

# The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund

## Central African Republic - Project brief 10

### Durable solutions

Enhance social cohesion and mitigate tensions between returnees and host communities by improving access to identity documents, livelihoods, and transitional justice mechanisms

March 2025



PEACEBUILDING  
FUND



### Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	July 2023
End Date:	July 2025

### Budget:

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,990,000</b>
IOM	\$1,850,000
UNHCR	\$1,140,000

### Implementing Agencies and Partners:

#### Implementing Partners:

Finn Church Aid, Person in Need Relief Mission (PNRM), Union of Technicians for Disadvantaged Youth (UTEFAJED), High Council for Communication, International Criminal Court, Government-led Support Project for Return and Reintegration (PARET), National Commission for Refugees, Legal Clinics run by national NGOs in targeted areas, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Reconciliation, and National Solidarity

### CONTEXT

Since 2012, the Central African Republic (CAR) has faced severe political and security crises, resulting in widespread population displacement both internally and externally. From the rise of the ex-Séléka rebellion in 2012 to the emergence of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) in 2020, successive waves of violence have had a devastating impact on civilians, leading to grave human rights violations. Armed groups have committed widespread atrocities, further fueling intercommunal violence driven by real or perceived ethnic and religious affiliations. These protracted crises have significantly increased the number of displaced persons and returnees within CAR. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) face numerous vulnerabilities, including lack of identity and property documents, which restricts their access to essential services, housing, land, and property rights. The absence of civil documentation also deepens mistrust among host communities, who may perceive some returnees as affiliated with armed groups based on their ethnic, religious, or cultural background. For many returnees, the pursuit of justice remains a critical concern, especially in light of the personal losses and suffering that forced them to flee.

### OBJECTIVES

This project aims to prevent violence and foster social cohesion between returnees and host communities by addressing the root causes of tension and mistrust between these groups.

- Ensure the administrative regularization of returnees and repatriated individuals, enabling them to reclaim their rights, including access to identity documents, land titles, and housing, land, and property (HLP) rights.
- Strengthen intercommunal relationships by fostering economic ties and cooperation within communities.
- Facilitate the participation of returnees in the transitional justice process to reduce prejudice, promote reconciliation, and prevent acts of revenge.

## KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

- **Reduced vulnerabilities of IDPs through access to basic rights:** More than 2,185 individuals, including a significant number of women and vulnerable groups—primarily internally displaced persons (IDPs)—received birth certificates and other essential legal documents, such as supplementary judgments and identity attestations. This has greatly improved their access to education, social services, and economic opportunities, fostering community integration and safeguarding their rights. For example, these documents have enabled parents to enroll their children in school.
- **Strengthened local peace and reconciliation committees (CLPRs):** Four CLPRs were reinforced and actively supported, playing a key role in project implementation and conflict resolution between host communities and displaced persons. The successful issuance of legal documents under the project was made possible through the facilitation and support of these committees.
- **Progress in resolving housing, land, and property (HLP) disputes:** The project made notable advancements in HLP-related conflict resolution through community-based approaches. Five land-focused discussion groups were organized in Mongoumba (Lobaye) and Babaza (Mambéré-Kadéï), accompanied by the training of 120 local authorities and administrative officials in conflict resolution techniques.
- **Improved land access for displaced persons:** 50 beneficiaries received specialized legal assistance from community legal clinics, providing tailored solutions for the peaceful resolution of HLP-related disputes.
- **Reduced tensions between host and refugee communities over land access:** The project successfully supported the peaceful resolution of seven community conflicts—three in Nassolé (Mambéré-Kadéï) and four in Baboua (Nana-Mambéré)—with the assistance of Finn Church Aid (FCA) and local peace and reconciliation committees (CLPRs).
- **Enhanced economic opportunities for displaced persons:** A total of 930 displaced individuals, including women and youth, participated in vocational training to improve their economic prospects. The training equipped participants with skills to launch income-generating activities and provided essential financial management knowledge.
- **Established psychosocial support structures:** Six safe spaces were set up and are now fully operational, offering psychosocial support to displaced persons and host communities. These spaces provide critical emotional and psychological assistance, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children.

### Voices from the Field

*"The PBF project is essential for our communities. Our brothers and sisters—returnees, repatriated individuals, and even host communities—have lost everything, including their identity documents. Thanks to the PBF, birth certificates are now being issued, enabling these individuals to reclaim their rights, particularly the right to vote and even stand for elections. For me, this is what peace truly means. When a citizen has official identification, they are free—they can move freely and live in peace."*

**Mayor of Bouar**

*"Following the discussions we had and the awareness campaigns carried out in the neighborhoods and districts, we have noticed a real change. Parents are now coming in large numbers to register their children for birth certificates. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to raising awareness among the community. As a result, the number of registered individuals has significantly increased—we have already issued 714 birth certificates, with another 60 people on the waiting list. This clearly demonstrates the impact and importance of the work you are doing in the city."*

**Civil Registry Officer, Kaga Bando City Hall**