




The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Cameroon



JUNE 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  \$14.2 M

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  \$11 M

CROSSBORDER
CAMEROONIAN
SHARE  \$2 M

Focusing on

-  Social cohesion
-  Decentralization
-  Promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

Partners



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Cameroon is affected by multiple crises linked to the threats posed by the incursion of Boko Haram in the North of the country; to the spill-over effects, particularly the displacement of populations, from the conflict in neighboring Central African Republic; and to the violence fueled by historical grievances in the Northwestern and Southwestern regions. These crises have led to growing insecurity and internal displacements and pose a major humanitarian challenge to the Government in its efforts to meet the needs of the population. Local economies have been negatively affected and access to basic social services, already limited in some regions, has been further constrained. Cameroon has historically been a beacon of stability in West and Central Africa, thus contributing to sustaining peace in the sub-region. Preserving the country's stability and restoring the conditions for long-term peace is crucial for Cameroonians and their regional neighbors.

In 2019, the Secretary-General, responding to a request by the Government, declared Cameroon eligible for funding under the PBF Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility for a period of five years. PBF investments during this period will seek to support the Government and the people of Cameroon with addressing peacebuilding needs in the North and Far-North, in the East and Adamaoua, and in the North-West and South-West regions of the country.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

In 2019 and 2020, PBF approved seven new projects (national, crossborder and GYPI) in Cameroon with a cumulative budget of \$11 million. The initiatives seek to support national efforts to reduce community violence, restore social cohesion, and consolidate peace in Cameroon in line with defined national priorities. The projects directly respond to the Government's three identified thematic priorities: 1) decentralization, 2) the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism, and 3) the implementation of the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs of ex-combatants from non-state armed groups.

The approved initiatives contribute to strengthening the participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis resolution, and promote



a culture of peace and respect for human rights at national level; help strengthen local governance, economic recovery and social cohesion in the Far North region and contribute to reducing natural resource conflicts involving agro-pastoral practices in the Eastern, Adamawa and Northern regions of Cameroon.

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 2020-24](#), PBF will place more emphasis globally on support to cross-border and regional approaches.

In 2020, the Fund approved two cross-border projects partly implemented in Cameroon for a total cumulative budget of \$7 million. The cross-border project "*Les Jeunes, tisserands de la paix dans les régions transfrontalières*" integrates over 1,800 youth into early warning mechanisms at the borders of Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. The project will prevent conflicts stemming from illicit activities across the borders of the three countries. It also places strong emphasis on the sustainable development of border areas while also protecting the environment and tackling climate change.

A new cross-border project between Cameroon and the Central African Republic "*Lutte contre la traite des personnes et les trafics illicites et la criminalité organisée qui y sont liées*" aims at strengthening capacities to effectively combat human trafficking and organized crime at the border of the two countries. Transnational criminal offences are known to fuel regional conflicts as they provide human and financial resources to armed groups. Beyond tackling illegal trafficking, the project also aims to curb profit streams of armed groups, and to increase accountability for and prevent violations perpetrated against local border populations.

WORKING ACROSS PILLARS

In line with the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (UNGA resolution 70/262 and SC resolution 2282 (2016)), which call for greater coherence of UN entities across the humanitarian, development and peace/security pillars and for stronger partnerships between the UN and other international actors in support of nationally owned sustaining peace efforts, PBF-funded projects in Cameroon bring together UN entities from across the humanitarian, development and peace/security pillars to plan and implement initiatives jointly. All projects are designed to be coherent with the UN's broader political engagement and its Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and are developed in consultation with the Government, national implementing partners and beneficiaries. As an eligible country, Cameroon can also receive PBF investments under the Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative to directly support international and national civil society organizations working on peacebuilding.

PBF IMPACT

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.

ABOUT THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

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