

Upon request from the Government of Central African Republic (CAR), represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will

	Technical Assistance to the PARSANKO Project (TA-PARSANKO)
	GCP/CAF/00XX/GAF
	Central African Republic (CAR)
	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health (MESA)
	5 April 2021
	30 March 2025
	Strategic Objective: SO1 " Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition", SO3 "Reduce rural poverty", SO5 "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters" Africa Regional Initiative 2: Sustainable production intensification and value chains development in Sub-Saharan Africa Country Programming Framework(s) Output(s): Priority area 2 - (i) output 2: the capacities of national structures to cope with crises and climate change are strengthened; Priority area 4 - (i) output 1: National research, (ICRA) and development agencies (ACDA, ANDE) promote the prioritized value chains; (ii) output 2: the access of value chains actors
	Moderate risk: PARSANKO has been classified in category "2" of the Environmental Assessment
	G2a
	US\$ 1,50 million

The Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security Support Project (PARSANKO) seeks to increase agro-pastoral production and improve access to basic services in the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka. It comprises three components, namely: (i) Support to Agro-pastoral Production; (ii) Support to Community Initiatives; and (iii) Project Management. An African Development Bank (AfDB) grant of USD 11.04 million and a Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) grant of USD 15.40 million will respectively finance PARSANKO for 5 years

of Kémo and Ouaka. This technical assistance (TA) project was therefore developed to overcome these critical gaps of both public and private national capacities in a difficult context in the project intervention areas, so as .BTtn(sfenabGlecu)4(ltn(sfeffeje)ctivGe(ltn(5(i-143)9(o))-2lecu)4m(p)ente/l

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ACDA	Central African Agricultural Development Agency
ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANDE	National Livestock Development Agency
AVEC	Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de Crédit (Village Savings and Loan Association)
CAR	Central African Republic
FFS	Farmer/Farm or Field School
CNPM or Field School	

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

The Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security Support Project (PARSANKO) covers the Prefectures of Kémo and Ouaka located in the transition zone between the eastern part of the country, which is still dealing with a serious emergency and insecurity situation, and the western part, which is conducive to

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

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

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

- SO1 "Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition", by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.
- SO3 "Reduce rural poverty", in particular the output 3.2.1. Policy support and capacity building in the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, guidelines and programs aimed at improving decent rural employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and skills development, especially for youth and women.
- SO5 "

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

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

This led the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) request (and GAFSP approval) to request FAO to become the

working sessions with technical and financial partners in July and August 2019. Comments received from the GAFSP were also incorporated in the design of the project and this document. In February 2020, an FAO Investment Centre mission to Bangui designed the Technical Assistance to PARSANKO

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

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

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

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

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

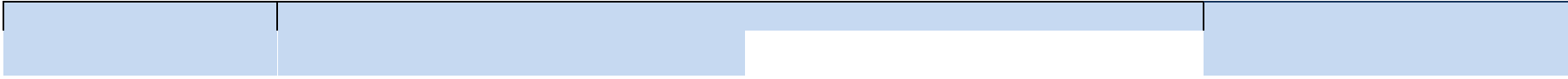
M&E will use tablets for data recording and processing (number; gender; age; locality; types of

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

The TA project M&E mechanism will produce six-monthly and annual reports, including the key

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

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



N°	Main task	2020	2021				2022			2023	2024	2025
		T4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T1	T2	T3			

(for both TA and investment interventions)

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

Although arable land is extensive with a high potential for agriculture and grazing, and the average population density of the region is low, access to land benefits men 90% of the time. Indeed, as the

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

PARSANKO will target 47,500 beneficiary households, representing 235,000 persons, or 45% of the total population of the project area. The following paragraphs describe how to prioritise intervention

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

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

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

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

Quota of young people and women among senior implementation staff and agents. The qbro32 842.7.pon

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

Based on the foregoing and on the AfDB's Gender Marker System, PARSANKO is classified in Category

