



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund


Somalia



United Nations
Peacebuilding

NOVEMBER 2020

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$56.3M**

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$22.1M**
(10 active projects)

Focusing on

-  Reconciliation
-  Democratic Governance
-  Durable Solutions
-  Land disputes
-  Youth Empowerment
-  Mental Health and Child Protection

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Somalia has made important progress on peace- and statebuilding despite persisting challenges. Notable achievements include the formation of the first Federal Government and promulgation of the provisional constitution in 2012, the establishment of Federal Member States, the peaceful transfer of power in 2016 and most recently the adoption of the 9th National Development Plan in 2019. Other important reform processes that have yielded results include improvements in public financial management and progress on debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) in 2020. The normalisation of Somalia's relationship with the international financial institutions holds significant potential for a positive development trajectory. In addition to this, there has been discernible progress on the administration of the security sector, focusing on institutional capacity building reforms aimed at increasing civilian oversight, transparency and accountability in line with the National Security Architecture Agreement. Moreover, the 2019 National Reconciliation Framework provides a promising blueprint for a participatory and inclusive approach to reconciliation.

However, this positive trajectory remains fragile, as many substantial challenges remain. Peacebuilding in Somalia takes place in conditions of persistent conflict and insecurity due to the Al-Shabaab threat, recurring humanitarian shocks, large-scale displacement and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as widespread unemployment disproportionately affecting youth and women. While women's political participation has recorded recent improvements, more remains to be done to consolidate progress and promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE). 2020 brought further severe shocks that are compounding the situation: the socio-economic impact of the desert locust invasion and of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recurrent droughts and floods which increase food insecurity.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Since 2009, the PBF has invested \$ 56 million through 29 projects, implemented by 15 UN entities. Somalia was first declared fully eligible for PBF funds in 2016. The Secretary-General granted another five years of eligibility in July 2020 upon request of the Federal Government of Somalia. Between 2018 and 2019, the PBF increased its engagement with \$25 million in new investments in Somalia, including new initiatives under the Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative.

Priorities have included supporting inclusive reconciliation and conflict resolution efforts and preparations for electoral security and dispute resolution. Moreover, the Fund is piloting peacebuilding approaches, focusing on the link between reconciliation and mental health. The Fund works through a wide range of UN agencies, in close partnership with the UN's Special Political Mission in Somalia, UNSOM, and for the first time has supported civil society organisations directly in the country.

The PBF's support to Somalia is closely aligned with national priorities. In 2019, Somalia articulated its peacebuilding and sustainable development agenda in the Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9), 2020-2024 and relevant policies, including the National Reconciliation Framework and the National Stabilisation Strategy. As in many countries, Somalia's path to peace and recovery is not a linear one. There can be setbacks, and programmatic approaches need to continuously adjust to political and security realities. The PBF will continue to learn from lessons on how to best adapt its approaches.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

An independent portfolio evaluation of the PBF's support to Somalia 2016-2019 documented how the PBF has filled critical gaps in peacebuilding, unblocked political processes, promoted joint programming, and tried new approaches to protracted challenges, establishing proof of concept. For example, the Midnimo programme spearheaded an integrated approach to durable solutions for displaced and host communities, benefitting 842,225 not only with basic services, but also by establishing mechanisms to empower communities to plan for their own needs and address issues jointly. The project was instrumental for the creation of community networks that later continued to serve as platforms for facilitating other peacebuilding work: The developed action plans were later used by communities to solicit and direct additional donor funding for peacebuilding; the formed peace committees were subsequently used to support redress of grievances and to facilitate substance based negotiations; the formation of women's committees was used by the Ministry of Women to promote increased women's representation in local and national governance structures.

In an effort to re-establish the state-citizen link in Jubbaland and South West State, the PBF supported the setting-up of governance infrastructures to increase state capacities for the delivery of basic services at local levels to better respond to population needs. As a direct result, federal funds were – for the first time – channeled through a new Federal Government system to state and district levels to improve the roll-out of infrastructure development services on the ground. The effective set-up of accountability mechanisms in administrative and financial departments and the successful linkages between the federal, state and district levels increased the citizens' confidence and trust vis-à-vis the Government's legitimacy, due to its enhanced ability to deliver services.

Overall, the Fund's investments were found to be strategically positioned along the humanitarian - development - peacebuilding nexus in Somalia and have contributed to the achievement of strategic outcomes described in the larger peacebuilding framework for Somalia, including on the extension of state authority and promotion of rule of law. The evaluation notably cited six major contributions of the collective PBF portfolio, focusing on **1) delivery of basic services; 2) improved social cohesion; 3) increased federal, state and district cohesion; 4) enhanced community and district mobilisation for development; 5) improved mechanisms for rule of law and settlement of grievances; and 6) improved economic opportunities**. Between 2017-2019, the PBF helped mobilize \$ 8.48 for every \$ 1 it approved in Somalia. This can be seen as a key marker of the Fund's impact and role in shifting resources and strategies from response to prevention .

■ LOOKING AHEAD

The PBF is ready to support new, innovative programmes in Somalia in the years ahead, responding to the priorities identified in Somalia's eligibility renewal request in 2020: reconciliation, justice and rule of law, governance and security, with women's indispensable role in peacebuilding as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Somali Women's Charter, being a cross-cutting priority across the new portfolio. Promoting and advancing women's leadership and decision-making role in peacebuilding and political processes has increasingly become a priority agenda for the Federal Government, spearheaded by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development. The Somali Women's Charter, adopted by the Federal Government in 2019, outlines a vision for a society in which women are guaranteed meaningful and equal participation in all spheres of political, economic and social life.

■ 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.