

# THE PBF IN BURUNDI

reconciliation and the reintegration of populations affected by the conflict, such as internally displaced persons and repatriated refugees. In response to the issues directly affecting the population, the third 2014-2018 Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP), revised to take into account the 2015 events, focuses on three priority areas that complement each other: political dialogue and social cohesion; positive youth participation in political and social life; democratic exercise of human rights.

## PBF Impact

The most notable progress was made in the engagement of youth, who were at the center of clashes between political factions in 2015. National dialogue initiatives as well as the establishment of a network of women mediators were equally successful and a noteworthy example of PBF impact. PBF partners trained 516 women mediators coordinated by 18 focal points at the provincial level. This network extends all the way to the local level, with more than 14,000 members in 2950 networks at the hill level (Noyaux de base Collinaires). The mediators held 12,000 dialogue sessions, addressing cue

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## Peacebuilding Challenges

Since independence in 1961, Burundi has experienced successive violent conflicts, in 1965, 1969, 1972, 1988 and 1993 – 2004. These political conflicts with ethnic undertones claimed more than 300,000 lives and displaced over 1 million people. They disrupted the social fabric and trust among Burundians, ruined the economy, and perpetuated a culture of violence and impunity in society. After a period of relative political stability and economic growth, the 2015 political crisis undermined the progress achieved since the signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in 2000 and the elections of 2005 and 2010. The political crisis had a heavy impact on the population, as the socioeconomic situation in Burundi continued to deteriorate.

## PBF Intervention

Until 2014, PBF has supported the return to peace after civil war through strengthening governance and rule of law. Security sector reform was also a key component of the peace process, along with reintegration of militias, support to the judicial system and safeguarding of human rights. PBF support also concentrated on



Rule of law



UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS (OESG), UNHCR, UNV, FAO, IOM, Great Lakes Cross-Border MPTF, Search

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## Working with the PBC

The PBC has been very engaged in Burundi since October 2006: achievements include two successful donor conferences co-sponsored by the Chair of the PBC in 2007 (Norway) and in 2012 (Switzerland). Since the eruption of the current crisis in 2015, the PBC aimed at preventing the crisis from escalating and restoring trust between the Government of Burundi and its main international partners. More recently, the PBC organized discussions on the economic impact of the political crisis in Burundi, including socioeconomic consultations in Geneva, briefings with officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Government authorities in charge of finances and economy, and the Burundian private sector.

## Catalytic Effect

PBF supported the deployment of 32 AU Human Rights observers with USD \$2.25 million in 2016-17. This initial funding in turn allowed for the mobilization of EU contributions to facilitate the deployment of AU observers with €7.85 million for the period November 2016 to October 2017.

PBF-financed youth engagement projects have developed a model that has helped mobilize additional resources, e.g. a USD \$1.1m dollar UNDP project, co-financed by Japan.

## About the PBF

## Promoting Cohesion

PBF bridges the humanitarian, peace and development nexus by supporting a USD \$3 million interagency project with UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA and FAO, which supports the reintegration of Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania. The project focuses on the four communes in Burundi with the highest number of expected returnees to increase protection, access to basic services as well as livelihoods for returnees and members of host communities.

Burundi has been one of the most diverse PBF portfolios. It was the first country to see direct PBF support to the African Union (AU). The PBF was also the first donor to the UN Great Lakes Cross-Border Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the cross-border project between Burundi and Tanzania. Apart from a broad range of UN agencies that were supported, two CSOs were awarded grants under the 2017 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative.