



United Nations  
MPTF Office

[mptf.undp.org](http://mptf.undp.org)

# 2023 Annual Report

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

The UN center of expertise on inter-agency pooled funding instruments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



Marcyline completed livelihood training financed by **Spotlight Initiative**, where she learned new skills to earn an independent income and gain financial security. Marcyline learned how to run a business and received information on women's human rights, laws on gender-based violence and how to support others when reporting. Since 2019, Spotlight Initiative has supported the long-term recovery of almost a million women and girl survivors of violence in Uganda.

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**2023 Annual Report**  
**United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**

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## Contributors

Results highlighted in this report would not have been possible without generous contributions to pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office. Contributors included Member States, foundations, multilateral institutions and the private sector.



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**\*Private sector:** Astra Zeneca, Autoliv, Bridgestone Corporation, La Nuez Audiovisual Prod, Michelin Corporate Foundation, Revel, Shell.

**\*Other:** Switzerland as custodian of recovered funds.



Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Cynthia Kpeem, a peacekeeper in GHANBATT 89, planned and led market patrols, which are crucial for engaging and interacting with local communities in Lebanon. As a female peacekeeper, she was able to communicate with individuals with reservations about interacting with male peacekeepers due to cultural or religious constraints. Part of **The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations**, support to peacekeeping outfits like Kpeem's helps bridge cultural norms, foster trust and enable stakeholders to capture crucial insights into community dynamics, helping impact a mission's success.

© The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations



# Fast facts

A summary of MPTF Office portfolio data from 2023



## Worldwide impact

**+107 programme countries** received resources for implementation to respond to development, climate, emergency, security and peacebuilding challenges.



## Green action

**US\$234 million** invested in climate and environment funds that cover forestation, biodiversity, green economy and climate security in 2023.



## Nexus financing

Bridging finance across the **humanitarian-development nexus** and other sectors and industries according to context.



## Gender equality is non-negotiable

Introducing and integrating gender equality markers into the new MPTF Office fund management platform, which is used by a growing number of pooled funds.



## Diversifying resources from contributors.

**19 contributors** from the private sector, foundations and civil society helped expand stakeholder networks and widen the contribution base.



## Advancing UN Reform

**More than 50 UN organizations** collaborated on joint programmes around the world.

7

## Expanding civil society engagement

Over **70 non-UN entities** were directly involved in implementing programmes covering multi-sector issues following rigorous due diligence processes. A substantial number of these projects were launched in peacebuilding settings or cater to providing climate and environment finance solutions.

8

## Investing in quality

All pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office incorporate quality management features described in the Funding Compact commitments.

9

## Co-creating innovative financial instruments.

**19 new pooled financial instruments** were designed and established to promote joint action on a variety of high-impact areas such as risk data, biodiversity and health, and climate information.

10

## Supporting broad coalitions of partners

Over **200 partners, contributors, and Member States** engaged directly in pooled funding.



## Acronyms

Administrative Agent	AA
Central African Forest Initiative	CAFI
Chief Executives Board for Coordination	CEB
Country-Based Pooled Funds	CBPFs
Enterprise Resource Planning	ERP
European Union	EU
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO
Fund Administration System	FAS
Gender-Based Violence	GBV
Gender Equality Marker	GEM
International Organization for Migration	IOM
Management and Accountability Framework	MAF
Memorandum of Understanding	MoU
Multi-Partner Trust Fund	MPTF
Non-Governmental Organization	NGO
Non-UN entity	NUNO
Participating UN Organization	PUNO
Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review	QCPR
Socio-Economic Response Plans	SERPs
Standard Administrative Agreement	SAA
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
Terms of Reference	ToR
United Nations	UN
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF
United Nations Country Teams	UNCTs
United Nations Development Coordination Office	UNDCO
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Development System	UNDS
United Nations Evaluation Group	UNEG
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	OHCHR
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	OCHA
United Nations Partnership for Persons with Disabilities	UNPRPD
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	UNSDCF
United Nations Sustainable Development Group	UNSDG
United Nations Volunteers	UNV
World Health Organization	WHO



**Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)** - Geosphere Austria is SOFF Peer Advisor to three countries in the Caribbean (Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).  
© Delia Arnold Arias, Geosphere Austria



UNPRPD programme coordinator at an event featuring issues on gender-based violence at the UN house, Viet Nam. The **UN Partnership to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNPRPD)** programme, 'Working together for an inclusive future in Viet Nam: Implementing the CRPD through effective collaboration' aims to further the rights of persons with disabilities in the country, with a focus on women and girls with disabilities and under-represented persons with disabilities.

©UNPRPD/UNDP Viet Nam

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# Foreword

With the world facing multiple crises and transitions that include social, food, and energy insecurities, escalating conflicts, and humanitarian needs - many of which are exacerbated by climate change - the quality and quantity of multilateral financing for development and humanitarian action are more important now than ever.

In 2023, UN inter-agency pooled funds continued to prove their value as critical financing instruments to address intersecting challenges. The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) has kept pace with the demand for pooled funding services, supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development along with peacebuilding, crisis response, and climate action around the world. Throughout 2023, the strategic focus of the MPTF Office



Hargeisa, Somalia

Activities of the **Working for Health MPTF** raise awareness in a local community in Hargeisa, Somalia. Here women medical practitioners, mothers and other caregivers take part in a session on reducing childhood pneumonia by improving access to medical oxygen. Working for Health MPTF provides health care in fragile settings.

© WHO

portfolio shifted towards a greater emphasis on climate, development, and transition financing. **Four key trends characterized the direction of the MPTF Office:**

### 1. A robust portfolio that emphasizes climate, development, and peace funds

Although the humanitarian portfolio contracted in 2023, there was an increased demand for climate, peace, and development funds that were underpinned by the MPTF Office's unwavering commitment to fund administration efficiency, quality, and transparency. Over the course of the year, nearly \$1 billion US dollars in contributions were received for inter-agency pooled funds - both new and innovative instruments and existing ones - under the MPTF Office administration.

This achievement reflects the trust, engagement, and support from over 50 UN organizations across the system, as well as a diverse group of contributors that include Member States, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations. More than 100 programme countries led and benefitted from multi-stakeholder funds disbursements totaling \$1.05 billion US dollars over the course of the year, deploying integrated strategies across the triple nexus and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

### 2. Strong investments in quality standards, knowledge management, and innovation

Continuous investments in quality standards and innovation for UN inter-agency funds kept the MPTF Office at the forefront of UN and partner debates on quality pooled financing. The development of the new MPTF Office digital "Gateway" platform for fund management and administration and our efforts to ensure state-of-the-art quality features in pooled funds accentuate our commitment to excellence.

Additionally, the longstanding partnership between the MPTF Office and Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation led to another edition of the annual cutting-edge report, Financing the UN Development System. In 2023, the Office also led a much-awaited study on new opportuni-

ties for innovative finance modalities within multi-partner trust funds that highlighted our dedication to meeting UN system demands for products that advance Global Goal progress through joint, innovative approaches.

### 3. Expanding a coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships

Throughout 2023, there was a significant expansion of multi-stakeholder partnerships, with new frameworks introduced to support global, regional, and country efforts towards SDG achievement. This collaboration led to the establishment of 19 new inter-agency pooled funds, comprising a mix of global and country-level climate, development, and peace pooled funds that are poised to drive the 2030 Agenda forward. Moreover, a number of funds that were established in 2022 became fully operational in 2023. The Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF), Nature4Health Fund, and Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) experienced accelerated operationalization in 2023 and are examples of leveraging exciting new climate and environment partnerships for transformative change.

### 4. Operational efficiency and effectiveness across the MPTF Office portfolio

The MPTF Office maintained a strong focus on operational efficiency and effectiveness as the UN center of expertise for inter-agency pooled funds. While maintaining a quality-assured strategic portfolio of pooled financing instruments in line with Funding Compact commitments, it continuously pursued efficiency gains, transparency, and meeting key performance indicators.

The Office met indicators for transaction timeliness with \$979.1 million US dollars deposited and \$1.05 billion US dollars transferred to 118 participating organizations—90% of these funds were transferred within a five-day window, which is an achievement given the implementation of the new ERP. In 2023, the MPTF Office enhanced its performance on reporting, with 98% of annual and final consolidated narrative reports finalized and published by May

and/or June. The Office accelerated efforts on project closure, improving performance by 21% compared to 2022. The MPTF Office also maintained its culture of client focus, bringing creativity and agility to requests for current and expanded services like the application of innovative MPTF partnership modalities with a variety of multilateral actors at the request of participating UN organizations.

### Looking Ahead

Navigating 2024 and charting a path beyond—where promises of more flexible, quality funding for the UN development system are met through inter-agency pooled funding—presents important opportunities. Reenergized collaboration with the wider UN system and Member States through the 2024 Funding Compact will be critical in realizing time-sensitive opportunities for SDG acceleration in the context of climate and conflict crises. A new generation of pooled funds that serve people and the planet are under development in the MPTF Office. Each one provides the evidence, processes, and expertise needed to scale up ambition for the SDGs.

The MPTF Office remains excited and committed to helping drive the United Nations sustainable development agenda forward. Through collaboration, transparency, accountability, and excellence, the MPTF Office will continue to support and champion multi-stakeholder engagements and UN inter-agency pooled funds as robust partnership platforms for helping shape the major global transitions needed for future generations to build upon and manage.

### Jennifer Topping

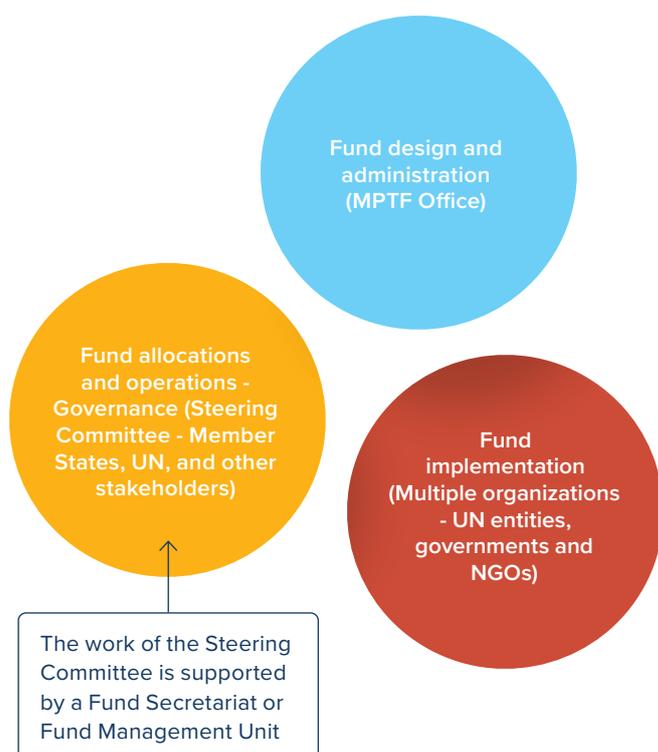
Executive Coordinator of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

## 1

# MPTF Office pooled financing services

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) provides fund design, administration, and professional services to United Nations (UN) entities, national governments, and other development and humanitarian partners. Integrated services are provided across the life cycle of pooled funds, from inception to closure. Services are offered in the context of a neutral and professionally dedicated Administrative Agent (AA) function that is firewalled from all UN implementing entities to ensure proper checks and balances.

For inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office, the AA function is performed separately from pooled fund governance and management and implementation



Graph 1:

## Three roles in pooled fund management

As the first UN pooled fund administrator, the MPTF Office has shaped how the UN approaches the management of this UN financing instrument. The MPTF Office relies on three distinct roles in pooled fund management.

- **Fund design and administration** is the core role of the MPTF Office as standard setter and administrative agent for the UN pooled fund administration function.
- The MPTF office is not involved in **fund allocation and governance**, apart from its role as ex-officio member of the Steering Committee. The work of the Steering Committee is supported by a Fund Secretariat or Fund Management Unit.
- **Fund implementation** is the role of the multiple UN and non-UN implementing organisations participating in a specific pooled fund.

These three distinct functions are reflected in the official UN definition for UN pooled funds, adopted in June 2015. This definition (in full or abbreviated format) has since been integrated in, among others, UNSDG guidance documents and the UN data standards for system-wide financial reporting.



Vocational training under **South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund's (South Sudan RSRTF)** resilience pillar has given the youth in Yei, South Sudan the option to choose life over violence.

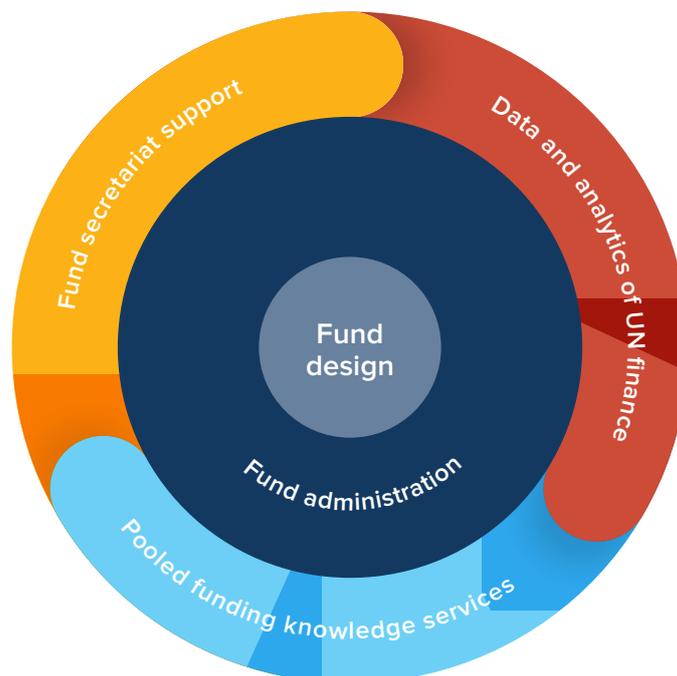
©Newaz Mohammed Rifaat/RSRTF



A local diver in Pemba Island, Tanzania shows a resident of the island's sea cucumber nursery. Blue Alliance PECCA, Aquahub, and The **Global Fund for Coral Reefs** work towards developing the world's first large-scale community sea cucumber mariculture industry that will provide jobs, support marine conservation efforts, and prevent the overexploitation of wild stocks.

© **GFCR - Global Fund for Coral Reefs**

Graph 2:  
MPTF Office Pooled Funding Service Platform



MPTF Office services are grounded in pooled fund design and administration, as well as partner requests for other pooled fund-related services. The MPTF Office provides a comprehensive offer that includes fund secretariat support, pooled financing knowledge services, and UN financial data collection and analytics.

The MPTF Office service delivery model encompasses fund design, administration, secretariat support, knowledge, and data.

- **Design** guidance occurs at the outset of fund establishment and includes support for preparing concept notes and Terms of Reference (ToRs). Considerations at this stage cover the translation of fund objectives and theory of change into a results matrix, along with advice on financial viability, innovative sources of financing, and options for governance arrangements. A quality assurance mechanism is embedded in fund design services. Providing advice on appropriate standard UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) legal agreements and supporting management structures are central to this service.
- **Fund administration** covers fiduciary services and application of control frameworks for risk management, use of standardized contribution agreements, day-to-day administration, business-process design and management, and treasury and investment management that includes the receipt and deposit of financial contributions, and disbursement of funds. Administrative responsibilities also cover monitoring and reporting on the quality and use of funds to inform governance decision-making processes, the production of annual fund financials and certified financial reports, timely closure of projects and funds, and enabling efficient, effective, and transparent fund and project management through the provision of web-enabled technology platforms that provide real-time financial data and programme results.
- **Fund secretariat support** includes assistance during transitions from fund design to launch and operationalization phases of new funds—all are critical for success. MPTF Office guidance (tools or templates for secretariats) continues once a fund is established. The MPTF Office hosts secretariats and management units for some flagship initiatives.
- **Data and analytics** are increasingly in demand. The MPTF Office provides analytics on UN financing and on-demand analysis of the financial landscape for UN partners to explore the value added to new financing mechanisms. Specialists and portfolio managers engage with partners across the UN system in support of common data standards that promote transparency and track pooled

financing contributions.

All UN inter-agency pooled funds use a **pass-through modality** to complement UNSDG governance mechanisms. The pass-through involves a designated UN fund AA and multiple UN organizations receiving contributions from donors in support of specific national, regional, or global development results. Donor resources are co-mingled and held in trust by the appointed AA to fund projects/programmatic allocations implemented primarily by participating UN organizations (PUNOs) that use their own operating policies and procedures for implementation. Programmatic and financial accountability rests with PUNOs and (sub)national partners for their respective components.

The **firewalling of functions is essential, particularly for the role of the AA**. UNSDG policy requires the AA function to be firewallled from other operational aspects of UNDP to prevent any perceived or actual conflict of interest. This has been strongly supported by UNDP, as noted in the 2018 evaluation conducted by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. The implementation of this requirement is covered by the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), which states that no other UNDP unit or office can act as AA without the approval of the Executive Coordinator of the MPTF Office.

# 2

## The landscape for pooled financing

Inter-agency pooled funding is a recognized financing modality to promote coherence and joint action within the UN system, as well as repositioning and reform processes led by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by Member States. Given recent significant developments, the policy environment for inter-agency pooled financing is expected to increase in the coming years, enabling further integrated UN action.

Amidst growing economic and geopolitical challenges, Member States continued to experience domestic fiscal pressure that negatively affected voluntary funding commitments. However, trends show growing motivation and desire for quality flexible funding mechanisms given their ability to address multidimensional challenges and broaden collaboration across the UN system to meet needs and achieve sus-

tainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2018, the policy landscape has evolved towards encouraging and promoting UN inter-agency pooled funding, which is valued for its flexibility, harmonized standards, transparency, and synergetic impact.

Graph 3:

### Inter-agency pooled funds policy environment

Since the establishment of the first inter-agency pooled fund in 2003, the policy environment has evolved, consolidating pooled funding as a key financing instrument in flexible funding of UN joint action. This graph represents recent progress since the adoption of SDG and the UNDS repositioning.



The UN General Assembly adopted the [resolution on repositioning the UN development system \[A/RES/72/279\]](#) in 2018, triggering the United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform process. A significant reform outcome was identifying ways to address requests to improve the quality of financing to the UN and double the proportion of inter-agency pooled funds. This included sourcing better ways of supporting countries in bringing 2030 Agenda commitments in line with national priorities in a coherent and integrated manner.

The [Funding Compact](#), adopted in 2019, expanded on the need to fund a repositioned UNDS effectively. The Compact contained a series of commitments between the UN and Member States to raise the quality of funding for UNDS delivery of development assistance.

Included were two specific targets for inter-agency pooled funding.

- **Member States agreed to the target** of doubling the share of contributions to UN pooled funds by 2023 and channeling 10% of non-core resources through development-related inter-agency pooled funds. UN Member States committed to raising the number of pooled fund contributors and fully resourcing two flagship funds (the Joint SDG Fund and the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund).
- **The UN committed** to increasing efficiency and effectiveness by using development-related inter-agency pooled funds. Funding Compact requirements outlined an uptake of common management features to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of development-related inter-agency pooled funds. Although most features—explicit theories of change, solid results-based management systems, and transparency standards—have long been tenets of MPTF Office work, efforts were made to raise efficiency and functionality to the next level with a new Gateway platform,

launching a revised Operations Manual, and introducing additional technical and operational services for fund secretariats.

In 2023, the MPTF Office provided technical support to ongoing discussions on the new UN Funding Compact (2.0), scheduled for adoption in 2024. The new Funding Compact (2.0) promises to reshape the landscape of UN pooled funds as the sector navigates different crises in search of an effective and efficient financing mechanism. Ongoing discussions create a timely window to reassess and optimize UN financing, bringing multiple agencies together for collaborative impact.

In 2020, the UN General Assembly conducted the [Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN System operational activities \(QCPR\)](#), culminating in the adoption of a new QCPR resolution [A/RES/75/233]. This resolution guides UNDS action between 2021 and 2024, giving the QCPR a new impetus for offering the UN high-level political opportunities in its ongoing repositioning and efforts to bridge spheres of development, peace, humanitarian affairs, and human rights. Through this resolution, Member States requested the UNDS to continue “enhancing the transparency and accountability of inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms” and for UN entities to increase participation, where appropriate, in pooled funds. In 2021, a new monitoring framework on the QCPR was introduced that features specific indicators on inter-agency pooled funds, including those of the Funding Compact.

The [Management and Accountability Framework for the UN Development and Resident Coordinator Systems \(MAF\)](#)—developed by the UNSDG in 2019 as part of a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system—was updated in 2021. It provides a framework for management and accountability within United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and includes specific accountability measures on joint programmes and inter-agency pooled funds.

In early 2020, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), with support from the MPTF Office, issued new guidelines on country-level pooled funds for the UNSDG Cooperation Framework. These were accompanied by new training and support modules for UNCTs to design improved country-level financing instruments. Guidelines included basic information and resources on how and when to use country-level pooled funds. Aligned with UN Funding Compact classifications, a country-level pooled fund is a financing instrument available to every UN country team for consolidating and leveraging resources for country-priority SDGs, as outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). These financing instruments are complementary to other sources of local funding and aligned with global instruments, which means common management features requested by the Funding Compact are applied. Conceived as a flexible and strategic mode of funding, earmarking is only possible at the outcome level (on thematic or cross-cutting issues).

In 2022, the UNSDG released a [new joint programmes guidance note \(2022\)](#) intended to make joint programmes effective, catalytic, and easier to use by introducing changes like anchoring a joint programme within the UNSDCF and related joint work plans and positioning each to make catalytic and SDG-related policy changes. Other recommendations have the potential to strengthen government ownership, clearly define roles and responsibilities, improve joint programmatic cycles and quality standards and transparent processes to select PUNOs, offer more options on joint programme design based on the scale and scope of expected results and budgets, in introducing a teamwork approach to manage joint results, and enabling non-UN partners to a joint programme and implement with their resources. Moreover, guidelines describe how to use inter-agency pooled funds using the pass-through fund management modality (described in the following section) and promote its use.

## SDG Acceleration: Rallying Stakeholders Behind High-Impact Initiatives

The SDG Summit in September 2023 profiled actions, investments, and support to accelerate SDG implementation between now and 2030. The summit focused on

12 UN High Impact Initiatives the UN Secretary-General identified for the UNDS to mobilize resources and accelerate SDG achievement. Of the 12 High Impact Initia-

tives, the MPTF Office-administered funds support at least nine initiatives.

Table 1: High impact initiatives

High impact initiatives linked to the MPTF Office	Thematic area
Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the power of biodiversity and nature to drive equitable economic progress.	Climate and environment
Transforming Education: Learning to build a better future for all.	Development
Global Accelerator: The global accelerator for jobs and social protection for just transitions.	Development
Digital Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs.	Development
The SDG Stimulus: Scaling up long-term affordable financing for the SDGs.	Development
Local2030 Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030.	Peace and transition
FutureGov: Building public sector capabilities for the future.	Development
Power of Data: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs.	Development
Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate violence against women and girls.	Development



**“Peace development and the fulfillment of humanitarian needs cannot be achieved without one another. Amidst today's ongoing multidimensional conflicts and crises, progress on human development has reversed, the number of people living in conflict-affected contexts has increased, and humanitarian needs are growing.”**

**António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General

In 2023, inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms remained the preferred modality to support joint UN action on SDG implementation that is in line with UN reform. Several key events shaped the discourse on UN inter-agency pooled funds and their role in advancing the SDGs, like outcomes from the UN Economic and Social Council Operational for Development Activities Segment in May 2023, where pooled funds were highlighted as critical for advancing the UN mandate. During the SDG Summit in September 2023, the need for joint funding was emphasized, and several pooled funds were featured as part of High Impact Initiatives. In December 2023, several funds administered by the MPTF Office took center stage at COP28, showing how UN organizations collaborated and bridged their efforts with other global financing mechanisms.

An ecosystem of inter-agency pooled funds and financing instruments continued to thrive, allowing for efficient multi-

stakeholder engagement and stronger inter-agency collaboration. In addition to well-known flagship global initiatives like the Peacebuilding Fund and Joint SDG Fund, other specialized funds promoted joint UN action on cross-sector issues like gender-based violence, migration, disability inclusion, anti-microbial resistance, the rights of marginalized groups, and forest protection. At the country level, several UNCTs designed and operationalized pooled funds to support critical areas and priorities of the UNSDCF.

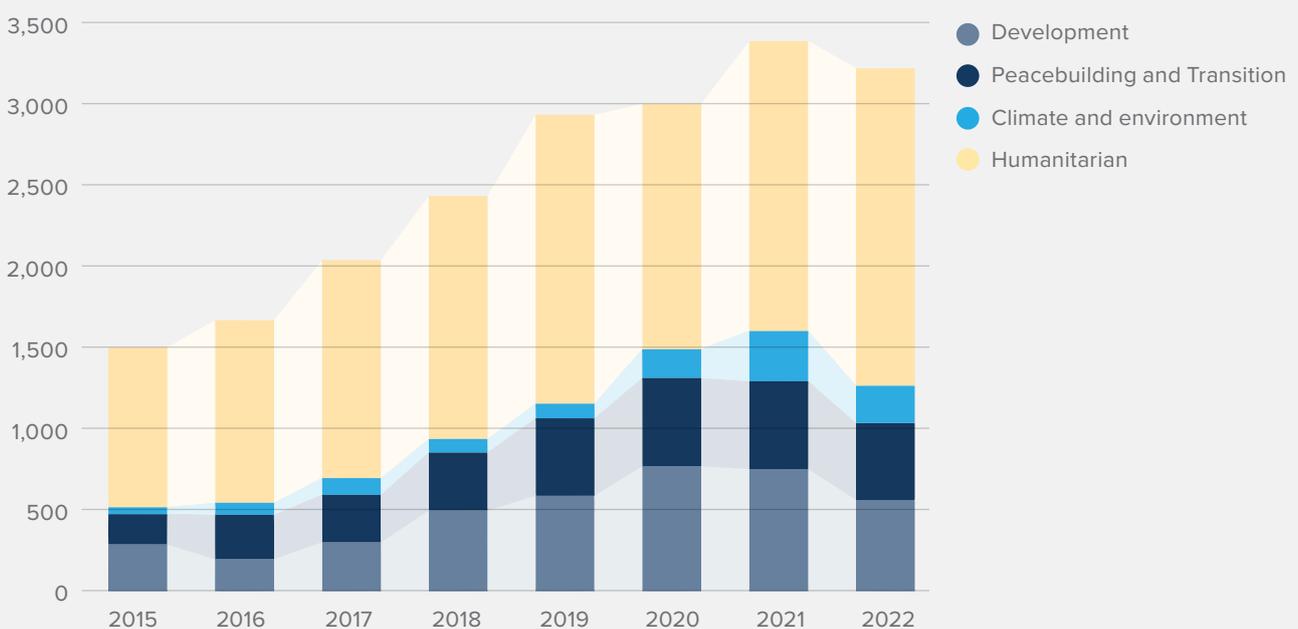
Based on the latest UN official data on financing the UN system and 2022 data from UN inter-agency pooled fund administrators, UN pooled funds mobilized an estimated \$3.3 billion US dollars, a decrease of 2.9% compared to 2021. About 61% of inter-agency pooled funds in 2022 were humanitarian, an increase from 47% in 2021. This was followed by development (17.4%), peace and transition (14.6%), and climate and environment (7%).

Financing for development-related inter-agency pooled funds (including development, peace and transition, climate, and environment funds) increased cumulatively from \$534 million US dollars in 2015 to \$1.6 billion in 2021 (an increase of 203%). This decreased to \$1.3 billion US dollars by the end of 2022. Development-related inter-agency pooled funds (including development, peace and transition, climate, and environment) accounted for \$1.3 billion US dollars by the end of 2022, which translated to 8.9% of all non-core funding to UN development-related activities (the Funding Compact target was 10% by 2023). Overall, 26 Member States contributed 10% of their non-core resources to UN operational activities through inter-agency pooled funds, with 14 ranking in the top 20 contributors.

Graph 4:

#### Deposits to UN inter-agency pooled funds, 2015-2022

US\$ million



# 3

## Key trends in the MPTF Office portfolio in 2023

The MPTF Office continued strengthening its position as the center of excellence and expertise in inter-agency pooled funds that support UN joint action. The MPTF Office is an AA to a broad portfolio of inter-agency pooled funds; each supports a multi-stakeholder partnership with a specific geographic and thematic focus and is designed to deliver results according to an explicit theory of change, filling existing financing gaps and supporting collective action.

Geographically, the MPTF Office administers global and regional multi-partner trust funds,

country-level funds, and pass-through joint programmes. Thematically, the portfolio is organized around action areas (humanitarian, peace and transition, development, and climate and environment). Increasingly, funds are designed to allocate flexible resources to projects that align across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and strengthen collaboration.

Over the past several years, the MPTF Office has supported partners to create an enhanced, strategic portfolio with a diversified contributor base. In 2023, the MPTF Office

continued this dynamic, establishing 19 new inter-agency pooled funds, including MPTFs and joint programmes (see Table 2) - 152 funds were active during the year. In the past seven years, 69 funds were financially closed, and 55 operationally closed, demonstrating the continued commitment of the MPTF Office to effective fund management practices and administration throughout the entire life cycle of pooled funds.

Table 2: Summary of MPTF Office Portfolio of Funds

MPTF portfolio	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Newly established (during the calendar year)	9	16	10	4	18	9	10
Ongoing from previous years (as of year-end)	51	46	59	59	78	81	89
Operationally closed (as of year-end)	26	34	28	29	19	25	26
Financially closed (as of year-end)	9	15	24	33	33	34	34
Joint programme portfolio	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Newly established (during the calendar year)	4	9	9	8	13	6	9
Ongoing from previous years (as of year-end)	17	15	22	20	39	44	44
Operationally closed (as of year-end)	34	31	28	30	19	28	29
Financially closed (as of year-end)	10	19	24	33	33	33	35

In 2023, global funds significantly increased in weight in the MPTF Office portfolio from 25% in 2022 to 42% in 2023. Country funds reduced in the share of the portfolio from 64% in 2022 to 48% in 2023, and regional funds remained at almost the same proportions by the end of

Graph 5: Contributions to funds administered by the MPTF Office according to geographic scope





**Joint Programme DRC Fight Against Gender Based Violence** - Localized and inclusive joint programme initiatives supported women as they emerged from vulnerable states, isolated settings, and stigmatized positions to become well-rounded entrepreneurs. Some aspire to run for municipal and legislative office, increasing the magnitude and breadth of their contribution to building and managing country.

© Josué Mulamba/UNDP DRC



### 3.1. Global and regional MPTFs

Regional and global MPTFs bring stakeholders and partners together and strengthen UN joint action while ensuring coherent responses to issues and challenges across multiple countries or regions. In 2023, the MPTF Office, upon demand of UN organiza-

tions, added four new global MPTFs to its robust portfolio of 22 and maintained two regional funds. In addition, the number of contributors to global funds increased from 62 in 2022 to 73 in 2023 due to new contributions and an increase in contributors to existing funds. Global MPTFs increased by 23.8%, with assets rising from \$380 million US dollars in 2022 to \$471 million in 2023.

By the end of 2023, 28 active global and regional funds constituted 48% of the total capitalization of all funds administered by the MPTF Office, a significant increase from 36% in 2022. The Peacebuilding Fund, Joint SDG Fund, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, and Systematic Observations Financing Facility were the top five global funds with the largest contributions in 2023. The Internal Displace-

Table 3: Deposits in US\$ to MPTF Office-administered global and regional funds, 2023

Fund	Theme	Deposits in 2023 (US\$)	Contributors
Peacebuilding Fund	Peace and transition	161,030,751	35
Central African Forest Initiative	Climate and environment	95,801,440	8
Joint SDG Fund	Development	55,926,227	15
Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	Peace and transition	40,487,996	19
Global Fund for Coral Reefs	Climate and environment	40,198,688	5
Systematic Observations Financing Facility	Climate and environment	35,052,543	8
UN-REDD Programme Fund	Climate and environment	22,205,608	4
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence MPTF	Peace and transition	14,281,746	10
UNPRPD Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	13,093,770	8
Complex Risk Analytics Fund	Peace and transition	12,005,042	5
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Climate and environment	11,651,186	2
Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	10,944,520	12
Partnership for Action on Green Economy	Climate and environment	8,953,303	4
Leaving No One Behind - The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund	Development	6,968,469	2
Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	5,428,773	4
Generation Unlimited	Development	5,070,172	2
Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund	Development	4,371,755	4
Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund	Climate and environment	4,323,611	2
Elsie Initiative Fund	Peace and transition	3,874,776	7
Economic Empowerment of Rural Women	Development	3,630,381	2
Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	Development	3,364,792	5
United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund	Development	3,217,149	13
Spotlight Initiative Fund	Development	2,950,693	1
Digital Cooperation Fund	Development	1,689,876	4
Working for Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	1,647,337	2
The Nature Facility	Climate and environment	1,000,000	1
UN Global Pulse Network	Development	639,952	1
UNITLIFE Trust Fund	Climate and environment	376,345	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>570,186,901</b>	

ment Solutions Fund, Digital Cooperation Fund, the Nature Facility, and UN Global Pulse Network were newly established in 2023 with a combined capitalization of \$10.3 million US dollars.

At the regional level, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) maintained a high annual capitalization of \$95 million US dollars in contributions, reflecting continued and substantial support of the fund. MPTF Office-

administered regional funds were capitalized at \$99.2 million US dollars in 2023, constituting 10% of the total capitalization of all funds administered by the MPTF Office.



Partners of the **Western Balkans SALW Control MPTF** project “Reduce Risk – Increase Safety II” discuss firearms misuse prevention on national television. © Radio-Television of Serbia

### 3.2. Country-level MPTFs

Country-level development-oriented funds are available for national governments and UNSDG members to carry out joint action that supports strategic visions outlined in UNSDCF and national development plans. Comprised largely of sustainable development-related country funds, most focus on SDG achievement and humanitarian country-based pooled funds (CBPFs). In 2023, country-level trusts made up 32% of the MPTF Office portfolio in total capitalization, and pooled financing is directed to humanitarian, development, transition, and climate-focused programmes.

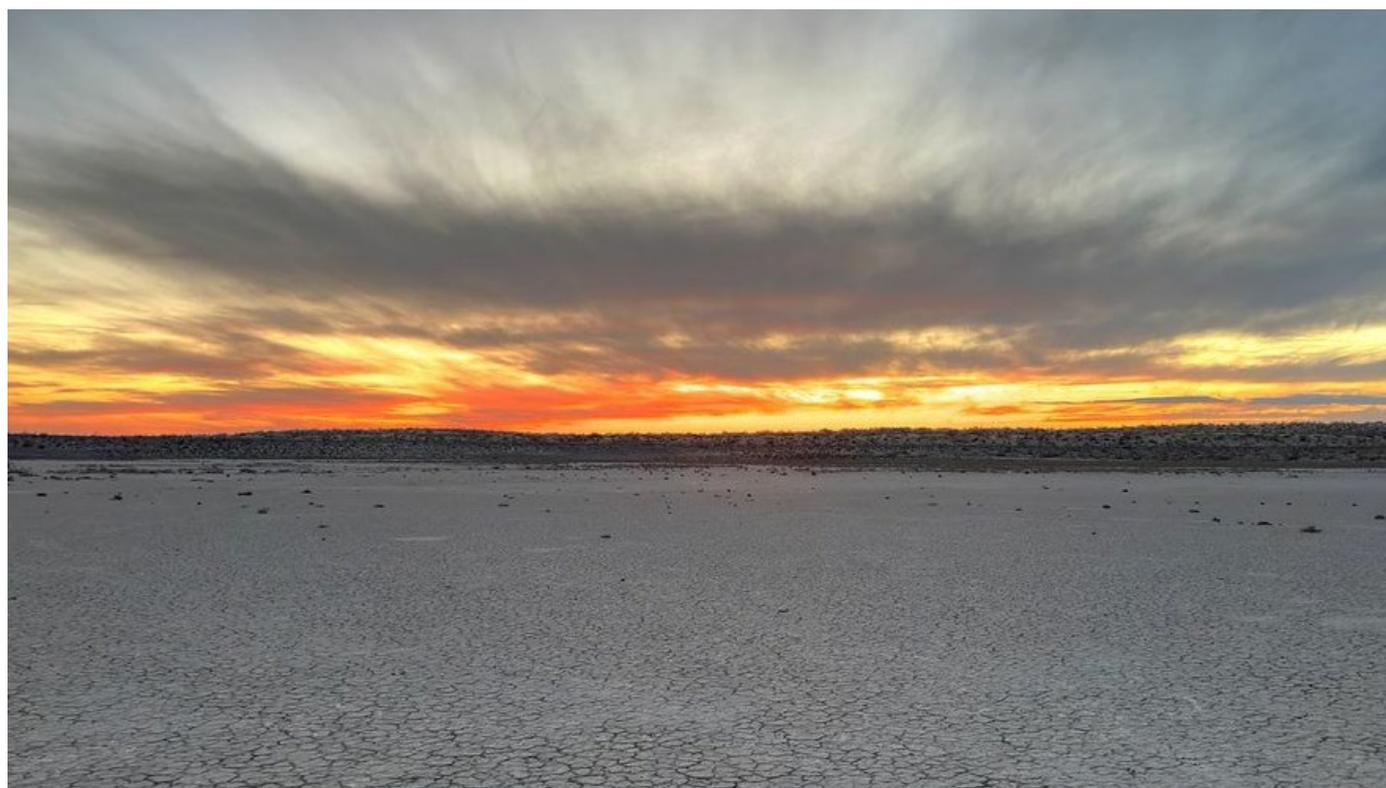
Country-based humanitarian pooled funds in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Central African Republic (which, in recent years, represented one-third of all yearly contributions to MPTF Office-administered pooled funds) experi-

enced a significant decline in contributions in 2023. This was due to a policy decision by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator to create six new humanitarian country funds under Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) administration and encourage donors to contribute to these new funds despite the strong performance of the MPTF Office in administering humanitarian country-based pooled funds. This translated to a stronger weight of climate, development, and peace and transition pooled funds in the MPTF Office portfolio. Humanitarian pooled funds will remain an MPTF Office asset for the UN system on an on-demand basis.

Based on the 2020 UNSDG guidelines and new UNSDCF, country-level pooled funds, both newly designed and established and already active ones performed well, enhancing coordinated support for the SDGs with the UNSDCF as a programmatic springboard. Under the leadership of Resident Coordinators, the MPTF Office contributes to articulat-

ing and sequencing funding while leveraging UNCT expertise and capacities to deliver across the humanitarian-peace-development nexus.

Contributions and transfers to SDG country-level pooled funds remained high, with contributors depositing \$312.5 million US dollars through country-pooled funds in development, humanitarian, and peace and transition settings. In 2023, humanitarian funds constituted 38% of country-level pooled funds contributions, a drop from 57% in 2022. All other fund types, however, experienced increases, with 35% for peace and transition (vs. 21% in 2022) and 28% for development (vs. 21% in 2022). This demonstrates the importance of pooled financing for supporting cross-sector integration at the country level.



#### **Aral Sea UN Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan**

The effects of climate change are apparent when looking to the horizon across a dried-up seabed in Uzbekistan.  
© UN in Uzbekistan, Aral Sea MPHSTF

Table 4: Deposits to MPTF Office-administered country-level pooled funds in 2023 (US\$)

Fund	Theme	Deposits	Contributors
Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	35,639,664	11
Sudan Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	34,611,315	6
Somalia Joint Fund	Peace and transition	33,353,813	10
Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan	Peace and transition	27,808,668	6
Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund	Development	20,551,191	8
Somalia Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	17,107,537	8
South Sudan RSRTF	Peace and transition	16,571,473	5
Haiti Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Peace and transition	14,965,266	2
South Sudan Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	13,710,604	7
Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia	Peace and transition	13,220,969	10
Papua New Guinea UN Country Fund	Development	12,354,801	6
Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund	Development	10,891,985	4
Central African Republic Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	9,830,765	7
Equatorial Guinea MPTF	Development	9,225,000	1
DRC Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	6,361,642	4
Ukraine Community Recovery Fund	Development	5,979,673	3
SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya	Development	5,818,361	4
Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund	Development	4,000,000	1
Burundi Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	3,680,000	2
Montenegro SDG Acceleration Fund	Development	3,185,138	6
Albania SDG Fund II	Development	3,175,329	3
UN Sri Lanka SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Peace and transition	2,538,673	3
Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership	Development	2,105,263	1
Rwanda SDG Fund	Development	1,952,220	3
Fonds Fiduciaire Multi-donateurs pour la Jeunesse et Emploi en Tunisie	Development	1,796,000	2
One UN Impact Fund for the Islamic Republic of Iran	Development	958,981	3
Moldova 2030 Partnerships Fund Phase II	Development	869,040	1
UN country fund for Mozambique	Development	196,607	1
Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund	Development	105,281	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>312,565,259</b>	

### 3.3. Joint programmes

Joint programmes using the pass-through fund management modality frequently operate as the pooled funding instrument for joint development action at the country level. Initiatives typically involve two to five

UN organizations that agree on a specific programmatic scope and deliverables.

Together, country, regional, and global joint programmes accounted for \$97.6 million US dollars in total contributions to the MPTF Office in 2023 compared to \$79.7 million in 2022. This 22.5% increase in contributions to

joint programmes was accounted for by the growing interest in joint programmes following the release of a new UNSDG guidance note that was aligned with the 2023 QCPR resolution. By the end of 2023, 30 active joint programmes constituted 10% of the total capitalization of all funds administered by the MPTF Office.

Table 5: Deposits to MPTF Office-administered joint programmes in 2023 (US\$)

Fund	Theme	Deposits
JP Supporting Resilient Livelihoods Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Yemen (ERRY III)	Peace and transition	20,263,971
JP Bangladesh SAFE II	Peace and transition	10,029,597
JP Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP)	Climate and environment	7,355,041
JP Spotlight 2.0 Joint Programme Uganda the Gender for Development (G4DU)	Development	7,337,062
JP Climate Security Mechanism	Climate and environment	5,831,829
JP Spotlight 2.0 High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Programme)	Development	5,744,391
JP Bangladesh Local Government Initiative on Climate Change	Climate and environment	5,167,103
JP oPT Sawasya III	Peace and transition	4,892,609
JP Sri Lanka JURE	Development	4,687,771
JP Promoting Rule of Law in Palestine (Sawasya II)	Peace and transition	3,551,230
JP Pacific Digital Economy Programme	Development	2,782,943
JP Reintegration Through Integrated Support and Empowerment (RISE)	Peace and transition	2,208,400
JP Sao Tome	Climate and environment	2,200,000
JP Syria Urban and Rural Resilience Phase II	Peace and transition	2,150,100
JP for Gender Equality in Georgia III	Development	1,970,832
JP Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management in Liberia	Climate and environment	1,899,976
JP Ukraine CRSV	Peace and transition	1,672,241
JP Guatemala Corredor Seco	Development	1,455,216
JP for Rural Development in Abkhazia	Development	1,054,110
JP Georgia Human Rights for All Phase 2	Development	795,424
JP Serbia EVEC	Development	779,154
JP Philippines Human Rights	Development	736,215
JP Lao EAW	Development	681,437
JP DRR for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II	Development	650,000
JP Georgia-EU Innovative Action for Private Sector Competitiveness	Development	497,901
JP on Gender-Based Violence Zambia	Development	485,350
JP GTM Comprehensive Rural Development in San Marcos	Development	388,058
JP GTM Integral Rural Development in Ixil II	Development	242,536
JP Bosnia and Herzegovina DRR	Development	105,000
JP Conflict Transformation in BARMM	Peace and transition	10,594
<b>Total</b>		<b>97,626,091</b>

## IN FOCUS

## The way forward: Partnerships, innovative financing, and leveraging for SDG acceleration in multi-partner trust funds

UN inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office are not just financial instruments but catalysts for change. They play a critical role in achieving the SDGs and addressing diverse humanitarian, peace, transition, climate, and development challenges.

MPTFs represent a strategic, flexible, and inclusive approach to pooled financing, fostering collaborative action and facilitating resource allocation towards global challenges and achievement of the SDGs. The significance of pooled financing has been bolstered in recent years, underpinning UN development reforms and pushing the boundaries of traditional fragmented funding approaches.

In the context of the strong accountability framework established for these instruments, based on UNSDG policies and standards, there has been, in recent years, a strong demand from UNDS entities to the MPTF Office for broadening partnerships around pooled funding and finance innovation. The MPTF Office portfolio is a hub of innovative financing mechanisms, each with the potential to revolutionize the way to fund development. These mechanisms, if used more widely, could significantly enhance our collective efforts towards the SDGs.

### Key developments

- Non-traditional donor contributions:** In an era where official development assistance (ODA) for the SDGs has fallen short, the flexibility of pooled funding and collaborative nature serve as indispensable for closing gaps. In recent years, private sector contributions to MPTFs have risen significantly, although harnessing the full potential of private sector contributions has yet to be realized.
- Innovative financing:** PUNOs attached increased importance to attracting private capital and using blended finance, translating into innovations in the types of initiatives funded through MPTFs and their design. The nature of MPTFs offers a platform for leveraging different organizational mandates from multiple streams of financial resources. Greater leverage and expanded partnerships with international public and private stakeholders showcase interesting and growing trends. For example, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs uses a mix of grants and investment resources to protect coral reefs worldwide. To support UNCTs in catalyzing strategic programming and investments, the Joint SDG Fund supports UN joint programmes in applying blended finance solutions at the country level.
- Broad and diverse networks and partnerships with international finance institutions (IFIs):** The MPTF Office established new modalities for engaging the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank in MPTFs, successfully expanding the platform for multi-partner engagement with pooled funds. Over 72 international partners have joined forces to deliver the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), including nine multilateral development banks and participating UN organizations, incorporating facility resources into their programmes for leverage. This is in addition to the five major multilateral climate funds that collaborate with SOFF. Discussions to further strengthen and formalize engagement are ongoing with the Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, and Asian Development Bank.

### Looking ahead

At the mid-point of the SDG timeframe, the crucial role of pooled financing in accelerating achievement comes to the fore. A wealth of transformative financial tools and strategies awaits the full engagement of stakeholders to unleash the capacity of pooled funding and reach shared goals.

The challenge of the SDG acceleration agenda highlights the urgency for quality funding to support expansive and necessary collaborations within the UN. Inter-agency pooled funding plays a pivotal role in this context, necessitating alignment of Funding Compact commitments with strategic objectives of SDG acceleration and a focus on impact.

The future of pooled funding promises a new era of financial innovation that is firmly grounded on established accountability standards and the financial rules and regulations of participating UN organizations—while harnessing the potential of partnerships and financing for SDGs. To unlock the full potential of MPTFs, cooperation, and broad partnerships need to be fostered while realigning financial models and relentlessly pushing forward with a shared vision of SDG achievement. The world is watching, and the stakes have never been higher.

## IN-DEPTH

# Pooled funding progress towards the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and Funding Compact in 2023

While UN country-level pooled funds represent a small but growing aspect of overall pooled funding, they are instrumental in advancing some key indicators in the QCPR related to country-level pooled financing.

Available data shows progress participating UN organizations and UNCTs made on non-core resources and joint activities and programmes as measured through the QCPR 2021-2024 Monitoring Framework.

Although significant improvement has been made in all three areas since 2018, it is still far from QCPR targets.

Table 6: Progress in key pooled funding-related indicators included in the QCPR monitoring framework<sup>1</sup>

#	Indicator	OP	Baseline value and year	Target(s)	SGR <sup>2</sup> 2022 value and year	SGR 2023 value	Data Source
4.2.6	Percentage of <b>programme countries</b> where: i. Over 10% ii. Over 15% iii. Over 20% of non-core resources are channeled through inter-agency pooled funds	46	i. 14.1% ii. 6.1% iii. 2.5% (2018)		i. 17.8% ii. 8.6% iii. 3.7% (2020)	i. 25.9% ii. 14.2% iii. 7.4% (2021)	DESA/OISC
4.5.9	Percentage of UNSDG entities with at least 15% of noncore development-related expenditures constituting part of a <b>joint activity</b>	63	31% (2017)	75% (2021)	32% (2021)	42% (2022)	DESA (HQ survey)
4.5.12	Percentage of UNCTs that have at least one active <b>joint programme</b> (expended resources in the past year)	63	64% (2020)	90% (2024)	78% (2021)	88% (2022)	DCO
4.5.13	Total budget of all active joint programmes	63	\$3.4 billion (400 active JPs)		\$4.7 billion (571 active JPs)	\$5.2 billion (729 active JPs)	DCO
4.5.14	UNSDG <b>Joint Programme</b> guidance from 2014 updated (yes/no; date)	96	No (2020)	Yes (2022)	No (April 2022)	Yes	DCO

The percentage of programme countries where over 10%, 15%, and 20% of non-core resources are channeled through inter-agency pooled funds increased from 14.1%, 6.1%, and 2.5% in 2018 to 25.9%, 14.2%, and 7.4% by 2021. Meanwhile, the percentage of UNDS entities with 15% of non-core development-related expenditures that constitute part of a joint activity increased from 31% in 2017 to 42% in 2022. This is a significant increment despite the 75% target.

The percentage of UNCTs with one active joint programme (expended resources in the past year) increased from 64% in 2020 and 78% in 2021 to 88% at the end of 2022—a 2% gap short of the 90% QCPR target.

The total budget of all active joint programmes increased from \$3.4 billion US dollars in 2020 to \$4.7 billion in 2021 and \$5.2 billion by 2022. In terms of portfolio size, joint programmes increased from 400 in 2020 to 571 in 2021 and 729 by 2022.

While joint programmes are funded using other modalities, a significant number are done so through UN-pooled funds. Overall, UN development system entities and UNCTs made significant progress in channeling non-core resources, engaging in joint activities, and funding joint programmes. Despite this, additional support from partners and UN organizations remains essential.

<sup>1</sup> Source: QCPR Monitoring Framework, 2021-24  
<https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/oas-qcpr/quick-links/qcpr-monitoring-framework-2021-24>

<sup>2</sup> Secretary General's Report on the Implementation of the QCPR, 2022

## IN-DEPTH

## Evaluative evidence, key lessons in 2023

Evaluations are critical to successful planning, implementation, accountability, and learning. They provide evidence of results achieved and help identify lessons learned and best practices. In inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office, PUNOs evaluate programmatic initiatives according to their rules and regulations, as

well as develop evaluation ToRs for joint evaluation by participants, donor(s), host governments (if applicable), and other partners. Evaluation reports are posted publicly on MPTF Office Gateway and uploaded to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) database.

Between 2018 and 2023, 20 fund evaluations were conducted globally for funds administered by the MPTF Office. Of these, six funds were evaluated in 2023.

Table 7: List of fund evaluations between 2018 and 2023

Fund	Year
System-Wide Evaluation of the UNDS Socio-economic Response to COVID-19	2023
Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia	2023
System-Wide Evaluation of the Joint SDG Fund	2023
Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	2023
Partnership for Action on Green Economy	2023
Evaluación De La Segunda Fase Del Fondo Multidonante De Naciones Unidas Para El Sostenimiento De La Paz	2023
Women in Leadership in Samoa	2022
UN Pacific Strategy Fund	2022
Evaluation Of The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund	2022
Programa Maya Conjunto F III Informe Final Evaluación Final Externa e Independiente	2022
Evaluation of the UNSDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund	2021
Economic Empowerment of Rural Women	2021
Bangladesh Local Government Initiative on Climate Change	2021
United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund	2021
Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia	2021
Global and Thematic Evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund – 2019	2019
Rwanda One UN Fund	2019
Social Economic and Legal Empowerment of Egyptian Women Joint Programme	2019
Evaluation of Norway's Multilateral Partnerships Portfolio Report by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD)	2019
Evaluation Of UNDP Inter-Agency Pooled Financing Services	2018

### Key lessons from recent evaluations

Evidence shows inter-agency pooled funds are integral to UNDS reform and finance the programmatic implementation of the UN at the country level to accelerate SDGs. They facilitated interaction and coordination of UNCTs, giving RCs a platform to coordinate joint programmes and establish conversations with stakeholders, government partners in particular, on critical issues. Evaluations also facilitated transformative policy shifts to accelerate SDG achievement.

Inter-agency pooled funds leverage the comparative advantages of UN organizations while pursuing a diversified portfolio that links global and country-level efforts, financing mainstreaming efforts. In terms of governance, inter-agency Steering Committees played a central role in guaranteeing that the visions, needs, and priorities of PUNOs are considered and resources are invested into common goals.

Lastly, evaluations showed that the quality of programming depends significantly, amongst other factors, on the quality of planning and preparation, including close consultations with government counterparts. The most successful programmes are the ones where calls for proposals coincided with ongoing UNSDCF work and predefined national priorities.



## Flagship fund highlights: Peacebuilding Fund

### Fast and flexible funding for immediate response and peacebuilding recovery efforts.

In 2023, the Peacebuilding Fund approved \$202.4 million US dollars in support in 36 countries and territories. Across the three priority windows of the 2020-2024 strategy for the Fund, \$24.7 million US dollars were approved for supporting cross-border and regional approaches, \$38.3 million US dollars for facilitating transitions, and \$57 million for women's and youth empowerment. Overall, support fell significantly short of demand and below targeted levels due to reduced financing. Although 36 donor partners generously contributed \$131.8 million US dollars, these were well below the \$330 million target and dropped by 22% compared with 2022. Increased demand from Member States despite the decline in contributions means the Peacebuilding Fund reached its lowest liquidity level since its inception.

### Key progress and achievements in 2023

Fund stakeholders approved 93 programmes in 2023 valued at \$202.4 million US dollars. The Fund was able to leverage the whole UNDS, collaborating with 57 resident coordinators and UNCTs, enabling progress on peacebuilding and prevention objectives of UNSDCFs, and ongoing collaboration with 22 participating UN organizations.

The Fund almost exclusively finances joint programmes that drive UN coherence. The Fund encourages joint projects between UN entities and civil society organizations. In 2023, 12.9% of newly approved projects were joint endeavors that included work with local civil society organizations.

For the seventh year in a row, the Fund exceeded its target allocation of 30% and allocated 47.3% to gender-responsive investments. Thirty-two proposals, totaling \$51 million US dollars, were approved through the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, 12 projects worth \$20.5 million, focused on increasing women's engagement in natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and 20 youth projects totaling \$30.5 million US dollars, promoted political participation and youth safety, security, and protection. All projects include commitments to allocate 40% of financing to national and local civil society partners.

The Climate-Security and Peacebuilding Thematic Review launched in 2023, commissioned by the Peacebuilding Support Office in partnership with FAO, UNICEF, the Climate Security Mechanism, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. Review recommendations highlighted the Fund responded to the rising demand to address the intersection of climate change and conflict and the effects of heightened competition over natural resources.

In 2023, 36 Member States made \$131.8 million US dollars in new voluntary commitments to the Fund. While welcome, the amount was well below the \$330 million US dollars target. With 2024 being the last year of the current Peacebuilding Fund strategy, it has only received \$746 million US dollars, half of its five-year \$1.5 billion US dollar target.

### Lessons learned

The General Assembly decision to provide measured contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund beginning in 2025 is a landmark decision to source more predictable and sustainable resources. This decision underscores the centrality of peacebuilding in UN work, which all Member States are committed to supporting. An increase in voluntary funding will be essential for the implementation of proposals contained in the policy brief, A New Agenda for Peace.

### Looking ahead

2024 provides an opportunity for close collaboration between the MPTF Office and Peacebuilding Support Office to enhance partnership opportunities, widen involvement for new and traditional partners, and constantly refine processes for delivering and concluding projects.

**“Heartened that UN Member States, in a landmark decision, have agreed to support my Peacebuilding Fund annually with \$50 million US dollars. Investing in prevention is the best value for money – it saves lives and averts suffering and destruction. It is crucial to invest in peace now.”**

**António Guterres**

Secretary-General of the United Nations



**Peacebuilding Fund** - A United Nations joint initiative in the Western Balkans, Youth 4 Inclusion, Equality and Trust, empowers young people to engage in constructive narratives, strengthen intercultural dialogue, promote inclusion, and cultivate relationships based on mutual understandings.

Various UN agencies and partners from the public sector, media, civil society, and academia collaborate with youth through bespoke trainings and events to increase respect for diversity in the region, directly impacting the lives of more than 10,000 young people. In this photo: Members of a regional youth camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

© Zafir Šišić, CROA - Center for the Development of Youth Activism



## Flagship fund highlights: Joint SDG Fund

### Accelerating SDG progress through integrated policy support and innovative financing

The Joint SDG Fund is an inter-agency mechanism that incentivizes transformative policy and financing to shift and stimulate strategic investments required to catalyze and accelerate progress against the SDGs at the country level. In 2023, the UN Joint SDG Fund underwent a significant governance and strategic overhaul, embracing a new strategic vision as the UN global flagship fund driving transitions in intersecting areas—food systems, energy, digital, education, social protection, and jobs, and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—at the country level under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. The elevated role of the Joint SDG Fund, combined with leveraging the importance of the RC system, supports programme countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Fund made \$268 million US dollars in financial commitments to 119 UNCT and multi-country offices through 31 PUNOs financing 236 Joint Programmes.

### Key progress and achievements in 2023

The Fund has been instrumental in promoting integrated policy and regulatory changes, primarily focused on enhancing social protection in more than 39 countries. The Fund set the foundation for SDG financing by implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in 69 countries, strengthening resilience and addressing vulnerabilities across 42 Small Island Developing States, and supporting

the activation of the UNDS to respond to the global cost-of-living crisis (precipitated by the conflict in Ukraine) in over 100 UNCTs.

A total of 197 million people extended or accessed new social benefits. Three hundred and twenty-five policies were piloted and/or implemented in relation to SDG financing strategies/INFFs. In addition, 97% of funds provided principled contributions to gender equality, and 25 instruments were structured for blended financing (SDG bonds, impact funds, climate facilities, etc.).

The Joint SDG Fund experienced a notable increase in capitalization, with contributions totaling \$55.9 million US dollars and securing \$58.8 million in signed contributions for 2024. The number of contributing partners expanded from 13 to 16 Member States.

### Lessons learned

Fund investments managed over \$4.9 billion US dollars in financial leverage by promoting innovative blended financing solutions like SDG bonds, renewable energy financing facilities, and support to

INFFs. Every \$1 US dollar committed by the Fund is leveraged by an additional 18 dollars in investments for the SDGs.

### Looking ahead

Contributions remain well below the agreed-upon target of \$290 million US dollars per year, as per the QCPR Funding Compact and increase in earmarking by donor partners. To ensure the full activation of the Fund to accelerate the SDGs, it is imperative to achieve full capitalization, emphasizing the importance of multi-year, flexible, quality funding. Funding will enable the Joint SDG Fund to promote integrated policies, leverage a diverse mix of financing, and build capacity at scale to propel key transitions for the SDGs.

**“We commit to fully support the UN development system, including the RC system and the Joint SDG Fund, to deliver better in support of programme countries and their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. We support the United Nations in playing a central and coordinating role in international development cooperation.”**

Political declaration by Member States adopted at the SDG Summit (29 September 2023)



**Joint SDG Fund** - In Albania, a new Social Inclusion Protection Policy has been developed to address gaps in social services funding, and advancements in disability, childcare system and social housing reform are being made. Under this joint UN programme, fifteen community development centres to support children with disabilities have been established across Albania.

Photo: © UNDP Albania

**Spotlight Initiative**Flagship fund highlights:  
**Spotlight Initiative****Comprehensive and illuminating approaches to eliminate violence against women and girls.**

Spotlight Initiative, a collaborative venture by the UN and European Union, invests in programmes that improve the rights and opportunities of women and girls around the world through the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls. Pointing the light toward the shadows, Spotlight Initiative supports comprehensive and inclusive approaches that enable women and girls to live lives free from the debilitating experience or effects of harmful practices and various forms of violence.

**Key progress and achievements in 2023**

Spotlight Initiative meaningfully impacted the lives of women and girls in 2023, preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) at an unprecedented scale. Since 2019, nearly 500 laws and policies targeting violence against women and girls have been strengthened or passed. Focusing on prevention, 260 million people were reached with GBV prevention messaging, while nearly 2 million men and boys engaged in dialogue on positive masculinity and non-violent conflict resolution. Over 2.5 million women and girls have accessed GBV services, including in humanitarian contexts.

Forty-three countries strengthened their National Action Plans to eliminate violence against women and girls, contributing to a 10-fold increase in the amount budgeted across 14 national budgets to address violence against women and girls. The Initiative allocated \$190 million US dollars to civil society such that 4,000 local

and grassroots women's rights organizations report having greater influence and agency.

In recognition of contributions and potential for scaling up, Spotlight Initiative<sup>4</sup> was selected as one of 12 High-Impact Initiatives featured at the 2023 SDG Summit. Recognized as the only cross-cutting one, the Spotlight Initiative approach demonstrates that large-scale investments in comprehensive programming and whole-of-society partnerships to end violence against women and girls can drive progress across all SDGs.

**Lessons learned**

It is essential to have a collaborative, whole-of-society approach that fosters collective action and well-rounded efforts from all stakeholders to end violence against women and girls effectively. Community-centered approaches recognize the value of existing community structures and leverage the leadership of local authorities, promoting accountability and local ownership, increasing participation of rights-holders to end GBV, and helping

foster long-term, sustainable change. Participatory monitoring integrates the voices of rights holders, deepening engagement and ownership and ensuring more responsive interventions.

**Looking forward**

Spotlight Initiative stakeholders are well positioned to accelerate efforts, expand the programme portfolio, and secure additional resources to increase support to end GBV—this includes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Providing current resources and results, the Initiative is expected to help prevent 21 million women and girls from experiencing violence by 2025. With additional investments, it is estimated the Initiative could prevent violence in the lives of 70 million women across 60 countries within a decade, thereby reducing prevalence in target communities from 1-in-3 women to 1-in-5.<sup>5</sup> The Initiative will continue to expand partnerships with civil society organizations, including grassroots organizations and women's movements, to "do development differently," placing communities at the heart of GBV response and removing barriers to critical funding.

**“Spotlight Initiative is a significant and groundbreaking investment to end violence against women and girls that has a huge potential to model the way we do development funding towards the Global South by way of meaningful partnerships with civil society and taking the cue from grassroots organizations as partners rather than just grantees.”**

**Shamah Bulangis**

Representative of the Civil Society Global Reference Group, Spotlight Initiative

4 See: <https://sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions/HII>.

5 Dalberg, September 2022, Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time. <https://spotlightinitiative.org/publications/imperative-invest-how-addressing-violence-against-women-and-girls-today-reduces-0>.



A counsellor in the **Spotlight Initiative Fund** providing counseling services to survivors of sexual and gender based violence in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.  
© Spotlight Initiative/M. Ruziev



Flagship fund highlights:

## Central African Forest Initiative

### Supporting forest-rich Central African countries in achieving their sustainable development goals

The Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) was created in 2016 and is the largest UN climate fund administered by the MPTF Office. CAFI works closely with six African countries in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change, alleviating poverty, and meeting Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework objectives. Home to more than 10,000 plant and animal species and the largest net carbon sink in the world, the forests of Central Africa represent 70% of all African forests despite receiving only 11% of forest climate financing worldwide.

CAFI supports six Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. On the ground, over 40 CAFI-funded projects at regional, national, and local levels are implemented by 18 UN and bilateral agencies and NGOs. Partnerships are built on a shared mission to protect 500 million hectares of forested land and provide sustainable livelihoods for the 80 million people who live in and around the Congo Basin. Ten governments are members of the CAFI Executive Board: Belgium, European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and, joining in 2023, the United States.

### Key progress and achievements in 2023

For CAFI, 2023 was characterized by major project development across the region, especially in the DRC and Cameroon. Following positive feedback from feasibility studies, CAFI launched a call for Expressions of Interest for the next phase of its partnership with Cameroon, valued at \$60 million US dollars for four pilot projects. Implementing partners were selected, and work on project documents commenced. In the

fall, stakeholders successfully launched a private sector investment facility, technical assistance facility, and platform for promoting South-South cooperation.

In the DRC, the largest CAFI portfolio, financing for seven new and extended projects was approved, bringing the number of active projects to 19. Over \$246 million US dollars in deposits were made to the National REDD+ fund (FONAREDD), the main CAFI partner in the DRC. By the end of 2023, projects reported more than 600,000 hectares of forests, representing 43.5% of the final target, were managed by communities with legal titles. In addition, over 55,000 hectares of improved agriculture (including agroforestry, perennial crops, and improved food crops) were piloted by communities. Over 161,000 clean cooking solutions helped households reduce their charcoal consumption. They alleviated pressure on forests, saving on energy spending and decreasing the negative health impacts of charcoal use, especially for women.

A regional study on trends and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation led by FAO quantified data on deforestation and forest degradation trends between 2015 and 2020. The cross-country, collaborative study that features results for scientific publication shows 2.2 million hectares of forest have been lost in the region and an additional 1.5 million degraded over this period. Deforestation and degradation, however, have not increased annually since 2017.

In September 2023, CAFI launched a call to all relevant implementing organizations interested in investing in private sector companies in partner countries to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

### Lessons learned

Closer collaboration with non-governmental actors led to the development of regional facilities and new workstreams with the private sector that are designed to complement CAFI-supported national projects in ways that enable sustainable development across the region. Through all CAFI-funded facilities and projects, stakeholders continue to ensure funding matches the drivers of deforestation and national policies for sustainable development.

### Looking forward

CAFI stakeholders look forward to working with governments to explore how best to achieve the ambitious objectives they set to reach the SDGs. The initiative is in the process of mainstreaming climate financing into most projects in the form of 'Payment for Environmental Services' and exploring a wide variety of options for carbon and biodiversity finance. Regionally, shifting from a project focus to more programmatic approaches should deliver results that ensure sustainable impact.

**“If initiatives such as CAFI, that protects the forests, did not exist, the negative impact would be enormous, for us and for the entire world.”**

**H.E. Félix Moloua**

Prime Minister of the Central African Republic



**The Central African Forest Initiative's** second partnership phase in the Democratic Republic of the Congo signals a shift to Performance-Based Financing, underpinned by National Payment for Environmental Services (PES).  
© CAFI



The GFCR-supported programme in the Philippines led by Blue Alliance, added 26 marine protected areas, covering 300 hectares of vital coral reef ecosystems and supporting over 2,000 local fishing communities.

© Global Fund for Coral Reefs



Flagship fund highlights:

## Global Fund for Coral Reefs

### Mobilizing action and resources to protect and restore coral reef ecosystems.

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) is a unique blended finance vehicle dedicated to coral reef protection around the world. Hosting grant and investment funds, GFCR is designed to bolster the resilience of coral reefs, associated marine ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them. In more than 20 nations, GFCR focuses on incubating and scaling financial interventions and enterprises that address local drivers of ecosystem degradation, unlock conservation funding flows, and increase community resilience. Supported solutions include waste treatment and recycling facilities, coral reef insurance, sustainable aquaculture and agriculture, ecotourism enterprises, blue carbon credits, and sustainably financed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The GFCR Coalition is a public-private partnership driven by Member States, UN organizations, financial institutions, philanthropies, impact investors, and conservation associations.

### Key progress and achievements in 2023

In 2023, GFCR expanded its programme portfolio from 12 to 19 countries with coral reefs. Partners launched five new country programmes in Jordan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Seychelles, and Maldives, and one regional programme in Micronesia. GFCR continued advancing programme development in Egypt, Brazil, Mozambique, and the Solomon Islands, with expected launch dates in 2024. Notably, in 2023, GFCR unlocked a large-scale private investment into Carbonwave, a leading enterprise that upcycles the sargassum seaweed affecting the coastal marine ecosystems of Mexico and the wider Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) Region.

Throughout 2023, the GFCR Coalition grew to more than 50 members with new partner states, philanthropies, implementing partners, impact investors, and donors. Some of the new members included ICONIQ Impact Co-Lab, a philanthropic donor, and Minderoo Foundation, a private investor.

Resource mobilization efforts in 2023 yielded \$35 million US dollars in commitments from the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of France, the ICONIQ Impact Ocean Co-Lab, and the Minderoo Foundation. With these new commitments, the GFCR Coalition mobilized over \$200 million US dollars globally, including \$90 million in catalytic donor funding and \$135 million for the Investment Fund.

### Lessons learned

Key lessons include the importance of increasing blended finance knowledge in the coral reef space by strengthening and improving dialogue amongst interested conservation and private actors. Also crucial is addressing the 'missing middle' by collaborating with partners to establish new financial instruments and pathways that cater to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and enhancing technical assistance for Investment Fund deals to bolster reef impact potential

and sustainable community benefits. GFCR stakeholders are also investigating ways of strengthening policies and regulations to facilitate the uptake of reef-positive businesses to scale coral reef finance, enhancing the efficiency of governance and operations, and ensuring post-2030 sustainability measures are in place to ensure sustainable support for the growth of reef-positive businesses and financial solutions.

### Looking Forward

Looking to 2030, the GFCR Coalition sets forth ambitious targets, including supporting 400+ reef-positive businesses and financial mechanisms, creating more than 30,000 direct jobs in reef-positive sectors, raising the resilience of over 20 million community members, improving the management of 3 million hectares of coral reefs, and facilitating sustainable financing for 7.5 million hectares of MPAs. The Coalition will focus on strategic pathways, including the expansion of sustainable finance instruments and mechanisms for marine conservation, cultivating investible pipelines for reef and ocean-positive businesses, developing dynamic national investment ecosystems, and establishing a continuous cycle of knowledge and learning. All contributions are designed to lead to transformative global shifts in ocean finance and policy.

**“There can be no healthy planet without a healthy ocean, and coral reefs are critical to maintaining the health of the ocean. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs may well be the last and greatest hope we have of closing the coral reef funding gap and scaling investments in time to save the planet’s coral reefs from extinction [...] If we are to make peace with nature, we must act while we still have time.”**

**Ambassador Peter Thomson**

UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean



# Funds established in 2023

Throughout 2023, the MPTF Office supported partners in the design and development of new pooled funds.

Table 8: List of multi-partner trust funds established in 2023

Funds established in 2023
<b>Global funds</b>
Digital Cooperation Fund
Leave No One Behind - The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund
The Nature Facility
UN Global Pulse Network
<b>Country-level pooled funds</b>
Fonds Fiduciaire Multi-donateurs pour le Développement Durable en Tunisie
Fonds multipartenaire Cote d'Ivoire
India MPTF
Iran One UN Impact Fund
PNG Country Fund Phase II
Ukraine Community Recovery Fund
<b>Joint programmes</b>
JP on Reintegration through Integrated Support and Empowerment (RISE)
JP Spotlight 2.0 High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE)
JP in Uganda Gender for Development Uganda - Spotlight 2.0
JP in Ecuador - Spotlight 2.0
JP Somaliland Rule of Law 2.0
JP Ukraine - Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
JP on Green Infrastructure for Health and Education in Sao Tome
JP DRR for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II
JP OPT Sawasya III

This section features a selection of the newest instruments and how they are expected to contribute to managing or addressing various issues.

## United Nations Global Pulse Network

**The challenge:** The global community continues to face significant challenges in achieving the SDGs, responding effectively to crises, and meeting the demands of a rapidly changing world. Traditional approaches to diplomacy and development are no longer sufficient to address complex and interrelated global issues like climate change, poverty, conflict, and inequality.

**The approach:** UN Global Pulse is a platform and enabler for innovation to accelerate key UN agendas, including the SDGs, Our Common Agenda, and UN 2.0. It supports the transformation of the UN into a more dynamic and resilient 'next generation' institution, building on over a decade of experience in data and digital innovation. It serves the whole UN family on a global level.

A unified platform for UN organizations, experts, and civil society stakeholders, the Network is used to innovate collaboratively while ensuring transparency, flexibility, and shared risk-taking. It operates on the premise that innovation is vital for organizations to keep pace with a rapidly changing world and to achieve the SDGs.

**Partners:** UN organizations (EOSG, ITU, UNOPS) and the Government of Australia.

### Leaving None Behind - The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund

**The challenge:** By the end of 2022, over 71 million people were internally displaced in 110 countries and territories. The majority, who live in camps and crowded urban settlements, were forcibly displaced from their homes by political conflict, ethnic and religious clashes, economic inequality, and climate and man-made disasters. Millions of internally displaced people (IDPs) face little or no social service access, declining health and nutritional standards, food insecurity, widespread violence and violations of human rights, disruption of livelihoods, and lack of access to essential services.

**The approach:** Solutions to internal displacement need to be addressed more efficiently and according to national leadership. Stakeholders of the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) pilot approaches that integrate development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, human rights, disaster risk reduction, and climate action to curate localized strategies and actions that address displacement-induced vulnerabilities and open solutions pathways for IDPs. Durable solutions require stakeholders, from national to local authorities, to invest in development plans and actions that are inclusive, localized, and coherent. IDSF priorities address causes of protracted internal displacement, improving coherence and coordination in programming multi-dimensional solutions and piloting methods of rapidly advancing IDP strategies that can be scaled accordingly.

**Partners:** UN organizations (FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNMAS, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNCDF, and UN-HABITAT), the Government of Germany, the Government of Norway, and the Government of Switzerland.

### Digital Cooperation Fund

**The challenge:** In an era of rapid technological change, associated benefits must be spread safely to ensure an open and accessible digital future for all. This includes strategic, multi stakeholder collective action across borders where governance and human rights are aligned on digital public infrastructure and artificial intelligence issues. Moreover, it involves pooling capacities and data to develop better algorithms that address societal challenges by augmenting the frequency and intensity of learning across borders to enhance human capacities and turbocharge digital transformation.

**The approach:** Inspired by the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the Common Agenda, Digital Cooperation Fund stakeholders strive to strengthen digital cooperation for the global common good. This is done primarily through cross-agency joint programming and improved cooperation on artificial intelligence, digital public goods, protection of human rights in the digital era, digital trust and security, and a more robust architecture for digital cooperation. The Fund incubates multidisciplinary initiatives that contribute to accelerating SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 13, in particular.

The fund makes concentrated investments in targeted action areas of the UN Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. Collaborators focus on under-addressed areas, require international, cross-border, and global multi-stakeholder collective action, and move beyond national-level digital transformation to adopt international pooled expertise, data, algorithms, and alignment with digital governance with human rights across jurisdictions.

**Partners:** UN organizations (UNDP, UNOSSET, UNOPS, and UNU), Global Impact, Omidyar Network Fund, and the governments of the Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Italy, and Switzerland.

### Ukraine Community Recovery Fund

**The challenge:** Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine resulted in the largest mass displacement of people in Europe since World War II. The incursion destroyed entire cities and communities, caused the tragic deaths of civilians, including children, and wiped out decades of development gains, pushing more than a quarter of Ukrainians into poverty. Despite horrific devastation, people in Ukraine continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and solidarity, organizing community-based volunteer groups to rebuild and plan for the future as soon as it is safe to do so.

Communities across Ukraine have been affected differently, with significant numbers of displaced people struggling to find adequate resources and maintain social cohesion. In the central, south, and north regions of the country, some groups are ready to move forward with recovery, reconstruction, and return efforts. In the east, close to the frontline, communities directly affected by the conflict need significant humanitarian assistance, as detailed in the annual Humanitarian Response Plans. Across the country, there is a need to design and implement community recovery efforts that reduce and prevent humanitarian needs.

**The approach:** The Ukraine Community Recovery Fund assists people in recovering from the war with improved infrastructure, inclusive systems, and resilience. Stakeholders provide rapid area-based early recovery support to communities affected by the war by leveraging government infrastructure priorities and a people-centered, human rights-based approach. In supporting the Government of Ukraine on early recovery through inclusive, area-based, and community-focused approaches, fund stakeholders support national and local authorities in building sustainable recovery investments. The UN implemented reconstruction and recovery efforts that are rooted in supporting all members of communities in mobilizing and articulating recovery needs and developing the capacity of local authorities.

**Partners:** UN organizations (FAO, IOM, UNDP, and UNOPS), the Government of Denmark, the Government of Luxembourg, and the Republic of Korea.



### Fonds Fiduciaire Multi-donateurs pour le Développement Durable en Tunisie

**The challenge:** Tunisia faces a deepening social and economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine. The worsening social and employment situation over the past decade highlighted the struggle of many young people to integrate into society and find jobs. Youth currently comprise two-thirds of the population, with an unemployment rate of 38%, significantly higher than the national rate of 16.1%.

The Tunisia Vision 2035 and Development Plan 2023-2025 provide a framework for national development, with objectives aligned to the SDGs. These include combating poverty, creating sustainable and decent incomes and jobs, promoting social equity, encouraging private initiative and investment in promising sectors, developing clusters and value chains, strengthening the social and solidarity economies, fostering public-private partnerships, and supporting a transition from the informal to formal economy.

**The approach:** To provide better job opportunities for young people, women in particular, the Tunisian Government, UN, and local partners established the MPTF for Youth and Employment in Tunisia to identify and explore new opportunities. Using a four-tiered approach, stakeholders collaborate on entrepreneurship and private initiatives in innovative sectors that offer high value and employability potential, as well as support the creation of new micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and jobs that can be easily integrated into the labour market, particularly green and circular economies.

**Partners:** UN organizations (ECA, FAO, IOM, ILO, IFAD, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODC, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNOPS, UNAIDS, WFP, WHO) and the Government of Netherlands.

### JP OPT Sawasya III Programme

**The challenge:** Despite a partial transfer of competencies by the Israeli Military Government and its Civil Administration following the Oslo Accords, Palestinians have had limited capacity to exercise their rights given the constrained self-governance of the Palestinian Authority and, as of October 2023, growing conflict between Israel and Hamas.

**The approach:** Sawasya III applies integrated measures to promote intersectionality, gender, and child justice and leave no one behind. The program actively and flexibly leverages expertise and resources to holistically address access to justice barriers in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT). Sawasya III projects are designed to meet the needs of Palestinians by providing high-quality services in responsive institutions that foster inclusiveness. Stakeholders strive to reinforce equal justice for all with a particular emphasis on the most at-risk communities and through critical measures of progress that bring people closer to realizing a cohesive and inclusive environment that respects human rights.

The programme addresses social stereotyping that drives and perpetuates the marginalization of women and children. An emphasis is placed on behavioral change, applying good regional practices, and creating incentives based on people's experiences to increase the spread and use of alternative justice mechanisms. This integrated approach makes it possible for stakeholders to tackle a pervasive climate of impunity surrounding women and children who are victims and survivors of violence alongside systemic obstacles. Efforts create space to understand better, convey, and respond to their needs by strengthening safe pathways for representation and legal recourse. Sawasya III mobilizes state institutions, civil society, and relevant actors and garners commitments from justice, security, protection institutions, civil society, and development partners.

**Partners:** UN organizations (UNWOMEN, UNICEF, and UNDP), Government of the Netherlands.

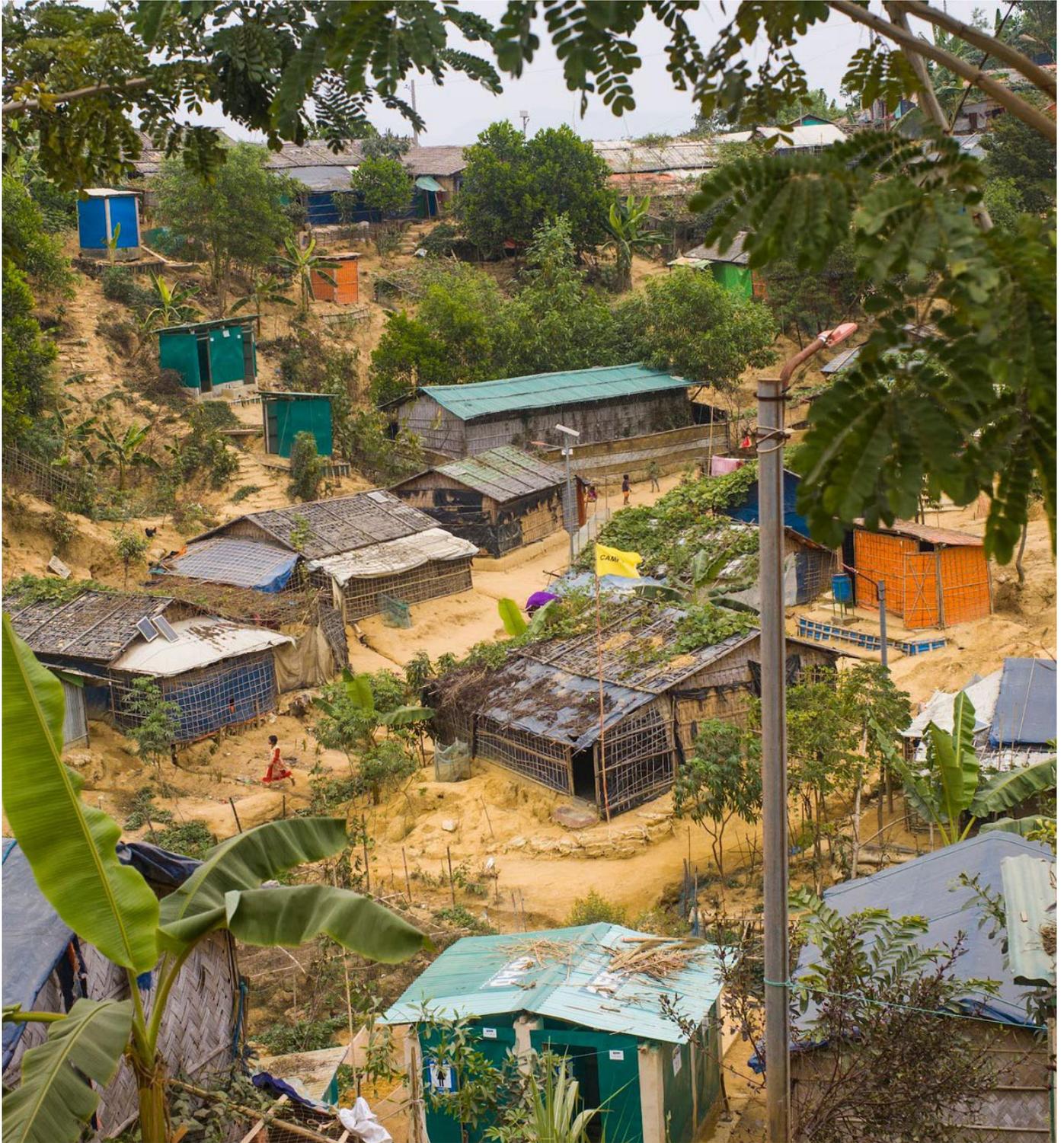
### JP Reintegration Through Integrated Support and Empowerment (RISE)

**The challenge:** Since 2014, Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) incursions have resulted in large-scale displacement across Iraq, and the effects continue to reverberate. Ongoing conflict, insecurity, and instability created deep-seated grievances that have been exacerbated by socioeconomic challenges that include the displacement of vulnerable people inside and outside Iraq. The emergence of ISIL exploited tensions and triggered a wave of violence, leading to the displacement of 3.3 million people—1.2 million are still displaced.

Moreover, unequal distribution of development gains, income, and access to resources have escalated tensions and fueled conflict, particularly in 32% of Iraqi communities where most people live below the poverty line. A rising unemployment rate of 16% (28% for women and 15% for men) coupled with endemic corruption and weak governance has affected the ability of stakeholders to provide essential services and security. It has also undermined public trust and fueled grievances.

**The approach:** In response, the Government of Iraq, the UN, and local partners designed and implemented Reintegration Through Integrated Support and Empowerment (RISE)—a conflict-sensitive, context-relevant, and meaningful initiative to address the unmet needs of communities and returnees in age-appropriate, gender-sensitive, inclusive ways. The programme aims to improve the capacities of relevant national and local authorities and actors to support and facilitate the reintegration process of returnees and ensure their safety and security. It also promotes economic reintegration through livelihood support packages that include cash for work, vocational training, and business development. It provides mental health and psychosocial support and GBV services for all returnees and vulnerable community members. It includes these services plus protection and legal counsel for children (e.g., legal support/birth registration).

**Partners:** UN organizations (UNICEF and UNDP), European Union.



Refugee camps are especially prone to disease outbreaks. The **UN Global Pulse Network**, the Secretary-General's Innovation Lab, worked with leading experts to improve disease modeling for public health decisions in these environments. For example, the Cox's Bazar settlement in Bangladesh, the largest of its kind in the world, houses more than 44,000 people per square kilometer. This is one and a half times higher than the density of people in New York.

© UN Global Pulse Network

## 4

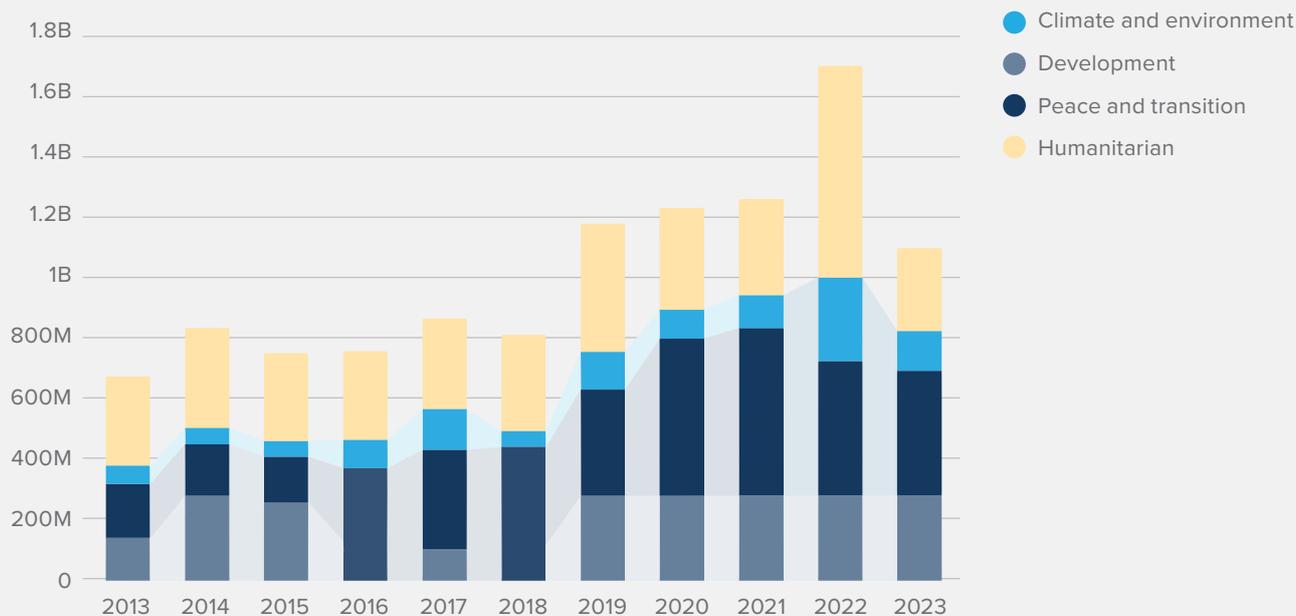
## Pooled funding partners and engagement

Support for UN inter-agency pooled funds remained strong in 2023. Even in the context of a marked reduction in contributions in the humanitarian portfolio, contributor commitment to MPTF Office-administered, inter-agency pooled funds remained strong, with 2023 contributions at nearly \$1 billion US dollars. The MPTF Office received contributions from 73 contributors, including Member States, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and charities. The high level of

service provision to the UN is exemplified by the \$1.05 billion US dollars in transfers to 107 program countries, 47 UN organizations, and 71 non-UN entities. The MPTF Office administered inter-agency pooled funds that were diversified, innovative, and implemented through a broad network of partnerships in the humanitarian, development, environmental, and peacebuilding sectors. Every initiative made a substantial contribution to inching the UN closer to SDG achievement.

While the numbers speak volumes about the continued interest and trust of UN partners and contributors, it is undeniable that recent trends have adversely affected the volume of contributions to the MPTF Office. In recent years, CBPFs represented approximately \$500 million US dollars (35%) of MPTF Office annual deposits. In 2023, the decrease in contributions compared to 2022 was largely due to the impact of the OCHA policy decision in 2023 to consolidate all humanitarian CBPF contributions to

Graph 6: **Composition of MPTF Office portfolio by fund thematic area** in terms of deposits in US\$ millions (2013-2023)



newly established funds under its purview. As a result, the six humanitarian CBPFs administered by the MPTF Office - Somalia, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic -received \$117.2 million US dollars in contributions in 2023 compared to \$517.3 million the previous year. This is in the context of an observed reduction in contributions to development-related interagency pooled funds since 2022.

Beneath this aggregate financial picture is a diversified, innovative, well-distributed fund portfolio covering the UN system and SDG agenda. Recent trends in MPTF office-administered funds show sustained, albeit slightly declining, deposits in the thematic areas of peace and transition, development, and climate and environment.

Looking at the composition of the portfolio in 2023, deposits for climate and environment increased from 15% in 2022 to 24% in 2023, funding for development increased from 21% to 24%, and peace and transition funds increased from 30% to 40% during the same time frame. This trend is expected to continue into 2024.

Although the decrease in CBPF contributions was not immediately offset in 2023, the MPTF Office expects continued growth in climate, peace, and transition portfolios in the coming years, starting in 2024.

The MPTF Office also saw significant annual growth in several pooled funds in 2023. The Joint SDG Fund received \$55.9 million US dollars in contributions in 2023 compared to \$20 million in 2022. Global Fund for Coral Reefs contributions grew

from \$9.5 million US dollars to over \$40 million, highlighting the importance of the blue economy. Growth was also observed in other climate funds like SOFF (\$35 million), UN-REDD (\$22 million in contributions), the UN Decade for System Restoration (\$11.7 million), and the AMR Fund (\$5.4 million). Other funds with over \$40 million US dollars in contributions include the Peacebuilding Fund (\$161 million), CAFI (\$95.8 million), and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (\$40.5 million). The recent decision by the UN 5th Committee to provide \$50 million US dollars per year in predictable financing from assessed contributions for the Peacebuilding Fund recognizes the trust Member States place both in pooled funds, as instruments of joint UN action around crucial system priorities, and in the MPTF Office as an AA.



In northern Costa Rica, close to the Nicaraguan border, communities feel the impact of the climate crisis in all aspects of their lives. Frequent droughts and heatwaves that trigger wildfires contrast with the merciless precipitation brought on by meteorological events like flash floods and hurricanes. Experts estimate annual precipitation will “dry up” by 65% until 2080.

In response, **The UN REDD+ Programme Fund (UNREDD+)**, a multi-partner trust fund

administered by the MPTF Office, supports local communities in overcoming the multi-factor climate crisis they face. Looking to indigenous communities, local community leaders, women and young people as active agents of change, UNREDD+ prioritizes action in emergency response, disaster risk reduction, land and conservation, and results-based payment and ‘green’ livelihood financial projects.

© UNDP Costa Rica

## 4.1. Contributors

Member States, multilateral organizations (like the European Union), international financial institutions, the private sector, and UN organizations invest resources in pooled funds. The joint commitments of investors and the MPTF Office, as AA, are critical in ensuring coordinated action and advancing the achievements of SDGs.

In 2023, the MPTF Office's top 10 donors were the governments of Germany, Norway, Sweden, the European Union,

the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, and Australia (see Table 9). This was broadly consistent with the top contributor's list of 2022, save Switzerland joining the top-10 list in place of Denmark. Top 10 contributors to funds administered by the MPTF Office in 2023 resulted in investments of \$793.5 million US dollars, accounting for over 81% of inter-agency pooled funds in the MPTF Office. Two Member States (Germany and Norway)

maintained contributions of more than \$100 million US dollars for six consecutive years.

Seventeen partners contributed over \$10 million US dollars in 2022 and 2023. In line with the Funding Compact, the number of Member States contributing to inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office continued to grow, increasing from 39 in 2019 to 73 in 2023.

Table 9: Top 20 governments and Member States contributions in 2023 and trends by geographical scope 2016 to 2023 (in US\$)<sup>6</sup>

Contributors	2023	2016 - 2023	Deposits (2016-2023)	Country Funds	Global Funds	Climate and Environment	Development	Humanitarian	Peace and Transition
Germany	142,749,098		1,715,737,662	50%	33%	24%	4%	39%	34%
Norway	128,956,331		1,168,018,280	47%	21%	41%	19%	10%	29%
Sweden	91,245,242		1,139,647,823	77%	22%	5%	29%	27%	40%
European Union	90,460,554		963,406,926	38%	60%	6%	65%	2%	26%
United Kingdom	86,980,048		1,414,252,526	83%	15%	6%	15%	56%	24%
Netherlands	78,119,841		656,035,473	61%	33%	6%	13%	37%	44%
United States of America	60,927,833		173,003,941	77%	23%	10%	41%	35%	14%
Canada	47,937,358		398,037,246	77%	23%	1%	15%	19%	65%
Switzerland	36,223,571		223,145,661	76%	24%	2%	29%	25%	44%
Australia	29,928,839		306,040,131	78%	14%	0%	53%	27%	20%
Ireland	26,391,079		200,151,320	89%	11%	1%	12%	75%	12%
Finland	23,473,018		91,846,632	58%	42%	7%	24%	0%	69%
Denmark	22,412,278		292,168,342	76%	24%	6%	9%	35%	50%
Italy	16,541,081		93,337,904	60%	40%	0%	23%	22%	55%
Spain	15,899,194		64,029,513	79%	21%	5%	85%	0%	10%
Belgium	12,957,514		120,066,823	71%	19%	14%	9%	66%	11%
France	12,235,083		67,694,255	22%	45%	36%	8%	21%	34%
Republic of Korea	8,513,728		61,118,354	51%	45%	14%	19%	34%	33%
Luxembourg	6,958,260		38,517,122	89%	11%	0%	54%	30%	17%
New Zealand	6,773,976		48,586,798	17%	24%	0%	71%	0%	29%

<sup>6</sup> A full list of contributors is available in annex 3.

Non-traditional donors like the private sector, civil society organizations, and philanthropic organizations are increasingly investing resources in inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office to complement financing from Member States. In 2023, 19 private sector entities, civil society organizations, and

philanthropic organizations contributed \$17.6 million US dollars to the MPTF Office. Although the number of non-traditional donors decreased by three in 2023, they contributed \$7.6 million US dollars more in 2023 compared to 2022.

Table 10: Private sector and foundations contributions in 2023 (in US\$)

Donor Group	Deposits
UN Foundation/UN Partnership Office	4,407,034
MySDG Foundation	4,000,000
Fondation Botnar	2,822,982
Shell	2,200,000
Cartier Philanthropy	1,000,000
Global Impact	881,400
Michelin Corporate Foundation	536,061
Autoliv	400,000
Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Initiatives	376,345
Omidyar Network Fund	350,000
Bridgestone Corporation	275,000
HUMDA	200,000
AstraZeneca	100,000
Keep Fighting Foundation	53,965
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation	21,408
Revel	12,106
Fondazione Unipolis	5,250
La Nuez Audiovisual Prod	625



## 4.2. Participating organizations

UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF, IOM, and UN Women were the top 5 PUNOs receiving funds in 2023 by volume (see Table 11). The MPTF Office transferred \$1.05 billion US dollars to 118 participating organizations in 2023, including PUNOs and non-UN organizations. In general, there was a reduction in transfers to most participating organizations, mostly due to a reduction in transfers from the downsizing of humanitarian country funds, except for UNOPS and UNODC, which experienced a marginal increase in transfers in 2023.

Upon request of some fund PUNOs, non-UN organizations (NUNOs) increasingly enjoyed direct access to pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office - beyond their lead role as implementing partners of PUNOs in MPTFs and joint programs.

Table 11: Top 15 Participating UN organizations, transfers, and distribution by geographical scope and theme, 2016 – 2023

Participating UN Organizations	2023	2018-2023	Transfers (2018 to 2023)	Theme				Geographical Scope		
				Climate and environment	Development	Humanitarian	Peace and Transition	Country	Global	Regional
1 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)	214.3M		2.2B	8%	19%	19%	53%	70%	26%	4%
2 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)	157M		1.4B	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%
3 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)	76.2M		554.4M	1%	58%	18%	23%	65%	33%	1%
4 IOM (International Organization for Migration)	73.2M		385.1M	0%	19%	29%	52%	67%	33%	0%
5 UN WOMEN (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)	71.3M		501.2M	0%	56%	0%	43%	19%	80%	1%
6 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	69.3M		357.3M	22%	23%	19%	36%	63%	35%	2%
7 UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)	64.1M		456.4M	3%	50%	6%	41%	56%	43%	1%
8 WFP (World Food Programme)	57.8M		347.5M	1%	29%	48%	21%	90%	10%	0%
9 WHO (World Health Organization)	32.9M		181.7M	1%	39%	53%	7%	85%	15%	0%
10 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	29.5M		128.3M	0%	7%	41%	51%	70%	30%	0%
11 UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services)	22.6M		128.6M	29%	21%	7%	43%	81%	16%	3%
12 UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)	19.6M		66.2M	81%	14%	0%	5%	8%	92%	0%
13 UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund)	19.4M		152M	55%	27%	0%	18%	39%	16%	45%
14 OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)	14.7M		78.9M	0%	50%	0%	50%	8%	92%	1%
15 UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	12.6M		53.3M	0%	18%	0%	81%	39%	44%	18%

At the request of PUNOs and fund governing bodies, the MPTF Office directed transfers to 69 NUNOs in 2023, amounting to \$55.9 million US dollars compared to \$65 million in 2022. Table 12 shows the top 15 NUNO-directed transfers in 2023<sup>7</sup>.

Table 12: **Top 15 Non-UN Organizations transfers in 2023 (US\$)**

	<b>Non-UN entities in 2023</b>	<b>Transfers</b>
1	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ	8,000,000
2	ACLED	6,833,787
3	Enabel (Belgian Development Agency)	3,000,000
4	SaferWorld	2,865,136
5	SFCG (Search for Common Ground)	2,024,626
6	Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara	2,006,615
7	AFD (Agence Française de Développement)	2,000,000
8	Conexion Guatemala	1,400,000
9	WOAH (World Org for Animal Health)	1,365,499
10	NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)	1,106,419
11	Initiative Development	1,000,000
12	One Acre Fund	991,461
13	Concern Worldwide	975,000
14	Cordaid	975,000
15	University of Geneva	872,000

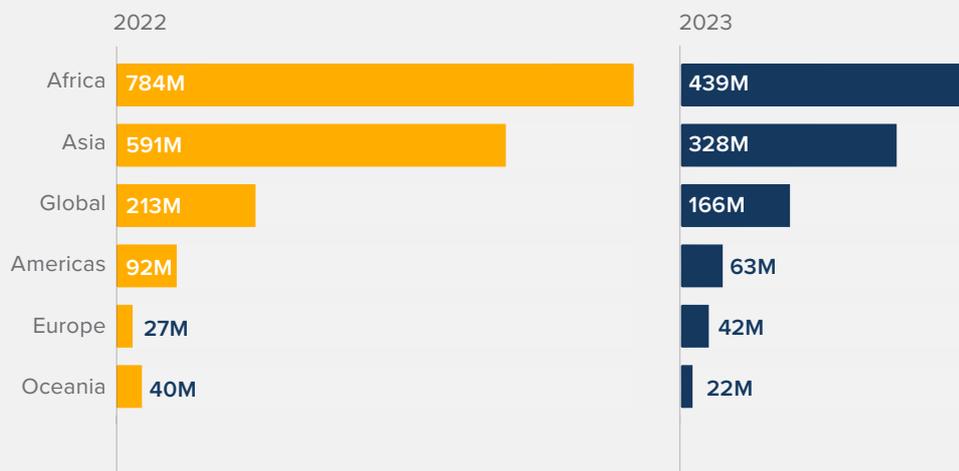
<sup>7</sup> Annex 5 lists all NUNOs in the MPTF Office portfolio.

### 4.3. Programme countries

Inter-agency pooled funds are flexible instruments adapted to different contexts: Supporting peacebuilding efforts and dire humanitarian situations, focusing on sustainable development, and transitioning from crisis to stability. Inter-agency pooled funds are flexible, risk-assured instruments for responding to national priorities by pulling resources from global, regional, and country-specific sources to fulfill needs in country-specific UNSDCFs or, where relevant, Humanitarian Response Plans.

The MPTF Office transferred resources to 107 programme countries in 2023. Africa remained the largest recipient region, followed by Asia and the Americas, with a total of \$439 million US dollars transferred to the African region in 2023, a reduction of 44% from 2022 transfers, mostly owing to the decrease in activity in humanitarian CBPFs in the second quarter of 2023. A comparative analysis of regions shows transfers to Africa in 2023 constituted 42%, followed by Asia (31%), global and inter-regional (16%), the Americas (6%), Europe (4%) and Oceania (2%).

Graph 7: Transfers by region in 2023 and in comparison to 2022 (US\$)



## IN FOCUS

## Advancing climate and environment finance agendas through UN inter-agency pooled funds

**“Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century.”**

António Guterres,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

### Financing transformative climate and environment programming

Inter-agency pooled funds are relevant for leveraging climate finance worldwide, given their inherent unique features of flexibility, cost efficiency, collaborative decision-making, and joint action. While UN action on addressing climate and environmental SDGs remains highly underfunded, integrated approaches and substantial investments are things pooled funds are designed to address.

In this context, pooled funds catalyze action, structuring available finance that complements financial mechanisms established under international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework. The UN Common Agenda called for “urgent and bold steps to address the triple crisis of climate disruption, biodiversity loss, and pollution destroying our planet.” As the climate and environment agenda has been pushed to the heart of UN work, with disasters triggered by weather and climate-related hazards costing the global economy over \$300 billion US dollars in 2022 alone, pooled financing now accompanies essential work streams.

The MPTF Office response was administering a climate and environment portfolio, providing examples of globally coordinated responses to address critical aspects of global climate and nature-related challenges.

### From fighting deforestation to managing an expansive, integrated portfolio

Over the last ten years, the MPTF Office has worked with partners to build a diversified, innovative, and comprehensive pooled funding portfolio on climate and environment. These funds are not strictly climate-focused but address the impacts of climate, biodiversity, and environment-

related risks on intersectional challenges comprising food security and nutrition, job security, vulnerable communities, and resilient infrastructure. Climate and environment trust funds have led to significant gains in forest and marine protection and raising community resilience in tandem with their ecosystems. They also significantly supported the national government in public policy and strategy development on climate and environment-related priorities. The first climate and environment MPTF was UN-REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation), established in 2008. By the end of 2023, total portfolio commitments had passed \$1.9 billion US dollars. Protecting forests, the planet’s lungs, is central to tackling climate change.

Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), an MPTF Office flagship climate finance instrument, was established in 2015. Since that time, the MPTF Office climate and environment portfolio has evolved to encompass biodiversity, a blue economy, and integrated, sustainable policy development. Recent years have seen the establishment of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, the first MPTF built as an innovative blended finance mechanism dedicated to coral reef ecosystem conservation and raising resilience in reef-dependent communities. Nature 4 Health MPTF stakeholders work to improve aligning environmental, animal, and human health efforts with the ‘One Health’ model. Meanwhile, SOFF provides financial and technical support to countries to close the gaps in the Global Basic Observing Network and climate data.

### Contributions to the MPTF Office climate and environment portfolio

The climate and environment portfolio has grown incrementally since 2008, reaching \$220 million US dollars in 2020 and \$234 million in 2023. In the last decade, the governments of Norway and Germany

made the largest contributions to the portfolio, more than 63% of the total. Other top contributors are the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Sweden. There has also been increased engagement in contributions by the private sector and non-state actors.

### Lessons from climate and environment in inter-agency pooled funds

**Pooled financing is particularly fit for supporting integrated climate and nature-based solutions.** MPTFs combine different sources of funds to derive collective commitments from various partners. Integrated climate and environment solutions are vital for climate and environmental action and are firmly based on financial needs analysis. Underpinned by comprehensive theories of change and solid multi-partner alliances, different sources and disbursement modalities can be combined and integrated solutions leveraged.

Identified synergies are leveraged across the portfolio to generate further economies of scale. Likewise, upfront capitalization of funds is essential for creating long-term gains and strategic investment opportunities.

### Pooled funding mechanisms are essential tools for leveraging available technology to help the most vulnerable and drive the climate and environmental agenda.

UN pooled funds and mechanisms like SOFF are crucial for leveraging available technology on early warning systems and meteorological information. Their ability to leverage diverse funding sources, bring together efforts, and operate on a scale necessary for addressing climate change and sustainability issues is significant.

Innovative financing mechanisms underpinned by robust stakeholder coalitions can marshal collective action towards a resilient and sustainable future.



## 5

# Operational performance and financial management

## 5.1. MPTF Office strategic objectives

The work of the MPTF Office as the UN center of expertise for inter-agency pooled funds is guided by strategic objectives that fall under three key areas: Create and maintain a quality-assured strategic portfolio of pooled financing instruments, increase efficiency by continuously pursuing efficiency gains, transparency, and meeting key performance indicators, and maintaining a culture of client focus, bring-

ing creativity and agility to requests for current and expanded services to diversify client service offerings.

The MPTF Office provides fund design and administration services that are flexible and promote multi-stakeholder collaboration while maintaining the highest fiduciary and financial standards of all UN organizations.

Graph 8: MPTF Office Multi-year Strategic Plan



The expertise and dedication of MPTF Office staff and management are what expand the potential of pooling funding modalities to fulfill its three strategic objectives through key enablers:

#### Objective 1.

### Enhancing Quality.

The MPTF Office works to improve the quality and management features of administered inter-agency pooled funds. This starts with a concentrated focus on fund design analysis for pooled funds to be set up when there is justification to do so, multiple stakeholder collaborations are at the core, and robust financial instruments can be leveraged.

In 2023, the MPTF Office continued to operate as a center of excellence in the UN system, fully dedicated to meeting the demand for well-designed, professionally managed pooled funds design and administration services. The Office supported significant, innovative, and diverse multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDG attainment by efficiently managing an extensive portfolio of UN inter-agency funds and overseeing the transfer of \$1.05 billion US dollars to support programmes in 107 countries.

Several funds administered by the MPTF Office supported PUNOs in launching innovative financing solutions based on the ability to leverage new private capital investments and collaboration. The Office established new modalities of engagement with international financial institutions, particularly with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, supporting a more extensive multi-partner involvement in pooled funds.

#### Objective 2.

### Efficiency.

The MPTF Office leveraged previous investments to improve business practices, processes, and updates to standard legal agreements and enhance information services to meet the growing demand for more and better-pooled funding. In 2023, the MPTF Office advanced its ambitious fund management and administration digitization effort by finalizing the upgrading of the MPTF Office Gateway integrated digital platform. As a primary component of the MPTF Office investment plan, the platform supports improvements in integrated results reporting and transparency, enhanced quality and efficiency in fund administration for all stakeholders, and cost-effectiveness when managing and administering pooled funds.

The new Operational Fund Administration Manual leverages policy and process management features, as well as efficiencies generated by the MPTF Office Gateway. An administrative review of key performance indicators in country-based humanitarian pooled funds was finalized in early 2023 and confirmed the comparatively high level of efficiency provided by the MPTF Office as a specialized AA service provider to PUNOs, in particular with regard to transfers to UN Organisations.

#### Objective 3.

### Client focus.

The MPTF Office facilitates multi-partner collaboration, drawing from an extensive network of governments, contributors, and implementing partners so financing platforms can flourish. Throughout 2023, the strategic focus of the MPTF Office-administered portfolio of inter-agency pooled funds shifted towards a greater emphasis on climate, development, and transition funds. MPTF Office-administered funds supported ongoing strategic UN partnerships through a stakeholder engagement forum at the global level and flagship funds such as the Peace-building Fund, CAFI, Spotlight Initiative, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, Joint SDG Fund, and Human Rights Mainstreaming MPTF. At the country level, the MPTF Office contributed to enhanced joint action by UN Country Teams, supporting the creation of 19 new country-pooled funds.

The MPTF Office makes a conscious effort to respond to the demand of UN organizations for pooled funding services, including quality improvements and innovation. In 2023, based on an increased demand by PUNOs for innovative fund financing solutions, the Office undertook a study on innovative finance opportunities with recommendations to support the expansion of the UN's role in brokering partnerships for SDG financing (See Annex 7).



Moreover, the MPTF Office worked with the UNSDG FMOG in 2023 and secured the endorsement of a new framework for World Bank participation. Inspired by partnership requirements of the Systematic Observation Facility Fund, the MPTF Office also obtained FMOG endorsement for direct access modality for regional multilateral development banks: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and Islamic Development Bank.

The MPTF Office supported the UNSDG FMOG in recent years and continued its support in 2023. It led the sub-group on inter-agency pooled funds, helping inform QCPR report and Funding Compact dialogues and updated policy and legal standards for UNSDG FMOG clearance. A

series of consultations and focus groups in 2023 fostered engagement and consensus around the revision of the 2015 UNSDG Guidance on MPTFs- currently pending approval - incorporating lessons learned, tools, and Funding Compact commitments regarding the quality management features of pooled funds.

Stakeholders carried out consultations with the FAFA group on revising the MOU Addendum for European Union contributions. Materials for a newly revised training package on pooled funds were prepared in view of a training rollout in 2024. The MPTF Office provided technical support to UN DCO in late 2023 for ongoing discussions on the UN development system Funding Compact (2.0) with Member States to further bolster support and engagement for UN pooled

funds. Across the UN system, Funding Compact trends show UN progress in monitoring and implementing common quality management features of pooled funds—which is driven by MPTF Office performance in fund design and administration.

Furthermore, the ongoing partnership with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation led to the production, launch, and distribution of its annual digital publication *Financing the UN Development System - Choices in Uncertain Times*,<sup>8</sup> expanding its reach, readership, and influence. The MPTF Office proactively engaged with partners and provided platforms for discussions on pooled funding, such as the Multi-Stakeholder Forum in December 2023.

## 5.2. Financial resources

In line with AA protocol and the legal framework for pooled funds, the MPTF Office charged each pooled fund a flat rate administrative fee of 1% of the amount contributed by each partner, except for European Commission contributions, where direct costs were charged. Pooled funds were charged a fee or direct cost on receipt of the contribution, whereas the MPTF Office earned income over four years to match the timing between income generated and when AA services were provided, including UNDP central services.

In 2023, the Office earned \$14.5 million US dollars from AA fees, from which \$12.3 million was allocated to the MPTF Office for

operational financing. The balance of \$2.1 million US dollars was allocated to UNDP headquarters as payments for central services of treasury, finance, information technology, legal, and human resources.

Total MPTF Office expenditures from the operational budget in 2023 were \$8.9 million US dollars against a budget of \$11.4 million, with resources allocated for work priorities across the portfolio and continuously invested into having an agile workforce, consultancies, and longer-term solutions to ensure quality service requirements are maintained. The MPTF Office worked closely with UNDP to successfully launch a new integrated digital Enterprise

Resource Planning (ERP) system after a period of data migration review, training, and capacity building to prepare for a successful transition.

Interest generated in 2023 from contributions to the portfolio of MPTF Office-administered inter-agency pooled funds amounted to \$39.6 million US dollars. In accordance with the terms of the funding agreements (SAA's) for each fund, this amount was proportionately credited to each specific fund generating the interest to be used for the programming purposes of the Fund.

8 See: <https://www.daghammarskjold.se/publication/financing-the-un-development-system-choices-in-uncertain-times-2023/>

## 5.3. Operational performance

The MPTF Office is fully self-financed, and fund advisory services, including secretariat support costs, are provided on a cost-recovery basis through consultants or reimbursable staff time. Costs associated with fund secretariat hosting services are recovered through a direct cost management project attributable to the fund. This financing structure means the MPTF Office focuses on efficiency, effectiveness, and balancing

projected annual and lifecycle income with services needs and commitments.

In 2023, the Office continued to invest in process efficiencies to optimize resources and drive economies of scale. A set of key performance indicators are used to monitor and track performance in delivering core fund administration services.



### KPI 1

#### Timely application of donor deposits and transfers to Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)

In 2023, the MPTF Office met indicators for timeliness of deposit application of the \$979.1 million US dollars received and transferred to participating organisations, with \$1.05 billion US dollars transferred to 118 participating organizations and 90% of funds transferred within a five-day window. The performance in this indicator decreased in 2023 from 95% due to new ERP implementation, where technical challenges in early 2023 resulted in funds transfer delays.



### KPI 2

#### Timely submission of 2022 Annual Consolidated Progress Report

As per legal agreements, annual reports (narrative and financial) are available to steering committees, donors, and stakeholders by 31 May of the following year. Final narrative reports are due on 30 June. While fund secretariats are accountable for writing and finalizing narrative reports, the MPTF Office provides inputs by offering consolidated financial information from PUNOs.

The prior standardization and automation of annual financial narrative reports through Gateway made it possible for the MPTF Office to provide the timely inclusion of data in final reports. Part of the UNSDG policy is to ensure fund managers maintain accountability for narrative reporting responsibilities, and this expectation was met with fund secretariats, Offices of Resident Coordinators, or convening agencies (for joint programmes) producing most consolidated annual and final narrative reports on time. By May/June 2023, 98% of annual and final consolidated narrative reports were finalized and published, compared to 92% in May/June 2022.



### KPI 3

#### Timely production of 2022 Certified Sources and Uses of Funds Statements

Legal agreements for MPTF Office administered funds stipulate that all contributors and participants provide a certified annual financial statement for each MPTF and joint programme by 31 May of every year. In 2023, for the ninth year in a row, all certified financial statements were posted on the individual web pages of Gateway by the end of May. Relatedly, 100% of statements were delivered by 31 May.



### KPI 4

#### Targets for project closure

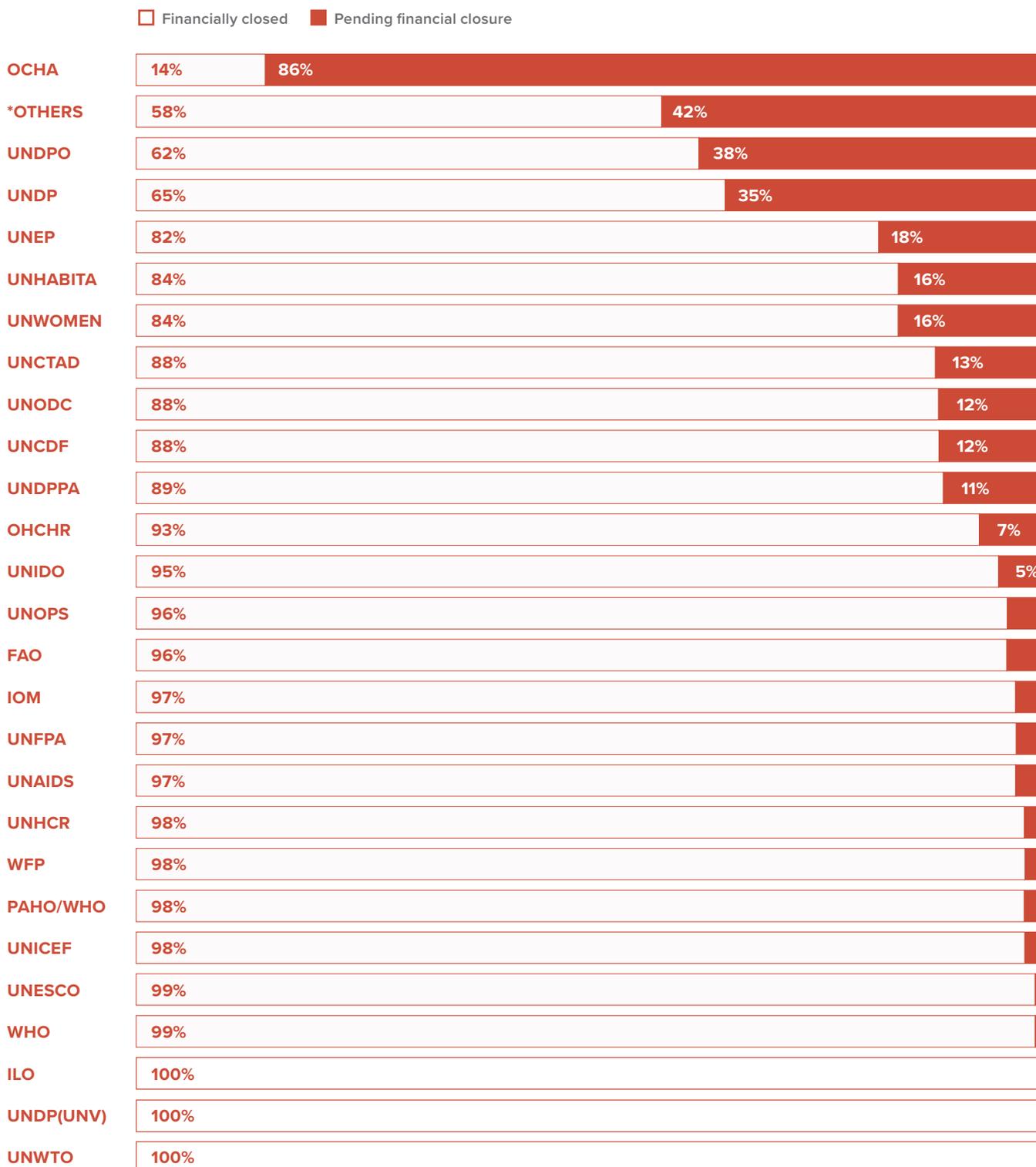
The MPTF Office invested heavily in improving UN performance on the timely closure of pooled fund projects, programmes, and funds. As per the MoU standard for UN inter-agency pooled funds, all UN organizations that receive resources through a given fund must close their projects and submit a final refund and financial report within 18 months following operational completion. This allows the MPTF Office to financially close corresponding projects and funds. In collaboration with UN organizations, the MPTF Office accelerated the closing of older, completed projects and funds, including the UN Board of Audit recommendation.

In 2023, the Office financially closed 648 projects in collaboration with participating organizations compared to 535 in 2022 - this represents a 21% increase. The MPTF Office embedded a project closure dashboard on the new Gateway to improve project closure processes and ensure systematic tracking and ease of identification of bottlenecks.

The MPTF Office continues to encourage PUNOs to provide final reports in a timely manner to improve effectiveness and fund lifecycle management. Graph 9 shows the UN's performance for projects with a finish date of 2021 or earlier. It displays the percentage of UN agency projects where certified final project statements had been received within the two years contracted in a fund MoU. Data for the entire MPTF Office portfolio for 2021 reveals that 14% of certified project closure reports due by the end of 2021 were still outstanding. This was a reduction from 27% of certified project closure reports that were outstanding during the same period last year.

Graph 9: Agency financial closure performance

Accelerating project closure processes



\* Others- includes 33 entities that each implemented 13 projects or less, which represents a total of 115 projects.

As part of its focus on operational performance, the MPTF Office continued expanding its personnel and skills base, complementing portfolio growth and complexity with fully operational teams. To support the launch of Quantum and to continue building capacity, a range of learning and knowledge sessions for MPTF Office staff and fund secretariats were held in 2023.

In line with the Office investment plan, recruitment processes continued throughout the year, resulting in 10 new personnel and continued management of contractual and related arrangements for over 70 personnel across six fund secretariats (CAFI, PBF, Joint SDG, Spotlight Initiative, HRM, GFCR). As part of its growing portfolio,

one Portfolio Management position was relocated to Geneva to maintain effective and quality management with a physical staff presence.

Over the course of 2023, the MPTF Office continued working closely with UNDP Human Resources and GSSC to strengthen workforce diversity through talent acquisitions via the UNDP graduate programme initiative, adding one new colleague. Part of the People for 2030 Strategy, this strengthened organizational capacity, improved workforce diversity, and built a talent pipeline. It has been an example of building capacity through innovative workforce models, fellowships, and similar approaches, ensuring staff structure reached

projected levels for the MPTF Office and hosted secretariats.

In addition to Human Resources efforts, the MPTF Office launched its Learning Strategy and online catalogue to support personnel in their roles and responsibilities. It also positions the MPTF Office at the center of ongoing learning and knowledge building. This is important as part of the larger provision of fund administration services, which form the backbone of the MPTF Office's streamlined and dedicated operational service delivery and its ability to balance effective operations with sound resource use in support of economies of scale.



#### **Aral Sea UN Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan**

There is a sweet scent of hope through unleashing environmental solutions for a dried up Aral Sea that include introducing beekeeping practices in local communities.

© UN in Uzbekistan, Aral Sea MPHSTF

## IN FOCUS

## New MPTF Office Gateway: Inclusive and flexible pooled financing

In 2023, the MPTF Office continued to scale its revised online digital platform to enhance partner engagement and report on collective contributions for advancing the SDGs, 2030 Agenda, and other global and national development outcomes. A platform for streamlining pooled fund contributions, contributor details, fund information, and expertise, Gateway is a one-stop shop for real-time figures and data on UN inter-agency pooled funds.

Providing simplified inter-agency pooled fund management since 2004, Gateway's reputation is built on two decades of experience in increasing transparency measures, validating results, and expanding partnerships for development. Gateway features information on fund financials, implementation status, countries of operation, financial reports, results achieved, qualitative and quantitative evidence, contributor facts, content on the pooled funding approach, and dedicated information on all involved partners.

### Going faster and further together

Upgrading and relaunching the Gateway integrated digital portal has simplified pooled funding processes and resulted

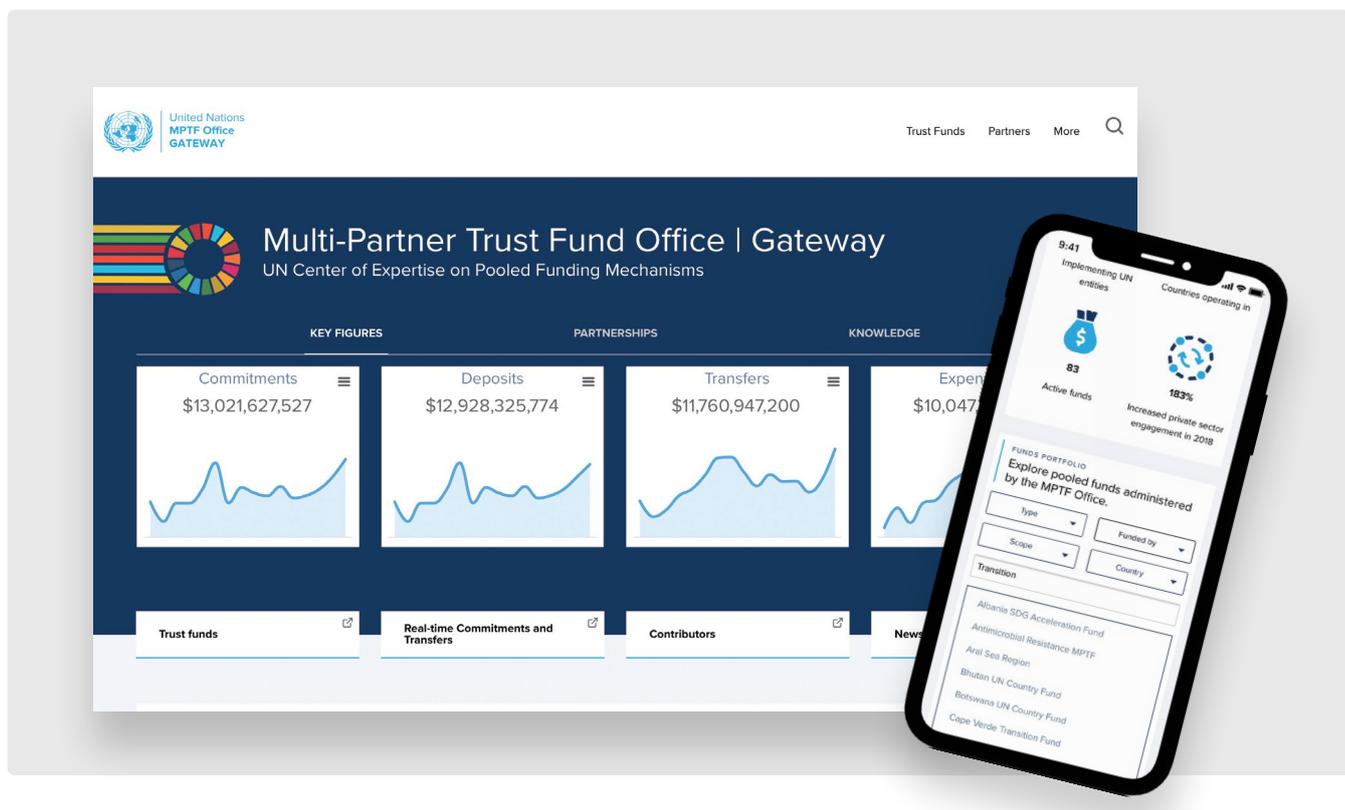
in a revamped service that is lighter and more robust, focusing on transparency, results, and informed analyses. The internal application and new fund administration system for secretariats, contributors, and managers on the backend have enabled more timely administration and management of a platform for implementing initiatives and projects that rely on pooled financing.

Gateway's user-centric design and rapid feedback channels serve the ever-changing needs of stakeholders. The entire MPTF Office portfolio of 261 inter-agency funds is available in real-time, enhancing transparency, results, and informed analysis. Advantages include:

- Access to updated templates, greater visibility for partners, participating organizations, and program countries.
- A robust search system, impact functionalities, and data analysis for analyzing trends and opportunities in collaborative development funding.
- Alternative functionalities for seeing the impact of contributions at the granular level.

- Connectivity to a broad financial administration and fund management system.
- API versioning that allows for testing and sharing with other UN organizations.
- Richly populated financial narrative reporting centre.
- Starter kits for newcomers to pooled funding.

Aligned with UN development priorities, most new funds fall under gender equality, peace and security, climate and environment, poverty and inequality, and systems change or institutional reform. In 2023, the platform had 86,387 total unique visitors, with over 56,000 files downloaded and an average engagement time of two minutes and 46 seconds. The Trust Funds Overview and Peacebuilding Fund pages received the most views.





**Colombia Peace MPTF** - Chasing dreams. Young people weave dream catchers as part of an initiative on reconciliation between FARC-EP and local community in Catatumbo, Colombia.  
© 5ta con 5ta

Annexes:

# Portfolio and partner data annexes

The work of the MPTF Office is possible thanks to the support and engagement of contributors, participating organizations and programme countries that establish and capitalize on UN inter-agency pooled

funding mechanisms. This section includes partner information, data on commitments, and a list of all pooled funds that received contributions in 2023.

## Annex 1: Contributions and number of contributors to funds administered by the MPTF Office (US\$, 2016-2023)

Fund	Theme	Deposits 2023	Deposits, 2016-2023	# contributors 2023
1	Peacebuilding Fund	161,030,751		48
2	Central African Forest Initiative	95,801,440		9
3	Joint SDG Fund	55,926,227		15
4	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	40,487,996		25
5	Global Fund for Coral Reefs	40,198,688		7
6	Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund	35,639,664		11
7	Systematic Observations Financing Facility	35,052,543		10
8	Sudan Humanitarian Fund	34,611,315		6
9	Somalia Joint Fund	33,353,813		10
10	Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan	27,808,668		6
11	UN-REDD Programme Fund	22,205,608		4
12	Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund	20,551,191		8
13	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods Food Security and Climate Adaptation In Yemen (ERRY III)	20,263,971		2
14	Somalia Humanitarian Fund	17,107,537		8
15	South Sudan RSRTF	16,571,473		5
16	Haiti Multi-Partner Trust Fund	14,965,266		2
17	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence MPTF	14,281,746		14
18	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund	13,710,604		7
19	Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia	13,220,969		10
20	UNPRPD Multi-Partner Trust Fund	13,093,770		10
21	Papua New Guinea UN Country Fund	12,354,801		6
22	Complex Risk Analytics Fund	12,005,042		6
23	UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	11,651,186		2
24	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund	10,944,520		13
25	Tanzania SDG Acceleration Fund	10,891,985		4
26	JP Bangladesh SAFE II	10,029,597		3
27	Central African Republic Humanitarian Fund	9,830,765		7
28	Equatorial Guinea MPTF	9,225,000		1
29	Partnership for Action on Green Economy	8,953,303		5
30	Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP)	7,355,041		2
31	Spotlight 2.0 Joint Programme Uganda the Gender for Development (G4DU)	7,337,062		1
32	Leaving No One Behind - The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund	6,968,469		2

33	DRC Humanitarian Fund	Humanitarian	6,361,642	45.4M	6.4M	4
34	Ukraine Community Recovery Fund	Development	5,979,673		6M	3
35	JP Climate Security Mechanism	Climate and environment	5,831,829	2.6M	5.8M	5
36	SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund Kenya	Development	5,818,361	855.7K	5.8M	4
37	Spotlight 2.0 High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Programme)	Development	5,744,391		5.7M	1
38	Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	5,428,773	7.1M	5.4M	5
39	Bangladesh Local Government Initiative on Climate Change	Climate and environment	5,167,103	3.7M	5.2M	2
40	Generation Unlimited	Development	5,070,172	2.2M	5.1M	2
41	JP oPT Sawasya III	Peace and Transition	4,892,609		4.9M	1
42	JP Sri Lanka JURE	Development	4,687,771		4.7M	1
43	Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund	Development	4,371,755	1.2M	4.4M	5
44	Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)	Climate and environment	4,323,611		4.3M	3
45	Malaysia-UN SDG Trust Fund	Development	4,000,000		4M	1
46	Elsie Initiative Fund	Peace and Transition	3,874,776	14.7M	3.9M	7
47	Burundi Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	3,680,000		3.7M	2
48	Economic Empowerment of Rural Women	Development	3,630,381	3.2M	3.6M	2
49	Promoting Rule of Law in Palestine (Sawasya II)	Peace and Transition	3,551,230	4.5M	3.6M	2
50	Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	Peace and Transition	3,364,792	9.5M	3.4M	5
51	United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund	Development	3,217,149	7.1M	3.2M	19
52	Montenegro SDG Acceleration Fund	Development	3,185,138		3.2M	6
53	Albania SDG Fund II	Development	3,175,329		3.2M	3
54	Spotlight Initiative Fund	Development	2,950,693	21.3M	3M	1
55	JP Pacific Digital Economy Programme	Development	2,782,943		5.4M	2
56	UN Sri Lanka SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Peace and Transition	2,538,673	2.1M	2.5M	3
57	Reintegration Through Integrated Support and Empowerment (RISE)	Peace and Transition	2,208,400		2.2M	1
58	JP Sao Tome	Climate and environment	2,200,000		2.2M	1
59	JP Syria Urban and Rural Resilience Phase II	Peace and Transition	2,150,100		2.2M	1
60	Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership	Development	2,105,263	982.4K	2.1M	1
61	Joint Programme for Gender Equality in Georgia III	Development	1,970,832		743.9K	2M
62	Rwanda SDG Fund	Development	1,952,220	720K	2M	3
63	JP Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management in Liberia	Climate and environment	1,899,976		1.4M	1.9M
64	Fonds Fiduciaire Multi-donateurs pour la Jeunesse et Emploi en Tunisie	Development	1,796,000		1.8M	2
65	Digital Cooperation Fund	Development	1,689,876		1.7M	4
66	JP Ukraine CRSV	Peace and Transition	1,672,241		1.7M	1
67	Working for Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Development	1,647,337	1.2M	1.6M	2
68	JP Guatemala Corredor Seco	Development	1,455,216		1.9M	1.5M
69	Joint Programme for Rural Development in Abkhazia	Development	1,054,110	886.6K	1.1M	1
70	The Nature Facility	Climate and environment	1,000,000		1M	2
71	One UN Impact Fund for the Islamic Republic of Iran	Development	958,981		959K	3
72	Moldova 2030 Partnerships Fund Phase II	Development	869,040		975.8K	869K
73	JP Georgia Human Rights for All Phase 2	Development	795,424	1.1M	795.4K	1

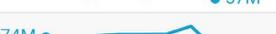
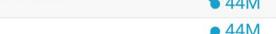
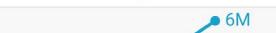
Fund	Theme	Deposits 2023	Deposits, 2016-2023	# contributors 2023
74	JP Serbia EVEC	779,154	779.2K	1
75	JP Philippines Human Rights	736,215	261.5K / 736.2K	6
76	JP Lao ERAW	681,437	731.7K / 681.4K	1
77	JP DRR for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II	650,000	650K	1
78	UN Global Pulse Network	639,952	640K	1
79	Georgia-EU Innovative Action for Private Sector Competitiveness	497,901	1.3M / 497.9K	1
80	Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence Zambia	485,350	427.8K / 485.4K	1
81	JP GTM Comprehensive Rural Development in San Marcos	388,058	2.1M / 388.1K	1
82	UNITLIFE Trust Fund	376,345	1.5M / 376.3K	1
83	JP GTM Integral Rural Development in Ixil II	242,536	3M / 242.5K	1
84	UN country fund for Mozambique	196,607	196.6K	1
85	Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund	105,281	3.6M / 105.3K	1
86	Joint Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina DRR	105,000	700K / 105K	1
87	Conflict Transformation in BARMM	10,594	1M / 10.6K	1



The students of Punchi Situm Preschool in Sabaragamuwa province come from families where their parents work as daily wage labourers. In recent years, families have struggled economically as prices skyrocketed, wages stagnated, and jobs have disappeared.

Under the umbrella of the **Sri Lanka SDG Fund**, UNICEF supports over 1,500 schools in Sri Lanka with mid-morning meals for children from poor households in areas that face the highest risk of malnutrition.  
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## Annex 2: Transfers to Programme countries (US\$, 2016-2023)

Programme Countries	2023	2016-2023
1 Afghanistan	182,231,526	43M 
2 Global and Interregional	165,779,637	46M 
3 Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	75,929,881	132M 
4 Somalia	71,631,569	120M 
5 South Sudan	56,888,583	87M 
6 Sudan (the)	44,279,094	74M 
7 Uzbekistan	44,110,500	4M 
8 Central African Republic (the)	32,737,409	33M 
9 Bangladesh	21,847,864	3M 
10 Yemen	20,067,411	13M 
11 Colombia	16,027,826	18M 
12 Papua New Guinea	14,794,306	15M 
13 Haiti	12,726,057	19M 
14 Liberia	11,569,209	4M 
15 Chad	11,198,670	489K 
16 Niger (the)	10,512,173	11M 
17 Kenya	9,425,547	188K 
18 Ukraine	9,363,935	200K 
19 Sri Lanka	8,871,125	5M 
20 Tanzania United Republic of	8,806,691	2M 
21 Cameroon	8,454,054	542K 
22 Syrian Arab Republic	7,735,989	2M 
23 Uganda	7,263,691	2M 
24 Honduras	7,199,940	721K 
25 Madagascar	6,803,776	7M 
26 Burkina Faso	6,568,655	3M 
27 Malawi	6,470,179	46M 
28 Mauritania	6,234,841	897K 
29 Burundi	6,035,512	7M 
30 North Macedonia	5,627,626	400K 
31 Mali	5,548,492	4M 
32 Albania	5,513,778	1M 
33 Uruguay	5,404,831	63K 
34 Iraq	5,130,303	134K 
35 Indonesia	5,108,970	200K 



Programme Countries		2023	2016-2023
36	Moldova (the Republic of)	5,071,231	3M
37	Kyrgyzstan	4,859,920	2M
38	Guatemala	4,839,672	9M
39	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,658,911	869K
40	Guinea	4,599,358	6M
41	Guinea-Bissau	4,538,549	3M
42	Serbia	4,390,859	399K
43	Georgia	4,299,924	2M
44	Gambia (the)	4,121,289	2M
45	Sierra Leone	4,048,438	835K
46	Palestine State of	3,891,415	12M
47	Philippines (the)	3,840,646	3M
48	Nigeria	3,826,638	2M
49	Belarus	3,428,262	1M
50	Zimbabwe	3,310,000	400K
51	Tunisia	3,263,590	1M
52	Ethiopia	3,055,314	2M
53	Equatorial Guinea	3,048,160	1M
54	Ghana	2,949,949	2M
55	Fiji	2,861,340	593K
56	Sao Tome and Principe	2,718,211	1M
57	El Salvador	2,550,000	762K
58	Congo (the)	2,500,000	698K
59	Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244)	2,413,335	284K
60	Rwanda	2,340,845	995K
61	Lebanon	2,193,577	567K
62	India	2,100,000	200K
63	Maldives	1,944,843	4M
64	Barbados	1,869,199	2M
65	Peru	1,820,000	805K
66	Brazil	1,753,128	1M
67	Myanmar	1,722,847	7M
68	Costa Rica	1,680,000	200K
69	Senegal	1,647,500	1M
70	Jordan	1,628,754	1M
71	Samoa	1,598,057	298K
72	Guyana	1,585,714	1M

Programme Countries		2023	2016-2023
73	Morocco	1,399,980	400K
74	Mongolia	1,249,817	926K
75	Côte d'Ivoire	1,199,834	1M
76	Montenegro	1,091,105	1M
77	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	910,500	3M
78	Togo	875,000	198K
79	South Africa	769,669	1M
80	Jamaica	758,182	4M
81	Suriname	757,200	562K
82	Ecuador	750,000	610K
83	Nepal	735,197	400K
84	Zambia	729,797	1M
85	Mauritius	718,900	1M
86	Dominican Republic (the)	712,700	390K
87	Tajikistan	710,000	200K
88	Grenada	707,143	660K
89	Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	674,179	946K
90	Mozambique	600,000	6M
91	Benin	525,000	400K
92	Timor-Leste	475,700	400K
93	Comoros (the)	475,200	707K
94	Solomon Islands	449,988	3M
95	Belize	424,307	1M
96	Thailand	400,000	1M
97	Trinidad and Tobago	360,700	1M
98	Cuba	360,200	691K
99	China	300,000	200K
100	Viet Nam	250,000	10M
101	Malaysia	244,512	499K
102	Tokelau	182,198	300K
103	Pakistan	157,795	4M
104	Algeria	70,000	70K
105	Azerbaijan	70,000	1M
106	Botswana	70,000	500K
107	Vanuatu	60,107	1M
108	Armenia	23,328	200K



## Annex 3: Deposits by contributor to funds administered by the MPTF Office (US\$, 2016-2023)

Contributor	Transfers 2023	2016-2023	Transfers 2016-2023	Country	Global	Regional	Climate and Environment	Development	Humanitarian	Peace and Transition	
1	Germany	142,749,098		1.7B	50	33	16	24	4	39	34
2	Norway	128,956,331		1.2B	47	21	31	41	19	10	29
3	Sweden	91,245,242		1.1B	77	22	1	5	29	27	40
4	European Union	90,460,554		963.4M	38	60	2	6	65	2	26
5	United Kingdom	86,980,048		1.4B	83	15	2	6	15	56	24
6	Netherlands	78,119,841		656M	61	33	6	6	13	37	44
7	United States of America	60,927,833		173M	77	23	0	10	41	35	14
8	Canada	47,937,358		398M	77	23	0	1	15	19	65
9	Switzerland	36,223,571		223.1M	76	24	0	2	29	25	44
10	Australia	29,928,839		306M	78	14	8	0	53	27	20
11	Ireland	26,391,079		200.2M	89	11	0	1	12	75	12
12	Finland	23,473,018		91.8M	58	42	0	7	24	0	69
13	Denmark	22,412,278		292.2M	76	24	0	6	9	35	50
14	Italy	16,541,081		93.3M	60	40	0	0	23	22	55
15	Spain	15,899,194		64M	79	21	0	5	85	0	10
16	Belgium	12,957,514		120.1M	71	19	10	14	9	66	11
17	France	12,235,083		67.7M	22	45	33	36	8	21	34
18	Republic of Korea	8,513,728		61.1M	51	45	4	14	19	34	33
19	Luxembourg	6,958,260		38.5M	89	11	0	0	54	30	17
20	New Zealand	6,773,976		48.6M	17	24	60	0	71	0	29
21	Austria	6,688,386		25.6M	27	73	0	12	26	0	61
22	UN Foundtn/UN Partnrsip Office	4,407,034		8M	9	91	0	62	3	9	27
23	MySDG Foundation	4,000,000		4M	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
24	Fondation Botnar	2,822,982		4.9M	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
25	Japan	2,680,066		35.6M	11	89	0	0	11	0	89
26	Shell	2,200,000		2.2M	100	0	0	100	0	0	0
27	Iceland	1,308,613		4.1M	63	37	0	10	31	18	41
28	Peacebuilding Fund	1,200,000		61.2M	97	0	3	0	21	0	79
29	Saudi Arabia	1,100,000		1.1M	91	9	0	0	91	0	9
30	Cartier Philanthropy	1,000,000		1.2M	0	100	0	100	0	0	0
31	Czechia	934,093		3.2M	97	3	0	0	1	0	99
32	Global Impact	881,400		881.4K	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
33	Michelin Corporate Foundation	536,061		2M	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
34	Autoliv	400,000		1M	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
35	Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Initiatives	376,345		1.1M	0	100	0	100	0	0	0
36	Portugal	362,484		1.9M	49	51	0	0	88	0	12
37	Omidyar Network Fund	350,000		350K	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
38	Philippines	325,000		746.4K	61	39	0	0	53	27	20
39	Jersey	316,333		2M	100	0	0	0	0	100	0
40	Bridgestone Corporation	275,000		450K	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
41	Croatia	231,160		939.2K	25	75	0	0	73	25	2
42	Montenegro	220,250		330.3K	100	0	0	0	70	30	0
43	Turkey	220,000		6.4M	47	53	0	0	24	0	76
44	HUMDA	200,000		200K	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
45	Qatar	200,000		87.4M	100	0	0	0	2	2	96
46	Slovenia	153,192		218.1K	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
47	Estonia	151,626		2M	42	58	0	0	0	12	88
48	Mexico	120,000		673.4K	17	83	0	0	100	0	0
49	Liechtenstein	116,683		355.4K	22	78	0	0	22	0	78
50	Slovakia	108,938		1.1M	14	86	0	0	12	10	78
51	AstraZeneca	100,000		500K	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
52	Kenya	100,000		100K	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
53	Lithuania	85,779		212.1K	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
54	Cyprus	69,000		258.9K	41	59	0	0	38	34	28
55	Keep Fighting Foundation	53,965		167.2K	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
56	Chile	50,000		724.4K	58	42	0	0	35	0	65

## Annex 4: Transfers to participating organisations in MPTF Office administered pooled funds (US\$, 2018-2023)

Organisation	Contributions 2023	2018 – 2023	Transfers 2018 – 2023	Climate and environment	Development	Humanitarian	Peace and transition	Country	Global	Regional
1 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)	214,346,728		2.2B	8%	19%	19%	53%	70%	26%	4%
2 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)	157,040,695		1.4B	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%
3 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)	76,177,638		554.4M	1%	58%	18%	23%	65%	33%	1%
4 IOM (International Organization for Migration)	73,197,563		385.1M	0%	19%	29%	52%	67%	33%	0%
5 UN WOMEN (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)	71,251,518		501.2M	0%	56%	0%	43%	19%	80%	1%
6 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	69,285,076		357.3M	22%	23%	19%	36%	63%	35%	2%
7 UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)	64,116,565		456.4M	3%	50%	6%	41%	56%	43%	1%
8 WFP (World Food Programme)	57,790,164		347.5M	1%	29%	48%	21%	90%	10%	0%
9 WHO (World Health Organization)	32,895,105		181.7M	1%	39%	53%	7%	85%	15%	0%
10 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	29,499,173		128.3M	0%	7%	41%	51%	70%	30%	0%
11 UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services)	22,568,753		128.6M	29%	21%	7%	43%	81%	16%	3%
12 UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)	19,602,395		66.2M	81%	14%	0%	5%	8%	92%	0%
13 UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund)	19,350,511		152M	55%	27%	0%	18%	39%	16%	45%
14 OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)	14,698,486		78.9M	0%	50%	0%	50%	8%	92%	1%
15 UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	12,589,653		53.3M	0%	18%	0%	81%	39%	44%	18%
16 WMO (World Meteorological Organization)	10,896,823		13.9M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
17 ILO (International Labour Organization)	10,393,397		103.7M	7%	56%	0%	37%	50%	49%	1%
18 UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)	8,359,220		61M	7%	12%	12%	69%	78%	22%	0%
19 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ	8,000,000		20M	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
20 ACLED	6,833,787		11M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
21 UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)	6,700,862		60M	17%	29%	0%	54%	38%	61%	1%
22 UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)	6,431,341		29.3M	33%	38%	0%	29%	66%	34%	0%
23 UNDPO (Department of Peace Operations)	4,180,561		16.9M	3%	5%	0%	92%	5%	95%	0%
24 Enabel (Belgian Development Agency)	3,000,000		12M	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
25 UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)	2,890,229		7.2M	0%	51%	0%	49%	75%	0%	25%
26 SaferWorld	2,865,136		4.6M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
27 UNDP/PA (Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs)	2,565,718		4M	71%	0%	0%	29%	0%	100%	0%
28 SFCG (Search for Common Ground)	2,024,626		13M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
29 Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara	2,006,615		2.1M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
30 AFD (Agence Française de Développement)	2,000,000		46M	100%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%	70%
31 OSRSG_SVC (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict)	1,959,505		9.2M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
32 UNITAMS (UN Integrated TA Mission Sudan)	1,863,359		6M	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
33 ECE (Economic Commission for Europe)	1,778,630		7.8M	0%	100%	0%	0%	5%	95%	0%
34 PAHO/WHO (Pan American Health Organization)	1,472,087		13.5M	0%	87%	0%	13%	56%	44%	0%
35 Conexion Guatemala	1,400,000		1.4M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
36 WOA (World Org for Animal Health)	1,365,499		5.3M	5%	95%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
37 UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan)	1,275,162		4.4M	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%
38 PNG UN Country Fund	1,200,000		12.8M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
39 IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)	1,098,162		5.6M	9%	91%	0%	0%	10%	81%	9%
40 OSCDS (Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel)	1,070,000		2.2M	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
41 ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)	1,064,120		3M	0%	100%	0%	0%	34%	66%	0%
42 Initiative Developpement	1,000,000		1M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
43 One Acre Fund	991,461		1.5M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
44 Concern Worldwide	975,000		2.6M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
45 Cordaid	975,000		3.5M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
46 UN Department of Safety and Security	965,506		965.5K	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%
47 University of Geneva	872,000		872K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
48 JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	831,566		4M	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%



Organisation	Contributions 2023	2018 – 2023	Transfers 2018 – 2023	Climate and environment	Development	Humanitarian	Peace and transition	Country	Global	Regional	
49	Interpeace	795,000		5.4M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
50	World Vision International (WVI)	749,160		2.5M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
51	Mercy Corps	700,000		6.3M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
52	RLabs	682,772		1.4M	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
53	CRS - Catholic Relief Services	671,481		671.5K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
54	Christian Aid Ireland	665,000		2.8M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
55	NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)	656,419		656.4K	24%	0%	0%	76%	0%	100%	0%
56	Madre Inc.	655,845		1M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
57	CARE INTERNATIONAL	647,500		3.4M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
58	War Child	605,042		1.9M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
59	MDG Electoral Institute	595,000		895K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
60	Stichting Impunity Watch	545,512		545.5K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
61	COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale	525,000		525K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
62	DanChurchAid	525,000		1.1M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
63	International Rescue Committee	525,000		525K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
64	SOS Sahel Sudan	525,000		525K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
65	The Carter Center	524,419		1M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
66	UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research)	513,104		6.7M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
67	FONDO ACCION AMBIENTAL Y NINEZ	500,000		600K	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
68	FESU (Fundacion Estudios Superior)	487,500		750K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
69	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	487,500		750K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
70	American Friends Service Committee	472,500		822.5K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
71	Plan International	455,000		455K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
72	Norwegian Refugee Council - Colombia	450,000		1.5M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
73	EOSG (Executive Office of the SG)	447,343		10.3M	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
74	Save the Children	420,000		420K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
75	Wildlife Conservation Society	415,600		1.8M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
76	ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)	415,452		1.3M	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
77	FLD (Front Line Defenders)	406,495		598.7K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
78	Defend Defenders	399,971		719.9K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
79	UNAIDS (The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)	386,996		4.1M	0%	91%	0%	9%	94%	6%	0%
80	ACTED	385,000		385K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
81	ROI - Roza Otunbayeva Initiati	385,000		385K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
82	OSGEY - OSG Envoy on Youth	363,742		363.7K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
83	ActionAid UK	360,000		1.2M	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
84	TEARFUND	348,797		697.6K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
85	MLAL - ProgettoMondo	347,900		347.9K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
86	ONG Adkoul - ONG Adkoul	332,500		332.5K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
87	ICG	301,000		301K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
88	MSIS-TATAO (Multi-Sector Info Service - Madagascar)	300,000		600K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
89	UNITAD	293,591		293.6K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
90	IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	250,000		4.1M	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
91	EcoHealth	249,977		250K	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
92	Agir Ensemble	249,127		359.8K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
93	ACH - Accion Contra el Hambre	247,500		247.5K	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
94	MLL_ONG AZHAR	240,000		800K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
95	Humane Society International	183,500		500K	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
96	Cord	180,000		600K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
97	OHRRLLS (Office of the High Representative for the LDCs & SIDs)	176,500		515.6K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
98	UNDESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	175,841		1.4M	39%	61%	0%	0%	6%	94%	0%
99	ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice)	175,000		560.8K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
100	Umuzi	171,209		299.6K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
101	OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)	157,799		714.6K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
102	HND-Trocaire	154,123		513.7K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
103	ACORD Guinee	150,000		500K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
104	ECA (Economic Commission for Africa)	150,000		1.8M	0%	90%	0%	10%	35%	55%	10%
105	Integrity Watch	150,000		150K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
106	EMHRF (Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders)	130,661		234.7K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
107	ITU (International Telecommunication Union)	125,000		940.1K	0%	100%	0%	0%	88%	12%	0%
108	AEDE	120,000		120K	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
109	GOAL	100,000		800K	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
110	ITC (International Trade Centre)	100,000		4.9M	0%	68%	0%	32%	44%	56%	0%
111	UNU (United Nations University)	100,000		984.3K	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%

## Annex 5: List of Non-UN Organisations transfers in 2023 (US\$)

Non-UN entities in 2023		Transfers in 2023 (US\$)	Non-UN entities in 2023		Transfers in 2023 (US\$)
1	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ	8,000,000	37	World Vision International (WVI)	434,580
2	ACLEED	6,833,787	38	Save the Children	420,000
3	Enabel (Belgian Development Agency)	3,000,000	39	Wildlife Conservation Society	415,600
4	SaferWorld	2,865,136	40	FLD (Front Line Defenders)	406,495
5	SFCG (Search for Common Ground)	2,024,626	41	Defend Defenders	399,971
6	Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara	2,006,615	42	ACTED	385,000
7	AFD (Agence Française de Développement)	2,000,000	43	ROI - Roza Otunbayeva Initiati	385,000
8	Conexion Guatemala	1,400,000	44	ActionAid UK	360,000
9	WOAH (World Org for Animal Health)	1,365,499	45	TEARFUND	348,797
10	NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)	1,106,419	46	MLAL - ProgettoMondo	347,900
11	Initiative Development	1,000,000	47	ONG Adkoul - ONG Adkoul	332,500
12	One Acre Fund	991,461	48	ICG	301,000
13	Concern Worldwide	975,000	49	MSIS-TATAO (Multi-Sector Info Service - Madagascar)	300,000
14	Cordaid	975,000	50	IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	250,000
15	University of Geneva	872,000	51	EcoHealth	249,977
16	JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	831,566	52	Agir Ensemble	249,127
17	Interpeace	795,000	53	ACH - Accion Contra el Hambre	247,500
18	Mercy Corps	700,000	54	MLL_ONG AZHAR	240,000
19	RLabs	682,772	55	Humane Society International	183,500
20	CRS - Catholic Relief Services	671,481	56	Cord	180,000
21	Christian Aid Ireland	665,000	57	ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice)	175,000
22	Madre Inc.	655,845	58	Umuzi	171,209
23	CARE INTERNATIONAL	647,500	59	OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)	157,799
24	War Child	605,042	60	HND-Trocaire	154,123
25	MDG Electoral Institute	595,000	61	ACORD Guinee	150,000
26	Stichting Impunity Watch	545,512	62	Integrity Watch	150,000
27	COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale	525,000	63	EMHRF (Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders)	130,661
28	DanChurchAid	525,000	64	Agency for Economic Development Empowerment	120,000
29	International Rescue Committee	525,000	65	GOAL	100,000
30	SOS Sahel Sudan	525,000	66	Forum Konservasi Leuser	99,048
31	The Carter Center	524,419	67	Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera	90,000
32	FONDO ACCION AMBIENTAL Y NINEZ	500,000	68	PanEco Foundation	79,983
33	FESU (Fundacion Estudios Superior)	487,500	69	Hutan Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh	58,850
34	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	487,500			
35	American Friends Service Committee	472,500			

## Annex 6: Inter-agency pooled funds accountability, legal and oversight framework

### UN inter-agency pooled funds: distinct functions



**Definition:** All inter-agency pooled funds are pass-through mechanisms per the UN’s Chief Executives Board (CEB/2015/HLCM/FB/9, 16 June 2015). They are defined with reference to three key features: Fund design and administration, Joint governance/Fund operations, and Fund implementation:

**Definition:** a UN inter-agency pooled fund is a funding mechanism that is defined with reference to three key features:

**Fund design and administration, Joint governance/Fund operations, and Fund implementation.**

1. **Fund design and administration:** The pooled fund is designed to support a clearly defined programmatic purpose and results framework through contributions - usually received from more than one contributor - that are co-mingled, not earmarked to a specific UN entity and held by a UN fund administrator.
2. **Joint governance/fund operations:** Decisions on project programmatic allocations are made by a UN-led governance mechanism, the programmatic purpose, and the results framework of the fund.
3. **Fund implementation:** Fund implementation is (fully or largely) entrusted to UN entities that assume the programmatic and financial accountability for the resources received.

4. **Standards:** Specifically for UNSDG inter-agency pooled funds, legal standards (e.g., standard legal documents like Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU), signed with implementing organizations, and Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) with donors) and policy standards (e.g., through UNSDG protocols) have been agreed upon by the UNSDG in consultation with Member States. This approach provides assurances of transparency, integrity, and responsible stewardship of resources in support of the UN’s mission and goals. The key instruments are:

- a. UNDG Guidance on Establishing, Managing, and Closing Multi-Donor (now Partner) Trust Funds (2015) establishes the standards for the management of MPTFs across the life cycle. It applies to all multi-partner trust funds (MPTFs).
- b. UNDG Protocol on the AA (October 2015) represents the system-wide agreed on standard roles and responsibilities of the AA.
- c. When an AA is also a Participant Organization (recipient implementing entity), the protocol requests a clear delineation of responsibilities (fiduciary trusteeship versus recipient agency interests).

- d. UNSDG established common guidelines for reporting (2012) for AA of pooled funds.
- e. Standard legal UNSDG agreements/templates: MoUs with the implementing partners and SAA with donors.
- f. The Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) for the UN development and Resident Coordinator systems includes specific accountability measures in relation to joint programmes and inter-agency pooled funds.
- g. UNSDG Guidance Note on a New Generation of Joint Programmes (2022) for pass-through UN joint programmes.

#### 5. Governance, Accountability and Oversight

- a. **Governance:** The policy and legal framework for UN inter-agency pooled funds encompasses key building blocks, including the UN Charter, UN General Assembly Resolutions, UN entities’ policy instruments and legal documents, UN-wide documents, and specific elements of UN pooled funds.
- b. **Accountability and Oversight:** Pooled funds where the MPTF Office acts as the AA have common design and governance features,

including a clear division of roles between fund administration, governance/operation, and implementation. These include:

- i. **Formal Delegation of Authority to MPTF Office Executive Coordinator:** Under the UNDP Accountability Framework approved by the Executive Board, the UNDP Administrator has delegated authority to the MPTF Office Executive Coordinator to exercise authority as an AA in line with the UNSDG Protocol on the AA.
- ii. **UNSDG protocols and standard legal documents.** These instruments help to ensure adherence to the norms and values of the UN, including addressing, for example, the reporting, communication, and transparency process on Sexual Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment, as well as on Fraud, Corruption, and Unethical Behaviour.
- iii. **UNDP pass-through policies, financial regulations, and rules:** While the MPTF Office is hosted by UNDP when it acts as the AA (and is subject to UNDP's regulations, rules, policies, and procedures), the AA function is firewalled from other operational, partnerships and resource management aspects of UNDP to prevent a perceived or actual conflict of interest, as per UNSDG requirements. The implementation of this requirement is covered by UNDP's POPP.
- iv. **Fund specific governance arrangements:** Each fund administered by the MPTF Office is guided by its own specific Terms of Reference (TOR) as the foundational document of the Fund. The TOR describes its programmatic framework and different roles for:
  1. AA/trustee (MPTF Office),
  2. Oversight and decision-making on allocations by governing bodies, sec-

retariat, or fund management unit; and

3. Participating/implementing organizations.
6. **Monitoring and evaluation:** According to UNSDG standards, monitoring of each pooled fund administered by the MPTF Office is undertaken in accordance with the ToR of the Fund. The participants and the donor(s) hold consultations during the life of the fund to review status. Evaluation of programmatic initiatives by a PUNO is undertaken per its rules and regulations, and joint evaluation by participants, donor(s), host government, etc., are posted publicly on the MPTF Office Gateway and uploaded on the UNEG database. The MPTF Office has been subject to several evaluations, is a participant in joint and system-wide evaluations of pooled funds it administers, and provides advice on best practices.
7. **Risk management and internal controls:** The MPTF Office Follows UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management policy and, for internal controls, follows UNDP's Internal Control Framework Policy and the related Operational guide to ICF.
8. **Audit:** The activities of the MPTF Office as the AA and each Participating UN Organization in relation to a fund are audited exclusively by respective internal and external auditors in accordance with each organization's financial regulations and rules (in the case of the MPTF Office, UNDP policies, rules, and regulations apply). Corresponding external and internal audit reports are disclosed publicly per the relevant policies and procedures.
9. **Fee structure:** Cost recovery fee of the AA and indirect costs. The MPTF Office is fully self-financed through its "fee-for-service" delivery model and does not have other UNDP resources allocated to it. The AA fee (currently 1%) is established by the UNSDG, reflected in the UNDG standard legal agreements for the pass-through modality, and covers the full costs of delivering the AA function(s). Separate from the 1% AA fee, PUNOs that implement the joint programmes in

accordance with their regulations and rules under inter-agency pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office charge 7% Indirect support cost, as agreed by UNSDG. As a result, all contributions to an inter-agency pooled fund administered by the MPTF Office incur a total administration fee and indirect cost of 8%. According to UNSDG policy, there is no charging of 1% UN coordination levy to inter-agency pooled funds.

10. **Reporting:** The MPTF Office reports annually to fund-specific governing bodies/Steering Committees and all donors. As per the standard legal agreements of a fund, it is responsible as the AA for fund administration and the provision of consolidated financial and narrative fund reporting according to deadlines established in the UNSDG legal framework. It also participates as an ex-officio in the governing bodies of MPTFs to provide reporting, briefing, and advice on the fund design, financial position, strategy, and performance dimensions.
11. **Transparency:** The MPTF Office provides an online financial platform that is publicly accessible and offers real-time views into contributions, payments, and expenditures for all the MPTF Office funds and projects. The platform provides individual visibility tools for donors who contribute to pooled funds administered by the MPTF Office.

**In conclusion,** the MPTF Office operational framework emphasizes adherence to UNSDG standards, accountability, and transparency. This ensures that stakeholders can confidently engage, trusting in the MPTF Office's more than 20 years of service provision experience in the administration of funds held in trust on behalf of the UN system and its expertise in the design and administration of pooled funding mechanisms to support the UN's ongoing efforts for achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.



## Annex 7: Summary of MPTFO study on innovative finance opportunities

### Highlights

- In recent years, there has been strong demand from the MPTF Office for innovative finance from various stakeholders (e.g., UNDS, donors, implementation partners).
- However, finance innovation is already happening within some MPTFs at the portfolio level.
- Knowledge about finance innovation across the MPTF Office is heterogeneous, and there is a need to close the knowledge gap.
- Seven innovative financial products have been selected on the basis of desktop research and stakeholder interviews.
- Nine recommendations have been elaborated to enable financial innovation and increase collaboration between the MPTF Office and its partners.
- It is highly recommended that partnerships with selected PUNOs and NUNOs, even at the fund setup stage, be intensified to leverage the unique capabilities of each selected partner.
- Finance innovation should happen on the implementation level and on the MPTF level.

### Setting the Scene

UN System entities, implementation partners, and donors in the MPTF Office have demanded more financial innovation partnerships in recent years. There is a growing need for innovative financing structures and private-sector collaboration to leverage development resources. Innovations in financing mechanisms in the MPTF Office portfolio could be used more widely.

One of the key findings is that finance innovation is happening at MPTFs on the portfolio level. MPTFs and their partners use innovative instruments in blended finance, de-risking capital, debt, and equity. Due to the diversity of knowledge in innovative finance and financial structuring, implementing these products varies greatly. An efficient fund setup would benefit from selected implementation partners being involved from the start of structuring.

In addition, the MPTF Office can leverage innovative financial products from PUNOs like UNICEF's World Bank for COVID-19 Resilience Bond, UNCDF's Bamboo-UNCDF Initiative for the Least Developed Countries Fund, and WFP's African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica parametric insurance. Adding multilateral development banks to this collaboration would increase MPTF-enabled financial instruments. Desk research and stakeholder interviews yielded the following nine key recommendations and seven innovative product ideas.

### Key Recommendations

- Standardized approval for multilateral development bank onboarding
- Intensification of collaboration with selected partners
- Focus on portfolio and project-level innovation
- Leveraging INFFs for country-level funds
- Move from grant to investment approach.
- Innovative finance window for any MPTF
- Commercial private sector involvement
- Dedicated finance team for innovation
- Capacity building and cross learning

### Key Product Recommendations

#### Subordination for Blended Finance Structures

Subordination capital is an important enabler for blended finance facilities. MPTF could work with PUNOs and NUNOs to contribute to junior and mezzanine capital with blended finance facilities.

#### Outcome Payer for Impact Bonds

Outcome payers play a critical role in the impact bond space and identify the social, environmental, climate, and impact issues, specify the outcomes that need to be achieved, and consequently pay investors upon accomplishment of these goals. Outcome-based payments are already part of funds like UN-REDD. MPTF could provide these services through its PUNOs across various thematic areas.

### Sovereign Bond Guarantees

Credit ratings associated with debt instruments issued by developing countries can be outside of the investment and allocation criteria of institutional investors. Guarantees can help improve the rating and the risk-return profile of the respective debt instrument. MBDs and selected PUNOs can provide these guarantees, which the MPTF Office can leverage.

### Project Preparation Facilities

PPFs help early-stage projects and companies increase their likelihood of becoming bankable or investable. MPTF Office can work with selected PUNOs to provide reimbursable grants and investments for these projects.

### Equity

The importance of equity investments in MSMEs cannot be overstated, but they are scarce, especially in developing countries. The MPTF Office could work with selected multilateral development banks to provide grants that can be turned into equity investments.

### Venture Philanthropy

Venture philanthropy is a high-engagement approach to charitable giving that integrates venture capital strategies to drive measurable social impact and foster sustainability in supported projects or organizations. MPTF Office could implement this approach through its PUNOs, which will encourage the bankability of underlying projects.



**UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**  
Sri Lanka has increased the survival rate of its mangroves from 3% to 90%. This impressive and astonishing leap is primarily due to inclusive and context-relevant joint initiatives that bring together local communities, citizen scientists and young researchers.

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