



**Central African Republic Multi-Partner Trust Fund  
(EZINGO Fund)  
2017 Annual Narrative Report  
MAY 2018**



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## I- Introduction

In December 2017, the Government of the Central African Republic (GoCAR) embarked on the first annual review of the Recovery and peacebuilding plan (RCPCA). This plan was developed in 2016 with joint support from the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB). The document defines the priorities of the Government with a set of three strategic areas of results: (i) Support for peace, security, and reconciliation, (ii) Renewal of the social contract between the State and the population and (iii) Ensure the economic recovery and relaunching of productive sectors. The Plan was presented and adopted at the High-Level Conference in Brussels) on 17 November 2016.

The donor conference in Brussels resulted in pledges amounting to 2.28 billion dollars out of the initial estimated cost of 3.1 billion.

In this context, the MPTF Ezingo was given a key role. As a tribute to the good performance of the Fund in the previous years, the RCPCA specifically dubbed the Ezingo Fund as a fiduciary tool to collect, manage and allocate funds from donors for the implementation of the RCPCA. Thus, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Ezingo Fund were reviewed to align with the new priorities enshrined in the RCPCA.

Under the new ToR, the rationale for the MPTF has not significantly changed as imperatives for the Government and the international community remain to meet urgent needs, accelerate stabilization efforts and support the Government in establishing a minimum capacity to function, as well as to address early recovery and longer-term capacity priorities. Mobilization of financial assistance from traditional, new and non-resident donors is key and the effective and efficient use of such financial assistance would be required. The solution was a multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) that would unify bilateral aid into a large pool of resources that could be routed in a more “strategic, coherent and effective way to multiply the effects of international aid” (Ezingo ToRs, para. 6).

In 2017, the United Nations adopted and signed with the Government a new development assistance framework that encompasses all the UN agencies and the Integrated and Multidimensional UN Mission for the stabilisation of the CAR (MINUSCA). This new framework, also referred to as UNDAF+, will cover the 2018-2021 period. It brings together the entire UN family in the CAR under a set of 3 common strategic results: (i) peacebuilding, security, and social cohesion, (ii) social well-being and equity and (iii) sustainable economic recovery. The three UNDAF+ strategic results are fully aligned with the RCPCA priority result areas, and contribute the 2030 agenda of the Sustainable development goals (ODD) and the African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda.

Under the UNDAF+, the UN vows to mutualise its resources, complement its interventions and avoid duplications and overlaps to optimise results and impact amid shrinking financial resources. It is also exemplifying the New way of working across the Nexus Humanitarian-Development-Peace. One of the approach used in this regard is joint programming. Three comprehensive joint programmes have been developed and are being implemented or in advanced approval stage: (i) Local Governance and resilience, (ii) Strengthening the youth and adolescents’ resilience in the CAR, and (iii) Pilot project on social cohesion, conflict prevention, violence reduction and human security of adolescents and youth in the CAR.



In this context, the Ezingo fund will play a strategic role in fostering the spirit of One UN “Delivering as One”. Under the new terms of reference, it is a requirement for submissions to provide evidence of joint programming. Individual agency projects are only eligible under exceptional conditions.

Ezingo funds are also considered “seed funds”. Submissions must also provide evidence of sustainability in terms of (i) scaling up potentials, including attracting additional resources from other partners and/or (ii) possibilities for projects results to be sustained and developed beyond the project life span.

The statutory reporting period is due in April 2018. However, for the sake of keeping the Government, donors, and other partners abreast, the Secretariat provides regular updates during the Steering Committee meetings. This pre-report focuses on the functioning of the Ezingo Fund and the activities of the projects financed and implemented in 2017. It covers the period from 1 January to 30 November 2017. This report provides updates on the Ezingo governance system, the portfolio status based on situation reports received from various Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNO) implementing projects funded through Ezingo.

## II- The functioning of the Ezingo Governance system

The Ezingo ToRs provide for two main bodies with regards to the Ezingo Governance system: the Steering Committee (SC) and the Technical Secretariat (TS).

### *2.1. The Steering Committee*

The Steering Committee (SC) is the highest political body of the Ezingo Fund. It is responsible for strategic directions, and oversight including supervision of the Technical Secretariat. It is co-chaired by the Government of the Central African Republic (GoCAR) and the United Nations (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General-Humanitarian Coordinator-Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, (DSRSG-HC-RC)). The SC holds two statutory meetings per year. It can hold ordinary meeting at the invitation of its co-chairs or at the request of partners.

During the reporting period, the SC held three meetings all hosted at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation.

***The January 27, 2017 meeting*** – The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Pouninguiza Jean-Louis (Chargé de Mission) representing the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Cooperation (MEPC) and Mrs. Chantal Kingue Ekambi, Programme Manager of UN Women, representing the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. The meeting focused on the presentation of the draft revised ToRs of the Ezingo funds developed in December 2016. The main outcome was the setting up of a technical sub-committee to finalize the draft ToRs to be presented at the following SC meeting.

***The April 28, 2017 meeting*** - The meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Jacqueline Madozein (Chargée de Mission) representing the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Cooperation (MEPC) and Mr. Roland Amoussouga A, Director of the Integrated Office of the DSRSG-HC-RC, representing the DSRSG-HC-RC. Three main items were on the agenda for adoption: (i) the final draft of the Ezingo ToRs, (ii) a submission by the WHO and (iii) a joint-submission by UNOPS and MINUSCA.



The Technical Secretariat (TS) ran the participants through the draft ToRs which was adopted line after line. The INL representative confirmed that INL had been fully involved in the drafting process and had been able to provide inputs and ensure INL interests are taken care of. The draft was adopted.

*The WHO submission* – WHO benefited from Ezingo funds to implement the “*Projet d’appui à la réhabilitation des structures sanitaires dans les zones affectées par les conflits*”. The objectives of the project were to rehabilitate 12 health centers and 2 hospitals. The MPTF approved and disbursed \$1 080 165 USD<sup>2</sup> to fund the project. However, due to change of context, the Government came out with new priorities and requested for the rehabilitation and equipment of the “*Centre national de traitement de la drépanocytose*” which absorbed 80% of the project funds. However, 14 ambulances were purchased together with required quantity of medicines, leading to increase in the project cost. As a result, the project suffered a cost increment of \$390 536. WHO was applying for a 6-month cost-extension of the project. After discussions, the request was approved both for the extension and for the additional funding.

*The UNOPS/MINUSCA joint submission* – UNOPS and MINUSCA had partnered to present a “*Projet d’acquisition de matériels informatique pour quatre équipes mobiles et pour l’UEPNDRR* ». The project of \$265 501 is aimed at equipping four mobile squads for the biometrical registration and socio-professional profiling of ex-combatants eligible to the National Programme of DDDR (PNDDRR)<sup>1</sup>. The expected duration of the project as stated in the application was four months. The project was to be funded through France ear-marked contributions to the MPTF. After discussions and clarifications from the UNOPS/MINUSCA team, the SC approved the request.

***The August 11, 2017 meeting*** -This was the first 2017 statutory meeting of the SC under the new ToRs. It was co-chaired by the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Cooperation (for the GoCAR) and the DSRSG-HC-RC (for the UN). Three main items were on the agenda for the meeting:

*Stock taking of the first semester 2017* – The co-chair congratulated the Technical Secretariat (TS) and the team of implementing partners for the good results achieved in 2016 and the good start in 2017. The DSRSG-HC-RC reminded that for the 2015-2016 period, a total of \$24,934,117 was mobilised for Ezingo from 5 partners and indicated that all details are in the activity and financial reports all posted at the MPTFO website.

*Request for a non-cost extension by WHO* – WHO presented a second request for the extension of the the “*Projet d’appui à la réhabilitation des structures sanitaires dans les zones affectées par les conflits*”, saying that the deterioration of the security situation eventually disrupted the implementation of the project, without incurring any additional cost. As a result, a non-cost extension request was presented for the project to be completed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 instead of 30 August 2017 as initially authorized. The extension was granted.

*Joint-submission by UNDP, UNFPA, FAO and UNICEF* – The representative of the joint initiative presented the project “*Appui à la participation des jeunes dans le processus de stabilisation et de réconciliation des communautés et à la promotion de la paix*”. The project of USD ?\$3,516,055 targets 3,500 youth (15-35 years old) in selected locations in CAR. The project was approved pending

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<sup>1</sup> Under the UN Security Council related resolution, it is part of the MINUSCA mandate to support the Government of the CAR to design and implement a national programme of DDDR.



availability of funds. After discussions with MPTFO, the MPTF contribution to the project was eventually set at \$2,500,000 with the balance to be supported by the participating UN agencies.

*Statement of allocations by donors* – INL announced the allocation of \$3,700,000 as an ear-marked allocation for the justice sector, mainly the Special Criminal Court (CPS). The TS informed the SC of the Netherlands Government intention to allocate an ear-marked € 1 million for the same purpose.

**The December 8, 2017 meeting** – The Steering Committee met on its second statutory meeting for the year. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation and the Deputy-Representative of FAO (on behalf of the DSRSG-HC-RC). The following decisions were taken:

1. To share the update on the funds with the RCPCA Secretariat
2. End of the Interim period. The Interim secretariat held by the Head of the RCO, was congratulated for the good work done to keep the MPTF up and running through 2017;
3. The normal Secretariat to be restore: a project was approved accordingly insisting that the new structure should be led by an International staff seconded by a national staff. INL asked to review the Job description of the International position. INL was given two weeks to provide its feed-back for the job description to be finalized by the outgoing secretariat a.i.
4. The activity report presented was reviewed and adopted.

## *2.2. The Technical Secretariat*

The ToRs provides for a Technical Secretariat to support the proper functioning of the MPTF and to advance day-to-day work and facilitate funds allocation and management in line with the New Deal principles of aid coordination and effectiveness. It monitors funds allocations, notification of funding, and ensures monitoring and reporting. The Fund designates dedicated staff (recruited or seconded), dedicated to the work of the Fund. The cost of the TS is covered under the “direct cost” budget line of Ezingo.

Scheduled to have 3 members, the Technical Secretariat of the Fund has operated until December 2016 with the sole Fund Manager (International P4 staff) whose contract came to an end in December 2016. At the request of the Government, all recruitments were frozen pending the revision of the MPTF Terms of reference to align with the RCPCA. This under staffing had a significant impact on the activities of the Secretariat. The Head of RCO is providing back-stopping support to keep the Fund functional and delivering its goods.

This interim arrangement has enabled Ezingo to achieve the results recorded to date. However, this arrangement is not sustainable and would need a proper solution. Many aspects of the technical work of the secretariat are not properly taken care of. With the growing portfolio and the need for closer follow up, monitoring and evaluation of projects, timely reporting, a fully-fledged TS is needed, as required by the ToRs.

Based on the current funding status of Ezingo, the following project is proposed to provide for a Fund Manager, a supporting staff and other operational costs: the total cost for one year is \$178,000 (see annex 1 for details).



### III- Status of the Fund portfolio

ID	Project title	PUNO	Approved budget (\$)	Status/completion
Pilar 1 of RCPCA: Support for peace, security, and reconciliation, (ii) renew the social contract between the State and the population				
00105732	Acquisition de Matériels informatiques pour quatre équipes mobiles et pour l'UEPNDDRR	UNOPS/MINUSCA	265,501	30/11/17
00103410	Projet d'urgence d'appui à la Cour Pénale Spéciale	PNUD/MINUSCA	1,600,550	31/01/18
			<b>Total Pillier 1: 1,866,501 USD</b>	
Pilar 2 of RCPCA: Renew the social contract between the State and the population				
00107382	Appui à la participation des jeunes dans le processus de stabilisation et de réconciliation des communautés et à la promotion de la paix	UNDP, UNFPA, FAO and UNICEF	2,500,125	Ongoing
98382	Support for reducing the vulnerability of adolescents and young people	UNFPA /UNICEF	1,573,542	Closed 31/03/17
98383	Support for the rehabilitation of health structures in areas affected by socio-political conflicts in the Central African Republic	OMS	1,470,536	31/12/ 17
			<b>Total Pilier 2: 5,544,078USD</b>	
			<b>TOTAL Portfolio to date: 7,410,579</b>	

#### 3.1. Project : Acquisition de matériels informatiques pour quatre équipes mobiles et pour l'UEPNDDRR

Participating UN Organization(s): **UNOPS, MINUSCA**

Budget: USD 265 501

As of 31st October 2017, the following outputs have been delivered to the UEPNDDRR:

- Printers and a generator;
- Software. However, there was an issue with the licenses and the vendor promised to do his very best to deliver these licenses at the best price beginning in October. Still awaited.

The project balance is 44483 US\$ for line 5. GOODS & EQUIPMENT (various) and 28,000 US\$ for transportation and delivery of materials.



### *3.2. Project: Emergency project to support Special criminal court (SCC)*

*Participating UN Organization(s): UNDP and MINUSCA*

*Budget: USD 1 600 550*

This project was approved in November 2016. Its general objective is to contribute to the restoration of the Rule of Law and social cohesion and to support the national reconciliation process towards a durable peace.

The project specific objectives include:

- The investigation of grave human rights violations by ensuring the organization of fair trials;
- Ensuring that the operation of the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and the management of its staff are efficient and rigorous;
- The SCC actively interacts with the population, ensures the effective participation of victims and witnesses in the judicial process, and contributes to building trust in state institutions. SCC develops national capacity for the Rule of Law, transitional justice process, peacebuilding and democratic transition.

Under the project implementation arrangements, MINUSCA's role is based on the UN Security Council resolution mandating the peace mission to support the CAR authorities to operationalize the SCC. UNDP is responsible for the financial and administrative management of the project, including logistic arrangements. Other UN agencies are also involved: UNV, UN Women, OHCHR. The project works in complementarity with other donors' interventions in the sector (such as the EU).

As of 30 November 2017, the project has achieved the following steps towards its planned results:

- The GOCAR has allocated the buildings to host (i) the CPS offices, and (ii) the judicial police. The process of refurbishing and furnishing the buildings has started;
- The risk and threats analysis report has been finalised by a team of international consultants and the security and safety plan for the SCC and its personnel has been produced by the Joint Task Force in Bangui;
- The project operational Unit has been set up and all the required staff are on board.

### *3.3. Project – “Appui à la participation des jeunes dans le processus de stabilisation et de réconciliation des communautés et à la promotion de la paix”*

*Participating UN Organization(s): UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF*

*Budget: USD 2,500,125*

The project aims at supporting at least 3,000 young girls and boys (50-50) to engage in the process of security and peace-building, social cohesion, and conflict prevention in their communities. Target localities are Bimbo, Bimbo, Boda, Yaloke, Bouar, Sibut, Dekoa, Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari and Bossangoa. While UNICEF and UNFPA cover all the beneficiaries with their interventions, UNDP and FAO focus on 1,000 youth (50-50) in four specific locations: Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Bossangoa. These localities were selected based on their level of vulnerability, the presence of local implementing partners and donors which provides opportunities for complementarities.

The project has just been launched. The project coordinator was recruited in October and activities have started.



*3.4. Project: Support for reducing the vulnerability of adolescents and young people in Boda, Yaloke, Sibut, Mamberes, Grimari, Kouango and Bambari*

**Participating UN Organization(s): UNFPA, UNICEF**

**Budget: USD 1,573,542**

The project aims to contribute to the transformation of Central African youth (girls and boys) who are destabilized both as a leverage for local development and as agents for social cohesion and peacebuilding. The project effectively started on 2nd February 2016 and responded to real expectations of the Central African Youth due to the crises that the country has experienced. By 3rd January 2017, the project had achieved the following results against its planned objectives:

1. 30,000 young people mobilized and sensitized on the issues of sexual and reproductive health of young people (STIs / HIV), peace, social cohesion, gender-based violence, and the fight against drug use during *Cultural Carrefour* activities for the detection of young talents by young artists and CISJEU in 8 districts of Bangui;
2. 300 girls are sensitized on World Population Day about the importance of their education and training, their health, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and their livelihoods to address issues like sexual violence, early marriage and childbirth and other harmful practices of which they are often victims;
3. 1000 educational materials on SRH, family planning, STIs, drug hazards and the use of male and female condoms edited and disseminated for youth awareness;
4. 180 community leaders are sensitized and involved in the project;
5. 4 surveys on the availability of user-friendly services and youth centres / houses were carried out and 6 youth houses to be rehabilitated (Fatima, 8th Arrondissement, Bimbo, Boda, Kaga Bandoro and Bambari) and 10 to be equipped (Malimaka Youth House, Fatima, Castors, CISJEU, MAJ / ACABEF, Bimbo, 8th Arrondissement, Bimbo, Boda, Kaga Bandoro and Bambari) were identified
6. 50 health service providers and young people are trained on adolescent-friendly services in Bangui and Sibut to provide care for adolescents and young people;
7. 20 kits for the management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) are provided to the 12 health facilities of the project target localities;
8. 57 Youth including 14 girls from 9 out of 10 targeted project communities are trained on citizenship education and positive traditional values;
9. 75 young people from the 10 localities of the project are identified for technical and vocational training in 5 sectors (mechanics, sewing, masonry, carpentry, and agro-pastoral skills);
10. Equipment of the management unit in furniture hardware and vehicle are provided.

The project was completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.



### *3.5. Project: Support for the rehabilitation of health structures in areas affected by socio-political conflicts in the Central African Republic*

Participating UN Organization(s): **OMS**

Budget: USD 1,470,536

The project has two specific outcomes:

- To ensure the effective and rapid treatment of common diseases, rape, acute malnutrition, and blood transfusion in targeted areas project;
  - a. Main results achieved in 2016 include:
    - i. Rehabilitation of 15 health facilities including the center for the management of sickle-cell anemia through the rehabilitation of buildings and equipment in furniture and medical devices;
    - ii. Support to the provision of planned activity packages including case management, referral system in health facilities and blood transfusion;
- A system of early warning and control of epidemics in these areas exists and is operational
  - a. Main results achieved in 2016 include:
    - i. Training focal points for epidemiological surveillance;
    - ii. Operationalization of the early warning system in health facilities and sites of displaced persons in 2 prefectures;
    - iii. Provision of emergency contingency stocks and for current epidemics.

The extension granted to the project until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 is yet to be reported on in terms of achievements.

## **IV- Challenges and constraints**

1. Under staffing of the Technical Secretariat – Under the interim arrangement, for most of 2017, the Technical Secretariat was operated by the head of the RCO while the Technical Secretariat is supposed to be composed of three staff. This situation resulted in difficulties and delays in performing some key tasks assigned to the Secretariat, in particular the required thorough assessment of submissions prior to review by the Steering Committee. This serious constraint will be addressed with completion of recruitment process for vacant Technical Secretariat staff positions.
2. Overall security situation in the country – the volatility of the security situation and the irruption of violence in project localities have delayed the implementation of some projects. Thus, several requests for extension, some with cost attached had to be submitted.