



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Madagascar



PEACEBUILDING
FUND

JUNE 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED  **\$30.7 M**
since 2015

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  **\$16.5 M**

Focusing on

-  Accountable governance
-  Community social cohesion
-  Improved local security
-  Climate security
-  Promotion of youth and women participation and leadership

Partners



SAF-FJKM, EISA, MSIS-TATAO

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The elections of 2013 enabled the return of constitutional order in Madagascar, following the long political deadlock which followed the 2009 coup d'état. The peaceful political transition following the 2018 and 2019 elections was an important step forward towards greater political stability. Nonetheless, a plethora of factors and causes of political, military and socio-economic fragility has continued to challenge Madagascar, eroding trust between the Government and the people, and among different communities and regions of the country. New threats such as climate change resulting in a severe drought, particularly in the South, vanilla market volatility, and erosion of community fabrics due to rapid economic changes present additional risks to social stability and contribute to further marginalization in parts of Madagascar.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) commenced its engagement in Madagascar in 2015 with the objective of helping the country to avoid political instability linked to electoral processes and deep social exclusion. The first phase of PBF support focused on (i) initiating reforms in the security sector; (ii) laying the groundwork for increased trust between the state and citizens through support to accountability and anti-corruption institutions and functions, and (iii) supporting the security, access to services and inclusive dialogue of marginalized communities of the Deep South region of the country.

A second phase of the Fund's support has a continued focus on building trust between citizens and institutions with support to anti-corruption and justice sectors, and on supporting better local security and social cohesion in the Deep South with a particular focus on empowering youth. This also includes support to address rising tensions in the vanilla production zones and in response to climate-induced migration from the South to the West of the country, by working simultaneously in one key area of origin of internal migrants, Androy, and in one key area of destination of internal migrants,

Menabe: promoting community stabilization initiatives in the Androy; reducing the pressures on economic and natural resources in the Menabe region. The portfolio also promotes peaceful conflict prevention and resolution, women's leadership in decision-making processes, youth involvement in the promotion of human rights and in an early warning and response system, and management of potential tensions induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

1 More Accountable governance: The Fund's support strengthens trust between the people and the state through targeted measures aimed at improving the checks and balances on the pillars of the state with a focus on promoting anti-corruption and human rights. One of the key institutions supported, BIANCO, Independent Anti-Corruption Office, had its competence recognized internationally by the African Union on being selected as a member of the AU's Consultative Anti-Corruption Committee.

The first integrated Anti-Corruption Hub was established in 2018, empowered to investigate and prosecute corruption cases in an integrated manner. A second hub, outside the capital, opened in early 2021, and a third is to be opened by the end of 2021. The support provided to the National Independent Commission for Human Rights resulted not only in the operationalization of this body, which is now covered by the national budget, but also its accreditation (status "A") by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

With the Fund's support, a dedicated youth radio programme, Studio Sifaka, empowered young people as journalists and active radio listeners, providing reliable, professional information and an opportunity for a greater voice and responsibility for socio-political and socio-economic issues in their country. Moreover, the Fund has enabled the operation of an investigative journal, Trandraka, which provides in-depth investigations to fight against corruption and is the first of its kind in Madagascar. In 2021 the magazine launched a complaint unit, allowing citizens to alert journalists about potential cases of corruption.

2 Community social cohesion and security support in the Deep South: With PBF support, the first integrated UN office was established in this remote region in 2018, thus allowing the UN to have a permanent presence in the red zones of the Deep South through its regional office of Betroka.

After three years of dedicated support to the zone, results are starting to manifest. Five gendarmerie outposts were built, eleven equipped and four additional outposts are being built in partnership with the Government in the zones of high insecurity, with the newly deployed gendarmes trained on the usage of drones for monitoring organized banditry and similar crimes in these vast and dispersed zones. The portfolio also helped bring access of the communities to local tribunals and legal clinics, enabling them to deal with over 5000 cases of disputes. Around 52 community dialogue platforms were established in the project zones to support local peace messengers, resolve disputes and make informed community decisions. The same platforms were used to direct PBF livelihoods support for the at-risk populations which improved the dire condition of 8,000 households. PBF support is also facilitating meetings activities between the security forces and communities as well as within the communities as a means of reducing local mistrust and conflict. In addition, the Fund supported an innovative folk-art promotion project engaging 3 817 youth in conveying messages of peace through different traditional art: music, theatre, poetry, dance. Overall, there are starting to be improvements in the levels of security, social cohesion and community trust. For example, in the district of Betroka, the reduction of banditry and theft of cattle, a big problem in the zone, has been significantly more important than in the rest of the country since the start of the Fund's support.

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.