



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

FINAL ACQUITTAL REPORT

PROJECT DETAILS (to be completed by applicant or DAP coordinator in collaboration with the applicant)

Name of project: Support program for the stabilization of livelihoods, protection and resilience of communities in conflict-affected areas in Central African Republic

(Programme d'appui à la stabilisation des moyens d'existence, à la protection et à la résilience des communautés dans les zones affectées par les conflits en Centrafrique - PRESCO)

Recipient country: Central African Republic

Location (e.g. town/province): Bangui

Amount of funding in AUD: \$ 240,300

When was funding granted? May 2014

ACQUITTAL REPORT (to be completed by applicant)

	Yes	NO
Has the project been completed on time, within budget, and in accordance with the original project proposal, as agreed with the Australian mission?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not, please explain below in the box below.		

1. Project Background

The main objectives of the IDF-funded project were to strengthen the livelihoods of affected communities in the intervention areas through a community-based approach offering an opportunity to generate employment for women and young people on the one hand, and to support the promotion of peace-building initiatives, on the other hand.

The overall goal of the UNDP program (PRESCO) through which this project has been funded is to contribute to the protection and stabilization of communities, social cohesion, as well as peacebuilding through early recovery activities. Carried out in close collaboration with implementing partners, the program is based on a comprehensive and integrated approach, and geared to the main objective of supporting emergency and stabilization government programs. More specifically, the program aims to:

- Quickly stabilize communities most affected by the conflict and restore confidence / social cohesion;
- Restart the local economy, improve access of the communities to basic social services and support the reintegration of returnees, IDPs, and ex-combatants into the host community;
- Improve access of the communities to basic public services and restore confidence and stability in the medium and long term.

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The project funded by the IDF has been implemented in partnership with two international NGOs: the Agence d'aide à la coopération technique et au développement (ACTED) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), with which UNDP had a good collaboration track records. The overall common objective of the sub-projects is to promote the maintenance of the community (ethnic) diversity and stabilization of groups at risk and returnees in Bangui, by:

- Strengthening livelihoods and providing a safety net for recovery;
- Community support and;
- Promotion of peace consolidation initiatives (complementary with other activities implemented by DRC and ACTED, with UNDP support).

2. Project Implementation

Basically, the implemented project is consistent with the initial proposal. Australian funds came as a complementary funding to existing contracts with the two international NGOs, and helped fund other uncovered activities for an increased outcome.

However, the activities financed under these funds have not been delivered on time due to five main reasons:

1. The initially planned timetable for the implementation of the Project underwent a number of changes, thus delaying the implementation of some activities. This is due to the security situation in the country that remained unstable, tense and unpredictable from time to time.
2. A serious explosion of violence triggered from 7 October 2014 in some neighborhoods of Bangui and targeted civilians, aid-workers and United Nations peacekeeping personnel. This critical security incident, which resulted in the loss of 11 civilians and two UN peacekeepers, and wounded another 229 inhabitants of Bangui and 13 peacekeepers (source: Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - OCHA), forced the UNDP country office to suspend the implementation of the project as conservatory measure.
3. At the beginning, and following discussion with HQ, IOM was dropped from the initial MoU due to delays in implementing the project. Therefore, UNDP decided to enter into new sub-agreements with the INGOs ACTED and DRC for social cohesion and socio-economic recovery activities in 3rd arrondissement of Bangui.
4. Legal problems related to the identification, status and mandate of the key partners for the component of professional training of unemployed youth.
5. Insecurity risks related to the movement of trainees from their district of residence (3rd district) to the district where the training intended to take place (1st Arrondissement).

Given these difficulties and at the request of implementing partners, UNDP Country-Office management granted a no-cost extension of the project, with a slight change in the place of training which eventually took place in the 3rd arrondissement.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the work that has already been undertaken in the 3rd arrondissement in Bangui has been noted as successful, which is significant given that this zone has been a flash point in the ongoing violence. By recruiting mixed groups of both Christian and Muslim youth and having them engage in public works together, openings have also been created for much needed social cohesion activities that seek to build on areas of dialogue and cooperation amongst members of the community that might otherwise be incited to violence.

In view of the fact that 2014 has seen an escalation of violence in the suburbs of Bangui, an immediate increase in sustainable cash-for-work initiatives was required in order to build on the positive gains in some "quartiers" and create alternatives to communal violence.

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Please explain exactly how the IDF funds were spent and attach the original receipts and/or relevant documentation as proof of expenditure. Describe the final outcome of the project, and include photographs of the completed project. Please also explain the lasting developmental effect that the IDF project will have on the local community and on your organization and its work.

3. Budget Execution

3.1 Summary of financial report¹

	ACTED		DRC		TOTAL		%
Budget Categories	Amount authorized	Actual expenditure	Amount authorized	Actual expenditure	Amount authorized	Actual expenditure	
1. Supplies, equipment and transport	24,231,744	29,064,950	29,710,000	26,781,547	53,941,744	55,846,497	52%
2. Personnel (staff, consultants, travel)	19,472,170	16,715,337	6,800,000	7,102,338	26,272,170	23,817,675	22%
3. Training of counterparts	8,435,272	5,710,700	5,050,000	5,164,170	13,485,272	10,874,870	10%
4. Contracts	0	0			0	0	0%
5. Other Direct Costs	3,352,095	4,000,294	4,889,900	5,657,119	8,241,995	9,657,413	9%
6. Indirect program support costs (PSC)	3,884,390	3,884,390	2,900,000	3,624,855	6,784,390	7,509,245	7%
TOTAL	59,375,670	59,375,670	49,349,900	48,330,029	108,725,570	107,705,699	100%

The IDF funds were used to finance two sub-projects that were subject of amendments signed by UNDP with the implementing partners:

- Project amendment with ACTED increasing the budget of the existing project "*Supporting the resilience of communities affected by the conflict*" (addition of \$121,076 to an initial budget of \$0,5m). The additional amount covers cash for work activities through the rehabilitation of the road from the antenna ENERCA Gobongo John XXIII to the city in the 4th district as well as markets rehabilitation in the 3rd district of Bangui.
- Project amendment with DRC adding an amount of \$100,000 to the project "*Strengthening of community protection capacities by restoring social cohesion*" (initial budget of \$0,5m), used for strengthening the resilience of women and people with special needs through social and economic community micro-projects.

The IDF funding has allowed providing emergency employment through cash for work activities, and supporting to financial inclusion and vocational training. The targeted population which consists primarily of women and young people is located in the 3rd arrondissement in Bangui, where UNDP has already successfully engaged small groups of both Christian and Muslim women and youth to engage in Cash for Work.

Overall, it may be concluded that the IDF funds were mainly used to: i) support over 1600 people, and ii) adapt the ongoing UNDP Recovery Programme to provide vulnerable populations with vocational training and the immediate opportunity to pool resources saved and create a small business, thereby potentially creating a longer term impact and more sustainable results for the individuals involved.

3.1 Key Financial Data

The funding of the amount of \$ 240,000 comes from (i) USD 185,136 from Australia that has been applied to the project on May 21, 2014 and (ii) the unspent balance of the amount of USD 55,164 from the 2012

¹ Please refer to the attached documents for details as to how those funds were used.

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Australian contribution of USD 200,000 to DDR project in CAR – project number 00070768. In accordance with the agreement, the remaining balance has been re-allocated to the Project 00089429 (Programme d'appui à la stabilisation des moyens d'existence, à la protection et à la résilience des communautés dans les zones affectées par les conflits en Centrafrique - PRESCO)

Table 1: Approved Budget and Project Programmable (IDF) Funds (USD Amounts)

	USD Amount	Comments
Australia Contribution to PRESCO	185,136.00	Received in June 2014
Australian Contribution re-allocation to the 00089429 (PRESCO Program)	55,164.00	Unspent balance of the 2012 Australian contribution of USD 200,000 to DDR project in CAR. In accordance with the agreement the remaining balance was re-allocated to the project 00089429
Approved Budget	240,300.00	Total Contribution to PRESCO
GMS (8%)	19,200.00	
Programmable Funds	221,100.00	

3.2 Project Ressources Overview (XAF Amounts)

Table 2: Financial overview - IDF Funds (on July 15, 2015)

	Disbursements	Total Expenses	Budget Balance	Comments
ACTED	59,375,670	59,375,670	0,00	Payment reference number: V62719
DRC	49,349,900	48,330,029	1,019,872	Payment reference number: V62741
Total	108,725,570.00	107,705,699	1,019,872	

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4. Final Outcome of the Project

The funds allocated through ACTED and DRC in complement to UNDP funding (PRESICO Program) have yielded the following results:

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN	START & END DATE	% OF ACHIEVEMENT
<p>OUTPUT 1: 200 women empowered with technical and material capacities to revitalize their livelihoods and enhance their resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1386 women (<i>wali gara</i>) are identified and provided with small equipment grants in order to revitalize their businesses (diversification, recovering, enhancement of the income generating activities (IGA)) - Identification of 42 women's groups through Local Peace Committees, with the support of local authorities and community workers (as shown in the Table 1 below) - Material and training needs assessment - Start-up kits and training sessions provided to 25 women's associations (see Table 3 below) - 25 women's groups have seen their organizational, technical and material capacities enhanced (support in materials, equipment and inputs to boost their IGA) and have improved their internal governance - 200 women in 25 groups of an average participation of 8 people, received start-up grants of 12,500 FCFA each (totaling 2,500,000 FCFA) - Proximity awareness sessions, discussions, community meals were organized and 1,386 women trained on IGA management tools, improved traditional saving and lending systems practices, community protection and social cohesion. 	<p>15 Sept. – 31 Oct. 2014</p> <p>Idem</p> <p>02 – 18 Dec. 2014</p> <p>Idem</p> <p>Nov. – Dec. 2014</p> <p>02 – 18 Dec. 2014</p> <p>Idem</p> <p>Nov. – Dec. 2014</p>	<p>693%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>OUTPUT 2: 50 people with special needs empowered with proper capacities to support their socio-economic reintegration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 192 Persons with Special Needs (PSN) identified (see Table 2 below) - Material and training needs assessment - Start-up kits and training sessions provided to 192 PSN - Support to traditional saving and lending systems (<i>tonines</i>) in order to promote collection and mobilization of savings, and access to 	<p>15 Sept. – 31 Oct. 2014</p> <p>2 Dec. 2014 - 12 Jan. 2015</p> <p>Idem</p> <p>Idem</p>	<p>384%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>

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OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN	START & END DATE	% OF ACHIEVEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> microfinance structures (5 women's associations of PSN) 192 PSN have benefited from a number of training sessions to heighten their awareness on Conflict Analysis and Management, the Community Safety Plan (CSP), Mediation, Human Rights (HR) and Gender Based Violence (GBV). 	2 - 18 Dec. 2014	100%
<p>OUTPUT 3: Community social projects identified by the youths are launched and revitalized to facilitate social cohesion in the 3rd Arrondissement of the city of Bangui.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project's presentation and identification of microprojects Assessment of needs and the potential local contributions Rehabilitation of the outbuildings of the 3rd district's town-hall (Castors): The work focused on the rehabilitation of facilities and amenities; internal and external painting, and installing solid doors and windows. 	Nov. – Dec. 2014 Idem Mach – May 2015	100% 100% 100%
<p>OUTPUT 4: Preparatory work for the vocational training component is undertaken.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of local market: this was conducted in order to identify opportunities for training and business opportunities Two training centers have been selected and their capacity reinforced to implement vocational training program Contracts have been signed with four master craftsmen (workshops), which have been strengthened in equipment, allowing them to train 10 young people including 5 in carpentry and 5 as auto mechanics. The training ends in February 2015 and the beneficiaries have constituted a group. Setting up of a local Project Steering Committee to facilitate coordination, communication and interaction between stakeholders involved in the process. 	Sept. – Oct. 2014 Idem Dec 2014 - Feb. 2015 November 2014	100% 100% 100% 100%
<p>OUTPUT 5: The highly labor-intensive jobs enable beneficiaries to develop or revive an economic project and 60 unemployed youth are involved in a process of professionalization through vocational training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 women perform 10 days of CfW on local infrastructures necessary for economic recovery (market and road crossing-points) 60 youth-at-risk (18 and 25 years old) have access to employment and income generating opportunities (Cash for work) Two selected training centers are rehabilitated and upgraded to implement the vocational training program: "Organisation Centrafricaine de Secours aux Désœuvrés" (OCSD) and "Union des 	Dec. 2014 – Feb. 2015 Idem October 2014	100% 100% 100%

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN	START & END DATE	% OF ACHIEVEMENT
	<p>Techniciens en Faveur des Jeunes Désœuvrés" (UTEFAJEDE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 young people received a three-month vocational training that allowed them to start their own businesses in the following schemes: carpentry, electricity, auto mechanics, sewing and welding. 	Nov. 2014 – Feb. 2015	100%
<p>OUTPUT 6: Young people regrouping themselves into groups launch sustainable income generating activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people having completed their training courses regroup themselves into associations and are assisted in the establishment and structuring of their businesses (see Table 4 below) - 12 structured groups are given start-up kits for launching their businesses - Each group received a start-up kit that worth 400,000 CFA, adjusted to the type of activity. The kit content was discussed beforehand with the various groups involved (wood, cables, copper rod, etc.) These kits, associated with other project activities have enabled the various groups of craftsmen to initiate their businesses. 	<p>Feb. – March 2015</p> <p>Idem</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>

Almost all of the activities were well above the expected results.

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Table 1: Breakdown of supported women's groups by geographical area

Geographical area/Blocs	Nb. of groups	Nb. of women members	Mean number of members by group
PK5 / KM5	12	717	59,75
Sara-Castors	8	426	53,25
Kokoro	5	243	48,6
Total	25	1.386	55,44

Table 2: Distribution of supported women with special needs

Geographical area/Blocs	Number of Groups	Nb. of supported women with special needs	Mean of members by groups
PK5 / KM5	01	26	26
Sara-Castors	03	130	43,33
Kokoro	01	36	36
Total	05	192	38,4

Table 3: Nature of income generating activities by groups

Geographical area/Blocs	Groups Names	Number of Members	Type of IGA
PK5	Association des Femmes Musulmanes de Centrafrique ATA-OBA	200	1- Production and sale of bakery cakes 2- Sale of first necessity goods
	Association des Femmes de Yambassa	35	1- Marketing of peanuts seeds 2- Marketing of white squash 3- Marketing of rice
	Association des Femmes Commerçantes de Manioc et Fagot	30	1- Marketing of peanuts seeds 2- Marketing of maize seeds
	Association Mama Respect	42	1- Production and sale of bakery cakes 2- Production and marketing of peanut butter
	Femme Groupement pour le Développement Agro-pastoral(GDAP)	55	1- Marketing of palm oil 2- Production and sale of bakery cakes
	La Perseverance	15	1- Marketing of artisanal soap 2- Production and marketing of milk yoghourt 3- Production and marketing of Karité (shea) cream
	Sous Branche Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines(OFCA)	22	1- Marketing of peanut seeds 2- Marketing of palm oil
Sara-Castors	Association des Femmes Sewa de Saradah 1	15	1- Marketing of peanut seeds 2- Marketing of white squash
	Sous- Groupe Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines(OFCA)	45	1- Marketing of peanut seeds 2- Marketing of palm oil
	Moïnam	54	1- Marketing of palm oil 2- Marketing of peanut seeds
Kokoro	Association des Femmes pour le Développement Intégré(AFDI)	60	1- Marketing of palm oil 2- Production and marketing of artisanal soap

Table 4: Breakdown of trainees by vocational training streams

	Carpentry	Electricity	Auto mechanics	Sewing	Welding	Total
Number of Trainees	16	14	18	4	5	57

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5. IDF Funds Lasting Developmental Effect

Two months after the end of the project, it is far too early to talk about the project's impact on sustainable development. However, the joint approach promoted by UNDP with implementing partners demonstrated its relevance. Actually, this was the first Early Recovery project that has been designed in Bangui since the beginning of the 2013 crisis.

Firstly, High Labor Intensive Works enabled beneficiaries to resume an activity and earn money to cover their basic needs, reimburse their debts and sometime to start a small business.

Secondly, the huge majority of the trained youth and women (vocational training, IGA start-up kits, saving groups, etc.) remained sustainable up to now. Many trainees are now working either with their master trainers or on their own, using their kits (carpentry, sewing, etc.). The "micro-project" component also had lasting developmental effects since it was decided by the local community and authorities to rehabilitate the outbuildings of the 3rd district's town-hall (Castors).

However, it was observed that a longer and much more comprehensive training and support, developing both business and technical skills, would have enabled to facilitate beneficiaries to start-up businesses. A broader use of the *value chain approach* would also have allowed beneficiaries to better understand the challenges related to the business they developed. In addition, it is worth noting that some activities (welding, auto repairs) require an important financial capital to set up a business, so that some of the trainees are not able to create their activity.

These lessons learnt drawn from this innovative project were integrated by UNDP and the international community. This early recovery project has now been replicated at a much larger scale through the "Programme de Reconstruction Economique et Sociale en Milieu Urbain (PRESU)"², which is implemented by a consortium of international NGOs in Bangui.

² This funding is implemented as part of a management delegation granted by the multi-donor Trust Fund for EU in CAR, called "Bekou" Fund.

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6. Project Photographs



Cash for Work activities in the 3rd Arrondissement of Bangui

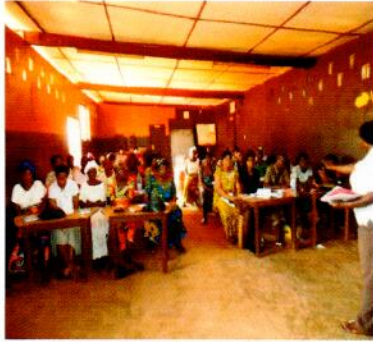


Needs Assessment Work for IGAs



Training of women groups on IGA management

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Project management tools, training sessions Project management tools, training sessions (PK5) Simulations and role-playing Session



Start-up Kit for Bakery IGA



Start-up Kit for Sewing IGA



Start-up Kit "Manufacture of Dairy Products" IGA



Education and Awareness-raising campaigns for the improvement of traditional saving and lending systems (tontines)



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Rehabilitation of the Outbuildings of the 3rd District's Town-Hall (Castors) - Official Inauguration, 8 June 2015



Cash for Work Activity (Dec. 2014)

Assembly Operation of Tables by Trainees in Carpentry



Distribution of Carpentry Start-up Kits

Trainees at a Graduation Ceremony

Name: Aboubacar KOULIBALY

Witness Name: Martin B. MBANDA

Title: UNDP Country Director

Witness Title: Chief Technical Advisor – CPR Program

Signature:

Witness Signature:

Date: 16 July 2015

Date: 16 July 2015

