



The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

Tajikistan

FEBRUARY 2020



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF Investments in

TOTAL APPROVED **\$4,600,000**

CURRENT PORTFOLIO **\$4,600,000**

Current projects

1 IRF Project

"Youth for Social Harmony in the Fergana Valley"

1 Cross-Border Project

Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development

Focusing on

- Crossboder Cooperation
- Revitalize economy and peace dividends
- Gender and youth responsive peacebuilding

Partners



unicef



PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

Tajikistan is a mountainous and landlocked country, with an agrarian economy, a fast-growing young population and a legacy of slow-paced political, social and economic reforms. Despite economic gains in the recent years, Tajikistan continues to be among the poorest countries in Central Asia. Economic and social exclusion, particularly of women and young people, continues to be a problem in the country. Moreover, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the succeeding bloody civil war have led to the quest for new identities and belonging: the relationship between secular and religious space is still being shaped. The potential of violent extremism, exacerbated by these factors, remains a concern for policy makers. Occasionally violent tensions along Tajikistan's un-demarcated border with Kyrgyzstan have further exacerbated peacebuilding challenges in the country, with the latest flare of violence taking place in July and September 2019. Environmental pollution, competition over natural resources and labor migration further exacerbate Tajikistan's peacebuilding challenges.

PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION

In 2019 PBF has approved its first standalone project in Tajikistan titled "Empowering youth for a peaceful Tajikistan" with a total of \$2,000,000. Through the project, the PBF is supporting efforts to increase the resilience of Tajikistan's young people to violent narratives in areas where risks of violent extremism are exacerbated by vulnerability to extreme poverty and outward migration dynamics, through endowing them with capacities, skills and competencies that open socio-economic opportunities, enable them to participate to social and political life and enhance their trust and confidence in the government. PBF supports multi-dimensional and comprehensive approaches to the prevention of violent extremism that focuses on youth development and participation by addressing root causes through long-term perspectives.



On the Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan border, since 2015, the PBF has supported efforts to increase cooperation and trust between communities in Tajik-Kyrgyz village clusters to mitigate risks of cross-border tensions and violence. The PBF has facilitated community-level efforts to mitigate risks emanating from competition over natural resources, supported pasture management, water resources management and people-friendly border services, and helped bring communities across the borders in joint activities to boost trust and confidence.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

On the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, a recent survey conducted in 2019 with project beneficiaries and stakeholders has indicated that 88.1% of the communities have experienced better and friendlier relationships across the border, and young people have a better understanding of conflict risk and feel more prepared to participate in cross-border dialogue.

The new PBF investments will support community resilience by empowering youth as actors of positive change, mitigating risks of exclusion and piloting new models for the prevention of violent extremism in Tajikistan.

■ 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.