Madagascar, during the 2025 political crisis, the youth-led National Human Rights Observatory, supported by OHCHR, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF, documented 25 deaths and 235 serious injuries, generating verified data now informing accountability and judicial processes.

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

32. New approvals outside of priority windows reflected demand for prevention, localization and inclusive governance. In the Central African Republic, a new initiative supported the organization of the December 2025 general elections by strengthening the prevention of electoral violence and inclusive participation, in particular for women and persons with disabilities. Another endeavour will support agricultural transformation and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities in Mambéré-Kadéï and Nana-Mambéré, complementing a larger agriculture programme of AfDB through dialogue, reconciliation initiatives and improved access to land. In Solomon Islands, a new programme addresses centre-periphery tensions by supporting an evidence-based decentralization reform process and participatory management of decentralized development investments.

33. In 2025, the Fund contributed to measurable advances in disarmament, reintegration, security sector governance, justice and political dialogue. In Chad, the Government advanced implementation of the Doha Agreement for Peace and the Participation of the Political-Military Movements in the Inclusive National and Sovereign Dialogue by politically validating the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration policy and integrating it into the national development plan, with support from IOM, UNDP and UNICEF. The national commission responsible for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme registered 30,000 ex-combatants and associates out of an estimated 137,000 and identified three pilot cantonment sites in Borkou Province, while South-South exchanges with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, and technical support from Switzerland, strengthened the initiative.

34. In Colombia, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace accelerated investigations in six “macro-cases” by individualizing 173 former armed group members and issuing key judicial orders, while accrediting 104 male survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, with support from IOM and UN-Women. In Madagascar, national and local authorities strengthened access to fair and inclusive justice by formally certifying two regional traditional justice mechanisms within the legal system, with support from MSIS-Tatao, OHCHR and UNDP. In Sao Tome and Principe, the Government established and operationalized the Technical Committee for the Review of the Security Sector in January 2025, then adopted its national conflict prevention strategy for the period 2025–2028 with support from UNDP and UNODC and presented the strategy to the Peacebuilding Commission in May 2025.

35. In 2025, Governments advanced national reconciliation, democratic governance and conflict prevention through institutional reforms and evidence-based prevention mechanisms. In the Gambia, the Government finalized the peace and reconciliation commission bill and validated a national scoping study on decentralized peace structures, while also strengthening early warning coordination and adopting the first national action plan on youth and peace and security, for the period 2025–2030, with support from the International Trade Centre, UNDP and UNESCO. In Madagascar, authorities consolidated reconciliation initiatives and State presence in the Andriy mountains by reintegrating former members of armed bandit groups (dahalo) and expanding women’s participation in traditional peace mechanisms. These efforts were complemented by the issuance of over 12,500 civil documents and expanded access to policing and health services, strengthening trust and legal security, with support from IOM and UNDP.

36. In Fiji, the Government used national and community dialogues to drive reconciliation efforts and inform the development of a national social cohesion policy and architecture, while 10 State institutions have been considering policy recommendations to strengthen human rights and institutionalize mediation and social cohesion frameworks, supported by OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the State adopted its first national action plan on women and peace and security, institutionalized an early warning system through the Ombudsman's Office and expanded women-led mediation networks nationwide, embedding conflict prevention and inclusion in governance with support from UNDP and UN-Women.

37. Across fragile and political transition settings, conflict prevention initiatives that focused on peace dividends also yielded tangible gains in livelihoods, services and trust in local authorities. In Madagascar, in the regions of Atsinanana and Analanjirofo, local authorities strengthened women's economic resilience through 75 community savings groups, business planning for 120 women and the adoption of climate-resilient agriculture by 300 women, with support from Sampan'Asa Momba ny Fampanandroana. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, municipalities, with support from IOM and UNDP, expanded access to inclusive social services by renovating 12 social welfare centres and delivering 20 new or upgraded social services, including psychosocial support, early childhood services and protection mechanisms, benefiting nearly 9,000 people, including children and persons with disabilities.

38. In 2025, the Fund advanced localization by supporting the embedding of conflict prevention, equitable service delivery and social cohesion within national and subnational governance systems. In Kyrgyzstan, the Government amended the Law on Local State Administration and Local Self-Government to formally mandate that municipalities actively work to prevent social tensions, institutionalizing prevention at the local level with support from UNDP and UNESCO. In the Agadez region of northern Niger, national and local authorities strengthened inclusive governance around artisanal gold mining and livelihoods, with support from Cooperazione Internazionale and IOM. Revitalized community monitoring committees peacefully resolved 72 of 73 local conflicts, while regulatory measures, irrigation infrastructure and women-led cooperatives linked conflict management to economic recovery.

39. The Fund continues to support Governments in their shift towards durable prevention architectures by embedding dialogue, coordination and conflict management mechanisms within formal governance systems. In Guatemala, national and departmental authorities institutionalized conflict prevention efforts through the adoption of the departmental policy for conflict prevention and management in Izabal for the period 2025–2034, supported by FAO, OHCHR and WFP. In the Great Lakes region, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda jointly endorsed the first regional standard operating procedure for managing foreign armed groups and fighters, coordinated by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, with technical support from IOM and in collaboration with MONUSCO. The procedure established shared standards, governance arrangements and monitoring timelines to close coordination gaps that had previously enabled the remobilization of armed actors across borders. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, authorities institutionalized local dialogue platforms in 10 municipalities, implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, embedding participatory governance mechanisms that enable sustained engagement between local authorities, youth and civil society beyond project cycles. These platforms generated 12 youth-led initiatives involving 809 young people (433 women and 376 men), fostering inter-ethnic cooperation and consensus-building.

40. In 2025, the Fund supported Government-led environmental peacebuilding by strengthening local governance of land and natural resources and reducing climate-exacerbated tensions, particularly in areas affected by displacement and forced mobility. An example includes the Niger, where authorities in Maradi and Zinder strengthened local mechanisms that reduce farmer-herder tensions by combining community dialogue with practical resilience gains. With the support of FAO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, 25 local land commissions issued 210 land tenure acts, while community mechanisms mediated 197 social conflicts and resolved 58 land disputes through dialogue, helping to de-escalate disputes related to land access and resource use. In Honduras, the Government strengthened forest and watershed governance to prevent socioenvironmental disputes, established women's committees in agroforestry cooperatives and institutionalized community mediation capacity to resolve resource-related tensions, with support from Ayuda en Acción, FAO and UN-Women.

41. In contexts affected by forced displacement and other cross-border movements, strengthening local governance and basic services has proven critical to preventing tensions between host communities, returnees and forcibly displaced populations. In eastern Chad, local authorities strengthened peace committees that resolved 50 local conflicts across Adré, Goz Béida and Guéréda, supported by UNDP and UNFPA, integrating needs of refugees, returnees and host communities. In South Sudan, communities in Baliet County demonstrated strengthened local ownership of peace and protection efforts by operating a self-reliant peace committee that mitigated intercommunal tensions and independently organized shelter solutions for newly displaced families, with support from UNDP and UNICEF. In the Sudan, an initiative implemented by IOM and UNHCR in River Nile State reduced tensions between internally displaced and host communities by restoring services, including doubling school capacity from 150 to 300 students and rehabilitating water and health infrastructure.

42. Innovative partnerships and financing approaches are helping central and local institutions to mobilize additional resources and capabilities for peacebuilding, including through engagement with the private sector and new co-financing mechanisms. In Kosovo,<sup>3</sup> municipalities, with support from IOM and UNICEF, connected youth with four companies through the Chamber of Commerce, leveraging private sector pathways to strengthen youth participation and social cohesion outcomes. According to endline data, these combined governance and employment pathways were associated with measurable improvements in social cohesion and growth in tolerance and inter-ethnic friendships. In Lebanon, the Tripoli Peace Initiative implemented by IOM, UNDP and UNICEF is helping to establish a diaspora engagement working group with the Tripoli municipality and piloting a mechanism designed to enable communities and the diaspora to co-finance local projects that reduce tensions.

## **IV. Peacebuilding Fund oversight and management**

### **A. Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group**

43. The eighth Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group was appointed in November 2024 and held its first meeting in January 2025, which included a dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission. In June 2025, the Group met with the Secretary-General to discuss priorities, focusing on the strategic positioning of peacebuilding, resource

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<sup>3</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

mobilization and innovative financing. Its November 2025 meeting featured another dialogue with the Commission on prioritization and engagement with the private sector. The Group also provided advice on the use of assessed funds and on planning for the Fund's current Strategy period evaluation and the development of a new strategy in 2026.

## **B. Budget and personnel**

44. In 2025, direct cost expenditures for managing the Fund amounted to an estimated \$5,062,832. The Financing for Peacebuilding Branch of the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office comprises one Chief (D-1) and 13 Professional (2 P-5, 3 P-4, 6 P-3 and 2 P-2) and two General Service staff members. The Fund continued to benefit from partnership arrangements with the Junior Professional Officer programme and embedded staff from UNDP, UN-Women and OHCHR.

## **C. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation**

45. In 2025, 79 per cent of reporting projects were assessed as on track to deliver planned outputs, up from 76 per cent in 2024. Among the 140 projects under implementation for more than one year, 80 per cent showed evidence of significant contributions to peacebuilding outcomes, compared with 61 per cent of 139 projects in 2024, with illustrative examples provided in section III above. Thirty-seven projects were identified as off track, largely due to volatile political conditions and payment delays stemming from the liquidity shortage. Of the 43 projects reported as off track in 2024, 33 had returned to schedule and 1 was closed.

46. The cohort evaluation of 38 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative projects approved in 2021, representing a \$51.4 million investment across 21 countries, found the projects relevant to addressing local drivers of conflict and noted the mobilization of an additional \$27.4 million from other sources for scale-up. Mental health and psychosocial support proved critical in contexts affected by significant gender-based violence, trauma and displacement, while civic space initiatives strengthened community agency and enabled women and youth to drive grass-roots change. The 2025 thematic review on youth and peace and security found that addressing young people's socioeconomic needs alongside youth political and social empowerment enhances their effective participation in peacebuilding.<sup>4</sup> The review further called for intersectional approaches to youth inclusion to ensure that young people in all their diversity and socioeconomic backgrounds can participate equally in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The next thematic review, on institutional strengthening, will be published by the end of 2026.

47. At the end of each five-year eligibility period for the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility, the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office commissions a portfolio evaluation focusing on national ownership, catalytic effects, conflict sensitivity and cross-cutting issues such as human rights and the inclusion of women and youth. In 2025, evaluations were completed in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Mauritania. They highlighted effective mobilization of national and local actors and meaningful engagement of women and youth, while underscoring that national ownership remains essential for the relevance, success and sustainability of initiatives.

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<sup>4</sup> Erica Gaston and others, *2025 Peacebuilding Fund Thematic Review on Youth, Peace and Security* (New York, United Nations University, 2025).

48. In line with the Board of Auditors' recommendations, the guidelines for identifying the Fund's "catalytic effects" were revised in 2024 following broad consultations that refined the scope, definition and measurement of these effects.<sup>5</sup> The Department now measures the share of ongoing projects that report financial or non-financial catalytic effects, which in 2025 came to 46.5 per cent. Country-specific catalytic effects are reviewed and validated through portfolio evaluations. Examples of financial catalytic effects include the Fund's \$48.5 million portfolio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo catalysing \$42 million in additional support between 2018 and 2024; and, in Mali, a \$57.5 million allocation between 2019 and 2024 that leveraged an additional \$54.3 million from other sources. Evaluations also identified non-financial catalytic effects, including the replication of tools and training (Mali), new programmatic entry points for donors (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and institutional uptake in areas such as environmental preservation and women's political participation (Mauritania).

49. In 2025, 42 project evaluation reports were received. A synthesis review of evaluations completed in 2023 and 2024 reaffirmed that Fund-supported interventions continue to deliver meaningful peacebuilding outcomes in complex and volatile environments. The review commended the Fund's efforts to empower local partners and underscored the importance of adaptive peacebuilding practices, including feedback mechanisms with local partners and flexible budgeting, recommending that the Fund further promote adaptive learning approaches.

50. In 2025, two impact evaluations of the Fund's investments in the Polochic Valley in Guatemala were launched at an event hosted by the Permanent Missions of Canada, Germany and Guatemala to the United Nations, in partnership with the Peacebuilding Impact Hub. Impact evaluations are distinct from other evaluations in that they use methodologies that can attribute changes to a specific peacebuilding initiative with a much higher degree of confidence, typically requiring a significantly greater investment of time and resources. These studies form part of the Fund's multi-year impact evaluation initiative, in partnership with the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and the International Security and Development Centre. The first evaluation found that the Fund's investments contributed to effective conflict prevention, resulting in an 80 per cent reduction in conflicts in intervention areas, while the second found a significant decrease in community members' perceived effectiveness of potentially violent forms of conflict resolution.<sup>6</sup> These outcomes were the result of a project that strengthened the effectiveness and inclusivity of national and local institutions to manage conflict, with the support of FAO, OHCHR and WFP.

## V. Conclusion

51. In 2025, the Peacebuilding Fund demonstrated its enduring value as a flexible, catalytic instrument for supporting nationally-owned prevention and peacebuilding efforts, ensuring the meaningful inclusion of women and youth in peacebuilding and enabling locally-grounded sustainable results amid growing global fragility and resource constraints. Looking ahead, the impetus and outcome of the 2025 review of

<sup>5</sup> See A/78/5 (Vol. I), chap. II, para. 548.

<sup>6</sup> Sebastian Martinez, "Effects of promoting management of the social, political and institutional environment on conflict in the Polochic Valley", Impact Evaluation Report, No. 148 (New Delhi, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 2025); and Neil Ferguson, Paulina Rebollo Guzmán and Lame Ungwang, *Endline Assessment: PeaceFIELD Report Prepared for the Project "Promoting the Management of Social, Political and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala"* (Berlin, International Security and Development Centre, 2025).

the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, as embodied in the twin resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, offer an important opportunity to sharpen the Fund's strategic positioning and reinforce its role within the broader peacebuilding ecosystem. Together with the forthcoming independent evaluation of the 2020–2026 Strategy period, they will inform the development of the Fund's next strategy. Finally, sustained and predictable financing will remain critical. While assessed contributions strengthen the Fund's base, voluntary contributions will be essential to meet demand and preserve flexibility in support of prevention-oriented, long-term peacebuilding efforts.

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