



**Providing guidance for donor approaches to
performance-based financing in
fragile and conflict-affected settings**

ReBUILD has been working on performance-based financing (PBF) in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAS) since 2017 and has provided a unique and critical contribution to the literature in PBF adoption, design and implementation. New evidence has been disseminated through a range of products and to a variety of audiences, including development partners, donors, NGOs, practitioners, technical assistants and academics. Our findings have generated high interest and ongoing exchange from donors and international organisations which are highly likely to modify donor investment practices.

What problem was being addressed by the work undertaken?

As PBF is being rolled out in many low-income countries, a number of donors are increasingly interested in its potential and risks, with a particular focus on FCAS, in order to orient their investment and funding decisions. International organisations, such as the World Bank and the Dutch NGO Cordaid, have been at the forefront of technical and financial support to PBF implementation, while others such as the UK's Department for International Development (DFID – now Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) have become increasingly interested in understanding the potential of PBF, in terms of its design, implementation and link to improved health outcomes. ReBUILD for Resilience is the only group with this focus at present, concentrating on the factors and dynamics that can support or hinder PBF adoption, design and implementation, and analysing if and how PBF has been tailored to FCAS to ensure a sensitive, appropriate, effective and equitable implementation.

Pathway to impact

- Since 2017, ReBUILD has provided an original and timely contribution to the [PBF literature](#) by exploring PBF adoption, design and implementation with specific reference to FCAS and developing case studies based on the experiences of Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Nigeria, northern Uganda, Central African Republic and Zimbabwe.
- Early findings were shared with DFID staff in 2017 and subsequently (in 2018) in an internal review of PBF being carried out by DFID.
- The PBF work has also fed into our technical advice to WHO on health financing in FCAS.
- This body of research was presented at the Health System Research conference in Liverpool (October 2018), which was attended by more than 2000 researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and representatives of international organisations. Presentations and debates on PBF in fragile settings were included in a satellite session on [Health Financing in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States: Controversies and Innovations](#), another satellite session on [Payment for Performance \(P4P\), how, why, where and what?](#), an oral presentation session on Health service

delivery in fragile and conflict-affected settings: challenges and lessons, and a poster presentation on [The political economy of results-based financing: the experience of the health system in Zimbabwe](#).

- In October 2018, Professor Witter engaged with francophone audiences on the issue of PBF in fragile settings at a [meeting on 'Learning for UHC'](#) organised by the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), in Antwerp, Belgium which included participants from the French Development Agency (AfD).
- On 31st October 2018, we shared our outputs and insights in a [webinar](#), hosted by Health System Global and attended by 45 participants, including key actors such as the World Bank, USAID, etc. Webinar panellists included participants from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Cordaid and WHO.
- Policy recommendations specifically targeted to orient donors' decision-making on PBF have been summarised in a [policy brief](#), which has been shared with a range of relevant stakeholders interested in the topic, including development partners and donors (DFID, World Bank, WHO, Global Fund, USAID, NORAD, Enabel –formerly Belgian Technical Cooperation, Gates Foundation, UHC 2030), communities of practice, practitioners and technical assistants (HSG's Thematic Working Group on FCAS, PBF Community of Practice, Thinkwell, AEDES), NGOs (IRC, MSF, Cordaid), and academics (LSHTM, KIT, ITM, Heidelberg University, Bergen University).

Impact

ReBUILD's active engagement to share our body of literature and resources on PBF in FCAS, including through the work with WHO, continues to generate interest from donors and international organisations, reflected in on-going exchanges, informal discussions and requests for further engagement in supporting international organisations to think through their use of PBF. For example, we were asked to develop key messages arising from the work for USAID staff after the 2018 webinar.

The World Bank referred to ReBUILD's research during a World Bank-hosted seminar on health financing in fragile, conflict and violence-affected (FVC) situations in November 2018, in which particular emphasis was placed on the need for adaptations for PBF in humanitarian settings building on lessons learned from ReBUILD's analysis. They have incorporated key messages from our research into their briefing for Task Team Leaders on health financing in FCAS.

In direct response to DFID, our work is being used to provide guidance and evidence support to DFID as it reviews its policy on PBF.

Additionally, dialogue is on-going with the French Development Agency (AfD) for ReBUILD to help guide its decision making on PBF in fragile settings. All relevant briefs were translated into French ahead of this engagement ([find them here](#)), and to reach other key actors in the Francophone development community. ReBUILD is helping to stimulate a wider discussion of fragility in the Sahel region amongst francophone stakeholders.

We have also responded to direct requests for advice on PBF in relation to health financing policy in FCAS from NGOs, such as MSF.

“DFID had requested a synthesis of evidence on PBF and ReBUILD responded really quickly and effectively... An email goes out and there is a really quick response. That is brilliant.” (DFID KI)

Research publications and outputs

All of ReBUILD’s performance-based financing resources, including videos, presentations, papers and briefing papers covering a variety of contexts, [can be found here](#).



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