

# THE PBF IN BURKINA FASO



*"Manegda" Primary School Students. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

## Peacebuilding Challenges

Burkina Faso is facing important security challenges due to internal and external threats. As a direct consequence of instability in neighboring Mali and Niger, the country has faced several terrorist attacks. The sudden change of regime left deep political divides, leaving Burkina Faso very vulnerable. In the Northern regions, new, militant Islamic factions are emerging as a result of the marginalization as well as geographic and socio-economic isolation of the population.

Following the election of President Roch Kabore and his new Government in November 2015, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) was approached by the new

Government, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWAS) and the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to support urgent peacebuilding interventions, including security sector reform (SSR), National Reconciliation, and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in the north of the country.

## PBF Intervention

PBF intervention in Burkina Faso is very recent and the initial results will be visible in the coming months. The PBF and its partners have begun by deploying a High-Level Advisor to the President on SSR, who supports the President in outlining and carrying out reforms. An inclusive National Forum on Security was organized last October,

## PBF INVESTMENTS IN BURKINA FASO:

### TOTAL ALLOCATION:

**\$3** MILLION  
invested since 2017

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO:

**\$3** MILLION

### FOCUSING ON:



Security



Truth, justice and reconciliation

### PARTNER:

UNDP

which, following extensive consultations in the regions with a wide range of stakeholders, produced a roadmap for the 2018 reforms.

The PBF response mechanism plays an important role in mitigating instability. Because Burkina Faso is increasingly a target of terrorist attacks, the SSR process needs to be accelerated, while tackling key political and capacity issues. Seeing the urgency of these programs and the limited capacity of the UN system following the recent political transition, the SSR and the reconciliation projects have been prioritized through ad hoc missions of UN experts in Ouagadougou under a tight agenda.

### Innovative Approach

UN System-wide cohesion has been one of the main guiding principles for designing the PBF projects, which were developed in close collaboration with DPA/UNOWAS, UNDP, the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institution (OROLSI) and the UN System in Ouagadougou.

The PBF is also looking at innovative approaches to address regional instability which can threaten national security in Burkina Faso. To address this, the PBF has implemented a cross-border project encompassing the Liptako-Gourma area, which includes bordering Mali and Niger. This area is at the crossroads of illicit trafficking, which threatens the internal security of the three countries.

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The cross-border project in Liptako-Gourma (USD \$3 million overall, USD \$1 million for Niger) aims at tackling conflict drivers in the region to make peace sustainable, particularly through socio-economic integration of youth at risk of radicalization, peaceful resolution of natural resources conflicts and trust-building between civilian populations and defense and security forces.

### Catalytic Effect

The innovative investments in the Liptako-Gourma region have already generated an additional contribution of USD \$600.000 from Denmark in Burkina-Faso.

### Looking ahead

The PBF will work on the eligibility of Burkina Faso, in order to be able to develop a new package of projects based on a conflict and peace analysis to scale up support to the country. This will be an inclusive exercise, involving all the sustaining peace actors in the country/sub-region and at UN headquarters.



Billboard promoting peace in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.  
IRIN Photo/Chris Simpson

### About the PBF

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated \$772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.