



Note to Task Teams: The following sections are system generated and can only be edited online in the Portal.

Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 07-Apr-2017 | Report No: PIDISDSA21243



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Central African Republic	Project ID P161591	Project Name CAR-Support to Communities Affected by Displacement	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 20-Mar-2017	Estimated Board Date 16-May-2017	Practice Area (Lead) Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice
Lending Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Economy, Plan and Cooperation	Implementing Agency Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The PDO is to increase access to basic services, infrastructure and safety nets by communities affected by forced displacement.

Components

- Component 1 – Improved access to basic services and local infrastructure
- Component 2 – Access to safety nets
- Component 3 - Community mobilization, project management and capacity building

The processing of this project is applying the policy requirements exceptions for situations of urgent need of assistance or capacity constraints that are outlined in OP 10.00, paragraph 12.

Yes

Financing (in USD Million)

Financing Source	Amount
IDA Grant	28.00
Total Project Cost	28.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B - Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the preparation to continue



Note to Task Teams: End of system generated content, document is editable from here.

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a highly fragile country with a history of recurrent conflict. The most recent conflict took place in 2013 between multiple armed groups. As a result, at the peak of the crisis, roughly one-quarter of the population was internally displaced or had fled as refugees to neighboring countries. The conflict has had a devastating impact on economic activity as well, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) falling by 36 percent in 2013. At the same time, a 46 percent drop in food production, 55 percent drop in livestock, and a one-third drop in the hunting and fishery sectors put half of the country into a situation of food insecurity.

The most recent crisis has further increased poverty in CAR. Gross national income (GNI) per capita, in purchasing-power parity, fell sharply between 2012 and 2013, from US\$917.4 to US\$574.5. By 2014 CAR's GNI per capita of US\$569.3 was the lowest in the world. Recent estimates indicate that CAR's poverty rate—at the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in 2011 purchasing-power parity terms—surged from 66 percent in 2008 to 76 percent in 2013. Bangui has the lowest poverty rate, with 45 percent of its population being below the poverty line. Elsewhere, the spatial distribution of the poor is concentrated in three regions: Yadé, Kagas and Fertit. These are also the regions with the highest concentration of internally displaced populations (IDPs), in addition to Bangui.

The majority of the population lacks access to services and basic infrastructure. In 2014, CAR ranked 187th out of 188 countries on the UN's Human Development Index (HDI). The infant mortality rate in 2010 was 116 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate was 179 deaths per 1,000 live births, both far above the Sub-Saharan Africa's averages of 65.8 and 101.2, respectively. The prevalence of stunting or chronic malnutrition was 40.8 percent in 2014, a level the World Health Organization defines as "critical" and the prevalence of wasting or acute malnutrition was 6.6 percent. Nearly half the population in these areas lacks access to safe drinking water, and more than three-quarters do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities or electricity.

The violence that followed the crisis altered the demographic composition of urban areas, weakened social ties and decreased economic activity. What started as a political conflict has permeated and polarized communities throughout CAR. The so-called pro-Christian militias (the "anti-balaka") and the "ex-Seleka" (supposedly pro-Muslim), created during the government of President Djotodia, polarized communities along religious lines and resulted in the displacement of both Muslim and Christian populations. Many Muslim households fled the country or took shelter in Muslim enclaves. In most cases their homes, shops and other assets were subsequently looted, occupied or destroyed.¹ Displacement camps reflect the social polarization that has occurred in society.

¹ République Centrafricaine, AFD, AGETIP, *Diagnostic Urbain des Quartiers Sara/Yakite et Miskine dans la Ville de Bangui*,



Despite these challenges, the recent political transition presents an opportunity to move towards a phase of recovery and lay the groundwork for long-term development. In March 2016, the newly democratically elected President, Faustin-Archange Touadera, was inaugurated. In his inauguration speech, President Touadera put durable security and defense of national territory, peacebuilding, reconciliation and national cohesion as his top priorities. Despite an overall improvement in the security situation, episodic violence continues to have a negative effect on the operational environment.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Forced displacement is an on-going phenomenon in CAR, prevalent in specific geographic areas and driven by recurrent violence and social polarization. A total of 411,785 people were internally displaced in CAR in December 2016, up from 384,314 in July 2016. Internally displaced people (IDPs) are concentrated in Bangui (62,774 in December 2016), in the Ouaka (57,543), Nana Gribizi (34,618), Ouham (48,831) Prefectures as well as in other areas. Within those Prefectures, large number of IDPs sought refuge in urban areas, i.e. Bambari, Kaga Bandoro, Batangafo, Bria and other centers. It is estimated that 65 percent of IDPs took shelter with host families whereas 35 percent are in displacement camps managed by the Catholic Church and humanitarian agencies.²

Displacement has disrupted livelihoods, depleted the assets of the displaced and host families, and put an enormous strain on already limited infrastructure and services. It has accelerated urbanization, as people have sought refuge in urban areas close to sites protected by MINUSCA forces. It has intensified overcrowding in host communities and put pressure on rental prices in areas receiving IDPs. The overall wellbeing of the displaced has been severely affected by the deterioration of living conditions, exposure to atrocities and violence, including gender-based, and fear of continuous community tensions and insecurity. Hosting families and communities are also directly affected as their living space become more constrained as they often take on the burden to provide for extended families.³

Various dynamics are at work in CAR regarding the return or not of the displaced. Surveys undertaken by humanitarian agencies indicate that, in general, IDPs have a strong desire to return to their areas of origin, provided that security, livelihoods, and services are guaranteed and available. In addition to those, IDPs' decision to return is also related to i) overall perception of security and fear of intercommunity violence fueled by the presence of armed groups; ii) community dynamics and household ties to their own social group; iii) support by aid groups in areas of displacement and return; and iv) available information allowing for informed decision. Pull and push factors coexist and are

Rapport Final, Juin 2014.

² *Commission Mouvement de Populations/UNHCR*, December 2016.

³ On the economic and social impact of forcible displacement, see the recent: *Forcibly Displaced. Toward a development approach supporting refugees, the internally displaced, and their hosts*. The World Bank, 2016



difficult to anticipate in very volatile and insecure environments such as in CAR. Activities in support of IDPs and communities affected by displacement, including the rehabilitation of services and infrastructure or cash transfers can have unintended consequences and encourage unanticipated behaviors. For instance, job opportunities created by infrastructure rehabilitation can become an incentive for communities to stay and delay return. Investments can also become a factor of attraction. These are considerations that are context specific and the project will need to address during implementation and adjust accordingly.

The sustainable return of IDPs will only occur if there is a continuous and sustained improvement of security conditions. That will require a political settlement between the parties and the effective demobilization and reintegration of armed groups. Today, insecurity is prevalent in areas of displacement (center and southeast) and continues to cause new movements of populations, particularly, in the center and southeastern areas of the country. The return of populations has been observed in Bangui and in the southwest of the country, where security and stability are pull factors. It is estimated that about 42 percent of the displaced populations in camps in the Bangui-Bimbo axis have returned spontaneously. However, with the increase in insecurity incidents in the areas controlled by ex-Seleka militias, new waves of displacement towards urban areas take place when fighting erupts.

The government has adopted an approach to promote sustainable solutions in support of the displaced. However, the government and humanitarian partners agree that conditions for sustainable return are limited and context specific. A comprehensive national strategy to promote the social and economic reintegration of displaced people is being prepared that will serve as a blueprint to coordinate interventions. The strategy will address the information-gathering process to identify the needs and intentions of the displaced, as well as measures to strengthen existing conflict-resolution mechanisms, address disputes between the displaced and other groups, and establish compensation mechanisms for lost assets.⁴ Finally, legal and psychosocial counseling assistance and special provisions for the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable households and groups, including children, women and the disabled, would be needed to ease the reintegration process.

The project will intervene in urban areas affected by displacement to improve IDPs and host communities access to better services, infrastructure and safety nets. It will seek to improve living conditions and economic opportunities for populations in those areas through safety nets and temporary job creation with investments in infrastructure. The project will adopt a flexible approach to be able to adjust to shifting patterns of displacement and return. The priority areas of intervention are those with a high concentration of displaced people, particularly in the center and southeastern parts of the country, namely, Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Bambari and Bria. It will take a gradual, locally sensitive approach to implementation. For instance, in Batangafo and Kaga Bandoro, a large number of IDPs are living in camps, close their houses. The project will focus primarily on infrastructure outside IDP camps. Infrastructure will be chosen to benefit as many communities as possible, including the displaced and the host communities. Where there is a possibility for sustained return, the project would work closely with humanitarian agencies to support the return through investments in infrastructure in areas of origin. The cash transfer program will not be conditional to leaving the site,

⁴ Judicial prosecutions or reparations for human rights violations are the purview of the national legal system or of dedicated special courts.



nor to return to the original villages or neighborhoods.

Infrastructure investments will focus on urban roads and roadside drainage that can benefit the general population, has limited maintenance requirements, and is labor intensive. Other investments in services will be selected through a light community consultation process. The combination of migration of IDPs to urban areas, the very weak baseline of services and infrastructure and the fleeing of frontline workers and state representatives has led to a near collapse in service delivery in areas of large concentration of displaced populations. Only humanitarian agencies are making some limited investments in services and infrastructure in the areas of displacement. Given the overall lack of investment in services and the limited capacity of municipalities to maintain local infrastructure, priority areas include the road network and roadside drainage, water and sanitation systems, and other social and economic infrastructure. The project will also seek to build the capacity of local officials and lay the groundwork for future support to local governments in the process of service delivery.

The provision of social safety nets is a priority to improve living conditions and sustain the economic revitalization of areas affected by displacement. An effective strategy to improve living conditions requires a comprehensive approach that includes support to the displaced populations as well as measures to address poverty and vulnerability of host communities. To improve the living conditions in areas of displacement the authorities will need to invest in the revitalization of infrastructure and services and peaceful coexistence among communities.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Note to Task Teams: The PDO has been pre-populated from the datasheet for the first time for your convenience. Please keep it up to date whenever it is changed in the datasheet.

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The PDO is to increase access to basic services, infrastructure and safety nets by communities affected by forced displacement.

Key Results

- Direct project beneficiaries (number) of which women, displaced people, and host populations (percentage)
- People provided with improved urban living conditions under the project (number), of which women, displaced people, and host populations (percentage)
- Beneficiaries of social safety net programs (number), of which women, displaced people, and host populations (percentage)

D. Project Description

The project adopts a multifaceted approach in support of communities affected by displacement in CAR. On the one hand, it seeks to improve access to services and infrastructure by communities affected



by displacement and, on the other hand, to provide financial support to the most vulnerable households living in those communities, displaced and non-displaced. Together, these two approaches will provide a broad range of services in the areas of intervention and bridge the gap between humanitarian and long term development. The project will work with host communities and the displaced to engage in dialogue and promote peaceful coexistence while enabling local authorities and deconcentrated authorities to participate in the planning and maintenance of infrastructure and services financed by the project.

The project will adopt a gradual, flexible and locally sensitive approach to implementation. Given the high level of security volatility, activities may start where implementation is relatively safer and logistically easier so as to provide a ground for testing and learning. As the security situation improves and logistical capacity of the executing agency and service providers is strengthened, the project will roll out to other areas. However, implementation flexibility will also be necessary to adapt activities to changing environment. Moreover, the project will adopt a case by case approach, well-suited to specific local conditions of the four priority areas of intervention, namely Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Bambari and Bria. A set of Do No Harm principles, based on knowledge of local context, will guide implementation.

Component 1 – Access to basic services and infrastructure (US\$15 million equivalent)

The objective of this component is to improve access by communities affected by displacement to basic services and infrastructure by financing the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure. The component will intervene in the same priority areas as components 2 and 3, namely Bambari, Bria, Kaga Bandoro and Batangafo. The identification of investments will be based on assessments, initiated under the Project Preparation Advance (PPA), and consultations with communities to assure the project responds to the needs of the beneficiaries. The component activities and investment selection process have been designed to promote community dialogue, provide employment opportunities through use of labor-intensive methods, incorporate consideration of sustainability, and foster economic activities.

The component funds are allocated based on factors of population and numbers of displaced in the areas of project intervention. Annex 1 presents the allocation of funds per urban area, based on a combination of these factors. The total amount corresponds to about US\$78 per capita, which is quite high compared to other projects in sub-Saharan Africa, but should be seen in the context of historic underinvestment and absence of even the most basic services in project areas, including all-season roads, water and sanitation, etc.

The component will seek to maximize impact by investing part of the funds in a few key sectors. The investments will be in structuring works (roads, roadside drainage, street lights, or others as outlined above) to be selected based on a needs assessment (during PPA) and selected by communities, facilitated by NGOs recruited under component 3. The same NGO will facilitate elaboration of simple local development plans to serve as an entry point for identifying investments. Given the extremely low capacity in project areas and the urgent needs, works will be implemented by third party entities: i.e. , investments that are relatively complex and require specific engineering skills and construction capacity to design and implement will be directly executed by UNOPS with support from MINUSCA. Smaller works will be contracted out to local private sector or NGOs.

Component 2 – Safety nets (US\$8 million equivalent)



The objective of this component is to provide timely and regular cash transfers (CT) to selected households. These transfers will serve as relief to vulnerable households in areas affected by forced displacement, so as to meet immediate consumption needs. It is also expected that by ensuring the timeliness of transfers over a period of two years the project will progressively build lost private assets. The amount expected to be transferred and the duration of the program is guided by the need to transfer an adequate level of cash while not discouraging productive activities. Based on the results of the economic analysis (see Annex 5), and on the experience of CT programs run by NGO partners in CAR, the amount transferred will be F CFA 25,000 per household per quarter or F CFA 100,000 per household over a period of 12 months. Such level of transfer is approximately 10-15 percent of the food consumption level of a household of five people. The small, regular payments will enable beneficiaries to stabilize and improve their general household consumption over the period. The project will reach about 15,000 households are planned to be reached under the program or up to 75,000 individuals for two years, based on the assumption of an average of five persons per household.

Cash transfers will be supported by accompanying measures financed under component 3. These measures will include training and sensitization activities. The combination of timely and predictable cash transfers and accompanying measures has been proven to help the ultra-poor and vulnerable groups escape extreme poverty and support them in time of crisis. The transfer is unconditional and there will be no strict requirement to comply with predefined conditions. However, there will be an expectation that beneficiaries attend all accompanying measures, which will include awareness-raising sessions on topics such as community reconciliation, peaceful coexistence, prevention of violence, community sanitation, children's health and nutrition, family health and hygiene and financial literacy and promotion of savings behaviors. To ensure a synergic effect between the two components and economies of scale and scope, this component will intervene in the same localities targeted by component 1, namely Batangafo, Kaga Bandaro, Bria and Bambari.

Households will be selected through a community targeting mechanism combined with a simple survey of households' assets. Beneficiaries would be the heads of households who are IDPs themselves, or who are hosting IDP returnees, or are particularly vulnerable, and who have been identified through a community targeting process. Community targeting will be preceded by a basic, simple and easy-to-deliver assessment of the economic conditions of the households as measured by existing targeting tools or quick surveys, which will include questions on ownership of specific goods and assets⁵. All members of each beneficiary household will be registered in a database, to be administered by the implementing agency for the cash transfer component.

A payment mechanism will be used to distribute the cash benefits to eligible households. Mindful of the security volatility and significant logistical challenges in the country, this component will be

⁵ Some of the key assets determining the level of poverty of households, include a bed/mattress, a table with chairs, a radio and a hoe. Annex 5 of this document has a brief discussion on criteria determining extreme poverty and vulnerability.



implemented under a gradual and flexible approach, in two phases. A pilot phase prepared under PPA financing will test key steps of the component, from targeting to the payment of benefits, reporting and monitoring and evaluation. The second phase, or rollout phase, will be implemented in the other project sites pending acceptable security conditions.

Component 3 - Community mobilization, capacity building and technical assistance, and project management (US\$5 million equivalent)

This component will finance the costs associated with community mobilization and accompanying measures foreseen for components 1 and 2, capacity building, technical assistance to national and local institutions and costs associated with project management.

Subcomponent 3A: Community mobilization and accompanying measures (US\$1 million equivalent)

Activities under this subcomponent will directly support and enable the implementation of components 1 and 2 by promoting community participation in identifying investment priorities, targeting of beneficiaries for cash transfers and for infrastructure works, foster community dialogue, deliver accompanying measures, and promote the notion of peaceful co-existence among different groups.

Sub-component 3B: Capacity building and technical assistance (US\$1 million equivalent)

This subcomponent will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation, as well as in a more limited way to other ministries involved in service delivery at the local level. A small envelope will be included for local government capacity building.

Sub-component 3C: Project Management (US\$3 million equivalent)

This sub-component will finance project management costs, including the Environmental and Social safeguards management issues, and other costs associated with the recruitment of an executing agency that will manage implementation of all project activities. The executing agency will execute the infrastructure works and cash transfers, subcontract NGOs to execute the community mobilization activities, and provide technical support to MASRN. During the first twelve (12) months of the project, the executing agency will develop a strategy for capacity building to transfer responsibilities of certain activities/components to MASRN. Assessment of the implementation of the action plan and role of the executing agency will take place during MTR.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements



Project implementation arrangements have been calibrated to the existing limited capacity within government will taking a gradual approach to building capacity and ensuring that fiduciary considerations are taken into account.

Institutional arrangements

Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation. The Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation (MASRN) will have the responsibility for the overall implementation of the project.

Project Inter-ministerial Steering Committee. At the policy level, a Project Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (ISC) will assume overall institutional responsibility of this project. The Committee will be responsible to provide overall policy oversight and to review and validate the annual work plan and budget for the project. In particular, the Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation and co-chaired by the Ministry of Planning. Other members will include the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Health, Education, Transport, Urbanism and a representative of the Strategic Committee for the Return and Reinstallation of Displaced Persons⁶.

Implementation arrangements

Project implementation capacity is extremely low in CAR. As such, the project will keep all fiduciary responsibilities within the *Unité de Coordination des Projets* (or the Fiduciary agent) at the Ministry of Transport but have within the MASRN a technical unit, which would guide and oversee the implementation of the project and retain technical responsibility.

Fiduciary agent. The Fiduciary agent (FA) or the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in the Ministry of Transport will assist MASRN with the fiduciary responsibilities pertaining to the implementation of the project. Inter alia, the FA will arrange and manage the contract with the main executing agency and prepare unaudited interim financial reports and the procurement plan, manage the designated account and direct payments, arrange for independent audits, and co-manage the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MASRN Technical unit.

MASRN Technical Unit. The MASRN Technical unit (TU) is responsible for overall coordination and technical oversight of project activities. The MASRN TU will prepare the annual work plan and budget to be submitted to the ISC, the annual report of the project, quarterly reports, and other project reports. The MASRN Technical Unit reviews project progress. The MASRN TU will advise the FA on payment requests from executing agency. At a minimum the TU will be headed by a Coordinator who will be the focal point for the FA and the World Bank. A phased approach is envisioned whereas implementation

⁶ The *Comité Stratégique de retour/relocalisation des personnes déplacées en République centrafricaine* was established by Presidential Decree 16/316, August 19, 2016 and is chaired by the President of the Republic. Its mandate is to: i) define an overall strategic vision on returns of displaced people in CAR; validate the return/reinstallation projects prepared by its Technical committee; ensure mobilization of national and international funds; and ensure the monitoring and evaluation of activities.



arrangements will be revised at the end of year two of project implementation or at Mid-Term Review to consider the transfer of fiduciary responsibilities to MASRN.

Main executing agency. The government will recruit the main executing agency and will contract out project activities. On the basis of technical readiness and proven capacity, the choice of the main executing agency is UNOPS. The main executing agency will provide key services, including: i) ensure efficient overall project management; ii) procurement of services to implement project components; iii) report to the MASRN Technical Unit on project progress and present payment requests to be then processed by the FA; iv) collaborate and support the MASRN TU in supervision missions; v) provide the FA with all financial information required to prepare the financial reports; vi) support the preparation of a Mid Term Review (MTR) and the orderly closing of the project; vii) support information and communication campaigns; and ix) ensure that high quality independent assessments are carried out on project performance and technical quality of the infrastructures rehabilitated by the project. The MASRN TU will benefit from the On-track approach of UNOPS, which aims to provide hands-on technical assistance to civil servants by integrating them directly into project execution.

Service providers. The main executing agency will contract one or more service providers (NGOs, UN agencies, consultants) to: i) support a locally-based selection of infrastructure and services and execute their rehabilitation (component 1); ii) in the same areas and through common arrangements, identify and register beneficiaries of cash transfers, and ensure their timely and secure payment (component 2); iii) develop and deliver accompanying measures to all members of targeted communities (component 3); iv) support the implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures; v) forecast, schedule and support future infrastructures and services maintenance and operating needs; vi) support existing (or to be established) local community committees in view of the implementation of components 1 and 2; vii) report to the main executing agency on project progress and prepare and maintain all required financial statements; viii) carry out independent technical studies and impact and process assessments.

Local committees and local authorities. With the active involvement of local authorities, the project will leverage existing local committees to identify the infrastructure and services to be rehabilitated and to support the beneficiary targeting process. Where such committees do not exist, the project will support the establishment of new ones following the guidelines of the government related to Local Committees for Peace and Reconciliation (CLPR or *Comités Locaux de Paix et de Réconciliation*)⁷.

Note to Task Teams: The following sections are system generated and can only be edited online in the Portal.

⁷ Central African Republic, National Recovery and Peace Building Plan 2017-2021, Published in 2016 in view of the Donor conference on CAR held in Brussels, Belgium on November 17, 2016.



F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

Project activities will take place primarily in four priority areas where there is a high concentration of displaced people: Batangafo, Kaga Bandoro, Bambari and Bria. Eventually, it could include other areas of concentration of IDPs if security deteriorates in one of the initial four locations. The project could support few activities in Bangui; however, the scope of the project will focus on areas outside the capital given the high number of actors and interventions that are currently taking place in Bangui. The activities envisaged in this project revolve around: (i) cash transfers in favor of the most vulnerable households; (ii) construction / rehabilitation of basic social services and local infrastructure; (iii) job creation through labor intensive public works. Under Component 1, the project proposes to finance the rehabilitation and/or construction of local infrastructure such as roads, road side drainage, healthcare facilities, other local infrastructure. The impacts and potential risks of the activities are estimated to be limited and manageable. The rehabilitation and/or construction is likely to have small environmental impacts on human population (noise, safety risk, waste matters and dust). To protect people’s health from environmental risks and pollution, an Environmental and social Management Plan (ESMP) will be prepare to reduce the adverse impacts the project could probably have on the environment as well as a the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF).

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Cheikh A. T. Sagna, Emeran Serge M. Menang Evouna, Albert Francis Atangana Ze, Mamadou Diedhiou

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	This policy is triggered as the project activities and mainly those related to component 1 (support to enhance the delivery of local services and availability of local infrastructure to benefit communities impacted by displacement (hosting and return communities) as well as former combatants) may have environmental and social impacts. The scope, nature and scale of these potential impacts are not known at this project concept stage. The exact nature and location of activities could not be identified during the project preparation. As the project fails under OP 10.00, paragraph 12, Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, the Team anticipates that an



ESMF will be prepared to guide the way that potential negative environmental and social impacts of future activities will be identified and mitigated during the project implementation.

There are a number of social safeguards issues as well as general social development impacts that are not covered by 4.12 or 4.10 that will be addressed in the ESMF. The key social safeguards issues are involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples. This project is not an infrastructure heavy project therefore land take is predicted to be minimal. However, any land take and resettlement both physical and economic will need to be identified in the ESMF and mitigated by the requisite resettlement instruments. Small indigenous communities could be located in the project areas. The extent of the potential project impact on them will be covered in the ESMF and if necessary a separate stand-alone IP development plan will be drafted and disclosed as part of the safeguards requirements. Interventions embedded in the project to address these gaps and inequities will be identified in the ESMF and taken into consideration during project implementation.

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04

No

This policy is not triggered as the CAR current Protected areas network seems to be out of the project zone of influence. Even this policy is not triggered, the ESMF will define the relevant mitigation measures to avoid any natural habitat including protected areas threats.

Forests OP/BP 4.36

No

This policy is not triggered as the project activities under component 1 will not include investments that will treat natural forests. The project will give preference to sitting activities on unforested sites or lands already converted (excluding any lands that have been converted in anticipation of the project). In addition, to avoid any introduction of invasive species that could threaten local biodiversity, the ESMF will provide clear guidance on how to avoid natural forest threats during the project implementation.

Pest Management OP 4.09

No

Even Agriculture activities are not clearly triggered to be supported by the project at this stage, the beneficiaries may want to develop agriculture subprojects that may increase the use of pesticides



		and other hazardous agricultural chemicals which may be used for productivity increase purpose. The ESMF will cover propose an integrated pest management measures that will guide the project beneficiaries during the implementation.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	Component 1 (support to enhance the delivery of local services and availability of local infrastructure to benefit communities impacted by displacement) may involve excavation and earth movement. The ESMF will include clear procedures that will be required for identification, protection of cultural property from theft, and treatment of discovered artifacts “chance finds” that could be identified during the implementation project.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	The proposed operation is being implemented in urban areas, so it is not expected to trigger the Indigenous Peoples policy (OP 4.10). Should the policy criteria apply to the project, the Borrower will prepare, consult upon and disclose an Indigenous Peoples Plan. A Tier-1 Restructuring will also be prepared.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	There will be some small land during the implementation of component 1. The ESMF will identify the potential extent of the resettlement and which resettlement instruments will be appropriate.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The Project is not intended to finance activities related to construction of dams or use of exiting dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project could finance a very limited number of waters points to satisfy host communities needs in potable water. It is not anticipate that these infrastructures will have an impact within the Lake Chad international water shed.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This policy is not triggered as the project activities are not in the Disputed Areas as stated in the OP 7.60.



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project is being classified as a Category B operation due to the low and limited level social and environmental risks and impacts of its foreseen activities, which scope will be rather site specific, and thus easily manageable. The project has a national coverage with a specific focus on four urban areas regions where IDPs are mostly located. The environmental and social impacts will be local and limited as the project activities will be limited to the regions where IDPs are located. Specific mitigation measures will be designed to address potential negative impacts.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: Such project in a post-conflict country like CAR is expected to bring positive impacts to its beneficiary populations (i.e. better access to infrastructure and services, more social cohesion, employment opportunities, improved living conditions, more accessible livelihood support resources, long-lasting peace environment, greater human development and social behavior, etc.) while carrying some negative impacts for which specific mitigation measures will be designed.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The overall responsibility of safeguards processing relies on the Technical Unit (TU) within the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Reconciliation, with support from executing agency, UNOPS, working closely with the Ministry of Environmental Affairs, more specifically on the Social and Environmental Specialist of the project, which the project will be hiring on due course. The Social and Environmental Safeguards Specialist of the executing agency will be responsible for following up on all safeguards concerns. S/he would also ensure that all safeguard concerns are properly dealt with. S/he will further be supported by the World Bank Social and Environmental Safeguards Specialists who will ensure his/her technical capacity are further strengthened. S/he will lead the systematic screening of all subprojects as well as the development of any related additional safeguards instrument. The safeguards documents will be properly consulted upon and publicly disclosed both in-country and at the InfoShop prior to the start of the civil works.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

To ease safeguards understanding and undertaking by the client, the attached final ESSAP will be duly consulted upon with the Government and project stakeholders and then translated into French for broader public dissemination in CAR, particularly in project areas, as well as at the Infoshop prior to the project effectiveness. Likewise, the project safeguards instruments (ESMF/ESMP; RPF/RAP) will also be duly consulted upon and publicly disclosed both in-country and at the InfoShop prior to the physical start of projects civil works. Each of these instruments, including the ESSAF includes a participatory GRM, well-grounded on local practices that PAPs and stakeholders broadly could make good use of to seek preparation whenever they feel affected. The safeguards instruments are expected to be ready four months after effectiveness.



B. Disclosure Requirements

The review of this Safeguards has been Deferred.

Comments

An ESSAP has been developed specifically for these proposed operations to ensure due diligence, to avoid causing harm, and to ensure consistent treatment of social and environmental issues by the Government of CAR and the World Bank. The purpose of this Action Plan is also to assist the Government Project implementation team in properly screening all the subprojects for their likely social and environmental impacts and risks, identifying documentation and preparation requirements and prioritizing the investments based on the scale of the risks. As an emergency operation, a site specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and/or Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) may be carried out during project implementation.

The review of this Safeguards has been Deferred.

Comments

An Environmental and Social Safeguards Action Plan (ESSAP), consistent with Bank operational policies and procedures, investment operations subject to OP/BP 10.00, paragraph 12, Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, has been prepared. In addition, the need for involuntary resettlement or land acquisition in specific subproject areas will only be known during project implementation, when site-specific plans are available in the extension zone. Therefore subprojects will be screened for applicability of the resettlement policy and any subprojects involving involuntary resettlement or land acquisition with restriction to access to livelihood supports areas, etc. will only be approved after preparation of a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) acceptable to the Bank.

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

No

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement



Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

NA

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

NA

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?

No

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

No

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

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APPROVAL

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Note to Task Teams: End of system generated content, document is editable from here.