



Sédouti – Enhancing security and consolidating peace through community-based reintegration of ex-combatants in the Central African Republic

March 2025



Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	June 2023
End Date:	June 2025

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$5,000,000
UNDP	\$1,850,000
IOM	\$1,650,000
UN Women	\$1,500,000

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Agencies:

UNDP, IOM, UN Women

Implementing Partners:

Association of Women Lawyers of the Central African Republic (AFJC), National NGO APSUD, NGO PNRM, Central African Republic Community Media Network, Ministry of Planning, Economy, and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, DDR Ministry, National DDR Program Implementation Unit (UEPNDDR), Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity, and National Reconciliation (MAHRN)

CONTEXT

The project was designed to address a critical gap in reintegration efforts previously supported by World Bank funding through the PREC Project (Ex-Combatants Reintegration Project). Its primary focus is on facilitating the reintegration of members of the Convention of Patriots for Change (CPC) who opted to join the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) starting in 2023. By adopting an integrative and inclusive approach, the project transforms communities from passive recipients into active participants in the reintegration process. It provides ex-combatants, members of armed groups not covered by the National Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation (DDRR) Program, and at-risk young men and women with opportunities to live and work together to revitalize their local communities. Additionally, the project places special emphasis on at-risk women and youth, recognizing that their active involvement in both formal and informal peace consolidation efforts is essential for achieving lasting peace. This approach aligns with UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250, which the Central African Republic has incorporated into its national policies.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to promote peace by supporting the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, women and girls associated with armed groups, and at-risk women and youth, while actively involving host communities to strengthen social cohesion. **Specifically, the project seeks to:**

1. Enhance the psychosocial and interpersonal skills of ex-combatants and community members to foster peace and social cohesion;
2. Rehabilitate basic community infrastructure through the joint participation of ex-combatants and community members, creating opportunities for rapid income generation, rebuilding trust, and improving essential social services;
3. Expand participants' access to socio-economic opportunities, enabling them to develop and sustain income-generating activities that contribute to local economic recovery.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

- **Enhanced social cohesion:** Approximately 60,000 community members have gained awareness of conflict resolution, human rights, and social cohesion through awareness campaigns, dialogue platforms, social cohesion events, cultural and sports activities, and the rehabilitation/equipping of community radio stations across the project's five zones.
- **Strengthened professional skills for ex-combatants:** In October 2024, 500 ex-combatants successfully completed vocational training—200 in Bambari, 200 in Mobaye, 50 in Obo, and 50 in Zémio.
- **Expanded mental health support:** Four listening centers were established, benefiting 3,073 individuals, including 1,500 project participants and others with specific needs. These centers provided comprehensive psychosocial support services, including 100% psychosocial counseling, 100% post-traumatic healing sessions, and 35% medical care.
- **Improved awareness of GBV and STIs/HIV/AIDS:** A total of 12,276 people—including former combatants and women/girls associated with armed groups (7,471 in Bambari and Mobaye; 4,805 in Obo and Bangassou)—gained increased awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, through targeted door-to-door awareness campaigns.
- **Increased gender sensitivity among DDR actors:** Through capacity-building workshops, 270 state representatives—including officials from the DDR ministry and civil society members—strengthened their understanding of integrating gender considerations into all phases of DDR.
- **Labor-intensive projects for income generation:** Ten labor-intensive projects (TIMO) were selected across the target zones and are now being implemented to create income-generating opportunities for participants and improve access to basic social services.

CATALYTICS EFFECTS

Financial:

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) allocated \$250,000 to support a similar approach in Haute-Kotto, benefiting approximately 200 ex-combatants and non-eligible individuals.

Non-financial:

- The project highlighted critical gaps in reintegration processes and emphasized the importance of community involvement in implementation efforts.
- It provided over 500 ex-combatants from armed groups, who were ineligible for the DDR program, with opportunities to participate in economic development activities. This helped reduce frustrations and contributed to greater stability.
- The project's innovative local activity management model, which engages all stakeholders through Community Coordination Structures (CCS), has emerged as a key strength. This approach fosters shared responsibility and collective efforts toward peace by supporting the socioeconomic reintegration of ex-combatants.

Voices from the Field

"This project has positioned itself in a crucial niche by focusing on at-risk youth and ex-combatants who are ineligible for the PNDDR. This is a game-changer for our region. Before, we had no programs to support this group, leaving a gap that threatened peace and stability. Now, with this innovative approach, we are seeing real progress in strengthening security and fostering inclusion. Targeting these individuals is not just important—it's essential for building a lasting peace."

Prefect of Ouaka, Bambari