



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Burkina Faso



PEACEBUILDING
FUND

AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED  **\$28 M**

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  **\$14 M**

Focusing on

-  Security sector reform
-  National reconciliation
-  Preventing violent extremism, conflict prevention, social cohesion
-  Women and youth empowerment

Catalytic Effect

PBF interventions in Burkina Faso have already generated an additional contribution of **11.4 million USD** as direct catalytic effect.

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Burkina Faso is facing critical security challenges due to internal and external threats, which exacerbated in 2015. The country has been profoundly affected by spill-over effects of the Mali conflict, which in turn have led to local tensions, including inter and intra-community conflicts. Violence has intensified because of a multifaceted rural crisis. Local conflicts are on the rise due to increasing trust deficit and stigmatization of certain communities. Weak State presence and delivery of basic services have further decreased, further impacting the level of confidence in the State. Armed groups are proliferating, including bandits, jihadists and self-defense movements. In 2021, from 86 civilians killed in 105 security incidents between January 1 and March 31, 2021, 298 civilians were killed in 115 security incidents between April 1 and June 14, 2021, an increase of almost 250% of civilians killed between the first and second quarters, including the Solhan incident of 5 June 2021, which cost the lives of at least 132 people. In addition to the risk posed by persisting insecurity, national reconciliation also constitutes a peacebuilding challenge that is being addressed by the Fund through initiatives highlighted under "Peacebuilding Fund in action". The need to strengthen social cohesion at the grassroots and political consensus on issues of national interest remains a prerequisite to safeguard the stability of institutions. Government's ability to provide a satisfactory response to increasing popular protests taking place in the regions and to workers' demands will also be key to the success of peacebuilding initiatives.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Following the rapid deterioration of peace and security in the Sahel region in 2018, the Government requested eligibility for the PBF, which was granted in August 2018, to access resources in support of the "Emergency Programme for the Sahel in Burkina Faso (PUS-BF)". The PBF investments focused on the following strategic priorities (i) Confidence-building to improve State-society relations, (ii) the strengthening of the social resilience and active participation of women and youth and (iii) peaceful management of conflicts. Cross-border support is a critical component of the portfolio, in line with the "United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)".

In Burkina Faso, the Fund supports confidence-building measures between various communities, the security forces and the defence forces to improve State -society relations and forge partnerships to curb radicalization and reduce transhumance-related conflict. Through the initiatives, 1,791 civilians received free health care at military health centres, while 15 communal security coordination committees facilitated citizen participation in the management of local security. The risk of recruitment by armed groups was reduced through an innovative educational and apprenticeship programme that reached more than 1,000 boys and girls

enrolled in koranic training centres in the Nord region. Fund-supported early warning systems, such as the National Observatory for the Prevention and Management of Conflicts, and a transhumance tracking tool are further reducing the risk of communal conflicts. Collectively, the efforts have contributed to enhanced social cohesion, with displaced persons and host communities reporting improved relationships in the Centre-Nord region. The Fund played a catalytic role with regards security sector reform: it helped foster consensus on the centrality of an inclusive engagement process for the elaboration of the National Security Policy and contributed to the activation of the National High Defense Council (French acronym CSDN), which now meets regularly under the President's chairmanship, and trained parliamentary commissions and civil society organizations on civilian and democratic control.

The Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership (HDPP) Facility project seeks to support the government's two-pronged Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment in partnership with the African Development Bank, EU and the World Bank, through dedicated expertise to reinforce central and subnational coordination capacity for immediate and medium-term priority interventions in regions most affected by instability. A second Phase is ongoing to promote conflict-sensitivity in the upcoming National Development Plan and closely align international and national responses.

CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

The Fund invests in cross-border opportunities to strengthen state and informal mechanisms for conflict prevention and management, and to increase meaningful youth participation in local decision-making mechanisms and structures. In the Liptako-Gourma, PBF focuses on transhumance and farmers-herders conflicts. Despite the insecurity, state and informal conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms are strengthened and more inclusive of women and youth in line with the G5 Sahel Youth Strategy. With regard to cross-border farmers-herder's conflicts, the Fund set-up a "Transhumance Tracking Tool" and early-warning mechanisms to ensure peaceful movements of herders. The observatory for the prevention and management of conflicts linked to transhumance is now in place in the province of Séno and the municipality of Seytenga. PBF further invests along the border areas of Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo to prevent violent extremism and a further expansion of the crisis to Western coastal states.

THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT FOR BURKINA FASO

At the request of the Government of Burkina Faso, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is accompanying the country in its efforts to respond to existing and emerging threats to sustainable peace. This has included the convening of a high-level meeting on 26 September 2019 during which the President of Burkina Faso briefed the PBC on the unprecedented security situation and a meeting on 5 March 2020 to support the implementation of the Matrix of Priority Actions of the PUS-BF for 2020-2021, after which the Chair of the PBC worked with the Government to ensure that the commitments made during the meeting were translated into concrete support. PBC Members have reiterated their solidarity with the people of Burkina Faso and rallied behind Government prevention and peacebuilding efforts, including addressing the security situation and its humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. The PBC will continue to provide a platform for ensuring adequate and coherent support from the international community for the Government's peacebuilding priorities, including addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Burkina Faso.

ABOUT THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The Fund may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations.

The Fund works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to peacebuilding opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.