

# THE PBF IN GUINEA



Photo: UNDP Guinea

## Peacebuilding Challenges

On 28 September 2013, legislative elections in Guinea marked the end of a long political transition started in 2010. The elections were followed by the forming of the National Assembly on 13 January 2014 and presidential elections of October 2015, which saw the outgoing president, Mr Alpha Condé, re-elected.

Finally, the first local elections since the end of the military rule were held in February 2018. This transition was accompanied by the UN in collaboration with the European Union, the United States, France and Germany among others. Despite significant progress made, some peacebuilding challenges remain, related to political conflicts and levels of trust of the population in democratic, transparent and performing state institutions. The management of national resources, especially in the mining sector, also raises questions. In addition, regional dynamics relating to risks of radicalization and violent extremism triggers new challenges.

## PBF Intervention

Guinea became eligible for PBF support on the declaration of the UN General Secretary of 25 June 2008. PBF support has been instrumental in assisting the UN to accompany the country throughout a delicate democratic transition, leading to the first democratic election in the country, followed by the implementation of key peacebuilding reforms, including the reform of the Army.

As a country having requested support from the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and a UN 'non-mission' setting, Guinea has been a priority country for PBF, with an overall investment of \$ 69.5 million since 2007. The 2012-2016 Second Peacebuilding Priority Plan focused on 1) Security Sector Reform (SSR), 2) National Reconciliation and 3) Youth and Women employment.

The current investments – started in 2017 – build on the evaluation of previous investments through sustaining some of the key achievements, notably in the area of Security Sector Reform, while grappling with new challenges, such as in the area of preventing radicalization.

This regular programming is complemented by two projects under the 2016 and 2017 Youth Promotion Initiatives.

## PBF Impact

An external evaluation in 2017 of the Fund's \$48 million investment across 31 projects under the Second Peacebuilding Priority Plan determined that the portfolio met the most pressing peacebuilding challenges and had focused on those most vulnerable to conflict, such as women and youth.

## PBF INVESTMENTS IN GUINEA:



### TOTAL ALLOCATION:

\$ **69.5** MILLION  
invested since 2008

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO:

\$ **8.9** MILLION

### FOCUSING ON:

-  Security Sector Reform
-  National Reconciliation

### PARTNERS:

ACORD (NUNO), IBRD (WB), IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP

## Women and Youth Empowerment

Under the 2016 YPI, PBF funded the joint project between UNDP, UNHABITAT and UNIDO “Projet d’autonomisation, de réinsertion sociale et de renforcement de la participation citoyenne de 500 jeunes a la sécurité et à la prévention de la violence” for \$ 1 million. The project supports socio-economic and political involvement of youth in community security issues in 2 communities of Conakry as well as in N’zérékoré.

Under the 2017 YPI, PBF funded its first CSO proposal in Guinea, “Projet d’appui au renforcement des initiatives locales des jeunes pour la consolidation de la paix en Guinée”, implemented by ACORD for \$ 850 000. The project will strengthen decentralized conflict resolution mechanisms and develop a national early warning-rapid response system.

Guinea also had two projects under the GPI 1 and GPI 2, implemented by UNDP and UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and OHCHR respectively.

In particular, high-risk investments in security sector reform contributed to improved performance of security forces, which encouraged increased trust of the population that future investments should sustain. Some SSR projects have had high visibility and this has played a pivotal role vis-à-vis the departments and Ministries concerned, right up to the Presidency, providing crucial political backing for the implementation of the reforms. The PBF has engaged in highly sensitive sectors, which no financial backer was able to manage, such as the army personnel retirement program, demonstrating the added value of the Fund.

## Promoting Cohesion

Out of all countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, Guinea was the only one without a peacekeeping or special political mission. It therefore was a testing ground for how to engage holistically on peacebuilding questions in a non-mission setting. Some of the interventions, such as placing a Senior SSR Advisor in the Office of the President have been first tried in Guinea. It proved to be valuable and the initiative is now replicated in Burkina Faso and in The Gambia. In this context, PBF has built strong relationships with the SSR Unit of DPKO and the Global Focal Point on Justice, Police and Corrections

as well as benefitted from the close accompaniment of UNOWAs and DPA.

## PBC Engagement

The dialogue undertaken with the Guinea government, along with the deterioration in the country’s politics led to Guinea being added to the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission on 23 February 2011. The Declaration of Mutual Commitments set three priority areas for action on which the second Peacebuilding Priority Plan covering the period from 2012-2016 was built. In light of the progress achieved, the remaining challenges and the evolution of the peacebuilding architecture, Guinea was the first country to graduate from the configuration setting of the PBC in 2017 to start a new more flexible form of engagement with the PBC.

## Catalytic Effect

The PBF investments have paved the way for additional funding from the national budget as well as the support from other donors. In 2016, SSR was anchored in the national budget; the EU contributed USD \$38.5 million and the USA USD \$5 million to these reform efforts building on the credibility of the process and coordination resulting from strategic UN accompaniment of the reform. Apart from the EU and the USA, projects financed by the PBF under the Second Peacebuilding Priority Plan have generated additional resources from other partners, including the World Bank and Japan.

## About the PBF

The UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization’s financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated \$772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.