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

## Peacebuilding Fund

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund approved support amounting to an all-time high of \$231,455,573 in 37 countries. The Fund continued to demonstrate its relevance and respond to national demand for peacebuilding support. It approved \$27,999,754 for cross-border programming, \$75,573,655 to support United Nations transitions and a record \$85,882,749 for the empowerment of women and young people. While 32 donor partners have committed \$170.8 million to the Fund, events around the world – many tragic, others encouraging – demand that more money be devoted to peace. However, without a commensurate increase in contributions, record level of approvals in 2022 will drop in 2023. In that regard, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding held in April 2022 was an essential step towards increased, more predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding.



## I. Introduction

1. The present report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, is the thirteenth annual report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution [63/282](#). It covers the third year of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy. A certified financial report issued by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office no later than 1 May 2023 will complement the report.<sup>1</sup>

2. Events worldwide in 2022 – some positive and others challenging – demand that more money be devoted to peace. The armed conflict in Ukraine and its knock-on effects, attempted and unconstitutional changes in government, including in West and Central Africa, and gang violence in Latin America and the Caribbean are all poignant examples of the human costs of conflict and political crises. On the other hand, 2022 also witnessed ceasefires, peace and political agreements, transition plans and national dialogues, highlighting opportunities to prevent violence and nurture peaceful development.

## II. Overall fund situation and strategy

3. The General Assembly high-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding held on 27 and 29 April 2022 was a milestone in the commitment of Member States to increased, more predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding. It resulted in the adoption of a unanimous Assembly resolution ([76/305](#)) in which the continued underfunding of peacebuilding was recognized and follow-up actions were outlined. The actions include the Fifth Committee's consideration of assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund, the revision of the Fund's terms of reference, and a focus on performance indicators and impact. The resolution highlighted the importance of increased attention to prevention and peacebuilding, engaging with women and young people, and supporting civil society. In the resolution, Member States and the private sector were encouraged to take practical steps to strengthen partnerships in support of peacebuilding efforts. Ahead of the Assembly meeting, representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations and the private sector participated in four round tables, organized in partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office, on the following: (a) the funding of local peacebuilding; (b) Fund results and resourcing; (c) peace-responsive investing through the private sector; and (d) the flexibility of funding for peacebuilding, including in United Nations mission transition settings. In a related effort, the Secretary-General proposed the use of assessed contributions to provide annual support to the Fund to complement voluntary financing (see [A/76/732](#)), which is being discussed in the Fifth Committee.

4. In 2022, the Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission continued to intensify synergies. The Commission convened five regional meetings, and 10 of the 11 country-specific meetings were focused on the Fund-eligible countries. The Commission recognized the Fund's critical contributions in advising the Security Council on the Central African Republic, Colombia and the Great Lakes region, as well as on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. For example, in the Central African Republic, the Commission's efforts to support the revitalization of the peace agreement and maintain momentum regarding disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the increased participation of women and young people helped to inform the Fund's backing of three new projects with an anticipated budget of \$9.5 million.

5. In 2022, 32 Member States made new voluntary commitments to the Fund totalling \$170.8 million. Well below the \$275 million target, they brought total

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information can be found at [www.un.org/peacebuilding](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding). Complete information on individual projects is available at the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office Gateway, at <http://mptf.undp.org>.

commitments and pledges for the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy to \$700 million, less than half the \$1.5 billion target. The Peacebuilding Support Office, which manages the Fund on behalf of the Secretary-General, approved programmes in 2022 amounting to a total all-time high of \$231,455,573 in 37 countries, highlighting the increased demand and need for catalytic and flexible support for national peacebuilding efforts. The Secretary-General approved the eligibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the re-eligibility of Madagascar for five years. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Fund will support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025, especially its social cohesion pillar, to improve intercommunity relations, and the governance pillar, which is aimed at supporting more responsive, transparent and accountable institutions. The portfolio of projects is anticipated to include a dedicated focus on reinvigorating the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as supporting reconciliation efforts. In Madagascar, the 2021 portfolio evaluation guided the strategic decision to focus on: (a) more inclusive political and social participation and civic space, especially for women and young people; (b) expanding access to conflict resolution mechanisms, citizen control mechanisms and local security; and (c) improving the security and resilience of marginalized communities.

6. Of 109 new projects approved in 2022, 79 per cent are directly implemented by 18 distinct United Nations agencies, 16.5 per cent by civil society and 4.5 per cent are joint projects of United Nations and civil society organizations. The total amount for which civil society organizations are direct recipients reached \$31,324,720, a 50 per cent increase over 2021. Financial allocations continued to be dedicated primarily to the three priority windows of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy to encourage cross-border programmes, support United Nations transition settings and promote the engagement of women and young people within peace and security agendas. Against targets of 20 per cent, 35 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in 2022, the Fund approved 12 per cent for cross-border and regional approaches, 33 per cent for facilitating transitions and 37 per cent for women's and youth empowerment (see table 1).<sup>2</sup>

Table 1  
**Peacebuilding Fund portfolio by priority window, 2022**

	<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)	27 999 754.00	75 573 655.36	85 882 748.64
Number of projects	16	34	42
Countries	12	8	28
Fund recipients	8	26	34
Share of portfolio (percentage)	12	33	37

7. Many projects approved in 2022 were aimed at addressing existing conflict drivers and anticipating future threats to peace and security, including through gender-responsive conflict prevention approaches. For instance, in Mali, the Fund's support will enable the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in collaboration with the Justice and Corrections Section and the Human Rights and

<sup>2</sup> Commitments per priority window are not mutually exclusive. For example, projects related to women's and youth empowerment can be part of either cross-border approaches or transition settings.

Protection Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, to reinforce the access of women and young people to formal and traditional justice mechanisms and to strengthen the resilience of communities at risk of radicalization. In Nigeria, a new intervention of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNDP and UN-Women is intended to reinforce non-military responses to conflict and insecurity in Kaduna and Katsina States. In Libya, the Fund is creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for women and young people, as well as supporting road maps for stabilization and recovery in the country's south through a joint programme involving IOM, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The intervention is intended to be catalytic in expanding United Nations programming and presence in the area, thus facilitating the implementation of the recently approved United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The implementation of a two-year project bringing together Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as Kosovo,<sup>3</sup> was begun by UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-Women to support young women and men in promoting increased mutual understanding, respect for diversity, trust-building and social cohesion.

8. The newly approved projects continue to strengthen the Fund's portfolio, addressing climate security challenges by focusing on preventing and managing conflicts related to natural resources and other climate-related security risks. In a new project at the Niger-Benin border, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNDP will foster cross-border collaboration between communities, institutions, religious leaders and the security sector. By promoting the sharing of natural resources, the project is aimed at enabling equitable access to socioeconomic opportunities, including infrastructure and productive and commercial activities. In the Sudan, the Fund plans to use disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies implemented by FAO and IOM as vehicles to address conflict drivers and promote social cohesion in Gedaref. Lastly, in an innovative blended finance project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund are supporting the operationalization of a public-private co-management agreement for the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, ensuring a human rights-based approach and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources by and for local communities.

9. The Peacebuilding Support Office commissioned the midterm independent review of the Fund's 2020–2024 Strategy. The preliminary findings include a note that the Strategy remains valid in a highly volatile world. Recommendations to further improve programmatic impact include: (a) deepening the involvement of national actors in cross-border programming; (b) refining the definition of transition settings and tailoring programming more specifically to those settings; (c) strengthening the integration of gender- and youth-focused programming into strategic results frameworks; (d) rejuvenating joint steering committees with authorities and partners to oversee the Fund's use at the country level; and (e) experimenting with bolder approaches regarding hard-to-reach groups, including through the expanded engagement of civil society. In terms of effectiveness and coherence, the review advocates more robust integration of the Fund within wider United Nations frameworks, as well as increased investment in design, monitoring and evaluation at the headquarters and country levels. The final report was published in January 2023,<sup>4</sup> and a management response is expected in the following months.

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

<sup>4</sup> Salif Nimaga and Anne Moltès, *Final Report: Mid-Term Review—UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy 2020–2024* (United Nations publication, 2023).

10. To enhance the impact of the Fund's resources in countries eligible for the Peacebuilding Recovery Facility, the Fund develops strategic results frameworks with national stakeholders, identifying peacebuilding outcomes and indicators for the five-year eligibility period. Strategic results frameworks will enable the United Nations and its partners to improve the monitoring of results for communities, better coordinate peacebuilding efforts and more easily assess impact. After their successful introduction in Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan and South Sudan, in 2021, the Fund scaled up the roll-out with eight new frameworks in 2022, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, the Niger, Somalia and the Sudan. To further encourage national ownership, joint steering committees in eligible countries provide strategic guidance and oversight and make decisions on the Fund's allocations in the country (see table 2). Joint steering committees are co-chaired by the government and the resident coordinator and include civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors and other relevant stakeholders.

Table 2  
**Peacebuilding Fund decisions, 2022**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Immediate Response Facility</i>	<i>Peacebuilding Recovery Facility</i>	<i>Total</i>
Albania	1 144 902.00	–	1 144 902.00
Benin	1 599 929.00	–	1 599 929.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 398 800.00	–	4 398 800.00
Burkina Faso	3 364 200.00	4 500 000.00	7 864 200.00
Burundi	3 458 604.80	2 000 000.00	5 458 604.80
Cameroon	2 000 000.00	7 287 918.00	9 287 918.00
Central African Republic	2 000 000.00	1 888 952.00	3 888 952.00
Chad	3 500 000.00	890 561.00	4 390 561.00
Colombia	3 728 692.50	3 987 734.00	7 716 426.50
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	8 000 000.00	8 000 000.00
Ecuador	2 998 895.51	–	2 998 895.51
El Salvador	2 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	5 000 000.00
Gambia	500 000.00	4 861 660.00	5 361 660.00
Guatemala	2 000 000.00	1 999 999.00	3 999 999.00
Guinea	1 850 000.00	8 073 615.96	9 923 615.96
Guinea-Bissau	2 000 000.00	9 973 601.00	11 973 601.00
Haiti	3 494 000.04	8 813 996.00	12 307 996.04
Honduras	2 000 000.00	3 999 915.00	5 999 915.00
Kyrgyzstan	1 900 000.00	2 625 864.40	4 525 864.40
Liberia	4 300 000.00	1 511 331.89	5 811 331.89
Libya	5 088 026.00	–	5 088 026.00
Madagascar	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Malawi	3 000 000.00	–	3 000 000.00
Mali	2 817 900.00	10 000 000.00	12 817 900.00
Mauritania	–	9 949 470.00	9 949 470.00
Niger	4 167 966.00	9 999 760.00	14 167 726.00
Nigeria	5 529 767.00	–	5 529 767.00
North Macedonia	652 702.00	–	652 702.00

	<i>Immediate Response Facility</i>	<i>Peacebuilding Recovery Facility</i>	<i>Total</i>
Papua New Guinea	3 335 003.00	–	3 335 003.00
Republic of Moldova	2 452 500.00	–	2 452 500.00
Senegal	2 000 000.00	–	2 000 000.00
Serbia	1 150 893.00	–	1 150 893.00
Sierra Leone	5 913 967.12	3 000 000.00	8 913 967.12
Somalia	1 100 000.00	6 509 223.53	7 609 223.53
South Sudan	2 000 000.00	9 725 863.66	11 725 863.66
Sudan	3 498 930.98	12 000 000.00	15 498 930.98
Kosovo <sup>a</sup>	652 702.00	–	652 702.00
Global	2 257 726.90	–	2 257 726.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>96 856 107.85</b>	<b>134 599 465.44</b>	<b>231 455 573.29</b>

*Source:* Peacebuilding Support Office and Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, January 2023.

*Note:* The table reflects funding decisions taken in 2022. Financial transfers, in tranches, follow project approval and may occur in subsequent years.

<sup>a</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

### III. Results and peacebuilding gains

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

11. As conflict drivers often have either a regional origin or a transboundary impact, the Fund's portfolio is intended to foster cross-border responses to peacebuilding needs, including by developing new avenues for civil society organizations. In the Liptako-Gourma tri-border area between Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, the Fund is piloting a funding scheme with Mercy Corps through which selection committees in the three countries, composed of representatives of the Fund, government, civil society and community service providers, have selected 72 local peacebuilding initiatives derived from community consultations during the design phase. FAO and IOM are aiming to reduce pressure on pastoral resources and violent conflicts linked to transhumance through an early warning and early reporting system and mechanisms for conflict management in the same area. In 2022, 213 agropastoral and intercommunity conflicts had been identified through the alert system, and 59 per cent had been resolved.

12. Transhumance and the prevention and management of agropastoral-related conflicts are the focus of other successful cross-border interventions of the Fund. At the border between Mali and Mauritania, 77 per cent of the 367 alerts were addressed thanks to the implementation of activities by FAO and IOM. The conflict prevention and management capacities of cross-border communities increased, including through the establishment and capacity strengthening of 24 village committees and the systematic mapping of conflict drivers. WFP and IOM are implementing a project to build cross-border peace between Guinea and Sierra Leone. In addition to monitoring transhumance flows and working at the policy level, those involved in the project organized local town hall and cross-border meetings gathering 200 participants, theatre performances reaching 2,000 people and communications that enabled constructive community discussions on the challenges faced by cattle herders and farmers and possible solutions thereto. At the border of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, insecurity and climate change have affected transhumance movements, leading to recurrent local conflicts. The first year of implementation of a project of FAO and

IOM that had been aimed at strengthening dialogue and social cohesion among border communities was marked by a series of cross-border dialogues and the collaborative mapping of transhumance corridors crossing through approximately 80 towns and villages and identifying 17 conflict-prone areas out of 35 cattle concentration spots. Thirty people are monitoring key routes, which will be critical for the early warning and response system.

13. When human mobility dynamics are a source of conflict in border areas, durable solutions aligned with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus are necessary for communities. In Central America, IOM, UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are implementing an initiative through which El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have jointly strengthened subregional coordination. In October 2022, the three countries reached seven agreements at the trilateral exchange space to foster sound practices, strategies and policies to improve assistance to returnees with protection needs, in particular victims of human trafficking, and to facilitate the peaceful and sustainable integration of migrants and host communities. The coordination also led to the Hearts in Motion communication campaign to promote the inclusion and peaceful integration of migrants in host communities in the three countries.

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

14. The reconfiguration and drawdown of peace operations offer crucial opportunities to consolidate peace gains but also bring the risk of relapse. In 2022, the Fund witnessed results of programmes intended to enhance the resilience of conflict-affected communities and to transform how local and national institutions prevent and manage conflict in United Nations mission transition settings. The year was marked by the conclusion of a two-year \$20 million programme in the Sudan that provided stopgap funding to peacebuilding priorities amid the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and generated peace dividends in the five states of Darfur. Implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and IOM, the programme was a vital facilitator of the United Nations system transition in the Sudan. Among other results, local security and the rule of law were strengthened through the training of over 450 police officers, tensions over essential services were reduced through the provision of safe drinking water to more than 34,400 people and 70 community-based committees were established or strengthened to address local conflicts. Locality-specific reintegration plans were designed, some of which have drawn follow-on financial support from donors. The eight locality action plans developed under the Darfur programme have informed the development of a \$24 million project expected to be implemented by a consortium of civil society organizations, which is now being discussed among donors. In addition, UNICEF and WFP have launched a €100 million four-year joint programme focused on resilience and social cohesion, benefiting from the Fund's programming and illustrating its catalytic nature. As such, the Fund has contributed to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and was instrumental in strengthening the peacebuilding focus of United Nations agencies in a transition context.

15. Following the United Nations transition linked to the closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau in 2020, the Fund's support strengthened the mediation and dialogue skills of 100 members of parliament, political parties and civil society, who are now increasingly called to lead dialogue initiatives in the country in response to the political situation. The same project, implemented by UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and WFP, supports a consultation space for civil society organizations, which gathers over 25 organizations and is a critical actor monitoring government action. The civil society organizations have shown an ability to quickly

mobilize, including following the failed attempted coup of 1 February 2022, demonstrating an increasingly vibrant civic space. To improve transparency and confidence within rule of law institutions, the Fund is financing an initiative by IOM, UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote inclusive policing, with improved relations between police and communities through model police stations and the development of a national anti-corruption strategy, approved in April 2022. A project implemented by Interpeace and Voz di Paz connected 212 youth leaders and funded 11 small projects implemented by youth groups as a microincentive mechanism that reached over 1,100 people. A project survey indicated that, as a result, 75 per cent of young people believed that local institutions frequently considered their opinion, and 74 per cent stated that they had been involved in at least one decision-making moment since the beginning of the project. Before the implementation of the project, 46 per cent of targeted young people believed that their participation in decision-making was limited.

16. Liberia has a 30 per cent mandatory gender quota for political party lists in its new electoral law as a result of the efforts of the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia and the political engagement and advocacy of Liberian civil society, both of which have benefited from timely technical assistance supported by the Fund. Complementing ongoing in-country activities, the Fund has been working with UNDP and UN-Women to promote inclusive political participation and eliminate violence against women in politics. Of 33 political parties, 28 have signed a protocol on violence against women in elections and politics, championed by the National Election Commission and supported by the project. In parallel, civil society organizations participating in project activities are strengthening the capacity of women leaders to participate in the 2023 general election. To date, 262 women have received training on leadership and advocacy. A project survey indicated that, at the local level, 79 per cent of women thought that their land rights were respected, a significant increase from an initial 30 per cent. Long-standing conflicts over land boundaries ended following the erection of cornerstones to demarcate such boundaries in many communities. In addition, 350 land concession-affected community members, of which 181 were women, benefited from alternative livelihood interventions to mitigate conflicts and restore their income. Those are the results of a joint project of UNDP, UN-Women and WFP that engages with 42 communities across four counties to improve access to land-related services and participation in land governance and dispute resolution.

17. The Fund continues to support the gradual transition of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its withdrawal from the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. In Kasai, the voluntary return of 821 Congolese refugees from Angola was supported by IOM and UNHCR to improve protection for returnees and reduce tensions between returnees and host communities. Two hundred housing units were built for returnees and internally displaced persons, 600 households received support in gaining access to land for housing and food, and local authorities were supported in delivering collective land titles. Local peace committees involving women and young people were set up to settle disputes including over land. The project will be focused next on the registration of individual land titles, especially for women, who are routinely discriminated against in gaining access to land. The national organization Fund for Congolese Women helped to reduce tensions and improve the empowerment of women between and within the Twa, Banyamulenge and Bantu communities. In Lugogo, a dialogue between communities and armed groups operating in the area led to the return of Twa and Bantu members to their communities.

18. The eligibility of Haiti for the Fund was determined in the context of the closure of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, ending 15 consecutive



years of peacekeeping in the country. Despite the rapidly deteriorating security situation and living conditions of the population, efforts to reduce community violence continued. UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Office for Project Services enrolled 156 young people, including 88 young women, in peace entrepreneurship activities, culminating in business start-ups in Martissant and La Saline to expand the local private sector, foster the economic empowerment of young people and support peacebuilding. In the hard-to-reach areas of Cité Soleil, Bel-Air and Saint Martin, the organization Concern Worldwide and the Haitian organization Lakou Lapè set up a platform of 500 young agents of peace, including 259 girls, working on conflict transformation and local mediation. UN-Women and the World Health Organization, together with Concern Worldwide, jointly mapped and supported mental health actors and helplines to expand access for victims of community violence. As a result, 704 women and girl survivors of sexual violence received mental health and psychosocial support, and 23 trainers were capacitated to work with women and girls in shelters who had been displaced by gang activity. Legal assistance was provided to more than 100 women and girls in prolonged pretrial detention, with support from UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women. Ahead of the scheduling of overdue elections, UNDP and UN-Women backed the establishment of an alliance of 791 women's organizations with a total of 249,000 members. The alliance is now partnering with the Provisional Electoral Council and the Haitian National Police to prevent violence against women. IOM and UNDP also worked with the national police to reduce illicit circulation and strengthen control of weapons and ammunition through the training of 75 officers in four regions, as well as collaborating with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve national regulations on small arms and strengthen stockpile management.

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

19. For the sixth year in a row, the Fund has exceeded its internal target allocation of 30 per cent to gender equality and achieved 47 per cent of gender-responsive investments, which reflect effective gender mainstreaming in the Fund's regular programming.<sup>5</sup> Of the projects selected through the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative projects of 2022, representing a total of \$46.7 million, 13 were focused on supporting women's civil society organizations, groups and networks in strengthening their institutional capacity for sustainable contributions to peacebuilding. Fourteen Youth Promotion Initiative projects were focused on political participation and safety, security and protection. In addition to all projects being required to allocate at least 40 per cent of their budget to national and local civil society partners, civil society organizations were the direct recipients of funds totalling \$26.8 million through 17 projects and \$7.9 million through four joint proposals with United Nations entities. The Fund launched a pilot to decentralize the Gender Promotion Initiative in the Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti and the Niger. Benefiting from lessons learned from the thematic review on local peacebuilding, the Fund will invest \$2.5 million in each country to encourage national ownership over selection of gender-responsive peacebuilding proposals while expanding funding access to national and local civil society organizations.

20. In 2022, the Fund saw concrete results stemming from its portfolio aimed at enhancing the participation of women and young people in decision-making and socioeconomic and political life, in line with the women and peace and security

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<sup>5</sup> Peacebuilding Fund approvals table (internal) and individual project documents.

agenda and the youth, peace and security agenda. In Madagascar, at the end of a project executed by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, 84 per cent of the target communities had a positive impression of the participation of women in decision-making, in stark contrast with only 12 per cent initially, as a result of the increased engagement of women in de-escalating conflicts related to issues such as the usage of water, the theft of cattle and education. In Sierra Leone, as a result of training and support of 23 youth-led associations through the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid in the Pujehun and Tonkolili districts, district security committees restructured their membership to include young people, especially young women. In Liberia, Bong and Montserrado counties were the focus of an intervention by Stichting ZOA for the promotion of women's leadership and participation in civic and political life. One hundred per cent of respondents to the survey on perception indicated that the project had contributed to improving the leadership abilities of women, and 98 per cent believed that the project had increased the participation of women in mediation spaces. In Bolivia, the Fund enabled greater awareness of the role of women and young people as peacebuilders, through various forms of art and communication involving over 9,000 people and supported by OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women.

21. The participation of local women and young people in dialogues and mediation generated concrete solutions for peace in various communities. In Burundi, women mediators addressed 3,090 disputes, with 59 per cent considered fully resolved by both sides, the result of the support of UN-Women and the American Friends Service Committee for the Women's Mediators Network and the training of 360 women mediators. In Sierra Leone, young people facilitated a mediation process that led to the peaceful resolution of a conflict between the mining company and the local police. In Guinea, where inter-ethnic conflicts have been on the rise in several localities of the Guinea Forest Region, a project implemented by IOM, UNFPA and OHCHR enabled 360 young leaders from diverse groups to actively prevent and resolve conflicts. In Kobela, Guinea, complaints to the police station have decreased by 40 per cent since youth associations began their activities.

22. A people-centred approach to conflict prevention also means supporting at-risk populations and communities with livelihood alternatives. In the Philippines, IOM, UNFPA and UN-Women supported the reintegration of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front women combatants, in particular 555 women former combatants and their families who had been isolated within the camps and communities. After 22 months, the women have improved their leadership skills, demonstrated by their role as para-social workers and peace facilitators for municipal social welfare and development offices. In addition, women now have a stable source of income and belong to 15 newly established cooperatives. In Colombia, a project implemented by the Urabá Antonio Roldán Betancur Foundation of Advanced University Studies is establishing female peacebuilding networks in select municipalities to formulate local peacebuilding plans. As a result, the local peacebuilding plans prepared in Acandí, El Bagre and Turbo now include protection by the communities of 360 hectares of forest considered at risk of becoming illicit crop plantations.

23. As young people are particularly at risk in areas affected by gang violence, the Fund's efforts to support socioeconomic inclusion for peace dividends are focused to a large extent on young men and women. As part of efforts to prevent violent extremism in Mauritania, UNODC and the International Labour Organization are facilitating the economic reintegration of young people in conflict with the law. Sixty-seven private companies have been identified as partners ready to employ such young people. In Sierra Leone, through a combination of training, psychosocial support, dialogues with authorities and the provision of agricultural livelihood opportunities for at-risk young people by FAO, UNDP and UNFPA, the level of crime and violence

associated with young people and gangs reported by communities and local security providers was drastically reduced. In Wau, South Sudan, a project implemented by IOM and UNESCO has shown remarkable results by providing over 400 at-risk young people and gang members with vocational support. It led to young people changing their lifestyle and investing in their future, transforming the communities' perceptions and tangibly improving the security situation. At least 75 per cent of the 413 young people empowered through the project continue to sustain and steadily expand their small businesses. In the Sudan, UNHCR and IOM have begun to develop a profiling method for the vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, to be considered in an age- and gender-responsive manner. In addition, the Saving Lives Entity fund is being implemented in Jamaica by UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and UNODC to tackle small arms proliferation and armed violence in vulnerable groups, including women and young people. Forty-five at-risk young people (44 per cent of them young women) were trained on life skills to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution and reduce armed gang violence.

24. Recognizing the significant challenges faced by people suffering from multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as the importance of a strong civic space, in recent years, the Fund has encouraged initiatives intended to protect and support human rights defenders, including through the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives. In Bolivia, OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women supported the establishment of a network of women defenders, comprising 94 women from 44 organizations, who engaged in 18 dialogue spaces to identify priorities and needs in relation to the national peace agenda. In Liberia, women's rights and gender equality organizations and activists are empowered to claim their rights and help others. The final evaluation of this project, which was implemented by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, showed a shift in the mindset of some communities and a better understanding of the human rights-based approach to peacebuilding. A 54 per cent increase in the number of human rights defenders feeling sufficiently safe to do their work was recorded.

25. The Fund saw significant results of its interventions to combat sexual and gender-based violence. Most notably, in the context of the transitional justice process launched in the Gambia in 2017, the Government endorsed all 29 recommendations on sexual and gender-based violence put forward by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. The project has supported a series of nationwide consultations and the dissemination of a call for position papers on the Commission's recommendations in order to help the Government to develop its official response to the Commission's recommendations. In addition, the Fund financed the work of OHCHR and UNDP to provide mental health and psychosocial support to the 40 survivors who testified before the Commission. In parallel, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare is being supported to develop the Sexual Offences Act amendment in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, establishing gender-based violence special courts to increase access to services and justice for survivors. In the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, across various projects, the availability and functionality of referral pathways and services pertaining to gender-based violence were enhanced through the training of 50 service providers and 50 health workers and the provision of equipment to 55 health facilities. In addition, dignity kits were provided to 2,000 women and girls, and livelihood support was given to 202 survivors. In the Centre-Nord region of Burkina Faso, UNFPA and UNHCR provided integrated support to internally displaced persons. Following awareness-raising activities and dialogues on violence, 588 cases of gender-based violence were disclosed and referred to specialist services, 574 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received psychosocial support and 30 protection committees were set up.

## D. Priority areas and additional trends

26. The Fund's four priority areas continued to experience essential peacebuilding gains within and outside the above-mentioned priority windows. Under its objective to implement and sustain peace agreements, the Fund continued to support Papua New Guinea in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement of 2001 and the post-2019 referendum on the political future of Bougainville. Specifically, UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women contributed to the governmental efforts to reach crucial agreements, including through the signing of the Era Kone Covenant of April 2022. In addition, 479 Bougainville Transition Dialogues on the post-referendum process reached 6,552 individuals in the period from 2020 to 2022, nearly 49 per cent of them women and 35 per cent of them young people, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Almost all respondents to the 2022 perception survey expressed confidence in United Nations peacebuilding support for constructive dialogue. An independent evaluation highlighted the effectiveness of creating community dialogue through the facilitation of reconciliation by recognized peace actors. In support of the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, UNDP helped to mainstream women's representation and needs into security sector reform and institutions. Women in uniform have become more visible after forming a network of 178 women in the security sector, which has strengthened gender responsiveness and accountability in that sector. As part of the transitional justice measures outlined in the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace of Colombia of 2016, an initiative led by Christian Aid Ireland provided legal assistance to women and to gender and sexual minorities who were victims of the armed conflict, including in a macro-case in which collective reparations were sought for that group nationwide. Building on the experience, other donors have supported macro-cases, demonstrating the catalytic nature of the project.

27. The same priority area includes strengthening the rule of law. To that end, in Mali, UNDP, OHCHR and UN-Women helped to provide legal and judicial assistance to 327 victims and to the families of missing and killed persons before competent courts. A legal and judicial assistance fund was set up to assist victims, primarily women, in 15 emblematic cases, and the establishment of a database to enable the reliable and efficient collection and use of data on human rights violations significantly strengthened the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission. In Burkina Faso, an IOM-UNODC project provided legal assistance to more than 795 detainees, leading to the release of 76 detainees.

28. Within the priority area that fosters dialogue and peaceful coexistence, the prevention of electoral violence constitutes an important theme of the Fund's approach. In Honduras, for instance, OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women boosted human rights monitoring in the electoral context by strengthening the capacities of the national human rights institution and providing technical assistance to the Electoral Justice Tribunal and the specialized unit against electoral crimes of the Office of the Attorney General. Platforms for dialogue between electoral institutions and civil society organizations created opportunities for greater participation of previously underrepresented groups, including the Indigenous population, people of African descent and persons with disabilities. In addition, communications campaigns supported by the project reached over 1.5 million people nationwide. In Somalia, with the support of the Fund, UNDP and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia backed the participation of national stakeholders in consultations to reach an agreement on the elections. This helped to enable a dialogue between the Federal Government and federal member states, resulting in generally peaceful elections and acceptance of results. To support peaceful elections in the Gambia, UNDP, UNESCO and UNFPA engaged with 2,128 young men and women across all regions in

community and intergenerational dialogues. According to a perception survey conducted by those involved in the project, the public perception of young people as peacebuilders significantly improved, and young people used their newly acquired skills to prevent and resolve conflicts, in particular those stemming from hate speech during electoral cycles.

29. As part of the Fund's priority area related to economic revitalization, two projects in the Central African Republic are using labour-intensive public works to provide livelihoods and immediate peace dividends to 2,450 people. Specifically, in the towns of Paoua and Alindao, the intervention is focused on providing durable solutions to refugee returnees from Cameroon and Chad, establishing 12 peace clubs to promote peaceful coexistence. The Fund provided access to schooling to 1,500 children, and 500 at-risk young people formerly associated with armed groups received support for socioeconomic reintegration focused on farming and livestock and cash-for-work, contributing to the rehabilitation of local markets. In Colombia, UNDP and UNODC are linking human rights and efforts to revitalize local economies in Cauca, Choco, Nariño and Norte de Santander. Support to 50 productive enterprises implemented by human rights defenders, community leaders and former combatants benefited 2,052 people (59 per cent of them women) and contributed to preventing the use of illicit crops as a livelihood strategy.

30. Progress was made in the fourth priority area, aimed at the re-establishment of essential administrative services by strengthening essential State capacities. In Madagascar, the project implemented by IOM, UNDP and UNFPA built five advanced police stations, provided them with equipment and training, and organized community and civil-military outreach events. Consequently, a substantial decrease in local crime was observed around the police outposts. The percentage of community members satisfied with the role of the security forces increased from 12 per cent to 82 per cent. In northern Chad, where decentralized services have been absent since 2018, IOM and the organization Humanity and Inclusion are implementing joint projects focused on youth needs. Socioeconomic support and capacity-building for more than 400 people created a more favourable climate for peaceful dialogue between communities and the State, as well as the return of services.

31. The Fund continues to see growing demand for support to counter hate speech and other divisive practices. In Sri Lanka, persistent and widespread hate speech against and harassment of ethnic and religious minorities and women risk weakening social cohesion. With the Fund's financing, UNDP and UNICEF supported civil society organizations in learning to better monitor and analyse hate speech trends, including on social media. Their monthly reports are shared with the country team and its partners to inform strategic frameworks and programmes. In Kenya, OHCHR and UNDP helped to reduce risks of violent conflict around elections and strengthened early warning and response capacities. The project successfully engaged a broad coalition and capacitated a national platform to quickly detect, investigate and counter over 800 hate speech incidents surrounding the 2022 national elections. Timely analyses of trends, risks and incidents in offline and online spaces informed responses and prevention efforts at the national and subnational levels, reaching over 7 million people online and 10 million people through radio.

32. As has been highlighted in previous reports, the need to address the intersection of climate change and conflict, as well as the effects of heightened competition over natural resources, have been increasing. The Fund's increased focus on these areas in past years generated significant gains in 2022. In eastern Chad, UNHCR and WFP are working on preventing and managing intercommunity tensions through better access to and management of natural resources. Through the project, in 2022, 361 conflicts between refugees and host communities were addressed peacefully following the strengthening of the capacity of local authorities to apply law and justice in the settlement of disputes related to the sharing of natural resources. As a result, conflicts

between refugees and host communities, as well as between farmer and herder communities, are now automatically referred to a single committee on which all parties are represented. In the Zinder region of the Niger, before the start of a project implemented by FAO and UNFPA, the administrative authorities had difficulty obtaining timely information on agricultural and pastoral activities, including the timing of seasonal migration and access to fields. Pre-migration negotiations now determine the dates of movement and access to fields by pastoralists to prevent possible conflict among the communities. The project led to the establishment of a yearly regional forum bringing together all stakeholders that now supports this process.

33. Also following the emerging trend of climate security and environmental peacebuilding, in Guinea, Upper Guinea has been particularly affected by human-led environmental degradation now being worsened by the consequences of climate change. Increasingly limited natural resources leading to food insecurity deepened tensions and clashes. A project led by the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development enabled the establishment and operationalization of four multi-stakeholder cooperation platforms to prevent and resolve conflicts over natural resources, bringing together all actors around the shared challenge of increasing food insecurity. Dialogues and training on social cohesion and the causes and consequences of environmental and biodiversity degradation brought together more than 3,000 people. They helped to establish a shared vision of means to address the challenges among the stakeholders concerned. In the Pacific Islands, IOM and UNDP consulted 1,500 people in Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu on regional climate security issues, on the basis of which the project supported the development of three country-specific climate security profiles<sup>6</sup> and a draft regional climate security assessment framework. The framework emerged from a regional dialogue led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and is meant to empower actors to identify and mitigate climate-related human security threats.

34. In addition to the Fund's increased focus on prevention in recent years, events in several countries in the Fund's portfolio required new working modalities during or immediately after political turmoil and unconstitutional changes of government to complement broader peace and mediation efforts. Following the 2021 military coup in the Sudan, the Fund pivoted its strategy towards more subnational engagement to provide essential support to communities who needed it most. For example, in 2022, the Fund approved \$10 million in peacebuilding programming for Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref States in East Sudan to support strengthening community-level conflict resolution mechanisms, ensuring the meaningful participation of underrepresented groups in local peacebuilding processes, and enhancing access to and the management of essential services, natural resources and livelihoods. The programme contributes to implementing the United Nations common approach of the integrated United Nations country team to support programmatic priorities in the current political situation. In Chad, where the political and institutional transition continued, UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR supported the inclusive and sovereign national dialogue, a key transition milestone, to promote more inclusiveness and greater alignment with international human rights standards. Technical support enabled the operationalization of the Commission for Verification of Illegal Detentions, and all demonstrations were monitored by national and international human rights experts in 2022 in accordance with the OHCHR monitoring strategy. The training of 76 civil society members, including 34 women, on monitoring and the reporting of human rights violations led to the establishment of a network to conduct a social audit of the transition. In Guinea, the Resident Coordinator requested the Fund to intervene

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Pacific Office, climate security risk assessment profiles for Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, 10 November 2022. Available at <https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/climate-security-risk-assessment-profiles>.

quickly to support joint United Nations action after the takeover of the Government by force in September 2021. In 2022, the Fund approved a package of three transition support projects in line with the United Nations transition strategic plan and the authorities' transition road map. The projects were intended to support an inclusive and participatory transition process by empowering women and young people and promoting social cohesion, reconciliation and transitional justice processes.

35. Under the auspices of the Fund, the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility is strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to engage with the World Bank and other international financial institutions on alignment and coherence regarding shared priorities in prevention and transition contexts.<sup>7</sup> The Facility allocated \$2.23 million in 2022, which includes 17 projects in 14 countries and one subregional initiative in the Mano River Basin to develop shared data platforms and analyses, deploy dedicated liaison and coordination capacities and roll out learning agendas for greater synergies and effectiveness to help to achieve national peacebuilding outcomes (see table 3).

Table 3  
**Global performance of the Peacebuilding Fund, 2021–2022**

<i>Fund priority area</i>	<i>Project count<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>On track to deliver outputs (percentage)</i>	<i>On track with evidence of significant contribution to peacebuilding outcomes (percentage)<sup>b</sup></i>
<b>Priority area 1<sup>c</sup></b>			
2022	21	57	33
2021	29	79	34
<b>Priority area 2<sup>d</sup></b>			
2022	174	81	19
2021	151	77	21
<b>Priority area 3<sup>e</sup></b>			
2022	7	57	14
2021	16	88	31
<b>Priority area 4<sup>f</sup></b>			
2022	22	86	9
2021	25	92	16
<b>Overall 2022</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Overall 2021</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>23</b>

*Source:* Peacebuilding Support Office project assessments, periodic reports and independent country evaluations.

<sup>a</sup> The table includes ongoing projects for which there is a performance score and does not include those that are in early stages of implementation.

<sup>b</sup> Evidence of significant contribution to peacebuilding outcomes entails results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviours or institutions.

<sup>c</sup> Security sector reform, the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and political dialogue.

<sup>d</sup> Reconciliation, democratic governance and conflict prevention/management.

<sup>e</sup> Employment and equitable access to social services.

<sup>f</sup> State capacities, extension of State authority and governance of peacebuilding resources.

<sup>7</sup> Detailed information on the Facility can be found at [www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/partnerships/un-worldbank-partnership](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/partnerships/un-worldbank-partnership).

36. Fragile political and security situations, frequently entailing movement restrictions, can severely affect the capacities of implementing partners, sometimes causing projects to be delayed or off track. Eighty-three per cent of all off-track projects are concentrated in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Mali, Myanmar, the Niger, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan and the Sudan. The Fund monitors project implementation and works with United Nations country teams, governments and their partners to ensure regular support for such projects. Of 45 projects reported as off track in November 2021, only 7 were still reported as such in November 2022. Given the risk-tolerant nature of the Fund and the settings in which it operates, a certain number of delays are reasonable to expect and necessary to allow.

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

### **A. Advisory Group**

37. The sixth Advisory Group, after providing vigorous support for the request of the Secretary-General for more predictable, adequate and flexible funding for the Fund in the run-up to the General Assembly high-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding, wrapped up its two-year term. The Secretary-General appointed the members of the seventh Advisory Group, which held its first meeting in November 2022. Following consultations with the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Peacebuilding Commission Chair and Vice-Chairs, the Group identified four focus areas for their oversight role: (a) the implications of the New Agenda for Peace; (b) the Fund's connector role in the United Nations system and the wider peacebuilding community; (c) the measurement and communication of impact; and (d) funding.

### **B. Budget and personnel**

38. In 2022, the Fund's expenditure to support its management function was estimated at \$4.8 million, drawing from the 3 per cent management fee from contributions under the Fund's terms of reference. In addition, the Fund invested in design, monitoring and evaluation activities to support country teams and their partners to meet the ambitious goals of the 2020–2024 Strategy and undertake global thematic reviews and portfolio evaluations for countries nearing the end of eligibility. The Fund continued to benefit from staff arrangements with United Nations Volunteers and the Junior Professional Officers Programme, as well as the secondees to the Peacebuilding Support Office from UN-Women and OHCHR.

39. Notable working visits in 2022 included: (a) global training sessions on gender- and youth-sensitive programming in Kenya and Senegal; (b) Peacebuilding Support Office partner visits to Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (c) joint Peacebuilding Support Office visits to Kenya, Mozambique and South Sudan; (d) facilitation of the strategic results framework roll-out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Liberia and the Niger; (e) the first post-pandemic donor visit to the Sudan; and (f) programming missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, the Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali and Solomon Islands.



### C. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation

40. In 2022, the two annual thematic reviews were focused on local peacebuilding and climate security challenges. It was found through the thematic review on local peacebuilding that the Fund's support for local peace structures had helped to effectively resolve local-level conflicts and that small grant facilities supported by the Fund positively contributed to building trust between communities and local governments. The thematic review highlighted the role of the financial autonomy and institutional strength of local peacebuilders, the role of local volunteers in engaging with marginalized groups and the importance of local-national linkages in project design for the sustainability of results.<sup>8</sup> The thematic review was produced through a tripartite partnership with the PeaceNexus Foundation and United Nations Volunteers, utilizing an innovative research model involving young volunteer researchers from case study contexts. The ongoing thematic review of climate security and peacebuilding challenges, commissioned in February 2022 in partnership with FAO, UNICEF, the climate security mechanism and the United Kingdom, recognized the critical role of the Fund's cross-border focus, given the transnational nature of climate security threats and noting the effectiveness of financing for the prevention and management of local-level conflicts over natural resources. The Fund has commenced a thematic review of human rights and peacebuilding, to be finalized in December 2023, in partnership with Switzerland and OHCHR.

41. Forty-two project-level evaluations were completed in 2022. In addition, the Fund oversaw an independent strategic portfolio review in Guinea that found that the Fund had contributed to peacebuilding impact for political dialogue, justice and security sector reform, strengthened community relations, increased access to decision-making and improved the socioeconomic position of women and young people. The Fund issued its first evaluation policy that outlined the organizational set-up, procedures and accountabilities governing the Fund's evaluation function at the global, country and project levels.<sup>9</sup> The policy set out project evaluation budget requirements and introduced a centrally managed process for projects less than or equal to \$1.5 million. All final evaluations are now subject to external quality assessment, and evaluation quality scores will be made available to the public.

42. As part of its investments in improved monitoring, the Fund supported participatory data collection efforts, including perception surveys and community-based monitoring, at the project and country levels in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Guatemala and the Niger. These methods were also integrated into the monitoring plans of the strategic results frameworks for Guatemala and the Niger and new data-sharing mechanisms between governmental and civil society stakeholders.

43. Initiated in January 2021, the Peacebuilding Fund's impact evaluation and dissemination initiative, PeaceFIELD, launched three case studies, in Guatemala, the Mali-Niger border region and the Sudan, analysing and comparing communities where project implementation would occur or had taken place with control groups. Several lessons emerged through the process, including on the scope and scale of projects and the need to invest in building country partnerships for data collection. The results of the Mali-Niger case study and the baselines in the Polochic Valley and Darfur were expected in early 2023.

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office, *Thematic Review on Local Peacebuilding*, New York, May 2022.

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf\\_evaluation\\_policy\\_2022-2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_evaluation_policy_2022-2024.pdf).

## V. Conclusion

44. As illustrated in the present report, throughout 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund continued to demonstrate its relevance. It further encouraged better United Nations coherence, for example by financing peace aspects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The Peacebuilding Support Office expanded results-based management efforts through longer-term country-level strategic results frameworks, a new evaluation policy, additional field research and better communication. In 2023, the Fund will continue to respond to country-based demand, taking note of the recommendations from the midterm review of its 2020–2024 Strategy. This will include a rejuvenation of joint steering committees at the country level, increased localization of peacebuilding, a refinement of the Fund’s strategy in United Nations mission transition settings, and more investment in results monitoring, including through data generation and use. Without a commensurate increase in contributions, however, a consistent level of financing for peace – so sorely needed – will drop. Thus, I hope that the Fifth Committee will conclude its deliberations favourably on my proposal (see [A/76/732](#)) to provide more predictable financing for conflict prevention and peacebuilding through assessed contributions to the Fund.

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