

Central African Republic

Child Protection

Sectoral and OR+ (*Thematic*) Report

January - December 2016



Children in child friendly spaces set up by UNICEF's partner NGO AFRBD in Batangafo © UNICEF CAR/2015/Sylvanus

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A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAAC	Children affected by armed conflict
CAR	Central African Republic
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CIRGL	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Countries
CNPE	National Council for Child Protection
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CTO	Interim Transit Centre
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISF	Integrated Strategic Framework
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OVC	Orphans and other vulnerable children
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RCPCA	Rehabilitation and Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic
RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Sexual exploitation and abuse
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRSG	Special Representative to the Secretary General
TCC	Troop contributing countries
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UMIRR	Joint Unit for Rapid Response and Repression of Sexual Violence
WHO	World Health Organization

B. Executive Summary

For the Central African Republic (CAR), the year 2016 has been characterized by the establishment of democratically elected institutions with a new President and elected national deputies who voted their confidence to the new Government of the Republic. The government defined the Rehabilitation and Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (RCPCA) stabilization plan, which is the national priorities document for the period 2017-2021 with three main pillars: (1) Peace, security and national reconciliation; (2) Equity, social contract and well-being, prioritizing access to basic social services and (3) Economic recovery. This document was presented at the donors' conference held in Brussels in November 2016 where key donors committed to support the Government's efforts. Furthermore, regarding the humanitarian situation, a strategic Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been developed for the next 3 years.

In October 2016, the Government organized an international forum on child soldiers under the leadership of President Touadera and with the participation of delegations from the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Countries (CIRGL) and other neighboring countries. During this forum, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to the process of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) and to take all appropriate measures to combat the recruitment and utilization of children by armed groups in CAR.

The international community's interest in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by international forces has increased since 2015. In 2016, UNICEF CAR and partners supported 233 alleged victims and took further immediate action to review and improve warning systems for SEA alerts. Coordination with partners and MINUSCA evolved significantly and NGOs and local partners were assisted to denounce alleged perpetrators and share information about possible SEA cases with MINUSCA. Moreover, troop contributing countries (TCC) have begun to react swiftly by sending national investigators following the receipt of SEA allegations against their troops. The CAR Government has shown great commitment in assisting national investigators of TCC to identify alleged SEA victims and schedule interviews.

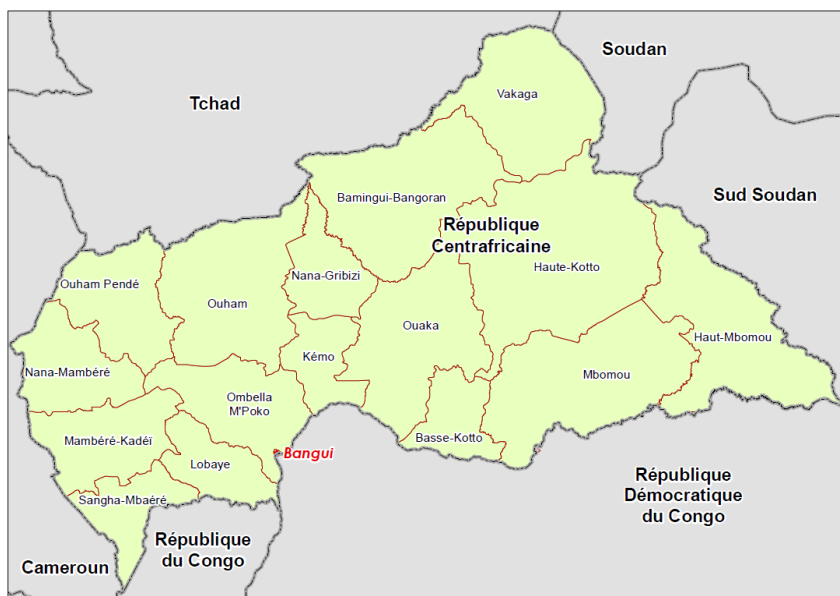
The report on the implementation of the child protection policy has been drawn up and the new draft policy is being validated by the main child protection actors and the various Ministries responsible for children issues. In addition, the system to protect children and women against sexual violence has been strengthened as well as the management of cases of abuse and sexual exploitation which have been widely documented and supported during this period. Furthermore, CAR has finally presented its first periodic report on the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child to the International Committee on Child Rights.

In 2016, child protection services were expanded in response to the humanitarian crisis. UNICEF, through its implementing partners has supported child protection efforts in the Central African Republic, which have produced important results for children. A) A total of 3,982 children, including 1,222 girls, between the ages of 7 and 17 were released from armed groups in 2016. B) 56,229 children affected by conflict, including 24,062 girls, were assisted with psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces (CFS) and listening centers, C) 1,733 survivors of sexual violence were identified and had access to a comprehensive package of assistance (psychological support, medical assistance, dignity and hygiene kits).

The main constraints in 2016 remained the volatile security environment and logistical access. Efforts have also been hampered by insufficient financial resources. As a result, only 50 per cent of released children have been reintegrated and around 4,000 children remain associated with armed groups in CAR. To ensure their long-term reintegration, functional structures must be in place to support investments and gains made so far so that children live to their full potential and become productive members of their society.

C. Strategic Context of 2016

The situation of children in CAR has deteriorated during 2016. Many attacks and abuses against civilians have continued in the north-western and central part of CAR where a strong presence of armed groups remains. Furthermore, security issues are linked to the seasonal migration of livestock and the presence of competing armed groups. The number of displaced people increased to 420,000 in November as



a result of clashes in the northwest and centre of CAR. There are still 90 IDP sites across the country and 10% of the Central African population have fled the country. The clashes between armed groups from September to the end of November resulted in further degradation of the humanitarian and security situation.

Efforts to release children associated with armed groups were jeopardized by the unwillingness of some armed groups, which had signed the action plan to release children, facilitated by UNICEF and its partners during the national reconciliation forum in Bangui in 2015. Also, the creation of new alliances between armed groups alerted the humanitarian community, as the emergence of new armed factions requires the establishment of new dialogue while they generally lack a clear chain of command.

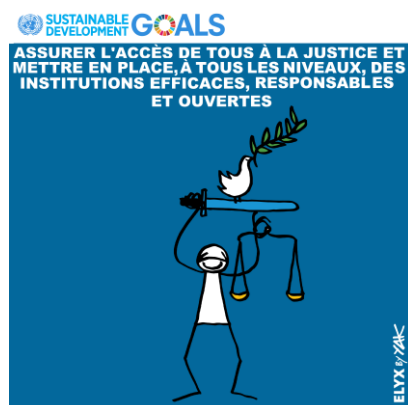
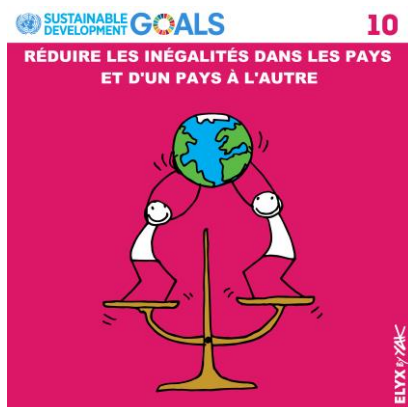
Therefore, a large extent of UNICEF's work focused on the child protection emergency response while working with the new government on the transition to recovery and development agenda. This was aligned with the initial UNICEF CAR 2012-2017 Country Programme which focuses on strengthening institutional capacity with the Ministry of Social Affairs as a gateway for synergy and harmonization of child protection interventions around the National Council for Child Protection (CNPE) which brings together all the institutions and ministries working in the field of Child Protection. UNICEF's development programme efforts during this year helped to revitalize these institutions.

Another key actor is the National Commission to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, this government institution is not very dynamic and does not have the technical capacities which makes it difficult to monitor the progress made at national level in favor of children. UNICEF is continuing advocacy with the Ministry of Justice to revitalize the commission.

In August 2016, the Government of CAR committed to the Agenda 2030 by aligning the priority areas of the Government contained in the RCPCA with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the provision of basic social services through state restoration and redeployment of its decentralized and local services, youth and women's employment, social cohesion, the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, modernization of agriculture and promotion of the private sector. The Government plans to implement an awareness-raising and advocacy campaign for the appropriation of the SDGs targeting ministries and other public institutions, local communities throughout the country, media, youth and women's organizations. The objective is to ensure inclusive participation in the selection of priority SDGs for better development planning in CAR in 2017.

The scope of UNICEF's Child Protection actions is also aligned with the SDGs, notably SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace and Justice). As such, UNICEF contributes to child protection systems strengthening in CAR to assure that most vulnerable and marginalized children in emergency and non-emergency regions are better protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Furthermore, UNICEF aims to enhance the capacity of institutional and non-institutional protection actors at the national and regional levels to enable them to provide gender-sensitive medical, psychosocial, legal, and livelihoods support and life skills training to vulnerable and sexually abused women and girls. Given CAR's ongoing crisis and fragility, programmatic and operational challenges remain. UNICEF is well positioned to address several of these challenges and achieve results for children, through its work both at upstream and downstream level. As the main partner in child protection for the Government of CAR, our lead role in the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, and leveraging capacity to bring key stakeholders together, UNICEF has been able to overcome some challenges, to the extent possible in terms of insecurity, accessing remote areas, and advocating with armed groups for the release of children.

UNICEF has established key partnerships with other stakeholders to achieve joint outcomes for children. With the government, UNICEF collaborates focusing on strengthening the capacity of government services to play a more prominent role in the child protection sector. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF has a strategic partnership with the ICRC to



ensure family tracing, with MINUSCA, UNHCR and UNFPA on issues related to MRM, GBV / SEA and other human rights issues. Operationally, UNICEF has established partnerships for programme implementation in the following areas: (a) international NGOs: Plan International, War-Child UK, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Triangle in Bangui and the prefectures of Haut Mbomou, Ouham Pende, Kemo, Nana Gribizi and Ouaka. (b) national NGOs: Association des Femmes Juristes de la Centrafrique (AFJC), Association des Femmes évangéliques de Bossangoa (AFEB), Association des Femmes rurales de Batangafo pour le Développement (AFRBD), CARITAS, Don Bosco, Béthanie, Centre de Recherche et Action pour un Environnement Durable (CRAED), Organisation de Développement Economique et Social de la Centrafrique (ODESCA), ESPERANCE, Enfants sans Frontières (ESF), Femmes - Hommes - Action Plus (FHAP), and the Network for the street children of the Central African Republic (REFERC) in the prefectures of Bangui, Ombella Mpoko, Ouham, Ouham Pende, Bamingui Bangoran, Vakaga, Haute Kotto and Nana Mambere.

D. Results in the Outcome Area

The focus of UNICEF's Child Protection Programme in 2016 was on the emergency response. By advocating with armed groups, conducting the verification and identification of children, UNICEF and its partners achieved the release of children associated with armed groups. By assisting these children through the transition and providing them with access to school, vocational training or income generating activities, their reintegration and reunification with their families and communities was possible. A key element for success was the community-based approach focusing in particular on the training of host families and efforts to increase the number of potential host families. This approach proved to be very effective, as children released from armed groups and welcomed in temporary host families were exposed to regular family life and family values that they needed to understand, accept and adhere to, before they were reintegrated into their communities and biological families.

(1) Release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups

In 2016, 3,982 children associated with armed groups were released and reintegrated (including 1,222 girls) out of 4,500 children identified in the ranks of the armed groups across the country. The majority (90%) of these children were released from anti-Balaka and other community self-defense groups. The remaining 10% were released from ex-Séléka armed groups. UNICEF, together with MINUSCA Child Protection and our partners achieved the release of these children through strong advocacy with the different armed groups. UNICEF is an active member of



During the release ceremony for children associated with armed groups in Bambari © UNICEF CAR/2015/Le Du

the Protection and Civilians and Civil-Military Coordination groups created to increase synergies between humanitarians and peacekeeping forces. Out of the 3,982 released children, 3,512 have benefited from a community reintegration programme which included admission to primary and

secondary schools, professional and vocational training centers. More than 1,400 children practice an income-generating activities in support of their reintegration and to address some of their immediate needs. However, reintegration opportunities and infrastructures of youth training are very limited, and partners develop literacy courses for children to learn reading, writing and counting and refer children to master craftsmen to complement professional training.

(2) Monitoring and reporting on grave violations

In 2016, activities carried out under the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) established by Security Council resolution 1612 and co-chaired by UNICEF and MINUSCA, contributed to the identification and documentation of 4,237 incidents by the parties to the conflict that were related to the six grave violations of children's rights. This included 26 children killed, 26 injured, 3,982 children formerly associated with armed groups, 38 cases of abduction (mainly Lord's Resistance Army - LRA), 45 cases of rape of minors by armed groups, 32 incidents of attacks and/or occupation of schools, 16 attacks on hospitals and 72 cases of denial of access to humanitarian aid. Children who have been victims of graves violations have all had access to the appropriate assistance package.

Overall, there was a decrease in the number of incidents occurring in 2016 compared to 2015 for grave violations of child rights, and the number of children released from armed groups increased. This tendency is due to the fact that, compared to last year, insecurity is not prevailing in all parts of the country anymore but rather limited to hotspots in specific areas. Furthermore, there is general hope and expectation that with the election of the new authorities, political stability will return to CAR. However, for the time being, the absence of state authorities and the weakness of administrative services in certain territories pose a risk for stability and peace in the local communities.

Four quarterly reports and one annual report on the six graves violations of child rights were submitted by the United Nations country team to the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. However, no action plan to end grave violations of child rights has been signed between the United Nations Country Team and the listed armed groups who are currently engaged in fighting between them and thus, are not willing to commit to such a plan. The United Nations country team plans to increase high-level advocacy to achieve the signature of this action plan in the next year.



*At the opening of the International Workshop on DDR in October 2016, the SRSF from MINUSCA, the Minister of DDR and the UNICEF Deputy Representative (from left to right)
© UNICEF CAR/2015/Le Du*

(3) Emergency Gender Based Violence (GBV)

UNICEF and its partners identified a total of 9,046 victims of GBV who were supported in 2016, including 1,377 rape; 245 sexual assault; 1,314 physical assault; 95 forced marriage; 3,038 psychological violence; and 2,977 denial of resources. The availability of more data as compared with 2015 (more than 4,000 survivors) is a result of the improved follow-up and better/ improved technical capacity (541 partner staff trained in 22 sessions) as well as the increased number of awareness raising sessions (255 sessions) explaining to survivors the options that are available to them. However, there

are still many survivors who do not speak out loud and seek medical and psychological assistance because they are afraid that their perpetrators, who often have impunity, will seek revenge.

UNICEF's Child Protection section is part of the GBV sub-cluster technical group and contributed to the regular coordination meetings where the mechanisms for managing and monitoring gender-based violence activities are discussed and actions are taken. This includes the development of GBV Guidelines, developing alerts particularly at displacement sites, and providing torch and whistle alert kits. UNICEF in collaboration with the GBV Sub-Cluster and the Ministry of Social Affairs signed an information sharing protocol. The GBV sub-cluster continues to play an important role in information collection through the information management system (GBVIMS) and the consequent quality verification



A listening center to assist survivors of GBV in an IDP site in Bangui © UNICEF CAR/2015/Ogawa

which results in regular reports which are shared with all stakeholders. The information gathered from January to December 2016 showed 11,110 survivors of GBV, with 86% girls and women and 14% boys and men (8,797 other types of GBV incidents and 2,313 incidents of sexual violence).

Following the sexual exploitation and abuse involving UN peacekeepers and international forces, UNICEF CAR and partners supported 233 alleged victims (21 boys, 149 girls and 63 women) and took further immediate action to review and improve warning systems for SEA alerts. Coordination with partners and MINUSCA evolved significantly and NGOs and local partners were assisted to denounce alleged perpetrators and share information about possible SEA cases with MINUSCA. Moreover, troop contributing countries (TCC) have begun to react swiftly by sending national investigators following the receipt of SEA allegations against their troops. The CAR Government has shown great commitment in assisting national investigators of TCC to identify alleged SEA victims and schedule interviews.

The legal and judicial protection services for GBV survivors were limited due to the shortcomings observed in the cooperation between the different legal entities (court, police, prison) in CAR. Police are absent from certain locations and where they are present they cannot arrest and bring all the alleged perpetrators to justice. Judges are present in some cities but often without resources to take decisions. The majority of prisons in CAR are not operational to keep convicts. This increases the insecurity for victims who prefer to be silent rather than denouncing the perpetrators who eventually have impunity. Despite this constraint and in a very difficult security context, the GBV's listening centers continue to provide the necessary judicial information to victims until the judicial system is reinforced.

Child marriage is on the one hand part of the emergency GBV component, yet on the other hand requires a longer-term system strengthening approach. The Government with UNICEF's support launched a national campaign to end child marriage in CAR. A coordination structure has been set up by the government, grouping government services, UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs. The collaboration between the Ministry of Social Affairs with UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and MINUSCA on the issue of child marriage contributed to develop a work plan to guide support throughout 2016-2017,

while awaiting the finalization of a national strategy and communication plan to accelerate the elimination of harmful practices including violence and child marriage.

(4) Child protection sub-cluster coordination

In 2016, improved coordination and information sharing among key child protection actors strengthened the whole sector and thus, contributed to a concerted and efficient response for children affected by CAR's ongoing crisis. UNICEF, as the lead of the child protection sub-cluster played an important role in many areas. It reinforced the capacity building of key child protection actors (government and NGOs) on critical areas of child protection in emergency and also reinforced the coordination of child protection partners at sub-national level through guidance on standards and analysis of gaps in the child protection response. Furthermore, the cluster ensured information collection and analysis on child protection issues and the update of situation analysis tools.

In detail, the sub-cluster maintained regular contact with partners and organized regular as well as bilateral meetings and ad hoc fora such as the SAG (Strategic Advisory Group)¹. The sub-cluster coordinated and supported the implementation of a national strategy for child protection in emergency, and developed and shared SOPs with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Furthermore, the sub-cluster works through technical working groups on specific issues like unaccompanied minors, children associated with armed groups as well as a referral mechanism system for children in needs. The sub-cluster, in collaboration with the Gender Based Violence (GBV) sub cluster and Prevention Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) task force ensured that child protection actors are informed on PSEA risks and response mechanisms for children in CAR, and that its members are involved in the response mechanism such as the referral system.

The cluster conducted field missions to Bossangoa, Bambari, Berberati, and Bouar to identify the gaps and needs of the local sub-clusters and support those groups with training and tools. It also advocated for child protection funds in emergency, particularly through the HRP 2017-2019.

The child protection sub-cluster developed monitoring and evaluation tools such as the 5 W matrix (who does what where, when and for whom), in order to monitor child protection response needs and achievements at the national level. This allows to follow the presence of child protection actors and currently all provinces in CAR (with the exception of Sangha Mbaere prefecture) are covered at least by one child protection actor. Nevertheless, the new outbreaks of violence that erupted in different areas of the countries reduced the mobility and the capacity of protection response for humanitarians including child protection partners as well as insufficient funds to cover all needs.



A joint mission by child protection sub-cluster members on a bad road between Dekoa and Mala to do a needs assessment © UNICEF CAR/2017/Ogawa

¹ The SAG works to define child protection strategies and policies.

(5) Capacity Building

Timely information on child rights violations were available thanks to the strengthened capacities and system for child protection monitoring. UNICEF and MINUSCA child protection organized the capacity building system for all major actors and stakeholders involved in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for grave violations. 13 training sessions on this issues were held for 403 staffs including 69 women from Government, UN and NGO actors in Bossangoa, Bouar, Berberati, Bambari, Bria and Bangui. They learned how to collect data and share information alerts on MRM incidents with the technical Country Task Force.

A new way of direct collaboration between key stakeholders from the health sector and the registration office helped to streamline the process of birth registration and raise parents' awareness on the importance of birth registration acts during pre- and post-natal visits. This synergies are significant to address the obstacles identified during the process of granting birth certificates, for instance the short deadlines, the value of birth registration cards, or the cost of birth registration acts. UNICEF supported the the Ministry of Territorial Administration to organize three training sessions in Bangui for 92 participants, including 88 women.

Through the work of the GBV sub-cluster, UNICEF contributed to strengthen the capacities of the 60 sub-cluster members, including 27 women, by facilitating four training sessions on the basic principles of GBV, psychosocial care, and the management of sexual violence against children.

Besides the emergency response, and as part of the transition and the gradual establishment of the child protection system, UNICEF has supported the efforts of state agencies in different areas:

(a) Justice for children

A total of 62 children (including six girls) in conflict with the law were identified and assisted in Bossangoa, Bangassou, Bangui, Bimbo, Bégoua and Bouar by the minors' police and the network for street children in CAR (REFERC) together with UNICEF. This was the total number of children documented as in conflict with the law which represents only 12% of the planned annual target. The judicial system for minors in CAR is extremely weak. There are not enough specialized judges for children, and the existing judges have no specific understanding of the process and principles applicable to children in conflict with the law or victims. Despite the gradual return of administration services, access to jurisdictions in order to monitor the situation of children has been extremely difficult. The small number of children reached with legal support is due to a number of reasons: In areas such as Bambari, Kagabandoro, Ndele, and Birao, in spite of the presence of the judicial authority, the leaders of the armed groups have complete control and do not support service recovery. Moreover, many state services have been looted and destroyed, most of the appointed actors in juvenile justice do not take posts in the field for security reasons. And eventually, populations resort to traditional justice which is highly influenced by armed groups.

UNICEF has advocated on the issue of children's rights at a high political level at a time when the country is beginning to reflect on reforms of the security system and justice. This advocacy can influence decisions on the establishment of specialized courts for children, the assignment of judges for children and the adoption of alternative measures to penalize minor offenses. UNICEF is raising the awareness of NGOs for the importance to become involved in the accompaniment of children in conflict with the law and victims at national level.

UNICEF is supporting the operationalization of the Mixed Unit of Rapid Response and Repression. It consists of a pool of judicial police officers (police and gendarmes) specialized in sexual violence against children and women. This year the operating manual and their SOPs are being developed.

(b) Reintegration and support of orphans and vulnerable children

In 2016, 1,392 vulnerable children, including 100 girls, in institutions such as orphanages, children placed in foster families and street children were assisted by civil society partners and government service providers through healthcare, feeding, access to education, and family identification with the support of UNICEF.

(c) Registering all births

In 2016, 24,984 children (14% of the target), including 7,508 girls, received their birth certificates (an increase of 5% as compared to 2015). In support of state services to achieve this result, UNICEF provided birth registers, and other equipment, such as furniture, to offices in several prefectures where registration offices were present. The absence of civil registers at the decentralized level and the destruction of infrastructure continued to impede the registration of children across the country. Because of these constraints, the supervision and coordination of birth registration activities remains challenging. Partners, such as UNFPA



Mr. Joseph Yamindji, the social affairs staff for civil registration in Dekoa, Kemo prefecture, sitting in his office, a room in the almost destroyed city hall © UNICEF CAR/2017/Ogawa

and World Vision, provide technical, material and financial support as does UNICEF to the Government technical services. Furthermore, UNICEF worked together with the government to develop a concept note describing the government's strategic approach on how to increase the number of birth registrations. A needs assessment has been carried out particularly in Bangui and will be extended to other prefectures.

The legislation (Article 134 of the Family Code) is not favourable to the registration of all children in rural areas. Remoteness, poverty, unequipped registration offices, and the absence of staff are among the various factors that hamper the registration and issuing of a birth certificate within one month's time after birth of the child. UNICEF started to advocate for the revision of the family code relating to the civil status to facilitate the registration process.

Promoting resilience: In 2016, UNICEF and its partners implemented a resilience project for children. In 65 Child friendly spaces (CFS), 56,226 children received psychosocial support: 38,276 children (22,095 boys and 16,181 girls) in Ouham and Ouham Pende; 13,636 children (5,921 boys and 7,715 girls) in Bangui, Kemo and Ouaka; 4,317 children (2,357 boys and 1,960 girls) in Ndele and Kaga-Bandoro. CFS are a response to the context of CAR's ongoing crisis where children and families in many areas have been affected, displaced, separated and they have lost many of their belongings. Consequently, the resilience of these populations to deal with external shocks is very low. If this is

true on the physical level, it is also important to underline the psychological impact on children who suffer from the traumatic experiences they have lived through during the past years. In the safe environment of the CFS, children participate in recreational and creative activities (dance, theater, drawing, etc.) to express the violence suffered and cope with these difficult experiences. For parents and communities the CFS offer an opportunity to learn to understand the behavioral problems their children might have, and to get the necessary support.



A child friendly space in Dekoa, Kemo prefecture, where children from vulnerable communities can play and receive psychosocial support © UNICEF CAR/2017/Ogawa

E. Financial Analysis

Thematic funds for Child protection have contributed to the achievement of the above-mentioned results. In particular, flexible thematic funding was crucial to assure the availability of qualified personnel to provide technical assistance, implementation and monitoring of activities as the crisis continued and increase the scope of activities. Thematic funding also enabled UNICEF CAR Child Protection to benefit from the expertise of external support missions to reinforce the Country Office in its response.

Table 1: Planned budget by Outcome area (in US Dollar)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget ²
06-01 Data and Child Protection	RR	15,578
	ORR	121,837
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	RR	16,529
	ORR	-
06-04 Justice for children	RR	281,943
	ORR	451,647
06-05 Birth registration	RR	11,650
	ORR	90,359
06-06 Child Protection in emergencies	RR	203,471
	ORR	631,419
Total Budget		1,824,434

¹ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular

² Planned budget for ORR does not include estimated recovery cost.

ORR funded amount exclude cost recovery (only programmable amounts)

UNICEF CAR's own Regular Resources funding for the Child Protection programme represent around 30% of the total planned budget, pointing to the fact that the programme continues to rely heavily on Other Resources to supports its implementation. At the time of the planning of the original Country Programme in 2011/2012 (for the 2012-2016 cycle) this conflict in CAR had not started yet. With the onset of the crisis, UNICEF was able to react quickly and shift its focus to an emergency response, and

address new upcoming issues such as cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, thanks to thematic funding.

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to Outcome area received in 2016 (in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Andorran National Committee for UNICEF	SC1499060095	79,618	75,827
Belgian Committee for UNICEF	SC1499060109	29,097	27,712
Total		108,715	103,539

Table 3: 2016 Expenditures in the Outcome area (in US Dollar)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
06-01 Data and Child Protection	66,609	5,362	483,872	555,844
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	1,196,038	359,966	720,125	2,276,129
06-05 Birth registration	50,741	829	196	51,766
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	4,405,488	1,764,193	492,846	6,662,527
Total	5,718,876	2,130,350	1,697,039	9,546,266

In 2016, UNICEF's child protection programme spent most of its resources on the emergency response, given the tremendous needs for children and families during the continuing crisis. While the country office was able to mobilize funding from several donors for the emergency response, other areas received less attention. Thanks to the flexibility of thematic funds, it was possible to support critically underfunded areas that required urgent attention. Thus, thematic funding was mostly used (see Table 4) to support on the one hand advocacy efforts for system strengthening and on the other hand provide essential support for the coordination of the sector during the emergency.

Table 4: 2016 Thematic expenses by programme area (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount		
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	All Programme Accounts
06-01 Data and Child Protection	192	-	192
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	114,043	276,585	390,628
06-05 Birth registration	30	-	30
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	24,877	14,763	39,640
Total	139,141	291,348	430,490

Table 5: 2016 Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes (in US Dollars)

Specific Intervention Code	Expense
06-01-01 Child Protection and violations # periodic data collection and analysis	42,334
06-01-02 Child Protection and violations # routine administrative data collection and analysis	254,267
06-03-01 Violence against children (general)	710
06-03-02 Prevent and address emotional and physical violence (including corporal punishment)	22,342
06-03-03 Prevent and address gender based violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation	1,663,677
06-03-04 Prevent incidences of armed violence against children and children's involvement in armed violence	60,359
06-05-01 Birth and civil registration	45,869
06-06-06 Prevent and address child recruitment in armed forces and combat groups	5,019,995
06-06-08 Child Protection monitoring and reporting in armed conflict (SCR 1612 1882, 1888 and 1960)	85,779
08-01-01 Country programme process	15,449
08-01-02 Annual review	3,235
08-01-06 Planning # General	21,755
08-02-10 Humanitarian performance monitoring	1,274
08-03-01 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	313,914
08-03-02 Communication for Development at sub-national level	1,913
08-05-01 Supply # General	336,005
08-05-03 Logistics	360,769
08-08-03 UNICEF support to programming and capacity development on gender	1,451
08-09-01 Innovation activities	11,180
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	254,451
08-09-11 Emergency preparedness and response (General)	970,817
09-02-05 CO Programme coordination	
10-02-01 Finance, budget and account capacity at HQ level	-101
5021 Support to MICS, DHS and other data collection systems and their analyses	10,442
7921 Operations # financial and administration	48,379
Grand Total	9,546,266

F. Future Work Plan

Ensure an assistance package for children associated with armed groups. UNICEF will coordinate the prevention, release, care and reintegration activities for 3,000 children, develop a communication plan for communities affected by armed conflict, train actors involved in the care and reintegration of children as well as ensure their verification and family reunification. UNICEF is also planning to identify separated or unaccompanied children, and train host families for the placement of children outside of their family context.

Reinforce the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism by supporting the implementation of action plans with listed armed groups, the distribution of instruction notes to non-listed groups and the preparation of reports on violations of children's rights.

Support survivors of sexual violence to benefit from holistic treatment (medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic and legal) and protection from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will support the preparation of timely documentation and reporting on all cases of SEA committed by international forces and humanitarians.

UNICEF will support the **preparation of timely documentation and reporting on all cases of SEA** committed by international forces and humanitarians, strengthen the capacities of actors on the standards, principles and intervention techniques for protection and prevention of survivors, support the development of a communication plan to popularise prevention of violence in communities affected by conflict, support the provision of quality holistic care for survivors, and strengthen the alert system.

Promote birth registration and the strengthening of the justice system for children, which remains one of the main challenges in the country. This intervention will be part of the establishment of a child protection system in CAR. New initiatives have been developed with the health sector to ensure the registration of children. Tangible results will be expected next year, as we started by capacity building and training of health workers in the maternal health sector.

Mobilization of groups of donors around the theme of children associated with armed groups called "Friends of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)". Individual meetings will be organized to identify donors' interests as well as their participation in order to mobilize more funds to support the release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups.

Awareness raising will continue by enhancing implementation of the communication plan to address resistance and promote the empowerment of communities while service providers will be well equipped to assist alleged survivors.

Initiate pilot projects for social transfers. Once the modalities of these transfers are defined, they will help to reduce the vulnerability of households and also strengthen their economic power and resilience for better protection of their children.

UNICEF will continue to participate in the operationalization of the Joint Unit for Rapid Response and Repression of Sexual Violence (UMIRR), in the Joint Project on Justice (MINUSCA, UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA) to train justice actors. Also, in coordination with GBV /SEA partners, several other participants of the criminal chain including those of the Special Police Unit for Children were and will be trained on psychosocial support.

UNICEF will ensure that the CAR's Special Criminal Court addresses the issue of juvenile justice. Active and technical participation of UNICEF in the National Coordination Framework on Justice is an opportunity to facilitate children's access to the justice system in CAR.

Parenting responsibility: By reducing vulnerability, parents will be empowered economically and be capable of monitoring their own children through the introduction of safety nets which is complementary to the current package within the child protection program. Vulnerability criteria will be developed through a large consultation with various stakeholders in a specific area. Then a cash transfer pilot project will be developed in coordination with UNICEF CAR's social policy section.

G. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF would like to recognize all donors that made global, regional and country-specific donations into the Child Protection thematic fund. The flexibility of these contributions enabled UNICEF CAR to target funds where they are most urgently needed – or, to cover important but neglected technical areas that make a direct and distinctive impact on child protection. Your contribution has been instrumental in helping CAR strive towards the achievement of protection-related SDGs – but also touched the lives of individual children and families.



H. Annexes: Human Interest Stories and Donor Feedback Form

I am not afraid to restart my life

My name is Lucienne, I am 17 years old. My father was a worker and my mother is a farmer. We live in a neighborhood of Bangui called Bimbo 4. Before I joined the armed group, I attended school and I also sold Chikouangue (fermented manioc rolls) at the market. I remember as if it was yesterday the time I was drawn in the armed group. When I think of it, so many emotions come up again.

In 2013, I joined the anti-Balaka after the tragic deaths of my brother and older sister who were killed by the Seleka rebels. At this moment of the conflict, I could not even imagine that those who had committed this crime would be held responsible for their actions. The justice in my country has suffered greatly during this conflict and I did not think that the rebels would ever be punished. That's why I decided to join the armed group, hoping that one day I would pay them back the pain they made us suffer. I don't think that I have met this objective. But each time a Seleka rebel was killed I felt a kind of relieve. It was as if my brother and sister had been revenged. My only feeling of satisfaction comes from the fact that my service with the anti-Balaka against the Seleka contributed to the protection of my country.



*Lucienne is talking to a social worker
© UNICEF CAR/2017/Dongobada*

The memory that I keep from the war is extremely painful. I would not wish such an experience to any girl of my age. Life in the bush with the fighters is a life of multiple deprivations, and food was neither of good quality nor sufficient. The commander drugged as constantly so that we would be more resistant. Each time when I had to go to battle, they mixed certain herbs in our food to give us courage. Once I had taken the food, I was no longer afraid, any feeling of exhaustion was gone and I only felt it late at night or the next day.

Being with my gun at a road block I was certain that by the end of the day I had enough money to get food. The money gained this way was not always made honestly. That's why, when my commander prepared the list with the names of the children in our group who would be reinserted into civilian life thanks to the reintegration programme, I proposed myself and I was included. I hope that finally I can make an honest life and support my family once I have finished my training. I am not afraid to restart my life and this integration programme gives me new hope.



*"School, not arms" - A poster for the international workshop in October 2016 on child DRR
© UNICEF CAR/2016/Le Du*

Engaging in a different fight

Before I joined the armed group anti-Balaka, I already had a difficult childhood, especially after the death of my mother. I had to drop out of school because my father did not take care of me anymore. Now I am 17 years old. My name is Donald.

After my mother's death, my father immersed in what I would qualify as irresponsibility. He no longer looked after me, I could not attend school anymore, I did not do anything. Consequently, I got involved with the anti-Balaka in December 2013. I was deployed in a village called Benzambe, close to Bossangoa. This period coincided with the first large-scale attacks of the anti-Balaka against the positions held by the ex-Seleka who controlled the main cities of the country, even the capital Bangui.



*Donald is talking with a social worker
© UNICEF CAR/2017/Dongobada*

I want to forget this past. A past that was very violent, with macabre scenes of people killed and houses burnt. So many people were displaced as they were forced to flee their homes, families were separated, children lost. Families became even poorer and so many children did not go to school anymore. When I look at the situation today I feel that the country, after living through so much violence, strives to turn the page. And me too, I have to turn the page of this past life and become an honest and responsible citizen of my country. Gone are the times when I used to make 10,000 XAF (around 15 Euros) a day by extorting money from passengers and vehicles at a road block. And also, over are the times when I was forced to get tattooed and vaccinated with all kinds of fetishes and other amulets to lose the fear and be protected from death during battle... everything has an end, and it is over now. I have to find myself a job.

I know though that even as circumstances are changing, in our memories, the images of the past's atrocities will only change slowly.



After about three months in interim care, the children arrive at a point when they themselves decide to get rid of their self-made fetishes and amulets © UNICEF CAR/2015/Daoundo

The vocational training that I just started as part of the reintegration program is also an opportunity which allows me to deal with the past. I can now start to make a living without my conscience condemning me. I am no longer stuck in a dilemma to obey a difficult order from my commander or to die. Now I am engaging in a different fight. One of life and my personal development. I take this training program very seriously. Thanks to it, I have a new opportunity to give another sense to my existence, and rectify the course of my life.

Stories collected by Thierry Dongobada, Project Manager, Caritas Bangui

Title of Report: Thematic Report 2016

UNICEF Office: UNICEF Central African Republic

Donor Partner:

Date:

Report Feedback Form

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:

Name: Daniel Ziegler

Email: dziegler@unicef.org

**SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”**

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

Thank you for filling this form!