



# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund


## Guinea




PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

AUGUST 2021

### PBF Investments in

**TOTAL**  
APPROVED  **\$85.6 M**

**CURRENT**  
PORTFOLIO  **\$10.9 M**

### Focusing on

-  Inclusive dialogue and governance
-  Human rights, land and natural resources conflict management
-  Local security and rule of law
-  Women and youth empowerment

### Partners



## PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Guinea completed a long political transition initiated in 2010, marked by the holding in September 2013 of legislative elections, the formation of the National Assembly in January 2014 and finally the holding of the presidential election in October 2015. While Guinea has not experienced serious security crises over the past five years, political and social challenges and tensions persist, including electoral conflicts, social conflicts linked to mining exploitation and land use, demands for greater inclusiveness and accountability of decision-making, governance and service delivery.

Moreover, after the double ballot (legislative and referendum) of March 22, 2020 and the presidential election of October 18, 2020, which were contested by the opposition and Guinean civil society, the political climate in Guinea remains marked by lack of trust and dialogue between political actors, which also trickles down to the community level.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has been operating in Guinea since 2007. Guinea was also the Fund's first intervention in a country that had not experienced full armed conflict. At the time of the Fund's first intervention, the country was faced with regional crises and presented multiple risk factors for violent conflicts and socio-political stability. The Fund's original areas of support: reform of the security sector; promoting reconciliation and national unity; youth and women's empowerment and livelihoods support. Over the years the Fund has invested in various areas on the basis of conflict risk factors, increasingly focusing on community level conflicts and empowerment of marginalized populations, while also supporting initiatives for improved rule of law, protection of human rights and dialogue, and environmental protection at the national level. In preparation for the 2020 elections, the Fund supported various community level interventions aimed at sensitization, early warning systems and inciting opportunities for peaceful dialogue, targeting potential at risk populations or peace champions in various hotspots across the country. The Fund has also increasingly invested in the remote region of Guinea Forestiere where factors of deep marginalization, cultural, social and epidemics specificities and evolutions, and conflicts around natural resources have been causing increasing tensions.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

As part of the Fund's investment in appeasing the electoral environment, the Fund enabled over 1,500 sessions of community dialogues in Conakry and other tensions-prone zones, supporting women and youth leaders to call for peace. The Fund trained over 160 youth leaders and 800 women on leadership, electoral processes, peace messages and conflict resolution and used various communication fora to share over 150 peace messages in the lead-up to the elections. Over 70 focus groups were also supported, bringing local leaders, drivers of local taxis, Donsos (traditional hunters), security representatives, political party members and others to discuss the lead-up to the elections and to resolve tensions, followed by 90 community restitution sessions. In addition, 500 vulnerable young people were provided with quick impact livelihood opportunities in and around Conakry, as one of the measures to prevent their political instrumentalization in the electoral period. The zones which were heavily targeted by PBF support experienced little electoral violence and the specific target groups, like the drivers of local taxis, refrained from engagement in violent demonstrations, contributing to de-escalation of electoral tensions.



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At the same time the Fund has continued to be a strong supporter of local conflict resolution and gender-based violence. Women leaders trained with the Fund support identified over 300 gender-based violence case that were then referred to authorities for response. 19 Local peace councils were established in conflict-prone communities, enabling young people to be in touch with their local representatives and involved in local planning processes such as the local development and investment plans and local environmental issues. The Fund also supported greater accountability of police action and greater confidence with the communities, including through increasing the transparency of security sector budget in Conakry, strengthening the police complaint system in collaboration with the civil society, and establishing an urban security observatory. In Guinea Forestiere, the Fund support established an inclusive consultation framework between the Donsos (traditional hunters), the security agencies and the local communities for discussing and resolving conflicts between them and for jointly initiating community actions for environment protection. The Fund also reacted to the new COVID security needs and supported dedicated training and equipment of 225 police officers to help ensure a human rights approach to enforcement of COVID-related security measures. In Guinea Forestiere, the Fund also contributed to the Ebola response by supporting the members of Local council of youth and other youth associations to quickly organize community sensitization and facilitate the communication between health specialists and community members.



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## LOOKING FORWARD

In 2021 the Fund is aiming to increase its support to resolving land and natural resource-based tensions in Guinea while also focusing on cross-border and regional conflict dynamics at community level, including in border zones with Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Mali.

## 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.