

# COVID-19 pandemic

- The pandemic undermines global peace and security through the erosion of trust in public institutions, exacerbating inequality, and weakening of the social fabric—which in turn hinders vital health and humanitarian efforts.

- Responses to the pandemic must address immediate

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“Collective security and our shared well-being are under assault on many fronts, led by a relentless disease and abetted by global fragilities. Our challenge is to save lives today while buttressing the pillars of security for tomorrow.”

been an excuse for state repression in the context of protests.

The disruption caused by the pandemic can also create opportunities for peace. The Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, supported by [Security Council Resolution](#)

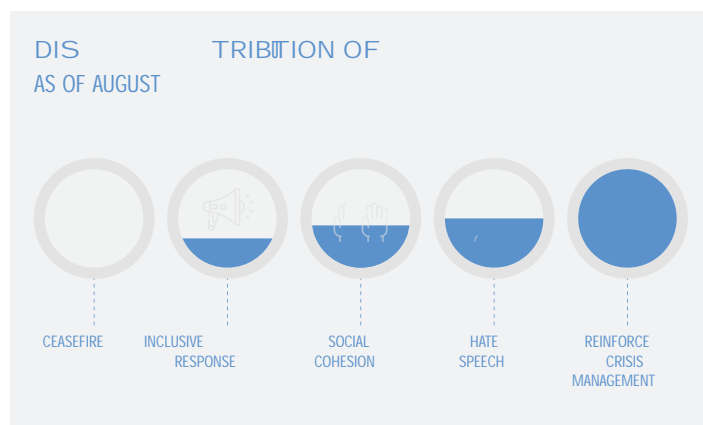
Council

## ■ PBF's response to the pandemic

## PB in practice

The immediate response has largely been about adjusting ongoing PBF projects, for example changing in-person activities to virtual formats or tackling new risks and opportunities arising in the specific project areas. By summer 2020, at least 46% (or a total of 87) of active PBF projects in 29 countries made such adjustments. In the initial response phase, a majority of adjusted activities supported governments' crisis management capacities, including data management, awareness raising and outreach to communities. Efforts to reduce tensions, counter stigmatization and disinformation or hate speech have also been common areas of adjustments.


In a second response phase, as the capacity gaps and needs become clearer, for instance through the socio-economic impact assessments, the PBF is receiving new proposals that either include dedicated COVID-19 response components in their design (the Fund has asked that all new project proposal explicitly consider COVID-19 related risks), or that have been designed with a primary emphasis on addressing COVID-19 related conflict risks and peacebuilding opportunities. The Fund expects approximately 20% of its planned portfolio of new investments in the latter part of 2020 to be readjusted to meet COVID-19 related peacebuilding demands, and a further increase in 2021 as and when more medium-term response and recovery initiatives have to be delivered in an inclusive, conflict-sensitive manner.





### ADDRESSING DIMENSIONS

### SITUATIONS

### ADDRESSING GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING DIMENSIONS OF


 In Guatemala, the UN rapidly supported the Public Prosecutor's Office to implement awareness-raising and protection activities for women who have become at higher risk of domestic violence in the context of lockdown measures. The Office also launched interventions to counter discrimination and hate speech targeted against migrants. Moreover, ongoing psychosocial services to victims of violence at the community level were rapidly adjusted to incorporate issues related to the pandemic.


 In Colombia, PBF projects supported the protection of female health personnel, women leaders and human rights defenders, and female Venezuelan migrants, who had become more vulnerable to attacks and sexual and domestic violence.


 In Zimbabwe, an ongoing PBF project implemented a gendered rapid assessment across 10 provinces to assess citizen perceptions of the impact of COVID-19 on gender and peacebuilding. 200 Peace Committees and Gender Champions from the 10 provinces engaged to monitor women's rights situation. Information obtained was analyzed and consolidated into the Gender Monitoring Survey reports and informed advocacy issues for government response. The project successfully contributed to the increased engagement with key duty bearers.

### ADDRESSING DIMENSIONS OF

### STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF

 In Guatemala, the ongoing PBF support to establish and build capacity of a new National Human Rights Commission integrated components to support the Commission in training police forces on how to protect the rights of citizens during the state of emergency.

 In Guinea, an ongoing programme to strengthen governance and quality of police services added a training for 35 NGO representatives from human rights groups to strengthen their capacity to monitor security forces' performance during the state of emergency and to document any potential human rights violations and prevent abuse of power.

 In Togo, following the declaration of the state of emergency due to COVID-19, a PBF project trained 15 human rights defenders of the central region—the first to experience confinement—on how to monitor human rights violations in a health crisis and a state of emergency. These human rights monitors also received technological tools to obtain and share information remotely and have so far reported over 30 cases.

## Supporting Urgent Institutional Requests

In Haiti, the pandemic has exacerbated an already untenable situation of overcrowded prisons and pretrial detention centers. In an effort to mitigate the risk of escalating tensions, PBF support was requested to urgently facilitate legal arbitration for the release of detainees, accompanied by further awareness-raising measures.

In Yemen, the marginalized and vulnerable populations of Juvenile Detention Centers were provided with COVID-19 protection and prevention items in a collaboration with the ICRC.

In Nigeria, to strengthen the police's capacity for community engagement and crisis management during the pandemic a new initiative supports inclusive coordination efforts between local governments and communities and foster transparent communication and dialogue spaces to prevent potential conflict.

The Humanitarian Development-Peace Building and Partnership (HDPP) Facility considers submissions from UN Resident Coordinators for grants to develop the UN-World Bank Partnership in Crisis-Affected Situations under the 2017 Partnership Framework between the two organizations. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the HDPP-Facility established in June a fast-track that facilitates support for rapid UN-World Bank risk analysis in the context of COVID-19. Requests for up to USD 50,000 to fund remote or local consultancies can be approved in as little as 24 hours to support alignment of UN and World Bank efforts and facilitate conflict-sensitive recovery planning.

A first wave of fast-track grants by end August supported the mapping of risks faced by populations in North and North-east Kenya and in Nigeria's Diffa and Tillabery regions; conflict-sensitive UN-World Bank recovery planning in Sierra Leone; and an assessment of the pandemic's impact on social cohesion and community acceptance in Togo.

Recent approvals include support to the stand-up of a nationally-owned data capacity for socio-economic impact assessment in Afghanistan and to explore universal basic income as a potential solution for marginalized women in Nepal. With additional requests in the pipeline from Latin America and other regions hard hit by COVID-19, and with renewed donor support, the Facility's fast-track will be extended until the end of 2020.