



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Burkina Faso



United Nations
Peacebuilding

MARCH 2020

PBF Investments in

TOTAL  **\$17.987 M**
APPROVED

CURRENT  **\$14.225 M**
PORTFOLIO

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. 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 been intensifying as a result of a multifaceted rural crisis. Armed groups are proliferating, including bandits, jihadists and self-defense movements. As of mid-February 2020, attacks and tensions have resulted in the displacement of 765,517 people and the forced closure of more than 2,369 schools, leaving some 325,245 children out of school. In 2019, Burkina Faso suffered more jihadist attacks than any other Sahelian country. More than 800 persons were killed as a result of attacks from armed groups.

Following the election of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and the installation of his new Government in November 2015, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) was approached by the Government, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA, now the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, DPPA) to support urgent peacebuilding interventions, including security sector reform (SSR), national reconciliation, and prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in the North of the country. 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 additional resources in support of the "Emergency Programme for the Sahel in Burkina Faso (PUS-BF)".

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

At the national level, the Security Sector Reform High-Level Advisory Team to the Presidency, established by the PBF, helped foster consensus on the centrality of an inclusive engagement process for the elaboration of the National Security Policy which was submitted to the President for endorsement. The team 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, including through south-south cooperation with Guinea. The Fund also supported the

High Commission for National Reconciliation to gain legitimacy, including through outreach activities with the population in 10 of the 13 regions of Burkina Faso.

In support of the Government's Emergency Programme for the Sahel, the PBF's projects (amounting to USD 8 million) tackled the rising inter-community violence in the northern regions, with a strong focus on the empowerment of women and youth. These programmes are implemented in close collaboration with local authorities and in partnership with civil society, and focus on: 1) building confidence between local populations and local authorities, including the Defense and Security Forces; 2) PVE with women and youth, including children in Koranic schools, fostering their participation in local decision-making; 3) support to local conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, including to address agro-pastoralist conflicts.

These projects contributed to boosting confidence between local populations, the administration and the Defense and Security Forces through socio-educative and recreative activities involving 1,141 people – including 315 members of the Defense and Security Forces and 608 women. A total of 2,499 community leaders, civil society members, women and youth are now equipped with conflict prevention and management capacities and committed to play their role as community peacebuilders.

■ CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

The PBF cross-border project in the Liptako-Gourma area (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger) mobilized 2,400 people for joint “green” activities between the Defense and Security Forces and the population in Burkina Faso and Niger to foster confidence. Training and income-generation activities benefited 317 young boys and girls at risk of radicalization. In addition, 1,452 civilians, including youth and women, took part in community-based mechanisms for conflict prevention and management. As a result, they have strengthened their capacities to promote peace and conflict resolution in the border areas of three countries. Specific activities included community-based radio programming to deliver peace and social cohesion messages and appointing local focal points in charge of natural resource management.

An additional cross-border Youth and Peace project between Burkina Faso and Mali was launched in 2019 to engage young women and men as peacebuilders and development leaders in their communities. The project contributes to strengthening state and non-state mechanisms for conflict prevention and management, and to increasing meaningful youth participation in local decision-making mechanisms and structures, bridging the regional and national levels through a cross-border and regional approach. The PBF just approved two new cross-border investments in early 2020: one in the Liptako-Gourma region focusing on transhumance and farmers-herders conflicts, and one 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 emphasized the need for a rapid and collective response. 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 the implementation of the action plans resulting from the joint Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment (PPBA) supported by the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union under the Government's leadership.

■ LOOKING AHEAD

The PPBA process has enabled the Government to prioritize actions for the six regions most affected by insecurity and to formulate a Matrix of Priority Actions (French acronym MAP). The Government has also committed itself to integrating prevention and peacebuilding in its next national plan for economic and social development. Based on the national priorities expressed by the Government in the MAP, the PBF intends to: 1) consolidate the ongoing initiatives while strengthening its interventions in the North and Center-North regions; and 2) broaden its geographic coverage in response to the priorities of the Emergency Programme for the Sahel by addressing the root causes of the conflicts that have led to the current crisis.

