



September 2024



### PBF Investments in



**TOTAL APPROVED:** \$132.6 M

**CURRENTLY ACTIVE:** \$19.8 M

### Focusing on

- Border security
- Durable solutions for displaced persons
- DDR: Community reintegration of ex-combatants
- Mental health
- Human rights
- Social cohesion
- Gender equality and Women's 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 issues like resource imbalances, governance challenges, regional instability, and impunity, continue to hinder sustainable peace and development. The humanitarian situation in CAR remains dire, with, as of May 2024, 518,075 internally displaced persons and 749,648 refugees in neighboring countries, including women, girls, and children.

### 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 includes interventions in human rights, community reintegration of ex-combatants, social and community dialogue, mental health, transhumance, durable solutions, and political participation of youth and women. It has placed a strong emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in CAR. Since 2019, the PBF has funded seven projects with a total of \$19 million dedicated to GEWE, focusing on inclusive community dialogue, trauma healing, access to justice, social cohesion, and reintegration, with five of these projects involving UN Women as a partner.

## ■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

PBF-funded projects have empowered women leaders in political participation and advocated for gender parity in electoral processes. The PBF also facilitated the issuance of 25,000 birth certificates, particularly for women, young people of voting age, displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups, to encourage their participation in the next local elections. Additionally, the PBF revitalized 12 local peace and reconciliation committees (CLPR) in the Northwest and Southeast regions, training 400 community leaders in mediation. Over two years, the CLPRs resolved 32 conflicts involving over 3,000 people, achieving a 40% reduction in community violence, from 65% in 2021 to 25% in 2023. In support of durable solutions, 12,085 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were empowered through income-generating activities, revitalizing local markets in Paoua and Alindao. The PBF also improved access to mental health services by implementing community psychotherapeutic activities, deploying mobile psychosocial support units, and operationalizing the mobile mental health application "e-seni ti li" (translated as "e-mental health" in Sango). In terms of policy contributions, the PBF supported the creation of the first anti-human trafficking law in Central Africa.

## ■ 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.

## ■ UN IFI PARTNERSHIP

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.