

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Climate Security and Peacebuilding



JULY 2020

- Since 2017, the PBF invested: **\$63.4M** through **29 projects** in **20 countries** towards climate security



- Climate security means preventing and resolving violent conflicts caused by global warming by improving the management of transhumance corridors, resolving land ownership issues, reducing competition over access to natural resources and extractive industries and fostering agreements over climate adaptation strategies as well as local level resilience and livelihoods

Around the world, and particularly in regions already suffering from insecurity, global warming poses an additional and increasingly prominent threat to sustaining peace. The effects of global warming and environmental degradation can compound other conflict drivers or become additional security risks. They also undermine prevention efforts. Local resource competition, transboundary natural resource and water management, extreme weather events, disasters, and livelihood insecurity are all climate-related security risks that need to be understood and addressed in a holistic manner through activities that contribute to their prevention.

70% of the bottom quartile of countries most vulnerable to climate change are also in the bottom quartile of the most fragile countries in the world.¹



Climate change has a strong impact in conflict-affected regions, which risks certain countries to fall into a 'vicious cycle' of climate disaster and conflict trap. The 2019 Global Peace Index indicates 1 billion people are highly exposed to climate change and of the 1 billion, 400 million people live in conflict-affected countries.¹



The ten most fragile countries receive a mere 4.5% of all climate funding, while few projects address climate-conflict links. The PBF is addressing this gap with its growing climate security portfolio of projects.¹



UN PARTNERS



CSO PARTNERS

- ACORD, EduCare Liberia, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI)

REGIONAL PARTNERS

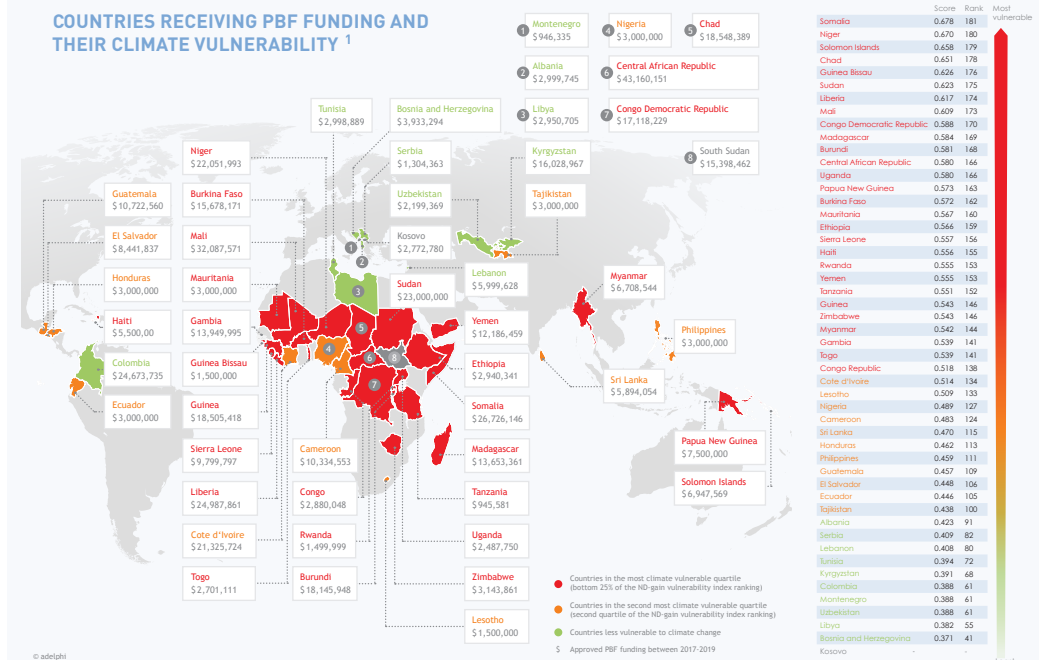
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), G5 Sahel, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

In partnership with the UNEP UNDP DPPA Climate security Team



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated risks often linked with inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially in countries already vulnerable to violent conflict. For example, in the Sahel, market closures, border closures and movement restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted the structurally weak pastoral sector, already made vulnerable by conflict. PBF's investments are integrating this aggravating factor in its climate change portfolio, with a particular focus on cross-border vulnerable regions.

COUNTRIES RECEIVING PBF FUNDING AND THEIR CLIMATE VULNERABILITY¹



1. <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/publications/infographic-countries-receiving-unpbf-funding-and-their-climate-vulnerability>

THE PEACEBUILDING FUND AND CLIMATE SECURITY

The Fund invests in innovative initiatives filling critical gaps through national, cross-border and regional engagement fostering integrated responses to address the root causes of conflicts related to climate change. Preventing violent conflicts in these contexts requires sound peacebuilding engagement strategies accompanied by strong technical advice and joint UN approaches across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The PBF's Strategy for 2020-2024 provides greater resources to specifically prevent and tackle conflicts resulting from global warming across its priority windows in particular through its expanded cross border and regional threats window.

PBF supported engagement by UNCTs address climate-related security risks mainstream gender- and youth- considerations and are tailored to the specific country context while drawing from good practices and lessons learned from different regions. These interventions are multisectoral and implemented by a combination of UN Funds and programmes bringing in their relevant technical expertise on management of natural resources, migration, transhumance, community livelihood, governance, gender in recognition of the complex risks and peacebuilding challenges related to climate change.

While the majority of PBF projects with climate security component are implemented in Africa, PBF also approved initiatives in various other contexts such as Colombia, Yemen, Sri Lanka and the Asia Pacific region.

- Although climate change is clearly a significant threat to the **South Pacific**, its likely effects on social cohesion and security are yet to be well understood. Climate change will increase fragility and instability through rising displacement and forced migration, irreversible degradation of ecosystems, food sources and livelihoods. Increased social tensions linked to access to land and fisheries resources and potential decrease in national revenues will affect the ability of these states to mitigate the social impacts of climate change. PBF's support will allow Atoll Nations to assess, better understand and address their critical climate security challenges, and to better plan and respond to these challenges at the community, national and regional level in Pacific Small-Islands Developing States.
- In **Colombia**, global warming is increasing competition on arable raising grievances, particularly of smallholder farmers. With PBF support, the UNCT, in collaboration with the private sector provides microcredits and income guarantees for smallholder farmers to improve production and increase adaptation and resilience to climate change.
- The fragile border area between **Mali and Niger** is affected by multifaceted crises with low legitimacy of governance institutions, increased insecurity and extremism and a historic development gap driving grievances of excluded populations. Communities living on both sides of this border face similar realities with economies relying on natural resources exploitation. Climate change is making those resources scarce and raising levels of violence. PBF is empowering women to contribute to local and cross-border conflict prevention efforts by enhancing their participation and leadership in local decision-making with a focus on the management of natural resources. With PBF resources, the UNCTs diversify livelihood opportunities including land ownership and the organization of women's led cooperatives to reduce the impact of climate change and related tensions on local communities across the border and support inclusive mechanisms to manage natural resources
- As global warming drastically changed established transhumance corridors, the PBF invested in data gathering, mapping of pastoral infrastructure and engagement of herder communities to anticipate movements and prevent tensions around the use of land and water at the Chad-Central **African Republic border**. The UNCTs facilitated dialogue platforms between the two countries to facilitate the movement of livestock with emphasis on cross-border transhumance.





- In **Niger** as global warming drastically reduces water sources and pastoral grounds, conflicts have multiplied. With PBF resource, the UNCT helped resolve 483 community conflicts related to the use of land and management of natural resources through 60 local land committees and the accompaniment of 600 women mediators. These local solutions provide a cost-effective alternative to formal and often inaccessible and unaffordable judicial institutions.



- In the **Liptako-Gourma region at the border between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso**, conflicts on land use between farmers and headers on the use of natural resources were significantly reduced by revamping pastoral infrastructure, including 31 passage corridors, water points, vaccination parks, rest areas, and marked cattle tracks. PBF further supported awareness raising on local land laws and pastoralists codes to to reduce internal and cross-border conflicts. At the policy level, PBF strengthened the consultative frameworks for stakeholders involved in transhumance and developed and launched the strategy document for managing conflicts on transhumance and theft of livestock.
- In **Yemen**, the lack of regulation, increase in demand and consequent competition over water resources have all increased conflict. In the valley of Wadi Rima , water scarcity affects livelihoods of local farmers, and contributes to growing disparity between downstream smallholder farmers and larger landowners upstream. With PBF support, the UNCT helped restore and strengthened the local water governance structures which has ceased functioning as a result of the conflict alleviating tensions and improved access to water and local livelihoods.

■ 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.