



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund


## South Sudan



PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

June 2022

### PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED  \$53.1 M

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  \$25.4 M

### Thematic Areas



Social Contract, National Democratization, Justice & Accountability



Displacement



Local peace and conflict prevention mechanisms

### Partners



## PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The signature of the Revitalized Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018 and the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020 are important achievements in South Sudan's state building process but multiple challenges threaten to erode a fragile peace and could trigger a relapse into conflict. These challenges include political and ethnic tensions and lack of socio-economic opportunities, ongoing humanitarian crises, lack of effective decentralized political and government structures, displacement, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) as well as climate change.

Addressing and preventing conflicts in South Sudan will require continued investments in tackling the root causes and drivers of instability while promoting sustainable peace and a renewed social contract for the country at national, subnational and local levels.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has supported South Sudan since 2011 to fund urgent peacebuilding activities before and immediately after independence, based on the Peacebuilding Support Plan. In May 2021, following a request from the government, South Sudan was declared eligible for support under the Peacebuilding and Resilience Facility (PRF) of the PBF for a period of five years. In 2021 alone, the PBF approved over \$16 million in peacebuilding investments, making the country the largest recipient of PBF funds this year, and the 12th largest since its inception.

Through its investments, the PBF supports the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan.

The PBF currently has 8 active projects totaling \$25.4m in approved funding, focused on strengthening national democratization, justice and accountability processes, addressing conflict related to displacement and strengthening local peace and conflict prevention mechanisms.

Through its projects, the PBF supports urgent peacebuilding processes across South Sudan that enable progress towards state and nation building, transitional justice, local peacebuilding, management of conflicts related to housing, land and property, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, youth empowerment in civic spaces and mental health and psychosocial support.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT AND INVESTMENTS

**Addressing security challenges and violence against women:** With support from the United Nations Population Fund through a project funded by the PBF, the national authorities established the country's only two operational GBV One Stop Centers in Aweil and Akobo. The Centers provided confidential medical, psychosocial and legal services to 303 survivors of GBV and 27 survivors of child marriage. It also helped shift harmful norms, with 85% of 743 participants in 21 discussion groups facilitated by United Nations Children's Fund viewing GBV as less acceptable after project implementation. In 2021, 41 Police Community Relations Committees, 45% of whose members are women, were reported to be effective in providing security by women across the country. In addition, 18 community dialogues in 14 payams led to higher reporting rates of Gender-based violence cases and other crimes, demonstrating an increase in trust in the police.

**Youth Action for Reduced Violence:** In Wau, in July 2021, following the implementation of gender transformative sessions as part of a \$2.8 million project to reduce gang violence, nine youth groups from across the city independently organised a peace party and agreed to cease all hostilities and to positively contribute to their communities. 210 youth successfully completed vocational skills training and positively impacted their community, for instance by producing and distributing face masks and soap to help fight COVID-19. Community leaders and parents confirmed improvements in non-violence among youth participants. The state government, convinced by the project's positive impact, is exploring strategies to scale up youth-centric interventions going forward.

**Support to the constitution making process:** A newly approved project (December 2021) provides timely support to a peaceful and transparent, gender-responsive, people centered, participatory and inclusive constitution making process that is informed by locally contextualized constitution knowledge. The Government of South Sudan, the main constitution making institutions, as well as non-government and community organizations will be supported to build consensus among stakeholders on substantive constitutional issues. Project resources will also be dedicated to ensuring that vulnerable groups in all ten states and three administrative areas, including women, youth, internally displaced people, refugees, people with disabilities and the rural poor contribute effectively to the constitution making process.

**The Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing:** The Government has committed to improving accountability and addressing the legacy of large-scale human rights violations. To support these efforts, a newly approved project (January 2022) supports the operationalization of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH), one of the transitional justice mechanisms envisaged under Chapter V of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. The project provides technical support to the Commission and supports its efforts to implement its programme of work based on a transparent, gender-sensitive and victim-centered approach.

## 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.