



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Central African Republic



United Nations
Peacebuilding

March 2022

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$115,933,004**

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$18,539,961**

Focusing on

-  Implementation of the Peace Agreement, Community violence reduction
-  Security Sector reform, rule of law

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The Peacebuilding Fund started its investments in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2008, as the country was faced with persistent political instability, the presence of multiple armed groups, and limited State authority and outside of the capital, Bangui.

In 2015, the country hosted a national dialogue, the Bangui Forum, followed by general elections, providing a renewed opportunity for support to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. With support from the World Bank, the European Union and the UN, the new government developed a National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPA), which was presented at the Brussels International Conference for the Central African Republic in November 2016. While the signature of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) in February 2019 represented a milestone on the path to peace, the country has experienced the socio-economic shock of COVID-19 and a new wave of violent conflict and displacement in the past two years, which threatens the fragile progress made so far.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

PBF has supported CAR through key political moments, including the 2011 and 2016 presidential election cycles, the Bangui Forum, the launch of the first Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process, and the socio-economic revitalization of communities and moving towards reconciliation and justice.

The PBF currently supports the RCPA, through promoting inclusive political dialogue, advocating for the inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes, and reinforcing state authority and services as well as local governance, throughout the country. This support also extended to the launch and delivery of the African Initiative for Peace in 2017 led by the AU, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, with the support of Angola, Chad and the Republic of the Congo.

Since the signature of the APPR in February 2019, the PBF in collaboration with the Government, the UN system in CAR and civil society, developed a new portfolio supporting the priorities for the rapid implementation of the peace agreement while supporting the RCPA. The latest investment includes key priorities such as the



support to the launch of joint security mixed units, the APPR's coordination structures, communication on the APPR and the operationalization of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

In 2020 and 2021, the PBF approved projects related to durable solutions, transhumance, national dialogue, youth inclusion and mental health.

■ PBF IMPACT

The support provided to the Bangui Forum, specifically through local consultations, paved the way towards peaceful elections, setting a precedent for inclusive national reconciliation initiatives. The elements contained in the conclusions of the Bangui Forum are now included in the RCPCA, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation (DDRR) Plan, the African Initiative roadmap, and, the Restoration of State Authority Strategy.

The PBF supported the pilot project for the reduction of community violence in CAR, which has been crucial in stabilizing volatile areas such as Bambari. The results of this approach have been recognized and referred to as part of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Finally, PBF support to the restoration of state authority has led to the development of a national policy on decentralisation and local development, the deployment of Prefects in all 16 Administrative Centers of CAR and facilitated the urgent deployment of police and gendarmerie in hotspot areas. The PBF's support to the elaboration of Local Development Plans in pilot communities has proven catalytic potential by sparking conversations with other donors, including the World Bank.

■ WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

In line with the twin General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the Review of the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission complements the efforts of the PBF in CAR, by sustaining international attention on the peace and recovery efforts and mediation processes, including supporting the African Initiative and the implementation of the RCPCA, and fostering coherence of UN, international and regional efforts in support of CAR, with a focus on the World Bank and the AU. The PBC advises the Security Council on issues related to the MINUSCA mandate, to ensure peacebuilding priorities and needs are adequately reflected. The PBC also engages in resource mobilization for the peacebuilding priorities.

The PBC CAR Configuration has provided political accompaniment and support to the peacebuilding priorities of the Central African Republic since June 2008. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Chair of the PBC CAR Configuration, travelled to Bangui from 11 to 13 February 2020 to explore how the PBC could support the timely preparation and organization of the 2020-2021 elections, and raise awareness on challenges including resource mobilization, and APPR and RCPCA implementation. Ambassador Hilale carried out a joint visit to the CAR with the Assistant Secretary-Generals for Africa and Peacebuilding Support in the immediate aftermath of the signature of the APPR in 2019. The visit was a clear demonstration of UN support to peace in CAR and an opportunity to identify priorities both for the PBC and the PBF in support of the peace agreement. The current workplan of the Configuration will focus on mobilising international attention and support to the rule of law (including the Special Criminal Court and transitional justice), the electoral processes leading to local elections and implementation of the RCPCA and APPR.

■ WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

Both the PBC and the PBF coordinate their work closely with MINUSCA, the UN Country Team and UN humanitarian actors, including the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other UN entities. All PBF projects are planned to ensure a coherent, UN-wide support to the implementation of the RCPCA and the Mutual Commitment Framework (Cadre d'Engagement Mutuel, CEM). In addition, the PBF partners with regional organizations such as the AU and ECCAS to support the African Initiative for Peace in CAR. Thanks to its flexibility, the Fund managed to reorient programs to support the African Initiative and allow the facilitators of the process to engage with armed groups as well as local civil society.

■ 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.

