



The World Bank

Additional Financing to the Central African Republic (CAR) Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (P180996)

Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 26-May-2023 | Report No: PIDA36056

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Central African Republic	Project ID P180996	Project Name Additional Financing to the Central African Republic (CAR) Emergency Food Crisis Response Project	Parent Project ID (if any) P176754
Parent Project Name Central African Republic (CAR) Emergency Food Crisis Response Project	Region WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 26-May-2023	Estimated Board Date 20-Jun-2023
Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Central African Republic (CAR)	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The objectives of the project are to increase food production and to improve resilience of targeted smallholder farmers and food insecure households in affected areas.

Components

- Support increased food production
- Labor-intensive public works for resilience
- Project management
- Contingent Emergency Response Component

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	50.00
Total Financing	50.00
of which IBRD/IDA	50.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	50.00
IDA Grant	50.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

High

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. The Central African Republic (CAR) with a population of more than six million is one of the most fragile countries and one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2022, it ranked 188th out of 191 countries in Human Development (HDI). However, the country faces multiple challenges that render it difficult to realize its potential, leaving 71.4 percent (in 2022) of its population in poverty (US\$1.90 per day, 2011 PPP). Political instability and insecurity have remained the main obstacles acting as a barrier to development.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

2. CAR currently faces a severe food security crisis. As per the latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis covering the period between September 2022 and March 2023, about 2.7 million people (41 percent of the population) face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC3+). This number is expected to increase to nearly 3 million people (49 percent of the population) in the April to August 2023 period, representing a net increase of nearly 300,000 additional people in IPC3+ in less than one year. By August 2023, the majority of the country's regions are expected to be in either a crisis (IPC3+) or emergency (IPC4+) state, with regions previously in IPC3 projected to worsen. Over 52 percent of the population is undernourished and in the medium-term, malnutrition is projected to increase with reports indicating that 40 percent of children under-five already suffer from chronic malnutrition, which is above the emergency threshold of 30 percent. Food insecurity is also been implicated as a leading cause of under-five mortality – standing at 84.3 deaths per 1,000¹ and one of the highest rates in the world in 2022. Several factors - both preexisting and exacerbating, contribute to the ongoing food security crisis in CAR. Preexisting factors include underperformance of the agriculture sector, ongoing conflicts that have displaced over 600,000 people, limited access to markets and farms, deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, and the lingering impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Exacerbating factors include the global rise in fuel, food, and fertilizer prices intensified by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The combination of these factors has led to a recent significant increase in food prices in the country - including a 6 percent increase for cassava, 17 percent for maize, and 46 percent for imported rice.

¹ <https://donnees.banquemonde.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT?locations=CF>



3. To mitigate the food security crisis, the Government of CAR has put in place a US\$461.3 million food security response plan to improve the food and nutritional security of vulnerable individuals in the short-term while enhancing their resilience in the medium term. Despite contributions and pledges from various donors, including the World Bank's EFCRP (P176754), amounting to US\$302.2 million as of the end of 2022, a funding gap of US\$159.1 million remained. This gap is expected to widen as the food security situation continues to deteriorate further in 2023. The proposed financing will enable the CAR government to respond efficiently to the projected worsening of the food security crisis in the coming months. The proposed activities aim to provide immediate relief through cash-for-work programs and distribution of production inputs, as well as implement short- and medium-term measures to address the root causes of the crisis, such as improving household nutrition and enhancing farmers' resilience.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

4. The development objectives of the project are to increase food production and to improve resilience of targeted smallholder farmers and food insecure households in affected areas.

Key Results

5. The proposed financing will go towards providing immediate relief through cash-for-work programs and distribution of production inputs, as well as implement short- and medium-term measures to address the root causes of the crisis, such as improving household nutrition and enhancing farmers' resilience.

6. Key results include: (i) an increase in the volume of food crops produced; (ii) an increase in the number of farmers reached with agricultural assets or services; and an increase in the number of beneficiaries of labor-intensive public works.

D. Project Description

7. The project components are as described below:

(a) **Component 1: Support increased food production (US\$40 million).** Under this component, the project will finance activities aiming to restore and preserve the productive capacity of farming households, and to enable continued and expanded production of key staple foods and livestock that are resilient to climate change. These include: (i) the establishment of a registry of producers in project areas; (ii) the expansion of production of key staple foods in the short to medium term, through the distribution of agricultural inputs and small agricultural equipment; (iii) the development of training tools, such as animated videos, printed materials, and radio broadcasts to help in communicating important extension messages to farmers, and the training of master trainers and farmer field school facilitators; (iv) a training and education program for CAR crop breeders; (v) breeding activities and releasing of new crops; (vi) a network of seed suppliers to facilitate the sale of improved seeds and other agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers in the region; (vii) training sessions for households, primarily targeting women of childbearing age and those with young children (aged 0-2 years), to enhance their knowledge and skills regarding the consumption of high-quality and highly nutritious foods such as vegetables and fruits; (viii) distribution of vegetable seeds for the establishment of home gardens; and (ix) enhancement of the competence of community health workers in the areas of nutrition and hygiene, enabling them to organize awareness campaigns and nutritional education training, and ensuring effective management of severe cases of malnutrition within the project area. Financing will also go towards post-harvest loss management and increased market connectivity.



- (b) **Component 2: Labor-intensive public works for resilience (US\$5 million).** This component will finance livelihood support programs through Labor Intensive Public Works. Envisaged works include the development of small-scale drip irrigation techniques to be used for cultivating off-season crops in a total of 120 hectares of vegetable or rice growing areas. To ensure the longevity of the infrastructure through efficient management and maintenance, a management committee for the infrastructure will be established and strengthened with project support.
- (c) **Component 3: Project Management (US\$5 million equivalent).** Financing under this component will cover the costs of project implementation and management for the proposed activities.

Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

11. The Environmental risk is considered substantial. Project activities entail risks and environmental impacts that require attention. Under Component 1, activities focused on increasing food crop production through improved access to agricultural inputs and advisory services may result in the degradation of agricultural land, decline in soil fertility, deforestation, pollution of surface and groundwater, work accidents, and infectious diseases. Under Component 2, activities supporting household livelihoods through the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure may pose occupational health and safety risks for workers, encroachment on crops, alteration of air quality, and issues like noise pollution and construction site waste.

12. The social risk is rated as High. While the project has overall positive social benefits, there are anticipated social risks and impacts including: (i) risks in forced displacement situations, leading to increased food prices, limited agricultural and livestock production, inadequate food consumption for vulnerable children under-five, and limited access to basic services and employment; (ii) high risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, particularly affecting children, women, and girls in displacement situations;(iii) risks of exclusion for marginalized and vulnerable social groups, including female heads of households, those with disabilities, orphans, associated with armed groups, unemployed youth, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, ethnic or religious minorities, including those facing discrimination and stigmatization such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the Mbororo Peuhls. These groups may face challenges in accessing food and nutrition facilities, undermining the project's objectives; (iv) risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups in recruitment for Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW), particularly in cash-for-work activities; (v) security risks for project workers and beneficiaries due to the presence of non-State armed groups across the territory; (vi) potential physical and economic displacement resulting from land acquisition for activities related to the rehabilitation of small-scale agricultural infrastructures under Component 2.



E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

12. Implementation arrangements for the project are expected to change. The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will manage the project. A service agreement will be entered into with the World Food Program to provide implementation support for relevant activities. The PCU will also partner with national and international NGOs where feasible and appropriate. Additionally, the PCU will work with the central and decentralized services of MARD, which will provide support to producers through memoranda of understanding with the PCU in implementing these activities.

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APPROVAL

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