This means that young people are a core demographics for peacebuilding interventions, particularly since they often represent a large proportion of the population in numerous countries affected by conflict. Recent policy development, programmatic and research efforts have also demonstrated that young people can be—and often are—active and engaged stakeholders in building and sustaining peace in their country, but that they tend to be the "missing peace" of the majority of peace and security efforts.

Empirical findings from project evaluations, as well as research studies such as _____ _____ and _____, underline the fact that youth exclusion, real or perceived, is a critical root cause of violent conflict. Therefore, since its creation in 2006, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has prioritized support to peacebuilding approaches that promote inclusivity, with a specific focus on the role of women and young people. In recent years, this has translated into dedicated support to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on youth, peace and security, as well as to the "sustaining peace" resolution 2282 (2016), which offer important policy frameworks for peacebuilding interventions that meaningfully involve young women and men and support their leadership in peacebuilding. This focus on youth, similarly to the focus on women under Security Council resolution 1325, is cross-cutting through the entire PBF portfolio, in all countries eligible to receive PBF funding.

[1] United Nations,

project funded by PBF should be peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including for projects focused on youth. Many youth projects, for instance, focus on capacity building of young people and their organizations, but are challenged at demonstrating how this capacity-building will contribute to building and sustaining peace. A project whose overall/sole objective is youth empowerment does not fall under PBF's scope. Examples of recently selected projects on youth and peacebuilding include:

- *"Engaging Youth to Build Peaceful Communities in Mali"*

experience of conflict (sexual violence?)? Are gender norms promoting toxic masculinities and submissive femininities, and how can these be challenged? Are there patriarchal and/or autocratic norms that feed social systems where young people, and young women in particular, are seen as inferior? Are there new gender dynamics in the younger generation that tend to reverse an established patriarchal order, and that could serve as a basis for insufflating a new culture of peace and equal participation in society?

- Provide concrete and specific data and resources to back up the analysis.

- Consult, collaborate and follow-up with young people / youth-led and youth-focused civil society organizations in the process of developing your conflict analysis, ideally reflecting the diversity of the context (different ethnic groups,

(COTE d'IVOIRE)

(BURUNDI)

(MALI)

vi) Targeting

a) Young people

Clearly identifying the young people to be targeted by the project is essential. Good targeting entails: a specific geographical scope, explicit criteria for selecting young people to be involved in the project (such as: age range, socio-economic background, specific experience such as engagement with a militia or being a young mother, etc.), and an explanation of these young people will be identified and accessed (e.g.: through community leaders, snowball methodology, an open application process, etc.) Gender balance among the targeted youth is critical. Vague or unrealistic targeting is one of the main flaws of youth/peacebuilding project proposals submitted to PBF.

It is important to analyze the targeted young people would want to engage in the project, what can be incentives to engage them (e.g.: a project targeting young people in conflict with the law needs to explain what the incentive is for these young people to engage with the UN/institutions that are seen as part of the status quo these youth are generally rejecting). Very importantly, all youth projects will have to demonstrate conflict sensitivity, or how they will do no harm and avoid triggering frustration and resentment among the young people who will not be engaged. In particular, when targeting a specific youth sub-group (e.g. young ex-combatants), the project should have mitigation measures in place to ensure that other young people from the same community do not feel neglected or even more excluded.

One of the first activities of any youth & peacebuilding project should be a process of identification and selection of the young people who will be engaged in the process. This will typically take time, resources and dedicated personnel to ensure the project does not limit itself to involving the most connected young people (the ones already known by partner organizations, or politically well connected, or living in urban

Give priority space to young people from groups that are often excluded - whatever the reasons for the exclusion may be	Engage young people who are already connected, known by development actors, engaged with your organization
Develop specific indicators and evaluation methods looking at both qualitative and quantitative indicators focusing on youth perceptions and experiences of peacebuilding	Limit yourself to counting the number of young people trained
Create incentives for various stakeholders to be engaged	

consider: in many countries there are certain socio-economic or life events (such as marriage, having children, property ownership, etc.) that symbolize 'adulthood' that may occur before the age of 18, or still remain out of reach long into the ages of adulthood.

6. RESOURCES

- PBF webinar on youth-inclusive peacebuilding: recording and PowerPoint
- The Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding (2014) outline nine guiding principles for participative, inclusive and intergenerational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure participation and contribution of young people.
- Young People's Participation in