



Central African Republic

Updated Information Q3-Q4 2022

I. Context

The ICC's investigation in the Central African Republic (CAR), CAR I Situation, focused on alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the context of a conflict in CAR since 1 July 2002, with the peak of violence in 2002 and 2003. The investigation in CAR I has produced one main case (closed), [*The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo*](#) involving charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Proceedings began in another case involving charges against five suspects for offences against the administration of justice allegedly committed in connection with the case of [*The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo*](#).

In CAR II Situation, the Prosecutor alleges that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the following crimes have been committed in CAR since 2012: **war crimes**: murder, rape, pillaging, attacks against humanitarian missions, and the use of children under fifteen in combat; and **crimes against humanity**: murder, rape, forced displacement, and persecution. The investigation in CAR II focused on alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by both Muslim Séléka and Christian anti-balaka groups in the context of the conflict in CAR since 1 August 2012. The 2012 conflict led to thousands of deaths and left hundreds of thousands displaced. The United Nations has also issued warnings of the high risk of genocide in CAR.

The investigation in CAR II led to three ongoing cases: *the Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom & Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona*; *le Procureur c. Mahamat Said Abdel Kani* and *the Prosecutor v. Maxime Jeffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka*.

- Mr. Yekatom and Mr. Ngaïssona, currently in the Court's custody, are alleged to be responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in various locations in the CAR between December 2013 and August/December 2014 respectively.
- Mr Said was a senior member of the Seleka coalition and is criminally responsible for crimes against humanity (imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, torture, other inhumane acts and persecution) and war crimes (torture, cruel treatment and outrages upon personal dignity) committed at the "OCRB" in Bangui (CAR) between 12 April 2013 and 30 August 2013 against detained persons.
- M. Maxime Jeffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka was surrendered to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on March 14, 2022, to face charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in CAR (Bangui, Bossangoa, Lobaye prefecture, Yaloké, Gaga, Bossemptélé, Boda, Carnot, and Berberati) between at least 5 December 2013 and December 2014. After confirming the suspect's identity and informing him of the charges against him, the Chamber scheduled 31 January 2023 as the provisional date for the opening of the confirmation of charges hearing.

To address the harm suffered by victims of international crimes and the need for restorative justice in line of the ICC situation in CAR, the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) has been supporting non-judicial reparations programmes since 1 August 2020.

II. Assistance programme

The multi-annual Programme in the CAR is implemented through five projects. Contracts with five implementing partners were signed as follows: on 1 February 2021 with AFJC, CIAF, Dan Church Aid, and Dr Mukwege Foundation, and on 24 February with Médecins d'Afrique. The assistance programme in CAR provides medical care for pathological diseases; access to food security and nutritional support; access to psychological care; access to

education for dependents and provision of school equipment; access to housing for homeless victims; and, assistance with income-generating activities and self-employment.

Partner, project title & location	Beneficiaries & activities (Q4/2022)	Project amount & duration
<p><u>Comité Inter africain pour les Femmes de Centrafrique (CIAF)</u></p> <p>Assistance for physical and psychological rehabilitation, and socio-economic support to conflict related sexual violence in the province of Lobaye, CAR.</p> <p>Pissa, Mbata, Kappou, Nzinga, Batalimo, Mbaiki, Mongoumba in the province of Lobaye</p> <p>Total number of beneficiaries to date: 1279</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 31 December 2022, a total of 1,279 individual (651 women, 628 men) benefited the services such as medical care, psychosocial support for mental health, provision of school equipment and school fees for education of survivors dependants, vocational training and assistance in developing income generating activities. The project team made an estimation of 4,285 individual who benefited indirectly from the services of the project (indirect victims). They are mostly partners and/ or dependents living within the household of the direct beneficiaries. As of today, 477(372 female, 106 male) are reported to be survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. CIAF have estimated the indirect victims to be 4,285 (1889 male, 2396 female), mostly dependents and family members living under the household of the direct beneficiaries. 1096 survivors (544 men, 552 women) benefited individually and collectively from psychological and psychosocial support. 965 people (419 male, 546 female) strengthened their resilience and improved their psychosocial well-being through their participation in 57 sessions of psychotherapy in group organized in the 21 psychotherapy groups formed during the implementation of the programme. In order to reduce the stigma against survivors and their dependents born of rape, 302 family mediation sessions were held during follow-up visits to survivors' homes. A total of 543 survivors (297 women, 246 men) have had access to medical care through the partnership with 7 health facilities in the project area and 535 have recovered good physical conditions. As of 31 December 2022, a total of 573 survivors (282 women, 291 men) have strengthened their capacity to develop an economic activity after receiving vocational trainings and funds or equipment to start a small business. To date, 399 beneficiaries (213 women, 186 men) are generating income and saving money through income-generating activities. In order to reduce the risk of delinquency among children born of rape, stigmatized with reduced chances of schooling, 174 dependents(92 male, 82 female) indirect victims of rape and sexual violence crimes returned to school after paying school fees and receiving school materials. 	<p>320 000 Euros (170K year 1 and 150K year 2)</p> <p>5 year multi-annual project, with an annual renewal conditioned by the availability of funds, the approval of the TFM Board of Directors and good performance in implementation of the project.</p>
<p><u>Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique (AFJC)</u></p> <p>Integrated physical ,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2449 individuals (302 male, 2147 female) survivors directs and indirect victims of sexual violence received direct services through individual and group psychotherapy, access to health care and socio-economic reintegration for effective empowerment. 	<p>492 000 Euros(292,002 Euros for year 1 and 200 000 for year 2)</p>

<p>psychological and socioeconomic services for survivors of sexual violence and their families in the Ombella Mpoko, CAR(Begoua, Yaloke, Bossembele, Boali)</p> <p>Total number of beneficiaries to date: 2449</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, 2369 survivors(2075 women, 294 men) participated in psychotherapy programme, such individual counselling and group psychotherapy sessions facilitated by 12 social workers(3 male, 9 female) in the 3 psychotherapy centres set up in Begoua, Bossembele and Boali. 246 collective sessions organized through 31 groups constituted. • 293 survivors(39 male, 254 female) living with serious health issues as a consequence of rape, have recovered their physical health through the partnership with 06 health centres. • 158 women survivors including men 4 children born of rape who tested positive for HIV/AIDS and are receiving antiviral treatment, are receiving medical care. • 205 survivors (193 women and 12 men) have strengthened their skills in economic activity after being trained in running small business and vocational training. • To date, 100 survivors (12 male, 88 female) are generating profits and 80 survivors (72 female, 8 male) amongst have joined the 6 village savings and loan associations created in the community, which helps guarantee their savings and social reintegration. • To date, 80 children(33 male, 47 female) were able to regain the education through school fees and materials provision. 	<p>5 year multi-annual project with an annual renewal conditioned by the availability of funds, the approval of the TFV Board of Directors and good performance in implementation of the project.</p>
<p><u>DanChurchAid (DCA)</u></p> <p>Support for physical and psychosocial rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of victims of conflict under the responsibility of the ICC in the province of Kemo, CAR.</p> <p>Sibut, Galafondo, Ferré, Dékoa, Mala, and other localities in the province of Kemo.</p> <p>Total number of beneficiaries to date: 981</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 31 December 2022, the programme has registered a total of 981 survivors (389 men, 592 women) receiving direct services through medical care, psychosocial and psychological support as well as the socioeconomic empowerment process. • Among these direct beneficiaries, there are 859 survivors (267 men, 592 women) who are direct victims of rape and gender-based sexual violence • To date, 177 (28 men, 149 women) survivors of sexual and gender-based abuse have been referred for specialized medical care. During this quarter, 29 survivors (09 men, 28 women) have recovered their physical condition after receiving appropriate medical care such as obstetric/gynaecological surgery (fistula/prolapses). • 130 survivors (6 men, 124 women) who were tested positive for HIV-AIDS and whose health is deteriorating have been referred to appropriate health care and are having access to antiretroviral drugs in health facilities; • In line of mental health, the psychosocial support contributed to greater improvements in psychosocial stability and well-being of 859 survivors (267 men and 592 women). Positive changes were observed for 336 survivors such as stigma reduction within their families, social cohesion and community acceptance. In addition, it has been observed reduction of uncleanliness and aggressive behaviours among 167 survivors. • 13 social workers and health auxiliaries (06 men and 7 women) acquired new knowledge on psychotherapy and the holistic approach after receiving a series of capacity building trainings. 	<p>380 000 Euros(180 000 Euros year 1 and 200 000 Year 2)</p> <p>5 year multi-annual project, with an annual renewal conditioned by the availability of funds, the approval of the TFV Board of Directors and good performance in implementation of the project.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ease the collective psychotherapy, 23 psychotherapy groups of 11-25 people were formed by the survivors and conducted 167 psychotherapy sessions within the 3 psychotherapy centres set up in the health centres. In view of the need for family mediation to address the issues of survivors stigmatization, 230 home visits were held. • 310 survivors (193 female, 117 male) were financially supported to implement income-generating activities (IGAs) and have started their activities; For sustainability of the socioeconomic reintegration, 14 groups of savings and loans associations have been created. • 4786 individuals(2430 female and 2356 male) attended the community activities in relation to peace building, conflicts prevention and reconciliation. 	
<p><u>Mukwege Foundation</u></p> <p>Strengthening access to psychological care and material support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence in CAR</p> <p>Bangui and surroundings</p> <p>Total number of beneficiaries to date: 997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 997 victims of armed conflict(228 male, 769 female) have benefited from the services including 744 survivors(626 female, 118 male) direct and indirect victims of rape and sexual violence • 837 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (715 female, 122 male) had access to mental health and psychotherapy with the facilitation of 4 social workers(0 male, 4 female), 1 psychologist. • 341 survivors (325 male, 16 male) direct and indirect victims of rape and sexual violence have improved their health through regular medical care in partnership with Nengo Project and the Mama Carla/Amici Health Centre; St. Blandine. This quarter a total of 54(49 female, 5 male) were referred for specialized medical treatment • 53 survivors tested positive for HIV/AIDS(50 female; 3 male), under antiretroviral treatment, benefit from a nutritional and dietary supplement. • Provision of school materials and the payment of school fees was effective for a total of 160 children of survivors (75 girls and 85 boys). In addition to 80 children previously assisted under the pilot programme, this quarter a total of 80 new children were able to regain access to education • 171 survivors are reported to have improved their socio-economic status upon being skilled up in vocal training and small business management. • 110 homeless and displaced survivors in the city of Bangui(78 female; 32 male) regained social stability in their households through the benefits of monthly rent payments. Only 72 survivors still in need were assisted in shelter the quarter 4-2022 • By 31 December 2022, a total of 1952 individual counselling sessions were held for 744 survivors (626 female, 118 male) in four psychotherapy centres within Bangui and surroundings. For this quarter, 347 individual counselling sessions were conducted with the participation of 92 survivors (88 women, 04 men). • To ease the collective psychotherapy, 35 psychotherapy small groups were constituted with an average of 20 people per each group. By the end of December 2022, with the facilitation of the 7 social worker appointed, a total of 968 	<p>377 972 Euros(177 972 Euros for year 1 and 200 000 Euros for year 2)</p> <p>5 year multi- annual project, with an annual renewal conditioned by the availability of funds, the approval of the TFV Board of Directors and good performance in implementation of the project.</p>

	<p>psychotherapy sessions in groups were carried out with the participation of 788 individuals (647 women, 141 men). A partnership has been established between Mukwege Foundation and the Psychiatric Center of the National for referral of any case of psychiatric disorders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to reduce the stigmatization of survivors within their families and communities, 350 family mediation sessions were held during home follow-ups. • During the quarter, positive changes were reported such as: the improvement of the survivors' relationship with their families and the acceptance of the children born out of the rapes. • From the testimonies collected, a significant number of survivors are now involved in the different ceremonies and meetings organized by their families, with uninhibited participation in discussions. • In addition, family visits by some important members of their extended families have also resumed. They are also invited to participate in community and religious activities, which augurs well for community acceptance. • At the individual level, the holistic approach of the project has led to a decrease in aggressive behaviour and contributed to more cheerful, smiling and welcoming of the survivors according to the testimonies received from family members and psychosocial workers. • The project has initiated communication activities on the issue of sexual gender based violence. In line of communication, organising the outreach sessions and carrying out a serial of radio programmes were identified as main channel of communication. • By the end of December 2022, a total of 1633 people were reached out through the medias and 621 individuals (472 women, 150 men) participated in outreach sessions. The participants were mainly the government representatives (more than 200 individuals), family members of survivors, focal points of civil society organizations and community leaders (churches and other local authorities). 	
<p><u>Medicins D'Afrique Centrafrique</u></p> <p>Strengthening access to psychological care and material support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence in CAR</p> <p>Bangui and surroundings</p>	<p>To date, 1826 Victims of armed conflict (1412 female, 414 male)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1494 survivors (247 male, 1247 female) improved their mental health through participation in individual and group psychotherapy activities/508 survivors are direct victims of SGBV (04 male, 504 female) • In total 177 sessions of psychotherapy in groups were held with the participation of 615 beneficiaries (127 men, 488 women) through the facilitation of 11 social workers (4 male, 7 female). • 97 survivors (37 men, 59 women) benefited from family mediation through 28 family visits carried out by 11 psychosocial workers (04 men and 08 women) after having been trained in psychotherapy and the holistic approach. • 1139 survivors (868 female, 271 male) who received medical care returned to good physical health 	<p>300 000 euros</p> <p>5 year multi-annual project, with an annual renewal conditioned by the availability of funds, the approval of the TFV Board of Directors and good performance in implementation of the project.</p>

<p>Total number of beneficiaries to date: 2778</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 survivors (03 men, 43 women) tested HIV/AIDS positive under antiretroviral treatment were referred to the Hospital of Paoua for appropriate medical care whenever they opportunistic pathologies showed up. Among them, 13 survivors were given access to a nutritional and dietary supplement to mitigate the side effects of antiretroviral drugs. • 145 survivors(133 female, 12 male) have strengthening their skills in the production of goods and services as a result of training in small business management upon reception of start-up kit and/or funds. • A total of 2243 indirect beneficiaries reported to be members of the survivors' families, participated in outreach sessions or were reached out through the radio programme organized in relation to gender-based violence issues in the community. 	
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III. Activities & results from the reporting period

TFV programmes as implemented in Central African Republic (CAR) are sexual gender based oriented with a restorative value. It applies individually or collectively a serial of integrated and holistic actions for victims. It ensures the respect of fundamental human rights principles. As of responding to specific needs of the victims and addressing the harms suffered, the TFV programmes ensured the:

- restoration of mental health and psychosocial well-being through a customized psychotherapy;
- stabilization of health status through medical support including the improvement of physical conditions for survivors tested HIV-positive under antiretroviral treatment;
- socio economic empowerment of survivors through supporting socioeconomic activities/vocational training;
- support for the education of the victims' dependents through the payment of school fees and school kits);
- improvement of social conditions through shelter accessibility for homeless survivors who have been forced to internal displacement;
- peace building and reconciliation/social cohesion dynamics within the victims' community.

In terms of results and achievement, a total of 8484 individuals survivors (2078 male and 6406 female) received direct services throughout the TFV assistance programme in Central African Republic.

- Through a range of individual and collective psychotherapy services, 6777 survivors of SGBV (1596 male, 5181 female) with serious post traumas disorders, restored their mental health and psychosocial well-being.
 - 44 social workers and health assistants(15 male, 29 female) were skilled up on psychosocial therapy, using a holistic approach and 20 permanent psychotherapy centres were set up and equipped to facilitate customised psychotherapy and collective psychotherapy.
 - So far, 1615 collective psychotherapy sessions were held and 139 groups of 15-25 people constituted.
 - To break up the chains of stigmatisation against the survivors and the children born out of rape, 1200 home visit were conducted for family mediation, that led to dignity recovery and acceptance of 85% survivors within their families.
 - As a result of a range of individual and collective psychotherapy, most of the survivors of sexual violence, rape, sexual slavery and abductions recovered their mental health balance and psychosocial well-being. Which contributed significantly to greater improvement in the social stability and acceptance within their families and communities.
 - In meantime, for any psychiatric complication, referrals were made to specialized psychiatric organization for psychotropic treatment. The survivors feel more useful since they now contribute financially to the family's expenses.
 - Following the psychotherapy centres being implemented locally(mainly in health field based facilities) and the capacity building of local employees on holistic approaches centred on survivors, the transfer of skills was effective and ensures the sustainability the programmes.
- 2483 survivors (1893 women, 600 men) suffering from pathological diseases directly or indirectly related to rape and sexual violence improved their health status and extended their life expectancy through access to medical care for victims.

- This medical support included the payment of consultation fees and transport costs/round trip to ease the access to the health centres and cover ant expenses in relation to the treatment of pathologies identified (outpatient medical care, medication, hospitalization, surgery , ...).
- 2483 survivors living with serious health issues as consequence of rape and sexual violence recovered after the medical care such as gynaecological surgery (fistulas/prolapses) they benefited through partnerships with 25 medical health centres.
- Additionally, 503 tested HIV-Aids positive under antiretroviral treatment recovered good physical condition after receiving dietary supplements
- On the education level, 414 children born out of rape, indirect victims of sexual violence, were able to regain access to formal education: school materials and annual school fee were granted in collaboration with official schools. Through the education support, the programmes contributed to reduce the risks associated with juvenile delinquency, sexual abuse as well as other forms of children's rights violation.
- In response to housing problems for survivors displaced with homeless status, the programme were able to contribute to the shelter of 110 household that led to psychosocial stability and a dignified life.
- 1433 survivors were economically empowered through provision of the vocational training, funds for running a small business and skills that promote financial empowerment such as development of saving and loans association.
 - To date, a total of 968 individuals survivors are self-employer and able to run a small business.
 - In order to guarantee their savings and loan, the creation of savings and loans associations are currently continuing with a significant adhesion of survivors.
 - To date, a total of 20 groups of Village and Saving Loans Associations (VSLA) have been constituted and are functional. The VSLA) is an approach that has been developed to maintain the sustainability of the activities, leads to social economic integration and reduce victims stigmatization.
- A total of 100 individuals (50 couples) of survivors of rape and sexual violence, and their partners, strengthened their knowledge of gender equality and women empowerment through training on positive masculinity. A research on positive masculinity was performed aimed at underlining perceptions, norms, attitudes, knowledge and practices related to masculinity. It established from survivors and their communities reliable and feasible approaches that address sexual and gender-based violence issues.
- As a preventive measure, communication activities were organized through outreach sessions, radio programmes and meetings with leaders. The participation of 14521 individuals to these activities contributed to a greater improvement of community perceptions and attitudes about sexual and gender-based violence issues in Central African Republic.

IV. Challenges

- The political situation in CAR remains a significant challenge of the TFV programmes. It has been continuously reported human rights violations against civilians by rebels, militias, FACA troops, and Russian forces. The persistence of insecurity, the poor conditions of roads and placement of anti-personnel mines hinders the monitoring and evaluation activities in some localities, particularly Ouham Pende, Ouham and Ombella Mpoko provinces;
- The fuel shortage, which had a negative impact on the travel of staff to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as the referrals of survivors. This increase in the price of fuel has also influenced the price of transporting goods, people and products in the markets, and moreover compromised the profitability of the survivors' small businesses.
- Maintaining a permanent connection with some victims is almost impossible, as they are constantly on the move, either for their small business activities or for their farming activities, which require camping far from residential areas without telephone coverage.
- The testimonies about the services offered by the programmes to survivors are encouraging more and more survivors to come forward to register and disclose the crimes of rape and sexual violence that they suffered years ago. Unfortunately, the programmes do not have the capacity to respond to their needs in terms of medical care and economic support. This leads to frustration and complaints being recorded on a daily basis.
- Despite the drastic decrease in covid-19 cases, survivors living with serious pathologies, such as the HIV –Aids, remain fragile because of their health status. Thus, Covid 19 pandemic remains a significant threat of disruption to the full successful implementation of the programmes.

- Organizational challenges related to recurring leadership changes in the management of the implementing partner. Every time when a change occurs in the leadership of the organization, it negatively impacts the implementation and obliged to build up the capacity continuously.

The mission of the President of the Court and the Acting Executive Director to Bangui, CAR, has been reported in the main Management Brief Q3-Q4 2022. At the open day, all partner organizations presented their programmes and more than 30 beneficiaries told their stories of suffering and healing to the Court officials as well as the various officials of governments, international and national organizations and non-governmental organizations present. In addition, the Acting Executive Director held a round table with representatives of the Special Court (CPS), the Commission of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation (CVJRR), the Global Fund for Survivors (GFS) and other participants to discuss how reparations can best be provided to victims of mass atrocities in CAR.

V. What's next

- The TFV will continue to engage with stakeholders through informal and formal meetings with CSOs, the Human Rights Organisations, Embassy representatives, United Nations Agencies, Minusca, Global Fund for Survivors, Special criminal Court of CAR, Official government and other stakeholders.
- Joint diplomatic mission and round table to Kinshasa in June 2023 with COCAR (coordination with the DRC team).
- Monitoring and evaluation mission to Paoua (Ouham Pende) and Bossangoa(Ouham), Mbaiki and Pkapou (Lobaye), damara, Boali(Ombella M'poko) and Sibut, Deko(Kemo) to be carried out in Q2-2023
- The TFV will make sure to take any opportunity to conduct a field visit of the activities with ambassadors, the EU delegation and the official from Central African Republic;
- Continued cooperation as much as possible with other key stakeholders involved in the process of reparation and reconciliation in Central African Republic(CAR) such as the Special Criminal Court of Bangui (CPS), the Commission of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation (CVJRR), the Global Fund for Survivors (GFS), MINUSCA, UNDP, the American Bar Association (ABA), and Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF).