

# THE PBF IN THE GAMBIA



UN Secretary-General António Guterres meets with Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia. UN Photo/Evan Schneider

## Peacebuilding Challenges

Opposition politician Adama Barrow defeated President Yahya Jammeh in the Gambia's December 2016 presidential poll. Jammeh, in office since 1994, initially refused to accept the results, triggering a constitutional crisis and military intervention by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Negotiations resulted in Jammeh's peaceful departure to third country exile, and President Barrow was inaugurated The Gambia's third president in January 2017. Moving quickly to show Gambia's citizens the

benefits of democratic and accountable governance, President Barrow immediately sought the assistance of the United Nations and the international community in support of a reform agenda that included overhauling the country's institutions, laying a new foundation of respect for the rule of law, addressing past human right abuses, and promoting national reconciliation.

## PBF Intervention

In close cooperation with ECOWAS, the UN responded with the rapid disbursement of project aid via the

### PBF INVESTMENTS IN THE GAMBIA:

#### TOTAL ALLOCATION:

\$ **3.1** MILLION  
invested since 2017

#### CURRENT PORTFOLIO:

\$ **3.1** MILLION

#### FOCUSING ON:



Security sector reform



Transitional justice

#### PARTNER:

UNDP

Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and the deployment of experts from UNDP, DPA and OHCHR to support reforms. The PBF invested USD \$1.2 million in transitional justice, providing expertise, primarily from OHCHR and UNDP with guidance from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, to Government to guide public consultations intended to inform a national strategy to deliver justice and promote healing and reconciliation.

PBF and donor support for Security Sector Reform (SSR) can help to reform security sector institutions and increase public confidence in national security forces. Through a \$1.4 million PBF investment, an international Senior SSR Advisor supports the Government, working in close cooperation with European Union, ECOWAS, UN and the World Bank, to conduct a comprehensive security sector assessment exercise. With this funding, the Government will also receive support to establish the Office of National Security with full one-year funding for a counterpart National Security Advisor.

### **PBF Impact**

PBF support has helped catalyze critical peacebuilding processes in the areas of transitional justice and SSR. Thanks in part to PBF assistance, the Gambia government has made commendable progress in sustaining peace, particularly in the areas of transitional justice, constitutional review, judicial and civil service reform and economic development.

The Gambia intends to seek PBF eligibility to access additional PBF support and ahead of a donor conference which will seek international support to cover its funding gap for peacebuilding and development priorities.

### **PBC Engagement**

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held meetings in April and December 2017 which underscored the importance of sustained and properly sequenced peacebuilding and development support, and provided the opportunity for progress updates by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, and the Under Secretary-General for Political

Affairs. High-level visits, including by the ASG for Peacebuilding and the Chair of the PBC, reiterated international support for the new government. The PBC has served as a platform to sustain international attention and support for the Gambia's political, security, development and human rights priorities, and will continue to use its convening and coordinating power to encourage continued international community support for The Gambia.

### **About the PBF**

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated \$772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.



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