



EZINGO Fund



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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MULTI PARTNER TRUST FUND (EZINGO FUND)

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Ezingo Technical Secretariat

March 2020



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INTRODUCTION

The Ezingo Fund was created in 2014 for a period of ten (10) years (2014 - 2024) following the serious political crisis that the Central African Republic experienced in 2013. The Fund finances three (3) programmatic areas namely: (1) State Authority and Duties, (2) Early Recovery and (3) Reconciliation and Mediation. Ezingo has received contributions from USA, Norway, Netherlands, France and the Peacebuilding Fund for a total amount of US\$ 29,648,122. To date, eleven (11) projects have been funded. During the year 2019, five (5) projects have been implemented namely:

- The project "Cities deliver for life and health: Strengthening the capacity of four selected Central African cities to support access to HIV related services for Internally Displaced People and the Host communities" implemented by IOM and UNAIDS.
- The project "Support for the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Round 6 in CAR" implemented by UNICEF
- The Project "Support for the participation of young people in the process of community stabilization and reconciliation and the promotion of peace" implemented by UNICEF, FAO, UNDP and UNFPA
- The project "Emergency Support to the Special Criminal Court (SCC)" implemented by UNDP
- The project "Support for the Fight against Human Rights Violations and the Restart of Justice in the Central African Republic" implemented by the UNDP.

Over the period 2014 - 2019, CAR has made enormous progress with the support of the international community. In fact, on the economic front, since 2015 CAR's economic growth has been higher than the average performance of the countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), reaching 4.8% in 2019¹. At the political level, on 6 February 2019, the Central African government signed a peace agreement with 14 armed groups under the mediation of the African Union. Significant progress has been made, including the formation of an inclusive government, the organization of a government seminar on the national popular consultation on the establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TJRRC), etc².

Nonetheless CAR remains a fragile country. In 2018, 71% of the population lived below the international poverty line (\$1.90 per day, Purchasing Power Parity). Persisting armed conflict continues to lead to massive population displacements. 643,000 people are still internally displaced while 575,000 Central African refugees have found refuge in neighbouring countries.

¹ <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/country/centralafricanrepublic/overview>

² <https://minusca.unmissions.org/APPR>



In view of this changing environment, a programmatic review of the fund was carried out. The results will be used to reposition the Fund given the current needs and the slowdown in donor contributions over the years.

I. FUND GOVERNANCE

The Steering Committee of the Ezingo Fund is co-chaired by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation and the Deputy Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General/ Resident Coordinator /Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) of the United Nations System and includes donor representatives. This committee lays out the Fund's strategic orientations and approves projects as well as the allocation of available resources. At least two mandatory meetings are held per year.

In 2019, two (2) steering committee meetings were held at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation (MEPC).

1.1. The Steering Committee of 19 April 2019

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Joseph Aimé BETINDJI, Head of Partnership at MEPC, representative of the Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation and Mr. Aderemi AIBINU, Programme Adviser (MINUSCA), representing the UN DSRSG/RC/HC.

Four (4) key points were discussed: (1) the presentation of project results for the year 2018, (2) the budget of the Technical Secretariat, (3) project extensions and (4) the approval of a new project.

• **Presentation of the main results of 2018**

The main results of the four (4) ongoing projects are as follows:

- Project “Support for the participation of young people in the process of stabilization and reconciliation of communities and the promotion of peace”:
 - 2118 young people trained in peaceful conflict resolution, 20 broadcasts on conflict prevention, 1162 beneficiaries of Income Generating Activities (IGA)
- Project “Support for the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) round 6 in CAR”:
 - Sampling of 11,000 households, completion of six (6) questionnaires (households, women aged 15 to 49, men aged 15 to 49, children aged 5 to 17 and children under 5 and water quality), training of 140 interviewers...
- Project “Support for the fight against human rights violations and the re-launch of justice in the Central African Republic”:
 - 500 new police officers and gendarmes trained and equipped, 10792 people including 2856 survivors of sexual violence have benefited from legal aid,



Rehabilitation, construction and equipment of prisons in Bossembele, Bossangoa, Berberati, Mbaïki and Ngaragba.

- Project "Emergency support to the Special Criminal Court":
 - o Rehabilitation of the building of the Tribunal de Grande Instance (TGI), implementation of security measures for the accommodation of magistrates and the Central Police Station, appointment of magistrates and registrars.

- **Technical Secretariat Budget**

The approved budget for the fiscal year 2019 - 2020 is USD 436,992. It covers administrative costs and resource mobilization missions.

- **Approval of projects and extensions**

- The new project presented by IOM and UNAIDS "Cities deliver for life and health: Strengthening the capacity of four selected Central African cities to support access to HIV-related services for Internally Displaced People and host communities" was approved for a total amount of USD 500.664. The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of displaced people and host populations in four cities.
- The extension of the SCC project was approved for the period February 2019 - December 2019. This extension would allow the completion of rehabilitation work and the investigations.
- The extension of the Joint Youth Project was approved for the period April 2019 - December 2019. Some activities had been delayed due to the deteriorating security situation.

1.2. The Steering Committee Meeting of December 13, 2019

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Aimé Joseph BETINDJI, Partnership Officer (MEPC), representative of the Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation and Ms. Kay SCHWENDINGER, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator Office, representative of the UN DSRSG/RC/HC.

The steering committee approved the following extensions:

- UNICEF Project "Support for the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) round 6 in CAR" for ten (10) months, ending on 31 October 2020. The survey was delayed due to security incidents.



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- UNAIDS/IOM Project "Cities deliver for life and health strengthening the capacity of four selected Central African cities to support access to HIV related services for Internally Displaced People and the Host communities" was extended for four (4) month, bringing the project to 30 September 2020. The project was delayed due to administrative constraints.

II. 2019 RESULTS

- Joint Justice Project

Project code	Implementation dates	Disbursements	Total budget (USD)
00094467	Mar 2015- Dec 2019	31 Jan 2019 (1,008,695) 16 Nov 2016 (7,048,937) 12 Mar 2015 (2,842,918)	10,900,551
Implementing agency - UNDP			
Partners: - MINUSCA - Government			
Achievements:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the 4th report of the perception studies on peace, justice and security, 57% of respondents believe that the fight against impunity is necessary to achieve peace and reconciliation. The study revealed an increased confidence of the target population in justice and security actors (50% in formal justice, 73% in the police and 79% in the gendarmerie) - Development of the sectoral justice policy 2020 - 2023 - Adoption of the Legal Aid Law on November 25, 2019. - Development of the action plan of the National Strategy for the Demilitarization of Prisons (capacity building, rehabilitation of prisons and improvement of conditions for prisoners) - Development of the strategic and operational plan for the redeployment of Internal Security Forces (ISFs) - Support to the three legal clinics in Bangui and Bossangoa run by the Association of Central African Women Lawyers, with justice services provided to nearly 13,507, including more than 3,536 GBV survivors - Training of 150 penitentiary students at the National School of Administration and recruitment of 150 additional students - Rehabilitation of Camp de Roux and Bambari prisons - Distribution of new uniforms to Internal Security Forces - Completion of the rehabilitation of the 4th arrondissement police station, provision of specialized technical and forensic police equipment, support for the creation of a 			



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simplified database for the police's forensic identity and the gendarmerie's criminal file, and training on crime scene management.

- Special Criminal Court

Project Code	Implementation dates	Disbursements	Total budget USD
103410	Nov 2016-Dec 2019	25 Apr 2018 (1,006,915) 21 Nov 2016 (1,600,550)	2,607,465
Implementing Agency - UNDP			
Partners - MINUSCA - UNWOMEN			
Achievements:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation and construction work on the permanent SCC headquarters - All SCC members have moved to the headquarters - All judges and support staff of the Court have been provided with offices, computers and office supplies to enable them to work - Official handover of supplies and equipment acquired for the Camp de Roux detention centre in February 2019 - Assignment of 15 gendarmerie officers to secure national magistrates' houses. - Provision of personal protective weapons by the Gendarmerie to members of the Special Unit of Judicial Police (SUPJ). To date, there have been no serious security incidents affecting the personnel, property or activities of the SCC. - The Special Prosecutor's Office has identified 47 incidents. From the analysis, 22 cases were listed as priority cases. Six cases were subject to preliminary investigation at the SUPJ level, two of which were closed and referred to the Investigation Chamber. 			



- Joint Youth Project

Project Code	Implementation dates	Disbursements	Total budget USD
107382	Oct 2017-Déc 2019	27 Oct 2017	2,500,125
Implementing agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP - FAO - UNICEF - UNFPA 			
Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government - Local NGOs 			
Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to community radios in Bangui, Bouar and Bossangoa with the training of 24 radio reporters - Capacity-building for officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, town halls and members of the National Youth Council on the management of youth centres - Kits and materials for rearing small ruminants made available to groups of young people set up according to the Village Savings and Credit Association (AVEC) approach. - Support to youth centre directors for the development of their annual work plan - 450 young people trained and beneficiaries of IGA kits 			

- Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey - Round 6 in CAR

Project Code	Implementation dates	Disbursements	Total budget USD
00111237	Jul 2018- Oct 2020	20 Jul 2018	1,050,483
Implementing agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNICEF 			
Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICASSES 			
Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Out of a total of 550 selected clusters, 452 clusters were covered, i.e. coverage rate of 82%. Some of the clusters disappeared (destruction, displacement of populations, etc.). ○ The total number of households covered is 9,005 out of the 11,000 households in the sample. - Completion of the data secondary edition. This phase, which is an integral part of the data cleansing process, identifies inconsistencies to address or otherwise document. 			



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- Cities and HIV

Project Code	Implementation dates	Disbursements	Total budget USD
00111237	Aug 2019- Sept 2020	8 Aug 2019	499 128
Implementing Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNAIDS - OIM 			
Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government - Centre Catholique Universitaire - Association Centrafricaine pour le Marketing Social - Réseau Centrafricain des Personnes vivantes avec le VIH - Association Nationale des Jeunes Femmes Actives pour la Solidarité. 			
Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the Ministry of Health and Population, as well as the National AIDS Control Committee, and municipalities to encourage local authorities to participate in the development of roadmaps for universal health coverage which includes the fight against HIV in displaced and host populations - Information sessions on the project for partners and stakeholders to ensure their strong involvement. These sessions targeted the Association of Mayors of the Central African Republic and more particularly the Bangui town hall. - Work sessions with NGOs and representatives of people living with HIV to inform them of the project and make them aware of their involvement and role. - Development of visibility materials such as flyers and t-shirts. Key messages for awareness have been identified. 			

III. PERSPECTIVES

- A programmatic review was carried out. The results of this review will shape the future of the Fund. Resource mobilization remains the major challenge facing the Fund because of the limited number of donors’ offices in CAR. In addition, donors’ contributions have been declining over the years.
- As part of the COVID-19 response and recovery, Ezingo will be used as one of the resource mobilization mechanisms to finance the priority projects identified by the Government.