Case Study: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Examined 4 PBF-funded projects for $13.5 million total
Total PBF investment in DRC in 2017-2022: $46,555,583 through 22 projects

Context:

Nonetheless, findings show that human rights-based strategies can gain traction even in difficult environments when paired with peacebuilding tools. Human rights and peacebuilding infrastructures and initiatives may have an even more important role to play in transition contexts.

Best Practices:

- Multi-dimensional programming around transitional justice at a subnational level can be a way to build momentum and gain traction, before scaling nationally.
- Extensive consultation period to obtain full buy-in and ownership of the transitional justice process by both local authorities and civil society increase catalytic effects and project sustainability.
- Iterative programming can make programming more adaptive, bring in new components, and address new peacebuilding challenges or take advantage of opportunities to consolidate prior gains.
- Peacebuilding tasks and functions – for example, reintegration of ex-combatants – may work better and be more durable when embedded within a larger rights and reconciliation initiative.
- To address protection and gender inequality, taking a balanced approach – working with both duty-bearers and rights-holders – is key for advancing rights protection and harm prevention.
- Attention to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) can better enable youth to take on the role of peacebuilders and rights champions.

The project PBF/COD/C-1 was described as “truly catalytic” in part because it combined transitional justice activities with investments in the regular judicial system.
Projects:

**PBF/COD/C-1 (PAJURR)**

**Key Focus:** Advancing TJ and reconciliation combined with justice reforms and socio-economic needs in Kasai and Kasai-Central.

**Best Practice:** Extensive consultation and work with Government partners and CSOs encourages buy-in and durability.

**Key Results:** Multi-dimensional approach helped reignite discussions of TJ at a national and subnational level.

**PBF/COD/B-7 (SSKAT)**

**Key Focus:** Reinforcing and expanding PBF/COD/C-1 in Kasai and Kasai-Central, plus Tanganyika, incorporating reintegration programming into local reconciliation and TJ model.

**Best Practice:** Iterative approach (over two projects) helped win local buy-in, and incorporate other key peacebuilding components.

**Key Results:** Together with PBF/COD/C-1 helped catalyze TJ processes, and supported transition out of mission context by taking over key tasks (reintegration of ex-combatants).

**PBF/IRF-317**

**Key Focus:** GBV, GEWE in remote mining community in South Kivu.

**Best Practice:** Taking a balanced approach, working with rights-holders and duty-bearers, including local authorities, mining sector & female miners.

**Key Results:** Helped shift perceptions of women and win gains in women’s pay and working conditions.

**PBF/IRF-405**

**Key Focus:** Youth empowerment in rights awareness and peacebuilding in Kasai and Kasai-Central.

**Lesson Learned:** Attention to socio-economic needs and scale necessary to enable youth to take a peacebuilding role.

The DRC case study projects were implemented by: OHCHR, IOM, UNDP (PBF/COD/C-1); UNDP, OHCHR, Search for Common Ground (PBF/COD/C-1); OHCHR, IOM, UNESCO (PBF/IRF-317); and OHCHR, UNHCR, World Vision International (PBF/IRF-405).

To read the full case study, please visit PBF website [un.org/peacebuilding/content/human_rights_and_peacebuilding_TR](un.org/peacebuilding/content/human_rights_and_peacebuilding_TR)