



March 2024



### PBF Investments in



	TOTAL APPROVED	\$109.5 M
	CURRENTLY ACTIVE	\$42.6 M
	CROSS-BORDER DRC SHARE	\$26.6 M

### Focusing on

- Community-based reintegration
- Reconciliation and social cohesion
- Inclusive governance
- Durable solutions
- Community security and protection

### Partners



### PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

While specific conflict dynamics at local and provincial level vary widely across the country's vast territory (2.34 million square kilometers) and its 92 million people, core issues related to limited State presence; tensions between central and customary authority; weak rule of law; lack of inclusive governance and violent competition over access to land and natural resources are consistent root causes of conflict in the country's 26 provinces. This is compounded by recurring humanitarian crises which exacerbate tensions, causing large scale displacements and setting back further the conditions for sustained peace at local, provincial and national level. In addition, gender inequalities and the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence across the country are a recurring cause and consequence of conflicts and inhibit the ability of women to fulfil their role as agents of peace, resilience and socio-economic development.

In 2009, the Secretary-General, responding to a request by the Government, declared DRC eligible for funding under the PBF's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility. PBF investments focused on supporting rule of law and security, governance, recovery and reintegration in Eastern DRC in support of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS). On further request by the Government, the country's eligibility was renewed by the Secretary-General in 2020 for a period of 5 years. During this period, PBF investments have focused on supporting the country's transition from peacekeeping to non-mission setting, initially concentrating investments in Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika provinces, and now focusing on South Kivu. In 2024, the PBF will add \$15.5 million in investments in these areas.

### PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Since 2019, the PBF has approved \$37.4 million in new projects in Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika, focusing on priority areas identified in the Government's request for re-eligibility, including 1) community-based reintegration; 2) local-level social cohesion and reconciliation; 3) inclusive local and provincial governance and; 4) durable solutions for displaced persons, with cross-cutting themes on local-level economic revitalization and gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### NGOs:

Search for Common Ground, Danish Refugee Council, International Alert, Action pour la Paix et la Concorde, Tearfund, Kvinna Till Kvinna, Interpeace, World Vision International

The approved projects have contributed to responding to urgent peacebuilding priorities such as supporting the effective reintegration of former combatants in Kasai and the peaceful coexistence between Twa and Bantou communities in Tanganyika. Supporting Government priorities in South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, including on community security and protection of civilians will be an important focus of PBF investments in 2024 and 2025.

## ■ WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

PBF has a unique comparative advantage in contexts with transnational conflict dynamics. In line with its commitment under the [Fund's new Strategy 2020-2024](#), PBF places more emphasis globally on support to cross-border and regional approaches.

In 2020, the Fund approved one cross-border project with DRC for a total budget of \$3 million. The project '[Creating peace dividends for women and youth through increased cross-border trade and strengthened food security](#)' addressed local-level food and economic insecurity as a driver of conflict in the border area between DRC and Rwanda. It contributed to social cohesion by deepening economic integration through increased cross-border trade, fostering mutual understanding and dialogue between border communities and strengthening food security, livelihood and income opportunities, particularly for women and youth. In 2021, the Fund approved an additional cross-border project with Angola for a total of \$5 million to help mitigate conflict risks related to the large-scale return of Congolese from Angola.

## ■ 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.



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