

Democratic Republic of the Congo



	TOTAL APPROVED	\$109.5 M
	CURRENTLY ACTIVE	\$42.6 M
	CROSS-BORDER DRC SHARE	\$26.6 M

- Community reintegration of ex-combatants
- Transitional justice
- Youth empowerment
- Women empowerment
- Reconciliation and social cohesion
- UN transitions

Logos of partner organizations:

- UNDP
- IOM UN MIGRATION
- unicef
- UN Women
- UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSION
- FAO
- UNFPA
- UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
- UNESCO
- International Labour Organization
- Search for Common Ground
- KVINNA

While conflict dynamics vary across the DRC's vast territory spanning 2.34 million square kilometers and home to 92 million people, several underlying factors remain consistent drivers of conflict. These include limited State presence, tensions between central and customary authorities, weak rule of law, lack of inclusive governance, and competition over access to land and natural resources oftentimes leading to violence. Recurring humanitarian crises continue to exacerbate these challenges, triggering large-scale displacement and undermining prospects for sustained peace at the local, provincial, and national levels. The situation has become particularly acute in the eastern provinces, where escalating violence exacerbated by the expansion of the AFC/M23 armed group has further weakened governance and social cohesion, amplifying protection risks for civilians. Gender inequalities and widespread sexual and gender-based violence persist across the country, both as causes and consequences of conflict, and continue to restrict women's full participation in civilian life as agents of peace, resilience, and development.

Since its initial engagement in 2009, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has invested approximately \$97 million in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Fund's interventions, implemented by UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes as well as INGOs and National NGOs, have in recent years supported the UN transition in provinces from where MONUSCO has withdrawn, notably Kasai and Kasai-Central provinces, Tanganyika and, since 2024, South Kivu. While the past PBF portfolio (2019-2024) focused on four key priorities namely inclusive local governance, community reintegration of ex-combatants, durable solutions for displaced populations, and social cohesion, two additional priorities were added in 2023 to support to the MONUSCO transition as well as the National Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Reintegration, and Stabilization Program (P-DDRCS).

At the request of the President of the DRC, the Secretary-General renewed the DRC's eligibility for PBF funding in 2025 for a new five-year period. Under this renewed cycle, PBF support will focus on three strategic priorities: (i) strengthening governance and coordination of peacebuilding efforts; (ii) promoting community resilience through sustainable solutions to conflict drivers, particularly those related to natural resources, mining, and land; and (iii) enhancing the protection of civilians, including justice and human rights, in support of MONUSCO's gradual and responsible disengagement.

PBF support in the DRC is closely aligned with national priorities and frameworks, including the National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD), the National Strategy for the Prevention of Community and Customary Conflicts (PNPRCC), and the P-DDRCS. In

addition, a joint Secretariat supports the PBF governance structures such as the Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and the Resident Coordinator to foster government ownership. At the provincial level, decentralized governance structures such as the provincial Steering Committees chaired by provincial governors ensure local buy-in, also important for sustainability and onward financing.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

An external evaluation of the PBF portfolio in the DRC (2019–2024) confirmed the Fund's relevance in advancing peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas with a particular focus on local communities including their most vulnerable members such as displaced, women and youth. With its ability to take moderate risks, the PBF was able to intervene in contexts where other partners weren't able to deploy, such as the 2017 violence in Central Kasai and the 2020 unrest in Nyunzu.

PBF-supported initiatives delivered concrete results in local governance, reintegration, and social cohesion. In Tanganyika, support contributed to easing tensions between Twa and Bantu communities through the establishment of dialogue spaces and local peace committees. In Central Kasai, interventions strengthened transitional justice mechanisms, rebuilt trust among conflict-affected communities, and facilitated the reintegration of ex-combatants through socio-economic recovery. Across these regions, PBF efforts enhanced community resilience, promoted inclusive participation, particularly of women and youth, and helped rebuild relationships in areas impacted by violence and displacement.

With its catalytic potential, the PBF paved the way for interventions that were subsequently deployed by partners such as KOICA and JICA, and built upon pre-existing actions supported by Sweden in the case of Kasai where women were trained as community mediators, helping embed peace capacities within local structures. Community policing activities strengthened trust between civilians and security actors through dialogue platforms and the creation of local peace and security committees. PBF interventions also facilitate the reintegration of spontaneously demobilized ex-combatants outside the formal P-DDRCS framework, offering credible alternatives to armed group engagement and contributing to stabilization.

Between 2019 and 2024, PBF projects helped leverage \$33 million from 16 partners. The Fund also supported the establishment of innovative structures such as a Provincial Commission for Justice, Truth, and Reconciliation, community-led savings and loan associations, and media networks promoting community-police dialogue.

■ UN/IFI PARTNERSHIP IN DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is emerging as a key setting for strengthened UN collaboration with international financial institutions (IFIs), including the World Bank, IMF, and AfDB, particularly in the context of MONUSCO's disengagement. Supported by PBSO's Partnership Facility, a UN-IFI Partnership Adviser was deployed in April 2024 and is based within the UN integrated office. Since their arrival, the UN's engagement with IFIs in DRC has become significantly more strategic and systematic, unlocking new technical, operational, and policy-level opportunities for joint peacebuilding and development initiatives. This collaboration is helping to align peacebuilding priorities with national development frameworks and IFI-financed programming and may serve as a useful model for integrated UN-IFI engagement in other transition settings.

■ 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.