



**Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)
Public Sector Window
2019 Call for Proposals**

Proposal Document

**Country: Central African Republic (CAR)
Project Name: Enhanced Resilience and Food and Nutrition
Security in Kémo and Ouaka Districts
(PARSANKO)**

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FOREIGN CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Currency unit	=	XAF
USD 1.0	=	550 XAF

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1 kilogram	=	1,000 g
1,000 kg	=	2,204 pounds
1 kilometre (km)	=	0.62 miles
1 meter (m)	=	1.09 yards
1 square meter (m ²)	=	10.76 square feet
1 acre (ac)	=	0.405 hectare
1 hectare (ha)	=	2.47 acres

Abbreviations and acronyms

ACDA	Central African Agricultural Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANDE	National Livestock Development Agency
ANEA	National Water and Sanitation Agency
ATA	Technical Advisor for Agriculture
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CAR	Central African Republic
CC	Coordination Committee
CDD	Community Driven Development approach
CdR	<i>Caisses de résilience</i>
CICPC-PR	Interministerial Committee for Planning and Coordination of Rural Roads
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CPV	Head of Veterinary Station
DHS	Demographic and Health survey
EAA	Water and Sanitation Organization for Africa
EU	European Union
FFS	Farmer Field School
FNEC	National Federation of Central African Livestock Producers
FO	Farmer Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDI	Human Development Index
ICRA	Central African Institute for Agricultural Research
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MESA	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health
NAIFSNP	National Agricultural Investment and Food Security and Nutrition Programme
NFSS	National Food Security Survey
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
ONASEM	National Seed Office
PEFA	Public expenditure and Financial Accountability
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PNACC	National Climate Change Adaptation Plan
PO	Producers Organization
PREPAS	Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah
PREVES	Project to Revitalize Food Crops and Small Livestock in the Savannah
PSAN	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
RCPCA	National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan for CAR
REPROSEM	Seed Producers Network
RGPH	General Population and Habitat Census
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SRP	Small Ruminant Plague
TA	Technical Advisor
TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided support to the inter-ministerial committee on the preparation of the CAR proposal for the 5th Call for Proposals of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).

The aim of this Call for Proposals is to allocate resources to countries that are fragile and conflict-affected to improve the income and food security of poor people. These resources will help for increasing the volume and quality of investments made to improve agricultural productivity and non-farm incomes of rural populations, as well as facilitating smallholder farmers' access to markets, reduce risk and vulnerability.

Enhanced resilience and food and nutrition security in Kémo and Ouaka Districts Project, co-financed by the AfDB, is CAR's project proposal.

Executive Summary

Context and justification.

Under the 5th call for proposals of the GAFSP for fragile and conflict-affected states, the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) formulated "Enhanced resilience and food and nutrition security in Kémo and Ouaka Districts" Project (PARSANKO), which will be co-financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB). PARSANKO is aligned with the 2017-2021 CAR National Plan for the Recovery and Consolidation of Peace (RCPCA), which defines the Government's priorities and will contribute to its pillars 2 and 3 by strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations and supporting productive investments in the rural sector.

Project Area and Targeting

PARSANKO's intervention area covers the districts of Kémo and Ouaka located in the East Central CAR. These districts are located in the transition zone between the East, that is in emergency and insecurity situations and the West, which is conducive to development interventions. This transition zone will allow the project to focus its investments and deploy interventions built on the "humanitarian-development" nexus in a continuous geographical area. PARSANKO will target approximately 45,400 beneficiary households, representing 235,000 people. The beneficiaries are small farmers, farmers and rural populations who have hosted refugees with whom they share their livelihoods, and displaced people within the project area.

Project objectives

The overall objective of PARSANKO is to contribute to the sustainable improvement of food security and nutrition of the population in the districts of Kémo and Ouaka. The Project Development Objective is to sustainably improve the resilience, livelihoods and incomes of vulnerable populations and rural communities.

Components and expected outcomes

Component A: Support for rural development and access to basic services

Subcomponent A.1: Scaling up "resilience cells" approach. Resilience cells (CdR) aim to improve household livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to recurrent shocks and crises. It is a community-based approach that integrates three dimensions: 1) a productive and technical dimension through the dissemination and use of sustainable agricultural practices in the Farmer Field Schools (FFS); 2) a financial and economic dimension through the promotion of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA); and 3) a social dimension by strengthening social cohesion and solidarity through the promotion of DIMITRA clubs. The expected outputs of sub-component A1 are: (i) the mobilization, structuring and implementation of 1,000 CdR, (ii) 15,000 rural producers participate in the activities of the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and (iii) 25,000 producers benefit from literacy training sessions.

Subcomponent A.2: Nutrition promotion and access to safe drinking water. This will include promoting a healthy and balanced diet, improving access to safe food for school-age children and increasing access to safe drinking water. The expected outputs of subcomponent A2 are: (i) improved access to more nutritious and diverse food for at least 50,000 children, (ii) the capacity building of 12,500 people on good nutritional practices; (iii) improved access to safe drinking water for 100,000 people through the construction of 520 water points.

Component B: Support for agro-pastoral production

Subcomponent B.1: Building productive capacities. The aim is to promote good agricultural practices through a suitable advisory support system, improve supply services to farmers, improve farmers' access to quality seeds and improve the supply of public services. The expected outputs from sub-component B1 are: (i) thematic extension tools are developed; (ii) 50 master trainers and 500 FFS facilitators are trained; (iii) decentralized agricultural support services offices are rehabilitated and equipped; (iv) 25,000 farmers have access to improved seeds; (v) 16,000 households benefit from animal vaccination campaigns.

Subcomponent B.2: Rehabilitation of Production Infrastructure

This will involve rehabilitating agricultural production infrastructure in the project area based on the Community Driven Development approach (CDD). The expected outputs of sub-component B2 are: (i) reference documents for prioritizing investments in agricultural sector infrastructures are developed and available, and (ii) keys infrastructures for the agricultural sector in the Ouaka and Kémo districts are rehabilitated.

Component C: Support for the valorisation of agro-pastoral production

This will involve (i) improving post-harvest management, storage, processing and marketing of agro-pastoral products and (ii) structuring POs and improving the capacities of women's and youth groups. The outputs expected from sub-component C1 are: (i) techniques for reducing post-harvest losses and processing agro-pastoral products are disseminated, (ii) 400 groups (including women and youth) and 1000 young people (male and women) are supported for economic activities.

Project implementation

PARSANKO will be under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). A National Steering Committee (CNP) will carry out the consultation at national level. At the decentralized level, this consultation will take place at the prefecture level through Consultation Committees (CC). Project Management Unit (PMU), based in Bangui, will be in charge of the project management and will have administrative and financial autonomy. The PMU will be responsible for the national coordination of the project and two antennas in Sibut and Bambari will be created to ensure the implementation of the Project's activities.

Costs and financing.

PARSANKO will be implemented over a period of six (6) years. The total project cost is USD27.8 million , broken down as follows: (i) the AfDB, will contribute USD9.8 million corresponding to 35.2% of the total project cost; (ii) GAFSP wil contribute USD18 million corresponding to 64.8% of the total project cost, including USD1.5 million for FAO technical assistance; (iii) the beneficiaries through in-kind contribution¹; (iv) the Central African Government will contribute in the form of taxes and duties exemption applied on goods and services that may be procured as part of the project².

¹ An estimate of the monetary value of the beneficiaries' contribution will be made during the design of the detailed proposal.

² An estimate of the monetary value of the Government' contribution will be made during the design of the detailed proposal

Part 1: Summary of Overall Agriculture and Food Security Strategy and Associated Investment Plan

1.1 Overall sector strategy and investment plan, and past performance

1) Overall agriculture and food security strategy objectives

Fragility context. The Central African Republic (CAR) is emerging from the most violent conflict in its history. In 2015, the transitional authorities started a national reconciliation process, with the objective of addressing the root causes of fragility and unresolved conflict. Following the presidential elections of February 2016, the Central African Republic has regained constitutional order after three (3) years of armed conflict. The Bangui Agreement of 6 February 2019 concluded following the Khartoum negotiations is also a reason to hope that the country is committed to rebuilding the socio-economic stability. Despite this progress at the political level, the economic and security situation remains fragile.

A landlocked country in Central Africa covering an area of 623,000 km², CAR had an estimated population of about 4.7 million as of 2018⁴. The population density is therefore very low, and about 60% resides in rural areas. The population is also very young, being 60% under 25 years of age.

The Central African economy collapsed during the last crisis. The Gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 37% in 2013, but then stabilized at around 5% growth between 2014 and 2016. The real GDP growth rate increased to 4.3% in 2018 from 4.0% in 2017, despite the difficult and volatile security situation. Poverty remains very high with 75% of the population living below the international poverty line (USD 1.90 per day)⁵. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.367 in 2017, CAR ranks 188 out of 189 countries. The socio-economic infrastructure has seriously deteriorated, particularly in terms of roads and trails, public service infrastructure and water points. Recurrent periods of insecurity and political crisis have had serious consequences, particularly in rural areas. Many farmers have left their lands and others have lost access to agricultural inputs and agro-pastoral markets. Herders have lost their livestock and/or migrated to Cameroon.

In 2017, the security crisis due to armed groups' actions led to new waves of forced displacement. Thus in May 2019, 1.8 million people were food insecure, including about 465,000 people under emergency, representing about 38% and 10% of the population respectively. Internally displaced persons represented 13% of the total population or about 621,660 people⁶. According to the 2017 National Food Security Survey (ENSA), food insecurity particularly affects refugee households, displaced persons and returnees, with prevalence rates of 83%, 69% and 66% respectively. Food insecurity affects more female-headed households in rural areas, with low levels of education, no livestock capital dependent on precarious activities. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years of age remains very high at 38%, the global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) is 7% and the prevalence of severe malnutrition (SAM) is 2.1%. This situation is mainly due to (i) low food diversity; (ii) poor hygiene and sanitation conditions; (iii) limited access to safe drinking water; and (iv) very low use of exclusive breastfeeding⁷.

³ The population density in CAR of 6.2 inhabitants/km² is among the lowest in the world.

⁴ World Bank <https://data.worldbank.org/>

⁵ Values based on GDP per capita in 2017

⁶ IPC Report May 2019

⁷ 28.8% according to PNSAN 2017

The agricultural sector remains the backbone of the economy. The sector produces more than 50% of the national wealth, 75% of which is national food consumption⁸, and provides 75% of the jobs of the working population. The agro-pastoral potential represents 15 million hectares of arable land and nearly 16 million hectares of pasture and grazing land. Agriculture is mainly driven by food crops, accounting for 95% of the total production compared to 5% for cash crops, which consist of cotton, tobacco and coffee. Livestock accounts for 13% of the GDP. Property destruction, lootings, widespread insecurity and population displacements, caused agricultural production to fall by 58% in 2014, compared to the pre-crisis average. The exile of traders, merchants and wholesalers has reduced the supply of goods and inputs used for income-generating activities, leading to a general surge in prices. In 2014, 96 % of farmers were unable to obtain seeds. Insecurity also affected the extractive industries, particularly diamonds and timber, with a significant decrease in exports.

Natural resources and climate. Forests cover 230,510 km², being 37% of the national territory⁹. Deforestation has increased in the past years. 80% of the western south forest estate is used for industrial logging and 14.8% is allocated to protected areas. This resource represents an important economic lever for the development of CAR, the timber sector accounts for 11% of the GDP and 13% of the country's export earnings⁷. Regarding climate change, trends show an increase of 0.3°C in average temperature per decade and a decrease in precipitation of 1.9 mm per year¹⁰. Risks related to climate change (poor rainfall distribution, droughts, heavy rains, etc.), combined with the expansion of cultivated areas, will increase the pressure on natural resources in the coming years. The surface water availability is 141 billion m³ at the national level, of which less than 0.02% is withdrawn for human use¹¹.

Development policies and strategies. Given the fragile political, security, economic and social context, in 2016 the Government adopted the National Peace Recovery and Consolidation Plan for the Central African Republic (RCPCA) for the period 2017-2021. This Plan, built according to a multisectoral approach with the support of the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank Group, is structured around 3 pillars, which are:

Pillar 1: Restoring peace, security and reconciliation; disarmament, reintegration of ex-combatants; security sector reform and justice, facilitating reconciliation and social cohesion;

Pillar 2: Renew the social contract between the State and the population; redeploy the administration throughout the national territory, ensure basic services to the population (education, water, health), ensure food security, strengthen good governance;

Pillar 3: Promoting economic and productive sectors recovery; reviving the productive sectors - agriculture and livestock, extractive industries and forestry; rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure (transport, electricity, communication); ensuring an enabling environment for private sector development.

RCPCA integrates and capitalizes on the various strategies and plans related to agriculture and food and nutrition security, including: (i) the Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security Strategy (SDRASA) developed in 2011, which is operationalized through the National Agricultural Investment and Food

⁸ AfDB - Country Strategy Paper RCA 2017-2021

⁹State of the Timber Sector in Central African Republic (2016), FAO/CIFOR, 2018.

¹⁰ SECAP Note, PREPAS, 2017.

¹¹ Aquastat. FAO, 2000.

Security and Nutrition Programme (NAIFSNP) 2014-2018; (ii) the Food Security and Nutrition Policy (PSAN) developed in 2017; and (iii) the CAR 2019-2035 Forest Policy.

The National Agricultural Investment and Food Security and Nutrition Programme (NAIFSNP) was adopted with the objective of contributing in a sustainable manner to the population's food needs satisfaction, economic and social development and poverty reduction, as well as inequalities. The NAIFSNP is based on 6 strategic objectives: (i) development of crops value chains; (ii) development of livestock value chains; (iii) development of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and promotion of fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors; (iv) strengthening of local communities, natural resource management, basic community infrastructure, research and advisory support services; (v) food and nutrition security, emergency response and cross-cutting actions; and (vi) institutional strengthening and sectoral coordination. To accelerate the implementation of the NAIFSNP in the post-crisis context, the Government adopted a Roadmap for Agricultural Recovery and a Roadmap for livestock development 2019-2021.

2) Alignment of the country's strategy objectives to Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2

The RCPCA, through its pillars 2 and 3, respectively *Renewing the social contract between the State and the population* and *Promoting economic recovery and the revival of productive sectors* and the NAIFSNP through its 6 objectives will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, the SDG 1 (eradicate poverty) and the SDG 2 (eradicate hunger), but also the SDG 5 (gender equality), the SDG 6 (ensure access to water) and the SDG 15 (preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems). More specifically, given the economic and social importance of agriculture in CAR, the strategic objectives related to the agricultural sector will support the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 by (i) avoiding any decapitalization of vulnerable households and ensuring their food and nutritional security, (ii) strengthening government extension agricultural services; and (iii) strengthening economic opportunities through the development of productive sectors, infrastructure rehabilitation and private sector promotion.

3) Description of the national strategy and investment plan to achieve food security objectives

To put CAR on a sustainable path to peace and recovery, RCPCA's multisectoral approach seeks to address the structural causes of the country's fragility in order to tackle all of the country's vulnerabilities and thus achieve food security and nutritional security objectives. The main causes of fragility include: (i) the concentration of resources and political power that causes resentment and tension; (ii) disparities between Bangui and the rest of the country; (iii) the marginalization of some extremely poor regions; (iv) the weakness of State institutions; and (iv) the impunity associated with the absence of prosecution of perpetrators. On the other hand, CAR's resilience factors are i) its many natural resources (gold, diamonds, uranium, wood, oil), ii) positive community dynamics, as well as an active civil society.

In this context, the investment plan for achieving food security objectives is based mainly on the following pillars:

The second pillar of RCPCA aims to renew the social contract between the State and the population, strengthening its presence and developing its capacity to provide basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation. The amount is approximately USD1.326 billion and has four strategic thrusts: (i) redeploing administration throughout the country and establishing inclusive local governance; (ii) providing basic services to the population throughout the country, particularly in the areas of education,

health and water; (iii) ensuring food security and resilience; and (iv) strengthening macroeconomic stability and good governance.

The third pillar of the RCPCA aims to ensure economic recovery in order to provide people with rapid access to income-generating activities and investments that will further stimulate the business environment for an amount of USD 1.224 billion. Under Pillar 3 of the RCPCA, the revival and development of productive sectors, including agriculture and livestock, is identified as a priority intervention to rapidly provide people with income-generating activities and employment opportunities and to ensure the economic recovery of CAR. It includes three strategic axes: (i) relaunching and development of productive sectors (agriculture and livestock, extractive industries and forestry), (ii) rehabilitating and building infrastructure, and (iii) ensuring the conditions for private sector development and employment. The activities of this pillar will allow, among other things, the transition from subsistence agriculture to more productive and diversified agriculture with the support of the Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) of the agricultural sector.

The implementation of NAIFSNP through the revitalization of the agriculture sector is expected to facilitate access to inputs, services and information. Agro-ecological potential will be mapped and related market studies will identify cash crops and value chains that can create jobs and increase public revenues. The amount of investments required for the implementation of the NAIFSNP¹² is USD 650 million.

4) Description of the monitorable framework and indicators reflected in the investment plan

For the monitoring of the performance of the implementation of the NAIFSNP, eight (8) key indicators have been selected to measure the achievement of the general objective: (i) the volume of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production, (ii) the annual growth rate of agricultural GDP, (iii) the reduction rate of food insecurity, (iv) the improvement rate of agricultural trade balance, (v) the evolution of the incidence of food security for vulnerable households, (vi) the rate of allocation of the national budget to the agricultural sector, (vii) the prevalence of child malnutrition, (viii) the improvement rate in farmers' incomes in agriculture. The objective of the NAIFSNP is to induce an average annual growth of agricultural activity in real terms of 6% by 2018 and to reduce the food insecurity rate to 15%.

5) Evidence of past performance of related sectoral programs

Given the recurrent political and security crises that the country has experienced since 2014, it has not been possible to implement the NAIFSNP according to the planned framework, modalities and mechanisms. With an overall score of 2.4 ¹³out of 10 in 2018, according to the report of the African Union's (AU) biennial review of the implementation of the NAIFSNP, CAR is considered not on track to meet the objectives of the Malabo Declaration with regard to these commitments. The consequences of the crisis and the reorientation of State and TFP priorities towards security and humanitarian emergencies have profoundly affected the scale and nature of funding dedicated to the agricultural sector over the period 2014-2018. The implementation of the NAIFSNP, in particular the financing of the TFPs for the period 2014-2018, only concerned Programme 5 on "Food and nutritional security, emergency response and transversal actions" in relation to emergencies. Beyond the impact of the civil war on the agricultural

¹² The respective costs of the components of the PNIASAN are: Development of agricultural value chains USD 231 million; Development of livestock value chains USD 128 million; Development of NTFPs and promotion of fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors USD 46 million; Strengthening of local communities, natural resource management, basic community infrastructure, and research and advisory support services USD 122 million; Food and nutrition security, emergency response and cross-cutting actions USD 70 million; institutional strengthening and sectoral coordination USD 53 million.

¹³ Report of the Union Conference Thirtieth (30th) Ordinary Session 28 to 29 January 2018

sector, the main recommendations of the biennial review were: (i) to improve access to financial services for men and women working in agriculture in order to increase investment in the sector; (ii) to increase funding to the agricultural sector in general to achieve the CAADP 10% target¹⁴ and, in particular, to research and development activities to improve productivity; and (iii) to put in place and effectively implement measures to increase the availability and accessibility of fertilizer to improve agricultural productivity. The formal evaluation of the implementation of NAIFSNP is planned for 2020 by the Ministry of Agriculture.

6) Share of national strategy or investment plan being financed (by source), and the estimated financing gap

The financing required for the implementation of the NAIFSNP was estimated at USD650 million (CFAF 357.4 billion). Of this amount, the State committed to allocate USD12.93 million (CFAF 7.11 billion), or 1.9%, the Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) was of USD97.2 million (CFAF 53.45 billion), or 15%, and the Private Sector's commitment estimated at USD47.3 million (CFAF 26.00 billion), or 7.3%. The financing gap to be mobilized was USD460.3 million (CFAF 253.2 billion), or 75.8%. During the Business Meeting for the implementation of the NAIFSNP, held on 20 and 21 December 2013, the financing intentions expressed by the TFPs, in particular the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the Agricultural Private Sector, Agricultural and Rural Professional Organizations and the Central African Government, amounted to USD452.8 million (CFAF 249 billion), or about 70% of the total NAIFSNP budget.

For the period 2014-2018, the effective financing related to the implementation of the NAIFSNP was USD121.1 million (CFAF 66.65 billion) for the TFPs and USD22.9 million (CFAF 12.6 billion) for the Government. The financing gap of the NAIFSNP for the period 2014-2018 was of USD505 million (CFAF 278 billion) or 77.7%.

7) Summary of the strategy or investment plan implementation performance and achievements

As of July 2019, with the improvement of the political and security situation in CAR, three development projects are being financed with an amount of USD84.97 million and some are at the start-up phase, in particular: i) The Agriculture Recovery and Agribusiness Development Support Project (PRADAC) (2019-2024) with World Bank financing of USD25 million; ii) The Savannah Agropastoral Production Revival Project (PREPAS) (2018-2024) with IFAD financing of USD 28.77 million; and iii) the Savannah Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (PADECAS) (2019-2024) with AfDB financing of USD31.2 million.

8) For African countries that have completed implementation of a CAADP NAIP, provide a summary of implementation performance and achievements of the completed investment plan:

Not applicable. The NAIFSNP is still being implemented.

¹⁴ CAADP: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

1.2 Key elements of the policy environment

1) Describe current policies enhancing or constraining the sector strategy and/or returns to the planned investments in the agriculture sector

The framework for implementing investments in the agricultural sector and food and nutrition security in CAR has been strengthened: (i) in 2017 by the Food Security and Nutrition Policy; and (ii) in 2019 by the CAR Forest Policy. These policies complement existing policies: (a) the Central African Rural Code on Land Policy, which aims to ensure the proper management of agro-pastoral land was validated in July 2015; (b) the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 2000-2020; (c) the National Policy for Promotion, Equality and Equity (PNEE) adopted in 2005, which recognizes gender as a key instrument for achieving the SDGs; and (d) the National Social Protection Policy (PNPS), validated in 2012.

2) Where available, list pending policies or legislation envisaged to enhance planned investment returns in the sector (if any, provide description as well as status of policy reform):

The National Seed Policy (NSP) and the National Food Security Stockpile Policy are identified as key policies to be formulated within the framework of the NSP. The NSP will define guidelines for the legal framework of the seed sector and the mechanisms for the application and operationalization of the law that should govern the seed sector. The National Food Security Stockpile Policy will guide activities related to the Food Security Fund in food crisis prevention, the harmonization of TFP intervention strategies in the provision of food aid.

1.3 Government commitment to agriculture and food and nutrition security

1) Describe the level of secured public financial commitments to the country's agriculture sector and/or food security goals, showing domestic and international funding:

The Government's contribution from the public budget to the agriculture sector and to food and nutrition security increased from USD374,630 (CFAF 206.0 million) in 2015 to USD7.53 million (CFAF 4.14 billion) in 2018, with an increased implementation rate of government commitments from 2% to 26% in 2018. Successive political and security crises negatively affected government revenues from 2014 to 2016 and led to a reduction in government contributions. This situation has also led to a prioritization of State investments in security management and peacebuilding. The gradual improvement in the security and political situation has enabled the State to allocate more resources to the agriculture and food security and nutrition sector.

Table 1 Evolution of State financing in the agricultural sector over the period 2015 - 2018 (millions of CFAF)

Nature	Budget forecasts				Budget implementation				Engagement rate			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
Staff	1422	1422	3722	3828	0	0	2572	1087	0%	0%	69%	28%
Functioning	314	324	386	389	70	63	659	1423	22%	19%	171%	366%
Intervention	330	340	1119	1262	98	80	408	696	30%	24%	36%	55%
Investment	9153	1740	4369	10402	38	32	387	937	0%	2%	9%	9%
TOTAL GENERAL	11219	3826	9596	15881	206	174	4026	4143	2%	5%	42%	26%

The contribution of TFPs in the agriculture sector and in food and nutritional security between 2014 and 2018 amounts to approximately USD121.1 million (CFAF 66.65 billion) or 84.1% of investments in the agricultural sector.

2) Describe how poverty rates in different parts of the country are factored into agricultural spending decisions:

In 2017, poverty was estimated at 67% of the total population and 72% in rural areas (UNDP¹⁵). As a result, under pillars 2 and 3 of the RPCPA, the Government has focused on interventions in: (i) rural areas; (ii) areas with a high prevalence of food and nutrition insecurity; and (iii) emergency interventions. In addition, the Government has worked together with TFPs and international and national NGOs, in particular to: i) respond to emergencies through the Food Security Cluster, ii) improve the coordination of food and nutrition security interventions throughout the country; (ii) relaunch interventions related to agricultural and livestock development in priority areas, including (a) Bouar, Baoro, Yaloké, Bozoum, Bossem-télé with IFAD; (b) Lobaye, Ombella-Mpoko, and Bangui with AfDB; and (c) Lobaye, Sangha-Mbaéré, Mambéré-Kadéï and Nana-Mambéré with the World Bank.

3) Summary of agriculture sector and food security public expenditures

CAR has committed to allocate 10% of the national budget to agriculture and rural development as part of the African Union Heads of State commitments in Maputo. This rate has not yet been achieved. However, the share of the public budget devoted to the agricultural sector increased from 3.3% in 2012 to 7% in 2018.

Table 2: Evolution of the share of the public budget devoted to the agricultural sector over the last 7 years (millions FCFA)

Headings	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total State budget	239 054	200 878	221 272	228 358	259 198	237 234	235 689
Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and of Food Security	8 009	5 089	9 395	9 807	2 404	9 596	15 880
Capital expenditure	7 011	4 232	8 685	9 153	1 740	4 369	10 401
Operating expenses	497	372	396	313	324	385	388
State subsidies	501	485	314	340	340	4 369	10 401
Agriculture budget/ State budget	3.3%	2,5%	4,2%	4,2%	0,9%	4%	7%

Source: Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation

In addition, in spite of budgetary constraints, expenditures on agricultural research increased from USD3.7 million in 2012 to USD4.9 million in 2016 and USD5.2 million in 2015.¹⁶ This has been supported by projects implemented by the Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA) with the support of international institutions (IITA, CIRAD, IFAD and CYMMIT)¹⁷. This trend is expected to continue to the extent that in 2020 the Government will meet the target of 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture.

1.4 Process by which the strategy and investment plan were developed

The RPCPA was designed following a rigorous process of identifying and sequencing multisectoral priorities, including food and nutrition security priorities, and revitalizing agriculture and livestock with technical and financial support from the World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union. The diagnosis carried out and the interventions selected are based on the production of three thematic notes and related results matrices. The identification of these priorities was confirmed by open consultations held in the 16 districts from August to September 2016 and by the household perception survey conducted in all 179 municipalities among 1,790 households. This consultation ensured the representativeness of the rural population (74%), women (50%), young people under 25 years of age

¹⁵ UNDP. Human Development Report. 2017

¹⁶ Agricultural science and technology indicators – ASTI website - <https://www.asti.cgiar.org/data/>

¹⁷ RCA / IFAD. Project to revive agropastoral production in the savannah (PREPAS). 2018 - Design Report

(69%), persons between 25 and 34 years of age (13%) and agricultural producers and herders heads of households (77%) and the 10 main ethnic groups. The RPCA was approved by the Council of Ministers on 9 September 2016 and was presented to the National Assembly on 16 September and 26 October 2016.

The formulation of the NAIFSNP with the joint support of the NEPAD Agency, Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), the World Bank, IFPRI and FAO officially began through a support mission in March 2010. The National Partnership Pact for the implementation of the NAIFSNP was signed on 15 April 2011 by all stakeholders in the agricultural sector (Government, TFP, Professional Agricultural Organisations (OPA), Private Sector, Civil Society). Consultations were held through regional and national working groups and workshops. The regional and national workshops were held in Bangui, Bambari, Yaloké and Berberati in February 2012 with the participation of all stakeholders representatives including government, POs, private sector, civil society and TFPs. The Business meeting for the resource mobilization for the implementation of the NAIFSNP was held in December 2013. A review of the NAIFSNP was also carried out from 22 to 25 May 2013 in Libreville following the recommendations of the workshop on the adoption of the Agricultural Policy Document (PAC) of the CEEAC.

1.5 Implementation arrangements and capacity to implement

1) Institutional arrangements for implementation of the agriculture and food security investment plan

To effectively support the implementation of the RCPCA, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2301 of July 26, 2016, the Government has established a Mutual Engagement Framework (CEM-RCA) with its international, regional and bilateral partners to help increase resource mobilization.

The implementation of RCPCA is based on a coordination system composed of i) a policy dialogue group, the Policy Council; ii) a Joint Steering Committee for the implementation of RCPCA, and iii) working groups for the three pillars of RCPCA. Thematic sub-groups have been set up for specific sectors within each pillar, including agriculture and food and nutrition security. The technical coordination of the implementation of the NAIFSNP and its roadmaps for agriculture and livestock is ensured by: (a) a National Steering Committee (NSC), under the responsibility of the Ministers of agriculture and livestock and composed of the TFPs, of farmers organisations representatives (FNEC, ANGAC, etc.), and the Private Sector (Chamber of Agriculture, Chamber of Commerce) and Civil Society; ii) a Technical Monitoring Committee (TMC) whose mission is to ensure operational management; and iii) regional committees under the district heads authority to ensure the project implementation management and monitoring at the regional level.

2) Describe human resources in place to implement the agriculture and food security investment plan

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) remains the main Government body responsible for creating favourable conditions for agricultural development in order to achieve the main objectives of the NAIFSNP and RCPCA. The MADR works closely with the ministries in charge of livestock, water and forestry and the environment, which ensure the daily coordination of activities in their sub-sector.

The implementation of NAIFSNP activities is carried out by (i) the technical departments of the ministries, the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA), the National Agency for Livestock Development (ANDE), the Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA), the Regional Directorate for Livestock Development (DRDE), the Regional Directorate for Agricultural Development (DRDA) and the district services of the Interministerial committee for Planning and Coordination of Rural

Roads (CIPCP); ii) national NGOs represented throughout the country, iii) Producer Organizations (POs); iv) International Organizations such as FAO, WFP and UNICEF.

The MADR has 248 staff, including 173 agricultural specialists (engineers, economists, veterinarians, technicians, etc.). ACDA, responsible for agricultural extension, has 78 technical staff, including 12 agricultural engineers. ICRA has 43 technical staff, including 14 agricultural engineers.

All the activities carried out through projects include actions to restore the decentralized services of ministries and to structure and strengthen agricultural and rural professional organizations (OPARs). The systematization of this approach contributes to the gradual strengthening of national technical, institutional and organizational capacities.

3) Roles of central and local governments, producer organizations and other private sector actors (particularly in public-private partnerships), civil society, and development partners in implementing the agriculture and food security investment plan

Through subcomponent 4.1 of the NAIFSNP “capacity building for local communities”, the Government intends to give local authorities and rural populations responsibility for the use of investment funds to finance infrastructure or activities that are identified as priority. The government promotes the identification of projects by the promoters themselves, their prioritisation and selection by local authorities’ representatives, the financial participation of project promoters and their organization for the management and maintenance of the investment. This will be a key factor of the relevance and sustainability of the achievements. This approach will also strengthen local capacities to exercise more responsibility in the future through (i) the transfer of decisions to beneficiaries concerning local development planning (establishment of local development plans (LDPs), concerted management of rural areas, preservation of productive potential, etc.); (ii) the mobilization of decentralized rural development funds for the construction of social and economic infrastructures and (iii) local capacity building.

The promotion and development of professional agricultural organisations (OPAs) identified as a key intervention under subcomponent 6.1 "Capacity building of OPAs" of the NAIFSNP is advocated by mutual agreement with the TFPs in order to enable farmers to play their full role in the development of agrosylvopastoral sectors and in support for rural entrepreneurship.

The private sector is identified as a major actor in achieving the objectives of the NAIFSNP. However, this sector faces many constraints, which have been exacerbated by successive political and security crises and the fragile context of CAR. CAR is 183 out of 190 in the "Doing Business" ranking in 2019¹⁸. However, NAIFSNP intends to create the conditions for its mobilization, development and effective participation through mechanisms for consultation, coordination and financing of the agricultural sector.

Civil society and TFPs are closely involved in the implementation of the NAIFSNP. On 15 April 2011, they signed the National Partnership Pact for its Implementation. They are part of the mechanism for steering and coordinating the NAIFSNP through the National Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Management System (SAKSS) and the NAIFSNP inter-sectoral dialogue framework.

¹⁸ World Bank

4) Implementation performance of major agriculture and food security programs/projects over the past five years

The Food Crops and Small Livestock in the Savannah Recovery Project (PREVES), funded by IFAD for USD 13.17 million, entered into force on 12 May 2011 and was closed in December 2017. It was the only agriculture and food security project implemented in CAR from 2011 to 2017. Its development objective was to improve food security and increase incomes of the rural poor in the savannah areas of CAR. PREVES contributed to the recapitalization of rural households in the sub-districts of Bouar, Baoro and Yaloké. It provided support to 355 groups with 12,238 members, including 5,599 women (46%), including members from 1,625 decapitalized households who received support before joining the groups. The 355 groups benefited from the input kits, coupled with advisory support. The services provided include strengthening endogenous advisory support capacities through the training and equipment of 912 technical delegates (TDs) from these groups. In agricultural production, PREVES provided ICRA with basic seeds that were multiplied and distributed to 2,677 seed growers from 165 member groups of the Seed Producers' Network (REPROSEM). These were seeds of maize, groundnuts, snap and black-eye beans, and cassava cuttings. For livestock, 111 Technical advisors were trained to disseminate technical topics on small livestock farming and a vaccination campaign affected 23,670 poultries (58% of the livestock) and 17,181 goats and sheep (60% of the livestock). The support for economic activities through the financing 100 productive micro-projects. In terms of infrastructure, PREVES rehabilitated the offices of agricultural sector agencies in Bangui and supported access to drinking water with the construction of 25 new boreholes and the rehabilitation of 40 boreholes through a partnership with UNICEF.

Since 2016, more than 2,385 CdR (see Box 1) with 298,143 people and reaching 1,908 women's groups have been set up in CAR by FAO and 13 NGOs, including 27 specifically in Ouaka district. These CdR have enabled communities to mobilize USD 2.7 million in loans and implement 38,759 income-generating activities.

Box 1: "Resilience Cells (CdR) are a community-based support approach promoted in the Central African Republic by FAO and NGOs working in agriculture sector and food security and nutrition. It aims to strengthen the capacities of farmers to rebuild their own livelihoods and improve social cohesion. This approach reinforces three components that are implemented in an integrated manner within the same grouping:

- Financial: support to the endogenous financial system through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) or improved "tontines";
- Technical: improvement of agricultural technical skills through an adapted "Farmers Fields School " (FFS) approach;
- Social: promotion of social cohesion through group discussions on topics such as conflict management, children's rights, gender-based violence, nutrition and health, etc.

The integrated implementation of the technical, financial and social aspects allows synergy and mutual reinforcement of the three aspects. Thus, the groups formed by VSLAs and CEPs have an impact on social cohesion and socio-economic mutual assistance (mediation, economic support, advice, moral support, etc.).

The first step in the implementation of a CdRs is to identify geographical areas, group networks and select partners. A period of 2 to 3 months is needed to train community facilitators in participatory agricultural extension (e.g. farmers fields school) and community credit and savings systems management. These trainings are organized by FAO or by the most qualified partners.

Each facilitator supports four to five groups (groups of 20-30 members each) and ensures that the three components are well integrated so that communities have sufficient options to better anticipate and manage risks, crises and their impacts.

The main impact of this approach is the consolidation of an entrepreneurial spirit, responsibility and solidarity in the fight against food and nutritional insecurity. Beyond the technical and financial aspects, this approach strengthens women's producer groups and associations at the institutional level and thus contributes to this dynamic of social change that lays the foundations for responsible and equitable development and promotes the empowerment of women.

Source: FAO 2016 www.fao.org/resilience/acceuil/fr/

Part 2 : Specific proposal for GAFSP financing

2.1 Project objectives, expected results and target participants

1) Project objectives

(a) Objectives. The project “Enhanced resilience and food and nutrition security in Kémo and Ouaka Districts” (PARSANKO) will be implemented for a period of 6 years with the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the supervisory entity for the investments and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as the supervisory entity for the technical assistance.

The overall objective of PARSANKO is to contribute to the sustainable improvement of food security and nutrition of the population in the districts of Kémo and Ouaka

The Project development objective is to sustainably improve the resilience, livelihoods and incomes of vulnerable populations and rural communities.

(b) Links with the overall sector strategy and investment plan. PARSANKO will contribute to the following strategic areas of the NAIFSNP: (i) agricultural value chains development; (ii) livestock value chains development; (iii) strengthening local communities, basic community infrastructure, research and advisory support services; and (iv) food and nutrition security.

PARSANKO will also contribute to GAFSP priority areas. Improving the resilience of rural communities, nutrition and access to safe drinking water will reduce the vulnerability of the populations of Kémo and Ouaka. Improving production capacities and enhancing the value addition of agro-pastoral products, including the rehabilitation of rural roads will increase agricultural productivity and facilitate access to market. National institutional capacity building will be ensured through the involvement of public bodies such as the Central African Agricultural Development Agency (ACDA), the National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), the Central African Institute for Agricultural Research (ICRA) and the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANEA).

2) Expected results

a) Expected project results¹⁹. The expected results of PARSANKO are: (1) resilience of rural communities, nutrition and access to drinking water are improved; (2) restored and improved productive capacities; (iii) improved valorisation of agro-pastoral production.

(b) Project-level indicators used to measure these results - disaggregated by gender. These results will be reflected in: (i) 45,400 beneficiary households, representing 235,000 people; (ii) access to drinking water for 100,000 people; (iii) increased productivity/agricultural production for 25,000 member households; (iv) 50,000 children with access to healthy food; (v) 400 producer groups improving their incomes and better developing their agro-pastoral production; (vi) 1,600 young people supported in employment generation; and (vii) 400 km of rural roads are rehabilitated. At least 50% of the beneficiaries will be women.

¹⁹ An indicative logical framework for the project is attached as Annex 1.

Table 3: PARSANKO Key indicators

Results	Key performance indicators	Baseline	End target
Overall objective: To sustainably improve food and nutrition security in the districts of Kémo and Ouaka	Food and nutrition insecurity rate in the project area	50% (Ouaka)	25% (Ouaka)
		30% (Kémo)	20% (Kémo)
Development objective: To sustainably improve the resilience, livelihoods and incomes of vulnerable populations and rural communities	Number of beneficiaries receiving the services promoted by the Project	0	235,000
	number of women	0	117,000
	Number of farmers who have adopted improved production practices	0	15,000
	number of women		6,000
	Increase in agricultural yields		
	Cassava (kg/ha)	8,400	10,800
	Maize (kg/ha)	800	1,500
Outcome 1: Resilience of rural communities, nutrition and access to drinking water are improved	Groundnut (kg/ha)	700	1,200
	Paddy Rice (kg/ha)	1,300	2,500
	Sesame (kg/ha)	400	900
Outcome 2: Production capacities are restored and improved	Number of households reporting an improvement in their diet	0	25,000
	Number of households members of the “caisses de resilience”	0	45,000
Outcome 3: Improved valorisation of agro-pastoral production	Number of farmers reporting an improvement in agricultural production	0	25,000
	number of women	0	12,500
	Percentage of agricultural products marketed		20%

3) Target Beneficiaries

(a) PARSANKO area of intervention. The project area covers the districts of Kémo and Ouaka located in East central CAR. The Ouaka prefecture is located between 4° and 8° North latitude and extends between longitudes 19° and 22° East. It covers an area of 49,900 km², representing 8% of the national territory with an estimated population of 276,710 inhabitants²⁰. The prefecture of Kémo covers an area of 17,204 km² or 2.7% of the national territory with an estimated population of 118,420 inhabitants²¹.

The choice of the Project area is based on the following criteria: (i) the classification of the Ouaka and Kémo districts as under food security crises²²; (ii) the Government's commitment to consolidate peace and security through the revival of agricultural activities in areas affected by security crises²³; (iii) the search for complementarity and synergy with TFPs, in particular with the AfDB; (iv) the fragility of the socio-economic environment; and (v) security stability favourable to development actions. As of

²⁰ RGPH 2003

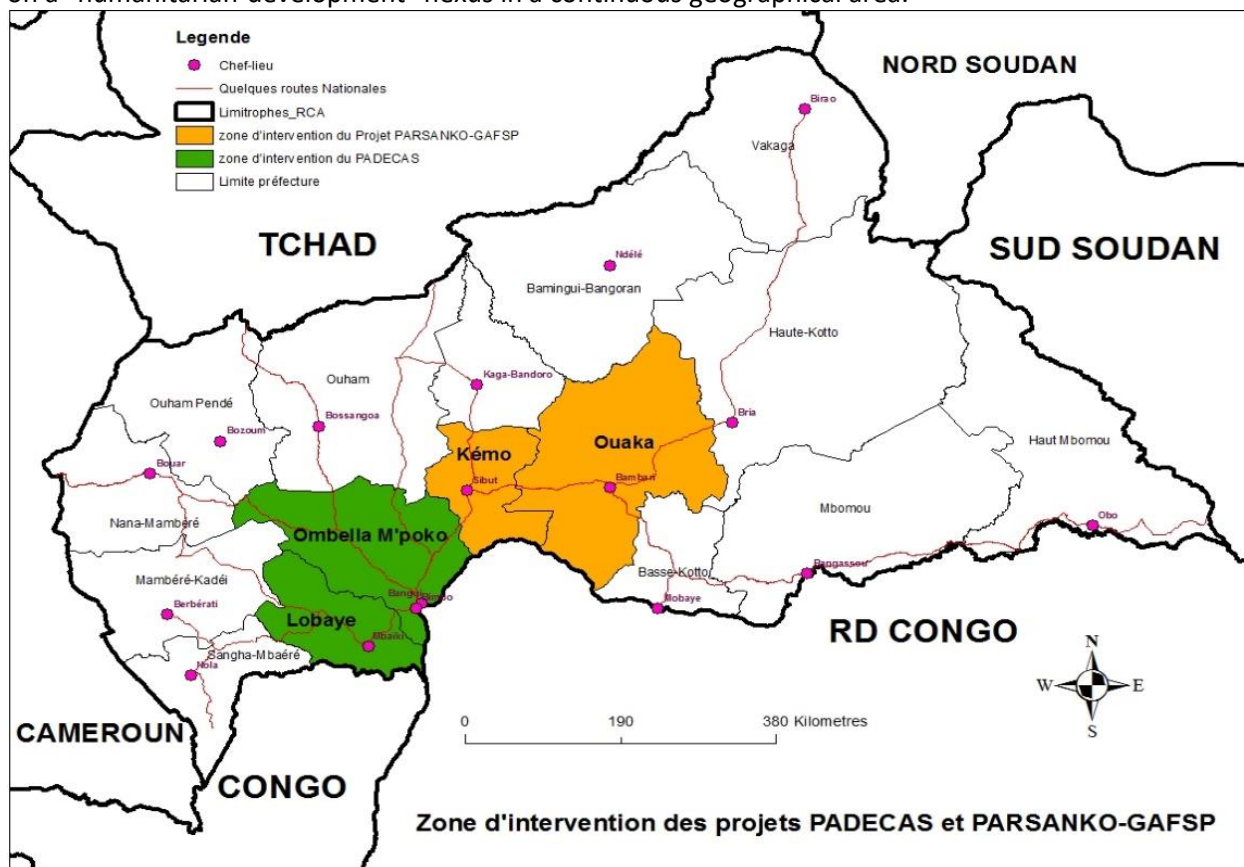
²¹ RGPH 2003

²² IPC May 2019

²³ Launch of the Bambari Immediate Stabilization Operational Plan (POSIB) by the CAR Head of State in March 2017

September 2018, there were 120,203 internally displaced persons in the project area, with 108,531 in Ouaka and 11,672 in Kémo respectively²⁴. In 2019, 50% of the population of Ouaka and 30% of the population of Kémo were food and nutritionally insecure²⁵. The city of Sibut, the capital of the Kémo prefecture, is located 180 km from the city of Bangui, and is connected by an asphalt road. The Ouaka is the main junction area between agricultural production systems in the south-central region and the pastoral production areas of the East, marked by significant seasonal cross-border transhumance. The city of Bangui and the city of Bambari²⁶ are the main marketing opportunities for agricultural products in addition to local markets.

The districts of Ouaka and Kémo are located in the transition zone between the East, which is under emergency and the West, conducive to development interventions, where PADECAS, financed by the AfDB, is currently being implemented. This would concentrate investments and deploy interventions built on a "humanitarian-development" nexus in a continuous geographical area.



Agriculture is the main activity of 80% of the population in Kémo and Ouaka. It is dominated by small family farming that practice manual cultivation on very small areas (0.5 to 0.75 ha per worker). The fertility of the agrarian system is ensured by the “slash and burn” techniques. Soil and weather conditions are favourable for agriculture, being the main crops cassava, maize, cowpea, groundnuts, sesame and squash. Cotton cultivation was widespread in the area before the crisis in this value chain causing the abandonment of its production in favour of food crops. On the peripheral areas of towns, lowlands are

²⁴ OCHA, 12/2018

²⁵ IPC, 2019

²⁶ Capital of the Ouaka prefecture, fifth most populated city in the CAR and most populated city in the East Bangui

farmed for vegetable production. Access to improved and reproducible seeds is still very limited due to the weak local seed production system. Agricultural productivity is very low due to a lack of quality inputs.

The predominance of cassava in crop rotation makes it difficult to estimate the caloric and protein balance. For a majority of the population, protein and micronutrient requirements from plant and animal origin are not covered. Limited food diversity combined with poor access to safe drinking water partly explains high rates of chronic malnutrition. In 2017²⁷, 62% and 24% of the population of Ouaka and Kémo respectively had poor and limited food consumption.

Given the importance of seasonal cross-border transhumance, land and natural resource access issues are relatively important in the project area.

(b) Number of beneficiaries. The number of households benefiting from the project will be 45,400, representing 235,000 people. PARSANKO will specifically target: (i) small farmers who have maintained agricultural activity, (ii) small farmers who have received refugees and share their livelihood with them; (iii) displaced persons present in the project urban areas for security reasons who wish to return to their villages to resume agricultural activity; and (iv) displaced persons from other parts of the country who do not have access to land in the project area.

(c) Expected number of women among the direct participants in the project. The project will reach approximately 117,500 women, representing 50% of the targeted beneficiaries. Women, girls and boys (18 to 35 years old) will benefit from specific activities taking into account their limited access to land, including the promotion of income-generating activities and rural microenterprise in agriculture. Particular attention will also be paid to the specific needs of widows, disabled people and single mothers due to the security crisis in the project area.

2.2 Justification for the overall approach

1) Overall approach adopted

The overall project approach is based on the following principles: (i) investing, above all, in human and social capital at the community level, particularly village groups, women's and youth groups; (ii) scaling up activities (CdR, farmers field schools (FFS), DMITRA clubs, school feedings with local purchases, access to improved seeds) which have already been implemented in CAR with some success in partnership with organizations present in the country (FAO, WFP, cooperatives, NGOs, etc.); (iii) contribute to the rehabilitation of socio-economic infrastructure through a community driven development approach (CDD) ; (iv) contribute to improving access to safe drinking water for rural populations; and (v) contribute to strengthening local governance and facilitating dialogue among development stakeholders.

PARSANKO will support the scaling up of CdRs in the intervention area. This will strengthen community resilience by strengthening productive capacities through FFS, financial capacities through the promotion of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and social cohesion through the promotion of DIMITRA clubs while strengthening the social capital of rural communities. PARSANKO will build on these achievements through FAO support and partnerships with national and international NGOs.

PARSANKO will also support the geographical expansion in Ouaka and Kémo of the national school feeding programme combined with local purchases to improve the nutritional situation of school-age children

²⁷ ENSA 2017, WFP

and, at the same time, the primary school enrolment rate. The Government with the WFP support is already implementing the national school feeding programme. Over the period 2016-2017, it covered 460 primary schools and provided meals to 191,000 children in Ouham-Pendé and Nana Mambéré districts.

Building on the achievements of the PREVES, PARSANKO will improve access to improved seeds including cassava, maize, groundnuts and vegetable production, poultry, cattle and small ruminants for livestock production. It will also strengthen the capacities of producer groups and decentralized services of ministry in charge agriculture and livestock that will provide key services to farmers and will use FAO technical assistance and experienced service providers to strengthen the government capacity. PARSANKO will also include significant support for the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure and, improved access to safe drinking water with the support of UNICEF and services providers.

2) Causal link between the expected results and the combination of activities/components, including ways to reduce poverty and hunger and improve nutrition:

Regarding its impact (overall and development objectives), the implementation of PARSANKO components will contribute to sustainably improve food and nutritional security in the districts of Kémo and Ouaka and to reactivate sustainable agricultural development dynamics. Communities will be better equipped to produce and enhance the value of their agricultural products, and will be more resilient to crises and climate change, as well as more informed and able to ensure adequate nutrition for their families. Agricultural support institutions and POs will be better able to play their role and provide quality services to communities.

With regard to component A (expected outcome 1), the scaling up of CdRs (CEP, VSLA, Club Dimitra), for strengthening the social capital of rural communities, extending the school feeding programme, promoting nutrition education and improving access to safe drinking water will contribute to improving the resilience of rural communities and the food and nutrition security of populations in the project area, particularly those more vulnerable households.

With regard to component B (expected outcome 2), improved agricultural production practices, access to improved seeds, vaccination campaigns for poultry, small ruminants and cattle and rehabilitation of agricultural production infrastructure and rehabilitation of rural roads, will contribute to improving livelihoods and increasing agricultural production and productivity and food availability, thereby reducing food insecurity and hunger.

With regard to component C (expected outcome 3), the adoption of post-harvest loss reduction techniques, the improvement of the processing and marketing of agro-pastoral products, the promotion of income-generating activities and support for rural micro-entrepreneurship will facilitate the marketing of products, increase and diversify incomes, thus contributing to improving their livelihoods and reducing poverty.

3) Positioning of this project within the broader investment plan, including links with other projects and government programs.

PARSANKO will contribute directly to 4 strategic axes of the NAIFSNP in particular (i) the development of crop value chains; (ii) the development of livestock value chains; (iii) the strengthening of local communities, natural resource management, basic community infrastructure, and research and advisory support services; and (iv) food and nutrition security, emergency responses and cross-cutting actions.

By covering the Kémo and Ouaka regions, PARSANKO will extend the area of intervention from West to Centre of ongoing agricultural development projects in CAR, including PRADAC (World Bank), PREPAS (IFAD) and PADECAS (AfDB). It will thus contribute gradually to replace emergency interventions in the Centre and Centre-East zone with agricultural development actions.

In addition, PARSANKO will establish strong synergy and complementarity with PADECAS. The project will capitalize PADECAS interventions and achievements in terms of access to seeds, governance strengthening and institutional capacity building of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock. Similarly, it is planned to strengthen PADECAS's interventions at its mid-term review through lessons learned taken also from PARSANKO's interventions in terms of food and nutritional security, particularly the CdR and access to drinking water in rural areas.

4) Current policy environment that helps or hinders project implementation and achievement of the targeted results

By identifying the revival of productive sectors, including agriculture and food and nutritional security, as major and essential axes to restore peace, security and reconciliation, renew the social contract between the State and the population, and promote economic recovery, the RPCPA promotes the achievement of PARSANKO's expected results. In addition, Pillar 2 of the RPCPA specifically identifies CdR as a tool for developing social cohesion, a savings culture and the sharing of good practices at the community level.

(5) Specific considerations or measures put in place to ensure that the overall approach chosen is within the actual implementation capacity of the executing agency

PADECAS' interventions related to strengthening governance and institutional capacities of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, by strengthening multiplication and distribution mechanism of improved seeds and strengthening the capacities of supporting institutions of the agricultural sector (ICRA, ANDE, ACDA), will ensure the strengthening of PARSANKO's implementation capacities through the MADR. In addition, the activities selected for PARSANKO have already been implemented in CAR through projects conducted in close collaboration with MADR.

FAO's technical assistance requested as part of the implementation of PARSANKO will also contribute to strengthening the technical capacity of MADR.

2.3 Activities to be financed and their justification

1) Description of components and activities selected to be financed

Component A: Support for rural development and access to basic services

Subcomponent A.1: Scaling up resilience funds.

The “caisses de resilience” (CdRs) aim to improve household livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to recurrent shocks and crises. The CdRs are community-based and integrate three dimensions: 1) a productive and technical dimension through the dissemination and use of sustainable agricultural practices, implemented through FFS, 2) a financial and economic dimension, where it promotes access to credit, through the VSLAs; and 3) a social dimension for strengthening social cohesion and solidarity, through the Dimitra Clubs. The CdRs have been promoted in CAR by national and international NGOs and FAO with the financial support of the World Bank. Since 2016, more than 2,385 “caisses de resilience” with 298,143 persons have been set up.

The expected outputs of sub-component A1 are: (i) the mobilization, structuring and implementation of 1,000 “caisses de resilience” (FFS/VSLA / Dimitra Clubs); (ii) 15,000 rural producers participate in VSLA activities; and (iii) 25,000 producers benefit from literacy sessions.

The technical and productive dimension of the CdRs will be implemented through the Farmers Field Schools (FFS). The Farmers Field School (FFS) brings together 20 to 25 people who meet once a week to cultivate a demonstration plot throughout a growing season (from soil preparation to harvesting) and learn together how to solve production problems. The activities carried out in the FFS will involve participatory experimentation with improved techniques for integrated production and protection management, sustainable management of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, post-harvest management and product processing and marketing. Key activities will be the training and awareness-raising of farmers, the participatory community constraints and opportunities diagnosis and, establishment and management of FFS. Initial contributions (seeds and inputs) will be made to the FFS to set up the demonstration plots. The FFS also aim to promote teamwork so that they become an economic interest group or a legally recognised cooperative.

The CdRs financial and economic dimension through the promotion of village savings and Loan associations (VSLAs), based on the principles of “tontines” whose capital is constituted by their members. In the absence of financial institutions in the project area, these associations will allow their members to mobilize their savings and access loans to invest in agricultural or non-agricultural activities. These savings associations are traditionally run by village women, and will be supported through capacity building and functional literacy. For CdR for very poor people, the project may consider conditional cash transfers on a cash-for-work basis for the rehabilitation or construction of infrastructure (sub-component B.2 and component C) provided by the project (storage warehouses and drying area for example) that will enable them to increase their contribution to their credit and savings funds. Activities will include information/awareness, financial education and training in savings and credit management.

The social dimension of the CdRs through the promotion of Dimitra clubs²⁸. The aim is to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity among neighbouring members or communities. This will involve sensitization on hygiene, reproductive health and violence prevention as well as conducting literacy sessions. Literacy instructors would be at least 50% women, and will be trained by a service provider specialized in functional literacy. The social component will also address nutrition education (see sub-component B2).

Subcomponent A.2: Promotion of nutrition and access to safe drinking water

The sub-component will promote a healthy and balanced diet, improve access to safe food for school-age children and increase access to safe drinking water. The expected outputs of subcomponent A2 are: (i) 50,000 children have improved access to safe food; (ii) conducted capacity building of 12,500 people in good nutritional practices; (iii) improved access to safe drinking water for 100,000 people through the construction of 520 water points.

School feedings supplied with local purchases. In CAR, the school feeding program aims to 1) contribute to the return and retention of students to school, in a healthy and protective environment; 2) retain students in class and improve their concentration through the meals provided; 3) increase students’

²⁸ In the context of CAR, DIMITRA Clubs are listening clubs in post-conflict areas, serving as a framework for engineering and social marketing activities. They contribute to 1) access to information and empowerment of rural communities, especially women and youth, 2) access to participatory and gender-sensitive methodologies, 3) ongoing intra- and inter-community dialogue.

attendance rate; and 4) contribute to decrease the dropout rate. The Government with the WFP support has set the schools feeding in 460 primary schools and provided meals for 191,000 children over the period 2016-2017 in Ouham Pende and Nana Mambéré districts. PARSANKO will support the geographical extension of the school feeding programme to the project area for the provision of meals in primary schools. Priority will be given to primary schools located in rural municipalities. It will be combined with local purchases from producer organizations of legumes (red and black-eye beans) and cereals (maize and rice) in order to increase the market opportunities for farmers and traders in the project area. To date, 3 POs in Ouaka and 3 POs in Kémo are involved in legumes and cereals supply for the school feeding programme at national level. Parent and/or women's associations from CdR will contribute to the daily management of the schools feeding and the preparation of meals. These associations will bring condiments (onions, garlic, etc.), water and firewood. In order to ensure the sustainability of this intervention, it will be implemented in close collaboration with the national school feeding management unit, WFP and the selected farmer organizations. Farmer organizations will be put in contact with financial institutions. FAO will also provide technical assistance to selected farmers organizations to improve their productivity.

Promotion of nutrition education. The aim will be to promote a balanced, diversified and healthy diet for households by targeting women, especially those of childbearing age and those with children aged 0 to 2. The project will organize training sessions to improve knowledge and skills on consumption of vegetables, fruit and other high quality and highly nutritious agro-pastoral products. This will help develop households' capacities to adopt healthy eating practices and diversify their consumption. In collaboration with non-governmental organizations with expertise in this field already established in Ouaka and Kémo, the project will strengthen the capacity of community health workers in nutrition and hygiene so that they can conduct awareness campaigns and nutritional education training and ensure the management of critical cases of malnutrition in the project area. These training will support vulnerable households by providing vegetable seeds for the creation of home gardens. Culinary demonstrations will also be held for the benefit of women. Dimitra clubs beyond their primary function will host activities related to the promotion of nutrition education.

Construction and rehabilitation of drinking water points. The access to drinking water rate in the Project area is about 32%. Poor water quality is one of the main causes of disease and is directly linked to malnutrition, especially for children. In addition, mobilizing water for daily household needs is a major workload for women and children. The Project therefore intends to rehabilitate or build 200 boreholes and develop 320 drinking water sources in the intervention area. The construction of these drinking water points will be coupled with the construction of latrines using models and approaches popularized by UNICEF. The development of multifunctional water points on a pilot basis will also be considered in some villages. Management committees will be set up to manage wells and developed drinking water sources and their maintenance. Two members of each management committee will be trained to deliver training sessions on water quality, sanitation and hygiene to community members. This activity will be carried out in collaboration with UNICEF, which, with funding from the Bekou Fund²⁹, is already working in Kémo to improve water access and strengthen the capacity of the local branch of the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANEA). PARSANKO is also providing support for the deployment and operationalization of an ANEA antenna in Ouaka.

²⁹ European Union Multi-Donor Fund for the Central African Republic established on 15 July 2014 in Florence

Component B: Support for agro-pastoral production

The targeted activities of Component B will be (a) for crop production, maize, cassava, groundnuts, paddy rice, sesame, cowpeas and vegetable production; (b) for animal production, poultry, small ruminants (goats, sheep) and cattle.

Subcomponent B.1: Building productive capacities

The aim will be to promote good agricultural practices through an appropriate advisory system, improve support services supply to farmers, improve farmers' access to quality seeds and improve the supply of public services for livestock production. The expected outputs from sub-component B1 are: (i) 50 master trainers and 500 FFS facilitators trained; (ii) decentralized agricultural support services offices rehabilitated and equipped; (iii) 25,000 farmers have access to improved seeds; (iv) 16,000 households benefit from animal vaccination campaigns.

Support production practices improvement. The dissemination of good agricultural practices and advisory support will be carried out within the FFS framework that will be set up through the CdRs. The key principles of the FFS approach will be maintained in order to reach a large number of farmers in a limited time frame to allow a significant increase in production in the short term. In order to guarantee agricultural practices to be popularized and the quality of the advisory support, it is essential to homogenize technical level of both the ACDA and ANDE agents who will be the master trainers, but also their capacity for dissemination. These master trainers will be responsible for training FFS facilitators. FAO, as part of its technical assistance, will be responsible for: (i) revise the available technical sheets and develop the training modules; and (ii) organize technically the retraining of ACDA, ANDE and ICRA staff in the project area. The training of master trainers will focus on participatory agricultural extension, farmer field school management, community credit and savings systems, the DIMITRA approach, climate-sensitive agricultural production techniques and reduction of post-harvest losses. For effective and progressive networking in the project area, PARSANKO will support the training of 50 master trainers and 500 facilitators. An annual meeting will be organised to share knowledge and experience combined with exchange visits bringing together facilitators and master trainers in each of the districts covered by the project.

Institutional support for service provision to farmers. The districts services of ACDA and ANDE will be involved in the training of FFS facilitators in collaboration with other potential partners such as NGOs, cooperatives, farmers' associations. Technical support staff recruited by PARSANKO, will reinforced this mechanism as necessary. The decentralized services will also contribute to the structuring of the “caisses de resilience”, the planning and organization of training and advice to producer groups, as well as the monitoring of PARSANKO's activities. The buildings and premises of these decentralized services will be rehabilitated. There will be a collaboration between the compacts in the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme, developed by the African Development Bank, a knowledge-based and innovative response to the need to disseminate proven agricultural technologies across Africa. This institutional support will make possible to provide the following services as a priority to farmers in the project area:

- Improved access to improved seeds. PARSANKO will focus its intervention on two areas: (i) strengthening the capacities of the Central African Institute for Agricultural Research (ICRA) for seed certification process and (ii) strengthening the local capacities of the Seed Producers' Network (REPROSEM) for seed multiplication and the structuring of improved seed producers' groups.

- As far as cassava is concerned. The Project will support dissemination and promotion of resistant varieties to African cassava mosaic and brown cassava stripe through the establishment of 20 ha of woodlots and the gradual increase of this area to 40 ha managed by multiplier producers. The Project will support the training and capacity building of farmers from REPROSEM to help disseminate their production.
- Concerning breeding. PARSANKO will contribute to annual vaccination campaigns against Newcastle disease for poultry, Small Ruminant Plague (RPP) and Contagious Bovine Pneumonia (CBPP³⁰) organised by the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health (MESA). The Project will contribute to the funding of these activities to cover vaccination needs in its intervention area through the provision of vaccines and equipment for the Veterinary Posts as well as awareness campaigns. About 16,000 households will benefit from vaccination campaigns for their animals.

Subcomponent B.2: Rehabilitation of production infrastructure

This will involve rehabilitating agricultural production infrastructure³¹ in the project area, through Community Driven Development approach (CDD). The expected outputs of sub-component B2 are: (i) reference documents for prioritizing investments in agricultural production infrastructure are developed and available and (ii) keys production infrastructures for the agricultural sector in the Ouaka and Kémo districts are rehabilitated, including 400 km of rural roads.

Updating regional development plans. PARSANKO will support the updating of the Ouaka and Kémo monographic studies dating from 2008 and 2009 respectively, as well as the design of their districts development plans. The processes for preparing these documents will be conducted in a participatory and inclusive manner, involving all key stakeholders in order to provide the basis for prioritizing investments of socio-economic infrastructure to rehabilitate. The infrastructures inventory, the monographs updating, the local development plans as well as the prioritisation of infrastructures should be finalised in year 1 in order to initiate the implementation of infrastructure works in the second year of the project.

Infrastructure rehabilitation through Community Driven Development. Following the destruction, degradation and looting of agricultural infrastructure in Ouaka and Kémo by armed groups during successive security and political crises, the project will support the development of an inventory of agricultural infrastructure in the project area as well as an assessment of the cost of rehabilitating/rebuilding such infrastructures. After this evaluation, PARSANKO will support the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure identified as a priority by communities in the project area. This selection will be made through a consultation process that will involve administrative and political authorities, representatives of producer organizations, customary, religious and community leaders, representatives of youth and women and representatives of civil society.

The project will finance the following infrastructures:

- Main Agricultural Station (SPA) of Ngoulinga ;
- Rural Development Technical College (CTDR) of Grimari
- Hydro-agricultural developments (rice perimeters, fish ponds);
- Infrastructures that support agropastoral and pastoral production³².

³⁰ Precisely the sub-prefectures of Bambari and Ippy

³¹ Agricultural infrastructure here includes production, marketing and support infrastructure for crop, pastoral and fisheries production

³² Transhumance corridor, water point facilities for livestock, etc.

- v. Products Storage and processing. The construction of storage warehouses, drying areas, beehives for beekeeping and retting areas for the benefit of farmers groups and organisations;
- vi. Rehabilitation of rural roads³³. Rural roads in the project area will be rehabilitated to open up production areas, facilitate the marketing of agricultural products and connect production areas to main roads. This activity will be carried out in synergy with the national and regional roads rehabilitation initiated by the Government. The works will be carried out in such a way as to minimise environmental impact and by mobilising local labour through the labour-intensive works approach to maximise benefits for rural communities.

Component C: Support for the valorisation of agro-pastoral production

This will involve (i) improving post-harvest management, storage, processing and marketing of agro-pastoral products and (ii) structuring FOs and improving the capacities of women's and youth groups. The outputs expected from component C are: (i) techniques for reducing post-harvest losses and processing agro-pastoral products are disseminated, (ii) 400 groups (including women and youth) and 1000 young people (male and female) are supported for economic activities

PARSANKO will support **capacity building for storage and marketing of agro-pastoral products** to FOs and women's and youth groups through:

- i. Dissemination of post-harvest loss reduction practices and processing technologies. PARSANKO will support the dissemination of techniques/technologies for the conservation, storage and processing of agro-pastoral products. Good practices to reduce post-harvest losses will also be promoted and supported by the construction of infrastructure. Specific training modules will be developed and disseminated through FFS. The project will also support technology transfer and knowledge sharing within the framework of South-South cooperation.
- ii. Marketing support. Sales and grouping points for agro-pastoral products will be set up to facilitate the marketing of production and its transport to urban centres, which will be facilitated by the rehabilitation of rural roads.

Structuring of groups and strengthening of Farmers Organisations. PARSANKO will support the structuring of the most dynamic “caisses de resilience” into farmers groups and contribute to local farmers organisations capacity building and to the formalization of those without legal existence. The project will strengthen group and local farmers organisations management bodies capacities. The Project will carry out community sensitization on topics such as cooperative dynamics, internal democracy and cooperative management as well as support for the creation and mobilization of credit and savings. Animations and sensitizations will be organized in sub-districts main towns by facilitators in partnership with national FOs. Partnership agreements will be signed with the national federations of farmers' and breeders' organizations³⁴ to strengthen their capacities into providing quality services to producer groups and organizations in Ouaka and Kémo. A thorough assessment of the organisational and technical capacities of producer organisations in the project area will also be carried out in order to develop a capacity building plan to be funded by the project.

Promotion of income-generating activities and employment in rural areas. PARSANKO will support income-generating activities for 200 groups, including 100 women's groups. The Project will provide

³³ A provisional allocation has been made in the budget for the rehabilitation of 400 km of rural roads

³⁴ Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains (FNEC) and Chambre d'Agriculture, d'Élevage, des Eaux Forêts, Chasses, Pêches et du Tourisme (CAEEFCPT)

support for: (i) crop production³⁵, (ii) seed multiplication, (iii) vegetable production and (iv) agricultural products processing. Group support will be carried for a maximum of 2 or 3 years, with a clear phasing, in particular with an emphasis on production in years 1 and 2, and support for marketing from year 3. Training support, inputs (including seeds), production and post-harvest equipment will be provided. This activity is part of the support and structuring of the CdRs in groups and the support to existing groups in the project area. In addition, specifically 200 youth groups, including 100 girls' groups, will be supported in the following areas: (i) processing of agro-pastoral products; (ii) transport and marketing of agricultural products (iii) agriculture inputs shops; and (iv) services provided to farmers³⁶. The rural communities with the support of Project team will carry out the identification of beneficiaries. Support to groups will be conditioned by a monetary or in-kind contribution equivalent for the planned activity.

The Project will support the training of 1000 young people (50% male and 50% female) in rural agricultural and non-agricultural occupations (masonry, carpentry, mechanics, etc.) through the National Pioneer Youth Centers (JPN) located in the project area, particularly in Bambari and Grimari³⁷. An installation kit will also be provided to each training course beneficiary. The International Labour Organization (ILO) will provide support to 1) develop tools to promote entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprise development in the project areas and 2) strengthen local actors and JPN centers capacities to conduct appropriate training and facilitate access to quality services for young people.

Component D: Project management and monitoring - evaluation

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be based in Bangui and will be responsible for the project management, and will have administrative and financial autonomy. The PMU will comprise the national coordination unit and two antennas in Sibut and Bambari to ensure the implementation of the Project's activities. The National coordination unit will include a National Coordinator, a Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management Officer, an Administrative and Financial Management Officer, a Procurement Officer, a Targeting, Gender and Communication Officer, an Accountant and support staff.

The two districts antennas will be based in the Ministry of Agriculture office premises. Each antenna team will include an antenna manager and technical supervisor, an accounting assistant and a driver.

A robust Monitoring and Evaluation System (M&E) will be put in place. The design of the M&E system, the development of the M&E manual and the completion of baseline studies will be carried out at the beginning of the Project. The data collection will be carried out by the antennas in close collaboration with the decentralized services of the ministry of agriculture and livestock. The data analysis will be done at the PMU level for (i) the progress and performance of the stakeholders involved in the project implementation; (ii) the implementation of the activities and (iii) the assessment of the effectiveness of beneficiaries involvement at the different stages of the project implementation as well as the relevance and effectiveness of targeting and the mainstreaming of gender issues.

Cross-cutting aspects

(d) Approach to gender equality and women and youth empowerment. Given the vulnerability of women in CAR, this holistic approach will include (i) sensitization and capacity building of the Project team, particularly on gender mainstreaming interventions, empowerment of women and inclusion of the very

³⁵ plant, animal, fish and beekeeping

³⁶ Transport of agricultural and non-agricultural products, transport of persons and ploughing of agricultural plots

³⁷ The Grimari JPN Centre is being built with AfDB funding. It will be operational in 2020.

vulnerable people; (ii) development of gender-sensitive tools in targeting, planning and monitoring and evaluation; (iii) knowledge management and communication on good targeting practices; and (iv) the integration of a targeting and gender officer within the PMU, who will also be responsible for functional literacy, information-sensitization and communication aspects. PARSANKO's inclusive targeting strategy will also aim to include young men and women aged 18 to 35 in the various activities. For young people, the Project will support their integration into the supported groups, the creation of youth groups and rural micro-entrepreneurship for young people around activities outlined in component C.

(e) Approach to ecological sustainability. PARSANKO's activities to improve agricultural productivity³⁸ (sub-component B1) will offset the negative environmental impacts, particularly those related to the construction of infrastructure (rural roads, storage stores, etc.). A detailed environmental and social impact assessment will be carried out during the formulation of the detailed project.

f) Approach to risk and resilience in fragile environments. The PARSANKO intervention approach will be based on the specificities of the project intervention area. The interventions will be implemented in a differentiated way in Kémo and Ouaka. In Kémo, where the after-effects of the crisis are less severe, components A, B and C will be implemented simultaneously from the beginning of the project. In Ouaka, component A will first be initiated in year 1 and gradually components B and C will be launched from year 2 onwards. This approach will allow the capitalization of the lessons learned from Kémo, in Ouaka through the internal learning process of the project. The activities of component C will be carried out in years 2 and 3. This approach will make possible to finalize partnerships with the National Young Pioneer Centers and the ILO, key partners for these activities.

(g) For activities requiring subsidies, in particular the promotion of income-generating activities (component C). The activities will consist to support groups of up to 25 people and groups of young people (2 to 3 young men or women) for 2 or 3 years, with a clear phasing, including an emphasis on production in years 1 and 2, and support for marketing from year 3. Support in training, inputs (including seeds), production and post-harvest equipment will be also provided. Given the high poverty rate in the project area, support to groups will be conditioned by a monetary or in-kind contribution equivalent to 10% of their business plan for the planned activity.

2.3.2) Justification of the public funding of the components and activities selected for funding

(a) Does the private sector currently fund similar activities in the country? If yes, explain why public financing is needed for the proposed activities

Not applicable. The activities of the PARSANKO components are not currently funded by the private sector.

(b) If the answer to the above (“a”) is yes, describe the nature of the private sector entities Not applicable.

Not applicable. PARSANKO's activities are not currently funded by the private sector

(c) If the answer to question “a” is no, then explain why that is the case:

The political, institutional, economic and social environment of the project area has been weakened by successive political and security crises leading to the cessation of activities of the main private sector

³⁸ Promotion of good agricultural practices and access to improved seeds

actors in the project area³⁹. Given the agro-ecological potential of the project area, PARSANKO aims to reactivate a socio-economic development dynamic and create attractive conditions for the private sector.

(d) Describe tangible efforts made to date to attract private investment to finance similar activities in the country, as well as their outcomes.

A private sector forum held in 2015 led to the establishment of the public-private committee for the Improvement of the Business Climate (CMCAA) in CAR in February 2015. The objective of the CMCAA is to restore and strengthen public-private dialogue, with the vision of creating favourable conditions for the development of the private sector, particularly in the agricultural sector.

(e) Related to the question above (“d”), describe what kind of private investments the country is attempting to attract:

Within the NAIFSNP framework, the potential private investments identified are:

- i. The establishment of a grant mechanism;
- ii. Institutional and financial strengthening of farmers' organizations;
- iii. The supply of agricultural equipment by private operators (animal-drawn ploughs, tractors, power tillers, combine harvesters, huskers, steamers, mini rice mills, metal silos and drying areas) and the establishment of a private production centres network of agricultural mechanisation services.
- iv. The establishment of multifunctional platforms for the packaging of agricultural products, managed by FOs, through access to credit for equipment, tax relief exemption measures, etc..;
- v. Involvement of the private sector in the storage, transport and distribution of agricultural products.
- vi. Support for the local micro-finance institution.

(f) Indicate what is needed to help increase private investment to finance similar activities in the country, and whether this project will help to implement all this

PARSANKO will contribute to promoting a savings and credit culture and mobilizing savings at the village level to support private investment. The rehabilitation of rural roads will connect production areas and market, creating investment opportunities for traders and processors of agricultural products. Similarly, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing storage capacity will increase the availability of marketable agricultural surpluses.

2.4 Implementation arrangements

1) Institutional arrangements and inter-ministerial coordination

PARSANKO will be placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). It will ensure the project management and will lead interactions with other sectoral ministries, technical and financial partners (TFPs), and will coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities. The National Steering Committee (NSC) will carry out the consultation at national level. It will provide operational oversight of the Project and will review the Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) and annual implementation reports. It will meet twice a year and the National Coordinator will assume its secretariat. The NSC will bring together key stakeholders representatives of PARSANKO, also FOs representatives and civil society. At the decentralized level on each district, this consultation will be carried out through consultation committees (CC), created by decision of the Minister of agriculture. These bodies will validate investment planning at the prefectural level and supervise their implementation

³⁹ In particular the only bank branch

in order to strengthen the alignment, harmonization and coherence of sectoral interventions. They will meet three times a year. The secretariat is provided by the PARSANKO Head of the Antenna.

2) Role of non-governmental stakeholders (civil society groups, agricultural organizations and the private sector)

Civil society organizations, FOs and the Chamber of Agriculture will be members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and through their respective representatives on the Consultation Committees (CC) at the district level.

3) Strengthening the implementation capacity of the implementing parties to ensure that this capacity extends beyond the life of the project

Project stakeholders, including FOs, decentralized services of the ministry of agriculture and civil society organizations, will benefit from technical and organizational capacity building and will be involved in the implementation of project activities through conventions to ensure the development of their skills. This approach will allow them to develop internal capacities.

2.5 Amount of funding requested and time frame for implementation

1) Financing requested from GAFSP

a) Requested grant amount for the project:

17,823,390 USD

b) Requested amount for a GAFSP project preparation grant

176,610 USD

c) Total Requested grant amount (sum of “a” and “b” above):

18,000,000 USD

d) Minimum necessary amount:

16,000,000 USD

e) Modifications that would need to be made to the proposed project if only the minimum amount was awarded. The resources allocated to the rehabilitation of production infrastructure and the rehabilitation of rural roads (sub-component B2) will be reduced accordingly. The allocation for the rehabilitation of production infrastructure would then be USD 11,525,000.

2) Project financing

PARSANKO will be implemented over a period of six years. The total project cost is USD27.8 million, broken down as follows: (i) the AfDB, will contribute USD9.8 million corresponding to 35.2% of the total project cost; (ii) the GAFSP contribution USD18 million corresponding to 64.8% of the total project cost, including USD1.5 million for FAO technical assistance; (iii) the beneficiaries through in-kind contribution⁴⁰; (iv) the Central African Government⁴¹ will contribute in the form of taxes and duties exemption applied on goods and services that may be acquired as part of the project.

⁴⁰ An estimate of the monetary value of the beneficiaries' contribution will be made during the design of the detailed proposal.

⁴¹ An estimate of the monetary value of the Government' contribution will be made during the design of the detailed proposal

Table 4: PARSANKO Funding

Financiers	Cost (USD)	Share (%)
GAFSP	18,000,000	64.8
Government	Tax exemption	TBD
Local project participants	In kind	TBD
African Development Bank	9,800,000	35.2
Project Implementation Total	27,623,390	100%
Project preparation		
	176,610	
GAFSP	176,610	100%
Project Preparation Total	176,610	100%

3) Project costs

A summary of the project costs is presented in the table below. Detailed costs are presented in Appendix 4.

Table 5: Cost by PARSANKO component

	GAFSP (USD)	AFDB (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	Share (%)
Component A: Support for rural development and access to basic services	4,351,000	1,529,000	5,880,000	21.2
Subcomponent A.1. Scaling up resilience funds	794,300	205,700	1,000,000	3.6
Subcomponent A.2. Promotion of nutrition and access to safe drinking water	3,556,700	1,323,300	4,880,000	17.6
Component B: Support for agro-pastoral production	3,669,475	6,378,915	15,548,390	55.9
Subcomponent B.1: Building productive capacities	1,666,335	862,055	2,028,390	7.3
Subcomponent B.2: Rehabilitation of Production Infrastructure	2,003,140	5,516,860	13,520,000	48.6
Component C: Support for the valorisation of agro-pastoral production	1,608,915	1,086,085	2,695,000	9.7
FAO Technical Assistance	1,500,000		1,500,000	5.4
Project coordination and management	1,194,000	806,000	2,000,000	7.2
Preparation of the detailed proposal	176,610		176,610	0.6
SUB-TOTAL	18,000,000	9,800,000		
TOTAL PROJECT COST			27,800,000	100

(a) Explanation of indicative unit costs for each major investment. The unit costs for the main investments are described in the table below. They were established during the project proposal formulation process on the basis of information collected from public structures in charge of similar interventions and on the basis of unit costs selected for development projects financed by development partners.

Table 6: Key PARSANKO unit costs

Investment	Cost (USD)
Construction cost and rehabilitation of a drinking water points	14,000
Developing a water source	250
Storage and marketing infrastructure	15,000
Rehabilitation of one km of rural road	10,500

4) Other donor-funded agriculture and food security projects

Table 7: Other relevant projects being implemented by MADR

Project name	Implementing partner	Project Cost (USD)	Latest implementation status
Project to support agricultural recovery and agribusiness development in the Central African Republic (PRADAC)	World Bank	25 million	Start-up phase Planned implementation from 2019 to 2024
Project to revive agropastoral production in the savannah (PREPAS)	IFAD	28.77 million including AfDB 11.9 million	Start-up phase Planned implementation from 2018 to 2024.
Project for the Development of Agricultural Value Chains in the Savannah (PADECAS)	AfDB	31.2 million	Start-up phase Planned implementation from 2019 to 2023

5) Preferred Supervising Entity

Supervising Entities for Investments and Technical Assistance

++African Development Bank (AfDB)

- Asian Development Bank
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Inter-American Development Bank
- World Bank

Supervising Entities for Technical Assistance only

++ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- World Food Programme (WFP)

The funding distribution between supervising entities is described in the table below. The supervising entity for Investments is the African Development Bank because of its commitment to the CAR Government, particularly for its support to agriculture and food security through PADECAS and its commitment to improving the living conditions of the populations of the city of Bambari in the Ouaka district through the additional grant to the “Programme d'appui à la reconstruction des communautés de base” (PARCB)⁴².

Table 8: Distribution of costs between supervisory entities

	Share of expected costs (%)
African Development Bank (AfDB)	100%
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	

⁴²The PARCB, with an overall cost of 6.36 MUC (US\$8.9 million), contributes to strengthening sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion for the direct benefit of a population of about 123,150 people in and around Bambari, including 52% women and 61% of youth, the majority of whom are unemployed and out of school.

FAO is selected as the supervising entity for technical assistance in view of its expertise in the activities of PARSANKO. FAO will provide specific technical support to the MADR for scaling up CdRs, (ii) improving the productivity of farmers' organizations selected to supply the school feeding activity, (iii) farmers' access to improved seeds, (iv) the dissemination of resistant cassava varieties, (v) animal vaccination campaigns; and (vi) reducing post-harvest losses and processing agro-pastoral products. In addition to the activities mentioned above, additional FAO technical assistance may be mobilized for the implementation of PARSANKO upon request.

2.6 Post-project sustainability and exit strategies

1) For project asset and services

The sustainability of project's achievements in the Project intervention area is good. The sustainability of investments and expected benefits are based on: (i) beneficiaries and rural communities are better equipped in terms of production and became more resilient; (ii) groups and FOs and public services in the agricultural sector are better able to play their roles in providing services; (iii) the choice of locally adapted techniques and technologies; (iv) support and structuring of groups/communities in the management, maintenance and renewal of infrastructures; and (v) institutions and actors are trained to lead agricultural development actions.

The CdR approach will improve social capital and strengthen community capacity for the active participation of beneficiary populations in the management of project deliverables. The management of infrastructures, boreholes and water points will be ensured by management committees and will allow the efficient appropriation and maintenance. Local and administrative authorities will be closely involved in the implementation of PARSANKO activities in order to facilitate the competence transfer at the end of the project and the sustainability of the achievements.

2) For institutions and management structures:

PARSANKO will strengthen the organization, support and management capacities of local and national actors and institutions to enable them to carry out and monitor interventions. The activities selected for PARSANKO aim to make MADR decentralized services, groups and other project stakeholders, active partners able to contribute to the implementation of project activities while strengthening their capacity. This approach will enable them to guarantee the sustainability of the Project's achievements in the medium term.

3) Social access and inclusion

The CdR approach through the activities planned within the Dimitra Clubs will ensure achievements sustainability in terms of social equity and gender parity. Similarly, the inclusion of the most vulnerable as well as literacy training will help to reduce social disparities.

2.7 Risk and risk management

1) Risk analysis process, with participants and their roles.

The risks associated with PARSANKO were analysed during the project proposal formulation process within the identification missions organized in Kémo and Ouaka with key project stakeholders. In addition, during the national project proposal validation workshop held in Bambari from 22 to 23 August 2019, participants⁴³ also analysed and discussed the risks associated with the project.

⁴³ See appendix list of participants

2) Key risks to the achievement of the specific objectives and for each component (activity), and identify mitigation measures for each risk.

The main risks identified are presented in the table below.

Table 9: Risks and mitigation measures

	Risks and risks	Probability	Potential consequences	Mitigation measures
Development objective to sustainably improve the resilience, livelihoods and incomes of vulnerable populations and rural communities	Deterioration of the country's political and security crisis	Medium	Interruption of activities and Supervision difficulties	Redeploy project's antennas to the coordination in Bangui
Outcome 1: Improved resilience of rural communities, nutrition and access to safe drinking water	Deterioration of the security situation	low	Poor achievement of project objectives	Fostering social cohesion
Product 1.1 Scaling up resilience boxes	Weak local technical capacity Weak participation from target communities	Medium	Poor achievement of project objectives	Technical capacity building Awareness/information
Output 1.2. Promotion of nutrition and access to safe drinking water	Low operational capacity at the local level	Low	Poor achievement of project objectives	Technical capacity building; international technical assistance
Outcome 2: Production capacities are restored and improved	Extreme climatic disasters	Low	Decrease in productivity/production	Integration of the climate change adaptation dimension into activities
Output 2.1: Enhanced productive capacity	Weak local technical capacity	Low	Poor achievement of project objectives	Technical capacity building
Output 2.2: Rehabilitation of production infrastructure	Weak operational capacities at the local level	Medium	Poor achievement of project objectives	Technical capacity building
Outcome 3: Improved valuation of agro-pastoral production	Increased competition with imported food products	Low	Poor achievement of project objectives	Communication and advertising on local products
Output 3.1: Support for the marketing of agro-pastoral products	Low quality of agro-pastoral products	Medium	Poor achievement of project objectives	Technical capacity building
Output 3.2: Rural entrepreneurship promotion	Adherence of target groups	Low	Poor achievement of project objectives	Awareness/information
Project management	Weak technical and managerial skills of the Project team	Medium	Poor achievement of project objectives in terms of quantity, quality and sustainability	Delegation to specialized service providers; support for the recruitment phase; staff capacity building

2.8 Consultation with local stakeholders and development partners

1) Process and extent of consultation with relevant stakeholders⁴⁴

Under the supervision of the inter-ministerial committee for the preparation of CAR's proposal to the 5th GAFSP, established by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 24 April 2019

⁴⁴ Complete list of actors in Annex 2.

and with the support of two national consultants (agriculture and food and nutritional security; rural infrastructure), a series of consultations with potential stakeholders in PARSANKO and TFPs was carried out as part of the PARSANKO development process.

Two consultation missions with local stakeholders were carried out respectively in the Ouaka prefecture from 15 to 17 July 2019 and in the Kémo prefecture from 07 to 10 August 2019. During the visits to the localities of Grimari, Bambari, Dekoa, Mala and Sibut, the members of the inter-ministerial committee organized different exchange sessions with 1) local authorities and local officials in charge of agriculture and livestock, 2) representatives of FOs and local producers, including livestock farmers, 3) representatives of youth and women's organisations and associations active in the agricultural sector and 4) leaders of national and international NGOs active in the field of agriculture and food and nutrition security through focus groups and plenary sessions.

The PARSANKO project proposal was presented to the technical and financial partners (TFPs) of CAR's agricultural sector on 16 August 2019 in the MADR conference room to collect and capitalize on their suggestions and recommendations. Working sessions were also held with WFP, UNICEF, the World Bank, IFAD and the AfDB.

To complete formulating process of the CAR project proposal, a project proposal validation workshop was held in Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, from 22 to 23 August 2019. Participants to the workshop included representatives of local and administrative authorities, farmers representatives including pastoralists and representatives of youth and women's associations, and the 8 sub-prefects of Ouaka and Kémo as well as TFPs, in order to carry out a critical review of the project proposal to the GAFSP and formulate suggestions and recommendations to enrich the proposal.

2) Describe how traditionally marginalized groups were involved and any special measures that were put in place to engage their participation:

Focus groups were organized with women's representatives, pastoralists, youth, displaced persons and, direct victims (widows) of the political and security crisis in Ouaka and Kémo during exchange missions to collect their specific expectations and reflect them in the project proposal.

3) Describe how the consultation has added value or improved project design

The consultations legitimized the CdR approach and the need to combine the strengthening of social cohesion with actions to boost agricultural production and improve food and nutritional security. They also made possible to identify the priority needs of the project's target groups for the definition of project activities.

2.9 Detailed preparation plan (if the proposal is selected)

1) The intended lead, if the proposal is approved.

Name	Title	Function
YAKENDE Rodrigue Prosper	Director General of the Central African Agricultural Development Agency (ACDA) BP 997 Bangui Tel: 00 236 75 04 14 97/ 00 236 72 75 77 05 E-mail: yakendero@yahoo.fr Skype: yakenderop	President of the inter-ministerial committee for the preparation of the CAR proposal to the 5th GAFSP

2) Expected duration of project preparation

The key steps in the development of the detailed project proposal in the event that CAR is selected by GAFSP are:

- i. Government request for support to the AfDB for the formulation of the detailed proposal, on 13 January 2020.
- ii. Mission preparation and validation of the terms of reference for the formulation of the detailed proposal, on 31 January 2020
- iii. Workshop organization of the to launch the formulation of the detailed proposal in Bangui, on 25 and 26 February 2020
- iv. Formulation mission organisation including visits to the project area from 24 February to 08 March 2020
- v. Production of the first version of the detailed project document on April 3, 2020
- vi. Validation workshop organization for the detailed project proposal in Bangui on April 23, 2020
- vii. Submission of the detailed proposal to the GAFSP and AfDB on May 29, 2020.

3) Sources and amounts of funding for project preparation

The budget for the detailed project formulation is presented in the table below. The main source of funding is the GAFSP.

Table 9: Cost of preparing the detailed proposal

Headings	Cost (USD)
Launch workshop formulation in Bangui	10,000
Identification mission in the project area	10,000
Formulation team and various analysis (environmental, social, financial, economic, etc.)	120,405
Consultation and local feedback Ouaka	4,000
Consultation and local feedback Kémo	4,000
Final restitution workshop Bangui	16,400
Transport and logistics	7,000
Miscellaneous	4,805
Total	176,610

Part 3.0 : Supporting Documentation and Appendices

Appendix 1: Logical framework/results framework of the project at the proposal stage. It should include indicators for the entire project and for all components. Annual target values and evaluation point

Results	Key verification indicators			Hypothesis		
		Reference	Mid-term		End of the year	
Overall objective: sustainably improve food and nutrition security in the districts of Kémo and Ouaka	food and nutrition insecurity rate in the project area	50 % (Ouaka) 30 % (Kémo)		25% (Ouaka) 20% (Kémo)	Socio-political and economic stability	
Development objective: Improve the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable rural populations in a sustainable manner	Number of beneficiaries receiving the services promoted by the Project	0	135 000	235 000	Socio-political and economic stability	
	Of which number of women	0	67 500	117 000		
	Number of farmers who have adopted improved production practices	0	7 000	15 000		
	Increase in agricultural yields	Of which number of women	0	3000	6000	Adoption of good agricultural practices by farmers
		Cassava (kg/ha)	8400	10800	10800	
		Corn (kg/ha)	800	1500	1500	
		Groundnut (kg/ha)	700	1000	1200	
Paddy Rice (kg/ha)		1300	1500	2500		
Sesame (kg/ha)	400	900	1000			
Outcome 1: Improved resilience of rural communities, nutrition and access to safe drinking water	Number of households reporting an improvement in their diet	0	15 000	25 000	Membership of target communities	
	Number of households members of the resilience funds	0	2000	45000		
Product 1.1 Scaling up resilience boxes	Number of functional resilience boxes	0	500	1 000	Membership of the beneficiary communities	
	Number of farmers who are members of the farmer school fields	0	15 000	25 000		
	Of which number of women	0	7 500	12 500		
	Number of people who have joined an AVEC	0	7 000	15 000		
	Of which number of women			50%		

Results	Key verification indicators			Hypothesis	
		Reference	Mid-term		End of the year
	Number of people who have benefited from literacy sessions Of which number of women	0	15 000	25 000 50%	
	Number of people who are members of the Dimitra Clubs Of which number of women	0 0	15 000 7 500	25 000 12 500	
Output 1.2. Promotion of nutrition and access to safe drinking water	Number of children receiving meals in school feedings	0	20 000	50 000	Households adopt the proposed practices.
	Number of women who have benefited from nutrition education sessions	0	8 000	12 500	
	Number of beneficiaries with access to a drinking water source	0	50 000	100 000	
Outcome 2: Production capacities are restored and improved	Number of farmers reporting an improvement in their agricultural production	0	15 000	25 000	Membership of farmers and breeders
Output 2.1: Enhanced productive capacity	Number of master trainers trained Of which number of women	0	50	50	
	Number of facilitators trained Of which number of women	0	300	500	
	Number of farmers with access to improved seeds Of which number of women	0	15 000	25 000 50%	
	Number of farmers who have adopted improved production practices Of which number of women	0 0	7 000 3000	15 000 6000	
	Number of households benefiting from vaccination campaigns Of which number of women	0	8 000	16 000 50%	
Output 2.2: Rural infrastructure rehabilitation	Number of production infrastructures rehabilitated / built	0	TBD	TBD	Good capacity of service providers
	Number of km of rehabilitated rural tracks	0	200	400	
Outcome 3: Improved valorisation of agro-pastoral production	Percentage of agricultural products marketed	0	10%	20%	Membership of beneficiaries in FOs
	Percentage of agricultural products subject to improved post-harvest management	0	10%	20%	Membership of beneficiaries

Results	Key verification indicators			Hypothesis	
		Reference	Mid-term	End of the year	
	Number of structured and strengthened FOs	TBD	TBD	TBD	Membership of beneficiaries
	Number of people trained in improved storage and post-harvest management practices	0	15,000	25,000	
	Of which number of women	0	7,500	12,500	
	Number of marketing infrastructures rehabilitated / built	0	25	53	
	Number of groups supported in their IGAs	0	100	200	
	Of which number of women's groups	0	50	100	
	Number of youth groups supported in their IGA Of which number of girls' groups	0	100	200	
	0	50	100		
Number of young people supported in jobs Of which number of young girls	0	500	1,000		
	0	250	500		

Appendix 2: Full list of stakeholders engaged in consultation process during proposal preparation
(Please see attached PDF documents)

Appendix 3: Project preparation grant request

Rationale: The funding requested will allow the development of the detailed project proposal as early as January 2020 and reduce the impact of public budget constraints on the formulation process of detailed project proposal.

Proposed activities and budget

- i. Workshop formulation launch in Bangui. This two-day workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss and validate with stakeholders the modalities for formulating the detailed project proposal.
- ii. Identification mission in the project area. A field mission will be carried out in the project area to further analyse the project activities. Consultations with local stakeholders will also be carried out. This mission will be led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- iii. Team of formulation and realization of various analysis. A formulation team of international consultants will be set up to support the formulation of the project proposal. It will include an agro-economist, as the mission leader, a rural infrastructure expert, an agronomist, a national expert in school feedings and local procurement, a gender and targeting expert, monitoring and evaluation expert, and an economist.
- iv. Consultation and local feedback Ouaka. Consultations and feedback with local stakeholders will be carried out in the main towns of sub-districts and in Bambari.
- v. Consultation and local feedback Kémo. Consultations and feedback with local stakeholders will be carried out in the main towns of sub-districts and in Sibut.
- vi. Final restitution workshop in Bangui. The conclusions of the detailed proposal formulation process will be presented and validated with the stakeholders during a two-day workshop.
- vii. Transport and logistics. This will cover logistics and transport costs related to the formulation of the detailed project proposal.

The budget for the formulation of the detailed proposal is presented in the following table

Table: Cost of preparing the detailed proposal

Headings	Cost (USD)
Workshop formulation launch in Bangui	10,000
identification mission in the project area	10,000
Formulation team and various analyses	120,405
consultation and local feedback Ouaka	4,000
consultation and local feedback Kémo	4,000
workshop for final feedback Bangui	16,400
transport and logistics	7,000
miscellaneous	4,805
total	176,610

Amount of funding requested. The main source of funding is the GAFSP and the amount requested is USD 176,610.

Appendix 4: PARSANKO Detailed Budget

	unity	unit cost	amount	cost	percentage rate	GAFSP	AFDB
Component A: Support for rural development and access to basic services				5,880,000	21.2	4,351,000	1,529,000
Subcomponent A.1: Scaling up CdRs				1,000,000	3.6	794,300	205,700
Scaling up CdRs	Caisse de resilience	1,000	1,000	1,000,000	3.6	794,300	205,700
Subcomponent A.2: Promotion of nutrition and access to safe drinking water		40	50,000	2,000,000	7.2	1,594,000	406,000
School feedings supplied with local purchases	number of children	40	50,000	2,000,000	7.2	1,594,000	406,000
Construction and rehabilitation of drinking water points	number of water points	14,000	200	2,800,000	10.1	1,912,700	887,300
water source development	number of water sources	250	320	80,000	0.3	50,000	30,000
Component B: Support for agro-pastoral production				15,548,390	55.9	3,169,475	6,378,915
Subcomponent B.1: Building productive capacities				2,028,390	7.3	1,166,335	862,055
Support for the improvement of production practices	Lump sum			263,390	0.9	126,050	137,340
Institutional support for the provision of services to farmers	Lump sum			860,000	3.1	500,000	360,000
access to improved seeds	Lump sum			500,000	1.8	298,500	201,500
animal vaccination	Lump sum			405,000	1.5	241,785	163,215
Subcomponent B.2: Rehabilitation of Production Infrastructure				13,520,000	48.6	2,003,140	5,516,860
Inventory of agricultural infrastructure	Lump sum	40,000	2	80,000	0.3	47,760	32,240
Updating of monographs and regional development plans	Lump sum	40,000	4	160,000	0.6	95,520	64,480
Prioritization of infrastructure to be rehabilitated by communities	Lump sum	40,000	2	80,000	0.3	47,760	32,240
Rehabilitation of rural roads	km	10,500	400	4,200,000	15.1	1,812,100	2,387,900
Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure	Lump sum			9,000,000	32.4	6,000,000	3,000,000

Component C: Support for the valorisation of agro-pastoral production				2,695,000	9.7	1,608,915	1,086,085
Structuring of groups and strengthening of Producer Organisations	Lump sum			200,000	0.7	119,400	80,600
Dissemination of conservation and processing techniques	Lump sum	25,000	20	500,000	1.8	298,500	201,500
Support for storage and marketing	Number of infrastructures	15,000	53	795,000	2.9	474,615	320,385
Promotion of income-generating activities	Groups	2,000	200	400,000	1.4	238,800	161,200
Support for rural micro-entrepreneurship of young people	Groups	1,500	200	300,000	1.1	179,100	120,900
training at JPN centres and support	Young	500	1,000	500,000	1.8	298,500	201,500
Component D: Project Management				3,500,000	12.6		
FAO Technical Assistance	Lump sum			1,500,000	5.4	1,500,000	
Project coordination and management	Lump sum			2,000,000	7.2	1,194,000	806,000
Preparation of the detailed proposal	Lump sum			176,610	0.6	176,610	
						18,000,000	9,800,000
Total project cost				27,800,000			

