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disparities and uneven representa
life have continued to gener
coupled with rising levels

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IN ACTION



penitentiary system and addressing the marginalization of women and youth. In support of efforts to increase cooperation and trust between communities, reduce risks emanating from the non-demarcated border and water-related tensions, a cross-border project between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has been implemented from 2015-2019.

PBF has also supported efforts to address the social and economic dynamics of gender and youth exclusion and empower them as active members of their communities, focusing on the most vulnerable segments of society. Various projects have focused on issues such as addressing the grievances of young people in the remote areas of Kyrgyzstan bordering Uzbekistan. A new project, approved under the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative in December 2019, will seek to empower women and girls affected by migration for inclusive and peaceful community development.

■ PEACEBUILDING FUND IMPACT

Among the most visible contributions of the current PPP has been the institutional and policy change regarding the prevention of violent extremism. One novelty is the introduction of a risk assessment and classification tool to develop an individualized approach to the rehabilitation of prisoners. A new national probation service, supported through PBF funding, has provided alternatives to incarceration. Once fully established, the probation service will contribute to a decrease in the significant prison population in the country. The PPP has also contributed to the development of a new National Prison Reform Strategy 2018-2023. Recognizing the importance of education in the prevention of violent extremism, PBF has supported the introduction of a mandatory review of textbooks with clear criteria on human rights and diversity and supported new civic education courses in madrasahs (religious schools).

In terms of cross-border issues, a 2018 survey indicated that the cross-border project between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan supported improved linkages between security providers, local authorities and citizens by establishing viable legal support and complaint mechanisms and improving people-friendly border services. PBF has also initiated dialogue between young people from the border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, thus concretely supporting the significant improvements in cooperation between the two countries in the recent years.

In the context of its support to gender and youth promotion, PBF's role in supporting the integration of vulnerable women and young people has been well recognized. For instance, the #JashStan project, implemented by Search for Common Ground since March 2017 and focused on the social integration of groups such as the families of foreign terrorist fighters, the children of labor migrants, and young people on the police watchlist for criminal offenses, was selected to be featured at the Paris Peace Forum in 2019. PBF funding has also contributed to the government's certification of 18 rural municipalities as "Child and Youth Friendly Cities", based on their performance against 26 indicators that measure cities' success in providing young people space for political and social participation, enabling their access to services and protecting them from violence.

■ CATALYTIC EFFECT:

The catalytic effect of PBF's projects were demonstrated through the readiness of national and local authorities to build on and continue the youth and gender initiatives after the projects end, particularly in adopting rights-based and conflict sensitive approaches.

PBF's funding to empowering women, young people and community organizations in Kyrgyzstan, has produced catalytic effect. For instance, further funding from the EU has been catalyzed to expand the #JashStan project to other regions in Kyrgyzstan and to Uzbekistan from January 2020. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has declared its interest to address natural resource management issues in border areas, building on the rights-based and conflict sensitive approach supported by the PBF. PBF's projects on the prevention of violent extremism have also generated funding for other PVE projects implemented by the UN, including by the Government of Japan and the European Union.

■ 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.