





September 2023



PBF Investments in



 **TOTAL APPROVED:** \$46.4 M

 **CURRENTLY ACTIVE:** \$13.8 M

Focusing on

-  Rule of law
-  territorial and land conflicts

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The 1996 Guatemalan Peace Accords, which brought an end to the country's decades-long civil war, envisioned comprehensive legal, political, economic, and social reforms to overcome the root causes of the armed conflict. However, weak state institutions and lack of political will hindered their implementation. Violence, impunity, and corruption have persisted in post-conflict Guatemala, together with deep social inequalities, structural discrimination, and exclusion – particularly of the indigenous population - fostering conflicts including over land and natural resources, humanitarian crises due to food insecurity, as well as high levels of human mobility. Key challenges include strengthening the rule of law and the constructive transformation of conflicts to promote access to development and sustainable peace.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

UN Secretary-General first declared Guatemala eligible to access the Peacebuilding Fund in 2011. Since then, the Fund has invested in the rule of law via capacity building of institutions and civil society organizations in the security, justice and transitional justice areas, promoting dialogue and respect for human rights in addressing social conflicts, empowering the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding and seeking justice and transformative reparations for sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the protection and reintegration of migrants. The fund has invested over \$45 million in 25 projects. For the current period of eligibility (2020-2025), the PBF Strategic Results Framework establishes two priority peacebuilding results:

1. By 2025, justice is more independent, accessible, relevant and efficient, guaranteeing the effective exercise of human rights.
2. By 2025, territorial conflicts have reduced in a peaceful, inclusive, and collaborative way, contributing to human rights and the equitable access to sustainable human development for sustaining peace.

To achieve these results, PBF is supporting the Judicial Branch, the Presidential Peace and Human Rights Commission, the National Youth Council, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal as well as numerous municipal authorities and civil society organizations.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

- Human Rights Division consolidated within the Public Ministry, enabling the investigation and prosecution of multiples cases of the internal armed conflict.
- Historic transitional justice breakthroughs, such as the Sepur Zarco conviction achieving recognition, justice, and reparations for women survivors of sexual violence during the internal armed conflict.
- Recovery and identification of hundreds of victims of the conflict and their return to families for dignified burials; families also receiving culturally sensitive psycho-social support for reparations and healing.
- Inclusion of historical memory, peace culture, human rights, democracy in civics education at all levels.
- Multi-stakeholder coordination strengthened for prevention of electoral conflicts, contributing to decrease in electoral violence and conflicts since 2015.
- Adoption of human-rights based and dialogic approaches to conflict resolution by key institutions, and in implementation around the country.
- Greater coordination between institutions in northern Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador) leading to agreements for better provision of assistance and protection to migrants.
- Over 60 civil society organizations supported, including women and youth organizations, to empower their informed participation in decision making for peace.

■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

Promotion of respect for human rights and sustainable development has been at the core of the Peacebuilding Fund's approach to post-conflict recovery and preventing new social conflicts in Guatemala, and this cross-pillar approach is explicitly reflected in the current Strategic Results Framework. PBF currently also works to incorporate the humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus to its programming, including by recognizing that ending hunger, enabling development and resolving land conflicts as inter-related and mutually reinforcing goals which demand integrated responses.



■ 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.