



Implementation of Sustaining Peace:

Recommendations on Financing for Peacebuilding

Funding remains a critical prerequisite for enabling the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The lack of adequate, sustainable, and flexible funding continues to act as a major obstacle for peacebuilding at the local level. This brief summarizes the key recommendations on financing learned from the GPPAC's engagement in the informal process of the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review through thematic papers, expert engagements, and formal consultations.

MESSAGE 1: Ensuring the availability of long-term, flexible, sustainable and accessible funding for local peacebuilding:

The United Nations should encourage funding for peacebuilding to be flexible to reflect the changing nature of threats and support innovative local peacebuilding strategies. Despite some good practices of the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in strengthening the engagement of the PBF with civil society through the Gender and Youth Promotion initiative and the 2020-2024 Strategy, administrative burdens, projectisation, the lack of flexibility and continuous efforts by donors to direct local priorities have a negative impact on local peacebuilding.

GOOD PRACTICE: The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) was designed to increase women's participation and leadership in conflict contexts through pooling and channeling flexible funding directly to local women's groups and civil society organisations working in local communities directly affected by conflict, or to humanitarian agencies. Civil society is included in the Fund's global board and country-level steering committees, meaningfully participating in defining priorities and decision making at all levels.

LESSON LEARNED: In protracted crises, donors could gradually downsize their support for local peacebuilding (i.e., South Caucasus). As a result, many peacebuilders have been able to undertake initiatives at their own expense, limiting the scope of their work and the sustainability of efforts.

Recommendations:

- The donor community should focus on providing flexible core funding instead of project-based funding for local peacebuilding.
- The donor community should scale up donor engagement in prevention and early warning by supporting funding for sustainable, long-term programs that address the root causes of conflict.
- The Peacebuilding Fund needs to strengthen the ways it measures impact and prioritise filling the gaps that appear as a result of a comprehensive analysis of the action and its impact across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.
- The Peacebuilding Fund needs to operationalize its commitment to "provide more flexible funding to local-level organisations, with modalities adjusted to different



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capacity levels from context to context” mentioned in the 2020-2024 Peacebuilding Fund’s Strategy.

- The Peacebuilding Fund could invest in initiatives that bring different actors together and allow for the testing of innovative partnerships with a diversified group of funders. However, further inquiry is needed into the opportunities and challenges of engaging with the private sector.

MESSAGE 2: Guaranteeing appropriate funding for local peace infrastructures:

Infrastructures for peace need to be adequately financed. Regardless of how critical and effective particular local peacebuilding initiatives could be, it cannot achieve its intended result without adequate and sustainable infrastructures at the local level and in all contexts. Operational, fully-funded, and locally-owned initiatives for peace are fundamental to sustaining peace. Many plans on building locally-led infrastructures for peace already exist and are being implemented; however, their sustained implementation is negated by the lack of appropriate arrangements, political support, and the absence of adequate funding.

GOOD PRACTICE: The GPPAC Pacific and the Shifting the Power Coalition model of collaboration, with the support and commitment from ActionAid Australia, is the only feminist network that provides financial support to the gender-sensitive localisation of humanitarian action.

LESSON LEARNED: In Ghana, the National Peace Council (NPC), an initiative that serves as a comprehensive framework for the promotion and implementation of SDG16, still faces a lack of adequate funding. This affects smaller organisations that are dependent on funding support from the NPC as they face extinction.

Recommendations:

- National governments should ensure that peace institutions, mechanisms, resources, and skills are adequately financed under independent oversight. This could take a form of reallocating resources away from securitisation towards education and health, promoting human security and peace education;
- The UN Country Teams should advocate for the development of a fund that directly supports local peacebuilding action.
- The United Nations should support relevant peacebuilding stakeholders’ access to funding by providing greater visibility to their work, including by supporting the policy engagement of donors and adjusting its own financing streams to be more accessible to local peacebuilders. This could include inviting donors to participate in policy dialogue processes at all levels. Moreover, the Peacebuilding Commission, or otherwise at the initiative of the UN in-country and regional presence, could facilitate spaces for dialogue between donors and all relevant peacebuilding stakeholders to make sure that funding better reflects priorities



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and needs within a specific context and is coordinated across different streams of work with no duplication.

- The donor community should encourage information sharing, non-repetition, and complementarity among grant recipients, encouraging 'good peacebuilding donorship'.
- The donor community should engage with diverse civil society, including women's groups in the most remote areas and, as part of this process, encourage improved mapping of peacebuilding activities, including those implemented by women and youth-led grassroots organisations, as well as organizations and informal coalitions that operate in the most remote areas.

MESSAGE 3: Encouraging the United Nations to capitalize on its effort to engage with local communities:

Funding relationships are difficult, as donors, including the United Nations, often require financial and organizational documentation many local peacebuilders do not have. However, the United Nations is well-positioned to support the capacity building of local peacebuilders.

GOOD PRACTICE: The UN System-Wide Community Engagement Guidelines on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (CEG) is a tool that provides guidance to the UN field presences on how to support community-based capacity-building. The guidelines provide an entire section dedicated to the topic.

Recommendations:

- The UN field presences should make itself more accessible through targeted community-engagement in the form of consultations, training, and learning exchanges, capacity-building for local peacebuilders, including fundraising, financial management, and grant writing and reporting.
- The United Nations funds and programmes should consider increasing the flexibility of its financial support for local peacebuilding and, when needed, give financial support to individual peace and human rights activists in the forms of merit-based bonuses and awards.