



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Upon request from the Government of Central African Republic (CAR), represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will provide technical assistance for the following Project:

Project Title:	Technical Assistance to the PARSANKO Project (TA-PARSANKO)
Project Symbol:	GCP/CAF/00XX/GAF

Upon signature of this project document by duly authorized representatives of both parties, the project will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the [Enter title of the Host Country Agreement] signed between the Government of Central African Republic (CAR) and FAO on [Enter date], (*and/or, as applicable:* the Legal Annex of the UNDAF/UNDCP signed between the Government of Central African Republic (CAR) and the United Nations on [Enter date]), as well as the project description and management arrangements described herein.

On behalf of:	On behalf of:
The Government of Central African Republic	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Date:	Date:

FAO STANDARD PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title:	Technical Assistance to the PARSANKO Project (TA-PARSANKO)
Project symbol:	GCP/CAF/00XX/GAF
Recipient Country:	Central African Republic (CAR)
Government(s)/other counterpart(s):	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health (MESA)
Expected EOD (Starting Date):	5 April 2021
Expected NTE (End Date):	30 March 2025
Contribution to FAO's Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Objective: SO1 "Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition", SO3 "Reduce rural poverty", SO5 "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters" • Africa Regional Initiative 2: Sustainable production intensification and value chains development in Sub-Saharan Africa • Country Programming Framework(s) Output(s): Priority area 2 - (i) output 2: the capacities of national structures to cope with crises and climate change are strengthened; Priority area 4 - (i) output 1: National research, (ICRA) and development agencies (ACDA, ANDE) promote the prioritized value chains; (ii) output 2: the access of value chains actors
Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Moderate risk: PARSANKO has been classified in category "2" of the Environmental Assessment
Gender Marker	G2a
Total Budget:	US\$ 1,50 million
Executive Summary	
<p>The Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security Support Project (PARSANKO) seeks to increase agro-pastoral production and improve access to basic services in the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka. It comprises three components, namely: (i) Support to Agro-pastoral Production; (ii) Support to Community Initiatives; and (iii) Project Management. An African Development Bank (AfDB) grant of USD 11.04 million and a Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) grant of USD 15.40 million will respectively finance PARSANKO for 5 years.</p> <p>The public research and agricultural advisory services have not yet recovered their capacity after long years of staffing restriction and capacity deterioration due to the 2013-2015 socio-political crisis. There is also insufficient value chain actors, in particular inputs and service suppliers in the Prefectures</p>	

of Kémo and Ouaka. This technical assistance (TA) project was therefore developed to overcome these critical gaps of both public and private national capacities in a difficult context in the project intervention areas, so as to enable effective implementation of the PARSANKO. FAO will provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the PARSANKO Project in particular for its component 1 - Support for agro-pastoral production and sub-component 2.1 - Scaling up of the “caisses de resilience (CdR)¹”. The TA will also assist the Government of Central African Republic (CAR) in building the capacity of different stakeholders involved in the implementation of the PARSANKO, including: the Central African Agricultural Research Institute (ICRA), the Central African Agricultural Development Agency (ACDA) and the National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE).

A Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) grant of USD 1.50 million will finance this TA project, which expects to achieve the following outputs:

- a) PARSANKO implementers’ capacity is strengthened and the implementation of component A and sub-component B.1 is effective through: (i) the development and coaching of 750 Farmer Field Schools (FFS), the support to 750 “caisses de resilience” and of 30 Producer Organisations (POs) unions; (ii) the preparation and dissemination of 10 knowledge products; (iii) the training and coaching of 125 additional agents (from the project management unit (PMU) of PARSANKO, agencies of the ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock (MADR and MESA), saving and credit associations, literacy workers, rural animators, etc.).
- b) The provision of agricultural services in the project intervention area is diversified and improved, as a result of the operationalization of: (i) 45 decentralized offices (commune level) of ACDA, ANDE, ICRA, and (ii) the support to 250 new local private agricultural service providers (input shops, seeds producers, agricultural tool workshops, animal health workers, etc.)
- c) The coordination and synergy between agricultural emergency operations and rural development interventions is enhanced in the project intervention area through ensuring that: (i) the project planning and M&E is operational, aligned to the GAFSP M&E Plan, and linked to the emergency interventions, (ii) joint coordination meetings are held.

The Joint National Steering Committee (CNPM) of PARSANKO, under the leadership of the ministry of agriculture and rural development (MADR), will review the annual planning of this TA project to ensure the full consistency of the TA activities with the investment components of the project.

As a supervising entity, FAO will implement the TA activities according to its procurement, financial, and management procedures and rules, in particular the M.S. 502 and M.S. 507 Manuals for goods and services delivery. Regarding the M&E and reporting, the TA project will comply both with FAO and GAFSP requirements.

¹ The “caisses de resilience” consists of a community based approach to enhance resilience of communities and their members by combining support to social, technical and financial mechanisms through, respectively, the development of Farmer Field Schools (FFS), the Dimitra Clubs (as a social dialogue, empowerment and conflict resolution tool) and village saving and credit associations (AVEC in French).

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	6
SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE.....	7
1.1 Alignment and Strategic Fit	7
1.1.1 Alignment to FAO’s Strategic Framework	8
1.1.2 Alignment to Country Programming Framework (CPF).....	8
1.1.3 Expected Results.....	8
1.1.3.1 Impact	9
1.1.3.2 Outcome and output	9
1.1.3.3 Activities.....	9
1.2 Comparative Advantages	9
1.2.1 Mandate to Act	10
1.2.2 Capacity and position to Act	10
1.3 Context Analysis.....	10
1.3.1 Stakeholder Engagement.....	10
1.3.1.1 Stakeholder Engagement	10
1.3.1.2 Grievance Mechanism	11
1.3.2 Problems to be addressed	11
1.3.3 Partnerships	11
1.3.4 Knowledge Management and Communication	12
SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY	12
2.1 Implementation Arrangements.....	12
2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination	12
2.1.2 Government Inputs	12
2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs	12
2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology	12
2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements	13
2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements	13
2.2 Operational Modalities.....	13
2.3 Information Technology	14
2.4 Risk Management	14
2.4.1 Potential risks to the project	14
2.4.2 Environmental and social risks from the project	14
2.5 Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting	14
2.5.1 Monitoring Arrangements	14

2.5.2 Performance Assessment.....	14
2.5.3 Reporting.....	15
2.6 Evaluation Provisions	15
SECTION 3 - SUSTAINABILITY	15
3.1 Capacity Development.....	15
3.2 Decent Rural Employment.....	15
3.3 Environmental Sustainability.....	15
3.4 Gender Equality	16
Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix.....	17
Annex II: Workplan	18
Annex III: Budget	19
Annex IV: Risk Management.....	20
Section A: Risks to the project.....	20
Section B: Environmental and social risk (N/A: soft activities of TA project)	21
Annex V: Gender & inclusion (for both TA and investment interventions).....	22
Annex VI: Map of the project area	26

ACRONYMS

ACDA	Central African Agricultural Development Agency
ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANDE	National Livestock Development Agency
AVEC	Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de Crédit (Village Savings and Loan Association)
CAR	Central African Republic
FFS	Farmer/Farm or Field School
CNPM	Joint National Steering Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition Rate
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDI	Human Development Index
ICRA	Central African Agricultural Research Institute
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Office
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MESA	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ONASEM	National Seeds Office
PMU	Project Management Unit
PO	Producers Organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RCPCA	Central African Republic National Recovery and Peace-building Plan
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition Prevalence
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
UAM	Million Unit of Account
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE

1.1 Alignment and Strategic Fit

The Central African Republic's economy experiences a slow recovery in the wake of the recession caused by the 2013-2015 crisis. In February 2019, a peace and reconciliation agreement was signed between the Government and 14-armed groups under the auspices of the African Union (AU), following talks held in Khartoum (the Sudan). This led to the formation of a new Government. These protracted negotiations lasted many years and have weakened and hampered economic and social recovery. CAR's Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.38, ranking in the second last position in the world (188th out of 189 countries) and underscoring the numerous challenges in terms of social indicators.

The Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security Support Project (PARSANKO) covers the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka located in the transition zone between the eastern part of the country, which is still dealing with a serious emergency and insecurity situation, and the western part, which is conducive to the implementation of development operations. The IPC assessment carried out for the period from September 2019 to April 2020 revealed that 253 503 people, representing 48.7% of the population of the project area (520 456 inhabitants) face IPC Phase 3 and +. This area is home to about 83,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), representing about 6.7 % of the population in Kémo and 18% in Ouaka.

The priority of the Government is to provide the necessary support to stabilize the area. To address the situation in the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka, the Government has developed, with the support of its partners (GAFSP, AfDB and FAO) a new project, PARSANKO, which seeks to increase agro-pastoral production and improve access to basic services through the implementation of three components, namely: (i) Support to Agro-pastoral Production; (ii) Support to Community Initiatives; and (iii) Project Management.

The project's beneficiaries will identify themselves their needs in terms of best agricultural practices. Developing or rehabilitating production infrastructure such as irrigated schemes, and facilitating access to inputs will also intensify the project beneficiaries' agro-pastoral production. Farmers' income will be improved by increasing and enhancing the value of the marketable surplus production ensuing from innovations in production, but also in the processing and storage of produce and better organization of marketing.

FAO's support to PARSANKO will largely build on scaling up the "*caisse de resilience*" (CdR) approach which FAO has been implementing in CAR since 2016², to enhance livelihoods resilience to climate change, promote better nutrition, improving access to drinking water, health and employability, especially for young people and women. The "*Caisses de Résilience*" (CdR) is an innovative community-centred approach developed by FAO, which brings together three dimensions: (i) a productive/technical dimension (i.e. sustainable agricultural practices) through Farmer Field Schools (FFS), an economic/ financial dimension (through the village saving and credit associations – AVEC in French) and a social dimension (strengthening social cohesion through farmers' group and women's associations through the Dimitra Clubs). The approach is innovative because the support involves these three simultaneous and complementary dimensions, thereby producing a broader range of opportunities for the beneficiaries as well as strengthening their preparedness to complex shocks and crises. CdRs aim to assist food-insecure smallholder farmers and pastoralists, particularly vulnerable to shocks and crises by increasing and diversifying key assets and knowledge for a better resilience of livelihoods. Beyond the technical and financial aspects, the CdR approach strengthens local

² Since 2016, the FAO has set up 2,350 resilience funds in the country, including 27 and 30 in Ouaka and Kémo Prefectures, respectively.

organizations (farmers' groups and women's associations), thus contributing to social change, favourable to sustainable development and women empowerment.

To overcome the challenges related to weak project implementation capacities and difficult context in the project intervention area, it has been agreed that FAO will provide technical assistance (TA-PARSANKO) in the implementation of the PARSANKO Project in particular for component 1 - Support for agro-pastoral production and sub-component 2.1 - Scaling up of the "caisse de résilience". TA-PARSANKO will run from April 2021 to March 2025. Given the volume of the emergency operation portfolio in the project area, FAO will also develop an agricultural emergency - development nexus approach. This will foster the coordination and synergy between the community driven initiatives (component B) and the agricultural development interventions (component A) of PARSANKO.

1.1.1 Alignment to FAO's Strategic Framework

The technical assistance project will contribute to the following FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs):

- SO1 "Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition", by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.
- SO3 "Reduce rural poverty", in particular the output 3.2.1. Policy support and capacity building in the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, guidelines and programs aimed at improving decent rural employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and skills development, especially for youth and women.
- SO5 "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters", including the output 5.3.1. The capacities of government, communities and other key stakeholders are strengthened to implement good practices in preventing and mitigating the impacts of threats and crises.

1.1.2 Alignment to Country Programming Framework (CPF)

TA-PARSANKO will contribute to the FAO Africa Regional Initiative 2: Sustainable production intensification and value chains development in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will contribute to the following priority areas of the FAO - CAR Country Programming Framework (CPF):

- Priority area 2: resilience building of communities and households, in particular: (i) output 2: the capacities of national structures to cope with crises and climate change are strengthened; (ii) output 4: Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households, returning refugees are resettled in their communities and vulnerable households are supported to develop their livelihood and improve their food and nutritional conditions.
- Priority area 4: support the sustainable improvement of agricultural, livestock, fisheries and forestry value chains, in particular: (i) output 1: National research, (ICRA) and development agencies (ACDA, ANDE) promote the prioritized value chains; (ii) output 2: the access of value chains actors, including women and young people, to technology, equipment, and financial service is improved.

The above FAO - CAR CPF priorities are in line with the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan in the CAR (RCPCA 2017-2021), in particular: (i) pillar 1: Renewing the social contract between the State and the population; (ii) Pillar 3: ensure economic recovery and the revival of productive sectors, in particular by relaunching and developing in a sustainable manner the productive sectors: agriculture and livestock, extractive and forestry industries.

1.1.3 Expected Results

TA-PARSANKO seeks to overcome the acknowledged weakness of both public and private national capacities in implementing agricultural development operations, in particular through : (i) supporting the project start-up; (ii) developing and coaching Farmer Field Schools (FFS); (iii) up-scaling of "caisses de resilience; (iv) training and coaching trainers; (v) supporting the project monitoring and evaluation

system; (vi) promoting innovations; and (vii) facilitating the articulation of PARSANKO's operations with those of the agricultural emergency operations.

1.1.3.1 Impact

Being an integral part of the PARSANKO, the expected impact of TA-PARSANKO is the same as the overall objective of PARSANKO, which is "to contribute to improving the living conditions and resilience of vulnerable rural populations. Its aim is to help improve food and nutrition security among rural populations in the Kémo and Ouaka Prefectures".

1.1.3.2 Outcome and output

- a) The capacity of PARSANKO implementers (in particular of component A and sub-component B.1) is strengthened through: (i) the development and coaching of 750 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and "caisses de resilience" as well as 30 Producer Organisations (PO) unions through their structuration and professionalization; (ii) the preparation and use of 10 knowledge products; (iii) the training and coaching of 125 additional agents (from the project management unit (PMU), agencies of the ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock (MADR and MESA), saving and credit cooperatives, literacy workers, rural animators, etc.).
- b) The provision of agricultural services, in the project intervention area, is diversified and improved, as a result of the operationalization of: (i) 45 decentralized offices (commune level) of ACDA, ANDE, ICRA, and (ii) 250 new local private agricultural service providers (input shops, seeds producers, agricultural tool workshops, animal health workers, etc.)
- c) The coordination and synergies between agricultural emergency and rural development operations are enhanced in the project intervention through the following means: (i) the project planning and M&E is operational, aligned to the GAFSP M&E Plan, and linked to the emergency interventions, (ii) joint coordination meetings are held.

1.1.3.3 Activities

This FAO technical assistance will consist of the following:

- (i) a permanent expert based in the PMU,
- (ii) four national advisers/trainers, respectively specialized in: food security and nutrition, "caisses de resilience", Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and M&E.
- (iii) short term missions of international experts, particularly for the training of trainers, development of guides and manuals, as well as other knowledge product preparation.

The permanent FAO expert will be embedded in the PMU for 3 years, and her / his support aimed to enhance PARSANKO overall implementation and be based on agreed action plans. The missions of international experts will supplement the interventions of that person by providing specific expertise, particularly for capacity building including training of trainers, guides and manuals drafting, and innovations promotion. The four national advisers/trainers will be hosted by the local project offices.

1.2 Comparative Advantages

FAO's comparative advantages stem from its mandate as the United Nations specialized agency for in food and agriculture. FAO is a knowledge institution recognized for its digital and geospatial platforms, the production of numerous knowledge products, the content of its normative works, as well as various pools of experts located at national, sub-regional and headquarters levels, who can provide appropriate and innovative solutions to complex problems at country level.

In Central African Republic (CAR), FAO has developed good practices in the main areas of PARSANKO intervention, including: (i) FFS for the provision of advisory services, (ii) local production of certified/improved seeds and plant multiplication (iii) training of community animal health workers,

(iv) reduction of post-harvest losses and processing, (v) “caisse de resilience” including, in addition to the farmers’ fields school, the village saving and credit associations as well as the clubs d’écoute Dimitra (“listening clubs”) to enhance social cohesion, (vi) access to market of youth enterprises supported by the gradual introduction of ICTs, (vii) monitoring and evaluation.

1.2.1 Mandate to Act

The FAO long-standing and continuous partnership with the Government of CAR has made it possible to work in confidence and in an effective manner with the relevant ministries (Agriculture, Livestock, Water and Forests, Planning and International Cooperation, etc.) and to develop partnerships with a diversified range of local and international NGOs. FAO has been able to provide them and their financial partners with neutral technical advice and support in view of achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in the area of food security and nutrition.

This led the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) request (and GAFSP approval) to request FAO to become the supervising entity for technical assistance for the PARSANKO project.

1.2.2 Capacity and position to Act

Current FAO-CAR interventions cover almost the whole country. In addition to the Bangui office, FAO has offices in Bambari, Bouar and Kaga-Bandoro, facilitating the implementation and monitoring of its interventions. FAO has mobilized significant financial resources, through its Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP, 2020), to support about 95,000 vulnerable households in their resilience building. FAO has also piloted an agricultural emergency – development nexus approach to articulate short-term emergency responses to medium-term development strategy so as to sustainably improve the cohesion and resilience of rural communities, the productivity of their production systems, as well as rural incomes and, eventually, to eliminate the need for emergency assistance within a few years. As the co-chair of the Food Security Cluster, FAO can facilitate the coordination of programs and projects of other development partners as well as promote synergies between emergency operations and those for agricultural development.

1.3 Context Analysis

The project area has a substantial agro-pastoral potential and the main productions in the area include cassava, groundnuts, maize, rice, plantain, sweet potatoes, sesame, cowpeas, market garden produce, fruit trees, poultry, pigs and small ruminants. In the past, the area was the food basket for Bangui, which provided farmers of the area an important market for their products. At present, the area is somewhat isolated due to lack of maintenance of the rural road network and disruption of provision of services as well as insecurity. Due to the lack of access to improved farming practices, yields of the main crops are now very low³. The transhumance livestock production system (Fulani and Bororo), which is the traditional cattle breeding system in the area, has been disrupted by the 2013-2015 crisis followed by frequent conflicts between farmers and agro-pastoralists. The public research and agricultural advisory services have not yet recovered their capacity after long years of staffing restriction and capacity deterioration due to the 2013-2015 socio-political crisis. There is also insufficient value chain actors, in particular inputs and service suppliers in the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka.

1.3.1 Stakeholder Engagement

1.3.1.1 Stakeholder Engagement

Through 2020, the Government of CAR, AfDB and FAO designed the PARSANKO based on the project proposal approved by GAFSP in December 2019 that had been prepared with the support of FAO through a participatory approach including two consultation missions with local stakeholders and

³ Cassava (Kg/ha): 8 400, maize (Kg/ha): 800, unshelled groundnuts (Kg/ha): 700, paddy rice (Kg/ha): 1 300, sesame (Kg/ha): 400.

working sessions with technical and financial partners in July and August 2019. Comments received from the GAFSP were also incorporated in the design of the project and this document. In February 2020, an FAO Investment Centre mission to Bangui designed the Technical Assistance to PARSANKO and prioritized the related interventions with the MADR, MESA and their agencies. Then, the main agencies (ACDA, ANDE and ICRA) prepared their capacity-building proposal in the project intervention area. In July 2020, the environmental and social management framework (ESMF) preparation mission held consultations with the potential beneficiary households of PARSANKO. All these missions aimed to organize a number of meetings with the representatives of territorial administrative services and the technical ministries concerned, groups and cooperatives, civil society, women's groups, the private sector, NGOs, farmers/stockbreeders, processing operators and traders, village committees and development partners.

1.3.1.2 Grievance Mechanism

An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the PARSANKO was prepared and published by CAR in the Official Gazette on 29 September 2020. The project implementing entities will ensure that a complaints management mechanism (CMM) is set up and a monitoring and evaluation system that includes the protection of the physical and social environment is established.

Complaints management committees will use various communication channels: formal mails e-mails (non-formal), phone calls, SMS, social networks, contacts in situ, etc. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be designated as the unit responsible for day-to-day matters related to this mechanism and reporting.

1.3.2 Problems to be addressed

The institutions supporting family farming include: the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA), the National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE) and the Central African Institute for Agricultural Research (ICRA). Their capacities, already limited by many years of staff recruitment restrictions, have deteriorated considerably to the point where these agencies are practically non-operational because of the security crisis. With the absence of private and local services, their staffing is largely inadequate to support all the farms in Ouaka and Kémo, estimated at more than 75,000. Currently, International Organisations and emergency NGOs have substituted them and have largely been carrying out agricultural extension.

Given the weak project implementers' capacities and difficult context in the project intervention area, the FAO technical assistance (TA-PARSANKO) is expected to: (i) support project start-up, (ii) provide capacity development of the main implementation agencies (of the Ministries in charge of agriculture: ICRA, ACDA, etc., and livestock: ANDE), (iii) promote local and community private agricultural service providers.

The collaboration during the project implementation among agencies and departments of various ministries (MADR, MESA, Health, Trade, etc.) could become a challenge. The Project Steering Committee and the PMU should engage with all participating ministries to ensure that technical and human resources are available when needed and that financial resources from the ADB loan and GAFSP grant for specific activities are allocated to the appropriate implementing agency.

1.3.3 Partnerships

In CAR, international aid remains the main source of financing for Government programmes. Hence, aid coordination has been strengthened under the Central African Republic National Recovery and Peace-building Plan (RCPCA 2017-2021) by setting up an RCPCA Technical Secretariat to monitor the implementation of Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) commitments. The FAO TA has been embedded into the overall GAFSP and AfDB - financed PARASANKO, which will be implemented in synergy with two other projects funded by AfDB and IFAD: the Savannah-based Agricultural Value

Chains Development Support Project (PADECAS), and Project to Revive Agro-pastoral Production in the Savannah (PREPAS).

1.3.4 Knowledge Management and Communication

The Technical Assistance (TA) will support PARSANKO to develop an action plan for knowledge management and innovation promotion. Adequate monitoring and evaluation of project activities, products, outcomes and impacts will lay the foundations for knowledge management that will be leveraged by capitalizing on and sharing the experiences acquired and knowledge developed under the project. The project will pay special attention to the large-scale dissemination of innovations. PARSANKO expects to finance innovative micro-projects, especially for young people and women to improve their level of empowerment and enable their integration into the labour market.

Furthermore, PARSANKO will pay special attention to communication, sensitization and dissemination of information through various communication channels, especially on cross cutting issues promoted by the project such as food security and nutrition, gender mainstreaming and youth promotion, and climate change adaptation. The project will organize information events such as thematic seminars, trade fairs, poster production, newsletters, comic strips, radio broadcasts, films, website, etc.

SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY

2.1 Implementation Arrangements

2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination

The Joint National Steering Committee (CNPM) of PARSANKO, under the leadership of the ministry in charge of agriculture (MADR), will review the annual planning of this TA project to ensure the consistency of the TA activities with the investment components.

The TA project will prioritize its interventions on the basis of: (i) implementation support plan for the PMU and its two sub-offices, (ii) needs arising from the capacity development action plans of ICRA, ACDA, ANDE, (iii) business plans for the local private service providers' development.

As a supervising entity, FAO will execute the TA activities according to its procurement, financial, and management procedures, in particular the Manual section (M.S.) 502 and M.S. 507 related to goods and services delivery. Regarding M&E and reporting, the TA project will comply both with FAO and GAFSP requirements.

2.1.2 Government Inputs

The Government of CAR is expected to contribute to the total cost of the PARSANKO project up to US\$ 0.96 million, both for the investment and the technical assistance. This will partly cover the operating costs (salaries of PMU experts) and will be detailed during the annual programming of interventions. Beneficiaries could contribute in-kind such as through agricultural inputs and equipment.

2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs

The total cost of PARSANKO, net of taxes and customs duties, is US\$ 29.51 million, including: (i) the FAO technical assistance (GAFSP grant of US\$ 1.50 million); (ii) an ADP Grant (AfDB) of 11.04 million and a GAFSP grant of US\$ 15.40 million to finance the investment components.

2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology

The technical assistance will mainly develop the capacities of the PARSANKO implementing agencies (ICRA, ACDA, ANDE, literacy trainers, board of village credit and saving association, FFS trainers, etc.) as well as key beneficiaries such as the local providers of services and farmer organisations.

This will also include innovation promotion, implementation approach and tool development, related to: (i) FFS and new technologies for increasing productivity, (ii) upscaling of the “caisses de resilience”,

(iii) local SME models for service provision, (iv) voucher scheme, (v) use of project data analyses for management decision-making.

The prefecture (district) Consultation Committees (CCs) will play a key role for the beneficiary consultation, need assessment, interventions planning and coordination. They will meet quarterly to review the status of TA activities in the various priority areas selected and make recommendations to facilitate implementation. This local mechanism will facilitate information sharing with local actors, inclusive approach and problem solving.

2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements

AfDB is the supervising entity of the investment components and FAO (through its Investment Centre) will be the supervising entity of the technical assistance. The MADR will monitor the PARSANKO overall implementation and will be responsible for steering interactions with other sector ministries and Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs). It will coordinate external monitoring, evaluation missions, and joint supervision missions with FAO Investment Centre.

2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements

Besides in-country expertise and visiting experts, FAO's technical support arrangements will include the coordination and oversight of technical inputs by the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) from the FAO regional or sub-regional office as well as resource persons specialized in "caisse de resilience" and FFS from the relevant technical divisions. In terms of operational and administrative support, the FAO office in Bangui will provide human resource management, procurement, finance and budget, and security management supports. This will include the provision of a full-time program/monitoring assistant.

In addition to international consultants, specific FAO experts from sub-regional, regional and headquarter offices will support the TA project implementation (for about 75 days throughout project life), particularly in the areas of technical innovations or which require solving complex problems on the ground. This will enhance speed of project result achievement. They could provide their support through technical backstopping missions on the ground, virtual information/expertise support, mentoring via phone or email, etc. FAO will also benefit from ILO interventions in terms of youth and women SME promotion and development.

The Budget Holder (FAO Representative) may also request operational support and advice at different stages of implementation on a range of issues related to financial performance, reporting requirements (FAO & GAFSP), etc.

2.2 Operational Modalities

Procurement. The TA project team will carry out the procurement process to ensure that goods, services and works are procured on time, at the best value for money and in accordance with FAO procedures. The procurement and delivery of inputs will follow FAO rules and regulations as described in the sections of the FAO Manual and Procedures and in accordance with the relevant FAO guidelines.

The "MS 502" procurement manual of Goods, Works and Services establishes the principles and procedures for all procurements with the exception of those listed in Annex A. The MS 507 manual describes and governs the Letters of Agreement (LoA) between FAO and its partners to provide services, in a transparent manner, from eligible entities, taking into account the economy of scale and efficiency to achieve a "best value for money".

Budget management. The FAO Representative to CAR will be the Project Budget Holder and approve the annual procurement plans for major items based on purchase requests during implementation. The procurement plan will include a description and quantity of goods, works or services to be procured, the estimated budget and source of funding, the timing of procurement activities and the proposed procurement method. It will bring together, as far as possible, items with similar technical specifications, and deadlines.

Cash or vouchers Based Operations. AfDB has requested FAO to update the procedure related to the voucher schemes and inputs trade fair in order to enlarge their coverage to the farmers targeted by the package for agricultural development.

Planning. Annex 2 (Work plan) presents the details of the implementation modalities by component of the TA project and the expected schedule of the main intervention.

2.3 Information Technology

FAO will use its UGM platform for the procurement process management to issue bidding and launch calls for tenders to potential service providers; for submission of proposal for technical and financial bids; for files of Technical Committee evaluation, technical clearance by AGPM; financial evaluation by ULA, etc.

M&E will use tablets for data recording and processing (number; gender; age; locality; types of assistance received; etc.). Tablets will allow geolocation of project beneficiaries, survey project outcomes, and ease the drawing of maps.

2.4 Risk Management

2.4.1 Potential risks to the project

Annex IV related to risk management details the risks assessment and related mitigation actions. Given CAR's fragility and insecurity, health and climatic conditions, the achievement of PARSANKO's objectives could be impeded by security, institutional and climatic risks. The main risks identified are the following: socio-political instability and insecurity in the country, spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its health, economic and social impacts; absence or inefficiency of public technical services in the project intervention area and weak capacity of service providers in implementing project activities; low level of adherence of households to the approach of the project due to the fragility of two selected prefectures; harsh climatic conditions.

2.4.2 Environmental and social risks from the project

Given the social context of the project intervention area, a potential social risk concern the exclusion to project benefits of some people because of the limited access to information, possible misunderstanding of beneficiaries targeted by the project and the type of support provided. In order to mitigate this risk, the technical assistance team should foster information sharing, ensure the neutrality of social and geographical targeting (cf the annex related to gender and inclusion), and report regularly on project results.

2.5 Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting

2.5.1 Monitoring Arrangements

The TA project will, on the one hand, set-up its own M&E system. On the other, it will help the PMU to develop the two main tools of the investment project M&E: (i) an M&E manual that defines the terms and conditions and responsibilities for collecting and aggregating data; and (ii) a computerized M&E system that facilitates data processing and generation of progress reports. These tools will be aligned with the GAFSP M&E plan.

2.5.2 Performance Assessment

The M&E system will be participatory and will provide, on a regular basis, relevant information on performance and impact indicators (sex-disaggregated) and the implementation status of planned activities. Project performance will be assessed with respect to its impacts and outcomes on gender, employment, incomes, food security, agricultural production, access to drinking water, etc.

The PMU - M&E Officer will coordinate internal and permanent monitoring under the authority of the National Project PMU Coordinator, in collaboration with the actors involved in project implementation

and all relevant stakeholders. The advisers/trainers (TA-PARSANKO) hosted by PARSANKO branches will support him/her in this exercise.

2.5.3 Reporting

The TA project M&E mechanism will produce six-monthly and annual reports, including the key performance indicators and key dashboards to be produced for each activity, product and component.

2.6 Evaluation Provisions

Impact assessment. This will be embedded into the overall impact assessment process of the PARSANKO (baseline, MTR and end line) and will take into consideration the GAFSP M&E plan. FAO intends to request an additional funding from GAFSP for an in-depth impact assessment in addition to the TA component budget allocation to PARSANKO.

Regardless the availability of these additional funds, FAO will prepare a Terminal report according to its own procedures.

SECTION 3 - SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Capacity Development

Capacity development is an integral part of the technical assistance to PARSANKO. It will take place at central and district levels. At the central level, it will coach the project PMU and implementing agencies, develop implementation approaches and tools, procedures (eg: voucher scheme), document case studies, train the trainers, prepare and disseminate knowledge management products (ICRA brochure on good practices, etc.).

At the district level, this will mainly focus on the operationalization of additional ACDA & ANDE offices, youth and women enterprises providing agricultural services and upgrading FFS to facilitate access by farmers to agro-pastoral good practices.

3.2 Decent Rural Employment

The TA Project does not deal with this topic, which is covered by the investment sub-component 2.3 of PARSANKO. ILO will implement this sub-component 2.3, which will set up 400 young and female entrepreneurs supporting the development of agro-pastoral sectors prioritised by the project or as local service providers (manufacture of small agricultural equipment, production of certified seeds, nurseries, etc.).

3.3 Environmental Sustainability

The investment project falls under Category 2 according to the AfDB's environmental and social safeguards policies in view of the nature of the investments to be made, which potential negative impacts range from low to moderate. The Central African Republic Government prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which was reviewed and approved by the AfDB.

The TA project will encompass only soft activities and is not expected to generate negative environmental and social impact. Nevertheless, it could play a positive role in promoting: (i) better inclusion of vulnerable households into farmers' organizations, FFS, saving & credit associations, etc., so that they become more productive and profitable, (ii) gender balance by setting quota for the selection of agents to be hired and trained by the investment components, (iii) proposing innovative models of youth and women SMEs, etc.

3.4 Gender Equality

Based on both AfDB and FAO Gender Marker Systems, PARSANKO is classified in Category 2 and G2a respectively for investment and technical assistance. Despite the existing legal and political framework, achieving gender equality remains a major challenge in CAR. Although arable land is extensive with a high potential for agriculture and grazing, and the average population density of the project area is low, access to land only concerns men in 90% of the cases. The literacy rate among women, which is 22% versus 52% among men, limits their access to training in technical matters, to improved agro-pastoral technologies and economic services and opportunities. In agriculture, women activities focus on food crops because this is in line with the social codes that govern roles in gender relations: the woman is responsible for the daily feeding of the household. Women and girls are also sometimes excluded from the commercial chain, which largely remains a male activity.

Annex V details the proposed inclusion and participatory approach as well as related prioritised and dedicated interventions related to gender. This approach includes : (i) sensitization and capacity development of the Project team, including training on gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and inclusion of the poor; (ii) the development of gender-sensitive tools in targeting, planning and monitoring-evaluation, in particular the integration of gender-sensitive indicators in the M&E system, the breakdown of data by sex, the use of participatory performance appraisal methods; (iii) project interventions dedicated to gender and inclusion; (iv) knowledge management and communication on good targeting practices and lessons learned; and (v) the accountability of those responsible for the components on gender and inclusion within the Project Management Unit (PMU).

Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix

Results Chain	Indicators			Means of Verification	Assumptions
	Indicators	Baseline	Target		
PARSANKO's impact: the livelihoods and resilience of the vulnerable rural population is improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Income 	TBD	+15% by 2025	CAR's statistics MADR Reports MTR & completion Reports Specific surveys	
PARSANKO's outcome: contribute to improving the food security and nutrition of the rural population in Kémo and Ouaka Prefectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) Rate of increase in cassava and maize yields Additional agricultural production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop (tonnes/year) Livestock (tonnes/year) 	TBD TBD TBD TBD	-20% by 2025 +40% + 69.500 +7.500	Sector and national statistics Periodic progress reports Specific surveys	<p><u>Risks:</u> Socio-political instability and insecurity in the country Absence and inefficiency of public technical services in the project intervention area Low level of adherence of households, especially farmers and stockbreeders, to the approach of the project and ineffectiveness of project infrastructure management and maintenance committees. Harsh climatic conditions Weak capacity of service providers in implementing project activities</p> <p><u>Mitigating action</u> Permanent dialogue between the Government and armed groups with the support of TFPs to restore peace. Building the capacity of the relevant public technical services and setting up/training/institutionalizing project infrastructure management and maintenance committees. Dissemination of climate change adaptation measures (irrigation, selected seeds and new farming techniques). Involvement of international partners (ILO, FAO, WFP, etc.) in the implementation of some activities.</p>
<p>Technical Assistance Outputs:</p> <p>(i) Component A and sub-component B.1 implementers' capacity is enhanced.</p> <p>(ii) Extension and advisory services are diversified and improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of additional staffs of implementers (ACDA, ANDE, ICRA AVEC board trainers, literacy workers, etc.) trained, 40% of them should be women Number of "caisses de resilience (including FFS) developed and coached Number of knowledge products prepared and disseminated such as ICRA brochure on best practices, implementation approaches and tools, procedures (e.g. on voucher scheme), case studies, etc. Coordination and M&E mechanisms supported Additional number of youth and women enterprises providing agricultural services Additional number of ACDA & ANDE communal offices operational Adoption rate of good agricultural practices 	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	125 750 10 2 250 45 30%	Periodic progress reports Specific surveys	

Note: The first two rows are result indicators of the overall PARSANKO project (investment and TA combined) while the third row of indicators specifically relates to the TA project covered by this document

Annex II: Workplan

N°	Main task	2020	2021				2022				2023				2024				2025	
		T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2
1	Approval and signature	■	■																	
2	Start-up		■	■																
3	Resident international expert			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
4	Implementation support missions (ToT, implementation approaches and tools development)					■		■			■		■	■				■		
5	National thematic advisors based in Sibut and Bambari					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
6	ToT sessions					■	■													
7	Capacity building of implementation agencies						■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		
8	Support to AWPB preparation process, M&E, coordination of implementers and with other interventions, MTR			■		■		■				■	■					■		
9	KM, communication				■			■				■		■					■	
10	Completion and closure – Terminal Report																			■

Annex III: Budget

Budget Line	TOTAL (USD)
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	955,862
Travel	193,850
Expendable Equipment	15,720
Non Expendable Equipment	143,808
Technical Support Services	56,600
General Operating Expenses	36,028
<i>Subtotal</i>	1,401,868
Indirect Support Cost (7%)	98,132
GRAND TOTAL	1,500,000

Annex IV: Risk Management

Section A: Risks to the project

Risk description	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
		Impact	Likelihood		
Socio-political instability and insecurity in the country, 2020 post-election risk	Suspension	High	High	Permanent dialogue between the Government and armed groups with the support of TFPs to restore peace.	GoCAR
Spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its health, economic and social impacts.	Delay	Low	Moderate	Implementation of a COVID-19 effect and impact mitigation plan.	PMU
Low ownership of project achievements.	Lack of sustainability	Moderate	Moderate	Involving and building the capacity of project partners and stakeholders.	PMU
Absence and inefficiency of public technical services in the project intervention area and ineffectiveness of project infrastructure management and maintenance committees.	Delay – cost increase	High	Moderate	Building the capacity of the relevant public technical services and setting up/training/institutionalizing project infrastructure management and maintenance committees.	MADR/MESA
Low level of adherence of households, especially farmers and stockbreeders, to the approach of the project.	Less effectiveness	High	Moderate	Adoption of the project’s participatory and concerted approach and promotion of economic activities.	PMU/FAO
Harsh climatic conditions	Harvest partly lost	Moderate	Moderate	Dissemination of climate change adaptation measures (irrigation, selected seeds and new farming techniques).	PMU/FAO
Weak capacity of service providers in implementing project activities	Delay – cost increase	High	Moderate	Involvement of international partners (ILO, FAO, WFP, etc.) in the implementation of some activities.	PMU/FAO

Section B: Environmental and social risk (N/A: soft activities of TA project)

Annex V: Gender & inclusion (for both TA and investment interventions)

1. Gender

Despite legal-political arsenal, gender equality remains a major challenge in CAR. Women and girls continue to be discriminated against. Gender-based violence is on the increase, especially during COVID-19-related travel restriction measures. Women and young girls continue to be victims of rape and the related punishment remains weak despite the advocacy conducted to that end. The feminisation of poverty has also increased over the last two decades as a result of various socio-political crises. This is further compounded by socio-cultural norms that hinder equality in gender relations in almost all sectors of social life.

Although arable land is extensive with a high potential for agriculture and grazing, and the average population density of the region is low, access to land benefits men 90% of the time. Indeed, as the social organisation is patrilineal, the devolution of land always follows male lines. Land access in CAR is governed by written law, but this coexists with customary law practiced by notables, which limits rural women's access. In practice, customary law takes precedence over written law. Therefore, it is hard for women and young people to own land. Young males can become de facto land owners after the death of their father, but not so the girl-child, who will later suffer the fate reserved for women in that regard. As a result, farms run by women have smaller family aggregation than those of men, so they have less income than men.

While population density is still very low, population growth is very rapid. Around half of the population is considered to be aged below 16 years. While most school-age children are enrolled in primary school, dropouts are common and students rarely complete primary education. Only a few continue to secondary school. As a result, illiteracy rates are very high even among younger segments of the population and much higher among women. The working-age population is large but very low-skilled.

The literacy rate among women, which is 22% versus 52% among men, limits their access to training in technical routes, improved agro-pastoral technologies and economic services and opportunities. The output of their farms remains lower than that of men. In fact, very few of these women have direct access to agricultural inputs and either have to ask their husbands for some or buy from retailers at exorbitant prices. Also, the fact that they sometimes do not have land certificates compromises their access to credit. The land certificate is required as collateral for agricultural credit.

In agriculture, women's activities focus on food crops because this is in line with the social codes that govern roles in gender relations: the woman is responsible for the daily feeding of the household. All female children participate in this activity alongside their mothers to acquire the necessary knowledge in the field that they will have to assume later. The woman is therefore responsible for the daily ration of all the members of the household and sometimes the group. To do that, with the help of her daughters, she cultivates the land given to her by her husband but which remains under the latter's exclusive control. The agricultural sector employs 81% of the female labour force but only 67% of the male labour force⁴⁴; the proportion of young people therein is not known. With regard to cash crops (coffee and cotton), the woman's role is clearly defined; she clears the plantations, and collect and transport the produce.

The majority of women are involved in short-cycle stock rearing (small ruminants, pigs, and poultry). Livestock rearing is more the responsibility of men, but women generally manage the milk. As with land issues, large livestock is male heritage, transmitted largely through male lineal inheritance.

Women and girls are also sometimes excluded from the commercial chain, which largely remains a male activity. Young boys accompany their fathers when marketing products in order to become familiar with and acquire the knowledge and skills to negotiate and sell products.

Experience with professional organisations has shown that women excel in processing and marketing while young people, thanks to their physical strength, excel in activities such as the conveyance and slaughtering of animals, and transportation and distribution, which generate income for them.

Judging from the above, women and young people are key actors in the agro-pastoral sector, but their participation at certain levels remains compromised. Their marginalisation is even more pronounced when it comes to participating in actions that generate monetary income. Yet, women and young people can play a greater role in accelerating the development of agriculture and livestock and, in return, benefit from appropriate targeting and inclusion mechanisms described below which could help to improve the socio-economic status of women and other vulnerable groups. Project interventions also include the development of strong potential for direct and indirect job creation for the local population.

2. Targeting and Inclusion

PARSANKO will target 47,500 beneficiary households, representing 235,000 persons, or 45% of the total population of the project area. The following paragraphs describe how to prioritise intervention communes, select beneficiaries and develop mechanisms for women's and young people's inclusion by the project.

2.1. Geographic Targeting

The Project expects to cover all the communes of Kemo and Ouaka Prefectures if minimum conditions of security allow for its implementation. However, the project will grant the priority of intervention and the volume of investment to rural communes that are hardest-hit by food and nutritional insecurity.

During the project start-up, a schedule of deployment in the communes will be prepared (sequence for starting activities in the communes) based on the first two criteria cited above. In addition, to accelerate the achievement of project outcomes, this schedule will take into account the following parameters: (i) the agricultural potential (pre-crisis productivity); (ii) the presence of executing agencies and partners; (iii) the dynamism of farmers' organisations; (iv) synergy with other interventions (including agricultural emergency); (v) accessibility of roads or the possibility of rehabilitating existing rural tracks.

2.2. Social Targeting

Given the post-crisis situation in the project area, social targeting includes two mechanisms: (i) direct targeting based on the IPC classification of households; and (ii) self-targeting for the identification and inclusion of vulnerable families. The IPC baseline data is updated annually which also allows for synergy with agricultural emergency interventions.

Direct targeting specifies the eligibility criteria to identify eligible households and groups; directly sets quotas for women and young people to be reached by project interventions; and identifies activities, particularly in terms of capacity building (literacy, financial literacy, good agro-pastoral practices, etc.) and recapitalisation that will go to groups targeted by the project.

PARSANKO intends to support five types of beneficiaries, including farmers and herders as well as young and female entrepreneurs. It targets around 47,500 households (farmers and herders), in particular crisis-ridden households greatly in need of assistance, including food (IPC 3), young people and women without land or livestock, and IPC1&2 families hosting displaced persons in production basins.

2.3. Inclusion

Firstly, PARSANKO sets up self-targeting for the identification and inclusion of very vulnerable families. Through Component 2: Support for community activities, the integration of heads of very vulnerable families will be envisaged once their capacity has been built thanks to inclusion modules (resilience fund, improved nutrition and access to water, integration in CEP/FEPs and FOs). Support will be tailored to the household workforce: IGA, small family livestock (hen, goat, sheep), agricultural or market gardening production or a combination of these.

Secondly, PARSANKO mainstreams gender equality and equity, and will focus on enhancing the empowerment and market integration of women and young people. It will provide the same opportunities to access basic infrastructure, improved food security, training and capacity building.

Specific activities are planned to prepare and develop business plans for youth and women's groups and businesses.

Gender mainstreaming and the promotion of inclusion will be done in a transversal manner to lay down a methodological approach for capturing the concerns of different beneficiary categories in the project area.

3. Project's Pro-Gender and Pro-Inclusion Interventions

This will include: (i) the awareness and capacity-building of the project team, including training in gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and pro-poor inclusion; (ii) the development of gender-sensitive tools in targeting, planning, monitoring-evaluation, especially the inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators in the monitoring-evaluation system, gender-disaggregated data, use of participatory performance assessment methods; (iii) project interventions dedicated to gender and inclusion; (iv) knowledge management and communication on best targeting practices and lessons learned; and (v) the accountability of the Project Management Unit's (PMU) Officers tasked with the Gender and Inclusion components. More particularly, the following activities will be implemented for women and young people to tackle the above challenges. The entry points for action will be the following.

Know the starting point. Assess women's and young people's participation in the agricultural and animal sectors to prepare the updated gender profile. The aim of this activity is to collect as much information as possible to prepare strategies for action.

Quota of young people and women among senior implementation staff and agents. The quota system of at least 40% of young and female technical senior implementation staff and agents is applied on recruitment (on equal skills) in the Project Management Unit, its branches and implementation partners. The same applies during implementation (planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring-evaluation) based on the logical framework's age- and gender-disaggregated indicators and the Annex on the description of project activities.

Better representation of young people and women in FO board. The structuring of Farmers' Organisations (about 800 FOs, cooperatives, unions and federations) should be facilitated by fostering and supporting the holding of duty posts by young people and women in all their decision-making bodies (committee, bureau, even leader). This is critical to ensuring that their views and aspirations for their autonomy are considered. Their effective participation will be encouraged by their peers, senior technical implementation staff and agents promoted by the quota system described above.

As part of community outreach (300 Dimitra-club type discussion groups), 40% of women and 30% of young people should be represented in the following bodies: (i) community consultation meetings: ensure that meetings are held only when women are available, for time constraints sometimes limit their effective participation in important meetings, (ii) land : It is a constraint to the start of youth and women's participation and will be treated as a matter of priority at the level of community outreach, (iii) conflict management committee: participate therein to ensure that their complaints will be considered and resolved to their satisfaction.

Emergence of specific youth and women's groups. The project will support their integration in existing groups and the establishment of some one hundred youth and women's groups around specific profitable activities such as processing, marketing, production of seeds, mechanisation of agriculture, servicing of boreholes, etc.

Prioritise young people and women for key project activities reserved for them. Several project activities that are critical for economic emancipation and advancement are dedicated in priority to young people and women. These include literacy; rural outreach on themes such as access to land, nutrition, conflict resolution, etc; IGA and entrepreneurship; rural financing; etc. Particularly, young people and women can develop local services necessary for local development, market-oriented agricultural production, processing and marketing, to name but a few.

A total of 5,500 young people and women benefit from professional guidance, training and settlement as part of agricultural, commercial, business promotion service partnerships sponsored by private

companies and NGOs that are experienced in these fields. To improve the economic position of young people and women, their capacity also needs to be built to finance some segments of their activities. Ways should be found to facilitate their entrepreneurship through financing facilities. A preliminary assessment of their financing needs will be conducted and, based on information received, an appropriate financing mechanism will be created suited to each category. In that perspective, a financial and economic dimension will be considered through the promotion of access to credit (AVEC) and operationalisation of at least 500 resilience funds in the project area.

Based on the foregoing and on the AfDB's Gender Marker System, PARSANKO is classified in Category 2. The inclusive and participatory approach will be prioritised to ensure that women and young people are represented, contribute and benefit equitably from the spinoffs of the project.

Annex VI: Map of the project area

