



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Mali



PEACEBUILDING
FUND

AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED \$56M

CURRENT PORTFOLIO \$23.7M

Focusing on

- Justice and impunity
- Conflict prevention and reconciliation
- Natural resources

Partners



In partnership with



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

By mid-2021, recent events in Mali (second coup in 9 months, attempted assassination of the president) showed that instability still lingers in the country at all levels despite the direction taken by transitional authorities to gear the country towards reconciliation, by appointing opposition leaders and civil society representatives in the newly formed government in May 2021 and by pursuing dialogue with other political stakeholders on the other. To the authorities' view, the expected outcome would in fine lead to a sort of short-term social contract aiming at improved security throughout the country; political and institutional reforms, good governance, transparency; implementation of the Peace Agreement resulting from the Algiers process, and the organization of credible and transparent elections. However, this new cycle of crisis undermines the credibility of the transitional authorities to achieve these goals while already faced with insurgencies from several armed groups on its territory.

Mali has been facing a prolonged political, security and identity crisis since 2012. Initially rooted in the secessionist claims of some armed groups in northern Mali backed by terrorist groups, the conflict has fostered the penetration of radical Islamist groups and exacerbated community tensions in central Mali. The root causes of violent conflict in Mali are multiple and include: i) a lack of participatory governance and inclusive political dialogue aligned with the country's socio-cultural and ethnic diversity ; ii) a perception of socio-economic marginalization and the lack of inclusive development policies and strategies; (iii) inequalities in the access and control of natural resources, particularly in the Center's regions, which fuel inter and intra-community conflicts; and (iv) the influence of regional factors, such as illicit financial flows, regional and cross-border criminal economy. These structural conflict causes are compounded by aggravating factors. These include: (i) terrorism and violent extremism; (ii) delays in the implementation of the peace agreement; and (iii) security responses to respond to terrorism and violent extremism.

The slow pace of structural reforms and delays in the implementation of the peace agreements have further undermined people's confidence in the role of the central state, while terrorism, violent extremism and government security responses increase identity withdrawal and reduce the effectiveness of measures taken to stabilize conflicting regions.

PEACE CONSOLIDATION IN MALI

PBF has invested \$56 M in Mali since 2014 under 3 phases: 1) support to the 2013 Ouagadougou Preliminary Accord and the 2015 Algiers Peace Accord with a geographic focus on Gao and Timbuktu. 2) Starting in 2017, a phase focused on the

Centre (Mopti and Segou) in line with the progressive shift of conflicts towards the South, with a focus on local governance and community-based conflict resolution. 3) A third phase started in 2019 following the renewal of Mali's eligibility to PBF with a focus on reconciliation in the Centre, integrated approach to fight impunity in the Centre, prevention efforts in the South and support for the political framework to manage the crisis in the Centre as priority interventions to deliver on the peacebuilding areas identified by the Government. All interventions are in line and complementary to the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, the UN Integrated Strategic Framework Funds and MINUSMA's mandate.

All projects are implemented by UN agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society organizations, in close collaboration with MINUSMA. The portfolio is overseen bco-chaired by the Government of Mali (represented by the Minister of Foreign of Affairs) and the UN (represented by the DSRSG/RC/HC) and comprising international partners and civil society.y a Steering Committee,

Following UNSC resolution 2391, which called on the G5 Sahel States to establish a "robust compliance framework" to prevent, investigate, address and publicly report violations of human rights and humanitarian law, OHCHR and the Joint Force G5 Sahel (FC-G5S) have initiated an innovative partnership to develop the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces to prevent, mitigate and address international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHL) violations that could be committed by security forces. It is designed as a risk reduction framework to prevent civilian harm in the conduct of offensive military operations, including counter-terrorism operations. Within two weeks following the request from the DSRSG to support the mechanism, PBF provided the seed funding (\$590,640) with great catalytic effects: UE provided EUR 10M shortly after.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Using a peace-dividend approach, PBF initiatives focused on justice & impunity, natural resources conflict prevention & reconciliation. In 2021, out of the \$23.7M portfolio, more than 60% (\$15.2M) are invested in the Center region, the latest foyer of conflicts and instability following Gao and Timbuktu in the North.

On justice & impunity, 2,276 Malians (of which, 51% of women) were surveyed on their perception of justice and impunity in certain target areas. Early results showed that on average, people prefer to turn to the Village Chief and the Mayor to request information on legal proceedings due to mistrust of judicial representatives and that more men do so than women. Dialogue sessions between justice actors and litigants should help foster confidence building measures.

To lessen pressure on natural resources, PBF initiatives engaged with central institutions and local authorities: 89 local land commissions have been established regrouping 2,016 villagers (including 702 women) to discuss land dispute settlement mechanisms available to them. As a start, 155 conflicts related to agricultural land at the communal level have been diffused in the target areas. It also emerges that the population's confidence in traditional mechanisms remains strong and above all that this mechanism is not opposed to the formal mechanism. A climate risk and vulnerability study in the central region of Mali was also produced.

On conflict prevention & reconciliation, actions have been multiplied to integrate women and youth in local peace organizations to favor peaceful conflict resolution. In various areas in the Center regions, 12 peace clubs have been set up with 10 members each (of which 4 women); 63 Dimitra community dialogue clubs were created reaching 1,768 persons (of which 1088 women, 62%). Also, women are being integrated in state and non-state conflict resolution structures. 317 people (91 women and 118 youth) exchange regularly on the efforts and mechanisms for peace in the border region between Mali and the Niger. Likewise, in the border region between Mali and Burkina Faso, 470 youth (of which 187 women) and local actors are committed to contributing to prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In 2020, PBF investments in Mali supported the release of 200 children by armed groups whose sustainable reintegration back into their communities is supported though psychosocial, medical and family reunification support. To prevent future recruitment of young people, projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund trained 5,860 youth on child protection and the risks of recruitment. Public awareness campaigns to promote social cohesion and raise awareness of climate-related conflict, reached roughly 110,000 and supported the efforts of Fund-established conflict prevention mechanisms in Ségou, Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and Menaka, through which at-risk youth and women to help resolve 325 conflicts. To encourage trust in the Defense and Security Forces, the Fund supported five campaigns to raise public awareness the forces' mandates, while and consultations among actors along the Mali-Niger border produced agreement on transhumance corridors, which has improved local community relations and cooperation with various forces.

■ 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.