



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Burundi



United Nations
Peacebuilding

FEBRUARY 2020

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$83 M**

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$16.9 M**

Focusing on

-  Conflict prevention / management;
-  National reconciliation

Partners



African Union, Search for Common Ground,
Netherlands Institute for Multi party Democracy,
ACORD, CORDAID

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The Fund began investing in Burundi when the country became eligible for funding in 2007, following its placement on the Peacebuilding Commission's agenda (2006). From 2007 to 2013, the Fund supported national efforts to prevent a relapse into conflict by investing \$49 million in the rule of law and security sectors, as key components of the implementation of the peace process. The Fund also invested in strengthening governance, justice, human rights and reconciliation at national level, while addressing land issues which fed recurring local level tensions.

While the situation in Burundi has significantly changed since the end of the war in 2005, the country continues to experience multi-dimensional vulnerabilities that pose a risk to the consolidation of peace. Since the crisis of 2015, the PBF has focused its investments on supporting political dialogue and social cohesion, increasing positive youth participation in political and social life, and supporting an inclusive democratic space.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Projects currently funded by the PBF in Burundi support local conflict prevention and resolution, empower youth and women to participate in decision-making and become positive agents of change, and alleviate the negative consequences of displacements and returns. New PBF investments have built on previous PBF engagement to scale up successful, nationally owned initiatives. For example, an ongoing project expands the Women's Mediation Network established in 2015 to address local conflicts and contribute to a peaceful environment. New mediators are trained and their efforts in the communities are complemented with legal aid services and support to local police. PBF investments also support national efforts to prevent violence and strengthen people's resilience to socio-political conflicts. Several PBF-supported projects have brought together young women and men with opposing political affiliations to jointly commit to non-violence and to participate actively and peacefully in the political life of the country.



■ PBF IMPACT

In recent years, PBF investments in Burundi have contributed to building peaceful communities through the empowerment of youth and women at local level and the promotion of social cohesion in Burundi. The Network of Women Mediators, established in 2015 with the support of the PBF, now extends from local to national level and has more than 14,000 active members who have held over 12,000 dialogue sessions, addressing close to 5000 conflicts.

Since 2015, the PBF's investments have also helped restore trust between returnee and host communities and prevent the escalation of conflict related to access to land and livelihoods in areas with returnees and displaced persons. The Fund's ability to invest in cross-border projects enabled a well-targeted intervention on the Burundi-Tanzania border to improve protection and monitoring, increase access to livelihoods and strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms for displaced and host communities, while enhancing collaboration between authorities, communities and civil society on both sides of the border towards common objectives.

■ WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Since 2007, the PBC Burundi Configuration has provided political accompaniment and support to the consolidation of peace in the country. Recently, the Commission has continued to promote dialogue on socio-economic issues and has helped sustain international support for the National Development Plan, providing a space for engagement with multilateral and bilateral partners.

The efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission and the PBF are coherent and mutually reinforcing. The PBC has championed policy discussions on the socio-economic impact of the political situation and has briefed the Security Council on peacebuilding needs in Burundi. The Commission has been an important forum to advocate for the participation of women and youth in political processes in Burundi and to call for political parties and other stakeholders to create conditions for peaceful, inclusive, free and fair elections. The Commission regularly highlights results and lessons learned from programmatic engagement directly relevant to the issues and priorities raised by its members and made possible by the Fund's investments.

■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

In line with the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (UNGA resolution 70/262 and SC resolution 2282 (2016)), which call for greater coherence of UN entities across the humanitarian, development and peace/security pillars and for stronger partnerships between the UN and other international actors in support of nationally owned sustaining peace efforts, PBF-funded projects in Burundi bring together UN entities from across the humanitarian, development and peace/security pillars to plan and implement initiatives jointly. All projects are designed to be coherent with the UN's political engagement and its Development Assistance Framework and are developed in consultation with the Government, national implementing partners and beneficiaries. PBF investment also directly support international and national civil society organizations and, in 2016, supported the African Union in deploying human rights observers to Burundi.

■ 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.