



BASIC FACTS (as of 1 August 08)	
Total Portfolio:	\$ 275,000,000
• Pledges:	\$ 6,700,000
• Commitments:	\$ 268,200,000
• Deposits:	\$ 241,000,000
Funds allocated:	\$ 121,800,000
Number of projects approved	44
Number of Donors:	44
Countries:	Burundi, CAR, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone

## Peacebuilding Fund Updates

### Pledges & Commitments

Spain demonstrated its firm commitment to the PBF and has agreed to provide an additional 3.3 million EUR. In addition contributions have been made by Brazil (\$ 570,000), Austria (\$ 500,000) and Slovenia (\$ 20,000). Croatia pledged \$ 33,000.

### - New Approvals -

#### Window I: \$6 million allocated to Guinea-Bissau

16 April 2008 - An initial PBF Window I funding envelope of \$6 million was approved to cover four priority projects in Guinea-Bissau. The government and PBC adopted a two-step approach with an interim or 'lite' priority plan and follow-up comprehensive priority plan. Stakeholders agreed on priority interventions focusing on: i) security and justice sector reform (including drug trafficking); ii) youth employment and income generation; and iii) governance.

#### Window I: \$10 million allocated to an initial funding envelope for Central African Republic

12 June 2008 - The PBF allocated \$10 million to CAR, which became the fourth country on the PBC's agenda in June 2008. The Priority Plan focuses on Security Sector Reforms, Promoting Good Governance and Revitalization of communities affected by conflict.

#### Window I: 7 new projects in Sierra Leone

17 July 2008 The Steering Committee has approved 7 new projects to the tune of US\$ 16, 9 million. The total of PBF projects approved to-date in Sierra Leone is now over USD\$ 32 million.

#### Window II: SG entitles Côte d'Ivoire to PBF funding

19 June 2008 - The Secretary-General approved a PBF Window II funding envelope of \$5 million, specifically to support reintegration and rehabilitation projects for former combatants and the continuation of support to facilitation efforts undertaken in the framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

#### Window II: Comoros and Guinea eligible for PBF funding

25 June 2008 - Comoros: Consultations on a priority plan are currently in progress and preliminary priorities identified include security sector reform, good governance and youth employment. Republic of Guinea: The priority plan is in its final drafting stage. It is likely that projects will focus on areas such as national and community dialogue, the fight against impunity and corruption, support to women associations, and youth employment and awareness raising on civic issues.

#### Window II: \$10 million allocated to Nepal

29 July 2008 - Nepal received the go-ahead for \$ 10 million to fund time-critical peacebuilding activities in the areas of 1) strengthening state capacity; 2) revitalizing communities affected by conflict; and 3) conflict prevention and reconciliation.

#### Window III: PBF Emergency Window project approved for Haiti

12 April 2008 - The PBF supports a UNDP-executed project, with an allocation of \$800,000. This project reinforces government efforts in dealing with public safety concerns and risk posed by poor security at the overcrowded Port au Prince's penitentiary.

#### Window III: PBF Emergency Window project approved for Kenya

20 May 2008 - The Fund has granted US\$ 1 million to the Emergency Volunteer Scheme (EVS) in Kenya. The project will help to scale-up the pilot emergency volunteers scheme programme to the conflict affected Rift Valley Region of the country. Through enhancing a culture of volunteerism, this programme will help communities to take the lead in the recovery and reconciliation processes.

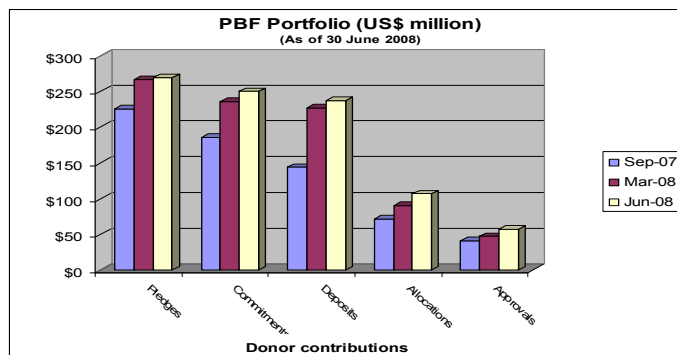
### - Meetings -

#### Donors' Briefing Meeting (April)

15 Apr 2008 (New York) Ms. Marjatti Rasi, Chair of the PBF Advisory Group (AG) shared the outcome of the second AG meeting held on 5-6 March 2008. The Guinea project on 'Supporting National Dialogue in Guinea' funded from the PBF Emergency Window was show-cased at the meeting, with interventions by Ms. Mbaranga Gasarabwe, UN Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative and Mr. La Tortue, ex-Prime Minister of Haiti and Chief Facilitator engaged to facilitate the dialogue process.

#### Donors' Briefing Meeting (June)

24 June 2008 (New York) The PBSO briefed donors on the status of the PBF, updates on Fund supported activities and the 2008 workplan, while the UNDP/MDTF presented the 1st consolidated annual Report for the PBF for the period to 31 December 2007. The meeting was also enriched by an update on the external evaluation of the PBF by the OIOS, and a presentation of the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace on a reconciliation project in Nimba County, Liberia funded by the PBF Emergency window.



#### OIOS: External evaluation of PBF

Following the recommendation of the PBF Advisory Group, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) started in May 2008 to assess and evaluate the operations and results of the PBF. On its part the PBSO constituted a Reference Group to provide advice on key evaluation products. Based on this evaluation exercise, the Secretary-General intends to initiate a review of the terms of references of the PBF.

## ***Liberia: Launch of Ethnic Reconciliation in Nimba County to support Government of Liberia and the United Nations***

From 1989 to 2003, Liberia experienced recurring violent civil conflict on a grand scale. Nimba County, located in the North Eastern region of the country, served throughout this period as a locus for the mobilization of rebel groups. Today, unresolved grievances and disputes that date back to war-time politics create tensions between the ethnic groups in the County and threaten to undermine consolidation of peace. In late 2007 Interpeace received a request from United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the development of an emergency intervention in support of ongoing efforts to prevent the escalation of inter-ethnic tensions in the County. As a response, the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives (JPU), a unit of UNOPS-SWOC, launched a much needed peacebuilding programme in Nimba County that will contribute to efforts made by the Government of Liberia and the UNMIL towards reconciliation and stability.

The 6-month project is funded from the Emergency Window of the UN Peacebuilding Fund and designed to facilitate the identification of a consensus-based strategy for sustained and continued reconciliation that would allow national authorities and communities to join forces towards a common goal. The proposal was approved in December and implementation began on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. A nationally recruited Program Coordinator, has been leading a team of local researchers in an effort aimed at identifying root causes of conflict and facilitating the development of recommendations on how to address these. The overall project has three tracks:

- A consultation process with key stakeholders in local communities in the six administrative districts of Nimba County.
- A field study exploring mechanisms for the harmonization of customary practices and statutory regulations for land management and dispute resolution.
- Construction of drainage to programme of road expansion in the city of Ganta (see pictures below) that contributes to the provision of employment opportunities to disaffected youth and demobilized ex-combatants.

### ***Road project – City of Ganta, Interpeace, 2008***



The road project also supports the Ministry of Internal Affairs' efforts to expand Ganta city by increasing access to prime lands and thereby easing pressure on existing limited prime lands. This multi prong approach focuses on the development of sustained reconciliation strategies based on local perceptions and needs. It holds the potential to effectively address the Nimba crisis and hopefully provide best practice that could be replicated in other countries of the country.

Training of the thirteen member research and dialogue facilitation team for the first track was carried out in

collaboration with the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT). Another local organization, Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) took care of certain elements of the programme, and other local society organizations seconded researchers to the team.

Consultations were carried out in 80 settlements in the County involving hundreds of community leaders, traditional authorities, religious leaders, women groups, youth and local authorities. The result of this process has allowed the identification of widespread tensions and conflicts along the following lines:

1. Conflict in Nimba seems to be more the result of the absence of capacities for conflict mediation than of the existence of deep-seated grievances.
2. Conflict in Nimba has different sources and origins. Land emerges as the paramount issue, in different expressions. Ethnicity is also an important factor, but although the legacy of war has turned the confrontation between certain ethnic groups particularly explosive in the main cities in the County, conflict in the more rural areas does not develop along rigid ethnic lines.
3. Conflicts in Nimba are of different complexity, from straightforward conflicts that are the result of a single problem (i.e. communal land boundaries between communities of the same ethnic groups) to ones that express a complex, layered nature that reunites different existing gaps (i.e. Problems on urban property in Ganta that combine land, ethnic, religious and political tensions).
4. Land, ethnicity and limited state capacities combine to explain the more persistent and explosive conflicts, compounded by the absence of effective conflict resolution mechanisms.
5. There are social practices (traditional and modern) that express cross-cutting cooperation and that can play a role in fostering interethnic coexistence, like traditional and secret societies, the cooperative "sus and koo" systems, and sports activities.
6. There is a yearning for effective state intervention to support conflict resolution (and development in general), even in the context of explicit criticism to the performance of some local government representatives.

Based upon this information, the teams organized a series of consensus-building focus groups in the districts that have allowed the identification of agreement on concrete measures that can be implemented by national authorities and by the communities themselves. The data obtained in this phased is currently being analyzed in a series of meetings between the Research Team and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the intention of integrating these into a locally-owned strategy for reconciliation and conflict prevention that is the expression of the collaboration between national authorities and the communities.

The programme will be ending at the end of August 2008. The JPU is currently in the process of submitting an application to the regular window of the PBF and also seeking funding from other donors to implement a National Dialogue Project that will already integrate the Lessons Learned through the implementation of the Emergency Window project in Nimba, and expand the process of gradual engagement of the communities in a consultation and dialogue to the rest of the country. By using the Nimba project as a model, the intention is to develop through this process social capacities and resources for peacebuilding that more effectively contribute to the consolidation of peace.

**For more information on the work of the Peacebuilding Fund visit: [www.unpbf.org](http://www.unpbf.org) or contact**

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