



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Chad



PEACEBUILDING
FUND

AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$28.75 M**
since inception

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$15.4 M**

Focusing on

-  Preventing violent extremism
-  Strengthening local governance and social cohesion
-  Mitigating conflicts over natural resources and transhumance
-  Women's and young people's empowerment

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Chad has to contend with multiple challenges that are common across the Sahel and Lake Basin region: the violent extremism of "Boko Haram"; inter-ethnic and inter-generational strife; natural resource conflicts including over access to land and water, which can arise from transhumance and herder-farmer relations and are exacerbated by climate change; and border management in light of trafficking and migratory flows. These challenges exacerbate the protracted humanitarian crisis with more than 7.5 million people, or half of the Chadian population, in acute or chronic vulnerability. The Covid-19 pandemic risks to further increase conflict by exacerbating existing grievances and weakening the legitimacy of the state and rule of law institutions.

The Secretary-General granted PBF eligibility to Chad in 2017, following a request from the Chadian Government asking to support good governance, strengthening the rule of law, reinforcing of relations between state and non-state actors and building the resilience of vulnerable communities, in line with Chad's national strategies and plans.

In April 2021, the incursion by Chadian rebels based out of Libya (FACT), after the presidential election, causing the death of President Idriss Deby Into, resulted in the assumption of power of a Transitional Military Council and the subsequent appointment of a civilian-led transition government with an 18-months transition timeframe.

PBF IN ACTION

In response to the Government's request, the growing Fund portfolio of currently \$18.5 million enables 10 United Nations agencies and one civil society organization to support the Government's efforts of addressing sensitive root causes of instability through innovative peacebuilding initiatives and integrated programmatic responses bringing together peacebuilding, development and humanitarian actors in remote areas of the country and cross-border areas and in close collaboration with UNOWAS and UNOCA. PBF engagement fills a critical gap fully in line with the UN Support Plan for the Sahel and the G-5 "Plan d'Investissement prioritaire" which emphasize the need for integrated and regional approaches that address structural problems making the region vulnerable to conflict. The PBF promotes inclusive approaches to build resilience to climate change and improved management of transhumance, the strengthening of local governance in the context of increased migration, the creation of early warning mechanisms to prevent conflict and violent extremism and the participation of women and young people in decision-making processes. By establishing new and the strengthening of existing conflict resolution mechanisms across the country, the Fund aims at reducing the number of community conflicts and contributes to social cohesion.

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, PBF quickly adjusted its portfolio to integrate elements of awareness raising on the symptoms, risks and protective measures against COVID-19 as well as the prevention of the spread of potential rumors around the disease. The focal point of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning hailed the adjustments as "a good initiative in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic (when) all sectors have prioritized awareness-raising to contain the disease."

In support to the unfolding transition and in line with the transition government roadmap, the Fund will support strategic priority entry points on national dialogue, reconciliation, stabilization transition and peace consolidation, with a focus on inclusion and human rights.

PBF IMPACT

National Level

The Fund's support to the **development of National Action Plans on Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250** and their implementation have helped putting women and young people in the spotlight as important peacebuilding actors in Chadian society. The inclusive dialogue and consultation process including with local, traditional and religious leaders allowed for the identification and validation of strategic peacebuilding needs of women and young people and ensured local and national ownership.

In the **Lake Province** (Bol and Baga Sola), an area particularly hit by the effects of climate change and pressure on the natural resources, the Fund supported the creation of mixed groups for dialogue and conflict prevention around natural resources management between authorities, refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities. It also contributes to greater freedom of movement of communities in secure areas and increased resilience through alternative livelihood support and support to reforestation. Successful negotiations between different village chiefs and the authorities led to an agreement on the management of fishing areas and regular exchanges on resource management between the communities. Moreover, local authorities have started to better address needs of remote island communities after women and young people had the change to voice their grievances in radio round-table discussions. To restore trust among youth, community leaders and local authorities, the Fund supported 4,433 young people to launch a "Charter of Confidence" through cross-generational dialogues.

The **Youth Promotion Initiative** project in the **South of Chad** increased inter- and intra-generational dialogue to restore mutual trust of young women and men, community leaders and local authorities. Multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks proved to be successful spaces for dialogue and joint development of appropriate solutions to challenges and factors of violent conflict. The aim is to develop a "Charter of Confidence" as a central tool for the prevention and management of inter-community and inter-and intra-generational conflicts in synergy with national peace consolidation mechanisms.

In the **North of Chad**, PBF aims at creating an enabling environment for youth-government dialogue to find solutions and sustainable economic activities to address the difficult living conditions of young people in these remote areas while raising awareness of young women and men about the dangers of migration to the north including human trafficking, forced labor and recruitment by armed groups. The mapping of official and traditional consultation structures, decision-making and conflict management mechanisms at local, community and state level provides the basis of increased engagement with and participation of young people in these mechanisms.

In the **East of Chad**, (Wadi Fira and Ennedi East), at least 198 conflicts between herder and farmers and host communities, IDPs and refugees around natural resources could be addressed by the mixed committee structures and managed, including through joint management of natural resources.

Cross-border/regional level

As part of the ongoing **Chad-Central African Republic cross-border initiative**, the institutional dialogue between the two countries on transhumance has resumed in 2019 for the first time since 2012. In addition, a detailed map of pastoral infrastructure and cross-border transhumance activities was finalized as an important step towards consultative mechanisms. As a result, seven social contracts were developed at local level involving 132 farmers and herder to build and strengthen community-based management systems of agro-pastoral resources and transhumance movements. Based on the success along the Chad-Niger border, the demarcation of 150 kilometers along three axes of transhumance is also expected to reduce conflicts in this restive region.

The **Chad-Niger** cross-border initiative on resilient pastoralism developed a mapping of pastoral resources, typology of conflicts and actors engaged in preventing and managing conflicts for the Diffa-Kanem region. A social pact was signed by the community for the joint management of a pastoral water points, which has reduced conflict over its use. As observed by the head of the provincial livestock delegation in Chad: "Since the PBF project was implemented in Kanem province, the communities of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists have accepted each other and there are no more violent conflicts in this province compared to other provinces of Chad. The herders on the Kanem and Diffa side accept each other and promise to facilitate their displacement and vice versa and this will improve exchanges and links between the two communities." In the areas covered by the initiative, transhumance-related conflicts have declined by more than 50 per cent. To accelerate the achievement of equality and the empowerment of women within communities, the project initiated advocacy days for women leaders and members of consultation frameworks for the effective involvement of women in decision-making bodies. Furthermore, the initiative has provided economic opportunities for more than 1,800 vulnerable individuals, including 50% of women, and recovered 134 hectares of land that now support cultivation and grazing.

The **Chad-Cameroon** cross-border project contributed to an increase of dialogue and trust building measures between Defense Forces and local communities in each country and enhanced cross-border collaboration resulting in early warning mechanisms and preventing violent extremism. It thus contributed directly to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2349 (2017) on the Lake Chad Basin.