



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Democratic Republic of the Congo



PEACEBUILDING
FUND → → → →

AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED  \$70M

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  \$29.2M

CROSS-BORDER DRC SHARED  \$1.7M

Focusing on

-  Community-based reintegration
-  Reconciliation and social cohesion
-  Inclusive governance
-  Durable solutions

Partners



NGOs

Search for Common Ground, Danish Refugee Council; International Alert, Action pour la Paix et la Concorde

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

While specific conflict dynamics at local and provincial level vary widely across the country's vast territory (2.34 million square kilometers) and its 92 million people, core issues related to limited State presence; tensions between central and customary authority; weak rule of law; lack of inclusive governance and violent competition over access to land and natural resources are consistent root causes of conflict in the country's 26 provinces. This is compounded by continuing and recurring humanitarian crises which recurrently exacerbate tensions, causing large scale displacements and setting back further the conditions for sustained peace at local, provincial and national level. In addition, gender inequalities and the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence across the country are a recurring cause and consequence of conflicts and inhibit the ability of women to fulfil their role as agents of peace, resilience and socio-economic development.

In 2009, the Secretary-General, responding to a request by the Government, declared DRC eligible for funding under PBF Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility. PBF investments focused on supporting rule of law and security, governance, recovery and reintegration in Eastern DRC in support of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS) and, from 2015 to 2019, through its Stabilization Coherence Trust Fund. On further request by the Government, the country's eligibility was renewed by the Secretary-General in 2020 for a period of 5 years. During this period, PBF investments will focus on supporting the country's transition from peacekeeping to non-mission setting, initially concentrating investments in Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

In 2019 and 2020, the PBF approved \$24.9 million in new projects for Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika, focusing on priority areas identified in the Government's request for re-eligibility, including 1) community-based reintegration; 2) local-level social cohesion and reconciliation; 3) inclusive local and provincial governance and; 4) durable solutions for displaced persons, with cross-cutting themes on local-level economic revitalization and gender equality and women's empowerment.

The approved projects have contributed to responding to urgent peacebuilding priorities such as the supporting the reintegration of spontaneously demobilized combatants in communities in Kasai provinces in the aftermath of the 2019 presidential elections. They have also helped expand and strengthen the presence of UN agencies, funds and programmes in areas where MONUSCO has been scheduled to withdraw, and helped establish a basis for larger-scale peacebuilding support from other partners and funds within the framework of the transition and the humanitarian-peace-development nexus.

■ WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

PBF has a unique comparative advantage in contexts with transnational conflict dynamics. In line with its commitment under the Fund's new Strategy 2020-2024 ([hyperlink](#)), PBF will place more emphasis globally on support to cross-border and regional approaches.

In 2019 and 2020, the Fund approved one cross-border project partly implemented in DRC for a total cumulative budget of \$3 million. The project [Creating peace dividends for women and youth through increased cross-border trade and strengthened food security](#) addresses local-level food and economic insecurity as a driver of conflict in the border area between DRC and Rwanda. It contributes to social cohesion by deepening economic integration through increased cross-border trade, fostering mutual understanding and dialogue between border communities and strengthening food security, livelihood and income opportunities, particularly for women and youth.

■ 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.