

# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## South Sudan





PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

September 2025



### PBF Investments in



 TOTAL APPROVED	\$77.8 M
 CURRENTLY ACTIVE	\$32.4 M

### Focusing on

-  Security Sector Reform
-  Rule of Law
-  National Reconciliation, Democratic Governance, Conflict Prevention/Management
-  Strengthening of Essential National State Capacity

### Partners



## PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

The signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in 2018 and the formation of the Reconstituted Transitional Government in 2020 represented significant milestones in South Sudan's journey towards lasting peace. However, implementation of the peace agreement remained slow and selective, and the convergence of deepened political, economic, and security crises in 2025 has placed the entire peace process under severe strain. Ceasefire violations, disputes over power-sharing and security arrangements, and escalating political tensions, exacerbated by a deepening humanitarian crisis, widespread displacement, weakened governance, the presence of armed groups, climate-related shocks, and growing economic pressures, significantly increase the risk of a relapse into full-scale war. Intercommunal tensions are increasingly politicized, threatening to entrench divisions and undermine reconciliation. To prevent further deterioration there is an urgent need for renewed commitment to the peace accord. Sustained regional and international engagement will be essential to restore momentum and public trust ahead of the 2026 elections, where inclusive participation and confidence will be critical to consolidating peace.

## PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

Since 2011, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has been a key partner in South Sudan's peace efforts, initially providing catalytic funding around the country's independence and continuing to adapt as the context evolved. In May 2021, South Sudan was granted re-eligibility under the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) and by 2025, it remains one of the PBF's largest portfolios, with over \$32 million in approved funding. The PBF delivers peace dividends linked to the Revitalized Peace Agreement, focusing on national policy frameworks and societal transformation. Projects target structural and immediate drivers of conflict, through inclusive constitution-making, women's political and peace leadership, transitional justice and reconciliation, and community-based resolutions of land, housing, and displacement disputes. The portfolio also promotes disability inclusion; supports prevention of and response to conflict related sexual violence and gender-based violence (GBV); provides mental health and psychosocial support, and advances youth empowerment.

The PBF ensures complementarity with pooled funds, including the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the Reconciliation, Stabilization, Resilience Trust Fund, the Global Emergency Response Fund, and the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, through coordinated efforts led by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General/ Resident Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC). Joint analysis, including with the Peacekeeping mission, guide prioritization of interventions across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The PBF engages International Financial Institutions, such as the African Development Bank, to scale and sustain peacebuilding investments.

## ■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT AND INVESTMENTS

**Influencing National Reforms and Democratic Processes:** The PBF played an important role in supporting the establishment of the National Constitutional Review Commission with 33% female representation, shaped the National Youth, Peace and Security Strategy, and championed critical gender and youth equality initiatives – including the Women Empowerment Bill, Gender Equality Fund Strategy, South Sudan Women’s Charter, and Youth Charter on the Constitution Making Process – ensuring women and youth actively shape constitutional reforms and state-building. PBF helped establish a multi-stakeholder gender observatory platform to document and respond to structural barriers affecting women’s participation in public life, particularly in the lead-up to elections. Further, the Fund’s technical assistance to Parliament helped to enable the enactment of landmark transitional justice legislation, establishing both the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority – a decisive step toward accountability and inclusive governance.

**Strengthening Women-Led Peacebuilding and Intercommunal Reconciliation:** PBF investments have helped to enable women-led civil society organizations to become influential actors in community peacebuilding and reconciliation, strengthening the legitimacy and inclusivity of these processes. Through the “Resourcing Change” initiative, eight women’s organizations received core funding and customized support, enabling them to lead over 40 intercommunal and cross-border dialogues. These efforts resulted in landmark achievements including the return of abducted children, brokering grazing and water-sharing agreements between rival ethnic groups, and the creation of shared marketplaces among historically divided communities. In the Wunlit Triangle, 196 women trained through PBF-supported initiatives in mental health, GBV response, and counseling now lead dialogues that challenge harmful norms and strengthen community protection. Their leadership has helped reduce gender-based violence and harmful practices like early marriage, improved survivors’ access to timely services, and brought gender-sensitive perspectives into (legislative) customary law reforms. To build a non-discriminatory, representative security sector that addresses the needs of women and girls, a newly developed - PBF supported - Security Sector Roadmap, validated by 186 stakeholders, now guides institutional reform and gender-responsive policymaking.

**Advancing Youth-Led Peacebuilding and Intergenerational Collaboration:** Through PBF-supported initiatives, young people are now central agents in building peace, social cohesion, and civic engagement. A key milestone was the co-creation of the National Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Strategy through consultations with nearly 800 young people across all states and administrative areas. The strategy provides a national framework to ensure youth perspectives shape policy and peacebuilding. At the community level, youth groups, supported by the PBF and/in coordination with partners, co-developed and implemented “Building Common Ground” action plans, leading community-driven dialogue and resolving interethnic tensions and land disputes. In Malakal, 20 youth peace ambassadors from five ethnic groups are now leading civic engagement and intercommunal trust-building, including youth consultations tied to the Peacebuilding Roadmap. Youth forums organized 38 peace sensitization campaigns, reaching over 4,600 people, and helped facilitate the voluntary surrender of more than 100 weapons, enhancing public safety. Furthermore, youth-led cultural and sports exchanges across conflict lines have reduced revenge attacks, fostered intergenerational trust, and created structured opportunities for youth to mediate disputes.

## ■ PBC ENGAGEMENT

Since October 2022, South Sudan has steadily strengthened its engagement with the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). High-level visits and government briefings on governance, reconciliation, and peacebuilding priorities have reinforced collaboration and the Commission’s commitment to nationally led efforts. In January 2024, South Sudan submitted its national peacebuilding priorities, followed by an April 2024 briefing on the contribution of PBF investments to stability. Most recently, in July 2025, a South Sudanese civil society representative addressed the PBC, underscoring local leadership in global peacebuilding cooperation.