



**REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE – NATIONS UNIES
FONDS EZINGO-RCA**

2015 Consolidated Annual Narrative Report on Activities Implemented under the Central African Republic Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Ezingo Fund)



Peacebuilding Fund

**Executive Secretariat of the Ezingo Fund
MPTF-CAR
Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
<http://mptf.undp.org>**

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Acronyms

AA	Administrative Agent
ANE	National Agency for the Elections
BSS	Services and assistance battalion
CAR	Central African Republic
CBDR	Community-Based Dispute Resolution Processes
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
CNR	National Reference Center
DDR	Desarmament Demobilization and Reintegration
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
EFSAN	European Food And Security Authority
EU	European Union
EUMAM	European's Military Advisory Mission
FACA	Central African Army Forces
FSD	Switzerland Foundation for Mine Action
GBVIMS	Gender Based Violence Information Management System
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCHR	High Commissary for Human Rights
HRDDP	Human Rights Due Diligence Policy
IDP	Internally Displaced People
INL	United States International Narcotics and Law Enfmnt Affairs
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MINUSCA	Multidimensional Integrated Mission of the United Nations for Stabilization in the Cen
MIRA	Multisector Initial Rapid Assessment
MPTF	Multi-Parter Trust Fund
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIM	International Organization for Migration
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organizations
RBA	Result Based Management
RC	Resident Coordinator
RR	Resident Representative of UNDP
SCC	Special Criminal Court
SG	Secretary General of the United Nations Organization
THIMO	High intensity Labour
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissary for Refugies
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNPOL	United Nations Police
VBGS	Sexual and Gender Based Violences
WHO	World Health Organization



I. Background

The Central African Republic covers 623,000 km² and has 4.9 million inhabitants. For two decades, the country was rocked by a series of recurring crises, the last in date being the December 2012 crisis. This crisis is complicated by inter-religious conflicts that exacerbate the already precarious security, socio-economic and political situation. The conflict particularly affects young people who constitute over 60% of the total population, with 32% aged between 10 and 24 years.

The impact of the crisis can be seen principally on two levels:

On the security front, the military, the police and the gendarmerie can hardly ensure the safety of the central African citizens, despite the support of MINUSCA. Recent efforts by the international community to strengthen State Authority throughout the country have been dashed by the numerous looting and destruction of social and economic infrastructure perpetrated mostly by unemployed youth and experiencing the influence and exploitation of irregular militias and forces. The number of children associated with armed forces and groups is estimated at over 10,000. These children are used either for direct participation in combat or to be sexually exploited for commercial purposes. The amount of weapons in circulation is still very high in Bangui, and these weapons are often found in the hands of militias and armed groups.

On the socio-economic level, the different assessments (CFSAM, MIRA, EFSAN) reveal that the crisis has undermined social cohesion and created a climate of distrust, which resulted in a withdrawal in order to avoid unpredictable risks of interreligious and inter and intra community conflicts. According to the Humanitarian Bulletin No. 4 by OCHA, October 2015, more than half of the country's population needs humanitarian assistance. Some populations are forced into exile and others forced to move inside the country because of insecurity. According to the Commission for the CAR population movements, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was nearly 450,000 in September, while 442,000 people had sought refuge in neighboring countries, the majority being women and youth. This leakage of violence, looting and destruction led to a loss of assets of people who may be forced to barter their goods against food, thus further reducing their resilience capacity. Besides the bloody clashes have led to a disastrous health situation in Bangui and its surroundings, resulting in the worsening of diseases and epidemics in a context where medical support structures are inadequate and obsolete when they exist.

Stephen O'Brien, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Deputy United Nations Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on visit to the CAR in October 2015 made a call to international community in the following terms: "The world must be interested in the situation in the CAR. Not only do the people suffer, but violence continues to rage, which is an obstacle to good governance, access to vital humanitarian aid and to the possibility for the Central Africans to begin to build a better future"

:



II. Introduction

The year 2015 has started under better auspices than the previous year for the Central African Republic, especially with the organization of the National Forum of Bangui preceded by the popular consultations from January to March 2015. This forum, which has brought together more than 700 participants from all regions of the country led to the adoption of the Republican Pact for Reconciliation and Reconstruction and the signing of the agreement on DDR and that relating to the demobilization of children within armed groups. This progress has strengthened the dialogue between the Central African people and paved the way to the organization of the constitutional referendum and the coupled presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2015.

This positive momentum is also noticeable in other areas such as: 1) the reinforcement of State Authority through the deployment and of the State's administrative services including security forces along with the provision of basis social services on the ground,; 2) the improvement the working conditions of civil servants, health providers and education workers; 3) the improvement of the living conditions of the population, most particularly the youth through the availability of reproductive health services, including HIV/Aids medical assistance and their participation to labor intensive works (THIMO); 4) the progresses in the area of security and justice, most particularly the capacity building of the security and defense forces; improvement made in the area of the fight against impunity thanks to the restoration of basic justice functions throughout the country.

However, the year 2015 has also seen sporadic episodes of violence throughout the country. The latest crisis of September and October 2015 was fueled by inter-communal tensions and a sectarian vengeance spiral that has somehow jeopardized the progress achieved during the year with the support of international partners. The fights were accompanied by looting, rape and caused many injuries in different parts of the country with a predominance in Bangui and in the Sub-Prefecture Kaga-Bandoro. The main actors as well as the primary victims of the looting and violence are the unoccupied youth.

This report focuses on the functioning of Ezingo Fund Secretariat and the activities of the projects financed and implemented in 2015. It covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015. This consolidated report is based on the reports received from various Participating United Nations Organizations whose projects have been implemented wholly or in part during the period covered by the report and in line with the reporting requirements set out in the fund transfer Agreement.



III. Fund Status

1) Contributions by Early January 2015

Contributor/Partner	Commitments	Deposits	Deposit rate
NETHERLANDS, Government of	6 166 462,15	2 383 360,00	38,7%
NORWAY, Government of	2 012 434,55	2 012 434,55	100,0%
Peacebuilding Fund	4 607 000,00	4 607 000,00	100,0%
US Int'l Narcotics & Law Enfmnt Affairs	11 253 925,00	11 253 925,00	100,0%
TOTAL	24 039 821,70	20 256 719,55	84,26

At the end of the year, the Fund has received the second tranche of the Netherland's contribution of USD 1 000 000 and a first contribution from France amounting to USD 500 000 of which 250 000 are earmarked to the rule of law.

2) Contributions by December 2015

Contributor/Partner	Commitments	Deposits	Deposit rate
FRANCE, Government of	547 050,00	547 050,00	100,0%
NETHERLANDS, Government of	5 965 954,10	3 443 886,00	57,7%
NORWAY, Government of	2 012 434,55	2 012 434,55	100,0%
Peacebuilding Fund	4 607 000,00	4 607 000,00	100,0%
US Int'l Narcotics & Law Enfmnt Affairs	11 253 925,00	11 253 925,00	100,0%
TOTAL	24 386 363,65	21 864 295,55	89,65%



IV. Financed Projects and Main Results Achieved

1) Current Status of the Fund's Portfolio

Since its setup in March 2014, the Ezingo fund has helped finance 8 projects in support to Peacebuilding, Strengthening State authority and duty and early recovery for a total of USD 12.1 million. A financial overview of these projects with the actual amounts granted and their implementation status is represented in the table below:

Project ID	Project Description.	Organization	Approved Budget (USD)	Status	Project End Date
90520	Direct Costs for the CAR MPTF	UNDP	107 000,00	Closed	30-Nov-14
90524	Payment to Police and Gendarmes	Government of CAR	4 500 000,00	Closed	31 Dec 2014
91988	Support to the security sector in the CAR	UNDP	1 114 323,00	Closed	31-March-15
92323	Direct Costs II – Operationalization of the MPTF CAR Secretariat	UNDP	311 309,00	Open	20 May-16
94042	Implementation in Bangui of the reference Unit and sub-reference unit for the holistic care of rape victims	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	568 598,00	Open	31 Aug- 16
94467	Joint project to support the fight against human rights violations and the revival of the justice system in the Central African Republic	UNDP, MINUSCA, UN Women	2 842 918,31	Open	31-Dec- 17
98382 ¹	Support to the reduction of the vulnerability of adolescents and youth in the localities of Boda, Yaloke, Sibut, Mbres, Grimari, Kouango and Bambari	UNFPA, UNICEF	1 573 542,00	Open	31-Dec-16
98383 ²	Support for the rehabilitation of health facilities in areas affected by the consequences of social conflicts	WHO	1 080 165,00	Open	31-Dec-16

Title of the Project: Implementation in Bangui of the reference Unit and sub-reference unit for the holistic care of rape victims
Participating UN Organization(s): OMS, UNFPA, UNICEF
Budget: USD 568 598

This project was first examined during the steering committee meeting of July 10 2014 and approved “by principle”, pending more comments to be received from the Ministry of Planning. Due to the political and security context prevailing at that time, it took time for the partners to finalize and get the project signed. The funds were transferred in February allowing thereby the project to start.

The project aims to improve the lives of victims of sexual violence (GBV) through a correct management at medical, legal and psycho-social levels through the joint partnership of the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA. The following activities have been undertaken during the year 2015

¹ Project financed in 2015 but started in 2016

² Project financed in 2015 but started in 2016



Development of training tools and training of health providers: for the first time in the CAR, comprehensive tools were developed for a holistic support to victims of sexual violence. The protocol covers the care process starting from the opening of a file for each victim to the provision of health and psycho-social care as well as the monitoring of the cases. Regarding the reference of victims, 49 health workers in total composed of 10 Psychosocial Aids, 4 Laboratory Senior Technicians and 35 clinicians were trained.

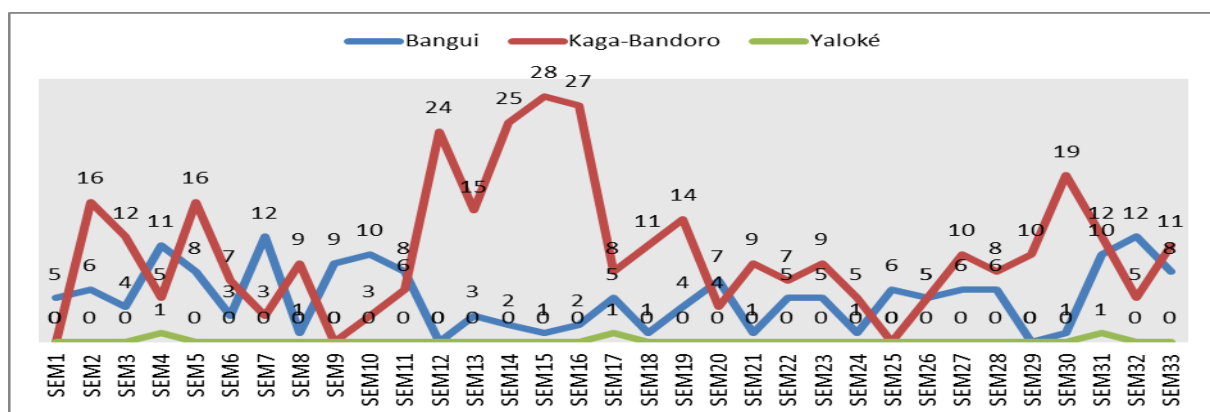
Supply of health facilities with kits to use in case of rape and hygiene and dignity kits: Appropriate kits for the care of rape victims have been provided to health facilities thanks to the project, namely reproductive health kit *number 3* and a package of hygiene and dignity kits. The availability of the different kits in the health facilities has significantly contributed to the work of humanitarian partners by allowing them to appropriately handle rape cases without disruption of stocks. As a result, at least 500 victims of rape have been assisted in the country during 2015.

Monitoring of the management of sexual violence cases: the project has helped support the data collection system in areas of high-prevalence such as the prefecture of Nana Gribizi. The trend shown by the data allows to adjust support strategies and people’s awareness

Equipment and Rehabilitation of the “Hôpital de l’Amitié”: This hospital is chosen by the project to be a national reference center in cases of sexual violence. The computer equipment and the furniture are available and the rehabilitation works have started.

The capacity of the Ministry of Health needs to be developed in order to integrate the activities developed by this project in the health system package. This will help ensure the durability of the project and extend the wellbeing of the victims of sexual violence even beyond the project.

Table 1: Monitoring of the trend of rape cases taken in charge in the IDP sites from Week 1 to week 33 in 2015





Title of the Project: Support to the security sector in the CAR (Completed in March 2015)

Participating UN Organizations: UNDP with the technical partnership of MINUSCA

Budget: USD 1 114 323

The project's main objective was to support the reunification of CAR regular armed forces (FACA) in rehabilitated barracks and their registration through the establishment of a reliable database.

At the end of the project, the following was expected:

- A registration system for the defense forces is created, functional and used to process and store data;
- Essential services facilities and security structures of Camp Kasai and the BSS Camp are rehabilitated;
- The Engineering Battalions contribute to the rehabilitation of barracks.

The project was initially supposed to last four months. However, due to a late start and several logistical and technical issues, the responsible parties asked for a non-cost extension to add two months to the project duration and also reshuffle the budget. The modifications in the budget consisted in allocating the amount initially provisioned for the rehabilitation of Camps BSS to the rehabilitation of Camp Kassai and to the second component of the project (Registration of the FACA). The reasons for the request are detailed here below:

The context of crisis, exacerbated since October 2014 has caused delays in the starting date of the project. Indeed, despite the signature of the project document in September 2014, the activities effectively started in November 2015. The requested amendment consists of allocating the budget initially provisioned for the rehabilitation of Camps BSS to the rehabilitation of Camp Kassai and to the second component of the project (Registration of the FACA). It is motivated by the following reasons:

- 1) The context of crisis, exacerbated since October has caused delays in the starting date of the project. Indeed, despite the signature of the project document in September 2014, the activities effectively started in November 2014;
- 2) Changes that occurred in the first component of the project: “**Rehabilitation of certain facilities of several barracks identified by the Ministry of Defence**”. There are four barracks in the scope of the project – Camp Kassai, Camp Obrou, Camp Sapeur-Pompier and Camp BSS. As of now, the rehabilitation work has only started in Camp Kassai due to problems related to the other three camps as explained below:
 - 150 FACA personnel with their families have been living in this camp for more than a decade. The project has predicted to rehabilitate the camp's sanatorium which is also FACA's only medical facility of that kind. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CAR had allocated the Camp Obrou to MINUSCA as one of its potential premises. Hence a political decision needs to be taken to solve that problem and this can take delays going beyond the scope of the project;



- Camps BSS and Beal are still occupied with Seleka, including with armed ex combatants, led by General Karim and secured by a company of MINUSCA DRC military contingent. There are no Seleka in Camp Sapeur-Pompier; however, it is right next to Camp BSS and in close proximity to Camp Beal. Therefore, starting rehabilitation work by FACA's engineering battalion in those two camps is potentially risky and requires relocation of Seleka which, in turn, can cause long delays;
- The joint efforts of the MINUSCA and the CAR Government to relocate the former Seleka to other camps in the inner country have not yet proven successful. Instead, this decision has led to the October disorders, with ex-Seleka threatening to blow up the weapons reserve in retaliation;

Therefore, the first quarter of year 2015 was used to reinforce the rehabilitation of Camp Kassai and the registration of FACA.

The following activities have been conducted: twelve elements from the FACA were trained for the management of the database on the armed forces. This has enabled the registration of 7259 elements of the Central African Armed Forces out of a total of 8000. A fence wall was constructed and a large sliding gate was installed to strengthen camp security. Furthermore, three military infirmaries (Camps Kasai, Fidel Obrou and Bouar) have received medical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

The main partners of the project are the Ministry of defense and the Switzerland Fund for Mine Action (FSD). New partnership has developed during 2015, adding to the partners of the project, namely with FAO, EUMAM and UNMAS. The Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) program has allocated USD 33,287 to the project to build the capacity of officially registered FACA and who will be responsible for protecting in static position of sensitive and strategic sites and VIP at 27 sensitive positions in Bangui. EUMAM has provided equipment to the dormitories, the infirmary and the Joint Mass. A weapons depot was built in camp Kasai with a financial and technical support UNMAS, which will allow the good management of armaments (storage, traceability, control and security). FAO also contributed to the project through the provision of agricultural equipment to help the military produce their own agricultural products.



Server Room



In a broader context, the project has allowed to achieve the following results:

- 1) Comparison of the registered data with those of the Ministry of Finance has allowed to reduce payroll (by erasing duplications and “ghosts” and facilitate the traceability of FACA;
- 2) Existence of an improved working environment with appropriate computer equipment and permanent supply of electricity;
- 3) All registered staff are identified through biometric ID cards;
- 4) A total of 28 buildings have been rehabilitated, including the training center of the infirmary and the Joint Mass;
- 5) The rehabilitation of the military camp Kasai has tightened security in the camp limiting criminal incursions and unauthorized exits of soldiers;
- 6) Resumption of activities including training of 1770 vetted military on the Human rights principles, civil-military relationship; children's rights; civil protection and Gender based violence by the Division of Human Rights of the MINUSCA, the Central African Red Cross and OCHA;
- 7) Resumption of FACA activities within the camp;
- 8) Classrooms fully rehabilitated and partially equipped by the project;
- 9) Increased confidence of the military and the surrounding population who will be able to seek care in the camp infirmary;
- 10) Resumption of daily activities and restoration of the population's trust in the armed forces;
- 11) Ownership of the project demonstrated by the 120 elements of the Battalion Genie who have worked in the rehabilitation of the barracks.



Training room



FAO contribution

The project has been known a large success and was visited by the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous.

The closure of the project was celebrated under the high presidency of the Head the Transition, Her Excellency Mrs. Catherine Samba-PANZA and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, General Babacar Gaye on June 30 2015.



Title of the Project: *Joint project to support the fight against human rights violations and the revival of the justice system in the Central African Republic*

Participating UN Organizations: *UNDP, MINUSCA, UN Women*

Budget: *USD 11 253 925 over 9 years with USD 2 842 918,31 for the first year*

The general objective of the joint project is to contribute to restoring the rule of law and social cohesion and supporting the national reconciliation process with a view to achieving lasting peace.

The expected outcomes of the joint project are identified as:

1. The strategic and operational framework of the justice system along with mechanisms to combat impunity has been established in order to provide an immediate response to the population's protection needs.
2. The protection of vulnerable individuals and groups and their access to justice have been strengthened through a rehabilitation of the essential functions of the criminal justice system.
3. The police and gendarmerie are gradually providing protection services in sensitive sites
4. Cases of sexual and gender-based violence are being monitored and the victims of SGBV are receiving assistance.
5. Conflicts and insecurity at intervention sensitive sites are gradually being brought under control through mechanisms for safeguarding rights and community-based dispute resolution processes (CBDR).

In 2015, important progress was made regarding the fight against impunity, while building blocks to establish the Special Criminal Court, reform the justice sector and restore basic justice functions in the country were laid.

The holding of a first criminal session in July 2015 – after more than 5 years without criminal hearings in the country – has been a first concrete answer to the fight against impunity and sent the message that crimes in the Central African Republic would not go unpunished. A total of 63 files were taken and 132 people judged. While criminal sessions in the past would be considerably delayed and lead to a small number of adjudications, the 2015 session was the first one to lead to a significant number of adjudications within the timeframe. This result was achieved through 6 month of preparatory work. On the other hand, the most prominent cases were not adjudicated and a number of individuals sentenced for crimes managed to escape the prison. Also, there was no case related to SGBV. This demonstrates the challenges ahead in fighting against impunity.

In order for convicts of crimes to serve their sentence in prison and not escape, 35 additional detention places were created in Bangui for high-security detainees through rehabilitation and securing works at Camp de Roux prison. Camp de Roux was, as a matter of fact, the only penitentiary facility where the detainees did not escape during the massive escape of the Ngaragba prison of September 2015. The Ngaragba prison benefited from emergency equipment which enabled its reopening in December 2015 after two months of closure following the September massive escape. A total of 114 penitentiary civilian staff were trained on prisons management. Distribution of furniture and equipment complemented the training for the functioning prisons of the country. The September escape reminded on the urgent need to recruit civilian personnel to serve in the prisons. Reports demonstrated that FACA contingents,



in charge of prisons surveillance, are constantly involved in prisoner's escapes and reportedly do not comply with international standards applicable in the penitentiary institutions.

Aside from this concrete result, the Criminal Session were a first step in reforming the justice sector. A number of innovative measures were taken within the preparation of the Criminal Session and enabled to introduce new practices, namely: providing legal assistance to detainees, communicating on results through the creation of a spokesperson position within the Appeal Court; preparing the jurors to avoid drop out before/during the session, etc. Besides, the strengths and weaknesses of the criminal session were assessed through a lessons learned workshop in order to improve the organization of future sessions (adapt infrastructures, security, transfer of detainees, transport of lawyers, etc.), including in the Appeal Courts of Bambari and Bouar. The lessons learned exercise enabled to identify trainings and capacities strengthening needs for the criminal justice institutions that will be useful also for the establishment of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). It also highlighted the need to work on a legal aid strategy and on the representation of both the victims and the alleged perpetrators in order to respect the rights of the defense and the fair trial standards. The lessons learned will inform a needed reform of the criminal session system that is too heavy and costly for the jurisdictions, especially in the provinces.

The Ministry of Justice drafted (with project support) a new emergency plan, defining prior activities, budget and zones that should be benefiting from urgent support in the course of the next 6 to 12 months in order to relaunch the ordinary national justice system in the country. This plan will allow for the efficient coordination of all actors supporting the justice sector and enable the Ministry of Justice to respond to emergencies faced by the sector.

Important steps were also reached in the creation and operationalization of the Special Criminal Court after the adoption of the Law creating this hybrid jurisdiction. A shared vision of the principles to establish the SCC and UN areas of support to it was produced through workshops with close to 100 representatives from the justice and internal security sectors, as well as with the national civil society (all regions of the country represented). The workshops highlighted the fact that justice/security sectors and civil society want the special criminal court to break with past practices of corruption and nepotism. They also want the establishment of the SCC to be a transformative process for the rule of law institutions in CAR by applying new judicial practices to the entire justice sector. The break with the past was initiated with the establishment of a special committee, by ministerial decree, to select and recruit the SCC magistrates, that includes civil society as an observer. A draft project document was produced accordingly and submitted to the CAR authorities at the end of 2015. A service note allocated a building to host the Court at the end of the year. Investigation capacities of the criminal justice institutions were assessed and strengthened through trainings for 80 investigating police officers (OPJ), magistrates and clerks.

First steps to combat SGBV were taken. In the short-term and in order to stop SGBV cases to be dismissed by the courts, an advocacy strategy was launched, including outreach activities aimed at reviewing the national criminal justice policy on SGBV. As a result of the advocacy work, a circular recommending a stronger severity in the judicial treatment of the SGBV cases and a focused attention on the respect of the survivor's rights was issued by the Ministry of Justice. Besides, a total of 100 community leaders were sensitized on SGBV along with judicial and medical personnel (magistrates, police officers, doctors and psychologists) to create a pool of trained leaders that will form the basis for extended SGBV sensitization among the population in 2016.

In order to shape the longer-term response to SGBV, CAR authorities were sent on a study trip to Rwanda to analyze a holistic mechanism to support SGBV victims. Following that trip, CAR authorities established an "ad hoc committee" including key representatives of national



institutions and Civil Society Organizations to develop a strategy for holistic support of SGBV victims. The committee has implemented social mobilization and lobby activities with the authorities to rapidly put in place the mechanism planned in the strategy.

Management and oversight mechanisms of internal security forces were strengthened in order to increase the police and gendarmerie officers' presence in Bangui and in the rest of the country: a system of attendance forms was established (in partnership with UNPOL) while the building to host the inspection services of the gendarmerie was renovated and equipped. Besides, and in order to improve the security response to incidents a joint command and coordination center for both the police and gendarmerie was refurbished and equipped. A committee was set up to define its organization structure and procedures. The center enables operational coordination between police and gendarmerie and includes a crisis cell chaired by the Minister of the Public Security. Such a joint structure is a novelty in CAR and was the results of month of sensitization, joint planning and negotiations with national partners.

Title of the Project: Payment to Police and Gendarmes (completed in March 2016)

Participating UN Organizations: UNDP

Budget: USD 4 500 000

The project started in May 2014 and was initially supposed to end in April 2015. The two main expected results of the project are: 1) The police and gendarmes' salaries are paid and 2) The risks associated to the Human Rights Due Diligent Policy (HRDDP) are identified and managed effectively.

The national counterparts of the project are the Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Ministry of Public Security and emigration/immigration.

The main donor of this project is the Peacebuilding fund (PBF) under its priority 4: Restoration of essential administrative services.

Before the predicted end of the project, the implementing partners requested a non-cost extension until the end of March 2016 (11 months) for the following reasons:

- 1) First of the Project has attracted new partners such as the European Union, Un Women and the MINUSCA (through the UN Police and the Human Rights Division). The European Union has decided to provide the internal security forces with important computer equipment to improve the human resources management. UNPOL ambitions to contribute to the Project by working closely with the police and gendarmes and sharing the same work facilities for a better control of the workforce presence;
- 2) The World Bank has decided to extend its assistance to pay the salary of the civil servants for two additional months (June and July 2015);
- 3) After the initial period of the Project, there was a positive balance of CFA 429.088.398 in the account that could be used to pay one additional month of salary;
- 4) The first period of the project did not allow the realization of some activities related to the HRDDP. Indeed, in 2014, the Project has allowed to develop a database of all the



work force active at that time. Tools for the management of human resources and the monitoring the patrols have been developed and adopted. The commissariat of the 2nd *arrondissement* has been chosen to test the tools developed as the workforce supervisory bodies have been put in place but were not able to function properly due, principally, to the institutional instability.

The results already achieved in 2014 and reflected in the Ezingo first annual report will be completed by new results from the new activities aiming to increase the impact of the project on state-building and peacebuilding. In particular, the project has helped pay the salaries of the police and gendarmes for an amount of CFA 449 844 266. The project's activities have highly contributed to maintaining a peaceful and secure environment in Bangui.

Title of the Project: Direct Costs II – Operationalization of the MPTF CAR Secretariat

Participating UN Organizations: UNDP

Budget: USD 311 309

In line with the legal documents of the Fund (ToR and MoU), the fund's secretariat was put in place through the recruitment of the Fund Manager in late May 2015. The main role of the Secretariat is to assist the Steering Committee in the management of the allocation process and facilitated the management of funding received by the Participating UN Organizations (PUNO), the effectiveness and coordination of aid as well as the monitoring and reporting on the Fund.

It took some time before the Fund Manager was recruited and most of the activities of the Secretariat were accomplished by the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) staff from January to mid-May 2015.

The activities of the Secretariat were marked by several events that have had an impact on its overall functioning. First of all, the RCO to which the Secretariat is attached saw its two main staff leaving in September. The security context in the CAR at that time, with the unattractiveness that goes with it did not allow the quick replacement of the leaving staff. Therefore, the Fund Manager had to fill in the gap for these two positions to keep the RC Office running for the last quarter of 2015.

From May to December 2015, two main activities were conducted, namely the September allocations and the Yaoundé Forum meeting in November. The following sections have more detail on the two activities.

1) The January 2015 Allocation Process

The first allocation of 2015 was principally to examine the joint project "Support to the fight against human rights violations and the revival of the justice system in the Central African Republic" financed by USA Department of State International Narcotics Law Enforcement INL for a total amount of USD 11 253 925



2) September 2015 Allocation Process

The allocation was launched in August and the first submissions were received on the 11th of August during a UNCT meeting. Projects were submitted from August 20th to September 02nd 2015. They were then analyzed and presented before the steering committee on 20th October 2015.

Five projects were presented for a total amount of USD 7 374 865. The projects went through a technical review process before being presented to the Steering committee. Taking into account the available funds were USD 2 692 717 and comments for steering committee members including the conclusions of the technical review of project, the co-chairs of the steering committee approved two projects for a total amount of USD 2 374 865, leaving a positive balance on the funds of USD 317 852.

3) The Yaoundé Forum Meeting

The Fund's Operational arrangements foresee the establishment of a forum for CAR partners in order to strengthen the coordination of actions in response to the crisis and facilitate non-resident donors' contribution to the Fund. Four meetings have already been organized in Yaoundé since the first one that took place in May 2014. The fifth meeting and latest meeting took place on the 19 and 20 November 2015 at the Hilton hotel in Yaoundé.

The meeting was attended by thirty people, including 17 representatives of Embassies. The delegation from Bangui included the DSRSG-RC-HC-RR accompanied by members of the UN Country Team such as the UNDP Country Director, UNHCR's Representative, the WHO Representative, UNFPA Representative, the WFP Country Director and the Country Program Manager of UN Women. Other participants from Bangui were the Fund Manager of the MPTF who was also in charge of the meeting's organization and members of the DSRSG's office.

The main objective of the meeting was to update the participants on the political and security context in the CAR and mobilize resources to finance the strategic response plan to the crisis. Due to the quickly approaching elections (presidential and legislative), most of the meeting was focused on discussions about the political process and the preparations for the elections. It was then decided to convene another meeting after the election to discuss the Fund in more depth. This decision is all the more relevant because the Fund was primarily destined to finance a coordinated response for the stabilization, peacebuilding and recovery efforts of the Government.

The meeting served to present the political and security situation and ongoing support of the United Nations. The briefing on the political and security situation mainly focused on the worrying evolution of the security situation in Bangui and within the country as the elections approached, causing the departure of many international partners



Thus, ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corp were informed that the security situation was marked by the presence of heavily armed groups and communities. A Muslim neighborhood, PK5, had become an enclave within weeks. The crisis which has begun as a poverty and poor governance crisis, took rapidly religious aspects.

The United Nations system support to the CAR (excluding peacekeeping operations) was also presented, focusing on the number of projects being implemented, the location of these projects and the presence of agencies throughout the country.

Regarding the electoral process, it was clarified that the schedule was already approved by the National transitional council, and the date for the referendum was set on December 13, 2015, the first round of elections on December 27 and the results for February 24, 2016. The registration rate exceeded 90% at that time. The registration of refugees from Cameroon and those of Congo - Brazzaville was also underway. The main constraint was financial: a gap of USD 17 million existed at the time of the meeting.

It was clarified that the field missions of members of the National Agency for the Elections (ANE) was financed by Japan and the USA. The issue of return of refugees in the Central African Republic was also discussed. The point made here is that the return must be voluntary and must follow a framework to be developed.

The afternoon session was reserved to the update on the Ezingo Fund and the presentation of the strategy proposed by the UN agencies for a short and medium term intervention after the elections. However, the level of attendance of participants failed to hold this meeting. It was nevertheless distributed the prospectus on the Fund, pending scheduling another meeting unjustly reserved for the Fund.

V. Main Constraints

Overall, the main constraint has been the political and security context that have had a negative impact both on the implementation of projects and on the functioning of the governance structure of the Fund. Projects under implementation required non-cost extension to finalize all their activities

Weak capacity and institutional instability have also been major impediments to the functioning of the governance and technical structures as a whole

1) At projects level:

During the course of 2015, the projects faced several major challenges, all impacting on the implementation and the delivery of the project:

- The security situation in Bangui deteriorated with a new wave of violence in September 2015. Hundreds of humanitarians and UN workers – including from the projects' staff – were evacuated or confined in their houses for more than 2 weeks.



- The election process has been at the center of all attention in the Central African Republic, especially in the last months of 2015. Availabilities and priorities of the officials (both at the national and the UN System levels) were often concentrated in moving the electoral process forward. This has not made easy the organization of meeting involving the officials;
- three Ministerial reshuffles took place in the course of 2015, with a change of Minister and senior officials in Ministries key to the funded projects, for instance the Ministry of Justice and Security. This situation caused the necessity to reinitiate contacts and privileged relationships with the new Ministers appointed and their technical teams at each time;
- The lack of stability did not allow the thematic groups created for aid coordination to function properly. These group could be used in the projects review mechanism to be set in place during the second phase of the Fund;
- Resistance of national partners to pool the resources of the police and gendarmerie and maintain the civilian character of the gendarmerie (the gendarmerie was part of the Ministry of Defense until 2013);
- High resistance to change within national institutions. The 2013 crisis is perceived as an opportunity to bring institutional change

2) At the level of the Governance Structure

- **Steering Committee:** It has not been easy to gather all the members of the steering committee during meetings because of the very heavy political agenda in 2015. Added to that, some nonresident donors who have wished to participate to meeting through teleconference facilities have not been able to do so because of the lack of IT installations at the Ministry of Planning
- **Technical Review Committee:** The technical review committee has fonctionned with members limited to the Secretariat and some willing donors. The context did not allow to extend the members to the thematic groups that have been created in the context of Aid coordination as was anticipated
- **Technical Secretariat:** The understaffing of the Secretariat, due to lack of financing has also been an obstacle to the full functioning of the governance structure, most particularly the technical review of submitted projects. Another factor that has impacted the good functioning of the Secretariat has been the departure of the two main staff of the RC Office four months after the arrival of the Fund Manager. The two positions remained vacant and additional taks were temporarily assigned to the Fund Manager, which impacted the Secretariat's capacity to conduct the necessary resource mobilization activities.



VI. Lessons learned

The role of the transitional Government in the Management of the Fund has helped tighten the relationship with the Government, both at the strategic and the technical levels. However, the durability of these ties cannot be ensured unless there is an institutional stability. If not, all the gained benefits will be lost.

The first project financed has demonstrated the capacity to draw in more partnership thanks to a proven capacity to trigger additional investment. This was the case of the “FACA” project.

The Fund’s architecture had planned the development of a strategic framework for the fund, passed the time of the immediate impact projects. However, the unstable political environment did not allow for the development of such a framework because the context was still very much dominated by humanitarian needs. Such framework need signals of stabilization and recovery to be developed.

VII. Recommendations and Way Forward

Allocation process: The year 2015 has been marked by only two allocations, mostly due to the weak availability of funds. The year 2016 is a year during which the strategy of the fund will be developed which in turn will help in the mobilization of more resources

These drawbacks can be resolved by a reinforcement of the Secretariat through its full staffing. As planned in the Fund’s operational arrangements The Technical Secretariat should be composed by a Fund Manager (head of the Secretariat), supported by a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and a National Reporting Officer. So far, only the Fund manager runs the Secretariat due to a lack of financing.

Implementation phase: relevant trainings based on a previous capacity assessment to identify areas that need to be reinforced should be conducted. There is also a need to hold regular meetings with the PUNOs to keep them informed of the Funds procedures and keep track of the projects issues and progress.

The national counterparts also need capacity building in strategic planning and project development and management areas.

The modalities for this capacity building needs to be approved by the steering committee