



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Pacific Region



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

MAY 2020

### PBF Investments in PNG

**TOTAL APPROVED**  \$16.6 M

**CURRENT PORTFOLIO**  \$5.5 M

#### PARTNERS



### PBF Investments in Solomon Islands

**TOTAL APPROVED**  \$9.45 M

**CURRENT PORTFOLIO**  \$3.95 M

#### PARTNERS



### PBF Investments in Pacific Regional

**TOTAL APPROVED**  \$3.2 M\*  
\*recently submitted

#### PARTNERS



## PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The PBF has been engaged in the Pacific since 2013 when the Secretary-General declared Papua New Guinea eligible to the Fund due to potential risks to peace around the upcoming referendum on the political status of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The PBF now continues to support the post-referendum process, while also starting to engage in the tribal conflicts in the Highlands region. In 2016 the PBF started to support sustaining peace priorities in Solomon Islands in view of the expected departure of the Regional Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and possible renewal of tensions over unresolved grievances. The PBF continues to support Solomon Islands through youth and women empowerment initiatives, support to youth entrepreneurship for community social cohesion, and interventions to resolve land conflict. PBSO recently received a submission for a regional project to strengthen climate security in the atoll states of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Marshall Islands, which is expected to launch in July 2020.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND SUPPORT IN PNG

The PBF's investment in PNG has primarily focused on supporting an enabling environment for the referendum on the political status of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which took place credibly and peacefully at the end of 2019. The PBF support strengthened the trust and relationship between the Papua New Guinea national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to jointly work towards the referendum. In particular, the PBF facilitated the political dialogue between the two Governments on issues related to the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the referendum, raised awareness on the Agreement through mass awareness campaigns throughout Bougainville (including five high profile road shows), and assisted with community weapons disposal and reintegration. The PBF enabled the resolution of a major area of long-standing dispute between the two Governments, helping to find a compromise formula for the calculation of the Restoration Development Grant paid annually by the national Government to Bougainville. The Fund also assisted in the signing of the parliamentary partnership agreement between the National Parliament and the Bougainville

House of Representatives, pledging to increase collaboration. Moreover, the PBF support enhanced the role of women and youth in the referendum preparation and conduct, including through targeted information campaigns and fora for dialogue on key peacebuilding issues.

### SNAPSHOT OF PBF PRE-REFERENDUM SUPPORT:

-  **106** community facilitators trained, reaching 15,000 people with peace messaging
-  **125** artists engaged for peace
-  **5** roadshows, reaching 18,000 people in all 13 districts of Bougainville, in preparation for the referendum
-  **18** media personnel from major news outlets trained on conflict sensitive reporting
-  **1** parliamentary partnership agreement

## PEACEBUILDING FUND SUPPORT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

### SNAPSHOT OF PBF YOUTH/ WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

-  **3** provincial women caucuses and 2 provincial youth caucuses operational
-  **15** community youth caucuses operational
-  **345** males and **212** females who had been affected by the "Tensions" empowered to participate in community discussions
-  **38** young men and **24** young women trained for social entrepreneurship projects

Since 2016, the Peacebuilding Fund has been supporting Solomon Islands for a peaceful transition in view of the then imminent departure of RAMSI. The Fund supported a series of provincial and dedicated youth and women dialogues, culminating in a very inclusive national dialogue on sustaining peace in 2017. The dialogue addressed key national priorities, including reparations, law and order, land reform, natural resources management and women and youth empowerment. As a result of this Dialogue, the National Reparations Strategy was finalized and approved by the Cabinet. The PBF has also supported the operation of provincial women's and youth caucuses and summits, which have served as inclusive fora to address peacebuilding challenges at community and provincial levels, while amplifying the voices of women and youth. This has led to, for example, the adoption of gender-based budgeting in the Western Province and women's and youth's consultation on the reparation framework and policy.

The Fund has enabled a variety of targeted peacebuilding trainings and dialogues on mediation and conflict resolution in key hotspot areas in Honiara and elsewhere. The Fund has also supported the implementation of the National Youth Policy by targeting youth, especially girls, from rural and the remote areas of the country, which had been subject to the conflict during the "Tensions" period and empowering them to participate in community discussions and to design and implement their own social entrepreneurship projects to address key grievances in their communities and among their peers. In addition, at the end of 2019 the Fund approved a new project focused on land disputes especially around private concessions with the objective of finding more inclusive solutions to these disputes.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND SUPPORT IN THE PACIFIC ATOLL STATES

Following the Secretary-General's visit to the Pacific in May 2019 and in support of the Pacific leaders' unanimous agreement in the Boe Declaration of 2019 that climate is the biggest security threat to their countries and peoples, the PBF has been engaging with the UN Team in the Pacific, the Governments of the low lying atoll nations and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on a regional project on climate security. The project is under approval and expected to launch in July 2020. The aim is to provide dedicated capacity to Pacific nations, with a focus on low lying Atoll nations of Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and Kiribati, to assess, understand and start to address their critical climate security challenges through transparent and consultative processes, while amplifying their voices at the regional and global levels.

## 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.