

Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)

# Indigenous Peoples Plan



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This document has been prepared for The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)– as part of work to prepare the GCF Funding Proposal Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)

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## Abbreviations

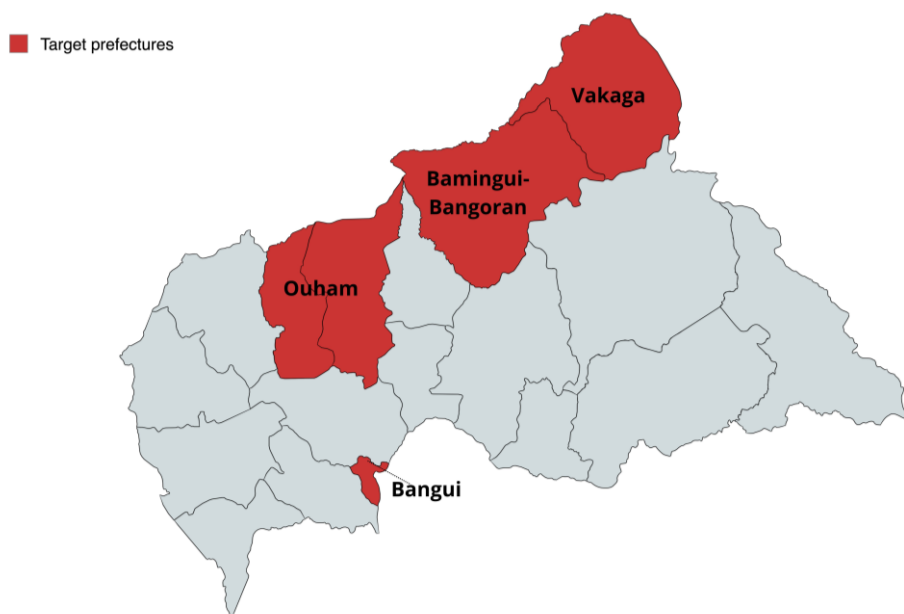
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>FNEC</b>	Federation of Central African Herders
<b>FPIC</b>	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GRM</b>	Grievance Redress Mechanism
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous Peoples
<b>IPP</b>	Indigenous People Plan
<b>MEDHR</b>	Ministry of Energy, Development, and Hydraulic Resources
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit
<b>PSEA</b>	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>WRM</b>	Water Resources Management

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Description

This Indigenous People Plan (IPP) has been developed in support of the funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), submitted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR). The project, titled "Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)" aims to address growing climate-related risks to vulnerable populations by strengthening the resilience of water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure and disaster risk management systems.

The target regions of the project interventions are the prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga and Bangui. Bangui, the capital of CAR, is located on the northern bank of the Ubangi River, which marks the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Ouham prefecture is located in the northwest of the CAR, with a border to Chad. Vakaga is in the northeastern part of the country, bordering Chad and Sudan. Bamingui-Bangoran is in the northeast of CAR, between Ouham and Vakaga.



*Figure 1 - Project's Target Prefectures*

The selection of prefectures for the project followed a two-stage process. In the first stage, a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) operationalising the IPCC risk framework was conducted, which evaluated all prefectures in the CAR by examining indicators across three key areas: hazard (temperature, maximum temperature, precipitation, number and longest dry spells), exposure (population size, individuals affected by floods), and vulnerability (children in need, WASH-related need, health-related need, internally displaced persons, acute food insecurity, acute malnutrition, and poverty). To ensure operational feasibility and the best enabling conditions for project interventions, these findings were complemented by consultations with the executing entities. In the second stage, a revised selection that considered UNICEF presence, logistical efficiency, and security was made. The final target prefectures chosen were Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga, and Bangui. This decision is supported by UNICEF office presence in Ouham, Bangui, and Vakaga, and Bamingui-Bangoran's proximity to Vakaga, which enhances logistical efficiency and prevents geographical fragmentation of project locations. The two-stage process which was followed for the selection of prefectures is outlined in detail in the Feasibility Study (Annex 2) section 5.2: Selection of the target prefectures.

The project's target areas include a significant presence of the M'boboro Fulani, who are recognized as an indigenous community in the CAR and face unique and acute vulnerabilities. As primarily nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists, their livelihoods and cultural identity are inextricably linked to cattle and are therefore highly sensitive to climate change. Consultations revealed that prolonged droughts and intense floods are severely impacting their access to pasture and clean

water, leading to the loss of livestock, the complete drying up of traditional wells, and an increase in waterborne diseases and child malnutrition. These climate pressures are compounded by systemic barriers, including social exclusion at communal water points, land tenure insecurity for communities displaced by conflict, and a deep mistrust of governance due to the failure of past projects that did not respect their traditional knowledge or leadership.

To address these intertwined challenges, the project is organized into two mutually reinforcing components that directly align with the needs expressed by the Fulani communities:

### **Component 1: Strengthening National Policies, Systems, and Institutional Capacities for Climate Resilience**

This component aims to create a more inclusive and effective enabling environment. This component will address the Fulani's call for greater inclusion by supporting the integration of their leaders into water management committees and ensuring their traditional knowledge informs hydrogeological assessments and planning. It also provides a framework for addressing policy-level issues, such as the need to secure water points along transhumance corridors, which is critical for their pastoral livelihood.

### **Component 2: Climate-Resilient WASH and Flood Risk Reduction Infrastructure and Services**

This component focuses on the direct delivery of resilient infrastructure to address their most urgent needs. In response to community requests, this includes the construction and rehabilitation of climate-resilient water supply systems, such as solar-powered boreholes, and flood-resilient sanitation facilities. Crucially, the project will site this infrastructure in direct consultation with community leaders to ensure technical success and will prioritize locations, such as directly within Fulani camps, to guarantee safe access and mitigate the social conflicts reported by the communities.

Through this tailored approach, the project aims to ensure that Fulani communities are not just beneficiaries of improved WASH services but are also included as active partners in building their own climate resilience.

## **1.2 IPP Scope and Objectives**

This IPP reflects the commitment of the project to inclusivity and the respect of M'boboro Fulani's rights, culture, and traditions in alignment with UNICEF's AMA terms with view to the GCF's Indigenous People's Policy<sup>1</sup>. Its main objectives are to:

- Assess a baseline of the M'boboro Fulani people in the project area that includes their socioeconomic profile, the climate risks to their livelihoods, their governance, and land tenure.
- Describe the legal and policy framework for Indigenous Peoples in the CAR, including national frameworks, international commitments, and alignment with GCF's Indigenous People's Policy.
- Assess potential project risks in the M'boboro Fulani population.
- Establish a culturally appropriate action plan to ensure the needs, concerns, and perspectives of the M'boboro Fulani are fully integrated into the project's design and the potential project risks are mitigated effectively.
- Outline a culturally appropriate strategy for collaboration and engagement, fostering active M'boboro Fulani participation throughout the implementation and monitoring phases.
- Provide an overview of the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process undertaken during the proposal development stage.
- Set out culturally appropriate measures to ensure continuous participation and accessible feedback and complaint channels for M'boboro Fulani people throughout the project lifecycle.

The methodology employed in this document combined a literature review with consultations with M'boboro Fulani people (as detailed in Chapter 5).

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<sup>1</sup> GCF, 2018. [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#).



## 2. Legal and Policy Framework for Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities in CAR

### 2.1 CAR National Legal and Policy Framework

The national legal framework of the Central African Republic (CAR) provides a formal basis for the protection of indigenous peoples, although gaps in implementation remain. The 2016 Constitution explicitly recognizes the existence of indigenous peoples and guarantees their protection alongside minorities and persons with disabilities (Article 6)<sup>2</sup>. It explicitly mandates that the State shall ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous communities, guaranteeing equality before the law and safeguarding their social, cultural, and economic well-being. While the article does not list specific groups, it affirms the principle of non-discrimination and obliges the State to take measures to prevent marginalization and exclusion of indigenous peoples from public life, access to resources, and political decision-making.

The Forestry Code (Law No. 08-22 of 17 October 2008) complements the constitutional framework by providing sector-specific protections for indigenous and forest-dependent peoples<sup>3</sup>. It recognizes the customary use rights of local communities over forest resources, including hunting, gathering, fishing, and small-scale agriculture for subsistence. Importantly, the Code mandates Free, Prior, and Informed consent (FPIC) before any forest lands traditionally used by local or indigenous communities can be converted into protected areas, logging concessions, or other commercial uses. This legal requirement ensures that indigenous peoples have a formal voice in decisions affecting their ancestral territories and traditional livelihoods. Importantly, these rights apply specifically to indigenous groups identified by the government — M'bororo Fulani, Aka, and Litho—who maintain ancestral ties to land, distinct cultural traditions, and traditional livelihoods. Other ethnic minorities, while culturally distinct, generally do not have the same formal legal recognition or FPIC protections because they may lack historic territorial claims or subsistence-based livelihoods tied to specific lands<sup>4</sup>.

Despite these legal frameworks, the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in CAR, as in many other countries in Central Africa, remains a work in progress and faces significant challenges<sup>5</sup>. The absence of a dedicated national framework law on indigenous peoples and the lack of a national register for indigenous communities complicate the recognition and protection of their rights. Also, customary land tenure systems are prevalent in rural areas and the existing Land Law, last updated in the 1960s, is notably inadequate in defining the rights and duties of various land users, which contributes significantly to rural tensions and conflicts.<sup>6</sup>

Furthermore, the conflict in the country is preventing government and civil society initiatives for indigenous peoples from being implemented<sup>7</sup>. The pervasive instability stemming from persistent military and political crises in CAR since 2013 has disrupted the traditional ways of life for many groups, particularly the M'bororo Fulani. This instability exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and has led to forced displacement, economic marginalization, and increased competition over natural resources. In such a conflict-affected environment, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities have been disproportionately targeted, facing attacks, illegal arrests, and detentions.

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<sup>2</sup> Central African Republic (2016). [Constitution of the Central African Republic \(Art 6\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> Central African Republic. (2008). [Forestry Code, Law No. 08-022 of 17 October 2008](#). Climate Laws.

<sup>4</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>5</sup> CIFOR (2023). [Forest News: Indigenous Rights Recognition a "Work in Progress" in Central Africa](#)

<sup>6</sup> Crisis Group, 2025. [Violence and Herding in the Central African Republic](#).

<sup>7</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>



## 2.2 CAR International Commitments

At the international level, most importantly, in 2010 CAR became the first African country to ratify the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 169 (ILO C169)<sup>8</sup> on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, thereby committing itself to binding standards on identity, land and territorial rights, participation, and FPIC. In addition, CAR voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>9</sup> which, while not legally binding, sets strong normative standards for recognition, participation, and the principle of FPIC.

At the regional level, CAR has been reviewed by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) through its Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities<sup>10</sup>. The Commission's reports specifically highlight the Aka (forest peoples), M'bororo Fulani (pastoralists), and the Litho, all of whom maintain distinct cultural practices, livelihoods, and ancestral ties to territory, as indigenous and recommend stronger legal and administrative measures to secure their rights<sup>11</sup>. These groups are also consistently referenced in government submissions to international bodies, such as ILO supervisory reports and UN human rights reviews.

Despite these legal and normative frameworks, implementation remains limited. As described in Section 2.1., the absence of a dedicated national law on indigenous peoples, outdated land tenure systems, and weak institutional capacity have prevented the full translation of international obligations into effective domestic protections. Ongoing political instability and conflict since 2013 have further disrupted livelihoods, displaced communities, and exacerbated competition over natural resources, disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. The ILO Committee of Experts has urged CAR to strengthen legal frameworks for self-identification, relocation procedures incorporating FPIC, and employment protections for indigenous populations, although concrete actions have been limited<sup>12</sup>.

## 2.3 GCF Policy Framework

The GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy<sup>13</sup> acknowledges that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are affirmed by international human rights instruments and binding treaties, including the ILO 169, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Policy is designed to systematically integrate Indigenous Peoples' rights and considerations into the Fund's decision-making processes. Its objective is to anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples' rights, interests, and well-being; and where avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such impacts in a fair and equitable manner. The policy emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples often maintain distinct identities, worldviews, and aspirations, and that their social, cultural, and economic status may limit their capacity to defend their rights and interests. This marginalization frequently restricts their participation in, and benefit from, climate-related development initiatives, and

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<sup>8</sup> International Labour Organization. (n.d.). Ratifications of ILO Convention No. 169: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. NORMLEX. <https://normlex.ilo.org>

<sup>9</sup> United Nations. (2007). [General Assembly adopts Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

<sup>10</sup> African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: At the Forefront of Advancing Human Rights. [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/31520-doc-](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/31520-doc-the_african_commission_on_human_and_peoples_rights_at_the_forefront_of_advancing_human_rights.pdf)

[the\\_african\\_commission\\_on\\_human\\_and\\_peoples\\_rights\\_at\\_the\\_forefront\\_of\\_advancing\\_human\\_rights.pdf](#)

<sup>11</sup> The African Commission on Human and People's Rights. (2005) [African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities](#)

<sup>12</sup> International Labour Organization. (n.d.). Ratifications of ILO Convention No. 169: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. NORMLEX. <https://normlex.ilo.org>

<sup>13</sup> GCF, 2018. [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#).

underscores the importance of culturally appropriate engagement, equitable benefit-sharing, and FPIC in all project stages<sup>14</sup>.

The Policy highlights the need for risk Management and safeguards, meaningful consultations, protection of cultural integrity and livelihoods, and capacity building. It establishes several binding requirements for engagement with Indigenous Peoples:

- Full and Effective Participation: Beyond consultation, the policy requires active involvement of Indigenous Peoples in all phases of GCF activities, including decision-making and monitoring.
- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): The GCF mandates the operationalization of FPIC, particularly in activities involving relocation, land-use change, or impacts on natural resources. FPIC processes must be free from coercion, based on timely and accessible information, and carried out sufficiently in advance of any decision.
- Enhancement of Land and Resource Rights: Projects are encouraged to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' land and territorial rights, recognizing that Indigenous stewardship contributes to improved ecological outcomes and climate resilience.
- Respect for Traditional Knowledge: Indigenous knowledge must be respected, protected, and applied only with the explicit consent of knowledge holders.
- Conflict Resolution Mechanisms: The policy provides for culturally appropriate grievance and conflict-resolution mechanisms, including alternative compensation approaches where relevant.
- Institutional Safeguard Capacity: The GCF must ensure appropriate Indigenous Peoples' safeguard expertise within its institutional framework and support Indigenous organizations' ability to access GCF funding directly.

## 2.4 UNICEF IPP Policy Framework

UNICEF's Policy on Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) in Programming<sup>15</sup> establishes a framework to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks in all its programming. ESS6 Indigenous Peoples specifically requires that programmes recognize and respect the rights, culture, and social structures of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring their meaningful participation in project design, implementation, and monitoring. The standard emphasizes the importance of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) where programmes may affect lands, resources, or livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, and social cohesion.

The objectives of ESS6 align closely with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, reflecting a shared commitment to anticipate, avoid, or mitigate adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples' rights and well-being. Both frameworks recognize the distinct identities and vulnerabilities of Indigenous Peoples, and emphasize culturally appropriate engagement, equitable benefit-sharing, and strengthening local capacities. In practice, ESS6 and the GCF Policy converge on key areas such as meaningful consultation, FPIC processes, protection of land and resource rights, respect for traditional knowledge, and the establishment of accessible grievance and redress mechanisms, thereby ensuring that programmes are both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

## 3. Indigenous Peoples in the CAR

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<sup>14</sup> GCF, 2018. [Indigenous Peoples Policy](#).

<sup>15</sup>UNICEF, 2025. Policy on Environmental and Social Standards in Programming.

[https://open.unicef.org/sites/transparency/files/2025-](https://open.unicef.org/sites/transparency/files/2025-06/Policy%20on%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Standards%20in%20Programming_public_0.pdf)

[06/Policy%20on%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Standards%20in%20Programming\\_public\\_0.pdf](https://open.unicef.org/sites/transparency/files/2025-06/Policy%20on%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Standards%20in%20Programming_public_0.pdf)

The Central African Republic officially recognizes three distinct indigenous groups: the M'boboro Fulani, the Aka (often referred to as Pygmies), and the Litho<sup>16</sup>. These groups are defined as indigenous due to their ancestral ties to specific territories, distinct cultural traditions, and traditional livelihoods such as hunting, gathering, or pastoralism. Beyond these formally recognized indigenous groups, CAR is also home to several ethnic minorities, as detailed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 7). Ethnic minorities include the Gbaya in Bossangoa (Ouham), Gula and Runga in Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran), Kara in Birao (Vakaga). Unlike indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities are defined more broadly as groups that are numerically smaller in population compared to dominant groups, but without the specific connection to ancestral lands or traditional livelihoods that characterize indigenous status<sup>17</sup>.

This IPP targets specifically the M'bororo Fulani groups identified in the project area. According to the consultations done with the M'boboro Fulani people during August 2025 (see Chapter 5 for more information), the Fulani are the main pastoralist group in the target areas and one of the largest indigenous groups in CAR, with the M'boboro Fulani representing approximately 80% of the total Fulani population. Large Fulani communities live in Bangui and Bossangoa (Ouham), which hosts the country's second-largest Fulani population with around 3,000 people. In contrast, Fulani presence in Birao (Vakaga) and Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran) is minimal.

The pervasive instability stemming from persistent military and political crises in CAR since 2013 has profoundly disrupted the traditional ways of life for many groups, particularly the M'bororo Fulani.<sup>18</sup> This instability exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and has led to forced displacement, economic marginalization, and increased competition over natural resources. In such a conflict-affected environment, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities have been disproportionately targeted, facing attacks, illegal arrests, and detentions<sup>19</sup>. Therefore, the project must acknowledge that precise demographic, social data, and continuous engagement with some populations might be challenging to obtain.

## 3.1 Baseline Profile of IP and Ethnic Minorities in Target Areas

### 3.1.1 Overview of M'bororo Fulani in project target area

The M'bororo Fulani are recognized as the main indigenous group in the project's target areas. They are primarily nomadic pastoralists, herding cattle. The 2003 census estimated their population in CAR at 39,299 individuals, representing approximately 1% of the total population<sup>20</sup>. They have a strong presence in rural areas, where they constitute about 14% of the population, compared to 0.2% in urban areas.<sup>21</sup> Their primary prefectural distributions include Ouaka (centre-east), M'bomou (south-east/south), and Lobaye (south-west). The M'bororo are a sub-group of the larger Fulani people, a vast nomadic group spread across West and Central Africa, including Chad. A consultation with national Fulani leadership in Bangui on August 17, 2025, confirmed that the Fulani are the largest ethnic minority in CAR, with the M'bororo representing about 80% of the group.

Leaders noted the presence of significant settled communities, including over 3,000 people in Bangui and a large population in Bossangoa. While their traditional languages are Fulfuldé and Falata, it was confirmed that all Fulani also understand

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<sup>16</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>17</sup> WGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>18</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>19</sup> Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (2025). [Central African Republic, Populations at Risk.](#)

<sup>20</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>21</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

the national language, Sango. This high-level consultation initially suggested that Fulani communities were almost entirely absent in Ndélé and Birao.

A more localized consultation in Bossangoa on August 18, 2025, added crucial nuance to the situation in the Ouham Prefecture. It revealed a fragile and "timid" return of the Fulani community to Bossangoa city following the 2014 politico-military crises, with a maximum of 10 households (approximately 50 people) having returned as of the consultation date, many after more than a decade as refugees in Chad. This small group resides primarily in the Sembe neighbourhood, with their limited numbers attributed to persistent fears of violence. This contrasts with the wider prefecture, where larger Fulani communities are found in localities such as Nana Bakassa, Kouki, and Markounda.

Finally, a third consultation in Ndélé on August 20, 2025, revealed a significant sedentary Fulani community, updating the initial assessment from the Bangui meeting. Due to armed conflicts since 2009, communities have been forced to gather near large towns for protection. The main gathering site is Gozamar, located 5 km from Ndélé, which hosts a population of approximately 674 people, the majority of whom are women and children. This settlement pattern is a key adaptation to ongoing insecurity, where women and children remain in the sedentary camp for safety while many men and young men remain mobile with the few remaining herds of cattle.

No consultations were held in Birao (Vakaga), due to security challenges that limited stakeholder engagement. However, the Coordinator of the National Federation of Central African Herders (FNEC) participated in one of the consultation meetings, acting as national representatives of pastoral communities. During the implementation phase consultations with Fulani in Birao (Vakaga) will be held to validate project activities and ensure an adequate FPIC.

## Socioeconomic Profile

The traditional livelihood of the M'bororo Fulani revolves around nomadic pastoralism, with cattle serving as a primary economic asset and a central element of their cultural identity. While many maintain a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle, seasonal migration patterns have shifted significantly in recent decades. Some groups practice agro-pastoralism, combining subsistence farming (millet, sorghum, and small ruminants) with cattle herding. Semi-nomadic households often establish homesteads for farming while younger family members migrate with herds in search of grazing land<sup>22</sup>.

The M'bororo have historically migrated into the Central African Republic from Cameroon, Sudan, and Chad, settling in the territory several centuries ago in search of pasture, hunting, and forest use. Today, they are recognized as the largest ethnic minority in the country<sup>23</sup>. As confirmed in project consultations carried out in August 2025, nearly all members identify as Muslim and their languages include Fulfuldé and Falata, though most also understand Sango, which facilitates communication with other communities.

Consultations with M'bororo communities in Bangui, Bossangoa, and Ndélé carried in August 2025, highlighted additional dimensions of their livelihoods and vulnerabilities. In Bangui, leaders emphasized their reliance on animal husbandry and small-scale agriculture, while in Bossangoa, many families also engage in petty trade to diversify income. Women are primarily responsible for household management, but in Bangui they expressed interest in expanding their role in income generation, particularly in small trade and agricultural activities, if resources and credit were available. Recent programs, such as the Youth Support Livestock Project (PEAJ) in Bossangoa, aim to build capacity in animal husbandry and dairy processing, offered opportunities for younger M'bororo to strengthen skills and diversify livelihoods.

However, the constant military and political crises in CAR since 2013 have severely disrupted their traditional pastoralist way of life, altering their patterns, increasingly drawing them towards a sedentary lifestyle and agriculture as a means of survival.<sup>24</sup> The M'bororo face immense pressure from violence perpetrated by "zaraguinas" (armed groups or bandits),

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<sup>22</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>23</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

<sup>24</sup> IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs , 2021. The Indigenous World - Central African Republic -, <https://iwgia.org/en/central-african-republic.html>

which includes direct attacks, kidnapping of women and children for ransom (often paid in cattle), leading to both human loss and severe economic hardship<sup>25</sup>. Their cattle have become a primary source for financing the conflict economy and they are often unfairly associated with other violent groups in the region.<sup>26</sup>

Moreover, resource conflicts and inter-communal tensions with large landowners have left them at risk of eviction and other human rights abuses - a situation exacerbated by the uncertainties some community members experience around statelessness<sup>27</sup>.

### Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to safe drinking water is one of the most significant challenges faced by the M'bororo Fulani in CAR. As confirmed by consultations with Fulani in Bossangoa, in semi-urban areas, some households rely on neighbors' private wells for domestic use, while drinking water is collected from boreholes located several hundred meters away, such as at the town's bus station. In rural localities like Nana Bakassa, pastoralist households frequently depend on unprotected watercourses, exposing them to high risks of waterborne diseases.

The Fulani's pastoralist lifestyle further exacerbates their vulnerability. Herders of large livestock often settle temporarily outside urban centers where access to protected water points is scarce, forcing them to rely on rivers and streams both for human consumption and for livestock watering. Seasonal migration routes are increasingly disrupted by insecurity and land conflict, further limiting access to boreholes and community water infrastructure<sup>28</sup>. This places the M'bororo at heightened risk of water insecurity compared to sedentary populations.

In terms of sanitation, M'bororo households—particularly those in rural or peri-urban settlements—face limited access to improved latrines, hygiene promotion programs are minimal, and cultural practices around mobility and settlement often make it difficult for M'bororo communities to benefit from standard WASH interventions designed for sedentary populations<sup>29</sup>. Hygiene access is similarly constrained. Many Fulani communities lack basic handwashing facilities, with soap considered a luxury item in conflict-affected rural areas. In Bossangoa Consultations, women reported that access to water and hygiene supplies was inconsistent, making domestic chores and childcare more difficult.

Conflict and displacement since 2013 have compounded these challenges, as armed groups have deliberately destroyed water points and looted WASH infrastructure, worsening exclusion for groups like the M'bororo who are already politically and socially marginalized<sup>30</sup>.

### Climate Impacts

The M'bororo Fulani are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, which exacerbate existing conflicts and disrupt their traditional nomadic pastoralism. The shrinking of the Lake Chad Basin, a consequence of climate change, has led to forced displacement, violent conflicts, and political instability across the Sahel, directly impacting the M'bororo's access to traditional grazing lands and water resources. Droughts, land degradation, and desertification in the Sahel are forcing transhumant pastoralists, including the M'bororo, to alter their migratory routes, pushing them further south into northern CAR in search of pastureland and water.<sup>31</sup> Climate change and environmental degradation have also led to the loss of their

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<sup>25</sup> De Vries, 2018. [Navigating Violence and Exclusion: The Mbororo's Claim to the CAR Margins](#).

<sup>26</sup> De Vries, 2018. [Navigating Violence and Exclusion: The Mbororo's Claim to the CAR Margins](#).

<sup>27</sup> UNHCR, 2018. [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples – Mbororo](#).

<sup>28</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. (2024, October 2). [Central African Republic: Clean drinking water remains a luxury](#).

<sup>29</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. (2024, October 2). [Central African Republic: Clean drinking water remains a luxury](#).

<sup>30</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. (2024, October 2). [Central African Republic: Clean drinking water remains a luxury](#).

<sup>31</sup> NUPI, 2024. [Climate, Peace, and Security Fact Sheet: Central African Republic](#).

herds, compelling many M'bororo to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle and agriculture, intensifying conflict between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers, which further contributes to land disputes and new vulnerabilities.<sup>32</sup>

Consultations confirmed the immediacy of these challenges. In Bangui, female participants identified floods and prolonged droughts as the most significant climate-related problems, directly affecting household health and well-being. They emphasized deteriorating hygiene conditions, increases in waterborne diseases, water scarcity during the dry season, and worsening livelihood insecurity. Participants also expressed concerns around how future climate-related displacement from Chad, Sudan, and Cameroon could exacerbate resource competition in CAR. While many agreed that climate change affects them similarly to other populations, women are disproportionately impacted because of their household responsibilities for water collection, hygiene, and childcare.

In Bamingui, droughts were cited as the most severe climate hazard, with limited grazing areas and dried-up water sources affecting both cattle and people. Respondents described lack of drinking water, drying of wells and streams, recurring illnesses, and rising child malnutrition as critical consequences. Women and children were again identified as the most vulnerable, given their dependence on water access and limited mobility. To mitigate risks, M'bororo communities often settle women and children near towns or villages while men continue to move with cattle, reflecting an adaptive but fragmented livelihood strategy.

### Governance and Traditional Authorities

The M'bororo Fulani, as a nomadic pastoralist group, have a social structure that emphasizes family and kinship.<sup>29</sup> While specific details on their traditional governance within CAR are limited, the broader Wodaabe (Mbororo) subgroup is known to have a council of men elders (suura) that discusses and decides movements within the lineage group, though each male head of household is free to move as he wishes<sup>33</sup>.

Stakeholders from consultation workshops confirmed that the M'bororo in the project areas are locally organized under Fulani Chiefs, who serve as intermediaries with local authorities and external actors. These chiefs often arbitrate disputes, organize communal matters, and represent the community in administrative or humanitarian forums. However, their nomadic nature often leads to them being viewed as "non-autochthonous" with little legal or political status by external state institutions<sup>34</sup>.

Community consultations revealed both the patriarchal nature of Fulani governance and the growing role of local associations and religious institutions. In Bangui, for example, cultural and communal identity is reinforced through the Friday prayer gatherings at the central mosque. In Bossangoa, Fulani men often meet at the FNEC Office (National Federation of Cattle Herders of CAR), which functions as a semi-formal governance body for deliberations, particularly around land disputes, livestock trade, and community welfare. Women are generally excluded from these decision-making spaces, though they play essential roles in household economies and social cohesion.

In smaller towns such as Bamingui, Kotissako, and Bangoran, M'bororo settlements are often limited to fewer than 50 people per locality. Here, governance remains primarily family-based, with women and children typically settled on the outskirts of villages while men move with herds. The precarious nature of their land tenure, combined with recurrent violence and displacement, has forced many families into renting land from other groups, particularly Christian farmers, undermining traditional territorial autonomy. This erosion of customary governance has reinforced reliance on external networks such as livestock associations, religious leaders, and humanitarian intermediaries for representation and protection.

### Land Tenure

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<sup>32</sup> NUPI, 2024. [Climate, Peace, and Security Fact Sheet: Central African Republic](#).

<sup>33</sup> Africa 101 Last Tribes. <https://www.101lasttribes.com/tribes/wodaabe.html>

<sup>34</sup> De Vries, 2018. [Navigating Violence and Exclusion: The Mbororo's Claim to the CAR Margins](#).



A significant challenge for the M'bororo is their perception as "non-autochthonous" by many, largely due to their nomadic nature. M'bororo lands are often not officially registered, forcing them to negotiate with other communities for the right to live on their own lands<sup>35</sup>. This lack of formal recognition and secure land rights, combined with their mobility, makes them highly vulnerable to conflicts with settled communities and to exploitation by armed groups and leaves them with minimal state protection, leading to lose confidence in the state and increasingly seek protection from militias.<sup>36</sup>

The existing land law, which has not been updated since the 1960s, is inadequate in defining the rights and duties of various land users, thereby exacerbating rural tensions and violence between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers. Their historical strategy of occupying largely empty pastures is now pressured by various armed groups who also operate in these territories for their own political and economic agendas.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> De Vries, 2018. [Navigating Violence and Exclusion: The Mbororo's Claim to the CAR Margins.](#)

<sup>36</sup> Crisis Group, 2025. [Violence and Herding in the Central African Republic.](#)

<sup>37</sup> Crisis Group, 2025. [Violence and Herding in the Central African Republic.](#)

## 4. Potential Project Risks

The consultations with Fulani communities in Bangui, Bossangoa, and Ndélé revealed several significant social, governance, and operational risks that could impact the project's success and the well-being of the communities. These risks must be carefully managed to ensure the project's interventions are equitable, sustainable, and do no harm.

**Conflicts among beneficiaries:** A major risk, identified explicitly in Bossangoa, is the active social exclusion and discrimination the Fulani face at shared community facilities. The report stated that the wider population has "difficulty accepting the collection of water at the borehole by the Fulani". This poses a direct risk of conflict at project-supported water points and could undermine the project's goal of ensuring equitable access.

- **Overall Risk Level:** Low to moderate
- **Reversibility:** Reversible
- **Management:** Moderate with adequate benefit distribution arrangements.
- **Mitigation Measures:** Specific boreholes and cattle holes built specifically in Fulani areas and activities targeted specifically at Fulani populations to avoid conflicts. For more details see row 5 of Action Plan.

**Land Tenure Insecurity and Livelihood Disruption:** Due to their historical pastoralist livelihoods and customary land arrangements, the Fulani community in the project target areas, especially in Bossangoa, face land tenure insecurity. They have also been displaced by conflict for over a decade, resulting excluded from land tenure regimes. This forces them into precarious and costly rental situations, causing problems and tensions with settled communities, and preventing them from accessing reliable WASH facilities.

- **Overall Risk Level:** Moderate
- **Reversibility:** Reversible
- **Management:** Moderate with adequate benefit distribution arrangements.
- **Mitigation Measures:** Specific boreholes and cattle holes built specifically in Fulani areas and activities targeted specifically at Fulani populations to avoid conflicts. For more details see row 5 of Action Plan.

**Governance Risks and Lack of Trust:** A deep-seated mistrust of government channels was expressed by the community in Bangui, who cited past negative experiences and stated a clear preference to work directly with UNICEF. This was reinforced in Ndélé, where the community feels abandoned by the state, which they say does not have the resources to create water points for them. This lack of trust is a significant governance barrier. Furthermore, a critical operational risk stems from past project failures; leaders in Bangui recalled that previous borehole drilling projects repeatedly failed because implementers did not consult local leaders, who possess the traditional knowledge of where to find water.

- **Overall Risk Level:** Low to moderate
- **Reversibility:** Reversible
- **Management:** High with inclusive adequate stakeholder engagement.
- **Mitigation Measures:** All project activities are designed in culturally appropriate ways that support and encourage full and effective participation of Fulani communities in the target areas, recognizing and responding to the participation barriers identified in the baseline analysis and to an ongoing meaningful consultation process. More detail on mitigation measures on Row 1 of Action Plan.

**Dependency and Sustainability Risks:** The consultation in Ndélé highlighted a risk related to dependency. The community noted that assistance from NGOs has ceased in recent years, leaving them with no external support. The



complete drying up of their water sources has left them with no coping mechanisms, making them entirely reliant on new interventions for their basic survival. This creates a risk that the project's interventions, while essential, could foster dependency if not paired with strong community ownership and a clear long-term sustainability plan.

- **Overall Risk Level:** Low
- **Reversibility:** Reversible with corrective measures
- **Management:** High with capacity building
- **Mitigation Measures:** Awareness raising campaigns and targeted training to Fulani leaders and community members will be carried on during the project for building capacity in local communities for WASH facilities management. This will include also youth populations for ensuring community ownership. For more detail see rows 4,5, and 6 of the Action Plan.

## 5. Consultations and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Recognizing the Fulani M'boboro's traditional knowledge and unique perspectives, the project's approach has been participatory from the design phase, including specific consultations with representatives with Fulani leaders and community representatives. Since the design phase, the project initiated a process of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a continuous and iterative process that will be upheld throughout implementation. This approach guarantees ongoing, culturally appropriate, and flexible engagement to address emerging issues and ensure the Fulani people are active partners in building their climate resilience.

### 5.1 Overview of Consultation and Engagement Process

The project undertook a culturally appropriate consultation process through three distinct meetings between August 17 and August 20, 2025, each tailored to the specific context of the Fulani communities in Bangui, Bossangoa, and Ndélé. No consultation was held in Birao (Vakaga), due to security issues and the confirmed absence of large Fulani communities in that area.

#### Consultation with National Fulani Leadership (Bangui)

The first consultation was held on August 17, 2025, in Bangui with 12 national and local Fulani leaders, including 8 men and 4 women. The meeting was chaired by the national leader of Islamic groups of the Fulani ethnicity.

- Objectives: The primary objectives were to present the project's scope, gather high-level feedback on climate impacts and needs, ensure the project design addresses the specific barriers faced by the Fulani community, and secure their national-level Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) at the design stage.
- Methodology and Information Shared: The session began with a formal presentation by a UNICEF consultant covering the project's objectives, partners, timeline, and the purpose of the FPIC and the Indigenous Peoples Plan. This was followed by an open discussion where the facilitator posed a series of questions to the participants.
- Key Discussion Points: The discussion was framed around the following topics:
  - o Community location and cultural identity.
  - o The main climate-related problems and their effects on daily life.
  - o Expected project benefits and potential risks or problems.
  - o The best methods for the project to communicate and work with the community.
  - o Preferred channels for reporting grievances or problems.

#### Consultation with Returned and Pastoralist Communities (Bossangoa)

A second, more localized consultation was conducted on August 18, 2025, in Bossangoa, engaging a "returned" refugee couple and the Coordinator of the National Federation of Central African Herders (FNEC).

- Objectives: This session was designed to gather detailed insights into the unique challenges faced by returned and pastoralist communities in the Ouham Prefecture, particularly concerning displacement, land tenure, social inclusion, and climate impacts on livelihoods.
- Methodology: The consultation was facilitated by the local UNICEF WASH Program Officer and conducted as a semi-structured interview using a guide in both Sango and Fulfulde to ensure nuanced communication.
- Key Discussion Points: The interview guide covered topics including:
  - o Community locations and history as recent returnees from refugee camps in Chad.

- Access to basic social services, including land, water, education, and healthcare.
- Main climate problems (droughts, intense rains) and their specific impacts on livestock farming and health.
- Expected project benefits and potential risks or problems.
- The best methods for the project to communicate and work with the community.
- Preferred channels for reporting grievances or problems.

### Consultation with Sedentary, Conflict-Affected Communities (Ndélé)

The final consultation was held on August 20, 2025, with the sedentary Fulani community at the Gozamar site near Ndélé, engaging the community's customary chief and his spokesperson.

- Objectives: The goal was to understand the urgent needs of this community, which has been forced into a sedentary lifestyle due to armed conflict, with a focus on their acute vulnerability to drought and lack of basic services.
- Methodology: The engagement was facilitated by local authorities—the Deputy Mayor of Ndélé and the Head of the ANEA branch—ensuring a bridge between the community's traditional leadership and formal governance structures.
- Key Discussion Points: The discussion focused on:
  - The community's location and sedentary status due to conflict.
  - The specific climate problems faced (especially the severity of drought) and their direct impacts on health, daily life, and child nutrition.
  - Other community pressing needs and challenges
  - Expected project benefits and potential risks or problems.
  - The best methods for the project to communicate and work with the community.
  - Preferred channels for reporting grievances or problems.

## 5.2 Key Outcomes

The consultations provided a rich understanding of the Fulani people's needs and priorities, which validated the project's Theory of Change and have been directly integrated into the project's specific activities. The community's feedback confirmed that barriers related to weak governance, social exclusion, and lack of climate-resilient infrastructure are central to their vulnerability.

Component	Relevance to Fulani Communities
<b>1. Enabling Environment</b>	This component will support participatory planning that strengthens Fulani governance structures in climate adaptation. It will ensure their traditional knowledge is integrated into water resource management and that their leaders are included in decision-making bodies. This directly responds to the community's request for inclusion in project management committees and addresses their mistrust of top-down approaches.
<b>2. Resilient Infrastructure</b>	This component directly addresses the community's most urgent needs by providing climate-resilient water sources to Fulani communities. It will promote traditional practices by ensuring infrastructure is sited according to communities' needs and locations and protects the resources vital to Fulani livelihoods and health. This responds to the need for safe, reliable water points, especially in locations that are conflict-sensitive and accessible to women and children.

The consultations yielded several critical and consistent outcomes that have directly informed the project's design and that are detailed below:

- **Climate Impacts on Livelihoods and Health:** Across all consultations, communities identified prolonged droughts and severe floods as their primary climate risk. Droughts were described as the most severe problem in Ndélé, leading to the complete drying up of traditional wells. These climate shocks result in a deterioration of hygiene, an increase in waterborne diseases, and acute water scarcity. The consultations detailed specific impacts on pastoralism, including intense rains creating high-humidity areas intolerable for cattle and droughts forcing herders to move to forests with poorer pasture and higher parasite risk. These issues were directly linked to severe health consequences, including malnutrition in children (described as having "bloated stomachs") in Ndélé and frequent cases of malaria and skin diseases in Bossangoa.
- **Urgent Need for Safe and Exclusive Water Infrastructure:** The most pressing need expressed was for reliable and safe water points. Communities in Bossangoa and Ndélé specifically requested the construction of boreholes directly within their camps to ensure safe and undisputed access and to bypass the social exclusion and conflict experienced at shared boreholes. A specific need was also raised in Bangui for improved hygiene and water access at the Bubui cattle market abattoir.
- **Primacy of Traditional Knowledge in Project Design:** A critical lesson from past failures was highlighted, with leaders in Bangui stressing that their traditional knowledge of water resource locations is non-negotiable for any future drilling activities to ensure success. The success of a 2023 WASH project in Markoundia, where a well-managed borehole was built in a Fulani camp, was cited as a positive example of this approach.
- **Demand for Inclusive Governance and Participation:** The consultations revealed a strong desire for genuine partnership. A formal condition of consent from the Bangui meeting was the inclusion of local Fulani leaders in project management committees. This was reinforced by a deep mistrust of government channels expressed in Bangui and a feeling of abandonment by the state in Ndélé, leading to a preference for direct engagement with UNICEF and its partners.
- **Consent following specific conditions:** The national leadership in Bangui provided formal, signed Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project. However, this consent is contingent upon specific conditions regarding proportional beneficiary inclusion, the use of the Fulfulde language, and participation in governance. Communities in Bossangoa and Ndélé gave clear verbal consent, stating the project would be "welcome" and would ease their "suffering".

The table below details how these key outcomes and other specific needs identified by the Fulani communities have been integrated into the project's design.

Key Outcomes from Consultations	Integration into Project Design
<b>Project Relevance Confirmed: The community confirmed the project's relevance in addressing their acute climate vulnerabilities and WASH needs.</b>	The project's two components directly align with the findings. Component 1 (Enabling Environment) will strengthen inclusive governance, and Component 2 (Resilient Infrastructure) will deliver culturally appropriate WASH services.
<b>Urgent Need for Safe &amp; Exclusive Water Sources: Communities face severe water scarcity, contamination, and child malnutrition due to droughts and social exclusion at shared water points.</b>	Component 2, through Activity 2.1.3., will finance the construction of new, climate-resilient water boreholes, sited directly within Fulani camps as requested, to ensure safe and undisputed access.

<b>Primacy of Traditional Knowledge: Leaders insisted that their traditional knowledge of water source locations is essential to avoid the repeated failures of past borehole projects.</b>	Activity 2.1.1 will ensure that hydrological studies are directly informed by consultation with Fulani leaders, integrating their traditional knowledge into technical assessments.
<b>Demand for Inclusive Governance: Communities expressed a desire for their leaders to be included in project management committees and a mistrust of government channels.</b>	Fulani leaders will be included in multi-stakeholder platforms for climate planning and coordination, including participatory workshops for strategy development and national climate coordination.
<b>Need to Secure Livelihoods: Requests were made to secure transhumance corridors and improve WASH at the Bangui cattle market, both central to their pastoral economy.</b>	Activity 1.1.1 provides an entry point to address policy-level issues like securing water points along mobility routes and will integrate Fulani considerations. Infrastructure support can be considered under Activity 2.1.3.
<b>Requirement for Targeted Capacity Building: A specific need for hygiene awareness was identified for transhumant populations to combat child illness.</b>	Capacity building and training activities will be designed in culturally appropriate ways and targeted to Fulani communities. Specific hygiene awareness capacity building will be included under Output 2.3.

## 5.3 Guidelines for Ongoing Consultation and Engagement

To ensure a respectful and effective partnership, the project will adhere to the following principles for ongoing engagement, based on the direct requests of the communities:

- **Respect for Fulani Governance and Traditional Structures:** All formal engagement will be routed through the community's recognized leadership, which varies by context: the customary chiefs, clan chiefs, and imams in Bangui; the FNEC representative and direct contact in Bossangoa; and the customary chief and his spokesperson in Ndélé. This approach directly addresses the barrier of mistrust by respecting established authority.
- **Continuous and Adaptive Engagement:** FPIC is an ongoing process, not a one-time event. Any significant changes to project activities will trigger renewed, culturally appropriate and meaningful consultation to ensure the communities remain informed and in agreement, building trust and ensuring the project remains relevant.
- **Culturally Appropriate Communication:** Project information will be shared in accessible formats. As mandated by the Bangui community, this includes producing key materials in the Fulfulde language and having them validated by leaders to ensure clarity and cultural appropriateness.
- **Inclusivity and Equitable Participation:** The project will make specific efforts to engage women and elders, adhering to local protocols such as obtaining permission from husbands where required, while creating safe spaces for their voices to be heard.
- **Transparent Feedback and Grievance Mechanisms:** The project will apply culturally appropriate measures to ensure that Fulani communities can access and use the overall project grievance mechanism in a safe, accessible and responsive manner, taking into account the considerations identified during consultations to ensure accountability and responsiveness (see Section 7).

## 5.4 FPIC

Formal, signed Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) was obtained from the national Fulani leadership during the Bangui consultation on August 17, 2025. This consent was granted on behalf of the communities and is contingent upon the fulfilment of the following conditions and requests, which will be integrated into the project's monitoring framework.

Formal Conditions:

- **Proportional Beneficiaries:** The Fulani must be included among project beneficiaries in a proportion that reflects their demographic weight.
- **Language Accessibility:** All education and communication materials intended for their communities must be produced in their local language, Fulfuldé.
- **Inclusion in Governance:** Local Fulani leaders in the prefectures must be made an integral part of the project's management committees.

**Additional Oral Requests:**

- **Direct Involvement:** Fulani associations and volunteer groups must be directly involved in carrying out awareness-raising activities.
- **Leader Validation:** All communication materials must be validated by community leaders prior to dissemination.
- **Consultation on Siting:** Local leaders must be consulted on the placement of new boreholes to leverage their knowledge of water sources.

A Site-Readiness Packet for activities involving Indigenous Peoples is available in the Operations Manual (Annex 21).

## 6. Indigenous Peoples Plan

### 6.1. Action Plan

Project Output	IP Measures	Indicators	Timeline	Budget	Responsibility
<b>All project activities are designed in culturally appropriate ways that support and encourage full and effective participation of Fulani communities in the target areas, recognizing and responding to the participation barriers identified in the baseline analysis and to an ongoing meaningful consultation process.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer to facilitate ongoing communication between the project team and Fulani communities and to overview the implementation of this plan.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Culturally appropriate measures applied to ensure that Fulani communities can access and use the overall project grievance mechanism across the project implementation.</li> <li>- Conduct regular meaningful consultation progress updates and feedback sessions to maintain transparency and trust for each project activity.</li> <li>- All education and communication materials intended for Fulani communities, must be produced in their local language, Fulfuldé.s</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>1 Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer hired with experience and knowledge of cultural diversity and practices. Knowledge of Fulfuldé and Fulani culture is highly desirable.</p> <p>GRM with culturally appropriate measures in place based on Fulani consultations.</p> <p>Evidence of consultation meetings with Fulani leaders and community members for co-designing and demonstrating support and consent to all activities implemented that might have impacts in their livelihoods.</p> <p>Evidence of education and communication materials translated to Fulfuldé</p>	All project duration Y1-6	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer budget + USD 30,000 earmarked for extra consultation meetings	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer

<b>Output 1.1. Policies, standards/regulations and financing for climate-resilient WASH, WRM and DRR are strengthened</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All revised national WASH and WRM policies, strategies, and guidelines such as the National Water Policy, Rural WASH Norms, and Health Sector Strategy, integrate Fulani considerations and needs.</li> </ul>	100% of reviewed national WASH and WRM policies, strategies and guideline integrate Fulani considerations and needs.	Y 1-5	Integrated into Output 1.1, with Fulani inclusion mainstreamed + share of Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer budget	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer; Ministry of Water Resources
<b>Output 1.2.: Planning and monitoring/evaluation/learning (MEL) systems for climate resilience are strengthened</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The WASH sectoral strategy for DRR will incorporate integrate Fulani knowledge</li> <li>- All impact scenarios, DRR, and/or IWRM plans developed to inform/strengthen early warning systems and adaptive planning include Fulani populations within targeted prefectures.</li> </ul>	<p>At least 2 representatives of Fulani communities attend WASH for DRR sectoral strategy workshop.</p> <p>1 WASH for DRR strategy that integrate Fulani knowledge, needs, and priorities, specifically including women knowledge.</p> <p>At least 2 representatives of Fulani communities per prefecture attend participatory workshops for prefecture level DRR planning.</p> <p>100% of prefecture DRR integrate Fulani knowledge, needs, and priorities, specifically including women knowledge.</p>	Y 1-5	Integrated into Output 1.2, with Fulani participation budgeted + share of Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer budget	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer, Ministry of Humanitarian affairs, Ministries of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and NGOs and University.
<b>Output 1.3. Institutional capacities and governance on climate change are strengthened</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fulani leaders and communities included in the capacity building needs assessment and training workshops.</li> <li>- Workshop materials are designed in culturally</li> </ul>	<p>At least 2 members of Fulani communities per prefecture trained in capacity building plans.</p> <p>100% of capacity building assessment and trainings are designed in culturally appropriate</p>	Y 1-3	Integrated into Output 1.3, with Fulfuldé translation and Fulani representation + share of Gender, IPP and Social	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer; Ministry of Water Resources ; Ministry of Environment



	<p>appropriate ways and translated to Fulfuldé.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fulani leaders are included in the multi-stakeholder platforms for sectoral and intersectoral coordination and holistic climate adaptation mainstreaming.</li> </ul>	<p>ways and integrate Fulani considerations.</p> <p>At least 1 Fulani leader included in meetings of the National Climate Coordination Committee.</p>		Inclusion Officer budget	
<p><b>Output 2.1. Climate-resilient WASH services are accessible and used in rural, flood- and drought-prone areas of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga prefectures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CR-WASH awareness-raising campaign designed in culturally appropriate ways to include and reach Fulani populations.</li> <li>- Hydrological studies and drilling area prioritization is informed by consultations with Fulani leaders to ensure integration of local traditional knowledge into technical assessments</li> <li>- Construction of new, climate-resilient water boreholes, sited directly within Fulani camps as requested, to ensure safe and undisputed access.</li> <li>- Construction of cattle troughs in Fulani areas including improvements in the Bangui Cattle market.</li> <li>- Capacity building sessions targeted at Fulani communities to</li> </ul>	<p>100% of awareness raising campaign materials designed in culturally appropriate ways to include Fulani populations.</p> <p>100% of hydrological studies include Fulani knowledge for site selection and monitoring, specifically including women knowledge..</p> <p>At least 1 meaningful consultation meeting with Fulani leaders per prefecture to prioritize drilling sites (details on these consultation process are amplified under Chapter 6.2.)</p> <p>At least 1 borehole constructed per Fulani community in target sites, defined during consultation processes, and specifically including women and children's considerations..</p>	Y 1-5	<p>Integrated into Output 2.1, incl. consultation costs + Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer budget. USD 30,000 specifically earmarked for Fulani consultations (5k/year)</p>	<p>Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer; Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resources, Ministry of Health, Private Sector.</p>

	operate/maintain climate-resilient WASH services.	<p>At least 1 cattle trough constructed per Fulani community in target sites defined during consultation process.</p> <p>At least 1 capacity building session targeted to Fulani communities to operate/maintain climate-resilient WASH services.</p>			
<b>Output 2.3. Increased community and youth engagement and empowerment for climate-resilient water management and DRR at local level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings will target Fulani communities designed in culturally appropriate ways to include and reach Fulani populations. They will include training sessions on safe water handling and hygiene practices for both sedentary and mobile Fulani communities.</li> <li>- At least 1 Fulani community participating in locally led WRM and DRR activities under 2.3.3.</li> </ul>	<p>At least 2 members of Fulani communities per prefecture participate in training.</p> <p>At least 1 training session on safe water handling and hygiene practices for Fulani communities is delivered in each target prefecture.</p> <p>At least 1 Fulani community benefited from locally led WRM and DRR.</p>	Y 1-5	Integrated into Output 2.3 + share of Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer budget + consultations budget.	Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer, MEDHR, Ministry of Water Resources, Directorate General of Hydraulic Resources (DGRH), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education

## 6.2. Fulani engagement and consultation processes for small-scale infrastructures in Fulani areas

As stated on Annex 24- Eligibility Criteria, assessments for the identification for boreholes and small-scale infrastructures will include:

- Field mapping of proposed areas to identify existing boreholes (cross-checked with the national database), water features, and visible geological structures. The shortlist of potential areas for investigation will be based on the broader hydrogeological assessments conducted under Activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.3, that, as indicated on the IPP and GAP will integrate Fulani knowledge and specifically include women and children's input and knowledge.
- Identification of high-yield boreholes in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities already equipped with handpumps that could be upgraded with solar pumping systems, including input and knowledge from women of communities.
- Basic field water testing (e.g., conductivity and pH) by hydrogeological experts and the National Water Resource Directorate.
- Community and local government consultations to gather information on water sources, experiences with past drilling, borehole functionality, and testimonies on past climate-related events and impacts, including women and children of communities who are primarily responsible of fetching water.
- Risk assessments of existing boreholes, including exposure to climate hazards, competing abstractions, land use pressures, and other gender-based risks.

Additionally, Activity 2.1.1 involves hydrological studies to identify viable water sources. As indicated on the IPP, these will involve community validation, meaning that findings will be cross-referenced with the traditional knowledge of Fulani leaders regarding historical water resource locations to ensure technical success and avoid past project failures.

Specifically for Fulani sites, the following criteria will be followed:

- **Exclusivity and Safety:** To mitigate social conflict and discrimination reported at shared water points, new boreholes will be prioritized for placement **directly within Fulani camps**.
- **Livelihood Support:** Priority is given to locations along **transhumance corridors** to secure water for pastoralist livelihoods.
- **Vulnerability:** Locations are selected to ensure safe access for **women and children**, who bear the primary responsibility for water collection and are most affected by water scarcity.
- The project will work through **customary chiefs** to negotiate access and ensure that site selection does not trigger displacement or land-related tensions with settled communities.

### Implementation & Accountability Framework

To maintain the **iterative nature of FPIC**, the consultation process will need to follow the FPIC guidelines stated on Chapter 5 and additionally, the following safeguards will apply to the technical team:

- **Language & Validation:** All final site selections and technical drawings must be presented in **local languages** and formally validated by community leaders before heavy machinery is mobilized.
- **Traditional Governance Alignment:** The **Gender, IPP, and Social Inclusion Officer** must verify that clan chiefs (Bangui), FNEC representatives (Bossangoa), or the Sultan Mayor (Ndélé) have approved the site-readiness packet.
- **Feedback Integration:** If traditional leaders indicate a site is unsuitable for cultural or spiritual reasons, the technical team **must** relocate the proposed infrastructure regardless of geophysical preference

### 6.3. Engagement and Monitoring Timeline

Phase	Activity	Frequency/Timing	Responsibility
Startup	<p>Involvement of Gender, SBC for IPP , and Social Inclusion Officer</p> <p>Establish and publicise culturally appropriate access arrangements for Fulani communities within the overall project grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>Months 1-3</p> <p>Month 4</p>	PMU
Project Implementation Y 1-6	Consultation progress updates and feedback sessions with Fulani leaders in alignment with project activities	Semi- annually in alignment with project activities.	PMU
Semi-Annual Reporting	<p>Semi-Annual report of IPP progress, including detailed review and evidence of indicators stated on the IPP included in the semi-annual Safeguard progress Reports and Semi-annual GCF Performance Reports.</p> <p>Dissemination of semi-annual project reports to Fulani leaders</p>	Semi-annually	PMU/UNICEF
Mid-Term	Review and adjustment of IPP measures based on monitoring results.	End of year 3, as agreed on mid-term review and evaluation.	PMU/ UNICEF/ IP Leaders



## 7. Grievance Redress Mechanism

A grievance is a concern or complaint raised by beneficiaries, affected communities, or stakeholders related to the perceived or actual impacts of the project activities. The objectives of establishing an effective GRM are to:

- Provide stakeholders with a clear and accessible process for raising grievances and concerns, including the option to do so anonymously;
- Structure and manage the handling of comments, responses, and grievances in a timely, fair, and transparent manner, in accordance with local and national regulations;
- Ensure that grievances are addressed in a way that strengthens accountability to project beneficiaries and upholds human rights principles.

To operationalize these objectives, the GRM is based on the following principles:

- **Legitimacy:** Trusted by stakeholders and accountable for fair grievance processing.
- **Accessibility and Cultural Appropriateness:** Widely known and easy to use, with adequate support for stakeholders facing barriers such as language or mobility constraints. The mechanism is gender- and age-inclusive, ensuring protection for marginalized groups and persons with disabilities. It is also publicized in local languages through culturally relevant means.
- **Anonymity and Protection from Retaliation:** The mechanism provides dedicated channels for stakeholders to submit grievances anonymously. To protect against retaliation, UNICEF and its partners will ensure that the identity of the complainant is kept confidential throughout the process, particularly in instances where the complainant expresses fear of reprisal.
- **Predictability:** Provides clear procedures, indicative timeframes for resolution, and transparency on process outcomes.
- **Equitability:** Ensures equal access to grievance processes, providing information, advice, and support so all stakeholders can engage fairly.
- **Transparency:** Maintains open communication channels, keeps complainants informed, and records all grievance responses.
- **Rights-compatibility:** Aligns with internationally recognized human rights and does not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies. When necessary, it supplements existing formal or informal mechanisms to ensure human rights compliance.
- **Continuous Learning:** Identifies lessons to enhance the mechanism, prevent future grievances, and improve project implementation.
- **Confidentiality:** Prioritizes complainant safety during reporting and investigation. The mechanism incorporates secure, confidential reporting channels and data storage, particularly for cases involving gender-based violence (GBV) or abuse.

By adhering to these principles, the GRM ensures that grievances are handled fairly, efficiently, and in alignment with international best practices, ultimately strengthening trust and engagement with project stakeholders.

The GRM will function as a critical feedback loop to inform project implementation, enhance performance, and identify risks early—particularly in relation to environmental and social safeguards. In situations where movement restrictions or insecurity are present, UNICEF will ensure that staff responsible for managing grievances have remote access to necessary systems, allowing processes to remain operational.

### 7.1 Project Grievance Redress Mechanisms

This project will operate a single project-level grievance redress mechanism implemented through UNICEF's Complaints and Feedback Management approach. Other mechanisms that may also be available to stakeholders, including existing inter-agency humanitarian feedback channels and the GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism, are described below for information only and do not replace the project grievance mechanism.

## 7.2 UNICEF's Complaints and Feedback Management (CFM) Procedure

This project will apply UNICEF's Procedure on Complaints and Feedback Management as its project-level grievance redress mechanism. The mechanism is designed to receive and manage complaints and feedback from programme stakeholders in a timely, safe and confidential manner, while protecting personal data and supporting programme effectiveness and risk management.

### Framework and Categorization

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is structured to receive, record, act upon, and analyse all complaints and feedback in a timely and confidential manner. To ensure a consistent and appropriate response, all submissions are classified into one of four standard categories:

- Category 1: Requests, Observations, and Grievances: Includes requests for information or assistance, suggestions, and general expressions of dissatisfaction.
- Category 2: Concerns: Pertains to potential contraventions of UNICEF's safeguarding or environmental and social standards that pose a risk of harm.
- Category 3: Incidents: Refers to confirmed occurrences or events that have resulted in safeguarding, environmental, or social harm.
- Category 4: Fraud and Corruption, and Aid Diversion: Encompasses fraudulent or corrupt practices as well as the misappropriation of aid resources by external actors.

### Procedural Workflow and Timelines

The procedure outlines a clear, multi-stage process for managing complaints, with strict timelines to ensure swift action, particularly for high-risk issues.

### Acknowledgement and Closure Timelines

Category	Acknowledgement	Closure
1. Requests, Observations, & Grievances	Within 2 working days	Within 31 days (or 90 days for Data Subject Requests)
2. Concerns	Within 2 working days	Within 15 days
3. Incidents	Within 12 hours	Within 48 hours
4. Fraud & Corruption, and Aid Diversion	Within 2 working days	Within 31 days

### Assignment and Initial Follow-up

Each recorded complaint is assigned to a designated focal point based on its category:

- Requests, Observations and Grievances and Concerns records are assigned to the relevant Programme Focal Point(s). More serious Incident records are assigned to the relevant Chief of Programme Section, while records of Fraud and Corruption, and Aid Diversion are assigned to the Head of Operations.
- For serious cases (Incidents and Fraud/Corruption), an initial follow-up is conducted to confirm necessary information and ensure immediate support, such as victim/survivor assistance, is initiated. This process is not an investigation and must not interfere with one.

### Review and Decision-Making

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution proposed by the Country Office the mechanism does not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies available under the laws of the Central African Republic

The final decision on the recommended course of action for these cases rests with the Representative. A record is formally closed upon resolution, implementation of an agreed course of action, or referral to OIAI.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution proposed by the Country Office Representative, the mechanism does not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies available under the laws of the Central African Republic

### **Management of Outstanding Records**

The procedure includes a clear escalation pathway for records that are not closed within their specified timelines or where the complainant is not satisfied. Outstanding requests or concerns are transferred to the Chief of the Programme Section for resolution and can be escalated to the Deputy Representative if needed. More serious outstanding incidents or fraud and corruption records are immediately escalated to the Representative, who convenes senior staff to determine a final course of action.

### **Management of Anonymous Grievances**

The project grievance mechanism will allow anonymous submissions through available feedback channels, where feasible. To appeal anonymously a Unique Tracking ID will be used to assign a code to the grievance and communicate its resolution anonymously through established channels Anonymous complaints will be reviewed and acted upon to the extent possible based on the information provided. Stakeholders will be informed that anonymous submissions may limit UNICEF's ability to seek clarification, provide direct feedback, or undertake a full follow-up where essential information is missing. Any information received will be handled with due regard to confidentiality, safety, security and personal data protection.

### **Accountability and Oversight**

Clear lines of responsibility ensure accountability at all levels.

- Country Office: The Representative is ultimately responsible and accountable for the effective implementation and strategic oversight of the procedure. Programme and Operations Focal Points manage the day-to-day handling of records, while Specialized Focal Points provide technical guidance.
- Oversight: Cases involving potential misconduct by UNICEF personnel or partners, such as sexual exploitation and abuse or significant fraud, are promptly referred to the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI), which is the independent office authorized to conduct such investigations.
- Analysis and Learning: Complaints and feedback data are regularly analysed to identify systemic trends, risks, and issues, which are then used to inform and improve programme effectiveness and strengthen risk management.

### **Requirements for Implementing Partners**

Implementing partners and vendors involved in the project will be required to promote the project grievance channels and ensure that communities are informed about how to use them. Complaints and feedback received through their own channels in relation to project activities will be reported to UNICEF in line with agreed reporting arrangements. Any concern, incident, or allegation of fraud and corruption will be referred to UNICEF immediately and confidentially for handling under the applicable process.

## **7.3 The CAR Standard Operating Procedures for Collective Feedback Mechanisms**

In some project areas, communities may also use existing inter-agency humanitarian feedback channels, including community information and feedback structures and mobile feedback arrangements where these are operational. These channels are not the project grievance mechanism, but they may serve as entry points for project-related feedback and grievances. Where project-related matters are received through such channels, they will be referred to UNICEF for handling through the project grievance mechanism, subject to appropriate confidentiality and data protection safeguards.

### **10.1.3 The GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)**



Paragraph 69 of the GCF's Governing Instrument mandates the establishment of an IRM, which reports directly to the GCF Board. The IRM is tasked with:

- Reviewing requests for reconsideration of projects or programmes denied funding by the GCF Board;
- Addressing complaints or grievances from persons or communities who may be adversely affected by GCF-funded activities through problem solving and/or compliance review;
- Initiating investigations independently where warranted;
- Monitoring implementation of Board decisions and agreements reached through the grievance process;
- Recommending policy or procedural changes to the Board based on observed trends or international best practices;
- Supporting capacity-building for grievance mechanisms of Direct Access Entities (DAEs); and
- Providing education and outreach on grievance redress to GCF stakeholders and the public.

Requests may be submitted to the IRM in any of the six official UN languages via: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>. For CAR, the French version of the request will take precedence in case of any discrepancy.

Stakeholders do not need to exhaust the project-level GRM or UNICEF's CFM before contacting the GCF IRM. Information on how to access the IRM will be clearly communicated during all stakeholder engagement sessions and through simplified brochures distributed in Fulani communities.

Terms of disclosure and access to the IRM are to be negotiated with the GCF.

#### **IRM Contact Information:**

Green Climate Fund

175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon 22004, Republic of Korea

**Email:** [irm@gcfund.org](mailto:irm@gcfund.org)

**Website:** <https://irm.greenclimate.fund>

## **7.4 Grievances Related to Safeguarding, inclusive of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)**

In line with UNICEF's zero-tolerance policy, all allegations of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) will be handled with the utmost seriousness, urgency, and confidentiality. Such allegations are classified as Category 3: Incidents under the UNICEF CFM Procedure and are managed through a specialized, fast-tracked process separate from the general GRM to ensure the safety and dignity of the survivor. The project will follow a strict survivor-centred approach, adhering to both the humanitarian procedures in CAR and the official UNICEF CFM Procedure.

#### **Core Principles**

The handling of all Incident records is guided by the following principles:

- **Safety and Do-No-Harm:** The survivor's physical and psychological safety is the highest priority. Measures will be taken to prevent re-traumatization and mitigate risks of retaliation.
- **Confidentiality and Privacy:** Case details will only be disclosed with the survivor's informed consent and on a strict need-to-know basis to protect them from further harm.

- **Respect and Non-discrimination:** Survivors will be treated with dignity, respect, and empathy, without blame or prejudice.
- **Choice and Agency:** Survivors have the right to determine how they wish to proceed and can withdraw consent at any point. The goal is to empower them in the reporting and response process.
- **Access to Services:** The project will facilitate timely access to comprehensive, survivor-centred assistance, including medical, psychosocial, legal, and safety support.
- **No Investigations:** Project staff will not investigate allegations. Their role is strictly to receive the report safely and make a confidential referral to the appropriate internal channels or designated investigation bodies.

## Roles and Contacts

UNICEF will rely on the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) Hotline ([Integrity1@unicef.org](mailto:Integrity1@unicef.org)) for reports of wrongdoing and/or misconduct.

For issues not falling under OIAI's remit, the relevant reporting channel will be provided at the proposal stage.

<mailto:psea.car@un.org><mailto:lamine.traore@un.org> **Process and Timelines (for Managing Incident Records Category 3)**

### 1. Confidential Intake and Acknowledgement (0-12 hours)

Any project staff or partner who receives an allegation will listen with empathy, ensure the survivor's immediate safety, and inform them of their rights and available support options. They will not ask for details beyond what is necessary to obtain informed consent for a referral. An acknowledgement of the complaint will be provided to the survivor within 12 hours of UNICEF becoming aware of the record.

### 2. Assignment and Initial Follow-up (within 12 hours)

Once recorded, the complaint is assigned to the relevant Chief of Programme Section. A designated Programme Focal Point, working in coordination with a Specialized (PSEA/Safeguarding) Focal Point, immediately conducts an Initial Follow-up. This is not an investigation; its purpose is to ensure a survivor-centred response is activated, including timely referral for medical, psychosocial, legal, and other assistance based on the survivor's needs and wishes.

### 3. Review, Referral, and Decision (within 24 hours)

A decision on the course of action is made swiftly:

If the allegation involves a UNICEF staff member, affiliate personnel, implementing partner, , or vendor, it falls under the mandate of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI). The UNICEF Representative must refer the matter to OIAI within 24 hours of being notified.

If the matter does not fall under OIAI's mandate, the Incident Review Team (IRT) is convened to review the case and recommend a course of action to the Representative for a final decision.

### 4. Record Closure and Parallel Case Management (Closure within 48 hours)

The official CFM record for the incident is formally closed within 48 hours of UNICEF becoming aware of it, once the matter has been referred to OIAI or a course of action has been decided by the

Representative. It is critical to note that this procedural closure does not mean that support for the survivor ends.

Survivor-centred case management is a parallel process that continues in coordination with specialized GBV partners for as long as needed, always respecting the survivor's wishes and consent.

## Data Protection

All information is handled on a strict need-to-know basis. Survivors decide what information may be shared. The following rules apply:

- **Data Collection:** Collect the minimum data needed for a safe referral. Do not record graphic details.
- **Consent:** Record if the survivor/complainant consented to referral and to anonymized reporting.
- **Storage:** Keep records in an encrypted file with role-based access. Retain for 24 months, then delete securely (unless there is a legal hold).
- **Reporting:** Only anonymized data appear on dashboards or routine reports.

## Community Information & GRM Interface

Safe reporting options (including hotlines and named focal points) will be clearly posted in project areas in French and local languages. Incident records involving SEA/SH/GBV bypass the standard GRM steps and are managed directly through this specialized procedure. The main GRM log will only contain an anonymized entry confirming a referral was completed to maintain confidentiality.

### Monitoring

The PMU will report the following anonymized metrics quarterly:

- Number of reports received
- Percentage of cases referred within 24 hours
- Percentage of survivors accessing services within 72 hours
- Average case-closure time
- Optional survivor-satisfaction feedback (with consent)

## 7.5 Fulani-Specific Measures

Consultations with Fulani communities in different project locations highlighted context-specific preferences for how project-related complaints and feedback can be raised safely and effectively. The project will therefore apply additional culturally appropriate access measures and Traditional Dispute Resolution Systems (TDR) to ensure that Fulani communities can use the overall project grievance mechanism in ways that reflect local communication practices and trusted entry points. Depending on the local context, these measures may include engagement through recognized community or religious leaders, direct contact with designated UNICEF or partner staff, and communication in relevant local languages. These arrangements will serve as entry points to the overall project grievance mechanism and will not replace it. Confidentiality, safety, and voluntary use of available channels will be maintained, including for anonymous submissions where feasible.

### 7.5.1 Fulani-Specific Grievance Channels and Resolution Pathways

Based on the consultations, the following entry points and TDRs structures are formally recognized for this project and will be publicized for Fulani communities:

- **Bangui (Traditional/Religious Leadership):** In Bangui, grievances will be channelled through traditional leadership structures, specifically clan chiefs or religious leaders (imams), and may be resolved through mediation led by them. The project PMU will document the outcomes of these traditional sessions to ensure alignment with GCF human rights standards.
- **In Bossangoa,** the community can raise concerns via a direct phone call or via mobile community feedback and complaint collectors .
- **In Ndélé,** a hierarchical channel is preferred, where the community informs their customary chief, who then escalates the issue to the Sultan Mayor of the town of Ndélé. Concerns reported to the Sultan Mayor may be resolved through the Sultanate's customary court. UNICEF will maintain a liaison role to ensure the process remains inclusive of women and youth. Same mechanism will apply for Vakaga Prefecture.
- In all locations, the project will maintain an alternative confidential route that can be used directly by women, adolescent girls, young people and others who may face barriers to raising concerns through traditional leadership structures. This is important to ensure that culturally appropriate engagement does not unintentionally exclude some voices
- **Agreement on Usage:** Complainants have the right to choose between the TDR or the standard UNICEF CFM at any time. If a person wants anonymity, they must use the UNICEF channel rather than the TDR channel. In cases where an anonymous grievance alleges corruption or SEAH, the investigation will be led by the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI).

## 8. Monitoring and Reporting

This section outlines the framework for tracking the implementation and effectiveness of the Indigenous People Plan (IPP), ensuring accountability, transparency, and adaptive management throughout the project lifecycle in alignment with the Monitoring and Engagement table presented above. The primary objective is to verify that project activities respect and uphold the rights, dignity, and livelihoods of the Fulani people, mitigating risks to their pastoralist and semi-pastoralist livelihoods.

### 8.1 Monitoring Methods

Monitoring of the IPP will be conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the project's implementation (Y1-6). The methodology will be culturally appropriate and participatory, ensuring the active involvement of the Fulani people.

- **Regular Meaningful Consultations and ongoing FPIC:** Continuous engagement will be maintained through regular meetings with the Fulani leaders and community meetings and workshops. These platforms will serve to gather ongoing feedback, assess progress, and identify emerging issues.
- **Participatory Field Visits:** Project staff, particularly the Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer, will conduct regular site visits in collaboration with Fulani representatives to observe project activities firsthand and gather community perspectives.
  - **Focus Group Discussions as part of meaningful consultation process (FGDs):** Targeted FGDs will be facilitated with diverse subgroups within the Fulani communities in the target prefectures, including women, youth, elders, to capture varied perspectives of the project actions and ensure inclusivity.
  - **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):** The established Fulani GRM will serve as a vital real-time monitoring tool for addressing concerns and disputes as they arise. Records from the GRM will be regularly reviewed as part of the overall monitoring process.
  - **Documentation and Reporting:** All monitoring activities, observations, and feedback will be systematically documented, reviewed by the project team, and file in the project's MEL system.

### 8.2 Roles and Responsibilities for Monitoring and Reporting

- **Project Management Unit (PMU):** The PMU, particularly the Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer, will be primarily responsible for overseeing the overall implementation of the IPP, coordinating monitoring activities, collecting data, analysing findings, and preparing reports.
  - **Fulani leaders:** Fulani leaders will be central to the monitoring process, facilitating community participation, providing insights, validating data, and serving as the primary liaison between the project and the community.
- **UNICEF, MEDHR, Implementing Partners** will be responsible for implementing specific project components and monitor relevant IPP indicators within their work areas and providing data to the PMU.

### 8.3 Reporting Mechanisms and Dissemination

Findings will be systematically reported to ensure accountability and inform adaptive management.

- **Internal Project Reports:** As part of the regular reporting mechanisms, the PMU will prepare regular internal progress reports detailing IPP implementation status, indicator progress, challenges encountered and proposed adaptive measures.

- **Reporting to Fulani leaders:** A critical aspect of transparency will be the regular communication of monitoring findings and project progress back to Fulani leaders. Information will be shared in accessible, culturally appropriate formats and translated to Fulfuldé as agreed during the FPIC process. This feedback loop will enable the community to stay informed and provide further input for adaptive management.
- **Adaptive Management:** Monitoring results will directly inform project decision-making. Any significant deviations, unforeseen negative impacts, or unmet needs identified through monitoring will trigger a review and adjustment of project activities in consultation with Fulani leaders, ensuring the project remains responsive and effective.