



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Haiti



PEACEBUILDING FUND





AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED  **\$20.83 M**

CURRENT PORTFOLIO  **\$14.04 M**

Focusing on

-  Youth empowerment
-  DDR
-  Access to justice
-  Community-violence reduction

Partners



NGOs: Concern Worldwide, Lakou Lapè, Sakala, Viva Rio

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Haiti's recent history has been marred by recurrent episodes of political turmoil, socio-economic crises and natural disasters. The country continues to suffer from high levels of poverty, the active presence of gangs and high levels of corruption, as well as persistent structural deficiencies which lead to recurrent episodes of unrest, hamper economic growth, as well as the country's continued development as a democracy, equipped with institutions capable of responding to the needs of all Haitians.

After the shocking assassination of President Moïse in July 2021, consultations are ongoing to reach a consensus between political actors. Meanwhile civil society groups are calling for a Haitian solution to the crisis. A new Government took office in July 2021, under the leadership of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, with two main priorities, restoring security and organizing transparent and safe elections as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General granted PBF eligibility to Haiti in July 2019, following a request from the Haitian Government. The priority areas for PBF support in Haiti were identified in consultation with the Government and other national counterparts, considering the reduced UN footprint after the closure of MINUJUSTH. National authorities expressed a need to focus UN interventions in certain critical security and rule of law-related areas such as community violence reduction (in particular armed gang activity), weapons management and disarmament, electoral security and justice. The Integrated Strategic Framework also includes peacebuilding priorities related to supporting the national authorities in several areas: access to justice; transparent, efficient and reliable institutions; community violence reduction; corrections; police; and elections which are, as well, in alignment with the four priority areas identified for PBF-support.

As the UN transitions from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Haiti, PBF support presents an opportunity to consolidate peacekeeping gains and address the risks that could lead to relapse into insecurity and widespread violence, and which still threaten Haiti as it seeks to move further along the path towards stability and sustainable development. The overarching goal for PBF support in the coming years will be to support a smooth transition of UN activities to a sustainable development framework that will preserve the gains achieved after fourteen years of UN peacekeeping in the country. It will also contribute to a longer-term vision for UN engagement in Haiti, in which technical support to national institutions (in priority areas such as justice and rule of law, disarmament, community violence reduction, electoral security) will strengthen national ownership in a post-peacekeeping context.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Since February 2018, the UN (UNDP, IOM, UN Women and MINUJUSTH) has implemented a peacebuilding initiative called "Support to conflict resolution and social cohesion promotion through youth organizations in the city of Jérémie" (Grand'Anse Department). This peacebuilding initiative has actively worked in reinforcing youth capacities to foster their



active and equal participation in public affairs. The project has also focused on raising awareness with local authorities and local communities to decrease violence (including Gender Based Violence) and promote a culture of peace.

As part of the eligibility request, 5 priority projects were developed and approved with a focus on: DDR, access to justice, community-violence reduction, prevention of electoral-related violence.

- 1 **“Renforcer les capacités nationales pour le contrôle des armes et des munitions” (UNDP-IOM):** The project will enhance arms and ammunition control in Haiti (including through support for the legal framework, capacity building of the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (CNDDR), setting up of a weapons registration mechanism and, the strengthening of the cooperation between Haitian institutions (Customs, Immigration, Police) as well as cross-border cooperation with the Dominican Republic to control illegal weapons and ammunition entering in the country.
- 2 **“Renforcer l'accès à la justice des populations les plus vulnérables, en particulier les femmes et les enfants en vue d'une meilleure cohésion sociale” (UNDP-UNICEF-UNWOMEN):** The project supports access to justice, legal and judicial aid services for vulnerable groups, including women and youth through the establishment of the national legal assistance system, fixed and mobile legal clinics, and the strengthening of civil society organizations. The project further supports the reduction of inflow of cases and de-cluttering the justice system, coupled with an increased capacity of rights holders to assert their rights in the context of the COVID pandemic.
- 3 **“ Réduction de la violence communautaire à Martissant et La Saline” (UNOPS, UNDP and UNFPA):** The project will reduce tensions in the neighborhoods of these two communities. The project intends to promote community platforms, to prevent and resolve disputes at the community level. These platforms will serve as "community security management committees" with an emphasis on bringing peace to neighborhoods and reducing violence of all kinds. A second objective is to ensure that these platforms serve as a basis for transformational change among young people and women, particularly by bringing out other models of citizenship in the communities.
- 4 **“Appui au Processus Électoral en Haïti (PAPEH) : Prévention des violences liées aux élections y compris la violence politique à l'égard des femmes en Haïti ” (UNDP and UN Women) :** the project aims at preventing violence, managing conflicts, strengthen dialogue, and fight against gender-based violence in a complex electoral year (constitutional referendum, presidential -legislatives and municipal elections).
- 5 **Cross-border:** A dedicated Dominican Republic-Haiti cross-border project was recently approved to revitalize the Haiti - Dominican Republic Mixed Bilateral Commission (CMB) to improve relations between the two countries, with a focus on migration and security, the creation of spaces for conflict resolution and the reduction of violence (IOM-UNDP).

Fund support to Haiti advances priorities identified by the Haitian Government in its 2019 request for eligibility, including youth-focused approaches to social cohesion, access to justice, and arms reduction. In the municipality of Jérémie, after training in how to counter gender-based violence and promote positive masculinities, citizen participation and peaceful conflict management, three youth networks have been established as key partnership mechanisms with municipal authorities and national and international cooperation agencies. Concurrently, newly established neighborhood committees have facilitated police interventions and improved youth perceptions of the police.

To address better arms control, the Fund financed the establishment of a coordination space at the official border point of Ouanaminthe/Dajabon, between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This space brings key governmental actors from both sides together to take stock of their activities, exchange strategic information and strengthen their cooperation for better control of firearms and ammunition in border areas. The Fund also supported the Government of Haiti to revise a law on enhanced management of firearms and ammunition, a first step in developing a national policy on arms control. The “Conseil National assistance légale” is now in place and starting to deliver judicial services to vulnerable population, with a focus on women and children. In partnership with the National Human Rights Institution, the Office of the Protection of the Citizen, the Fund equipped key actors in the criminal justice chain and human rights organizations for more effective and coordinated GBV responses and accompaniments.

■ 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.