

# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Guatemala

September 2024





PEACEBUILDING  
FUND



### PBF Investments in



 TOTAL  
APPROVED: **\$51.9 M**

 CURRENTLY  
ACTIVE: **\$19.5 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 a lack of political will have hindered their implementation. Violence, impunity, and corruption have persisted in post-conflict Guatemala, alongside deep social inequalities, structural discrimination, and exclusion – particularly of the indigenous population – fostering conflicts over land and natural resources, humanitarian crises due to food insecurity, and high levels of human mobility. Key challenges include strengthening the rule of law and constructively transforming conflicts to promote access to development and sustainable peace.

### PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The UN Secretary-General first declared Guatemala eligible to access the Peacebuilding Fund in 2011. Since then, the Fund has invested in strengthening the rule of law through capacity building of institutions and civil society organizations in the areas of security, justice and transitional justice, promoting dialogue and respect for human rights in addressing social conflicts, empowering women and youth to participate 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 (2020-20205), the PBF Strategic Results Framework establishes two priority peacebuilding results:

By 2025, justice is more independent, accessible, relevant and efficient, guaranteeing the effective exercise of human rights.

By 2025, territorial conflicts have been reduced in a peaceful, inclusive, and collaborative manner, contributing to human rights and equitable access to sustainable human development for sustaining peace.

To achieve these results, the PBF is supporting the Judicial Branch, the Private Secretary of the Presidency, the Ministry of the Interior, the Presidential Secretariat for Women, 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 has been consolidated within the Public Ministry, enabling the investigation and prosecution of multiples cases related to the internal armed conflict.
- ▶ Historic transitional justice breakthroughs, such as the Sepur Zarco conviction, have achieved 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, with their remains returned to families for dignified burials. Families have also received culturally sensitive psychosocial support for reparations and healing.
- ▶ Historical memory, peace culture, human rights and democracy have been integrated into civics education at all levels.
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder coordination has been strengthened to prevent electoral conflicts, contributing to a decrease in electoral violence and conflicts since 2015.
- ▶ Key institutions have adopted human-rights based and dialogue-based approaches to conflict resolution, and these are being implemented around the country.
- ▶ Greater coordination between institutions in northern Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador) has led to agreements for better provision of assistance and protection to migrants, while also promoting greater social cohesion between the migrant population and host communities.
- ▶ Over 60 civil society organizations, including women and youth organizations, have been supported to empower their informed participation in decision making for peace.

## ■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

The 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. This cross-pillar approach is explicitly reflected in the current Strategic Results Framework. The PBF is also working to incorporate the humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus into its programming, recognizing that ending hunger, enabling development, and resolving land conflicts are interrelated and mutually reinforcing goals that 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.