



European  
Commission

# Bêkou

The EU Trust Fund for the  
Central African Republic

From humanitarian aid  
to resilience building



International  
cooperation and  
Development



our world  
our dignity  
our future



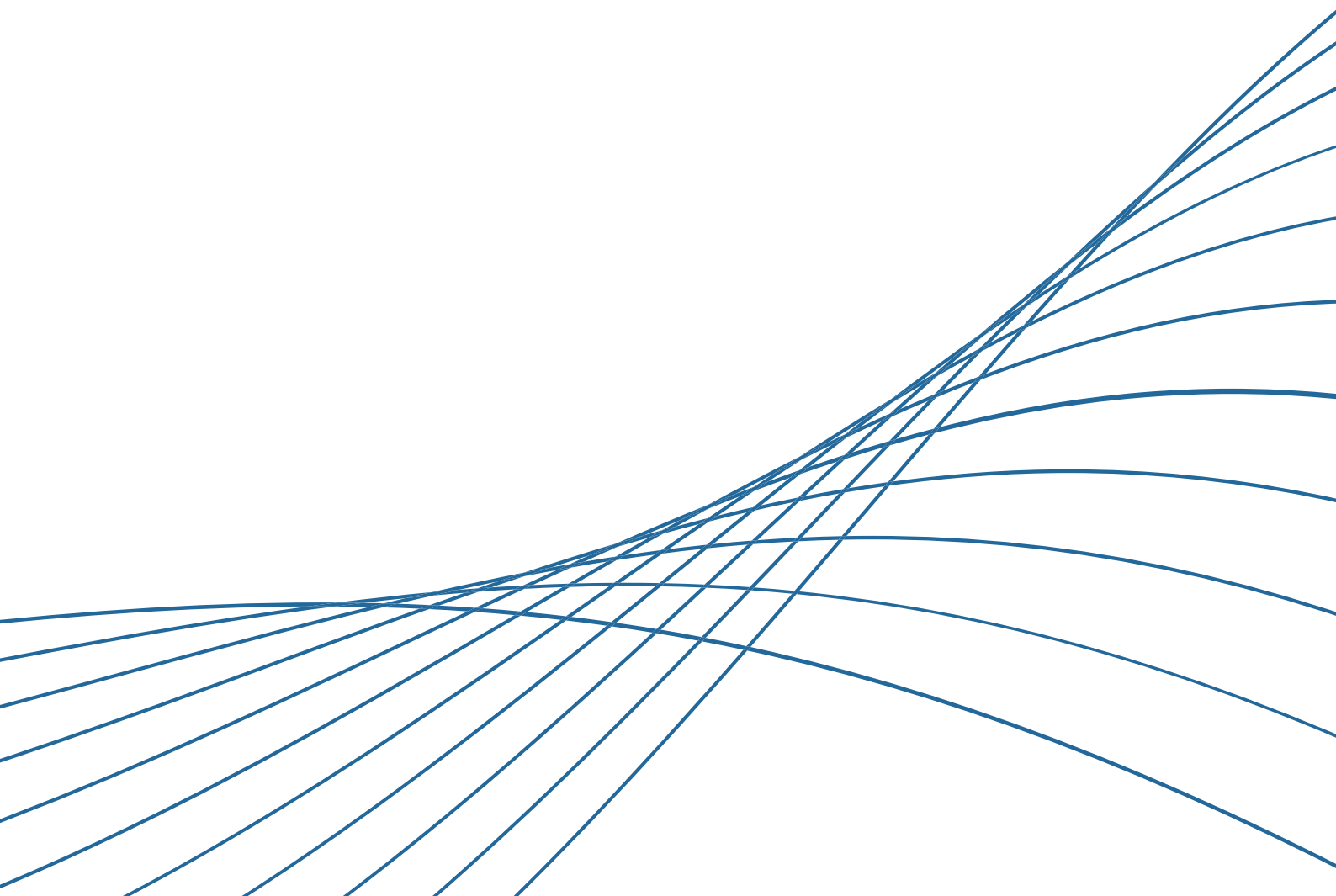
Partners of the Bêkou Trust Fund:

- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands

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« Thanks to the Bêkou Trust Fund, we have been able to maximise the impact of development aid, and to exploit the full potential of donor coordination. »

Neven Mimica,  
Commissioner for International  
Cooperation and Development

.....

« We hope that this Fund will allow us to tap into more support for the Central African Republic to bring lasting, rapidly deployable aid to support the transition process and to respond to the priorities that we have defined with our partners. »

Florence Limbio,  
CAR Minister of Economy, Planning  
and International Cooperation

.....

« The first challenge is ensuring a concerted action. »

Anne Paugam, CEO French Agency  
for Development (AFD)

.....

« The population of the Central African Republic is in immediate need of support to rebuild the structures of the state, to insure health care, food security and the safe return of inhabitants to their towns and villages. »

Gerd Müller,  
German Federal Minister for Economic  
Cooperation and Development

.....

« This Fund, which finances social and economic development projects, can receive contributions from those who wish to help stabilise and rebuild the Central African Republic.»

Robert Swartbol,  
General Director for International cooperation  
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs), The Netherlands

# Editorial

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Since March 2013, an unprecedented crisis in the Central African Republic has weakened its institutions as well as its economic and social structures. Most human development indicators, already weak before the crisis, have further deteriorated.

As one of the Central African Republic's long-term partners, the European Union rapidly mobilised all instruments at its disposal to respond to the consequences of the crisis: humanitarian action, development cooperation, peace and military advice missions.

To complete this set of instruments in the Central African context, we decided to set up a new tool in the European aid system, specifically conceived to respond to post-crisis situations.

Thus, on 15 July 2014, the European Union and Member States France, Germany and the Netherlands took the lead to create the first European multi-donor Trust Fund.

Named "Bêkou" ("hope" in Sango), this Trust Fund aims to reinforce resilience in the Central African Republic. The Bêkou Trust Fund, currently endowed with € 74 million, aims to finance projects focusing on emergency and development actions, while generally aiming to support reconciliation and coexistence between populations.

I am delighted to announce that today the Bêkou Trust Fund has identified, designed and launched projects worth € 47 million to benefit up to 1.4 million Central Africans.

We can congratulate ourselves on progress so far, but we also need to continue to look forward to address the acute needs of almost 3 million vulnerable people.

The International Conference on the Central African Republic on 26 May 2015 aims to raise awareness about the country's future and, especially, to increase donor mobilisation towards building its resilience.

New funding remains essential for the Bêkou Trust Fund to be able to continue its work in the Central African Republic.

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**Neven Mimica,**  
Commissioner for International  
Cooperation and Development





# BÊKOU

## The EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic

### Innovating and acting together

The 2013 crisis in the Central African Republic has resulted in the massive displacement of populations, degraded infrastructure, a lack of basic services and weakened public administration. In this context, a swift, structured and adapted international aid response has emerged as necessary to provide immediate assistance to the people, while preparing the country for reconstruction.

The first multi-donor EU Trust Fund was established on 15 July 2014 with this goal in mind, at the initiative of the European Union (EU), as a partner of the Central African Republic, and three of its Member States: France, Germany and the Netherlands. The Fund is named Bêkou, which means "hope" in Sango.

It is designed to expand the toolbox of the European aid system, in order to develop an innovative approach to crisis response, to mobilise different sources of EU funding and to gather contributions from Member States and donors from third countries.

### An approach to link humanitarian aid and development

For a long time, the Central African Republic has been characterised by fragile institutions and recurrent political and humanitarian crises. The latest crisis, in 2013, has further accentuated its structural weaknesses. The country is currently experiencing a "complex emergency" with heavily interlocked political, economic and humanitarian components. The coexistence of emergency and transitional situations

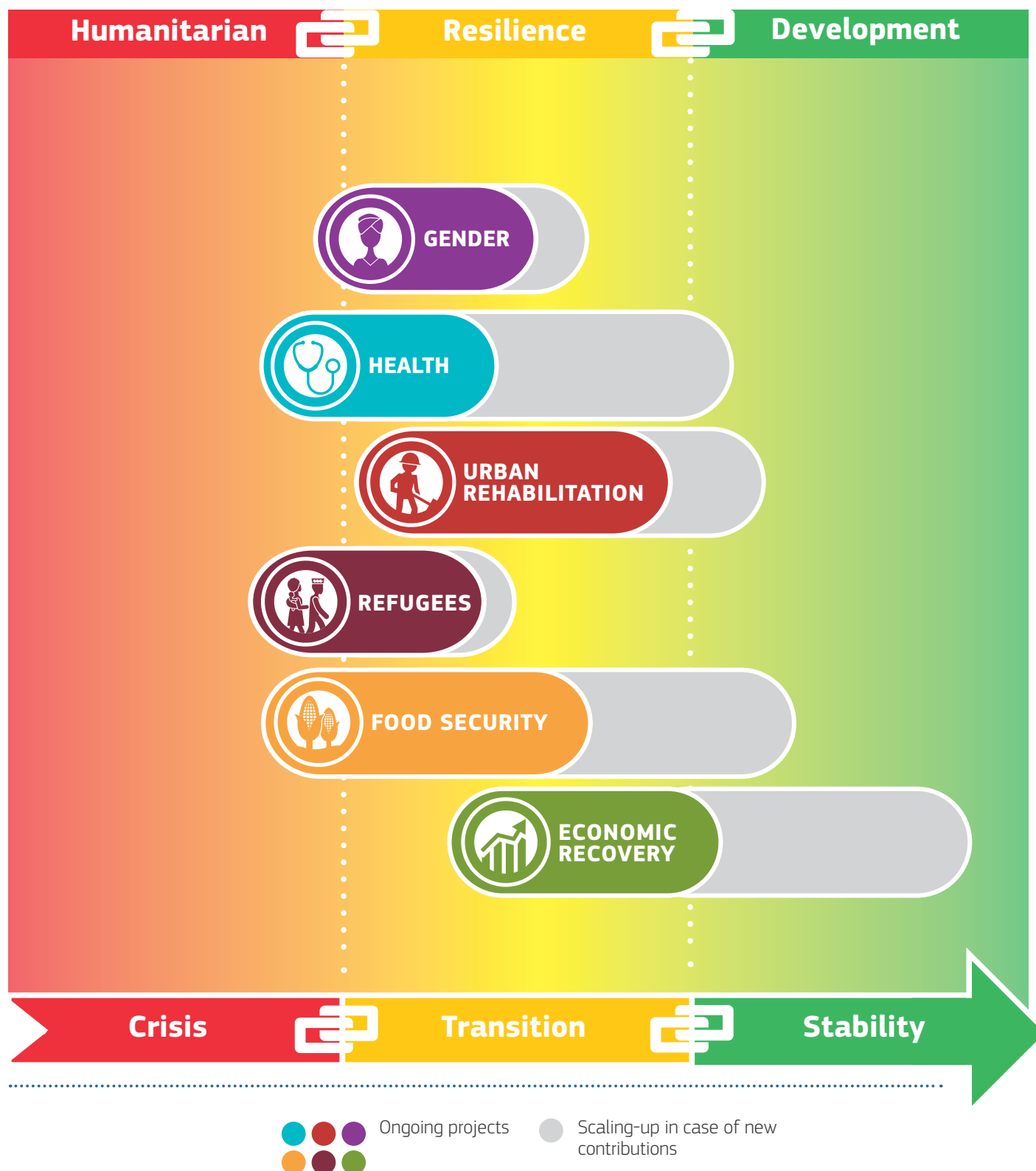
in the field requires close coordination between security operations conducted by international forces, the humanitarian response and reconstruction/development programmes, following the LRRD approach: Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development.

The Bêkou Trust Fund aims to direct the skills of development and humanitarian actors to establish projects on the border between the two fields, to provide immediate relief to the population, while strengthening the capacity of local authorities and creating conditions for long-term development.

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## LRRD AND THE BÊKOU TRUST FUND



## THE SECTORS IDENTIFIED BY THE TRUST FUND'S CONSTITUTIVE AGREEMENT

- To support the delivery of essential public and social services;
- To foster the country's economic revival;
- To encourage reconciliation and national cohesion, in observance of human rights;
- To support the strengthening of national and local administrative structures;
- To respond to the regional consequences of the crisis (primarily humanitarian).

### A new financial instrument for collective action

In crises such as the 2013 Central African Republic crisis, weakened national authorities and a sudden increase in donors represent an extra challenge to the coordination of the international community's response.

The Bêkou Trust Fund, with the agreement of Central African authorities, has been designed to allow collective European action. It aims to organise the resources from different donors, to pool the analysis capacity, to better identify priorities and to increase the implementation impact of the actions.

In a country that has been often considered an "aid orphan", the Trust Fund aims to rely on the expertise

of partners who have maintained a continuous presence in the field. Their knowledge and skills allow other donors, who are not present on the ground, to contribute to the country's reconstruction and development. Together, new and old actors, will implement a diversified portfolio of actions in the sectors identified by the Trust Fund's Constitutive Agreement.

### Governance of the Bêkou Trust Fund

The Trust Fund's global strategy is set by the Strategic Board, which is chaired by the European Union and composed by the representatives of the European Union, the Member States and other donors who contributed to the Trust Fund. In a second phase, the Operational Committee selects appropriate projects. It is composed of the representatives of the European

Union and all the other donors (who contribute with a minimum amount of € 3 million).

The Central African Republic is represented in both bodies. Finally, a small team within the European Commission, led by the Trust Fund Manager, coordinates and executes the Trust Fund's projects.

## GOVERNANCE OF THE BÊKOU TRUST FUND

### STRATEGIC BOARD

Chaired by the EU and composed by representatives of the EU Member States, the Donors and the government of the Central African Republic.

### OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chaired by the EU and composed by the representatives of the EU, the Donors (>3M€) and the government of the Central African Republic.

### TRUST FUND MANAGER

Entrusted to the EC, the team is responsible for the daily management of the Trust Fund.



**Global Strategy**



**Selection of Projects**



**Management of the Trust Fund**



## THE BÊKOU TRUST FUND AT A GLANCE

**Bêkou, the first EU Trust Fund****15 July 2014**

Creation of the first European multi-donor Fund for the Central African Republic's reconstruction at the initiative of the EU, France, Germany and the Netherlands



The total amount of funds available is € 74 million. € 47 million have already been committed and € 13 million disbursed

Six programmes have been adopted in the fields of gender, health, urban rehabilitation, food security, economic recovery and to support refugees from CAR in Cameroon

**What are the innovations introduced by the Trust Fund?**

Flexible and simplified procedures to enable rapid action on the ground

Rapid execution: on average 5 to 6 months between defining a programme and its implementation on the ground

Articulation between humanitarian and development actions in an LRRD approach (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development)

Pooling together of the resources and expertise of different partners for better impact on the ground

More than 1 million people in CAR already benefited from the Bêkou Trust Fund across almost the entire country.

**Why contribute to the Bêkou Trust Fund?****POOLING RESOURCES**

The Bêkou Trust Fund is built on the expertise of a network of partners present on the ground

Contributing partners actively participate in the Trust Fund's governance and can play a role in defining overall strategy and, in some cases, in selecting projects



Contributing partners undertake to strengthen resilience in all its dimensions in the Central African Republic, a country that has for too long been considered an "aid orphan"

**resilience**



# Actions of the Bêkou Trust Fund

Ten months after its creation, the Bêkou Trust Fund has already adopted 6 actions, which are described in detail in the following paragraphs:

- 1** The “Gender” programme aims at improving the economic and social conditions of the Central African women and of their families through training, medical, psycho-social assistance as well as access to financial services. The creation of community spaces (“Maisons de Femmes”) is also considered;
- 2** The “Health” programme will contribute to restoring health services through the rehabilitation of infrastructures, training of staff, capacity development of “health districts” and of the Ministry of Health and the improving access to drugs for the population;
- 3** The “Urban rehabilitation” programme aims for the reconstruction of Bangui’s poor neighbourhoods through labour-intensive work (HIMO) allowing the rehabilitation of public infrastructures;
- 4** The “Refugees” programme intends to improve the living conditions of the refugees from the Central African Republic in Cameroon and support the conditions for their future return;
- 5** The “Food security” programme aims at ensuring food and nutrition security of the country through the reinforcement of food systems and the reorganisation of networks of “transhumance”;
- 6** The “Economic recovery” programme will support the re-launch of economic activities of the country by accompanying small-scale entrepreneurs and supporting micro-finance institutions.



## Programme to improve the social and economic situation of women and their families

### Why?

Women in the Central African Republic are among the most affected by poverty. Women and girls are also regularly the victims of physical and sexual violence in their homes and communities. In addition, after the 2013 crisis, most women have no access to basic medical care and other vital services. In the current context, it is important to improve the lives of women and girls, especially as women can play a decisive role in national reconciliation through the social and economic development of their communities.

### What?

The programme aims to improve the economic situation and social status of women and their families in the Central African Republic, to contribute to a more equal society and to promote social cohesion within conflict and insecurity-affected communities. It seeks to address women's immediate needs, the country's social and economic improvement, and its long-term development.

### How?

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is managing the programme's implementation, and has identified local NGOs and women's associations to provide protection and economic empowerment services through community spaces ("Maisons de Femmes"). Where possible, actions will be integrated into existing projects, by increasing the number of beneficiaries and/or by adding new activities to them. In parallel, the programme seeks to establish a context-specific network of financial services.

### Expected results:

- Community spaces ("Maisons de femmes") in target communities to provide women with support for their integration into economic and social life: capacity strengthening, management and finance training, legal support, psychosocial and medical support
- A financial services network and social support to allow women to diversify their sources of income



### Duration of implementation:

18 months

**Total cost:** 1,500, 000 euros

**Number of beneficiaries (est.):**

4,600 people

**Locations:** Bangui, Bocaranga, Kara Bando

**Implementing partners:**

International and national NGOs

**Programme launch:** February 2015





## Health sector support programme to the Transition Plan

### Why?

The 2013 crisis has further weakened the Central African Republic's failing health system, resulting in low coverage in the provision of primary and secondary health care, poor quality of care, almost no regulations, under-staffing and under-qualified staff. In this context, support from the European Bêkou Trust Fund should not only provide for immediate needs, but also aim for long-term reconstruction.

### What?

This programme aims to contribute to restoring health services in the Central African Republic, while guaranteeing a link between relief, rehabilitation and development. More specifically, the programme aims to support the provision of health care services in areas of the country in transition, and to contribute to sustainably restore the health system by meeting immediate needs and working towards a new health policy.

### How?

In line with the objectives of the Central African Ministry of Health's Transition Plan, the programme is to boost core components of the health system by prioritising the sectors most affected by the crisis, namely provision of care, as well as governance and leadership in the health sector. Thus, NGOs as ALIMA, the French Red Cross, Save the Children, IMC, Cordaid and PU-AMI are in charge of the distribution of quality care, the supply of drugs and the rehabilitation of health centres and the training of health workers and management teams on the ground.

### Expected results:

- Provision of a minimum package of quality care
- Reduced mortality in vulnerable populations through medical and nutrition aid
- Support to decentralised health care centres, namely the "health districts", to improve management team performance in carrying out main functions
- Institutional support to the Ministry of Health
- Development of strategies to involve communities that can contribute to strengthening social cohesion



**Duration of implementation:**  
18 months

**Total cost:** 15,000,000 euros

**Number of beneficiaries (est.):**  
1 million people

**Locations:** Bangui, Bira, Birao, Bangassou, Bossangoa, Ndélé

**Implementing partners:**  
International NGOs

**Programme launch:** February 2015



## Programme of economic and social reconstruction in urban areas (PRESU)

### Why?

The 2013 crisis has further weakened the Central African Republic's public infrastructure, and compromised urban populations' access to basic services, housing and livelihoods. Public infrastructure is inadequate because of a lack of urbanisation control in these areas.

Much remains to be done in urban development, especially in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, which were also the most affected in the conflict. Central African authorities have identified two districts of Bangui (Sara/Yakité and Miskine) for this programme, taking into account issues of social cohesion and their great need for reconstruction, as well as social, economic and urban development.

### What?

This programme aims to improve socio-economic conditions in Bangui's poor neighbourhoods. It intends to provide inhabitants with better access to basic urban services, as well as opportunities for households to rebuild economically, via one-time income with social support, to boost the social and professional integration of participants. In the long run, the programme seeks to promote the reorganisation of the community and institutions.

### How?

This programme will contain two phases. The first, considered here, will provide social emergency actions, by improving living conditions in a participatory approach with the people of these districts and in close collaboration with local and national authorities, with a specific envelope for improving service of water supply. The first phase will also consist of the strengthening of social cohesion and the preparation of the second "structuring" phase through the development of complementary technical studies. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of public infrastructure, such as providing these neighbourhoods with drinking water, the reconstruction of community facilities or the development of drainage. The Central African side is to conduct feasibility studies towards the programme's second phase.

### Expected results:

#### Phase 1

- Better access to basic urban and public services to improve the population's living conditions
- Reduced risk of flooding and health risks associated with waterborne diseases

#### Phase 2 (for information)

- Improved socio-economic status of households in targeted neighbourhoods through labour-intensive work (HIMO) according to the "THIMO-Bangui Guide"
- Increased role of local stakeholders in reconciliation and conflict prevention



#### Duration of implementation:

18 months

**Total cost:** 4,500,000 euros (phase 1)

#### Number of beneficiaries (est.):

10,000 people

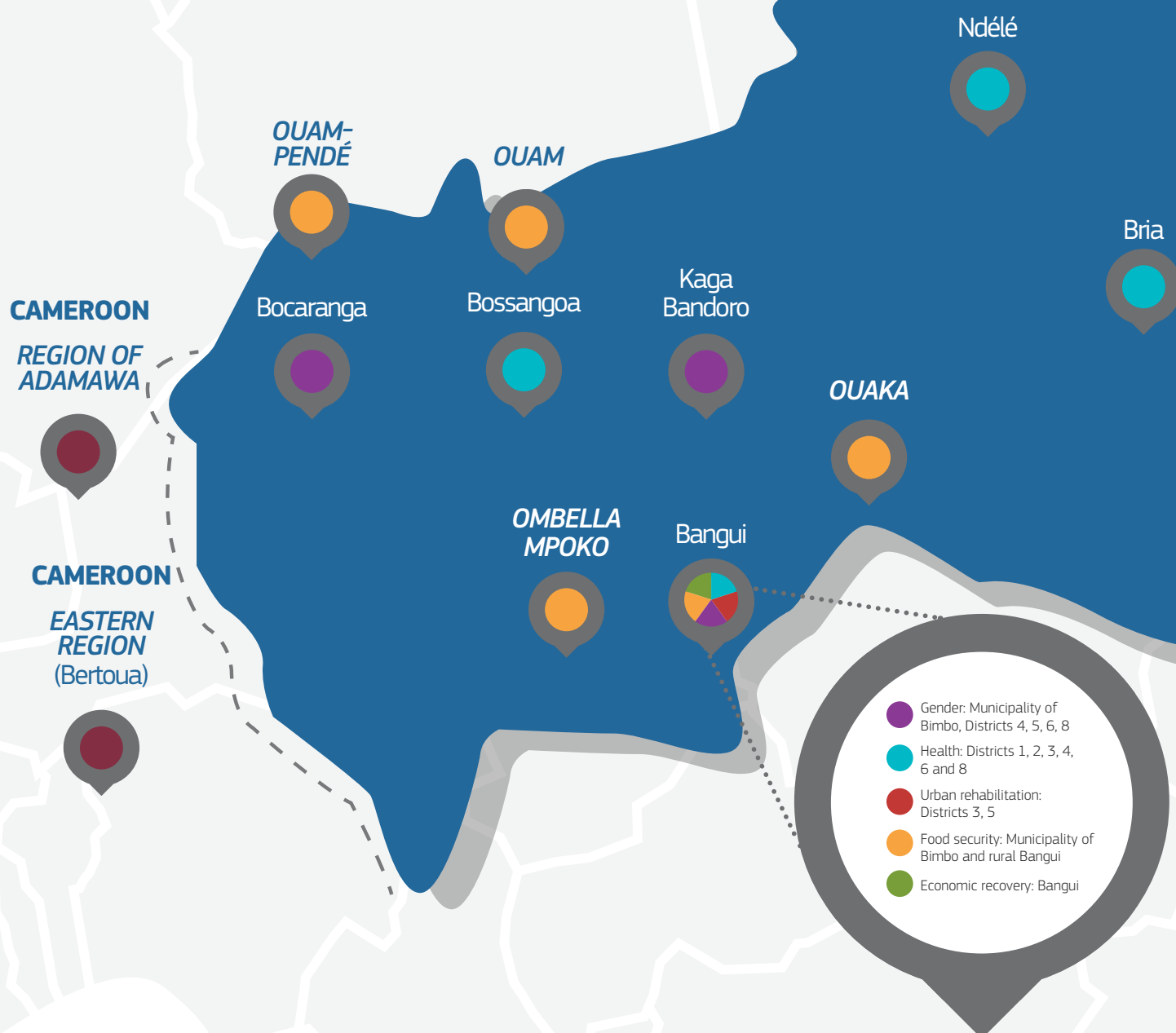
**Locations:** third and fifth districts of Bangui

**Implementing partners:** Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

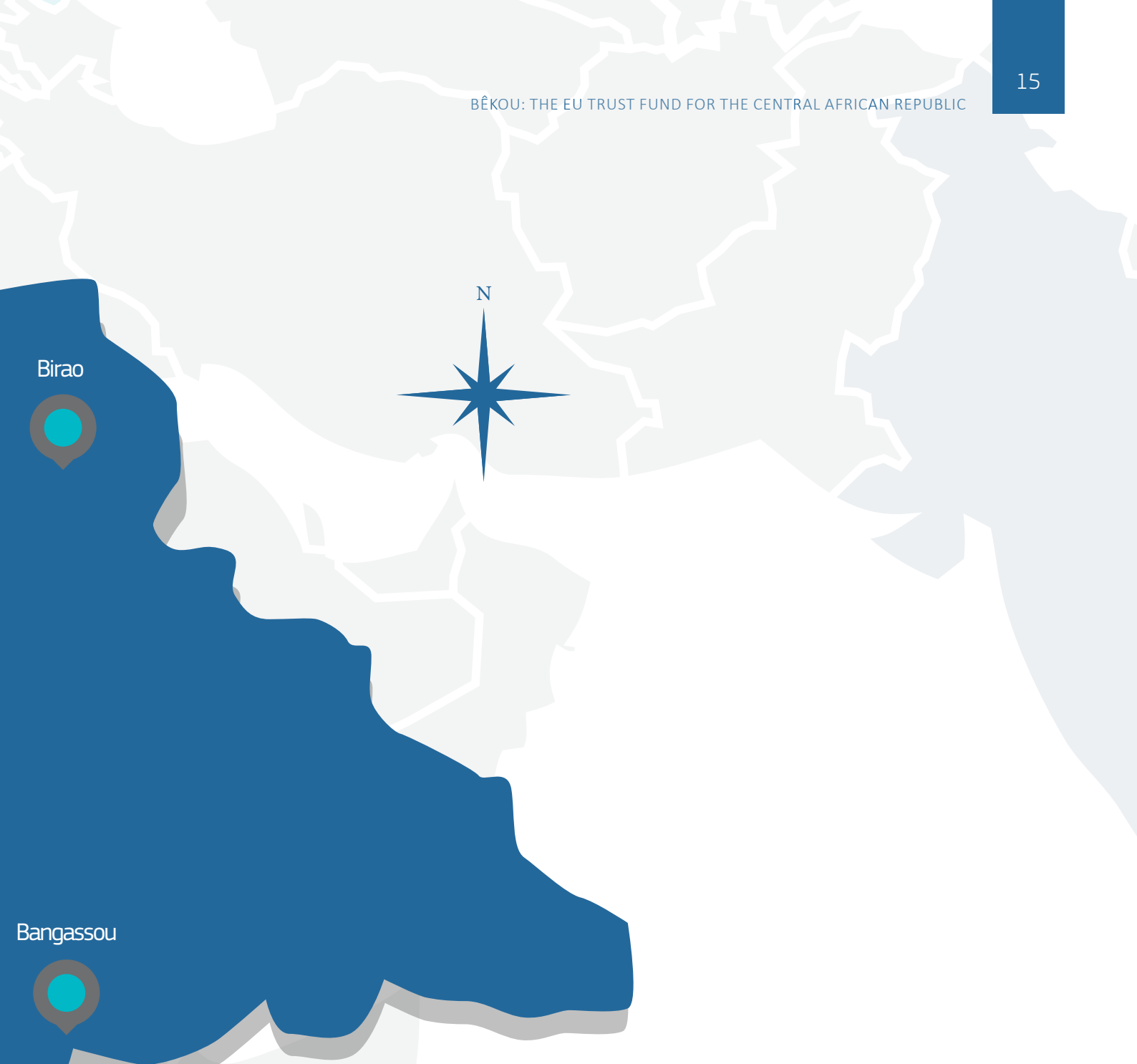
**Programme launch:** March 2015

# Map of the activities implemented by the Bêkou Trust Fund

Central African Republic







**GENDER - Programme to improve the social and economic situation of women and their families**

Intervention areas:  
Bangui (Districts 4, 5, 6, 8),  
Bocaranga, Kanga Bandoro,  
Municipality of Bimbo



**HEALTH - Health sector support programme to the Transition Plan**

Intervention areas:  
Bangui (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8)  
Bria and Birao, Bangassou and  
Bossangoa, Ndélé



**URBAN REHABILITATION - Programme of economic and social reconstruction in urban areas**

Intervention areas:  
Bangui (Districts 3, 5)



**REFUGEES - Programme of short and medium-term response to CAR refugees influx into Cameroon**

Intervention areas:  
Cameroon – Eastern Region,  
Cameroon – Region of  
Adamawa  
Bertoua



**FOOD SECURITY - Programme to support food production for resilience building and social cohesion of communities affected by recurrent crises**

Intervention areas:  
Bangui agglomeration,  
Ouam-Pendé,  
Ouam, Ombella Mpoko,  
Ouaka



**ECONOMIC RECOVERY - Programme to promote the economic recovery and the empowerment of Central African economic actors**

Intervention area:  
Bangui



## Programme of short and medium-term response to CAR refugees influx into Cameroon

### Why?

The conflict in the Central African Republic has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee. Many of them have found refuge in neighbouring Cameroon, particularly in its East (Bertoua) and Adamawa regions, estimated to host up to 228,000 refugees. The increase in population due to the refugee influx had led to significant socio-economic imbalances and tensions, including over access to natural resources, basic public services (water, health, education), hygiene and sanitation.

### What?

This programme aims to respond to the consequences of the Central African crisis in Cameroon. More specifically, in the short and medium term, it seeks to decrease tensions between local and refugee populations in host areas, including villages near the refugee camps, villages with the largest proportion of refugees, and villages whose economy has been the most severely disrupted such as those on the border. The programme also aims to start reflection on how to support the future return of these refugees.

### How?

The programme aims to decrease social tensions linked to firewood collection, provide access to water and sanitation, and promote improved hygiene. It also aims to support setting up income-generating activities, while preparing the foundations for a refugee management strategy. This programme has three components. The first component aims to strengthen political dialogue with the Cameroonian authorities, in close relation with Central African authorities, at both local and national level, on the issue of refugees. The second component is to reduce inherent tensions linked to firewood collection through income-generating activities. The third component is to rapidly provide access to water and sanitation, and promote improved hygiene.

### Expected results:

- Identification and preparation of various scenarios for refugee management, coordination with stakeholders with relevant expertise, and consolidated dialogue at local and national levels for possible strategies to welcome refugees
- Production and distribution of fuel and introduction of new improved stoves to reduce tensions linked to wood collection at the refugee camps
- Improved access to water through rehabilitated or new boreholes in villages most in need



### Duration of implementation:

18 months

### Total cost: 4,500,000 euros (phase 1)

**Number of beneficiaries:** 228,000 people

**Locations:** Cameroon's East (Bertoua) and Adamawa regions

### Implementing partners:

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Programme launch:** April 2015



## Programme to support food production for resilience building and social cohesion of communities affected by recurrent crises

### Why?

The 2013 crisis has weakened the Central African Republic's production capacities and disrupted its market supply chains, causing a severe food crisis across the country. Despite recent emergency aid, agriculture and related livelihoods remain severely affected. The crisis and ongoing insecurity have had a catastrophic effect on the agro-pastoral sector. Displaced populations and repeated attacks on villages have caused fields to be abandoned, production equipment, harvests and cattle to be stolen, and cattle to be slaughtered in an uncontrolled manner. Crop production in 2014 was far below the annual average before the crisis (up to 58% less, according to the FAO) and food vulnerability today is at least equivalent 2013 levels (when 37.7% of the population was malnourished).

### What?

The programme aims to sustainably improve food and nutrition security in the Central African Republic, through support to re-launching food production, the management of inter-community issues and institutional capacity building.

### How?

Through a "bottom-up" approach, this programme aims to re-establish the livelihoods of beneficiaries by reinforcing the capacities of farmer organisations, as well as to promote a peaceful and protective environment for all communities. This programme has three components to be implemented by international NGOs and local organisations. The first component aims for food security resilience in communities through the distribution of "caisses de résilience" based on the integrated system of "farmer field schools" in the districts of Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribzi and Kemo, as well as in the humid forest zone. The second component aims to support re-launching pastoral activities in the districts of Ouham-Pendé, Ouham, and Bamingui- Bangoran through the reorganisation of the network of "transhumance" and the development of veterinary services to contribute to meat supplies in the country. The third component seeks to set up food production, market farming and small livestock sectors in Bangui.

### Expected results:

- Increased food and economic resilience for 100,000 families through the distribution of "caisses de résilience", a scheme to include seeds, tools, training sessions and the promotion of saving and community credit schemes
- Reorganised transhumance networks through "cattle for work" activities, and restored local veterinary services
- Food production, market gardening and small livestock sectors to improve food security in Bangui
- Stakeholders integrated at local and regional level for improved resilience and sustainability



### Duration of implementation:

36 months

### Total cost: 10,000,000 euros

### Number of beneficiaries (est.):

300,000 people

**Locations:** Bangui, Mpoko, Ombella, Ouaka, Ouam, Ouam-Pendé

### Implementing partners:

International NGOs, FAO

**Programme launch:** May 2015





## Programme to promote the economic recovery and the empowerment of Central African economic actors

### Why?

This programme aims to offer innovative and substantial support to the recovery of economic activities in Bangui and in one provincial town still to be determined, as part of the Bêkou Trust Fund's overall mission to contribute to stability and reconstruction in the Central African Republic. It seeks to support small entrepreneurs in launching economic activities or resuming them after the crisis. This action follows the Bêkou Trust Fund's LRRD-based approach, as it is conceived to focus first on emergency projects to develop small income-generating activities. The programme will also enable stakeholders to analyse the dynamics of the local economic system in order to draw up a more integrated economic development strategy at national level.

### What?

The programme aims to empower economic actors working in the informal economy and/or who were particularly affected by the crisis but show potential in bringing added value, employment or growth and in contributing to restoring the Central African Republic's socio-economic fabric.

### How?

The programme aims to provide non-financial services to small entrepreneurs (vocational training, support in drawing up business plans, advice and follow-up activities) through a consortium of international NGOs in collaboration with Central African operators (training centres, Central African Agency for Training and Promoting Employment, professional associations). It seeks to support local micro-finance institutions to increase their ability to provide services adapted to these small entrepreneurs. Programme implementation will be accompanied by an analysis of hurdles to boosting economic activity in the country, so as to identify, together with the Central African authorities, the best reforms that could be adopted for medium to long-term development.

### Résultats escomptés:

- Creating economic activities and jobs
- Enabling micro-finance institutions to overcome obstacles in the current business environment, to provide financial services adapted to entrepreneurs' needs
- Raising awareness and training people about the benefits of mobile-banking



### Implementation period:

24 months

### Total cost: 11,000,000 euros

### Number of beneficiaries (est.):

100,000 people

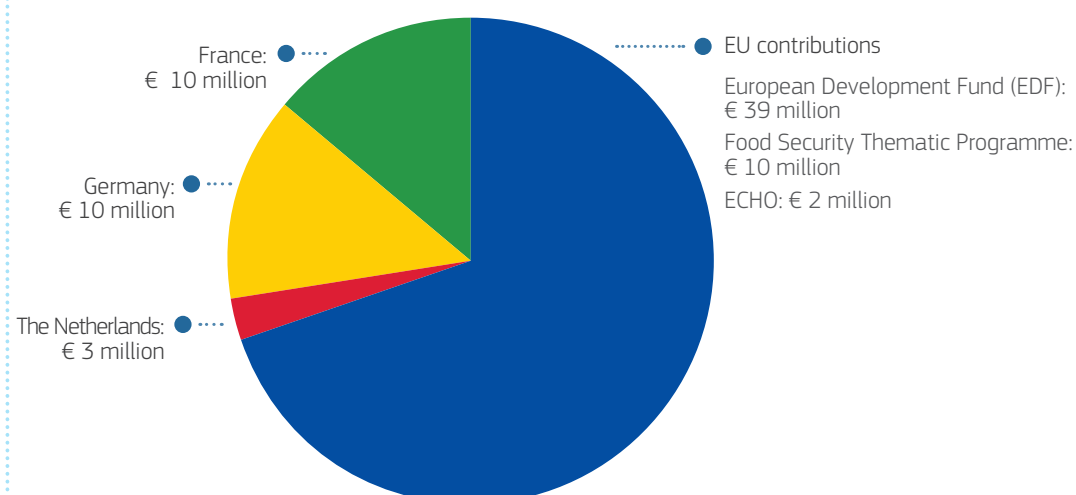
**Locations:** Bangui and a provincial town to be determined

### Implementing partners:

International NGOs and private sector

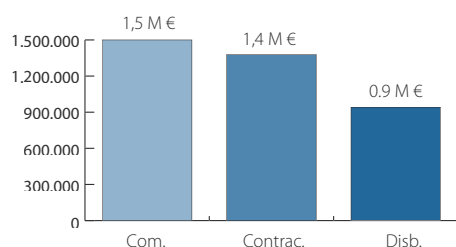
**Programme launch:** July 2015

### BÊKOU TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF € 74 MILLION

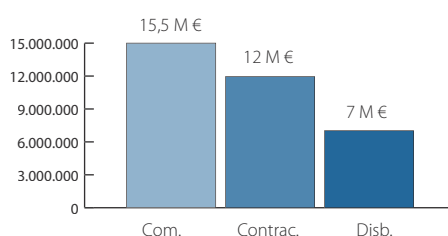


### FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE BÊKOU TRUST FUND

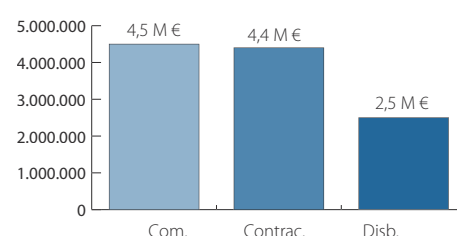
#### Gender



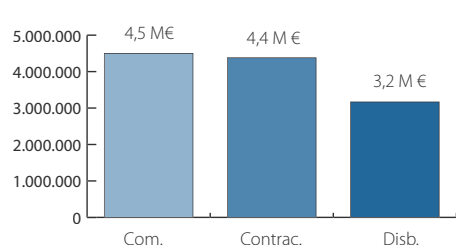
#### Health



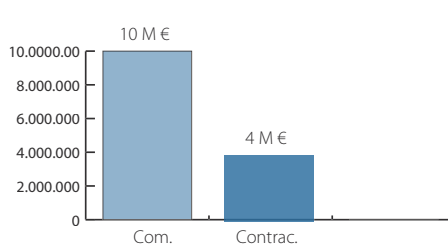
#### Urban rehabilitation



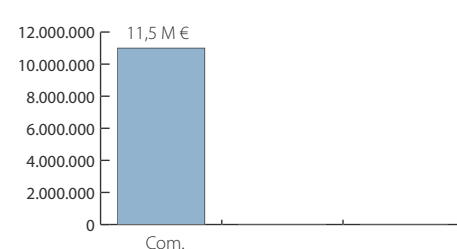
#### Refugees



#### Food Security



#### Economic Recovery



**Com.:** commitments

**Contrac.:** contractualisation

**Disb.:** disbursements

#### Total:

Commitments: 47.000.000 €

Contractualisation: 26.100.777 €

Disbursements: 13.672.438 €

To date, almost 100% of the total contributions have been already committed.



# Join the Bêkou Trust Fund

## How to contribute to the Bêkou Trust Fund?

### Who can contribute to the Bêkou Trust Fund?

The Bêkou Trust Fund was set up to bring together the necessary resources for the reconstruction of the Central African Republic drawing it not only from public actors such as the EU, its member states or third countries, but also from private actors.

While pursuing this objective of pooling together funding, the Fund aims to rely on the expertise of partners with a continuous presence in the field to enable the participation of all actors wishing to contribute to the country's reconstruction and the development.

### Is there a minimum amount to contribute?

There is no minimum amount to contribute to the Bêkou Trust Fund. Each contributor is invited to actively participate in the Fund's innovative way of taking decisions. However, while all contributors and all EU member states have the right to be part of the Strategic Board, which is in charge of defining the trust Fund's overall strategy, only those partners who have contributed a minimum of € 3 million are entitled to be represented in the Operational Committee, which is responsible for selecting projects.

### What will be done with the contributions?

Contributions by donors are used to implement the actions adopted by the Operational Committee.

Further, only 5 % of total Funds are assigned to covering the management of the Bêkou Trust Fund. This has been possible through pooling together the resources and capacities of EU contributors (in particular the EU Delegation in CAR) and partners such as France and Germany, already in the field.

### What are the Bêkou Trust Fund's relations with the Central African authorities?

The Central African Republic participates in each of the two decision-making bodies (Strategy Board and Operational Committee) as an observer. The Central African authorities are also involved in decisions related to project implementation, especially through agreements with NGOs, while the Fund Manager and their team are in charge of operational and financial management.

The Bêkou Trust Fund was set up to bring together the necessary resources for the reconstruction of the Central African Republic



# Work with the Bêkou Trust Fund

## How to receive financial support from the Bêkou Trust Fund?

### What projects does the Bêkou Trust Fund finance?

The Bêkou Trust Fund specifically funds projects that enable the close articulation between humanitarian and development actions in a so-called "LRRD" approach (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development). Thus, actions financed by the Fund aim to provide immediate relief to the population, while strengthening the capacities of local authorities, in order to create the conditions for long-term development in the Central African Republic.

These actions should reinforce the sectors identified as priorities by the Bêkou Trust Fund's Founding Act. In particular, they should contribute to essential services, to the social sector and to economic recovery, while ensuring the general objective of supporting reconciliation and the coexistence of populations.

### What are the eligibility criteria to have access to funding?

The Bêkou Trust Fund mainly funds actions implemented by international NGOs through the award of grants. The Fund prefers NGOs with at least a 6 months' experience in the Central African Republic, and/or at least 24 months of experience in a similar context of fragility. Similarly, the

Fund will give priority to NGOs with established partnerships with local NGOs and decentralised national services.

### How and when can one submit a project?

Once the Operational Committee has prepared and adopted the "actions fiches" for areas of action or programmes (these meetings will take place at least twice a year), the Bêkou Fund prepares a Call for Expressions of Interest (CEI) addressed to NGOs.

These calls for expressions of interest establish the framework of interventions required and the specific conditions of eligibility (e.g. the areas of intervention) and they are then disseminated in particular through sectorial clusters in the Central African Republic and through the Bêkou Group on the platform Capacity4Dev. NGOs meeting the eligibility criteria are invited to submit a project, usually within two weeks. The CEI may invite NGOs to demonstrate a co-financing capacity for the successful implementation of the activities.

After an initial assessment phase, pre-selected NGOs may be invited to provide clarifications and possibly launch a phase of direct negotiation with the management team of the Bêkou Fund. Following this phase,

the projects are allocated. After the signature of contracts, NGOs can start the implementation of activities. After the contracting phase, a request for pre-financing payment can be sent to the Bêkou Fund.

### How does the implementation of actions financed by the Bêkou Trust Fund take place?

The monitoring of the implementation is usually done through a tripartite system that foresees the coordination between the NGO responsible for the implementation, the Central African authorities and the management team of the Bêkou Trust Fund.

The implementation of a project funded by Bêkou usually lasts between 18 and 24 months.

☑ All modalities implemented in development cooperation (technical assistance, service contract, decentralised cooperation...) can also be considered. The efficiency, the cost, the rapidity of the proposed action and the visibility of the European Union are taken into account to choose the most appropriate modality.





## Perspectives

The Bêkou Trust Fund has been created to support the resilience agenda: its mandate is to gather the necessary conditions for a sustainable long-term development approach for the country and for the region.

After a few months of existence, the activities of the Bêkou Trust Fund are starting to give their first results. Six projects have been adopted and most of them are already on the ground since January 2015. For a total amount of 47 million euros, programmes cover thematic areas that are essential and complementary such as health, gender or food security. The Trust Fund embodies an ambition to act rapidly in a context of fragility, to operate taking into close consideration the realities of the situation of the region, while maintaining a close and continued coordination with the Central African authorities and the actors on the ground.

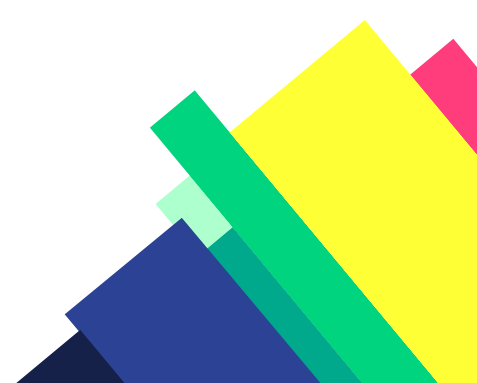
To build upon this commitment, and to consolidate the achievements reached in the sectors currently covered by the Trust Fund, projects that have proved their impact will be duplicated, in a second phase, to other localities where the conditions are now met. These projects will further allow for the integration of medium to long term components. Moreover, innovation and flexibility, key success factors of the Bêkou Trust Fund, will be applied to new thematic areas, in order to enhance the impact and the cross-sectorial approach of the Trust Fund.

These new measures will directly contribute to respond to the many socio-economic challenges in the country and to the more general one of stabilisation of CAR and the reconciliation of its people.

It is for all these reasons, and in order to ensure the success of the mission of the Bêkou Trust Fund, that the efforts, particularly financial ones, must continue in the direction of a real reconstruction of the country for the benefit of its people.

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It is for all these reasons that the efforts, particularly financial ones, must continue





The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union

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### For more information

Become a member of the Bêkou group on the platform Capacity4Dev in order to receive all information concerning the Trust Fund in real time:

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/trust-fund-bekou/>

See:

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/bekou-trust-fund-introduction\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/bekou-trust-fund-introduction_en)

And above all, please write to:

EuropeAid-E1-TRUST-FUND-BEKOU@ec.europa.eu

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