Understanding the Inclusive Peace-Development-Humanitarian Nexus:

Gender, Climate and Sustaining Peace in the Pacific

Expert-Level Thematic Consultation for
the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review
Outcome Document
June 2020

Background

On 18 June 2020, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Shifting the Power Coalition, in partnership with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised an online expert-level consultation entitled "Understanding the Inclusive Peace-Development-Humanitarian Nexus: Gender, Climate and Sustaining Peace in the Pacific". The consultation created a space for local and international civil society, Member States, and the United Nations to better unpack the ways to operationalise the peace-development-humanitarian nexus in an inclusive and gender-sensitive manner for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

In this document, GPPAC summarises the main findings from the consultation.[1] This outcome document serves to inform the 2020 Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace and the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review by presenting key messages and recommendations on the ways to strengthen the progress towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through partnerships for peacebuilding, operational and policy coherence, and financing for peacebuilding.

Key take-aways

Sustaining peace requires an inclusive approach to an integrated peace-development-humanitarian response. In the Pacific, the impacts of climate change and, recently, of the COVID-19 pandemic, call for an conflict-sensitive action on the peace, security, development and humanitarian pillars. This requires the empowerment of development and humanitarian stakeholders to support peacebuilding and vice versa; effective coordination between all actors; and addressing power imbalances and harmful gender norms, in order to effectively build and sustain peace.

The commitment to the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace is critical throughout peace continuum.[2] Because conflicts and fragility in the Pacific do not benefit from international attention to the same extent as situations on the agendas at the UN Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission, funding and capacities for peacebuilding in the region are hard to mobilise. At the same time, loss of land (including whole islands) increased resource scarcity and persistent damage to infrastructure, when coupled with political and economic inequalities and harmful gender norms, have a detrimental impact on communities and opportunities for peace. This requires attention and resources to

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[1] Recommendations and conclusions do not necessarily reflect the view of the organisers but serve to encapsulate the discussion that took place.
[2] 'Building Sustainable Peace: Recommendations for the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review', QUNO and GPPAC, 13 May 2020 https://gppac.net/resources/building-sustainable-peace-recommendations-2020-peacebuilding-architecture-review

mobilise peacebuilding capacities and stronger operationalisation of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.

Inclusive national ownership requires the meaningful engagement of local peacebuilders, including women and youth, and all national actors in remote islands and rural areas. Experiences of the whole of society, including in remote areas, are essential to understand conflict dynamics, identify missing capacities, provide adequate peacebuilding support, and assess the impact of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This requires systematic approaches to support peacebuilding capacities and inclusive national platforms to ensure information exchange and effective linkages between the situation on the ground, policy and practice.

Strategic and operational regional partnerships are critical to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific. The joint commitment to operationalise a common vision on regional peace is critical to localise global norms, enable policy coherence and complementarity and ensure the availability of funding. The operationalisation can take the form of an inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on peace and security, development and humanitarian response.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace requires accessible and sustainable resourcing. The critical element of integrated action on the peace-development-humanitarian nexus is 'good peacebuilding donorship'. This entails mapping out existing work and developing coordinated approaches within and between donors and financial institutions to ensure that action on various areas of work contributes to common strategic objectives.

The context in the Pacific

The sustaining peace agenda makes inclusive national ownership of peacebuilding a priority to the entire United Nations membership in all part of the world.[3] Despite the lack of sustained international attention, the Pacific region demonstrates some important examples of the commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Pacific is recognised as one of the most vulnerable regions to the consequences of the global climate crisis, which include environmental disasters, intense variations in temperatures, and extreme storms. However, the region also faces internal conflicts and interstate violence.[4] The devastation caused by intensifying natural disasters and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to roll-back peacebuilding gains, particularly when countries are in the midst of a political shift, such as in Papua New Guinea (PNG).[5]

The primary framework that outlines inclusive vision on sustaining peace is the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.[6] Between 2008-2011, collaboration between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) via a series of consultative processes with local peacebuilders, including women and traditional leaders[7], resulted in the adoption of the regional Human Security Framework, Conflict Prevention Framework, Regional Framework for Security Sector Governance, and the Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Women, Peace and Security. These processes have informed the Boe Declaration adopted in 2018. The Declaration broadens the definition of security in the Pacific to include human security, humanitarian assistance, environmental security, and regional cooperation. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it provides an opportunity to enhance a peacebuilding and conflict

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[3] Security Council Resolution 2282, 27 April 2016. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/sres2282.php
[4] 'Is the Boe Declaration silent on gender? Making the invisible visible' Ali Gillies, 4 June 2020 https://www.policyforum.net/is-the-boe-declaration-silent-on-gender/
[5] Sustaining Peace in Papua New Guinea: A Look at Conflict Prevention in Practice
https://gppac.net/resources/sustaining-peace-papua-new-guinea-look-conflict-prevention-practice
[6] 'Boe Declaration on Regional Security' https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/
[7] 'And She Persisted for Peace: Redesign the Table' GPPAC Pacific, 27 February, 2020. https://gppac.net/resources/and-she-persisted-peace-redesign-table

prevention approach in the Pacific response and continue exploring ways to strengthen a transformational approach to the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.

The Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is another framework that supports sustaining peace in the Pacific; however, it is only marginally integrated in the Boe Declaration Action Plan. Developed in partnership between members of the PIF, UN agencies, and civil society, the Plan provides a regional framework for enhancing leadership of diverse women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, mainstream gender in security policy-making, and ensures women and girls' human rights are protected in humanitarian crises, transitional contexts and post-conflict situations. It also highlights broad priorities, mobilises strategic actions, and determines responsibilities among different actors, while ensuring that WPS activities are not standalone efforts to promote women's rights but rather an integral part of regional peace and security.[8]

Through the implementation of the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda, the United Nations can support the development of regional frameworks that support a people-centred approach, promote human security and integrate regional priorities on peace and security, development and humanitarian response. The expertise of the United Nations could be instrumental in providing support to regional stakeholders in bringing these frameworks under one umbrella strategy that would support complementarity and coherence across different agendas with an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework that provides an assessment of the impact at the local level.

Gender Transformative Approach

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace emphasises the "importance of women's leadership in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and recognises the need to increase [...] the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace."[9]

The situation of women in the Pacific requires addressing some critical risks to women in order to fully leverage a transformative capacity of the WPS Agenda. Harmful gender norms, power relations, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and securitisation, including in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, disproportionately affect women in communities, making them more susceptible to violence.[10] This consequently leads to a lack of visibility and women's engagement in decision making across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.

In Bougainville, three seats are reserved for women in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, creating further limits on women's participation.[11] While the system guarantees a minimum level of representation for women in the Bougainville House of Representatives, concerns have been raised that the reserved seats act as a ceiling for women's representation and prevent women from successfully contesting other seats.[12]

Such a context requires further support in advancing **a transformative gender approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace** that includes:

[8] 'Pacific Regional Action Plan: Women, Peace and Security 2012- 2015'
https://www.resdal.org/wps/assets/NAPs/regional/pacific_region_regional_action_plan_2012-2015.pdf
[9] Security Council Resolution 2282, 27 April 2016. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/sres2282.php
[10] This is illustrated in the Pacific region, where the rate of lifetime experience of violence is particularly high in the Pacific: Tonga (79%), Samoa (76%), Kiribati (73%), Fiji (72%), Vanuatu (72%) and Solomon Islands (64%), Papua New Guinea (68%). See more: Ending Violence Against Women - Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/ending-violence-against-women/
[11] 'Country Profiles: Papua New Guinea' Pacific Women in Politics https://www.pacwip.org/country-profiles/papua-new-guinea/
[12] 'Women's Representation and the Use of Reserved Seats in Bougainville' Kerryn Baker, Australian National University Department of Pacific Affairs, 2014
http://dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/publications/1607/womens-representation-and-use-reserved-seats-bougainville

- **Making an effort to understand women's experiences:** The analysis of women's experiences (both qualitative and quantitative) and their integration in prevention strategies could bring attention to the gendered factors that drive conflict in the context of climate change. In Bougainville, for example, the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation has proactively engaged with the Bougainville Regional Disaster Committee[13] to establish a team for women controllers to ensure the specific needs of women are included in the COVID-19 management and recovery.

- **Ensuring women's participation in decision-making:** By ensuring meaningful engagement of women, their experiences and analysis will better inform relevant policy and action by not only spotlighting the "women's issues", but also utilising the transformative potential of gender analysis for peace and security. In Bougainville, women worked to develop the WPS Action Plan to ensure that it is relevant in the context of sustaining peace and prevention priorities in the post-referendum process as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Integrating gender analysis in the implementation of the global agendas:** It is not only that the WPS work needs to be reflective of other agendas; all UN agendas across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus should integrate gender within the framework and also at the implementation stage. In 2015, GPPAC Pacific advocated for the operationalisation of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus in the context of climate change as the contribution to the 2015 Global Study on UNSCR1325. As a result of this work, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242 recognises "the impacts of climate change and the global nature of health pandemics" and increases attention to WPS as a cross-cutting element of the climate change action.

- **Engaging men to transform harmful gender norms:** Addressing harmful gender norms and power dynamics also requires engaging with men as allies and transforming men's experiences to support gender equality. The Pacific Conference of Churches works to enable male leaders to advance behavioural change within communities[14]. Transcend Oceania's Oceania Men & Boys Engage Project provides a space for men to talk and understand the root causes of violent behaviour, where it exists, in an attempt to reduce gender-based violence in the aftermath of disasters, such as TC Winston in 2016, and more recently in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.[15]

The United Nations could update its commitments on women's participation in peacebuilding[16] to go beyond post-conflict peacebuilding and embrace the evolutive notion of sustaining peace. This could be done by prioritising women's experiences and participation across the peace continuum, from early-warning systems to post-conflict reconstruction. This could also include an expressed call for the integration of commitments to gender analysis and women's participation across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including by integrating the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, and Peace and Security in the Action Plan in the operationalisation of the Boe Declaration in the context of the Pacific.

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[13]Leading Change in Bougainville: Experiences of Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and Women Human Rights Defenders. Learning Brief: https://iwda.org.au/resource/leading-change-in-bougainville-learning-brief/
[14] 'Fiji: Church reps undergo Male Advocacy training' https://pacificwomen.org/news/fiji-church-reps-undergo-male-advocacy-training/
[15] OMBE (Oceanie Men & Boys Engage) Project, Scoping and Baseline. https://www.transcendoceania.org/2020/06/04/ombe-oceania-men-boys-engage-project-scoping-baseline/
[16] Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354–S/2010/466) https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/seven_point_action_plan.pdf

Partnerships for peacebuilding

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace require building strategic and operational regional partnerships that include multilateral partners, national actors, local peacebuilders and regional organisations in an inclusive, gender- and conflict-sensitive manner. [17]

There are numerous stakeholders involved in the operationalisation of the nexus in the Pacific. Participants outlined some of the key roles the United Nations is playing: 1) supporting the capacities of national governments, 2) convening stakeholders across the nexus; 3) empowering local community actors to become agents for peace, including by encouraging innovation; 4) supporting peace processes. In addition to the United Nations, the key stakeholders in the region include national governments, regional organisations, namely PIF, local peacebuilders, and church leaders. It was recognised, however, that the operationalisation of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus would benefit from stronger effort to engage with young people as well as peacebuilders in rural areas and remote islands.

Some of **the innovative partnership models** from the Pacific can inform the UN Peacebuilding Architecture:

- **Inclusion of local peacebuilders:** The partnership between the Shifting the Power Coalition and GPPAC Pacific provides support for local peacebuilders to engage in various processes across the triple nexus. It is built on the idea of sharing resources to enhance national and local capacities of those best positioned to engage, as well as regarding women as agents and not simply vulnerable beneficiaries of aid. The coalition model enables diverse women's experiences to be presented through various forums including the Pacific Resilience Partnership Task Force.

- **Direct engagement in dialogue:** The United Nations and PIF lead a series of consultative processes that supported the adoption of the regional Human Security Framework, a Conflict Prevention Framework and Security Sector Governance Framework. Through such consultative processes, women local peacebuilders were able to actively lobby directly with government officials to transform the definition of regional security.

- **Inclusive engagement strategies:** The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) provides a space to link different stakeholders across communities. Different communities across the region come together in the PCC assemblies to discuss critical issues within communities.[18]

- **Regular multi-stakeholder dialogue and information sharing:** The Pacific Resilience Partnership[19] is a multi-actor consultative framework for better cohesion at the regional level guided by: 1) inclusion, through ensuring effective participation of the different stakeholder groups with integrated gender considerations; 2) the establishment of relationships based on mutual respect and responsibility to empower stakeholders' actions; 3) accountability and transparency at every level of decision making.

- **UN System-wide community engagement:** The United Nations recently developed System-Wide Community Engagement Guidelines on peacebuilding and sustaining peace to support United Nations' field presence in their efforts of engaging and cooperating with local civil society and community actors in the context of peacebuilding.

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[17] Security Council Resolution 2282, 27 April 2016. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/sres2282.php
[18] Pacific Conference of Churches, 'What We Do' https://pacificconferenceofchurches.org/our-key-programmes
[19] 'Pacific Resilience Partnership' http://www.resilientpacific.org/pacific-resilience-partnership/

- **Localisation of global agendas:** The United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018–2022 is a five year strategic framework that outlines the collective response of the UN system to the development priorities in the Pacific by advancing a localised response tailored to each country's national priorities in line with other internationally agreed agendas, including the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".[20]

- **Engaging youth:** Peace Boat has worked to provide platforms and space for exchange and capacity development for youth from the Pacific and other small island states to collectively address social, economic, humanitarian effects of climate change and encourage inclusive governance for the operationalisation of the peace-development and humanitarian nexus.[21]

It is critical for the United Nations to support "inclusive national ownership" of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This requires the United Nations peacebuilding field presence to allocate time and resources to build relationships with and support capacities of all relevant national peacebuilding stakeholders, including local peacebuilders and youth, including in remote islands, and engage other nexus partners to support peacebuilding. This also entails mapping of the work done at the local, national and regional levels and complementing national capacities by ensuring better complementarity between all actors across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus.

Participants suggested considering COVID-19 and other crises as opportunities for transformative change. When managed carefully, the changes in norms, behaviors and expectations can result from situations of crisis that provide entry points to bring traditionally excluded groups into leadership and decision-making positions. For example, this consultation itself provides an example of the possibilities of engaging various stakeholders around the world to identify the common vision on the operationalisation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Operational and policy coherence

The Peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda encourages the United Nations to maximise efforts to ensure operational and policy coherence by engaging various stakeholders in a coordinated, complementary and inclusive manner.[22]

In the Pacific, the peace-development-humanitarian nexus is seen as the key vehicle for advancing sustaining peace because the context triggers peace and security, development and humanitarian action. The nexus suggests the need to undertake joint analysis of root causes and structural drivers of conflict, while prioritising a people-centred response driven by human security principles.

Participants highlighted that, in the United Nations' efforts to support operational and policy coherence, it is important that the "peace" element of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus is not considered an afterthought. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants noted the continuous understanding of peacebuilding as a post-crisis action. However, sustaining peace transforms this pre-2015 understanding, putting peacebuilding up front.

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[20] United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022: A Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Pacific Region, 6 March 2018 https://reliefweb.int/report/world/united-nations-pacific-strategy-2018-2022-multi-country-sustainable-development
[21] 'Peace Boat presents a report and a 360 film of the third edition of the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme' September 19, 2019 https://peaceboat.org/english/news/report-OCYAP2019
[22] Security Council Resolution 2282, 27 April 2016. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/sres2282.php

Some of **the innovative approaches to advance operation and policy coherence** in the Pacific can inform the UN Peacebuilding Architecture:

– The engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission: In the Pacific, the Commission was able to demonstrate itself as an important actor that mobilises attention and support for national priorities in addressing a range of risks and advance comprehensive, cross-pillar approaches. Following the Commission's May 2020 meeting on PNG, the mission of Fiji reached out to suggest organising a meeting on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific islands, and the Commission is currently pursuing this in partnership with Tuvalu in their capacity as the PIF Chair.

– Joint risk analysis: The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention works to operationalise the nexus by coordinating joint analysis, building up resilience in communities and providing space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on pressing issues in a given context. In the Pacific, the regional peace and development advisor worked to create space for inclusive dialogue, with a particular engagement of women and youth, during the first Guadalcanal Land Summit in the Solomon Islands in 2018[23].

– Coherent strategies and actions: The climate and security mechanism was established to strengthen the United Nations' capacity to address the linkages between climate change and peace through a conceptual approach that includes, but is not limited to, climate-related security risk assessments and design of early warning, risk prevention and management strategies. Synthesising expertise from different fields, the mechanism feeds knowledge and analysis into the UN system to strengthen decision making and programming on identified risks.[24]

– Coherent strategies and actions: The International Organisation on Migration (IOM) launched a three-year regional project funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security to help Pacific Island governments to support a regional human security-based response to climate change and disaster-related migration.[25]

– Prioritising peacebuilding: The recent paper by the World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised that many responsibilities, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings, require other non-traditional peacebuilding actors to work on addressing some of the peacebuilding goals[26]. Health actors require specialised peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict analysis expertise to develop good health and peace programmes. Peacebuilding partners also benefit from the scientific rigour of public health research and assessment methodologies to improve peacebuilding programmes.

Holistic and coordinated action across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus should prioritise "peace" as a critical element. At the field level, this requires the United Nations to facilitate greater coordination and dialogue among different stakeholders engaged in the operationalisation of the nexus. At the headquarters level, the Peacebuilding Commission could take a greater role in engaging other bodies within the UN System in peacebuilding through its advisory mandate and drive an early action to

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[23] 'Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention - Annual Report 2018' July 11, 2019 https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/conflict-prevention/Joint-UNDP-DPPA-Programme-Conflict-Prevention-2018.html
[24] 'Climate Security: Making it #doable' https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/climatesecurity_makingit_doable_latest.pdf.pagespeed.ce_.naqctbogs7.pdf
[25] 'Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region' https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/untfhs-pacific-project
[26] 2020 Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: World Health Organisation Thematic Paper contribution. 'WHO Thematic Paper on Health and Peace' https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/un_pb_review-_who_health_peace_thematic_paper_final_0.pdf

address risks and root causes of violence and conflict, including in the contexts of a pandemic or a natural disaster.

Financing for peacebuilding

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace is not possible without adequate and sustainable financing that would support sharing risks and maximising the impact of peacebuilding efforts.[27]

There are various streams of funding present in the Pacific. This includes the support of the United Nations, including through the Peacebuilding Fund; international civil society partners, including GPPAC and Search for Common Ground, among others; donor countries also support the operationalisation of the nexus in the Pacific, including Australia, South Korea and Sweden.

The regional coordination platforms and dialogue processes would benefit from engaging donors in mapping out priorities and activities in the region. The lack of such a coordination often leads to the duplication of efforts in some areas of work. For example, where the issues of sexual and gender-based violence are supported by funders, women and local peacebuilders' work to progress the other pillars of the WPS agenda, including prevention of local conflict and relief and recovery, remains side-lined.

The participants outlined the following key challenges to financing for peacebuilding in the Pacific: 1) the lack of sustained international attention to the Pacific, which diverts donors' attention elsewhere; 2) the lack of investment in local capacities on peacebuilding, as the majority of peacebuilding expertise is being "imported" into the region; 3) the lack of attention on preventative action, in particular early warning and early response, and peacebuilding in the peace-development-humanitarian nexus; 4) the lack of flexibility and sustainability of funding.

Despite this, a number of approaches in the Pacific can inform the UN Peacebuilding Architecture on **financing for peacebuilding**:

- **Supporting visibility and resource mobilisation:** The Peacebuilding Fund is supporting a climate and security project for the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu to strengthen national capacity to assess and respond to climate security risks and better engage on these issues in the regional and global fora, giving visibility to these contexts. [28]

- **Accessibility of funds for gender transformative analysis:** The GPPAC Pacific and the Shifting the Power Coalition[29] model of collaboration, with the support and commitment from ActionAid Australia, is the only feminist network that provides financial support to the localisation of humanitarian action through the gender transformative analysis.

- **Engaging with local peacebuilding:** The 2020–2024 Peacebuilding Fund's Strategy[30] commits to "increase partnerships with civil society organisations both for learning and to help provide more flexible funding to local-level organisations, with modalities adjusted to different capacity levels from context to context".

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[27] Security Council Resolution 2282, 27 April 2016. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/sres2282.php
[28] 'Linkages between Climate Change and Challenges to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace' Thursday, 23 April 2020 https://www.un.int/tuvalu/news/linkages-between-climate-change-and-challenges-peacebuilding-and-sustaining-peace
[29] It is made up of 13 women-led civil society organisations in six Pacific countries, including women-led disabled people's organisations, young women's organisations and networks representing women living in rural and coastal communities.
[30] Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund 2020-2024 Strategy https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_strategy_2020-2024_final.pdf

–   Avoiding duplication: Some donors in the region practice 'good peacebuilding donorship' by supporting strategic and coordinated approaches within and between donors and financial institutions.

The United Nations could consider opportunities to support relevant peacebuilding stakeholders' access to funding by either providing greater visibility to their work, including by utilising the convening capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission, supporting the policy engagement of donors, encouraging 'good peacebuilding donorship', and adjusting its own financing streams to be more accessible to all peacebuilding stakeholders, including women and youth in remote communities. As the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates, the United Nations could also encourage funding for peacebuilding to be flexible to reflect the changing nature of threats and support innovative peacebuilding strategies.

Recommendations

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Pacific requires an inclusive approach to an integrated peace-development-humanitarian response and a commitment to implementation that produces impact in communities. Maintaining a gender-sensitive approach in the operationalisation of the nexus is critical not only because it addresses gendered root causes of conflict, but also because it encourages a people-centred approach based on human security and human rights.

The United Nations could draw on the existing knowledge in the Pacific in the operationalisation of the nexus, and to address the needs in the region, as well as integrating this learning in other relevant contexts, by prioritising the following action:

Recommended action on gender-sensitive peacebuilding:

–   Ensure that **intersectional gender analysis**, based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of experience in communities, forms part of the methodologies for risk analyses that inform global, regional and national policy-making;

–   Promote and support **the meaningful participation of women** across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including the climate change policy and regional security, at the national and regional level;

–   Include **a standing agenda item on women, peace and security** at all processes around the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including by ensuring women peacebuilders are part of the dialogue;

–   Report annually on **women's participation and engagement in peacebuilding**, including their participation in dialogue, mediation, early warning and early response;

–   Ensure necessary **political, financial and technical support for women peacebuilders** in obtaining funding and adapting to the changing peacebuilding landscape in the Pacific;

–   Accelerate **the implementation of the Gender Strategy by the Peacebuilding Commission**, and hold annual substantive meetings on gender-responsive peacebuilding;
–   Support national capacities to integrate **gender analysis in governance and national processes**;

- Ensure needed **inclusive local and national capacities and resources** for the operationalisation of all national and regional commitments to gender equality and women's rights across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus;

- Support the establishment of **a Pacific Women's Mediators network** to enhance women's leadership and contribution across the nexus in the Pacific, including in the response to disasters and humanitarian crises;

- Update **the Seven-Points Action Plan on women's participation in peacebuilding**[31] to prioritise women's experiences and participation across the peace continuum, from early-warning to post-conflict reconstruction;

- Encourage the creation of institutionalised approaches to **engage women at all stages of peacebuilding**, including political transitions.

Recommended Action on Partnership for Peacebuilding:

- Prioritise building **the capacity of the regional organisations, national actors and local peacebuilders** across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus to undertake a greater role in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

- Develop **consistent, sustained, transparent and risk-informed modalities of inclusive local peacebuilders' engagement**, including women and youth and those based in the most remote areas, at the national and regional levels and, where possible, create joint UN-civil society standing bodies or informal working groups to systematise the engagement from conflict assessment, programme planning, implementation, and evaluation of all actions across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus;

- Identify, support and complement **existing peacebuilding efforts** at the regional, national and local levels;

- Develop regular **commonly agreed multi-stakeholder processes** that allow all stakeholders to share, access and discuss their separate analyses to localise global agendas; ensure a common understanding of risks; and jointly determine which actors are best placed to respond to them;

- Adopt a flexible approach of the UN field presence's engagement that capitalises on local knowledge and expertise and allows for providing **support where the gaps remain and where additional capacities are required**;

- Ensure the implementation of **the UN System-Wide Community Engagement Guidelines** by the UN field presence and monitor regularly the action through relevant processes.

Recommended Action on Operational and Policy Coherence:

- Encourage relevant stakeholders to include **indicators on climate-related risks in early-warning and risk monitoring**;

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[31] Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354–S/2010/466) https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/seven_point_action_plan.pdf

- Support regional and national capacities to **integrate priorities and commitments under the UN agendas under one peacebuilding strategy**, including by supporting the alignment between the 2012-2015 Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the Boe Declaration, the Pacific Resilience Framework, and Human Security and Security Sector Governance Frameworks;

- Provide political support and encourage donor **support for the Joint UNDP-UNDPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention** to ensure sustained presence of peace and development advisors in the region;

- Better utilise **the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission** to make a case for the importance of local peacebuilding activities and other innovative approaches and bringing visibility and political support for peacebuilding action in critical contexts outside of the countries on the agenda of the Commission;

- Strengthen action on **the operationalisation of the peace-development-humanitarian nexus in hard-to-reach areas** where vulnerabilities from climate-related security risks are particularly high due to limited access and support from central state services.

Recommended Action on Financing for Peacebuilding:

- Provide visibility to existing innovative approaches to operationalise the peace-development-humanitarian nexus to **catalyse greater investments and shift donors' priorities** beyond "traditional" peacebuilding;

- Diversify, and encourage the donor community to **diversify the breadth of funding opportunities and modalities available to local peacebuilders**, including by providing opportunities to obtain long-term core funding and providing needed capacities on obtaining this funding;

- Facilitate spaces for dialogue between donors and all relevant peacebuilding stakeholders to make sure that **funding better reflects priorities and needs within a specific context** and is coordinated across different streams of work with no duplication;

- Encourage the donor community to make **funding more flexible** to allow peacebuilders to effectively adjust in the contexts of crises and shocks;

- Utilise the Peacebuilding Fund to prioritise **filling the gaps that appear as a result of comprehensive analysis** of the action across the peace-development-humanitarian nexus;

- Call for **sustained resourcing for preventative and peacebuilding action**, including the action of local women peacebuilders, during the time of crisis;

- Encourage **'good peacebuilding donorship'**, by supporting strategic and coordinated approaches within and between donors and financial institutions.