




March 2025



PBF Investments in



 TOTAL APPROVED: \$57.8 M

 CURRENTLY ACTIVE: \$20.3 M

Focusing on

-  Preventing Violent extremism
-  Strengthening local governance and social cohesion
-  Mitigating conflicts over natural resources and transhumance
-  Women's empowerment
-  Peaceful and inclusive transition
-  Youth empowerment

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The Central African Republic (CAR) has been eligible for the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) since 2008, when the country faced persistent political instability, the presence of multiple armed groups and limited state authority outside the capital, Bangui.

The implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) of 2019 faced challenges due to the political and security context during the general electoral period of 2020-2021, as well as the formation of a new coalition of armed groups named the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement. The adoption of the International Conference on the Great Lakes joint roadmap for peace in CAR in September 2021 provided a way forward, with the support of the region, to reinvigorate the peace process and implement the 2019 political agreement. Since then, significant progress has been made with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), with a total of six armed groups and two factions from other armed groups, signatories of the Political Agreement, dissolved and fully disarmed and demobilized. The Government has also advanced its efforts to decentralize the peace process and prepare for local elections, including consolidating security gains at the local level and extending state authority to remote areas. However, challenges remain, including the persistent activism of armed groups, exactions in parts of the country - particularly along borders and at mining sites - and issues during transhumance seasons.

Structural challenges—including resource imbalances, weak governance, regional instability, and impunity—continue to obstruct sustainable peace and development. As of January 2025, CAR has **469,342 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** and **719,047 refugees** in neighboring countries, mainly in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The PBF represents a unique mechanism for promoting an integrated approach to the interventions of the United Nations Country Team and MINUSCA in CAR. As a key donor in a landscape with limited funding, the PBF has made substantial contributions to the implementation and revitalization of the peace process, through both the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Luanda Joint Roadmap, with an investment of \$51 million since 2019.

The PBF portfolio in CAR includes interventions in human rights, reintegration of ex-combatants, social cohesion, mental health, transhumance, durable solutions, and the political participation of youth and women. Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) remain a priority, with six GYPI projects

funded since 2019, totaling \$9.48 million. These focus on women's rights, access to justice, and leadership in peacebuilding. UN Women has been a key partner in promoting gender equality and social cohesion.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has had a significant impact in CAR by addressing key fragilities and reinforcing the peace process. Its interventions have helped strengthen social cohesion, reduce localized violence, and empower vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth. The Fund played a critical role in supporting the 2019 Peace Agreement (APPR) and facilitating its implementation, helping to stabilize key urban centers, revitalize community reconciliation mechanisms, and enhance local governance structures.

The PBF has reinforced the legitimacy of peace processes by directly supporting conflict resolution mechanisms, notably through the Local Peace and Reconciliation Committees (CLPRs). Furthermore, PBF initiatives in mental health, community dialogue, and youth engagement have strengthened local capacities for mediation and conflict prevention. The Fund's support for birth registration has helped marginalized populations, particularly displaced persons and young voters, access civil rights and participate in democratic processes.

Despite security and governance challenges, the PBF has also enhanced institutional resilience, contributing to legislative and policy reforms such as the first anti-human trafficking law in Central Africa and the first law for the protection of human rights defenders. It has helped reintegrate displaced populations and ex-combatants, improving stability in affected communities. Additionally, PBF-supported economic recovery initiatives have provided income opportunities for thousands of vulnerable individuals, particularly in areas affected by displacement.

■ PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the review of the UN peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays a vital role in complementing the PBF's efforts in CAR. The PBC helps maintain international focus on peace and recovery by, among other things, supporting the implementation of the APPR and promoting coherence among various stakeholders. This includes fostering collaboration between the UN, international, and regional partners, with a particular emphasis on coordinating efforts between main partners such as the World Bank, European Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the UN.

Through the PBC Configuration, the Commission regularly advises the Security Council on matters related to the mandate of MINUSCA, ensuring that peacebuilding priorities and needs are effectively addressed. CAR has been on the agenda of the PBC since June 2008, with the Commission's configuration actively supporting the peace process, electoral initiatives, and decentralization in the country. The PBC also contributes to socio-economic recovery and development efforts, which are crucial for the successful implementation of the APPR and the functioning of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). Additionally, the PBC is involved in mobilizing resources to support peacebuilding priorities, with recent steady efforts by the Chair to raise funds for the organization of the local elections scheduled to be held in 2025.

■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

The PBC and PBF closely coordinate their work with MINUSCA, the UN Country Team and UN humanitarian actors in the implementation of the APPR and the UNSDF. Additionally, the PBF partners with regional organizations such as the AU, the World Bank, the European Union and the AfDB.

■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

The Central African Republic is among the various contexts where the UN and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have closely collaborated to support national peacebuilding priorities. Through its Partnership Facility, DPPA/PBSO has deployed a surge capacity to MINUSCA in CAR in March 2024 to lead a strategic alignment exercise involving the government, IFIs, the European Union, MINUSCA and the UNCT, with a view to identifying high-level collective outcomes for peacebuilding impact. This work aims to sustain the partnership established under the previous National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, which attracted \$2.2 billion in donor support in 2016, seizing the opportunity of the new National Development Plan (2024-2028). Significant Official Development Assistance flows from multilaterals in CAR offer a better opportunity for coordination towards shared peacebuilding priorities. The strategic alignment process will aim to strengthen strategic and operational synergies with the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund.