

THE PBF IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Participation de femmes aux élections. Photo UN.

Peacebuilding Challenges

Côte d'Ivoire suffered a series of political crises, which degenerated into conflicts, beginning in 2002. The conflicts resulted in numerous deaths, more than one million internally displaced people and refugees, serious human rights violations and deep mistrust within and between communities and security forces. Since the end of open conflict in 2011, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress as reflected in improvements in its security indices and the departure of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNOCI) in June 2017. The country, however, continues to face some residual challenges. In 2017, some elements in the armed forces staged several mutinies. PBF has been a major partner to the country since the end of the open conflict to date.

PBF Intervention

PBF support to Côte d'Ivoire began in 2012, following the end of post-electoral crisis and a joint request from the Government and ONUCI to intervene. PBF support has since been renewed twice, with a cumulative allocation of USD \$42 million.

The PBF and its partners have targeted the most sensitive areas, particularly in the west and center of the country. These were affected by displacement and then return of populations, which exacerbated tensions between communities. PBF support has covered key sectors, from socio-economic recovery activities, support to youth and women's networks and electoral early warning systems, to the establishment of legal clinics, birth registration, land registration, reforms in the security sector and DDR.

Yet this support did not come without challenges: some reforms in the security sector require legal changes, which may be beyond the reach of UN support. Also, DDR support can be challenging as some former combatants reject the community reintegration approach and demand monetary compensation. Re-establishing community trust in the state and especially in the security sector is a long-term process and requires dedication from community and government leaders alike. Currently, PBF support focuses primarily on supporting the

PBF INVESTMENTS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

TOTAL ALLOCATION:

\$ **42** MILLION
invested since 2012

CURRENT PORTFOLIO:

\$ **12.15** MILLION

FOCUSING ON:



Security



Socio-economic recovery



Support to judiciary system

PARTNERS:

UNDP, UN Women,
UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR,
UNESCO, IOM, FAO,
Care International

transition process and addressing some of the residual challenges and potential risks to stability following the closure of the UN peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire in June 2017 and in the lead-up to the next elections.

PBF Impact

PBF support has contributed to an improvement in the post-crisis security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, as reflected by the drop in its security index from 3.8 in 2011 to 1.2 in 2016. The perception of insecurity among the population decreased from 72% for men and 65% for women to 37% for men and 36% for women between 2011 and 2016. **In the zones targeted by PBF, the level of birth registration increased from 22% to 65% between 2012 and 2015.** Judicial clinics deployed with PBF support undertook over 10,700 legal counselling sessions, resulting in 4,000 judgments, thus improving access to justice for rural and marginalized populations. **Through sensitization on land laws and support to land certification initiatives, the Fund has contributed to the peaceful settlement of land disputes in 549 villages.** More than 40 local peace and security committees were established, enabling local communities and the security personnel to engage directly and rebuild trust. Over 650 local leaders and 350 government agents were trained to perform more effectively. Over 6,500 people have participated in social cohesion activities to date, including community dialogues to resolve conflictual issues.

Catalytic Effect

Thanks to PBF support, peacebuilding is now an integral part of government's national priorities, including through the establishment of a ministerial department dedicated to social cohesion and inclusion of peacebuilding objectives into the National Development Plan 2016-2020. Moreover, in view of ONUCI withdrawal, the UN and the Government prepared and signed off on a joint Peacebuilding Support Program (PACoP), outlining transition priorities. With an impressive economic growth rate over the past five years, most donors now argue that Côte d'Ivoire should be in a position to fund its own development. As a consequence, many have limited their support, including in critical areas such as governance and peacebuilding. In this context, PBF support served as a catalyst for a USD \$2.8 million ONUCI-assessed budget contribution towards peacebuilding activities. Moreover, the PBF contribution to the PACoP in 2017 helped to secure support from other partners, including

the Government's commitment of USD \$10 million, USD \$2 million from Germany, USD \$1 million from the US, and complementary contributions through UN Agencies.

What is unique about the PBF in Côte d'Ivoire

The PBF has been a driver of UN integration: by encouraging agencies to work together and with UNOCI, PBF ensured a more integrated and holistic approach. The PBF also allowed the UN System to respond to continued instability in a timely manner. For example, thanks to PBF funds, UN was able to quickly facilitate a series of dialogues just two days after a security incident between two ethnic groups in Bayota in September 2015, which helped reduce community tensions and de-escalate the situation. Moreover, a cross-border project implemented between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, at the request of the two countries' Presidents, started in 2017. The project contributes to building confidence between communities and security personnel in the country, by extending existing PBF activities to the border region and helping strengthen cooperation between both countries.

Looking Ahead

In its 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, PBF has prioritized support to transition settings. Following initial allocation to the PACoP in December 2017, PBF is planning an additional allocation in mid-2018 in areas that are most sensitive for the consolidation of stability during an electoral period. Funding will also serve to address the biggest funding gaps under the PACoP: social cohesion and national reconciliation; rule of law, transitional justice and human rights; sexual and gender-based violence; and community security.

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.