



March 2025



Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	September 2017
End Date:	August 2019

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$2,000,000
UNDP	\$2,000,000

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Agencies:
UNDP

CONTEXT

The Support Project for State Restoration and Economic Recovery in Bambari was launched following the liberation of the city from armed groups. It is part of the Operational Plan for the Immediate Stabilization of Bambari (POSIB) and directly responds to the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR), characterized by armed conflict, the collapse of state authority, and a severe humanitarian emergency. The project aims to tackle these challenges by leveraging Bambari's strategic position as a key entry point for restoring state authority and improving living conditions for the local population. Additionally, it focuses on rebuilding trust between the state and its citizens, a relationship that has been deeply eroded by years of conflict and instability.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the project is to restore state authority in Bambari through structured and coordinated actions that strengthen core state functions and revitalize economic development in the city and its surrounding areas.

Specifically, the project aims to:

1. Improve security conditions in Bambari.
2. Revive decentralized administrative services.
3. Support socio-economic recovery in the city and nearby communities.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

- **Improved security perception:** A survey conducted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) in December 2018 found that 81% of respondents in Bambari believed that security conditions had improved in the 12 months following the project's implementation.
- **Restoration of administrative infrastructure:** Six essential public buildings damaged during the crisis were renovated and equipped, now housing key government services, including customs, gendarmerie, police, public works, urban planning, tourism, and the local branch of Central African Radio. This has facilitated the redeployment of public administration and improved community access to essential services. While many of these facilities remain in use, some were vandalized during the 2020-2021 crisis.

- **Revitalization of the local economy through market modernization:** Launched in June 2019, the central market renovation included the rehabilitation of 44 existing kiosks and the construction of 80 new ones, as well as upgrades to a hangar, market stalls, and sanitation facilities. These improvements have enhanced market safety and stimulated local economic activity. The market continues to operate successfully today.
- **Youth vocational training:** The Jeunesse Pionnière Nationale (JPN) training center in Bambari was rehabilitated and equipped, reopening on September 25, 2019, for 100 trainees—including 30 women—from diverse communities. The center provides training in masonry, carpentry, mechanics, and sewing, fostering youth empowerment and reducing unemployment. Although vandalized during the 2020-2021 crisis, the center remains operational.

CATALYTICS EFFECTS

Financial:

- Since 2018, the World Bank has undertaken several interventions in Bambari and the wider Ouaka prefecture, including a \$2 million health support project and investments in basic infrastructure.
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) mobilized over \$4 million for Bambari and its surrounding areas, focusing on youth socio-economic reintegration, entrepreneurship promotion, and the strengthening of social infrastructure.

Non-financial:

- Significant restoration of state authority in Bambari, with nearly all public services redeployed, including internal security forces, FACA (national defense forces), justice, education, health, and public works. This has gradually rebuilt trust between the state and local communities. As a result, Bambari was subsequently declared a "city free of armed groups."
- Sustained use of infrastructure: Most of the facilities built or rehabilitated through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) remain operational and in use today.

Voices from the Field

"I am deeply grateful for the support from the PBF, which has played a crucial role in implementing the Operational Plan for the Immediate Stabilization of Bambari. This assistance has greatly facilitated the return of state authority and has strengthened social cohesion."

Prefect of Ouaka

"The rehabilitation of the central market means a lot to us. It used to be a place where all communities gathered before it was badly damaged by the war. Now, people are coming together again, talking, and reconnecting. It's truly wonderful to see."

A vendor from Bambari's central market