

# SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF) IN SUDAN



## Call for Proposals

### 1. Background

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the UN's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries affected by or at risk of violent conflict. As per the joint UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace, the PBF invests at all stages of conflict cycles: before, during and after conflict. The PBF is managed by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in the UN Secretariat in New York.

The Fund works across thematic pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical peacebuilding gaps, including in areas where other funding sources are not available. The PBF responds quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities and seeks to catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion. The PBF supports increased UN coherence, prioritizing joint programmes, as well as closer partnerships with civil society organizations, including through directly funding non-UN organizations. The PBF is committed to allocate at least 30% of its entire portfolio to contribute directly to gender equality and women's empowerment. As the PBF is a catalytic fund that aims to address critical gaps in areas for which no other funding mechanisms are available, it encourages testing out new approaches to provide "proof of concept," working with new partners and communities, and implementing in new geographic areas not yet covered by PBF projects or other peacebuilding initiatives.

The PBF Secretariat in Sudan was established in early 2021 and supports the oversight and coordination of the PBF portfolio at country level. The PBF Secretariat is under the leadership of the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC. The PBF is currently funding 14 active projects in Sudan totaling 44.2 million USD.

### 2. PBF Funding Streams 2022

In 2022, the PBF has two streams to access funding in Sudan:

1. Regular PBF Programming in Sudan: This stream will entail a *national* call for proposals managed by the PBF Secretariat in Sudan, focused on **gender transformative approaches** that address the roots of gender inequality, create an enabling environment for women's – including young women's – meaningful participation in peacebuilding, and address power relations and social norms between women and men. The geographic focus of this call for proposals is Darfur. The call is open for UN agencies and I/NGOs (contingent on I/NGO eligibility). The PBF Secretariat will be soliciting one joint project proposal by 2-3 recipient organizations (UN-UN-NGO or UN-NGO) for a maximum duration of 36 months and a maximum budget of 3 million USD. **The rest of this document provides guidance on this call for proposals.**
2. Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives (GYPI): This is a *global* call for proposals managed by the PBF in New York and focused on promoting gender equality and the meaningful participation of women and young people in peacebuilding processes. The call is open for UN agencies and I/NGOs in all countries eligible to receive PBF funding, including Sudan. The PBF in New York is soliciting a) joint project proposals by 2-3 recipients (preference will be given to joint projects with

at least one UN agency and a I/NGO) or b) project proposals from individual I/NGO recipients (contingent on I/NGO eligibility) for a maximum duration of 24 months and a maximum budget of 2 million USD. Please find more information about these initiatives on [www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en).

	PBF Funding Streams 2022	
	Regular PBF Programming Stream	Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives (GPI & YPI)
Managed By	PBF Secretariat in Sudan	PBF Headquarters in New York
Geographic Focus of project	Darfur	Sudan-wide
Thematic Focus of project	Gender Transformative Approaches to Peacebuilding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening capacity of women's civil society organizations, groups and networks (GPI)</li> <li>2. Fostering youth-inclusive political processes and participation (YPI)</li> <li>3. Promoting safety, security and protection of young people (YPI)</li> </ol>
Total Projects to be Approved	1 project	Potential for multiple projects depending on results of global competition
Maximum Project Duration	36 months	24 months
Maximum Project Budget	\$3 million	\$2 million
Project Recipients	Joint UN/NGO Project (UN-UN-NGO or UN-NGO)	Joint Project or Individual NGO recipient
For Reference	Current document	<a href="https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en">https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/gypi-en</a>

### 3. Gender Transformative Peacebuilding in Darfur

In preparation for the above two calls for proposals, the PBF Secretariat organized a virtual two-day workshop, in partnership with UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) programming in Sudan. The aim of the workshop was to bring together different UN agencies, UNITAMS, INGOs, NGOs and civil society organizations working on peacebuilding in different parts of Sudan to discuss WPS and YPS priorities in the country. The workshop included dedicated group discussions on: 1) key gaps, challenges and barriers for women and young people (young women and men) working on peacebuilding; 2) key WPS and YPS priorities and entry points for peacebuilding programming; and 3) examples of successful projects and project ideas to support women and young people (young women and men) to contribute to peacebuilding. The inputs from this workshop have informed the current call for proposals.

An overarching challenge identified during workshop group discussions was the pervasiveness of patriarchal cultural and social norms around gender and age which limit

opportunities for and acceptance of women and young women's contribution to peacebuilding. While peacebuilding interventions in Sudan fall under many different areas-- from provision of livelihoods support, to encouraging political participation, to providing protection—it was noted that these interventions often fail to go beyond surface-level dynamics to address the underlying root causes of women and young women's marginalization in the peacebuilding space.

With this in mind, this call for proposals under the regular PBF programming pipeline requests projects that adopt a **gender transformative approach** that targets the roots of gender inequality, creates an enabling environment for women and young women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding, and addresses power relations between men, women, young men, young women, boys and girls.

In the words of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, "gender" programming is "often characterized by the occasional use of gender-related words or phrases, gender as an afterthought in project planning, or gender referenced in documents but not as a core and consistent topic of discussion within an organization. *Gender transformation* requires a developmental process in which we slowly move from gender awareness, then become sensitive and respond to gender needs, and eventually transform systems, structures, narratives and power dynamics."<sup>1</sup> Gender-transformative approaches are also intersectional, which means acknowledging the interconnected systems of oppression and discrimination based not only on gender, but also age, race, class, ability, etc., and aims to "challenge and address the underlying structural causes and factors of gender inequality, such as norms and power relations."<sup>2</sup>

In light of this, submissions to the PBF call for proposals can propose any number of thematic entry points, including education, livelihoods, protection, legal reform, and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (see also Summary of WPS and YPA Programming Workshop.) However, all submissions must clearly indicate how the project seeks to adopt a gender transformative approach by articulating the intended impacts on underlying structural, cultural and normative factors that result in the marginalization of women and young women. As part of this, submissions should outline a clear theory of change (see PBF Guidance Note on Theories of Change<sup>3</sup>) that unpacks the project's assumptions and proposed causal pathways, and justifies the selected project approach with evidence. Submissions must also be based on a strong contextual analysis, and be informed by inclusive consultations with women and young women in proposed target areas in the field. (Consultations that are limited only to Khartoum-based stakeholders are not sufficient.) Finally, all projects must meet the PBF's Gender marker 3 criteria (see PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Scoring<sup>4</sup>).

In recognition that a single project is not sufficient for longer-term transformative change, the proposed project should articulate its *catalytic potential*—ie. how the approach could be scaled up based on demonstrated successes and lessons learned. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to propose innovative approaches that have not been possible or fully realized under other funding mechanisms, or for which the proposed project can generate new and actionable evidence. In line with this, all submitted proposals must

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<sup>1</sup> United Network of Young Peacebuilders, *A Practical Guide to Gender Transformative Approaches for Youth Peace Organisations*. <https://unoy.org/downloads/gta-toolkit/>

<sup>2</sup> Conciliation Resources and CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, *Integrating Gender in the DNA of Peacebuilding*. [https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Report\\_Gender\\_Integration\\_in\\_Peacebuilding\\_English%20.pdf](https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Report_Gender_Integration_in_Peacebuilding_English%20.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> PBF Guidance Note on Theories of Change available here: [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/toc\\_guidance\\_note\\_en.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/toc_guidance_note_en.pdf)

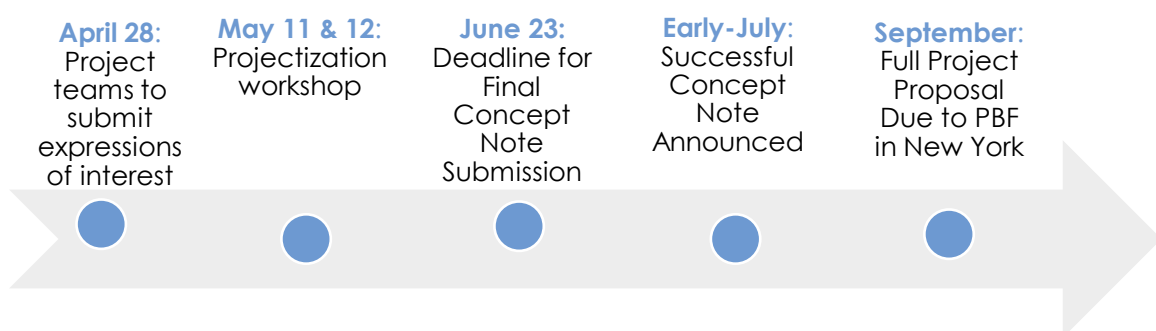
<sup>4</sup> PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Scoring available here: [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf\\_guidance\\_note\\_on\\_gender\\_marker\\_scoring\\_2019.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_gender_marker_scoring_2019.pdf)

clearly demonstrate their comparative advantage, both geographically and within the relevant sector, by demonstrating that teams have done the necessary research to situate the intervention in the broader funding landscape, and how the initiative will either complement existing sectoral interventions or fill a clear gap.

#### 4. Application Process and Timeline

The call for proposals under the regular PBF programming in Sudan will be structured in two stages:

1. **Concept notes:** Project teams should submit concept notes by email to the DSRSG/RC/HC with the PBF Secretariat in copy. Applicants must use the PBF Concept Note template.<sup>5</sup> The **deadline for final concept note submission is Thursday, 23 June**. In advance of concept note submission, the PBF Secretariat requests project teams to submit an expression of interest to the PBF Secretariat ([pbf.secretariat.sd@undp.org](mailto:pbf.secretariat.sd@undp.org)) by 28 April. After the submission of expressions of interest, all interested organizations will be invited to a second workshop on 11 and 12 May to receive PBF's support in the projectization of project ideas. After final concept notes are submitted, a technical review committee will assess the concept notes against the outlined criteria to help inform the DSRSG/RC/HC's final decision. The DSRSG/RC/HC will then select one concept note to be developed into a full project document. The outcome will be announced in early July.
2. **Full project document:** The project team whose concept note is selected during the first stage will have approximately eight weeks to develop and submit a full project document. It is expected that the project team will consult the PBF Secretariat throughout the drafting process, including to review initial sections of the project document as necessary, to ensure the timely submission of a high quality final proposal. The technical review committee will reconvene after the final project document is submitted to provide any final comments. Once the final comments are addressed, the DSRSG/RC/HC will endorse and submit the final project document to PBF in New York. Final approval will be at the discretion of PBF in New York.



<sup>5</sup> PBF Concept Note template available here : <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/pbf-project-concept-note-template-2018>

## 5. Guidelines

Project teams submitting proposals need to follow these guidelines:

- All proposals must be submitted in **English**.
- Project budgets should be up to a **maximum of \$3 million**.
- Project durations should be up to a **maximum of 36 months**.
- Proposals must be **submitted jointly by 2-3 recipient organizations**, with 1-2 UN organizations and 1 I/NGO (UN-NGO or UN-UN-NGO). All proposals must have one lead UN agency. It is the responsibility of the lead UN agency to ensure that the I/NGO fulfills the PBF eligibility criteria to receive funding (please find below). UN agencies can contact the PBF Secretariat in Khartoum for more information.
- Projects **must meet the Gender Marker 3 criteria** and adopt a gender transformative approach. Please consult the resource list below for more information and tools on gender-transformation.
- Project budgets need to allocate at least **5-7% of the total budget towards monitoring, evaluation, and financial audit**, including for the collection of baseline/endline data and an independent final evaluation.
- Projects **must be prepared together with national/local partners** (including civil society, communities, etc.) and allocate at least 40 per cent of the total budget towards local civil society partners, especially organizations led by women and young women. Proposals must explain how women, including young women, have been involved in the early stages of the proposal development and design.

## 6. Review Criteria

Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the technical review committee against the following criteria:

1. Consultation and partnerships: Does the project have an inclusive and bottom-up approach where local stakeholders (e.g. community leaders, communities, civil society, etc.) and implementing partners (e.g. national/local partners) have been consulted and have contributed to the identification of the project's objectives and interventions? Have women and young women, particularly those in proposed target locations outside of Khartoum, been actively engaged in the design of the project? Does the project specify any partnerships to be established with organizations led by women and young women? Has the proposal been written by/or together with field staff?
2. Gender transformative approach: Does the project target the root causes of gender inequality? Does the project focus on creating an enabling environment for (young) women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding? Does the project address the power relations between men and women? Do the outcomes address structural barriers to the participation and inclusion of (young) women? Were (young) women meaningfully involved in identifying project priorities and designing the project interventions? What about (young) women-led organizations? Does the proposal meet the Gender Marker 3 criteria? Is the project age-sensitive?

3. Conflict analysis:<sup>6</sup> Does the conflict analysis address the key conflict factors and actors relevant to the project? Does the conflict analysis address the relevant gender and age dimensions of the conflict and specifically explain the situation of women, men, young women, young men, boys and girls in their diversity? Does the conflict analysis identify any existing entry points for supporting women and young women in peacebuilding and/or existing capacities for promoting peace? If the conflict analysis has gaps or needs additional consultations, does it explain how these will be addressed?
4. Theory of Change and Peacebuilding Approach: Are the proposed outcomes and interventions clearly based on and linked to the conflict analysis? Are the peacebuilding outcomes formulated in a way that makes the expected institutional or behavioural change clear? Does the Theory of Change demonstrate a clear link between the proposed interventions and the expected peacebuilding outcomes? Are the proposed interventions based on evidence about what works and what does not? Does the project provide a convincing argument on the choice and sequencing of interventions to achieve the proposed outcomes? Is it clear which assumptions are being made and should be tested in the proposed project interventions?
5. Scope and Targeting: Does the proposal identify focused interventions in one or two main areas rather than aiming to address too many issues in one project? Has the proposal been informed by a review of the existing funding landscape, and is it clear how the project will either complement existing interventions in the relevant sector and geographic area, or fill a clear gap? Does the proposal have a realistic level of ambition given the time frame and budget? Is it clear which geographic areas will be targeted and why, including selection criteria? Is it clear which beneficiaries will be targeted and why, including selection criteria and indicative numbers of beneficiaries? Does the proposal steer clear from broad classifications of beneficiaries, such as “women” or “youth”? Do the selected geographic areas and beneficiaries include the most relevant targets on the basis of the conflict analysis? Are do no harm considerations taken into account? Are targets disaggregated by sex and age?
6. Implementation capacity: Do all direct beneficiary organizations have established field offices in the target state(s)? Does the proposal demonstrate and leverage existing capacities, knowledge and experience on the ground to implement the proposed peacebuilding activities?
7. Value-for-money:<sup>7</sup> Is it clear how the budget was calculated? Does it seem to provide value for money? Is the proportion/ amount of the budget for staff and other operational costs proportionate to the kinds of interventions proposed and how much staff time they require? Is there a clear budget allocation to GEWE per outcome, output and activity (including justification)?
8. Risk management:<sup>8</sup> Is there an outline of major risks specific to the project, especially when it comes to gender? Is there a strategy for mitigating risks which is

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<sup>6</sup> For the selected proposal, PBF will require a gendered conflict analysis to be conducted as a first activity, which must be reflected in the results framework.

<sup>7</sup> This criteria will be assessed only at the full project proposal stage. PBF Guidance Note on Value for Money available here: [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance\\_note\\_value\\_for\\_money.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance_note_value_for_money.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> This criteria will be assessed only at the full project proposal stage.

specific and realistic? Is it clear who is responsible for what? Is there a strong do no harm approach?

## 7. I/NGO Eligibility Criteria

In order to be declared eligible for the GYPI, I/NGOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its fiduciary agent, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. I/NGOs need to meet ALL the criteria to be deemed eligible for this call. In the second stage, the selected I/NGO will also be assessed with respect to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. We urge all I/NGO applicants to check the eligibility criteria before applying. I/NGOs should submit the following documents at the concept note stage:

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.
  - a. 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. HACT micro-assessment score, if assessed in Sudan between March 2021 and now.
  - a. NOTE: 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 March 2021 and onwards will be accepted. 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 of such an assessment can be found [here](#) for reference. Before applying, please ensure that the organization meets the criteria for a low-risk score in a HACT micro-assessment.
3. UN reference or donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.

**If you have any questions, please reach out to the PBF Secretariat (Zoe Meijer [zoe.meijer@un.org](mailto:zoe.meijer@un.org) and Ulan Shabynov [ulan.shabynov@un.org](mailto:ulan.shabynov@un.org))**

# Annex 1: Overview of Current PBF portfolio in Sudan

## CURRENT PORTFOLIO

\$42.2m 14 projects

### THEMATIC AREAS

- Durable Solutions
- Rule of Law
- Local Peacebuilding
- Peace Agreement Implementation
- Women's Empowerment
- Youth Empowerment

### PBF RECIPIENTS

\$14.7m	\$9.9m	\$5.5m	\$2.8m	\$2.2m
\$1.5m	\$1.4m	\$1.1m	\$1.0m	\$0.9m
\$0.6m	\$0.4m	\$0.3m		

### PBF ANNUAL APPROVALS

\$3.0m	\$20.0m	\$7.7m	\$14.5
2018	2019	2020	2021

## MAP: ACTIVE PBF PORTFOLIO

### DARFUR PROGRAMME

(5 projects)  
\$20,000,000  
UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, IOM, UNHABITAT  
Jan 2 2020- Jun 30 2022

**States:** West, Central, South, East, & North Darfur

**Localities:** Jebel Moon, Nertiti, Um Dukhun, Gereida, Sheiria, Yassin, Assalaya, Tawila

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### RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

**State:** West Darfur

**Localities:** El Geneina, Beida, Kreinik

\$4,000,000  
UN-Habitat, UNHCR, RCDO (CSO)

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### MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

**State:** West Darfur

**Locality:** Geneina

\$1,500,000  
UNFPA, IOM, WHO  
Jan 6 2022- Jul 4 2023

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### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CIVIC SPACES

**States:** West & Central Darfur

**Localities:** El Geneina, Kreinik, Zalingei

\$1,500,000  
UNHCR, UNDP  
Jan 10 2022-Jul 9 2023

### SUPPORT TO THE PEACE PROCESS

**National**  
\$4,980,000  
UNDP, UNHCR  
5 Jan 2021- 3 Jan 2023

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### YOUTH CITIZEN OBSERVER NETWORK

**National**  
\$1,500,000  
THE CARTER CENTER (CSO)

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### PBF SECRETARIAT

**National**  
\$1,820,000  
UNDP  
4 May 2020- 22 April 2022

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### POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING ROLE OF WOMEN

**States:** Khartoum, Gedaref, South Kordofan, West Kordofan

\$899,287  
SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND (CSO)  
17 Feb 2021- 16 Aug 2022

### IDP & REFUGEE PROFILING

**States:** North, West, Central Darfur

**Localities:** All

\$2,000,129.01  
IOM, UNHCR  
Jan 6 2022- Jan 6 2024

### GENDER RESPONSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

**State:** Blue Nile

**Localities:** Al Kurmuk, Baw, Gessain

\$3,982,124  
UNEP, UN-Women, UNDP  
Jul 30 2021-Jan 28 2024

The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.



## Annex 2: Resources

Conciliation Resources and CMI- Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, *Integrating Gender in the DNA of Peacebuilding*. [https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Report\\_Gender\\_Integration\\_in\\_Peacebuilding\\_English%20.pdf](https://rc-services-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Report_Gender_Integration_in_Peacebuilding_English%20.pdf)

International Alert, *Re-thinking Gender in Peacebuilding*. <https://www.international-alert.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Gender-Rethinking-Gender-Peacebuilding-EN-2014.pdf>

Oxfam, *Transforming Gender Inequalities: Practical guidance for achieving gender transformation in resilient development*. <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621183/gd-transforming-gender-inequalities-160421-en.pdf;jsessionid=C9ECA4EF87E04278487FDE12D264D410?sequence=1>

United Network of Young Peacebuilders, *A Practical Guide to Gender Transformative Approaches for Youth Peace Organisations*. <https://unoy.org/downloads/gta-toolkit/>

## Annex 3: PBF Guidance Notes and Reference Materials

PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Scoring:  
[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf\\_guidance\\_note\\_on\\_gender\\_marker\\_scoring\\_2019.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_gender_marker_scoring_2019.pdf)

PBF Guidance Note on Theories of Change available:  
[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/toc\\_guidance\\_note\\_en.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/toc_guidance_note_en.pdf)

PBF Guidance Note on Value for Money:  
[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance\\_note\\_value\\_for\\_money.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/guidance_note_value_for_money.pdf)

PBF Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding:  
[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/un\\_community-engagement\\_guidelines.august\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/un_community-engagement_guidelines.august_2020.pdf)

PBF 2022 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives Call for Proposals:  
[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/gypi\\_call\\_for\\_proposals\\_2022\\_eng.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/gypi_call_for_proposals_2022_eng.pdf)

Summary of Joint Integrated Office/PBF Secretariat-UN Women-UNFPA-UNDP Workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Programming: (Contact PBF Secretariat at: [pbf.secretariat.sd@undp.org](mailto:pbf.secretariat.sd@undp.org))