

# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Central African Republic - Project brief 1

Social cohesion



PEACEBUILDING  
FUND

Communication and Advocacy for Social Cohesion

March 2025



### Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	June 2019
End Date:	June 2021

### Budget:

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,557,390</b>
UN Women	\$1,786,900
SFCG	\$1,026,840
UNFPA	\$743,650

### Implementing Agencies and Partners:

#### Agencies:

UN Women, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), UNFPA

#### Implementing Partners:

Tamboula NGO, EDEN NGO, URU NGO

### CONTEXT

The project operates in a context shaped by decades of political and military conflict in the Central African Republic, which have severely damaged the sociopolitical fabric and fostered deep feelings of exclusion, particularly among youth and women. Poor governance, the politicization of security forces, and weak institutions have further fueled marginalization, often leading to violence. Although the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) marked a significant step toward peace, its implementation has been hindered by the limited inclusion of women and youth in decision-making and a lack of local ownership of peace efforts. To address these challenges, the project focuses on promoting the APPR in Bangui, Bambari, Bangassou, and Paoua, aiming to strengthen communication and community engagement. By fostering greater public participation and awareness, the project seeks to build local support for the peace process and reduce the risk of renewed violence.

### OBJECTIVES

The project aims to promote lasting peace and create conditions conducive to sustainable development by strengthening the involvement of women and youth in peace and reconciliation efforts. **Its specific objectives are to:**

- Improve understanding of the content, implementation, and monitoring of the Peace Agreement and other recovery mechanisms in the Central African Republic (CAR).
- Enhance the participation of women and youth in the implementation and monitoring of the APPR and other recovery processes.

### KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

**Improved understanding of the APPR:** 74% of surveyed individuals reported a better understanding of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) due to the project's communication and awareness-raising activities.

**Strengthened media capacity and reduced misinformation:** Six community radios and the national radio were trained and equipped, leading to a significant decrease in hate speech (from 95% to 25%) and false information about the APPR (from 50% to 19%).

**Increased participation of women and youth in peace processes:** A total of 862 community leaders from women's and youth organizations were trained, resulting in a 23% increase in youth participation and an 18% rise in women's involvement in the implementation of the APPR.

**Youth engagement driving positive community impacts:** Young volunteers mediated local conflicts, raised awareness on disarmament among ex-combatants, and prevented youth recruitment into armed groups such as the CPC. Their activism also created leadership opportunities, leading to the election of two volunteers during the 2021-2022 elections—one as Deputy Representative of the 5th arrondissement and another as a member of the Economic and Social Council.

## CATALYTICS EFFECTS

### Financial:

- Fifteen income-generating activities were established, primarily in tailoring, agro-food processing, and carpentry. These activities generated average monthly incomes ranging from USD 150 to 300 per beneficiary, enhancing the economic resilience and financial independence of participating women and youth.
- The project successfully mobilized an additional USD 143,541 in funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and MINUSCA, further expanding its impact and reach.

### Non-financial:

- The inclusion of women's and youth organizations in APPR monitoring mechanisms has strengthened community participation and promoted more inclusive and representative governance, ensuring diverse voices are heard in the peace and reconciliation process.
- The project generated valuable knowledge on the APPR through participatory analyses, field evaluations, and volunteer feedback. These insights have been instrumental in guiding the implementation of several other APPR-related initiatives.
- Community radios that received material support through the project continue to play a vital role in the peace process. The advocacy efforts and partnerships established during the project enabled these radios to strengthen connections with women's and youth organizations, providing them with a platform to amplify their voices.

### Voices from the Field

*"The number of times staff had to be reprimanded or corrected for sharing false information or using inappropriate language decreased from an average of four times a day to almost none after the capacity-building sessions."*

**Director, Radio ESKA Bangui**

*"For the first time, a project in our community has specifically recruited, trained, and paid local youth and women to lead social cohesion and peacebuilding activities. Normally, staff are brought in from outside to address our issues, often without consulting us. However, this project was completely different."*

**Youth Volunteers from Paoua**

*"The Ouaka Local Peace Committee, based in the region that includes Bambari, has seven members, three of whom are women. In my opinion, women have played a crucial role in restoring peace in Bambari. They are highly active and now speak about peace even more effectively than men, excelling in managing community affairs. Their participation in meetings has motivated men to recognize their contributions and make space for women to take leadership roles in promoting lasting peace. We place great emphasis on involving women and youth in mediation and awareness-raising activities and are proud to see women stepping forward to advocate for peace. After peace, development must follow. As President of the Bambari Local Peace and Reconciliation Committee, I am grateful to the PBF and other partners who have supported these achievements."*

**Pastor Jeannot, President of the Bambari Local Peace and Reconciliation Committee**