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CAR Sustainable Development Fund (Emai Fund)

Annual Report 2025



Financial Partners



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This report was prepared by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in the Central African Republic (CAR), which serves as the Secretariat of the CAR Sustainable Development Fund (Emai Fund).

Photos: RCO / UN agencies in CAR.

Disclaimer: *The CAR Sustainable Development Fund (Emai Fund) was officially launched in September 2025. As such, this Annual Report covers a limited reporting period through December 2025. It focuses primarily on the Fund's positioning, early resource mobilization efforts, and initial steps toward operationalization.*

I. Introduction

The CAR Sustainable Development Fund (Emai Fund) is the first country-level pooled fund dedicated to development in the Central African Republic (CAR), established jointly by the Government and the UN. Administered by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), it supports the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2024–2028 and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2029, with a target to mobilize USD 120 million by 2027 to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Fund aims to address key structural constraints in the financing landscape, including fragmentation, short-term and project-based funding, limited predictability, and weak alignment with national systems. It provides a unified platform for joint UN programming aligned with national priorities, while reinforcing Government leadership in planning and coordination. By pooling resources and supporting multi-agency interventions, it enables a shift from isolated projects to integrated programmes addressing the drivers of fragility and vulnerability.

A defining feature of the Fund is its ability to link humanitarian, development, and peace interventions within a single framework. It supports integrated programming that addresses immediate needs while strengthening resilience and contributing to longer-term transformation, including through durable solutions, social cohesion, economic recovery, and access to basic services. The Fund also strengthens coordination across the UN system by anchoring programming in inter-agency mechanisms such as the Programme Management Team (PMT) and Results Groups, and aligning interventions with shared results frameworks. This enhances coherence, reduces duplication, and improves the efficiency of resource use. Positioned as a strategic financing instrument, the Emai Fund mobilizes and aligns resources from a range of partners, including bilateral donors and international financial institutions. It provides a structured entry point for coordinated, large-scale interventions and supports the leveraging of additional financing to maximize impact.

II. Launch and capitalization

In 2025, the Emai Fund was positioned and launched as a central instrument within the national development financing architecture. Following consultations with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, line ministries, UN entities, and partners, its strategic orientation, governance structure, and operational modalities were finalized. The Fund was also presented to Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) donors during a visit to CAR in March 2025, highlighting complementarity between instruments and its role in channeling peacebuilding financing through a broader development platform.

The Fund was officially launched in September 2025 on the margins of the NDP Investment



Conference in Casablanca, chaired by the Prime Minister in the presence of technical and financial partners. The conference mobilized approximately USD 9.6 billion in pledges toward the NDP, with the Emai Fund positioned as a mechanism to support the operationalization of these commitments through coordinated UN programming. Initial resource mobilization secured USD 6.2 million, including USD 5 million from the PBF

and USD 1.2 million from Switzerland, which acted as early champions. The PBF contribution is fully earmarked and follows a “feeder fund” approach, allocating resources to projects already approved by the PBF Steering Committee. This modality reinforces national ownership and strengthens the coordination role of the Resident Coordinator in implementation, monitoring, and alignment.



Engagement at the global level continued with a high-level roundtable in New York in December 2025, co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Morocco, CAR, and Switzerland. The event brought together Member States and partners, strengthened visibility, and positioned the Fund as a

credible instrument for coordinated development support. Bilateral outreach with partners – including Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the European Union – further supported awareness-building and explored potential contributions.

III. Joint programming and pipeline development

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in developing a pipeline of joint programmes to be financed through the Emai Fund. The UN Country Team (UNCT), working through, PMT, Results Groups and other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, identified priority interventions aligned with UNSDCF outcomes, NDP priorities, and SDG accelerators.

The pipeline focuses on key areas including peaceful and prosperous transhumance, social protection and access to basic services, food systems, local development and community-

level infrastructure, and climate action through the sustainable management of natural resources. These interventions aim to address structural drivers of fragility while supporting recovery and resilience at the community level, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Programme design emphasized joint approaches, with multiple UN entities contributing to shared results frameworks. Interventions are structured around clear theories of change, with defined outputs, outcomes, and monitoring indicators. Cross-cutting priorities, including gender equality, youth inclusion, and conflict sensitivity, are systematically integrated.

This pipeline provides the basis for initial allocation cycles and demonstrates the Fund's operational readiness. Consultations with Government counterparts, local authorities, and communities have also been strengthened to ensure that programme design remains grounded in national and local priorities, reinforcing ownership and improving targeting.

IV. Perspectives

Looking ahead to 2026, priorities will focus on three strategic areas:

- 1. Resource mobilization and strategic positioning:** Efforts will focus on expanding and diversifying the Fund's resource base through sustained engagement at country and global levels. This will include targeted outreach to key donor hubs, including Yaoundé, as well as missions to selected capitals to broaden the contributor base, secure additional champions, and further position the Emai Fund as a practical mechanism to support the materialization of commitments made during the NDP Investment Conference in Casablanca.
- 2. Operationalization and scale-up of joint programmes:** Priority will be given to operationalizing and scaling up the pipeline of joint programmes by strengthening prioritization, sequencing, and implementation readiness. This will include refining programme design, ensuring alignment with national priorities, and enhancing delivery modalities to translate the pipeline into tangible results.
- 3. Coherence, complementarity and system-wide integration:** The Fund's role within the broader coordination architecture will be consolidated by strengthening complementarity across funding instruments, including the PBF and other UN-managed mechanisms. Efforts will focus on enhancing coordination, and maximizing synergies to reduce fragmentation and improve the strategic use of resources. The extension of the UNSDCF to 2029 provides an opportunity to further align financing with results, scale up delivery, and progressively expand the Fund's portfolio within a coherent, system-wide framework.