SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
PEACEBUILDING FUND

Gender and Youth Promotion initiatives
Call for Proposals

2023

PEACEBUILDING
FUND

Contents

1. PEACEBUILDING FUND

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the United Nations' instrument of first resort to respond to violent conflict. Since the General Assembly and the Security Council established the Fund in 2005, the PBF has supported over 60 countries recovering from or coping with violent conflict. The aim of the Fund is to support interventions that are of direct relevance to peacebuilding processes and address critical gaps in areas for which no other funding mechanisms are available. In response to the Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace[1] and global conflict dynamics, the PBF has evolved from a post-conflict instrument to one that invests at all stages of conflict cycles: before, during and after conflict.[2]

The PBF works in the following Priority and Focus Areas:

Priority Area	Focus Area
1. Responding to imminent threats to the peace process, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue	1. Security Sector Reform 2. Rule of Law 3. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration 4. Political dialogue (around specific time-bound peace/political agreements)
2. Building and/or strengthening national capacities to promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict	1. National Reconciliation 2. Democratic Governance 3. Conflict Prevention/Management
3. Supporting efforts to revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends for the population at large	1. Employment 2. Equitable access to social services
4. Establishing or re-establishing essential administrative services and related human and technical capacities	1. Strengthening of essential national state capacity 2. Extension of state authority / local administration 3. Governance of peacebuilding resources

2. BACKGROUND

Since 2016, the Fund has launched the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) and the Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) at the same time as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives. While being launched together, the GPI and YPI are two separate initiatives with interconnected but distinct aims.

Gender Promotion Initiative

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security[3] recognize women's key role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The 2010 report of the Secretary-General, as requested by resolution 1889 (2009), contained a Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-responsive Peacebuilding, which included a target of 15 per cent for UN peacebuilding allocations to be focused on gender equality and women's empowerment. In

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[1] A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)
[2] PBSO (2017): *What does "sustaining peace" mean?*
[3] 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), and 2467 (2019).

response, the PBF launched its first Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) in 2011. The initiative called for targeted peacebuilding projects on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Fund allocated $6.4 million to the first round of GPI projects. This has continued to grow and in 2022 over $23 million were invested in GPI projects. Since 2011, the Fund has invested over $137 million in 109 GPI projects in over 30 countries. In 2015, the PBF became the only UN Secretariat entity and first pooled UN fund to meet the 15 per cent target. The Fund has now exceeded the target for seven years in a row, reaching 47 per cent across its entire portfolio in 2022.

Youth Promotion Initiative

Security Council underline resolution 2250 (2015) and subsequent resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security recognizes the important and positive contribution of youth for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. In response, the PBF launched its first Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) in 2016 calling for targeted peacebuilding projects on youth inclusion and participation. The Fund increased its funding to the YPI from $2.7 million in 2016 to over $23 million in 2022. Since 2016, the PBF has invested over $128 million in 97 YPI projects in close to 30 countries. To date, the YPI remains the largest funding measure in support of the implementation of resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020).

Civil Society Engagement

Since 2016, the Fund has opened funding to civil society organizations (CSOs) through the initiatives, in addition to UN Agencies Funds and Programs (UN AFPs) and in 2020 joint UN-CSOs proposals was opened for the first time. Of the total investment since 2016, over $86 million, 34%, was allocated to CSOs and over $25 million, 10%, was allocated to joint UN-CSO projects. By providing direct funding to CSOs, PBF responds to the recommendations of the resolutions on sustaining peace 70/262 (1016) and 2282 (2016), the Secretary-General's report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (2018) as well as the UN system-wide Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (2020). These recommendations aim at enhancing locally led peacebuilding impact, strengthening mutually respectful partnerships between the UN and civil society with a deeper understanding of local contexts, capitalizing on the expertise, broader networks and closer relationships of local organizations and communities and ensuring an inclusive approach, engaging the most hard-to-reach and marginalized populations. The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (2018) notes that it is also critical to support and nurture the work done by youth led CSOs, most of them being at the forefront of local peacebuilding initiatives but operating with extremely low support and funding. As per these recommendations, the initiatives not only provide direct funding to CSOs, but also requires that applicants demonstrate strong partnerships with local CSOs, in particular women-led organizations and networks for GPI applicants and youth-led organizations and networks for YPI applicants.

3. THEME OF GENDER PROMOTION INITIATIVE (GPI)

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) announces the launch of the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) 2023, contributing directly to its 2020-2024 Strategy promoting the positive engagement of women in peacebuilding through innovative approaches. Directly responding to challenges and gaps identified in the 2022 Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and 2023 PBSO's Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding (that will be published mid-April 2023), this year's GPI call for proposals focuses on: **(1) climate change mitigation and adaptation and (2) women's engagement in natural resources management.**

The concept of climate, peace and security – the ways in which climate change, directly or indirectly, may exacerbate or compound risks of violence, conflict, and other personal or national vulnerabilities and threats – has become increasingly prominent on the global agenda, and in peacebuilding. Because climate change can act as a 'risk multiplier' that compounds existing vulnerabilities and drivers of conflict, it may have more significant effects on those already vulnerable to differentiated risks. There is growing consensus that climate change is disproportionately impacting low-income, fragile countries, and typically the poorest and most vulnerable communities within these countries. Those whose coping capacity is already restricted – due to poverty, inequality, other sources of conflict, or social and political marginalization – may be least well positioned to withstand extreme weather shocks, such as more frequent or intense flooding and drought. The unequal impact of climate change for women and girls has been a particular concern, given that the sort of structural barriers to gender equality prevalent in many countries may significantly limit adaptation and coping strategies. This is especially the case for women facing intersecting forms of inequality, including due to age, race/ethnicity, class, sexual and gender identity, (dis)ability, refugee/IDP, and other status. In addition, when communities are displaced due to flooding, hurricanes, and desertification, or when climate-related disasters threaten livelihoods, women can be made more at risk for sexual and gender-based violence. [4]

1. **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**

There has been increasing recognition that climate change, and any attendant security implication of it, may affect women and men differently.[5] There are significant concerns that gender inequality in economic or decision-making spheres, and discriminatory norms against women and girls could make them more at risk from climate impacts.[6] This has led to calls for those working on climate, peace and security dynamics and on climate mitigation and adaptation to ensure analysis and programming take into consideration the needs of women and girls.[7] Yet despite negative gendered effects of climate change, women and girls also contribute to positive climate change mitigation and adaptation action and participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding at local, national and international levels. Women environmental defenders and peacebuilders – including indigenous women and young women – are key leaders in challenging unequal power relations, mobilising for climate justice, and building inclusive and sustainable peace.

Climate change adaptation generally refers to changes in practices, systems, or behaviors intended to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. It is often used to describe actions designed to modulate or prepare for the anticipated

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[4] Gaston, Brown with al-Dawsari, Downing, Day and Bodewig, Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023; (New York: UNU CPR, 2023). Available at:
https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/thematic-review-climate-security-and-peacebuilding-2023
[5] See, e.g., Elizabeth Smith, Gender Dimensions of Climate Insecurity (Stockholm: SIPRI, 2022). Available at:
https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2022-
[6] UNEP et al., Gender, Climate & Security, 2020; Jessica Smith, Lauren Olosky, and Jennifer Grosman Fernández, The Climate-Gender-Conflict Nexus (Washington, DC: Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, 2021). Available at: Available at: https://www.gender-nr-peace.org/gender-climate-security/; or
https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-
[7] International Alert, Integrating Gender and Security in Climate Adaptation: Principles for Success (London: International Alert, 2021). Available at: https://www.international-alert.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Climate-Adaptation-Gender-Security-EN-2021.pdf.

future impacts of climate change.[8] Women can be uniquely positioned to contribute with their experience, knowledge and insights to building effective adaptation strategies to adverse impact of climate change. However, despite growing awareness and recognition that women – especially young and indigenous women – are important actors and influencers in climate change policy, they continue to face obstacles to participating in decision-making and planning processes, including at local levels, which can further exacerbate existing patterns of marginalization and undermine opportunities for holistic adaptation strategies. Climate change adaptation measures can be developed as peacebuilding tools, e.g., as a means of encouraging social cohesion and cooperation, and/or to support greater community resilience against climate change that would strengthen conflict prevention. However, if these tools are to avoid reinforcing existing inequalities, they must be developed in a way that is gender responsive. This requires that climate change adaptation projects integrate gender and climate priorities in analysis and approaches to overcome obstacles to women's participation.

Climate change mitigation refers to efforts that reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions.[9] These interventions can focus on contributing to peace and preventing conflicts through a just energy transition, greater green investments and increased community capacity to participate in green business and sustainable production. For example, through the generation of economic resources accompanied with the conservation and sustainable use of forests.

There is now a greater need to support local civil society organizations, including women's organizations integrating climate risk analysis into their work to ensure such knowledge and expertise informs relevant policies, plans and programming, as pointed out in the 2022 Secretary-General Report on WPS.

As highlighted in the 2023 Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding, there is also a need to promote innovative climate-security projects that support women's roles in climate change mitigation and adaptation and identify and implement measures to address their specific risks in the context of climate change and its interaction with conflict factors. This is particularly the case for young and indigenous women who face overlapping forms of inequality, yet who are often make invaluable contributions to mobilizing for climate justice, preserving traditional knowledge, and supporting human and tenure rights.

2. **Women's engagement in natural resources management**

Addressing pressures around natural resources and their management is one peacebuilding approach necessary to address conflict in many regions experiencing such vulnerabilities. As mentioned in the 2023 Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding, investments in environmental peacebuilding approaches, including improvements to agriculture and natural resource infrastructure, get to the heart of what many communities view as both their most pressing human security concerns, and the factors that contribute to persistent conflict and competition.

Environmental peacebuilding approaches can include areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation or address climate-related risks, but also other environmentally – related risks, such as environmental degradation, poor governance, weak or absent means of dispute resolution,

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[8] Gaston, Brown with al-Dawsari, Downing, Day and Bodewig, Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023; (New York: UNU CPR, 2023). Available at:
https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/thematic-review-climate-security-and-peacebuilding-2023
[9] Ibid.

inequities in distribution and access to natural resources, and other sources of communal or transnational tensions or disputes and other practices related to agriculture, farming, and land management, among others.[10]

'Bottom-up' peacebuilding around local natural resources issues can lead to opportunities to alleviate local conflicts and sources of vulnerability, while also offering entry points to work on other trenchant social issues, such as the exclusion of women or youth. In many societies, gendered social roles position women as the primary managers of natural resources for their households and/or communities: they provide water, food and energy and are therefore highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Changes to the availability of these resources increase their vulnerability and expose them to higher livelihood risks and physical danger. However, these roles can also uniquely place women to anticipate and combat climatic-related security risks.

In 2023, the Fund is inviting peacebuilding proposals that address women's engagement in natural resources management to promote their inclusion in the management, decision-making, and conflict resolution related to these natural resources.

All GPI proposals need to meet the criteria for the PBF Gender Marker 3. The GPI further requires proposals to be both gender- and age sensitive in their approach, and to consider gendered causes and implications of conflict and violence, including gender norms associated with masculinities and femininities. Gender is one axis of exclusion, and there is a need to pay close attention to intersecting forms of marginalization. The GPI encourages proposals that take an inclusive and intersectional approach, including by recognizing multiple forms of oppression, violence and discrimination, but also privileges an individual can face due to one's compounded identities. This can manifest in supporting young women's peacebuilding organizations, LGBTQI+ organizations working on peacebuilding or organizations working on protecting peacebuilders and human rights defenders, to name a few examples.

As in previous years, all projects are required to allocate at least 40 per cent of the requested grant to national or local civil society partners, in particular women-led organizations. The GPI will give preference to joint UN-CSO projects, projects implemented by national CSOs, and projects that demonstrate strong partnership with women-led organizations. In recognition of Do No Harm considerations and to promote inclusive, participatory proposals and local ownership, all GPI applicants will be required to explain the *process* of identifying national or local civil society partners, provide a brief *rationale*, and describe the *form* of partnership.

PBF is keen to invest in strong monitoring and data collection systems. Projects are recommended to build in community feedback loops on the effectiveness of the projects and document regular feedback as part of the implementation and learning processes.

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4. THEMES OF YOUTH PROMOTION INITIATIVE (YPI)

The Peacebuilding Support Office, announces the launch of the 2023 Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), contributing directly to its 2020-2024 Strategy to promote the positive engagement of young women and men as well as other young people in peacebuilding through innovative approaches. Directly responding to challenges and gaps identified in the second Secretary-General on Youth Peace and Security (2022)and the Secretary-General's 2021 report on Our Common Agenda, this year's YPI focuses on:

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[10] Ibid

1. Fostering youth-inclusive political processes and promoting the political participation of diverse young people

The second report of the Secretary-General on Youth Peace and Security (2022) highlights that the mobilization of young people for peace, social justice, climate action and equality remain unfaltering, and critical to the peaceful development of societies. This is despite the unprecedented challenges faced by youth worldwide due to discrimination, exclusion, and the closing of civic space at national and local level. The COVID-19 pandemic has further reinforced the barriers to the meaningful participation of young people in peace and security processes, resulting in the continuation of their exclusion. Young women face particular challenges and double discrimination patterns due to their age and gender. Much remains to be done to ensure political participation of diverse youth at national and local level. Youth participation is one of the five pillars of Youth, Peace and Security outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and it is also a means to achieve other Youth, Peace and Security objectives. The Secretary-General's 2021 report on Our Common Agenda further calls for meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement in political processes as a core component of the social contract in all Member States.

Supporting the political participation of a diverse range of young people in political and peace processes may mean challenging social norms, stereotypes and harmful behaviors, including in relation to gender equality and entails addressing other forms of marginalization. Importantly, the political participation of young people in peace and security cannot be obtained by solely focusing on youth. For young people to be included, those that currently hold the power to grant access, to allow them a seat at the table or to be heard and empowered, must be prioritized too. Systematic and intergenerational partnership is a key component of meaningful participation. This is in line with the recommendation of the "Missing Peace" - independent progress study on Youth, Peace and Security to invest in both youth leadership and agency and an enabling environment. Ultimately, the goal of supporting meaningful participation should be to ensure that youth can truly impact the outcomes of decision-making processes.

One way of strengthening the sustainable engagement of youth in political and peace processes is through the processes of institutionalizing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda by mainstreaming it across policies and work of relevant stakeholders. Successful institutionalization of YPS entails that young people are front and center in those processes from the onset and throughout the entire process.

Given this context, in 2023 the **Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI) seeks proposals fostering the meaningful participation of young people in political and peace processes.** This includes projects that:

1) Promote impact and results-driven participation in political processes such as national political dialogues, peace architecture, constitutional reform processes, political parties, local governance, security sector reform and electoral processes, for example. Projects that specifically seek to address barriers and challenges to the participation of young women are encouraged.
2) Promotes the meaningful participation of diverse young women and men as well as other young people in the development and implementation of national and regional YPS frameworks, such as YPS National Action Plans. It is important to highlight that the objective of the projects should not be limited to the development of the YPS framework per se, but rather fostering the diverse and systematic participation of diverse young women and men in the development and implementation of the frameworks.

2. Civic Space: Safeguarding and expanding civic space for youth participation including through local level infrastructures for peace

The second report of the Secretary-General on Youth Peace and Security (2022) also highlights that the safety, security and protection of young people has not significantly improved. Shrinking civic space, coupled with the impact of armed conflicts and the pandemic, have led to acute protection challenges requiring urgent action. Across the world, young peacebuilders continue to be victims of reprisals and intimidation as a result of their engagement to promote sustainable peace. The report "If I disappear", launched in 2021 by Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, highlighted that the violation of young people's civil and political rights, especially the right to freedom of expression and assembly poses a risk to the safety and dignity of young activists. It also limits their advocacy, and activism, as well as their space to contribute to decision-making processes. As civic space became more digitized, opportunities grew for young people to develop their civic identities and express their political stances creatively, claiming agency that may not have been afforded to them in traditional civic spaces. Yet, online engagements have brought about a new spectrum of challenges. Varying levels of infrastructure, internet access, digital literacy, affordability of services and devices and online protection issues, including gender-based protection concerns, remain significant concerns. This is especially true for young people in remote or conflict-affected areas and in lower-income classes, and for young women and girls. Efforts should intensify to tackle the digital divide, increase access to digital resources and opportunities, foster norms for the safe and inclusive use of technology and digital spaces, and combine online and offline engagement to ensure that no young people are left behind.

Despite the widely recognized impact that young people and youth-led organizations operating at local levels can have on peacebuilding outcomes, different forms of repression and discrimination can hinder or prevent their engagement in local peacebuilding initiatives.

To address this challenge, **the YPI seeks proposals that aim to protect and expand civic space for youth participation, both offline and online**. Proposals for this theme should include efforts to advocate for the protection and promotion of human rights, including freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as the creation of safe and inclusive spaces for young people to express themselves, share their views, and actively and meaningfully contribute to achieving sustaining peace.

Given the importance of supporting local level efforts by young people and youth-led organizations, proposals could focus on strengthening local level infrastructures that protect and expand civic space for young people. They could support local mechanisms, structures and institutions and processes that pay special attention to protecting young people, monitor their situation and address actions that restrict civic space, and facilitate the creation of protection policies and mechanisms, and represent their interests vis a vis power structures and decision-making mechanisms.

> The YPI is seeking proposals focused on either of the two themes or focused on a mix of both. The YPI requires proposals to be both age and gender sensitive in their approach, and to consider gendered causes and implications of conflict and violence. All YPI proposals need to meet at least the criteria for the PBF Gender Marker 2. Age is one axis of exclusion and the YPI encourages proposals to take an inclusive and intersectional approach, including by recognizing multiple forms of oppression, violence and discrimination, but also privileges, an individual can face due to compounded identities.

As in previous years, all projects are required to allocate at least 40 per cent of the requested grant to national or local civil society partners, in particular youth-led organizations. The YPI will give preference to joint UN-CSO projects, projects implemented by national CSOs, and projects that demonstrate strong partnership with youth-led organizations. To reach smaller and informal organizations, innovative intermediary models coupled with trust-filled partnerships between organizations are encouraged. In recognition of Do No Harm considerations and to promote inclusive, participatory proposals and local ownership, all YPI applicants will be required to explain the *process* of identifying national or local civil society partners, including by providing a brief *rationale* and describing the *form* of partnership.

Projects are encouraged to develop monitoring mechanisms that include feedback loops and captures voices of the youth and being engaged to systematically collect data in order to assess continuously the effectiveness of the proposed project.

5. ELIGIBILITY

Organizations
PBSO is accepting proposals from UN AFPs and civil society organizations. All applicants interested in applying to the GPI and/or YPI are advised to reach out to the PBF Secretariat and/or RC Office in the project country for guidance on the process.[11]

This year, the Fund will be accepting three types of proposals: **joint UN proposals, joint UN-CSO proposals and CSO proposals**. While both types of joint proposals will need to be submitted by UN Country Teams following the endorsement of the RC/DSRSG/SRSG, the CSO proposals will be submitted by the CSOs independently:

UN Country Teams	Civil Society Organizations[12]
Maximum of two GPI and two YPI proposals per UNCT	Maximum of two GPI and two YPI proposals per CSO globally
Grants from $800,000 to $2 million per project	Grants from $300,000 to $2 million per project
UNCTs can submit joint UN proposals with up to three recipient UN organizations per project	CSOs can submit solo CSO proposals (submitted by the CSO independently) or joint UN-CSO proposals (submitted by the UNCT)
UNCTs can submit joint UN-CSO proposals with up to three recipient organizations per project, maximum two UN organizations and one CSO (i.e. UN-UN-CSO or UN-CSO)	CSOs organized in federations, confederations or umbrella organizations with independent international or national chapters will be considered as one organization for the purpose of this special call

Countries
The call for proposals is open to UN entities and CSOs in countries eligible to receive PBF funding and in 2023 the following countries are eligible[13]: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic (only YPI), Chad, Colombia (only YPI), Democratic Republic of the Congo (only YPI), El Salvador, The Gambia (only YPI), Guatemala (only YPI), Guinea, Guinea**

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[11] Please email pbfgypi@un.org for contact information of PBF Secretariats in a specific country
[12] Please check the eligibility criteria for CSOs below
[13] Countries need to be eligible at the time of project approval.

Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia (only YPI), Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan (only YPI) and Sudan.

CSOs

In order to be declared eligible for the initiatives, CSOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its fiduciary agent, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. CSOs need to meet ALL the criteria to be deemed eligible for this call. In the second stage, CSOs will also be assessed with respect to protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). A letter from the Chief of PBF/PBSO attesting to the fact that a SEHA assessment was conducted as per available procedures and no significant SEAH risks or controversies were detected will be required to advance to the final stage.

In previous rounds, the Fund has funded mostly international CSOs and some national CSOs. We urge all CSO applicants to check the eligibility criteria **before** applying.

CSO applicants must provide the following:

1. *Proof of current valid formal registration* as non-profit with a social mission for the duration of the proposed project in **1)** the country where the headquarters is located and **2)** the project country.
    o   **NOTE:** If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project in order to receive subsequent funding tranches.
2. *Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers micro-assessment (HACT) score*, if assessed in the project country since Jan 2022. In order to be eligible, the organisation will need to receive a **low-risk** score in a HACT micro assessment of the organisations in the project country. Low-risk scores from Jan 2022 and onwards will be accepted.
    o   **NOTE:** If not yet assessed, PBF will commission assessments for organizations who make it to the second stage of the process and get invited to develop their concept notes into project proposals. The questionnaire such an assessment is based on can be found here for reference.
3. *UN reference or PBF donor reference*, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.

Project Guidelines
-   Projects must be submitted in English, French or Spanish.
-   Project duration is maximum 24 months.
-   Projects must allocate at least 40 per cent of the requested grant to national/local civil society partners, for GPI in particular women-led organizations and for YPI, in particular youth-led. This can include direct sub grants, building capacities of implementing partners and direct payment for implementation of activities.
-   GPI projects must meet the Gender Marker (GM) 3 criteria and have gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) as the principal objective of the project. YPI projects must meet at least the GM2 criteria and have GEWE as a significant or principal objective of the project. This includes GEWE issues being integrated throughout the proposal, from the conflict analysis to the results framework, and a dedicated budget allocation of at least 30 per cent of the requested grant to GEWE. YPI projects that do not meet the GM2 criteria

will not be considered. YPI projects that have a GM3 and target young women specifically will be positively considered.

- Projects must set aside at least 5 to 7 per cent of the budget for monitoring and evaluation and for NUNO projects, a financial audit will required.
- Projects totalling above $1.5 million also need to conduct an independent final evaluation.
- For projects with budgets less than $1.5 million, PBF will commission an annual cohort evaluation of lower-budget projects. Nonetheless, at the project design stage, projects with less than $1.5M budget shall allocate sufficient budget and account for the implementation of monitoring and data collection activities, including for baseline, midline and endline data collection, perception surveys and alike, that can be utilized for the purposes of the cohort evaluation.
- Responsibility for procuring and managing an independent evaluation rest with the project's fund recipients, either Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) or Non-UN Organizations (NUNOs).

Review Criteria

Criteria	Questions for consideration	
1. Peacebuilding approach[14]	▪ Does the project fall within one of the four PBF priority areas? ▪ Are the peacebuilding outcomes formulated in a way which makes the expected institutional or behavioural change clear? Do the outcomes address any structural barriers to the participation and inclusion of women and/or young people? ▪ Does the Theory of Change demonstrate a clear link between the proposed interventions/activities and the expected peacebuilding outcomes?	
2. Gender / youth approach	**GPI** ▪ Does the proposal fall into one of the thematic areas of this year? ▪ Does the proposal put gender equality at the centre of the project? ▪ Were women meaningfully involved in identifying project priorities and designing the project interventions? What about women-led organizations? ▪ Does the proposal meet the Gender Marker 3 criteria? ▪ Is the project age-sensitive?	**YPI** ▪ Does the proposal fall into one of the thematic areas of this year? ▪ Does the proposal put youth at the centre of the project? ▪ Were young people meaningfully involved in identifying project priorities and designing the project interventions? What about youth-led organizations? ▪ Is the project gender-sensitive and does it meet at least the Gender Marker 2 criteria?
3. Consultation and partnership with local actors	▪ Does the project have an inclusive and bottom-up approach where local stakeholders (e.g. women, young people, local leaders, communities) and implementing partners (e.g. national/local CSO and volunteer involving organizations, national/local authorities) have been consulted and have contributed to the identification of project's objectives and interventions? ▪ Does the project specify any partnerships being established with women- and/or youth-led organizations?	
4. Innovation	▪ Does the proposal explain clearly what is innovative about the project and why it is innovative in the specific context? ▪ Does the proposal include any innovative partnerships or testing out any new approaches or methodologies?	

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[14] Please find resources for conflict-sensitive programming: https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/guidance-notes

5. Conflict analysis	▪	Does the conflict analysis clearly identify the main conflict factors relevant to the project? Does it consider the main peacebuilding challenges? What about the main actors and the dynamics between them?
	▪	Is the conflict analysis gender- and age-responsive? Are women and youth considered as diverse groups (e.g. in terms of race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, political affiliation etc.) with diverse experiences and needs?
	▪	Does the conflict analysis identify any existing/potential actors for peace and clear entry points for peacebuilding?
	▪	Are the proposed interventions and results coherent with the conflict analysis? Do they clearly and directly respond to one or more main issues identified?
6. Focused interventions	▪	Does the proposal identify focused interventions in one or two main areas rather than aiming to address too many issues in one project?
	▪	Does the proposal have a realistic level of ambition given the time frame and budget?
	▪	Is the proposal clear about its contribution to laying the groundwork for larger-scale social, cultural or structural changes rather than setting as the project's aim the full realisation of large-scale change?
7. Targeting	▪	Is it clear which geographic areas will be targeted and why?
	▪	Is it clear which beneficiaries will be targeted and why, including any further selection criteria to be developed and indicative numbers of beneficiaries?
	▪	Does the proposal steer clear of broad classifications of beneficiaries, such as "youth" or "women"? Does the proposal explain which youth or women the project will work with and how they will be identified?
	▪	Is there a strong Do No Harm approach?
8. Linkages between project and existing peacebuilding priorities	▪	Does the proposal demonstrate coherence with any existing strategic peacebuilding frameworks by the Government or the UN?
	▪	Does the project complement the existing PBF portfolio in the country and fill a specific peacebuilding gap?
	▪	Does the project leverage national commitments and action on gender-responsive and/or youth-inclusive peacebuilding?
	▪	Will the project foster any partnerships on gender-responsive peacebuilding and/or youth-inclusive peacebuilding among existing local structures?
9. Implementation capacity	▪	Does the proposal demonstrate and leverage existing capacity, knowledge and experience on the ground to implement the proposed peacebuilding activities focused on gender and/or youth? [15]
10. Value for money	▪	Does the project demonstrate value for money through its management and accountability mechanisms?
	▪	Is the proposal clear on why the project is cost-effective or on measures that will be taken to ensure cost-effectiveness?
	▪	Will at least 40 per cent of the budget be allocated to national/local CSOs? Will this include any capacity building of local partners and/or direct sub grants to women- and/or youth-led organization?
	▪	Are staffing costs reasonable and well-justified?

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[15] For CSOs: PBF will not fund personnel at HQ or regional level except for time spent in the country of implementation. A detailed breakdown of staff costs and location will be required.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process for GPI and YPI is structured in two stages:

1. Concept notes

Once the application portal is available(opens in May), applicants can register to start the application process at https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en. For joint UN projects, the convening UN entity should register and submit on behalf of project partners after having received the endorsement of the RC/DSRSG/SRSG. For joint UN-CSO projects, the convening UN entity should also register and submit on behalf of project partners after having received the endorsement of the RC/DSRSG/SRSG. For CSO projects, the direct CSO recipient must register and submit the application independently.

The deadline for submission of concept notes is June 9, 2023, at 23:59, Eastern Standard Time. A Project Appraisal Committee will review the applications against the outlined criteria and will invite selected submissions to be developed into full project proposals.

2. Full project proposals

Applicants who are invited to the second and last stage will have approximately 6 weeks to develop and submit for feedback and after having received feedback will have around 4 weeks do develop full project proposals. More information on format and content of project proposals will be provided at this stage. Full project proposals will require signatures by **1)** the representatives of the recipient organizations **2)** the representative of the national counterpart (e.g. Minister) and **3)** the senior-most resident UN representative in the country (RC/DSRSG/SRSG). The Project Appraisal Committee will reconvene to review the full project proposals and make its final selection.

Timeline[16]

Stage 1	
Call for applications and launch	April 2023
Webinars introducing GPI 2023	April/Early May 2023
Webinars introducing YPI 2023	April/Early May 2023
Opening of the online application platform	Mid-May 2023
Deadline for online submission concept notes	9 June 2023
Communication of first stage results	July 2023
Stage 2	
Deadline for submission of drafts for feedback	August 2023

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[16] The timeline is subject to change

Deadline for submission of full project proposals	October 2023
Communication of second stage results	November 2023
Disbursement of funds[17][18]	December 2023/ January 2024

Schedule and links for the webinars will be available on the GYPI website.

UN or UN-CSO applicants must upload a cover letter with the endorsement of the submission by the RC/DSRSG/SRSG addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar.

CSO applicants must upload:

- Cover letter by the Head of Organization addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar.
- All eligibility documents as described in section 5 of this document.

Online application process step-by-step:

1. Check if your organization meets ALL the eligibility criteria
2. Have ALL eligibility documents ready
3. Register through https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en
4. Start application process
5. Submit application by 9 June

6. RESOURCES

Please find below some useful resources for the development of concept notes and full project proposals:

- PBF website
- Resources for Conflict Sensitive Programming
- GYPI website including resources and previous webinars
- PBF Guidelines on PBF funds application and programming (PBSO, 2019)
- PBF Guidance Note on Youth and Peacebuilding (PBSO, 2019)
- PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Scoring (PBSO, 2019)
- Guidance on Sustaining Peace (PBSO, 2017)
- UN Guidelines for Community Engagement on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (UN, 2020)
- Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook (UNFPA, UNDP, DPPA/PBSO, FBA 2021)
- Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict (UN-World Bank, 2018)
- The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth Peace and Security (2018)

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[17] For UNCTs: funds will only be transferred once all other terminated projects for which the RUNO has received past funding in the given country have been financially and operationally closed in line with PBF rules and regulations (not referring to recently approved and ongoing PBF projects in country)
[18] For CSOs: funds will only be transferred once the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office has cleared the CSO for eligibility

- Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN Women, 2015)
- The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights (2020)
- Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security (UN Women, 2012)
- Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding (IANYD, 2016)
- Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding (IANYD, 2016)
- Young Women in Peace and Security: at the Intersection of the YPS and WPS Agendas (UN Women, 2018)
- Series on Inclusive Peace Processes (UN Women, 2018)
- The Thread that Binds: Volunteerism and Community Resilience – the State of the World's Volunteerism Report (UNV, 2018)
- Localising Climate, Peace and Security: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide for Local Peacebuilders (GPPAC, 2023)
- Knowledge Platform on Gender, Natural Resources, Climate, and Peace (UN Environment Programme, UN Women, the UNDP, and the UN DPPA)

7. ANNEXES

Concept note template for UN-CSO applications

Concept note templates for drafting can be found on the website.

	Information to be provided	Explanation / requirement	Word Limit
Registration	Convening recipient organization name and acronym	If a UN or UN-CSO application: The convening recipient UN organization (RUNO) of the proposal should register and submit the application on behalf of project partners after having received the endorsement of the RC/DSRSG/SRSG. A maximum of 2 proposals per initiative (2 for GPI and 2 for YPI) can be submitted per UN Country Team.	
	Country of proposal		
Applicant information	Which initiative: GPI/YPI		
	Which theme is the project addressing?		
	Convening recipient UN organization (RUNO) name and acronym	A max. of 2 proposals per initiative (2 for GPI and 2 for YPI, or 2 YPI for countries piloting GPI 2.0) can be submitted per UN Country Team. UNCT applications need to be endorsed by the RC/DSRSG/SRSG.	
	Head of convening organization info: prefix, name, title, e-mail		
	Key contact info: prefix, name, title, e-mail		
	Additional contact (if applicable)		
	Provide names of additional recipient organization(s) and specify type of organization (UN or CSO)	UN Country Teams can submit (1) joint UN proposals with up to three recipient UN organizations per project or (2) joint UN-CSO proposals with up to three recipient organizations per project, maximum two UN organizations and one CSO (i.e. UN-UN-CSO or UN-CSO).	
	If one of the recipient organizations is a CSO, has it gone through a HACT micro-assessment in the country March 2021? If yes, what was the score?		

	If one of the recipient organizations is a CSO, is that organization formally registered in the project country?	PBF can only fund CSOs that are formally registered in the project country.	
General Project Information	Project Title		
	Requested grant amount for the project	Min. USD 800,000 Max. USD 2,000,000	
	Total project duration in months	The max. duration of projects is 24 months.	
	Which PBF focus area best summarizes the aim of the project?	Please specify the PBF focus area which best summarizes the aim of the project.	
	Please list implementing partners on the ground: name of organization and type of organization (Government, CSO, UN, other)	Implementing partners can be Government, CSOs, UN and others that do not receive direct funds from PBF but who will be essential for the design, planning and implementation of the project. Implementing partners may receive grants from direct PBF recipients to carry out specific project activities. PBF does not accept proposals without national/local implementing partners.	
	Are any of the implementing partners women- or youth-led? If yes: please list them	PBF strongly encourages partnering with women- and/or youth-led organizations and engaging them during the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.	
	Estimated amount and percentage to be allocated to national/local CSOs	PBF requests at least 40% of the requested budget to be allocated to national/local CSOs as implementing partners, in particular women- and youth-led organizations, including direct sub grants, building capacities of implementing partners and direct payment for implementation of activities.	
	Estimated amount and percentage to be allocated towards Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE)		
	Gender Marker Score	Please select one of the Gender Marker (GM) scores. GM3 = 80%-100% to be allocated to GEWE. GM2 = 30%-80% to be allocated to GEWE. GPI projects must be GM3 and YPI projects can be either GM3 or GM2.	

Project Description	Gender- and age-responsive conflict analysis	Please provide a brief conflict analysis which justifies your project. Both GPI and YPI proposals need to provide a conflict analysis that is both gender- and age-responsive.	Max. 750 words
	Reflecting on the issues and dynamics described in the conflict analysis, state the (1) sustaining peace issue/problem that the project aims to address, (2) the main results your project will achieve and (3) describe how these results will be achieved including main interventions and a draft Theory of Change.		Max. 1000 words
	Describe the targeting of the project (geographical and beneficiaries).	Provide a brief rationale for the proposed targeting, and briefly describe the Do No Harm considerations being considered.	Max. 300 words
	Describe what is innovative about this approach	Explain clearly why the proposed interventions are different from your 'usual' approaches and how this innovation is tailored to the context.	Max. 100 words
	Describe the gender considerations of the project	GPI projects must meet the criteria of Gender Marker 3, meaning that the principal purpose of the project is to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. YPI projects must meet at least the criteria of Gender Marker 2. For the purposes of the concept note stage, this includes: 1) a conflict analysis that is gender-sensitive, and 2) consideration within the project approach and proposed interventions of both gender-related barriers and opportunities.	Max. 100 words
	Explain the process of identifying national or local civil society partners, a brief rationale, and describing the form of partnership.	Please describe clearly through which partnership modalities at least 40% of the grant will go to local and national CSO partners. For example. will they be direct recipients (NUNOs), receive grants, contractual services, or other?	Max. 300 words

Documents	Cover letter from the RC/(D)SRSG addressed to the ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar		
	If one of the recipients is a CSO, cover letter from the Head of CSO addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar	**IF JOINT UN-CSO PROPOSAL:** Please also submit all the required eligibility documents for the CSO recipient.	
	If one of the recipient organizations is a CSO, currently valid registration as a non-profit in the project country.		
	If one of the recipient organizations is a CSO and the organisation has gone through a HACT micro-assessment in the project country since March 2021, please submit the outcome of the assessment.		
	If one of the recipient organizations is a CSO, UN reference or donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.		

Concept note template for CSO applications

Concept note templates for drafting can be found on the <u>website.</u>

Registration	**Information to be provided**	**Explanation / requirement**	**Word Limit**
	Organization name and acronym	A max. of 2 proposals per initiative (2 GPI and 2 YPI) can be submitted per organization globally.	
	Organization type (CSO)		

	Country of proposal		
Applicant Information	Which initiative: GPI/YPI		
	Which theme is the project addressing?		
	Street address, city, state/province, zip/postal code, country		
	Head of convening organization info: prefix, name, title, e-mail		
	Key contact info: prefix, name, title, e-mail		
	Additional contact (if applicable)		
	Website/social media page		
	Describe the implementation capacity of the organization at country level		
	Have the organizations gone through a HACT assessment in the project country since March 2021? If yes, what was the score?		
	What was your organization's annual budget in the project country in 2021?		
	What was your organization's annual budget in the project country in 2022?		
	Is the organization formally registered in the project country?	PBF can only fund CSOs that are formally registered in the project country.	
General Project Information	Project title		
	Requested grant amount for the project	Min. USD 300,000 Max. USD 2,000,000	
	Total project duration in months	The max. duration of projects is 24 months.	
	Which PBF focus area best summarizes the aim of the project?	Please specify the PBF focus area which best summarizes the aim of the project.	
	Please list implementing partners on the ground: name of organization and type of organization (Government, CSO, UN, other)	Implementing partners can be the Government, Civil Society Organizations, UN and others, that do not receive direct funds from PBF but who will be essential for the design, planning and implementation of the project. Implementing partners may receive grants from direct PBF recipients to implement specific	

		project activities. PBF does not accept proposals without national/local implementing partners.	
	Are any of the implementing partners women- or youth-led? If yes: please list them.	PBF strongly encourages partnering with women- and/or youth-led organizations and engaging them during the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.	
	Estimated amount and percentage to be allocated to national/local CSOs	PBF requests at least 40% of the requested budget to be allocated to national/local CSOs as implementing partners in particular women- and youth-led organizations, including direct sub grants, building capacities of implementing partners and direct payment for implementation of activities.	
	Estimated amount and percentage to be allocated towards Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE)		
	Gender Marker score	Please select one of the Gender Marker (GM) scores. GM3 = 80%-100% going to GEWE. GM2 = 30%-80% going to GEWE. GPI projects must be GM3 and YPI projects can be either GM3 or GM2.	
Project Description	Gender- and age-responsive conflict analysis	Please provide a brief conflict analysis which justifies your project. Both GPI and YPI proposals need to provide a conflict analysis that is both gender- and age-responsive.	Max. 1000 words
	Reflecting on the issues and dynamics described in the conflict analysis, state the (1) sustaining peace issue/problem that the project aims to address, (2) the main results your project will achieve and (3) describe how these results will be achieved including main interventions and a draft Theory of Change.		Max. 1000 words
	Describe the targeting of the project (geographical and beneficiaries)	Provide a brief rationale for the proposed targeting, and briefly describe the Do No Harm considerations being considered.	Max. 300 words
	Describe what is innovative about this approach	Explain clearly why the proposed interventions are different from your 'usual' approaches and how this innovation is tailored to the context.	Max. 100 words

	Describe the gender considerations of the project	GPI projects must meet the criteria of Gender Marker 3, meaning that the principal purpose of the project is to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. YPI projects must meet at least the criteria of Gender Marker 2. For the purposes of the concept note stage, this includes: 1) a conflict analysis that is gender-sensitive, and 2) consideration within the project approach and proposed interventions of both gender-related barriers and opportunities.	Max. 100 words
	Explain the process of identifying national or local civil society partners, a brief rationale, and describing the form of partnership.	Please describe clearly through which partnership modalities at least 40% of the grant will go to local and national CSO partners. For example. will they be direct recipients (NUNOs), receive grants, contractual services, or other?	Max. 300 words
Documents	Cover letter from the Head of CSO addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar		
	Currently valid registration as a non-profit in the project country		
	If the organization has gone through a HACT micro assessment in the project country since March 2021, please submit the outcome of the assessment.		
	UN reference or donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.		