



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Sudan



July 2022

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  \$49.3 M

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  \$46.3 M

Thematic Areas

-  Durable Solutions
-  Rule of Law
-  Local Peacebuilding
-  Peace Agreement Implementation
-  Women's Empowerment
-  Youth Empowerment

PBF recipients

 16.7 M	 9.9 M	 5.5 M
 3.2 M	 2.2 M	 1.5 M
 1.1 M	 1.0 M	 0.9 M
 0.6 M	 0.3 M	

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Decades of instability have left Sudan's peacebuilding trajectory fragile and uncertain. Political tensions, intercommunal conflicts, large-scale displacement, economic crises, deepening inequalities, rising unemployment, devastating floods, and violent retaliation to popular protests for democratic reform threaten the country's peacebuilding prospects. These challenges reached a critical point following a military coup on 25th October 2021, which was met with country-wide protests, civil disobedience campaigns, and general strikes that were suppressed by use of excessive force by security personnel. With the political situation remaining highly volatile, the coup has derailed significant gains made on international and economic fronts, depriving the country of much-needed aid and debt relief and placing Sudan's nascent democratic trajectory at risk.

In Darfur, there has been an upward trend in violence, displacement and criminality since the full withdrawal of the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) at the end of 2020, which has been followed by frequent surges of intercommunal conflict that have left 10.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Sudan was declared eligible to the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in October 2019 for a period of five years. The PBF has since approved over \$49 million in peacebuilding investments in Sudan, making the country the largest recipient of PBF funds since the start of the Fund's 2020-24 Strategic Plan and the 10th largest since its inception. Through its current investments, the PBF supports the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) mandate to assist Sudan's political transition toward democratic governance, respect for human rights, and sustainable peace.

In 2022, the PBF has 14 active projects totaling \$46.3m in approved funding, as well as four projects under development and one completed project. In 2019, the PBF approved five projects totaling \$20 million in Darfur, focusing on durable solutions, rule of law and support to local peacebuilding. Three additional

projects totaling \$7.7 million were approved in 2020 to support the national peace process, women's political participation, and the establishment of an in-country PBF Secretariat to oversee and coordinate the PBF portfolio.

In 2021, the PBF approved six new projects in Sudan, which include initiatives to support gender-responsive natural resource governance in Blue Nile, profiling of IDPs and refugees in Darfur and in the border area with Eastern Chad, and adequate housing for conflict-affected communities in West Darfur. These investments also include three successful candidates from the PBF's Youth Promotion Initiative, which aim to provide mental health and psychosocial support to youth, support the empowerment of young people in civic spaces, and establish a national youth citizen observer network.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

The PBF has catalyzed urgent peacebuilding processes across Sudan that have supported progress in areas including the national peace process, local peacebuilding, women's political participation, gender-responsive natural resource governance, durable solutions for displacement-affected individuals, youth empowerment in civic spaces and mental health and psychosocial support. Key achievements include:

Durable solutions for refugees and IDPs: Sudan's flagship PBF-funded Darfur Programme has laid the groundwork for durable solutions in target localities. 11,065 household surveys were conducted across the five states of Darfur, assessing factors such as mobility intentions, feelings of safety, and access to basic services, and socioeconomic conditions, which informed participatory locality-level durable solutions action plans. To help lay the groundwork for durable solutions in the target localities, the programme helped to identify 12,975 persons in need of civil documentation and, of these, helped issued documentation to 2,169 individuals. 627 individuals were also provided with vocational trainings and income-generating activities, including 315 women and girls, and 10 women's microfinance associations were established, with 200 members.

Provision of basic services: Bolstering the government's capacity to provide basic services to its citizens, the Darfur programme provided 37,815 individuals across the five states with sustainable drinking water and sanitation. 5,118 boys and girls have also benefited from educational support through the rehabilitation of classrooms, enrolment campaigns and access to learning materials.

Local peacebuilding initiatives: 4,088 individuals have been provided with paralegal services and counselling through the establishment of community-based protection networks, including those targeted to the needs of children. In North Darfur, for example, 500 children, including 240 girls, have benefited from services offered by these networks. The programme has supported a constellation of local-level conflict resolution structures to resolve disputes, including those over land and resources, as well as refer cases and information to other government bodies such as formal police forces and Native Administrations. In East Darfur, for example, community-based resolution mechanisms established or re-activated by the project have so far helped resolve 199 registered cases.

Strengthening the political and peacebuilding role of women in Sudan's transition: a PBF-funded project implemented by Search for Common Ground trained 85 women political leaders, young women and government representatives on topics including leadership and conflict transformation. Ten young women-led community initiatives for reconciliation in South Kordofan and Gedaref were also supported, reaching an estimated 6,416 beneficiaries.

■ 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.