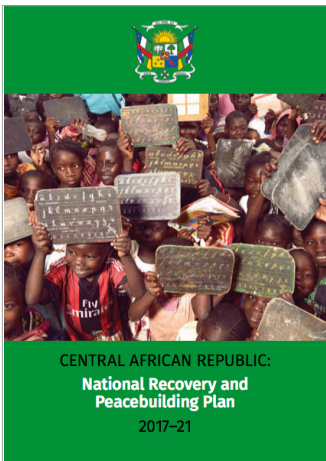


CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NATIONAL RECOVERY AND PEACEBUILDING PLAN

OVERVIEW



The RPBA in Central African Republic (CAR), adopted by the government as the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCP-CA), was initiated by an April 2016 government request. A scoping mission was conducted by European Union, United Nations, and World Bank in May 2016, followed by support to government through a core team comprising representatives of the Joint Declaration¹ partners, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the French Development Agency (AFD). Priorities for addressing recovery and peacebuilding were assessed against three priority pillars: (i) support peace, security and reconciliation, (ii) renew the social contract between the state and the population, and (iii) promote economic recovery and boost productive sectors. An aid architecture was proposed based around mechanisms for coordination and dialogue, financing instruments,

and monitoring and reporting systems.

The assessment was adopted as the government's National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCP-CA) 2017 – 2021, and was presented at a conference in Brussels in November 2016. The conference attracted over 80 delegations, and featured side events with civil society and the private sector.

BACKGROUND

The March 2016 inauguration of President Faustin Archange Touadéra, and the subsequent convening of legislative elections marked the formal end of a three-year political transition. This was an important milestone as the CAR emerged from the most violent conflict in its history. At the same time, stability was being restored with support of the international community led by the French Sangaris force and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission (MINUSCA).

The challenges for the government were significant and urgent. The state had lost control of large parts of its territory, with armed rebels splintered into a multitude of uncontrolled



1 2008 Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning, to which European Union, United Nations, and World Bank are signatories

factions. The majority of the population lacked access to basic services: 2 million people were at risk of food insecurity, and about 850,000 people, almost a fifth of the population, were displaced. As a result of the near collapse of the state during the crisis, national capacity to respond to these challenges was severely constrained.

PRE-ASSESSMENT PHASE

In April 2016, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation requested EU, UN and WB assistance to assess the priority needs for the consolidation of peace for the 2017 to 2021 period, and to develop an associated implementation and financing plan. The government also requested assistance with organisation of a donor conference.

To better understand and prepare for the assessment, a joint EU-UN-WB scoping mission to Bangui was undertaken in May 2016. The mission held plenary meetings with government ministries and the international community at the commencement and completion of the mission. The scoping mission also held bilateral consultations with government counterparts, the international community, civil society, and the private sector. The outcomes of the scoping mission were agreements on the strategic objectives, methodology, process and time-frame for the assessment, and on coordination and management arrangements. The AfDB, AFD and MINUSCA also joined as key partners in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT, PRIORITIZATION, AND PLANNING PHASE

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives of the assessment were shaped by the outcomes of the 2015 national reconciliation conference (the Bangui National Forum), the government's commitments under the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, and analysis of the context and underlying drivers of fragility, conflict and violence. Three strategic objectives were developed:

- i. Support the CAR government in assessing recovery and peacebuilding needs and priorities, and associated financial needs
- ii. Identify specific operational, institutional, and financial arrangements to facilitate implementation of identified priorities, given capacity and security constraints
- iii. Create a platform to monitor implementation progress, notably on major reform commitments, and ensure consistency and coordination of international support across development, humanitarian, political and security objectives

Process

The assessment was undertaken through four overlapping processes:

- ✓ A desk study synthesizing existing information, including needs and challenges in all sectors and geographic areas.
- ✓ The elaboration of needs, priorities and costs across three priority pillars: (i) support peace, security, and reconciliation, (ii) renew the social contract between the state and the population, (iii) promote economic recovery, and boost productive sectors.
- ✓ The organisation of a process of consultations and validation of identified needs and priorities, with a view to generating national consensus around their prioritization.
- ✓ The formulation of a coordination and financing strategy for implementation, including monitoring arrangements for implementation of identified priorities.

Financing and Implementation Arrangements

During the assessment, a joint mission was undertaken to understand specific potential financing and implementation mechanisms. This recognized the current limited outreach of government services, and the significant role in service delivery and security played by the international community including civil society organisations. The mission concluded on the need for a renewed partnership between government and international community based on mutual accountability and on delivering against critical priorities essential for CAR's transition towards peace, stability and economic recovery. The financing and implementation arrangements recognized the need to transition away from international financing, and the importance of the CAR government increasing its revenue mobilisation. The mission led to agreement on three pillars for aid coordination: mechanisms for coordination and dialogue, financing instruments, and monitoring and reporting systems.

VALIDATION AND FINALIZATION PHASE

The assessment was presented to the Council of Ministers in September 2016, and to the National Assembly in both September and October 2016. It was approved and adopted by government as the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA).

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS UTILIZED

The CAR RCPCA team used a variety of data collection tools to augment existing information. These included:

Analysis of the causes of crisis

As a central plank in the RCPCA process, an analysis of the causes of crisis was undertaken. This was based on key existing documents and reports of meetings, including reports from the Bangui forum (a national reconstruction conference organized by the transitional government in May 2015), analysis and objectives within the New Deal, and reports from development partners. This analysis was agreed between government and core partners to the assessment, establishing a joint narrative on key conflict drivers, and establishing the parameters for the recovery and peacebuilding assessment. The analysis guided the development of the framework of strategic outcomes and priorities for recovery based on the structural drivers of crisis. This framework provided the means for the prioritization and sequencing of the needs identified in the assessment.

Stakeholder and capacity analysis

As the RCPCA process unfolded, the team also conducted a stakeholder and capacity analysis with a view to establishing the financing and implementation options for the RCPCA's recommendations. It reviewed existing institutional structures, financing instruments, coordination mechanisms and partnerships, and highlighted the need for a new partnership grounded in mutual accountability. The analysis also explicated institutional and financing arrangements to support recovery implementation. The analysis led to the development of the Mutual Accountability Framework (CEM-RCA) which aimed to ensure that support provided by the international community to address national priorities in a transparent and accountable way. Monitoring was also integrated into the institutional framework to ensure a global approach between the RCPCA and the CEM-RCA.

National survey on priorities

As part of the assessment, and given the security challenges of access to significant parts of the country, the assessment included a national Communes and Households Survey undertaken by ICASEES. The commune survey was conducted in all 179 communes, and used interviews with local authorities to gather information on local infrastructure, and perspectives of security and policy priorities. The household survey collected information on household socioeconomic well-being, perceptions of security and economic conditions, and opinions on policy priorities. Ten households in each commune were interviewed. By conducting the commune and household surveys simultaneously, it was possible to explore potential areas of complementarity and divergence in perspectives between local authorities and citizens.

The results of the survey were used to determine appropriate peacebuilding priorities. As an example of this, the top policy priority for 86% of respondents in the commune survey, and 77% of respondents in the household survey, was peace, reconciliation and security.

The survey, financed by the WB, was agreed to be undertaken every six months, and to form one of the monitoring tools for the assessment.

POST-ASSESSMENT STEPS

The government presented the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan at the Brussels Conference for the Central African Republic hosted by the European Commission in November 2016. The conference was preceded by meetings with civil society and the private sector. The conference was attended by delegations from 80 countries, with over US\$ 2 billion pledged to support CAR.

Subsequent to the conference, a National Secretariat was established to coordinate the implementation of the National Plan. The Secretariat works under the supervision of the Steering Committee, a joint government-partner committee that oversees the implementation of the plan.

The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Ministry of Planning and an international organization, and has five core functions:

- Technical assistance and coordination across working groups formed for the priority pillars. Each group is composed of representatives of line ministries and international partners, and is responsible for thematic and sectoral coordination
- Serve as a support to line ministries, including in the process of designing programmes and projects to submit to partners for funding
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan
- Monitor aid flows and their efficiency
- Communicate on the progress of implementation of the plan

The Secretariat in turn reports to the Advisory Board, a high-level policy dialogue committee chaired by the President. The remit of the Advisory Board includes monitoring the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Framework, a set of strategic commitments around principles and reforms necessary for recovery and peacebuilding.

