




September 2024



PBF Investments in



 TOTAL
APPROVED: \$48 M

 CURRENTLY
ACTIVE: \$18 M

Focusing on

-  Community security and social cohesion
-  Access to justice and human rights
-  Promotion of youth and women participation and strengthened civic space
-  Climate security

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Madagascar held its most recent electoral cycle in 2023 and 2024. President Rajoelina won a second term in office within a context of ten out of the 13 presidential candidates ultimately boycotting the presidential elections. The presidential coalition secured an absolute majority in the National Assembly in 2024, further reducing opposition voices within the government. Within a backdrop of a contentious electoral process, Madagascar continues to face multidimensional and daunting challenges. Social cohesion is increasingly weak and growing economic disparities and enduring corruption fragilize the population. Vulnerable groups, such as women and young people, remain largely absent from decision-making processes, and new threats, such as climate change, forced migration, urban and rural criminality, the neglect of economic, social and cultural rights, and the erosion of community fabrics present further risks to social stability and exacerbate the marginalization of parts of Madagascar.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) began its engagement in Madagascar in 2015 with the objective of supporting the country in preventing political tensions during electoral processes and addressing social exclusion. The first phase of PBF support, until 2021, focused on (i) initiating security sector reform; (ii) strengthening accountability and anti-corruption institutions; and (iii) improving community security, access to services, and inclusive dialogue for marginalized communities in the Southern regions of the country. Additionally, the Fund supported various initiatives to empower women and young people as positive agents of peace in their communities.

In November 2022, at the request of the Government, the UN Secretary-General declared Madagascar eligible for a new five-year phase of PBF support. This phase focuses on four strategic priorities: (i) sustained peace in the Andriy mountains in Southern Madagascar; (ii) improving access to justice, human rights, and social cohesion within marginalized communities; (iii) strengthening civic and democratic space, particularly through political dialogue and enhanced participation of women and youth; and (iv) improving climate security and access to land.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

- ▶ **More Accountable Governance:** The Fund's support has strengthened trust between the people and the state through targeted measures aimed at enhancing checks and balances on the pillars of the state, with a focus on promoting anti-corruption and human rights. One of the key institutions supported, BIANCO, the Independent Anti-Corruption Office, gained international recognition when it was selected as a member of the African Union's Consultative Anti-Corruption Committee. With the Fund's support, the first integrated Anti-Corruption Hub was established in 2018, empowering it to investigate and prosecute corruption cases in an integrated manner. This Hub has handled 645 cases over three years, compared to 165 cases over the previous ten years under the earlier mechanism. Two anti-corruption hubs – in Antananarivo and Majunga – are now fully operational with PBF support.
- ▶ **Community social cohesion and security support in the Southern regions:** With PBF support, the first integrated UN office was established in this remote region in 2018, allowing the UN to maintain a permanent presence through its regional office in Betroka. The Fund's investment has improved communities' access to local tribunals and legal clinics. 52 community dialogue platforms were established in the project zones to support local peace messengers, resolve disputes, make informed and inclusive community decisions, and agree on joint priorities through the development of municipal peace plans. These platforms were also directed PBF livelihood support to at-risk populations, improving the dire conditions of 8,000 households. PBF support facilitated regular meetings between security forces and communities as well as within communities, as a means of reducing local mistrust and conflict. Eleven strategic gendarmerie outposts were built and equipped in partnership with the Government in areas of high insecurity. These outposts are now operational and staffed by the Government, with around 500 officers trained in human rights. Approximately 83 percent of the population in the project areas reported feeling safer when going to the market, compared to only 54 percent before the most recent PBF project began in the zone. In 2024, the PBF continues to support social cohesion, improved local security, and a strengthened social contract in the Southern regions, now seeking to reach even more remote communities within the Andriy mountain range and bring more international attention to this zone.
- ▶ **Youth and women participation:** PBF support helped operationalise a youth-led early warning mechanism, now active in all 24 regions, with monitoring cells that report conflicts to the main observatory. This system includes more than 750 active youth observers. From February to June 2024, 246 cases were handled, including 19 cases of conflict (8%), 203 cases of high-risk events (83%) and 24 cases of vulnerability (10%). Young observers have reported feeling more valued by their communities thanks to this civic engagement. Additionally, young people are actively contributing to the promotion of human rights through the operationalization of nine regional human rights observatories coordinated by young people, as well as through eight regional peace committees that facilitate collaboration between security forces, local authorities, and young people to proactively address human rights violations. Women are increasingly confident and invested in participating in politics and taking on leadership roles. During the African Women Leaders Network Forum held in May 2024, 146 women committed to improving women's political participation in six provinces, with action plans drawn up. With PBF support, young women across the country have been building self-confidence and leadership skills to participate in politics and run as candidates. Additionally, tailored sensitization campaigns and local dialogues are encouraging citizens, including young people, to take responsibility for exercising their voting rights and contributing to decision-making processes through peaceful means.

■ 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.