

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Central African Republic

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



The Central African Republic (CAR) remains a complex

emergency context characterized by difficult economic and political conditions. These include persistent insecurity; limited State authority and presence; weak capacity to provide basic public services; and extreme poverty. More than 2.8 million people are

dependent on humanitarian assistance. There are 740,000 internally displaced people and more than 650,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. The Government and armed groups signed the Political Agreements for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) in February 2019. Since then, there have been some improvements in the situation, but progress remains slow and the results fragile.

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IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

The humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus is at the centre of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF+), the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the recent Socioeconomic COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan. All include initiatives to strengthen resilience. The new Cooperation

Framework will be developed in 2022 and provide an opportunity to develop collective outcomes. To date, the HDP nexus has been anchored in: Information sharing and joint analysis, informing the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Common Country Analysis (CCA); complementarity between the HRP and

UNDAF+, with sequencing of activities and funding streams; programmatic linkages in the areas of durable solutions, emergency cash transfers and social protection schemes, and natural disaster preparedness and response; as well as area based planning for some of these programmes.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) is led by UNDP and UNHCR and reports to the DSRSG/HC/RC. The Social Protection Working Group (SPWG) reports to the UNCT and the HCT. At the local level, SSWG regional groups are facilitated in Bambari, Bangassou, Berberati, Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Paoua.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

A new CCA is being undertaken in 2021 in preparation for the development of the new Cooperation Framework in 2022. In 2019/20, humanitarian and development actors identified six criteria¹ on the basis of which, in addition to detailed analysis and multisectoral assessments, they prioritized the implementation of durable solutions activities in two geographical zones (Basse Kotto and Ouham Pende/Ouham).



3. 'Collective outcomes' or HDP priority areas

Currently there are no overarching collective outcomes, but a strategic thematic and programmatic approach has been adopted. Durable solutions priorities were agreed for the two geographical zones and will be reflected in a multi-sectoral action plan 2021-2023, with linkages to the National Recovery and Reconciliation Plan (RCPCA).



4. Joined-up planning and programming

Nexus programming is at the heart of the UNDAF+, the HRP and the more recent Socioeconomic COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan, which all include resilience-building initiatives. These tools were designed to be complementary and provide the basis for a sequenced approach. The nexus is also considered in the RCPCA and will feature strongly in the new Cooperation Framework.



5. Financing

Bilateral donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are collaborating in the areas of food insecurity, durable solutions, social protection as well as preparedness and response to climate change. Since 2019, programmatic collaboration between the Humanitarian Fund for CAR and the EU Bekou Trust Fund has noted a decrease in the number of people who need humanitarian assistance.

1. (i) Stabilizing areas; (ii) areas of return, local integration and resettlement; (iii) security and accessibility; (iv) identified needs requiring a multisectoral approach; (v) current and potential presence of actors/capacities; (vi) ongoing initiative to restore State authority.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



Participation of UN agencies in both the SPWG and the CASH Working Group, reporting to the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, respectively, creates complementarity between humanitarian and development cash assistance while respecting each actor's mandate and priorities.



Development of the SolDur information platform facilitates analysis and monitoring as well as promoting coordination between DSWG activities as well as with other initiatives in any given area.



OCHA's participation in the DSWG, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP under the overall supervision of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, has been critical. OCHA has supported the DSWG in several areas, particularly in the joint analysis of the situation in the two priority zones and facilitated the implementation of durable solutions in the south-eastern locality of Bangassou.



Integrated structures to prepare and respond to natural disasters: in 2020, the Ministry of Humanitarian Assistance and National Reconciliation formed a Technical Operational Committee in Bangui composed of concerned ministries, the General Directorate for Civil Protection (DGPC), the Central African Red Cross, technical services of Bangui city hall, MINUSCA Engineering Section, OCHA, and humanitarian and development actors. A series of preparedness measures (mapping of flood prone areas, aerial surveillance flights, rehabilitation of water collecting systems and water banks, post-disaster training of DGPC-CRCA volunteer) limited the impact of the 2020-2021 rainy season in Bangui.



CHALLENGES



Fragility of the security situation. Despite the progress achieved since 2016, the security context remains fragile. This constitutes one of the main threats to a sustainable socioeconomic recovery, including those linked to the HDP nexus. Hence the importance of the efforts under way to restore state authority throughout the country.



Limited national ownership for durable solutions and lack of clarity who the government lead or counterparts are for social protection.



Limited presence and capacity of decentralized Government services.



Resource mobilisation for durable solutions initiatives at the development end of the spectrum.



SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

As women comprise approximately 52 per cent of the population, all projects under development or implementation prioritize women's empowerment and the elimination of violence against women. A joint UN-EU-AU analysis of the CAR peace process from a gender perspective was finalized in end 2020 and is being presented to the Government. The Gender Profile and a Gender Analysis (2021) conducted as part of the CCA as well as the assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the Joint Regional Study (UNW-UNICEF-UN-HCHR) on the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 (2020) on the employment situation from a gender perspective (2021) will provide clear gender-disaggregated data relevant for nexus programming. A Gencap consultant reporting to the DSRSG/RC/HC, has been deployed since February 2021 to develop the road map on gender and work is well advanced.



SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

All the forums and consultations organized on the crisis and fragility in CAR (the Bangui forum of May 2015; the 2016 consultations for preparation of the RCPCA 2017-2021; and negotiations for the 2019 APPR) emphasized the weakness of State institutions and its challenges in responding to the population's priority needs. Hence the Government and its partners committed to invest in redeploying the territorial public administration, relaunching public services and restoring State authority, in parallel with local communities' recovery and socioeconomic resilience efforts, particularly in marginalized and remote regions most affected by the crisis.