



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Burkina Faso



PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

JULY 2022

### PBF Investments in

**TOTAL INVESTED**  **\$38 M**

**ACTIVE PORTFOLIO**  **\$20 M**

### Focusing on

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

### Partners



## KEY PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES:

Burkina Faso is facing multiple and interconnected peacebuilding challenges, notably in the areas of political, economic judicial and security governance. Whilst the social contract has been shaken, and insecurity persists, the population resilience is remarkable.

There is a recognition of the need to strengthen citizens' trust in the State. Efforts to ensure political participation of different strata of the society, including women, youth, IDPs and host communities need to be significantly stepped up. Initiatives are being undertaken to move forward with processes to promote national reconciliation, social cohesion and dialogue at local, regional and national levels.

Insecurity persists and is linked on one hand to armed groups and transnational organized crime activities, and the other to inter and intra community tensions and security sector governance challenges. The situation finds fertile ground in socio-economic challenges, widespread poverty and inequalities and human rights as well as governance-related concerns, especially around corruption, illicit financial flows, natural resource management, and rule of law, which need to be systematically addressed.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Following the rapid deterioration of the peace and security situation in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, the Government requested eligibility for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) which was granted in July 2018. The PBF provided catalytic resources to support of the "Emergency Programme for the Sahel in Burkina Faso" (PUS-BF) which focused on confidence-building to improve State-society relations; strengthening of social resilience and active participation of women and youth; and peaceful management of conflicts. Further, the PBF supported conflict prevention measures at community level, including farmer-herders' conflicts; prevention of violent extremisms; and confidence measures between the defense and security forces and citizens. PBF also supported cross-border interventions, in line with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).

**Judiciary:** Thanks to PBF support, mobile courts made it possible to proceed with 780 civil and correctional cases, to issue 2,500 identity cards and 120 criminal records. Some 50 members of the Sahel and North regions Legal Assistance Commissions, as well as paralegals from civil society organizations have been trained to popularize the Legal Assistance Fund and the procedures to benefit from it. A legal assistance system has been set up in five penitentiaries with 10 paralegal volunteers (five women and five men) who assist defendants who do not have access to legal advice.

**Community/State confidence building:** participative 15 communal security plans were elaborated, as a model of participatory and community-driven solutions to security issues. The combined support is leading to a perception change with increased trust from local populations vis-a-vis defense and security forces (police, gendarmerie and army).

**Preventing violent extremism and fostering social cohesion:** Some 20 women's groups are now engaged in peace education and the prevention of violent extremism (154 organizations engaged since 2019). Some 150-community watch and early warning mechanisms were set up or revitalized in the North and Sahel regions and conducted 123 community dialogues to strengthen social cohesion. A total of 884 talibé children from koranic training centres were enrolled in the accelerated schooling and apprenticeship programme to reduce risks of recruitment by armed groups.

**A virtual platform for monitoring factors of fragility and conflicts** has been launched. This platform will be used to centralize the data collected by the various state structures on fragilities and conflicts in Burkina Faso and will improve data management and analytical capacities. The Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership (HDPP) Facility has supported the government's Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment in partnership with the African Development Bank, EU and the World Bank, through dedicated expertise to reinforce central and local coordination capacities to address immediate and medium-term priority interventions in regions most affected by the instability.

**Addressing local grievances to promote peace** and social cohesion: 100 micro-projects for sustainable income-generating gains were implemented and strengthened cohabitation between IDPs, refugees and host communities. To prevent conflicts linked to the extensive use of land in the East region, 1,600 households (35% headed by women) in Bilanga, Piéla, Diapangou, Diabo and Fada have benefited from agricultural inputs. As a result, they were able to increase their food, vegetable and fodder production.

## CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENTS

The PBF 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. In the Liptako-Gourma region, the PBF focuses on transhumance and farmer-herder conflicts: an inclusive dialogue framework was established with local actors and pastoral organizations to identify appropriate solutions on transhumance and the strengthening of pastoral infrastructures. The PBF set-up a "Transhumance Tracking Tool", an early-warning mechanisms to ensure peaceful movements of herders. As a result, farmer-herder conflicts have been reduced by at least 27% in Burkina Faso. A new small-grant pilot facility has also been set up in 2022 to support cross-border local peacebuilding efforts in the Liptako-Gourma region. The PBF further invests along the border areas of Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo to prevent violent extremism and a further expansion of armed groups to the southern coastal states.

## THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT IN 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. A high-level meeting was convened in September 2019, when the President of Burkina Faso briefed the PBC on the unprecedented security situation. A subsequent meeting in March 2020 took place to support the implementation of the PUS-BF Priority Actions (2020-2021). Subsequently, the PBC Chairperson worked with the Government to ensure that the commitments made during the meeting were translated into concrete support. In October 2020, the Prime Minister briefed the Commission on the impact of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso and presented the national response plan to the pandemic, which had exacerbated peacebuilding challenges. The PBC will continue to provide a platform for ensuring adequate and coherent support from the international community for the country'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.