



March 2025



Duration:

Length:	3 years
Start Date:	September 2017
End Date:	August 2020

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$4,000,000
IOM	\$4,000,000

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Agencies:
IOM

Implementing Partners:
ACFPE, AFPE, ACDA, ANDE, FNEC, DAEBNF, Ministry of Planning, Economy, & International Cooperation; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Livestock; Ministry of Disarmament, DDR, UEPNDDR, MAHRN

CONTEXT

The Community Violence Reduction programme was launched in November 2017 to address insecurity in Bambari and along routes within a 50 km radius. Stabilizing Bambari has been a major challenge since the outbreak of the Central African conflict in 2013. Once an economic hub and key commercial center, Bambari became a focal point in the struggle for territorial control among armed groups. This region exemplifies the complexity of the crisis, where the root causes of the conflict—ethnic, religious, and politico-military tensions—are compounded by its consequences, including displacement and heightened civilian vulnerability. By the second quarter of 2019, the area hosted four displacement sites, sheltering 16,236 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to prevent and mitigate conflicts and insecurity through:

- Social and economic reintegration of non-eligible ex-combatants from armed groups and at-risk youth.
- Raising community awareness on peaceful coexistence, citizenship, and related themes.
- Training community leaders in mediation and peaceful conflict resolution.
- Rehabilitating essential community infrastructure and services, particularly state-run facilities.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

- **Improved security and social cohesion:** Six Community Violence Reduction (CVR) Committees were established in Bambari Centre, Alindao Axis, Kouango Axis, Grimari Axis, Balaka Axis, and Ndassima Axis, strengthening their capacity in mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. The conflict resolution success rate reached 88%, and 13,132 people were sensitized on social cohesion, non-proliferation of weapons, and citizenship through 29 festive, cultural, sports, and educational events, reinforcing peaceful coexistence. 70% of respondents reported an improvement in security within project areas, with a significant reduction in security incidents between 2018 and 2019, according to a survey of 3,223 people.

- **Successful social and economic reintegration:** A total of 2,303 beneficiaries, including 20% women, participated in 48 days of Cash-for-Work, attended eight awareness sessions, and received training in managing Income-Generating Activities (IGAs). Additionally, 191 beneficiaries completed specialized vocational training in sewing, mechanics, carpentry, and masonry. By the end of the project, 89% of IGA beneficiaries remained economically active.
- **Boosted Local Economy:** The project injected \$280,000 into the local economy through Cash for Work (CfW). Three months post-project, monitoring of 587 IGAs revealed a turnover of 88.7 million FCFA, \$133 per beneficiary. 95% of respondents observed increased economic activity in their communities.
- **Key community infrastructure rehabilitated and operational:** 21 community infrastructures were constructed or rehabilitated, including: 1 stadium, 3 schools, 1 roundabout, 2 youth centers, 1 town hall, 2 health centers, 4 markets, 1 ferry, 1 training center, 1 magistrate's house, 3 bridges, 1 cultural center, Community radio station reinforcement, 25 km of rehabilitated roads.
- **Sustainability of community infrastructures:** Several supported sites demonstrated long-term sustainability: The municipal stadium remains in use; the market garden continues to provide livelihoods and promote social cohesion; the community radio remains active in promoting peace; schools and health centers continue to operate, providing essential services to the people.
- **Empowerment of women:** 300 women received training in mediation, conflict management, literacy, and first aid. These skills enhanced their protection and leadership in conflict resolution, enabling them to play a critical role in stabilizing the project area. Many of these women have become key actors in restoring peace in the Bambari region.

CATALYTICS EFFECTS

Financial:

- The project successfully mobilized \$1,715,479 in additional funding from MINUSCA to expand activities into the Bria region.

Non-financial:

- Encouraged 1,409 ex-combatants ineligible for the DDR program and 894 unemployed youth to abandon violence and engage in economic activities, strengthening social cohesion and driving local economic development.
- Served as a benchmark for other CVR initiatives in the Central African Republic.
- Contributed to a decline in violence and security incidents, facilitating the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the area.
- Fostered stronger trust between local authorities and communities through active engagement in project implementation.

Voices from the Field

"The socio-economic reintegration of project beneficiaries significantly accelerated the return to security following the events of mid-May 2018. The impact of the Community Violence Reduction (CVR) activities was evident during a follow-up meeting on August 15, 2018, in Bambari, Ouaka prefecture. According to the Mayor of Bambari and an Income Generating Activities (IGA) trainer, the CVR program has been instrumental in transforming beneficiaries, which has, in turn, played a major role in stabilizing Bambari."

MINUSCA Weekly Report, August 12, 2018