



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Niger



PEACEBUILDING
FUND




AUGUST 2021

PBF Investments in

TOTAL
APPROVED  **\$46.8 M**

CURRENT
PORTFOLIO  **\$13.9 M**

Focusing on

-  Natural resources management
-  Migration
-  Cross-border conflicts

Partners



United Nations
Integrated Strategy for
the Sahel

PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Niger achieved its first democratic transfer of power in early 2021 from an elected president to another. This positive development consolidates the country's stability and creates hope for sustainable development. Serious and varied security threats remain a key marker of a challenging regional context disrupting the country's progress. Security is impeded by the growth in strength and number of armed groups, the frequency of attacks by violent extremists, exploitation of local conflicts to instrumentalize youth and the increasing number of refugees and foreign fighters as a spill-over from conflicts in neighbouring countries. Besides, Niger is a landlocked country with a Sahelian climate and is severely affected by climate change which fosters a competition over the limited natural resources.

Internal fragilities include social cohesion, governance, humanitarian challenges and food insecurity with about 3.8 million persons who will need assistance in 2021 to include 2.1 million children. Figures constitute a 30 percent increase compared to 2020 and are the consequence of a combination of natural and human-caused disasters. Cyclical floods and droughts and farmer-herders dynamics are particularly affecting access to food. Some 2.3 million people (approximately 9% of the estimated total population) are likely to be severely food insecure in 2021. Also, Niger continues experiencing tensions, caused by the paralysis of dialogue with the opposition which keeps on contesting results of the February 2021 election.

The combination of these conflicts' factors and triggers can negatively and deeply impact the social fabric and undermine peacebuilding and development gains in Niger. The Government of Niger is strongly committed to implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding programmes in conflict affected areas in Niger giving hope on the medium and long term and calling for support and complements to the existing initiatives. At the regional level and with the support of the international community, two major programmatic initiatives involve Niger. In the East, the regional strategy for the stabilisation, recovery and resilience of the Lake Chad Basin areas affected by the Boko Haram crisis is co-lead by the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). In the West, the Liptako Gourma cross-border project is a flagship component of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Since 2013, the Fund accompanies Niger to promote conflict prevention and inclusive governance, youth empowerment and strengthening stability in cross-border areas. Following the first eligibility in 2015, the Government of Niger, with the support of the United Nations System, developed a priority plan for peacebuilding in Niger with a focus on: i) empowerment and involvement of youth in high-risk areas; ii) conflict prevention and management and promotion of inclusive governance; and iii) strengthening security and stability in border areas.

Since then, 25 projects have been financed by the Fund for a total amount of US \$46.8m, including in support of the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. In 2020, the government of Niger has submitted a new eligibility request that offers a detailed analysis of the situation in Niger and identifies 4 strategic areas for future support reflecting national priorities. These priorities are: i) conflict prevention and management of natural resources; ii) strengthening resilience of groups vulnerable to radicalization and / or affected by violent extremism; iii) peace consolidation and community safety in border areas; and iv) strengthening of strategic partnerships for analysis, programming and coordination of peace consolidation actors. In view of the persistence of conflict dynamics and risk factors, Niger has obtained eligibility on the basis of a new five-year plan running from 2021 to 2025. The Fund's Steering Committee in Niger is co-chaired with the Haute Autorité de Consolidation de la Paix.



■ 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.