



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

# MDG ACCELERATION FRAMEWORK

*A COMMITMENT TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION*



**MDG ACCELERATION FRAMEWORK**  
**A commitment to food security and nutrition**

October 2012

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FOREWORD.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CHAPTER II: PROGRESS AND DIFFICULTIES IN ACCOMPLISHING MDG 1C, "BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015, HALVE THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM HUNGER".....</b>	<b>26</b>
2.1 Overview of the MDG situation.....	27
2.2 Progress and challenges in accomplishing MDG 1c: "Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger".....	31
<b>CHAPTER III: STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS.....</b>	<b>38</b>
3.1 Strategic frameworks for interventions relating to agriculture, food security and nutrition in the Central African Republic.....	39
3.2 MAF priority interventions and alignment with the PNIASA.....	40
3.3 Prioritising interventions.....	49
<b>CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS OF BOTTLENECKS.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>CHAPTER V: SOLUTIONS FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS MDG 1C.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>CHAPTER VI: MDG 1C ACCELERATION PLAN: BUILDING A COMPACT.....</b>	<b>82</b>
6.1 MDG 1C Acceleration Plan.....	83
6.2 Implementation and Monitoring Plan.....	96
<b>ANNEXES.....</b>	<b>104</b>
Annexe I - References.....	105

# GRAPHICS

<b>GRAPHIC 1 : PROPORTION OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.....</b>	27
<b>GRAPHIC 2 : CHANGE IN DIETARY ENERGY SUPPLY (DES) IN THE CAR .....</b>	32
<b>GRAPHIC 3 : CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS WHO ARE MODERATELY UNDERWEIGHT.....</b>	35
<b>PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY.....</b>	32
<b>MAP - HUMANITARIAN ACCESS IN THE CAR – OCHA, FEBRUARY 2012.....</b>	62

# TABLES

<b>TABLEAU 1:</b> POVERTY INDICATORS BY REGION.....	28
<b>TABLEAU 2:</b> MDG SITUATION.....	37
<b>TABLEAU 3:</b> CURRENT YIELD FOR MAIN FOOD CROPS .....	42
<b>TABLEAU 4:</b> SUMMARY OF THE ALIGNMENT OF INTERVENTIONS WITH THE PNIASA .....	50
<b>TABLEAU 5:</b> SUMMARY OF THE PRIORITISATION OF INTERVENTIONS.....	52
<b>TABLEAU 6:</b> SUMMARY OF BOTTLENECKS AFFECTING KEY PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FOR ACCOMPLISHING TARGET 1C OF MDG1.....	66
<b>TABLEAU 7:</b> SUMMARY OF SOLUTIONS FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET 1C OF MDG 1.....	74
<b>TABLEAU 8:</b> SUMMARY OF PNIASA FUNDING PLAN.....	84
<b>TABLEAU 9:</b> MDG 1C ACCELERATION PLAN.....	86
<b>TABLEAU 10:</b> IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PLAN.....	97

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACDA</b>	Central African Republic Agency for Agricultural Development ( <i>Agence centrafricaine de développement agricole</i> )
<b>ACF</b>	Action Against Hunger (Action contre la faim)
<b>ANDE</b>	National Livestock Development Agency ( <i>Agence nationale de développement de l'élevage</i> )
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>CAP</b>	Country Action Plan
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment
<b>CEMAC</b>	Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States ( <i>Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale</i> )
<b>CFC</b>	Common Fund for Commodities
<b>CFSVA</b>	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
<b>CIPS</b>	Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee ( <i>Comité Interministériel de Pilotage Stratégique</i> )
<b>CMCA</b>	Central African Republic Credit Union (Crédit Mutuel de Centrafrique)
<b>CPD</b>	Country Program Document
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
<b>DH</b>	Development Hub
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Surveys
<b>ECASEB</b>	Central African Republic Survey for Welfare Monitoring and Evaluation ( <i>Enquête Centrafricaine pour le Suivi-Evaluation du Bien-être</i> )
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GASFP</b>	Global Agricultural Security Fund Program
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIR</b>	Rural Interest Grouping (Groupements d'Intérêts Ruraux)
<b>HIPC</b>	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
<b>ICRA</b>	Central African Republic Institute of Agronomic Research (Institut Centrafricain de la Recherche Agronomique)
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education, Communication
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>LRA</b>	Lord's Resistance Army

<b>MAF</b>	MDG Acceleration Framework
<b>MADR</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development <i>(Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural)</i>
<b>MAS</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs ( <i>Ministère des Affaires Sociales</i> )
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MEFCP</b>	Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing <i>(Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche)</i>
<b>MFE</b>	Microfinance Establishment
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MISP</b>	Minimum Initial Service Package
<b>MPECI</b>	Ministry of Planning, the Economy and International Cooperation <i>(Ministère du Plan, de l'Economie et de la Coopération Internationale)</i>
<b>MS</b>	Ministry of Health ( <i>Ministère de la Santé</i> )
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Product
<b>OP</b>	Producer Organisations ( <i>Organisations des Producteurs</i> )
<b>OPAR</b>	Professional Agricultural and Rural Organisations <i>(Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles et Rurales)</i>
<b>OTNU</b>	Outpatient Therapeutic Nutritional Unit
<b>PAE/SFI</b>	Support Programme for the Emergence of an Inclusive Financial Sector <i>(Programme d'Appui à l'Emergence d'un Secteur Financier Inclusif)</i>
<b>PARIR</b>	Support Project for Repairing Rural Infrastructure <i>(Projet d'Appui à la Réhabilitation d'Infrastructures Rurales)</i>
<b>PMT</b>	Program Management Team
<b>PNIASA</b>	National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security <i>(Programme National d'Investissement Agricole et de Sécurité Alimentaire)</i>
<b>PRAP</b>	Agropastoral Recovery Project in the South-Western Zone <i>(Projet de Relance Agro-pastorale dans la zone Sud-Ouest)</i>
<b>PREVES</b>	Project for Reviving Food Crops and Small Livestock Production in the Savannah <i>(Projet de Relance des cultures vivrières et du petit élevage dans les savanes)</i>
<b>PRRO</b>	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>PTF</b>	Technical and Financial Partners ( <i>Partenaires Techniques et Financiers</i> )
<b>REPROSEM</b>	Network of Maize Seed Producers <i>(Réseau des Producteurs de semences du maïs)</i>
<b>ReSAKSS</b>	Regional System of Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Management <i>(Système Régional d'Analyse Stratégique et de Gestion des connaissances)</i>
<b>RGPH</b>	General Population and Housing Census <i>(Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat)</i>
<b>SDRASA</b>	Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Safety Strategy <i>(Stratégie de Développement Rural, l'Agriculture et la Sécurité Alimentaire)</i>
<b>SPFS</b>	Special Programme for Food Security
<b>TCP</b>	Technical Cooperation Programme
<b>TNU</b>	Therapeutic Nutritional Unit

<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDG</b>	United Nations Development Group
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNS</b>	Supplementary Nutritional Unit ( <i>Unité Nutritionnelle Supplémentaire</i> )
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

# FOREWORD

Authorities in the Central African Republic (CAR) have chosen food safety to test the application of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). The aim is to accomplish Target 1c of the MDG by 2015, i.e. "Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger." This choice is justified, first, by the extremely worrying and precarious situation in which people in the CAR live. 62% of Central African Republicans live below the poverty line<sup>1</sup>, which is equivalent to 2.6 million people out of a total of 4.2 million inhabitants. Secondly, it is worth noting that from a microeconomic perspective, this poverty is multifaceted: it is geographical, with 69.4% of poor people living in a rural setting, but it is also social because it is much more common in large families where the head of household is poorly educated, particularly farming households.

Moreover, the comprehensive vulnerability analysis (2009) shows that a large number of households in the CAR (30.2%) live in a state of food insecurity: 7.5% suffer from severe food insecurity and 22.7% from moderate food insecurity. From a regional standpoint, the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grébizi, Basse-Kotto and Ouham are the most affected. As for malnutrition, one of the aspects of food insecurity, it remains endemic throughout the country. In three mining cities in the south-west of the country (Carnot, Nola and Berbérati), 16% of children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition and 6.6% from severe acute malnutrition. In addition, the proportion of children under the age of 5 who are moderately underweight has continued to rise in the CAR since 2003 and is now at 28.3%<sup>2</sup>.

The situation in the CAR also involves a fundamental factor of poverty and food insecurity, namely armed conflict. These conflicts have led to the mass displacement of populations (approximately 250,000 people). The situation has disrupted agropastoral activities and trade networks and has also worsened household living conditions. With the exception of Basse-Kotto, the prefectures with high levels of food insecurity are all former conflict zones where production and trade systems for food products were disrupted by political and military conflicts. Finally, the main cause of malnutrition in these mining zones was the crisis suffered by the diamond industry.

The analysis of MDG indicators shows that the progress made for most of the goals remains feeble compared to the scope of the challenges. Only the targets dealing with primary education, access to drinking water and educating girls have shown encouraging trends. However, the indicators for monitoring poverty, hunger, employment, maternal mortality, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, access to sanitation and environmental protection have progressed very little or even lost ground. Therefore, as a whole it appears that MDG target 1c (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger), MDG 5 (improving maternal health) and MDG 6 (combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) have experienced the slowest progress, and are also the areas where the situation is most worrying<sup>3</sup>.

1. Central African Republican Survey for Welfare Monitoring and Evaluation (ECASEB), 2008, Ministry of Planning and the Economy

2. Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), 2009, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF

3. MDG National Monitoring Report, 2010

Of these three “off-track” MDGs, it seems that the fight against food insecurity is the most urgent goal in the CAR, because improving food security will significantly reduce poverty in rural areas and on a national scale. Since households that suffer from food insecurity are characterised by a high level of poverty, they become less exposed once they benefit from seeds or measures to improve productivity and yield. This idea is widely shared by national actors, as well the heads of the UN agencies. This is why the new PRSP II (2011-2015) for the CAR places agriculture and food security at the heart of poverty reduction. As a result, in its new UNDAF+ (2012-2016), the United Nations system has included support for the operationalisation of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) as the main axis of cooperation for sustainable development. Several other bilateral and multilateral partners, such as Australia, IFAD and the World Bank, already demonstrated their readiness to support the agricultural sector in the CAR at the donors’ round table held in Brussels in June 2011. The importance of the MDG Acceleration Framework target 1c is that it is aligned with the key objective of the PRSP II, namely agriculture, and that it also offers authorities a partnership framework with development partners to make significant progress towards food security by 2015, and towards a reduction in rural poverty.

The relevance of the Acceleration Framework for food security also lies in its interactions with the other MDGs. This is because MAF interventions regarding school food programmes will have an effect on the school enrolment rate (MDG 2), and interventions for the screening for and management of malnutrition will have a positive impact on moves to reduce child mortality (MDG 4) and maternal mortality (MDG 5). Likewise, interventions targeting the use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which requires the conservation of natural resources, will also have a positive impact on MDG 7 (the environment). The MAF is

therefore the result of a highly participative process that has involved a wide range of actors with the aim of creating a shared vision of the MDG target and its priority interventions.

This process began in October 2010 with a national validation workshop on the MAF involving the government, UN agencies, and development partners, which provided an opportunity to discuss the MAF tool as well as the priorities for MDG acceleration. As a result of the discussions, it was first decided that the MAF would gradually be applied to MDGs 1, 5 and 6 and their various targets.

The working groups (national planning team and UNCT) set up after this workshop have made it possible to identify MDG 1 as the top priority for the MAF, specifically target 1c: “Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”.

UNCT members (FAO, WFP, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF) have declared their support for the MAF process in terms of food security.

It is within this context that the CAR government (i) submitted a request to the UN coordinator in June 2011 to ask for technical and financial support to formulate the MAF, and (ii) established an Inter-Ministerial National Committee made up of the Technical National Secretary of the PRSP (Ministry of Planning and the Economy) and executives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The National Committee has received support from national consultants and a UN technical team comprising MDG poverty experts from the UNDP, FAO and WFP, as well as other experts and agents from other development partners and civil society.

From 14 to 22 October 2011, a methodological workshop on the MAF was organised at Bangui with the technical support of the MDG Poverty Team of the UNDP Regional Centre at Dakar. This workshop enabled national experts (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ministry of Trade) and other national stakeholders (groups of producers/livestock farmers, women's associations and other representatives of civil society) as well as experts from UN agencies (WFP, FAO, UNDP) to become familiar with the methodology, principles and tools of the MAF. It was also an occasion to learn that the MAF contributes to processes that are part of the national agenda and will provide added value in terms of concepts and new tools.

The MAF also provided an opportunity to deepen the analysis of bottlenecks that impede progress in achieving food security and uniting key actors around an agreed and operational action plan that defines the contributions of each actor, with the aim of accelerating progress between now and 2015.

MAF interventions were categorised in three (3) principal domains. Domains 1 and 2 target the sections of the National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security (PNIASA) that are linked to both support for small-scale producers in intensifying subsistence farming and access for the most vulnerable citizens to animal feed and food. The third domain deals with interventions that determine the effectiveness and impact of several of the interventions in the other two domains.

The interventions of domain 1 are concerned with (i) improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: input, equipment, and technologies, (ii) developing the practice of small-scale livestock fattening, and (iii) using and managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as food sustainably. Several obstacles hinder the implementation of these three (3) interventions, especially constraints related to the physical and financial accessibility of inputs and the lack of mastery of skills in certain areas of activity.

The interventions of domain 2 deal with (i) screening for and managing malnutrition in vulnerable groups, (ii) developing school food programmes, and (iii) reinforcing the piloting, information and monitoring system for food and nutritional security. The bottlenecks that prevent these interventions from being implemented are related in particular to the non-acceptability of measures undertaken, poor capacities, or the misappropriation by populations of actions undertaken within the framework of these interventions.

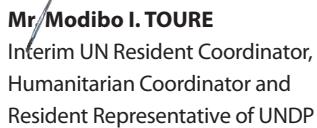
The interventions of domain 3 are concerned with (i) repairing and building roads that open up production zones, (ii) reinforcing producer organisations (POs), and (iii) reinforcing access to credit in rural areas. The bottlenecks that prevent the implementation of these interventions are especially related to poor funding and the lack of organisation and training for target populations. Solutions for overcoming these bottlenecks have been put forward in order to accelerate the impact of interventions. The choice of solutions is based on the effectiveness of certain methods already used in the country or elsewhere, the relevance of innovative measures, or the existence of funding for national programmes supported by the partners.



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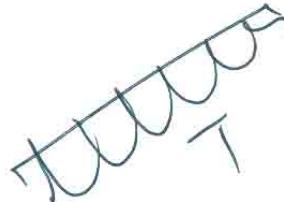
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central African Republic (CAR) has recently adopted the MDG Acceleration Framework for MDG 1c<sup>4</sup> (MAF). This summary recalls the context of the MAF initiative and retraces the various steps taken to formulate and draw up the MAF for the CAR, the reasons for choosing MDG 1c, the strategic interventions that can accelerate MDG target 1c “Food Security and Nutrition”, an analysis of the bottlenecks, and the solutions for accelerating progress towards MDG 1c that are contained in the MDG 1C Acceleration Plan.

## **1. Context of the MDG Acceleration Framework initiative**

By signing up to the MDGs, the CAR is committing itself alongside other world nations to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Efforts have been made nationally to accomplish these goals, namely by implementing the PRSP<sup>5</sup> 2008–2010 and drawing up the PRSP 2011–2015, the SDRA-SA<sup>6</sup> and the PNIASA<sup>7</sup>, which outline the country’s main priorities in terms of fighting poverty.

However, the level of poverty did not fall drastically between 2003 and 2008, decreasing from 67% to 62%, compared with the fixed goal of 31% by 2015. The most vulnerable citizens are therefore faced with a permanent subsistence crisis, regardless of the availability of food.

This vulnerability is made worse by armed conflict, which lies behind poverty and food insecurity and is a source of mass population displace-

ment (approximately 250,000 persons). This situation has affected agro-pastoral activities and trade routes, and reduced citizens’ quality of life. The MAF for “Food security and nutrition” was drawn up to address the government’s substantial concern with speeding up the reduction in poverty by 2015. This tool makes it possible to identify and analyse bottlenecks for existing interventions as well as possible high-impact solutions, so that the Central African Republic can accomplish the priorities of MDG 1c. The MAF process culminated in a MDG 1C Acceleration Plan containing coordinated roles for the government and all other development stakeholders.

## **1. Reasons for choosing MDG 1c**

Despite implementing the first PRSP for the period 2008-2010, food insecurity continues to pose a serious problem. An overall analysis of vulnerability in the face of food insecurity shows that a large number of households in the CAR (30.2%) are affected by food insecurity: 7.5% are in a state of severe food insecurity and 22.7% suffer from moderate food insecurity. The CAR has therefore chosen *Target 1c “By 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”*, to try out the MAF. This decision is justified by the worrying situation of precariousness among citizens of the CAR, since 62% of the population lives below the poverty line, i.e. 2.6 million people out of a total of 4.2 million.

4. Millennium Development Goal target 1c

5. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

6. Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Safety Strategy

7. National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security

## **2. Strategic interventions likely to accelerate MDG target 1c “Food Security and Nutrition”**

In order to accelerate progress towards accomplishing MDG 1c, the priority interventions of the MAF, previously aligned with the objectives of the PNIASA 2011-2015 and SDRASA, have been divided into three (3) priority intervention categories, namely:

### **Priority Intervention A (Supply of services):**

Intensification of subsistence farming, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products in areas with high food insecurity.

### **Priority Intervention B (Demand for services):**

Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups.

### **Priority Intervention C:**

Inter-disciplinary interventions: Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived agricultural areas, reinforcing producer organisations of agricultural and livestock farmers, and reinforcing access to credit in rural areas.

### **3. Analysis of bottlenecks**

The work involved in compiling the MAF has made it possible to identify and classify bottlenecks that restrict the implementation of interventions. These have been analysed in detail in order to categorise them (policies, funding, supply of services, use of services) and to prioritise them in terms of the scale of their impact on the effectiveness of interventions and depending on the existence of short- to medium-term solutions that will help to overcome them. Twenty-one (21) bottlenecks have been selected for the nine (9) priority interventions and classified as follows:

A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors (inputs, tools, technologies for storing and processing products).

(i) Poor physical and financial access for small producers to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, suitable packaging) and equipment for small-scale processing; (ii) Absence of energy sources in rural areas to support small-scale processing units for food crops; (iii) Absence of suitable mechanisms for managing the production/multiplication and distribution of improved seeds and the poor intervention capacity of seed control/certification services.

### **A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage.**

(iv) Poor financial access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires and local veterinary services; (v) Non-mastering of livestock fattening and production/processing techniques; (vi) Lack of security for fattening activities.

### **A.3. Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and hunting products.**

(vii) Lack of organisation in the NTFP sub-sector; (viii) Lack of knowledge of techniques/technologies for the use/domestication of NTFPs; (ix) Non-respect of the Forest Code, the Wild Fauna Code and the Environmental Code.

### **B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity).**

(x) Poor use of nutritional kits distributed by the Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OTNUS) by women living in extreme poverty; (xi) Poor functioning and interventional capacity of the Nutrition Units located in healthcare centres or NGOs to implement a minimum package of nutritional activities; (xii) Weakness of resources (national and individual) for managing nutritional questions.

**B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining).**

(xiii) Limited interest and involvement of pupils' parents and teachers in school canteen programmes; (xiv) Absence of a national school food programme and limited funding of school canteens in the state budget, especially in vulnerable areas.

**B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes.**

(xv) Insufficient coordination of interventions and monitoring of the situation of food and nutritional insecurity; (xvi) Absence of an institutional mechanism for the prevention and management of catastrophes.

**C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas.**

(xvii) Difficulties in developing a programme for repairing roads in post-conflict zones due to the prevalence of insecurity (highway bandits, armed groups) and limited funding.

**C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers.**

(xviii) Poor capacity of producer organisations to work in a participative manner; and (xix) Difficulty for small groups in acquiring a legal status and formulating initiatives/projects.

**C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas.**

(xx) Difficulties in extending Microcredit Establishments throughout the country; and (xxi) Lack of training and creditworthiness for demand.

**4. Solutions for accelerating progress towards MDG 1c**

In total fifty-three (53) key solutions have been chosen based on the strategy documents (SDRSA and PNIASA) and existing national plans. They have been evaluated and prioritised from the

perspective of their impact and in terms of their feasibility. Solutions to bottlenecks are presented under various interventions, as follows:

**A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors (inputs, tools, technologies for storing and processing products).**

The planned solutions involve in particular (i) facilitating access for producers to inputs; (ii) facilitating access to equipment and technologies for the processing of products by developing local equipment jobs and promoting forge activities; (iii) setting up multifunctional platforms in areas with high levels of food insecurity; (iv) promoting the use of alternative energies (solar) to run them; (v) supporting women's groups to modernise the drying and processing of local food crops.

The focus is also on (i) reinforcing appeals to the ICRA for the allocation of sufficient resources in order to revitalise and continue the production and distribution of improved seeds, using additional material and non-material investments within the Institute; and (ii) promoting seed banks for improved seeds for food crops in areas affected by food insecurity.

**A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage.**

This concerns (i) improving access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires by assisting specialised producers and creating farms for genetic reproduction and multiplication in target areas; (ii) developing pilot projects for reinforcing fattening practices in prolific species; (iii) promoting processing activities; (iv) developing a monitoring and safety system for livestock and developing local production of animal feed; (v) reinforcing local public veterinary services and setting up mobile private veterinary services; and (vi) developing veterinary skills through

training, facilitating the availability of medicines, and stimulating private initiatives.

**A.3. Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and hunting products.**

This deals with (i) organising the sub-sector by training actors (producers and forest guards); (ii) publicising techniques for using and domesticating NTFPs as food; and (iii) developing the capacities of producer organisations.

**B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity).**

The plan involves (i) resolving these questions with awareness campaigns and training sessions for women on good food and nutrition practices; (ii) setting up initiatives by distributing crops to women on low incomes so that they have time for training; (iii) developing community nutritional monitoring programmes by training sponsors; and (iv) experimenting with food with a high nutritional content that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits).

It also concerns (i) supporting the setting up and reinforcement of nutritional units (TNUs) and training healthcare agents and nutritionists; (ii) implementing specific measures to facilitate access for poor households to healthcare services (waiving fees for initial consultations, developing revenue-generating activities and social safety nets); and (iii) making significant appeals to authorities for the addressing of nutritional questions among national priorities (especially by formulating a national nutritional policy), allocating more resources to these issues, and better coordinating nutritional interventions.

**B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining).**

This involves (i) encouraging the interest of pupils' parents and teaching through training and awareness programmes for developing school canteens; (ii) developing a real national programme for school canteens; and (iii) promoting vegetable garden programmes and school fields (that can supply vegetables to schools).

**B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes.**

This is based on (i) reinforcing the institutional mechanism, especially in terms of ministerial capacities to address these questions in order to formulate a real contingency plan, providing efficient evaluation tools for food insecurity as well as collecting and processing data in emergency situations; (ii) combining various indicators for the establishment of a coherent and meaningful classification of food security situations and indications of the risks of deterioration of the situation (warning) of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC); (iv) forming a set of data and studies that take into account the situation for women and other vulnerable citizens; (v) reinforcing skills by transferring knowledge to the MAF National Committee; and (vi) monitoring of the MAF.

**C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas; and C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers; C3.1**

The emphasis is placed on (i) pursuing early recovery programmes and setting up "crops for work" programme; (ii) implementing Category II projects of the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads) to promote the opening up of the country; (iii) developing the organisational capacities of groups of small-scale producers/farmers to improve food security;

(iv) training groups in appeals techniques and negotiating for aid that is targeted to different members; (v) reinforcing the capacities of structuring (especially for cereals and vegetables).

The plan involves (i) pursuing the establishing of Microfinance Establishments (MFEs) in the Central African Republic, particularly in target areas; (ii) appealing for the creation of a revolving credit fund for access for small-scale producers/farmers to inputs and a support fund for the processing of local products; and (iii) setting up a national technical framework programme for small-scale producers/farmers and developing economic initiatives in target areas.

#### ***5. MDG 1C Acceleration Plan and implementation of the MAF***

The priorities of the MDG 1C Acceleration Plan are closely aligned with the PNIASA for the period 2011-2015. This action plan is one of the main outcomes of the MDG 1 Acceleration Framework process and covers the period 2012-2015.

The cost of the interventions is estimated to be 132 billion CFA francs. Funding for the interventions selected for the MAF will be provided as a joint effort by the state, development partners, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the private sector in the CAR.

The success of implementing this action plan depends on several key factors: (i) political commitment at the highest level of the state during the implementation period; (ii) coordination between the partners; and (iii) a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the PRSP II that is completely functional.

*Therefore, interventions that aim to reduce food insecurity will make it possible, by developing subsistence farming activities in rural settings in target areas, to generate income for the poorest citizens, especially women, to facilitate their access to food, and to reduce their exposure to malnutrition. The main effect of this will be to substantially reduce the proportion of the population that suffers from hunger, as well as the proportion of undernourished children, and to bring about a fall in economic and monetary poverty.*



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

*Photo: Marielle van Uitert*

## CONTEXT

The Central African Republic is a vast, sparsely populated, landlocked country measuring 623,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the centre of Africa that has been ravaged over the past two decades by armed conflicts and political and socioeconomic crises that have weakened public and private institutions and led to the destruction of social and economic infrastructure as well as the overall deterioration of living conditions. With life expectancy barely reaching 45 years and a per capita income of 766 dollars, the CAR is one of the Least Developed Countries (LDC), with very weak socioeconomical indicators.

The Central African economy is dominated by the primary sector, which employs 82% of the population and accounted for 42.5% of GDP in 2009. The main activities of the primary sector are subsistence farming (28.3% of GDP) and livestock farming (12.7% of GDP). The tertiary sector (31.7%) mainly consists of trade (12.2%), whereas the manufacturing and building sector (building and public works) makes up the largest part of the secondary sector (12.3%).

After being negative (-7.1%) in 2003, especially due to political and military disorder, the GDP growth rate became positive in 2004 and increased to nearly 4% in 2006 and 2007. Growth then fell to 2% in 2008, then to 1.7% in 2009, in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis. In June 2009 the CAR completed the HIPC Initiative and the macroeconomic situation remained relatively stable.

The growth rate began to rise in 2010 following a gradual increase in diamond and timber exports, the country's two main export products, which had drastically fallen by 33% during the 2008-2009 economic crisis. Growth is also supported by the 2010 increase in agricultural production, but fell again to 3.1% in 2011.

The Human Development Index (HDI) for the CAR has constantly fallen, from 0.384 in 2008 (ranking 171th out of 177 countries) to 0.369 in 2009 (179th out of 182 countries), and then to 0.315 in 2010 (159th out of 169 countries), which is merely a reflection of the continual deterioration of socioeconomic indicators, especially those related to health, education and income.

The poverty analysis shows that 62% of Central African Republican households are poor and that, in these households, an adult lives on less than 1.50 USD per day. Non-monetary poverty (access to basic social services) affects 75% of households (37% of households in urban areas and 94% in rural areas). The Gini coefficient highlights deep inequalities: it measured 0.543 in 2010, indicating that a minority of the population possesses all the national income.<sup>8</sup>

## JUSTIFICATION FOR THE MAF

To combat the challenges of poverty and food insecurity, the government, with the support of its technical and financial partners, including the United Nations System agencies, has adopted a second version of the PRSP (2011-2015) focusing on MDGs, including three strategic axes: (i) security and peace, governance and the rule of law; (ii) economic recovery and regional integration; (iii) human capital and essential social services.

8. Economic Note: "Socioeconomic Situation in the CAR", December 2011, UNDP

The “economic recovery and regional integration” axis emphasises agricultural recovery within the framework of accelerated pro-poor growth.

It has nevertheless been recognized that with four years until the conclusion of the MDGs in 2015, the trends cannot really be reversed unless a basis for constructive dialogue is established between the government and its development partners on removing obstacles that hinder progress with the MDGs.

It is in this context that the government, with the support of the United Nations System, has begun to formulate an action plan with the aim of accelerating progress in accomplishing MDG 1c, “Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,” by using the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF).

## MAF METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

The MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) was developed by the UNDP and endorsed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in 2010. It offers a systematic means of recognizing bottlenecks that hinder the implementation of strategies and policies based on the targeted MDG. The MAF also makes it possible to draw up solutions that will have a rapid impact, structured in the form of an action plan that aims to ensure coherence and cooperation in the interventions of the government and development partners in order to accomplish the targeted MDG.

The MAF has therefore been an opportunity to deepen the analysis of bottlenecks affecting progress towards achieving food security and to bring together key actors around an agreed operational action plan that defines each actor’s contributions, with the aim of accelerating progress between now and 2015.

More specifically, the MAF progress has made it possible to (i) identify a group of high-impact priority interventions that are suited to the national context, with the aim of reducing food and nutritional insecurity for the most vulnerable areas and groups; (ii) identify, analyse and prioritise bottlenecks that impede the implementation of these interventions; (iii) identify and select a set of solutions that make it possible to remove these bottlenecks and develop an action plan that specifies the role of the partners, the implementation costs and the necessary mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation.

This report is organised as follows: i) progress and difficulties in accomplishing MDG 1c; ii) strategic interventions; iii) analysis of bottlenecks; iv) solutions for the acceleration of progress towards MDG 1c; v) action plan for implementing solutions and monitoring and evaluation provisions.



## CHAPTER II

# **PROGRESS AND DIFFICULTIES IN ACCOMPLISHING MDG 1C, “BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015, HALVE THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM HUNGER”**



*Photo: PNUD République Centrafricaine*

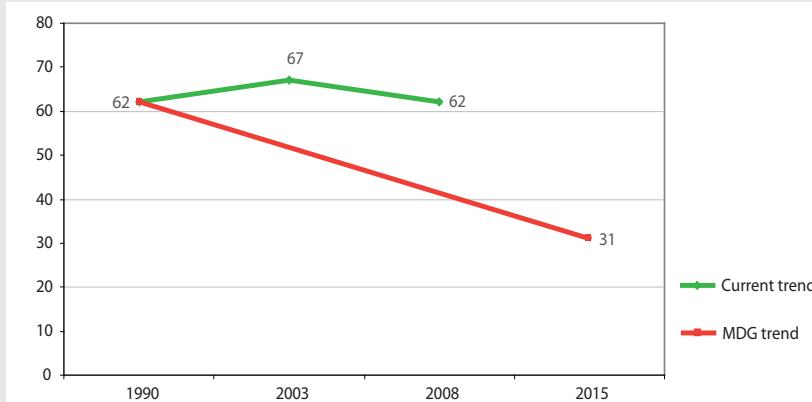
## 2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE MDG SITUATION<sup>9</sup>

The analysis of MDG indicators shows that the progress made over the last two years, for all goals, remains poor or insufficient compared to the scope of the challenges. Only the targets focusing on primary education, access to drinking water and enrolment in school of girls are show-

ing encouraging trends. On the other hand, the indicators for monitoring poverty, hunger, employment, maternal mortality, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, access to sanitation and environmental protection have made little progress or have even lost ground.

GRAPH 1:

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



**MDG 1:** As shown in Graph 1 and Table 1 below, performance in terms of the fight against poverty has been very poor, since 62% of individuals live below the poverty line (2008 data), which is equivalent to 2.6 million people out of a total of 4.2 million inhabitants. In urban areas, almost half the population is poor (49.6%) and in rural areas the proportion is 69.4%, i.e. just over two-thirds of the rural population. More than 8.1% of children under the age of 5 are underweight and 18.7% of them have serious growth problems,

while 68.2% of children aged under 36 months suffer from vitamin A deficiency and 84% are anaemic. Malnutrition is the principal cause of child mortality. It accounts for more than 50% of cases of death in children aged under 5. Moreover, a large number of households in the CAR (30.2%) live in a state of food insecurity. The results of the 2008 ECASEB survey indicate that the working population accounts for 83.9% of the total population.

9. National MDG Monitoring Report, 2010

This percentage can be divided as follows: 82.6% have jobs (of which 19% are in underemployment or "concealed unemployment") and 1.3% are unemployed. This gives an overall unemployment rate of 20.3% and an employment rate of 63.6%. The main obstacles to progress towards this MDG are related to the weakness of the state due to the displacement of populations on ac-

count of armed conflicts and continued insecurity in certain areas, thereby preventing people from benefiting from certain economic opportunities; another obstacle is the lack of ability within state institutions that prevents them from fully carrying out their roles as providers of basic social services.

**TABLE 1:**

**POVERTY INDICATORS BY REGION<sup>10</sup>**

	Incidence of poverty	Extent of poverty	Severity of poverty	Population structure	Structure of citizens in poverty	Average annual consumption per adult-equivalent	Gini coefficient
<b>Household</b>							
Urban	49,6	29,8	20,5	37,2	29,7	457477	0,533
Rural	69,4	35,0	21,5	62,8	70,3	295809	0,533
Total	62,0	33,1	21,1	100,0	100,0	355920	0,543

Source: Authors' calculation based on ECASEB, ICASEES, 2008

**MDGs 2 & 3:** The rate of school enrolment rose from 58% in 1990 to 63% in 2009, with gender disparities: 71% of boys and 55% of girls attend school. The enrolment rate is 72% for primary schools, 73% for secondary schools and 25% for higher education. Girls are four times less likely than boys to enter into higher education, and 68% are illiterate. The gap between girls and boys is wider in areas that have experienced armed conflict. The overall enrolment rate has improved by 8 points for boys over the period compared to 6 points for girls, and the ratio between girls and boys in regions in the north and

north-east (post-conflict zones) is estimated to be 100:65. Extreme household poverty associated with the lack of school canteens and the absence of clean water sources and separate latrines in most school establishments has a negative effect on enrolling children in schools and keeping them there. The exclusion of girls, minority children, those from crisis zones, orphans and vulnerable children makes the situation worse. Job data show that 16.5% of the population are civil servants and 11% are employed by the private sector.

10. Central African Survey for Welfare Monitoring and Evaluation (ECASEB), 2008, Ministry of Planning and the Economy

**MDG 4:** In addition to extreme poverty, the overall child mortality rate is 110‰ and the mortality rate for children under the age of 5 was 171‰ in 2009, according to the UNICEF world report on the situation among children. 62% of children were vaccinated against measles in 2008. The main factors that block the reduction of child mortality in the Central African Republic are: (i) low household income, which prevents access to medical care, (ii) low maternal education levels, (iii) low rates of use of modern contraceptive methods, (iv) parents' lack of understanding of the benefits of vaccination, (v) insufficient, outdated and inadequate sanitary infrastructure, (vi) insufficient number of qualified human resources, and (vii) mass population displacement in conflict zones, which prevents the implementation of child health programmes (EPI, IMCI, malaria, PPTCT, OVC, etc.).

**MDG 5:** The maternal mortality rate is 540 deaths per 100,000 live births. This rate fell by only 26% compared to the level 20 years ago, and therefore accomplishing the MDG by 2015 will be hard. 86.6% of maternal deaths are the result of direct obstetric causes (haemorrhage, prolonged labour and dystocia, including uterine rupture and infections, as well as infectious complications and illegal abortions). Indirect causes (13.4% of deaths) are mainly the result of malaria and eclampsia (high blood pressure); all of these causes are avoidable. 53.4% of births are accompanied by qualified healthcare personnel. The low educational level of women restricts their access to IEC, prenatal consultations and family planning. The main factors that hinder the reduction in child mortality in the Central African Republic are: (i) low household income, which limits access to prenatal, obstetric and postnatal healthcare services, (ii) insufficient sanitary infrastructure and equipment and uneven distribution throughout the country, disadvantaging rural areas, (iii) insufficient qualified and specialised personnel with uneven distribution, disadvantaging

less populated areas (4-5 gynaecologists for the entire country, all in the capital), and (iv) climate change: recurring rains and floods over the past few years combined with sanitation problems, leading to malaria, which has known harmful effects on the course of pregnancy (abortion, miscarriage, complications during childbirth, etc.).

**MDG 6:** The impact of HIV/AIDS is a real threat to the society and economy of the Central African Republic. It is estimated to affect 6.2% of people aged 15-49 years (7.8% of women and 4.3% of men), 3.6% in those aged 15-24 years old, 8% in urban areas and 5% in rural areas. Of those infected, accorded to 2006 MICS data, 36,000 people are in need of ARV treatment. Therefore, with the extension of healthcare structures, followed by an increase in the number of prescribers trained in ARV treatment, the number of people receiving ARVs rose from 7.7% in 2006 to 40% in 2009, i.e. an increase of more than 80.8% in 3 years. Of these people, 4.2% of children were receiving ARVs in 2009. There are numerous obstacles to accomplishing the MDGs in terms of the fight against HIV/AIDS, mainly: from an organisational perspective – i) insufficient technological support for healthcare in terms of sanitary structures; ii) weak national strategy for behaviour change communication (BCC) for young people; and iii) poor coverage of certain preventive areas, such as blood transfusion safety, and poor functionality of PPTPC; from an environmental perspective – i) the existence of conflict zones, which are potential risk areas for HIV/AIDS; ii) ignorance and poverty, which help it spread; iii) illiteracy; and iv) sociocultural apathy; from an institutional perspective – i) insufficient coordination of response actions; and from a resource perspective – vi) insufficient financial, material and human resources.

**MDG 7:** The CAR, according to the latest FAO estimates from 2005, has a total forest area of 23,203 million hectares classified as woodlands. The estimate of the annual rates of change in the forest area, which accompanies these data, is stable, with a loss of 0.1% of the forest area per year. The amount of land allocated to logging companies is estimated to be 33,200 km<sup>2</sup> whereas classified forest is equivalent only to 6,335 km<sup>2</sup>. Forest land is being substantially reduced in favour of savannah, although this loss is balanced by the recolonisation of the forest areas in the east. Poaching and mining activities have promoted the degradation of ecosystems, especially aquatic ecosystems. The proportion of the population with access to a source of drinking water is generally rising in all inhabited areas. On a national level it increased from 18% in 1990 to 34.7% in 2008. This percentage fluctuated during the past two decades due to the political and military troubles that affected the country between 1996 and 2003, ranging from 29% in 2000 to 26% in 2006, and then to 3.7% in 2008. In terms of sanitation, coverage increased from 14% in 1990 to under 35% in 2006. In terms of sanitation, water-borne or stool-borne diseases are still a cause of child mortality and morbidity for those living in poor neighbourhoods of towns and rural areas. The main obstacles to accessing water and sanitation are: (i) institutional and organisational weaknesses related to the poor coordination of actors and interventions; (ii) insufficient management and maintenance systems for human-powered pumps; (iii) high costs of investing in hydraulic infrastructure and materials, which are mostly imported; and (iv) low levels of urbanisation in the country.

**MDG 8:** Public development aid for the Central African Republic increased after the political change in March 2003. Trend observations show that aid increased from 126 million USD in 2003 to 317 million USD in 2009, despite a slight dip in 2004, when 81 million USD was receiving. Over-

seas debt accrued and guaranteed by the state at the end of December 2006 was 856 million USD in net present value (NPV), which was equivalent to 470% of exported goods and services. In other words, the CAR was entitled to a debt reduction using exports from the HIPC initiative because its ratio of NPV debt to exports exceeded the 150% threshold. The main constraints related to the long-term viability of CAR debt are: (i) low competitiveness of the national economy; (ii) heavy reliance of the economy on global market prices for diamonds, wood, coffee and cotton; and (iii) narrow range of its export base. Basic telecommunication services and information and communication technology (ICT) services are very limited, with 145.74 mobile phone users for every 1,000 inhabitants in 2007, compared to the average of 284.35 in Africa, and 2.65 landlines per 1,000 inhabitants compared to 31.75 throughout Africa; there are also 8.18 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants compared to 54.22 for the whole continent. Therefore, the main obstacles to ICT development are: (i) very high costs of equipment due to heavy taxation; (ii) lack of energy sources in rural areas; and (iii) the need for specialised labour.

*For an outline of the situation of MDGs in the CAR, see Table 1 at the end of the chapter.*

## **2.2 PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN ACCOMPLISHING MDG 1C: "BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015, HALVE THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM HUNGER"**

**Indicators:** *Proportion of the population that does not receive the minimum caloric intake level; percentage of children under the age of 5 who are underweight*

### **2.2.1 PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR FOOD SECURITY**

Since agricultural production statistics are not very reliable and there are no consumption standards, it is difficult to assess the dietary supply and coverage of food needs in the CAR<sup>11</sup>. Based on available net production estimates for human food consumption and food product imports, the FAO statistics services estimate that the daily energy supply rose slightly by 3% between 2000 and 2007, increasing from 1,917 to 1,986 Kcal/person/day.

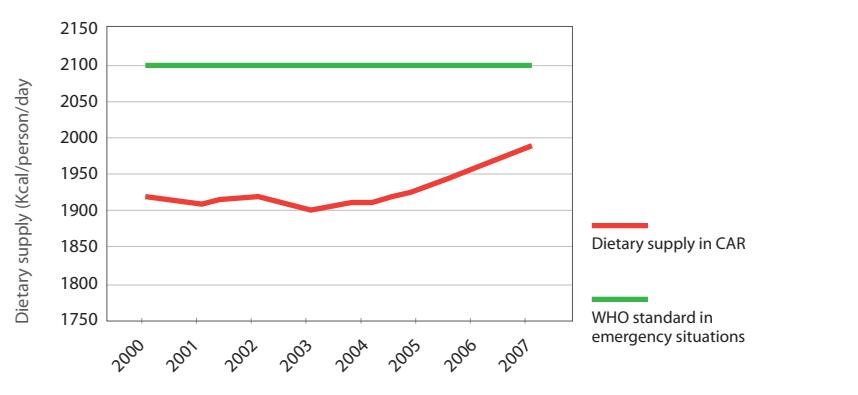
For comparison, the WHO has set the median reference value for energy needs in urgent situations at 2,100 Kcal/person/day. The low energy supply is linked in particular to the poor nutritional value of cassava, which makes up a significant proportion of household food consumption. It is also worth noting that products obtained from hunting, fishing and gathering, although not taken into account when estimating

the energy supply, are an important part of the household diet in different seasons<sup>12</sup>.

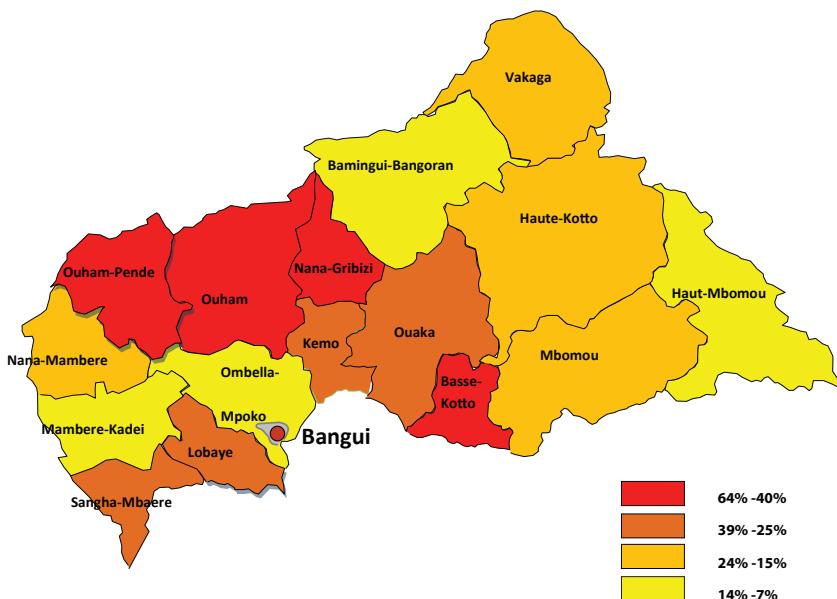
The results of the study based on the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA, CAR) carried out in 2009 with the support of the WFP, UNDP, UNICEF and FAO also show that a large number of households in the CAR (30.2%) live in a state of food insecurity. This situation affects households in rural areas (40.5%) more than those in urban areas (13.4%). Of the total proportion of households in a state of food insecurity, 7.5% suffer from severe food insecurity compared to 22.7% with moderate food insecurity.

11. Cassava is the basis of the Central African Republican diet. It is often eaten together with the leaves. Cereals, maize, rice and sorghum are also eaten depending on the production zone.

12. (see WFP, 2011, Analysis of market functioning in relation to household food security).

**GRAPH 2:****PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR FOOD SECURITY**

Source: FAOstat, 2011

**PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY**

Source: AGVSA, 2009

The socio-professional categories most affected by food insecurity are: 1) households that live on hunting and gathering (37.8%, of which 11.4% suffer from severe food insecurity), 2) farmers (35%); 3) fish farmers (30%); and 4) day labourers and market garden farmers (29.5%). Hunters and gatherers are mostly in the northern prefectures that are affected by insecurity. Farmers are predominantly in the prefectures of the northwest and centre of the country. Fish farmers are mainly located in the southern prefectures on the banks of large rivers.

Geographically, the prefectures of **Ouham-Pende**, **Nana-Gribizi**, **Basse-Kotto** and **Ouham** are most affected, with a prevalence of 64.5%, 62%, 44% and 42%, respectively. Apart from Basse-Kotto, the other three prefectures are all former conflict zones where production and marketing systems for food products were disrupted by political and military conflicts. The prefectures with lower levels of food insecurity (25-29%) are **Ouaka**, **Kémo**, **Lobaye** and **Sangha-Mbaeré**. These eight (8) prefectures with severe or moderate levels will be priority target areas for implementing this MAF (see map above).

**Main challenges related to the reduction of food vulnerability:** Despite significant agroecological potential, subsistence farming, which is practiced by 87% of agropastoral households, is burdened with numerous constraints, in particular considerable difficulties in accessing inputs (seeds, phytosanitary products, fertilizers, etc.) and production tools; weak structuring of actors and networks; a lack of technical support and assistance for producers; and a poor availability of processing and storage techniques. As well as these constraints, insecurity is also caused by recurring conflicts, meagre funding for the agricultural sector and rural development<sup>13</sup>, the weakness of the financial system in rural areas,

and limited access to basic essential services (education, health, markets, roads).

It is also worth emphasising the importance of the gender gap in terms of agricultural development and food security in the CAR. Women account for more than 50 percent of the agricultural food production, both in cash crop farming and subsistence farming, and their work is largely focused on food consumption for the family and the community. The extra work done by women has a negative effect on schooling for girls. There are also constraints relating to women's access to earned assets (credit, land and other agricultural inputs) and controlling the fruits of their labour. When attempting to better manage these aspects, it is important to note that a sectoral strategy of "gender and poverty reduction" was developed in 2011 and examines, among other things, the relationship between men and women in agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and food security. Some of these constraints are examined in greater detail in the analysis of bottlenecks relating to the MAF priority interventions for the intensification of subsistence farming (see Chapter IV).

13. The percentage of the national budget allocated to rural development between 1980 to 2006 was on average 2% (1% for investment and 1% for salaries and functioning) with an implementation rate of under 40%.

#### **Box: Overview of the situation in the agricultural sector**

The economy of the Central African Republic is dominated by the primary sector, which employs 82% of the population and in 2009 represented 42.5% of GDP. The main activities of the primary sector are subsistence farming (28.3% of GDP) and animal livestock farming (12.7% of GDP), which represent 51.4% and 22.83% of agricultural GDP, respectively. Cash crops accounted for only 1.23% in 2008. The agricultural potential is 15 million hectares of arable land, of which only about 661,826 hectares (ha) are cultivated each year, which corresponds to 5.3% of the total and an average of less than 0.5 ha per farmer.

The agrarian economy in the CAR has declined because of difficulties accessing markets. The CAR, which used to be a net exporter of food crops, is today an importer. This situation is related to the effects of long-lasting social and military conflicts, which have affected the country's economy for nearly two decades. Therefore in 2009 imported food products accounted for the largest proportion of the country's imports in terms of value (nearly 30%, followed by mineral fuel, at 13%).

The pillage and destruction of goods has deprived populations of their herds and farming tools, which are their most important resources and means of production, leading to a decline in primary agricultural production and a collapse of the markets for inputs and farming products. Vast areas of potentially farmable land remain underused due to problems of insecurity and the lack of road infrastructure. As a result, the country faces chronic structural food deficits: 30.2% of households are in a state of food insecurity and the CAR imports 25% of the cereals it needs for consumption (FAO).

Despite all of these obstacles, the farming sector in the CAR could be transformed relatively quickly. After years of stagnation, growth in 2006-2007 returned to the agricultural sector, reaching an average of 4.3% per year. The agricultural potential (plant and animal production) of the CAR is one of the highest in Africa. More than 25% of land can be cultivated as well as more than 35% of land that is covered by good-quality pastures. The agro-demographic potential of the land is 50 million people, whereas the country's population is 4.5 million.

Consequently there is a high level of poverty in rural areas, which in turn influences people's food security. As the recent WFP report (2011) points out, the food situation of agro-pastoral producers remains largely conditioned by their physical and economic access to food product markets and the commercial strategies they develop. It should be remembered that, according to the CFSVA (2009), 64% of households use markets as their main source of food products (48% of households have farming as their main activity).

*Therefore, interventions that aim to reduce food insecurity will make it possible, through the development of subsistence farming activities in rural communities in target areas, to generate income for the poorest citizens, particularly women, and will facilitate access to food and thus reduce exposure to malnutrition. The main effect of this will be a considerable reduction in the proportion of the population suffering from hunger as well as the number of malnourished children, and lead to a reduction in economic and monetary poverty.*

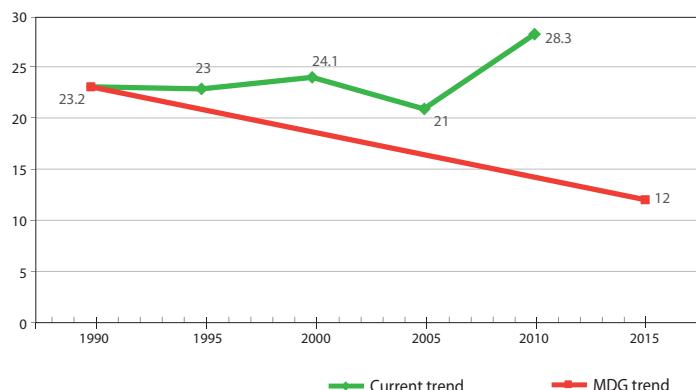
## 2.2.2 PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

The EDS (demographic health survey) estimated this to be 23.2% in 1995, and various MICS surveys estimated it as 24.2% in 2000 and 28.3% in 2006. *With this change, it is very unlikely that the target will be reached by 2015.* The nutritional

situation of children is also characterised by a gender gap and a geographical gap. Boys seem to be more exposed to malnutrition than girls: 31% of boys compared to 26% of girls are moderately underweight.

GRAPH 3:

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS WHO ARE MODERATELY UNDERWEIGHT



Malnutrition remains endemic throughout the entire country but is more prevalent in rural areas than urban areas<sup>14</sup>. Generally speaking, children living in the cotton-growing regions of the country seem slightly more exposed. According to UNICEF (2009), between the north and south of the country, nearly 700,000 children under the age of 5 live below acceptable levels, and many are now at the limit of survival. This phenomenon in cotton-growing towns is due to the fact that cotton is a driving force behind food crops

because cotton farmers use connected tracts of land to grow their crops. Cotton therefore drains the local production of food. Therefore, when the cotton industry encounters problems, people are directly faced with food problems.

14. 2009 MICS survey, Ministry of Planning and the Economy

As a result, children in cotton-producing towns find themselves in a vulnerable situation that is connected with the situation in the cotton industry. In three mining towns in the south-west of the country (Carnot, Nola and Berberati), 16% of children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, and 6.6% from severe acute malnutrition, which exceeds emergency thresholds (15% for acute malnutrition and 2% for acute severe malnutrition)<sup>15</sup>.

This feature of mining zones is due to the fact that, on the one hand, these regions have weak agricultural activity, and, on the other hand, local mining labour is paid in kind (cassava and various foods), liquid money being a factor that slows down activity for sociological reasons. During the last few years, collectors have encountered extreme economic difficulties, which means they are not able to provide enough food to workers ("diggers").

According the CAR CFSVA (2009), 8.4% of Central African Republican women aged between 18 and 49 (pregnant or breastfeeding) suffer from generalised severe malnutrition. This situation is linked to poverty in rural areas of the CAR and therefore to women who are the majority there.

**Main challenges for reducing malnutrition:** as highlighted in the 2010 WHO monitoring report, reducing malnutrition in children involves a large number of challenges. Apart from poverty, it is worth mentioning the low educational level of women, sociocultural burdens, especially forbidden foods and poor food practices among infants and young children; these factors are worsened by mass population displacement as a result of continued pockets of insecurity in the north and east of the country<sup>16</sup>.

15. Source: WHO monitoring report, 2010.

16. See Appendix 5 : CAR map "Humanitarian Access Constraints", OCHA – February 2012

**TABLE 2:****MDG SITUATION**

MDGs	Main indicators	2003 database	2015 goal	Recent data from 2008
<b>MDG 1 :</b> ERADICATE EXTREME HUNGER POVERTY AND HUNGER	Proportion of the population living on less than one dollar per day	67%	31%	62%
	Proportion of underweight children	21%	11,5%	28,3%
<b>MDG 2 :</b> ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION	Net enrolment rate in primary school	55%	100%	63,3%
	Proportion of pupils starting the 1st year and finishing the 5th year	31%	100%	36%
<b>MDG 3 :</b> PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN	Girls/boy ratio in primary schools	60%	100%	72%
<b>MDG 4 :</b> REDUCE THE UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE	Mortality rate of children aged under 5 years	220 out of 1,000	70 out of 1,000	173 out of 1,000
	Proportion of 1-year-old children vaccinated against measles	65%	100%	62%
<b>MDG 5 :</b> IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH	Maternal mortality rate	1355 out of 100,000 live births	171 out of 100,000 live births	540 out of 100,000 live births
<b>MDG 6 :</b> COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES	Prevalence of HIV among pregnant women aged 15-49 years	15%	-	6,2%
	Prevalence rate of malaria	31,8%	-	22%
<b>MDG 7 :</b> ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	Proportion of the population without access to drinking water	74%	40%	65%
	Proportion of the population without access to a basic sanitation system	69%	37%	65%

Source: MDGR 2010

Probable
Possible
Impossible

## CHAPTER III

# STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS



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# **3.1 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS FOR INTERVENTIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

## **ON THE SUB-REGIONAL SCALE:**

(i) **The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP):** To end the decline in the farming industry in Africa, the continent's heads of state and heads of government approved the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). In order to provide strong political support for the implementation of this programme, they agreed, during the African Union (AU) held at Maputo on 10 and 11 July 2003, to a shared commitment to a minimum annual growth rate of 6% in the agricultural sector and to the earmarking of at least 10% of the national budget for the sector.

The CAADP defines a general framework that presents the main axes of intervention to restore agricultural growth, rural development and food security in Africa. In Central Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is responsible for implementing the CAADP. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the process of implementing the CAADP/NEPAD officially started with the support of a joint objective of the NEPAD agency, the ECCAS, the World Bank, the IFPRI and the FAO in March 2010. A national partnership for the implementation of the CAADP in the CAR was officially signed by all actors in the agricultural sector (government, technical and financial partners, agricultural and rural professional organisations, private sector, civil society) on 15 April 2011.

## **ON THE NATIONAL SCALE:**

(ii) **Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security Strategy (SDRASA):** The SDRASA is the detailed sectoral strategy that defines the desire to make a rural sector the motor of economic recovery. The vision of the SDRASA is to develop a productive, profitable, environmentally respectful system of agriculture by 2015, based on local initiatives and the "gender" concept, which creates wealth and conditions for the emergence of a dynamic private agricultural sector and employment, and contributes to poverty reduction and towards accomplishment of the food security goal. The axes of intervention of the SDRASA are essentially:

- To improve the institutional framework and environment for production;
- To promote local development and basic infrastructure;
- To improve production, processing and marketing flow for agricultural products for the domestic and export markets;
- To promote and develop agricultural and rural professional organisations.

(iii) **The National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security (PNIASA) 2011-2015:** The PNIASA was developed after the CAADP agreement was signed. The general objective of the PNIASA is to contribute sustainably to meeting the food needs of the population, to economic and social development, and to reducing poverty and inequality. The PNIASA is based on the SDRASA and the second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) 2011-2015. It makes it possible to pinpoint priority programs by choosing the interconnected sectors of rural development, agriculture and food security as a basis for accelerated national economic growth.

The PNIASA is divided into the following six programmes<sup>17</sup>:

- Development of plant sectors;
- Development of animal sectors;
- Promotion of fishing sectors and development of forests;
- Improvement of research and publicising services;
- Reinforcement of local communities, basic community infrastructure and management of natural resources;
- Institutional reinforcement and sectoral coordination.

*The PNIASA was reviewed and improved in October 2011 by integrating nutritional questions which are fundamental for the fight against food insecurity.*

The nutritional aspect was divided into two sub-programmes entitled:

- Improving people's nutrition:

Specifically, this programme deals with (i) improving the management of cases of malnutrition; (ii) diversifying and improving people's diets; (iii) protecting consumers against diseases related to the use of contaminated or altered foods; and (iv) improving the nutritional and sanitary quality of food.

- Preventing food and nutritional crises and other natural catastrophes:

This involves (a) reinforcing people's and the system's ability to prevent and manage food and nutritional crises; (b) comprehending information related to food and nutritional crises and other catastrophes; (c) improving the performance of the monitoring system; (d) helping to improve the prevention and management of food crises and natural catastrophes by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; and (e) to improve the prevention and management of food crises and natural catastrophes.

## 3.2 MAF PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE PNIASA

In total there are 9 interventions, grouped together under the following 3 "Priority Interventions":

1. Intensification of subsistence farming, non-timber forest food products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity;
2. Improvement of the nutritional situation of vulnerable groups;
3. (Multi-disciplinary interventions) Opening up production zones and deprived areas, reinforcing producer organisations, extending credit in rural areas, reinforcing MAF piloting, monitoring and evaluation systems.

**A. PRIORITY INTERVENTION 1 (Offer of services): Intensification of subsistence farming (cassava, maize, peanut, sesame, sorghum, cowpea, rice, plantains), non-timber forest products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré):**

This domain is aligned with the sub-programme "Developing food crop sectors and access to markets" as part of programme 1 (Developing plant crop sectors)<sup>18</sup> of the PNIASA, and more specifically the section that aims to improve the productivity and competitiveness of food crops. The programme concerns an estimated agricultural population of 3,136,000, according to the 2003 census, i.e. 70% of the total population, spread out over different plant sectors that will be cultivating 851,750 ha within the next 5 years

17. The National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security (PNIASA) 2011-2015, MADR

(baseline, 2010 : 661,826 ha), i.e. an increase of 28.6%. Cassava is the country's main speculation and staple food, and currently a means of evaluating the food situation in the CAR. Banana production is one of the main agricultural activities of the forest region in the south-west (Lobaye, Sangha-Mbaéré and Mambéré-Kadéï prefectures) and south-east (Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Basse-Kotto prefectures, and the southern part of the Ouaka prefecture). The plantain sector takes third place in food crops in terms of the surface area of cultivated land.

**Sorghum, sesame, rice, peanuts, maize and plantains are currently produced in smaller quantities and are essentially used for self-consumption. Performance of these different crops is generally mediocre. The average yield is 3 tonnes/ha for cassava; 900 kg/ha for maize and peanuts; and 1.1 tonnes for sorghum<sup>19</sup>.**

This MAF intervention domain relates to the entire country, with a priority for small-scale producers/livestock farmers (men and women) in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémé, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré), as well as actors in the sector of non-timber forest products as food and hunting products. As we pointed out above, support for subsistence farming makes it possible to overcome food insecurity in rural households and reduce vulnerability.

Three (3) interventions were chosen for this domain:

#### **A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products**

Support to provide producers with access to inputs began in the 1980s with integrated development programmes. However, in 2000, emphasis began to be placed on the needs of small-scale producers. This A.1 MAF intervention is aligned with the three PNISA sub-programmes indicated in Table 2 below. Today, faced with a still very limited solvent demand, the private supply of inputs remains low. Problems relating to the physical and financial accessibility of inputs, the limited availability of energy sources for processing, and the absence of an appropriate system for the multiplication of seeds are the main obstacles to accomplishing this intervention.

Five years after the commitments made by the African finance ministers in Abuja in 2006 to develop the use of fertilizers in agriculture (the goal set by the Abuja summit in 2006 was 50 kg by 2015 for the entire continent), the statement is unequivocal for the CAR. The average rate of fertilizer use is 9 kg/ha, compared to 86 kg/ha in Latin America, 104 kg/ha in southern Asia and 142 kg/ha in southeast Asia. Comparative data for countries in the sub-region place the CAR close to the bottom of the table in terms of input use (total quantity of fertilizer for the entire arable land), with 0.6 kg/ha, compared to 5.0 kg/ha for Cameroon, 7 kg/ha for Burkina Faso, 8 kg/ha for Mali and 22 kg/ha for the Ivory Coast<sup>20</sup>. As an indication, a 50 kg bag of fertilizer costs approximately 60,000 CFA francs compared to less than 30,000 CFA francs in Cameroon.

18. The programme also deals with the promotion of new and traditional export crops.

19. Ministry of the Environment and Ecology, biosecurity project coordination, National Framework Report for Biosecurity in the Central African Republic (draft), 2009

TABLE 3<sup>21</sup>

CURRENT YIELD FOR MAIN FOOD CROPS

Crops	Area farmed (ha)	Fertiliser use (tonnes)	Yield (Tonnes / ha)	Production (tonnes)
<b>Cassava</b>	240 976	36 146	3,0	722 928
<b>Peanut</b>	97 777	14 667	0,9	87 999
<b>Maize</b>	92 891	13 934	0,8	74 313
<b>Sorghum/Millet</b>	53 496	8 024	0,6	32 098
<b>Sesame</b>	35 504	5 326	0,25	8876
<b>Rice</b>	16 700	2 505	0,9	15 030
<b>Gourds</b>	51 722	7 758	0,1	30 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>589 066</b>	<b>88 360</b>	-	<b>987 221</b>

The aim is to implement mechanisms for the benefit of small-scale producers in order to provide access to enough affordable inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, seed processing products), farming equipment and simple, good-quality technology so as to increase production yields and develop processing activities for local products. It also aims to secure the use of seeds by the most vulnerable producers, especially during non-harvest periods.

This intervention should also make it possible to provide small subsistence farmers with a sustainable supply system of good-quality inputs, farming equipment and agricultural technologies. This facilitated access to inputs and technology will enable them to considerably increase their productivity and reduce the exposure of rural households to food insecurity. Experiments in rice production show that the use of fertilizers

has enabled farmers in the Sakaï region to more than double their yield, from 2 to 4.5 tonnes per hectare. FAO analyses, however, show that reaching the 6% annual growth rate set by the CAADP requires the average application rate of fertilizer use to increase rapidly to an average of 23 kg/hectare/year.

Food crop producers without storage means cannot control their marketing calendar, stabilise their prices, harness higher margins, or increase their profit and income. Likewise, the processing food crops, in which women play a significant role, is dominated by direct artisanal processing for consumption by food crop-producing households, and virtually never aims to substantially improve the added value and access to food crop markets.

20. Evaluation of rural poverty, IFAD, 2001, 2007

21. National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food Security (PNIASA) 2011-2015, MADR

A recent WFP (2011)<sup>22</sup> report highlights the fact that, due to the non-mastery of storage and processing techniques, commercial strategies developed by households are not very effective and do not allow them to gain the best profits from their products. As an indication, of the 25 villages visited for the study, only 4 had community granaries or cereal banks. The most developed mutual aid networks are community credit and the joint preparation of fields by different members of the network.

This affects not only food availability but also poor families' access to food, considering the double status (producer/consumer) of farming households<sup>23</sup>.

The objective of this domain is to improve the capacity for storage and use of local agricultural products. Particular emphasis will be put on supporting women's groups to modernise drying and processing techniques for local food crops. Within this framework, it is important to note that the NGO COOPI has supported the construction of 60 post-crop centres (facilities that combine cereal banks, storage infrastructures and processing units) covering 8,000 households in the south-western (Lobaye, Sangha-Mbaéré and Mambéré-Kadéï).

In terms of seed, the goal is to develop sustainable production, multiplication and distribution of good-quality seeds and plants in order to, on the one hand, improve farm productivity through controlled intensification and, on the other hand, enhance the performance of the main food crop sectors (cassava, peanut, maize, rice, sorghum/millet, sesame, plantains) in terms of competitiveness, price and quality. This should make it possible to have a sustainable produc-

tion system and a healthy and improved seed and plant market for various food crops and to develop a sustainable network of good-quality seed and plant multipliers. The support provided by the FAO and NGOs has made it possible to produce 6,000 kg of maize, peanut, rice, sesame and cowpea seed in Bambari in 2010, which is available for multiplication. Production centres and facilities for base and pre-base seeds are also being set up, and the REPROSEM advice and support system will be strengthened.

#### **A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage**

The first actions to support livestock farmers date to about 1975, with the backing of the first livestock farmer associations. It should be mentioned here that agricultural activities are most often associated with small-scale livestock farming, particularly chickens and goats (35.3% of Central African Republican households raise livestock). According to the livestock service, in 2002 there were 3,167,000 small ruminants, 738,000 pigs and 4,575,000 birds. There are a few modern poultry farms in peri-urban areas, particularly in Bangui and some large conurbations (Boali, Bossembélé, Mbaiki, etc.).

Small-scale livestock farming is a significant food source for households in rural areas, particularly for poor households, but it is also a source of income, since livestock products (small ruminants, poultry) are sold sporadically throughout the year. In a situation of food crisis or pressure on the prices of agricultural products, households mostly fall back on savings in kind.

22. Analysis of market functioning in relation to household food security, WFP, September 2011

23. The double status of households as both producers and consumers should not be overlooked: 64% of households use the market as their main supply source for food products, including 48% of households with farming as their primary activity. For this category of producer/consumer households, the rate of food insecurity varies from 42% to 64% depending on the prefecture.

Improving this type of livestock farming by making improved sires available to households and reinforcing access to other inputs (food, veterinary products/services, livestock material) is an important axis in the fight against food insecurity. However, problems of financial accessibility to improved sires, the non-mastery of fattening techniques and securing livestock activities remain the main bottlenecks for this intervention.

The intervention aims to make prolific breeds available to small-scale livestock farmers. It also intends to facilitate the availability of inputs, particularly of local veterinary services.

Experiments have been developed by the FAO in certain production zones, especially in 14 development hubs and predominantly in Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Haute-Kotto, Nana-Mambéré, Lobaye, Sangha-Mbaéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, etc. There are 505 groups that have benefited from this distribution at a rate of 19 goats per group, amounting to a total of 9,593 goats. Veterinary products have also been distributed to beneficiaries. It is expected that this intervention will promote the production of 125,000 goats using a three-year revolving system. The National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE) conducted vaccination campaigns in small-scale livestock production zones against ovine rinderpest and Newcastle disease.

Mastering fattening techniques (intense livestock farming during short periods for meat production and other livestock products) should make it possible to obtain good-quality livestock products over the short term. The experience of certain NGOs has made it possible to set a number of standard objectives such as: pig weight 80-100 kg after 6 months, chicken weight 1.5-2 kg after 2½ months, and goat weight 20-25 kg after 3 months; the activities of the NGO COOPI<sup>24</sup> in terms of distributing laying hens has made it

possible to obtain 288,000 eggs within 6 months. These encouraging results should make it possible to continue with these experiences, especially with close cooperation between the FAO and the NGOs in terms of intensive livestock farming.

### A.3. Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter<sup>25</sup> (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) and hunting products

The implementation of action to support this sector is very recent and began in 2005 with regional development programmes for NTFPs, supported in particular by the FAO. Today these hunting and gathering products make up an essential activity for many rural inhabitants and play an important role in feeding the population. 9.7% of households live off of hunting and gathering, whereas in certain prefectures the number of households participating in these activities can reach 40-60%<sup>26</sup>. According to the 2009 CSVA, households living mainly from hunting and gathering are also those most affected by food insecurity (37.8%, of which 11.4% are in a state of severe food insecurity).

The promotion of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), particularly *Gnetum africanum*, *Dortensia* sp., caterpillars, edible mushrooms, wild pepper and shea butter are contained within the CAADP and PNIASA for the forest sector. The forest sector of the CAR is one of the main levers of the national economy and the second largest employer after the state. It includes diverse ecosystems, such as non-timber forest products. The NTFPs mentioned above have a socioeconomic character and their management remains informal to this day. However, the lack of sector organisation and the non-mastery of usage techniques, coupled with the non-respect of the Forest Code, remain the primary obstacles for this intervention.

24. Food crisis response project-COOPI

The goal of this intervention is to make it possible to increase the production of NTFPs as food (shea butter, wild pepper, gnetum, caterpillars, mushrooms) by 30% by 2015. The main beneficiaries are those living on the edge of forests in the south-west and south-east of the country, as well as the savannah woodlands of Ouham; 15-30% of the population lives in urban areas and the remaining 70-85% are in rural areas. The intervention zones in question are the Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï Sangha-Mbaéré, Mbomou and Ouham<sup>27</sup> prefectures, a surface area of approximately 7,000,000 ha. These prefectures contain more than 1,245,971 inhabitants.

Hunting products were estimated at almost 30,000 tonnes in 1999, while the annual consumption of game meat is thought to be 11 kg /person/year. The management of this sector, which suffers from commercial poaching, is a particular challenge.

#### **B. PRIORITY INTERVENTION 2 (Demand for services): Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups**

This domain of intervention is related to food demand. It makes it possible to combat food insecurity in its various forms, to manage and prevent cases of malnutrition and to reduce vulnerability, particularly in terms of recurring crises in the CAR. The selected strategic interventions are aligned with the PNIASA framework, which was reviewed and improved by including two sub-programmes (see page 23 above), namely:

- (i) Improving people's nutrition, and
- (ii) Preventing food and nutritional crises and other natural catastrophes.

##### **B.1. Reinforcing the management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity):**

The management initiative for vulnerable groups is based on the vaccination programmes of the 2000s. This intervention is aligned with the PNIASA within the framework of the sub-programme entitled "Improving people's nutrition", the goal of which is to *"guarantee satisfactory nutritional food for people and the possibility of being and staying in good health. Specifically, this programme deals with (i) improving the management of cases of malnutrition; (ii) diversifying and improving people's diets; (iii) protecting consumers against diseases related to the use of contaminated or altered foods; and (iv) improving the nutritional and sanitary quality of food."*

There are a number of actions being undertaken in this domain, particularly the support of the WFP and UNICEF in cooperation with NGOs, for reinforcement and intensification are necessary. For example, a recent UNICEF intervention enabled TNUs/OTNUs to be strengthened in 6 regions and also made it possible to care for 474 severely malnourished children. This intervention aims to set up systematic management of malnutrition for children aged under 5 as well as pregnant or breastfeeding women at Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OTNUs).

25. Shea butter is also used as a cooking oil

26. Ministry of the Environment and Ecology, biosecurity project coordination, National Framework Report for Biosecurity in the Central African Republic (Project), 2009

27. The rates of food insecurity are 28% in Lobaye, 27% in Sangha-Mbaéré and 42% in Ouham.

## **B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)**

The first action to develop school food programmes in the CAR date back to 2005 and were supported by UNICEF. This intervention is aligned with the PNIASA sub-programme entitled “Improving people’s nutrition” as part of its activity called “Introducing nutrition in schools”, of which main goal is to improve good food practices in children by (i) integrating nutrition into school education; (ii) spreading knowledge of good food practices; and (iii) improving school canteens.

In terms of current activity, the WFP has in particular supported, through various projects, 1,052 school canteens with the distribution of more than 6,000 tonnes of food, i.e. 551 schools/nursery schools in post-conflict areas (Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Bamingui-Bangoran and Haute-Kotto) and 501 schools/nursery schools in the prefectures of Kémo, Ouaka, Nana-Membéré, Ombella-M'Poko, Lobaye, Basse-Kotto and Mbomou. The intensification and continuation of the intervention requires in particular the greater involvement of pupils’ parents and teachers in school canteen programmes by putting the emphasis on local foods and the contribution to the community.

This intervention aims to improve access to food for school children through the development of school food programmes in target areas. This is because schools are an important means of reaching vulnerable groups, namely young people, and especially young girls.

## **B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring system for food and nutritional safety; and the national response to catastrophes, shocks and emergency situations**

This intervention is very recent (2010) and is aligned with the PNIASA sub-programme entitled *“Preventing and managing food crises and natural and human catastrophes”*, of which the overall goal is to prevent and alleviate food and nutritional crises and other natural catastrophes; the specific goal is to contribute to improving the prevention and management of food crises and natural catastrophes by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Health.

There are different initiatives regarding the implementation of an information and early warning system, including the “food security” cluster<sup>28</sup>, and the *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification* (IPC), which was set up with help from the FAO and needs to be harmonised and consolidated.

This B.3 MAF intervention, which focuses on the specific goal of the PNIASA, aims to develop government capacity in the prevention and management of catastrophes, particularly emergency situations related to food insecurity, by reinforcing early warning systems. It is justified by the frequency of floods, which have serious consequences in terms of crop destruction and dirty drinking water. There is also vulnerability regarding the evolution of the world food markets and the risk that rebel groups will confiscate food products from villages.

Furthermore, in a post-conflict country like the CAR, it is essential to reinforce the capacity for governance, not only within central organisations but also in civil society and the private sector. All conditions for good governance should be combined, especially in terms of piloting and monitoring MAF interventions in order to ensure their success. *Chapter IV gives more information on the MAF monitoring and evaluation framework.*

28. The cluster is made up of the Ministry of Health, UN agencies (WFP, OCHA, HCR, UNICEF) and national and international NGOs (CICR, ACF, MSF, etc.)

### C. PRIORITY INTERVENTION 3: Inter-disciplinary interventions

The inter-disciplinary interventions chosen for the MAF aim to reinforce the efficiency and impacts of interventions relating to the promotion of food availability, access to food and nutritional well-being in the other domains. Three inter-disciplinary interventions were identified and prioritised, including the reinforcement of piloting and monitoring capacities in order to implement the MAF.

#### C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas

The building of roads began slowly in 2008 with infrastructure programmes initiated as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP I). This intervention is aligned with the PNIASA sub-programme called “Opening up production zones and markets”.

Rural areas are excellent places to produce and market food products. However, the road network remains centred around Bangui and extends fairly irregularly into the rest of the country, with regions in the west and south-east being the easiest to access. This situation limits, in particular, the exchange of food crops between production zones and deprived, enclosed and vulnerable areas.

Due to the deplorable overall state of the road network, rural areas are inaccessible during the wet season and roads must be negotiated with difficulty during the dry season. Current observations have ascertained that: (i) approximately 38% of all rural roads are completely cut off to traffic, i.e. 5,828 km of roads; and (ii) there is significant damage to 57% of all rural roads, i.e. 8,655 km. Only 785 km of roads, 5.14% of the total, are in good working order. This situation

results in: (i) insufficient and irregular traffic; (ii) high transport costs, sometimes accounting for more than 50% of the cost of marketing the products<sup>29</sup>; and (iii) a scarcity of staple products in the markets. This lack of mobility significantly limits exchange and trade between villages and the urban centres that are the country's major consumption centres.

Women and young schoolchildren are particularly affected, as they have to carry water and agricultural products over long distances or travel far to attend school or visit healthcare centres or markets.

The aim of this intervention is to open up production zones in order to facilitate the access to food crops and basic social services, and to improve people's daily living conditions.

#### C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers

Support for POs began with integrated development programmes, especially in the cotton industry in the 1980s. During the past ten years, the programme for implementing rural structures has favoured the creation of associations and other umbrella organisations to the disadvantage of basic support structures. A decision-making authority was created around these poorly represented structures. In reality, these associations, which represent various types of group at once (food crop groups, livestock groups, NTFP farmers)<sup>30</sup>, develop no concrete actions and usually remain detached from their base. The structuring of rural areas in the Central African Republic was carried out in different ways depending on the production zones and sectors (source: SDRASA).

29. The criteria for fixing prices now more often take into consideration road passability, security of the area and transport options compared to demand, as well as the distance to be travelled (source: WFP, 2011, op. cit.)

30. The promotion of producer groups has made it possible to set up more than 2,100 associations, of which approximately 57% are concentrated in cotton-producing savannah areas.

This intervention is aligned with the PNIASA sub-programme entitled “Reinforcement of basic Professional Agricultural and Rural Organisations (OPAR)”. Its goal is to reinforce the capacities of producer and livestock farmer organisations in terms of participative management, appeals, promoting literacy and any other means of improving the management of their production systems, with particular emphasis on women’s participation in running these organisations, given their strong presence in food crop agriculture and due to the fact that they are among those most affected by poverty and food insecurity. Initiatives targeting the reinforcement of PO capacities are underway with the support of the World Bank through the Agro-Pastoral Revival Project (PRAP) in the south-west of the country and the IFAD through the Project for Reviving Food Crops and Small Livestock Production in the Savannah (PREVES). Numerous NGOs (international NGOs – Caritas, COOPI, Oxfam Quebec – and local NGOs – CESDES, CFAR, CFAE, CREF and FNEC) also help reinforce public structures in terms of producer coordination and training. An effort to harmonise different actions is required, particularly through activities in the “food security” cluster.

### C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas:

The emergence of the microfinance sector in the CAR is very recent, and began in 2008 with UNDP and UNCDF programmes that worked to cover the territory with microfinance establishments. Since the liquidation of the Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit (BDAC) in 1987, there are no longer any banks truly specialised in credit for the agricultural and rural sector. Credit unions and savings and credit unions have recently been developed with the support of the

microfinance platform in urban areas but not in rural areas. As a result, small-scale producers of food crops and livestock have virtually no access to credit, especially microcredit, and Microfinance Establishments (MFEs), located mainly in Bangui, have not developed financial products that are suited to the needs of producers/livestock farmers. Also, rural savings are not very mobile, due to weak organisation among producers. These financial impediments to acquiring inputs, materials and equipment are a major constraint for intensifying the production and development of processing activities for food crop and livestock products (incubators, milking equipment, mills, hulling machines, small-scale tools, etc.)

The intervention, which is interdisciplinary by nature, aims to improve coverage of MFEs in target areas by facilitating access to credit small-scale producers<sup>31</sup>, particularly by establishing systems for revolving credit. A National Strategy for Inclusive Finance is already in existence and aims to set up MFEs in rural areas with the support of the joint UNDP/UNCDF project PAE/SFI<sup>32</sup>; this has already been accomplished in 8 prefectures (Bangui, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto and Mbomou). In 2010, 35 MFEs advanced credit to 2,995 clients out of a total client base of 43,861 people, 36% of whom were women. Moreover, the UNDP has benefited from 800,000 USD from UNCDF funding to ensure the founding of MFEs in Bangassou, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro and Paoua. The second phase of the programme, starting in September 2012, will benefit from ADB, UNDP and UNCDF support, which should make it possible to expand the client base to 77,000 affiliates and 7,000 credit beneficiaries, and will raise the proportion of women beneficiaries from 36% to 50% by 2015.

31. It should be noted that consumer credit for poor households causes a viability problem due to the low reimbursement ability.  
32. Support Programme on the Emergence of an Inclusive Financial Sector

### **3.3 PRIORITISING INTERVENTIONS**

By drawing lessons from the results of implementing various policies and strategies relating to food security and nutrition for several years, as well as the strategic orientations of the PNIASA, the interventions<sup>33</sup> likely to accelerate the reduction of food insecurity and malnutrition have been identified and prioritised based on the following criteria: (i) implementation status of the intervention; (ii) scale of its impact on indicators for monitoring MDG 1c; (iii) speed and proof of impact; and (iv) feasibility of intervention compared with the existence of solutions.

Nine (9) interventions have been chosen: (i) in domain 1, the three interventions (A1, A2 and A3) target the development of food supply and are based on three levers, i.e. subsistence farming, livestock farming and non-timber forest products (NTFPs); (ii) in domain 2, the three interventions (B1, B2 and B3) target support for demand by examining its three characteristics, i.e. management of malnourished people, development of school food programmes and the response to food crises; (iii) in domain 3, the three interventions (C1, C2 and C3) are presented as conditions for the effectiveness of the other interventions in domains 1&2.

The prioritisation criteria have also made it possible for the interventions concerning supply (food availability), demand (access to food) and effectiveness conditions (interdisciplinary interventions) to be classified in order of priority. Table 3 below presents the method of prioritisation adopted for the interventions.

<sup>33</sup>. The MAF defines an intervention as the supply of goods, services or infrastructure with the aim of accomplishing objectives or targets before the set deadline.

**TABLE 4:****SUMMARY OF THE ALIGNMENT OF INTERVENTIONS WITH THE PNIASA**

REFERENCE ELEMENTS IN THE PNIASA	STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS CHOSEN FOR THE MAF
Supply of agricultural inputs and equipment	A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products
Improvement of technologies for processing, packaging and storing products	
Production, multiplication, distribution and certification of improved seeds	
Sustainable development and improvement of animal genetic resources – Sustainable development and use of pastoral and animal feed resources; Improvement of animal health and reinforcement of animal sanitary protection	A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage
Development of cow and goat fattening practices and development of meat and egg chickens	
Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	A.3. Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter <sup>34</sup> (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) – and hunting products
Improvement of people's nutrition - Introduction of nutrition in schools	B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)
	B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)
Prevention and management of food crises and natural and human catastrophes	B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes
Opening up of production zones and markets	C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas
Reinforcement of basic Professional Agricultural and Rural Organisations (OPAR)	C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers
Implementation of a national strategy for inclusive finance	C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas

<sup>34</sup>. Shea butter is also used as a cooking oil



**TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF THE PRIORITISATION OF INTERVENTIONS**

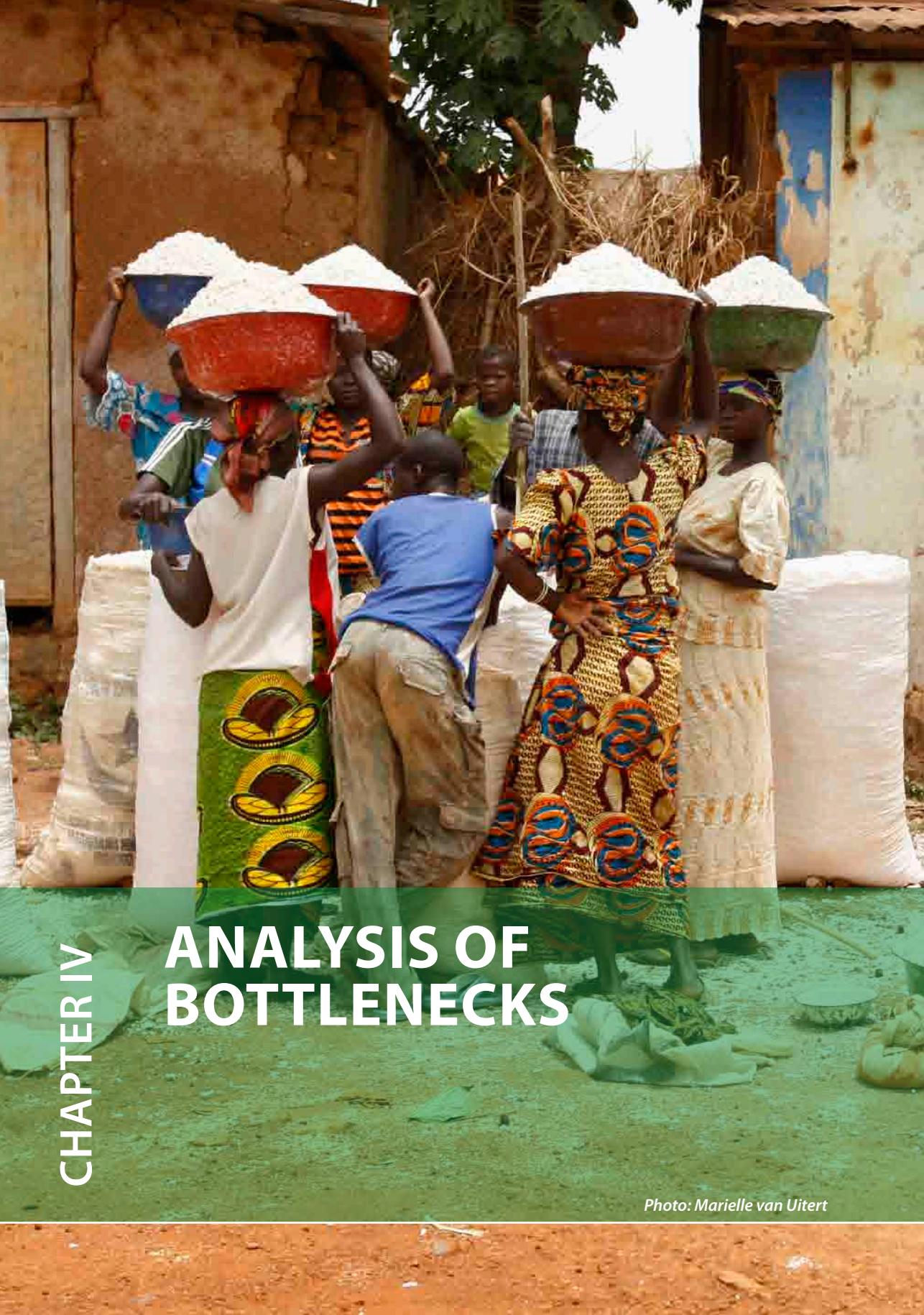
STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS CHOSEN FOR THE MAF	IMPACT/SPEED OF IMPACT OF REMOVING BOTTLENECK
A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products	This intervention has a rapid impact on food security: (i) using fertiliser has a positive and rapid impact on yields, (ii) access to storage and processing technologies improves the ability to store and use products, (iii) the availability of improved seed significantly improves yields.
A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage	Developing livestock has a rapid and positive impact on food security, especially during periods of food crisis. Making prolific breeds and access to veterinary care available increases animal production.
A.3. Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) – and hunting products	Considering the extent of the population living from NTFPs, this intervention has a large impact on food security, and solutions exist.
A.4. Improving services and tools of publicising and assistance for small-scale farmers	The impact of this intervention can only be measured in the medium and long term.
B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)	This intervention has a significant and rapid impact on the nutritional situation of women and children.
B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)	The intervention has an immediate impact on food security for the youngest citizens.
B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes	This intervention has a positive impact on food security, particularly through the organisation of an emergency system and the response to food crises.
C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas	The positive impact of this intervention on food security is to be measured in the medium and long term.
C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers	The positive impact of this intervention on food security is to be measured in the medium and long term.
C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas	Microcredit has a significant medium-term impact on subsistence production and access to food for the poorest citizens.

FEASIBILITY/(EXISTENCE OF SOLUTIONS)	ORDER OF PRIORITY
<p>The various experiments carried out throughout the country by the FAO, WFP and NGOs show that solutions exist for this intervention. As a result, this intervention is the MAF's No. 1 priority.</p>	1
<p>Experiences observed at development hubs and ANDE initiatives (p. 27) demonstrate that these actions are feasible. This intervention is therefore a priority for the MAF, after the development of subsistence farming.</p>	2
<p>NTFPs are the third most important factor for food security, behind subsistence farming and livestock farming. If the sector can be organised better, solutions exist and are a national priority in the PNIIASA.</p>	3
<p>The solutions tested so far have been limited to livestock farming (technical brochures) and have had only a limited impact.</p>	Not chosen for the MAF (impact is not immediate and solutions are limited)
<p>Actions by the WFP and FAO show that solutions exist but, given the extent of malnutrition in the country, this intervention will only have a real impact in the medium term. It will be the MAF's 4th priority.</p>	4
<p>Tests have given satisfactory results. However, implementation requires that certain conditions be approved by the communities. It is the MAF's 5th priority.</p>	5
<p>Action programmes exist. However, the extent of crises and their recurrent nature mean that feasibility will be gradual. This intervention is the MAF's 6th priority.</p>	6
<p>Financial and budgetary solutions for this intervention are limited. It is the MAF's 7th priority.</p>	7
<p>Solutions for this intervention exist but only have an impact on food security in the medium and long term. It is the MAF's 8th priority.</p>	8
<p>Experience with setting up microcredit establishments throughout the Central African Republic is growing. However, solutions have medium-term effects because covering the whole country will take time. This intervention is the MAF's 9th priority.</p>	9

## CHAPTER IV

# ANALYSIS OF BOTTLENECKS

*Photo: Marielle van Uitert*



The 9 interventions selected for the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) will make it possible to reduce the number of persons who are victims of food insecurity from 30.2% to 15% by 2015. However, numerous obstacles lie in the way of the effective implementation of these interventions on a national scale. For each of the priority interventions chosen for the MAF, these obstacles, or “bottlenecks” in MAF terminology, have been analysed in detail and classified in categories (policies, funding, supply of services, use of services), and then prioritised according to their impact on the effectiveness of interventions, and also depending on the existence of short- and medium-term solutions to resolve the problems.

### **PRIORITY INTERVENTION 1: Intensification of subsistence farming (cassava, maize, peanut, sesame, sorghum, cowpea, rice, plantains), non-timber forest products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré)**

In terms of improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products (Intervention A.1.), the main bottlenecks are:

#### **A.1.1 Poor physical and financial access for small producers to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, suitable packaging) and equipment for small-scale processing (*Use of services - financial accessibility*).**

Inputs (seeds, improved plant and animal materials, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) have limited availability in production zones, especially in areas with high levels of food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouak-

ka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré), leading to a virtual absence of use of these inputs. It should be remembered that the use of inputs in the CAR (overall amount of fertilizer for the total arable area) is 0.6 kg/ha compared with 5.0 kg/ha in Cameroon, 7 kg/ha in Burkina Faso, 8 kg/ha in Mali and 22 kg/ha in the Ivory Coast. Since fertilizers are mainly used for cotton production, the level of fertilizer use for subsistence farming is probably much lower.

Furthermore, populations are far from sales locations for inputs, since supply centres for inputs (fertilizers, veterinary products, etc.) and seeds are located predominantly in Bangui. There are only 4 suppliers of inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, market gardening seeds, small-scale tools), all in Bangui; these stores have a virtual monopoly and sell fertilizers, pesticides and small-scale tools at very high prices. All this accentuates both physical and financial access to inputs. As an indication, a 50 kg bag of fertilizer costs approximately 60,000 CFA francs, but less than 30,000 CFA francs in Cameroon. Moreover, there is a lack of suitable locations for input distribution structures, and all production factors (tractors, rotary cultivators and seed capital) have been looted from these areas during conflicts.

Poor access to improved processing technologies is due in particular to the high cost of imported materials and equipment and the absence of local equipment suppliers to counter the high cost of such equipment. This situation is much more problematic for women, who have difficulty accessing bank credit due to the lack of secure guarantees. The microcredit system is still in an early stage, with the establishment of microfinance establishments in 8 prefectures (Bangui, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka, Haute-Kotto and Mbomou) between 2008 and 2010. These MFEs have not yet developed finance products that are suitable for funding processing equipment and materials.

*This bottleneck is dealt with by the inter-disciplinary intervention on reinforcing access to credit in rural settings (Intervention C.3).*

The overall budget set aside for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development does not

exceed 4% of the national budget planned for 2012, and the largest proportion is devoted to staff salaries (17%) – the remaining resources are usually not paid out. The amount reserved for the seed sector is almost non-existent and it is supported by development partners.

Year	Budget set aside for agriculture	% of national budget	Maputo Protocol	Gap
2011	9 579 312 000	4%	10%	-6%
2012	9 651 157 000	4,03%	10%	-5,97%

The budget allocated for agriculture in 2012 is 9,651,157,000 CFA francs, i.e. 4.03% of the national budget, and is divided up as follows:

- ➡ Staff: 1,641,607,000 CFA francs;
- ➡ Running costs: 497,550,000 CFA francs;
- ➡ Interventions: 501,000,000 CFA francs;
- ➡ Investment: 7,011,000,000 CFA francs.

#### A.1.2 Absence of energy sources in rural areas to support small-scale processing units for food crops (*Supply of services*):

The processing of agricultural products is often difficult and rudimentary. It remains the work of women and is often done manually, especially with the processing of maize and wheat, the production of oil from peanuts and sesame, the processing of cassava and the hulling of rice. Some initiatives have been set up by the NGOs Solidarités (conflict zones: Ndim, Ngaoundaye, Bozoum, Bocaranga and Ndélé) and COOPI (Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï and Sangha-Mbaéré), which have provided 23 cassava mills, hulling machines, shelling machines, peanut mills and oil presses.

#### A.1.3 Absence of suitable mechanisms for managing the production/multiplication and distribution of improved seeds and the poor intervention capacity of seed control/certification services (*Supply of services*):

The seed service within the Central African Institute of Agronomic Research (ICRA) does not act independently. This service must produce commercial seeds from pre-base and base seeds for multipliers and must also buy back these seeds to make them available to subsistence farmers. While this worked between 1993 and 2002, it was completely paralysed by political and military events. There is a lack of suitable sites for input distribution structures and all production factors (tractors, rotary cultivators and seed capital) were pillaged in these areas during conflicts.

In addition, the limited use of improved seeds by small-scale producers in a state of high food insecurity is due to the fact that during the non-harvest season producers use seed as food (this is very common in areas of food insecurity and conflict: Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Bamingui-Bangoran, etc.). Today only 3% of farms use improved seed, which corresponds to a total of 2,000 tonnes per year from a basis of 6 tonnes of seed, transformed into 125 tonnes of commercial seed for subsistence farming, which corresponds to the average annual ICRA production at all its sites. The objective of the PNIAAS is to increase seed coverage from 3% to 25% by 2015, which involves multiplying basic seed production by eight (8). The ICRA is not capable of overcoming this insufficiency because since June 1998 it no longer receives funding from the World Bank. The support of the FAO and CFC enabled the ICRA to produce 6,000 kg of maize, peanut, rice, sesame and cowpea seeds in 2010 (at the Bambari site alone), which are available for multiplication. The dysfunction of the seed multiplication networks has not made it possible to ensure the relaying of seed supplies to villages. The seed control and certification services within the ICRA have also been severely affected by the rarity of material and financial resources.

In terms of *developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage* (Intervention A.2.), the selected bottlenecks are as follows:

#### A.2.1. Poor financial access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires and local veterinary services (*Supply of services – physical accessibility*):

Prolific goat breeds exist only in certain regions of the country, especially in Bouar and Bambari, which results in supply restrictions for producers. Improved pork sires (large white, landrace, etc.) are owned by only a few farmers in and around Bangui.

The costs of veterinary services are often beyond the reach of small-scale livestock farmers. This is because Decree No. 0017/MDR/CAB of 1992 fixed the tariffs as follows: 6,000 CFA francs for an inspection to set up a farm; 2,000 CFA francs for a technician's visit; 4,500 CFA francs for a managerial visit, and 15,000 CFA francs for various service fees.

Reducing the risks of disease is an essential goal, justified by the impact of disease on the safety of production systems. Veterinary inputs are one of the tools for controlling animal disease. A recent participative study on the situation of veterinary inputs and services in various countries in Central African (Savanes)<sup>35</sup> shows that in the Central African Republic, for small ruminants, plague leads to a mortality rate of between 15% and 50%; cases of parasitosis represent 40% of the diseases mentioned, with scabies and infections at 20%, while in pigs, African swine fever and diamond skin disease are the worst threats, followed by parasitosis (70%), mastitis and pneumonia; as for poultry, Newcastle disease may decimate up to 100% of chickens of any age, and coccidiosis, fowlpox and other opportunistic infections are also rife in farms.

35. Hamat Essène MAL-MAL et al., 2010, *Functioning and difficulties in terms of veterinary inputs and services in the savannah regions of Central Africa - L. SEINY-BOUKAR, P. BOUMARD (scientific editors)*, 2010; [http://hal.cirad.fr/docs/00/47/09/98/PDF/060\\_malmal\\_.pdf](http://hal.cirad.fr/docs/00/47/09/98/PDF/060_malmal_.pdf)

The inaccessibility of veterinary products and the deterioration of veterinary services leads to self-medication by farmers, which carries the risk of creating resistant strains of pathogenic agents. In the Central African Republic, the mission of implementing animal safety projects is entrusted to the National Livestock Development Agency (ANDE), which relies on regional managers, sectors and veterinary stations. The heads of the veterinary stations are assisted by veterinary nurse assistants.

The study notes that service provision to farmers is limited and concentrated around large-scale livestock and quality control at the time of slaughter. The country has 25 active veterinary doctors who work in the public sector.

The situation is equally characterised by the poor availability of (and accessibility to) veterinary products. Eight wholesale pharmacies and NGOs virtually ensure the import and distribution of veterinary products. The same study notes delays with orders following considerable delays with the verification of merchandise and the issuing of certificates for customs clearance at Bangui. The central pharmacy of the National Federation of Goat Farmers (FNEC), established in 1992 at Bangui, has experienced a reduction in its activities due to pillaging during political and military crises. Farmers obtain supplies from wholesalers, travelling salesmen and Pastoral Interest Groups (GIP).

#### **A.2.2. Non-mastering of livestock fattening and production/processing techniques (*Demand for services*).**

In particular, producers have only a meagre understanding of the requirements in terms of shelter, food and care. The same is true for practices/techniques in terms of food, as well as the handling and storage of milk and other products.

This makes it impossible to put agricultural surpluses and by-products to good use.

#### **A.2.3 Lack of safety for fattening activities (*Supply of services & Use of services (Acceptability)*):**

The safety of fattening activities is very precarious due in particular to the absence of suitable habitats for animals, but also to the recurring risks of theft in areas of conflict (cattle raiding by armed groups), which ultimately discourages the development of these activities.

Regarding *using and sustainably managing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum, pepper, shea butter, mushrooms, caterpillars and honey – and hunting products (Intervention A.3.)*, the chosen bottlenecks are as follows:

#### **A.3.1. Lack of organisation in the NTFP sub-sector (*Supply of services*).**

NTFPs are used randomly and/or overused depending on the product due to the pressure of demand; sub-sector organisations are in the very early phases, particularly in terms of women's groups for processing (shea butter in the north of the country) or marketing (honey).

#### **A.3.2. Lack of knowledge of techniques/technologies for the use/domestication of NTFPs (*Supply of services*):**

With increasingly expanding needs for NTFP and the haphazard use of forests, it is necessary to travel many kilometres to find NTFPs, or even into the Democratic Republic of Congo. There is a crucial need to restructure NTFP use in target areas in order to facilitate access to these products for poor citizens.

**A.3.3. Non-respect of the Forest Code, the Wild Fauna Code and the Environmental Code (*Provision of services – governance of the sector of activity*):**

Law No. 08.022 dated 17 October 2008<sup>36</sup> relating to the Central African Republican Forest Code governs activities in the forestry sector and aims to: harmonise the key elements of profitability of the forest heritage and conservation by developing a natural equilibrium; conserve and protect plant forms in order to enable regeneration; and guarantee the sustainability of the forest. Access to fauna resources is governed by Decision No. 84.045 dated 27 July 1984 regarding the protection of wild fauna and hunting in the Central African Republic. The fauna management policy is based mainly on the creation of a network of protected areas (parks and fauna reserves) with the aim of promoting the development and sustainable management of fauna. In terms of forests, a system of grants and permit controls for the use and development of forests has been set up, as well as a mechanism for managing and securing income for forest products, and mobile brigades to intervene in forest and fauna matters.

However, respect of the Forest Code and the Wild Fauna Code is significantly limited due to the insufficient number of forest guards (only 150 for the whole country), but also due to the problem of accepting the law, which challenges the legitimacy of certain hunting traditions.

**PRIORITY INTERVENTION 2: Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups**

- In terms of *reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic*

*malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)* (Intervention B.1.), 3 bottlenecks have been chosen:

**B.1.1. Poor use of nutritional kits distributed by the Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OT-NUs) by women living in extreme poverty (*Use of services*):**

Poor women prefer to sell the nutritional food that is distributed to them in the form of kits due to their lack of income, in order to acquire other food that is more suited to their eating habits but happens to be less nutritional. This is due partly to a misunderstanding of the nutritional needs of infants and young children and partly to extreme poverty. It therefore leads to a lack of micronutrients, which weakens the health of mothers and children and plunges them into a state of malnutrition. It is therefore necessary to distribute food along with accompanying measures such as training/awareness of good nutritional practices.

Moreover, the food distributed (therapeutic milk, soy flour, energy biscuits and food distributed by the WFP) is not always suitable (problem of acceptability) to the eating habits of the population. This is because the consumption of cassava dominates the diet of Central African Republicans. Poor food practices and the predominance of cultural apathy mean that populations find it difficult to accept food distributed by Nutrition Units, and often resell it.

Also, there are not enough education, awareness and information campaigns on the screening for and management of chronic and acute malnutrition (*Supply of services*).

36. La Loi N° 08.022 du 17/10/2008 Portant Code Forestier de la République Centrafricaine remplace la Loi N° 90.003 du 09 Juin 1990 abrogée.

Especially due to the lack of nutritional data (see Bottleneck B.3.1), it is difficult to carry out information and awareness campaigns that would enable populations to become conscious of their nutritional needs.

**B1.2. Poor functioning and interventional capacity of the Nutrition Units located in healthcare centres or NGOs to implement a minimum package of nutritional activities (*Supply of services*):**

This mainly concerns the insufficient number of units (TNUs/OTNUs), which incidentally are inexistent in prefectures in the post-conflict and mining areas. On a national scale, there are 22 TNUs, along with 142 OTNUs and Specialised Nutrition Units. The management of malnutrition is also limited by the lack of nutritionists since there is no specialised nutritionist training programme, and nutrition services are carried out by paediatric doctors and healthcare agents. Also, the poor technical capacity of staff to manage disease, as well as the lack of technical material and infrastructure, delay the implementation of interventions in post-conflict zones.

**B1.3. Weakness of resources (national and individual) for managing nutritional questions (*Policies*):**

The lack of political engagement means that nutrition was not regarded as a priority by the government until 2009, when the problem of malnutrition appeared in the south-west of the country, especially at Carnot. Today, few means are allocated to TNUs and action in the field is supported by the WHO, UNICEF and ACF. This results in a limited spending for nutritional intervention. The only expenditure for nutrition drawn up by the Community Health Department is financed by UNICEF: in 2010, UNICEF allocated 3,929,415 USD for action in favour of maternal and child health, 2,332,600 USD for nutrition and 500,000 USD

for education. In 2011, the support of UNICEF was 2,644,000 USD for nutrition and 4,000,000 USD for health, and 307,000 USD for education (UNICEF, Humanitarian action for children, 2011). Of the 212 billion CFA francs earmarked by the state for spending in 2012, no intervention was planned for nutrition. Furthermore, there is a limited level of household income for managing the costs of an initial consultation, after which vulnerable and undernourished persons (women, particularly pregnant women, children and those living in a state of food insecurity in target areas) are referred to Therapeutic Nutrition Units; the average cost of an initial consultation (health record, consultation fees, tests, etc.) is 1,500 CFA francs in rural areas and 2,500 CFA francs in Bangui. This amount is beyond the reach of households, as it is equivalent to 3 or 4 times the daily income for individuals: it should be remembered that more than six persons in ten live on less than 1.25 USD per day<sup>37</sup>.

Regarding *B.2, developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)*, the main bottlenecks in the MAF are as follows:

**B2.1. Limited interest and involvement of pupils' parents and teachers in school canteen programmes (*Use of services*):**

There is little community involvement due to the inadaptability of school food with respect to eating habits and the poor financial capacity to contribute to the programme's expenses. This is a serious problem in terms of setting up and continuing the programme.

<sup>37</sup> MDGR 2010

**B2.2. Absence of a national school food programme (*Policies*) and limited funding of school canteens in the state budget, especially in vulnerable areas (*Funding*):**

The Ministry of Education set up a national programme to develop school canteens in 2010, but it did not succeed due to a lack of funding. No national budget line was intended specifically for the funding of school canteens, especially in vulnerable areas. The poor capacity of management committees in schools equipped with school canteens is also noted.

In terms of *reinforcing the monitoring system for food and nutritional safety; and the national response to catastrophes, shocks and emergency situations* (Intervention B.3.), two bottlenecks were chosen:

**B.3.1. Insufficient coordination of interventions and monitoring of the situation of food and nutritional insecurity (*Policies*):**

There is no system of coordination on a national scale. The only initiative that exists in this respect is the "Nutrition Cluster" formed by the UN System. Nor are there any nutritional indicators in the provisions of the national healthcare information system, nor any nutritional databases. The absence of information on the nutritional situation of women and young people is a considerable gap. Nutritional studies to investigate the situation are rare, except for data provided by the MICS, which is conducted only every 3 or 4 years. However, rapid evaluations, such as that carried out in 2009 in problematic areas, are possible. Information is most often provided by NGOs (ACF) and UNICEF. Negotiations are underway to set up a multisector national coordination programme (Agriculture, Health, Social Affairs, Trade, Education, Communication, and partners) on nutrition, inspired by examples in the sub-region.

Furthermore, there is the weakness of national human and technical capacities for the piloting and monitoring of food safety programmes. The post-conflict situation poses serious governance and capacity problems that considerably affect the effectiveness of monitoring the implementation and evaluation of strategies and programmes in terms of food and nutritional safety.

**B.3.2. Absence of an institutional mechanism for the prevention and management of catastrophes (*Policies*):**

In the CAR, there are often floods that destroy farms and make water undrinkable (cholera, diarrhoea, etc.), causing high levels of vulnerability for populations in terms of changes in global food prices and frequent cases of confiscation of food products in the villages by rebels. The mechanism for managing crises is not harmonised and lacks funding.

Furthermore, there is an Institutional Technical Group (GTI) but it is not yet operational. Its main mission is to coordinate and harmonise actions and data relating to the improvement of food and safety and people's nutrition, as well as actions concerning reinforcement of the system of information and monitoring for food and nutritional safety, and the national response to catastrophes.

The GTI is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Development. The members of the GTI are selected from: (i) technical ministries concerned with the problem of food and nutritional safety (MADR; Min. Econ. and Plan.; MS; MAS; Min. Hydraulics; Min. Interior); (ii) professional and rural organisations; (iii) international and national NGOs; (iv) civil society; (v) the private sector; (vi) UN agencies (WFP; FAO; UNICEF; UNFPA; OCHA; UNDP; etc.). Steps have been taken by the authorities to accelerate the institutionalisation of the GTI.

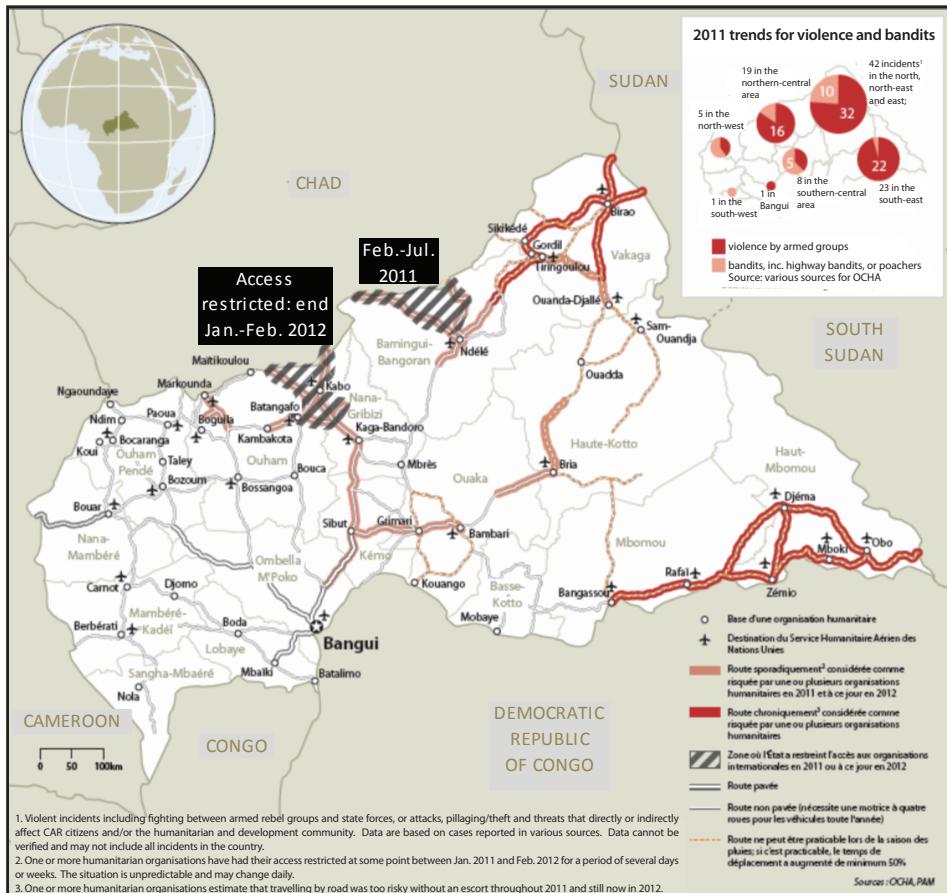
## PRIORITY INTERVENTION 3: Inter-disciplinary interventions

The bottlenecks selected for the inter-disciplinary intervention *C.1. repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas*, are as follows:

**C1.1. Difficulties in developing a programme for repairing roads in post-conflict zones due to the prevalence of insecurity (highway bandits, armed groups) and limited funding (*Supply of services*).**

The continuation of conflicts in certain parts of the country makes it difficult to deploy human and material resources to repair rural roads. As highlighted above, damage to roads, coupled with insecurity, negatively affects the production and marketing of food crops.

**MAP – HUMANITARIAN ACCESS IN THE CAR – OCHA, FEBRUARY 2012**



The borders and names shown on this map do not imply recognition or official acceptance by UN agencies. The official border between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Source for basic map: FAO GAUL, SIGCAF, UNC. For more information, visit <http://hdptcar.net>. Comments to info@hdptcar.net. Map drawn 28 Feb. 2012.

## Main restrictions for humanitarian access

### 1. Violence by armed groups

Five national rebel groups and two foreign rebel groups operate in the CAR. They fight each other as well as the two state forces in the CAR. In 2011, 74% of violent incidents were attributed to armed groups and state forces. In 2012 violence increased by 57% compared to the previous year. Most affected areas: north, north-east, east, south-east

Most affected populations: almost 95,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and families that host them

### 2. Bandits, inc. highway bandits, and poachers

Bandits are a chronic problem everywhere in the CAR, particularly along main roads where civilians and humanitarian workers are often the target of armed ambushes, thefts and sometimes hijacking. In 2011, 22% of violent incidents were attributed to thieves, highway bandits or poachers, and 43% of these were directed towards humanitarian organisations.

Most affected areas: north-west, north, north-east, east

Most affected populations: travelling tradesmen and those requiring humanitarian aid

### 3. State restrictions

An historic challenge for humanitarian organisations in the CAR took place between Jan. 2011 and Feb. 2012, when the state restricted access for international organisations for a period lasting several days or months.

Most affected areas: northern-central area and north

Most affected populations: more than 38,000 displaced persons and the families that host them

### 4. Mediocre infrastructure

More than 97% of roads in the CAR are unpaved and require 4-wheel-drive vehicles. The speed limit on the roads north of Kaga-Bandoro/Bossangoa/Bozoum and to the east of Bria is 40 km/h and some roads are impassable during the wet season. Air traffic is essential for reaching the most insecure and isolated areas. However, flights are often disrupted during the wet season due to heavy storms.

Most affected areas: areas with little economic appeal or opportunity, especially the far north-east, south-east and north-west

Most affected populations: those suffering from isolated poverty with no access to basic services and irregular aid

Furthermore, rural routes account for 63% of the country's road network. Of the 15,000 km of roads, 12,000 km have suffered 80% damage, and the rest are impassable. The PRSP II anticipates an annual repair rate of 1,200 km of rural roads by 2015, but the state budget only enables 10% of the cost to be covered.

Regarding *reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers* (Intervention C.2.), the bottlenecks are as follows:

#### C2.1. Poor capacity of producer organisations to work in a participative manner (*Use of services*):

It is noted in the PNIASA that "multiple groups and associations created under the impetus of support structures experience enormous difficulties in functioning and do not always have precise objectives. It is therefore important for them to be better structured, to function well and to take the lead in order to be truly professional and also be partners with other actors concerned with rural development and food safety". Two precise examples illustrate this option: (i) the Network of Maize Seed Producers (REPRO-SEM) has experienced functional difficulties due to a deficit in their ability to work independently. This group, created under the impetus of ICRA, is dependent on this Institute for the distribution of the seeds it produces and has found it difficult to identify its own buyers (absence of specific projects). (ii) The second example is the National Federation of Market Garden Producers, located in Bangui and Bouar. This federation faces the problem of financial autonomy arising from the weakness of its supply capacity. This is because problems in sharing production between members prevent the organisation from maintaining supplies, which has repercussion on its capital funds and financial autonomy (problem of logistics and cooperation).

To date there is no real example of a success story in terms of the good functioning of producer groups. Small-scale producers in particular are not able, through existing organisations, to express their needs and to participate in dialogue or make appeals in the drawing up and evaluation of development strategies or programmes.

### **C2.2. Difficulty for small groups in acquiring a legal status and formulating initiatives/projects (*Use of services*).**

Most producer organisations operate informally and have great need for structuration. Groups based on subsistence farmers, livestock farmers and NTFP farmers have difficulty setting themselves up to participate effectively in the development of their sectors. In their current situation, these organisations are not able to act as real dynamic and profitable businesses capable of diversifying their activities and contributing to the country's development.

The two main reasons that prevent groups from acquiring legal status are: (i) illiteracy: the majority of producers cannot read or write, even in their local language. It should be remembered that 44% of adults, 68% of these being women, are illiterate in the country, and 69% in rural areas (WHO CAR report, 2010). This low rate of literacy explains their lack of understanding of legal rules and procedures for creating and formalising producer groups and associations. (ii) The entry cost: the financial cost of creating a group (technical advice, registration, etc.) is on average 30,000 CFA francs (67 USD), not including transport costs related to the distance from the capital city, Bangui. This cost is often an obstacle to formalisation.

Regarding *reinforcing access to credit in rural areas* (Intervention C.3.), the bottlenecks are:

### **C.3.1 Difficulties in extending Microcredit Establishments throughout the country (*Offer of services*)**

The vastness of the Central African Republic and the difficulty in accessing certain zones due to insecurity and winter weather make it difficult for the process of providing Microfinance Establishment coverage to the country to be accomplished. The 2012 Evaluation Report of the PAE/SFI programme of the UNDP/UNCDF states that since the early 2000s there has been a considerable decrease in the sector due to repeated sociopolitical and military crises, which among other things lead to:

- the end of otherwise promising experiments at the end of the 1990s (VITA, CAVEC);
- the aging and expiration of programmes initiated by national NGOs;
- the abandoning of microfinance programmes related to development projects following the exit of a large number of backers such as the AFD, the World Bank, GTZ, etc.

Today the market is largely dominated by:

- the CMCA network (with 10 funds and 2 branches in Bangui), which is centralised in Bangui to speed up its financial autonomy;
- the Société Financière Africaine de Crédit, S.A (SOFIA CREDIT SA) with 2 branches in Bangui and 5 branches in the provinces;
- the Caisse Mutuelle des Cifadiennes de Centrafrique, with one branch in Bangui and one provincial branch;
- the Caisse d'Épargne et de Crédit (CEC) in Bozoum and the CEC in Kaga-Bandoro, which develop their activities in the provinces;
- NGOs with limited levels of professionalism, with microfinance operations representing a relatively small proportion of their activities.

The formal supply of financial products and services to low-income individuals or those with no access to the banking sector is basically provided by the MFEs (CMCA, SOFIA CREDIT SA, CMCC, CEC Bozoum, CEC Kaga-Bandoro, etc.). A recent study on the supply of and demand for financial services in the CAR<sup>38</sup> showed that, of the total number of credits received before the study was conducted, only about 7% were issued by the banking sector, with a slight difference between urban areas (7.9%) and rural areas (7.3%). Informal funds (community credit, friends, parents, shopkeepers, etc.) remain important sources of credit in both urban and rural settings. This source accounts for more than 60% of credits received in rural areas and more than 50% in urban areas.

### C.3.2. Lack of training and creditworthiness for demand (*Use of services*):

People who are victims of food insecurity in target areas do not possess the level of training and information required to apply for microcredit. Furthermore, they do not have the necessary training to make good use of funds and to respect repayment criteria.

#### AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESS<sup>39</sup>

*The rural town of Bozoum is situated in the north-west of the CAR, 384 km from the capital, Bangui. It is the chief town in the prefecture of Ouham-Pendé one of the regions most affected by recurring conflicts in the CAR.*

*The UNDP has supported the CEC-Bozoum mutual credit association in the region by setting up branches and offices in Bozoum and the towns of NGaoundaye, Kouï and Ndim. A total of 2,306 people enjoy the services offered by the branches and offices, including almost 500 women.*

*Those who benefit from the services of CEC-Bozoum have secured 32 million CFA francs in savings from the branches, i.e. approximately 64,000 USD. They have also received 28 million CFA francs in credit, or 56,000 USD. The credit that has been issued has promoted the development of activities that generate revenue for women individually or in associations, especially the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products.*

*The dynamism of rice producing groups has made it possible to install a rice farmer cooperative dedicated to providing processing and storage equipment for rice and a multi-functional platform accessible to women for the processing of agricultural products and the diversification of revenue sources.*

38. Post-Conflict Development Strategy for the Private Sector in the CAR, UNDP CAR, 2010

39. PAE/SFI Project Report, 2011

**TABLE 6: SUMMARY OF BOTTLENECKS AFFECTING KEY PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FOR ACCOMPLISHING TARGET 1C OF MDG1**

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS
<b>MDG 1:</b> ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY  <b>Target 1c:</b> Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products
<b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 1:</b> Intensification of subsistence farming (cassava, maize, peanut, sesame, sorghum, cowpea, rice, plantains), non-timber forest products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré)	A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage  A.3 Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) – and hunting products
<b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 2:</b> Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups	B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)  B.2. Developing school food programmes, particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)  B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes
<b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 3:</b> Inter-disciplinary interventions	C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas  C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers  C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas

BOTTLENECKS	BOTTLENECK CATEGORY
A.1.1 Poor physical and financial access for small producers to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, suitable packaging) and equipment for small-scale processing	Use of services – financial accessibility
A.1.2 Absence of energy sources in rural areas to support small-scale processing units for food crops	Supply of services
A.1.3 Absence of suitable mechanisms for managing the production/multiplication and distribution of improved seeds and the poor intervention capacity of seed control/certification services	Supply of services
A.2.1. Poor financial access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires and local veterinary services	Supply of services – Physical accessibility
A.2.2. Non-mastering of livestock fattening and production/processing techniques	Demand for services
A.2.3 Lack of safety for fattening activities	Supply of services & Use of services (Acceptability)
A.3.1 Lack of organisation in the NTFP sub-sector	Use of services
A.3.2 Lack of knowledge of techniques/technologies for the use/domestication of NTFPs	Demand for services
A.3.3 Non-respect of the Forest Code, the Wild Fauna Code and the Environmental Code	Use of services
B.1.1. Poor use of nutritional kits distributed by the Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OTNUs) by women living in extreme poverty	Use of services
B.1.2. Poor functioning and interventional capacity of the Nutrition Units located in healthcare centres or NGOs to implement a minimum package of nutritional activities	Supply of services
B.1.3. Weakness of resources (national and individual) for managing nutritional questions	Policies
B.2.1 Limited interest and involvement of pupils' parents and teachers in school canteen programmes	Use of services
B.2.2. Absence of a national school food programme and limited funding of school canteens in the state budget, especially in vulnerable areas	Funding
B.3.1. Insufficient coordination of interventions and monitoring of the situation of food and nutritional insecurity	Policies
B.3.2 Absence of an institutional mechanism for the prevention and management of catastrophes	Policies
C1.1. Difficulties in developing a programme for repairing roads in post-conflict zones due to the prevalence of insecurity (highway bandits, armed groups) and limited funding	Supply of services
C1.2 Poor funding for repair programmes for rural roads	Funding
C2.1. Poor capacity of producer organisations to work in a participative manner	Use of services
C2.2. Difficulty for small groups in acquiring a legal status and formulating initiatives/projects	Use of services
C3.1 Difficulties in extending Microcredit Establishments throughout the country	Supply of services
C3.2. Lack of training and creditworthiness for demand	Use of services

## CHAPITRE V

# SOLUTIONS D'ACCÉLÉRATION DES PROGRÈS VERS L'OMD 1C

*Photo: PNUD République Centrafricaine*



*To overcome the bottlenecks affecting the implementation of the priority interventions selected for the MAF and to accelerate progress towards accomplishing Target 1c of MDG 1, solutions have been identified that are based on initiatives that have been proven to work in the CAR and which can be extended and reinforced, as well as a certain number of international good practices. In accordance with the MAF methodology, these solutions have been evaluated from the perspective of their impact and in terms of their feasibility.*

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECK A.1.1:**

- 1. Providing input stores in areas with high levels of food insecurity**
- 2. Developing local equipment jobs for the manufacture of tools and technologies suitable for processing products**

To overcome the problem of physical and financial access to agricultural inputs, it will be necessary to facilitate access for small-scale producers to inputs by setting up input stores. These are an appropriate formula for situations in which there is limited access to fertilizers and seeds since they facilitate centralisation of agricultural supplies and the reduction of transport costs via a network. Furthermore, access to processing tools and technologies for products will be facilitated by the development of local equipment jobs and the promotion of local forge activities to improve the availability of suitable equipment.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECK A.1.2:**

- 1. Setting up multifunctional platforms to promote local processing of products in development hubs located in areas with high levels of food insecurity**
- 2. Promoting motive and solar energies for the functioning of multifunctional platforms**
- 3. Supporting women's groups to modernise drying techniques and the processing of food crops**

Apart from the availability of inputs and technologies, it is necessary to solve the problem of access to energy sources in order to promote the development of processing units for local products. For this, multifunctional platforms are planned in areas with significant food insecurity, and the use of alternative energy (especially solar energy) will be promoted. Multifunctional platforms have been developed with UNDP support in several countries in the sub-region, especially Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso, where, in view of their impact (particularly in terms of reducing poverty and making women more independent), their large-scale promotion is currently the subject of national programmes. Furthermore, particular emphasis will be put on supporting women's groups for the modernisation of drying techniques and the processing of local food crops.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECK A.1.3:**

- 1. Extending the technical capacities of the ICRA for the production, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds**
- 2. Promoting seed banks for improved seeds for food crops in areas most affected by food insecurity**
- 3. Setting up "crops for seed protection" programmes in areas with high levels of food insecurity during the non-harvest season**

Supporting the restoration of the basic ICRA production mechanism and the seed multiplier network is necessary to revive subsistence farming in the CAR. The plan is therefore to reinforce appeals so that sufficient resources are allocated to ICRA to restore and continue the production and distribution of improved seeds through additional material and non-material investments within the Institute. Regarding the use of seeds, the fundamental problem of food scarcity in the non-harvest season must urgently be addressed. This is because improved seeds are used as food by families due to the lack of food during non-harvest seasons.

To overcome this problem a distribution programme for "crops to protect seeds" is planned as part of the MAF in areas with significant food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré) during such periods. Particular emphasis will also be put on promoting seed banks for improved food crops in regions affected by food insecurity.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECK A.2.1:**

- 1. Setting up an assistance programme for specialised units to provide sires improved by the National Agency Livestock Development (PNIASA)**
- 2. Creating farms for the reproduction and multiplication of improved animal genetic material**
- 3. Reinforcing the technical and financial capacities of community veterinary services and setting up mobile private veterinary services**

As well as subsistence farming, small-scale livestock rearing is an important aspect of food security. There is therefore a plan to improve access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires by assisting specialised producers and creating breeds for genetic reproduction and multiplication in target areas. These actions are tested solutions, as shown by support from the FAO in providing improved sires in the short-cycle livestock system in development hubs that should enable 125,240 goats to be bred within 3 years for the benefit of 505 groups and 8,080 group members using a revolving system (projections of the project to reduce the impact of soaring prices – FAO).

It should be noted that, as part of the EU project, the selection criteria for development hubs are prefectures with:

- a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants,
- a very high poverty rate,
- particular emphasis on security in regions in the north-west.

The ten (10) development hubs currently selected based on these criteria are: 1. Bambari, 2. Bangassou, 3. Batangafo (including the satellite town of Kabo), 4. Bossangoa, 5. Bouar, 6. Bozoum, 7. Kaga-Bandoro, 8. Mobaye (including the satellite town of Alindao), 9. Paoua, 10. Sibut.

All these towns are located in MAF target zones: 6 are in areas of severe food insecurity and 4 are in areas of moderate food insecurity.

There is also a plan not only to reinforce local public veterinary services but also to put in place mobile private veterinary services. In particular this involves developing veterinary skills through training, facilitating the availability of medicines and stimulating private initiatives.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECKS A.2.2 AND A.2.3:**

- 1. Developing pilot projects for fattening animals using prolific species**
- 2. Supporting and developing small units for processing local livestock products**
- 3. Promoting a system of pens and organising farming activities for the monitoring and prevention of theft**
- 4. Supporting the production of alternative and additional local feeds to settle animals**

As well as access to inputs, securing activities and mastering fattening techniques are also important challenges for the development of small-scale livestock farming. There is a plan to develop pilot projects to reinforce fattening practices in prolific species, to promote processing activities, to develop the system of monitoring and securing cattle, and to develop local production of livestock feed.

## **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECKS A.3.1, A.3.2 AND A.3.3:**

- 1. Creating and reinforcing producer groups in the NTFP sub-sector**
- 2. Training and equipping actors in the sector (producers, ministry agents in charge of forests)**
- 3. Publicising techniques for using NTFPs**

More than 1 million people depend on non-timber forest products. This sub-sector is an important aspect of food security. This is why its use and management occupy an important place in the MAF. In particular it will involve organising the sub-sector by training actors (producers and forest guards) and publicising use and domestication techniques for NTFPs as food, and by developing the capacities of producer organisations. The publicising of production techniques and standards (particularly the Wild Fauna Code and the Forest Code) using awareness and training programmes, especially among women, will also be one of the priority interventions of the MAF.

## **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECKS B.1.1 TO B.1.3:**

- 1. Intensifying IEC and awareness campaigns for women about good practices for food and nutrition and the use of nutritional kits by extending the "crops for training" programme**
- 2. Setting up programme for community assistance and monitoring for nutrition with the identification and training of sponsors**
- 3. Experimenting with food with a high nutritional value that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits)**
- 4. Reinforcing the operational capacities of the TNUs/OTNUs in 13 prefectures by making available screening materials and tools for managing undernourished children**
- 5. Extending the range of TNUs and OTNUs in three (3) other prefectures that are not covered (post-conflict, mining)**
- 6. Training and recruiting 500 nutritionists and 200 healthcare agents to set up a minimum package and for the management of acute mal-**

**nutrition in vulnerable areas**

- 7. Promoting the establishment of community mutual health associations**
- 8. Implementing a policy for reduced/waived fees for the initial consultation for children under 5 years of age in vulnerable areas**
- 9. Supporting the development of AGRs to benefit poor and vulnerable households and setting up social safety nets for food and nutritional security**
- 10. Reinforcing appeals to national policy authorities for the allocation of sufficient resources for the management of nutrition**

The poor use of nutritional kits is often due to illiteracy and the lack of understanding of nutritional issues by women. It has a considerable negative impact on screening for and management of nutrition. This is why it is planned that these questions will be resolved through awareness campaigns and training sessions for women on good practices in terms of food and nutrition. Also, since the level of poverty is often an obstacle to motivation for training, encouragement will be given through the distribution of food crops to women on low incomes to give them the time to train. This will also involve developing community monitoring programmes for nutrition by training sponsors and experimenting with food with a high nutritional value that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits).

It will also involve supporting the implementation and reinforcement of Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and the training of healthcare agents and nutritionists to set up a minimum package and the management of acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas. Specific measures will also be put in place to facilitate access for poor households to healthcare services (waiving of fees for an initial consultation, development of activities that generate revenue, and a social safety nets).

To ensure the success of these measures, significant appeals will be made to the authorities to address nutritional questions as national priorities (especially by formulating and validating a national nutrition policy), to set aside more resources for these questions, and to better coordinate nutritional interventions.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECKS B2.1 AND B2.2:**

- 1. Organising awareness campaigns on the gradual involvement and use of programmes by communities**
- 2. Promoting the development of vegetable gardens and school fields and training teachers and parents to manage them**
- 3. Drawing up and implementing a suitable national strategy/policy for school food programmes**
- 4. Installing school canteens in areas with high levels of food and nutritional vulnerability**
- 5. Setting up a community-based finance mechanism for school canteens**

Regarding the development of school food programmes, the interest of pupils' parents and teachers will be sparked using training and awareness programmes for school canteens in order to extend them better to target areas, to develop a real national programme of school canteens, and to promote vegetable garden projects and school fields (which could help to supply canteens with vegetables).

#### **SOLUTIONS TO BOTTLENECKS B3.1 AND B3.2:**

- 1. Setting up multisectoral operational coordination for nutrition led by the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of partners**
- 2. Establishing a harmonised set of data and studies to accumulate all information on nutrition**
- 3. Transferring knowledge and training by the National Committee of the MAF, authorising it to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the MAF**
- 4. Setting up an institutional framework of responses to emergencies and catastrophes and**

**updating the Contingency Plan to better coordinate emergency interventions**

**5. Accelerating the institutionalisation of the Inter-Institutional Technical Group of the IPC, which makes it possible to evaluate the level of food insecurity in the country thanks to the collection and handling of data**

It should be remembered that catastrophes (natural or conflict-related) are a direct and fast-acting factor in malnutrition, especially when response actions are poorly coordinated or monitored. This is why it is necessary to reinforce the institutional provisions already in place, especially by strengthening the skills of ministries in charge of these matters so that they are able to draw up a real contingency plan, use effective tools to evaluate food insecurity and data collection and handling tools in emergency situations. In this respect, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which combines different indicators in order to establish a coherent and significant classification of food security situations and to provide an indication of the risks of aggravating the situation (warning), may lead to the improvement of intervention and decision-making strategies in terms of food security. Furthermore, emphasis will be put on building a set of data and studies that take into account the situation of women and other vulnerable groups. Moreover, action to reinforce skills will consist of transferring knowledge to the National Committee of the MAF, authorising it to coordinate the implementation and ensure monitoring of the MAF.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO INTER-DISCIPLINARY BOTTLENECKS C1.1 AND C1.2:**

- 1. Promoting the "crops for work" programme for work on rural roads in areas of insecurity**
- 2. Setting up an early recovery programme**
- 3. Accelerating the implementation of category II of the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads)**

One of the main axes of the PNIASA, the repair of infrastructure that opens up regions of the country, is a crucial condition for food security in target areas. It is difficult to achieve due to the prevalence of insecurity (armed groups) in conflict zones in the north and centre where the state must first consolidate its presence. In this context, the plan is to pursue early recovery programmes and also to set up "crops for work" programmes for repairing rural roads. The implementation of Category II projects for the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads) must also promote the opening up of the country, while removing financial constraints.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO INTER-DISCIPLINARY BOTTLENECKS C2.1 AND C2.2:**

- 1. Extending training on organisational and participative management techniques for POs in MAF target areas**
- 2. Reinforcing the material and technical capacities of POs**
- 3. Setting up an awareness and training programme for POs/small-scale producers in terms of legal texts related to obtaining agreements/registration procedures**
- 4. Developing an approach based on local advisors**

An important factor in achieving food security is also to develop the organisational capacities of groups of small producers/farmers. Their structuration and the development of their capacities to make appeals through training sessions will enable these groups to negotiate support that is targeted to their various members. This support can also be more efficient thanks to the experience of local advisors who can be deployed at production sites in order to provide technical assistance to producers/farmers. Action to strengthen these capacities and for structuration (especially for cereal and vegetable production) is also planned.

#### **SOLUTIONS TO INTER-DISCIPLINARY**

#### **BOTTLENECKS C3.1 AND C3.2:**

- 1. Supporting the expansion of mutual credit associations in rural areas by establishing mutual guarantee funds**
- 2. Establishing a revolving credit fund to support the supply of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, improved sires, etc.)**
- 3. Prioritising the funding of small-scale livestock farming as part of the Agro-Pastoral Development Fund (FDAP)**
- 4. Setting up a support fund for processing agricultural products in partnership with the IMF and mutual associations present in rural areas**
- 5. Setting up a national framework programme for small-scale producers and farmers and developing economic initiatives, particularly for women in target areas**

Another inter-disciplinary and essential question for food security is access to funding. Small-scale producers and farmers are faced with serious financial difficulties in obtaining improved seeds and sires, and processing tools and technologies. The plan is to continue to set up Microfinance Establishments in the Central Africa Republic, particularly in target areas. This will also involve appeals for the creation of a revolving credit fund to provide access for small-scale producers/farmers to inputs as well as a support fund for the processing of local products. These funds will be held in mutual credit institutions and will help to support target populations. From the perspective of demand, it is planned that a national programme will be set up to provide technical support to small-scale producers/farmers and to develop economic initiatives in target areas.

**TABLE 7 : SUMMARY OF SOLUTIONS FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET 1C OF MDG 1**

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
<b>MDG 1:</b> <b>ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY</b>  <b>Target 1c:</b> Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger  <b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 1:</b> Intensification of subsistence farming (cassava, maize, peanut, sesame, sorghum, cowpea, rice, plantains), non-timber forest products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémo, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré)	A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products	A.1.1 Poor physical and financial access for small producers to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, suitable packaging) and equipment for small-scale processing (Use of services – financial accessibility).  A.1.2 Absence of energy sources in rural areas to support small-scale processing units for food crops (Supply of services)
	A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage	A.1.3 Absence of suitable mechanisms for managing the production/multiplication and distribution of improved seeds and the poor intervention capacity of seed control/certification services
		A.2.1. Poor financial access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires and local veterinary services (Supply of services – Physical accessibility)  A.2.2. Non-mastering of livestock fattening and production/processing techniques (Demand for services).  A.2.3 Lack of safety for fattening activities (Supply of services & Use of services (Acceptability))

SOLUTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
A.1.1.1 Providing input stores in areas with high levels of food insecurity	FAO WFP NGO
A.1.1.2 Developing local equipment jobs for the manufacture of tools and technologies suitable for processing products	COOPI NGO
A.1.2.1 Setting up multifunctional platforms to promote local processing of products in development hubs located in areas with high levels of food insecurity	FAO NGO
A.1.2.2 Promoting motive and solar energies for the functioning of multifunctional platforms	FAO NGO
A.1.2.3 Supporting women's groups to modernise drying techniques and the processing of food crops	FAO UNFPA NGO
A.1.3.1. Extending the technical capacities of the ICRA for the production, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds	Government FAO, IFAD NGO, OPAR
A.1.3.2. Promoting seed banks for improved seeds for food crops in areas most affected by food insecurity	FAO WFP ADB
A.1.3.3. Setting up "crops for seed protection" programmes in areas with high levels of food insecurity during the non-harvest season	FAO WFP NGO
A.2.1.1 Setting up an assistance programme for specialised units to provide sires improved by the National Agency Livestock Development (PNIASA)	MADR FAO, IFAD NGO
A.2.1.2 Creating farms for the reproduction and multiplication of improved animal genetic material	MADR FAO, IFAD NGO
A.2.1.3 Reinforcing the technical and financial capacities of community veterinary services and setting up mobile private veterinary services	MADR FAO IFAD World Bank ADB, AU
A.2.2.1 Developing pilot projects for fattening animals using prolific species	MADR, FAO, NGO
A.2.2.2 Supporting and developing small units for processing local livestock products	MADR FAO
A.2.3.1 Promoting a system of pens and organising farming activities for the monitoring and prevention of theft	MADR FAO, NGO
A.2.3.2 Supporting the production of alternative and additional local feeds to settle animals	MADR FAO

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
	A.3 Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) – and hunting products	<p><b>A.3.1 Lack of organisation in the NTFP sub-sector</b></p> <p><b>A.3.2 Lack of knowledge of techniques/technologies for the use/domestication of NTFPs</b></p> <p><b>A.3.3 Non-respect of the Forest Code, the Wild Fauna Code and the Environmental Code</b></p>
<b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 2:</b> <b>Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups</b>	B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)	<p><b>B.1.1. Poor use of nutritional kits distributed by the Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OTNUs) by women living in extreme poverty (Use of services)</b></p> <p><b>B1.2. Poor functioning and interventional capacity of the Nutrition Units located in healthcare centres or NGOs to implement a minimum package of nutritional activities (Supply of services)</b></p> <p><b>B1.3. Weakness of resources (national and individual) for managing nutritional questions (Policies)</b></p>

SOLUTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
A.3.1.1 Creating and reinforcing producer groups in the NTFP sub-sector	MADR, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.2.1 Training and equipping actors in the sector (producers, ministry agents in charge of forests)	MADR, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.2.2 Publicising techniques for using NTFPs	Australia, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.3.1 Training and deploying forest guards, especially in MAF target areas	World Bank Australia, NGO
A.3.3.2 Making NTFP users aware of the advantages of the Forest Code and the Wild Fauna Code	MADR, FAO NGO
A.3.3.3 Extending the training programme for women leaders in other MAF target areas	MADR, FAO UNICEF UNESCO
B.1.1.1 Intensifying IEC and awareness campaigns for women about good practices for food and nutrition and the use of nutritional kits by extending the "crops for training" programme	MAS, MS FAO, WFP UNICEF, NGO
B.1.1.2 Setting up programme for community assistance and monitoring for nutrition with the identification and training of sponsors	MS, Community Health Dept, UNICEF, NGO
B.1.1.3 Experimenting with food with a high nutritional value that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits)	MADR, MS ICRA, FAO WFP, Private sector
B.1.2.1 Reinforcing the operational capacities of the TNUs/OTNUs in 13 prefectures by making available screening materials and tools for managing undernourished children	Community Health Dept., FAO UNFPA, UNICEF, NGO
B.1.2.2 Extending the range of TNUs and OTNUs in three (3) other prefectures that are not covered (post-conflict, mining)	Community Health Dept., WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF
B.1.2.3 Training and recruiting 500 nutritionists and 200 healthcare agents to set up a minimum package and for the management of acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas	Community Health Dept., NGO, UNFPA UNICEF, WFP
B.1.3.1. Promoting the establishment of community mutual health associations	MS, MAS, UNICEF UNFPA, NGO
B.1.3.2 Implementing a policy for reduced/waived fees for the initial consultation for children under 5 years of age in vulnerable areas	MS, MAS, Min. Finance, UNICEF, UNFPA, NGO
B.1.3.3 Supporting the development of AGRs to benefit poor and vulnerable households and setting up social safety nets for food and nutritional security	MADR, MS, MAS UNICEF, UNFPA FAO, WFP NGO
B.1.3.4 Reinforcing appeals to national policy authorities for the allocation of sufficient resources for the management of nutrition	Natl. Assembly, MS Min. Finance, EU

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
	B.2. Developing school food programmes , particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)	<p><b>B.2.1 Limited interest and involvement of pupils' parents and teachers in school canteen programmes (Use of services)</b></p> <p><b>B2.2. Absence of a national school food programme and limited funding of school canteens in the state budget, especially in vulnerable areas (Funding)</b></p>
	B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes	<p><b>B.3.1. Insufficient coordination of interventions and monitoring of the situation of food and nutritional insecurity (Policies)</b></p> <p><b>B.3.2 Absence of an institutional mechanism for the prevention and management of catastrophes</b></p>

SOLUTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
B.2.1.1 Organising awareness campaigns on the gradual involvement and use of programmes by communities	Min. Educ., MS UNICEF, WFP UNHCR, UNFPA NGO
B.2.1.2 Promoting the development of vegetable gardens and school fields and training teachers and parents to manage them	Min. Educ., MADR FAO, WFP IFAD, NGO
B.2.2.1 Drawing up and implementing a suitable national strategy/policy for school food programmes	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.2.2.2 Installing school canteens in areas with high levels of food and nutritional vulnerability	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.2.2.3 Setting up a community-based finance mechanism for school canteens	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.3.1.1 Setting up multisectoral operational coordination for nutrition led by the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of partners	MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF, UNFPA
B.3.1.2 Establishing a harmonised set of data and studies to accumulate all information on nutrition	MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF, UNFPA
B.3.1.3 Transferring knowledge and training by the National Committee of the MAF, authorising it to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the MAF	MADR, Min. Econ. and Plan., UNDP, FAO
B.3.2.1 Setting up an institutional framework of responses to emergencies and catastrophes and updating the Contingency Plan to better coordinate emergency interventions	Prime Min./ Gov. UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNHCR FAO, UNDP, NGO
B.3.2.2 Accelerating the institutionalisation of the Inter-Institutional Technical Group of the IPC, which makes it possible to evaluate the level of food insecurity in the country thanks to the collection and handling of data	MADR, Min. Econ. and Plan., MAS Min. Hydraul. Min. Interior WFP, FAO UNICEF UNFPA

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
<b>PRIORITY</b> <b>INTERVENTION 3: Inter-disciplinary interventions</b>	C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas	<p><b>C1.1. Difficulties in developing a programme for repairing roads in post-conflict zones due to the prevalence of insecurity (highway bandits, armed groups) and limited funding (Supply of services)</b></p> <p><b>C1.2 Poor funding for repair programmes for rural roads</b></p>
	C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers	<p><b>C2.1. Poor capacity of producer organisations to work in a participative manner (Use of services)</b></p> <p><b>C2.2. Difficulty for small groups in acquiring a legal status and formulating initiatives/projects (Use of services)</b></p>
	C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas	<p><b>C.3.1 Difficulties in extending Microcredit Establishments throughout the country (Supply of services)</b></p> <p><b>C.3.2. Lack of training and creditworthiness for demand (Use of services)</b></p>

SOLUTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
C.1.1.1 Promoting the “crops for work” programme for work on rural roads in areas of insecurity	Gov. , BINUCA FAO, WFP, UNDP
C.1.1.2 Setting up an early recovery programme	Gov. , UNDP, FAO WFP, UNFPA, NGO
C.1.2.1 Accelerating the implementation of category II of the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads)	MADR, Min. Trade UNDP, UNCTAD Reinf. Integr. Frmwk.
C.2.1.1 Extending training on organisational and participative management techniques for POs in MAF target areas	MADR, FAO World Bank IFAD
C.2.1.2 Reinforcing the material and technical capacities of POs	MADR FAO
C.2.3.1 Setting up an awareness and training programme for POs/small-scale producers in terms of legal texts related to obtaining agreements/registration procedures	Gov. FAO
C.2.3.2 Developing an approach based on local advisors	MADR, FAO, NGO
C.3.1.1 Supporting the expansion of mutual credit associations in rural areas by establishing mutual guarantee funds	Min. Fin., MADR UNDP, UNCDF AFDB, World Bank NGO
C.3.1.2 Establishing a revolving credit fund to support the supply of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, improved sires, etc.)	MADR, UNDP UNCDF, ADBF FAO, NGO
C.3.1.3 Prioritising the funding of small-scale livestock farming as part of the Agro-Pastoral Development Fund (FDAP)	UNDP, UNCDF ADB, FAO World Bank
C.3.1.4 Setting up a support fund for processing agricultural products in partnership with the IMF and mutual associations present in rural areas	Min. Fin. , MADR UNDP, UNCDF ADB World Bank NGO
C.3.2.1 Setting up a national framework programme for small-scale producers and farmers and developing economic initiatives, particularly for women in target areas	MADR, UNDP UNCDF, IFAD ADB

## CHAPTER VI

# MDG 1C ACCELERATION PLAN: BUILDING A COMPACT

*Photo: PNUD République Centrafricaine*



## 6.1: MDG 1C ACCELERATION PLAN

In June 2011 the Central African Republic finalised its second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and organised a Donors' Round Table in Brussels.

It was shown that there are many opportunities to build partnerships around the strategic axes of the PRSP II. In terms of agriculture, a central pillar of the PRSP II, many partners have already shown that they are prepared to provide support, even to build a pact around the programme, particularly in the fight against food insecurity. The structure of the MAF makes it possible to arouse and obtain the commitment of a large number of CAR partners to MDG 1c, as demonstrated by the UN System initiatives in the CAR, which included in its UNDAF+ (2012-2016) support for the MDG acceleration framework as one of the priorities of its cooperation axis "Promoting Sustainable Development".

To establish this Acceleration Plan, it has proceeded to:

- identify actions required to make each of the selected solutions operational in order to overcome bottlenecks in implementing a priority intervention;
- evaluate the estimated costs and implementation periods of these actions;
- define the methods of implementing the Acceleration Plan (especially indications of the institutional framework, the operational framework and the monitoring and evaluation system for the Acceleration Plan);
- identify partners to be developed in order to mobilise resources.

### Evaluation of the estimated costs of the selected acceleration solutions and net funding requirements

The method of estimating the costs of MAF solutions is based on the process of costing and on figures from PNIASA interventions. It is stated that: "*The government expects, during the period 2011-2015, to use 20% more resources in terms of investment in the agricultural sector, i.e. almost 155 billion CFA francs, and 30% in infrastructure, including rural development, i.e. almost 232.5 billion CFA francs. The initial commitments of certain financial partners in providing their support to the rural sector are estimated at 76.7 billion CFA francs*"<sup>40</sup>. The table below shows the predicted costs of PNIASA sub-programmes, which are used as the basis for estimating the costs of MAF solutions.

**TABLE 8:****SUMMARY OF PNIASA FUNDING PLAN**

PROGRAMMES	TOTAL COST (MILLIONS OF CFA FRANCS)		FUNDING OBTAINED FROM		GAP
			STATE	BACKERS	
1. Development of plant sector	Sub-programme 1	32 120		10 300	21 820
	Sub-programme 2	32 192			32 192
	Sub-programme 3	17 750			17 750
2. Development of animal sector	Sub-programme 1	19 500	0	1 000	18 500
	Sub-programme 2	15 390		3 000	12 390
	Sub-programme 3	8 255		600	7 655
3. Improvement of research and publicising services and reinforcement of organisation capacities	Sub-programme 1	16 221	130	620	15 471
	Sub-programme 2	7 693			7 693
	Sub-programme 3	3 538			3 538
4. Reinforcement of local groups, basic community infrastructure, and natural resource management	Sub-programme 1	3 303	0	1647	1 656
	Sub-programme 2	35 935	0	21 303	14 632
	Sub-programme 3	1 884	0	0	1 884
	Sub-programme 4	5 190	0	290	4 900
5. Management of the population's nutritional situation	Sub-programme 1	2 020	500	1 000	520
6. Institutional reinforcement and sector communication	Sub-programme 1	5 435	0	0	5 435
	Sub-programme 2	10 840	0	3 300	7 540
	Sub-programme 3	2 700	0	840	1 860
	Sub-programme 4	2 455	0	0	2 455
	Sub-programme 5	2 020	0	1 190	830



The MDG 1C Acceleration Plan below shows the various costed MAF activities. It should be noted that resources are included as an indication according to information received to date:

**TABLE 9: MDG 1C ACCELERATION PLAN**

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
<b>MDG 1:</b> <b>ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY</b>  <b>Target 1c:</b> <i>Between 1990 and 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</i>  <b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 1:</b> Intensification of subsistence farming (cassava, maize, peanut, sesame, sorghum, cowpea, rice, plantains), non-timber forest products as food, hunting products and small-scale livestock products, mainly in areas with high food insecurity (Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Ouaka, Kémou, Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaeré)	<b>A.1. Improving access for small-scale producers to production factors: inputs, equipment and technologies for storing and processing products</b>	<b>A.1.1 Poor physical and financial access for small producers to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, suitable packaging) and equipment for small-scale processing (Use of services – financial accessibility).</b>  <b>A.1.2 Absence of energy sources in rural areas to support small-scale processing units for food crops (Supply of services)</b>  <b>A.1.3 Absence of suitable mechanisms for managing the production/multiplication and distribution of improved seeds and the poor intervention capacity of seed control/certification services (Supply of services)</b>

SOLUTIONS	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions of CFA francs)	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
A.1.1.1 Providing input stores in areas with high levels of food insecurity	8 000	FAO WFP NGO
A.1.1.2 Developing local equipment jobs for the manufacture of tools and technologies suitable for processing products	5 000	COOPI NGO
A.1.2.1 Setting up multifunctional platforms to promote local processing of products in development hubs located in areas with high levels of food insecurity	4 000	FAO NGO
A.1.2.2 Promoting motive and solar energies for the functioning of multifunctional platforms	5 000	FAO NGO
A.1.2.3 Supporting women's groups to modernise drying techniques and the processing of food crops	5 000	FAO UNFPA NGO
A.1.3.1. Extending the technical capacities of the ICRA for the production, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds	6 000	Government FAO, IFAD NGO, OPAR
A.1.3.2. Promoting seed banks for improved seeds for food crops in areas most affected by food insecurity	6 000	FAO WFP ADB
A.1.3.3. Setting up "crops for seed protection" programmes in areas with high levels of food insecurity during the non-harvest season	3 000	FAO WFP NGO

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
	<p>A.2. Developing the practice of fattening small-scale livestock by improving access for farmers to prolific breeds, inputs and health coverage</p>	<p>A.2.1. Poor financial access for small-scale livestock farmers to improved sires and local veterinary services (Supply of services – Physical accessibility)</p> <p>A.2.2. Non-mastering of livestock fattening and production/processing techniques (Demand for services)</p> <p>A.2.3 Lack of safety for fattening activities (Supply of services &amp; Use of services (Acceptability))</p>
	<p>A.3 Using and sustainably managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) – gnetum and pepper (south-east, south-west); shea butter (north); mushrooms (whole country); caterpillars (south and north); honey (whole country) – and hunting products</p>	<p>A.3.1 Lack of organisation in the NTFP sub-sector (Demand for services)</p> <p>A.3.2 Lack of knowledge of techniques/technologies for the use/domestication of NTFPs (Demand for services)</p> <p>A.3.3 Non-respect of the Forest Code, the Wild Fauna Code and the Environmental Code (Demand for services)</p>

SOLUTIONS	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions of CFA francs)	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
A.2.1.1 Setting up an assistance programme for specialised units to provide sires improved by the National Agency Livestock Development (PNIASA)	5 000	MADR, FAO IFAD NGO
A.2.1.2 Creating farms for the reproduction and multiplication of improved animal genetic material	5 000	MADR, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.2.1.3 Reinforcing the technical and financial capacities of community veterinary services and setting up mobile private veterinary services	3 000	MADR, FAO IFAD, World Bank ADB AU
A.2.2.1 Developing pilot projects for fattening animals using prolific species	2 000	MADR, FAO NGO
A.2.2.2 Supporting and developing small units for processing local livestock products	6 000	MADR FAO
A.2.3.1 Promoting a system of pens and organising farming activities for the monitoring and prevention of theft	2 000	MADR FAO NGO
A.2.3.2 Supporting the production of alternative and additional local feeds to settle animals	2 000	MADR FAO
A.3.1.1 Creating and reinforcing producer groups in the NTFP sub-sector	5 000	MADR, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.2.1 Training and equipping actors in the sector (producers, ministry agents in charge of forests)	2 000	MADR, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.2.2 Publicising techniques for using NTFPs	1 000	Australia, FAO IFAD, NGO
A.3.3.1 Training and deploying forest guards, especially in MAF target areas	1 000	World Bank Australia, NGO
A.3.3.2 Making NTFP users aware of the advantages of the Forest Code and the Wild Fauna Code	500	MADR FAO NGO
A.3.3.3 Extending the training programme for women leaders in other MAF target areas	2 000	MADR FAO UNICEF UNESCO

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
<b>PRIORITY INTERVENTION 2:</b> Reinforcement of access to food, nutritional interventions and a safety net for vulnerable groups	B.1. Reinforcing the screening for and management of acute, moderate and chronic malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups (women, especially pregnant women, children and those who live in a state of food insecurity)	<p>B.1.1. Poor use of nutritional kits distributed by the Therapeutic Nutrition Units (TNUs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Nutrition Units (OTNUs) by women living in extreme poverty (Use of services)</p> <p>B1.2. Poor functioning and interventional capacity of the Nutrition Units located in healthcare centres or NGOs to implement a minimum package of nutritional activities (Supply of services)</p> <p>B1.3. Weakness of resources (national and individual) for managing nutritional questions (Policies)</p>

SOLUTIONS	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions of CFA francs)	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
B.1.1.1 Intensifying IEC and awareness campaigns for women about good practices for food and nutrition and the use of nutritional kits by extending the "crops for training" programme	200	MAS, MS FAO WFP UNICEF NGO
B.1.1.2 Setting up programme for community assistance and monitoring for nutrition with the identification and training of sponsors	100	MS Community Health Dept. UNICEF, NGO
B.1.1.3 Experimenting with food with a high nutritional value that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits)	100	MADR, MS ICRA, FAO WFP Private sector
B.1.2.1 Reinforcing the operational capacities of the TNUs/OTNUs in 13 prefectures by making available screening materials and tools for managing undernourished children	300	Community Health Dept., FAO UNFPA, UNICEF NGO
B.1.2.2 Extending the range of TNUs and OTNUs in three (3) other prefectures that are not covered (post-conflict, mining)	200	Community Health Dept., WFP UNFPA, UNICEF
B.1.2.3 Training and recruiting 500 nutritionists and 200 healthcare agents to set up a minimum package and for the management of acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas	100	Community Health Dept. NGO UNFPA UNICEF, WFP
B.1.3.1. Promoting the establishment of community mutual health associations	100	MS, MAS, UNICEF UNFPA NGO
B.1.3.2 Implementing a policy for reduced/waived fees for the initial consultation for children under 5 years of age in vulnerable areas	120	MS, MAS, Min. Fin. UNICEF UNFPA NGO
B.1.3.3 Supporting the development of AGRs to benefit poor and vulnerable households and setting up social safety nets for food and nutritional security	200	MADR, MS, MAS, UNICEF, UNFPA FAO, WFP NGO
B.1.3.4 Reinforcing appeals to national policy authorities for the allocation of sufficient resources for the management of nutrition	100	Natl. Assembly MS, Min. Fin. EU

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
	<p>B.2. Developing school food programmes , particularly in vulnerable areas (post-conflict, mining)</p>	<p>B.2.1 Limited interest and involvement of pupils' parents and teachers in school canteen programmes (Use of services)</p> <p>B2.2. Absence of a national school food programme and limited funding of school canteens in the state budget, especially in vulnerable areas (Funding)</p>
	<p>B.3. Reinforcing the monitoring, prevention and management system for food crises and natural catastrophes</p>	<p>B.3.1. Insufficient coordination of interventions and monitoring of the situation of food and nutritional insecurity (Policies)</p> <p>B.3.2 Absence of an institutional mechanism for the prevention and management of catastrophes (Demand for services)</p>

SOLUTIONS	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions of CFA francs)	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
B.2.1.1 Organising awareness campaigns on the gradual involvement and use of programmes by communities	100	Min. Educ., MS UNICEF, WFP UNHCR, UNFPA NGO
B.2.1.2 Promoting the development of vegetable gardens and school fields and training teachers and parents to manage them	100	Min. Educ., MADR FAO, WFP IFAD, NGO
B.2.2.1 Drawing up and implementing a suitable national strategy/policy for school food programmes	100	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.2.2.2 Installing school canteens in areas with high levels of food and nutritional vulnerability	100	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.2.2.3 Setting up a community-based finance mechanism for school canteens	100	Min. Educ. MS UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNESCO NGO
B.3.1.1 Setting up multisectoral operational coordination for nutrition led by the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of partners	2 000	MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF, UNFPA
B.3.1.2 Establishing a harmonised set of data and studies to accumulate all information on nutrition	1 000	MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF, UNFPA
B.3.1.3 Transferring knowledge and training by the National Committee of the MAF, authorising it to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the MAF	2 000	MADR, Min. Econ. and Plan. UNDP, FAO
B.3.2.1 Setting up an institutional framework of responses to emergencies and catastrophes and updating the Contingency Plan to better coordinate emergency interventions	1 000	Prime Min./ Gov. UNICEF, UNFPA WFP, UNHCR FAO, UNDP, NGO
B.3.2.2 Accelerating the institutionalisation of the Inter-Institutional Technical Group of the IPC, which makes it possible to evaluate the level of food insecurity in the country thanks to the collection and handling of data	1 000	MADR, Min. Econ. and Plan., MAS Min. Hydraul. Min. Interior WFP FAO UNICEF UNFPA

MDG TARGET	INTERVENTIONS	BOTTLENECKS
PRIORITY INTERVENTION 3: Inter-disciplinary interventions	C.1. Repairing and building roads to open up production zones and deprived areas	<p>C1.1. Difficulties in developing a programme for repairing roads in post-conflict zones due to the prevalence of insecurity (highway bandits, armed groups) and limited funding (Supply of services)</p> <p>C1.2 Poor funding for repair programmes for rural roads (Funding)</p>
	C.2 Reinforcing producer organisations (POs) – agricultural and livestock farmers	<p>C2.1. Poor capacity of producer organisations to work in a participative manner (Use of services)</p> <p>C2.2. Difficulty for small groups in acquiring a legal status and formulating initiatives/projects (Use of services)</p>
	C.3 Reinforcing access to credit in rural areas	<p>C.3.1 Difficulties in extending Microcredit Establishments throughout the country (Supply of services)</p> <p>C.3.2. Lack of training and creditworthiness for demand (Use of services)</p>

SOLUTIONS	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions of CFA francs)	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
C.1.1.1 Promoting the “crops for work” programme for work on rural roads in areas of insecurity	2 000	Gov. , BINUCA FAO, WFP UNDP
C.1.1.2 Setting up an early recovery programme	5 000	Gov. , UNDP, FAO WFP, UNFPA, NGO
C.1.2.1 Accelerating the implementation of category II of the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads)	7 000	MADR, Min. Trade UNDP, UNCTAD Reinf. Integr. Frmwk.
C.2.1.1 Extending training on organisational and participative management techniques for POs in MAF target areas	4 000	MADR, FAO World Bank IFAD
C.2.1.2 Reinforcing the material and technical capacities of POs	5 000	MADR FAO
C.2.3.1 Setting up an awareness and training programme for POs/small-scale producers in terms of legal texts related to obtaining agreements/registration procedures	2 000	Gov. FAO
C.2.3.2 Developing an approach based on local advisors	3 000	MADR, FAO NGO
C.3.1.1 Supporting the expansion of mutual credit associations in rural areas by establishing mutual guarantee funds	2 000	Min. Fin. , MADR UNDP, UNCDF ADBF World Bank NGO
C.3.1.2 Establishing a revolving credit fund to support the supply of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, improved sires, etc.)	5 000	MADR , UNDP UNCDF, ADBF FAO, NGO
C.3.1.3 Prioritising the funding of small-scale livestock farming as part of the Agro-Pastoral Development Fund (FDAP)	3 000	UNDP, UNCDF ADBF, FAO World Bank
C.3.1.4 Setting up a support fund for processing agricultural products in partnership with the IMF and mutual associations present in rural areas	3 000	Min. Fin. , MADR UNDP, UNCDF ADBF World Bank NGO
C.3.2.1 Setting up a national framework programme for small-scale producers and farmers and developing economic initiatives, particularly for women in target areas	4 000	MADR UNDP UNCDF IFAD ADB

## 6.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PLAN

Implementation of the MDG 1C Acceleration is placed under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, who ensures the coordination of actions. Harmonisation of MAF support procedures between various partners will be an essential factor for success in implementing the recommended solutions.

The success of implementing the MDG 1C Acceleration Plan depends on a certain number of key factors:

### 1. Political commitment:

Political commitment at the highest state level must be ensured throughout the entire MAF implementation period. This mean integration of the MAF as one of the government's top priorities, a considerable proportion of the state budget allocated for financing the MAF, and piloting the coordination of interventions.

### 2. Coordination of backers:

The coordination of MAF support partners is a condition sine non qua for effective implementation of the MAF. This involves setting up a consultation framework with PTFs concerning the MAF and ensuring dialogue between the National Committee of the MAF and the group of PTFs.

### 3. Monitoring and evaluation of PRSP II:

The entire process of implementing the MAF cannot be achieved if the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the PRSP II do not function properly. The effective functioning of three (3) different sub-systems of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the PRSP II (surveys, programme evaluation and impact evaluation) will have an effect on the success of implementing the MAF.

### *The mechanism:*

The priorities contained in the MDG 1C Acceleration Plan are perfectly aligned with the PNIASA, and its implementation will therefore rely on the PNIASA monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which is itself linked to the PRSP II monitoring provision. This is a common mechanism established between the Central African Republic and the development partners, and respects the principles of the Declaration of Paris. Technical piloting of the PNIASA is ensured by a National Orientation and Piloting Committee (NOPC), chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and containing representatives of the partner ministries as well as partners who are signatories of the National Partnership Pact of the CAADP/NEPAD. The NOPC has a Technical Monitoring Committee (CTS), which corresponds to the sectoral Technical Committee of the PRSP II mechanism. This pattern makes it possible to align the piloting and monitoring mechanism of the PNIASA with that of the PRSP II.

A National Piloting and Monitoring Committee for the MAF composed of technical experts will support the *National Orientation and Piloting Committee* (NOPC), which is responsible for ensuring the strategic management of the PNIASA and the SDRASA, as well as technical experts who will work within the *Technical Monitoring Committee* (CTS), which is in charge of the operational management of the PNIASA.

An important role in monitoring the implementation of the MAF will therefore also be given to the Minister of State for Planning and the Economy, especially in terms of providing annual progress reports between now and 2015.

The agencies of the United Nations System and other PTFs will play an important role in implementing acceleration solutions. As already contained in inter-disciplinary intervention C.4, the UNDP and

FAO will have a special role in reinforcing national piloting and monitoring capacities for the MAF.

The MAF communication strategy is based above all on appeals made to national and international

partners. The social networks of civil society will also be used to reach citizens in target areas and spread awareness. Other means of communication, such as a website and the media, will be used.

**TABLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PLAN**

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Providing input stores in areas with high levels of food insecurity <i>Indicator: 100 additional input stores by 2015</i> <i>Baseline: 80 stores</i>					FAO WFP NGO
Developing local equipment jobs for the manufacture of tools and technologies suitable for processing products <i>Indicator: 30 supported, active equipment supplies, of whom 50% are women</i>					COOPI NGO
Setting up multifunctional platforms to promote local processing of products in development hubs located in areas with high levels of food insecurity <i>Indicator: 50 multifunctional platforms set up by 2015, of which at least 70% are run by women</i> <i>Baseline: 23 processing units</i>					FAO NGO
Promoting motive and solar energies for the functioning of multifunctional platforms <i>Indicator: 80% of platforms using renewable energy</i>					FAO NGO
Supporting women's groups to modernise drying techniques and the processing of food crops					FAO UNFPA NGO
Indicator: 10 women's groups per year per target area Extending the technical capacities of the ICRA for the production, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds <i>Indicator: At least 400 tonnes of seed per year produced by the ICRA</i> <i>Baseline: 200 tonnes</i>					Government FAO IFAD NGO OPAR
Promoting seed banks for improved seeds for food crops in areas most affected by food insecurity <i>Indicator: At least one seed bank per target area</i> <i>Baseline: 0</i>					FAO WFP ADB
Setting up "crops for seed protection" programmes in areas with high levels of food insecurity during the non-harvest season <i>Indicator: Seed saving rate of 95% per year</i>					FAO WFP NGO

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Setting up an assistance programme for specialised units to provide sires improved by the National Agency Livestock Development (PNIASA) <i>Indicator: National programme in operation</i>					MADR FAO IFAD NGO
Creating farms for the reproduction and multiplication of improved animal genetic material <i>Indicator: At least 5 pilot tests for multiplying improved sires in target areas</i>					MADR FAO IFAD NGO
Reinforcing the technical and financial capacities of community veterinary services and setting up mobile private veterinary services <i>Indicator: 100 supported veterinary agents to provide local services in target areas, including at least 40 women</i> <i>Baseline: 71 veterinary agents</i>					MADR FAO IFAD World Bank ADB AU
Developing pilot projects for fattening animals using prolific species <i>Indicator: 5 pilot projects per target area, including 3 for women</i>					MADR FAO NGO
Supporting and developing small units for processing local livestock products <i>Indicator: 2 processing units per target area, including at least 1 for women</i>					MADR FAO
Promoting a system of pens and organising farming activities for the monitoring and prevention of theft <i>Indicator: Pen system functional in at least 80% of target areas</i>					MADR FAO NGO
Supporting the production of alternative and additional local feeds to settle animals <i>Indicator: At least 1 manufacturing unit per target area, of which 50% benefit women</i>					MADR FAO
Creating and reinforcing producer groups in the NTFP sub-sector <i>Indicator: 1 umbrella organisation and 5 divisions set up, of which 50% benefit women</i>					MADR FAO IFAD NGO
Training and equipping actors in the sector (producers, ministry agents in charge of forests) <i>Indicator: 100 actors trained in the sub-sector, of which 50% are women</i>					MADR FAO IFAD NGO
Publicising techniques for using NTFPs <i>Indicator: 100 supported actors in the NTFP sub-sector in target areas, of which 50% are women</i>					Australia FAO IFAD NGO

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Former et redéployer des gardes forestiers notamment dans les zones cibles du CAO <i>Indicateur : Au moins 200 gardes forestiers supplémentaires déployés par zone cible d'ici 2015 dont 50% de femmes</i> Niveau de base : 150 gardes forestiers					Banque mondiale Australie ONG
Making NTFP users aware of the advantages of the Forest Code and the Wild Fauna Code <i>Indicator: 100 supported actors in the sub-sector, of which 50% are women</i>					MADR FAO NGO
Making NTFP users aware of the advantages of the Forest Code and the Wild Fauna Code <i>Indicator: 10 training sessions per year per target area with a 50% participation rate for women</i>					MADR FAO UNICEF UNESCO
Intensifying IEC and awareness campaigns for women about good practices for food and nutrition and the use of nutritional kits by extending the "crops for training" programme <i>Indicator: At least 5 awareness campaigns per year per target area</i>					MAS MS FAO WFP UNICEF NGO
Setting up programme for community assistance and monitoring for nutrition with the identification and training of sponsors <i>Indicator: 100 trained sponsors</i>					MS, Community Health Dept. UNICEF NGO
Experimenting with food with a high nutritional value that does not disrupt eating habits (use of local products enriched with nutrients in nutritional kits) <i>Indicator: A pilot programme for 50 households per target area</i>					MADR, MS ICRA FAO WFP Private sector
Reinforcing the operational capacities of the TNUs/OTNUs in 13 prefectures by making available screening materials and tools for managing undernourished children <i>Indicator: 13 prefectures supported</i>					Community Health Dept. FAO, UNFPA UNICEF NGO
Extending the range of TNUs and OTNUs in three (3) other prefectures that are not covered (post-conflict, mining) <i>Indicator: 3 prefectures covered</i>					Community Health Dept. WFP, UNFPA UNICEF
Training and recruiting 500 nutritionists and 200 healthcare agents to set up a minimum package and for the management of acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas <i>Indicator: 700 persons trained, of which 50% are women</i>					Community Health Dept. NGO UNFPA UNICEF, WFP
Promoting the establishment of community mutual health associations <i>Indicator: % of areas with a mutual health association compared to all target areas</i>					MS MAS UNICEF UNFPA NGO

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Implementing a policy for reduced/waived fees for the initial consultation for children under 5 years of age in vulnerable areas <i>Indicator: Free system effective in target areas</i>					MS, MAS Min. Finance UNICEF UNFPA NGO
Supporting the development of AGRs to benefit poor and vulnerable households and setting up social safety nets for food and nutritional security <i>Indicator: Approximately 100 activities generating revenue in target areas, of which 50% benefit women</i>					MADR, MS MAS UNICEF UNFPA FAO WFP NGO
Reinforcing appeals to national policy authorities for the allocation of sufficient resources for the management of nutrition <i>Indicator: % of Ministry of Health budget for managing nutritional problems, especially for women</i> <i>Baseline: no specific budget for managing malnutrition</i>					National Assembly MS Min. Fin. European Union
Organising awareness campaigns on the gradual involvement and use of programmes by communities <i>Indicator: Number of organised campaigns</i>					Min. Educ. MS, UNICEF WFP, UNHCR UNFPA, NGO
Promoting the development of vegetable gardens and school fields and training teachers and parents to manage them <i>Indicator: At least 10 vegetable gardens and school fields per target area, of which 50% are run by girls</i>					Min. Educ. MADR, FAO WFP IFAD NGO
Drawing up and implementing a suitable national strategy/policy for school food programmes <i>Indicator: A validated national programme</i>					Min. Educ. MS UNICEF UNFPA, WFP UNESCO NGO
Installing school canteens in areas with high levels of food and nutritional vulnerability <i>Indicator: 90% of target areas covered</i>					Min. Educ. MS UNICEF UNFPA, WFP UNESCO NGO
Setting up a community-based finance mechanism for school canteens <i>Indicator: 90% of target areas covered</i>					Min. Educ. MS UNICEF UNFPA, WFP UNESCO NGO

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Setting up multisectoral operational coordination for nutrition led by the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of partners <i>Indicator: Coordination is functional</i>					MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF UNFPA
Establishing a harmonised set of data and studies to accumulate all information on nutrition <i>Indicator: Database is functional, containing itemised data</i>					MADR, MS Min. Finance Min. Econ. and Plan. UNICEF UNFPA
Transferring knowledge and training by the National Committee of the MAF, authorising it to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the MAF <i>Indicator: National Committee is operation, with 50% female participation</i>					MADR Min. Econ. and Plan. UNDP FAO
Setting up an institutional framework of responses to emergencies and catastrophes and updating the Contingency Plan to better coordinate emergency interventions <i>Indicator: Institutional framework and contingency plan are functional</i>					Prime Min./ Gov. , UNICEF UNFPA, WFP UNHCR, FAO UNDP, NGO
Accelerating the institutionalisation of the Inter-Institutional Technical Group of the IPC, which makes it possible to evaluate the level of food insecurity in the country thanks to the collection and handling of data <i>Indicator: Institutional Technical Group set up by IPC is operational, with 50% female participation</i>					MADR Min. Econ. and Plan. MAS Min. Hydraul. Min. Interior WFP FAO UNICEF UNFPA
Promoting the "crops for work" programme for work on rural roads in areas of insecurity <i>Indicator: Programme is operational in target areas with 50% female participation</i>					Gov. , BINUCA FAO WFP UNDP
Setting up an early recovery programme <i>Indicator: Recovery programme is operational in target areas and benefits women</i>					Gov. , UNDP FAO, WFP UNFPA NGO
Accelerating the implementation of category II of the Reinforced Integrated Framework (rural roads) <i>Indicator: Reinforced Integrated Framework programme is operational in target areas and benefits women</i>					MADR , Min. Trade , UNDP UNCTAD Reinf. Integr. Framework

SOLUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	CALENDAR				PARTNERS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Extending training on organisational and participative management techniques for POs in MAF target areas <i>Indicator: At least 5 POs per year per area, with training sessions with 50% female participation</i>					MADR FAO World Bank IFAD
Reinforcing the material and technical capacities of POs <i>Indicator: At least 5 POs per year per area, with materials with 50% female participation</i>					MADR FAO
Setting up an awareness and training programme for POs/ small-scale producers in terms of legal texts related to obtaining agreements/registration procedures <i>Indicator: At least 5 legally formalised and structured specialised POs per zone, with 50% female participation</i>					Gov. FAO
Developing an approach based on local advisors <i>Indicator: At least 5 POs per year per area, benefiting from the support of local advisors</i>					MADR FAO NGO
Supporting the expansion of mutual credit associations in rural areas by establishing mutual guarantee funds <i>Indicator: Guarantee funds set up, functional and benefiting women</i>					Min. Fin. MADR, UNDP UNCDF ADB World Bank NGO
Establishing a revolving credit fund to support the supply of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, improved sires, etc.) <i>Indicator: Credit funds set up, functional and benefiting women</i>					MADR , UNDP UNCDF ADB FAO NGO
Prioritising the funding of small-scale livestock farming as part of the Agro-Pastoral Development Fund (FDAP) <i>Indicator: Number of pastoral project funded in target areas, of which 50% benefit women</i>					UNDP UNCDF ADB FAO World Bank
Setting up a support fund for processing agricultural products in partnership with the IMF and mutual associations present in rural areas <i>Indicator: Support funds set up, functional and benefiting women</i>					Min. Fin. MADR, UNDP UNCDF ADB World Bank NGO
Setting up a national framework programme for small-scale producers and farmers and developing economic initiatives, particularly for women in target areas <i>Indicator: 80% of small-scale producers/farmers have access to credit, of which 50% are women</i>					MADR UNDP UNCDF IFAD ADB



## ANNEXES

*Photo: PNUD République Centrafricaine*

## ANNEX I - REFERENCES

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