

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Central African Republic	
Project Title: Disarmament of the heart - Promoting young people's mental health and psychosocial well-being to build a peaceful future for the Central African Republic Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: x IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): DanChurchAid (DCA), International Non-Governmental Organization.	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conciliation Resources (CR), International Non-Governmental Organization, ● Vision Enfant République Centrafricaine (VERCA) ● Fondation Vegas Jeunes pour le Développement (FVJD) ● Government of the Central African Republic especially Youth Ministry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Solidarity and Reconciliation, MINUSCA and other NGOs operating in the project locations. 	
Project duration in months^{1 2}: 18 months + 3 months 10 November 2023) + 3 months (new end date 11th February 2024) Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: Sibut in Kémo prefecture and Kaga-Bandoro in Nana-Gribizi prefecture in Central African Republic.	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative ³ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative ⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

² The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.

³ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative

⁴ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):

DanChurchAid:1,500,000

Total: 1,500,000

**The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.*

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): N/A

PBF 1st tranche (35%):	PBF 2nd tranche* (35%):	PBF 3rd tranche* (30%):
DCA: \$525,000	DCA: \$525,000	DCA: \$ 450,000
Total: \$525,000	Total: \$525,000	Total: \$ 450,000

Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs)

The **project's overall goal** is to increase young people's readiness and confidence to engage in reconciliation processes in the Central African Republic (CAR). With more than three decades of recurrent violent conflict and socio-political crisis, all young people in CAR have spent most of their lives in the shadow of conflict. In Kaga Bandoro and Sibut, young men and women lived through the arrival of Séléka in 2012, the mobilisation of the anti-balaka militias in 2013/14 and the violence that ensued. As a result of direct targeting by the anti-balaka, many Muslim civilians sought refuge in Kaga Bandoro where most of them have stayed until today, out of fear of facing reprisals upon return to Sibut. Today, some displaced Muslims in Kaga Bandoro, especially youth, are considering returning to Sibut, but this is met with resistance from Sibut's current predominantly Christian inhabitants, many of whom perceive Muslim returnees as complicit with Séléka abuses and fear their presence will lead to renewed violence.

Our conflict analysis shows that individual and collective trauma currently limits the ability and openness of young people in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut, especially those working in the informal economy, to reach out to their peers across the conflict divide. The project seeks to increase young people's readiness and confidence to engage in reconciliation processes through addressing trauma and psychosocial needs of young men and women in the targeted locations so as to enable them to take positive steps towards breaking the cycle of fear and revenge. Youth that will get access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) will be able to use the increased resilience and strengthened connection with their communities and act as agents of change across conflict divides.

The project will specifically target 800 young people between the age of 18-35 (including at least 400 women) working in the informal economy. This is a category of youth which stands out clearly in the conflict analysis as being most immediately affected by the conflict dynamics surrounding the return of displaced communities from Kaga Bandoro to Sibut. At the same time, the same youth have a big potential to make a difference in these conflict dynamics, due to their unique position in the wider communities' information flow.

Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups):

Working with local youth-led and youth-focused CSOs is a central component of the project. The project team carried out extensive consultations with stakeholders, both in preparation of the concept note and writing the full proposal. Our partners are two grassroots CSOs: Fondation Vegas Jeunes pour le Développement (FVJD), a youth-led organisation based in Sibut with expertise in psychosocial support and social cohesion, and Vision Enfant République Centrafricaine (VERCA), an organisation with expertise in youth engagement based in Kaga-Bandoro. Both partners have deep-rooted contacts in communities, youth networks and relationships with local authorities. The intervention was designed collaboratively by all four organisations (DCA, CR, FVJD and VERCA) as all have valuable expertise that informed the design of the project. In August 2021 we held a project design workshop in Bangui attended by all project partners, including representatives from Kaga Bandoro and Sibut. This was followed by an online workshop in September 2021 to review the Theory of Change.

We consulted with young men and women and communities in project areas, holding 7 Focus Group Discussions in May 2021. This helped us to develop an understanding of young people's needs, concerns and priorities, allowing us to tailor the intervention accordingly. To fully understand the constraints facing IDPs and the trauma associated with their return, six additional Focus Group Discussions were held with IDP and returnee youth, Muslim women and Muslim men in the project areas in September 2021. Young peacebuilders are at the heart of our project, designed to unleash young people's peacebuilding potential through culturally, gender and **conflict sensitive** MHPSS.

We also held extensive consultative meetings with government officials at the national, prefecture, sub-prefecture and community level, including the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Solidarity and Reconciliation. We also consulted with MINUSCA in Bangui and the project area.

Finally, we worked closely with the Peacebuilding Fund Coordinator in Bangui who provided invaluable support and feedback throughout the concept note and proposal writing stages.

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 2

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: **45.37% (or 680.593,74 USD) of the budget have been allocated to activities in pursuit of GEWE. In the original application this was 41.1 % (or 617 125.93 USD) of the budget**

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment ⁶:

Promoting gender equality is a key part of the project's intervention strategy and gender equality and women's participation will be integrated into all aspects of the project- design, implementation,

⁵ **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)

⁶ Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

monitoring and evaluation, learning and reporting.

Firstly, the project seeks to identify and address gendered barriers to MHPSS access, recognising that young women and men uptake of MHPSS is currently determined by gendered social norms. The project will support young people and their families to examine gender norms, in particular, the notions of masculinity and femininity, and how they affect or inhibit young people's access to MHPSS, community peacebuilding and access to economic opportunities.

The project also seeks to increase the participation of young people, in particular young women, in local peacebuilding processes. We will support young people to conduct their own gender-sensitive conflict analysis analysis (using our Gender-sensitive conflict analysis facilitators guide), to identify key priorities and develop action plans. The project will provide capacity building to young people with dedicated learning opportunities for young women if power relations prevent them from fully participating in mixed-spaces. A similar approach will be adopted for community dialogues, with the creation of additional female-only spaces to ensure that young women have a safe space to articulate their views on the conflict and peacebuilding priorities.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 1

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)⁸:

PBF priority area: Building and/or strengthening national capacities to promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict

PBF focus area: Conflict Prevention/Management

If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF **outcome(s)** to which the project contributes:

The project contributes to the following outcome areas of the UNDAF for the Central African Republic (2018-2021)

- 1.1. Political and administrative institutions and civil society organisations promote and contribute to peace, security, national reconciliation and human rights
- 2.1. Central African populations, particularly the most vulnerable, or at risk of being vulnerable, use basic social services in a sustainable manner, in particular health, education, social protection, water and sanitation according to quality standards.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:

The project furthers the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly

- **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Peace Justice and strong institutions**, namely targets 16.1 (significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere), and 16.2 (ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels).

⁷ **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁸ **PBF Focus Areas** are:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

- **SDG 3 (Health)**, especially target 3.4 (promote mental health and well-being).
- **SDG 5 (Gender equality)** especially targets 5.1 (end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere) and 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation in equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life).

Type of submission:

- New project
 Project amendment

If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:

Extension of duration: Additional duration in months (+ 3 months. New end date November 10th 2023) (+ 3 months. New end date February 11th 2024)

Change of project outcome/ scope:

Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:

Additional PBF budget: Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX

Brief justification for amendment:

Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in

TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.

The project is on track and significant progress has been made since its inception: about 91 % of key activities are now completed while 9% are currently underway.

In view of certain constraints, mainly the delay in recruiting national experts to lead the project's MHPSS activities, which had a considerable impact on all related activities, such as the creation of "spaces of trust" and the training of community advisors, a request for a cost-free extension of the project for a period of 03 had been requested and obtained from PBSO.

Unfortunately, given the delays in transferring the last tranche of funds due to the fund's liquidity, PBSO requested a further 03-month extension to catch up with disbursements in January 2024. This is because it was pointed out by the donor that the end date of the project with no-cost extension scheduled for November 10, 2023, does not allow payments to be made.

It is for this reason that a 3-month extension has been requested, so that the funds can be transferred by the MPTFO, and the final instalment of the budget implemented.

	<p><i>The no-cost extension is also the opportunity follow up activities implemented by youth beyond the project so to documents good practices for future intervention as our newly approved project in the same areas.</i></p>
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Results	Description	Juillet	Aout	Septembre	Octobre	Novembre	Decembre	Janvier	Fevrier
Outcome: Conflict-affected youth, particularly those in the informal economy, are able to address their MHPSS needs and supported by local authorities and communities to take steps towards breaking cycles of fear and revenge									
		S 1	S 2	S 3	S 4	S 1	S 2	S 3	S 4
Output 1.1: Young people have access to psychosocial support									
Activity 1.1.3	Capacity building of local partner organizations								
Activity 1.1.7	Safe story telling spaces/ Establishment of Formal spaces for Cognitive behavior trauma therapy and psychosocial counselling (individual and group sessions)								
Activity 1.1.8	Referral to specialist services for young people with severe mental disorders								
Output 1.2: Young people dealing with trauma are linked to community support groups, including through gender-responsive income-generating activities									
Activity 1.2.1	Mobilization of a compassionate support network of people in each community and training on 'mental first aid'								
Output 1.3: Young people and their families have a better understanding about gendered needs of and barriers to psychosocial support (incl. stigma and masculinities) and find ways to address them.									
Activity 1.3.1	Enhancement and support of traditional & community-based healing processes and								

<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p>Name of representative:</p> <p>Jonas Vejsager Nøddekær (International Director)</p> <p>Signature [Redacted]</p> <p>Name of Agency: DanChurchAid</p> <p>Date & Seal: 08/01/2024</p> 	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p>Name of the Government representative:</p> <p>Richard FILAKOTA Ministre chargé de l'Economie, du Plan et de la Coopération internationale</p> <p>Signature [Redacted]</p> <p>Title</p> <p>Date & Seal: 19 JAN 2024</p> 
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p>Dr Mohamed AG AYOYA</p> <p>Signature [Redacted]</p> <p>Title</p> <p>Date & Seal: 15/1/24</p> 	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p>for</p> <p>Elizabeth SPEHAR</p> <p>Signature [Redacted]</p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office</p> <p>Date & Seal: 2 feb 2024</p>

I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)

- a) A brief summary of **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project, focusing on the driving factors of tensions/conflict that the project aims to address and an analysis of the main actors/ stakeholders that have an impact on or are impacted by the driving factors, which the project will aim to engage. This analysis must be gender- and age-responsive.

Civilians have been heavily affected by decades of socio-political conflict and crises in CAR. Many children and youth⁹, who make up 78% of CAR's population¹⁰, have had direct experience of death, injury, displacement, hardship or involvement in armed groups, resulting in loss of family members, property and dignity. This has left deep traces: The only available quantitative mental health study in CAR (2010) found that more than half of the population experienced anxiety and depression, with higher levels for women than men¹¹. This figure is likely to have increased since the 2013 crisis. In the project locations Sibut and Kaga Bandoro, young people experienced the arrival of Séléka in 2012, and the mobilisation of anti-balaka in 2013/14 and the violence that ensued. Following targeting by the anti-balaka, Muslim civilians in Sibut fled to neighbouring towns, including Kaga Bandoro where many of them¹² remain until today.

Today, internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kaga Bandoro, especially youth, are considering returning to Sibut. According to reports from our partner FVDJ, approximately 400 Muslims have already returned, corresponding to about 10% of Sibut's Muslim population prior to 2013. However, many of Sibut's current inhabitants, who are predominantly Christian, perceive Muslim IDPs as complicit with Séléka and fear their presence will lead to renewed violence. Since the 2013 crisis, politicians and armed actors have used religious identities to mobilise their constituencies. As a result, tensions between returning Muslim IDPs from Kaga Bandoro and Sibut's predominantly Christian inhabitants have been primarily framed along religious lines. While these religious divisions themselves are not a root cause of the conflict, they have taken sufficient ground to fuel tensions today. However, underneath the religious narratives also lie socio-economic interests which further cause divisions between the different groups. For example, tensions are rising due to land tenure issues between individuals occupying properties in Sibut and their original and legitimate owners returning from Kaga Bandoro. Unable to recover their land, many IDPs returning to Sibut live in camps. While the recent reconstruction of the central Mosque in Sibut is a positive sign for Muslim communities, underlying tensions remain. Members of the Local Interfaith Platform and the Local Peace and Reconciliation Committee (within the national framework of the Ministry of National Reconciliation) play an important role in managing disputes, but the focus lies on immediate response rather than long-term transformation of conflict drivers and causes. If unaddressed, these tensions bear a serious potential for conflict. However, if managed in a conflict-sensitive way, the initial phase of IDP return could open the window for peaceful cohabitation and more large-scale returns. The situation in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut therefore presents both a compelling need and a unique peacebuilding opportunity, with potential for laying the groundwork for long-term change, spearheaded by youth.

⁹ The UN defines youth as individuals aged 15-24, whereas the African Youth Charter considers youth as individuals aged 15-35 and CAR's National Youth Policy as individuals aged 10-35. Social and cultural criteria also determine a person's transition from childhood to adulthood (e.g. leaving the parental home, seeking income sources, marriage and children). Reflecting demographic and social criteria, the project defines youth as individuals between 18 and 35.

¹⁰ Politique Nationale de Promotion de la Jeunesse 2ème génération (PNPJ-2), p. 7.

¹¹ Vinck, P., & Pham, P. N. (2010). Association of exposure to violence and potential traumatic events with self-reported physical and mental health status in the CAR. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 304(5), 544-552.

¹² According to OCHA figures from June 2021, Kaga Bandoro hosted 56,760 internally displaced people (IDP).

However, for young IDPs in Kaga Bandoro and young people in Sibut, fear and trauma constitute a critical barrier to breaking with cycles of fear and revenge and rebuilding relationships across conflict divides. Many still suffer from the traumatic memories of the violence they experienced or witnessed and experience depression, sleeplessness and nightmares. For many of Sibut's young inhabitants, the wish to avenge the loss of family and property experienced at the hands of the Séléka remains strong. Young IDPs in Kaga Bandoro face the emotional burden of having lost everything during forced displacement and are confronted with the difficult choice of wanting to return while the relations with Sibut's inhabitants are still fragile. Young men from Kaga Bandoro in particular fear revenge as Sibut's population associates them, more so than women, with Séléka armed groups.

MHPSS services urgently needed to help young people process trauma and emotional stress are scarce: Sibut only has one hospital providing MHPSS for a population of 50,081 and lacks qualified staff. DCA's MHPSS specialist is unable to meet the overwhelming needs. Kaga Bandoro's hospital only has one social worker without MHPSS qualifications. Youth consultations also highlighted gendered barriers to young women and men's MHPSS uptake. Young men were reluctant to discuss traumatic experiences. To be perceived as a 'strong man' in the community, young men cannot show emotions (e.g. cry) in public. These norms are re-emphasised in rituals accompanying the transition from childhood to adulthood (e.g. the 'baba' initiation process for young men of Banda ethnicity). Young women are more open to expressing their trauma and feelings, but gendered norms mediate their MHPSS uptake: Some women fear that sharing traumatic experiences (e.g. involvement in violence) would go against the ideal of a 'good woman', who is expected to stay in the private sphere.

The project targets young men and women working in the informal economy (male taxi-moto drivers and truck chargers, male and female street vendors, including farmers selling their produce etc.) who are affected by the conflict dynamics. The imperative to earn money regularly pushes them to unsafe locations (e.g. markets) where they are more likely to experience violence. In addition, they face daily psychological stressors due to financial insecurity, extreme poverty and lack of opportunities. Young men struggle to ensure their family's livelihood while young women carry the weight of childcare and household duties. This accentuated for single mothers or survivors of rape who face additional levels of stigmatisation and exclusion. Many resort to drugs, especially Tramadol and alcohol, to cope with their mental stress as well as the difficult conditions of their work.

While being most affected by the violence, young men and women from the informal economy in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro also have a big potential to make a difference in the conflict dynamics surrounding the return of IDPs. Their day-to-day work on markets and along the roadside brings them into close contact with travelers and community members. Hence, they are particularly well-informed about comings and goings, making them a valuable source of information for the rest of the community. A visible change in the engagement for peace and dialogue within this group could therefore have a positive ripple-effect on the wider community, just like hostile messaging from the same group could negatively impact wider community perceptions on returning IDPs. This puts young inhabitants working in the informal economy in a unique position - with the potential to either contribute to stirring hostility against returnees or, on the contrary, promote acceptance.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**¹³, how it ensures **national ownership**. If this project is designed in a PRF country, describe how the main objective advances a relevant strategic objective identified through the Eligibility Process

¹³ Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

The project directly supports CAR's **National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021 (RCPCA)** Pillar 1 which emphasises peace, security and reconciliation as “essential underpinnings to recovery and normalisation” in CAR. The project is aligned with the fourth strategic objective of Pillar 1, which sets out to “facilitate reconciliation and social cohesion and create the condition for the return of refugees and sustainable solutions for displaced persons”. The project also responds to the RCPCA's cross-cutting objective of promoting youth inclusion. Another key national framework is CAR's **National Youth Promotion Policy (PNPJ-2)**, namely the first strategic area: young people promote peace, security, national reconciliation and social cohesion. By building young people's peacebuilding skills and their confidence, the project contributes to the PNPJ-2's strategic actions 2 (training of young activist leaders and peace mediators) and 3 (development of programmes promoting a culture of peace). It also contributes to the specific objective of improving young people's mental health.

The project is in line with global policy discussions, namely the “Mind the Past to Build the Future: Integrating MHPSS in Peace Building” paper of the Dutch Government or the Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-level Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security (2021) highlighting the “importance of removing barriers limiting the participation of young people with disabilities in peacebuilding, and youth in conflict-affected areas having access to inclusive mental health and psycho-social support”¹⁴. The Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (*The Missing Peace*) recommended in 2018 to “prioritize the mental health and well-being of young people through increased funding and the provision of age- and gender-sensitive, non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services, including psychosocial (...) health services.”¹⁵ By strengthening young people's role in peacebuilding, the project contributes to **UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020)**, which emphasise the importance of including young people's views, concerns and needs to build peace. It also contributes to UNSC Resolution 1325 by advancing young women's full participation as agents in local peace processes.

Finally, the project is aligned to the UN Peacebuilding Fund's priority areas, in particular priority area 2: Building and strengthening national capacities to promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict. By building youth resilience and commitment to peace, the project also lays the groundwork for future reconciliation between communities in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut and long-term change in CAR, in line with PBF's vision for catalytic programming. The project allows for strong synergies with the existing PBF portfolio in CAR, including the “Towards Youth Inclusive and Gendered Peace Processes in CAR” (PBF/IRF-334) project and the “Projet d'appui aux victimes et aux populations centrafricaines pour accéder à la justice et la vérité” (PBF/CAF/A-9), which is implemented in Sibut and provides MHPSS for female victims of violence. There is also potential for lessons sharing with the “Projet d'appui aux solutions durables pour les personnes déplacées ou retournées et leurs communautés d'accueil” (PBF/CAF/A-12) and the “Projet d'appui à la gouvernance locale et à l'accès équitable aux dividendes de la paix” (PBF/CAF/A-10).

National ownership is key to the project design, which places young people as primary agents for change. Our strategy is underpinned by a listening approach and builds on existing community support mechanisms rather than external assumptions. National ownership is further supported through an adaptive design: In participatory conflict analysis and action planning sessions, young people will be supported to determine their own priorities and receive financial and technical support to develop and implement strategies to address issues that they consider important.

¹⁴ [Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security](#) 24 February 2021

¹⁵ *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018. p. 122

- c) A brief explanation of how the project fills any strategic gaps and complements any other relevant interventions, PBF funded or otherwise. Also provide a brief **summary of existing interventions** in the proposal's sector by filling out the table below.

Integrated MHPSS and peacebuilding programming is an underserved area in CAR. The proposed project addresses this critical gap by linking MHPSS, socio-economic exclusion and peacebuilding. Spanning the Humanitarian-Peace-Development nexus, the project takes a robustly gendered approach to ensuring young people's uptake of MHPSS while also providing them with the peacebuilding skills necessary to build a peaceful future. It builds on DCA and CRs' collective experience of working in CAR, drawing on learning from the PBF-funded *Alternatives to Violence* project implemented by War Child and CR (2018-2020)¹⁶ and the DCA-led project 'Rehabilitation of physical and psychosocial support and socio-economic reintegration of war victims in Kémo (2021-2025). The project also builds on lessons from projects in the same thematic or geographic areas as well as PBF supported projects.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
DCA: Rehabilitation of physical and MHPSS and socio-economic reintegration of conflict victims in Kémo prefecture (Feb. 2021 - Jan. 2025)	International Criminal Court (ICC), \$500,000	The project focuses on physical rehabilitation (medical care), MHPSS and socio-economic rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities linked to the wars of 2002, 2003 and 2013/2014.	The project only targets victims with legal cases under the ICC mandat. The current project will leverage this and support other young victims suffering from trauma. The proposed project will benefit from DCA's experience in Sibut as well as structures put in place for the ICC project.
DCA: EU-REPAC: Peacebuilding Support Project: National Reconciliation and Peaceful Conflict Resolution in CAR (Jan. 2019-Dec. 2021)	European Union, €2,900,000	The project supports CSO engagement in the Security Sector Reform, advocacy on national reconciliation and peaceful conflict resolution, including through the creation of a national CSO platform and prefectural CSO networks.	The proposed project will link young people supported through the project with the CSO networks in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut. This will enable the young people to gain insight into current prefectural and national discussions about reconciliation. At the same time the CSO networks will benefit from the young people's insights and conflict analysis.
UNDP-FAO: Support for local governance and equitable access to peace dividends (Nov. 2020-Oct. 2022)	UNPBF; GPI 2019 \$3,000,000	The project implemented in Basse-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou aims to contribute to peacebuilding in south-eastern CAR	While the target areas are different, both the UNDP-FAO project and the current project aims to contribute to the restoration of lasting peace in CAR, allowing for sharing of lessons learned.
ACCORD: Towards Youth Inclusive and Gendered Peace Processes in the Central African Republic (Dec. 2019-Oct. 2021)	UNPBF, GPYI 2019 \$801,409	Support to youth-led organisations to research and document the lived realities and contributions of young people, build their capacities, and create an environment for their participation in peace efforts	Both projects seek to build young people's capacity as agents for peace. We will leverage on the lessons learned from ACCORD's project and capitalise of the innovation of youth-focussed MHPSS to build resilience and create a conducive environment for youth participation in peacebuilding
OXFAM: Advocacy of female CSOs for community security and security sector reform (Dec. 2019- Sep. 2021)	UNPBF, GPI 2019 \$1,485,000	This project seeks to promote the participation of women in the Security Sector Reform of CAR	Learn lessons on integrating gender and women empowerment
UNICEF-UNDP: Support for sustainable	UNPBF \$3,000,000	Implemented in Ouham-Pendé and Basse-Kotto, the project	Given the UNDP-UNICEF project's focus on sustainable solutions for displaced or

¹⁶ [Alternatives to Violence project - Final evaluation report \(November 2020\)](#):

solutions for IDPs, returnees, host communities and children released from armed groups (2020-2022)		contributes to the return of IDPs and refugees and the recovery of local communities, and support the empowerment of vulnerable girls/ women, particularly GBV victims	returnees, there is strong potential for the current proposal to learn from UNICEF's and UNDP's approaches to conflict dynamics surrounding the return of refugees and displaced people, especially from a conflict-sensitivity angle.
NRC: Strengthening local protection mechanisms through a community-based protection approach, and voluntary and inclusive humanitarian mediation processes aimed at conflict prevention and mitigation, and protection coordination and advocacy in Kaga Bandoro	UNHCR & OCHA Common Humanitarian Fund	The project focuses on protection, MHPSS and conflict mediation. Activities include: protection case management, community protection plans; protection training for local authorities; sensitisation on protection risks and gender-related issues; community MHPSS; support to local peace initiatives; mediation and dialogue; community interest projects and peace education.	The current proposal complements NRC's protection, MHPSS and peacebuilding intervention in Kaga Bandoro by introducing a specific youth angle to MHPSS provision and peacebuilding. We will work closely with the NRC team to exchange analysis and lessons learned on our respective projects.

II. Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

- a) A brief **description of the project** focus and approach – describe the project's overarching goal, the implementation strategy, and how it addresses the conflict causes or factors outlined in Section I (must be gender- and age- responsive).

The project's overarching goal is to increase young people's mental readiness and confidence to engage in reconciliation. The conflict analysis suggests two priorities to support this: 1) Youth need to have access to culturally appropriate, conflict- and gender-sensitive MHPSS which helps them to connect with the wider community and 2) Youth need to be supported to build on their increased resilience and mental wellbeing to become agents for peaceful change in their communities.

The project will explore local understandings of conflict, trauma and existing community support mechanisms through a listening exercise. Building on the insights, the project will create counselling centers through which MHPSS specialists will deliver trauma and psychosocial counselling. The project will also support young people in forming a compassionate support network. As part of this network, the project will support youth groups to implement income-generating activities (IGAs). These IGAs will bring young people together and create informal spaces in which they can collectively process their experiences. IGAs will also generate income for young people experiencing financial insecurity. Gendered barriers to MHPSS uptake will be addressed by: 1) individual counselling, which has proven to be more acceptable to young men 2) securing the buy-in of local authorities and families who play a key role in enforcing gender norms, 3) working with male/female champions to promote attitudinal change and 4) organising discussions on how gender norms block youth's MHPSS access.

The conflict analysis showed that young people working in the informal economy have a big potential to make a difference but lack entry points to engage in peacebuilding. The intervention will address this by: 1) Strengthening young people's capacities, confidence and commitment to peace, 2) supporting them in putting their new skills into practice and developing their own peace initiatives, 3) creating greater awareness of young people's role in peacebuilding among local authorities and community members. We will work with youth in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro separately, rather than facilitating direct dialogue between them. Our experience shows that accelerated dialogue, without providing space to address individual and collective trauma, risks exacerbating conflict. We will therefore prioritise less entrenched conflict divides. By building youth resilience and commitment to

peace in both locations, the project lays the groundwork for future reconciliation between communities in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut.

Our strategy is underpinned by our partnership approach. Working with local youth-led and youth-focused CSOs is a central component of our project. Our partners are grassroots CSOs with deep-rooted contacts to the community, youth and local authorities. Our approach recognises that both national and international CSOs contribute knowledge and resources to the achievement of shared goals. We will use our Joint Capacity Assessment Tool to assess our partners' organisational and programmatic strengths and weaknesses and jointly identify priority areas for support.

- b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'** – explain the assumptions about why you expect the project interventions to lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis. What are the assumptions that the theory is based on? Note, this is not a summary statement of your project's outcomes.

The project's main goal is to **increase young people's confidence and readiness to engage in dialogue and reconciliation activities between returning IDPs from Kaga Bandoro and Sibut's current inhabitants (impact)**. Drawing on the conflict analysis, the project's key assumption is that individual and collective trauma currently limits the ability and openness of young people in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro to engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation. The project will therefore support a process in which **young people are able to address their MHPSS needs and are supported to take positive steps towards breaking cycles of fear and revenge (outcome 1)**. Here the project builds on experience from CAR and elsewhere, that MHPSS initiatives are most successful when they are community-owned, rooted in local belief systems and build on existing community resources and coping mechanisms. It is assumed that to meet young people's MHPSS needs, gendered barriers need to be broken down in a process that includes the wider community.

Building on evidence from the *Alternatives to Violence* project (PBF/IRF-276), the project assumes that increased peacebuilding skills lead to improved confidence among youth in their own ability to be peacebuilders as well as their commitment to non-violent conflict resolution. The second outcome therefore seeks to capitalise on young people's potential, **by enabling the same youth receiving MHPSS to act as agents for peaceful change (outcome 2)**. Next to the need for increased capacities, confidence and commitment for youth to deal peacefully with conflict, the project works with the understanding that the space for youth engagement in peacebuilding depends on the buy-in of those who traditionally dominate peace processes (i.e. male traditional leaders, local authorities). Opening this space for youth, especially young women, therefore requires building awareness among local authorities and community leaders on young people's positive contributions to peace.

In combining these two interlinked outcomes, our Theory of Change recognises that individuals need to find peace in themselves, including mental and psychological well-being, to be able to create wider change in their communities. This assumption is underpinned by DCA's experience of accompanying conflict-affected communities which has shown that community peacebuilding change builds on personal transformation. The two outcomes have also been designed with strong conflict-sensitivity considerations: Rather than facilitating direct dialogue, the project prioritises building young people's well-being, resilience and commitment to peace, thereby laying the groundwork for long-term relationship change between communities in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut.

- c) **Provide a narrative description of key project components** (outcomes and outputs), ensuring sufficient attention to gender, age and other key differences that should influence the project approach. In describing the project elements, be sure to indicate important considerations related to sequencing of activities.

The project will be implemented over 18 months, supporting 800 young people working in the informal economy who are disproportionately affected by the conflict. It will target Kaga Bandoro town (Nana-Gribizi prefecture) and Sibut, Ngumbele and Boambali communes (Kémo prefecture). All outcomes, outputs, and indicators are listed in Annex C.

Outcome 1: Conflict affected youth, particularly those in the informal economy, are able to address their MHPSS needs and are supported by local authorities and communities to take positive steps towards breaking cycles of fear and revenge. To enable young people to address their MHPSS needs and break cycles of fear and revenge, the project seeks to ensure that young men and women have access to gender-, conflict- and culturally-sensitive MHPSS (output 1.1) and that they are linked to community and peer support groups (output 1.2). The project will also work with the youth, their families and local leaders to identify and break down gender barriers which currently prevent young men and women from expressing MHPSS needs and accessing support. (output 1.3).

NCE Request justification (July 10th, 2023)

The project design foresaw the recruitment of a psychologist in February 2022. However, the search for a qualified candidate was more difficult than initially anticipated. DCA underwent three failed recruitment rounds, as none of the candidates who applied to the position were sufficiently qualified. Following a fourth recruitment round, the successful candidate finally took his position as psychologist in August 2022 - six months after the start of the project. To mitigate the impact of this delayed recruitment, DCA hired an external consultant (Dr. Caleb Kette, Psychiatrist and National Mental Health Coordinator) to deliver a training on psychological first aid to community counselors and project staff in July 2022. However, the project's core MHPSS activities could only start once the DCA psychologist was on board. This six-months delay particularly impacted the psychosocial first aid training with youth leaders and the psychosocial community counselors as well as the cognitive trauma healing with youth. It also affected the establishment of "espaces de confiance" - spaces in the communes in which young people can come together for peacebuilding activities, recreational activities while also receiving psychosocial support from the trained community counselors. Given the centrality of MHPSS activities in the project, additional time is needed to ensure full implementation of this work strand as well as adequate follow-up of youth experiencing mental health challenges. A no-cost extension of three months would enable us to provide the full scope of planned MHPSS to the youth, while also building structures which can outlive the duration of the project.

In addition, new opportunities have emerged during project implementation which will help us to further strengthen the project's impact:

There is a need for additional capacity building and follow up at the local level on a newly adopted national MHPSS protocol: In May 2022, the Ministry of Health adopted a new protocol on psychotherapeutic management of post-traumatic disorders. The protocol recommends that mental health case management should increasingly happen at the local level. Through our collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UN Women, we see an opportunity for additional activities strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders. In May 2023 about 100 individuals (hospital personnels, community counselors and youth leaders...) in the project areas were trained on the case management protocol developed by UN Women/UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Promotion, Women, Family and Child protection and the Ministry of Health as part of the *Disarmament of the Heart* project. This approach will reinforce the impact we are seeing on the youth and will ensure sustainability of the support at the local level in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro. We need therefore to follow up with them and make sure they gained skills are well used for the benefits of the community. A locally led case management will ensure the impact of our response beyond the project timeframe. This multiplier

effect will not only provide opportunities to easily support the direct beneficiaries of this project but the wider community as the training will target community and religious leaders, hospital personnels and the youth leaders. Beneficiaries of these trainings will be local resources to provide MHPSS to the entire community (adult, children, victims of GBV...) and also included in the referral pathways to provide support at the level one but also refer to specialist if need be.

Output 1.1: The project will conduct a listening exercise with youth and their communities, examining local understanding of trauma, conflict and peace (the first research of this kind in CAR). Alongside individual MHPSS screening, these findings will help tailor the MHPSS support. 16 community counsellors will be identified based on community and youth recommendations. They should include individuals who are trusted by the community and already provide formal or informal counselling within existing structures (e.g., church groups). Counsellors will be trained on trauma focused cognitive behavior therapy (TF-CBT) based on the IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in emergency settings and work alongside the MHPSS specialist to provide TF-CBT to young people. In line with our do-no-harm approach, the MHPSS specialist will accompany the counsellors to ensure adherence to technical standards, provide continual capacity development as well as MHPSS to the counsellors themselves. The counsellors will facilitate storytelling spaces and carry out family visits and community outreach. When necessary, cases will be referred to specialized services. DCA will sign cooperation agreements with hospitals in Kaga Bando, Sibut and Bangui.

Output 1.2: The project will support youth in forming a compassionate support network for informal support. 40 youth, who are trusted by their peers, will be trained on psychological first aid. They will be selected based on recommendations from young people themselves. Young people who receive MHPSS will be supported in developing income-generating activities (IGAs), which, in addition to income generation, have the potential to bring young people together. Given the link between financial insecurity and wellbeing, the ability to generate income is also expected to positively impact young people's wellbeing. Young people will be trained in financial literacy and business plan preparation. Youth business ideas will be selected by a committee (youth representatives, community leaders and project team) based on their feasibility, their profitability, do-no-harm considerations and their contribution to peace. 32 business ideas will be funded with successful groups receiving mentorship on entrepreneurship. For IGA sustainability beyond project lifetime, 16 youth groups will be supported to form village loan saving associations (VSLA) and receive training, mentorship and VSLA kits.

NCE Request justification (July 10th, 2023)

Need to provide more support to local partners in the implementation of the income generating activities (Village Saving Loan Association and micro-economic projects) with youth groups. Due to the need of additional time for youth groups to brainstorm project ideas that are linked to their conflict analysis and the setup of VSLA groups, these activities started being implemented in late January 2023 as opposed to the initial plan in October/November 2022. There is therefore a need to provide more time to support youth in implementing these activities. The Village Saving and loan association activities are planned for a nine (9) month cycle allowing youth to better understand the concepts, set up the managing committee and the guiding rules before they start saving. These youth groups will need proper guidance from the project team to ensure smooth implementation during the 9 months. In addition to the VSLA, national partners are supporting youth to implement revenue generating activities and so far a total of 12 youth groups business ideas have been funded out of the 40 planned. DCA is supporting partners in their work with the rest of youth groups and will need to provide more support in building up their capacities on various business management skills. Youth groups will need technical support when starting to give out loans to group members as well as calculating benefits for each members at the end of the first cycle. A no-cost extension will allow the project team to closely work with youth groups through coaching, and also collect data on the impact of the economic

activities on youth mental health and capacities of being peace agents in their communities.

Output 1.3: The project will identify gender barriers to MHPSS access and identify ways to overcome them. Using our [Gender and conflict analysis toolkit for peacebuilders](#), staff and community counsellors will be trained on gender concepts and their relevance to peacebuilding and MHPSS. Group discussions on gender norms will be held with young people, their families and local authorities on how gender norms shape MHPSS needs and barriers, while ensuring that different groups, in particular young women, have safe spaces to express their views. Facilitators will accompany youth and their community in the development of strategies to overcome some of the barriers. Possible strategies include working with female and male champions who have the social standing and networks to advocate for greater inclusion and a shift in gender norms.

Outcome 2: Young women and men who have access to MHPSS, in particular those working in the informal economy, use their increased resilience and strengthened connection with their community to act as agents for peaceful change. The achievement of this outcome will be supported through three pathways: The project will strengthen young people's capacities, confidence and commitment to deal peacefully with conflict (output 2.1), while supporting the same youth in implementing their own peace initiatives (output 2.2). To ensure that young people have the community support to lead on peacebuilding work, the project will also raise the awareness of community leaders and local authorities on young people's engagement for peace. (output 1.3)

Output 2.1: Key peacebuilding concepts will be introduced in participatory and gender-sensitive conflict analysis workshops: 40 young men and women (min. 50% female) will map out their needs, vulnerabilities, resources and experiences with regards to the conflict and identify priority areas. The selection criteria for the 40 youth will be developed jointly with local authorities, community and youth leaders, ensuring gender balance and geographic, religious and ethnic representation. To strengthen the multiplier-effect, the 40 youth will be selected based on their links with youth constituencies and their ability to reach out to and represent these groups of youth. They will be supported to develop action plans, in consultation with the wider group of targeted young people. On the basis of their action plans, the 40 young people and youth groups they represent can apply for Youth Peace Grants (small amounts of money or material distributed to groups, not individuals) to implement their peace initiatives. Training will be provided on key peacebuilding concepts, including dialogue facilitation and conflict mediation, community sensitization, gender and inclusion, adopting a Training of Trainers (ToT) model, empowering 40 youth leaders to pass their knowledge to 760 youth in their network.

NCE Request justification (July 10th, 2023)

To promote youth ownership and inclusivity, strengthen conflict-sensitivity considerations and ensure alignment with income-generating activities, the development and implementation of youth peacebuilding action plans and initiatives is taking longer than anticipated. In July 2022, Conciliation Resources trained 40 youth leaders in conflict analysis in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut. These youth leaders then worked closely with their 760 peers to conduct conflict analysis in their communes. Building on this conflict analysis, the project supported the youth leaders in developing their own action plans in close collaboration with their peers. The consortium members worked closely with the youth leaders to ensure that action plans are closely aligned with income-generating activities (see above), that they are conflict-sensitive, gender-inclusive and that activities are well targeted, realistic and adequately resourced. During this process the project had to move at a slightly slower pace than expected to ensure the participation of all young people, including those who are illiterate or do not have higher education as well as many of them, for whom this was the first time to engage in

peacebuilding. Furthermore, not all of the youth groups are moving at the same pace. Some groups already started implementation of their action plans in December, whereas others needed more support in refining their activities and intervention strategy. Some of the remaining groups have started their action plans in February 2023, whereas others received their training in March and started implementing their action plans which now require additional time. This is mostly due to the heightened sensitivity and complexity of the conflicts that these youth groups chose. The youth groups will therefore all implement their peacebuilding initiatives in the first two quarters of 2023 at varying speeds. Aware that peacebuilding outcomes can take some time to manifest, the remaining project duration leaves less time than initially planned for consolidation of the peacebuilding impact. A three-months no-cost extension would allow the project to accompany the young people for a longer time, support them in building long-term relationships across conflict divides and ensure appropriate follow-up and monitoring of peacebuilding impact. This will further consolidate the young people's roles as peacebuilders, maximize the peacebuilding outcomes and strengthen the project's sustainability.

Output 2.2: The project will support youth in organising community dialogues around themes identified in their action plans. Dialogues involving at least 720 people (at least 50% women) will first be held among youth themselves. As young people become more comfortable, the space can progressively be extended to the wider community. To prevent these discussions from inadvertently exacerbating inter-group stereotyping, partners and youth groups leading the dialogues will be trained on facilitating sensitive group discussions. Participants will be carefully selected and dialogues held in safe locations. The project also seeks to test new and innovative strategies to support dialogue. For this purpose, young people who have a high level of public engagement (e.g. taxi-moto drivers, market vendors) will receive additional training on how to facilitate discussions about peace with their clientele as part of their day-to-day activities. Conflict-sensitivity will be a key consideration in this training. Similarly, young people involved in IGAs will receive guidance on how to use IGAs to promote dialogue and non-violence in a conflict-sensitive way. Young people will also be supported in producing radio programmes reinforcing their peace initiatives.

Output 2.3: To ensure that local authorities and community members are aware of youth engagement for peace, the project will support young people in carrying out a communication campaign, the format of which will be developed by the youth. This could include but is not limited to placards, dance, songs, role play, mass sensitisation at the market etc. The project will facilitate meetings between young people, community leaders and local authorities in which young people can talk about their work. Securing the buy-in of local power holders is a key part of our do-no-harm strategy as past experience has shown that if not involved from the start, traditional power holders are more likely to push back on youth participation in peacebuilding. Aware that this is the first project integrating MHPSS and peacebuilding in CAR, we will produce a learning report capturing evidence and lessons learnt with a view of contributing to the emerging pool of knowledge on youth-focussed strategies of integrating MHPSS and peacebuilding in CAR and globally.

- d) **Project targeting** – provide a justification for geographic zones, criteria for beneficiary selection, expected number and type of stakeholders/beneficiaries (must be disaggregated by sex and age). Indicate whether stakeholders have been consulted in the design of this proposal. Do not repeat all outputs and activities from the Results Framework.

The return of displaced people is a contentious issue in CAR, while also being of critical importance for the country's long-term road towards reconciliation. It plays out uniquely between IDPs in Kaga Bandoro and the current inhabitants of Sibut, with approximately 400 IDPs having already returned to Sibut since 2019. If unaddressed, the tensions surrounding the return of IDPs bear a serious potential for conflict. The situation in these locations presents both a compelling need and a unique

peacebuilding opportunity, with significant potential for laying the groundwork for long-term change, spearheaded by young people. The project focuses on a strategic entry point: young people working in the informal economy who play a central role in conflict dynamics and – if their MHPSS needs are addressed and their commitment to peace reinforced – have potential to promote acceptance across conflict divides due to their central position in the communities’ information flow.

The project will specifically **target 800 young people between the age of 18-35 (including at least 400 women) working in the informal economy** - a youth category which stood out clearly in the conflict analysis as being most immediately affected by the conflict surrounding the return of IDPs from Kaga Bandoro. Within this target group, participants are identified based on the following criteria: 1) young people in the informal economy who are linked to or vulnerable to conflict dynamics: in Kaga Bandoro, this concerns young IDPs who have fled from Sibut. In line with our do-no-harm approach in Kaga Bandoro, we will also target young people in the informal economy from the IDP’s host communities. In Sibut, this concerns young inhabitants working in the informal economy who are most vulnerable to being mobilised for hostilities against returnees, and young IDPs who have already returned to Sibut. 2) young people who suffer from trauma, mental health and psychosocial challenges and who are marginalised, due to substance abuse, engagement in sex work, having been orphaned, affected by or committed violence. In line with our do-no-harm and conflict-sensitivity approach, the project will balance different gender, religious and ethnic identity, as well as rural/urban origin within the target youth. We will also involve the wider community from the onset, especially social gatekeepers (local authorities, community leaders etc.) who were identified as critical to overcoming barriers to MHPSS access and youth participation in peacebuilding. During the design phase, extensive consultations were held with youth and wider communities in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut.

III. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- a) **Recipient organizations and implementing partners** – list all direct recipient organizations and their implementing partners (international and local), specifying the Convening Organization, which will coordinate the project, and providing a brief justification for the choices, based on mandate, experience, local knowledge and existing capacity

DCA is the direct recipient overseeing a consortium of three: the international peacebuilding organisation Conciliation Resources and two national partners Vision Enfant République Centrafricaine (VERCA) and Fondation Vegas Jeunes pour le Développement (FVJD). DCA is a Danish humanitarian not-for-profit NGO. DCA has worked in CAR since 2015 with programmes focusing on armed violence reduction, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, risk education, livelihoods, MHPSS and emergency aid. **Conciliation Resources** is an international NGO working with conflict-affected communities to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and promote peaceful societies. **VERCA and FVJD** were selected for their in-depth understanding of the context in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro, their experience of carrying out peacebuilding, MHPSS and youth engagement projects and their ability to mobilise vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Impact of COVID-19 on DCA’s in-country operations: Since the onset of the epidemic, DCA has striven to continue to deliver aid, adapting its operational modalities to the changing context, CAR regulations and WHO recommendations. COVID-19 initially caused delays in project delivery as larger gatherings (training, sensitization sessions, distributions) were prohibited by the Government and border closures caused delays in shipping imported assets and a price increase for food items. DCA’s cash-based interventions ensured vulnerable populations were able to meet their needs DCA also collaborated with health facilities to ensure COVID-19 sensitization in rural communities. DCA developed COVID-19 operating procedures to keep project staff, beneficiaries and communities safe.

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: DanChurchAid	<u>Globally:</u> \$115.7 million (FY 2020)	EU DANIDA CHF ECHO	Sibut Bambari Ippy Bouar Paoua Bangui	42 staff	1 MHPSS specialist; 1 Conflict prevention and peacebuilding expert and plan to recruit 6 staff for this specific project.
Implementing partners: Conciliation Resources, FVJD, VERCA	<u>In CAR:</u> \$3,845,660 (FY 2020)				

- b) **Project management and coordination** – Indicate the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explicitly indicate how the project implementation team will ensure sufficient gender or youth expertise. Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements and ensure link with PBF Secretariat if it exists. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex A.1** and attach key staff TORs.

Recipient organisation: DCA’s Bangui-based Country Director (funded at 5%) will lead project implementation and provide overall coordination. Other team members include the Head of Programmes (33%) who will oversee project quality and donor reporting, the Head of Finance (6%) in charge of budget management and financial reporting, Finance Officer (11%), the Procurement and Logistics Manager (6%), the Global Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Advisor (6%) and the MPHSS specialist (100%) who will provide technical expertise and ensure that MHPSS is youth-friendly, conflict-, age- and gender-sensitive. DCA will recruit a Project Manager who will dedicate 100% of their time to implementation, providing day-to-day oversight including quality assurance, planning, monitoring and evaluation. A dedicated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) Officer (100%) will be in charge of monitoring and evaluation. Four social workers (100%) (two per area) will work with community counsellors to support home care visits and youth accompaniment, relying on existing informal structures. DCA’s headquarters will provide support and oversight in all aspects of the project. These posts are included under category 1 (Staff and Other Personnel).

Implementing partners: CR’s Peacebuilding and Community Engagement specialist/ CAR Project Manager (100%) will lead on the implementation of the peacebuilding activities and ensure integration with MHPSS. The Youth and Inclusion Specialist/East and Central Africa Project Manager (64%) will lead on the youth engagement strategy, the design of gender-and age-sensitive youth peacebuilding activities as well as donor reporting. The Conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity specialist/Director of the East and Central Africa Programme (20%) will lead on gender-sensitive conflict analysis and provide oversight and guidance on overall design, implementation and direction of the project from a conflict-sensitivity perspective. The Gender in Peacebuilding Adviser (3%) will design a project gender equality and inclusion plan and provide technical support. The Head of MEAL (15%) will be responsible for the design and implementation of the M&E plan, while the Communication team (7%) will be lead on the communication strategy, including publications. CR’s Finance Business Partner (20%) will lead on financial management and donor reporting. London-based staff will travel to CAR to provide oversight and technical support. Only time spent in-country or working on the project is included in the budget. VERCA’s and FVJD’s project teams will be composed of a Coordinator (30%), a Project Manager (100%), a Project Officer (100%), four Field Assistants (100%) and a Finance Officer (100%). These posts are included under category 6 (Transfer and Grants to Counterparts).

The project will be implemented by DCA and partners under the oversight of the PBF steering committee in CAR. DCA will coordinate the implementation and regularly share action plans with the

PBF secretariat for joint monitoring of the project. DCA will organise quarterly review meetings with partners and the PBF steering committee to evaluate progress and plan for the next quarter.

- c) **Risk management** – Identify project-specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include a Do No Harm approach and risk mitigation strategy.

The project follows DCA’s Do No Harm approach, which is understood as a process striving to improve operations in conflict-affected contexts so that we can ‘Do No Harm’, maximise positive impact (‘Do Some Good’), and support durable peacebuilding. DCA follows three steps in ensuring conflict sensitivity: understand the context; understand the interaction between activities and the context; and adjust activities to reach conflict sensitivity goals. The table outlines project risks, including risks to participants and how conflict sensitivity will be used in our mitigation strategy.

Project specific risk	Risk level	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Security: Renewed violence in the project areas makes it unsafe for the project team and young people to participate in the project activities	High	1. Security management systems allow for activity delivery whilst limiting the exposure of participants, partners, staff and communities 2. Monitor the situation and liaise with prefectural and national Government, MINUSCA, INSO, OCHA, UNDSS etc for up-to-date information; 4. Develop contingency plans for (partial) withdrawal from critical areas
Social: Tensions could arise as the project challenges attitudes, social norms and practices (including those relating to gender) and addresses trauma and conflict	Medium	1. Use conflict-sensitivity analysis findings in action planning and implementation to ensure that activities do not put participants at risk; 2. Include female and male change agents (incl. local authorities, families etc.) from the onset; 3. Put in place mechanisms for discussion and de-escalation, including gender-sensitive safe spaces for dialogue
Health: Multiple Risks stemming from COVID-19, including risks linked to the health of staff and target groups, travel restrictions.	High	1. Monitor the COVID-19 spread; 2. Disseminate up-to-date information and preventive measures and ensure strict compliance; 3. Follow DCA COVID-19 SOPs; 4. Provide hygiene kits for activities; 5. If travel is not possible, use digital technologies/phone where possible; 6. Monitor COVID-related conflict trends and support youth in response strategies.
Technical: Poorly controlled or framed discussion exacerbates inter-group stereotyping, suspicion or tension	Medium	1. Conduct a gender-sensitive conflict analysis at the project start and regularly update it; 2. Activities are carefully planned, discussed in advance with all stakeholders, involve pre-screened participants, and are held in safe locations; 3. Train partners in facilitating sensitive groups discussions; 4. Train staff on how to receive disclosures of violence and requests for assistance, and establish referral pathways
Technical: Dealing with highly-sensitive issues during MHPSS interventions could lead to re-traumatisation of young people and discourage them to seek MHPSS in the future	Medium	1. Using an evidence-based MHPSS methodology which is grounded in local belief systems and owned by the young people and their communities; 2. Work with the community to create an atmosphere in which MHPSS participants do not fear stigma, 3. Continual capacity strengthening of lay community counsellors, including follow-up and monitoring to ensure that MHPSS is provided correctly 4. Case supervision, 5. Regularly updating referral pathways

Political: Misuse of project objectives for political purposes	Medium	1. Transparency and regular update of all relevant stakeholders about the project, funding sources and intended outcomes; 2. Regular monitoring, evaluation and sharing of information with project participants and community leaders.
Social: Young people are stigmatised due to project participation. <u>For example:</u> Stigmatisation of young men using MHPSS which are culturally considered culturally as inappropriate for men. Stigmatisation of young women who are publicly advocating for dialogue, thereby going against established gender norms. Stigmatisation of Christian youth in Sibut who are seen to associate themselves with young Muslim IDPs. Stigmatisation of young Muslim IDPs who, as a minority, could be accused of disproportionately benefiting from support.	Medium	1. Involve leaders, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are fully informed about the project, its partners, its target groups and selection criteria and the project's intended outcomes 2. Raise awareness about stigmatisation and create an atmosphere of understanding the need for MHPSS and youth participation in peacebuilding regardless of gender (including working with influential community role models); 3. Organize gender-sensitive and youth-friendly counselling sessions; 4. Organise separate spaces for different groups (e.g. men, women, religious minorities) to discuss concerns and fears around stigmatisation 5. Implement data protection policies ensuring anonymity of participants, 6. Establish a complaints/ accountability committee composed of partners, community leaders, youth and local authorities.

- d) **Monitoring and evaluation** – Describe the M&E approach for the project, including M&E expertise in the project team and main means and timing of collecting data? Include: a budget break-down for both monitoring and evaluation activities, including collection of baseline and end line data and an independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. Fund recipients are obligated to reserve at least 5-7% of the project budget for M&E activities, including sufficient funds for a quality, independent evaluation.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) strategy puts the Theory of Change at the center of our work, creates spaces to continually reflect on how we achieve our theory of change goals; constantly challenge our assumptions to verify the project activities are leading to the intended change, ensure that our MEAL systems are gender- and conflict-sensitive, appropriately analysed and acted upon. A designated officer will lead MEAL coordination with support from DCA's Global MEAL Advisor and partner's MEAL advisors. The consortium will ensure monitoring, evaluation and learning is an ongoing process involving a high degree of participation of partners, community members and participants.

Given conflict-sensitivity considerations about tensions between Muslims and Christians, gender and participation of young people in peacebuilding in Kaga-Bandoro and Sibut, we propose not to include disaggregation on the basis of religion in the project's Result Framework. We think that asking participants to indicate their religious affiliation in routine M&E questionnaires, surveys or during interviews in the current climate could reinforce stigmatization of these identity groups. With findings of baseline survey, we will be able to understand further and develop more nuanced ways to document and report issues of religion without exacerbating tensions and thereby ultimately causing harm. If this assumption works well, the disaggregation may then appear in the reports that we will be sharing with PBF. Additionally, during the selection process of the participants, we will need to ask about religious affiliation in order to ensure equitable representation of different religious groups but rather than focus on representation of various religious groups alone, during project implementation we will work with members of all religious communities and emphasis will be placed on identifying shared values between Muslims and Christians and how these shared values can contribute to peacebuilding and MPHSS in CAR. In the safe spaces created by the project, we will explore dialogue and reflections amongst young people that can foster trust, challenge misconceptions and stereotypes, and build trust amongst young people of different religious affiliations. Such an approach is particularly important in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut where there are deep rooted religious, cultural and gendered sensitivities

towards MPHSS and young people in peacebuilding. Where available and appropriate (e.g. through observations or project records), we will do our best to provide information on how youth of different religious affiliation experience the project. However, given the conflict-sensitivities we would not recommend to systematically include data on religious affiliation in the Results Framework indicators and targets (especially in the first fifteen months of the project). We think that by then participants will not have gained sufficient trust and confidence to talk freely about these issues without exacerbating tensions in the area.

Planned M&E activities are listed below. A detailed M&E plan will be developed with partners during project inception and an online indicator tracking tool will be set up.

- **Inception workshop.** Timescale: Month 1 or 2
- **Baseline Study.** Timescale: Month 2
- **Develop and regularly update indicator tracking tool/ dashboard.** Timescale: Weekly.
- **Periodic reporting and coordination meetings.** Timescale: Monthly
- **Outcome Harvesting Process.** Timescale: Ongoing.
- **Routine monitoring** and regular support visits Timescale: Throughout the project.
- **Gathering feedback from project participants, target groups and stakeholders.** Timescale: Throughout the project.
- **Internal mid-term review & Outcome Harvesting workshop.** Timescale: Month 12.
- **Regular meetings with PBF in Bangui.** Timescale: Quarterly.
- **External Evaluation and external financial audit.** Timescale: Month 21.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

- **M&E staff costs:** \$44,591
- **Baseline study:** \$12,252
- **Monitoring and data collection activities:** \$53,931
- **Internal participatory learning event:** \$18,284
- **Final audit:** \$8,697
- **TOTAL:** \$137,755.6 (9.2% of total budget)

Since DCA will be part of the cohort evaluation of the Peacebuilding Fund, the final evaluation budget will be used on monitoring and data collection activities.

- e) **Project exit strategy/ sustainability** – Briefly explain the project’s exit strategy to ensure that the project can be wrapped up at the end of the project duration, either through sustainability measures, agreements with other donors for follow-up funding or end of activities which do not need further support. If support from other donors is expected, explain what the project will do concretely and pro-actively to try to ensure this support from the start. Consider possible partnerships with other donors or IFIs.

DCA and partners place sustainability at the heart of project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning and put local actors at the center. We will build relationships between youth, service providers, community psychosocial counsellors, other projects (implemented by government, UN and NGOs) and government structures. Community counselors will be working alongside health facilities with whom strong referral systems will be established. This will promote local ownership and relationships between youth, local authorities, service providers and the wider community, which will outlive the project. The project will also empower youth, local partners and other local actors by providing skills in peacebuilding, MHPSS and IGA/VSLA that will remain in the community. For IGA sustainability beyond project lifetime, 16 youth groups will be supported to form village loan saving associations (VSLA) and receive training, mentorship and VSLA kits.

We will help local actors to gain maximum experience, leadership and managerial capacity, with decision-making and ownership of the process and outcomes. Training will be delivered using a Training of Trainers model, ensuring that skills can be passed on beyond the period of the project. Equipped with these skills and knowledge, community counsellors will be able to continue MHPSS provision in the community beyond the project's end. Young people will have the skills and tools to continue acting as peacebuilders in their community long after the project closure. By working to reduce violent conflict and enhance the wellbeing of youth while rebuilding economic opportunities benefiting youth and the wider community, the project will also create favorable conditions for long-term economic activities, on which other development and state actors can build.

Our partnership approach is key to our exit and sustainability strategy: Alongside project implementation, we will strengthen our partners' organisational and programmatic capacity, support them in documenting the outcomes of their peacebuilding and MHPSS work under this project and link them with national policy makers, donors and UN agencies in CAR to share lessons learnt. Throughout the project we will develop practical resources (e.g. training modules, step-by-step dialogue facilitation guides) which our partners can use beyond the project. As partners benefit from increased national and international visibility and develop specialised skills in implementing an integrated MHPSS-peacebuilding approach, they will be able to continue work in their community and will be better positioned to independently attract funding for such initiatives in the long-term.

Throughout its lifetime, the project will create visibility for integrated MHPSS-peacebuilding programmes in CAR and advocate for a continuation and scale-up of the approach, including through the publication of the learning report. We will also create visibility for youth's role in peacebuilding in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro and use success stories and lessons learnt to advocate for other actors (civil society, the Government, UN agencies, international donors) to support the next phase of the long-term reconciliation process in these two localities, in line with PBF's vision for catalytic programming.

- IV. Project budget** Provide brief additional information on projects costs, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. Proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out **Annex A.2** on project value for money.

We have developed a detailed and realistic budget and work plan for the project - based on previous experience of similar activities in this context - greatly enhancing our ability to deliver the project efficiently. The consortium's long-standing experience of working in CAR means we are familiar with local prices and suppliers and can ensure appropriate pricing. We also thoroughly understand the needs and context specific challenges, which have been factored into this project design and budget development to ensure we achieve the best results with the available financial resources.

Staff costs of the lead organisation DCA related to the project represent 19.15% of the total budget. These project personnel costs have been calculated based on the human resources required to deliver a complex, innovative and integrated MHPSS and peacebuilding project in two locations heavily affected by conflict in CAR. The project breaks ground in CAR, exploring linkages between MHPSS and peacebuilding and building on community's understanding of trauma and MHPSS, which has received little attention in CAR. It also takes a robustly gendered approach to ensuring young people's uptake of MHPSS and inclusion in peacebuilding. Delivering such a complex project in a conflict-sensitive manner requires a specialised and experienced project team. The budget therefore includes the following technical personnel of the lead organisation DCA, proportional to the time they will spend on the delivery of the project: DCA Project Manager (100%), MHPSS specialist (100%), 4

social workers (100%), Head of Programmes (33%), and the MEAL Officer (100%). This team of MHPSS and peacebuilding programme specialists will be supported by a small support team, including the DCA Country Director (6%), the DCA Head of Finance (6%) and Finance Officer (11%), The Programme Logistics Manager (6%), and the Technical Humanitarian Adviser (6%)

The staffing budget is further explained through our long-term partnership approach. Investing in the capacities of local civil society organisations is key to building sustainability and local ownership for peacebuilding. In addition to building our partners capacities to deliver integrated MHPSS-peacebuilding programmes, we therefore place particular emphasis on supporting their organisational development. This approach requires robust and continuous support from the technical staff specialised in peacebuilding, MHPSS and MEAL as well as the support team (Finance, Admin, Security and Compliance etc.).

To maximise Value For Money of staff we follow a rigorous recruitment process; have processes for performance management and professional development so staff skills are maximised; and have a clear salary grading and remuneration policy, which is benchmarked against sector averages. For acquiring goods and services, DCA and partners follow a clear procurement policy that takes into account the 4 E's (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity) and outlines clear steps to ensure we acquire goods and services of the right quality and best price.

Further information about the project's Value for Money approach can be found in Annex A.2 below. The project budget can be found in Annex D.

The fund transfers will be requested in three installments, in line with PBF's standard approach: 35% (first installment), 35% (second installment) and 30% (third installment).

NCE Request justification (July 10th, 2023)

DCA had to reevaluate its budget to ensure the cost related to the transport remain acceptable regarding the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the fuel prices in CAR. The initial plan was to contract a car rental company (approximately 40,000 USD for 18 months) to facilitate the movements of the project team in Sibut and Kaga-Bandoro. With the persistent fuel shortages, the car rental priced were tripled, reaching 127,000 USD for the total period (without the cost for a driver or the car maintenance).

After consultation with the PBF Secretariat in CAR, the budget was reviewed and adjusted in order to facilitate the acquisition of **one** car to support the implementation of the project in Sibut and Kaga-Bandoro. Even with this acquisition, the value for money was in favor of an acquisition (approx. 46,600 USD). It remained more cost effective than renting.

Below the clarification on the budget adjustment :

- **Increase in Line 3- Equipment, Vehicle from 15,800 USD to 73,760.15 USD:** As of today, the fuel crisis is still active: the prices doubled from 800 XAF to 1450 XAF per liter. DCA re-evaluated the value for money regarding costs of renting cars and concluded that buying a car would be more efficient, less costly and more sustainable. The amount of per diem money for a driver and the car maintenance fees were becoming too costly. Moreover, the car would be used in future projects in case future projects are funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
- **Decrease in Line 4-Contractual Services from 119,697.20 USD to 85,499.52 USD.** This section has been reduced since the fund used to purchase the project vehicle that was not planned in the initial budget was re-allocated from line 4 to line 3
- **Decrease in Line 5 -Travel from 29,949,46 to 8,131,03 USD** reallocating funds which were

initially designed to cover emergency evacuation transport costs (i.e renting vehicle for project beneficiaries with severe mental disorders from the field to Bangui) to activities 1.1.8 Referral to specialist services and 1.1.3 Capacity building of local partner organisations. As our partners who are field based, have the expertise to support on these activities and other actors in the referral pathways are already providing emergency evacuation even if our beneficiaries were in need, the allocated budget for transportation/travel for this is no longer needed.

- **Increase in Line 1. Staff and other personnel :** The salary of the driver to be hired by DCA has been added.
- **Increase in Line Transfers and Grants to Counterparts:** The budget for the implementing partners has slightly increased since DCA re-evaluated the possibilities of partners to conduct more activities on the field in relation to the organizational approach which is partner based. Furthermore, implementing partners formulated the wish to be given more responsibilities in the project and it is in the ambition of DCA to advance localization process by having local partners leading the implementing process of activities.

NCE Request justification (January 2nd , 2023)

This 3 month no cost extension is to allow UNPBF to proceed with the final payment to DCA. There is no change to activities (already completed) nor to the budget

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

		Comment	
		Yes	No
Planning			
Question	Yes	No	Comment
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	Yes		As stated in the sections above, DCA is the direct recipient and convening organisation. Other implementing partners are Conciliation Resources (international NGO), Fondation Vegas des Jeunes pour le Développement (national NGO) and Vision Enfant République Centrafricaine (national NGO). The first round of due diligence for VERCA and Fondation Vegas des Jeunes pour le développement was undertaken in May 2021. A follow up two way (DCA/CR) joint assessment will be completed after the award of the project.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	Yes		Most of the key staff are already in post. The TOR for the Project Manager and MHPSS Specialist and the social workers are finalised and ready for advertisement. The TORs are attached to the submission.
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	Yes		Project sites were identified as part of the concept development process in May 2021 and confirmed during Focus Group Discussions with partners and young people.
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.	Yes		In May 2021 as part of the concept note development process, young people and their communities, Government officials (sub-prefectoral, prefectural and national level) were consulted. In addition, DCA and partners have experience of working with and existing relationships with targeted communities and government officials. This project will build on these existing working relationships. Furthermore, DCA has existing contracts with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Health as well as the district hospital in Sibut and l'Hôpital d'amitié in Bangui for reference and case management. These existing partnerships will be instrumental for the delivery of the project. In addition, the project inception phase will include interactive sessions with communities and government officials (at national, prefecture and sub-prefecture) where the

			project team will re-explain the objectives of the project, timeline, budgets, roles of different stakeholders, and expected outcomes.
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?	Yes		DCA and partners have an in-depth understanding of the project locations and actors at the community, sub-prefectural, prefectural and national levels. In addition, all partners are well networked in the humanitarian community in Bangui, Sibut and Kaga Bandoro. This project was designed based on the lessons learnt (including through previous Outcome Harvesting processes) from previous projects in the areas as well as projects implemented by consortium members, including the PBF-funded <i>Alternatives to Violence</i> project. The only task remaining is to further develop the MEAL plan by revisiting the Theory of Change, agree on common monitoring templates, timeframes and data collection tools and assess training needs of all teams involved in data collection and analysis. This will be done in month 1 and 2 of the project.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	Yes		As detailed in the project document, project participants will be selected based on predefined selection criteria.
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	Yes		The selection of the project has been guided by discussions with communities, youth and local authorities. Because of the evolving context in Sibut and Kaga Bandoro, it is possible that the selections of the target communes within the Sibut and Kaga-Bandoro sub-prefectures may change during the project inception phase. This is mainly because of the dynamics posed by the return of IPDs to Sibut from Kaga Bandoro, especially Muslims IDPs. We will continue consultations with young people, their communities and local authorities during the inception phase to finalise the list of project sites.
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	Yes		The project implementation approach has been jointly designed and discussed in detail by consortium members. Please refer to the 'intervention strategy' and 'project management and coordination' sections of the project document.

<p>9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The standard preparatory activities, which will be implemented during the project inception period, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signature of the contract between DCA and PBF and subsequent signature of contracts between DCA and the implementing partners - Project inception workshop and project presentations in the project localities (including briefing of government officials at the local, sub-prefectural, prefectural and national level) - Briefing the clusters (protection cluster, Social cohesion subclusters, FSL cluster) on the project and details of actors, sites, expected outcomes, etc - Recruitment of Project Manager and MHPSS specialist - Setting up project/grant management tools- including budget codes, monitoring indicator - Development of communication materials - in print and for the websites - translated into multiple languages (Sango, French, English) - Finalisation of selection criteria for youth participants in the project - Finalising other project materials including the MEAL framework, monitoring tools, reporting templates and work plan - Training of partners on the project's MHPSS and peacebuilding approach <p>These preparatory activities take between 2 and 3 months.</p>
Gender		
<p>10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The draft proposal was shared with the UN Women team in CAR on 23 September 2021.</p>

11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	Yes	In Sibut and Kaga Bandoro, DCA and partners held extensive consultative meetings with youth-led and youth-focussed national organizations with expertise in MHPSS, peacebuilding, and youth engagement. Focus groups discussions were also held with female youth (for example women from the Muslim IDP community) and male youth. The youth consulted were from the informal sector, IDPs and host communities in both Kaga Bandoro and Sibut.
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	Yes	Yes, all indicators are disaggregated by gender
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	Yes	Yes, the budget includes allocations for GEWE for all activities.

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	Yes		<p>Yes, a detailed narrative budget justification can be found in section IV. (Project budget).</p> <p>DCA and CR recognise that strong value for money (VfM) must be integrated throughout organisational policies and procedures, as well as all aspects of this project. The largest cost driver is staff time and expertise. To maximise VfM of staff we follow a rigorous recruitment process; have processes for performance management and professional development so staff skills are maximised; and have a clear salary grading and remuneration policy, which is benchmarked against sector averages. For acquiring goods and services, DCA and partners follow a clear procurement policy that takes into account of the 4 E's (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity) and outlines clear steps to ensure we acquire goods and services of the right quality and best price.</p> <p>We also seek out cost savings that can be made through combining resources - for instance, will plan travels well in advance and organise activities that meet</p>

		<p>multiple objectives during field visit. Our Finance Handbook sets out best practice and guidelines on budgeting, expenditure authorisation, staff expenses and accounting for all staff. All expenditure is accompanied by supporting documentation, preferably an original receipt. All expenditure is signed off by more than one staff member to ensure accountability and transparency. Our finance team is responsible for monitoring expenditure against project budget lines, including unit costs. This verification of expenditure allows us to regularly monitor costs and how partners and staff are meeting our financial management standards.</p>
<p>2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The unit cost for all cost areas in the project is based on actual expenses/ cost of items in the project locations. The costs are equivalent to what DCA and CR pay for the same cost types in other projects (funded by a range of donors including the British Government, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Sida, the International Criminal Court (ICC), ECHO, the European Union, DANIDA or UNICEF). Our long-standing experience of working combined in CAR means we are familiar with local prices and suppliers so can ensure appropriate pricing. We also thoroughly understand the needs and context specific challenges, which have been factored into this project design to ensure we achieve the best results for every dollar spent.</p> <p>The unit costs (for example transport costs to events) are similar to what INGOs working in Kaga Bandoro and Sibut have agreed to pay as the standard rates. We also compare unit costs with a range of suppliers before any procurement is done, following DCA and partner's policies.</p>
<p>3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposed project is well aligned with DCA and partner's strategic plan, meaning it is consistent with our other work, expertise and staffing profile, areas that we can effectively budget for, significantly enhancing our ability to deliver it efficiently. The project outcomes and outputs have been carefully</p>

			<p>costed to ensure that there is a match between expected outcomes and available budget. Each output has been carefully costed, matching the ambitions in the project outcomes with available budget. In particular DCA has been working in the project area (Sibut and Kaga Bandor) for over 3 years in the area of MHPSS, livelihoods and humanitarian response/ emergency responses. Conciliation Resources has worked in CAR for over 10 years supporting peacebuilding interventions. The combined experience of both organisations give us a very good understanding of what it takes to deliver the proposed outcomes in CAR.</p>
<p>4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?</p>	Yes		<p>The percentage of staffing and operational costs by DCA and partners is clearly visible and is reasonable as detailed in Section IV (Project budget) of this proposal. Staff costs of DCA related to the project represent 19.15% of the total budget.</p> <p>The personnel budget allocations are justified by the complexity of an integrated MHPSS-peacebuilding project in a highly volatile context such as CAR and our long-term partnership approach. CAR is furthermore a high-cost country to deliver services and peacebuilding programmes. Most systems are manual, internet access is limited and project areas are hard to reach. As a consequence, it takes more staff time to deliver a project in CAR compared to other countries in the region.</p> <p>To ensure transparency, we have clearly indicated the staff that will be directly involved in the delivery of the project and support staff. All staff employed by the project are clearly indicated and justified.</p>
<p>5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than</p>	Yes		<p>The project seeks to work with local staff and local partner organisations wherever possible. However, in the CAR, it is difficult to get staff with experience in different domains, especially MHPSS and peacebuilding.</p>

<p>international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?</p>			<p>Because of this gap, DCA has a standing agreement with the Government of CAR, allowing the organisation to hire certain experts from neighboring countries on a local contract to supplement the existing capacity. This to ensure quality implementation but also capacity building of national staff.</p> <p>In this project, the non-local staff of the lead organisation DCA that will be directly involved in project delivery are : a Project Manager, working 100%; b) the MPHSS specialist -100% and c) the Head of Programs-33%.</p>
<p>6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes, the project purchased a vehicle exceeding 15% of the budget. To ensure value for money, the procurement process includes rigorous cost analysis, competitive bidding, and transparent supplier selection. Additionally, maintenance plans with the supplier CFAO and sustainable use strategies are being implemented to guarantee the longevity and effective utilization of the vehicle for future peacebuilding projects even after the project concludes.</p>
<p>7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.</p> <p>8.</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes, the project purchased a vehicle exceeding 15% of the budget. To ensure value for money, the procurement process includes rigorous cost analysis, competitive bidding, and transparent supplier selection. Additionally, maintenance plans with the supplier CFAO and sustainable use strategies are being implemented to guarantee the longevity and effective utilization of the vehicle for future peacebuilding projects even after the project concludes.</p>
<p>9. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.</p>		<p>No</p>	<p>No non-PBF funding is planned in this project</p>

Annex B.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

AA Functions

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
30 April	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</i>	

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent's website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Annex B.2: Project Administrative arrangements for Non-UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each recipient in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

Reporting:

Each Receipt will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in

		consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reports and timeline

Timeline	Event
28 February	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
30 April	Report Q1 expenses (January to March)
31 July	Report Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Report Q3 expenses (January to September)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</i>	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to been refunded and a notification sent to the Administrative Agent, no later than three months (31 March) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the Recipient Non-UN Recipient Organization will be determined in accordance with applicable policies and procedures defined by the PBSO.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly

disclosed on the PBF website (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

An independent project audit will be requested by the end of the project. The audit report needs to be attached to the final narrative project report. The cost of such activity must be included in the project budget.

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds directly, NUNOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its agent, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Prior to submitting a finalized project document, it is the responsibility of each NUNO to liaise with PBSO and MPTFO and provide all the necessary documents (see below) to demonstrate that all the criteria have been fulfilled and to be declared as eligible for direct PBF funds.

The NUNO must provide (in a timely fashion, ensuring PBSO and MPTFO have sufficient time to review the package) the documentation demonstrating that the NUNO:

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (NOTE: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.

- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (NOTE: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.¹⁷
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

¹⁷ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

Annex C: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated targets)

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
<p>Outcome 1: Conflict-affected youth, particularly those in the informal economy, are able to address their MHPSS needs and supported by local authorities and communities to take steps towards breaking cycles of fear and revenge</p>		<p>Outcome Indicator 1a</p> <p>% of project beneficiaries reporting improved psychological wellbeing (disaggregated by gender and location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> TBD</p> <p>Target: 70% project beneficiaries in both Kaga bandoro and Sibut (among which at least 50% are female) report improved positive psychological wellbeing.</p>	<p>1) Participants surveys at the beginning and end of the project</p> <p>2) Case studies from youth and community members</p> <p>3) Activity reports</p> <p>4) Reports from MHPSS specialists, compassionate support networks, and from the referral system.</p>	<p>By 6 months at least 50% of the targeted youth would have started to receive received MHPSS</p> <p>Within 12 months, 40% of the participants start self-reporting improved psychosocial well being</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 1b</p> <p>Number and description of case studies which describe young people who are experiencing less fear and/or a reduced desire for revenge after receiving MHPSS (disaggregated by gender and location)</p>	<p>1) Case studies written based on partner activity reports, outcomes collected with the outcome harvesting methodology, interviews with young people who have received MHPSS and</p>	<p>By 6 months at least 50% of the targeted youth would have started to receive received MHPSS</p> <p>By the end of the first year, at least 560 young people will have had the opportunity to discuss their experiences with other</p>

<p>peers in informal group settings (e.g. IGAs, VSLAs or dialogue spaces).</p>	<p>focus group discussions)</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 10 testimonies (5 testimonies in Sibut and 5 in Kaga-bandoro) in which young people report experiencing less fear and/or reduced desire for revenge after receiving MHPSS (among which at least 5 testimonies from young women)</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1c</p> <p>Number of local authorities and community leaders supporting young people, particularly those facing socio-cultural barriers to access MHPSS (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Our initial analysis shows that young people's access to MHPSS is determined by gendered norms. Local leaders and communities view young people, especially young men as community protectors and defenders. They do not acknowledge that male youth should seek MHPSS support or show emotions in public. Although male youth, like their female counterparts, have</p>
<p>Within 9 months, at least 24 authorities and community leaders will have attended dialogues discussing gendered barriers to young people's access to MHPSS</p> <p>At the end of the first year, at least 10 local authorities start supporting young people to access MHPSS</p>	<p>1) Outcomes collected through diverse sources (including partner quarterly reports, interviews with youth and community leaders, and reports from youth networks) and analysed using the Outcome Harvesting methodology.</p>	

	<p>Output 1.1 :Young people have access to psychosocial support</p>	<p>important MHPSS needs, they often do not seek this support, even where services may exist. Local authorities and community members play a central role in enforcing gender norms.</p> <p><u>Target</u>: At least 16 local authorities and community leaders (8 in Sibut and 8 in Kaga-bandoro) supporting young people, particularly those facing socio-cultural barriers to access MHPSS</p>		
	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.1 Number of community-based psychosocial counsellors trained in MHPSS (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Target</u>: 16 Community Psychosocial counsellors (55% male, 45% female). 8 in Sibut and Kaga-Bandoro.</p>		<p>1) Participant lists 2) Training report 3) Weekly reports from the community counsellors 4) Photos of activities</p>	<p>Within the first 9 months of the project, 100% of the community based psychosocial counsellors have been trained.</p>
	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.2 Number of young people attending cognitive behaviors trauma therapy and</p>		<p>1) Activity reports 2) Attendance records 3) Photos</p>	<p>After 4 months, formal counselling centres have been created and are operational.</p>

		<p>psychosocial counselling (individual and group sessions) (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 650 young people (including at least 50% female) attend cognitive behaviors trauma therapy and psychosocial counselling sessions. Out of 650 youth, 325 youth will be from Sibut and 325 from Kaga-bandoro.</p>	<p>3) Testimonies from young people attending the cognitive behaviors trauma therapy and psychosocial counselling and training sessions</p>	<p>After 10 months, at least 500 young people have ongoing access to cognitive behavior trauma therapy and counselling (individual or group)</p>
	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.3 Number of youth with the most severe mental disorder identified and referred to specialist services (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 25 young people with the most severe mental disorders identified and referred to specialist services.</p>	<p>1) Reports of the MHPSS specialist 2) Quarterly reports from partners and community-based psychosocial counsellors</p>	<p>Within six months of the project, the community based psychosocial counsellors and members of the compassionate support network have developed a checklist to identify individuals with severe mental health disorders.</p> <p>Within 12 months, at least 10 young people with the most severe mental disorders have been identified and referred to specialist services.</p>	

		<p>Output Indicator 1.1.4: Number of local partner staff trained on organizational development-specific topics which include organizational development, project management, gender sensitive programming and peacebuilding skills, MHPSS and the link between MHPSS and peacebuilding (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 8 staff members of VERCA (Kaga -bandoro) and 8 staff members of FVDJ (Sibut).</p>	<p>1) Training reports 2) Participant's list 3) Training terms of reference/ module 4) Action plan developed after training</p>	<p>Within six months, all members of the project team at the two local partner staff have received training on gender-sensitive conflict analysis, peacebuilding, MHPSS, financial management, monitoring and evaluation as well as other organisational development areas as needed, enabling them to manage and implement integrated MHPSS-peacebuilding programmes with support from DanChurchAid and Conciliation Resources.</p>
<p>Output 1.2: Young people dealing with trauma are linked to community support groups, including through gender-responsive income-generating activities</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of young people's business ideas funded and start entrepreneurship (Disaggregated by location).</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 32 business ideas funded throughout the project's lifetime (Approximately 16 ideas funded in Sibut and 16 in Kaga-bandoro)</p>	<p>1) Young people's business proposals 2) Activity reports 3) Partner reports 4) List of distribution of IGA and VSLA kits</p>	<p>After the first 9 months, 320 young people are trained on business management and financial literacy.</p> <p>Within 12 months, at least 50% of the business ideas are funded.</p>	

		<p>Output Indicator 1.2.2: Number of youth that complete the training on VSLA methodology (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 320 youth complete the training on VSLA methodology (including at least 50% women). Approximately 160 youth in Sibut and 160 in Kaga-bandoro)</p>	<p>1) Attendance sheet 2) Training reports</p>	<p>Within 9 months, at least 160 young people will be trained on the VSLA methodology.</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.2.3: Percentage of surveyed young people who express that they feel “somewhat comfortable”, “comfortable” or “very comfortable” talking to their peers about mental health issues. (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> TBC</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40% surveyed young people in both Sibut and Kaga-bandoro (of which at least 50% female) who express that they feel “somewhat comfortable”, “comfortable” or “very comfortable” talking to their</p>		

	<p>Output 1.3: Young people and their families have a better understanding about gendered needs of and barriers to psychosocial support (incl. stigma and masculinities) and find ways to address them</p>	<p>peers about mental health issues. (disaggregated by gender)</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.3.1</p> <p>Number and description of practical examples of gendered needs and barriers to MHPSS identified by young people and their families (disaggregated by location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 10 practical examples (5 in Sibut and 5 in Kaga-bandoro) of gendered needs and barriers to MHPSS identified by young people and their families</p>	<p>1) One-to-one interviews with young people and family members</p> <p>2) Case studies on young people's pathways for change in the project</p> <p>3) DCA, CR and partner activity reports on dialogue meetings held with young people and their families</p> <p>4) Outcomes collected as part of the Outcome harvesting methodology</p>	<p>Within 8 months, young people, and family members will have attended dialogue sessions discussing gendered barriers to MHPSS.</p> <p>By month 12, there will be at least five examples of gendered barriers to MHPSS support identified by young people and their families</p>
		<p>Output Indicator 1.3.2</p> <p>Number of young people and family members who attend the dialogues to discuss strategies to overcome gendered barriers to MHPSS (Disaggregated by gender and location)</p>	<p>1) Participant lists</p> <p>2) DCA, CR and partner activity reports</p> <p>3) Minutes from the dialogue meetings</p>	<p>By month 9, 300 young people and their families will have attended dialogue sessions to discuss strategies to overcome gendered barriers to MHPSS access</p>	

<p>Outcome 2: Young women and men, in particular those working in the informal economy who have access to MHPSS use their increased resilience and strengthened connection with their community to act as agents for peaceful change</p>		<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 500 young people and family members (of which at least 50% female) attend dialogues to discuss strategies to overcome gendered barriers to MHPSS. 250 young people in Sibut and 250 in Kaga-bandoro.</p>		<p>By month 12, there will be at least five examples of gendered barriers to MHPSS support identified by young people and their families</p>
		<p>Outcome Indicator 2a</p> <p>Percentage of young people trained who feel “confident” (level 4) or “very confident” (level 5) about their role as peacebuilders eight months after the training. (disaggregated by gender and Location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Young people in CAR are traditionally excluded from peacebuilding processes at all levels. These are seen as the preserve of elders, with young people at best reduced to the role of observers. As a result of this long-standing exclusion, most young people – especially those at the margins of society – struggle to envisage an active</p>	<p>1) Tracer study carried out 8 months after the training</p>	<p>After 6 months, young people will have received a series of conflict analysis and peacebuilding training. The trainings will provide them with skills and knowledge about conflict analysis, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The trainings will also explore young people’s role in peacebuilding with a view of strengthening the self-confidence of targeted youth about their own potential and role in peacebuilding.</p> <p>After 8 months young people will start carrying out</p>

<p>peacebuilding role for themselves. The exact level of confidence of target youth will be determined during the project's baseline study.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 60% of trained youth in both Sibut and Kaga-bandoro (of whom at least 50% women) who feel "confident" (level 4) or "very confident" (level 5) about their role as peacebuilders eight months after the training.</p>	<p>their own small peacebuilding activities with support from the project team.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 2b: Percentage of trained youth who believe dialogue is an effective way to resolve tensions and conflict, disaggregated by gender and location</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> TBC during the project baseline study.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 70% of trained youth in both Sibut and Kaga-bandoro (of whom at least 50% are female) believe that dialogue is an effective way to resolve tensions and conflict.</p>	<p>1) Tracer study carried out 8 months after the training</p> <p>After 6 months, young people will have received training, allowing them to understand the role of dialogue in conflict resolution and peacebuilding</p> <p>After 12 months, young people will have practically experienced through their own peace initiatives how dialogue can be used to resolve conflict and ease tensions.</p>

<p>Outcome Indicator 2c: Number and description of testimonies of young people which demonstrate a positive link between MHPSS and young people's ability to engage in peacebuilding disaggregated by gender and location</p> <p>Baseline: Our preliminary analysis shows that the positive link between peacebuilding and MHPSS is currently not fully understood in CAR. Our listening exercise with young people and communities will help us to better explore their current understanding of existing understanding between MHPSS, conflict and peace. This will help us to further understand the baseline value, based on which any M&E data for this indicator will be analysed.</p> <p>Target: At least 100 testimonies from targeted young people (among which at least 50% young women) collected about the positive link between MHPSS and peacebuilding. Approximately 50 testimonies from Sibut and 50 from Kaga-bandoro.</p>	<p>1) Interviews and group discussions with young people 2) Tracer study carried out 8 months after the training</p>	<p>By 6 months at least 50% of the targeted youth would have started to receive received MHPSS</p> <p>After 8 months, young people who also have access to MHPSS will have launched their own peace initiatives</p> <p>After 8 months, young people will be supported to reflect on their experience of working on peacebuilding, while also accessing MHPSS</p> <p>After 14 months, young people will be able to start seeing some outcomes of their peacebuilding work in the communities and link it to their own experiences of accessing MHPSS</p>
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	<p>Output 2.1: Young people who have access to MHPSS have increased capacities, knowledge, confidence and commitment to deal peacefully with conflict</p>	<p><u>Output Indicator 2.1.1:</u> Percentage of young people trained that rate their knowledge and skills as "good" (level 4) or "excellent" (level 5) immediately after the training. (disaggregated by training event , gender and location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> To be determined in the project baseline study.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 60% of trained youth in Sibut and Kaga-bandoro (of whom at least 50% women) rate their knowledge and skills as "good" (level 4) or "excellent" (level 5).</p>	<p>1) Pre- and post-training questionnaires 2) Interviews and group discussions with young people 3) Direct observations by the project team</p>	<p>After 6 months, young people will have received a series of conflict analysis and peacebuilding trainings in which they will be able to develop peacebuilding and dialogue skills.</p>
	<p><u>Output Indicator 2.1.2:</u> Examples demonstrating that the trained young people have applied the skills during the training in their communities (disaggregated by gender and location)</p>	<p>1) Interviews and group discussions with young people 2) Interviews and group discussions</p>	<p>After 6 months, young people will have received a series of conflict analysis and peacebuilding trainings in which they will be able to</p>	

	<p>Output 2.2: Young people who have access to MHPSS have the space to implement peace initiatives at the local level on issues that they identify</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 50 examples (25 from Sibut and 25 from Kaga-bandoro) demonstrating that trained young people are applying their skills in their communities, including at least 20 examples of young women.</p>	<p>with other community members and local authorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Direct observations by the project team 4) Monthly narrative partner reports 5) Case stories 6) Tracer study carried out 8 months after the training 	<p>develop peacebuilding and dialogue skills.</p> <p>After 8 months young people will start carrying out their own small peacebuilding activities with support from the project team.</p> <p>After 14 months, targeted youth will carry out their own peacebuilding activities with decreasing support from the project team.</p>
	<p><u>Output Indicator 2.2.1:</u> Number of conflict issues, reflecting the needs, concerns, insights and experiences of young men and women identified by young people within the lifetime of the project, disaggregated by type of conflict and location.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 8 conflict issues (4 in Sibut and 4 in Kaga-bandoro) identified by young people within the lifetime of the project.</p>	<p>1) Activity report of the participatory youth conflict analysis sessions</p> <p>2) Action plans developed by young people</p> <p>3) Partner narrative reports</p>	<p>After 6 months, young people will have carried out their own conflict analysis with support from the project team.</p>	

		<p><u>Output Indicator 2.2.2:</u> Number and description of peace initiatives carried out by young people who have access to MHPSS (Disaggregated by location)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> The project specifically targets young people in need of MHPSS who do not yet see a role for themselves in peacebuilding. As a result, they will have little to no experience of engaging in peacebuilding.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 16 peace initiatives , including at least 6 initiatives which are led by young women, carried out by the young people trained through the project.(8 initiatives in Sibut and 8 in Kaga-bandoro)</p>	<p>1) Oral and written reports from young people</p> <p>2) Monthly narrative partner reports</p> <p>3) Interviews and group discussions with young people</p> <p>4) Direct observations by the project team</p>	<p>After 6 months, young people will have carried out their own conflict analysis with support from the project team. Based on this analysis, they will identify priority conflict issues.</p> <p>After 8 months, young people targeted have been awarded Youth peace grants to enable them to launch their own peace initiatives.</p>
	<p><u>Output Indicator 2.2.3:</u> Number of people reached through the young people's peace initiatives, disaggregated by gender and Location</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 600 people (including at least 50% women) reached through the young</p>	<p>1) Oral and written reports from young people</p> <p>2) Attendance records from activities implemented by young people</p>	<p>After 8 months, young people awarded the Youth peace grants have started to launch their own peace initiatives</p> <p>After 12 months, young people's peace initiatives have reached at least 400 people.</p>	

	<p>Output 2.3: Local authorities, community leaders and the wider community have an increased awareness of young people's engagement for peace in the community and the importance of MPHSS to foster this</p>	<p>people's peace initiatives. (300 youth in Sibut and 300 in Kaga-bandoro)</p> <p><u>Output Indicator 2.3.1: Number of visibility and communication activities carried out by young people about their peace initiatives, including the importance of MPHSS (Disaggregated by location)</u> <u>Baseline: 0</u></p> <p><u>Target: At least 16 visibility and communication activities carried out by young people. (8 sessions in Sibut and 8 in Kaga-bandoro)</u></p> <p><u>Output Indicator 2.3.2: Number of local authorities and community members who report awareness of and/or engagement in the peace initiatives led by young people (disaggregated by gender; role in the community and location)</u> <u>Baseline: 0</u></p>	<p>3) Monthly narrative partner reports 4) Monitoring trips</p> <p>1) Oral and written reports from young people 2) Attendance records from activities implemented by young people 3) Monthly narrative partner reports 4) Monitoring trips</p> <p>1) Interviews and group discussions with other community members and local authorities 2) Oral and written reports from young people</p>	<p>After 12 months, young people have carried out at least 8 visibility and communication activities.</p> <p>After 12 months, young people's peace initiatives have reached at least 400 people from the community.</p>
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