



United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the UN's leading financial instrument dedicated to preventing violent conflict and supporting post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. It provides timely, flexible, and risk-tolerant funding to seize critical peacebuilding opportunities, strengthen national ownership, and catalyse coordinated UN responses across humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace pillars.

Established in 2006, the PBF supports peacebuilding strategies in partnership with UN entities, governments, civil society, and regional organisations.

Strategic Objectives

The PBF operates as the organisation's financial instrument of first resort for peacebuilding. It provides fast, flexible and catalytic support to countries at risk of or affected by violent conflict, working across three core priority windows, as defined in the PBF Strategy 2020-2024 extended to 2026:

1. Facilitating transitions – supporting political, security, and mission transitions to prevent relapse into conflict.
2. Women and youth inclusion – strengthening gender responsive and youth empowering peacebuilding initiatives.
3. Cross-border and regional approaches – addressing conflict drivers and promoting regional stabilisation.

During the 2025-2026 extension period, the PBF additionally prioritises nationally led prevention strategies.

Key Results and Challenges

28 countries and territories received PBF support in 2025, with a total of USD 124 million approved.

Under its three strategic windows, the PBF approved:

- USD 43.9 million for facilitating transitions
- USD 23.3 million for women's and youth empowerment
- USD 23.4 million for cross-border and regional approaches

In 2025, the Fund maintained strong alignment with its priority windows:

- 35.4% of approved allocations to transitions
- 18.8% to women and youth inclusion
- 18.9% to cross-border and regional approaches

FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation

Multi-year standing trust fund for post-conflict peacebuilding

Head of organisation

Brian Williams, Fund Manager (USA)

Headquarters

New York (USA)

Country offices

No dedicated PBF country offices

Total Personnel

50-200

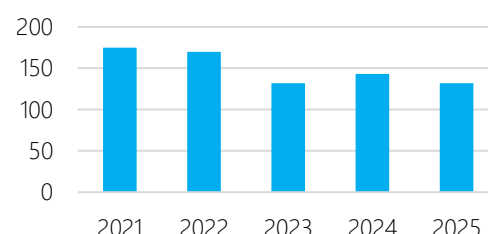
Established in

2006

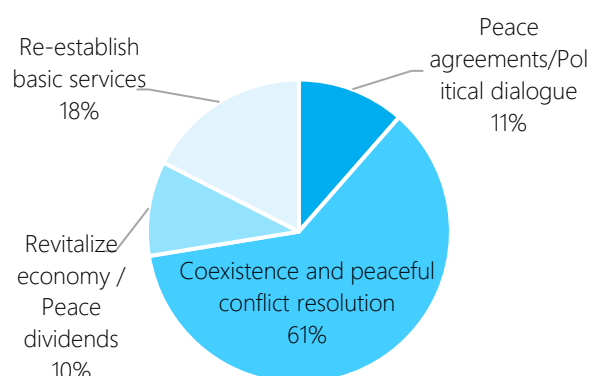
Steering

The PBF is guided by a Secretary-General-appointed Advisory Group, not an executive board.

Revenues 2021-2025, Core Funding,
in USD million



Expenditure 2025 per thematic area (in %),
Total: USD 124 million





Communities in the Central African Republic make peace sustainable through trauma healing and dialogue. ©United Nations PBF

Switzerland and UN Peacebuilding Fund

Switzerland's strategic priorities

The UN Peacebuilding Fund's priorities and activities align with Switzerland's Foreign Policy 2024-2027 and the Swiss Strategy for International Cooperation 2025-2028. Switzerland's partnership with the PBF is part of its engagement within the United Nations to promote a more coherent and effective multilateral response to conflict and fragility. In the period 2021-2026 Switzerland is pursuing the following goals:

- Strengthening the effectiveness and impact of PBF investments, particularly in prevention, national peacebuilding efforts, and inclusive approaches.
- Improving organisational performance and ensuring sustainable financing, given rising global fragility and the PBF's growing resource constraints.
- Promoting stronger coherence and strategic partnerships, especially across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and with institutions such as the World Bank.

Cooperation at country level

Since the creation of the PBF in 2006, Switzerland has supported the Fund as a key instrument of the UN peacebuilding architecture. Switzerland provides predictable financial contributions and actively engages in governance and oversight, including through its seat of the PBF Advisory Board.

At the country level, Switzerland supports the PBF's interventions led by UN Resident Coordinators, which bring together multiple UN agencies, international NGOs and civil society partners. These interventions help prevent the escalation of violence, stabilise transitions, and reinforce nationally led peacebuilding efforts. Switzerland also backs the PBF's work in strengthening locally rooted initiatives, including through its advocacy for Peace and Development Advisors deployed in priority countries, particularly in countries where Switzerland is actively involved in peacebuilding and development.

Switzerland is represented in the Advisory Group through Ambassador Natalie Kohli. Additionally, as a Top Donor, Switzerland is represented at the Strategic Dialogue through a Joint Delegation of SDC and PHRD.

SWITZERLAND and PBF

Contributions

Total: CHF 38.5 million (7th to 8th largest donor, 2.6% of the budget)

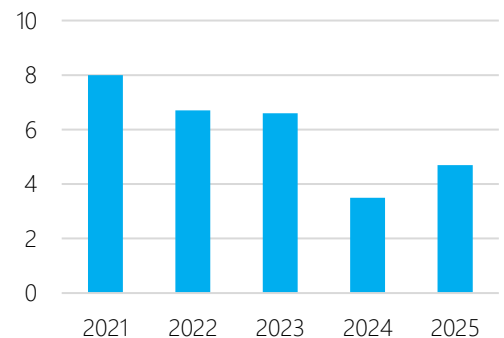
Number of Swiss staff

1 (seconded)

Involved Swiss government entities

SDC (UN & MDB), AFM (HuDi)

Swiss Core Contribution 2021-2025, in USD million



Rebuilding lives and supporting peaceful coexistence in Eastern DRC

In eastern DRC, Switzerland backs PBF projects that help communities recover from years of conflict and displacement. A key achievement is the vocational training and reintegration of 265 former combatants – including 83 women – who received start-up kits to build a livelihood, reducing the risk of renewed violence.

The project also improved local infrastructure such as community roads, making daily life safer and helping local markets function again. Dialogue activities and community events further strengthened trust between groups, encouraging the return of displaced families and supporting more peaceful coexistence.

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