



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund


Madagascar



United Nations
Peacebuilding




FEBRUARY 2020

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$25.6 M**

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$13 M**

Focusing on

-  Accountable governance
-  Community social cohesion
-  Security Sector Support

Partners



SAF-FJKM

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The elections of 2013 enabled the return of constitutional order in Madagascar, following the long political deadlock which followed the 2009 coup d'état. The peaceful political transition following the 2018 and 2019 elections was an important step forward towards greater political stability. Nonetheless, a plethora of factors and causes of political, military and socio-economic fragility has continued to face Madagascar, eroding trust between the Government and the people and among different communities and regions of the country, while new threats such as climate change and erosion of community fabrics due to rapid economic changes present new risks to social stability.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) commenced its engagement in Madagascar in 2015 with the objective of helping the country to avoid political instability linked to electoral processes and social exclusion. The first phase of PBF support focused on (i) initiating reforms in the security sector; (ii) laying the groundwork for increased trust between the state and citizens through support to accountability and anti-corruption institutions and functions, and (iii) supporting the security, access to services and inclusive dialogue of marginalized communities of the Deep South region of the country. A second phase of the Fund's support has a continued focus on building trust between citizens and institutions with support to anti-corruption and justice sectors, and on supporting better security and social cohesion in the Deep South. This phase also includes support to address rising tensions in the vanilla production zones and in response to climate-induced migration from the South to the West of the country. A dedicated youth radio programme empowers young people as journalists and as active radio listeners with a greater voice and responsibility for socio-political and socio-economic issues in their country.



■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

1 Accountable Governance: The Fund's support strengthens trust between the people and the state through targeted measures aimed at improving the checks and balances on the pillars of the state with a focus on promoting anti-corruption and human rights. One of the key institutions supported – BIANCO (Independent Anti-Corruption Office) – had its competence recognized internationally by the African Union on being selected as a member of the AU's Consultative Anti-Corruption Committee.

The first integrated Anti-Corruption Hub was established in 2018, empowered to investigate and prosecute corruption cases in an integrated manner. Another hub, outside the capital, is being prepared for opening in early 2020. The support provided to the National Independent Commission for Human Rights resulted not only in the operationalization of this body but its accreditation (status "A") by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The Commission is now considered in the national budget, and it has so far investigated 126 human rights violations.

2 Community social cohesion support: The PBF support to the Deep South region took more time to set up due to insecurity and inaccessibility of the area and its cultural complexity. The first UN office was established in the region in 2018 with PBF support, thus allowing the UN to have a permanent presence in the red zones of the Deep South through its new regional office of Betroka.

After two years of dedicated support to the zone, initial results are starting to manifest. Five gendarmerie posts were built in partnership with the Government in the zones of high insecurity, with the newly deployed gendarmes trained on the usage of drones for monitoring organized banditry and similar crimes in these vast and dispersed zones. The project also helped bring access of the communities to local tribunals and legal clinics, enabling them to deal with over 350 cases of disputes. Around 52 community dialogue platforms were established in the project zones to support local peace messengers, resolve disputes and make informed community decisions. The same platforms were used to direct PBF livelihoods support for the at-risk populations which improved the dire condition of 8,000 households. PBF support also facilitated meetings and activities between the security forces and communities as well as within the communities as a means of reducing local mistrust and conflict.

Interviews by Search for Common Ground with project beneficiaries in 2019 have shown 91% satisfaction rate of recipients with these community platforms. A community leader from Fokotany Ifarantsa, Commune Beraketa said: "Since the introduction of the dialogue platform, I see an increase in the confidence of our community in our capacity to resolve conflict without the need to involve gendarmerie. Now I feel more empowered."

3 Security sector support: The conclusions of a 2014 joint Security Sector Reform (SSR) needs assessment by the international partners (AU, SADC, EU, UN, OIF, and African Security Sector Network) shaped the Fund's support in the security sector. With the help of the Fund, the Government produced a National Policy on security sector reform (SSR), along with the establishment of a designated SSR coordination point through the National Secretariat on Defense and National Security, thus managing the sector more strategically and coherently. The project also supported the Government's security strategy by providing analysis and recommendations on crucial aspects, including gender, human resource management, military justice, democratic control, and border management. Simultaneously, the Fund ensured that the security sector institutions have the necessary tools, materials, and training on human rights. Around 500 serving officers were trained on human rights.

Overall, the project laid the foundation needed for the state to undertake key security sector reforms and helped to elevate the status of this sensitive issue within Malagasy political priorities, as demonstrated in the new Government's policy priorities released at the start of 2019. The neutral role played by the security forces in managing the 2018 political crisis concerning electoral eligibility of candidates and proposed constitutional changes is a clear sign of the much-needed change in the role of the security forces. The groundwork is set for the new Government to make substantive progress on reform and for the international community to determine how these can be supported.

■ 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.

