



September 2023



PBF Investments in



TOTAL APPROVED \$47.5 M

CURRENTLY ACTIVE: \$27.1 M

Focusing on

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

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Since 2016, Burkina Faso faces a multidimensional crisis with interconnected peacebuilding challenges, particularly in the areas of political, economic, judicial and security governance. Insecurity persists and is characterized by attacks perpetrated by armed groups against the State, defense and security forces, the civilian population, and the destruction of economic and social infrastructure. This situation finds fertile ground in socio-economic grievances, social inequalities, and disparities between rural and urban areas. Inter- and intra-community tensions, exacerbated by insecurity, contribute to the erosion of social cohesion. Although the social contract has been shaken and insecurity persists, the resilience of the population is remarkable. The need to strengthen citizens' confidence in the State is recognized. Efforts to ensure inclusion at all levels of society, including women, youth, internally displaced persons and host communities, must be significantly intensified. Initiatives taken to advance processes aimed at promoting national reconciliation, social cohesion and dialogue at local, regional and national levels must be strengthened.

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 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).

Security Sector Reform: Initially developed with PBF support, the National Security Policy (NSP) was revised and re-adopted on March 10, 2023. The National Security Law, resulting from the NSP, which aimed at establishing a new national security architecture and breaks with the overly sectoral and compartmentalized concept of security was adopted in May 2023.

National reconciliation: With the support of the PBF, the country has a strategic framework to guide the reconciliation process consisting of a national reconciliation strategy 2022-2026, a Living Together Pact and an integrated action plan for national strategies for social cohesion, reconciliation and the

prevention of radicalization and the fight against violent extremism.

Judiciary: Through 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. A legal assistance system has been set up in five penitentiaries (two in Ouagadougou, one in Dori, one in Fada, one in Bobo) with 10 paralegal volunteers (five women and five men) who assist defendants who do not have access to legal advice. 1005 detainees benefited from legal assistance which enabled the release of 76 detainees including 15 minors.

Community/State confidence building: 15 communal security plans were elaborated, as a model of participatory and community-driven solutions to address security issues. Joint Civil-military actions of community interest are implemented in the Cascades and South-West regions to promote collaboration between the defense and security forces and civilian population. In these two regions, the FDS benefited from rolling stock, equipment, and office furniture to improve services to the populations. 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). The regional strategy for social cohesion and peacebuilding in the Eastern region, linked to the national strategy and considering the specificities of the region, is developed, and validated.

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 in the North, Sahel, East and Center East regions). Around 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.

Strengthening resilience: To reduce conflicts linked to access to natural resources, 9 water points, 4 livestock feed stores, 200 hectares of degraded and reclaimed land, and two fields bringing together IDPs and host communities were implemented. Nearly 3,000 victims of gender-based violence benefited from first aid and psychosocial care.

Addressing local grievances to promote peace and social cohesion: 100 micro-projects for sustainable income-generating gains were implemented and strengthened social cohesion 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 resulting in an increase of 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, 57,8% of farmer-herder conflicts have been resolved through the dialogue framework. 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. On the southwestern borders of the country, the project to improve cross-border governance contributes to the implementation of the Cross-Border Cooperation Framework Agreement signed between Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire in 2019. The National Commissions of Country borders and border security services have been strengthened to carry out their missions and provide quality services to the populations.

■ PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT WITH BURKINA FASO

At the request of the Government of Burkina Faso, a high-level meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission was convened in September 2019 on the unprecedented security situation in the country with the participation of the President of Burkina Faso. The PBC Chair convened another meeting in March 2020 with a view to supporting the implementation of the PUS-BF Priority Actions (2020-2021) and, subsequently, the Chair worked with the Government to ensure that commitments made during the meeting were translated into concrete support. Since these initial engagements, the PBC has convened multiple times on Burkina Faso, including with transition authorities in July 2022, and remains dedicated to providing a platform for ensuring adequate and coherent support from the international community for the country's peacebuilding priorities.