



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

The Sahel



United Nations
Peacebuilding






OCTOBER 2020

PBF Investments

TOTAL APPROVED  **\$257.1M**

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  **\$110.1M**

Focusing on

-  Natural resources management
-  Justice and reconciliation
-  Conflict prevention
-  Security sector reform
-  Prevention of violent extremism

Partners



CECI, Interpeace, Mercy Corps,
Search for Common Ground

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Unprecedented levels of insecurity, displacement and humanitarian needs have been recorded in the Sahel further threatening social cohesion and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Conflicts in the Sahel reflect a crisis of trust between citizens, specially marginalized groups and State institutions. Unemployment, socio-economic and political marginalization of youth and women further contribute to this trust deficit. Weak state authority, rule of law, security and justice sectors combined to poor service delivery capacity on vast part of the territory fuel injustice, marginalization and exclusion. Since 2015, the fine lines between rebellions and insurgencies, violent extremism, community self-defense and banditry merged. Violence is also rising linked largely to competition over natural resources in rural areas. The effects of climate change are further exacerbating conflicts and impacting structural root causes of conflicts linked to the access, management and use of natural resources. While insecurity is growing, significantly more resources are invested in military and security to the detriment of critical development and peacebuilding investments. Cross-border areas remain the most vulnerable as State authority and presence is limited or inexistent, population lacks access to basic service delivery, often leading to higher poverty and unemployment rates, higher gender inequalities and resentment at being left behind. Complex security and operational challenges characterize cross-border areas – they are difficult to reach, security situation is volatile, movements limited, and few partners have established a lasting presence.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The Sahel is the top priority region for the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund investments – the Fund approved \$137m in the 10 countries engaged in the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) representing 25% of the Fund's resources between 2017-2019.

PBF works closely with UNOWAS and the G5 Sahel to help implement the Strategy. Seven of the ten countries included in UNISS are eligible to the Fund (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and The Gambia),

while it remains engaged under the Immediate Response Facility of the Fund in Nigeria. The Government of Niger has signaled its intention to request eligibility.

The PBF invested significant resources \$31m on cross-border projects recognizing the root causes of crisis and instability are cross-border in nature. By supporting cross-border analysis and joint programmes in the Sahel, the PBF fills a critical financial and strategic gap to ensure UNISS' implementation. The portfolio of cross-border peacebuilding programmes in the Sahel and West Africa addresses regional threats to peace and security: violent extremism, conflicts related to transhumance and the management of natural resources, weak justice and penal chain, absence or weaknesses of inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms. Would resource be made available by partner; the portfolio will continue to grow as part of PBF's new strategy 2020-2024 which emphasizes PBF's added value at the regional level.

In 2020, the PBF is exploring new partnerships with local peacebuilding organizations working in cross-border areas to complement on-going efforts, starting in the Liptako-Gourma region. It is also seeking complementarities with other development actors such as the IFIs, and specifically the World Bank. Over 2017-2019, PBF investments have leveraged \$80m of direct investments and \$442m of indirect investments for peacebuilding interventions in the region (including from African Union, Belgium, Canada, ECOWAS, France, EU, Germany, Ireland, Japan, KOICA, Luxemburg, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USAID, World Bank)

THE FUNDS SUPPORTS FOUR PILLARS OF THE STRATEGY:

1. Promoting cross-border and regional cooperation for stability and development;
2. preventing and resolving conflicts and building peace; preventing violent extremism and crime; and promoting access to justice and human rights;
4. building resilience to climate change, improving management of natural resources, and decreasing malnutrition and food insecurity;
6. empowering women and youth for peace and development.

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT

Over the last few years, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) supported regional peacebuilding priorities in the Sahel, focusing on the implementation of UNISS. In line with resolutions [A/RES/70/262](#) and [S/RES/2282 \(2016\)](#) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture as well as Security Council Presidential Statements [S/PRST/2017/2](#) and [S/PRST/2018/3](#), the Commission convened regularly to mobilize support for Sahelian countries and the UNISS. It welcomed the recalibrated UNISS and its UN support plan[1]. As part of its December 2019 advice to the Security Council on the UNOWAS mandate, it committed to continue supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace priorities in the Sahel. In [S/PRST/2020/2](#), the Security Council encouraged joint annual reporting to the PBC on work to strengthen UN integrated efforts in the Sahel, particularly as this relates to the implementation of the UNISS.

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.