

**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board
29 June – 2 July 2026
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Provisional agenda item 11

GCF/B.45/02/Add.04
12 June 2026

Consideration of funding proposals – Addendum IV

Funding proposal package for FP303

Summary

This addendum contains the following seven parts:

- a) A funding proposal titled "Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)";
- b) No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s);
- c) Environmental and social report(s) disclosure;
- d) Secretariat's assessment;
- e) Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment;
- f) Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment; and
- g) Gender documentation.

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Disclaimer:

The designations and the presentation of the materials used in this document, including their respective citations, maps and references, have been included by the relevant Accredited Entity and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Green Climate Fund concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Also, the boundaries and names shown, and the designations used in this document have been included by the relevant Accredited Entity and do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Green Climate Fund.

The documents are presented as submitted by the Accredited Entity.

Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title:	Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)
Country(ies):	Central African Republic
Accredited Entity:	UNICEF
Date of first submission:	2025/09/15
Date of current submission	2026/05/20
Version number	V.4



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Note to Accredited Entities on the use of the funding proposal template

- Accredited Entities should provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to annexes such as feasibility studies, gender action plan, term sheet, etc.
- Accredited Entities should ensure that annexes provided are consistent with the details provided in the funding proposal. Updates to the funding proposal and/or annexes must be reflected in all relevant documents.
- The total number of pages for the funding proposal (excluding annexes) **should not exceed 60**. Proposals exceeding the prescribed length will not be assessed within the usual service standard time.
- The recommended font is Arial, size 11.
- Under the [GCF Information Disclosure Policy](#), project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Accredited Entities are asked to fill out information on disclosure in section G.4.

Please submit the completed proposal to:

fundingproposal@gcfund.org

Please use the following name convention for the file name:

“FP-[Accredited Entity Short Name]-[Country/Region]-[YYYY/MM/DD]”

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY			
A.1. Project or programme	Project	A.2. Public or private sector	Public
A.3. Request for Proposals (RFP)	<p>If the funding proposal is being submitted in response to a specific GCF Request for Proposals, indicate which RFP it is targeted for. Please note that there is a separate template for the Simplified Approval Process and REDD+.</p> <p><u>Not applicable</u></p>		
A.4. Result area(s)	<p>Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the <i>overall</i> proposed project/programme targets below. For each checked result area(s), indicate the estimated percentage of GCF and Co-financers' contribution devoted to it. The total of the percentages when summed should be 100% for GCF and Co-financers' contribution respectively.</p>		
		GCF contribution	Co-financers' contribution¹
	Mitigation total	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy generation and access	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-emission transport	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	Adaptation total	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities	20 %	20 %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security	40 %	40 %
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment	40 %	40 %	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services	<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %	
A.5. Expected mitigation outcome <i>(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)</i>	0 tCO ₂ e _q over total lifespan of the project/programme ²	A.6. Expected adaptation outcome <i>(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)</i>	
		3,068,674 (56.4% of population)	
		504,600 direct beneficiaries	2,564,074 indirect beneficiaries
		9.3%	47.1%
A.7. Total financing (GCF + co-finance³)	73,778,982 USD	A.9. Project size	Medium (Upto USD 250 million)
A.8. Total GCF funding requested	69,093,470 USD <i>For multi-country proposals, please fill out annex 17.</i>		

¹ Co-financer's contribution means the financial resources required, whether Public Finance or Private Finance, in addition to the GCF contribution (i.e. GCF financial resources requested by the Accredited Entity) to implement the project or programme described in the funding proposal.

² The total lifespan of the project/programme is defined as the maximum number of years over which the outcomes of the investment are expected to be effective. This is different from the project/programme implementation period.

³ Refer to the Policy of Co-financing of the GCF.

<p>A.10. Financial instrument(s) requested for the GCF funding</p>	<p><i>Mark all that apply and provide total amounts. The sum of all total amounts should be consistent with A.8.</i></p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <u>\$69,093,470</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <u>Enter number</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <u>Enter number</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Results-based payment <u>Enter number</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee <u>Enter number</u> </p>		
<p>A.11. Implementation period</p>	<p>6 years</p>	<p>A.12. Total lifespan</p>	<p>20 years⁴</p>
<p>A.13. Expected date of AE internal approval</p>	<p><i>This is the date that the Accredited Entity obtained/will obtain its own approval to implement the project/programme, if available.</i></p> <p>2/28/2026</p>		<p>A.14. ESS category</p> <p><i>Refer to the AE's safeguard policy and GCF ESS Standards to assess your FP category.</i></p> <p>B</p>
<p>A.15. Has this FP been submitted as a CN before?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>A.16. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>A.17. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>A.18. Is this FP included in the country programme?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>A.19. Complementarity and coherence</p>	<p><i>Does the project/programme complement other climate finance funding (e.g. GEF, AF, CIF, etc.)? If yes, please elaborate in section B.1.</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

⁴ Based on lifespan of drainage equipment

<p>A.20. Executing Entity information</p>	<p>The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will serve as both the Accredited Entity (AE) and the Executing Entity (EE) for the "Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)" project. UNICEF has a long-standing presence in the Central African Republic, having been active since 1986, and currently operates five field offices. It is the lead technical and financial partner for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in the country, with a 2024 country programme budget of \$104 million.</p> <p>The project's implementation will specifically target the prefectures of Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga. This selection was determined jointly with the government through a two-stage process, incorporating a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) with considerations for operational feasibility, including UNICEF's existing presence, logistical efficiency, and security. UNICEF maintains office presence in Ouham, Bangui, and Vakaga, and the proximity of Bamingui-Bangoran to Vakaga further enhances logistical efficiency for project operations. These areas were chosen as they represent some of the most climate-exposed and underserved prefectures in the country.</p> <p>In its capacity as EE, UNICEF will lead and provide overall management of the Technical Assistance (TA) at both national and subnational levels. This encompasses hosting and managing the Project Management Unit (PMU), leading technical implementation and supervision, managing all financial resources in line with the UNICEF Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA), ensuring compliance with project plans such as the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Gender Action Plan (GAP), and liaising with government institutions for coordination. UNICEF manages all financial transactions through its integrated SAP-based enterprise resource planning system, VISION, which supports budgeting, planning, cash transfers, procurement, contracts, accounting, and reporting. Financial control for grants is ensured through a multi-layered system of assurance activities and audits, guided primarily by the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) framework.</p> <p>The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources (MEDHR) will serve as a government Executing Entity for specific activities. Its role reflects its technical mandate and co-financing contribution. MEDHR will provide co-financing; deploy staff and technical inputs; identify sector priorities; and validate outputs within its mandate.</p>
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A.21. Executive summary (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

<p>Climate rationale, purpose, activities and delivery roles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Observed and projected change. Since 2005, the Central African Republic (CAR) has warmed by ~+0.8–1.2°C (vs. 1985–2004), with ~+40% more very-wet days in several prefectures. Floods and episodic droughts already disrupt services and livelihoods. CMIP6 SSP5-8.5 shows mid-century warming of ~1.7–2.15°C (2041–2070 vs. 1981–2010) and more very-wet days, increasing flood risk in Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham and Vakaga while dry-season water stress persists. Climate drivers (El Niño–Southern Oscillation; anthropogenic warming) combine with non-climatic stressors (conflict, poverty, rapid urbanization, very low baseline coverage of WASH services which are poorly constructed) to increase the climate risks of vulnerable communities. Data, maps and sources are given in the Feasibility Study (FS); 2020–2024 flood-loss estimates are summarized in the Economic and Financial Analysis files (Annex 3a/b). Impacts on WASH and health. Floods damage latrines, wells and distribution lines, driving faecal contamination and disease (cholera, diarrhoea, malaria). Heat and long dry periods reduce recharge and deepen water insecurity, increasing the risk of conflict and raising protection risks for women and girls who travel farther to collect water. Sparse hydrometric/ groundwater monitoring and regulation constrains sustainable abstraction and drought management. Impacts concentrate in poor settlements, schools and health facilities sited in flood-prone areas or reliant on shallow, water sources which are prone to contamination. Project goal. Increase the climate resilience of WASH services and vulnerable populations by reducing flood- and drought-related service disruptions, disease risks and asset and livelihood losses in Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham and Vakaga. Results track IRMF adaptation indicators Core 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached), ARA 1 Supplementary 2.4 , ARA 2 Supplementary 2.3 , ARA 3 Supplementary 2.6, Core 3 (physical assets), ARA

3 Supplementary 3.1, Core 5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks), Core 6 (technology), and Core 8 (knowledge generation and learning processes), with baselines, targets and methods in the annexes.

Theory of change and design

5. The project couples **systems reform** with **risk-informed service delivery**.
 - **Outcome 1 – Systems & policy.** Build capacity, policies and operational planning for climate-resilient WASH, Water Resources Management (WRM), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning Systems (EWS); embed risk-informed standards (72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts); establish Operation and Maintenance (O&M)/asset-management routines; integrate hydro-met data with community alerts. **MEDHR/DGRH** (Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources/Direction Générale Ressources Hydrauliques) and **ANEA** (Agence Nationale de l'eau et l'Assainissement) will be consulted for the development of and will validate the policies/standards, and asset registers, **facilitated by the UNICEF PMU**; drafted by consultants; additional validation by the Project Steering Committee (**PSC**). **Directorate of Meteorology + MEDHR/DGRH** will be consulted for the design of and operate hydrometric/groundwater networks and QA/QC and analyse data; **UNICEF** procures/installs equipment; non-governmental organisations (**NGO**)/**Civil Society Organisations (CSO) partners** support remote maintenance. **Directorate of Meteorology & Civil Protection** is responsible forecasting/alerts; **UNICEF PMU** standardizes data/protocols; **municipalities/community radio/ Implementing partners** manage last-mile dissemination. For Monitoring/Evaluation and Learning (MEL)/data integration, the **UNICEF PMU M&E unit** harmonizes and validates data and trains analysts; dashboards are hosted by **MEDHR**.
 - **Outcome 2 – Services & community resilience.** Deploy risk-screened, climate-resilient WASH: ~200 solarized, flood-resilient water systems; Community Led Total Sanitation (**CLTS**)-supported resilient sanitation in ~500 communities; **urban drainage upgrades in Bangui** to reduce inundation near critical WASH assets; climate resilient WASH packages for **100 schools** and **100 healthcare facilities**. Designs apply risk-informed siting/elevation, scour protection, sustainable abstraction with monitoring, and permeable/nature-based drainage where feasible. **Rural/peri-urban water systems:** works by **private contractors** procured by **UNICEF**; supervision by **UNICEF PMU + DGRH**; O&M by **water-user associations/delegated operators**; **NGO** train caretakers/artisans and set up spares chains. **Community sanitation:** **NGO** lead triggering/behaviour change/latrines upgrades with **communes**; **Health** and **Education** ministries co-lead for facilities; **Parent Teacher Associations /facility committees** run O&M. **Urban drainage (Bangui):** contractors under **UNICEF**; co-implemented with **Municipality/City Hall** and **Public Works**; post-handover O&M by **Municipal drainage department** with Outcome-1 budget lines. **Community WRM/DRR & youth engagement:** **NGO** facilitate; **youth/women's associations** co-design; **UNICEF PMU** coordinates training/materials.

Beneficiaries and gender

6. The project reaches ~**504,600 unique direct beneficiaries** across the four prefectures (de-duplicated; service-specific tallies intentionally overlap) and ~**2.5 million indirect beneficiaries** via systems strengthening and preparedness. **≥52%** of direct beneficiaries will be female. About **18,000** people (government, operators, artisans, community leaders, youth) gain skills in climate-risk assessment, conflict-sensitive resilience planning, WRM/DRR, hydrometric monitoring and O&M. Methods and de-duplication logic are in **Annex 23a/23b**.

Justification for GCF grant financing

7. The EFA (Annexes 2 & 3b) shows **no financed development baseline**; proposed measures are **public-good adaptation** with little cost-recovery. Passing climate premiums to users would **breach affordability**. Although socio-economic returns are positive (**EIRR ~14%**, **ENPV ~USD 34.27m**), benefits are largely **externalities**, so debt/blended options are unsuitable. A **grant** is the minimum-concessional instrument to de-risk first-mover climate-resilient WASH in a fragile, low-income, insecure context; finance systems functions; and ensure equitable, protection-sensitive outcomes. Grants also allow sequencing of reforms, engagement and **time-bound O&M** alongside works.

Safeguards and integrity

8. Risk category **Category B** with proportionate **ESMF, IPP, SEP/GAAP** and project **GRM**. Climate-smart siting/design and monitoring avoids maladaptation. Contracts embed AML/CFT, SEA/SH controls, beneficial-ownership/PEP screening and Codes of Conduct; survivor-centred referral pathways operate through the GBV and SEAH/SH structures as well as project GRM structures. See Annex 6/8 and Legal/Operations annexes.

Scalability

9. By embedding risk-informed standards, O&M, monitoring and data use into government systems—and demonstrating cost-effective resilient WASH packages and creating the demand for climate resilient WASH services —the project enables replication across additional prefectures (and potentially other countries and regions) via national budgets and external finance. Evidence and unit specs are in **Annex 2**; beneficiary methods in **Annex 23a/23b**.

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

B.1. Climate context (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

10. **Main resilience challenge.** The Central African Republic (CAR) faces compounding climate and fragility risks that disrupt essential services and deepen poverty. Floods, heat and episodic droughts already damage water and sanitation assets, contaminate drinking water, and interrupt services in the high-risk prefectures of **Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga**. Extremely low coverage of WASH services (which are poorly constructed) and weak early-warning capacity magnify impacts. The project therefore shifts from reactive fixes to a **preventive, risk-informed service model**, linking national systems (policy, data, EWS) with **climate-resilient water, sanitation and drainage** delivery. (Sources and figures: **Annex 2 Feasibility Study —sections “Projected climate change trends,” “Exposure mapping,” and §4.1–4.4.**)

11. Observed climate trends—signals versus drivers

- **Anthropogenic signal (warming & hydrologic intensification).** Since ~2005, average temperatures have risen **+0.8–1.2 °C** (1985–2004 baseline), with marked increases in the north and east. “Very-wet days” have intensified (**≈**+40%**** in selected areas), consistent with a warming-driven intensification of the hydrologic cycle. (FS §5.2.1).
- **Natural variability.** Year-to-year anomalies are influenced by **ENSO** and regional modes that shift seasonal rainfall timing and extremes; these interact with the warming signal to produce multi-year wet/dry swings.
- **Non-climatic stressors.** Conflict, rapid urbanization (Bangui), deforestation and **very low WASH service baselines** increase exposure and sensitivity of communities and assets to climate hazards. (FS §4.1–4.3).

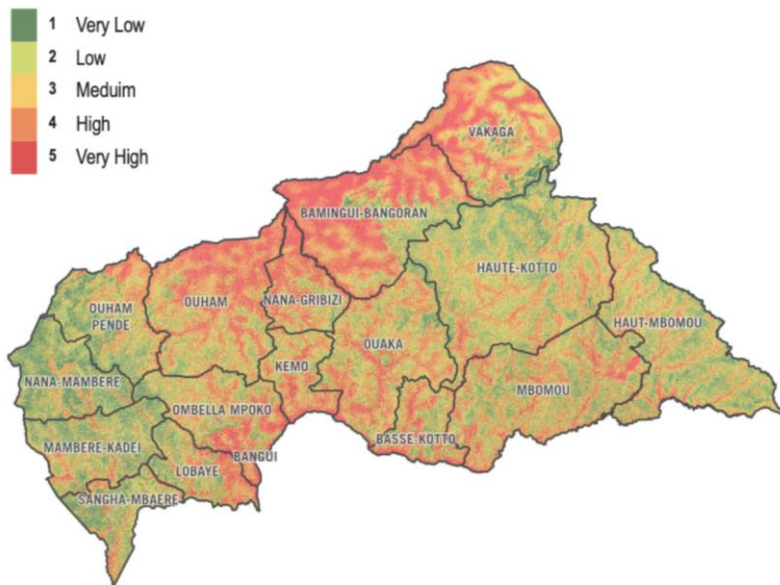
12. Current hazards and spatial patterns

- **Extreme rainfall & floods.** Since 2005, the **frequency and intensity of heavy-rain days** have increased, with repeated **urban and riverine floods** affecting Bangui, Ouham and Bamingui-Bangoran. Flooding damages water services, latrines and distribution lines and spreads faecal contamination, magnified by high rates of open defecation and poor construction standards of WASH services.
- **Dry spells & drought.** Northern and central belts experience dry-season deficits; **shallow wells and hand-dug sources frequently fail** late in the dry season due to lowering water levels, forcing unsafe surface-water use and long travel times to alternative sources, potentially escalating conflict and tensions, and reducing the volume and quality of water available.
- **Heat/heatwaves.** More frequent/intense heatwaves raise domestic and agricultural water demand, stress shallow aquifers and exacerbate vector-borne disease risks.

Evidence, maps and methods are detailed in **FS §5.2.1** (temperature, precipitation, dry spells, heatwaves).

Figure 1: Flood susceptibility in the CAR. Source: REACH (2020).⁵

⁵ REACH. (2020). *Central African Republic flood susceptibility & risk*. <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-flood-susceptibility-risk>



13. **Projections—what will change and where.** Multi-model **CMIP6** ensembles (**SSP5-8.5**) indicate **+1.7–2.15 °C** warming by mid-century (**2041–2070 vs. 1981–2010**) and **higher heavy-rain intensity/frequency**, particularly in **Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Vakaga** and the **Bangui corridor**. While annual rainfall may increase, much of the gain is expected in **intense events that do not fully recharge aquifers; dry-season stress persists**. Without adaptation, these shifts imply **higher flood peaks, longer water-supply disruptions**, and greater contamination risk. (FS §5.2.1; Climate Information Portal extracts cited therein.)
14. **Exposure and vulnerability—who and what is at risk**
- **People and assets.** As **63.5%** of the population do not have access to a **basic drinking water** service and **69.4%** do not have access to even a **limited sanitation** service nationally, most households rely on sources **highly exposed** to climate shocks. Reliance on **shallow groundwater** and **pit latrines** makes contamination and service outages common during floods; shallow sources fail during droughts. Critical facilities (**schools/healthcare facilities**) are frequently in flood-prone zones. (FS §4.1–4.3).
 - **Systems gap.** Only a fraction of **hydromet and groundwater monitoring stations** are operational; roles and **data flows for multi-hazard EWS** are incomplete, limiting anticipatory action. (FS §4.4; §5.3).
 - **Economic losses.** Documented flood-related losses in 2020–2024 in target areas total **~USD 115.34 million** (annual average **~USD 28.83 million**), spanning damage to WASH assets, households, and livelihoods. (See “**Estimated value of economic assets lost due to floods (2020–2024)**”)
15. **Causality and adaptation logic—why these measures.** The design directly treats **hazard → impact pathways** (cross-references to **Section C.2** and **Section E Logical Framework**):
- **Flood damage & contamination → risk-informed standards and siting** (elevated platforms/ wellheads; sealed aprons), **urban drainage upgrades in Bangui** (right-sizing, silt traps, **nature-based/permeable measures**), **flood-adapted sanitation** (lined and elevated pits, backflow prevention, safe sludge handling) and **Water Safety Plans**. (Outputs 1.1, 2.1–2.3; FS §6; Annex 6 ESMF screening tools).
 - **Dry-season failures → deeper screened boreholes (informed by water resource assessments), solarized pumping** (reliable lift/volume without diesel), **storage/demand management**, water conservation messaging, and **groundwater monitoring** to keep abstraction within safe yield. (Outputs 1.2, 2.1; technical parameters in **Annex 2**.)
 - **Information gap → hydrometric and groundwater networks, interoperable risk information/MEL, and multi-hazard EWS** with last-mile communication (radio/SMS/ protocols) for anticipatory action. (Outputs 1.2, 1.3; FS §5.3; Annex 11 M&E.)
 - **Institutional weakness → mainstreaming climate resilience** in policies, standards, budgeting and **asset registers**, strengthening capacity on with O&M routines and capacity at national/municipal levels. (Outputs 1.1, 1.3; FS—Institutional analysis).
16. These actions map to **IRMF adaptation indicators** Core 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached), ARA 1 Supplementary 2.4 , ARA 2 Supplementary 2.3 , ARA 3 Supplementary 2.6, Core 3 (physical assets), ARA 3 Supplementary 3.1, Core 5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks), Core 6 (technology), and Core 8 (knowledge generation and learning processes), with baselines/targets in **Section E** and methods in **Annex 11 (M&E Plan)**.

17. **Maladaptation risks and how they are avoided.** The design includes explicit “no-regrets / avoid-maladaptation” checks:
- **Groundwater stress.** Site selection uses comprehensive water resource assessments and **groundwater monitoring and low proposed abstraction rates** to avoid over-abstraction; **abstraction is monitored** with triggers to control and if necessary, limit daily quantity of water pumped
 - **Downstream flood risk.** Drainage works apply hydrological assessment and Nature based solutions **measures** where feasible to avoid raising downstream peaks; culvert sizing and lining use **climate-adjusted return periods**.
 - **Sanitation-borne contamination. Elevated, flood-adapted facilities** with backflow prevention and safe sludge handling per updated standards. Mobilisation activities to create demand for climate resilient sanitation services
 - **Asset lock-in.** Risk informed siting mandatory; **diesel lock-in is avoided** via solar pumping and efficiency measures.
 - **Inclusive safeguards. ESMF, SEP/GAAP, IPP and GRM** ensure inclusive consultation and **FPIC** where Indigenous Peoples may be affected; activity-level **ESMPs** govern construction; **post-construction O&M** plans and budget lines reduce performance drift.
18. **Evidence, references and gaps.** All statements are supported by **FS Annex 2** (historic trends, projections, hazard and risk maps, §4.4 and §5.2.1); **Annex 2** (unit designs/assumptions for solarized systems, MRV roles); **Annex 11** (M&E methods); and **flood-loss workbook (2020–2024)** for monetized impacts. Where local observational series are sparse (e.g., groundwater time series, station gaps), the project **rebuilds monitoring networks** (Outcome 1) and applies **conservative design margins** until site-specific data mature. Any outstanding uncertainties are disclosed in the **FS** and will be updated during inception once enhanced monitoring is in place.

B.2 (a). Theory of change narrative and diagram (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagram)

19. **Climate problem/issue.** The Central African Republic faces escalating climate hazards—more very-wet days and recurrent floods, heat and episodic droughts—interacting with non-climatic stressors (conflict, poverty, rapid urbanization, low baseline WASH coverage and poor construction standards). These hazards damage or destroy WASH assets, contaminate drinking water, and interrupt services for households, schools, and healthcare facilities, especially in Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga.
20. CMIP6 projections; exposure maps identify high-risk localities; and a 2020–2024 flood-loss workbook quantifies recent economic losses. The central challenge to resilience is not only the hazard level but system fragility: limited hydromet/groundwater monitoring, weak risk-informed standards, planning and capacity, under-resourced O&M, and insufficient community adoption of resilient practices.

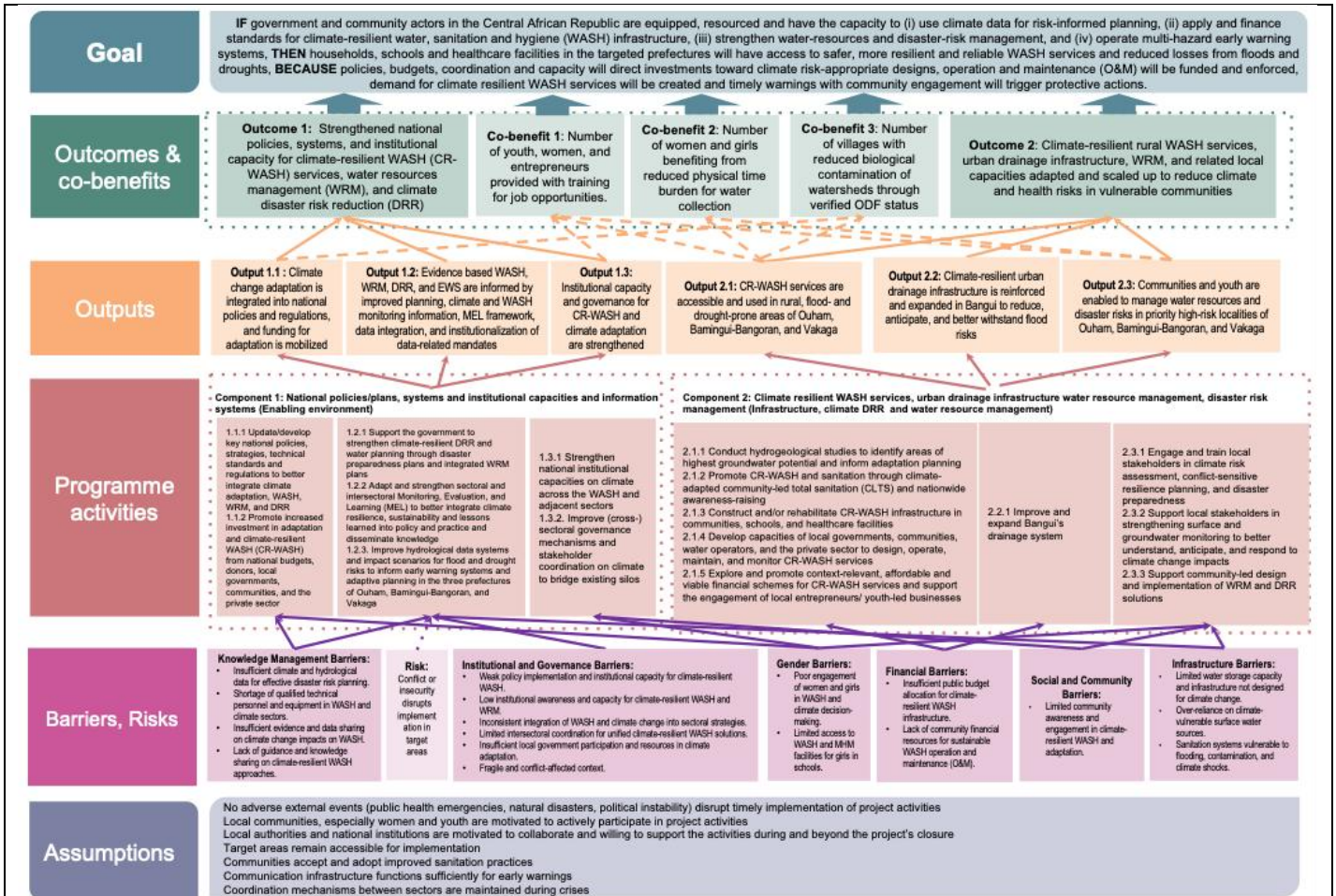


Figure 2: Theory of Change

21. **TOC Statement:** IF government and community actors in the Central African Republic are equipped, resourced and have the capacity to (i) use climate data for risk-informed planning, (ii) apply and finance standards for climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, (iii) strengthen water-resources and disaster-risk management, and (iv) operate multi-hazard early warning systems, THEN households, schools and healthcare facilities in the targeted prefectures will have access to safer, more resilient and reliable WASH services and reduced losses from floods and droughts, BECAUSE policies, budgets, coordination and capacity will direct investments toward climate risk-appropriate designs, operation and maintenance (O&M) will be funded and enforced, demand for climate resilient WASH services will be created and timely warnings with community engagement will trigger protective actions.
22. **Project goal:** Increase the climate resilience of WASH services and vulnerable populations by reducing flood- and drought-related service disruptions, disease risks and asset and livelihood losses in Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham and Vakaga. Results track IRMF adaptation indicators Core 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached), ARA 1 Supplementary 2.4 , ARA 2 Supplementary 2.3 , ARA 3 Supplementary 2.6, Core 3 (physical assets), ARA 3 Supplementary 3.1, Core 5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks), Core 6 (technology), and Core 8 (knowledge generation and learning processes), with baselines, targets and methods in the annexes.
23. **Alignment with FS ToC and logic.** The ToC here mirrors the FS ToC (Annex 2) and maps to the logframe (Section E) and IRMF indicators (codes, baselines, targets, methods, owners). The design is explicitly hazard → exposure/vulnerability → outputs → outcomes → IRMF results.

Causal pathways and logical links

24. **Outcome 1—Systems and policy (enablers).** Institutions have increased capacity on climate risks, adopt and enforce **risk-informed standards**; plans/budgets become climate-screened; **WRM/DRR/EWS** functions are operational; and O&M and asset-management systems are institutionalized.
25. **Outputs (illustrative; see Section B.3 and Section E):**
- **Policies/standards and financing instruments updated** to require resilient siting/elevation, scour protection, sustainable abstraction, and climate-sized drainage; incorporation into budgeting and procurement. (Ref: FS—*Institutional analysis; Annex 6 ESMF.*)
 - **Evidence systems:** hydromet and groundwater monitoring networks, interoperable data pipelines, and actionable **EWS** with last-mile communication and a target 72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts. (Ref: FS Annex 2; Annex 11 M&E.)
 - **Clear post-alert responses with time-bound and verifiable actions:** Alert thresholds and decision authority, time-bound response actions following alerts, rollout of means of verification and performance indicators (Ref: FS Annex 2; Annex 11 M&E.)
 - **Governance and capacity:** multi-agency SOPs for data sharing/joint planning; competency-based training and mentoring; sub-national resourcing tied to O&M checklists. (Ref: SEP/GAAP; Annex 11.)
26. **Outcome 2—Services and community resilience (delivery).** Communities demand and use climate-resilient WASH services which continue to function during shocks; contamination is reduced; communities adopt and maintain risk-appropriate practices.
27. **Outputs (illustrative; see Section B.3 and Section E):**
- **~200 solarized, flood-resilient water systems** with storage and safe yields; **risk-informed sanitation** (CLTS-based climate-resilient latrines in ~500 communities); and **urban drainage upgrades in Bangui** near critical WASH assets. (Ref: FS technical options; Annex 2 for solar parameters; Annex 6 ESMF for screening.)
 - **Resilient WASH packages in 100 schools and 100 healthcare facilities**, including water safety planning and menstrual hygiene management (MHM).
 - **Tariff systems for supported flood-resilient water systems** that ensure sustainable O&M and provide a clear exit strategy.
 - **Community engagement and capacity** (women, youth, implementing partners, entrepreneurs) for WRM/DRR, water safety, O&M, and accountability through GRM. (Ref: SEP v1; GAAP v1.)
28. **Cause–effect clarity.** Each intervention addresses a documented **hazard**→ **impact** pathway:
- **Flood damage/contamination** → elevated/lined designs, backflow prevention, sealed aprons, climate-sized drainage with **permeable/nature-based** elements, and Water Safety Plans.
 - **Dry-season failures** → deeper screened boreholes, **solar pumping** (reliable lift/volume, avoids diesel lock-in), storage/demand management, water conservation mobilisation and **groundwater monitoring** to keep abstraction within sustainable yield.
 - **Information gap** → hydromet/piezometer networks, interoperable MEL, and EWS protocols.
 - **Institutional weakness** → standards, capacity, SOPs, funding lines, asset registers, and O&M routines.

(Details: FS Annex 2; Annex 6 ESMF; Annex 11; Annex 23a/23b for beneficiary methods.)

29. **Barriers addressed and durability beyond project**

CAR's resilience gap stems from mutually reinforcing constraints:

- **Institutions/governance:** Limited enforcement of climate-resilient WASH standards; fragmented mandates; weak inter-ministerial coordination; conflict-affected context; uneven decentralization and scarce sub-national capacity on climate.
- **Finance/O&M:** Insufficient public and IFI resources for the incremental costs of climate-resilient WASH; weak, affordable O&M/asset-management models; thin local markets for spares/services and limited community ability to pay.
- **Data/knowledge/capacity:** Sparse hydromet and groundwater monitoring; no fully operational multi-hazard EWS; gaps in MEL and knowledge sharing and analytical capacity; acute shortages of qualified staff, equipment and connectivity at prefecture/municipal levels.
- **Community and non-state engagement:** Low awareness and participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, IDPs and private actors; behaviour-change and accountability mechanisms underused.
- **Gender and protection:** Inadequate MHM in schools; disproportionate time/risks for women and girls collecting water; SEA/SH risk if safeguards are weak.

- **Infrastructure/technical:** Shallow, flood-prone and contaminated sources; sanitation vulnerable to inundation and leakage; inadequate storage; undersized/impermeable drainage; pockets of reliance on climate-sensitive surface water.

30. These barriers are addressed through policy/standards, evidence systems, financing and O&M models, behaviour change, and resilient service delivery, **mapped to Outputs 1.1–1.3 and 2.1–2.3 (Section E).**

Co-benefits

31. The project will generate three co-benefits, which will be monitored: i) number of youth, women, and entrepreneurs provided with training for job opportunities ii) number of women and girls benefiting from reduced physical time burden for water collection iii) number of villages with reduced biological contamination of watersheds through verified ODF status. See section D.3 (sustainable development potential) for further details on the identified co-benefits, and section E.5. Co-benefit indicators and methods align with IRMF SD metrics where applicable; disaggregation by sex/age/disability/IP status is applied

Assumptions and risks

32. Key assumptions: continuous government and community engagement; access to target areas; functioning communications for alerts; lasting and efficient coordination. Risks and mitigations (Section F; Chapter G.1; **Annex 6 ESMF; SEP/GAAP; Operations and Maintenance - O&M (Annex 2 – Section 8.7):**

- **Political/institutional shifts** → formal inter-ministerial MOUs, embedding standards/outputs in approved instruments,
- **Insecurity/access constraints** → conflict-sensitive activities embedded, flexible phasing, partner diversification, UNDSS protocols, sub-area security assessment prior to implementation for all investments.
- **O&M financing shortfalls** → lifecycle operation expenditures analysis, tariff/user-committee models, **O&M contracts.**
- **Low adoption** → co-design with women/youth/ implementing partners , behaviour-change strategy (CLTS + risk messaging) including demand creation, phased pilots with feedback loops and affordability measures.
- **Integrity risks (procurement, AML/CFT) and SEA/SH** → KYC/PEP screening, red-flag/SAR workflow, prior-review thresholds, whistleblowing, partner audits; survivor-centred mechanisms, codes of conduct, safe GRM channels and referral pathways.

33. Assumptions/risks are **testable** via IRMF indicators, O&M scorecards, and EWS performance (72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts) (**Annex 11**).

Behavioural change

34. The ToC hinges on **behavioural shifts:**

- **Institutions** adopt risk-informed planning/budgeting, enforce standards, and maintain data flows and O&M routines.
- **Communities** transition to **climate-resilient water and sanitation** services, water safety practices, and transparent O&M contributions; youth/women/ implementing partners participate in monitoring and governance.
- **Service providers/local enterprises** adopt climate resilient solutions as a service option and preventive maintenance and stock spares.

35. These shifts are supported by **competency-based training**, mentoring, **clear incentives** (KPIs/scorecards), and accountability via **GRM**. (Refs: **Annex 11, SEP v1, GAAP v1.**)

Vulnerability and risk analysis; prioritization of measures

36. The **FS (Annex 2)** provides **observed trends and projections, flood susceptibility**, and **exposure** of people and assets in the four prefectures, plus quantified **flood losses (2020–2024)**. Prioritized measures directly target the assessed vulnerabilities:

- Where **flood susceptibility** is high (Bangui corridor, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga), designs use **elevated/lined** facilities and **climate-sized drainage**, favouring **permeable/NbS** where feasible.
- Where **dry-season stress** is recurrent (north/central belts), water systems shift to **deeper boreholes with sustainable yields with solar pumping (and promoting water conservation)**, storage, and **groundwater monitoring**.

- Where **service baselines** are lowest (rural dispersed communities), CR-WASH and CLTS are sequenced with **user training**, affordability measures, and **local enterprise** involvement.
- For **schools/healthcare facilities**, resilient WASH packages and **MHM** address gendered impacts and service continuity.

37. This ensures **measures address the assessed risks** and target the most exposed populations and critical assets (**Annex 2; Section E; Annex 6**).

Cross-cutting link (adaptation–mitigation)

38. The proposal is **100% adaptation** in results-area allocation. A modest **mitigation co-benefit** arises by replacing diesel pumps with solar (assumptions and MRV in **Annex 2**). Avoiding **diesel lock-in** is also a **no-regrets** adaptation decision that improves service reliability during shocks.

Measurability, learning, and paradigm shift

39. **IRMF tracking**. Outcomes are measured under Core 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached), ARA 1 Supplementary 2.4 , ARA 2 Supplementary 2.3 , ARA 3 Supplementary 2.6, Core 3 (physical assets), ARA 3 Supplementary 3.1, Core 5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks), Core 6 (technology), and Core 8 (knowledge generation and learning processes). **Annex 11 (M&E Plan)** specifies indicators, baselines, targets, data sources (including hydromet/groundwater, asset registers, EWS performance), frequency, and responsibilities. **Annex 23a/23b** documents beneficiary methodology and de-duplication.

40. **Verification of paradigm shift**. Beyond outputs, the project defines **system-level milestones** that report on transformation and durability:

- **Policy/standard adoption and application** in new/rehabilitated works
- **Hydromet/groundwater monitoring coverage** and **EWS**
- **Service continuity metrics** (e.g. water system functionality rate)
- **Institutional KPIs** (CR-WASH coverage, asset registers maintained) and **behavioural indicators** (CLTS outcomes and ODF sustainability; women/youth/IP participation).
- **Replication signals**: government and partner financing aligned to resilient WASH packages.

41. These are monitored through **Annex 11**, the **logframe** mid-term and final evaluations.

B.2 (b). Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefit categorization

Fill in the GCF results area table below to map each project/programme outcome identified in section B.2(a) to the contributing GCF results area(s) by referring to the description of eight results areas provided in the guidance note.

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	MRA 2 Low-emission transport	MRA 3 Building, cities, industries, appliances	MRA 4 Forestry and land use	ARA 1 Most vulnerable people and communities	ARA 2 Health, well-being, food and water security	ARA 3 Infrastructure and built environment	ARA 4 Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Outcome 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If any co-benefits have been identified in section B.2(a), fill in the Co-benefit table below to map each co-benefit to the corresponding category as defined in the FP guidance note.

Co-benefit number	Co-benefit					
	Environmental	Social	Economic	Gender	Adaptation	Mitigation
Co-benefit 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Co-benefit 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-benefit 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B.3. Project/programme description (max. 2500 words, approximately 5 pages)

Climate paradigm-shifting objective

42. **Defined problem.** The Central African Republic (CAR) faces compounding climate and fragility risks. More very-wet days, recurrent floods, heat and episodic droughts—together with conflict, poverty, rapid urbanization and very low baseline WASH coverage most of which are not climate resilient—destroy and damage assets and interrupt services, especially in Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga (Feasibility Study, **Annex 2**). Systemic gaps—sparse hydromet/groundwater monitoring, limited risk-informed standards, under-resourced O&M, and low community adoption—sustain vulnerability.

43. **Paradigm shift.** The project moves CAR from reactive fixes to **preventive, risk-informed service delivery** by: (i) embedding climate-resilient standards, early-warning and evidence systems into policies, budgeting, procurement, capacity and oversight; (ii) demonstrating resilient service models (solarized water systems, climate-resilient sanitation, urban drainage) in high-risk localities; and (iii) institutionalizing O&M, asset registers, data flows and accountability so results persist beyond the project (see **Annexes 2a, 6, 21**).

44. **Component 1. National policies/plans, systems, institutional capacities and information systems (enabling environment)**

45. **Outcome 1.** National policies, systems and institutional capacity for **CR-WASH, WRM** and **DRR** are strengthened.

46. **Output 1.1.** Climate change adaptation is integrated into national policies and regulations, and funding for adaptation is mobilized.

Barrier removed: fragmented mandates, weak standards, limited financing (Section **B.2a.2**).

What will be done

- **Update/develop policies, norms and technical standards** to require risk-informed siting/elevation, scour protection, sustainable abstraction, climate-sized drainage, flood-adapted sanitation, guidelines (FS **Annex 2**; screening/guardrails in **Annex 6 ESMF**).

Promoting increased investment in adaptation by funding needs assessment and resource mobilization.

47. **Output 1.2.** Evidence based WASH, WRM, DRR, and EWS are informed by improved planning, climate and WASH monitoring information, MEL framework, data integration, and institutionalization of data-related mandates.

Barrier removed: limited data and MEL; weak financing signals and tracking.

What will be done

- **Support the government to strengthen climate-resilient DRR and water planning** through disaster preparedness plans and integrated WRM plans
- **Adapt and strengthen sectoral and intersectoral MEL** to better integrate climate resilience, sustainability and lessons learned into policy and practice and disseminate knowledge
- **Improve hydrological data systems and impact scenarios** for flood and drought risks to inform early warning systems and adaptive planning

48. Link to ToC. Output 1.2 closes information gaps so planning, design, O&M and preparedness become climate-sensitive and risk-informed.

49. **Output 1.3.** Institutional capacity and governance for CR-WASH and climate adaptation are strengthened.

Barrier removed: low national and sub-national capacity; weak inter-ministerial coordination.

What will be done

- **Capacity-building plan and phased roll-out** for national/prefecture staff across WASH, WRM, DRR, health and education (competency-based training, mentoring, and critical equipment for priority prefectures), aligned to roles in **Annex 2** – Section 8.7.

- **Governance mechanisms.** Revitalize national climate coordination and donor platform; establish thematic working groups; institutionalize **annual WASH/IWRM sector reviews** for complementary efforts and collective learning.
50. **Link to ToC.** Output 1.3 institutionalizes behaviours—risk screening, O&M discipline, and routine data use—that keep services resilient after closure.
51. **Outcome-level result (IRMF).** Core 5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks), Core 6 (technology), and Core 8 (knowledge generation and learning processes) (standards adopted/applied; data systems operational; EWS performance; governance routines functioning).
52. **Component 2. Climate-resilient WASH services, urban drainage, WRM and local capacities (infrastructure, climate DRR and WRM)**
53. **Outcome 2.** Climate-resilient rural WASH, urban drainage and local WRM/DRR capacities **reduce climate and health risks** in vulnerable communities.
54. **Output 2.1.** CR-WASH services are accessible and used in rural, flood- and drought-prone areas of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga.
Barrier removed: fragile infrastructure; dry-season failures; sanitation contamination; weak O&M/financing.
- What will be done**
- **Hydrogeological studies and siting** to identify priority drilling/rehabilitation sites; participatory ranking with DGRH and communities; **borehole assessment** and **pumping tests** to establish safe yields and designs.
 - **Construct/rehabilitate ~200 climate-resilient water systems** (deep boreholes. **solar pumping** per **Annex 2**, elevated storage, distribution kiosks; connections for schools/health facilities; conflict-sensitive features where relevant).
 - **Climate-resilient sanitation** via adapted CLTS (flood-safe latrines, lined pits, sealed aprons, backflow prevention; **post-ODF** sustainability monitoring and follow-up support) with training/materials per revised guidance (Output 1.1).
 - **Institutional WASH:** resilient packages in ~100 schools and ~100 healthcare facilities (safe sanitation access, Menstrual Hygiene Management - **MHM**, accessibility, Infection Prevention and Control -**IPC**).
 - **O&M and supply chains:** capacity building for operators/committees; spares/service contracts; runtime logs and water-table measurements (**Annex 2 – Section 8.7**).
 - **Financing:** explore and promote viable business models, affordable O&M and sanitation financing schemes suited to local contexts (tariff models, contractual arrangements, community finance; see **Output 2.1.5** in **Annex 2**).
55. **Link to ToC.** Output 2.1 delivers **risk-appropriate infrastructure and practices** that continue to function through shocks, directly reducing **outages and contamination**.
56. **Output 2.2.** Climate-resilient urban drainage infrastructure is reinforced and expanded in Bangui to reduce, anticipate, and better withstand flood risks.
Barrier removed: undersized/impermeable drainage; recurrent flooding near critical WASH assets.
- What will be done**
- **Pluvial flood risk assessments and detailed designs** for priority neighbourhoods.
 - **Rehabilitate/construct stormwater networks, small scale retention basins and related works;** integrate **nature-based/permeable solutions** where feasible to avoid downstream peak amplification.
 - **Planning/coordination mechanisms** with relevant ministries, municipality and partners to synchronize designs, works and O&M.
 - **O&M strengthening** (equipment, training, monitoring and cost-recovery arrangements).
57. **Link to ToC.** Output 2.2 reduces **urban flood exposure**, protecting WASH assets and shortening **recovery time** after extreme rainfall.
58. **Output 2.3.** Communities and youth are enabled to manage water resources and disaster risks in priority high-risk localities of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga.
Barrier removed: low awareness/participation; weak local WRM/DRR capacity; thin local data.

What will be done

- **Participatory climate and conflict risk assessments and community resilience plans in high climate risk communities;** inclusive training (women, youth, implementing partners , teachers, health workers, entrepreneurs).
- **Local monitoring and data use:** equipment and training for surface/groundwater and water-quality tracking; data integration with national systems (Output 1.2).
- **Community-led WRM/DRR micro-solutions** (e.g., catchment protection, minor drainage, small retention features) selected via participatory design; O&M and local governance integrated.

59. **Link to ToC.** Output 2.3 consolidates behaviour change and last-mile implementation, so information and standards **translate into engagement, community ownership, safer practices** and locally managed assets.

60. **Outcome-level result (IRMF).** Core 2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached), ARA 1 Supplementary 2.4 , ARA 2 Supplementary 2.3, ARA 3 Supplementary 2.6, Core 3 (physical assets), ARA 3 Supplementary 3.1.

Integration of Components 1 and 2

61. Operating logic

- **Standards** → **sites.** Output 1.1 standards/guidelines are embedded in Output 2.1 and 2.2 designs and tender documents (procurement uses standard text/illustrations per **Annex 10**).
- **Evidence** → **action.** Output 1.2 hydromet/groundwater data, MEL and EWS inform siting, pump duty cycles, sanitation choices and drainage return-period sizing in Outputs 2.1/2.2; local monitoring (Output 2.3) feeds back to **MEL (Annex 11)**.
- **Capacity** → **O&M.** Output 1.3 competencies and governance routines (annual sector reviews, SOPs) sustain O&M, asset registers and cross-sector coordination for Outputs 2.1–2.3.
- **Finance** ↔ **behaviour.** Output 1.1/1.2 financing and tracking enable affordable service models piloted under Output 2.1.5; Output 2.3 participation (per **Annex 7/8**) raises adoption and accountability.

Implementation approach and delivery chain (summary; see **Annex 2 – Section 8.7**)

62. Roles

- **Accredited/Executing Entity: UNICEF**—fiduciary management; procurement of works/goods/consultancies; works and safeguards oversight; M&E consolidation and reporting. UNICEF will be the EE for all project activities
- **National EE: MEDHR** - MEDHR will be an EE (co-executing with UNICEF) for the activities 2.1.3 and 2.3.2
- **Government stakeholders: MESD (NDA), DGMN, DGPC, MUPH, MoH, MoE,** Municipality of Bangui and target municipalities/prefectures.
- **Delivery agents:** Professional/ Contractual Service, specialist design/hydrogeology firms, civil works contractors, SMEs for O&M/supply chains, NGOs/CSOs as implementing partner for CLTS and community engagement, and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for training.
- **Governance:** biannual Project Steering Committee meetings co-chaired by **MEDHR /MESD**; annual project reviews and sector-wide reviews convened by **MEDHR** with **UNICEF**.

63. Activity allocation matrix

EE	Activity
UNICEF	All activities
MEDHR	2.1.3 and 2.3.2

64. Roles, phasing, safeguards

- **Accountabilities.** MEDHR/DGRH leads CR-WASH/WRM standards and rural systems; **MUPH** oversees drainage; **DGPC/DRR** leads emergency protocols; **MoH/MoE** are responsible for institutional WASH; **DGMN** provides hydromet inputs (see **Annex 2 – Section 8.7** for decision rights).
- **Phasing.** Early: finalize standards, set MEL framework, rehabilitate hydromet/groundwater, develop Bangui drainage designs, complete assessments. Middle: scale construction/rehabilitation and training; O&M frameworks operational. Final: consolidate, formalize sustainability agreements, and plan replication via the annual sector review.

- **Stakeholder engagement & safeguards.** Inclusive processes, GRM and SEA/SH controls per **SEP (Annex 7)** and **GAAP (Annex 8)**; risk screening and ESMP templates in **ESMF (Annex 6)**; **IPP (Annex 6a)** applied where relevant.

How activities remove barriers

65. Barrier–solution traceability

- **Institutional/governance.** Outputs **1.1** (standards/financing) and **1.3** (coordination, annual review) address weak enforcement/silos; application is visible in **2.1/2.2** designs and contracts.
- **Finance/O&M.** Outputs **1.1/1.2** set financing signals and tracking; **2.1.5** pilots viable O&M and sanitation financing models and stimulates local markets for spares/services (youth/entrepreneurs).
- **Data/knowledge.** Output **1.2** rebuilds hydromet/groundwater/EWS and sector MEL; **2.3** supplies local monitoring and data use.
- **Community/gender.** **2.3** strengthens awareness, participation and leadership (women/youth/implementing partners); **2.1** improves school/health WASH (incl. **MHM**), anchored in **SEP/GAAP** with a safe GRM.
- **Infrastructure/technical.** **2.1** and **2.2** deliver climate-resilient water/sanitation and drainage, screened by **ESMF** to avoid maladaptation.

Sustainability, scale and safeguards

66. Sustainability & scale

- **Policy and standards lock-in:** Output 1.1 updates guide future public investments based on climate-resilient norms.
- **Budgeting and O&M:** Outputs 1.1–1.3 create budget lines, asset registers and framework contracts that make O&M predictable.
- **Data-driven governance:** Output 1.2 ensures decisions remain informed by monitoring data, evidence, /EWS; the **annual sector reviews** sustain accountability and learning.
- **Market development:** Output 2.1.5 develops local enterprises and supply chains, reducing dependence on external actors. Output 2.3 increases the demand for climate resilient WASH services and supports skills development
- **Replicability:** The interface (standards, evidence, service models) is a template for expansion to other prefectures, countries and regions using domestic and partner finance (methods consolidated in **Annexes 2/2a/11**).

67. Avoiding maladaptation (Annex 6; Annex 2 – Section 8.7)

- **Groundwater stress:** water resource assessments, sustainable yield assessments, groundwater monitoring data; monitored triggers to limit extraction when necessary.
- **Downstream flood risk:** hydrological assessment and permeable/nature-based measures where feasible; climate-adjusted return periods for culvert sizing/lining.
- **Sanitation-borne contamination:** elevated/protected, flood-adapted facilities with backflow prevention and safe sludge handling per updated standards.
- **Asset lock-in:** siting outside floodways; avoid diesel lock-in via solar pumping/efficiency.

Assumptions, risks and verification

68. Assumptions & risks

- **Assumptions:** continued government/community engagement; access to target areas; functioning communications; lasting and efficient coordination.
- **Risks & mitigations:** political/institutional shifts (embed standards in approved instruments; PSC-led reviews); insecurity (conflict-sensitive activities); O&M financing gaps (lifecycle OPEX, tariffs/revolving funds, O&M contracts); low adoption (co-design, behaviour-change, affordability, demand creation); integrity (procurement, AML/CFT controls); SEA/SH, Codes of Conduct, safe GRM). See Section F; **Annex 6; Annex 7/8; Annex 2 – Section 8.7**.

69. Results and verification

- **Outcome 1 (system capacity):** standards adopted/applied; monitoring networks and EWS operating (72-hour lead time for severe weather alert); governance routines institutionalized, capacity strengthened (**IRMF Core 5, Core 6, Core 8**).

- **Outcome 2 (service resilience):** continuity and safety indicators improve; outage-days avoided; contamination risks reduced near critical assets (**IRMF Core 2, Core 3, Core 6**).
- **MEL (Annex 11):** indicators, baselines, targets, data sources/frequency and responsibilities; **biennial resilience and sustainability checks** to learn and adapt.
- **Financial consistency:** activities/outputs costed in **Annex 4** and reflected in Section C; **Annex 14 (Term Sheet)** mirrors totals and milestones.
- **Technical consistency:** solarized water system assumptions/MRV in **Annex 2**; safeguards/procedures in **Annex 6/21**; stakeholder processes in **Annex 7**.

B.4. Implementation arrangements (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagrams)

Implementation structure and lines of accountability

70. The project will be implemented with **the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) acting as the Accredited Entity (AE)**

Executing Entities (“EEs”):

71. The **Executing Entities** for the Funded Activity are:

- UNICEF, acting through its Central African Republic Country Office; and
 - The Government of Central African Republic through its Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulics Resources Development (“MEDHR”),
- together, the “Executing Entities”. The Executing Entities will be responsible for the implementation of the Funded Activity as further described in the following table:

Activity	Executing Entity	Executing Entity Responsibilities for Results
1.1.1	UNICEF	Adopted or updated national policy, norms and guidelines for climate-resilient WASH
1.1.2	UNICEF	CR-WASH funding needs assessment and strategy
1.2.1	UNICEF	DRR and WRM plans developed
1.2.2	UNICEF	Monitoring frameworks, WASH resilience and sustainability checks, CR-WASH website and community of practice
1.2.3	UNICEF	Hydrometeorological equipment and stations, process and capacities for data flow, EWS communication system, O&M
1.3.1	UNICEF	Capacity building needs assessment and action plan, training workshops
1.3.2	UNICEF	Coordination platform, WASH and IWRM joint sector reviews
2.1.1	UNICEF	Hydrogeological assessments, boreholes tested and inspected, drilling/rehabilitation sites identified/confirmed
2.1.2	UNICEF	Awareness-raising strategy, multi-channel campaign, CLTS training and implementation
2.1.3	UNICEF and MEDHR	Climate-resilient water supply systems, sanitation services and rainwater collectors in schools and healthcare facilities. UNICEF procures and supervises all works contracts and retains full accountability for delivery of infrastructure outputs. Design and implementation are carried out in coordination with relevant government authorities (DGRH/MEDHR, MoH, MoE) for technical validation and alignment with national standards. MEDHR acts as a co-executing entity for a defined portion of this activity, contributing co-financing through (i) construction of one water network, and (ii) deployment of government staff and equipment. This co-execution is formalized through a Subsidiary Agreement with UNICEF, under which MEDHR is accountable for the delivery of its co-financed inputs and outputs.
2.1.4	UNICEF	CR-WASH training and support
2.1.5	UNICEF	CR-WASH financial schemes study, training and support
2.2.1	UNICEF	Technical design studies, improved drainage infrastructure
2.3.1	UNICEF	Communities trained and engaged in DRR, WRM and resilience plan development
2.3.2	UNICEF and MEDHR	Monitoring equipment purchased and distributed, stakeholders trained, equipped and supported to monitor water resources and transmit data. UNICEF procures suppliers and contracts local partners such as NGOs to design training to communities. MEDHR will identify priority gaps in current surface and groundwater

		monitoring and validate training materials/ equipment and conduct the trainings. MEDHR's role in identifying monitoring gaps and validating technical approaches constitutes a defined co-execution function, formalized through a Subsidiary Agreement with UNICEF.
2.3.3	UNICEF	Communities benefiting from WRM and DRR solutions

72. **UNICEF through its Central African Republic Country Office** will be the EE for all activities. UNICEF will also maintain reporting channels to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (the NDA) to maintain and increase the country's project ownership.

73. The **MEDHR will serve as a government Executing Entity** for specific activities. Its role reflects its technical mandate and co-financing contribution. MEDHR will provide co-financing (e.g., Activity 2.1.3 water network); deploy staff and technical inputs; identify sector priorities (e.g., groundwater monitoring gaps under Activity 2.3.2); and validate outputs within its mandate.

Flow of funds:

74. The Accredited Entity may request disbursements from GCF in accordance with the terms of the FAA and will then transfer funds to MEDHR for the implementation of Activities 2.1.3 and 2.3.2 of the Funded Activity in accordance with the FAA and the Subsidiary Agreement respectively.

- In the case of Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, UNICEF will procure contractors and suppliers with payments made based on verification of deliverables.
- In the case of Activities 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3, completed by NGOs, UNICEF will make payments to NGOs based on contracts in accordance with its HACT framework.
- In the case of Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.2.1, 2.3.1 and 2.3.3, UNICEF will use cash advances or reimbursements for specific small-scale activities (e.g., travel, workshops), including to government counterparts where necessary, subject to strict controls and reconciliation.
- No GCF Proceeds will be transferred to the Final Beneficiaries.
- UNICEF, acting as EE, will manage all funds through its corporate financial systems and disburse directly to the contractors and suppliers as described above.

Legal & Contractual Structure

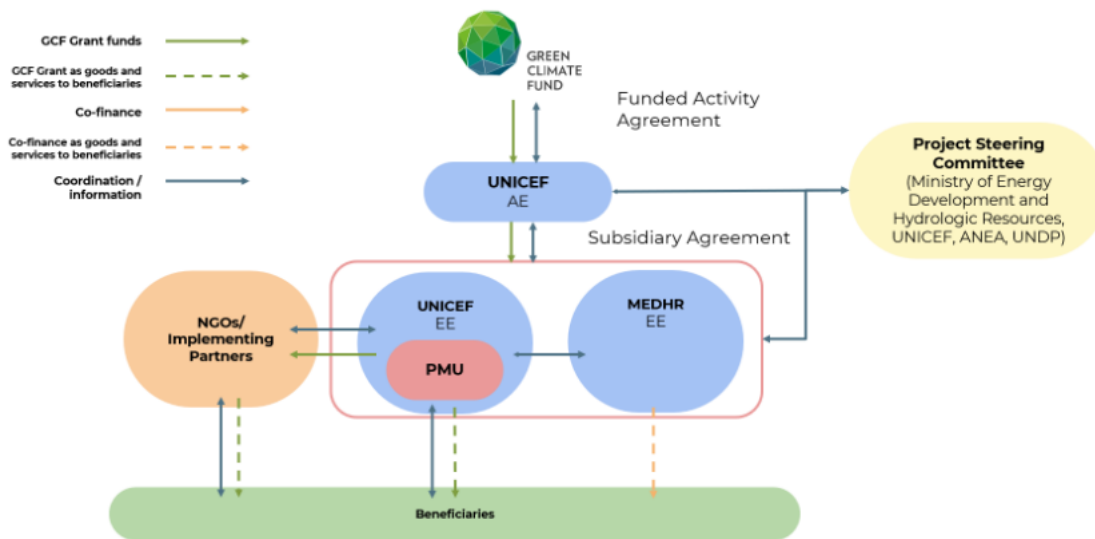


Figure 3. Implementation arrangements and flow of funds

Subsidiary Agreement

75. UNICEF, in its role as Accredited Entity, shall enter into a project agreement with the Government of the Host Country, represented by MEDHR (the "Subsidiary Agreement"). The Subsidiary Agreement shall be legally binding

and shall set out the roles and responsibilities of MEDHR as the Executing Entity for the implementation of the Funded Activity, as well as the terms and conditions governing the transfer of funds from UNICEF to MEDHR. It shall reflect all applicable requirements of the FAA and AMA relevant for MEDHR as the Executing Entity for the implementation of the Funded Activity.

76. In addition, the Subsidiary Agreement shall formalize the co-financing to be provided by MEDHR, including its scope, timing, and reporting, in accordance with the Funded Activity Budget.
77. The MEDHR will serve as Executing Entity for Activities 2.1.3 and 2.3.2, as set out in the Executing Entities table referenced above, including the roles, responsibilities, and expected results described therein.
78. CAR government ministries, contractors and suppliers, and NGOs/CSOs will participate in project implementation and will be engaged as set out below:
- Implementation arrangements for other CAR Ministries: Other CAR ministries, as applicable, will be engaged by UNICEF in accordance with its applicable policies and procedures and in accordance with UNICEF's obligations under the FAA and AMA. These entities may support workshops, coordination, policy validation, and technical advisory functions, but will not have managerial or decision-making authority over project implementation.
 - Implementation arrangements for contractors and suppliers: All contractors and suppliers, including Technical Service Providers, Hydrogeological Assessment Firms, Civil Works Contractors, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), will be engaged by UNICEF in accordance with its procurement framework and in accordance with its obligations under the FAA and AMA. These entities will deliver goods, works, and services under contracts managed by UNICEF and will not have managerial or decision-making authority over project implementation.
 - Implementation arrangements for NGOs and CSOs: All NGOs and CSOs will be engaged by UNICEF in accordance with its applicable partnership and cash transfer procedures, including the HACT framework where applicable, and in accordance with its obligations under the FAA and AMA. These entities will implement specific activities under agreements managed by UNICEF and will not have managerial or decision-making authority over project implementation. Implementation agreements with NGOs and CSOs (each an "Implementation Agreement") shall be legally binding, shall set out the roles and responsibilities of each NGO and CSO (as applicable), and shall reflect all relevant requirements of the FAA and AMA for the implementation of the Funded Activity as if the NGO/CSO were an Executing Entity. For the avoidance of any doubt, Implementation Agreements will not be considered as Subsidiary Agreements for the purpose of the AMA and/or FAA.
79. **Governance (strategic oversight).** A **Project Steering Committee**, co-chaired by the **Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources and UNICEF**, provides high-level oversight and alignment with national policy. Members include **MESD (NDA)**, **DGMN (meteorology)**, **DGPC (civil protection/DRR)**, **MUPH (urban planning & housing)**, **MoH**, **MoE**, **ANEA**, the **Municipality of Bangui**, and selected partners. The PSC approves annual work plans and budgets, reviews performance and safeguards, and brokers inter-ministerial coordination.
80. **Execution (day-to-day management).** A **Project Management Unit** hosted by **UNICEF** manages planning, procurement, financial management, safeguards, monitoring and reporting; it serves as PSC secretariat. The PMU will be responsible for:
- **Planning, procurement, budget execution** NGO and supplier contract management, accounting and reporting
 - **Safeguards management:** ESMF/ESMP implementation, IPP/FPIC/VLD, SEA/SH survivor-centred mechanism quarterly safeguards reporting to PSC (Annex 6; Annex 6a; Annex 7; Annex 8).
 - **MEL leadership:** IRMF-aligned monitoring with indicator owners in government; biennial resilience and sustainability checks and data QA/QC (logframe).
81. **Reporting lines.** Implementing partners, MEDHR(EE) → **PMU** (technical/financial) → **PSC** (oversight) → **UNICEF AE** (consolidation) → **GCF** (APR/PPMS). Site-level "readiness packets" (ESMF/IPP/SEP evidence) are cleared by PMU safeguards prior to any works disbursement (Annex 6; Annex 6a; Annex 7/8)

Monitoring, supervision and learning

82. **Indicator framework.** The logframe (Section E) sets IRMF-aligned outputs/outcomes (Core 2, 3, 5, 6, 8).

83. **Data systems.** EWS/hydromet feeds (DGMN), WRM/groundwater readings (MEDHR/DGRH), and Implementing partners and contractor reports (FACE/PD) flow to the PMU MEL system. **Biennial resilience and sustainability checks** verify functionality, climate-proofing and O&M (Annex 2 – Section 8.7).

Supervision

84. **UNICEF Project Management Unit (PMU).** The PMU provides day-to-day supervision: plans site missions, reviews contractor workplans, and verifies delivery. It authorizes site mobilization only after the “readiness packet” is complete—permits, FPIC/VLD where relevant, GRM posting, ESMP measures and signed O&M commitment contracts. Before any payment, it runs disbursement checks against FAA/Operations Manual covenants and procurement milestones (Annex 10). The PMU maintains the IRMF matrix, consolidates partner data, conducts biennial resilience and sustainability checks, submits APR inputs, updates the risk register, and applies AML/CFT screening with a 72-hour SAR escalation when red flags arise (Annex 8).

85. **Project Steering Committee (PSC).** The PSC provides strategic oversight and policy alignment. It approves annual workplans/budgets and material scope or schedule changes; reviews IRMF/budget performance and safeguard/GRM dashboards (including non-PII SEA/SH summaries); issues time-bound directions; and commissions special reviews when risks arise. Meeting at least twice yearly, it records decisions and action trackers, enforces conflict-of-interest rules for members linked to bidders/procured parties, and escalates issues beyond its delegation to AE management.

86. **Technical Review Panel (TRP).** Convened by the PMU, the TRP ensures competitive selection of NGO/CSO partners and key consultancy/engineering assignments (Annex 10). Using pre-published criteria, it scores capacity, methodology, cross-cutting issues and value for money. Members sign COI/confidentiality declarations. The TRP issues a ranked report; the PMU checks procedure; the PSC reviews and endorses; UNICEF procurement awards per rules/thresholds. The TRP also recommends improvements to TORs.

87. **Assurance and quality control.** Financial control for cash transfers is ensured through a multi-layered system of assurance:

- HACT micro-assessments for partners receiving over \$100,000 annually to assess internal controls.
- FACE Forms submitted quarterly for fund requests and expenditure reporting.
- Financial assurance: Periodic spot checks and scheduled audits.
- Programmatic assurance: Programmatic visits (field monitoring) take place to correlate information provided in reporting, including financial reporting.
- Findings trigger corrective actions for the PMU, tracked by the PSC, ensuring all expenditures remain under UNICEF fiduciary control.

88. **How roles connect.** The PMU supervises and certifies readiness; the TRP secures capable partners and service providers; the PSC sets direction and commissions deep dives; and assurance adds independent fiduciary/compliance checks—ensuring direct and accountable management by UNICEF.

Institutional capacity and AE track record

89. **Country presence and staffing.** UNICEF has operated in CAR since **1986**, with **five field offices** and a **Bangui** country office. The PMU will be based in Bangui with field presence in **Ouham** and **Vakaga**.

90. **Scale and relevance.** The 2024 Country Programme budget is **USD 104 million**; UNICEF manages multi-year WASH/DRR portfolios in fragile settings, with recent CAR WASH programming **exceeding USD 6.5 million/year**. UNICEF’s systems (VISION ERP; HACT; PCAs/PDs; procurement systems), safeguards (ESMF/ESMP; IPP/FPIC; SEA/SH SOPs) and GAAP/SEP provide the controls required by GCF under AMA terms (Annex 6; Annex 7; Annex 8; Annex 10). UNICEF is a global lead in climate resilient WASH as evidenced in its programming guidance (the [Climate Shift](#)); advocacy for climate resilient WASH services ([here](#)) and overview of results ([here](#)).

91. **Institutional assessments.** Implementing partners undergo **HACT macro/micro-assessment** and risk tiering; assurance plans (spot checks, audits, programmatic visits) follow risk level. Government capacity and role

mapping are set in **ESMF** and **Annex 2 – Section 8.7**, with targeted capacity-building (Output 1.3) sized to gaps identified in the Feasibility Study (Annex 2).

Procurement and integrity

92. All procurement follows **UNICEF rules** (methods/thresholds) per **Annex 10**. Contracts incorporate **ESHS, SEA/SH**, data-protection, anti-fraud/AML clauses (Annex 6; Annex 8; Annex 10; Annex 20;). A **Technical Review Panel** (PMU-convened) scores proposals against pre-disclosed criteria; PSC reviews and endorses ranked selections; award decisions are taken under UNICEF procurement authority levels (Annex 10).

AE–EE role differentiation

93. Although UNICEF serves as both **AE** and **EE**, **roles are clearly separated** operationally:

- **AE**: portfolio-level oversight, compliance and reporting to GCF;
- **EE/PMU**: implementation, procurement, financial execution, site supervision;
- **Segregation** is enforced via decision thresholds, distinct documentation trails and PSC oversight. This meets GCF expectations on avoiding conflicts of interest while leveraging efficiency.

Post-implementation arrangements and O&M

94. **Annex 2 – Section 8.7** details post-implementation arrangements: asset registers; handover protocols; named custodians; **signed O&M commitment contracts with budget lines**; service-level standards; spare-parts/service contracts and bundled service contracts; capacity building and follow-up support; monitoring cadence for functionality. For urban drainage, O&M responsibilities sit with **MUPH/Bangui Municipality**, supported initially with equipment, training and cost-recovery arrangements (Annex 2 – Section 8.7). For institutional WASH, **MoH/MoE** assume custodianship per handover packages and school/healthcare facility O&M guidance (Annex 2 – Section 8.7). Community assets use committee/operator models with supply-chain support (Annex 2 – Section 8.7).

B.5. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

95. **Why grant financing, and why GCF.** The Central African Republic is a low-income, conflict-affected LDC with **high risk of debt distress** and severely constrained fiscal space. Revenues are volatile, humanitarian demands are recurrent, and borrowing capacity for non-revenue public goods is effectively closed. The **private sector is absent** from climate-resilient WASH because perceived risk is high, payback periods are long, and there are **no cash reflows** from the core adaptation functions proposed. In this setting, **grant financing is the only appropriate instrument** to avoid worsening debt and to protect vulnerable households. GCF is uniquely suited: its mandate prioritizes **adaptation in LDCs/fragile contexts**, it can fund **public-good** climate functions that lack cost-recovery, and its IRMF enables accountability for adaptation outcomes (Section E, Annex 11).

96. **What GCF will finance—and why this is climate, not general development.** All activities are selected, designed and located **because of climate hazards and exposure** evidenced in the Feasibility Study (FS; Annex 2) and tracked against adaptation indicators (IRMF Core 2, 3, 5, 6, 8;). GCF resources cover the **full cost** of climate-resilient measures for which there is **no viable domestic or donor baseline**:

- **Risk information and early warning**: rehabilitation/expansion of hydromet and groundwater monitoring, multi-hazard EWS linkages, and last-mile communication in the four target prefectures (Annex 2; including Section 8.7).
- **Standards, governance and MEL**: updating norms (risk-informed siting/elevation, flood-safe sanitation, sustainable abstraction, climate-sized drainage), sector MEL for resilience, and biennial reviews to institutionalize climate screening (Annex 2 – Section 8.7).
- **Resilient service delivery**: climate-resilient rural water services (water resource-informed deep boreholes, **solar pumping** (replacing diesel where it exists), elevated storage, flood-safe wellheads/aprons), **flood-adapted sanitation** in communities, schools and healthcare facilities (raised/lined, MHM/IPC), and **urban drainage** sized to extreme rainfall with permeable/nature-based elements to avoid downstream peaks (Annex 2 for technical parameters).

- **O&M systems for resilience:** asset registers, framework service contracts, spares and monitoring (e.g., piezometers) to keep resilience features functional (Annex 2 – Section 8.7).
97. These are **climate-directed** measures (return-period sizing, sustainable groundwater yields, flood pathway management) safeguarded by the ESMF/ESMP to prevent maladaptation (Annex 6). Budgets tag each contract to climate purposes and require design features and functionality to be verified before payment (Annex 4; Annex 2 – Section 8.7).
98. **Economic case and affordability.** The Economic/Financial Analysis (EFA; **Annex 3b**) finds **positive economic returns to society** (avoided flood damage, reduced disease, time savings, avoided diesel costs) but **no project-level revenues** and **no reflows** to service debt. In poor rural and peri-urban settings, passing resilience premiums to users would **price out the most vulnerable**. The project therefore applies **tariffs for O&M only**, complemented by targeted, temporary O&M support and sanitation market mechanisms that lower household cash burdens (Annex 2 – Section 8.7; activities 2.1.5). Grant terms ensure benefits accrue to **women, children, IDPs and pastoralists**, not lenders.
99. **Why other finance is not filling the gap.** The FS (Annex 2) documents that: (i) bilateral ODA in CAR largely funds **baseline** WASH or humanitarian response, not climate-resilient services; (ii) prior climate support has skewed to **studies**, with limited construction or O&M systems; (iii) domestic budgets cannot cover adaptation public goods; and (iv) high security and execution risks deter private capital. Government intends to operationalize **FONACAR**, but near-term revenues are insufficient to finance risk information systems, resilient standards or urban drainage to extreme events at scale. Hence, without GCF, these climate functions remain unfunded.
100. **Pass-through of concessionality.** Concessionality is fully passed to beneficiaries: there is **no on-lending, no repayment**. In all cases GCF concessional financing for infrastructure will be passed on to end beneficiaries. Tariffs and user fees will be strictly limited to covering O&M costs and not used for CAPEX recovery of assets financed through GCF grants. Where used, performance-based O&M subsidies and sanitation micro-finance linkages (2.1.5) **reduce end-user costs** without creating household debt. Procurement packages incorporate resilient standards and unit specifications (Annex 2), ensuring concessionality buys **quality and durability** rather than lower-spec volume.
101. **Counterfactual: what happens without GCF finance**
- **Designs revert to baselines.** Rural systems default to diesel pumps and shallow water sources which dry up; urban drainage is rebuilt to historical profiles, not to today's extremes. Sanitation remains unlined/low-lying and easily damaged, increasing contamination during floods and increasing rates of open defecation.
 - **Higher failure and lifecycle costs.** Under intensifying extremes, assets fail more often; outages and repair cycles grow, **raising O&M** and depressing service reliability. Repeated rehabilitation diverts scarce budgets from preventive adaptation.
 - **Public-health and protection impacts.** Flood-driven contamination and dry-season outages increase **diarrhoeal disease and malaria** risks; women and girls travel further for water, heightening protection risks and school absenteeism.
 - **Data and warning gaps persist.** Hydromet/groundwater networks remain inoperative; **EWS** is not extended to at-risk localities; last-mile communication remains fragmented—reducing lead time for protective action.
 - **Institutional lock-in to maladaptation.** Without updated standards, procurement and budgeting continue to fund vulnerable assets. Absence of MEL and annual reviews limits learning and accountability.
 - **Financing deteriorates.** Execution risk and repeated failures **increase donor fatigue**, while households face rising costs or service collapse. With **debt distress**, loan financing is either unavailable or would worsen macro-vulnerabilities.
102. **Safeguards, verification and use of proceeds.** Disbursement **gates** require a “site-readiness packet” (permits, FPIC where applicable, GRM posting, site specific ESMP compliance, signed O&M commitment contract and verification of climate resilient features and functionality before payment. The PMU maintains the IRMF indicator matrix; APR/PPMS reporting links expenditures to outcomes with QA/QC steps (Annex 11). The project feasibility study details O&M handover (asset register, custodians, budget lines) to sustain resilience after project closure

(Annex 2 – Section 8.7). AML/CFT controls (Annexes 20) and SEA/SH safeguards apply through the delivery chain (Annex 8; Annex 7/GAAP; Annex 6).

103. **Conclusion.** CAR’s macro-fiscal reality, absence of project reflows, and affordability constraints make **grants the only viable instrument**. The EFA shows **strong societal returns** but no capacity to service debt; existing finance does not fund climate-resilient standards, EWS or extreme-event drainage. The proposed GCF grant therefore finances **climate adaptation only**—risk-informed services, governance and information systems that protect vulnerable people, avoid maladaptation, and institutionalize preventive practice—consistent with the FS evidence and technical parameters (Annex 2), budgets (Annex 4), operations (Annex 2 – Section 8.7), and the project’s IRMF results (Section E; Annex 11).

B.6. Exit strategy (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

102. **Sustaining Results Beyond Implementation.** The project is designed to ensure that its benefits last well beyond the implementation period by progressively shifting ownership and management responsibilities to national institutions, local governments, and communities. The exit strategy is rooted in strengthening institutional frameworks and capacities, embedding resilience standards into national policies, and building community-level systems for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure. Asset owners and O&M payers are clearly identified for each type of system, with preventive maintenance, service-level standards, and spare parts/vendor logistics embedded in national and decentralized frameworks.

103. **Institutional and policy integration:** By the end of the project, climate-resilient standards and guidelines for WASH infrastructure and service delivery will be fully adopted by the CAR Government. The revised National Water Policy, WASH Norms, CLTS and schools’ guidelines will include climate risk management, gender-sensitive standards, and resilience provisions. These updated regulatory instruments will ensure that future investments by government and partners incorporate climate-resilient approaches, thereby extending the project’s impact beyond its lifetime. A time-bound policy roadmap (with milestones, lead agencies, and budget lines) will be agreed by Year 1 and tracked in PSC minutes.

104. **The Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resources, supported by the Ministry of Environment and other line ministries, will institutionalize monitoring systems and budgetary lines for climate-resilient WASH.** This provides the policy and financial framework for sustained implementation after the project’s exit. A time-bound policy roadmap (with milestones, lead agencies, and budget lines) will be agreed by Year 1 and tracked in PSC minutes.

105. **Operations and maintenance of infrastructure:** Water user associations/private operators, masons and other local climate-resilient WASH providers will be established and trained to manage daily operations and maintenance of boreholes, solar piped systems, and sanitation facilities. The project will provide toolkits, training, and governance frameworks that ensure equitable participation of women, youth and pastoralist communities in management structures. For larger localities, contractual arrangements with delegated operators and municipal authorities will be piloted to create financially viable service models that can attract future investment. The introduction of cost-recovery mechanisms, including affordable household tariffs and institutional contributions (from schools, health centres, and local authorities), will support sustainable O&M financing. Minimum requirements for the fiduciary, governance, and safeguard arrangements for any mobilized funds are presented in Annex 2 – Activity 2.1.5 For sanitation, the climate-sensitive community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach will tackle underlying social norms and build full ownership, complemented by on-going, nationwide, multi-channel awareness-raising campaigns to sustain behaviour change.

106. **The introduction of cost-recovery mechanisms, including affordable household tariffs and institutional contributions (from schools, healthcare facilities, and local authorities), will support sustainable O&M financing.** Where tariffs cannot fully cover costs, local and national budget allocations will provide targeted subsidies, ensuring continuity of services while protecting affordability for vulnerable households. Tariff schemes will follow an affordability screen with lifeline blocks and enable varied forms of cross-subsidies financed through approved budget lines.

107. **Longer-term ownership and scaling:** Government ownership is ensured through its role as co-chair of the PSC and main IP, and by embedding the project within the National Development Plan, NDC, and NAP priorities. By project completion, the national climate and WASH sectors will have the technical standards, institutional capacity, and planning, monitoring and learning systems to expand resilient WASH interventions nationwide. Documentation of lessons learned will support replication across prefectures and inform regional initiatives.

- 108. Role of civil society and private sector:** Civil society organizations, community-based groups, and NGOs will continue to play a central role in creating the demand for climate resilient WASH services, promotion of water conservation, hygiene promotion, climate-risk communication, and social accountability. Their continued engagement after project closure will reinforce behavioural change and community ownership. Opportunities for private sector participation, particularly in solar-powered systems supply chains, spare parts distribution, and faecal sludge management, will be promoted during implementation to support market-driven sustainability. Supplier framework agreements for critical spares (pumps, controllers, panels) will be established wherever appropriate.
- 109. Contribution to paradigm shift:** The project's exit strategy ensures that climate resilience in WASH is no longer treated as a stand-alone intervention, but is embedded within CAR's policies, institutions, and community practices. This integration creates a self-sustaining system where future investments - domestic and external - automatically apply resilience standards. By consolidating institutional capacity, financial mechanisms, and community ownership, the project ensures that its contribution to a paradigm shift in CAR's WASH sector is maintained well beyond the GCF's involvement.
- 110. For hydrometeorological and early warning investments,** the project will establish a dedicated O&M plan (preventive maintenance, connectivity, software licensing, and replacement schedule). A signed inter-ministry MOU assigns roles for data QA/QC, dissemination, and cost-sharing.
- 111. Three independent sustainability and resilience checks will verify sustainability indicators in Year 3, 5, and after the end of the project implementation period;** results will inform corrective action, national WASH planning and collective learning, and be shared with the PSC, NDA, and annual sector reviews.

C. FINANCING INFORMATION							
C.1. Total financing							
(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi + vii)	Total amount			Currency			
	69.09			million USD (\$)			
GCF financial instrument	Amount	Tenor	Grace period	Pricing			
(i) Senior loans	0						
(ii) Subordinated loans	0						
(iii) Equity	0						
(iv) Guarantees	0						
(v) Reimbursable grants	0						
(vi) Grants	69.09						
(vii) Results-based payments	0						
(b) Co-financing information	Total amount			Currency			
	4.68			million USD (\$)			
Name of institution	Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor & grace	Pricing	Seniority	
UNICEF	<u>In kind</u>	<u>4.09</u>	<u>million USD (\$)</u>	<u>Enter years</u> <u>Enter years</u>	<u>Enter%</u>	<u>Options</u>	
GoCAR	<u>In kind</u>	<u>0.59</u>	<u>million USD (\$)</u>	<u>Enter years</u> <u>Enter years</u>	<u>Enter%</u>	<u>Options</u>	
(c) Total financing (c) = (a)+(b)	Amount			Currency			
	<u>73.77</u>			<u>million USD (\$)</u>			
(d) Other financing arrangements and contributions (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)	N/A						
C.2. Financing by component							
Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and output as outlined in section B.3. above and disaggregate by source of financing. More than one co-financing institution can fund a single component or output. Provide the summarised cost estimates in the table below and the detailed budget plan as annex 4.							
Component	Output	Indicative cost <u>Options</u>	GCF financing		Co-financing		
			<u>Amount Options</u>	<u>Financial Instrument</u>	<u>Amount Options</u>	<u>Financial Instrument</u>	<u>Name of Institutions</u>
<u>Component 1</u>	<u>Output 1.1</u>	<u>\$2,023.695 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$1,787,794 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>235,901USD (\$)</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>UNICEF</u>

	<u>Output 1.2</u>	<u>\$3,842,943 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$3,842,943 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>0</u>		
	<u>Output 1.3</u>	<u>\$663,983 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$663,983 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>0</u>		
<u>Component 2</u>	<u>Output 2.1</u>	<u>\$44,246.151 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$41,975,830 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>\$2,270,321 USD (\$)</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>GoCAR + , UNICEF</u>
	<u>Output 2.2</u>	<u>\$11,369,042 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$11,369,042 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>0</u>		
	<u>Output 2.3</u>	<u>\$4,154,933 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$2,920,308 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,234,625 USD (\$)</u>	<u>In Kind</u>	<u>UNICEF</u>
Monitoring and Evaluation		<u>\$1,642,452 USD (\$)</u>	<u>1,642,452 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>			
Project Management costs		<u>\$3,686,879 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$2,742,215 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>944,664 USD (\$)</u>	<u>In Kind</u>	<u>UNICEF</u>
Contingency		<u>\$2,148,902 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$2,148,902 USD (\$)</u>	<u>Grants</u>			
Indicative total cost (USD)		<u>\$73,778,982 USD (\$)</u>	<u>\$69,093,470 USD (\$)</u>		<u>\$4,685,512 USD (\$)</u>		

C.3 Capacity building and technology development/transfer (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)

C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance capacity building activities?

Yes No

C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance technology development/transfer?

Yes No

112. The project pairs targeted capacity strengthening with fit-for-purpose technology transfer to lock in sustainability beyond the grant. At national and subnational levels, it builds the capabilities of the MEDHR, the National Water and Sanitation Agency, the Directorate of Meteorology, and other departments, as well as municipalities and other stakeholders to plan, design, operate, maintain and monitor climate-resilient WASH and early-warning services. A train-the-trainer programme delivers practical curricula on: climate risk assessment and siting; climate-resilient WASH design (solarized systems, elevated wellheads, flood-resilient latrines); water resource management; DRR; urban drainage operation; asset management; O&M costing; inclusive stakeholder engagement; and grievance redress SEA/SH procedures. Certification and standard operating procedures are institutionalized through approved Terms of Reference and budget lines.

113. Technology transfer focuses on low-maintenance, open or non-proprietary solutions. For hydromet/EWS, the project provides station operation and calibration protocols, QA/QC routines, data integration and impact-based warning workflows, plus last-mile communication toolkits. For WASH and drainage, it transfers design templates, as-built drawings, software, and spare-parts catalogues and decentralised depots for spare parts. Contracts require full documentation in French and permissive licenses for use and adaptation. Local private providers are developed through on-the-job mentoring and opportunities for framework agreements for spares and servicing will be explored.

114. Water user associations/operators, women and youth groups and CSOs are capacitated to manage facilities, monitor water resources, support risk communication, and co-implement preventive maintenance. Capacity outcomes are tracked through IRMF-aligned indicators (e.g., policies adopted, people covered by climate information, service functionality), with learning captured via a national M&E system and Community of Practice and periodic peer exchanges. This combined approach embeds



skills, tools and accountability within CAR institutions, markets and communities, ensuring durable, scalable resilience.



D. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

This section refers to the performance of the project/programme against the investment criteria as set out in the GCF's [Initial Investment Framework](#).

D.1. Impact potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Climate resilient sustainable development

115. This project aligns with the GCF's investment priorities by advancing climate-resilient sustainable development in the Central African Republic, a least developed country highly vulnerable to climate change. It contributes to the GCF's strategic objectives of reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity. The project targets three GCF adaptation result areas: most vulnerable people and communities (ARA 1); health and well-being, and food and water security (ARA 2); and infrastructure and built environment (ARA 3).

116. Direct and indirect number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender): The project will deliver direct adaptation benefits to a total of **504,600** people (9.3% of the population). This includes **262,883** women and girls (52% female and 48% male). There are **2,564,074** indirect beneficiaries) (47.1% of the population).

117. ARA 1: Most Vulnerable People and Communities

- The project catalyses systemic change by embedding climate resilience into the governance and service delivery frameworks aiming at reaching the most vulnerable. The project strengthens institutional capacity at national and local levels, enabling sustained support for high-risk communities in the three northern provinces. Through inclusive planning processes, climate risk assessments, and community-led disaster preparedness, the project institutionalizes the implementation of local adaptation solutions to climate change, contributing also to long-term stability and social cohesion— (transforming how communities engage with climate and disaster risks)

Outputs that directly contribute to this impact are: (1) Output 3.1: Through new and strengthened people-centred, multi-hazard, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive Early Warning Systems and climate information services, **266,305** people (**138,764** women and girls, **127,541** men and boys) will directly benefit; **Output 3.2:** By strengthening community resilience and response capacities through enhanced preparedness, response, and early action, **18,000** people (**9,379** women and girls, **8,621** men and boys) will directly benefit.

118. ARA 2: Health, Well-being, Food and Water Security

- The project's systemic impact on health and water security from its multisector approach to CR WASH. By aligning national policies, technical standards, and funding strategies with climate adaptation goals, the project ensures that WASH services are sustainably financed, regulated, and monitored. The promotion of financial schemes and support for youth-led enterprises creates enabling environments for local innovation and economic resilience. These interventions collectively shift the WASH sector from reactive service provision to proactive, climate-informed planning and delivery.

Outputs directly contributing to this impact are: Output 1.1 & 1.2: An estimated **2,564,074** people (**1,333,318** women and girls, **1,230,755** men and boys) will indirectly benefit from the integration of climate change adaptation into national policies and improved evidence-based planning for WASH, Water Resource Management (WRM), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); **Output 2.1:** Access to climate-resilient, safe and reliable basic water services will be increased for 404,600 people (210,825 women and girls and 193,775 men and boys) in high-risk localities; and **Output 2.3:** Communities and youth will be enabled to manage water resources and disaster risks, directly benefiting **18,000** people (**9,379** women and girls, **8,621** men and boys).

119. ARA 3: Infrastructure and Built Environment

- The project drives systemic transformation in infrastructure planning and management by integrating climate risk data, early warning systems, and nature-based solutions for both rural and urban services contexts, embedding infrastructure development within a broader framework of community engagement, environmental safeguards, and institutional (local and national) coordination. By institutionalizing monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems and fostering cross-sectoral coordination platforms, the project ensures that infrastructure investments are informed, inclusive and resilient and lay the groundwork for replication and scale in CAR and, with the support of UNICEF, in the subregion.



- **Outputs directly contributing to this impact are: Output 2.2:** 100,000 people (52,107 women and girls and 47,893 men and boys) will gain access to climate-resilient drainage services and Output 2.3 18,000 people benefiting from improved climate DRR and WRM.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 120. Paradigm shift overview:** This project is designed to catalyse a fundamental paradigm shift in the Central African Republic (CAR), moving the country's approach to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) from a reactive, humanitarian-led model to a proactive, government-owned, climate-resilient development model. It will create a self-sustaining system where climate risks are integrated into national planning, financing, and community management. The project moves beyond building assets to embedding climate resilience into national policy and practice, ensuring long-term sustainability. **From Isolated Projects to Scalable Solutions:** The project will move beyond the existing "pilot" approach by developing proof-of-concept models in the northern prefectures and Bangui that are designed for scale and replication. This includes constructing 200 solar-powered water systems and upgrading climate-resilient WASH infrastructure in 200 schools and healthcare facilities. These models will demonstrate the viability and effectiveness of new solutions. The initiative will implement wide-ranging advancements in the national ecosystem for adaptive climate resilient WASH, prioritizing highly effective and durable solutions. These will be reinforced by policy directives, legal frameworks, resource mobilization, digital tools, competency building, demand creation and information dissemination to support extensive rollout post-GCF involvement.
- 121. From Weak Capacity to Institutionalized Knowledge:** The project will build systemic readiness, supporting scale, replication and sustainability, by documenting and disseminating lessons learned through a climate-integrated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework and a Community of Practice (CoP). This will institutionalize knowledge and empower government institutions, local authorities, water operators, and communities to manage, maintain, and replicate these services.
- 122. From Fragmented Policies to a Coordinated National Strategy:** The project will strengthen the national enabling environment. It will integrate climate adaptation and early warning systems (EWS) into key national policies like the Water Policy and WASH norms. A climate-resilient WASH funding strategy will also be developed to attract resources from various sources, ensuring financial sustainability beyond the project's life. It will support the government in revising existing policies to integrate climate resilience. This will embed the project's successful models into official guidelines and standards, ensuring they are adopted for future programmes nationwide. By linking the project's evidence and lessons learned to national information systems, it will inform the update of programming guidelines for the post-SDG era
- 123. From Low-Tech to Innovative and Context-Relevant Solutions:** The project will introduce and scale up innovative solutions like multi-use solar-powered water systems, remote sensing, and a climate-adapted Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. It will also train local entrepreneurs and artisans to create a sustainable market for climate-resilient solutions.
- 124. Overall Contribution to Climate-Resilient Development:** This project's integrated approach will make a significant contribution to climate-resilient development pathways that are consistent with CAR's National Adaptation Plan and other climate strategies. By enhancing water security, reducing flood risk, and improving sanitation, it directly addresses key vulnerabilities identified in these plans. The project's focus on sustainable, low-carbon development through solar power and community-led solutions aligns with a forward-thinking, resilient development trajectory. It will create a model that protects livelihoods, improves public health, and reduces conflict over resources, paving the way for a more resilient CAR and a more stable future for its population, including the most vulnerable.
- 125. Alignment of Paradigm shift to project design:** This approach is explicitly aligned with the project Theory of Change (B.2a.1) and the GCF Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF): project Outputs 1.1–1.3 and 2.1–2.3 are designed to move IRMF adaptation core/outcome indicators (e.g., Core 2 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached; Core 3 physical assets made more resilient; Core 5 institutional and regulatory frameworks), with baselines, targets, methods and owners specified in Section E.

D.3. Sustainable development (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 126. This project will deliver substantial and wide-ranging sustainable development benefits, contributing directly to at least eight UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** Its primary contributions will be to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Additionally, the project will advance SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



- 127. Social and Health benefits:** A central benefit of this project is the significant improvement in public health (SDG 3). By providing climate-resilient, safe water and sanitation, the project will directly combat the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhoea, which are leading causes of child mortality in CAR and improve the development and health outcomes of children. Stagnant floodwaters, a key climate impact, will be reduced through improved drainage, mitigating the breeding grounds for mosquitoes and lowering the risk of vector-borne diseases like malaria. This will reduce the burden on the national health system and decrease household healthcare costs. Furthermore, the project supports quality education (SDG 4) by ensuring schools have reliable WASH facilities, which is proven to increase attendance, particularly for adolescent girls, and spend less time collecting water.
- 128. Economic benefits:** The project will generate significant economic benefits by fostering decent work and local economic growth (SDG 8). A key objective is the development of skills for increased employment opportunities. The project will provide training for over 18,000 individuals, empowering local entrepreneurs, masons, and technicians to construct, operate, and maintain climate-resilient WASH systems. This not only stimulates local economies but also builds a sustainable service delivery market. By reducing the time lost to illness, and the associated costs, and water collection, the project enhances household productivity and supports livelihoods, directly contributing to poverty reduction (SDG 1).
- 129. Gender benefits:** The project is designed to deliver targeted benefits that advance gender equality (SDG 5). Women and girls, who bear the primary responsibility for water collection, will see their daily burden significantly reduced, saving time and lowering their exposure to the risks of gender-based violence on long journeys to water points, and increasing education outcomes. The project will ensure women have a powerful voice in decision-making by promoting their leadership in at least 35% of positions within community water and sanitation committees. Furthermore, the provision of safe, gender-segregated sanitation facilities in schools, with dedicated spaces for menstrual hygiene management, will reduce school dropout rates for adolescent girls.
- 130. Environmental and Mitigation benefits:** Beyond adaptation, the project delivers clear environmental and climate action benefits (SDG 13). By replacing diesel-powered water pumps with solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, the project promotes a low-carbon development pathway for essential services. The project also enhances life on land (SDG 15) by protecting ecosystems. Improved sanitation and the reduction of open defecation will prevent the contamination of surface and groundwater sources, preserving local biodiversity and improving the health of river basins. By upgrading urban drainage infrastructure in Bangui to reduce flood risks the project will bring environmental benefits (among others) (SDG 11).

D.4. Needs of recipient (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 131. Extreme Climate Vulnerability:** All four prefectures, where the project will focus, face recurrent and intense floods, which compromise water quality and damage WASH infrastructure.⁶ Projected increases in temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and a higher frequency of floods across all four prefectures will intensify these challenges. This is compounded by the intrinsic characteristics of the prefectures, including: i) critically low access to basic/limited drinking WASH services; ii) weak and insufficient WASH infrastructure that are highly susceptible to climate shocks; and iii) pervasive poverty across the country, limiting communities' capacity to adapt and invest in climate-resilient WASH solutions. To address multifaceted vulnerabilities, the project will promote actions to increase (i) access to and management of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and services, (ii) the capacity of institutions and communities to plan for and adapt to climate shocks such as floods and droughts, (iii) sustainable water resource management through improved data and governance, and (iv) the overall resilience of the local population to the impacts of climate change on water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- 132. Economic development in the CAR is undermined by climate-related WASH vulnerabilities.** As an extremely poor and fragile country with a population primarily engaged in subsistence farming, its economy is heavily reliant on the agricultural and livestock sectors, which contribute over 40% of the GDP⁷ and employ approximately 70% of the population.⁸ The agricultural sector is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate variability and extreme weather events. Water insecurity from rising temperatures and droughts reduces agricultural yields and livestock productivity, which in turn exacerbate food insecurity and decrease household incomes. The direct relationship between agriculture

⁶ UNICEF. (2025). *Analyse du paysage climatique pour les enfants (CLAC) en République Centrafricaine, Rapport provisoire.*

⁷ UMDf. (2024). *Élaboration de Plans d'Action des Villes dans le Cadre du Programme Villes Africaines. Profil Urbain, Lot 4 : Bangui.*

⁸ Red Cross Climate Centre. (2024). *Climate fact sheet: Central African Republic.*

and water security means that climate change-driven water insecurity is a primary factor undermining livelihoods, especially among the poorest rural populations, increasing tension and conflict amongst and within communities. In addition, among women, the increased time spent collecting water during times of water insecurity limits their ability to pursue other economic activities. To reduce climate-related livelihood losses, the project prioritizes reliable, climate-resilient water for domestic and small productive uses (including multi-use networks and livestock watering where context-appropriate), coupled with O&M training and local service models so assets remain functional during heat and drought periods. The project will address these challenges by developing climate-resilient water systems for domestic use, which will increase productivity and incomes, as well as economic opportunities for women and education outcomes for girls through decreased time spent collecting water.

133. Social needs in the CAR are impacted by inadequate basic services in the WASH sector, which are acutely sensitive to climate change. Access to basic/limited water and sanitation services is very low, and significantly lower when compared to the SDG targets for safely managed, with 94% of the population lacking access to safely managed drinking water service as of 2024, and safely managed sanitation coverage below 14%.⁹ Existing WASH infrastructure is dilapidated, failing to meet demand and highly vulnerable to climate shocks. Climate-induced displacement, coupled with ongoing conflict, further strains already overstretched resources. These multifaceted challenges disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and displaced persons, underscoring the need for strengthened WASH resilience and communities.

134. Financing for climate-resilient WASH in CAR is blocked by severe public and private sector constraints. The government's fiscal capacity is crippled by economic stagnation and conflict, while the private sector is deterred by high political risk and low returns. Climate-resilient WASH projects require an 'adaptation premium' for extra costs, such as flood-proofing and resilient siting, which are not covered by household tariffs or typical aid. As vulnerable communities cannot cover these capital costs, there is no alternative funding source for these climate-specific needs at scale. GCF grant finance is therefore required to fund this premium and de-risk co-financing. The project will use GCF resources to: (i) finance the adaptation premium in key assets; (ii) build market capacity for vendors, technicians, and maintenance contracts; and (iii) explore public-finance tools like budget codes and subsidies. This approach will also promote increased investment from national budgets and donors and develop affordable financial schemes like revolving funds and vouchers to that if successful would support local entrepreneurs and strengthen the capacity of local governments to manage climate-resilient WASH services.

135. A baseline capacity assessment identified critical institutional gaps limiting the delivery of climate-resilient WASH. These gaps include: (a) policies and regulations that lack climate-resilient standards; (b) unclear mandates and poor coordination between the WASH, water resource management, and disaster risk reduction sectors; (c) limited weather and water resource monitoring data and early warning capacity; and (d) staffing and equipment shortages at the subnational level. The project will respond with a targeted capacity-building package.

D.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

136. The Central African Republic demonstrates strong ownership of this climate-resilient WASH project through active government leadership, alignment with national priorities, and collaborative implementation. As a least developed country (LDC) ranked 191st on the Human Development Index (2022), CAR integrates the project into its recovery efforts from conflict, emphasizing adaptation to build resilience. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, as the National Designated Authority, endorsed the proposal via a no-objection letter, ensuring national oversight. The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources (MEDHR) will chair a Project Steering Committee, with its General Directorate of Hydraulics providing technical expertise on water resource management, while the National Water and Sanitation Agency will contribute service delivery oversight, ensuring integrated governance across both internal and external implementing bodies.

137. Existing national climate strategy: CAR integrates climate action across its National Development Plan (2024–2028), prioritizing water security and health system resilience in response to fragility challenges. The 2024 Country Climate and Development Report operationalises this through flood risk management, climate-smart agriculture, and renewable energy expansion (solar/hydro), while the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Plan delivers near-term benefits by reducing black carbon and methane emissions from waste and energy sectors. Together, these frameworks create a comprehensive approach linking climate resilience with development objectives in a fragile state context. This FP directly supports: NDP 2024–2028 Pillars, NDC (2022) Adaptation—Water & Health priorities, and NAP (2022) measures (e.g., resilient WASH, IWRM, flood-resilient drainage, climate-informed EWS).

⁹ WHO/UNICEF. (2022). *Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)*. <https://washdata.org>



- 138. Existing GCF country programme:** CAR's GCF Country Programme, developed in 2018 with UNDP and Central African Forest Commission support, identifies priorities in water, agriculture, and forestry. It has accessed multiple Readiness grants (e.g., 2016, 2017, 2021) totalling over USD 1 million to build NDA capacity and project pipelines, including water sector concepts. This project advances the programme by addressing adaptation gaps in WASH. The FP leverages past Readiness outcomes (NDA systems, pipeline diagnostics) and proposes targeted new Readiness requests (a) national EE/DAE capacity strengthening and (b) sector MRV for IRMF reporting.
- 139. Relevance to and alignment with NDCs, NAMAs, and NAPs:** The project aligns with CAR's updated NDC (2022), which emphasizes adaptation in water and sanitation and aims to achieve conditional 24.28% emissions reduction by 2030 (unconditional 11.82%), covering sectors like water and health with a USD 443.87 million adaptation budget. CAR has no formal NAMAs, as an LDC focused on adaptation. The NAP (2022) prioritizes resilient WASH infrastructure, IWRM, and health integration, with actions like borehole rehabilitation and flood-resistant designs to address climate risks. The project supports NAP goals by enhancing water access and EWS in high-risk prefectures. The FP cites specific NAP actions supported (e.g., climate-resilient WASH; hydromet/EWS roll-out) and commits to report to national MRV platforms via the PMU M&E plan (OM §MEL).
- 140. Capacity of Accredited Entities or Executing Entities to deliver:** UNICEF, serving as both Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE), has operated in CAR since 1986, demonstrating strong implementation capacity through its WASH programmes, including the 2023 cholera emergency response that reached 500,000 people and amongst others a large 14M Euro funding from EU for durable WASH.
- 141. Role of National Designated Authority:** The NDA (MEDD) coordinates GCF access, reviewed the proposal, and facilitated stakeholder engagement. It led Country Programme development and monitors implementation.
- 142. Engagement with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders:** Comprehensive stakeholder consultations engaged over 400 participants between April-July 2025. Twelve public discussion groups targeted specific demographics - women, youth, and IDPs and community leaders- engaging **302** participants, while three participatory workshops brought together 112 institutional stakeholders including mayors, prefects, state representatives, and NGO representatives. Additional consultations reached pastoralist communities across Bangui and target prefectures. Gender networks and community co-design mechanisms (Output 2.3) will ensure sustained inclusive participation throughout implementation. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP, Annex 7) lists all actors (national/subnational government, NDA, CSOs/NGOs, private sector, academia, and disability groups), consultation methods, disclosure venues/languages (French/Sango), and a feedback log showing how inputs altered site selection, design standards, and O&M models. The PSC will host a quarterly partner roundtable (incl. other donor/UN projects and any GCF regional initiatives) to coordinate workplans, share IRMF indicators, and avoid overlaps (minutes attached to semi-annual progress reports).
- 143. Coordination with ongoing/planned projects (incl. GCF):** The FP formalizes linkages with relevant World Bank, AfDB, GEF/AF and any GCF regional initiatives affecting hydromet/EWS or urban resilience. A coordination MoU with these agencies and a shared indicator subset (e.g., drainage performance, WASH uptime, EWS reach) are embedded in the PMU M&E plan; the PSC admits observer seats for key programmes to synchronize schedules and procurement lots (see Annex 2 §6.1).
- 144. Use of non-national actors:** Where international partners are engaged (e.g., specialized hydromet, urban drainage design, solar capacity), their roles are time-limited and include mandatory local skills transfer, co-delivery with national staff, and handover plans (OM §Human Resources & Handover).

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 145. Adequacy and justification of GCF funding:** GCF resources are indispensable to overcome systemic barriers in CAR's WASH sector, where government fiscal space is extremely limited and private sector engagement is almost absent due to insecurity and high investment risks. The requested GCF grant of USD **\$69 093 470** co-financing of USD **\$4,685,512** from UNICEF and the CAR government, represents the minimum concessionality required to de-risk investments and enable the introduction of climate-resilient WASH systems at scale. Without GCF support, investments would remain fragmented, donor-driven, and primarily humanitarian in nature, unable to catalyse systemic resilience. By addressing institutional, technical, and financing barriers, GCF support ensures additionality and avoids crowding out other sources of finance. To make the climate incremental logic explicit, the FP distinguishes between a development baseline (rehabilitation/replacement to current standards) from the climate-resilient alternative (flood-proofing, solarization, raised plinths, resilient drainage, climate-informed siting, EWS integration, etc). Concessionality is passed through by (i) avoiding debt on public utilities/municipalities, (ii) financing resilience premiums otherwise unaffordable for poor users, and (iii) ring-fencing tariff affordability via targeted subsidies where needed (see Annex 2 – Section 8.7).
- 146. Efficiency and effectiveness (see Annex 3b – EFA):** The project achieves high value with a total of USD **\$ 73.77M** benefiting **504,600** direct beneficiaries. Adaptation cost-effectiveness is USD **~146** per direct beneficiary



(0.007 beneficiaries per USD), in line with benchmarks for WASH in African LDCs. Compared to other Adaptation Fund projects in CAR (~USD 500 per direct beneficiary), this yields higher beneficiary reach per dollar through integrated approaches (less than 1/3 of the cost per beneficiary). Unit costs underline prudent use of concessional resources. Construction/rehabilitation of **80 network water systems** at USD **190,000** each and **120 small systems** at USD **50,000** each (total USD **21.2 million**) serves **320,000** people - about USD **56** per person. Rainwater harvesters in **100 health facilities and 100 schools (USD 35,000 each) total USD 9.0**. These 200 facilities benefit 300 schoolchildren and 1,500 healthcare facility users, totalling **1,800 people**. The total cost for these facilities is USD 7M. Community ODF certification averages USD **3,300** per community. With **500 communities** benefiting **141,000 people**, this is roughly **USD 13.75 per capita** (USD 1,650,000 total / 120,000 people). The Bangui drainage package of USD **8 million** protects **100,000** residents - around USD **80** per protected person. In addition, co-financing embedded in OPEX assumptions is estimated at USD **30.7 million** for the lifetime of the investments against a USD **74.2 million** programme envelope (**41.4%**; about **1:2.4**), as reflected in the consolidated economic analysis. The cost-per-beneficiary calculation (total climate-attributable costs / direct adaptation beneficiaries) and the disaggregated cost per service (safe water, sanitation, drainage, EWS reach) are provided in Annex 3b (table 16–17) with underlying unit cost assumptions.

- 147. Cost-effectiveness and economic viability:** The economic analysis confirms that the project is justified, with an Economic Internal Rate of Return of **14%**, an Economic Net Present Value of ~USD **34.27 M**. Results are robust under Annex 3b sensitivity tests: drainage (M1) and health centre interventions (M2), WASH (M4 L, M4 S), ODF (M5) and remain viable for all scenarios, while school WASH (M3) reverses KPIs only in the most extreme scenario. Methodology and assumptions are documented in Annex 3b: (i) social discount rate 5% (ii) valuation of avoided diarrheal disease via avoided healthcare cost; (iii) avoided asset losses from flooding; and (v) avoided time loss for water acquisition, (vi) conservative uptake performance assumptions. Under $\pm 20\%$ sensitivity tests, the EIRR remains above the 5% threshold in every case except the combined worst-case of +20% costs and -20% benefits.
- 148. Key avoided losses and externalities include (see also co-benefits in section D.3):**
- Reduced flood damage through storm-water drainage systems in Bangui;
 - Safer water access and improved public health outcomes via resilient WASH infrastructure;
 - Productivity and health gains from the elimination of open defecation in targeted communities;
 - Enhanced water availability and climate preparedness through rainwater harvesting and/or via a water point when feasible in healthcare facilities and schools. These co-benefits underscore the importance of GCF investment in generating broad societal returns that extend beyond direct project beneficiaries.
- 149.** Where feasible, monetization is included in Annex 3b: (a) avoided household health expenditures and lost workdays; (b) reduced emergency WASH trucking; (c) avoided repair of repeatedly damaged assets; and (d) time savings from closer, reliable water points—especially for women and girls—converted using conservative value-of-time assumptions. A results tracker in Section E/IRMF cross-reference provides annual KPIs to monitor realized externalities.
- 150. Best available technologies and practices:** The project employs solar-powered boreholes with flood-resistant designs, rainwater harvesting, gender-sensitive models, eco-sanitation, and monitoring for groundwater, gender-sensitive models drawn from UNICEF's low-carbon climate-resilient WASH experience. Technology choices avoid long-lived carbon lock-in (no diesel baseload) and incorporate resilience design standards (elevated plinths, protected wellheads, scour protection, back-up storage, climate-informed siting per hazard maps). Multiple technical options were screened for life-cycle costs and service uptime; selected designs maximize resilience per dollar and comply with national norms to ease replication.
- 151. Financial instruments and market failure:** A grant instrument is used because the outputs are public goods (safe and resilient water and sanitation services, flood risk reduction) in a fragile LDC with near-zero ability to service debt. The project corrects market failures (information gaps, externalities, high perceived risk) by financing resilience premiums, building credit-worthy service models, and de-risking O&M through assured spare-parts supply chains and performance-based payments.
- 152. Catalysing and not crowding out private sector:** The FP introduces pro-poor, private-compatible measures—standardized service contracts for solar O&M and performance-based subsidies for rural pump mechanics—aligned with tariff affordability rules. By financing upstream resilience and initial demand creation, the grant de-risks entry and does not displace bankable private investments; instead, it creates pipelines for potential future PPPs once service reliability is established (see Annex 2 – Section 8.1)
- 153. Co-financing and leverage:** Total co-financing of USD 4,685,512 million (Government of CAR: USD 597,699; UNICEF: USD 4,087,813). Letters of intent and budget codes are referenced in co-finance letters. The FP also details prospective follow-on finance via a funding strategy under Output 1.1.



- 154. Adaptation losses and ToC linkage (adaptation only):** Baseline economic losses from climate-related WASH disruptions (health costs, emergency response, asset damage, lost schooling/productivity) are summarized in Annex 3b and tied to the ToC causal chain (hazard → exposure/vulnerability → resilient assets/services → avoided losses). This underpins the EIRR/ENPV and explains how activities reduce quantified risks.
- 155. Cost per beneficiary and benchmarks (adaptation only):** The FP reports: (i) total adaptation cost per direct beneficiary; (ii) cost per service type; (iii) comparison with African LDC WASH adaptation benchmarks; and (iv) explanation of variances due to security logistics and redundancy requirements for resilience.
- 156. Incentives for sustained investment post-GCF:** Sustainability measures include: (a) time-bounded O&M grants that taper as tariffs/budget lines materialize; (b) municipal budget earmarking for drainage maintenance; (c) performance-based O&M contracts with renewal contingent on uptime; and (d) micro-finance linkages for household sanitation upgrades, ensuring continued private and public investment after GCF exit (see Exit Strategy).

E. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

This section refers to the project/programme's logical framework in accordance with the GCF's Integrated Results Management Framework to which the project/programme contributes as a whole, including in respect of any co-financing.

E.1. Project/Programme Focus

Please indicate whether this proposal is for a mitigation or adaptation project/programme. For cross-cutting proposals, select both.

- Reduced emissions (mitigation)
 Increased resilience (adaptation)

E.2. GCF Impact level: Paradigm shift potential (max 600 words, approximately 1-2 pages)

This section of the logical framework is meant to help a project/programme monitor and assess how it contributes to the paradigm shift described in section D.2 above by applying three assessment dimensions - scale, replicability, and sustainability.

Accordingly, for each assessment dimension (see the definition per assessment in the accompanying guidance note), describe the current state (baseline) and the potential scenario (target) and rate the current state (baseline) by using the three-point-scale rating (low, medium, and high) provided in the guidance note. Also describe how the project/programme will contribute to that shift/ transformation under respective assessment dimensions (scale, replicability and sustainability). In doing so, please refer to section B.2(a) (theory of change).

Assessment Dimension	Current state (baseline)		Potential target scenario (Description)	How the project/programme will contribute (Description)
	Description	Rating		
Scale	<p>In the CAR, WASH services are not designed to be climate resilient. Existing CR-WASH initiatives remain limited to isolated pilot projects, active in only 8 out of 71 sub-prefectures. For instance, only one solar-powered water system exists across the three northern prefectures.</p> <p>Coverage of water and sanitation services are extremely limited. As per UNICEF and WHO JMP report (2024): 63.5% of the national population do not have access to at least a basic drinking</p>	<u>Low</u>	<p>The country's most climate-vulnerable communities targeted by the project in the rural, peri-urban, and urban areas are less exposed and more resilient to climate-related hazards.</p> <p>In the three northern prefectures: (1) the majority of the population benefits from climate-resilient, solar-powered water systems, while 40% use improved latrines that safely contain</p>	<p>The project will contribute to scaling-up climate resilient WASH programming through two interconnected and mutually reinforcing results: development of locally adapted, climate resilient WASH solutions in the northern prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga, while simultaneously strengthening the national enabling environment to support future scale-up across the CAR.</p> <p>1. The locally adapted solutions (Outcome 2) will serve as proof-of-concept models for replication. They will combine (i) construction of solar-powered water systems (80 large-scale piped networks and 120</p>

	<p>water service, which is defined as water from an improved source collected within a 30-minute round trip. In rural areas, this increases further to 72.6%. This includes people who collect water from surface water sources, sources which are unimproved and where it takes more than 30 minutes to collect water. All of these factors are vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>The situation for sanitation is even worse. Nationally, 69.4% of the population openly defecate or use unimproved latrines, which can be destroyed, and pose risks for water resources. Again, the rates are even worse for rural areas, where 87.5% of the population do not have access to a limited sanitation facility.</p> <p>The lowest level of service which UNICEF WASH programmes aim for is at least basic, with progressive programming to achieve safely managed services. Currently, globally, the calculations for basic or safely managed do not consider climate risks, but this is being addressed in the next year or so.</p> <p>In Bangui, early warning systems and drainage infrastructure are still in their infancy, leaving communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods highly vulnerable to recurrent floods and droughts</p>	<p>excreta and are climate-resilient (contributing to a significant reduction in open defecation practices); (2) A functional EWS has been launched, serving approximately 500,000 people.</p> <p>Bangui's drainage infrastructure has been expanded, offering improved flood protection to around 100,000 at-risk women, men, and children.</p> <p>These advances represent substantial progress across households, schools, health facilities, businesses and public spaces, and are fully aligned with the country's NDC, NAP, Water Policy and SDGs objectives.</p>	<p>smaller systems) benefiting approximately 320,000 people, (ii) sensitization on, and demand creation for, climate resilient sanitation through climate informed CLTS interventions in 500 villages reaching 141,000 beneficiaries, (iii) construction or upgrading of climate resilient WASH infrastructure in 200 schools and healthcare facilities, (iv) building capacity of local governments, water operators and communities to manage and maintain climate resilient WASH services, (v) promoting context-relevant financial schemes and (vi) supporting local entrepreneurs and youth-led businesses to make CR-WASH solutions more accessible and affordable. Specifically In Bangui, the urban drainage system will be rehabilitated and expanded to protect flood-prone neighbourhoods, demonstrating scalable urban resilience approaches. Finally, in 45 high-risk localities, experience will be gained on community-led WRM and EWS, enhancing sensitivity and understanding to risk-based community level planning, action and learning.</p> <p>2. In parallel, the project strengthens the national enabling environment (Outcome 1). Climate adaptation and hydrological EWS (72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts) will be integrated into key national policies and technical standards, including the Water Policy, WASH norms, and CLTS guidelines. A CR-WASH funding strategy will be developed to mobilize resources from national budgets, donors, and the private sector and a climate-integrated MEL framework and CoP will be established to document and disseminate lessons learned Institutional capacity, governance and coordination will be reviewed. These efforts will ensure that the experience gained from pilot areas is</p>
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	<p>System-wide, there is a lack a coordinated national strategy to scale-up climate resilient technologies. Climate-sensitive policies, programming, financing and sectoral capacities for adaptation are virtually absent.</p>			<p>captured, institutionalized, and used to inform future programming.</p> <p>By implementing all activities concurrently, the project builds both practical experience and systemic readiness, positioning CAR to replicate and scale CR-WASH solutions nationwide but also informing broader regional efforts across Central and West Africa with the support of UNICEF.</p>
<p>Replicability</p>	<p>Prefectures and communities that fall outside the current project scope face similar challenges to those observed in the targeted areas. These issues are also prevalent across many countries in Central and West Africa. This underscores both the urgent need and strong potential for replication of climate resilient WASH solutions.</p> <p>The weak enabling environment prevailing in the WASH sector hinders replication efforts: fragmented policy frameworks, limited funding, poor coordination, inadequate sectoral capacity, lack of technical knowledge, limited demonstrated examples of climate resilient solutions and practical experience resulting in the absence of operational guidance on climate resilient WASH approaches.</p>	<p><u>Low</u></p>	<p>By the end of the project, the core elements are in place to support the scaling of CR-WASH solutions across the country: (1) the country has established robust enabling environment and gained substantial experience in climate adaptation and CR-WASH; (2) National strategies, standards, and technical guidance are adopted; (3) sufficient funding is mobilized; (4) there is adequate institutional capacities and evidence; (5) Innovative and context-specific technologies and approaches are adopted and operational in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities; (6) the EWS is fully functional in the northern prefectures ; (7) Government institutions and national stakeholders are well-coordinated and aligned around a shared agenda and are fully equipped to replicate and scale these interventions; (8) a learning platform and cross-sectoral knowledge-</p>	<p>The project is designed to ensure replicability of CR-WASH solutions across the CAR by combining field-level innovation with system-level transformation.</p> <p>As the first holistically designed CR-WASH initiative funded by the GCF in CAR and the region, the project will establish a CR-WASH intervention model and introduce or scale up innovative solutions and tools (e.g., solar, multi-use water systems, remote sensing, rainwater harvesting, climate-adapted CLTS approach, climate-proof latrine models, biennial sustainability and resilience checks) that are context-relevant, feasible, cost-effective, and therefore replicable to other prefectures and countries. Replicability is incorporated into the project design through an intentional approach.</p> <p>To initiate a real paradigm shift, Outcome 1 will mainstream these models and innovative approaches in relevant policies, technical standards, programming guidelines, and stakeholder training, so they can be owned and used by the government and development partners, integrated into future programs, and scaled up nationwide.</p> <p>Activities 1.1.2 and 2.1.5 will promote the project and catalyse finance at the national and local levels,</p>

			<p>sharing mechanisms ensure that lessons learned and best practices inform future policies and programming.</p> <p>The experience of the country is solid enough to contribute to resilience across the broader Central and West African region with the support of UNICEF.</p>	<p>respectively, particularly from the government, development partners, communities, and the private sector for climate adaptation and CR-WASH, to support upscaling efforts.</p> <p>The project will join forces and coordinate efforts with other development partners, complementing other planned urban drainage (WB, AfDB) and EWS (AF-funded WMO-GWP-LCBC project) initiatives, leveraging existing funding and expertise for increased effectiveness and reach.</p> <p>Activities 1.2.2 and 1.3.2 will gather, document, and disseminate experience and knowledge gained from implementation, promote harmonization of approaches and collective learning through a climate-lens national WASH MEL framework, a website, a community of practice, cross-sectoral information sharing and stakeholder coordination mechanisms, and joint annual reviews.</p> <p>UNICEF is well positioned to play this role. It is a long-standing, trusted partner of the CAR government, the lead agency for WASH among development partners, and implements multi-sectoral programming. Its normative and convening mandate as a UN agency, recognized role as a knowledge broker, regional presence, and support from its 'Centre of excellence' enable it to engage in larger scale advocacy, build multi-stakeholder alliances, and replicate similar approaches and lessons regionally and globally.</p>
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>The sustainability of rural WASH services and urban drainage systems in CAR remains critically weak due to a combination of systemic, technical,</p>	<p><u>Low</u></p>	<p>By the end of the project, CR-WASH and drainage services are demonstrably more sustainable than elsewhere in the country. Systemic,</p>	<p>The project will strengthen climate adaptation, CR-WASH, WRM, and DRR capacities and their integration at both national and local levels (under Outcomes 1 and 2, respectively), engaging all</p>

	<p>financial and social barriers. At the national and sectoral levels, capacity for climate-sensitive policy and planning, adequate budgeting, and the development and enforcement of adapted technical norms and designs is limited, as is the ability to effectively implement them. Coordination across WASH, WRM, DRR, and climate adaptation sectors is weak, leading to fragmented approaches that fail to integrate climate risks or incorporate appropriate conflict-sensitive WRM and DRR measures to protect WASH services from external shocks.</p> <p>Among communities, NGOs/CSOs, and the private sector, skills for quality construction, durable infrastructure, and sustainable O&M are limited. Many rural water supply systems are inadequately sited or built, powered by fragile handpumps or fuel, and designed with little consideration for water resource availability, quality, and seasonality, or for future accessibility risks linked to drought and climate change. This results in frequent breakdowns and intermittent service. O&M capacity at the local level is weak: water tariffs are often not applied, enforced, or sufficient to cover recurrent costs; community water management committees are informal, voluntary, and rarely trained or supported; financial management is poor; and technical assistance is</p>	<p>technical, financial, and social barriers have been lifted, with stronger institutions, viable financing strategies, and professionalized service management in place. Communities, authorities, and the private sector jointly uphold reliable water and sanitation services, reinforced by climate-sensitive policies, inclusive governance, and sustained behaviour change. Rural, climate-vulnerable communities, schools, health facilities, and urban neighbourhoods benefit from infrastructure that is better maintained, more resilient, and owned locally. Evidence from the project is captured in national systems, shaping policies and programming, and paving the way for more sustainable livelihoods and development.</p>	<p>relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups and the private sector. Policies, plans, and programming guidelines will be revised to integrate climate resilience for long-term sustainability (Activity 1.1.1), while advocacy will promote adequate national and local government funding strategies and budget allocations for climate-sensitive investments and O&M (Activity 1.1.2). Complementary funding sources and mechanisms will also be explored and promoted to support local and household investments in CR-WASH and ensure affordability (Activity 2.1.5). Sustainability is also embedded in field-level WASH interventions. Under Output 2.1, water infrastructure—all solar-powered and multi-use— will be handed over to local authorities and communities, and managed by formal, trained, and professionalized water user associations. These associations will apply collectively agreed tariffs designed to cover recurrent O&M costs, with additional contributions from local and national budgets, where necessary, through the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources and ANEA. Maintenance will be reinforced through a pool of locally trained technicians and decentralized spare parts depots, ensuring more timely and reliable repair services.</p> <p>For sanitation, a climate-sensitive community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach will foster household ownership, promote flood-resistant latrines, encourage social norm change, and reinforce long-term sustainability. Local masons and artisans will be trained to market their services, assist poor households, and support the progressive upgrading of latrines in line with demand. CR-WASH</p>
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	<p>largely absent. Spare parts supply chains remain at small-scale pilot stage, leaving communities without reliable options to repair systems, which contributes to widespread infrastructure failure and prolonged downtime.</p> <p>Women and youth are often, but not systematically represented in water committees, and their engagement in climate-sensitive WASH remains uneven. Other vulnerable or socially marginalized groups such as pastoralists and displaced populations are rarely involved. Accountability to these groups and the broader user community and local authorities is minimal.</p> <p>Market development and private sector participation in water service management are virtually non-existent, constrained by unclear profitability pathways. In rural sanitation, household latrines are typically self-constructed or built with donor support. These facilities are often of poor quality, highly vulnerable to heavy rains and drought, and households lack the financial means to repair or rebuild them regularly. The high perceived cost of climate-resilient latrines, combined with low prioritization, further hinders uptake. Entrenched social norms sustaining open defecation continue to</p>			<p>infrastructure development will also cover schools and health care facilities.</p> <p>All stakeholders will receive training to understand, plan, and integrate contingency planning as well as conflict-sensitive DRR and WRM measures to reduce risks of WASH service disruption (Outputs 1.2 and 2.3). At the central level, coordination among these sectors will be strengthened through dialogue platforms, communities of practice, and joint reviews (Activity 1.3.2). At the local level, the participation of women, youth, schoolchildren, health workers, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups will ensure broad engagement, responsiveness to diverse needs, and inclusive, accountable decision-making (Output 2.3).</p> <p>Nationwide awareness-raising campaigns will contribute to shifting mindsets and creating a critical mass of climate and CR-WASH champions. Active participation of youth, children, women, and caregivers is key to sustaining behaviour change over time and embedding it across generations (Activity 2.1.2 and Output 2.3).</p> <p>Bangui's drainage system will be reinforced and expanded through local leadership, community participation, information campaigns, and training, thereby fostering ownership and long-term maintenance (Output 2.2). Complementarity with other initiatives on drainage, solid waste management, and early warning systems (EWS) for planning, investment, and O&M will ensure a more comprehensive, coordinated, and mutually reinforcing approach.</p> <p>Finally, a newly established, climate-lensed MEL framework with resilience metrics and biennial field sustainability and resilience surveys ('checks')—</p>
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	<p>impede progress in rural sanitation and sanitation markets.</p> <p>When infrastructure is built, schools and health care facilities are often overlooked, limiting the systematic promotion of safe conditions, hygiene behaviours, and a healthy living environment for communities and children. In Bangui, the urban drainage system suffers from only partial coverage, weaknesses in design, a lack of cleaning and maintenance, low community ownership, and poor solid waste management, resulting in frequent obstruction of stormwater runoff collectors.</p> <p>Finally, data and knowledge on resilient and sustainable solutions remain very limited, while monitoring of results and sustainability is weak. As a result, policies and programmes are not evidence-based, do not integrate sustainability or contingency planning, and weaken both advocacy and fundraising efforts to support climate-resilient WASH and urban infrastructure.</p>			<p>integrated into national information systems and contributing to a broader cross-sectoral adaptation monitoring framework (Activity 1.2.2)—will generate the data, knowledge, and lessons needed to inform policies and programming guidelines. These guidelines, planned to be updated for the post-SDG era with project support (Activity 1.1.1), will enable adaptive management, alignment with state-of-the-art knowledge and practices, and continuous improvement in aid effectiveness and long-term impact.</p>
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E.3. GCF Outcome level: Reduced emissions and increased resilience (IRMF core indicators 1-4, quantitative indicators)

Select appropriate IRMF core and supplementary indicators to monitor project/programme progress. More than one IRMF (core and or supplementary) indicators may be selected as applicable for each GCF results area and project/programme outcome (as defined in the table in section B.2(b)). If IRMF indicators are unable to measure any given project/programme outcomes, project/programme-specific indicators should be developed under section E.5 (project/programme specific indicators).

	IRMF	Means of Verification (MoV)		Target	Assumptions / Note
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GCF Result Area	Indicator		Baseline	Mid-term	Final ¹⁰	
<u>TOTAL project beneficiaries</u> (aggregated level, across all ARAs, avoiding double-counting)	<u>Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached</u>	The MoV of each indicator is described for each ARA, project component, and indicators below and in section E.5. Additionally, progress and result data will be verified through field visits of UNICEF and the CAR government and the independent mid-term and final evaluations.	0	Direct beneficiaries: 126,150 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children) Indirect beneficiaries: 588,690 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	Direct beneficiaries: 504,600 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children) Indirect beneficiaries: 2,564,074 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	The value of this indicator will be the sum of all the project beneficiaries reported under the different adaptation result areas (ARAs) listed below and under the project-specific indicators covering all project components. Some populations will benefit from GCF-funded interventions in multiple ARAs. They will be counted separately under each relevant ARA, as described below, but each beneficiary will be counted only once for this global indicator to avoid double-counting.
<u>ARA1 Most vulnerable people and communities</u>	<u>Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached</u>	<u>Indicator scope and calculation:</u> Sum of the beneficiaries from EWS (Activity 1.2.3) <u>EWS:</u> Direct beneficiaries: Population covered by functional hydrological and meteorological	0	Direct beneficiaries: 66,576 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	Direct beneficiaries: 266,305 people (approximately 52% female and	<u>Beneficiary vulnerability:</u> The project targets prefectures and localities with the highest risks of floods, droughts, water insecurity, and CR-WASH deprivation in one of the world's poorest countries (see Section B.1 and Annex 2). None currently have access to CR-WASH services. All beneficiaries are therefore considered highly vulnerable and will be reported as such.

¹⁰ The final target means the target at the end of project/programme implementation period. However, for core indicator 1 (GHG emission reduction), please also provide the target value at the end of the total lifespan period which is defined as the maximum number of years over which the impacts of the investment are expected to be effective.

		<p>monitoring/stations and EWS alerts in the three target prefectures, based on data from EWS custodians (ministries of Meteorology, Civil Protection), radios, telecom companies, Red Cross, and other.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: population not directly accesses through notifications</p>		<p>Indirect beneficiaries: 9,627 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>56% children)</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: 38,508 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>As a result of a joint effort from this project and the AF-funded project; UNICEF has field presence in the northern prefectures and will contribute existing and additional project resources, partnerships, etc.</p> <p><u>Target setting approach:</u> EWS: 72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries: Population expected to be within reach of hydrological and meteorological monitoring/stations and radio and telecom networks in the three target prefectures.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: remaining population in the prefecture, assumed to receive information and alerts via peers and other channels.</p>
<p><u>ARA1 Most vulnerable people and communities</u></p>	<p><u>Supplementary 2.4: Beneficiaries (female/male) covered by new or improved early warning systems</u></p>	<p><u>Indicator scope and calculation:</u> Sum of the beneficiaries from EWS (Activity 1.2.3).</p> <p><u>EWS:</u> Direct beneficiaries: Population covered by functional hydrological and meteorological monitoring/stations and EWS alerts in the three target prefectures, based on data from EWS custodians (ministries of Meteorology, Civil Protection), radios,</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 9,627 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 38,508 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p><u>Beneficiary vulnerability:</u> The project targets prefectures and localities with the highest risks of floods, droughts, water insecurity, and CR-WASH deprivation in one of the world's poorest countries (see Section B.1 and Annex 2). None currently have access to CR-WASH services. All beneficiaries are therefore considered highly vulnerable and will be reported as such.</p> <p>>1-in-50-year floods will trigger a transition to parallel humanitarian response mechanisms led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in coordination with UNICEF, other UN agencies, and NGOs.</p> <p><u>Target setting approach:</u> EWS:</p>

		<p>telecom companies, Red Cross, and other.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: population not directly accesses through notifications</p>				<p>72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries = Population expected to be within reach of hydrological and meteorological monitoring/stations and radio and telecom networks in the three target prefectures.</p>
<p><u>ARA2 Health, well-being, food and water security</u></p>	<p><u>Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached</u></p>	<p><u>CR-WASH, WRM:</u> Direct beneficiaries: Population having access to new or retrofitted water and sanitation equipment and services in intervention communities, schools, and healthcare facilities, based on reports from UNICEF Implementing partners and contractors/service providers, and the national water point and CLTS databases.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: Policies will provide an adaptation benefit through the acceleration of safe WASH access</p>	<p>127,666</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 101,150 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR-WASH, WRM beneficiaries: 80,000 people <p>Indirect beneficiaries: 588,690 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 479,600 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR-WASH, WRM and beneficiaries 404,600 people 	<p>Rural CR-WASH: Direct beneficiaries: Average population of 3,250 served by each large-scale piped water network (80) and 500 served by (120) smaller systems, based on the national Norms and Guidelines for WASH in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas and prefecture-level population data. Average of 280 people per sanitation beneficiary village (500), based on the national CLTS database and adjusted with local population data. Some overlap with water supply beneficiaries (~56,400 people).</p> <p>Overlaps with CR-WASH, EWS, WRM and DRR community beneficiaries</p> <p>No additional beneficiary targets for WASH in schools, healthcare facilities, WRM under output 2.3 (same population as CR-WASH interventions).</p> <p>Baseline assumption is based on the percentage of the population with safely managed or basic access to drinking water¹¹. After the selection of the specific communities the baseline will be updated.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries: 27% of the rural population uses a basic water supply and 6%</p>

¹¹ WHO/UNICEF JMP. (2024). Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) Data. <https://washdata.org> and <https://car.opendataforafrica.org/>

					<p>Indirect beneficiaries: 2,564,074 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>uses basic sanitation (WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023). None of the country's rural population has currently access to both basic water supply and sanitation, which are climate resilient. Population with access to basic sanitation and water is excluded.</p> <p>An effectiveness coefficient of on policies is included (60%) to provide a realistic approach to the effectiveness of the measures.</p> <p><u>External factors influencing future results:</u> Changes in project locations or beneficiary numbers (e.g., due to insecurity, displacement, or overlapping projects) may affect the final beneficiary count.</p>
<p><u>ARA2 Health, well-being, food and water security</u></p>	<p><u>Supplementary 2.3: Beneficiaries (female/male) with more climate-resilient water security</u></p>	<p>Beneficiaries of CR water supplies (minimum 'basic' service level per WHO/UNICEF JMP), WRM, and water-related DRR (activities 2.1.3 & 2.3.3), based on reports from UNICEF Implementing partners /service providers and the national water point database.</p> <p>Household sanitation and EWS beneficiaries excluded from this 'water security' indicator, per GCF IRMF handbook.</p>	127,666	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 101,150 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR-WASH, WRM beneficiaries: 80,000 people 	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 479,600 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR-WASH, WRM and 	<p><i>Target estimation, double-counting avoided, external factors considered: same as for ARA 2, core indicator 2.</i></p>

					beneficiaries 404,600 people	
<u>ARA3 Infrastructure and built environment</u>	<u>Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached</u>	Sum of non-overlapping beneficiaries from rural DRR infrastructure (Output 2.3) and urban drainage infrastructure (Output 2.2), based on UNICEF Implementing partners' and contractors' reports, and drainage feasibility/design study and GIS mapping.	135,400	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 29,500 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children) Further disaggregation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR beneficiaries: 4,500 people • Beneficiaries of drainage improvements in Bangui: 25,000 people <p>Indirect beneficiaries: 183,315 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 118,000 additional people (approximately 52% female and 56% children) Further disaggregation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR beneficiaries: 18,000 people • Beneficiaries of drainage improvements in Bangui: 100,000 people 	<p>DRR beneficiaries: 18,000 people and 45 communities (400 per community) benefitting from DRR interventions: directly targeted by a project activity and have an adaptation benefit of reduced exposure to climate induced floods (overlap with CR-WASH beneficiaries in rural communities).</p> <p>Urban drainage: Based on consultations with line ministries and local authorities and population data in pre-identified target arrondissements (No overlap with other actions) Target beneficiaries refined after site confirmation & baseline/design study.</p> <p>Baseline assumption: Based on the feasibility study data.</p>

					<p>Indirect beneficiaries: 878,953 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	
<p><u>ARA3 Intrastructure and built environment</u></p>	<p><u>Supplementary 2.6: Beneficiaries (female/male) living in buildings that have increased resilience against climate hazards</u></p>	<p>Direct and indirect beneficiaries determined via feasibility and design study + GIS mapping for geographical coverage, using local administrative/census population data, and updated through Implementing partners' /contractors' reports.</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 30,625 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR beneficiaries: 5,625 people • Beneficiaries of drainage improvements in Bangui: 25,000 people 	<p>Direct beneficiaries: 118,000 people (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p> <p>Further disaggregation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR beneficiaries: 18,000 people • Beneficiaries of drainage improvements in Bangui: 	<p>DRR beneficiaries: 18,000 people and 45 communities (400 per community) benefitting from DRR interventions: directly targeted by a project activity and have an adaptation benefit of reduced exposure to climate induced floods (overlap with CR-WASH beneficiaries in rural communities)</p> <p>Urban drainage: Based on consultations with line ministries and local authorities and population data in pre-identified target arrondissements (No overlap with other actions).</p> <p>Target beneficiaries refined after site confirmation & baseline/design study.</p> <p>The baseline will be defined after the selection of the specific communities.</p>

					100,000 people	
<u>ARA3 Infrastructure and built environment</u>	<u>Core 3: Value of physical assets made more resilient to the effects of climate change and/or more able to reduce GHG emissions</u>	Value of rural WASH, WRM, water-related DRR, and urban drainage infrastructure installed or made climate-resilient (solar-powered water systems = GHG-efficient), expressed as USD-equivalent cost of building, rehabilitating, or retrofitting in households, communities, schools, healthcare centres, and drainage systems; excludes current infrastructure value and future O&M costs. Based on actual construction and rehabilitation progress and costs tracked in UNICEF's financial system (VISION). For urban drainage support in Bangui incurred across multiple years/reporting periods, total cost reported upon completion to avoid double-counting units supported and associated value.	0	Total value/cost: 9.27M USD	Total value/cost: 37.1M USD	<p>Targets set using applicable infrastructure designs and associated unit costs from the project budget; national Norms and Guidelines for WASH in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas, and related technical specifications and designs; WASH sector standard bills of quantities and unit prices; and past UNICEF WASH projects; additional costs for climate-resilient infrastructure included.</p> <p>In addition to the factors listed above, external factors that may affect the indicator value include technical and contextual conditions (e.g., weather/climate, logistics, security) and related cost constraints; specific rehabilitation or retrofitting needs in each intervention community or infrastructure at the time of implementation; future market price trends; competition in tendering processes; and exchange rate fluctuations.</p> <p>Disaggregation:</p> <p>Number and corresponding value of climate-resilient physical assets built/installed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community water supply infrastructure (water systems and small-scale systems): 200 units, 21,200,000 USD • School water supply infrastructure and sanitation: 100 units, 35,000 USD/intervention, 3,500,000 USD • Water supply and sanitation infrastructure in health care facilities: 100 units, 35,000 USD/intervention, 3,500,000 USD

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRM and DRR infrastructure in rural areas: 45 units, 20,000 USD/intervention, 900,000 USD • Drainage infrastructure in Bangui, 1 system, 8,000,000 USD
<u>ARA3 Infrastructure and built environment</u>	<u>Supplementary 3.1: Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention</u>	<p>Project monitoring and evaluation reports quality assessed by the AE.</p> <p>Reports on economic losses from extreme climate-related disasters.</p>	0	Total value/cost: 0.78 M USD	Total value/cost: 4.3M USD	<p>Targets are based on average retrospective flood impacts in CAR adjusted for the served population.</p> <p>Midterm target reflects the expected timeline for the investments and a year lag on benefits.</p>

E.4. GCF Outcome level: Enabling environment (IRMF core indicators 5-8 as applicable)

Select at least two relevant IRMF core (enabling environment) indicators to monitor and elaborate the baseline context and project/programme's targeted outcome against the respective indicators. Rate the current state (baseline) vis-à-vis the target scenario and select the geographical scope of the outcome to be assessed. Describe how the project/programme will contribute towards the target scenario. Refer to a case example in the accompanying guidance to complete this section.

Core Indicator	Baseline context (description)	Rating for current state (baseline)	Target scenario (description)	How the project will contribute	Coverage
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<p><u>Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development pathways in a country-driven manner</u></p>	<p>The policy, regulatory, and institutional framework for climate adaptation and WASH in CAR is only partially developed and lacks full alignment for driving climate-resilient, country-led development. While the NDC and NAP address water supply and resource management, they exclude sanitation and urban drainage, and other key strategies and plans contain little reference to climate-resilient WASH or IWRM. Existing sector policies and guidelines rarely integrate climate adaptation, and several planned national programs have yet to be developed. Very limited human, technical, and financial capacity within responsible ministries and decentralized technical departments, weak climate change awareness, an underdeveloped and largely informal private sector (especially outside of Bangui), and the absence of integrated data and monitoring systems further hinder progress.</p> <p>Institutional coordination is highly fragmented across sectors and governance levels, with overlapping mandates, irregular inter-ministerial engagement, and minimal collaboration between</p>	<p><u>low</u></p>	<p>Key national policies, strategies, technical standards, and regulations are developed or updated to better integrate climate adaptation, WASH, WRM, and DRR.</p> <p>Institutional capacities in the WASH, WRM, environment, public health, and disaster management sectors are strengthened on climate issues at national and subnational levels.</p> <p>Cross-sectoral governance mechanisms and stakeholder coordination on climate and WASH are in place to bridge existing silos.</p> <p>An M&E system for the WASH sector is established that integrates climate resilience and sustainability, aligns with, and feeds into an intersectoral M&E framework, enabling progress and results to be tracked and used to guide strategy and programming.</p>	<p>The project will integrate climate adaptation, DRR, WASH, and WRM into national policies, strategies, and technical guidelines, develop and roll out climate-resilient WASH standards, and update sector guidelines. It will revitalize the national Climate Coordination Committee, institutionalize the WASH development partners' platform, and create a real-time mapping/dashboard to track climate-resilient WASH, IWRM, DRR, and other multi-sectoral interventions. Annual WASH and IWRM sector reviews will bring together climate, environment, and humanitarian actors to strengthen alignment, complementarity, and cross-learning.</p> <p>The project will also establish the Water Policy's M&E system with climate-resilience indicators and biennial WASH resilience and sustainability checks, feeding into cross-sectoral monitoring led by the Climate Coordination Committee. This system will guide planning, programming, and governance of climate-resilient WASH and WRM interventions, while reinforcing the enabling environment for coordinated, long-term action. UNICEF will also advocate for the creation of a M&E unit or position within the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources.</p>	<p><u>National level (one country)</u></p>
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	<p>development, humanitarian, and DRR actors. National climate and WASH coordination platforms meet infrequently, while stakeholder consultations remain narrow, excluding many relevant ministries, local authorities, civil society, and private sector actors. This siloed approach undermines coherence, efficiency, and the ability to scale up climate-resilient WASH and water resource management. Strengthening governance, cross-sector coordination, capacity building and M&E remains a stated top priority in the NDC and national Water Policy.</p>			<p>Finally, the project will build capacity at national and subnational levels, supporting key institutions and personnel across WASH, WRM, environment, public health, education, and DRR/humanitarian sectors on all these aspects, as well as on climate adaptation and climate-resilient WASH more broadly.</p>	
<p><u>Core Indicator 6: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to technology deployment, dissemination, development or transfer and innovation</u></p>	<p>While solar water pumping is not a new technology in sub-Saharan Africa, its application in CAR is relatively recent and limited in scale. AFD, the EU, UNICEF, international NGOs and a few other development partners have introduced/promoted and installed solar-powered water supply systems to serve larger rural communities and small towns (e.g. UNICEF installed six solar systems in 2023), trained the local private sector, and started strengthening the spare part supply chain in a few prefectures. Financial resources have been</p>	<p><u>medium</u></p>	<p>At project completion, CAR will have scaled up low-emission, climate-resilient solar water pumping and climate-sensitive CLTS. Solar-powered water supply systems will serve numerous rural communities and small towns across the target prefectures, supported by effective management, operation, and maintenance arrangements. CLTS guidelines and programs will promote durable,</p>	<p>The project will scale up and mainstream solar-powered water systems by updating national WASH norms, guidelines, and technical specifications for climate resilience, installing systems in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham, training local technicians, and supporting local authorities, technical departments, and communities to establish sustainable management and O&M arrangements. It will introduce a climate-sensitive CLTS approach by revising the national CLTS Practical Guide, WASH in school, WASH in Health national guidelines and implementing it in rural communities</p>	<p><u>Multiple sub-national areas within a country</u></p>

	<p>lacking to scale up the technology.</p> <p>Since 2010, the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources—supported by UNICEF and national NGOs/CSOs—has implemented the CLTS approach, successfully shifting social norms and improving sanitation behaviours. In flood-prone, low-resource areas, however, household latrines are often vulnerable to collapse. Without technical or financial capacity to rebuild, households frequently revert to open defecation, highlighting the need to integrate climate resilience into CLTS sanitation designs.</p>		<p>climate-resilient latrine designs that remain functional for longer in flood-prone areas, reducing the risk of households reverting to open defecation. National WASH policies, norms, and technical standards will fully integrate climate resilience, providing an enabling framework for replication and wider adoption of these innovative approaches by government entities and development partners nationwide.</p>	<p>across the three prefectures. These innovations will be reflected in the next iteration of the Water Policy. The project will also promote these approaches to other development partners and mobilize additional funding for wider upscaling.</p>	
<p><u>Core indicator 8: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to effective knowledge generation and learning processes, and use of good practices, methodologies and standards</u></p>	<p>WASH policies, technical standards, and programming guidance in CAR are not consistently evidence based. Cross-sector fragmentation, weak coordination among stakeholders, and limited institutional memory mean that field experiences, lessons learned, and good practices are rarely documented, shared, or systematically integrated into policies, strategies, or future programming. No formal, structured mechanism exists to</p>	<p><u>low</u></p>	<p>At project completion, CAR will have a more organized, open, and dynamic sector-wide and intersectoral system for knowledge generation, sharing, and application in climate adaptation and climate-resilient WASH. Field experiences, case studies, lessons learned, and good practices will be more systematically documented and disseminated to inform</p>	<p>Building on the M&E system and strengthened cross-sectoral coordination, the project will establish an enabling environment for generating, sharing, and using knowledge to strengthen sector-wide and intersectoral learning and enhance climate adaptation. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources, it will centralize data, evidence, and practical guidance on climate-resilient WASH in CAR and ensure their broad dissemination nationally and internationally through</p>	<p><u>National level (one country)</u></p>

	<p>capture and disseminate this knowledge.</p>		<p>policies, strategies, and programming.</p>	<p>documentation, evaluation, and cross-learning.</p> <p>The project will create a CoP, bringing together sectoral and intersectoral stakeholders, supported by a dedicated website and reference documents to facilitate ongoing learning and the sharing of experiences, lessons, good practices, and innovations. The M&E framework and information system will feed into the CoP, supporting collective learning, accountability, and advocacy via the Climate Coordination Committee, WASH stakeholder platform, CR-WASH working group, and annual sector reviews. Linkages will also be established with other relevant CoPs and knowledge platforms in climate, environment, DRR, and early warning. Mid-term and final evaluations, co-led by the government and UNICEF, will document tested approaches, lessons learned, and innovations, assess the value-for-money of climate-resilient WASH, and inform cost-effective, climate-sensitive programming.</p> <p>The project will also ensure that lessons from implementation and from other initiatives/stakeholders feed into the next iteration of national policies, strategies, and programmes for the post-SDG era.</p>	
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E.5. Project/programme specific indicators (project outcomes and outputs)

This section should list out project/programme-specific performance indicators (outcomes and outputs) that are not covered in sections above (E.1-E.4). List down tailored indicators to monitor /track progress against relevant project/programme results (outcomes/outputs). AEs have the freedom to decide against which outcomes they would like to set project/programme specific indicators. If any co-benefits are identified in sections B.2(a)(b), and D.3, AEs are encouraged to add and monitor co-benefit indicators under the “Project/programme co-benefit indicators” section in table below. Add rows as needed.

Please number each outcome and output as shown below to indicate association of outputs to the contributing outcome. The numbering for outputs under this section should correspond to the output numbering in annex 4 (detailed budget plan).

Project/programme results (outcomes/ outputs)	Project/programme specific Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV) ¹²	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
				Mid-term	Final	
Outcome 1: Strengthened national policies, systems, and institutional capacity for climate-resilient WASH (CR-WASH) services, water resources management (WRM), and climate disaster risk reduction (DRR)						
Output 1.1: Climate change adaptation is integrated into national policies and regulations, and funding for adaptation is mobilized	Additional funding mobilized for CR-WASH and climate adaptation during project implementation through the joint efforts of the government and UNICEF	Climate adaptation and (CR-)WASH investment/funding data from line ministries, UNICEF, other development partners, and joint sector reviews (document review or interview with responsible unit/staff)	0	0	At least one new funding secured	Amount secured through government budgets, UNICEF, from other donors, and/or private sources by project end. The current aid landscape and reduced funding may pose constraints.
Output 1.2: Evidence based WASH, WRM, DRR, and EWS are informed by improved planning, climate and WASH monitoring	A Climate Information and Early Warning System (CIEWS) is informed by impact scenarios for flood and drought risks and improved hydrological and hydrogeological data for the 3 climate-vulnerable prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga	New or revised documents available (document review)	0	1	3	Starting with the Ouham prefecture as a joint effort with other projects, such as the AF-funded WMO-GWP-LCBC initiative. Conflict situation does not hinder hydromet equipment installation.

¹² Additionally, progress and result data will be verified through field visits of UNICEF and the CAR government and the independent mid-term and final evaluations

information, MEL framework, data integration, and institutionalization of data-related mandates						
Output 1.2: Evidence based WASH, WRM, DRR, and EWS are informed by improved planning, climate and WASH monitoring information, MEL framework, data integration, and institutionalization of data-related mandates	Percentage of extreme weather events where anticipatory WASH protection protocols (e.g., pump shutdown, rapid chlorination) were successfully executed prior to hazard impact in the targeted areas	Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources for dashboard for the water and sanitation Field visits	0%	30%	80%	Starting with the Ouham prefecture as a joint effort with other projects, such as the AF-funded WMO-GWP-LCBC initiative. Conflict situation does not hinder hydromet equipment installation.
Output 1.3: Institutional capacity and governance for CR-WASH and climate adaptation are strengthened	Self-reported improvement in capacities (knowledge and skills/know-how) and in work-related processes/tools and behaviours/practices as a result of capacity building and institutional strengthening activities supported by the project	Post-training survey conducted among training beneficiaries	0	75%	75%	75% of surveyed people trained up until project mid-term and then between project mid-term and completion declare during the survey having improved their knowledge, capacities, work processes/tools, and/or behaviours/practices.
Outcome 2: Climate-resilient rural WASH services, urban drainage infrastructure, WRM, and related local capacities adapted and scaled up to reduce climate and health risks in vulnerable communities						

<p>Output 2.1: CR-WASH services are accessible and used in rural, flood- and drought-prone areas of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga</p>	<p>Number of communities verified ODF (through the project) with the adapted CLTS approach</p>	<p>Implementing partners progress and final reports and CLTS database (document review) Sample-based endline survey / resilience and sustainability check and independent evaluation conducted at project completion in intervention communities</p>	<p>592¹³</p>	<p>125</p>	<p>500</p>	<p>Disaggregated by prefecture Under the adapted approach, ODF verified villages will have all households using climate-resilient, at least basic sanitation facilities, in line with the JMP definition. In CAR, past CLTS records show an ODF certification rate of 70–75% for triggered villages, similar to other countries, meaning the number of ODF villages is typically lower than the number triggered. The target for this indicator reflects the added challenge—and higher ambition—of achieving climate-resilient at least basic sanitation in particularly vulnerable and flood-prone areas with some accessibility and security constraints. The target is higher than for water supply because the intervention cost per community is significantly lower, allowing the budget to cover more communities.</p>
	<p>Number of people living in new climate resilient ODF communities</p>	<p>Implementing partners progress and final reports and CLTS database (document review)</p>	<p>34006¹³</p>	<p>101,150 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>404,600 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)</p>	<p>Data to be disaggregated by prefecture.</p>

¹³ <https://open.unicef.org/country-info/0750A006884002>

	Number of people gaining access to climate-resilient, at least basic sanitation	Implementing partners progress and final reports and CLTS database (document review)	127,666	30,000 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	150,000 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	<p>Definition of “climate-resilient,” at least “basic” sanitation aligned with the JMP definitions.</p> <p>This indicator will feed into the GCF Core 2 indicator for ARA1, ARA2 and ARA3.</p> <p>The target was set based on population census data and JMP data indicating that the “at least basic” sanitation coverage in the target prefectures is 3,7%-13,1% in rural areas (depending on the prefecture). People counted under this indicator may be located in villages not ODF verified/certified.</p> <p>Data disaggregated by prefecture.</p>
	Percentage of flood-induced WASH infrastructure damage/contamination events avoided during extreme precipitation events for the project supported infrastructure	Reports from UNICEF Implementing partners and contractors/service providers (drilling / construction and engineering/supervision firms), and national water point database (document review)	0	90%	90%	<p>Conflict situation does not hinder equipment installation.</p> <p>Reduction targets apply to the <u>installed project supported infrastructure</u>.</p>
	Number of climate-resilient, at least basic latrines built or rehabilitated in CLTS intervention communities	Implementing partners progress and final reports and CLTS database (document review)	0	4,300	18,000	<p>This indicator will feed into the GCF Core 3 indicator for ARA3.</p> <p>Latrines counted under this indicator may be located in villages not ODF verified/certified.</p> <p>Data disaggregated by prefecture.</p>
	% of communities still ODF 2 years after verification	Biennial, sample-based sustainability	0	75%	75%	Target based on the result of the WASH sustainability and resilience

		and resilience checks conducted by independent consultants (field survey, document review)				check conducted by the CAR government and UNICEF in 2022.
	Number of communities gaining access to a climate-resilient, at least basic water supply	Reports from UNICEF Implementing partners parties and contractors/service providers (drilling / construction and engineering/supervision firms), and national water point database (document review)	TBC	50	200	Definition of “climate-resilient,” at least “basic” water supply aligned with the JMP definitions (basic: <u>an improved water source within 30mins round trip including queuing</u>). Data disaggregated by prefecture and by type of water supply technology/system
	Reduction in the average number of days of water service disruption per year during the 90th percentile dry season for project supported infrastructure	Reports from UNICEF Implementing partners and contractors/service providers (drilling / construction and engineering/supervision firms), and national water point database (document review)	0	90%	90%	Conflict situation does not hinder equipment installation. Reduction targets apply to the <u>installed project supported infrastructure</u> .
	Number of people who gained access to a climate-resilient, at least basic water supply	Reports from UNICEF Implementing partners and contractors/service providers (drilling /	72,244 ¹³	13,500 additional (approximately 52% female and	56,400 additional (approximately 52% female	Will feed into the GCF Core 2 indicator for ARA1, 2? And 3, as well as supplementary indicator 2.3 for ARA2. Target based on the number of target localities and water point by type of

		construction and engineering/supervision firms), and national water point database (document review)		56% children)	and 56% children)	system/technology and on the associated planned number of beneficiaries established in the WASH Norms and Guidelines document, adjusted to the local population size and density in the target prefectures. Data disaggregated by prefecture and by type of water supply technology/system
	% of community drinking water supply systems built or rehabilitated by the project still functional 2 years after commissioning	Biennial, sample-based sustainability and resilience checks conducted by independent consultants (field survey, document review)	0	80%	80%	Target based on the result of the WASH sustainability and resilience check conducted by the CAR government and UNICEF in 2022.
Output 2.2: Climate-resilient urban drainage infrastructure is reinforced and expanded in Bangui to reduce, anticipate, and better withstand flood risks	Number of people benefiting from the drainage intervention in flood-prone areas and thereby at reduced risk of flood impacts (disaggregated between direct and indirect beneficiaries, females/males, adults/children)	Detailed feasibility and design study and GIS mapping for geographic coverage to identify direct and indirect beneficiaries, combined with local population data from the target districts / arrondissements (census or administrative data) and progress/final reports from contractors.	135,400	0 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	100,000 additional (approximately 52% female and 56% children)	Target based on the estimated population of the arrondissements proposed for drainage improvements, adjusted to reflect that not all residents will directly benefit. The detailed feasibility studies will help review and adjust this target. It will take time to achieve the final target due to necessary preliminary studies, community information and mobilization, environmental and social safeguard measures, etc. No beneficiaries planned at mid-term.
Output 2.3: Communities and youth are enabled to manage water	Number of people (female/male, adult/children) benefitting from WRM and DRR interventions (including small-scale	Progress monitoring and final reports from implementing partners and	TBC	0 (approximately 52% female and	18,000 (approximately 52% female	Target estimated based on the planned number of intervention localities and average population size.

resources and disaster risks in priority high-risk localities of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga	infrastructure) for increased community resilience	contractors/service providers (construction and engineering firms) contracted by UNICEF for activity implementation and supervision (document review) Sample-based endline survey / resilience and sustainability check and independent evaluation conducted at project completion in intervention communities		56% children)	and 56% children)	This project intervention will be timed to follow and reinforce community-based climate-resilient water supply and sanitation interventions under Output 2.1. No beneficiaries planed at mid-term. Data will be further disaggregated by prefecture. The baseline will be updated once the communities have been selected.
Project/programme co-benefit indicators¹⁴						
Co-benefit 1: Job creation and green skills development	Number of youth, women, and entrepreneurs provided with training for job opportunities	Progress monitoring and final reports from Implementing partners and contractors/service providers	0	95	378	Target estimated based on numbers attending CR-WASH, WRM and DRR training workshops and courses.
Co-benefit 2: Reduced time burden for water collection	Number of women and girls benefiting from reduced physical time burden for water collection	Reports from UNICEF Implementing partners and contractors/service providers (drilling / construction and engineering/supervisi	0	5,995	25,469	Target estimated based on <u>number of people gaining access to a climate-resilient, at least basic water supply, considering women and girls are primary bearers of the responsibility for water collection in 85.4% of households in CAR.</u>

¹⁴ While not considered an official co-benefit, the project will also contribute to improved water quality and public health through climate-resilient sanitation interventions. This is captured under the project's adaptation and social development benefits (see Section D.3).

		on firms), and national water point database (document review)				
Co-benefit 3: Reduced contamination of watersheds	Number of villages with reduced biological contamination of watersheds through verified ODF status	Implementing partners progress and final reports and CLTS database (document review) Sample-based endline survey / resilience and sustainability check and independent evaluation conducted at project completion in intervention communities	592 ¹³	125	500	Target estimated based on the number of communities verified ODF (through the project) with the adapted CLTS approach.

E.6. Project/programme activities and deliverables

Activities	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Activity 1.1.1: Update/develop key national policies, strategies, technical standards and regulations to better integrate climate adaptation,	This activity aims to integrate climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and water resource management (WRM) into policies and guidelines to improve strategic planning and climate adaptation mainstreaming. It will fill policy gaps by developing, reviewing, and updating the following policy documents: Norms and Guidelines for WASH in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas; CLTS Practical Guide; guidelines for climate-resilient WASH in	1.1.1.1: Developing, revising, and rolling out technical standards and programming guidelines for climate-resilient WASH 1.1.1.2: Integrating the experience and lessons learned from the project into the next iteration of policies, strategies, and programs for the post-SDG era	4 documents developed or revised by the end of the project (Norms and Guidelines for WASH in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas; CLTS Practical Guide; Guidelines for climate-resilient WASH in schools and health care facilities; national Water Policy).

WASH, WRM, and DRR	schools and health care centres; national Water Policy.		
Activity 1.1.2: Promote increased investment in adaptation and climate-resilient WASH (CR-WASH) from national budgets, donors, local governments, communities, and the private sector	This activity seeks to increase funding for climate-resilient WASH and climate adaptation in CAR by developing a funding needs assessment and strategy for the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources, engaging in advocacy and fundraising efforts, and promoting the project at regional and global levels to attract more investment.	1.1.2.1: Developing a CR-WASH funding needs assessment, strategy, and monitoring mechanism for CAR 1.1.2.2: Promoting the project at regional and global levels to raise visibility and mobilize additional funding	One CR-WASH funding needs assessment and strategy developed.
Activity 1.2.1: Support the government to strengthen climate-resilient DRR and water planning through disaster preparedness plans and integrated WRM plans	This activity aims to address gaps in national DRR and Water Resource Management (WRM) planning for flood and drought risks through disaster preparedness and WRM plans for the prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham.	1.2.1.1: Updating/specifying needs and developing/updating DRR and WRM plans	DRR and WRM plans covering the three prefectures.
Activity 1.2.2: Adapt and strengthen sectoral and intersectoral MEL to better integrate climate resilience, sustainability and lessons learned	This activity will support the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources in establishing the climate-lensed M&E and learning system foreseen in the Water Policy to enable evidence-based climate resilient planning and programming in WASH and WRM.	1.2.2.1: Developing a monitoring and reporting system and related capacities for the WASH sector 1.2.2.2: Carrying out biennial WASH resilience and sustainability checks for the WASH sector in CAR	A monitoring framework established for the WASH sector, integrating climate resilience and sustainability. 3 WASH resilience and sustainability checks carried out. A website and community of practice for CR-WASH operational, with lessons

<p>into policy and practice and disseminate knowledge</p>		<p>1.2.2.3: Supporting the development and integration of CR-WASH and WRM indicators for cross-sectoral climate adaptation monitoring 1.2.2.4: Generating, sharing, and using knowledge for sector-wide and intersectoral learning and improved adaptation effectiveness</p>	<p>learned and good practices documented and shared.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.3: Improve hydrological data systems and impact scenarios for flood and drought risks to inform early warning systems and adaptive planning in the three prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga</p>	<p>The activity will improve hydrological and hydrogeological data systems and impact scenarios for flood and drought risks to better monitor hydro-meteorological conditions and detect early signals. It will also contribute to developing a EWS in complementarity with other initiatives to reduce loss of lives and damage to physical assets.</p>	<p>1.2.3.1: Strengthening hydrometeorological-related disaster risk knowledge and forecasting through studies, equipment, and improved data collection and monitoring, with focus on the three target prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham 1.2.3.2: Establishing and institutionalising responsibilities and processes for data flow and integration 1.2.3.3: Contributing to the development and rollout of an effective 'last mile' EWS communication strategy 1.2.3.4: Awareness raising, contingency planning, and preparedness measures 1.2.3.5: Contributing to the development and implementation of a CIEWS capacity building, operation and maintenance, and advocacy plan for increased sustainability</p>	<p>3 hydrometric telemetry stations, 3 gauges (limnometric scales, 12 piezometric sensors, 3 synoptic and 3 agrometeorological stations installed and operational. Process and capacities in place for data flow, integration/analysis, the 'last mile' EWS communication system, and O&M.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.1: Strengthen national institutional capacities on climate across the WASH and adjacent sectors</p>	<p>This activity will strengthen technical, operational, and institutional capacities of government and other key sector stakeholders to understand climate risks and design, plan, implement, and sustain conflict-sensitive CR-WASH, water resource management (WRM) and DRR interventions.</p>	<p>1.3.1.1: Developing a capacity-building needs assessment and plan for key stakeholders 1.3.1.2: Implementing the first phase of the capacity-building plan 1.3.1.3: Updating the capacity-building plan and rolling out the second phase (from 2030)</p>	<p>1 capacity building needs assessment and action plan. At least 6 training workshops held and 160 key personnel from the government and partners trained.</p>

<p>Activity 1.3.2: Improve (cross-)sectoral governance mechanisms and stakeholder coordination on climate to bridge existing silos</p>	<p>The activity will improve coordination among all WASH sector stakeholders and with other adjacent sectors, including WRM, climate adaptation, DRR, and humanitarian action, bridging silos between institutions and initiatives. It will provide an opportunity to mainstream climate adaptation sectorally and cross-sectorally for holistic and coordinated action.</p>	<p>1.3.2.1: Revitalizing the National Climate Coordination committee and the WASH development partners' coordination platform 1.3.2.2: Institutionalizing an annual WASH and WRM sector review</p>	<p>Climate Coordination Committee and WASH development partners coordination platform active . 5 annual WASH and IWRM joint sector reviews.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.1: Conduct hydrogeological studies to identify areas of highest groundwater potential and inform adaptation planning</p>	<p>This activity will support the government in improving knowledge of groundwater resources and identifying the most suitable drilling sites for boreholes, ensuring access to climate-resilient water services for vulnerable communities. The identification will include field assessments, pumping tests, satellite imagery analysis, and consultations with local stakeholders.</p>	<p>2.1.1.1: Conducting detailed hydrogeological field assessments in the project areas in the Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham prefectures 2.1.1.2: Conducting pumping tests and camera inspections on existing boreholes identified as viable 2.1.1.3: Analysing satellite imagery of the target areas 2.1.1.4: Undertaking consultations with local water government staff and the communities and identifying priority climate-resilient water supply intervention sites</p>	<p>220 assessments in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham. 120 boreholes tested and inspected. 200 priority sites identified/confirmed for drilling / rehabilitation.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.2: Promote CR-WASH and sanitation through climate-adapted community-led total sanitation (CLTS) and nationwide awareness-raising</p>	<p>The activity will promote CR-WASH and sanitation and change social norms through a revised Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and a nationwide awareness-raising campaign.</p>	<p>2.1.2.1: Awareness-raising campaigns on climate adaptation and CR-WASH 2.1.2.2: Training national and local government staff and local facilitators on the adapted, climate-sensitive CLTS approach 2.1.2.3: Implementing the adapted CLTS approach, and supporting local masons and vulnerable households through sanitation market development approaches and post-ODF sustainability and resilience reinforcement</p>	<p>Awareness-raising strategy and materials developed. Multi-channel campaign launched and rolled out. 200,000 people reached by the climate change and CR-WASH awareness-raising campaign. All relevant national and local government staff, NGOs, and local facilitators trained on the adapted CLTS approach.</p>

			At least 500 communities triggered as per the adapted CLTS approach.
<p>Activity 2.1.3: Construct or rehabilitate CR-WASH infrastructure in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities</p>	<p>This activity aims to provide climate-resilient water and sanitation services through the construction of flood- and drought-resilient infrastructure and rehabilitation/retrofitting of existing ones in communities, schools, and health centres.</p>	<p>2.1.3.1: Constructing/rehabilitating climate-resilient water systems in communities 2.1.3.2: Constructing/rehabilitating CR-WASH infrastructure in highly climate vulnerable primary schools 2.1.3.3: Constructing/rehabilitating CR-WASH infrastructure in health care facilities</p>	<p>200 climate-resilient, solar-powered water supply systems (80 large, piped water supply systems, and 120 smaller-scale systems in smaller communities) functional and correctly managed.</p> <p>100 primary schools with a climate-resilient, basic sanitation service and rainwater collectors constructed or rehabilitated.</p> <p>100 healthcare facilities with a climate-resilient, basic sanitation service and rainwater collectors constructed or rehabilitated.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.4: Develop capacities of local governments, communities, water operators, and the private sector to design, operate, maintain, and monitor CR-WASH services</p>	<p>The activity will enhance capacities and provide guidance and tools to ensure the ongoing and sustainable operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the climate-resilient infrastructure and services created. Capacity-building at the community level, based on the needs assessment (activity 1.3.1) will notably address critical gaps in local technical expertise and private sector engagement.</p>	<p>2.1.4.1: Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for local governments, water management committees/user associations, community leaders, and the local private sector to better design, operate/maintain and monitor CR-WASH services, including solar-powered systems- 2.1.4.2: Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for well-managed and sustainable climate-resilient CR-WASH in the primary schools 2.1.4.3: Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for well-managed and sustainable climate-resilient CR-WASH in the health care facilities</p>	<p>Water committees / users' associations and private operators/entrepreneurs trained and supported/equipped for all 200 installed water systems.</p> <p>Local governments and community leaders in charge of service oversight and monitoring trained in all intervention villages.</p> <p>School WASH clubs and health personnel trained and supported/equipped in all 200 intervention schools and healthcare facilities.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.5: Explore and promote context-</p>	<p>This activity will explore and promote financial schemes for climate-resilient WASH services to address challenges in financial</p>	<p>2.1.5.1: Assessing context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient</p>	<p>1 study on context-relevant CR-WASH financial schemes completed .</p>

<p>relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for CR-WASH services and support the engagement of local entrepreneurs/ youth-led businesses</p>	<p>affordability and sustainability. It will also support the engagement of local entrepreneurs and youth-led businesses in the WASH sector.</p>	<p>WASH services (e.g. ‘tontines’, village savings and loan associations, revolving funds, etc.) 2.1.5.2: Promoting context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient sanitation services 2.1.5.3: Promoting context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient water services. 2.1.5.4: Supporting the engagement of local entrepreneurs / youth-led businesses in climate-resilient WASH services</p>	<p>120 local masons/artisans and entrepreneurs trained in CR-WASH financial schemes. 120 community members including women and pastoralists supported to set up or scale tontines/VSLAs, income activities, and/or others context-relevant schemes. 40 water committees / user associations / operators trained.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2.1: Improve and expand Bangui’s drainage system</p>	<p>The activity will support the development and improvement of urban drainage infrastructure and introduce nature-based solutions in Bangui to reduce the risk and impact of floods. Flood risk assessments and detailed technical design studies will be conducted to inform the detailed design and implementation of the interventions. Community awareness, local engagement and ownership, and O&M will also be improved.</p>	<p>2.2.1.1: Undertaking flood risk assessments and detailed technical design studies 2.2.1.2: Setting up planning, monitoring, and coordination mechanisms 2.2.1.3: Rehabilitating and constructing/expanding stormwater drainage networks in target neighbourhoods 2.2.1.4: Implementing nature-based solutions to prevent or mitigate flood effects 2.2.1.5: Mobilizing communities, raising awareness of risks and behaviour change needs, and ensuring social and environmental measures 2.2.1.6: Strengthening operation and maintenance capacity</p>	<p>Detailed technical design studies conducted for target neighbourhoods. At least 2 neighbourhoods of Bangui benefit from improved drainage, with active involvement of the local population, and appropriate O&M, social, and environmental measures, including information campaigns and at least 1 context-relevant NBS measure.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3.1: Engage and train local stakeholders in climate risk assessment, conflict-sensitive resilience planning, and</p>	<p>This activity will identify about 45 high-risk rural communities in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham prefectures, and engage and train local stakeholders, including women, youth, pastoralist communities, and displaced populations, to assess climate risks and plan water-related</p>	<p>2.3.1.1: Conducting participatory local climate and conflict risk assessment 2.3.1.2: Supporting awareness, engagement, training, and planning in high-risk, priority communities, schools, and health care facilities 2.3.1.3: Facilitating coordination, progress monitoring and learning meetings at prefecture level</p>	<p>45 high-risk communities (about 15 per prefecture) engaged in training and DRR, WRM, and resilience plan development.</p>

disaster preparedness	DRR and resilience-building measures, with a conflict-sensitive lens.		
Activity 2.3.2: Support local stakeholders in strengthening surface and groundwater monitoring to better understand, anticipate, and respond to climate change impacts	This activity will target and actively involve the ~45 high-risk communities identified under activity 2.3.1, together with local stakeholders, in collecting, interpreting, and disseminating surface and groundwater monitoring data. This participatory approach will support the continuous identification of locally led solutions to adapt to climate risks. The activity will also provide equipment and establish protocols for sharing and using data between local and national systems.	2.3.2.1: Identifying gaps and local needs in water resource monitoring 2.3.2.2: Providing technical training and equipment for priority high-risk communities 2.3.2.3: Data integration, sharing, and use	450 key local stakeholders and high-risk community members trained, equipped, and supported to monitor water resources and transmit data. Monitoring equipment purchased and distributed to cover the 45 priority high-risk communities based on identified needs.
Activity 2.3.3: Support community-led design and implementation of WRM and DRR solutions	This activity will confirm the feasibility of locally led WRM and DRR solutions identified under activities 2.3.1, including small-scale infrastructure, to reduce flood and drought related risks and vulnerability, protect water resources, and improve water security, define implementation modalities, and carry them out with community participation and O&M.	2.3.3.1: Organizing participatory solution design 2.3.3.2: Implementing the selected small-scale DRR and WRM measures 2.3.3.3: Operation and maintenance training, and peacebuilding and governance integration	45 communities benefiting from WRM and DRR solutions.

E.7. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 157. M&E and Reporting** will be managed by UNICEF (as AE and EE) in line with UNICEF standards and AMA/FAA terms. A full-time UNICEF staff within the PMU will manage all monitoring, reporting, and learning activities, including data collection/flow, verification/QA, indicator tracking, and ML support to government.
- 158. Logframe indicators** integrate UNICEF's organizational WASH and sustainability indicators, along with key JMP/GLAAS indicators shortlisted for the upcoming global CR-WASH normative framework. Baselines and targets will be adjusted if needed during the inception phase based on detailed technical studies and Implementing partners progress field surveys.
- 159. Ongoing monitoring** for Component 1 will be mainly through government quarterly reports and UNICEF result verification. Component 2 (field activities) monitoring will use Implementing partners' and service providers' progress reports, verified through monthly meetings and regular joint field visits from government and UNICEF Bangui and field office staff. Compliance with reporting is a contractual requirement for payments. Twice a year, the Project Steering Committee will hold **strategic and implementation reviews** as per standard UNICEF processes, updating approach and plans on a rolling basis.

UNICEF will submit **Annual Performance Reports** in GCF format, covering progress against indicators, qualitative assessments, ESMF, GAAP, implementation challenges, solutions, lessons, good practices, and financial status. Draft reports will be reviewed at an annual retreat with the PSC, Implementing partners, and key service providers to integrate lessons and adjust for the following year. UNICEF and partners will also present at the national WASH sector review.

- 160. WASH sustainability and resilience checks** will be conducted in the project 3rd and 5th year and at project completion, involving sample-based field observations and surveys at project and comparable sites. UNICEF CAR supported a similar exercise in 2022. Government and Implementing partners staff will participate for capacity building and ownership, but independent consultants will lead to ensure objectivity. Findings will inform sector-wide ML, corrective actions, and post-implementation reinforcement activities (e.g., CLTS follow-up, water system repairs under the contractor's liability clause, remobilizing/retraining water operators and local authorities, strengthening O&M). UNICEF guidance and tools are available for sector-wide checks.
- 161. External evaluations** will be conducted by the independent UNICEF Evaluation Office at mid-term (year 4) and in the final year of the implementation period (year 6)" (This is aligned with the timeline in Annex 5.)
- 162. VfM analysis** combining quantitative and qualitative methods will guide strategy decisions, optimize resource use to maximize results, and anticipate risks. It will also assess the cost-effectiveness of mainstreaming climate resilience, weighing costs against sustainability gains, benefits to vulnerable communities, and long-term resilience outcomes—demonstrating that climate-sensitive programming can deliver higher value than business-as-usual approaches, and strengthening advocacy and resource mobilization efforts.

F. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

F.1. Risk factors and mitigations measures (max. 3 pages)

Please describe financial, technical, operational, macroeconomic/political, money laundering/terrorist financing (ML/TF), sanctions, prohibited practices, and other risks that might prevent the project/programme objectives from being achieved. Also describe the proposed risk mitigation measures. Insert additional rows if necessary.

For probability: High has significant probability, Medium has moderate probability, Low has negligible probability

For impact: High has significant impact, Medium has moderate impact, Low has negligible impact

Prohibited practices include abuse, conflict of interest, corruption, retaliation against whistleblowers or witnesses, as well as fraudulent, coercive, collusive, and obstructive practices

Selected Risk Factor 1: Persistent insecurity disrupting implementation

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Other</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Medium</u>

Description

Ongoing insecurity could disrupt project implementation in Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham or Vakaga, causing delays or halting activities and limiting the achievement of project objectives.

Early-warning indicators: UNDSS alerts, access denials >14 days, incident rate >2/month, contractor security incidents. Risk owner: Project Manager (PMU), Security Focal Point.

Mitigation Measure(s)

The project will maintain a proactive approach to security management by leveraging UNICEF's extensive field presence, particularly in Bangui, Ouham and Vakaga, and conducting continuous security assessments in close coordination with UN (UNDSS), government, and international forces. This systematic monitoring will allow for adaptation of project activities and ensure the safety of personnel. The project will also partner with and consult with local CSOs/NGOs to ensure effective implementation in high-risk areas. It will leverage on local partners' deep understanding of community dynamics and ability to operate in volatile environments.

Additional controls: (i) UNDSS-compliant security plans per site; (ii) remote implementation/MEL SOPs (phone surveys, photo/time-stamped media, meter logs, satellite imagery) when access is constrained; (iii) flexible bills of quantities and time extensions built into contracts; (iv) a 5–10% contingency line for security-related costs; (v) quarterly security reviews at PSC (vi) Sub-area security assessment will be done prior to implementation for all investments . Residual risk: Low (with controls). Cross-ref: Annex 6b.

Selected Risk Factor 2: Weak institutional frameworks, lack of transparency and risk of funds mismanagement may delay or hinder implementation

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Prohibited practices</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>

Description

Weak institutional frameworks and limited transparency can lead to the mismanagement of funds, potentially causing delays or hindering the project's implementation. MEDHR's and local institutions' lack of robust financial controls and oversight could prevent the efficient disbursement and utilization of resources, hindering the achievement of project objectives. Risk owner: UNICEF HACT focal point.

Mitigation Measure(s)

The Steering Committee will ensure strategic coordination and high-level supervision of project activity implementation, promoting transparency and accountability. To directly address the risk of fund mismanagement, UNICEF will keep full fund management and oversight responsibility, applying rigorous, risk-based UN Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) procedures. To mitigate the risk of fund mismanagement, the HACT framework employs a multi-stage process that begins before any funds are transferred. Initially, Implementing partners undergo a mandatory due diligence verification and, for those receiving over \$100,000, a micro-assessment to evaluate their financial management capacity and assign a risk rating. Based on this risk rating, UNICEF selects the safest cash transfer modality, opting for lower-risk methods like direct payments to vendors or reimbursements for partners rated as "significant" or "high-risk". After disbursement, a layered system of assurance activities is used to verify that funds are

used correctly; this includes programmatic monitoring for all partners receiving over \$2,500, mandatory on-site spot checks of financial records for partners reporting over \$50,000 in expenditure, and formal audits for selected partners. Additional controls: HACT micro-assessments for partners ≥USD100k; risk-tiered assurance (spot checks, programmatic visits, audits); FACE forms; partner capacity-building; quarterly financial dashboards; segregation of duties in VISION; special-audit clause in PCAs/contracts. Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 3: Geographic remoteness and accessibility of project locations

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Technical and operational</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Low</u>

Description

The geographic remoteness of certain project locations, together with poor road conditions and reduced security, poses a risk to project implementation, particularly in Bamingui-Bangoran where the rain season affects the roads resulting in a very limited road access for 4 to 5 month per year . These factors could lead to significant delays in the delivery of services, hindering progress and increasing operational costs. Early-warning indicators: missed delivery windows; road closures >10 days; unit-cost spikes >15%. Risk owner: Project Manager/UNICEF Supply Officer (PMU)

Mitigation Measure(s)

The project will implement a strategic planning approach including careful site visits and construction activity planning, ensuring that implementation schedules take into account local seasonal changes, such as the rainy and dry seasons, to guarantee access to project locations. The project will leverage UNICEF's long-standing presence, field offices, and dedicated security team to gain local knowledge and logistical expertise. The involvement of NGOs and local stakeholders will be crucial for managing the complex logistics of reaching and operating in remote areas, providing essential support and local insights to ensure the continuous delivery of project activities. To provide coverage in Bamingui-Bangoran, the project will leverage the existing UNICEF field offices in the neighbouring prefectures of Vakaga and Ouham.

Additional controls: framework agreements with regional suppliers; pre-positioning of critical spares; alternative routing; rainy-season buffers; periodic market-price checks to avoid gouging. Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 4: Slow procurement process for contractors, delaying infrastructure development

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Technical and operational</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>

Description

A slow and protracted procurement process for contractors could delay the start of infrastructure development and construction activities. This would lead to project implementation falling behind schedule as well as potential increases of overall project costs. Early-warning indicators: procurement cycle time >90 days; bid participation <3; repeated failed tenders. Risk owner: UNICEF Supply Officer (PMU).

Mitigation measure(s)

The project mitigates the risk of delays by planning to engage private contractors for infrastructure construction, an area in which UNICEF has extensive experience and expertise. The tendering processes and contracts will be owned and managed by UNICEF, and will include clear deadlines, robust legal clauses, and penalties for non-compliance. This rigorous approach is designed to ensure accountability and prevent delays in the recruitment and implementation phases of infrastructure development. Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 5: Rising market prices for construction materials and equipment

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Technical and operational</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Low</u>

Description

Sudden increases in the market prices of essential construction materials, equipment, and related services could exceed the project's allocated budget. This could necessitate a reduction in the scope of planned infrastructure activities, potentially limiting the number of water systems or sanitation facilities that can be built or rehabilitated. Risk owner: UNICEF Supply Officer (PMU).

Mitigation measure(s)

To mitigate the risk of rising market prices, the project will implement a rigorous procurement process. This involves ensuring sourcing from reputable suppliers in CAR, regionally or internationally and giving preference to contractors with proven experience in similar contexts, which helps secure competitive pricing and reliable supply chains. All procurement will be carried out in strict accordance with UNICEF's established procurement policies, procedures, and regulations. Additional controls: market sounding; price-adjustment clauses where justified; value-engineering options pre-approved; 10% contingencies; alternate technical specs (equivalents).

Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 6: WASH infrastructure degradation due to poor design/inadequate maintenance

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Technical and operational</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>

Description

Weak or inadequate design and a lack of proper maintenance pose a risk of WASH infrastructure degrading prematurely. With degradation, the new water and sanitation systems may not provide safe and reliable services, especially when faced with climate shocks. This would undermine the long-term sustainability and impact of the project's interventions. Early-warning indicators: uptime <90%; >30-day repair times; spare-parts stockouts; tariff collection <70% (where applicable). Risk owner: Technical Lead (PMU); Local Authority.

Mitigation measure(s)

To mitigate the risk of WASH infrastructure degradation, the project will conduct climate risk assessments and use the findings to inform the development of climate-resilient technical standards and guidelines. This will ensure all infrastructure is built to withstand climate shocks. The project also places a strong emphasis on capacity building and training for various local stakeholders to ensure the sustainable and climate-resilient management of WASH services and DRR measures. Among other interventions, the project will provide training sessions and materials to community members and water operators, including 760 personnel/associations and 80,000 local actors. This training will cover the operation and maintenance of infrastructure, climate risk assessments, and the promotion of financial schemes to support affordability and sustainability. By equipping community stakeholders with these skills, the project aims to foster local ownership and long-term viability of WASH infrastructure. Additional controls: signed O&M agreements before handover; O&M support; warranty clauses & performance-based maintenance; asset register; affordability checks (OPEX vs budget) with corrective actions. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: Annex 2 – Section 8.7

Selected Risk Factor 7: Insufficient interest from the private sector

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Other</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>

Description

Insufficient interest from the private sector poses a risk to the project's sustainability and scalability. Without private sector engagement, the project may struggle to expand its impact beyond initial funding, leaving a gap in services which cannot be filled by the government or communities alone. Risk owner: UNICEF Partnerships Manager (PMU).

Mitigation measure(s)

The project will actively mitigate this risk by focusing on broad private sector engagement, seeking out partnerships with a large variety of private companies. The project will also work to create and share evidence on demand creation. This involves demonstrating the tangible benefits and commercial viability of providing WASH services, which can incentivize the private sector to invest. Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 8: Limited community interest in climate-resilient WASH

Category	Probability	Impact
<u>Other</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>

Description

Limited community interest in climate-resilient WASH services poses a risk to the project's long-term impact: if communities do not see the value in these services, they may be unwilling to adopt new behaviours or contribute to the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure. Early-warning indicators: user committee inactivity; tariff refusals

(where applicable); vandalism; hygiene slippage. Risk owner: Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer (PMU); Implementing partners.

Mitigation measure(s)

The [Project community level consultations have highlighted the interest of communities in resilient WASH \(Annex 7\). To further mitigate the risk of limited community interest](#) the project will conduct prior stakeholder consultations to ensure that interventions align with community needs and foster local ownership from the outset. The project will also include several initiatives and campaigns designed to create and strengthen community interest, understanding, and demand for climate-resilient WASH services. These efforts will span various levels, from direct engagement and training to broader awareness campaigns and the promotion of sustainable financial schemes. For example, the project will conduct Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) campaigns to assess existing community knowledge, attitudes, and practices on WASH. The findings from these surveys will then inform targeted campaigns to promote the adoption and maintenance of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure. Overall, the project aims to engage and train around 80,000 local actors, including community leaders, women, youth, teachers, and healthcare workers, to understand and assess climate risks, design resilient WASH interventions, and implement disaster preparedness measures. Additional controls: FPIC processes where relevant; water-safety planning; GRM accessibility; inclusion of women/youth/people with disabilities in governance. Residual risk: Low.

Selected Risk Factor 9: Integrity—AML/CFT, Prohibited Practices & Sanctions

Category	Probability	Impact
Financial & fiduciary	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>

Description

Risk of money laundering (ML), terrorist financing (TF), fraud, corruption, collusion or sanctions breaches across procurement, partner cash transfers and vendor payments. Risk owner: Project Manager (PMU)/UNICEF Finance & Compliance Lead (AML/CFT Focal).

Mitigation measure(s)

Project-specific AML/CFT controls: KYC/beneficial-ownership project controls; PEP/sanctions screening at onboarding and periodically; payment thresholds; whistle-blower channels; 72-hour Suspicious Activity escalation to UNICEF corporate oversight functions; partner clauses accepting special audits and record access. Staff and Implementing partners capacity building. Due diligence: UNGM/vendor screening; HACT micro-assessments; conflict-of-interest disclosures for PMU/procurement. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: Annexes 10, 20, 21/10

Selected Risk Factor 10: SEA/SH/GBV & Child Protection incidents

Category	Probability	Impact
E&S (safeguards)	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>

Description

Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) or child protection violations linked to project workers or activities. Risk owner: Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer (PMU)/UNICEF SEA/SH/GBV Focal Points (survivor-centred pathway).

Mitigation measure(s)

Annexes 6 ESMF and 8 GAAP include clear provisions for survivor-centred SEA/SH SOPs, Codes of Conduct embedded in all contracts, mandatory training for staff/contractors, safe GRM entry points, confidential referrals via GBV and SEA/SH clusters/networks, information-sharing protocols, no-retaliation policy, exclusion of case details from routine reports. Residual risk: Low, Cross-ref: Annexes 6, 7, 8 .

Selected Risk Factor 11: Land access/FPIC & Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) disputes

Category	Probability	Impact
Natural resources/land	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>

Description

Disputes over land access or inadequate FPIC/VLD documentation delaying works. Risk owner: Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion officer and ESS officer (PMU)/UNICEF Safeguards Lead.

Mitigation measure(s)		
<p>“Site-Readiness Packet” (FPIC record + VLD form + GPS + local disclosure + GRM) required before any works/disbursements; works halted upon dispute until resolution; IPP-specific GRM operational. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: Disbursement/Readiness Checklist; ESMF/IPP.</p>		
Selected Risk Factor 12: FX/currency & banking controls (BEAC)		
Category	Probability	Impact
Financial	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Medium</u>
Description		
<p>Exchange-rate volatility and regional FX controls may affect contract values, import timings and supplier liquidity. Risk owner: UNICEF CO Finance Manager.</p>		
Mitigation measure(s)		
<p>XAF is pegged with EUR, FX clauses; early import planning; use of reputable banks; compliance with BEAC notifications; maintain 3% contingencies. GCF funds will be received in USD. Foreign exchange fluctuations between USD and local currency will be managed by UNICEF within the approved project budget. A limited contingency provision is included in the project budget to address unforeseen cost variations, including potential FX fluctuations. UNICEF confirms that the GCF will not be requested to provide additional funding or compensation for FX losses. Any material impacts will be communicated to the GCF Secretariat. Residual risk: Low.</p>		
Selected Risk Factor 13: Environmental & Social (E&S) non-compliance		
Category	Probability	Impact
E&S (safeguards)	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>
Description		
<p>Non-implementation of ESMF/ESMPs (e.g., waste, occupational health and safety, chance finds, community safety) causing harm or delays. Risk owner: ESS officer (PMU) / UNICEF Safeguards Focal Point.</p>		
Mitigation measure(s)		
<p>Site-specific ESMPs; contractor ESMPs and supervision; chance-find procedures; traffic and community safety plans; monthly E&S supervision reports; stop-work authority for serious non-compliance. Residual risk: Low.</p>		
Selected Risk Factor 14: Data quality & IRMF reporting		
Category	Probability	Impact
MEL/compliance	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Medium</u>
Description		
<p>Inconsistent baselines/methods or weak verification could undermine APR credibility and iTAP confidence. Risk owner: WASH Monitoring, learning, and reporting Specialist (PMU).</p>		
Mitigation measure(s)		
<p>IRMF Indicator Dictionary; routine data-quality assessments; third-party verification spot checks; remote MEL; annual MEL refresher training; corrective-action logs; APR QC checklist. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: O&M (Annex 2 – Section 8.7) and Annex 11.</p>		
Selected Risk Factor 15: Dependencies outside FP scope (municipal O&M, co-projects)		
Category	Probability	Impact
Strategic/dependency	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Medium</u>
Description		
<p>Results depend on municipal O&M or complementary investments (e.g., city drainage maintenance) that may not materialize. Risk owner: Project Manager (PMU).</p>		
Mitigation measure(s)		

MOUs with local authorities; O&M contracts; design “no-regret” stand-alone functionality; phased benefits not contingent on third-party capex; escalate dependency risks in PSC. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: Annex 2 – Section 8.7.		
Selected Risk Factor 16: Post-implementation O&M affordability gap		
Category	Probability	Impact
Financial/sustainability	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Description		
Insufficient lifecycle OPEX may reduce uptime and benefits. Risk owner: Project Manager (PMU)/ designated Infrastructure/O&M Lead.		
Mitigation measure(s)		
Affordability analysis; tariff/subsidy policies (context-appropriate); budget earmarks; performance-based maintenance; trigger corrective actions if O&M execution <80% plan. Residual risk: Low. Cross-ref: Annex 2 – Section 8.7.		
Selected Risk Factor 17: Beneficiary eligibility & distribution controls (cash/commodities)		
Category	Probability	Impact
Financial/operational	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>
Description		
Risk of fraud/abuse in any direct distributions (e.g., materials, vouchers). Risk owner: Supply Officer (PMU) /Project Manager (if non-supply)		
Mitigation measure(s)		
At present, the project does not envisage direct cash transfers to households. If any benefits in kind or vouchers are introduced, controls will include: eligibility criteria; KYC/ID checks; duplication checks; inventory controls; four-eyes issuance; beneficiary feedback through GRM; post-distribution monitoring; anomaly analytics; escalation to AML/CFT focal point as needed. Residual risk: Low.		

G. GCF POLICIES AND STANDARDS

G.1. Environmental and social risk assessment (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

163. Interventions (boreholes, water supply systems, drainage, NbS, hydromet equipment installation) are small-scale, distributed and site-specific, rather than a single, connected footprint. No individual site or activity exceeds Category B thresholds, and works are not transformative at a landscape scale. Individual boreholes will have specific abstraction limits and will be closely monitored. Urban drainage will be limited to existing rights-of-way, with no land acquisition or involuntary resettlement, and that any temporary access or livelihood disruption will be managed through standard ESMF measures. Nature based solutions will be voluntary, community-supported and small-scale, delivering co-benefits for livelihoods and resilience, without restricting land access or implying protected area expansion or formal gazettement. Specific identified risks and mitigation measures are presented in the following table.

Theme (Reference Mapping)	Key Risks & Impacts	Mitigation / Management Measures	Instruments & Responsibility
Assessment & Management of E&S Risks (UNICEF ES; IFC PS1 / WB ESS1)	Policies/systems may miss vulnerable groups; uneven safeguard application; contractor non-compliance	Inclusive risk screening; site-specific ESMPs; mandatory Contractor ESMPs; monthly E&S supervision; stop-work authority for serious non-compliance; dated ESAP with time-bound actions and budget	ESMF, ESMP templates, ESAP (Annex 12/12a); PMU E&S Specialist; Supervising Engineer; Contractors
Labor & Working Conditions; SEA/SH & Child Protection (PS2 / ESS2)	OHS incidents; child/forced labour risk; SEA/SH	LMP; Codes of Conduct with SEA/SH clauses; worker GRM; OHS Plan (PPE, training, incident register); induction & refresher training; zero tolerance for child/forced labour; random site checks	LMP, CoC, OHS Plan; PMU Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion officer; Contractors; Implementing partners
Resource Efficiency & Pollution Prevention (PS3 / ESS3)	Construction waste/sludge; spills; noise/dust; groundwater depletion	Site Waste & Pollution Prevention Plans; spill kits; noise/dust suppression; groundwater abstraction limits; water-quality monitoring for E. coli/turbidity where relevant	Waste/Pollution Plans, Water Monitoring SOP; Contractors; PMU E&S; Local Labs
Community Health, Safety & Security (PS4 / ESS4)	Traffic & trench hazards; community exposure to works; emergency response gaps	Traffic & Community Safety Plans; trench shoring/guarding; fencing/signage; community briefings; site emergency response; complaints QR/phone posted in French/local language; sustainable yield tests and groundwater monitoring	Traffic & CHS Plans; Contractors; PMU E&S; Municipalities
Security & Conflict-Sensitivity (ESS4 extension / UNDSS)	Restricted access; flare-ups affecting sites and workers/community	UNDSS coordination; access plans; do-no-harm training; adaptive scheduling; local liaison; incident escalation protocol, Sub-area security prior to implementation for all investments.	Security & Conflict-Sensitivity Note (Annex 6b); PMU; UNDSS; Implementing partners
Land Access; FPIC & VLD (PS5 / ESS5 & ESS7)	Disputes over land access; insufficient FPIC/VLD documentation	"Site-Readiness Packet" required before any disbursement/works: FPIC record, VLD form (if used), GPS map, local disclosure note, GRM contacts; halt works upon dispute until resolution; GRM operational	FPIC Protocol; VLD Due Diligence; OM Site-Readiness Packet; PMU Safeguards focal; Local Authorities; Implementing partners progress reps
Hydrology & Drainage (PS3/4 / ESS3/4)	Disruption of local drainage; downstream flood risk	Pre-works hydrological assessment; climate-resilient designs; no-regret siting; drainage maintenance plans with sub-national authorities	Hydro Study TOR; Design Standards; Design Consultants; PMU; Authorities
Biodiversity & Invasive Species (PS6 / ESS6)	Habitat disturbance; planting of non-native/invasive species	Micro-siting to avoid sensitive habitat; restoration after works; mandatory native/naturalized species only; verify nurseries; prohibit invasive species	Biodiversity Checklist; Species List; PMU E&S; Contractors
Cultural Heritage / Chance Finds (PS8 / ESS8)	Unintended disturbance of cultural heritage	Chance-find Procedure: stop work, secure area, notify authorities/community, expert review, resume only after clearance	Chance-Find procedure; Contractors; PMU; Authorities

Indigenous Peoples (PS7 / ESS7)	Impacts on Indigenous peoples' lands/resources/cultural heritage	Culturally appropriate engagement; FPIC prior to decisions; Indigenous peoples-tailored benefits; GRM; no activities where consent is withheld	IPP/FPIC Protocol; PMU; Indigenous peoples' leaders; CSOs
Stakeholder Engagement, Disclosure & GRM (incl. SEA/SH) (ESS10; GCF IDP; IRM)	Exclusion of women/IDPs/PwD; weak feedback loops; low awareness of IRM	SEP with women/youth/IP focus groups; 30-day pre-Board disclosure for I-2; public posting of GRM and GCF IRM access; anonymous complaints; data protection (minimum data, role-based access); SEA/SH-safe channels	SEP; Disclosure Plan; GRM SOP; SEA/SH SOP; PMU; NDA; Implementing partners; Communities
Monitoring, Reporting & Learning (IRMF) (GCF IRMF)	Inconsistent baselines/methods; weak verification	IRMF Indicator Dictionary; baseline & target protocol; routine DQAs; third-party spot checks; corrective-action log; quarterly E&S supervision feeding APRs	MEL Plan; DQA Checklist; PMU M&E

Disclosure: All E&S instruments (ESMF, ESAP, SEP, LMP, SEA/SH SOP, site ESMPs) will be disclosed at least 30 days before Board consideration, in French, on UNICEF/government websites and locally (municipal offices, radio, printed notices).

G.2. Gender assessment and action plan (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- 164. The project's Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan (GAP) have been completed in line with the GCF Gender Policy, UNICEF's Gender Policy, Central African Republic's National Gender policy and relevant international commitments.** The assessment was informed by literature and policy review, data analysis and stakeholder consultations with government institutions, civil society organisations and women's groups. Feedback gathered during these consultations was used to shape the GAP, ensuring local ownership and relevance. A dedicated resourcing package is included: (i) a full-time Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer embedded in the PMU, (ii) named GESI focal points in each target prefecture, and (iii) an earmarked gender budget of USD \$1,010,382 (sum of gender action planned activities plus staff cost) for GAP delivery (training, safe-design features, SEA/SH/PSEA measures, sex-disaggregated data collection, and targeted outreach).
- 165. The assessment highlights women and girls as disproportionately vulnerable to climate change and WASH-related challenges.** Persistent gender inequalities, poverty and exclusion from decision-making processes limit their resilience. Women bear the primary responsibility for household water management and are most exposed to risks arising from inadequate or unsafe WASH facilities. Conflict and climate pressures further exacerbate these vulnerabilities, often increasing the risk of gender-based violence in and around water collection points and sanitation facilities. Structural barriers, such as restricted access to education, healthcare, land and financial services, constrain women's opportunities to adapt and contribute to resilience-building. Adolescent girls, female-headed households, displaced women and those with disabilities or from minority groups face particularly heightened risks. The project will address these gaps through gender-responsive infrastructure (e.g., menstrual hygiene management [MHM]-enabled, well-lit, accessible facilities), targeted skills development and leadership pathways, and safe access measures articulated in the GAP and ESMF.
- 166. The Gender Assessment recommends an approach that mainstreams gender across the project activities.** This includes: strengthening WASH-related policies and guidelines to address the specific needs of women and girls, including MHM and safety measures; embedding safeguarding prevention and response, including to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH), with survivor-centred referral systems and gender-sensitive infrastructure; ensuring both women's and girls' active and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, including WASH and climate resilience committees, and recognizing their knowledge and leadership potential; improving women's access to information, training and services related to climate risks, while addressing barriers such as literacy and mobility; and building institutional capacity to harmonize gender equality commitments across WASH, climate and national policy frameworks. The project will operationalise these measures through explicit procurement/specifications for gender-responsive designs; annual SEA/SH/PSEA training (staff, contractors, Implementing partners); and the use of Community-Based Safe-Guard Focal Points in each intervention commune.
- 167. The Gender Action Plan operationalises these recommendations, setting measurable outcomes that will ensure women and men participate equally and benefit equitably from GCF investment.** Such targets include revisions of key national WASH policies and strategies to integrate gender-responsive provisions; increased representation of women in governance structures, with at least 35% women in WASH and resilience planning

committees; development of gender-responsive WASH facilities in schools and healthcare facilities, ensuring safety and dignity for women and girls; expanding training and awareness campaigns, reaching women and girls with information on WASH and resilience; and improved monitoring of gender outcomes through the integration of sex-disaggregated indicators into project reporting. All indicators will follow the GCF IRMF Results Handbook (sex/age/disability disaggregation), with baselines and target-setting completed at inception. Data protocols will apply the Washington Group Short Set for disability and include routine data-quality assessments and third-party spot checks.

168. UNICEF, as the Accredited Entity, has embedded a full-time Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer embedded in the PMU to oversee implementation of the Gender Action Plan. National ministries and local women's organization will act as co-implementers. The project's monitoring and evaluation framework includes gender-disaggregated indicators, and participatory monitoring approaches will ensure women's groups are directly involved in tracking progress. Through these measures, the project will reduce gender inequalities, enhance women's safety and participation, and improve equitable access to climate-resilient WASH services. Women and men will both benefit from investments, while women and girls in particular will gain greater agency and resilience in the face of climate and conflict-related challenges.

169. SEA/SH/PSEA procedures (survivor-centred, confidential, and rights-based) are integrated in the GRM and will follow 12/24/48-hour reporting clocks and referral pathways to accredited GBV case-management providers; the project GRM will clearly signpost access to the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism. Annual public progress updates will report on GAP delivery, including budget execution.

G.3. Financial management and procurement (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

170. Project Financial Management: The project will be implemented in accordance with the AMA, which is being negotiated between the parties. The project's financial management is governed by UNICEF's robust regulations and rules, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The structure is designed for effective oversight and control of GCF funds, managed directly by UNICEF as both the Accredited Entity (AE) and the Executing Entity (EE).

171. Financial Monitoring Systems: A multi-layered system is in place for continuous financial monitoring:

- **ERP System (VISION):** All financial transactions, from budgeting and planning to disbursements and reporting, are managed through UNICEF's integrated SAP-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, known as VISION. This provides a real-time, auditable trail for all financial flows and enforces compliance with financial policies.
- **Programmatic Monitoring:** The Project Management Unit (PMU) conducts regular programmatic visits to implementation sites to verify that activities are progressing as planned and resources are being used effectively.
- **eTools Platform:** UNICEF's digital eTools platform is used to systematically track and monitor "action points" arising from partner audits and financial spot checks, ensuring that all findings are addressed and resolved by implementing partners in a timely manner.

172. Financial Accounting: All accounting practices are aligned with international standards and UNICEF's internal policies:

- **Accounting Standards:** The project adheres strictly to the **International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)**, which enhances the credibility and transparency of financial reporting.
- **Policies and Procedures:** A comprehensive framework is followed for all transactions. This includes maintaining a complete audit trail, secure physical and digital storage of all financial documentation (invoices, receipts, contracts), and accurate allocation of costs. The project benefits from UNICEF's tax-exemption status in the Central African Republic.

173. Auditing: Financial control for Implementing partners is ensured through a risk-based assurance and audit framework:

- **Financial Assurance Mechanisms:** Partner assurance activities are scaled based on risk and the volume of funds managed by a partner. They include:
 - **Spot Checks:** On-site reviews of an Implementing partners' financial records are mandatory for partners reporting over USD 50,000 in annual expenditure.

- **Scheduled Audits:** Formal, independent audits are conducted by third-party firms. The frequency is determined by the partner's risk rating and the volume of funds received.
 - **Special Audits:** These are commissioned for persistent red flags, whistle-blower reports (after safety and security risks to whistleblower have been assessed), outlier prices, potential collusion and allegations of Fraud and Corruption have been raised and must involve UNICEF corporate oversight functions in line with its policies.
 - **Audit Management:** All partner audit findings are recorded and tracked in the eTools platform. The results directly inform the partner's risk rating and the selection of future cash transfer modalities, creating a feedback loop that strengthens financial management.
- 174. Disbursement Structure and Methods:** Funds flow from the GCF to UNICEF Headquarters (as AE) and are then channelled internally to the UNICEF CAR Country Office (as EE). The PMU manages all subsequent disbursements.
- **Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT):** All cash transfers to Civil Society Organisation (CSO) partners are governed by the HACT framework. Based on a partner's risk assessment, one of the following modalities is used:
 - **Direct Cash Transfer:** Funds are advanced to the partner before expenditures are incurred.
 - **Direct Payment:** UNICEF pays vendors directly on behalf of the partner.
 - **Reimbursement:** UNICEF reimburses the partner for pre-approved, incurred expenditures.
 - **Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditure (FACE):** This is the standard form used by all partners to request cash transfers and to report on expenditures, serving as a key tool for financial control.
 - **Contractual Agreements:** For goods and services, payments are made to contractors and suppliers through standard procurement contracts managed directly by UNICEF.
- 175. Flow of funds:** In line with the approved implementation arrangements, GCF grant proceeds are disbursed to UNICEF Headquarters as Accredited Entity (AE) and internally channelled to the UNICEF CAR Country Office as Executing Entity (EE) through UNICEF's VISION (SAP-based) enterprise resource planning system.¹⁵ The EE then disburses to (i) implementing partners (CSOs/NGOs) via PCAs/PDs governed by the UN Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers, with funds requested and reported through FACE forms and partners subject to risk-based assurance and audits; and (ii) contractors/suppliers for works, goods, and services procured competitively under UNICEF rules. Oversight is provided by the Project Steering Committee and UNICEF as AE, with all financial flows governed by the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). UNICEF retains sole authority over the channeling of GCF funds. Government ministries and public agencies, and any other external entities, NGOs, or CSOs, are not authorized to channel GCF funds.
- 176. Responsibility assignment matrix - Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed (RACI) (key fiduciary and implementation functions):**
- **FAA execution and GCF disbursements - A:** UNICEF (AE); **R:** UNICEF HQ treasury; **C:** NDA/PSC; **I:** EE/PMU.
 - **Internal allocation AE→EE and budget control - A:** UNICEF (AE); **R:** UNICEF CAR PMU/Finance; **C:** PSC; **I:** NDA.
 - **IP selection and PCAs/PDs (HACT/assurance) - A:** UNICEF CAR Representative; **R:** Technical Review Panel **C:** MEDHR/ANEA; **I:** PSC.
 - **Procurement of works/goods/services - A:** UNICEF CAR Representative; **R:** Technical Review Panel; **C:** Technical line ministries; **I:** PSC/NDA.
 - **Cash transfers & FACE liquidation - A:** PMU Finance Manager; **R:** PMU Finance; **C:** UNICEF HQ oversight; **I:** PSC/NDA.
 - **Financial reporting to GCF (APR/IFRs) - A:** UNICEF (AE); **R:** PMU M&R & Finance; **C:** NDA; **I:** PSC.
 - **External (Implementing partners) audits & spot checks - A:** UNICEF (AE); **R:** UNICEF audit/assurance functions; **C:** PMU; **I:** PSC/NDA.
 - **ESS/Gender/GRM compliance - A:** UNICEF (AE); **R:** PMU ESS/GESI; **C:** Line ministries/ANEA; **I:** PSC.
- 177. Procurement Management:** As the Executing Entity, UNICEF is responsible for all procurement activities, ensuring they are transparent, competitive, and provide value for money, in line with UNICEF AMA/ FAA.
- **Procurement Implementation Arrangements:**

¹⁵ UNICEF CAR Country office is not a separate legal entity from UNICEF.

- **Goods, Works, and Services:** All procurement of goods, works, and services is managed directly by UNICEF according to its established global procurement policies and procedures. This includes tendering, evaluation, and contract management.
 - **Procurement Risk Assessment and Mitigation:** The project identifies potential procurement risks and has established clear mitigation measures. Key risks include:
 - **Risk:** Slow recruitment of contractors could delay infrastructure development.
 - **Mitigation:** UNICEF will manage the tendering process, leveraging its experience to engage reputable contractors. Contracts will include clear deadlines and penalty clauses for non-compliance.
 - **Risk:** Rising market prices for construction materials could impact the budget.
 - **Mitigation:** The project will implement a rigorous sourcing process from pre-qualified, reputable suppliers to ensure competitive pricing and reliable supply chains.
 - **Detailed Procurement Plan:** A detailed procurement plan has been developed for the project and is available in **Annex 10** of the Funding Proposal. This plan outlines the specific goods, works, and services to be procured, the estimated costs, procurement methods, and timelines.
 - UNICEF as an AE will ensure that all relevant obligations under the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) and UNICEF's Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA), including fiduciary standards, safeguards, reporting, and compliance requirements, are appropriately reflected and enforceable with respect to MEDHR's defined role.
- 178. Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Controls:** The project incorporates robust safeguards to prevent the misuse of funds for money laundering or the financing of terrorism, as detailed in Annex 20.
- **Reinforced Contractual Obligations:** The standard Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) used with all Implementing partners has been updated to include strengthened clauses on AML and CFT, requiring partners to comply with strict financial transparency requirements.
 - **Oversight and Escalation:** Assurance activities (spot checks, audits) of partners integrate AML/CFT considerations. Any credible or significant AML/CFT red flags will be reported to UNICEF's Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring unit and the Office of the Comptroller; where allegations warrant investigation, the matter will be handled under the exclusive authority of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI).
 - **Shared Responsibility:** A clear framework of responsibilities is in place, where Implementing partners are responsible for certifying expenditures, the UNICEF Country Office is responsible for review and monitoring, and corporate bodies provide a final layer of quality assurance and investigation when necessary.

G.4. Disclosure of funding proposal

Note: The Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) provides that the GCF will apply a presumption in favour of disclosure for all information and documents relating to the GCF and its funding activities. Under the IDP, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Information provided in confidence is one of the exceptions, but this exception should not be applied broadly to an entire document if the document contains specific, segregable portions that can be disclosed without prejudice or harm.

Indicate below whether or not the funding proposal includes confidential information.

No confidential information: The accredited entity confirms that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may be disclosed in full by the GCF, as no information is being provided in confidence.

With confidential information: The accredited entity declares that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may not be disclosed in full by the GCF, as certain information is being provided in confidence. Accordingly, the accredited entity is providing to the Secretariat the following two copies of the funding proposal, including all annexes:

- full copy for internal use of the GCF in which the confidential portions are marked accordingly, together with an explanatory note regarding the said portions and the corresponding reason for confidentiality under the accredited entity's disclosure policy, and
- redacted copy for disclosure on the GCF website.



The funding proposal can only be processed upon receipt of the two copies above, if containing confidential information.

H. ANNEXES

H.1. Mandatory annexes

- Annex 1 NDA no-objection letter(s) ([template provided](#))
- Annex 2 Feasibility study - and a market study, if applicable
- Annex 3 Economic and/or financial analyses in spreadsheet format
- Annex 4 Detailed budget plan ([template provided](#))
- Annex 5 Implementation timetable including key project/programme milestones ([template provided](#))
- Annex 6 E&S document corresponding to the E&S category (A, B or C; or I1, I2 or I3):
 - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or
 - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) or
 - Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)
 - Others: **Indigenous People's Plan (6a) and Conflict Sensitivity Assessment (6b)**
- Annex 7 Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan
- Annex 8 Gender assessment and project/programme-level action plan ([template provided](#))
- Annex 9 Legal due diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance)
- Annex 10 Procurement plan ([template provided](#))
- Annex 11 Monitoring and evaluation plan ([template provided](#))
- Annex 12 AE fee request ([template provided](#))
- Annex 13 Co-financing commitment letter, if applicable ([template provided](#))
- Annex 14 Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule

H.2. Other annexes as applicable

- Annex 15 Evidence of internal approval ([template provided](#))
- Annex 16 Map(s) indicating the location of proposed interventions
- Annex 17 Multi-country project/programme information ([template provided](#))
- Annex 18 Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
- Annex 19 Procedures for controlling procurement by third parties or executing entities undertaking projects financed by the entity
- Annex 20 First level AML/CFT (KYC) assessment
- Annex 21 Operations manual
- Annex 22 Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects)¹⁶
- Annex 23 Beneficiary Calculations

* Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents.

¹⁶ Annex 22 is mandatory for mitigation and cross-cutting projects.

No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s)

MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Unity - Dignity - Work

CABINET MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL CLIMATE COORDINATION

FUND MOBILIZATION DIRECTORATE

N° 003 /MESD/CM/NCC/FMD.25

Election 1. Funding proposals (projects and programmes) or Project Preparation Facility (PPF) applications submitted by accredited entities

Additional text in orange to be included in respect of funding proposals in cases where the NDA or focal point is willing to also provide *ex ante* support for a PPF application subsequent to the submission of an FP without separately reviewing the PPF application, and to avoid the need for a separate NOL at the PPF application stage. In cases where the PPF application precedes the submission of the FP, separate NOLs, utilizing this template, will be required pursuant to relevant Board decisions.

To: The Green Climate Fund ("GCF")

Bangui, 04 September 2025

Re: No-objection letter in respect of the funding proposal titled "Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)" submitted by UNICEF

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the Choose an item. titled "Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)" in Central African Republic submitted by UNICEF to us on 07/08/2025 (the "**Proposal**").

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of Mr. Boris Bemokolo, the focal point of Central African Republic.

Pursuant to GCF Decisions B.08/10, B.37/22, and B.41/02, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, in my capacity as representative of the national designated authority, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the Proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of Central African Republic has no-objection to the Proposal; and
- (b) The Proposal is in conformity with the national priorities, strategies and plans of Central African Republic.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Proposal has been duly followed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect UNICEF to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Proposal is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,

Le Directeur de la Mobilisation des fonds climatique, point focal GCF

Mr Boris Bemokolo
Central African Republic



Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) report disclosure form

Basic project or programme information	
Project or programme title	Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)
Potential sub-project(s) anticipated after GCF Board approval	Yes
Sector (public or private)	Public
Accredited entity/Project-specific Assessment Approach (PSAA) applicant	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) category	Category B
Location – specific location(s) of project or target country or location(s) of programme	The project targets four specific prefectures in the Central African Republic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangui • Ouham • Bamingui-Bangoran • Vakaga
Safeguard Documents: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), Environmental and Social Due-Diligence (ESDD) report, Land Acquisition and/or Resettlement Action Plan (LARAP), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) etc. (as applicable)	
Date of disclosure on entity's website	Friday, May 15, 2026
Language(s) of disclosure	English (legal reference); French (full written translation of the ESS package, for public disclosure purposes only). Sango, Fulfuldé, French and Arabic for local dissemination in audio formats.
Explanation on language	The English version is retained as the legal reference to preserve the integrity of the safeguard's documentation as approved. French is retained as CAR's official language and the working language of government counterparts, partner organisations and the UNICEF Country Office, ensuring institutional and written-public reach. Sango, Fulfuldé and Arabic are the oral languages most widely spoken by affected populations across the four target prefectures. Therefore, oral translations in Sango, Fulfuldé, French and Arabic are provided.
Link(s) to disclosure	Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) 1. English: https://www.unicef.org/car/en/media/3901/file 2. French: https://www.unicef.org/car/media/3926/file Indigenous People Plan (IPP) 1. English: https://www.unicef.org/car/en/media/3906/file 2. French: https://www.unicef.org/car/media/3931/file

Other link(s)	<p>UNICEF CAR GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards webpage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English: https://www.unicef.org/car/en/gcf-environmental-and-social-safeguards 2. French: https://www.unicef.org/car/gcf-mesures-de-sauvegarde-environnementales-et-sociales
Remarks on compliance with GCF policies	ESS reports consistent with the requirements for a Category B project are contained in the documents above.
Disclosure in locations convenient to affected peoples (stakeholders)	
Date(s)	<p>From 18 May 2026 through the GCF Board meeting (29 June 2026):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audio technical summaries will be available on UNICEF website from 18 May 2026; - Radio orientation spots and public-address outreach will occur from 18 May to 29 June 2026; <p>Facilitated community engagement and listening-station access will be available from 18 May to 29 June 2026.</p>
Place(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNICEF CAR Country Office website (digital disclosure of the ESS package in English and French, including audio technical summaries); - Local radio stations and public-address outreach in Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures; - Community meetings and village assemblies in project areas (Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures); - Physical disclosure and listening points with audio recordings, soft copies and limited hard copies available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipal administrations of Birao, Ndélé, Bossangoa and Bangui; • UNICEF field offices in Birao, Bossangoa and Bangui. - Each modality includes a bidirectional communication channel (call-in, Q&A, in-person focal point or suggestion box), and the project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) contact is communicated alongside every modality. - Evidence of local disclosure (photos, attendance lists, radio recordings and feedback notes) will be retained on the project file.
Date of Board meeting in which the FP is intended to be considered	
Date of entity's Board meeting	N/A
Date of GCF's Board meeting	Monday, June 29, 2026

Note: This form was prepared by the entity stated above.

Secretariat's assessment of FP303

Proposal name:	Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)
Accredited entity:	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Country/(ies):	Central Africa Republic (the)
Project/programme size:	Medium

I. Overall assessment of the Secretariat

1. The funding proposal is presented to the Board for consideration with the following remarks:

Strengths	Points of caution
The project features a systemic and potentially paradigm-shifting design. Rather than financing stand-alone infrastructure, the proposal combines policy reform, standards-setting, hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring, early warning systems, institutional capacity-building, and climate-resilient service delivery. This integrated approach is well-aligned with the project's objective of moving the WASH sector from reactive humanitarian-style responses toward preventive, risk-informed and institutionally embedded climate resilience.	While the proposal appropriately emphasizes operation and maintenance, asset management, monitoring systems and a climate-resilient WASH funding strategy, how recurrent costs – such as data hosting, calibration, maintenance of monitoring equipment, drainage upkeep and inter-agency coordination – will be financed and institutionalized after project completion remains to be clarified. This is particularly important in the context of constrained fiscal space and weak subnational capacity. The effectiveness of the paradigm shift claim will depend, in part, on whether these recurrent functions remain operational beyond the life of GCF support.
A large scale and developmental relevance of the expected adaptation benefits in a high-need and fragile context. The project is expected to reach 504,600 direct beneficiaries and 2,564,074 indirect beneficiaries, equivalent to 56.4 per cent of the country's population, with at least 52 per cent of direct beneficiaries being women.	
The project design includes a dedicated climate-resilient-WASH funding strategy intended to mobilize resources from national budgets, donors and the private sector, alongside promotion of financing mechanisms at national and local levels to	

<p>support scale-up. This is reinforced by the project's effort to embed climate-resilient WASH into policies, standards, monitoring systems and learning platforms, thereby making future investments more programmatically and institutionally feasible.</p>	
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2. The Board may wish to consider approving this funding proposal in accordance with the term sheet agreed between the Secretariat and the accredited entity (AE) and, if considered appropriate, subject to the conditions set out in annex II of document GCF/B.45/02.

II. Summary of the Secretariat's assessment

2.1 Project background

3. The objective of this project is to increase the climate resilience of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and vulnerable populations in the Central African Republic (CAR) by reducing flood- and drought-related service disruptions, disease risks, and asset and livelihood losses in the prefectures of Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga. These target areas were selected jointly with the government through a climate change risk assessment and operational feasibility screening. They represent some of the most climate-exposed and underserved prefectures in the country.

4. The Central Africa Republic faces rising temperatures, increasingly intense rainfall, recurrent flooding, episodic droughts and dry-season water stress; compounded by conflict, poverty, rapid urbanization, weak service coverage, and poor-quality WASH infrastructure. A set of mutually reinforcing barriers to climate resilience in the country's WASH sector make GCF investment through this project additional to the country's adaptation capacity. These include:

- (a) limited enforcement of climate-resilient WASH standards and fragmented institutional mandates;
- (b) weak coordination between the WASH, water resources management (WRM) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) sectors;
- (c) sparse hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring systems;
- (d) incomplete multi-hazard early warning functions; and most notably
- (e) a constrained fiscal space with insufficient public and private financing for the incremental costs of climate-resilient WASH.

5. While other barriers include weak operation and maintenance and asset-management models; low community awareness and limited participation of women, youth, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and private actors. Finally, shortages of qualified staff, equipment and connectivity at the subnational level constrain implementation and sustainability of climate resilient WASH interventions.

6. To address these barriers, the project is structured around two components. The first component focuses on the enabling environment and aims to strengthen national policies, systems, institutional capacities and information systems for climate-resilient WASH, WRM and DRR. It includes:

- (a) support for integrating climate adaptation into national policies, regulations and standards;
- (b) improving planning, monitoring, data integration and hydrological information systems;

- (c) strengthening early warning systems (EWS) and last-mile communication; and
 - (d) building institutional capacity and coordination across national and subnational actors.
7. The second component focuses on climate-resilient service delivery and local resilience. It includes:
- (a) the construction or rehabilitation of approximately 200 solarized and flood-resilient water systems;
 - (b) climate-resilient sanitation in around 500 communities using an adapted community-led total sanitation approach;
 - (c) resilient WASH packages for 100 schools and 100 healthcare facilities;
 - (d) urban drainage upgrades in Bangui; and
 - (e) community-level measures to strengthen WRM and DRR capacities.
8. The project will directly benefit 504,600 people and indirectly benefit 2,564,074 people, for a total of 3,068,674 beneficiaries, equivalent to 56.4 per cent of the CAR population. The direct beneficiaries are to be reached through climate-resilient service delivery interventions in the four target prefectures, while indirect beneficiaries are expected to benefit from systems strengthening, improved preparedness, and broader institutional and policy reforms. At least 52 per cent of direct beneficiaries will be women, and approximately 18,000 people, including government staff, operators, artisans, community leaders and youth, will gain skills in climate-risk assessment, conflict-sensitive resilience planning, WRM, DRR, and hydrometric monitoring and operation and maintenance.
9. This category B project responds to the following GCF adaptation result areas: most vulnerable people and communities; health and well-being, and food and water security; and infrastructure and the built environment. The project requests GCF funding of USD 69,093,470 in the form of grants with in-kind co-financing of USD 4,087,813 from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and in-kind co-financing of USD 597,699 from the Government of the Central African Republic.
10. UNICEF will serve as both the accredited entity and the lead executing entity, and will retain overall fiduciary, safeguards, procurement, monitoring and reporting responsibilities. The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources will serve as a government executing entity for selected activities, notably under activities 2.1.3 and 2.3.2, and will provide co-financing, staff inputs and technical validation within its mandate. A Project Steering Committee co-chaired by UNICEF and the ministry will provide strategic oversight, while a Project Management Unit hosted by UNICEF will manage day-to-day implementation.
11. The project complements existing climate and development efforts in the CAR, where the financed baseline is not sufficient to cover the climate adaptation functions proposed. Existing donor support has largely focused on humanitarian response, baseline WASH services or analytical work, while domestic fiscal space remains highly constrained. Therefore, GCF financing is necessary to fund the adaptation premium associated with resilient siting, floodproofing, sustainable abstraction, drainage sized to climate extremes, and system functions required to sustain these investments over time.
12. The project's exit strategy seeks to sustain results by embedding climate-resilient WASH standards into national policy and regulatory frameworks, institutionalizing monitoring systems and budget lines, and strengthening local operation and maintenance arrangements. The project design emphasizes asset registers, handover protocols, delegated operator and committee-based models, framework agreements for critical spare parts, and targeted subnational budget subsidies where tariffs are insufficient to maintain affordability for vulnerable households.

2.2 Component-by-component analysis

Component 1. National policies/plans, systems, institutional capacities and information systems - enabling environment (total cost: USD 6,530,622; GCF cost: USD 6,294,721)

13. This component is intended to strengthen national policies, systems and institutional capacity for climate-resilient WASH, WRM and DRR. It addresses several of the core systemic barriers identified in the proposal, namely fragmented mandates, weak climate-resilient standards, limited hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring, weak integration of climate risk into planning and budgeting, and insufficient inter-ministerial coordination. The component includes activities to update policies, norms and technical standards; strengthen climate-resilient DRR and water planning; improve hydrological data systems and EWS; establish a climate-integrated monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework; and strengthen institutional capacity and governance arrangements.

14. A key technical strength of this component is that it correctly recognizes that resilient infrastructure alone will not be sustainable unless it is supported by standards, information systems, institutional routines and budgetary processes. Another strength is the explicit attempt to institutionalize climate resilience in policies, procurement, budgeting, asset management and annual sector review processes, which improves the project's paradigm shift rationale. The inclusion of a target 72-hour lead time for severe weather alerts and the effort to connect national systems to last-mile warning dissemination are also technically relevant in a context where anticipatory action is weak.

15. The project design could benefit from clarifying how recurrent costs for system maintenance, data hosting, calibration, quality assurance and inter-agency coordination will be financed beyond the project period.

Component 2. Climate-resilient WASH services, urban drainage, WRM and local capacities - infrastructure, climate DRR and WRM (total cost: USD 59,770,126; GCF cost: USD 56,265,181)

16. This component aims to reduce climate and health risks in vulnerable communities through climate-resilient rural WASH, urban drainage and local WRM/DRR capacities. It includes hydrogeological studies and siting, construction or rehabilitation of around 200 climate-resilient water systems, climate-resilient sanitation in approximately 500 communities, resilient WASH packages for 100 schools and 100 healthcare facilities, urban drainage investments in Bangui, and community-level WRM/DRR measures. The component also includes supply-chain support, operation and maintenance (O&M) arrangements, runtime and water-table monitoring, and exploration of viable financing and service models.

17. The principal technical strength of this component is the generally strong hazard-to-intervention logic. The proposal appropriately links flood risks to elevated and protected water and sanitation infrastructure, drainage and contamination control; drought and dry-season stress to deeper screened boreholes, storage, solarized pumping and groundwater monitoring; and institutional fragility to O&M systems and local capacity development.

18. The inclusion of hydrogeological studies, pumping tests and safe-yield considerations is particularly important and strengthens the adaptation rationale for rural water systems. The design also shows good awareness of maladaptation risks by referencing over-abstraction controls, climate-adjusted return periods, permeable and nature-based drainage measures where feasible, and measures to avoid diesel lock-in. Another technical strength is that the component does not treat infrastructure as a stand-alone civil works package, but combines it with behavioural change, O&M, tariff and service model development, and local governance support.

Monitoring and evaluation component: (total cost: USD 1,642,452; GCF cost USD 1,642,452)

19. This cost will cover the relevant activities required to monitor and evaluate the project's progress towards the targets set out in the project's logical framework, particularly at the GCF outcome and project level, and with respect to co-benefits. The cost is about 2 per cent of the total project cost and is aligned with the Evaluation Policy for the GCF.

Project management (total cost: USD 3,686,879; GCF cost: USD 3,686,879)

20. The total project management cost, including the co-financing portion, is 4.99 per cent of the total project budget, and so is in alignment with the GCF Project Management Policy. In compliance with the general principles and indicative list of eligible costs covered under GCF fees and project management costs adopted in decision B.19/09, paragraph (b), the AE has provided a detailed breakdown of the project management costs for both the GCF portion and the co-financing portion.

III. Assessment against investment criteria

3.1 Impact potential

Scale: High

21. The project's impact potential is credible, grounded in a climate-informed WASH/DRR service-continuity approach (not stand-alone infrastructure). It addresses flood and drought disruption pathways through: (i) systems, policy, monitoring and EWS strengthening; and (ii) climate-resilient service delivery (solarized/flood-resilient water systems, climate-adapted sanitation/community-led total sanitation (CLTS), and Bangui drainage upgrades).

22. The funding proposal reports substantial adaptation reach (504,600 direct; 2,564,074 indirect; 3,068,674 total) mapped to adaptation results areas 1–3 (ARA 1–3) and tracked through a logframe aligned to the Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF).

23. Impact will be demonstrable only if the EWS/monitoring becomes operational and drives actionable protocols (including the stated 72-hour lead-time), and if resilient designs plus O&M arrangements measurably reduce outages and contamination during shocks.

3.2 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: High

24. The paradigm shift narrative is strong because it aims to shift the WASH sector of the Central African Republic from reactive repairs and humanitarian-style response toward preventive, risk-informed service delivery, by embedding resilient standards, monitoring/EWS, and MEL into planning, budgeting, procurement and O&M systems. Transformation is plausibly driven by institutionalization features the funding proposal highlights: updated norms/standards, integrated hydrometeorological/groundwater monitoring and data use, and governance routines.

25. The proposal presents a credible replication pathway by pairing proof-of-concept delivery models (climate-resilient water systems, climate-adapted CLTS and urban drainage) with system-level mainstreaming (i.e. integrating climate resilience into national policies/technical standards and establishing sector learning mechanisms (MEL framework, knowledge platform/community of practice, and joint annual sector reviews)) so approaches can be adopted beyond the initial areas.

26. The replicability case is further strengthened by the funding proposal's intent to mobilize additional finance (through a climate-resilient-WASH funding strategy and promotion of financing mechanisms) and by explicit coordination with parallel initiatives (e.g. planned drainage initiatives and EWS-related work referenced in the replication narrative), which can reduce fragmentation and support wider uptake.

3.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: Medium to high

27. Sustainable development co-benefits are robust and multidimensional. The funding proposal links climate-resilient WASH and flood risk reduction to public-health gains (reduced contamination and waterborne disease risks such as cholera/diarrhoea, and reduced vector-borne disease risks such as malaria through reduced stagnant floodwaters), alongside service continuity improvements for households and critical facilities. It also embeds gender-responsiveness, including reduced time burden and protection risks for women and girls, and improved school WASH conditions that can support safer learning environments and better attendance, particularly for adolescent girls.

28. The project further includes a low-carbon and environmental dimension that strengthens overall Sustainable Development value. The funding proposal notes a mitigation co-benefit from shifting water pumping away from diesel toward solar photovoltaic cells while improved sanitation and reductions in open defecation help protect surface and groundwater quality and associated ecosystems. Bangui drainage upgrades also deliver wider urban environmental benefits through reduced flooding. These outcomes are reinforced by skills and local market development, including training of approximately 18,000 government and community actors (operators, artisans, leaders, youth) to support implementation and long-term O&M of climate-resilient services.

3.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: High

29. The funding proposal responds to a high-need context characterized by compounded climate and fragility pressures: climate shocks are already disrupting essential WASH services in settings where infrastructure is described as dilapidated and highly vulnerable to climate shocks, and where conflict and climate-induced displacement further strain service delivery disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including women, youth and displaced persons. In response, the funding proposal positions the project as addressing these binding constraints by strengthening climate-resilient WASH services and the enabling systems that underpin service continuity (including O&M and institutional arrangements), consistent with the GCF needs of the recipient criterion.

30. The funding proposal also clearly justifies the appropriateness of grant financing: it argues that climate-resilient WASH requires an adaptation premium (e.g. flood-proofing and resilient siting) that cannot be covered by household tariffs or typical aid, while fiscal space is constrained and private investment is deterred by high risk and low returns making GCF grant finance necessary to deliver these public-good resilience functions at scale. It specifies how GCF resources will respond by financing the adaptation premium in key assets, building market capacity for vendors/technicians/maintenance contracts, and exploring public-finance tools and affordability-oriented mechanisms. The needs rationale is further strengthened by the funding proposal's explicit focus on system gaps typically binding in resilience outcomes; capacity and role mapping, and targeted capacity-building alongside measures to strengthen O&M arrangements to sustain services beyond implementation.

3.5 Country ownership

Scale: High

31. Country ownership is well evidenced through government engagement in project targeting and oversight, including roles for national institutions in validation/coordination under the steering arrangements described in the funding proposal, complemented by the nationally determined authority's no-objection reference and clear alignment with national priorities (including nationally determined contribution/national adaptation plan linkages).

32. The design prioritizes strengthening and institutionalizing national systems notably standards, data/monitoring and O&M routines rather than setting up parallel delivery structures.

3.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: Medium

33. The proposal demonstrates medium efficiency and effectiveness and is supported by an adequate economic and financial analysis for the nature of the intervention. The project is a public-sector adaptation operation in a fragile least developed country context and finances climate-resilient WASH, urban drainage, WRM, DRR and EWS functions that generate limited or no direct cash flows, but substantial public-good adaptation benefits. The requested GCF contribution alongside the co-financing appears broadly commensurate with the scale of the intervention and the objective of reaching 504,600 direct beneficiaries and 2,564,074 indirect beneficiaries through a combination of resilient infrastructure, systems strengthening and preparedness measures.

34. The economic analysis indicates that the project is economically justified. Using a 5 per cent social discount rate, the consolidated project-level analysis yields a positive economic net present value of approximately USD 35.3 million and an economic internal rate of return of 13 per cent over the project lifespan. The economic case is conducted using a bottom-up cost-benefit approach across a set of representative interventions, namely: (i) urban drainage infrastructure in Bangui, (ii) WASH improvements in health facilities, (iii) WASH improvements in schools, (iv) construction and rehabilitation of climate-resilient water supply systems (large and small systems), and (v) community-led sanitation and open defecation free interventions.

35. The financial analysis also supports the appropriateness of the grant instrument. The proposal does not present revenue streams capable of servicing debt at project level, and the financial testing of the climate-resilient water systems indicates that commercial and concessional loan options would not be financially viable, while grant financing allows affordability to be maintained and limits tariffs to O&M recovery. This is consistent with the project design, under which the principal outputs are adaptation public goods and resilience services rather than revenue-generating assets. In addition, the beneficiary context is characterized by high poverty, insecurity, weak institutional capacity and very limited fiscal space, which materially constrains the ability of communities or public institutions to absorb debt or higher user charges. Accordingly, the request for full grant financing appears justified as the minimum concessionality required to deliver the climate-resilient alternative without undermining affordability or shifting climate costs onto vulnerable households.

36. Cost-effectiveness results are moderate for an adaptation project implemented in a highly fragile operating environment. Based on the efficiency indicators, the project implies an adaptation cost of about USD 137.9 per direct beneficiary, USD 27.1 per indirect beneficiary, and USD 22.7 per total beneficiary reached. The overall co-financing ratio is modest at about 1:0.07, which is not unusual given the public-good character of the intervention and the country context. While the leverage effect is limited, the proposal appears to use GCF resources to finance core climate-resilience investments that are unlikely to be mobilized otherwise, including resilient water systems, sanitation, drainage, hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring, and institutional systems required for sustained O&M and replication. On this basis, the proposal can be considered to demonstrate an acceptable level of efficiency and effectiveness for GCF support.

IV. Assessment of consistency with GCF safeguards and policies

4.1 Environmental and social safeguards

37. **Project brief.** The CRDM-CAR project aims to increase the climate resilience of water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster management services in four highly climate-exposed prefectures of Central African Republic: Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga. The project combines systems reform and risk-informed service delivery through two complementary components. Component 1 focuses on institutional strengthening for climate resilience by integrating climate risks into WASH, WRM, DRR, and early warning policies, norms, technical standards, and budgeting processes. It also supports the upgrading of hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring networks, multi-hazard EWS, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks, alongside capacity-building and improved cross-sectoral coordination across ministries responsible for WASH, the environment, DRR, health and education. Component 2 centres on community-based adaptation through climate-resilient infrastructure and services, including hydrogeological and flood risk assessments and the design of approximately 200 solarized, flood-resilient water supply systems – such as boreholes, multi-use piped networks, and storage. It further promotes flood-resilient sanitation in around 500 communities through adapted CLTS approaches, delivers climate-resilient WASH packages to 100 schools and 100 healthcare facilities, and upgrades urban drainage in Bangui near critical WASH assets using nature-based and permeable solutions where feasible. The component also supports community-based WRM and DRR interventions, with a focus on strengthening local resilience and participation.

38. **Environmental and social risk category and safeguard instruments.** The project is categorized as B for environmental and social risks and impacts, in accordance with the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy and the accreditation scope of the AE. The nature of the risks identified is site-specific, moderate, and largely reversible with well-known mitigation measures, primarily associated with small-scale WASH and drainage infrastructure in fragile settings (e.g. water resource stress, contamination of groundwater from sanitation, construction-related occupational health and safety (OHS), sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) risks, minor land access/economic displacement, and localized biodiversity impacts). The funding proposal is supported by a comprehensive set of safeguard instruments including: environmental and social management framework (ESMF, annex 6); Indigenous Peoples plan (IPP, annex 6a); stakeholder engagement plan (SEP, annex 7); gender assessment and action plan (GAAP, annex 8); labour management procedure (LMP, annex 4 to ESMF); SEAH prevention and response protocol – aligned with UNICEF and GCF SEAH policies; conflict sensitivity and security risk assessment and mitigation strategy (annex 6b) – for operations in a fragile and conflict-affected context. These instruments are consistent with GCF requirements for category B projects (ESMF, site-specific environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) and supporting plans) and reflect the revised GCF Environmental and Social Policy and International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards 1–8. The geographic footprint is limited to four prefectures and does not involve large dams, major resettlement or activities in critical habitat. Activities near sensitive ecosystems (e.g. buffer zones of Bamingui-Bangoran National Park) are governed by enhanced biodiversity screening and exclusion/mitigation measures. The project context includes fragility and conflict, requiring strong safeguards on community health and safety, security, SEAH and accountability.

39. **Compliance with GCF environmental and social safeguards (ESS) standards.** The paragraphs below describe the project’s compliance with the GCF interim ESS.

40. **ESS1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts.** The AE has submitted ESMF, which provides baseline information (climate, hydrology, ecosystems, land use, public health, social vulnerability) for the four target prefectures and maps climate hazard–impact pathways (floods, droughts, heat, erosion, water contamination), the legal framework, the environmental and social baseline, risk/impact assessment, screening procedures, mitigation hierarchy, biodiversity management, voluntary land donation (VLD) protocol and forms, labour management, chance-find procedures, monitoring and institutional arrangements. Environmental and social due diligence described in ESMF includes: 1)

Screening process for each activity using standard forms, followed by risk classification (low/moderate), and required instruments (ESMP, Environmental and Social Clauses, biodiversity management plan, IPP measures); 2) **Mitigation hierarchy** (avoid–minimize–restore–offset) explicitly applied to design and siting, hydrogeological assessments, sanitation design, drainage works and land access; 3) **ESMPs**: For all moderate-risk subprojects, the ESMF requires site-specific ESMPs to define mitigation measures, responsibilities, monitoring indicators and budgets; and 4) **Monitoring and evaluation framework** (section 12) with indicators for water quality and abstraction, OHS, inclusion/equity, SEA/SH incidents, land disputes, biodiversity performance and grievance resolution; plus provisions for independent audits. The use of an ESMF with mandatory subproject screening, categorization, and site-specific ESMPs provide a guardrail to ensure all activities remain within category B.

41. **ESS2: Labour and working conditions.** The ESMF and LMP set out requirements consistent with ESS2, covering labour categories, employment terms and conditions, prohibition of child and forced labour, worker grievance redress mechanism (GRM), and OHS. These apply to all project workers (UNICEF staff, contracted workers and community labour) and align national Labour Code provisions with relevant international standards. For contracted workers, the framework requires written contracts, non-discrimination, and equal pay for equal work, including for IDPs and other vulnerable groups, in accordance with national law and UNICEF procurement/Human Resource rules. Child and forced labour are explicitly prohibited, with reference to International Labour Organization Conventions Nos 138 and 182, and contractors are required to commit to these provisions contractually. A worker GRM is established at site level and integrated into the project-wide GRM, allowing anonymous complaints and subject to regular (monthly) oversight by UNICEF safeguards staff. Contractors are required to prepare and implement site-specific OHS plans, including personal protective equipment, training, and incident reporting. Compliance is monitored by UNICEF, site engineers and relevant local authorities.

42. **ESS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention.** The project prioritizes resource-efficient, low-emission technologies (e.g. solarized pumping, improved drainage and water conservation measures), and the ESMF identifies and mitigates key pollution and resource efficiency risks. Risks of groundwater over-abstraction, particularly in Vakaga and Bamingui-Bangoran, are recognized and addressed through hydrogeological assessments, conservative abstraction rates ($\approx 5 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$), routine monitoring of abstraction volumes and water-table levels, and operational thresholds to curtail pumping where stress is detected. Pollution prevention measures are embedded in system design and construction practices, including latrine and drainage designs to prevent leachate contamination of groundwater and reduce standing water and vector breeding, as well as requirements for proper construction waste management and prohibition of uncontrolled dumping. Greenhouse gas implications are assessed in the economic and financial analysis and the feasibility study, with quantified benefits from diesel-to-solar substitution. While no mitigation finance is claimed, the technology choices deliver mitigation co-benefits alongside core adaptation objectives. Implementation is supported through defined monitoring and supervision arrangements, including routine tracking of water abstraction and environmental indicators, contractor compliance with waste management and design standards, and oversight by UNICEF and relevant authorities, with corrective actions applied as needed.

43. **ESS4: Community health, safety and security.** Community health and safety considerations are integrated into project design and implementation. Key public health risks, including waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and contamination of water points and sanitation facilities during flooding, are identified and mitigated through climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, water safety plans (for larger systems), and sustained hygiene promotion, including CLTS approaches. Construction-phase risks (e.g. traffic, noise, dust and open excavations) are addressed through contractor ESMPs, with requirements for site safety measures such as signage, fencing, traffic management, community awareness, and adherence

to work-site OHS standards. Emergency preparedness and response measures are aligned with broader DRR and EWS under outcome 1. The ESMF requires inclusion of emergency response procedures in ESMPs and provision of community training on appropriate actions during flooding events or infrastructure failures. Security risks in fragile and conflict-affected areas are managed through a dedicated Conflict Sensitivity and Security Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. UNICEF is required to ensure that any security personnel operate in accordance with human-rights-compatible standards. Implementation is supported through contractor-level obligations, community engagement and awareness measures, and supervision by UNICEF and relevant authorities, including monitoring of environmental and social management plan compliance and application of corrective measures where required.

44. **ESS5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.** The project is not expected to involve large-scale land acquisition or physical resettlement. Land requirements are limited to small parcels for localized infrastructure (e.g. boreholes, kiosks, tank stands, drainage outfalls), with impacts anticipated to be minimal and site-specific. The ESMF establishes a VLD protocol (annex II and III to the ESMF) consistent with ESS5, including strict eligibility criteria (absence of formal or informal disputes; donation limited to <5 per cent of total landholdings; exclusion of primary residence or livelihood-critical land; and exclusion of vulnerable donors unless impacts are negligible). Due diligence procedures include site screening, socioeconomic vulnerability assessments, documented consultation and voluntary consent, and formalization through signed agreements with independent witnesses and site mapping/Global Positioning System verification. Donors retain the right to refuse or withdraw consent at any stage and have access to the project GRM. Where VLD is not feasible or risks are non-negligible, the ESMF requires consideration of alternative sites or, if unavoidable, preparation of appropriate mitigation and compensation measures in line with IFC Performance Standard 5. Implementation is supported through documented verification of VLD conditions, review and clearance by UNICEF, and monitoring of land-related risks and grievances, with corrective actions applied as necessary. In cases where involuntary impacts cannot be avoided, a resettlement action plan or livelihood restoration plan will be prepared in line with IFC Performance Standard 5.

45. **ESS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources.** The ESMF recognizes the project's proximity to sensitive ecosystems, including Bamingui-Bangoran National Park and Biosphere Reserve and dryland ecosystems in Vakaga, while confirming that no activities are planned within protected areas or critical habitats. The framework establishes a risk-based approach to biodiversity management. All subprojects located in or near ecologically sensitive areas are subject to a biodiversity impact screening checklist (annex I to the ESMF), with requirements for site-specific biodiversity management plans where risks are identified. Screening records will document cases where sites are modified or rejected due to biodiversity risks, and procedures will be reviewed during project implementation to strengthen adaptive management. The introduction of invasive species is prohibited, with mandatory use of native or naturalized species for reforestation and vegetation restoration, supported by procurement controls. Screening and design processes incorporate reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, national biodiversity strategies, and available data on key biodiversity areas and ecological corridors. The mitigation hierarchy is applied to avoid impacts on critical habitats; where such habitats or critically endangered species are identified, the ESMF requires redesign, exclusion of sites, or additional studies in line with IFC PS6. Implementation is supported through systematic screening, documentation and review of subprojects, and supervision by UNICEF to ensure adherence to biodiversity requirements, with corrective measures applied where necessary.

46. **ESS8: Cultural heritage.** The ESMF recognizes the potential presence of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the project area and includes a chance finds procedure (annex V to the ESMF) to manage accidental discovery of archaeological, historical or culturally significant materials, including human remains. The procedure establishes clear requirements

for immediate stop-work, securing of the site, prompt notification of relevant authorities and qualified specialists, and assessment of the significance of findings. It further defines decision-making processes for appropriate management measures and conditions for resumption of works following clearance. Implementation is supported through incorporation of chance finds procedures into contractor ESMPs, worker awareness and training, and supervision by UNICEF to ensure compliance, with works only resuming upon formal authorization.

47. **Implementation arrangements.** UNICEF, acting as both accredited entity and executing entity, retains overall responsibility for environmental and social (E&S) performance. Implementation is anchored in a Project Management Unit (PMU) hosted within UNICEF, including a dedicated Safeguards Focal Point in the WASH team, supported by regional and headquarters safeguards specialists. Roles and responsibilities of national counterparts are clearly defined, with relevant ministries (including Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources; Ministry of Health & Population, etc.) engaged in subproject screening, regulatory approvals, joint supervision, and enforcement of applicable national requirements. Contractors and non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners are contractually required to comply with all applicable E&S instruments, including ESMPs, environmental and social clauses, the LMP, SEA/SH measures, codes of conduct, and reporting obligations. Compliance is monitored by UNICEF, and non-compliance may result in corrective actions, sanctions or contract termination. The project does not involve financial intermediation; UNICEF is not acting as a financial intermediary, and no environmental and social management system for on-lending or portfolio management is required.

48. **Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure.** Stakeholder engagement is guided by an SEP, aligned with the GCF Environmental and Social Policy, Gender Policy, Indigenous Peoples Policy, and Stakeholder Engagement Guidance.

49. The SEP documents inclusive consultations conducted during project preparation at national and local levels, involving government entities, civil society organizations (CSOs)/NGOs, women's groups, youth, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, IDPs, and other vulnerable groups. It also establishes a framework for continuous engagement throughout implementation, including six-monthly stakeholder engagement reporting, participatory monitoring, and the use of local languages and culturally appropriate methods.

50. Implementation arrangements require all implementing partners to designate a stakeholder engagement focal point and participate in mandatory orientation and capacity-building on SEP requirements, including free, prior and informed consent, where applicable, and GRM procedures. Community feedback will be systematically collected through multiple channels (including United Nations/NGO platforms and community-based mechanisms), analysed on a regular basis, and used to inform adaptive management. Feedback loops will be closed through regular communication with communities on how their inputs have influenced project decisions, using accessible channels such as community meetings, local radio and outreach by community workers.

51. Adequate resourcing is provided to support meaningful engagement. The SEP includes dedicated budget allocations for outreach and consultation activities (including facilitation, translation, local travel and communication materials), complemented by integration of stakeholder engagement responsibilities within relevant staff functions. Additional targeted resources are allocated for engagement with Indigenous Peoples to ensure culturally appropriate processes. Information disclosure will be carried out in accordance with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy.

52. Key E&S instruments (including the ESMF, IPP, SEP/GAAP, and other relevant safeguards documents) will be disclosed in French and in locally accessible formats at least 30 days prior to Board consideration for category B activities.

53. Implementation is supported through documented consultation processes, regular reporting, and oversight by UNICEF to ensure compliance with engagement and disclosure requirements.
54. **Grievance redress mechanism.** The project establishes a multi-tier GRM, implemented using the UNICEF's Complaints and Feedback Management approach in line with its Accountability to Affected Populations framework and consistent with GCF Environmental and Social Policy and SEAH Policy requirements. At the project level, the GRM provides multiple accessible and culturally appropriate entry points (e.g. in-person, telephone, written and SMS/WhatsApp where feasible) at community and municipal levels. The mechanism is designed to be gender-sensitive, child-sensitive, and inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups. Clear procedures and timelines are defined for acknowledgement, assessment and resolution of complaints, and complainants are kept informed of progress and outcomes throughout the process. Complaint closure may include resolution, agreement on follow-up actions, or referral to appropriate mechanisms.
55. A separate worker GRM is established in line with the LMP and contractor obligations. Specific provisions are also in place for SEA/SH-related complaints, which are handled in accordance with UNICEF safeguarding policies and survivor-centred principles. Such cases are managed through confidential referral pathways and are not processed through standard community GRM channels. To protect confidentiality and prevent retaliation, SEA/SH incidents are recorded in secure systems, will not be handled through standard community grievance channels, and reported only in anonymized and aggregated form (e.g. number of cases, referral status, and resolution progress), without any identifying information.
56. Affected communities will be informed of and able to access all three levels of grievance redress: the project-level GRM, the UNICEF institutional GRM, and the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism, in line with GCF policy. Use of the GRM does not preclude access to judicial or other formal remedies.
57. Implementation is supported through clear procedures, trained focal points, and regular monitoring and reporting of GRM performance, with corrective actions applied as necessary.
58. **GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy & ESS7 (Indigenous Peoples).** The funding proposal meets the requirements of the Indigenous Peoples Policy through an Indigenous Peoples Plan. Indigenous Peoples were engaged during project design, and their inputs were reflected in the project. The project includes dedicated safeguard measures, tailored mitigation actions, and provisions for continuous engagement to ensure full and effective participation throughout implementation and monitoring, including specific measures to ensure safe participation of women and youth. Indigenous Peoples will also be included in the decision-making mechanisms of the project. Co-benefits were defined in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples and include improved access to climate-resilient WASH services, reduced conflict at water points and strengthened livelihoods. Indigenous knowledge will be integrated into hydrological assessments, WRM planning and local climate resilience strategies. In line with their roles and functions, Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group is available to provide advice to the AE and executing entities. In line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, the GCF Indigenous Peoples focal point will be available for assistance at any stage, including before a claim has been made.
59. **Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.** SEAH risks are considered material given the fragile and conflict-affected context, high levels of gender inequality, displacement, and reliance on humanitarian and WASH services in the Central African Republic. The project adopts a zero-tolerance approach in line with UNICEF safeguarding and GCF SEAH Policy, integrating prevention and response measures across design and implementation. These include mandatory codes of conduct for all personnel and contractors, SEA/SH risk mitigation in infrastructure siting and design (e.g. safe, well-lit, gender-segregated facilities), capacity-building of implementing partners, and community awareness-raising on rights and reporting

channels. SEA/SH complaints will be managed through confidential, survivor-centred referral pathways and not through standard GRM channels, with cases tracked only in anonymized and aggregated form. Implementation is supported through trained focal points, partner compliance requirements, and ongoing monitoring to ensure adherence to safeguarding standards.

4.2 Gender policy

60. The funding proposal demonstrates compliance with the GCF Gender Policy, the revised Environmental and Social Policy (including requirements on gender responsiveness and zero tolerance for SEA/SH), and the GCF SEAH Policy. The AE has prepared a project-level GAAP tailored to the fragile and conflict-affected context of the Central African Republic and the project's climate-resilient WASH focus. The assessment is informed by consultations at national and local levels, including with women and girls, and identifies differentiated climate vulnerabilities, barriers to participation, and constraints to equitable access to services. It also recognizes SEAH risks as a key factor affecting women's safety, mobility and ability to benefit from project interventions. These findings are appropriately reflected in the project design and inform gender-responsive and risk-informed implementation measures.

61. The gender action plan translates these findings into concrete and resourced actions, including measures to strengthen women's participation in decision-making, ensure inclusive access to services, and integrate gender considerations into WASH infrastructure design and service delivery. It includes strengthened linkages between identified gender gaps and proposed interventions, incorporation of both quantitative and qualitative indicators (with baseline assumptions clarified), and dedicated institutional arrangements, including a safeguards and gender expert within the PMU. SEAH risk mitigation measures are embedded in project activities and implementation arrangements, in line with survivor-centred principles and UNICEF safeguarding policies. Overall, the gender assessment and gender action plan provide an adequate and operational framework to support gender-responsive implementation and monitoring throughout the project life cycle.

4.3 Risks

4.3.1. **Accredited entity/executing entity capability to execute the current project (medium risk)**

62. UNICEF has strong capacity in fragile contexts, with extensive in-country presence and a proven track record in implementing large-scale WASH and infrastructure programmes, which provides a solid foundation for executing this project.

4.3.2. **Project-specific execution risks (high risk)**

63. Execution risk is high in the context of fragile and conflicted country and under fiscal stress such as Central African Republic, and it will impact both project implementation and long-term sustainability which are mostly non mitigable by project design. We acknowledge that UNICEF's capacity reduces execution risk during the project. In addition, FAA/Term Sheet conditions are included to anchor O&M responsibilities at handover and reporting through APRs in order to reduce post-handover risk.

4.3.3. **Compliance risk (medium-high risk)**

64. Though many of the proposed activities present relatively lower inherent risks of money-laundering/terrorist-financing (ML/TF) or other prohibited practices (PP) – including component 1's policy, systems, and institutional capacity-strengthening – component 2's

infrastructure and construction activities, are associated with higher ML/TF/PP risks. Procurement and the involvement of various third parties to carry out the infrastructure works markedly heighten the overall inherent compliance risks. Moreover, as the Central African Republic is currently subject to restrictive measures, including those imposed by the United Nations Security Council, inherent risks relating to project implementation are elevated.

65. The AE has assessed inherent ML/TF/PP risk as medium with residual risk as low due to its existing controls which will be applied. These include harmonized approach to cash transfers-based counterparty due diligence and capacity assessments, transaction monitoring and processes for escalation of red flags or suspicious activity, as well as the inclusion of anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of terrorism clauses in contracts. To mitigate the integrity risks associated with the infrastructure activities, the AE will conduct ongoing monitoring, including through regular site visits.

66. However, due to the challenging operational environment on the ground, as highlighted by the AE, which will implement enhanced oversight and fiduciary assurance measures, the overall residual compliance risk is determined to be medium to high.

4.3.4. GCF portfolio concentration risk (low risk)

67. In the event of approval, the impact of this proposal on the GCF concentration risk remains within the monitoring thresholds of the risk appetite statement in terms of results areas, single proposal or AE concentration.

4.3.5. Recommendation

68. It is recommended that the Board consider the above factors in its decision.

Summary risk assessment	
Overall project/programme	Medium-high
Accredited entity (AE)/executing entity (EE) capability	Medium
Project/programme-specific execution	High
Compliance	Medium-high
GCF portfolio concentration	Within the monitoring thresholds

4.4 Fiduciary

69. The United Nations Children’s Fund will act as the Accredited Entity and lead Executing Entity, retaining overall accountability to GCF for the use of funds, delivery of results, compliance with fiduciary standards, and adherence to environmental, social, and governance requirements. The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources will serve as a government Executing Entity for selected activities, consistent with its technical mandate and co-financing role. A Project Management Unit, hosted by UNICEF, will manage day-to-day implementation, including planning, procurement, financial management, safeguards, monitoring and reporting, and will also serve as the secretariat to the Project Steering Committee.

70. All contractors and suppliers will be engaged by UNICEF in accordance with its procurement procedures. These entities will deliver goods, works and services under UNICEF-managed contracts, be paid directly by UNICEF against verified outputs, and will not have any managerial or decision-making authority; as such, they do not constitute Executing Entities.

71. GCF grant proceeds will be disbursed to UNICEF Headquarters (AE) and internally channelled to the UNICEF CAR Country Office (EE) through the UNICEF VISION (SAP-based) enterprise resource planning system. The EE will then disburse funds to: (i) implementing

partners (CSOs/NGOs) through programme cooperation agreements or programme documents under the harmonized approach to cash transfers, with funds requested and reported via Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditure (FACE) forms and subject to risk-based assurance and audits; and (ii) contractors and suppliers for works, goods and services procured competitively under UNICEF rules. Oversight will be provided by the Project Steering Committee and UNICEF as AE, with all financial flows governed by the funded activity agreement. UNICEF retains sole authority over the channelling of GCF funds, and no government ministries, public agencies, NGOs, CSOs or other external entities are authorized to directly manage or channel GCF proceeds.

4.5 Results monitoring and reporting

72. The proposal is an adaptation-focused project in the Central African Republic. It targets ARA 1, ARA 2 and ARA 3. While the design notes a mitigation co-benefit via solarized pumping (avoiding diesel lock-in), the results-area allocation is described as 100 per cent adaptation and the funding proposal summary reports 0 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent under the expected mitigation outcome field. The project expects to reach 3,068,674 total beneficiaries (56.4 per cent of population), comprising 504,600 direct and 2,564,074 indirect beneficiaries; ≥52 per cent of direct beneficiaries are female, and beneficiary deduplication is referenced to annex 23a/23b.

73. Following iterative technical review, the proposal presents a coherent theory of change linking systems and policy reforms (climate-resilient standards, strengthened planning and MEL/data integration, hydrometeorological/groundwater monitoring and multi-hazard early warning) to risk-informed service delivery in high-risk prefectures and Bangui. The theory of change explicitly sets out the causal chain hazard → exposure/vulnerability → outputs → outcomes → IRMF results, structured around outcome 1 (enabling environment) and outcome 2 (service delivery/community resilience). The package is well-specified, including 200 solarized, flood-resilient water systems, community-led total sanitation-supported resilient sanitation in 500 communities, Bangui drainage upgrades, and WASH packages for 100 schools and ~100 healthcare facilities, alongside O&M/asset management and last-mile risk communication.

74. The logframe aligns with the IRMF and clarifies aggregation rules to avoid double counting. The project's MEL arrangements are clearly set out and draw on routine administrative systems and dashboards, hydrometeorological/groundwater and EWS data streams, implementing partner/contractor reporting and structured field verification, complemented by independent mid-term and final evaluations and regular supervision/field visits. The approach is operationalized and specifies indicators, baselines/targets, data sources, frequency and responsibilities, and positions MEL to support both IRMF-aligned accountability and adaptive learning.

4.6 Legal assessment

75. The legal arrangements for the project will be based on accreditation master agreement between GCF and the Accredited Entity (the "AMA"), which has been signed but is not yet effective. Accordingly, the funded activity agreement in respect of the funding proposal cannot be entered into unless the AMA has been made effective.

76. The Accredited Entity has not provided a legal opinion/certificate confirming that it has obtained all internal approvals and it has the capacity and authority to implement the project.

77. The proposed project will be implemented in Central African Republic (the "Host Country"), country in which GCF is not provided with privileges and immunities. This means that, amongst other things, GCF is not protected against litigation or expropriation in this/these

Host Country, which risks need to be further assessed. Moreover, the ability of GCF to undertake redress activities and/or investigations in the Host Country may be hindered due to the absence of privileges and immunities for relevant GCF personnel.

78. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board considers whether disbursements of GCF proceeds should only be made after GCF has obtained satisfactory protection against litigation and expropriation in the Host Country, or has been provided with appropriate privileges and immunities for GCF and its personnel.

79. GCF holds industrial property protection for its combined logo (sphere with the words “Green Climate Fund”) in the Host Country.

80. To address the matters raised in this section, it is recommended that any approval by the Board is made subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Submission by the Accredited Entity to GCF of a certificate or legal opinion, in form and substance satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat, within 120 days after Board approval, or the date of effectiveness of the AMA, whichever is later, confirming that the Accredited Entity has obtained all final internal approvals needed by it and has the capacity and authority to implement the proposed project;
- (b) Signature of the funded activity agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat within 180 days from the date of Board approval, or the date the Accredited Entity has provided a certificate or legal opinion confirming that it has obtained all final internal approvals, or the date of effectiveness of the AMA, whichever is later; and
- (c) Completion of the legal due diligence to the satisfaction of the GCF Secretariat prior to the signature of the funded activity agreement.

Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment of FP303

Proposal name:	Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)
Accredited entity:	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Country/(ies):	Central African Republic (the)
Project/programme size:	Medium

I. Assessment of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

1.1 Overview

1. The project Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR) is proposed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which will serve as both the accredited entity (AE) and the executing entity (EE).
2. CRDM-CAR aims to increase the climate resilience of WASH services and vulnerable populations by reducing flood- and drought-related service disruptions, disease risks, and asset and livelihood losses in selected climate-vulnerable areas in the Central African Republic (CAR). With a total budget of close to USD 74 million, the project stands to become the single largest WASH project in the country.
3. The project interventions will target the urban prefecture of Bangui (the national capital) and the northern, more rural prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga. These represent some of the most climate-exposed and underserved prefectures in the country, facing greater risks of both floods and droughts as dry-season water stress persists along with increasing frequency of very wet days.
4. The project couples systems reform with risk-informed service delivery, aiming for two main outcomes with linked outputs and three co-benefits:
 - (a) Outcome 1 aims for strengthened national policies, systems, and institutional capacity for climate-resilient WASH (CR-WASH) services, water resources management (WRM), and climate disaster risk reduction (DRR), i.e. supporting the enabling environment [USD 6.5 million, representing 9 per cent of the total budget];
 - (i) Output 1.1. Climate change adaptation is integrated into national policies and regulations, and funding for adaptation is mobilized [USD 2.0 million];
 - (ii) Output 1.2. Evidence based WASH, WRM, DRR, and EWS [early warning systems] are informed by improved planning, climate and WASH monitoring information, MEL [monitoring, evaluation and learning] framework, data integration, and institutionalization of data-related mandates [USD 3.8 million]; and
 - (iii) Output 1.3. Institutional capacity and governance for CR-WASH and climate adaptation are strengthened [USD 0.7 million];

- (b) Outcome 2 aims for climate-resilient rural WASH services, urban drainage infrastructure, WRM, and related local capacities adapted and scaled up to reduce climate and health risks in vulnerable communities. This component builds on the enabling environment to deliver climate-resilient services directly to communities [USD 59.7 million, representing 81 per cent of the total budget]; and
- (i) Output 2.1. CR-WASH services are accessible and used in rural, flood- and drought-prone areas of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga [USD 44.2 million, or 60 per cent of the total budget];
 - (ii) Output 2.2. Climate-resilient urban drainage infrastructure is reinforced and expanded in Bangui to reduce, anticipate, and better withstand flood risks [USD 11.4 million, or 15 per cent of the total budget]; and
 - (iii) Output 2.3. Communities and youth are enabled to manage water resources and disaster risks in priority high-risk localities of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga [USD 4.2 million, or 6 per cent of the total budget];
- (c) The project further seeks to generate three co-benefits, which relate to (i) training to improve job opportunities for youth, women and entrepreneurs; (ii) reduced physical time burden for water collection for women and girls benefiting; and (iii) reduced contamination of watersheds of villages with “open defecation free” status.

1.2 Impact potential

Scale: Medium to high

5. The proposed project is fully dedicated to adaptation, seeking to contribute to three of the GCF results areas: adaptation results area (ARA) 1: Most vulnerable people and communities, receiving 20 per cent of the budget; ARA 2: Health, well-being, food and water security, receiving 40 per cent; and ARA 3: Infrastructure and built environment, receiving 40 per cent.

6. Notwithstanding, a modest (unquantified) mitigation co-benefit should arise. By replacing diesel-powered water pumps with solar photovoltaic systems, the project will promote a low-carbon development pathway for water services (funding proposal, para. 130). This stands to avoid diesel lock-in and should be a no-regrets adaptation strategy standing to improve service reliability, including in the face of fluctuations in the economy (funding proposal, para. 38).

7. To improve the climate resilience of WASH services and communities themselves in the target prefectures, the project seeks to strengthen institutional capacities to conduct climate risk assessments, design and implement CR-WASH infrastructure, enhance water resource management, and improve DRR and EWS.

8. It is estimated that the project will reach 3 million beneficiaries. Half a million people stand to benefit directly from the project and 2.5 million indirectly, as outlined in annex 23a:

- (a) The direct beneficiaries are individuals, households and institutions that will directly participate in or receive adaptation benefits from the project activities. These include community members gaining access to new WASH infrastructure, Government staff receiving training and schoolchildren using facilities upgraded by the project; and
- (b) The indirect beneficiaries will benefit from the project’s broader impacts, such as improved national policies, enhanced EWS, and the positive spillover effects of a more resilient WASH sector on public health and environmental quality.

9. The assumptions and beneficiary estimates are explained in annex 23. To quantify the number of beneficiaries, it is understood that some rather crude generalizations are necessary. For example:
- (a) “The grand total of indirect beneficiaries...is calculated from CAR population estimates (indirectly benefitting from policy measures) and deducting direct beneficiaries” (annex 23a, p. 14). The equation assumes a “policy efficiency” of 60 per cent (annex 23b, sheet “Assumptions”, field B189). Annex 2 (p. 318) suggests that “The entire population of CAR is affected by weak national policies” and that “Nearly all citizens will indirectly benefit from a strengthened national framework for climate resilience and disaster preparedness”. In the written question-and-answer exchange¹ between the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) and the AE, the 60 per cent was explained to be a “reduction” consistent with the effectiveness coefficient approach, based on the work of Jannati et al.² This article discusses the concept of effective coverage as introduced by the World Health Organization for use in performance assessments. The article’s conclusions point to the need for further studies and implicitly indicate the uphill task of quantifying any number of indirect beneficiaries. All in all, the estimated number of indirect beneficiaries amounts to 47.1 per cent of the total population of CAR (funding proposal, section A6);
 - (b) More generally, the proposal refers to “vulnerable populations” while, as indicated by the project title and as explained in the written question-and-answer exchange between the AE and the iTAP, *children* are a primary target demographic both in the design and in the expected impact of the project. (Annex 23b suggests that 56 per cent of the population of CAR are below the age of 18.³) However, in relation to this target, remarkably little attention has been paid to the needs and contribution of people of different ages in the funding proposal package; and
 - (c) Similarly, the AE indicates that 52 per cent of the project’s beneficiaries will be women (inclusive of girls). This is based on a countrywide population statistic suggesting that 52.11 per cent are female.⁴ The AE further indicates that, where implementation data allows, reporting will further disaggregate girls from adult women, particularly for school-based WASH, menstrual hygiene management, and youth and community engagement activities. There is, however, no detailed or concrete strategy for ensuring that more than half of the beneficiaries will be female. In a society struggling with gender inequalities, UNICEF could be expected to work more explicitly with strategies that counteract gender discrimination.
10. The output that most directly responds to immediate climate threats is, in the view of the iTAP, output 2.2 (Climate-resilient urban drainage infrastructure is reinforced and expanded in Bangui to reduce, anticipate, and better withstand flood risks):
- (a) According to the feasibility study (annex 2, p. 266), activity 2.2.1 focuses on engineered channels and drains (collectors, canals, gutters, culverts, bridges and retention basins) and includes, apparently only as an add-on, the “Integration of ecosystem-based measures—such as reforestation of hillsides and rehabilitation of wetlands—towards

¹ UNICEF responses to iTAP written questions, 6 May 2026.

² Jannati A, Sadeghi V, Imani A and Saadati M. 2018. Effective coverage as a new approach to health system performance assessment: a scoping review. *BMC Health Services Research*. 18(1): 886.

³ Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales. 2021. *MICS: Enquête par grappe à indicateurs multiples 2018-2019, 6^{ème} édition: rapport final*. Available at www.unicef.org/car/media/1251/file/Central%20African%20Republic%202018-19%20MICS%20Survey%20Findings%20Report_French_revu08032021.pdf.

⁴ CEIC. 2023. *Central African Republic CF: Population: as % of Total: Female*. Available at www.ceicdata.com/en/central-african-republic/population-and-urbanization-statistics/cf-population-as--of-total-female

the end of the project to enhance sustainability and resilience. The implementation approach is of concern, as it puts nature-based solutions (NBS) at the very end, after all the infrastructure work has been completed. NBS are therefore dominated by “grey” (concrete) solutions, which heightens the risk of maladaptation and misses opportunities for effective and cost-effective use of solutions such as preserving or constructing wetlands, and creating blue-green spaces that double as parks and overflow basins; and

- (b) NBS tend to be less capital intensive and more knowledge intensive, and are particularly reliant on local knowledge.⁵ This speaks to the importance of engaging with the local population, particularly those in informal settlements.⁶ The iTAP did not find (informal) urban communities to be sufficiently involved as stakeholders, but the question-and-answer exchange with the AE clarified that urban communities in Bangui are included as primary stakeholders and active participants. This is important.

11. The early consideration of NBS, knowledge development and requisite local consultations are important for finding a sustainable balance between “grey” and “green” solutions for improved urban drainage and flood mitigation. There are many international and African examples of the innovative use of green infrastructure, NBS and ecosystem-based measures, which UNICEF and the relevant authorities in Bangui are recommended to make good use of. UNICEF may also consider engaging experts with additional NBS expertise (see recommendation 1 in para. 53 below). Such solutions include permeable surfaces, floodable parks, reforestation and forest protection in catchments supplying water to urban areas, protection of natural wetlands and riparian vegetation, and constructed wetlands.

12. The direct enhancement of climate resilience through the mitigation of flooding impacts, and more robust WASH systems that withstand climate-induced hazards better, contribute to the impact potential of this project. There is also a strong emphasis on climate resilience of communities and their WASH systems, which should enhance their adaptive capacity in relation to a range of climate as well as non-climate hazards.⁷ All in all, the iTAP assesses the proposed project’s impact potential to be medium to high.

1.3 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: Low to medium

13. The project’s theory of change relies on information management and climate-sensitive planning to direct investments towards the appropriate design and operation of WASH and DRR systems. It reads: “**IF** government and community actors in the Central African Republic are equipped, resourced and have the capacity to (i) use climate data for risk-informed planning, (ii) apply and finance standards for climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, (iii) strengthen water resources and disaster-risk management, and (iv) operate multi-hazard early warning systems, **THEN** households, schools and healthcare facilities in the

⁵ See, for example, Weinberg J, Kjellén M and Coates D. 2018. Enabling accelerated uptake of NBS. In: *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2018: Nature-Based Solutions for Water*. pp. 96–105. Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261424>.

⁶ According to annex 2 (p. 266, table 76), “The city’s drainage infrastructure is incomplete, covering only part of the arrondissements and leaving 36% of built-up areas—including 60% of informal settlements—exposed to flooding.”

⁷ The funding proposal is consistently drafted with climate resilience in mind: “**What GCF will finance—and why this is climate, not general development.** All activities are selected, designed and located **because of climate hazards and exposure** evidenced in the Feasibility Study (FS; annex 2) and tracked against adaptation indicators (IRMF [Integrated Results Management Framework] Core 2, 3, 5, 6, 8;). GCF resources cover the **full cost** of climate-resilient measures for which there is **no viable domestic or donor baseline**” (funding proposal, para. 94, original emphasis). Notwithstanding, for WASH services investments, which are necessary and even mandated by the human right to water, there will always be a substantial “non-climate” part. It is noted, however, that the systems, in this case, would not be built at all if financing were only to be provided for the climate-change-motivated additional robustness, such as elevated and sealed well heads and latrines.

targeted prefectures will have access to safer, more resilient and reliable WASH services and reduced losses from floods and droughts, **BECAUSE** policies, budgets, coordination and capacity will direct investments toward climate risk-appropriate designs, operation and maintenance (O&M) will be funded and enforced, demand for climate-resilient WASH services will be created and timely warnings with community engagement will trigger protective actions” (funding proposal, para. 21).⁸

14. Although most of the funding of the proposed project is dedicated to construction work, the theory of change gives prominence to the matters of policy and capacity. It is hence questionable whether the project funding dedicated to the enabling environment is sufficient to make up for the highly fragmented institutional landscape in CAR. Annex 2 (pp. 82–97) outlines severely lacking capacities and how regulated mandates often conflict with actual practice.

15. Because of the fragmentation of the WASH and water sector – lacking capacity and with unfulfilled, overlapping or conflicting mandates – UNICEF will be a key player, not only by taking the lead in this large-scale project but also in the effort to achieve integration across sectors and stakeholders. This is a huge responsibility and heightens the importance of the ability of UNICEF to persistently listen to national and local authorities as well as a variety of stakeholder groups and local communities. This is important for ensuring that the UNICEF and project implementation approaches systematically help to overcome fragmentation, build capacities and nurture local ownership.

16. In ensuring that appropriate policy choices are made, it is likely to be important that UNICEF is flexible and pragmatic, working towards agreement among all relevant stakeholders and especially among system owners (i.e. those who will carry on operating the systems in the future, when the project ends). The funding proposal and question-and-answer exchange⁹ confirm that pricing and tariffs will be determined locally with and among stakeholders. This is a key consideration that may need additional time and engagement so as to explore communities’ aspirations and capacities in an open manner. Recommendation 2 (see para. 53 below) emphasizes this point.

17. In this context, it may be important to maintain openness with regard to the implementation strategies, allowing them to be adapted to local circumstances. It is slightly problematic, in the view of the iTAP, that capital cost allocation has been largely (pre-)determined differently for water – with no capital expenditure (CAPEX) contribution by households – and sanitation – with full CAPEX contribution by households:

- (a) In relation to water, the funding proposal emphasizes the “pass-through of concessionality”, suggesting that “In all cases GCF concessional financing for infrastructure will be passed on to end beneficiaries. Tariffs and user fees will be strictly limited to covering O&M costs and not used for CAPEX recovery of assets financed through GCF grants” (para. 98);
- (b) For sanitation, the “community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach will tackle underlying social norms and build full ownership, complemented by on-going, nationwide, multi-channel awareness-raising campaigns to sustain behaviour change”

⁸ The theory of change is worded in this way in the funding proposal and feasibility study (annex 2) text and the theory of change diagram. However, a slightly simpler version of the theory of change is found in the beneficiary calculations documentation (annex 23a, p. 5): “The project’s Theory of Change states that: IF technical and institutional capacities are strengthened to conduct climate risk assessments, design and implement climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, enhance water resource and disaster risk management, and improve early warning systems; THEN the climate resilience of WASH services and vulnerable communities in CAR will be significantly improved; BECAUSE climate-adaptive policies and governance will be mainstreamed across sectors, community engagement in local climate action will be enhanced, infrastructure vulnerability will be reduced, and water security will be strengthened at national and subnational levels.”

⁹ This refers to an online meeting between UNICEF and the iTAP held on 11 May 2026 and to UNICEF responses to iTAP written questions, 6 May 2026 and 13 May 2026.

- (para. 105). The CLTS approach is renowned for not using any hardware subsidies. UNICEF confirmed in the question-and-answer exchange with the iTAP that it will not provide general hardware subsidies for individual household latrine construction;¹⁰ and
- (c) The project will, however, fund the full CAPEX cost of WASH facilities, including safe and climate-resilient latrines, in schools and clinics:
- (i) Sub-activity 2.1.3.2 will involve the construction and rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in 100 primary schools. Annex 2 (p. 253) explains how the latrine blocks will be made flood-resistant – constructed on raised slabs (at least above the 50-year flood level) – and with durable construction materials to avoid damage under extreme weather; and
 - (ii) Similarly, sub-activity 2.1.3.3 will provide climate-resilient sanitation and hygiene equipment in 100 healthcare facilities: “Equipment will comply with the national WASH guidelines for healthcare facilities. It will include latrine blocks, handwashing stations, and a rainwater harvesting system with ... technical, climate-adapted, accessible, and female-friendly features” (annex 2, p. 254);
- (d) The issue, however, is not consistency at the general level. Rather, it is that the implementation approaches and system management principles must be agreed to by (future) system owners and the community of WASH services users.
18. Hence, it is suggested that UNICEF prioritizes the activities included in activity 2.1.5 (Explore and promote context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for CR-WASH services and support the engagement of local entrepreneurs/youth-led businesses). Annex 2 (p. 257) suggests that “Additional approaches to management models, O&M, contract arrangements, tariffs, and financial schemes will be explored and promoted.” This is important.
19. In this context, the iTAP also recommends that UNICEF pay greater attention to future sustainability in the post-implementation period (see recommendation 3 in para. 53 below). The “sustainability issue” concerns how to fund future maintenance of service and replacement of equipment, how to protect water resources, and how to manage the waste from imported electronic equipment, as discussed in the following sub-paragraphs:
- (a) **Long-term functionality of WASH systems, including replacement of infrastructure:** As the project is currently designed, there is no financial mechanism to replace physical infrastructure when it degrades at the end of its presumed 15-year lifespan, except for relying on “government and partner financing” (funding proposal, para. 40). Given the limited fiscal capacity of CAR and the unpredictable nature of future international donor support, there is a great risk of the systems falling into disrepair.¹¹
 - (b) In response to additional questions from the iTAP on water pricing, UNICEF summarized that “the project [water] price is expected to be affordable because GCF grant financing covers the capital cost, while users are asked to contribute only to O&M.

¹⁰ Research findings have questioned the quality of latrines constructed – solely through community effort – with the CLTS approach. See Kouassi HAA et al. 2023. Sustainability of facilities built under the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) implementation: moving from basic to safe facilities on the sanitation ladder. *PLoS One*. 18(11): e0293395. With low-income households having difficulties constructing *safe* latrines, the difficulties they could face in constructing *climate-resilient* latrines may even be insurmountable.

¹¹ The project is concerned with system financing; however, in discussing cost recovery from users, it seems consistently limited to current operation and maintenance. The consequent reliance on subsidies may be untenable: **“The introduction of cost-recovery mechanisms, including affordable household tariffs and institutional contributions (from schools, healthcare facilities, and local authorities), will support sustainable O&M financing.** Where tariffs cannot fully cover costs, local and national budget allocations will provide targeted subsidies, ensuring continuity of services while protecting affordability for vulnerable households. Tariff schemes will follow an affordability screen with lifeline blocks and enable varied forms of cross-subsidies financed through approved budget lines” (funding proposal, para. 106, original emphasis)

The EFA [economic and financial analysis] reference prices are 20 XAF [Central African franc] per 20-litre jerrycan for large systems and 12 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan for small systems. The derived O&M-equivalent estimates are lower, at about 16 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan for large systems and 7 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan for small systems. These figures are planning estimates; final kiosk tariffs will be set during implementation based on actual costs, affordability, willingness to pay and community validation, including monitoring of the WUA [water user associations].¹² The iTAP observes that these calculated prices – which are to be assessed further and decided upon in community consultations – are slightly below “1 XAF per liter (according to the CAR water law and actual prices in the country)”¹³. For the purposes of this assessment, it was not possible to gauge the level of unofficial prices paid to informal vendors or resellers. It will be important to keep in mind the level of any informal market prices for comparison and reference in the ensuing discussions about affordability and tariff levels.

- (c) Activities 1.1.2 and 2.1.5 are intended to promote the project and catalyse finance at the national and local levels, respectively, particularly from the Government, development partners, communities, and the private sector. This finance will focus on climate adaptation and CR-WASH, to support upscaling efforts. If the project cannot find ways to make systems internally financially viable, it could explore options for institutionalization – say, a ring-fenced national fund to replace infrastructure after its useful life. Alternatively, a mechanism could support the most vulnerable households, either with vouchers or with cash transfers, to ensure that they can afford safe WASH services. Such arrangements could help to avoid the common tendency of lowering tariffs for all (non-poor as well as poor households) to a level deemed affordable to the very poorest. Such very low tariffs may undermine the sustainability of the organization that provides the services and thus compromise the functionality of the system. Unfortunately, the benefits of underpriced water services accrue primarily to large or higher-income users with good access to the system instead of the poorest.¹⁴
- (d) **Groundwater protection:** The solar pumping will be a significant leap forward, enabling communities to explore deeper groundwater sources and avoid the expensive operational costs associated with diesel pumping. Notwithstanding, the low operational costs may inadvertently contribute to over-pumping, with subsequent depletion of the resource. The funding proposal puts an important emphasis on groundwater monitoring. In the view of the iTAP, this should be complemented with decision-making protocols and by-laws or stipulations to control incipient groundwater overdraft.
- (e) **End-of-life waste management vulnerabilities:** The proposed project will deploy advanced technology with a 15-year life cycle (e.g. solar panels, batteries and telemetric sensors), yet CAR has a severe lack of safe e-waste management infrastructure. The funding proposal relies heavily on processes in its environmental and social management framework (e.g. waste segregation for local reuse) that may be entirely unfeasible when dealing with hazardous battery degradation. An option that could be explored is to mandate extended producer responsibility clauses in all international procurement contracts for solar and telemetric equipment. This would legally obligate suppliers to safely repatriate or recycle degraded batteries and panels.
- (f) **Unclear post-project financial capitalization:** The funding proposal mentions overcoming financial barriers via revolving funds, tontines, and village savings and loan

¹² UNICEF responses to iTAP additional questions, 13 May 2026.

¹³ UNICEF responses to iTAP additional questions, 13 May 2026

¹⁴ See World Bank study on how water subsidies can become more equitable: Thibert M et al. 2019. *Doing More with Less: Smarter Subsidies for Water Supply and Sanitation*. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32277>.

associations. GCF funds will not be used to capitalize a microfinance facility; instead, the project expects highly impoverished communities to rely on existing community liquidity, household contributions and potential non-governmental organization (NGO) support to capitalize these schemes. This might be insufficient.

- (g) The project could provide technical assistance that firmly links local sanitation entrepreneurs and water user associations with existing microfinance institutions and/or community savings networks. This additional support could ensure that the local economy is given ample opportunity to grow via the project interventions.
20. The project does not seem likely to drive a self-sustaining, paradigm-shifting climate intervention, due to the uncertain future sustainability of the water and sanitation systems it will construct. The paradigm shift potential is assessed as low to medium.

1.4 Sustainable development potential

Scale: High

21. The proposed project will deliver substantial and wide-ranging sustainable development benefits, contributing directly to several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

22. **Gender:** Women and girls bear the primary responsibility for water collection in CAR: according to UNICEF surveys, over three-quarters of households rely on women (and girls aged 15 and above) to collect water for their needs.¹⁵ Such gender disparities are most pronounced among lower-income households. Improving access to water will be of great practical value, standing to reduce the long journeys to water points. Five buckets of 20 litres each may be carried daily by some women and girls, constituting an total of 100 kg. This will prevent back injury, save time, and lower the exposure of women and girls to the risks of gender-based violence.¹⁶

23. Timesaving for girls has great potential for improving education outcomes. Additionally, the project's focus on improving school sanitation will make these institutions increasingly attractive for both genders. Broadly, improving facilities for menstrual hygiene management stands to greatly enhance gender equality by improving girls' school attendance.

24. The project will also aim for women to have an increasingly powerful voice in decision-making. Women's leadership will be promoted and should be safeguarded by women having at least 35 per cent of positions on community water and sanitation committees. Even having women hold a third of management positions could be a highly strategic move towards greater equality.

25. **Social and health benefits:** By providing climate-resilient, safe water and sanitation, the project seeks to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera and other diarrhoeal disease, which are among the leading causes of child mortality in CAR. With greater access to water for hygiene and with sanitation facilities that can effectively contain pathogens, disease transmission stands to be greatly reduced.

26. Additionally, in the face of climate crises, robust water systems should sustain people's access to water throughout the year, and improved climate-resilient sanitation should help to contain faeces from spreading with floodwaters. Moreover, the prevalence of stagnant water

¹⁵ Central African Republic: MICS6. Available at: [https://mics.unicef.org/surveys?display=card&f\[0\]=region:3841](https://mics.unicef.org/surveys?display=card&f[0]=region:3841).

¹⁶ Annex 8 (Gender Assessment and Action Plan) attests to the high prevalence of gender-based violence in CAR and explains that it is closely linked to entrenched gender norms and patriarchal structures that marginalise women and normalize violence against them. Moreover, findings from the 2022 Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) report in CAR indicate that a significant portion of sexual violence cases occur in or near water access points and sanitation facilities (p. 30)

will be reduced through improved drainage, minimizing the breeding grounds for mosquitoes and lowering the risk of vector-borne diseases such as malaria.

27. **Economic benefits:** By reducing the time (with associated costs) lost to illness and water collection, the project will enhance household productivity and support livelihoods. The project will also provide training to over 18,000 individuals, empowering local entrepreneurs, masons, and technicians to construct, operate and maintain CR-WASH systems. This should not only stimulate local economies but also help to build a sustainable service delivery market.

28. The project also addresses inequalities and seeks to actively address the needs of mobile and marginalized groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and nomadic Fulani pastoralists. Example measures include strategically siting multi-use boreholes with livestock troughs along transhumance corridors and within temporary settlements, seeking to reduce resource-based competition and conflict.

29. Acknowledging the international debate around the “trigger” mechanisms of CLTS that risk shaming poor households and individuals that cannot live up to socially agreed sanitation standards,¹⁷ UNICEF confirmed in the question-and-answer exchange with the iTAP that it will not rely on a punitive CLTS model. Instead, the project will use an adapted, climate-sensitive approach that provides vulnerable households with technical facilitation, resilient design support and links to local masons. A remaining risk with the CLTS approach relates to the question of increasing sanitation coverage and reducing practices of open defecation via the proliferation of unimproved structures.¹⁸ If poor households are not able to build *safe* sanitation structures for themselves, it is also not certain that they will be able to construct *climate-resilient* sanitation structures.

30. **Environmental and mitigation benefits:** As in section 1.2 above, the project offers both adaptation and mitigation benefits. By replacing diesel-powered water pumps with solar photovoltaic systems, the project will promote a lower-carbon development pathway.

31. Furthermore, improved sanitation stands to greatly reduce environmental pollution. This protects the quality of surface and groundwater sources, improving the health of river basins and related ecosystems.

32. The sustainable development potential is assessed to be (very) high.

1.5 Needs of the recipient

Scale: High

33. Climate-induced disasters, predominantly hydrometeorological hazards, pose a significant threat to the population of CAR. This is exacerbated by a convergence of structural vulnerabilities including poverty, fragility, displacement and environmental degradation. While bushfires and hazards such as droughts occur, the most frequent and damaging disasters are floods and associated landslides and mudslides.

34. The population of CAR faces severe negative impacts on their health and development outcomes due to climate change’s detrimental effect on livelihoods and WASH services. The most vulnerable people rely on rain-fed agriculture, livestock and artisan fishing for their livelihoods and have inadequate access to water for household use. These challenges are

¹⁷ See for example: Brewis, A. and A. Wutich (2019). “Why we should never do it: stigma as a behaviour change tool in global health.” *BMI Global Health* 4(5): e001911.; Venkataramanan, V., Crocker, J., Karon, A. and Bartram, J. (2018). “Community-Led Total Sanitation: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review of Evidence and Its Quality.” *Environ Health Perspect* 126(2): 026001.; Engel, S. and A. Susilo (2014). “Shaming and Sanitation in Indonesia: A Return to Colonial Public Health Practices?” *Development and Change* 45(1): 157-178; or a recent entry on UNICEF’s website (<https://www.unicef.org/png/stories/scaling-community-led-total-sanitation>) referring to “the “Walk of Shame” trigger exercise.

¹⁸ Journal article referred to in footnote 10 above.

coupled with inadequate sanitation facilities that exacerbate contamination risks, particularly during floods, which may inundate latrines and thus spread faecal contamination and infectious disease.

35. As outlined in the feasibility study, “CAR experiences some of the lowest WASH access rates in the world. As of 2024, only 6% of the national population had access to safely managed water services, the lowest rate worldwide, and 14% had access to safely managed sanitation services, ranking 10th lowest globally.¹⁹ Meanwhile, unimproved water source use is the highest in the world, at 33%.²⁰ These limitations in WASH infrastructure access pose major barriers to, among others, early childhood survival, health, and educational attainment, contributing to CAR’s critically low human capital index.²¹ WASH-related diseases are a leading cause of mortality, with diarrhoeal disease ranked as the sixth leading cause of death,²² and conditions such as neonatal infections and malaria, linked to inadequate WASH, among the top five contributors to the national disease burden²³ (annex 2, p. 25).

36. As further explained, climate change and broader insecurity are fundamentally and negatively impacting the development challenge of providing safe WASH services to all: “Changing rainfall patterns have contributed to increased flooding, which degrades water quality, damages WASH infrastructure and disrupts access to services.^{24 25}...Although rainfall may increase overall, the CAR is vulnerable to water shortages as much of the increased precipitation is expected to come in extreme events, leading to poor water retention and groundwater recharge.²⁶ These impacts are compounded by the country’s political instability, armed conflict, and widespread insecurity, which have led to the displacement of populations and placed additional pressure on existing WASH services.²⁷ In addition, environmental degradation, including deforestation, watershed degradation, urbanization, and land-use practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture, further strain water resources, hindering efforts to improve WASH access across the country²⁸” (annex 2, p. 25).

37. The needs of the recipient are assessed as high.

1.6 Country ownership

Scale: Medium

38. As outlined in the funding proposal (para. 137), CAR integrates climate action across its National Development Plan (2024–2028), prioritizing water security and health system resilience in response to fragility challenges. The 2024 *Country Climate and Development Report* operationalizes this through flood risk management, climate-smart agriculture and renewable

¹⁹ WHO/UNICEF JMP. (2024). *Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2024*.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ World Bank. (2020). *The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19*. The World Bank Group.

²² World Health Organization. (2024). *Data: Central African Republic*.

²³ World Bank Group. (2024). *Central African Republic country climate and development report*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1553b3b-3ce6-4800-8f93-476e7c89d21b/content>

²⁴ World Bank Group. (2024). *Central African Republic country climate and development report*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1553b3b-3ce6-4800-8f93-476e7c89d21b/content>

²⁵ Red Cross Climate Centre. (2024). *Climate fact sheet : Central African Republic*.

²⁶ UNICEF. (2025). *Analyse du paysage climatique pour les enfants (CLAC) en République Centrafricaine*.

²⁷ pS-Eau. (2023) *Fiche pays : République Centrafricaine*.

²⁸ UNEP. (2022). *Interactive Country Fiches: Central African Republic*.

energy expansion.²⁹ These frameworks link climate resilience with development objectives in fragile contexts.

39. The national designated authority (Ministry of Environment / Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable) has reviewed the proposal and facilitated stakeholder engagement, and will monitor implementation. The no-objection letter, dated 4 September 2025, affirms that the proposal conforms with national priorities, strategies and plans.

40. Stakeholder consultations engaged over 400 participants between April and July 2025: “Twelve public discussion groups targeted specific demographics - women, youth, and IDPs and community leaders- engaging 302 participants, while three participatory workshops brought together 112 institutional stakeholders including mayors, prefects, state representatives, and NGO representatives. Additional consultations reached pastoralist communities across Bangui and target prefectures” (funding proposal, para. 142). Moreover, gender networks and community co-design mechanisms will ensure sustained inclusive participation throughout implementation, based on the stakeholder engagement plan (annex 7).

41. The selection of target areas (i.e. the prefectures of Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga) was carried out jointly by UNICEF and the Government. The selection criteria were climate change risks and operational feasibility, including existing presence of UNICEF, logistical efficiency and security. While the choice includes some of the most climate-exposed and underserved prefectures in the country, it seems that UNICEF operational considerations had a larger influence on the prioritized regions than the Government’s own plans and strategies.³⁰

42. UNICEF has a long-standing presence in CAR, having been active there since 1986. It currently operates five field offices and serves as lead technical and financial partner for WASH in the country, with a 2024 country programme budget of USD 104 million (funding proposal, section A20).

43. The country ownership of the proposed project is assessed as medium.

1.7 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: Medium to high

44. The total project budget amounts to USD 73.8 million. This is composed of a GCF grant of USD 69.1 million and in-kind co-financing of USD 4.1 million from UNICEF and USD 0.6 million from the Government of CAR. The project justifies its low co-financing ratio (6.35 per cent) by pointing to the status of CAR as a highly fragile least developed country with a high risk of debt distress, limited fiscal space and an inability to attract immediate private sector capital. Despite these constraints, the project maintains an economic internal rate of return of 14 per cent and tests robustly against +20 per cent cost spikes to absorb security and geographical remoteness risks.

45. Ten per cent of the budget is dedicated to project monitoring and evaluation (USD 1.6 million), project management (USD 3.7 million) and contingency (USD 2.1 million). In relation to the 90 per cent, as mentioned in section 1.3 above, the activity budget (dedicated to outputs 1.1–1.3 and 2.1–2.3) is highly skewed towards construction activities. One activity (2.1.3:

²⁹ World Bank Group. 2024. *Central African Republic: Country Climate and Development Report*. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1553b3b-3ce6-4800-8f93-476e7c89d21b/content>

³⁰ Section A20 of the funding proposal explains how the prefectures of Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga were selected: “This selection was determined jointly with the government through a two-stage process, incorporating a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) with considerations for operational feasibility, including UNICEF’s existing presence, logistical efficiency, and security. UNICEF maintains office presence in Ouham, Bangui, and Vakaga, and the proximity of Bamingui-Bangoran to Vakaga further enhances logistical efficiency for project operations.”

Construct or rehabilitate CR-WASH infrastructure in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities) accounts for over half of the budget (USD 37.6 million, or 51 per cent). As discussed in section 1.3, there is a risk that effectiveness may be compromised if insufficient opportunities are provided for stakeholders to express their aspirations and needs so that investments are channelled into the most important areas.

46. Functionality of installed equipment is problematic in CAR³¹ as in many other donor-dependent societies. The “build–neglect–rebuild” paradigm needs to be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Hence, as discussed in section 1.3 above and in recommendation 3 (see para. 53 below), any community aspiration towards cost recovery and financial autonomy that would build the ability to reinvest and sustain water (and sanitation) systems should be nurtured and supported by UNICEF and relevant authorities.

47. UNICEF is the main player in this project. It will act as AE and EE, with geographical and functional separation of roles. That is, different parts of UNICEF will act as overseer (AE) and implementor (EE) of the project. In its capacity as EE, UNICEF will lead and provide overall management of technical assistance at both national and subnational levels. This will encompass hosting and running the project management unit, leading technical implementation and supervision, and managing all financial resources. Given the relatively small economy and fragmented policy landscape in CAR, the institutional capacity to drive and implement projects of this size is limited. The arrangements, while not optimal for sustainability, seem appropriate for the efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation.

48. The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources will serve as the national (Government) EE for specific activities. Its role reflects its co-financing contribution, which will be made up of staff deployments and technical inputs.

49. Given the considerations above, the efficiency and effectiveness criterion is assessed to be medium to high.

II. Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel

50. The WASH and CRDM-CAR funding proposal seeks to make water systems in CAR more robust to withstand the effects of climate change. It directly addresses urgent needs of the recipient and brings very high sustainable development potential.

51. The iTAP recommends that the Board approve this funding proposal.

52. In the course of project implementation, it is recommended that the AE, UNICEF, seizes every opportunity to strengthen local ownership and institutional capacity to ensure that communities in the Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga prefectures, as well as relevant national institutions, engage and take pride in the project and nurture its potential for enhanced and long-term resilience to climate change.

53. More specifically, the iTAP recommends that UNICEF consider the following recommendations on, respectively, NBS, policy coherence and sustainability:

- (a) **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that UNICEF ensures that NBS and stakeholder engagement are prioritized in project planning so that a locally anchored balance between “green” and “grey” infrastructure is devised. UNICEF should also consider engaging NBS experts in the design phase in relation to flood mitigation and drainage improvement in Bangui;

³¹ As indicated in annex 2 (p. 36), data from the General Directorate of Hydraulic Resources suggests that some 27–28 per cent of surveyed water points in CAR are non-functional, in both urban and rural areas.

- (b) **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that UNICEF invest additional time and effort to consult and agree locally with relevant authorities and communities about the principles for WASH system operations, funding and construction. Above all, the principles ought to be coherent, transparent, sensible, and agreeable to those actors, households, water user groups and local authorities that will be expected to continue to operate and maintain the WASH systems after project completion. Who pays for what and when are critical considerations to be contemplated; and
- (c) **Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that UNICEF considers ways to make sure that water and sanitation systems continue to operate sustainably after project completion. This may include exploration of:
- (i) Cost recovery for financial autonomy or other ring-fenced funding mechanisms for replacing equipment and ensuring affordability;
 - (ii) Systems for managing water resources protection; and
 - (iii) The management of (electronic) wastes as components reach the end of their operational lifetime.

Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment (FP303)

Proposal name:	Climate Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)
Accredited entity:	United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Country/(ies):	Central African Republic (the)
Project/programme size:	Medium

Impact potential

The AE acknowledges that the overall impact potential is assessed as medium to high by iTAP and welcomes iTAP’s recognition that the project will directly enhance climate resilience through flood mitigation, more robust WASH systems, and strengthened adaptive capacity of communities and institutions. UNICEF also notes iTAP’s positive recognition that urban communities in Bangui, including those in informal settlements, are included as primary stakeholders and active participants.

UNICEF takes note of iTAP’s recommendation to strengthen the balance between grey and green infrastructure in Bangui. During the APS/APD design stages, UNICEF will ensure that nature-based solutions are screened and integrated from the start of detailed design where technically feasible, maintainable and socially acceptable. This will include consideration of catchment revegetation, erosion-control measures, wetland rehabilitation or protection, permeable/retention areas, and other locally appropriate grey-green solutions. UNICEF will also engage additional NbS expertise during the design phase, consistent with iTAP’s recommendation.

Paradigm shift potential

The AE acknowledges that the overall paradigm shift potential is assessed as low to medium by iTAP. UNICEF recognizes iTAP’s concern that the project’s long-term transformational potential depends on whether the systems constructed are financially, technically and institutionally sustainable after project completion.

UNICEF confirms that Activities 1.1.2 and 2.1.5 will be prioritized early in implementation. These activities will support CR-WASH financing needs assessment, resource mobilization, and site-level analysis of affordable and viable O&M and sanitation financing models. Final water tariffs will not be imposed only from the EFA. They will be agreed during implementation based on actual O&M costs, affordability, willingness to pay and community/WUA and DGRH validation. The project’s current EFA reference prices are 20 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan for large systems and 12 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan for small systems, while derived O&M-equivalent planning estimates are approximately 16 XAF and 7 XAF per 20-litre jerrycan respectively. These are planning estimates, not final approved kiosk tariffs.

UNICEF also takes note of iTAP’s observations on long-term replacement financing, groundwater protection and e-waste management. The project will not recover full end-of-life CAPEX replacement costs from poor households through tariffs. Instead, tariffs will be limited

to routine O&M and partial maintenance needs, while future replacement planning will be addressed through the O&M Framework, institutional custodianship, sector financing work, partner coordination and potential ring-fenced or public financing mechanisms to be explored during implementation. For groundwater protection, site-specific sustainable yield testing, borehole monitoring, piezometers, pump safeguards and O&M protocols will be used to manage the risk of over-abstraction. For solar and telemetry equipment, UNICEF will strengthen life-cycle management through procurement specifications, warranties and servicing requirements, supplier arrangements for critical spares, operator and artisan training, ESMF waste-management procedures and consideration of extended producer responsibility clauses where feasible.

Sustainable development potential

The AE acknowledges that the overall sustainable development potential is assessed as high by iTAP and welcomes iTAP's recognition of the project's substantial benefits for SDG 6, women and girls, health, livelihoods, economic productivity, marginalized groups and environmental protection.

UNICEF takes note of iTAP's recognition of the expected benefits for women and girls through reduced water-collection burden, reduced exposure to GBV risks, improved menstrual hygiene management in schools, and women's participation in community water and sanitation committees. UNICEF also notes iTAP's concern that CLTS must not lead to unsafe or non-climate-resilient household sanitation. UNICEF confirms that the project will apply an adapted, climate-sensitive CLTS approach, not a punitive model. The project will not provide general household hardware subsidies, but will provide technical facilitation, basic toolkits for excavation and construction to be shared at village level where appropriate resilient design guidance, sanitation market development, training of local masons/artisans, basic toolkits for excavation and construction to be shared at village level where appropriate, affordability linkages and post-ODF sustainability and resilience monitoring.

Needs of the recipient

The AE acknowledges that the overall needs of the recipient are assessed as high by iTAP. UNICEF welcomes iTAP's recognition of CAR's severe WASH access deficits, very low safely managed water and sanitation coverage, high exposure to floods and droughts, and the way climate change, fragility, displacement and environmental degradation compound WASH-related health and development risks.

Country ownership

The AE acknowledges that the overall country ownership is assessed as medium by iTAP. UNICEF notes iTAP's recognition that the project aligns with national priorities and that the NDA has issued a no-objection letter. UNICEF also notes iTAP's observation that UNICEF operational considerations influenced the selection of target prefectures. However, UNICEF wishes to emphasize that this influence is minor, as the first criteria for selection were the areas most affected by climate change (floods and drought).

UNICEF confirms that the target areas were selected jointly with Government through a two-stage process combining climate risk, WASH deprivation, vulnerability, operational feasibility and security considerations. During implementation, UNICEF will continue to strengthen country ownership through the Project Steering Committee, annual WASH sector reviews, local consultation processes, formal handover arrangements, O&M

agreements, capacity-building of national and local institutions, and progressive transfer of ownership and management responsibilities to mandated institutions, local governments, WUAs, delegated operators, schools, health facilities and communities.

Efficiency and effectiveness

The AE acknowledges that the overall efficiency and effectiveness is assessed as medium to high by iTAP and welcomes iTAP's recognition that the project is economically viable, with an EIRR of 14 per cent, and robust under sensitivity testing.

UNICEF recognizes iTAP's concern regarding the risk of a "build–neglect–rebuild" cycle. This concern is central to the project's O&M design. The O&M Framework identifies custodians, operators, handover arrangements, asset registers, SOPs, spare-parts arrangements, including provision and management of critical short- and longer-term spare parts, financing pathways and monitoring responsibilities for each major asset class. Before final handover, each relevant asset category will require an O&M readiness package, including the custodian, O&M plan, financing pathway or institutional commitment, trained operator or committee, and monitoring arrangements. UNICEF also confirms that NGOs/CSOs will be used as downstream implementing partners under UNICEF oversight, while UNICEF retains fiduciary responsibility, project management responsibility and accountability to GCF.

Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel:

The AE acknowledges iTAP's overall assessment and recommendation that the Board approve the funding proposal. UNICEF welcomes iTAP's recognition that the project directly addresses urgent needs in CAR and has high sustainable development potential.

UNICEF confirms that the three iTAP recommendations will be taken forward during implementation. First, UNICEF will strengthen early consideration of NbS and local stakeholder engagement in the Bangui drainage design process. Second, UNICEF will invest time during inception and implementation to agree locally on coherent, transparent and affordable WASH system operation, funding and construction principles. Third, UNICEF will strengthen post-project sustainability measures, including O&M financing, replacement planning, groundwater protection, and end-of-life management of solar, telemetry and related equipment. These measures will be embedded in detailed design, procurement, O&M planning, sustainability agreements, annual workplans, monitoring and reporting.



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

Gender Assessment and Action Plan

This report has been prepared for UNICEF Central African Republic as part of work to prepare the UNICEF GCF project “Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)”

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Figure 1: A continuum of approaches to action on gender and health. Inspired by remarks by Geeta Rao Gupta, Ph.D, Director, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) during her plenary address at the XIIIth International Aids Conference, Durban, South Africa, 12 July 2000: 'To effectively address the intersection between HIV/AIDS and gender and sexuality requires that interactions should, at the very least, not reinforce damaging gender and sexual stereotypes' (and see also World Health Organization, 2011). Extracted from: Health Promot Int. 2014 Sep 17;30 (1):140–150. doi: 10.1093/heapro/dau083 10

Figure 2: Distribution of FGM/C across CAR 29

Abbreviations

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
AU	African Union
CAR	Context at National Level
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GNI	Gross National Income

GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDI	Human Development Index
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR	International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IRM	Independent Redress Mechanism
MEDHR	Ministry of Energy, Development, and Hydraulic Resources
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity

PR	Proportional Representation
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)
SH	Sexual Harassment
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WRM	Water Resource Management

1. Introduction

The project “*Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)*” recognizes the critical importance of gender-responsive climate adaptation in a context marked by fragility, conflict, and persistent gender inequalities. Women and girls¹ in the Central African Republic (CAR) are disproportionately affected by climate-related hazards due to entrenched socio-economic disparities, restricted access to resources and decision-making, and heightened exposure to waterborne diseases and climate-induced displacement.

The Gender Assessment and the Gender Action Plan are guided by the principles of the Green Climate Fund’s Gender Policy and Action Plan², and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals³ (notably SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 13 on climate action), the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan⁴, and CAR’s own gender and climate commitments. It uses a mixed-methods approach, drawing on quantitative indicators and qualitative insights, including stakeholder consultations, policy reviews, and the analysis of barriers and opportunities for women’s empowerment in the target sectors.

In this way, this assessment provides a foundation for ensuring that the project not only delivers climate resilience outcomes but also contributes to structural transformation by reducing gender inequality. By mainstreaming gender across institutional arrangements, beneficiary targeting, community engagement, and accountability mechanisms, the project aims to enhance the effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of adaptation efforts in CAR’s most climate-affected regions.

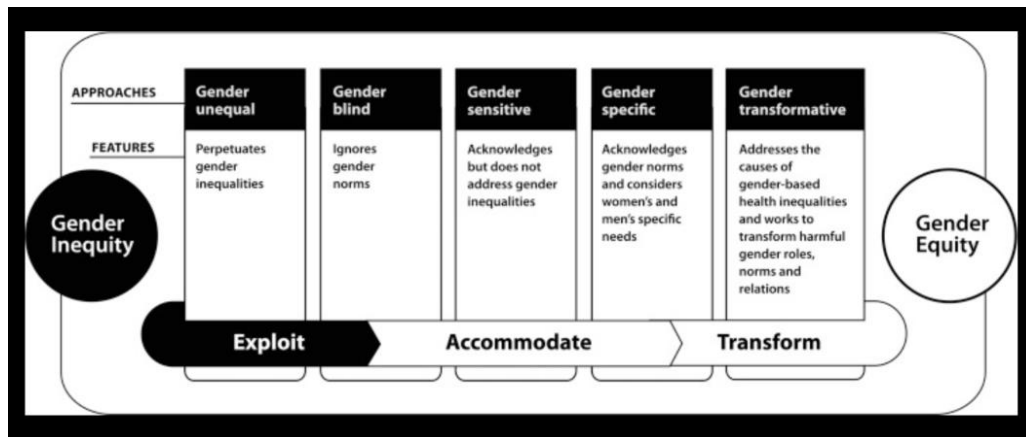


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¹ Children are defined as human beings below the age of 18, as established by the CRC, Adolescents are defined by UNICEF as persons aged 10–19., Youth: In UNICEF practice, it refers to those aged 18–24., Young people: Those aged 10–24 (encompassing both adolescents and youth).

² Green Climate Fund. *GCF Gender Policy*. Retrieved from <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-gender-policy.pdf>

³ United Nations. *Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

⁴ UNFCCC. *The Gender Action Plan*. Retrieved from <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-gender-action-plan>

least, not reinforce damaging gender and sexual stereotypes' (and see also World Health Organization, 2011). Extracted from: Health Promot Int. 2014 Sep 17;30 (1):140–150. doi: 10.1093/heapro/dau083

In this sense, the Gender Assessment is a basic initial step to ensure the project is not only attentive to gendered needs but also helps to bring about transformational change. Directing it are the following objectives:

- To assess in CAR's most climate-vulnerable communities the gender-differentiated consequences of water scarcity and climate change on men, women, boys, and girls;
- To identify present legal, institutional, and sociopolitical barriers to gender equality in the fields of disaster management, water, and sanitation;
- To provide doable recommendations for mainstreaming gender across all project components—service design, delivery, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation.

Along with this assessment comes a Gender Action Plan (GAP) recommending, context-specific activities to operationalize gender-responsive projects and ensure commitment to the gender objectives of the project. Using this assessment and action plan, UNICEF and partners reaffirm their commitment to ensure that efforts at climate adaptation in CAR concentrate on the rights, needs, and contributions of women and girls.

This Gender Assessment and Action Plan is developed in alignment with and serves to operationalize the commitments outlined in the UNICEF Gender Policy 2021-20303, which articulates UNICEF's bold and ambitious vision for gender equality and the empowerment of all children, adolescents girls and boys, and women. It further aligns with and contributes to the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2022–2025, which specifies how UNICEF promotes gender equality across its programmes and workplaces and seeks to accelerate progress on gender equality. Advancing gender equality is recognised as essential to realizing UNICEF's mandate to uphold the rights of all children.

1.1 Background

Among the most complicated humanitarian and environmental problems worldwide is one the Central African Republic (CAR). Decades-long armed conflict, institutional instability, and economic marginalization have left the nation with a frail infrastructure and inadequate capability to adapt to either rising climate hazards or chronic poverty. A risk multiplier, climate change aggravates environmental damage, resource shortages, displacement, and conflict—all of which disproportionately impact women, girls, and children (UNDP, 2023; INFORM, 2024).

The nation ranks almost last on the Gender Inequality Index (UNDP, 2023), and more than 70% of CAR's population lives below the poverty line. According to the 2023 Africa Gender Equality Index report, CAR is among the countries with the lowest gender equality index, scoring between 0.18-0.39. This indicates that there is gender inequality in favour of men. Gender inequalities abound in livelihoods, education, and health. Women and girls underrepresent themselves in local government systems, have limited access to formal jobs or land ownership, and undertake the most unpaid care responsibilities. Crisis times accentuate these disparities. Within the framework of climate-induced disasters, such as floods, protracted droughts, and disease outbreaks, women and girls often bear more caregiving responsibilities and have increased vulnerability to gender-based violence (UN Women, 2023; CARE, 2020).

One sector that shows this susceptibility is the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) one. 63.5% of the population do not have access to a basic drinking water service and 69.4% do not have access to a limited sanitation service nationally. In rural and conflict-torn regions the situation is far worse. Through changed rainfall patterns, worse water quality, and higher demand,

climate variability severely strains water resources. Water-borne illness outbreaks brought on by WASH infrastructure degradation disproportionately impact children under five and pregnant women, who are more susceptible to dehydration and infection (UNICEF, 2022; WHO, 2021).

Complicating this situation is the deliberate use of water as a weapon of war. Armed organizations have purposefully attacked water sites, polluted water supplies, or restricted civilian access. Many times, women have been harmed while gathering water; whole villages have been uprooted to restrict their access to resources vital for survival (de Montclos, 2021; ICRC, 2022). These kinds of water insecurity are political and profoundly gendered rather than just structural.

CAR has battled to convert ratifying international accords such as the African Union's Maputo Protocol and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into cogent, gender-responsive policy. Although underfunding and poor technical competence across government agencies cause the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (2017- 2021)⁵ to remain minimally implemented, it seeks to eliminate structural disparities. Furthermore, sectoral plans for water, sanitation, and climate catastrophe management seldom ever include gender issues, therefore undermining policy coherence and responsibility systems.

Women's voice in planning and resource allocation suffers from inadequate participation in local decision-making systems, disaster preparation teams, or community water committees. Nonetheless, data from comparable post-conflict and climate-vulnerable environments indicates that inclusive governance—especially the meaningful involvement of women—very much increases the efficacy and durability of adaptation projects (GWP, 2020; OECD, 2019).

Analysing the junction of gender inequality, water scarcity, and climate risk in CAR will help the project to be more suited to provide fair and transforming results. From community involvement to infrastructure design and institutional development, the accompanying Gender Action Plan will guarantee that all project components, including gender equality as a fundamental principle and operational priority, embed gender equality.

Table 1: Population breakdown of CAR

Type	Number	Source
Total population	5,440,911 (2024 estimate)	ICASEES
Female population	2,772,728 (2024 estimate)	World Bank Open Data
Male population	2,557,962 (2024 estimate)	World Bank Open Data
Population under 18	2,927,732 (2023 estimate)	UNICEF

⁵ Politique Nationale de Promotion de l'Égalité et l'Équité en Genre (2017 – 2021) retrieved from <http://www.minplan-rca.org/strategie/gouvernance/116-genre/>

Relevance of UNICEF

UNICEF, which has been present in the CAR since 1986, has five field offices, and plays a pivotal role as the lead technical and financial partner for the WASH sector in the country, actively promoting sectoral and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms to integrate humanitarian and development programmes. In addition, UNICEF supports various technical working groups to promote the elaboration of norms and standards, monitoring and evaluation, and exchanges of experience in the fields of WASH and climate change adaptation. With an annual budget of US\$104,000,000 for 2024 across the multiple sectors of the country programme, UNICEF maintains a strong partnership with the government, supporting the Ministry of Hydraulic Resources through coordination efforts and multifaceted assistance. Since 2021, UNICEF has leveraged its own resources to initiate studies on the impacts of climate change on the WASH sector and proposed actionable solutions to mitigate these effects, including by supporting the formulation of the WASH component of the revised NDCs and the NAP. This work has elevated climate change to be recognized as a top priority within the sector, driving a shift towards more sustainable and climate-resilient programming. UNICEF's leadership in the climate agenda has not only solidified its role as a trusted partner but has also garnered recognition from key donors like the World Bank, which has utilized UNICEF's documentation to inform country reports, shape policy recommendations, and launch climate-related funding initiatives that address the needs of vulnerable populations. One of the interventions under the present project aims to scale up climate-resilient mini solar power systems, building on successful pilots UNICEF has already implemented.

2. Gender Context at National Level (CAR)

2.1 Landscape and Demographic Overview

The Central African Republic (CAR) faces deeply entrenched gender disparities across nearly all sectors of society, rooted in structural inequalities, traditional norms, and protracted insecurity. These disparities are particularly pronounced in rural and conflict-affected areas, where access to basic services and institutional protections is extremely limited. In this context, climate change acts as a threat multiplier, amplifying pre-existing gender inequalities and undermining the resilience of women, girls, and marginalized communities.

Developed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Human Development Index (HDI) measures a nation's average accomplishments in three fundamental spheres of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a reasonable quality of living. The Central African Republic (CAR) achieved an HDI of 0.404 in the 2023 Human Development Report, placing 188th out of 191 nations and territories worldwide (UNDP, 2023). This puts CAR in the poor human development category and reflects its protracted history of political unrest, violence, and humanitarian catastrophes. With a mean year of education only 4.4 years and gross national income (GNI) per capita still shockingly low at \$1,040 (2017 PPP), life expectancy at birth is among the lowest in the world at 52.3 years⁶.

Through 10 variables, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), jointly created by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), captures overlapping deprivations in health, education, and quality of life. With an MPI headcount ratio of 66.0%, two-thirds of the population of the Central African Republic is disadvantaged in at least one-third of

⁶ World Health Organization. (2025). *Central African Republic [Country overview]*. Retrieved from <https://data.who.int/countries/140>

the weighted indicators (OPHI & UNDP, 2023). Not yet impoverished but rather at danger of becoming so, another 18.7% of the population falls under the category of susceptible to multidimensional poverty.

Estimating the average share of deprivations suffered by the poor, or the severity of poverty, at 56.6%, the MPI value is 0.374. This is among the highest worldwide and well above the regional average for Sub-Saharan Africa, 0.257. By contrast, the MPI of Democratic Republic of the Congo is 0.351 and that of Chad is 0.337.

This extreme degree of deprivation implies that measures of monetary poverty by themselves understate the suffering individuals in CAR go through. The MPI exposes more vulnerabilities in access to clean water, nutrition, healthcare, energy, and education even if 62.1% of the population lives below the international poverty line (US\$2.15 per day, 2017 PPP). Especially 34.2% of the population suffers from extreme multidimensional poverty, a subcategory in which people are impoverished in more than half of the variables.

By means of comparison between their different HDI scores, the Gender Development Index (GDI) gauges differences in human development accomplishments between women and men. CAR falls under GDI Group 5, indicating quite extreme gender disparity. With a female HDI of 0.380 and a male HDI of 0.430, the GDI is 0.884 (UNDP, 2021). Lower female life expectancy, shorter education times, and lower GNI per capita for women cause the difference mostly. Women's predicted years of education, for example, are just 6.5 years; men's are 8.7 years (UNESCO UIS, 2022). Likewise, given restricted access to official jobs and resources, projected female income is barely 70% that of males.

Reflecting gender-based disadvantage across three dimensions, reproductive health, empowerment, and labour market participation, the Gender Inequality Index (GII). With a GII score of 0.713 (UNDP, 2023), CAR has really great inequality. Among the highest worldwide, the mother mortality rate is 692 deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 2023). Though somewhat high at 64.3%, women's labour force participation rate is mostly limited to the informal sector and unpaid agricultural employment; women hold only 8.6% of legislative seats.

Ranked 156th out of 163 nations, CAR is in the worst quintile worldwide in the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report (World Economic Forum, 2023). Particularly missing is political empowerment; as of 2022, no women had ministerial-level posts. Though both sexes still have poor educational levels, women especially in rural regions disproportionately suffer from this.

2.1.1 Maternal and infant mortality rates

Underlining the extreme gendered consequences of inadequate health infrastructure, systematic inequality, and climatic vulnerability, the Central African Republic (CAR) still has among of the highest mother and child death rates in the world. One of the highest rates worldwide, the maternal mortality rate in CAR is shockingly 835.3 deaths per 100,000 live births⁷. This shows a significant shortage of access to vital mother health care along with continuous war, hunger, restricted access to clean water and sanitation facilities (UN Women, 2023).

Infant and under-five mortality rates also remain alarmingly high. The infant mortality rate is estimated at 53.6 deaths per 1,000 live births for girls and even higher for boys. The under-five mortality rate is 89.9 deaths per 1,000 live births for girls and 103.4 for boys, indicating both widespread vulnerability among children and gender-related disparities in child health outcomes (UN Women, 2023).

⁷ Central African Republic - Ministry of Health and Population (2024)

These statistics underscore the crucial nexus between gender, poverty, and climate susceptibility. Inadequate WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) conditions - aggravated by climatic disturbances such as floods and droughts - disproportionately impact pregnant women, neonates, and infants, increasing their susceptibility to problems, illness, and mortality.

Table 2: Key gender indicators in CAR

Indicator	Value (per 1,000 live births)	Source
Maternal mortality rate	835.3 deaths	<u>Central African Republic - Ministry of Health and Population (2024)</u>
Infant mortality rate (girls)	53.6 deaths	<u>World Bank (2023)</u>
Infant mortality rate (boys)	66.8 deaths	<u>World Bank (2023)</u>
Under-five mortality rate (girls)	89.9 deaths	<u>UN Women (2023)</u>
Under-five mortality rate (boys)	103.4 deaths	<u>UN Women (2023)</u>

2.1.2 Adolescent sexual and reproductive health

The adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) situation in CAR is marked by significant challenges, as evidenced by key demographic and health indicators outlined by a WHO Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights report in 2021⁸. The adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) is notably high at 129.1, with 61% of girls being married before age 18 and 26% marrying before 15. This widespread practice of child marriage severely impacts girls' health education and autonomy.

The enabling environment for ASRH is weak. Laws require parental consent for adolescents under 14 to access SRH services. Despite policies mandating Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) in primary schools, actual implementation is minimal, with only 0-25% of both primary and secondary schools fully adhering to national CSE policies. This significant gap means most adolescents lack essential knowledge for informed decision making. Access to family planning services is severely limited. For girls and women aged 15-49, the demand for family planning satisfied with a modern method of contraception is low at 27.6%, resulting in a high unmet need of 37.6%. Overall, only 14.4% of girls aged 15-49 use modern contraceptive methods.

Regarding adolescent sexual health, among those aged 15-19 who had multiple partners, 46.5% of females and 34% of males reported condom use at last sex. However, correct knowledge of HIV prevention for ages 15-24 is marked as "No data" in the WHO survey, indicating a potential knowledge gap. Overall, the ASRH situation in CAR is characterised by high adolescent birth rates, widespread child marriage, limited CSE implementation and significant unmet family planning needs.

⁸ World Health Organization. (2021). *Sexual And Reproductive Health and Rights Infographic Snapshot Central African Republic 2021*. [online] Available at: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/349363/WHO-SRH-21.53-eng.pdf>.

2.1.3 Life expectancy

Reflecting the unstable health systems, high disease burden, and structural inequalities of the country, Central African Republic (CAR) boasts among the lowest life expectancy globally. As of 2021, the average life expectancy at birth in CAR was 52.3 years (WHO, 2021), clearly with a gender disparity: 55.4 years for women compared to 49.6 years for males. These figures show firmly rooted vulnerabilities affecting both sexes, but with particular implications for the health and caregiving obligations carried by women throughout their lives, especially after a deceased partner leaves a woman as the sole provider of a household.

The marginally higher life expectancy for women obscures the dreadful reality many women live: rising maternal mortality rates, inadequate access to appropriate healthcare, and the combined effects of gender-based violence, chronic undernutrition, and unpaid care responsibilities. On the other hand, the shorter male life expectancy suggests greater violence, risky living choices, and less access to preventive healthcare treatments.

This gendered life expectancy gap highlights the need for equitable spending in healthcare, water and sanitation infrastructure, and social safety especially in view of climate-induced disruptions that further strain the health and well-being of already vulnerable people.

2.1.4 Adult literacy and educational attainment

The Central African Republic (CAR) faces significant challenges in literacy and education, with pronounced gender disparities across various indicators. Nationally, the adult literacy rate (for individuals aged 15 and above) stands at 26.2% for girls/women and 49.2% for boys/men as of 2020, revealing a substantial 23 percentage point gender gap in favour of men. This contrasts sharply with the averages for Sub-Saharan Africa (62.1% for women and 74.5% for men) and low-income countries (55.7% for women and 70.5% for men) highlighting the depth of the challenge in CAR⁹.

The gender gap persists among the youth population: in 2020, youth literacy rates (classed as individuals aged 15-24) show 29.11% for young women and 47.55% for young men, with a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 0.61, indicating a significant disparity favouring young men¹⁰. Access to education remains a critical issue, particularly for girls. A start 50.2% of primary and lower secondary school-aged girls are out of school, compared to 33.2% of boys¹¹. This disparity continues through the education pipeline: only 8.3% of women completed lower secondary school based on 2017 data, significantly lower than the 13.5% of men. These completion rates are considerably below the regional averages for Sub-Saharan Africa (44% for women, 47% for men) and in low-income countries (38% for women and 43% for men)¹². Overall, secondary school enrolment in CAR is a mere 16%¹³.

A major barrier to education is the significant distance many children must travel to reach schools. Approximately 1 in 10 Central Africans need to walk more than one hour to reach a primary, secondary, or tertiary road. For primary-school-aged children, 50% live more than 30 minutes' walk from the nearest primary school, and a substantial 30% live more than one hour

⁹ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic> - using UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

¹⁰ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.1524.LT.FE.ZS?locations=CF&view=map>

¹¹ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

¹² <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic> USING <https://apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds> data

¹³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/centralafricanrepublic/publication/improving-agriculture-human-capital-and-infrastructure-key-to-take-on-poverty-in-the-central-african-republic>

away. This situation is even more challenging for secondary school-aged children, with 64% living more than 30 minutes away on foot from secondary schools, and around 55% facing a walk of more than one hour¹⁴.

Despite these challenges, there are some areas where girls or women show more favourable outcomes - albeit slight. The proportion of children aged 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three key domains (literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning) is 38.7% for girls and 33 % for boys, with a total national average of 36.2%¹⁵. However, participation in organized learning one year before official primary entry age shows a marginal gender gap, with 17.43% of girls participating compared to 19.23% of boys¹⁶.

2.1.5 Poverty

CAR is among the world's poorest nations, with a challenging economic landscape. Real GDP per capita (2015 USD) has notably declined since the 1960s (\$600 USD), falling significantly to \$320 USD around 2012 due to conflict, and standing at about \$380 USD in 2021¹⁷. CAR faces severe and widespread poverty, holding the 5th highest poverty rate globally. In 2021, the national poverty headcount ratio was 68.8%, with nearly 70% of the population living in extreme poverty on less than \$2.15 a day. Additionally, 15.3% of the population lived below 50% of the median income in 2021¹⁸. Food insecurity is critical, affecting 41% of the population with severe insecurity as of 2024. Access to electricity is minimal, with almost 9 out of 10 people lacking access¹⁹. Poverty disparities between urban and rural populations are stark: urban poverty in Bangui was 40.01% in 2023, while rural was significantly higher at 73.3% in the same year²⁰. While sex-aggregated metrics recording poverty rates are not available for CAR, it is reported that 80% women in CAR live below the poverty line ²¹.

Linking this to the situation of employment, explored below, the types of work women undertake are fundamentally different and less remunerative, directly contributing to their higher rates of poverty. As outlined by a 2023 World Bank report, women are significantly more likely to be engaged in unpaid work which offers limited pathways out of poverty ²². A particularly striking disparity lies in access to wage work. In the last seven days prior to the 2021 EHCVM data collection, a mere 2.6% of working-age women engaged in wage work, contrasting 10.9% of working-age men ²³. Women near absence from this more productive form of labour highlights that women face specific and severe constraints in CAR in accessing productive livelihoods.

¹⁴ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/4e00da74-579f-4a21-8802-f0c9bf52360c/download>

¹⁵ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

¹⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁷ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/4e00da74-579f-4a21-8802-f0c9bf52360c/download>

¹⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/centralafricanrepublic/publication/improving-agriculture-human-capital-and-infrastructure-key-to-take-on-poverty-in-the-central-african-republic>

²⁰ <https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CAR-Poverty-Assessment-Report.pdf>

²¹ fundsforNGOs, *Women in the Central African Republic: Confronting Gender Inequality and Challenges*, 2025, <https://news.fundsforngos.org/2025/03/10/women-in-the-central-african-republic-confronting-gender-inequality-and-challenges/>.

²² The World Bank, *CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC POVERTY ASSESSMENT 2023 A ROAD MAP TOWARDS POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC*, 2023, <https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CAR-Poverty-Assessment-Report.pdf>

²³ *ibid.*

2.1.6 Labour force participation and employment

The labour market in CAR is characterised by low participation rates, high vulnerability, and significant gender disparities. As of 2024, the labour force participation rate for the population aged 15 and above stands at 65.8% for females and 82.9% for males. These rates are lower than the world averages of 49.1% for females and 73.2% for males²⁴. A substantial proportion of employment in CAR is vulnerable: in 2023, 96.8% of employed females and 90.1% of employed males were in vulnerable employment, indicating a pervasive lack of formal and secure work²⁵.

The percentage of females in CAR's total labour force has shown a generally increasing trend from 46.692% in 2014 to 48.798% in 2023, reaching its highest recorded percentage in this period²⁶. However, unemployment remains a challenge: in 2023, the female unemployment rate was 7.19%, which is higher than its historical average of 6.51% (1991-2023) and its lowest recorded rate of 6.09% in 1991. While this indicates persistent difficulties in fully integrating women into the labour force, the 2023 rate is a slight improvement from a recent peak of 7.55% in 2021²⁷.

Despite being employed, a significant portion of the population lives below the international poverty line. In CAR, 61.7% of employed females and 60.1% of employed males (aged 15+) live below this threshold, highlighting the prevalence of working poverty²⁸. Financial inclusion is extremely low, with only 9.72% of adolescent girls and women and 18.08% of adolescent boys and men (aged 15+) having an account at a financial institution²⁹.

In addition, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH) are serious and underreported threats in CAR's workplaces, particularly in informal sectors where regulatory oversight is minimal. According to a 2022 UNFPA report, approximately 23% of girls and women aged 15–49 in CAR have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner, while many more encounter harassment in public spaces and informal economic activities such as markets or domestic work³⁰. In humanitarian contexts, where work and aid relationships often intersect, the risks of SEA/SH are elevated. A 2023 OCHA protection report warned of widespread impunity for SEA/SH perpetrators, particularly in sectors involving food distribution, agricultural labour, and caregiving roles³¹.

Children also bear the burden of household labour, with significant gender implications. Nationally, 29% of girls and 24.9% of boys are involved in economic activity or unpaid household chores, a form of invisible labour that entrenches intergenerational cycles of deprivation and limits educational attainment, particularly for girls.³² These roles often go unmonitored in labour force surveys, yet they are foundational to the survival strategies of households living in poverty and fragility.

In summary, labour force data in CAR, while important, only partially reflects the economic realities of women and girls. The prevalence of invisible and unpaid labour, the feminisation of working poverty, barriers to financial inclusion, and the risks of GBV and SEA/SH in workspaces all point to the need for a broader, intersectional approach to gender and employment policy.

²⁴ <https://liveprod.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic>

²⁵ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic> using <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>

²⁶ <https://www.dr.ceicdata.com/en/central-african-republic/labour-force/cf-labour-force-female--of-total-labour-force>

²⁷ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Central-African-Republic/Female_unemployment/

²⁸ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

²⁹ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/central-african-republic>

³⁰ UNFPA (2022). Gender-Based Violence Assessment in the Central African Republic

³¹ OCHA (2023). Protection Cluster Humanitarian Needs Overview – CAR

³² <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

2.1.7 Formal and informal employment by gender

While exact data on formal and informal employment disaggregated by gender for CAR is limited, valuable insights can be gained from available reports on broader trends. The landscape of employment in CAR is significantly shaped by the prevalence of the informal sector, with distinct gendered patterns observed. The informal sector of CAR serves as the bedrock of the economic landscape, functioning as its primary “lifewire” amidst decline in the formal sector³³. It represents an estimated 57% of GDP and 96.7% of employment - the highest ‘informal’ sector rate in the Central African region³⁴.

Employed within this informal sector, The World Bank Group’s 2023 Informal Sector Enterprise Surveys finds that, in 2023, the proportion of female workers among total workforce was 74% in Bangui, and 67% in Berberati³⁵. These exceptionally high rates of female employment convey a multifaceted message regarding gender dynamics in the national economy, and these statistics may reflect the fact that women in CAR often face disproportionate barriers to entering the formal workforce, including limited educational opportunities, social biases, lack of access to formal networks and discriminatory hiring practices. The flexibility of work within informal businesses may also be behind these statistics: for many women, particularly those with significant domestic and caregiving responsibilities, the informal sector offers a degree of autonomy over working hours and location that is typically unavailable in more formal settings. While high female participation in the informal economy highlights systemic inequalities, it also points to the sector’s critical role as an adaptive space where women can navigate economic survival and contribute to household incomes.

2.1.7 Political participation

Women in CAR gained the right to vote in 1986³⁶. Despite this, women’s representation and meaningful participation in political and decision-making processes remain significantly limited at both the national and local levels

As of 2024, women only hold 11.4% of seats in the national parliament. This figure is considerably lower than the Sub-Saharan African average of 26.9%, the low-income country average of 24.3%, and the world average of 27%³⁷. The ratio for female members of parliament in the Lower Chamber of Unicameral Parliament stands at 0.22, further illustrating the underrepresentation³⁸. In terms of global rankings, CAR was placed 153rd for women in the lower house by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2024, consistent with its 152nd ranking in 2021. This places CAR among the ten worst African countries for women’s political participation in the lower house, where women held approximately 13% of seats as per a 2023 assessment³⁹. In the Cabinet, as of May 2024, women hold only 18% of positions⁴⁰. Women’s representation in *local*

³³ International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, & European Union. (2022). *Baseline Study of Informal Economy in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions: The Case of the Central African Republic*. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved from https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-06/baseline_study-car.pdf

³⁴ International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, & European Union. (2023). *Baseline Study of Informal Economy in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions: Global Report*. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved from https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-06/informal_economy-global_report.pdf

³⁵ World Bank Group. (2023, June). *INFORMAL SECTOR ENTERPRISE SURVEYS – Profile of Cities in the Central African Republic*. Retrieved from https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/informal-enterprise-survey/Central%20African%20Republic%202023_Informal%20Sector%20Enterprise%20Surveys_Profile%20of%20Cities_English.pdf

³⁶ Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/CF/CF-LC01/elections/historical-data-on-women/>

³⁷ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic> (using Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU))

³⁸ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

³⁹ <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/2024-07/womens-political-participation-africa-barometer-2024.pdf> (Africa Barometer Second Edition 2024)

⁴⁰ Ibid.

government is effectively non-existent due to a lack of elections. CAR has not held local government elections, resulting in 0% elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government⁴¹.

Several systematic and societal barriers hinder women's political advancement in CAR. The country's first first-past-the-post system is widely recognised internationally as a system that disadvantaged women, as it often allows for ingrained, social, cultural beliefs, and prejudices to work against female candidates. In contrast, proportional representation (PR) systems, particularly closed-list PR, tend to offer women better opportunities by enabling parties to promote female candidates with party backing and financing⁴².

Furthermore, African women, including those in CAR, face significant financial barriers. Women often have less access to financial resources, which are crucial for funding election campaigns. Their lower socioeconomic status and gender socialization roles contribute to a lack of funds, limited access to money networks, and restricted credit.

Despite these challenges, women are present in other political structures. In electoral management bodies in CAR, women constitute 36% of the members⁴³. The share of female business owners is also low, with women owning 16% of businesses compared to 84% owned by men in 2020⁴⁴.

2.2 Legal Status and Rights of Women and Girls

2.2.1 Gender equality in National Legislation

The official basis for gender equality and non-discrimination in the nation is contained in its March 2016 Constitution Article 6 says, "all human beings are equal before the law regardless of sex, origin, religion, or belief." Declaring that the government must act to eradicate all kinds of discrimination against women and advance their full participation in political, economic, and social life, Article 14 specifically guarantees equality between men and women⁴⁵.

The Family Code adopted in November 1997 and entered into force in November 1998, one notes the return of polygamy and the dowry, which exposes women to discrimination, whereas these two elements had already been prohibited by a presidential ordinance dating from 1966. Similarly, certain discriminatory provisions of the Code have been amended and are awaiting adoption by the National Assembly. For example, article 254, which gives the husband exclusive power to manage the family, has been revised in the direction of collegial management of this power by the two spouses.

Regarding statute law, the Penal Code and the Family Code (Code de la Famille) include various clauses meant to defend women's rights. While the Family Code determines the legal minimum age of marriage at 18 for both sexes, the new Penal Code criminalizes rape and other types of sexual assault. Enforcement is still poor, however, and customary law still has a

⁴¹ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic> (Local Government database)

⁴² IDEA International: <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/2024-07/womens-political-participation-africa-barometer-2024.pdf> (Africa Barometer Second Edition 2024, citing general evidence)

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/entrepreneurship>

⁴⁵ Constitution de la République Centrafricaine Texte Final (2015) Available at <http://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/docs/4358dd0d0bd2a5c021b2bcfa03bfdff47db70a74.pdf>.

major impact especially in rural regions where early and forced marriage and gender-based violence are still common. Child marriage is still rather common, for instance; 61% of girls married before age 18 and 26% before age 15 (UNICEF, 2024).

In addition to the Constitution of the Central African Republic mentioned above, which recognizes that all citizens, men, and women alike, have equal rights and duties, the various laws, ordinances, and decrees below confirm equality between men and women in terms of employment, wages and criminal responsibility.

- Law No. 10.001 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Penal Code;
- Law No. 10.002 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Criminal Procedure Code;
- Law No. 09.004 of January 29, 2009, on the Labor Code of the Central African Republic;
- Law No. 99.016 of July 16, 1999, on the General Statute of the Public Service;
- Law No. 91.016 of December 27, 1991, on the Central African Code of Civil Procedure.

Law No. 10.001 of January 6, 2010, on the Central African Penal Code has taken measures against the perpetrators of violence against women and particularly that motivated by tradition and which is done to widows, such as the deprivation of meals, the confiscation of their property by the in-laws, etc.

Though implementation has been limited by insecurity, lack of institutional capacity, and general societal shame, Law No. 06.032 of 2006 ⁴⁶on the protection of women against violence offers a legislative framework to fight gender-based violence (GBV). Lack of suitable protective services and restricted access to justice help to explain low reporting and great impunity.

Although women in CAR are entitled to vote and run for office, political involvement is still somewhat rare. Women now hold only 11.4% of legislative seats ⁴⁷. To increase women's political participation, the nation has not yet implemented a gender parity legislation or electoral quota system.

In essence, while CAR's legislative structure ostensibly promotes gender equality and conforms with important international standards, there are still notable differences between law and reality. Women's rights in public and personal domains are compromised by customary legal systems, inadequate enforcement mechanisms, and ongoing instability. Advancement of gender equality depends on strengthening institutional capacity, increasing legal knowledge among women, and harmonizing customary and statutory rules.

2.2.2 Gender in International and Regional Legislation in CAR

The Central African Republic (CAR) has demonstrated its formal commitment to advancing gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls by ratifying a broad set of international and regional legal instruments. Chief among these is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratified in 1991, which obliges the state to ensure women's equal rights in all areas of life, from education and health to political participation and protection from violence. Although CAR has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, it has adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), which provides a strategic framework for addressing twelve critical areas of concern including poverty, education, and gender-based violence.

⁴⁶ République Centrafricaine: Loi no. 06.032 du 2006, portant protection de la femme contre la violence en République Centrafricaine [Central African Republic] (2006) Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/54f821684.html>

⁴⁷ Inter-Parliamentary Union. (2025). *Central African Republic | National Assembly | Data on women*. Retrieved from <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/CF/CF-LC01/data-on-women/>

Regionally, CAR is a party to the Maputo Protocol (ratified in 2009), which expands protections for African women by guaranteeing rights to health—including reproductive health—freedom from violence, equal participation in political and public life, and protection from harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. The country also aligns with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, both of which include key provisions for the protection and advancement of girls' rights in particular. Additionally, CAR has ratified the ILO Conventions No. 100 and 111, affirming the principles of equal pay for work of equal value and the prohibition of discrimination in employment and occupation.

CAR's gender commitments are further strengthened by its ratification of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both in 1981. These treaties safeguard women's rights to equality before the law, decent work, access to health care, and participation in cultural and political life. In the realm of peace and security, CAR has taken concrete steps to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, adopting successive National Action Plans that prioritize women's participation in conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery. In humanitarian and climate-affected contexts, these instruments are particularly relevant, ensuring that women and girls are protected, consulted, and empowered throughout the design and implementation of emergency and resilience-building efforts.

CAR is also a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which embed gender equality (SDG 5) as both a standalone goal and a cross-cutting imperative across development, climate resilience, and poverty reduction strategies. The state has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), affirming the need for inclusive gender approaches that protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities. Moreover, the ratification of the Palermo Protocol underlines CAR's recognition of the gendered dimensions of trafficking and its commitment to preventing exploitation. Collectively, these instruments provide a strong normative foundation for gender-responsive policy and programming in CAR, although critical implementation gaps remain at the institutional and local levels.

2.2.3 Practical Implications

The practical implications of the Central African Republic's ratification and endorsement of this extensive body of international and regional gender-related legislation are significant—both as legal commitments and as operational responsibilities that shape policy, funding, and programming decisions. These implications can be understood across several domains:

1. Alignment with international standards in project design: All development, humanitarian, and climate adaptation programs in CAR - particularly those funded by international donors like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UNICEF, or UNDP - are expected to integrate gender equality as a core requirement. The ratification of CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Beijing Declaration provides a legal and normative basis for mainstreaming gender in sectoral policies, including WASH, agriculture, education, and disaster risk reduction. This means that project proposals must include gender assessments, disaggregated data, and specific actions to address gender gaps and promote women's empowerment.
2. Obligation to Establish and Strengthen National Mechanisms: Ratifying these instruments obliges CAR to institutionalize gender equality, including establishing or strengthening:
 - a. Gender focal points and gender ministries with sufficient capacity and resources;
 - b. National action plans, such as those under UNSCR 1325 or for eliminating gender-based violence;
 - c. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms, such as periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee or the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

For instance, the Maputo Protocol requires the state to prevent, investigate, and punish gender-based violence, which necessitates trained personnel, survivor services, legal aid, and access to justice—all of which must be reflected in national budgets and planning cycles.

3. Influence on Legal Reform and Policy Priorities: CAR is under an international obligation to harmonize domestic laws with its treaty commitments. This includes reforming discriminatory laws, prohibiting harmful practices (such as early marriage and FGM, and protecting reproductive rights). Failure to meet these obligations can result in reputational risk and reduced eligibility for certain forms of support.
4. Enhanced Accountability and Participation: Instruments such as UNSCR 1325 and the SDGs push for inclusive governance and women’s leadership, especially in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and climate decision-making. This translates into practical measures such as:
 - Quotas or targets for women’s participation in community consultations and decision-making bodies;
 - Participatory mechanisms that prioritize voices of women, girls, and marginalized groups in project governance;
 - Gender-sensitive indicators in monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Table 3: International gender legislation where CAR is a signatory country

Instrument	Type	Date of Ratification / Adoption	Relevance to Gender
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	UN Treaty	21 June 1991 (ratified)	Core international treaty on gender equality; guarantees women’s rights in all spheres—education, health, work, legal status, and protection from violence.
Optional Protocol to CEDAW	UN Treaty	<i>Not yet ratified</i>	Allows individuals or groups to submit complaints to the CEDAW Committee; enhances enforcement of women’s rights.
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	UN Political Declaration	1995 (endorsed)	Strategic global framework for advancing women’s rights in 12 critical areas (e.g., poverty, violence, education, political participation).

Maputo Protocol – Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	African Union Treaty	6 March 2009 (ratified)	Comprehensive instrument for African women’s rights, including health, reproductive rights, political participation, and protection from harmful practices.
UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security	UN Security Council Resolution	2000 (adopted), with National Action Plans adopted (e.g., 2014–2016, 2019–2023)	Emphasizes women’s participation in peacebuilding, protection in conflict, and gender-sensitive humanitarian responses.
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	UN Treaty	8 May 1981 (ratified)	Protects rights to equality before the law, political participation, freedom from discrimination.
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	UN Treaty	8 May 1981 (ratified)	Protects women’s rights to education, health, decent work, and social protection on an equal basis.
African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Banjul Charter)	AU Treaty	26 April 1986 (ratified)	Recognizes gender equality as a fundamental human right; basis for the Maputo Protocol.
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)	AU Treaty	1999 (ratified)	Provides strong protections for girls, including against child marriage, exploitation, and harmful practices.
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	UN Treaty	23 April 1992 (ratified)	Mandates gender-sensitive protection, education, and health services for children, especially girls.
ILO Convention No. 100 – Equal Remuneration	ILO Convention	11 June 1962 (ratified)	Requires equal pay for work of equal value between men and women.

ILO Convention No. 111 – Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)	ILO Convention	11 June 1962 (ratified)	Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in employment, hiring, and occupation.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	UN Political Declaration	2015 (endorsed)	SDG 5 on gender equality is integrated into CAR’s development strategy; relevant across WASH, education, climate, and health sectors.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	UN Declaration	1948 (endorsed, non-binding)	Foundational text affirming equal rights and dignity of all people regardless of gender.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	UN Treaty	11 October 2016 (ratified)	Protects rights of women and girls with disabilities, including against gender-based violence and exclusion.
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – Palermo Protocol	UN Treaty	11 September 2008 (ratified)	Includes provisions to prevent trafficking in women and girls and protect survivors.

2.3 Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. It encompasses physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse and is rooted in power imbalances and societal norms that perpetuate gender inequality. GBV disproportionately affects women and girls, but men and boys can also be subjected to gender-based acts of violence and attacks. GBV umbrellas many forms of violence, and include intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual exploitation and abuse.

In CAR, GBV is a pervasive and deeply rooted issue. According to the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), GBV in CAR has reached endemic levels. In 2023, cases increased by 8%, and it is estimated that two individuals - primarily women and girls - experience GBV every hour ⁴⁸. The Humanitarian Needs Overview projects that 1.3 million people, nearly a quarter of the population, will require GBV-related assistance ⁴⁹. Reports from UNFPA indicate that

⁴⁸ UNFPA. (2024). *Central African Republic Situation Report #8*. ReliefWeb. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-situation-report-8-august-2024>

⁴⁹ *ibid.*

96% of GBV survivors are female, and only 26% of survivors of sexual violence receive timely medical care within 72 hours due to insecurity, distance and stigma⁵⁰.

The prevalence of GBV in CAR is closely linked to entrenched gender norms and patriarchal structures that marginalise women and normalise violence against them. Women are often viewed as subordinate to men, with limited agency in decision-making at the household or community level. Harmful practices such as early and forced marriage, and economic dependence on male partners, reinforce power imbalances and expose women and girls to various forms of abuse⁵¹. These societal norms and further compounded by exacerbating factors, particularly prolonged armed conflict, political instability and recurring humanitarian crises. Since 2013, conflict related displacement, lawlessness and the proliferation of armed groups have created an environment where GBV, especially sexual violence, is used as a tactic of war⁵².

The intersection between climate change and GBV is increasingly recognised as a critical dimension of vulnerability in fragile contexts like CAR. As global temperatures rise and climate impacts intensify, so do the risks of violence against women and girls -particularly in already unstable and resource-constrained environments. In CAR, climate-related events such as flooding, droughts and extreme weather are compounding the country's ongoing humanitarian crisis. These shocks frequently lead to displacement, and the destruction of shelter and infrastructure, loss of livelihoods and food insecurity -all of which increase stress on families and communities. In this context, women and girls become more exposed to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, especially⁵³ when forced into overcrowded and insecure displacement sites.

Within CAR, the effects are tangible. In flood-prone urban areas like Bangui, climate-related displacement has driven up protection risks⁵⁴. In rural zones, loss of crops or water scarcity increases reliance on negative coping mechanisms, including early marriage or transnational sex, putting women and girls at further risk⁵⁵.

Insights from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) conducted in CAR for the years 2017-2018⁵⁶ shed more light on how GBV and intimate partner violence are viewed in CAR's society. The study found percentages of girls and women, aged 15 to 49, who believe it was justified for a husband to beat his wife in different circumstances, namely [i] if she goes out without telling him; [ii] if she neglects the children; [iii] if she refuses to have sex with him; [iv] if she burns the food; [v] if she argues with him; or [vi] for any of these 5 reasons. It is important, however, to recognise that answers of agreement with any of these situations does not necessarily reflect approval of GBV but rather reflect the "degree of social acceptance of such

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ UNICEF. (2024). *A New National Strategy to End Child Marriage*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/car/en/press-releases/new-national-strategy-end-child-marriage>

⁵² UNFPA. (2024). *Central African Republic Situation Report #8*. ReliefWeb. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-situation-report-8-august-2024>

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Quinones, L. (2025). Climate crisis driving surge in gender-based violence. *UN News*. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/04/1162461>

⁵⁶ Ministère De L'économie, Du Plan Et De La Coopération (Mepc). (2021). *Générer Des Preuves Pour Des Actions En Faveurs Des Enfants MICS6-RCA Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples Rapport final des résultats de l'enquête*. Available at: <https://mics.unicef.org/sites/mics/files/French.pdf>

practices”⁵⁷. These answers can indicate certain societal perceptions, statuses and gender roles of women versus men in a country⁵⁸.

Across the entire sample, a significant proportion of women agree with the justification of a man beating his wife for various reasons, with the most popular being ‘for any one of these 5 reasons’ at 64.7% and for ‘if she neglects the children’ at 52.3%. Analysis from specific socio-demographic characteristics reveal that ‘place of residence’ (rural vs. urban) has a negligible effect on answers, with the highest difference between agreeance being 9.8 percentage points for the reason ‘if she refuses to have sex with him’, with rural women being 9.8 percentage points more likely to agree with this justification than urban women.

There is not a consistent linear trend with age: the youngest group (15-17) has the lowest overall acceptance rate (as observed at looking at agreeance with ‘for any of these 5 reasons’) at 57.3%, the highest acceptance rate is seen in the young-to-middle adult ranges (25-29 and 30-34) at 66.6% and 67.7%, but dips again for age ranges 40-49 - averaging 62.4%. It is striking to note that the lowest acceptance rate is still held by most girls surveyed (i.e. over 50%).

Among all the socio-demographic factors, education emerges as the most powerful mitigating force against the ‘acceptance’⁵⁹ of domestic violence. The data paints a clear picture: as a woman’s level of education increases, her justification for wife-beating general decreases. While there is a surprising slight increase in acceptance from ‘Primary or no education’ (63.5%) to ‘Fundamental 1’ (6.1%) and ‘Fundamental 2’ (66.6%), women with ‘Higher education or more’ show a significantly lower overall acceptance rate of 58.5%. This trend is even more pronounced when looking at specific justifications, such as “if she refuses to have sex with him” where only 11.5% of highly educated women agree, compared to 36.5% of those with primary or no education. This highlights the vital role education plays in challenging ingrained norms and fostering more equitable attitudes.

Looking at economic well-being, while the ‘Richest’ quintile generally shows lower acceptance for specific justifications, such as ‘if she refuses to have sex with him’ (19.4%), the overall trend is not a simple linear decline as wealth increases. Interestingly, the ‘Rich’ quintile exhibits the highest overall justification at 67.4%, surpassing ‘Poorest’ and ‘Richest’ categories. This suggests that while extreme poverty might correlate with certain vulnerabilities, increasing wealth does not automatically translate to a consistent reduction in the acceptance of domestic violence, indicating that economic factors interact with other cultural and social elements in shaping these attitudes.

The attitudes of men towards situations where it would be justified for a husband to beat his wife were also recorded and show a significant difference in attitudes towards GBV. While there exists some key similarities - for example ‘neglects the children’ is one of the most accepted specific reasons to justify wife-beating; for both genders, higher levels of education consistently correlate with lower acceptance of wife-beating; and both men and women in rural areas tend to show slightly higher acceptance of wife-beating compared to their urban counterparts - the differences are noticeable. Perhaps the most striking difference is that women show significantly higher overall acceptance for justifying wife-beating than men across all socio-demographics and corroborated by 64.7% of women justifying it for ‘any of the 5 reasons’ in comparison to only 38.1% of men. A brief look across the women’s surveys compared to the men’s survey also illuminates this, with higher percentages over most demographic groups in the women’s survey. For the men’s survey, it is commonly less than the majority (i.e. the

⁵⁷ UNICEF. (2017). Attitudes and social norms on violence. UNICEF DATA. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/attitudes-and-social-norms-on-violence/>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Please note the use of acceptance here is used with the abovementioned acknowledgement of the disclaimer that ‘acceptance’ does not mean approval [see footnote 53].

minority of men justify wife-beating). In fact, there is not one circumstance in the men's survey that finds most men surveyed justifying wife-beating, in stark contrast to the women's survey. This suggests that there is a high degree of normalisation or internalisation of violence within the female population, possibly due to societal norms and/or power imbalances.

2.3.1 Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a harmful traditional practice involving the cutting or removal of the external female genitalia. It has existed for more than 2,000 years and is performed on girls from birth up to just before marriage and sometimes beyond. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a deeply rooted harmful traditional practice with a history spanning over two millennia. This practice involves the removal or cutting of the external female genitalia and is performed on girls at various stages of life, from infancy up to and sometimes beyond the point of marriage.

FGM/C is practiced throughout all prefectures and among all ethnic groups in the Central African Republic. The areas exhibiting the greatest prevalence are in the central part of the country: Region 4 (Nana Grebizi, Kemo, Ouaka) at 60.6% and Region 5 (Haute-Kotto, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga) at 65.4%. Region 2 (Sangha Mbaere, Mambere-Kadei, Nana Mambere) exhibits the lowest prevalence, recorded at 5.6%. Girls and women aged 15–49 residing in rural areas exhibit a higher prevalence of FGM/C at 27.5% compared to 11.9% in urban areas. The prevalence of FGM/C exhibits an inverse correlation with wealth levels⁶⁰ and is the highest among households led by individuals of Banda ethnicity, at 52.9% for girls and women aged 15–49, while the lowest prevalence is observed in households led by individuals of Mboum ethnicity, at 4.0%.

Law No. 06.032, enacted on 27 December 2006, addresses the protection of women against violence in the Central African Republic and includes specific provisions regarding FGM/C. Law No. 10.001, the Penal Code of the Central African Republic⁶¹, enacted on 6 January 2010, also categorically prohibits FGM/C. Nonetheless, there exists a notable absence of evidence indicating that any cases of FGM/C have been prosecuted in accordance with these laws.

⁶⁰ https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/FGMC_Lo_res_Final_26.pdf

⁶¹

[https://www.uaipit.com/uploads/legislacion/files/1406716990_2._Law_No._10.001_on_the_Central_African_Penal_Code_\(2010\)_FR.pdf](https://www.uaipit.com/uploads/legislacion/files/1406716990_2._Law_No._10.001_on_the_Central_African_Penal_Code_(2010)_FR.pdf)

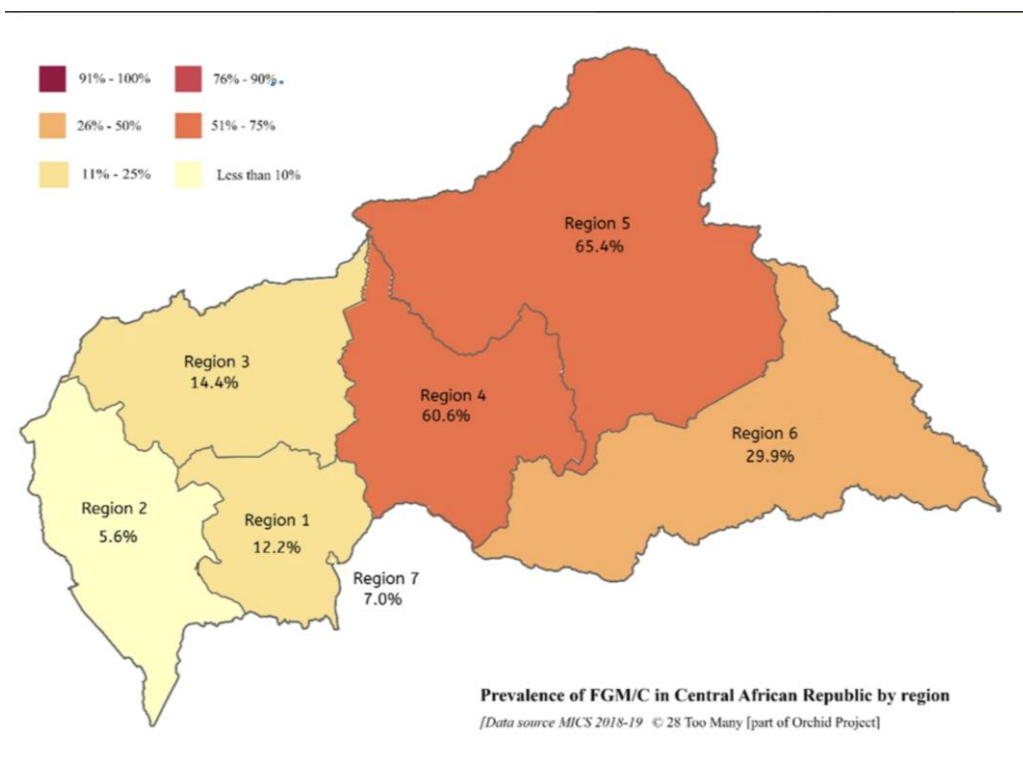


Figure 2: Distribution of FGM/C across CAR ⁶²

2.3.2 SEA/SH Analysis

Safeguarding risks, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment are among the most egregious and pervasive ones facing women, girls, and marginalized individuals in humanitarian and climate-vulnerable contexts. In the Central African Republic (CAR), where multiple crises converge—armed conflict, food insecurity, climate stress, weak governance, and extreme poverty—SEA/SH is both a human rights violation and a systemic barrier to equitable access to life-saving services.

Defined under the UN Secretary-General’s Bulletin (ST/SGB/2003/13)⁶³, SEA/SH includes any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability or differential power for sexual purposes, including exchange of money, goods, or services for sex, and any unwelcome sexual behaviour by humanitarian or development personnel. In CAR, these dynamics are particularly acute. As highlighted by Protection Cluster reports (2023–2024), IDP camps, humanitarian assistance sites, and even school settings have been documented as high-risk environments for sexual exploitation. These incidents often go unreported due to fear, shame, impunity, and lack of functioning complaints mechanisms.

2.3.3 Structural Drivers of SEA/SH Risk in CAR

CAR’s underlying conditions exacerbate SEA/SH risk at every level of aid delivery.

⁶² <https://www.fgmcni.org/country/car/>

⁶³ <https://www.refworld.org/reference/research/unsecgen/2003/en/21002>

First, gender inequality and patriarchal norms are deeply entrenched, with women's social status constrained by limited economic autonomy, legal protections, and decision-making power. Child marriage, polygamy, and gender-based violence remain widespread, while women's representation in formal governance structures is among the lowest globally (UNDP, 2023). In this context, power differentials between male humanitarian workers and female beneficiaries are stark.

Second, displacement and humanitarian dependency generate conditions of extreme vulnerability. As of 2024, over 493,000 people remain internally displaced in CAR (OCHA, 2024), the majority of whom are women and children. In IDP camps, overcrowding, lack of privacy, and inadequate infrastructure compound protection risks, particularly around WASH facilities.

Third, the delivery of aid itself can create SEA/SH opportunities when staff or contractors leverage access to essential services in exchange for sexual favours. In contexts where water, food, shelter, and healthcare are scarce, the potential for exploitation increases. Adolescents, female-headed households, and women with disabilities are especially at risk, with limited access to information about their rights or how to safely report abuse.

2.3.4 SEA/SH in the WASH Sector

The WASH sector is widely recognized as one of the most SEA/SH-prone humanitarian service areas. Water collection points, bathing facilities, and latrines—particularly when inadequately located, unlit, or non-segregated—become focal points for harassment and abuse. Women and girls are often forced to travel long distances alone, particularly in rural or insecure areas, exposing them to heightened risks of sexual violence.

Findings from the 2022 Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) report in CAR indicate that a significant portion of sexual violence cases occur in or near water access points and sanitation facilities.

Moreover, female WASH staff and community hygiene workers themselves are not immune to SEA/SH risks. Without adequate safeguarding policies and institutional accountability, women engaged in project implementation may face harassment from colleagues, supervisors, or community members. This is particularly relevant in environments where organizational hierarchies are male-dominated, and sexual harassment is normalized or minimized.

The 2022 GBVIMS report for the Central African Republic presents alarming data on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, with 35% of all reported GBV cases involving sexual violence. Notably, a significant number of these incidents occurred in homes, internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, or near water collection points - precisely the locations where WASH infrastructure is most needed and most frequently accessed. These findings underscore the urgent need to consider safety, dignity, and protection as central to the design and implementation of WASH programming in CAR.⁶⁴

Latrines, bathing facilities, and water points that are poorly lit, insufficiently segregated by gender, or located far from households, place women and girls at heightened risk of harassment and assault. In humanitarian and rural settings, women and girls often walk long distances to fetch water or access sanitation services - routes that can be isolated and unmonitored. In IDP sites, overcrowding and lack of privacy increase vulnerability. Therefore, infrastructure must be designed with protection in mind: latrines and bathing areas should be fitted with solar-powered lighting, include internal locks, and be clearly

⁶⁴ AoR GBVIMS Task Force, *Rapport Annuel GBVIMS RCA 2022*, Global Protection Cluster, February 2023.

marked and segregated by gender. Locating these facilities in visible but safe areas - avoiding proximity to male-dominated gathering spaces like markets or transport hubs - is also essential.⁶⁵

2.3.5 Gaps in Prevention and Response Mechanisms

Despite growing awareness of SEA/SH, significant gaps remain in prevention, detection, and redress within CAR's WASH and climate programming. These include:

- **Absence of localized complaint systems:** Most rural communities lack safe, confidential, and anonymous channels through which survivors can report abuse or exploitation. Existing community complaint mechanisms are often male-run or untrusted, with no linkage to professional protection services.
- **Low awareness of rights:** Women and girls often do not know that sexual exploitation by aid workers is a punishable offense. Nor are they aware of the role and responsibilities of humanitarian actors under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) commitments on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- **Weak survivor referral pathways:** In CAR's fragmented protection landscape, pathways for SEA/SH survivors to access medical, psychosocial, or legal services are poorly coordinated or unknown to frontline staff. GBV prevention and WASH services are typically delivered by different actors, without protocols for joint case management or referral.
- **Limited oversight of third-party contractors:** Construction, logistics, and transport services—critical for WASH infrastructure—are often subcontracted to private actors with little oversight or SEA/SH training. These personnel may operate outside of the UN SEA Code of Conduct or reporting lines, increasing the risk of impunity.

2.3.6 Recommendations and Project Actions

To address these risks under the GCF-funded project, SEA/SH prevention and response must be systematically embedded across all activities. The following actions are recommended, aligned with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children and the GCF Gender and Social Inclusion Policy and the Grievance Redress Mechanism which is also part of this Annex.

1. SEA and SH Safeguard Integration in Design and Planning

- Conduct a SEA/SH risk analysis during the detailed design phase, engaging women, girls, and marginalized groups.
- Include SEA/SH-specific risks in Environmental and Social Safeguards screening and mitigation plans.
- Budget for SEA/SH prevention and response actions, including training, complaints mechanisms, and survivor support services.

2. Training and Institutional Accountability

- Deliver mandatory SEA/SH training to all project personnel, including contractors and implementing partners using context-adapted materials in French and local languages.
- Ensure Codes of Conduct include clear language on SEA/SH prohibitions and are signed by all staff.

⁶⁵ Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: WASH Chapter*, 2015.

- Establish a whistleblower protection policy and integrate SEA/SH into staff performance evaluations and disciplinary systems.

3. Grievance Redress Mechanism at a community level

- Co-design the GRM with community members, ensuring multiple reporting modalities (e.g., verbal reports to trained female staff, SMS-based hotlines, confidential drop-boxes).
- Promote GRM through inclusive outreach, particularly to adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.
- Monitor GRM functionality regularly and adapt based on feedback from users.

4. Gender-Sensitive Infrastructure

- Ensure WASH facilities are equipped with safety-enhancing features, including solar lighting, internal locks, and gender-segregated units.
- Prioritize the proximity of facilities to households, especially for adolescent girls, women with disabilities, and pregnant women.
- Avoid locating WASH infrastructure near male-dominated or high-risk zones (e.g., informal markets, transport hubs).

5. Survivor-Centered Referral Pathways

- Develop referral mechanisms in coordination with GBV and Protection actors, following survivor-centered principles (e.g., confidentiality, informed consent).
- Train WASH and community outreach staff on how to handle disclosures and refer survivors sensitively and safely.
- Map local health, psychosocial, and legal support services and ensure that CFMs are linked to these networks.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

- Include SEA/SH indicators in the project's ESMF M&E framework (e.g., # of SEA/SH complaints received, % of complaints resolved appropriately).
- Conduct periodic reviews of SEA/SH measures, including a least one third-party audit, beneficiary surveys, and annual internal review and learning workshops.
- Share learning on SEA/SH prevention across project sites and with national counterparts to build systemic capacity

2.3.7 Alignment with Global Standards

This SEA/SH framework builds on the IASC Minimum Operating Standards on PSEA, UNICEF's PSEA Policy (2022), and the GCF's Updated Gender Policy and Action Plan (2020–2023). It reflects UNICEF's zero-tolerance stance on SEA/SH and ensures that climate-resilient WASH interventions do not inadvertently create or exacerbate risks of harm.

SEA/SH prevention is not only a safeguarding obligation—it is foundational to the integrity, equity, and legitimacy of climate adaptation efforts in fragile settings. Without deliberate, sustained, and context-specific SEA/SH safeguards, adaptation investments risk further marginalizing the very populations they seek to protect.

2.4 Social Norms, Perceptions and Stereotypes

2.4.1 Gender roles and expectations

In the Central African Republic (CAR), entrenched patriarchal norms significantly shape gender roles, restrict women's autonomy, and condition the life prospects of girls. The traditional division of labour, reinforced through generations of cultural practice, attributes authority and public decision-making to men while confining women to subordinate roles within the domestic sphere. Men are typically regarded as the heads of households and primary economic providers, whereas women are expected to bear and raise children, perform unpaid domestic and agricultural labour, and maintain social cohesion through caregiving and compliance with male authority.⁶⁶

These rigid social expectations are established early in life and reinforced through family socialization, community norms, and religious instruction. Girls are socialized to internalize modesty, obedience, and domestic competence, while boys are encouraged to display leadership and autonomy. As a result, educational trajectories are often truncated for girls—especially in rural areas where household chores, sibling care responsibilities, or early marriage may take precedence over school attendance.⁶⁷

The expectation that women remain primarily responsible for caregiving also means that women are often the first to absorb the shocks of deteriorating public services, environmental degradation, and food insecurity. This reinforces a cycle of time poverty, whereby women have less opportunity to engage in paid labour, community decision-making, or training that might enhance their resilience and empowerment.

2.4.2 Cultural practices affecting women and girls

A range of customary and religious practices in CAR perpetuate gender inequalities and directly compromise the rights of women and girls. Chief among these is child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM), which remains both a social norm and a coping strategy for economically distressed families. According to the latest estimates from UNICEF, 61 % of girls in CAR are married before the age of 18, and 26 % before the age of 15.⁶⁸

These figures place the country among the highest in the world for child marriage prevalence. Early marriage is often justified by families as a means of preserving honour, reducing economic burden, or providing girls with social protection in insecure environments. However, it curtails girls' education, increases their risk of early and repeated pregnancies, and exposes them to lifelong cycles of poverty and gender-based violence (GBV).

Discriminatory customs persist, including unequal inheritance rights, the denial of land access for women, and harmful widowhood rites. Customary law often overrides statutory protections, particularly in rural areas where formal institutions have limited presence. This restricts women's control over productive assets and undermines their financial independence.

⁶⁶ UN Women, *Gender Profile: Central African Republic*, Regional Office for West and Central Africa, 2022.

⁶⁷ According to UNICEF, only 38 % of girls complete lower secondary education in CAR. UNICEF, *Child Marriage Country Profile: Central African Republic*, 2023.

⁶⁸ UNICEF, *Child Marriage Country Profile: Central African Republic*, 2023

Polygamy is legally permitted and socially normalized in many parts of CAR, contributing to intra-household inequality and the economic marginalization of women in polygamous unions.⁶⁹ Women in such relationships may have little say in household decisions or access to shared resources, particularly in cases where favouritism and male-dominated inheritance practices prevail.

GBV, including domestic violence and sexual assault, remains widespread and is often underreported due to a strong culture of silence and impunity. Survivors frequently face social stigma, fear of retaliation, or disbelief, which discourages disclosure and hinders access to justice or psychosocial support services.⁷⁰ In many communities, customary dispute resolution systems prioritize mediation and reconciliation over survivor protection, often resulting in outcomes that favour perpetrators and reinforce harmful norms.

Moreover, gender stereotypes are deeply embedded in institutional settings. Teachers may tolerate or reinforce gendered expectations in the classroom, healthcare workers may deprioritize women's or adolescent girls' health concerns, and police or justice officials may lack the training or resources to appropriately respond to GBV cases. These institutional biases perpetuate gender inequality and limit the effectiveness of service delivery, even when gender-responsive policies exist on paper.

2.5 Social inclusion and Intersectionality

2.5.1 Vulnerable sub-groups

Living with a disability

In CAR, individuals with disabilities face compounding challenges, exacerbated by both societal barriers and prolonged conflict. In 2023, it was reported that approximately 460,000 people in CAR live with a disability⁷¹. While specific comprehensive data for CAR may be limited, understanding the situation can be informed by trends across Sub-Saharan Africa. It is clear that persons with disabilities in CAR experience profound marginalisation. Their vulnerability is particularly pronounced in rural areas, where limited healthcare access and financial constraints impede treatment and support, and in conflict zones, where their ability to escape danger is compromised^{72,73}. The conflict that engulfed CAR starting in 2013 brought immense hardship, with people with disabilities frequently abandoned or left behind during armed group attacks⁷⁴. For women, pre-existing inequalities amplify their risk. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, women generally experience higher rates of disability than men, particularly related to mobility and vision⁷⁵. This disparity can stem from several factors, including shortfalls in human capital investment where families with limited resources may prioritise the health of male children, leaving

⁶⁹ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in National Parliaments*, 2021, www.ipu.org.

⁷⁰ UN Women, *Gender Profile: Central African Republic*, 2022.

⁷¹ UNICEF, *Humanitarian Action for Children 2023 - Central African Republic* (New York: UNICEF, 2023), <https://www.unicef.org/media/131881/file/2023-HAC-CAR.pdf>.

⁷² Montes, J., and Swindle, R., (2021) *Poverty & Equity Notes - Who is Disabled in Sub-Saharan Africa?* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/898541620207711446/pdf/Who-is-Disabled-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa.pdf>

⁷³ Ćerimović E. At risk and overlooked: Children with disabilities and armed conflict. *International Review of the Red Cross*. 2023;105(922):192-216. doi:10.1017/S181638312200087X

⁷⁴ *ibid.*

⁷⁵ Montes, J., and Swindle, R., (2021) *Poverty & Equity Notes - Who is Disabled in Sub-Saharan Africa?* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/898541620207711446/pdf/Who-is-Disabled-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa.pdf>

girls' needs unattended and potentially leading to compounded impairments over time ⁷⁶. Additionally, pregnancy and childbirth contribute to higher prevalence due to insufficient access to adequate perinatal care⁷⁷. During the conflict in CAR, this meant women with disabilities were exceptionally vulnerable ⁷⁸.

Life in internally displaced person (IDP) camps also presents obstacles: people with disabilities face severe difficulties accessing basic necessities. Sanitation facilities are typically not designed for accessibility, forcing individuals to expose themselves to serious health risks from unsanitary conditions ^{79,80}. Beyond immediate crisis, persistent systemic barriers undermine the well-being of people with disabilities. Access to medical care is severely hampered, with clinics frequently lacking communication facilitators for deaf individuals and essential mental health services, despite the widespread trauma caused by conflict ⁸¹. The problem is compounded for women, who may face additional barriers to healthcare access, particularly for reproductive health needs. Education attainment is significantly lower for people with disabilities, a challenge that is often more pronounced for girls due to potential de-prioritisation of their health needs and educational investment ⁸². Participating in the labour market poses a major challenge, with people with disabilities reporting significantly lower rates of employment due to discrimination and a lack of suitable accommodation from employers ⁸³. Those who do not find work are often relegated to part-time roles, earn less, and are less likely to be promoted ⁸⁴. This unstable employment and insufficient financial resources often result in reliance on families or social programs for survival, increasing their vulnerability. For women with disabilities, this reliance can be particularly precarious, putting them at higher risk of abuse from caretakers, a risk potentially exacerbated by existing gender-based power imbalances ⁸⁵.

Religious Minorities

In CAR, various religious minorities are among the most vulnerable subgroups, enduring systemic violence, forced displacement and marginalisation due to decades of instability and communal violence. Muslim communities serve as a compelling example of this vulnerability. The crisis that escalated significantly from late 2012 saw the rise of predominantly Muslim Seleka forces, whose seizure of power in 2012 was marked by widespread atrocities, including killings, rape and destruction ⁸⁶. This period led to brutal reprisal attacks by largely Christian anti-balaka militias, whose actions amounted to ethnic cleansing against Muslim civilians in western CAR ⁸⁷. The anti-balaka militias explicitly stated their intent to target religious minority residents and used tactics of extreme intimidation and terror ⁸⁸. More recently, a UN report released in

⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷ *ibid.*

⁷⁸ Quy, B. (2019). *People With Disabilities Face Widespread Violence and Discrimination in the Central African Republic*. Global Citizen. Retrieved from <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/disabilities-in-central-african-republic/>

⁷⁹ *ibid.*

⁸⁰ Ćerimović E. At risk and overlooked: Children with disabilities and armed conflict. *International Review of the Red Cross*. 2023;105(922):192-216. doi:10.1017/S181638312200087X

⁸¹ *ibid.*

⁸² Montes, J., and Swindle, R., (2021) *Poverty & Equity Notes - Who is Disabled in Sub-Saharan Africa?* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/898541620207711446/pdf/Who-is-Disabled-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa.pdf>

⁸³ *ibid.*

⁸⁴ *ibid.*

⁸⁵ *ibid.*

⁸⁶ Amnesty International. (2025). *Ethnic cleansing of Muslim communities in the Central African Republic*. Amnesty International UK. Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/central-african-republic-crisis-ethnic-cleansing>

⁸⁷ Ćerimović E. At risk and overlooked: Children with disabilities and armed conflict. *International Review of the Red Cross*. 2023;105(922):192-216. doi:10.1017/S181638312200087X

⁸⁸ *ibid.*

March 2025 documented ongoing grave human rights violations committed by armed groups in southeastern CAR during October 2024 and January 2025 ⁸⁹. These attacks specifically targeted Fulani pastoral communities and other religious minorities, as well as refugees and asylum-seekers ⁹⁰. Investigations found evidence of summary executions, widespread sexual violence (including the rape of at least 14 women and seven girls), torture and forced labour ⁹¹. Therefore, within the already vulnerable Muslim communities in CAR, Muslim women face intensified challenges. They are disproportionately affected by the targeting and violence, notably through widespread sexual violence⁹². Beyond direct physical harm. The experience of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing profoundly impacts women from these minority groups, especially Muslim women. Being uprooted from their homes and livelihoods forces them to navigate insecure environments, including overcrowded displacement camps where access to essential services like safe sanitation, food and healthcare is severely limited. This insecurity, paired with the trauma of conflict and targeted discrimination, places these women at a heightened risk of long-term physical and psychological suffering, intensified by the general vulnerabilities faced by women and girls in CAR's ongoing crisis.

3. Gender Context in Project Area

The targeted prefectures of this project are Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga and Bangui. The following table outlines the estimated distribution of male and female populations in these targeted areas, highlighting key demographic considerations for effective project outreach.

Table 4: Gender population breakdown of targeted prefectures in CAR

Prefecture	Male Population	Female Population	Source
Bangui	454,696	469,209	City Facts
Ouham	227,112	234,370	City Facts
Bamingui-Bangoran	26,829	27,680	City Facts

⁸⁹ MINUSCA & United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2025, March 4). *RAPPORT PUBLIC SUR LES VIOLATIONS ET ATTEINTES GRAVES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME COMMISES PAR LES WAGNER TI AZANDÉ ET LES AZANDÉ ANI KPI GBÉ DU 1 AU 7 OCTOBRE 2024 À DEMBIA ET RAFAÏ, PRÉFECTURE DU MBOMOU*. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/central-african-republic/20250304-minusca-ohchr-dembia-report.pdf>

⁹⁰ *ibid.*

⁹¹ *ibid.*

⁹² *ibid.*

3.1 Consultation Methods and Key Themes Raised by Women and Girls

The project utilized a multi-layered, adaptive, and participatory framework to ensure the meaningful engagement of women and girls at the project targeted prefectures. The methodology employed a dual-track approach featuring digital surveys (via Kobo Toolbox) and community-level focus group discussions. To capture insightful feedback and ensure cultural sensitivity, consultations were conducted using a culturally embedded facilitation model: same-gender moderators led discussions in designated safe spaces using open prompts. Additional engagement methods included community stakeholder workshops, participatory site observations, and transect walks. In total, 151 women and girls participated across 12 specific discussion groups in the target prefectures.

Key Themes Raised by Women and Girls: During the consultations, women and girls consistently highlighted how climate change and inadequate WASH infrastructure disproportionately impact their daily lives, safety, and dignity. The key themes raised include:

- **The Burden of Water Collection and Associated Safety Risks:** Women bear the almost exclusive responsibility for fetching water, a burden severely exacerbated by climate-induced droughts. Participants highlighted that long travel distances and extended waiting times at water points lead to physical exhaustion and social tensions, including 151 women spousal suspicions of infidelity. Furthermore, women and adolescent girls expressed serious concerns about their safety, noting that these journeys frequently expose them to harassment and gender-based violence (GBV).
- **Sanitation Failures and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM):** Women and girls pointed out critical gaps in sanitation infrastructure. They noted that menstruation remains a taboo subject and that girls often lack the necessary privacy, water, soap, and appropriate facilities at school to safely manage their menstrual hygiene. They strongly requested safe, private, and menstruation-friendly facilities located closer to their homes and learning environments.
- **Exclusion from Decision-Making and Governance:** A major theme was the lack of female representation in water management. Women noted that despite being the primary managers of household water, their voices are rarely heard by predominantly male traditional authorities and management committees. Female leaders emphasized that because water is fundamentally a "women's issue," the management of water points should rightfully be handed over to them, demanding active involvement in all stages of project planning and implementation.
- **Climate Impacts on Health and Livelihoods:** Women—including those from vulnerable Indigenous pastoralist groups like the M'bororo Fulani—identified prolonged droughts and severe floods as primary threats to household health and well-being. They reported that these climate shocks lead to deteriorating hygiene, a surge in waterborne diseases, and an increased caregiving workload. In response, women expressed a strong interest in expanding their roles in income-generating activities (such as small trade and agriculture) to build their economic resilience.

3.2. Gender roles in water management and WASH services

In the WASH sector, distinct gender roles traditionally shape how water resources are managed, and services are accessed and utilised. Women are predominantly responsible for household water supply, sanitation, and health management, often acting as the primary collectors of water and promoters of hygiene practices within their homes and communities. This role means women and girls disproportionately bear the burden of inadequate or inappropriate water and sanitation facilities and

services⁹³. For instance, long distances to water sources or lack of privacy in sanitation facilities can lead to increased workloads, fatigue, health issues, and even reduced school attendance for girls⁹⁴ - a theme that is explored in the next section.

Conversely, men typically dominate the higher levels of water management and WASH service provision. They are often the key decision-makers in planning and investing in water and sanitation infrastructure, with the sector frequently perceived as a technical domain, reinforcing male dominance in roles such as technicians, engineers, and construction staff⁹⁵.

The dynamics of these roles can shift, particularly during periods of water stress or shock. During droughts, women's workload for water collection intensifies significantly due to increased distances and the necessity to provide water for both household consumption and homestead livestock, often without sufficient means of transport. In such crises, men's responsibilities also escalate, as they may undertake arduous tasks like deepening wells and excavating water pans to secure water sources. Although men may assist with household water collection during severe water scarcity, particularly if they have access to vehicles, the primary burden of ensuring household water security often remains with women and girls⁹⁶.

Despite women's critical daily engagement with water and sanitation, their concerns and practical needs are frequently overlooked in the design and siting of WASH facilities, largely due to their limited involvement in planning and decision-making processes. This underrepresentation of women's views hinders the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH programs, as community participation approaches often fail to address the diverse needs within a seemingly homogenous 'community'. The resulting disparities affect not only women but also the overall well-being of households, educational outcomes and economic development⁹⁷.

3.3 Gendered division of labour and WASH responsibilities

Time burden, mobility, and SEA/SH constraints to WASH

Water collection is a profoundly gendered task, particularly in developing countries, primarily being shouldered by women and girls. This disproportionate burden not only reflects existing societal inequalities, but also actively perpetuates cycles of poverty and limits opportunities for female empowerment. Globally, women and girls are overwhelmingly responsible for fetching water for their households. In communities where water is not available on premises, women and girls aged 15 and

⁹³ Wendland, C., Yadav M., Stock, A., & Seager, J. (2017). Gender and Sanitation Issues. In J.B. Rose & B. Jiménez-Cisneros (Eds.), *Global Water Pathogen Project: Part 1 The Health Hazards of Excreta: Theory and Control*. Michigan State University, UNESCO. Available at: <http://www.waterpathogens.org/book/gender-and-sanitation>. doi:10.14321/waterpathogens.4

⁹⁴ REACH, *Empowerment and Water Security Among Pastoralist Women in the Maasai and Samburu Communities of Northern Kenya* (Geneva: REACH, November 2018), https://www.reachwater.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/18_11_CHC-Study-Report.pdf.

⁹⁵ Wendland, C., Yadav M., Stock, A., & Seager, J. (2017). Gender and Sanitation Issues. In J.B. Rose & B. Jiménez-Cisneros (Eds.), *Global Water Pathogen Project: Part 1 The Health Hazards of Excreta: Theory and Control*. Michigan State University, UNESCO. Available at: <http://www.waterpathogens.org/book/gender-and-sanitation>. doi:10.14321/waterpathogens.4

⁹⁶ REACH, *Empowerment and Water Security Among Pastoralist Women in the Maasai and Samburu Communities of Northern Kenya* (Geneva: REACH, November 2018), https://www.reachwater.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/18_11_CHC-Study-Report.pdf.

⁹⁷ Wendland, C., Yadav M., Stock, A., & Seager, J. (2017). Gender and Sanitation Issues. In J.B. Rose & B. Jiménez-Cisneros (Eds.), *Global Water Pathogen Project: Part 1 The Health Hazards of Excreta: Theory and Control*. Michigan State University, UNESCO. Available at: <http://www.waterpathogens.org/book/gender-and-sanitation>. doi:10.14321/waterpathogens.4

older are the primary collectors in 7 out of 10 households. Girls under 15 are also nearly twice as likely as boys to bear this responsibility ⁹⁸.

This immense investment of time carries significant opportunity costs. For women, it drastically shortens the hours available for income-generating activities, thus limiting their economic independence and perpetuating cycles of poverty. It also reduces time for childcare, other household tasks, or rest and leisure activities ⁹⁹. For girls, the implications are particularly severe as water collection often takes time away from education, possibly leading to missed school days or even permanent dropout¹⁰⁰. Studies show a direct link between the time girls spend fetching water and increased school absenteeism ¹⁰¹. Beyond the loss of time and opportunities, the task of water collection exposes women and girls to health and safety risks: long journeys to water sources can lead to physical injuries from carrying heavy loads and increase vulnerability to harassment and violence, especially when traveling alone or in secluded areas ¹⁰². Further, when water is collected from unsafe sources or becomes contaminated during transport and storage, it elevates the risk of waterborne diseases like diarrhoea ¹⁰³.

In CAR, the challenges associated with water access, and the gendered burden are acutely prevalent. A staggering 89% of urban households and 98% of rural households in CAR lack water on their premises, indicating an overwhelming dependency on off-site water sources across the country ¹⁰⁴. Data from within CAR further cements that the responsibility for collecting this water falls disproportionately on women and girls: in urban areas, adult females are the primary water collectors for 67% of households, and child females for 21%. In contrast, adult males account for only 12% and child males for 1% ¹⁰⁵. In rural areas, the burden is even more pronounced, with adult females being the primary collectors for 77% of households, and child females for 12%. Adult males account for 10% and child males for 1%¹⁰⁶. Additionally, data from 2019 reveals that women and adolescent girls (15+ years) in CAR spend approximately 28-30 minutes per day fetching water, while girls (<15 years) spend around 18-20 minutes daily. This contrasts sharply with men and adolescent boys (15+ years) who spend 0-1 minutes, and boys (<15 years) who spend 1-2 minutes on this task. Overall, women and adolescent girls are primarily responsible for water carriage in 70-75% of households, and girls (<15 years) in 20-25%. Boy and men, in their respective age groups, hold primary responsibility in only 0-5% of households. This positions CAR among countries where over half of households rely on women and girls for water collection ¹⁰⁷.

⁹⁸ WHO. (n.d.). *Women and girls bear brunt of water and sanitation crisis - New UNICEF-WHO report*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-07-2023-women-and-girls-bear-brunt-of-water-and-sanitation-crisis---new-unicef-who-report>

⁹⁹ Water.org. (n.d.). *How does the world water crisis affect women and girls?*. Retrieved from <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/womens-crisis/>

¹⁰⁰ WHO. (n.d.). *Women and girls bear brunt of water and sanitation crisis - New UNICEF-WHO report*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-07-2023-women-and-girls-bear-brunt-of-water-and-sanitation-crisis---new-unicef-who-report>

¹⁰¹ Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2022: special focus on gender. (2023). New York: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).

¹⁰² Graham, J. P., Hirai, M., & Kim, S-S. (2016). An Analysis of Water Collection Labor among Women and Children in 24 Sub-Saharan African Countries. *PLoS ONE*, 11(6), e0155981. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0155981&type=printable>

¹⁰³ Water.org. (n.d.). *How does the world water crisis affect women and girls?*. Retrieved from <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/womens-crisis/>

¹⁰⁴ Graham, J. P., Hirai, M., & Kim, S-S. (2016). An Analysis of Water Collection Labor among Women and Children in 24 Sub-Saharan African Countries. *PLoS ONE*, 11(6), e0155981.

¹⁰⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2022: special focus on gender. (2023). New York: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Moreover, a significant proportion of households in CAR spend considerable time on water collection. For those without water on premises, 14% in urban areas and 28% in rural areas spend 30 minutes or more collecting water. Adult females bear the brunt of this long-distance collection, making up 64% in urban areas and 79% in rural areas of those spending over 30 minutes. Children, particularly girls, also contribute significantly to this time burden, especially in rural settings ¹⁰⁸.

When compared to other African nations, CAR's statistics underscore a particularly dire situation regarding water accessibility and the gendered burden. CAR's 98% of rural households without on-premises water is among the highest in Africa, comparable to countries like Niger (93% rural) and Sierra Leone (99% rural). Additionally, the overwhelming reliance on adult females (77% in rural CAR) and child females (12% in rural CAR) for primary water collection is exceptionally high. While some countries like Niger and Ethiopia report even higher percentages of households spending over 30 minutes collecting water, CAR's rural figure of 28% is still notably high. Couples with the pervasive lack of on-premises water, CAR's combined challenges place it among the most severely impacted countries in terms of water accessibility ¹⁰⁹. The gender disparity in CAR for water collection journeys exceeding 30 minutes is particularly striking. In rural CAR, for every male primary water collector spending over 30 minutes, there are 8.6 female ones. The child ratio in rural areas is 3.6, highlighting that child girls are significantly more likely than child boys to be involved in collecting water for extended periods ¹¹⁰.

CAR faces an acute water accessibility crisis characterised by a severe lack of on-premises water and an extraordinarily disproportionate burden on women and girls for distant and time-consuming water collection. This issue not only hinders their educational and economic opportunities but also poses significant health and safety risks, positioning CAR among the countries with the most critical need for gender-responsive interventions in WASH projects.

Moreover, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and SEA/SH constitute fundamental constraints to the access and utilization of climate-resilient WASH services in CAR. The WASH sector is recognized as one of the most SEA/SH-prone humanitarian service areas, with poorly lit, non-segregated, or remotely located water collection points, bathing facilities, and latrines frequently becoming focal points for harassment and assault. In CAR, a significant number of reported sexual violence incidents occur precisely near these critical water collection sites. ¹¹¹These protection risks are further amplified by climate change; as droughts cause water scarcity and floods contaminate existing sources, women and girls are forced to travel longer, often isolated and unmonitored distances to fetch water, which severely heightens their exposure to gender-based violence and sexual assault. Furthermore, in resource-constrained and displacement settings, the delivery of aid itself introduces SEA/SH risks, as personnel or contractors may exploit extreme vulnerabilities and power differentials by leveraging access to essential WASH services in exchange for sexual favours.

Additionally, and as explained in previous sections, women and girls are often responsible for domestic water supply, which frequently requires traveling long distances to remote or poorly lit water points. These routes often pass through areas controlled by armed groups where the risk of abduction, harassment, and sexual assault is high. This threat forces many women to limit their movements, resulting in reduced water consumption and a higher reliance on unsafe, closer water sources. Moreover, the power imbalances inherent in aid delivery and infrastructure construction can create opportunities for exploitation, which, if left unmitigated, deter vulnerable individuals from seeking essential services ¹¹².

¹⁰⁸ Graham, J. P., Hirai, M., & Kim, S-S. (2016). An Analysis of Water Collection Labor among Women and Children in 24 Sub-Saharan African Countries. *PLoS ONE*, 11(6), e0155981

¹⁰⁹ *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹¹ Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: WASH Chapter*, 2015

¹¹² Oxfam, *Gender and WASH in Fragile Contexts: Learning Brief*, 2022.

3.4 Opportunities and constraints to women’s participation in WASH governance

Equally critical to the success and sustainability of WASH initiatives is the meaningful and substantive involvement of women in all stages of WASH design, implementation, and governance. Women, by virtue of their traditional roles, are often the primary users and managers of household water and sanitation facilities. Their daily experiences provide invaluable insights into the practical challenges and specific needs related to water access, hygiene practices, and sanitation facilities. Therefore, their perspectives are not merely beneficial but absolutely crucial to ensuring that WASH services are truly responsive, effective, and culturally appropriate.

However, a significant challenge in many contexts across the Central African Republic (CAR) and similar regions is the pervasive underrepresentation of women in WASH decision-making structures. This includes vital bodies such as water user committees, community planning councils, and local government forums where critical decisions about resource allocation, infrastructure development, and service delivery are made. Even in instances where women are formally included in these structures, their participation is often superficial or symbolic. They may be present in name, but frequently lack genuine influence, adequate support, or the necessary platforms to voice their opinions effectively. This symbolic inclusion often fails to translate into tangible changes in policy or practice.¹¹³

3.5 Gender, Climate Change and community resilience planning

In the Central African Republic (CAR), climate change is a direct and compounding driver of vulnerability, especially for women, girls, and marginalized communities. As floods, droughts, and erratic rainfall increasingly affect rural livelihoods, food production, and water access, community resilience planning has emerged as a crucial adaptation strategy. However, these planning processes have historically been gender-blind, overlooking both the differentiated impacts of climate change and the essential contributions of women in strengthening household and community resilience.

Women in CAR are on the frontline of climate impacts. They are primarily responsible for securing water, producing food, and caring for children, the elderly, and the sick roles that are directly disrupted by climate stressors such as seasonal drought, failed harvests, and degraded ecosystems. These responsibilities provide women with critical environmental knowledge and practical adaptation experience, but also make them more vulnerable to workload increases, food and water scarcity, and gender-based violence during climate-induced displacement and disasters. Yet, women’s voices remain largely absent from community resilience decision-making platforms, including local development councils, village water user associations, and early warning or disaster preparedness committees.

¹¹³ Oxfam, *Gender and WASH in Fragile Contexts: Learning Brief*, 2022.

4. Gender Dimensions of Climate Vulnerability and Resilience in WASH

The intersection of climate change, gender inequality, and underdeveloped water, sanitation, and hygiene systems presents severe challenges to sustainable development and human security. Women and girls - particularly those living in rural areas, informal settlements, or displacement settings - bear the brunt of climate-induced WASH vulnerabilities due to the gendered division of labour, discriminatory social norms, and limited decision-making power.

4.1 Differential Impacts of Climate Change on Women and Men

In CAR, main identified climate risks that particularly pose a significant threat to WASH systems are floods and droughts. As highlighted in the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report¹¹⁴, climate change trends are expected to increase the risk and intensity of both flooding and aridity across the country. This intensification of extreme weather events directly jeopardises WASH infrastructure and services, with increased flooding leading to ground and surface water contamination and the spread of waterborne diseases, and droughts threatening the sustainability of water-related services due to water scarcity. These climatic challenges not only undermine environmental, social and economic stability, but also exacerbate existing vulnerabilities within the population.

Flooding significantly impacts women due to their socially constructed roles and responsibilities. Women and girls are often more physically present at home due to domestic activities, including childcare and household management, which makes them more susceptible to immediate flood risks and potential fatalities, particularly in less developed, patriarchal societies - a system that prevails in CAR - where social dynamics put women at a disadvantage^{115,116}. Floods disproportionately destroy informal jobs predominantly held by women, such as small-scale farming and firewood collection, leading to greater loss of livelihood and income sources for women compared to men. Furthermore, women face increased health vulnerabilities during and after floods, experiencing more health challenges and difficulties in maintaining hygiene due to poor sanitary conditions and limited access to menstrual products and reproductive health services. The psychological toll is also higher on women, who are more likely to suffer post-traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD) and other forms of psychological distress from having their homes flooded, often linked to concerns about family separation¹¹⁷. Post-disaster recovery is also more challenging for women, as their primary role in re-establishing households and caring for children often delays their re-entry into the labour market and prolonged unemployment.

Droughts also present distinct challenges for women. As primary caregivers and providers of household resources, women bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing water and food for their families. When droughts cause these resources to

¹¹⁴ The World Bank Group (2024). *Country Climate and Development Report*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1553b3b-3ce6-4800-8f93-476e7c89d21b/content>

¹¹⁵ Olukoya, O., & Olamide, B. (2025). The differential gendered impacts of the 2022 flood in Nigeria: lessons for disaster policy and planning. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 12(1), 1-14.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44155-025-00211-7#Sec23>

¹¹⁶ Murillo, L., & Tan, A. (2019). Gender analysis of flood risk reduction: a case study of Jakarta, Indonesia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 271(1), 012026. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/271/1/012026/pdf>

¹¹⁷ University of York. (2021, January 4). *Women more likely than men to suffer psychological distress from having their homes flooded*. News and Events. <https://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/research/women-psychological-distress-flooding/>

become scarce, women and girls must travel longer distances and expend more effort, often leading to girls being pulled out of school to assist¹¹⁸. This increased burden can exacerbate food insecurity within female-headed households, as well as SEA/SH and GBV risks. Economically, female-headed households in rural areas face significantly greater income losses due to heat stress compared to male-headed households, widening the existing income gap¹¹⁹. This is significant given UN evidence that nearly 1 in 2 households are female-headed in CAR¹²⁰. Furthermore, climate-related impacts like extreme heat can affect maternal and neonatal health, increasing instances of stillbirths and the spread of vector-borne illnesses, especially where healthcare access is limited by disasters¹²¹.

Underlying these differential impacts are pre-existing gender inequalities in CAR, which the climate crisis amplifies. Women often have limited access to resources, services, and employment opportunities, as well as higher risks of SEA/SH and GBV, as above-mentioned in this report. This severely curtails their capacity to adapt to and cope with climate change impacts. The socio-economic stresses exacerbated by climate change, including those from droughts and floods, are also linked to an increase in gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence¹²².

4.1.2 Gender and Climate-linked water insecurity

According to 'Aqueduct 4.0: Updated Decision-Relevant Global Water Risk Indicators'¹²³, CAR faces challenging hydrological conditions, characterised by a pronounced interannual and seasonal variability in water supply¹²⁴.

These conditions can directly intensify the socio-economic pressures that drive GBV. Prolonged drought, as highlighted in broader research, exacerbates financial hardship and food insecurity, placing immense stress on households¹²⁵. In such environments, the responsibility for securing resources falls disproportionately on women, and the ensuing economic distress can lead to increased IPV, including physical and sexual abuse¹²⁶. Families may also resort to desperate strategies such as early or forced marriage for daughters, viewing it to alleviate financial burdens. Furthermore, the extreme stress and loss of

¹¹⁸ UN Women. (2025). *How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected*. UN Women.

¹¹⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2023, September 15). *Heatwaves and floods affect rural women and men differently, widen income gap*. Newsroom. <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/heatwaves-and-floods-affect-rural-women-and-men-differently-widen-income-gap/en>

¹²⁰ United Nations (2023). 1 In 2 Households Headed By Women In The Central African Republic | United Nations. [online] YouTube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLKkaJaWdzE>.

¹²¹ UN Women. (2025). *How gender inequality and climate change are interconnected*. UN Women.

¹²² *ibid*.

¹²³ Kuzma, S., Bierkens, M. F. P., Lakshman, S., Luo, T., Saccoccia, L., Sutanudjaja, E. H., & Van Beek, R. (2023). *Aqueduct 4.0: Updated decision-relevant global water risk indicators*. Technical Note. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at: doi.org/10.46830/writn.23.00061.

¹²⁴ World Resources Institute. (2017). *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas*. Retrieved from https://www.wri.org/applications/aqueduct/water-risk-atlas/#/?advanced=false&basemap=hydro&geoStore=0103742d088cc8b722ac444ed9163f79&indicator=w_awr_def_tot_cat&lat=8.570157714682582&lng=20.819091796875004&mapMode=analysis&month=1&opacity=0.5&ponderation=DEF&predefined=false&projection=absolute&scenario=business_as_usual&scope=baseline&threshold=6&timeScale=annual&year=baseline&zoom=6

¹²⁵ van Daalen KR, Kallesøe SS, Davey F, Dada S, Jung L, Singh L, Issa R, Emilian CA, Kuhn I, Keygnaert I, Nilsson M. *Extreme events and gender-based violence: a mixed-methods systematic review*. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2022 Jun;6(6):e504-e523. doi: 10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00088-2. PMID: 35709808; PMCID: PMC10073035.

¹²⁶ *ibid*.

control experienced by household members, particularly men who may feel unable to provide, can result in increased aggression within the home.

When floods occur, the established links between such events and GBV may be heightened. Displacement caused by flooding can force women, girls and sexual and gender minorities into crowded and unsafe emergency camps, increasing their potential exposure to harassment and various forms of violence from partners, strangers and even those who provide aid¹²⁷. The disruption to daily life and loss of homes contribute to immense psychological stress, which, as previously mentioned, disproportionately affects women and can escalate IPV¹²⁸. Additionally, damaged infrastructure and loss of privacy in communal settings can create ‘enabling environments’ for perpetrators, making women and girls more vulnerable to physical and sexual assault¹²⁹.

4.2 Differential vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities

Women in CAR often exhibit different, and often lower, adaptive capacities to climate change impacts, due to a combination of deeply entrenched gender inequalities. These disparities stem from unequal access to crucial resources, such as land, finance, and technology, which limits their ability to invest in adaptive measures or recover from shocks. Further, their gendered roles often entail increased workloads related to securing household necessities, which become more arduous during extreme weather events¹³⁰ and leave less time for adaptation to income diversification. Women also face limited participation and decision-making power at both household and community levels, meaning their unique vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies are often overlooked in climate planning¹³¹. Finally, prevailing socio-cultural norms and increased health and safety risks, including gender-based violence, further hinder their ability to respond effectively and recover from climate-induced disasters.

4.2.1 Impact of climate change on people with disabilities

Climate change significantly amplifies existing vulnerabilities for people with disabilities, leading to a disproportionate impact on their lives, particularly in already vulnerable regions, such as CAR. Pre-existing barriers to mobility, access to information and essential services are exacerbated by climate-related events¹³². For example, individuals with limited mobility with reliance on assistive devices face a heightened risk of injury and death during extreme weather events¹³³. The climate crisis also disrupts healthcare and social services due to infrastructure damage and resource limitation, making it difficult for people with disabilities to access medications and temporary health facilities. This disruption, along with displacement and loss of livelihood, can lead to severe mental health challenges and deepened social isolation.

¹²⁷ van Daalen KR, Kallesøe SS, Davey F, Dada S, Jung L, Singh L, Issa R, Emilian CA, Kuhn I, Keygnaert I, Nilsson M. *Extreme events and gender-based violence: a mixed-methods systematic review*. Lancet Planet Health. 2022 Jun;6(6):e504-e523. doi: 10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00088-2. PMID: 35709808; PMCID: PMC10073035.

¹²⁸ *ibid.*

¹²⁹ *ibid.*

¹³⁰ Carr, R., Kotz, M., Pichler, PP. et al. Climate change to exacerbate the burden of water collection on women’s welfare globally. Nat. Clim. Chang. 14, 700–706 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02037-8>

¹³¹ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

¹³² Nogning Armelle. (n.d.). *The Experience of Persons with Disabilities and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa*. [online] Available at: https://www.bezev.de/media/1_the_experience_of_persons_with_disabilities_and_climate_change_in_sub-saharan-africa_nogning_armelle_aimerique.pdf.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

Furthermore, the impact extends to fundamental aspects of daily life. Climate disruptions to agriculture severely affect food security, leading to higher rates of malnutrition among people with disabilities¹³⁴. Extreme weather events limit access to safe water, forcing many, especially those with mobility impairments, to rely on unsafe sources for drinking and hygiene¹³⁵. Education is also severely disrupted: children with disabilities are more likely to be out of school and without access to safe spaces during climate emergencies¹³⁶. Economically, adverse weather conditions reduce work capacity and crop yields, deepening financial instability for people with disabilities who often face additional barriers to engaging in climate-smart livelihoods or accessing social protection systems. Housing is another critical area, with damaged homes and inadequate access to resilient and accessible housing severely compounding living standards.

Turning to the experiences of women and girls living with disabilities, they experience a particularly disadvantaged position, facing intersecting forms of discrimination based on both gender and disability. Encountering harassment and violence while accessing public sanitation facilities and clean water is not uncommon¹³⁷. Climate change intensifies these risks and access to maternal health services becomes even more challenging for women with disabilities, despite high temperatures and poor air quality having severe impacts on perinatal and maternal health¹³⁸.

Traditional gender roles often burden women with disabilities with household chores, childcare and the responsibilities of finding food and water, regardless of their impairments¹³⁹. The increased distances required to procure water due to climate change become “dreadful” journeys for them¹⁴⁰. Cultural and attitudinal barriers frequently prevent women with disabilities from marrying, inheriting land, or owning property, leaving them without the security and support that marriage or land ownership might offer. This can force them into begging or leave them more vulnerable to displacement and poverty after climate-related disasters¹⁴¹. During evacuation and humanitarian responses, women with disabilities are among the most vulnerable to discrimination and have less access to essential services, including accessible toilets, menstrual hygiene products and protection from gender-based violence and sexual abuse¹⁴².

4.3 Gendered impacts of climate change on WASH

Given the existing burden of water collection on women and girls, the escalating impacts of climate change are poised to exacerbate this challenge significantly. Climate change is a critical driver of increasing water scarcity across the globe, a phenomenon that directly intensifies the gendered task of water collection.

¹³⁴ Bond and International Disability and Development Consortium. (2025). *UNEQUAL CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES*. [online] Available at: https://www.bond.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2508_BOND-Disability_final_web.pdf.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ International Disability Alliance. (2023). *The Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities in Baringo County, Kenya*. [online] Available at: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/documents/ida_baringoreport_final.pdf.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Bond and International Disability and Development Consortium. (2025). *UNEQUAL CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES*. [online] Available at: https://www.bond.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2508_BOND-Disability_final_web.pdf.

For rural households lacking on-premises water access, where women are predominantly responsible for water collection, the consequences of climate change are particularly severe. Rising global temperatures and altered precipitation patterns directly translate into longer and more arduous daily journeys to secure water. Research analysing the effect of climate conditions on self-reported water collection times across 347 subnational regions from 1990 to 2019 reveals a concerning trend: historically, a 1°C increase in temperature has been associated with an additional 4 minutes in daily water collection times¹⁴³. Similarly, diminished rainfall has historically extended water collection efforts, with the most significant impacts observed in regions already experiencing low precipitation or where fewer women were employed, indicating a heightened vulnerability in these contexts¹⁴⁴.

Projections indicate a grim future under high-emissions scenarios. By 2050, the amount of time women without household water access spend daily on water collection could increase by an alarming 30% globally¹⁴⁵. This intensification of the water collection burden underscores a profound gendered dimension of climate impacts. As climate change continues to intensify water scarcity, it will disproportionately affect women and girls, undermining their well-being, perpetuating time poverty, and further entrenching existing inequalities.

Beyond the direct burden on water collection, climate change also profoundly impacts sanitation and hygiene services in various direct and indirect ways. Directly, extreme weather events, which are increasing in intensity and frequency, pose significant threats. For instance, decreased precipitation and droughts lead to a reduction in raw water availability for drinking, diminished river flow, and a higher concentration of pollutants in remaining water, making hygiene practices challenging. Conversely, increases in precipitation and severe weather, resulting in flooding, can pollute and inundate wells, make water sources inaccessible, flood latrines, damage infrastructure, and cause landslides, all of which compromise sanitation and hygiene behaviours and lead to waterborne diseases. Similarly, rising temperatures and heatwaves can damage infrastructure and increase pathogens in water, elevating the risk of disease. Long-term direct impacts include sea-level rise, causing flooding and saline intrusion into freshwater aquifers, which reduces drinking water availability and significantly impacts quality. These long-term changes also lead to displacement of populations whose sanitation needs must then be met in new, often overwhelmed locations^{146,147}. Indirectly, climate change disrupts livelihoods, such as smallholder farming and fishing, impacting communities' financial capacity to invest in improved sanitation or afford existing services¹⁴⁸. The interplay of climate impacts with pre-existing issues like poor water supply and environmental degradation makes it challenging to pinpoint climate change as the sole cause, but it acts as a significant risk multiplier, exacerbating existing inequalities in access to water and sanitation¹⁴⁹.

¹⁴³ Carr, R., Kotz, M., Pichler, PP. et al. Climate change to exacerbate the burden of water collection on women's welfare globally. *Nat. Clim. Chang.* 14, 700–706 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02037-8>

¹⁴⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ Kohlitz, J. (2021). *How does climate change affect sanitation?* [online] YouTube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onfG-jnG6VI>.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe & World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. (2022). *Climate change threatens access to water and sanitation, warns UNECE & WHO/Europe, urging reinforced measures under Protocol to boost resilience*. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Retrieved from <https://unece.org/climate-change/press/climate-change-threatens-access-water-and-sanitation-warn-unece-whoeurope>

¹⁴⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ Arrojo Agudo, P. (2021). *The impacts of climate change on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of groups and populations in situations of vulnerability (Special Thematic Report 2)*. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/climate-change-2-friendlyversion.pdf>.

These climate-induced challenges to sanitation disproportionately affect women and girls. Globally, women and girls typically bear the primary responsibility for collecting household water and caring for sick family members^{150,151} - and this role is reflected starkly in CAR, as above-mentioned when looking at the time burden faced by women in the WASH sector. When climate change reduces water availability due to droughts or contaminates sources through flooding and pollution, they are forced to travel longer distances, often in unsafe conditions, to find water, exposing them to increased risks of violence and sexual assault¹⁵². This extended burden can also detract from girls' opportunities to attend school¹⁵³ - reinforcing the already existing gender disparity in education facing CAR¹⁵⁴.

Further, the destruction of sanitation infrastructure or forced migration due to extreme weather events critically undermines the ability of women and girls to manage their menstrual hygiene safely, privately, and with dignity¹⁵⁵. Contaminated water sources, exacerbated by flooding and increased pathogens from heatwaves, lead to higher rates of waterborne diseases, placing an additional caregiving burden on women who tend to the sick¹⁵⁶. Climate impacts on water quality, such as salinisation from sea-level rise, can also have adverse health outcomes, including increased rates of preterm births and maternal and perinatal deaths¹⁵⁷. The persistent marginalisation of women in decision-making processes, particularly within water governance and climate policy, further limits the effectiveness of adaptation measures in addressing their specific water and sanitation needs and disproportionate impacts.

4.4 Barriers to information and services

Women and girls navigate a complex and often perilous environment shaped by overlapping humanitarian, climate, and gender-related crises in the Central African Republic. These multiple forms of vulnerability interact to create deeply entrenched barriers to accessing life-saving information, protective services, and climate adaptation resources. As the frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters—particularly flooding, drought, and displacement—increase, the urgency to confront these barriers grows. However, despite global commitments to gender equality and inclusive climate action, structural gaps in access to information and services persist and are often overlooked in policy design and emergency planning.

One of the most critical—and least addressed—barriers is the gendered asymmetry in climate information access. In rural and remote regions of CAR, early warning systems for floods, storms, or crop failure are rarely designed with women's communication needs in mind. Formal alerts often rely on channels such as community chiefs, religious leaders, or radio broadcasts—platforms typically dominated by men and inaccessible to many women, particularly those who are illiterate, do

¹⁵⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁵¹ Haves, E. (2021). *Urban water and sanitation in developing countries: impact of climate change*. House of Lords Library. Retrieved from <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/urban-water-and-sanitation-in-developing-countries-impact-of-climate-change/>.

¹⁵² Arrojo Agudo, P. (2021). *The impacts of climate change on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of groups and populations in situations of vulnerability (Special Thematic Report 2)*. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/climate-change-2-friendlyversion.pdf>.

¹⁵³ *ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/central-african-republic>

¹⁵⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe & World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. (2022). *Climate change threatens access to water and sanitation, warn UNECE & WHO/Europe, urging reinforced measures under Protocol to boost resilience*. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Retrieved from <https://unece.org/climate-change/press/climate-change-threatens-access-water-and-sanitation-warn-unece-whoeurope>

¹⁵⁷ Ha, S. (2022). *The changing climate and pregnancy health*. *Current Environmental Health Reports*, 9(2), 153–159. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-022-00345-9>

not speak French or Sango fluently, or live in isolated areas without reliable energy or mobile coverage. These women may remain unaware of impending climate risks or available humanitarian services until it is too late to respond effectively.

Moreover, language, literacy, and social status create additional filters. Many women, especially older ones or those from Indigenous and ethnic minority groups (e.g., the Ba'Aka), are excluded from male-led community meetings where crucial climate-related updates or risk advisories are shared.¹⁵⁸ Women's limited access to mobile phones, radios, or other technologies further marginalizes them in early warning and decision-making systems. In contexts where ownership of technology is mediated by men—such as in households where only the male head of family has a radio or mobile device—information access is gender-gated.¹⁵⁹

These asymmetries also extend to accessing services after climate shocks occur. Despite being disproportionately affected by climate-related events, women face multiple obstacles to receiving humanitarian relief, healthcare, GBV services, and adaptation support. A major barrier is the lack of documentation, which is often needed to access aid. Displaced women—particularly widows, unmarried mothers, or adolescent girls—frequently lack identity cards, land titles, or proof of household affiliation, especially if they have fled conflict or flooding on short notice. Without formal documentation, they may be excluded from needs assessments, cash transfers, or land recovery schemes following disasters.

Even when services are available, cultural norms and fears of stigma prevent women and girls from seeking them. This is especially true for survivors of GBV in the context of climate displacement. Fear of reprisal from family or community, combined with a lack of female personnel and confidentiality in service provision, can lead women to remain silent, further entrenching cycles of vulnerability and marginalization. For adolescent girls and women with disabilities, these challenges are multiplied by isolation, immobility, and the near-total absence of targeted outreach.

These compounded barriers mean that women and girls are less likely to access early recovery assistance, health care, or legal redress, and are thus more exposed to cascading risks. In CAR's humanitarian response, GBV and WASH services are often provided in parallel but not in coordination, making it difficult for affected women to navigate fragmented service landscapes. Reports from the WASH and Protection Clusters in CAR indicate that many community-based referral systems are not functional, particularly outside of capital cities, and that many female community members are unaware of even the most basic services available to them during and after climate-related crises.¹⁶⁰

5. Strategic Context

5.1 Policy Frameworks on Gender and Climate

The Central African Republic has made formal commitments to integrating gender into national policy and climate planning, but the degree of implementation remains limited. The principal national framework guiding gender equality is the *Politique Nationale Genre* (2017–2021), which articulates the government's intent to mainstream gender across all policy domains, including those related to environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation. Although this policy has technically lapsed, it remains the primary reference for national gender actions and continues to inform sectoral strategies (République Centrafricaine, 2017).

¹⁵⁸ CARE International, *Women and Girls in Crisis: Climate and Conflict in the Central African Republic*, Geneva: CARE, 2022.

¹⁵⁹ FAO, *Gender and Access to Information and Communication Technologies in Rural Africa*, Rome: FAO, 2021.

¹⁶⁰ UN Women, *THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS: ADDRESSING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' UNPAID CARE, DOMESTIC AND COMMUNAL WORK*, 2023. (pages 18-22)

CAR is also a signatory to several international frameworks that affirm the country's commitment to gender-responsive climate action. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). However, these commitments are yet to be comprehensively translated into operational national plans and budgets.

In its 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), CAR acknowledges women and girls as among the most vulnerable populations to climate change impacts—particularly in the sectors of water, health, and agriculture. The NDC recognizes the importance of addressing these vulnerabilities through inclusive policy measures. However, the document falls short of providing concrete gender-responsive targets, budget allocations, or mechanisms for monitoring gender impacts. It also lacks sex-disaggregated data, a crucial element for evidence-based policy planning and evaluation (République Centrafricaine, 2021).

The development of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) presents a timely opportunity to strengthen gender integration into national climate governance¹⁶¹. The GCF Readiness Programme supports the design of CAR's NAP¹⁶², with guidance to ensure participatory planning, institutional coordination, and the mainstreaming of social inclusion measures. If gender dimensions are adequately addressed, the NAP could become the first climate policy instrument in CAR to institutionalize gender-responsive planning processes. This includes conducting gender-disaggregated vulnerability assessments, engaging women's organizations in decision-making processes, and developing gender-specific indicators to measure resilience outcomes (GCF, 2023).

Despite these policy intentions and opportunities, the current policy environment is fragmented. Many climate-related strategies reference gender only in generic terms, without the backing of financial resources, institutional mandates, or enforcement mechanisms. This limits the effectiveness of national efforts and underscores the need for better integration between gender, climate, and sectoral strategies such as those for WASH, health, and rural development.

5.2 Gender in National Adaptation Policies (NAP, NDC) and WASH Strategies

There has been a rising, but inconsistent, push to include gender in WASH programs in the Central African Republic. This has mostly been led by humanitarian organizations, sectoral ministries, and new climate policy frameworks. The state is still weak, and women and girls are quite vulnerable in both urban and rural regions, especially when they are displaced. This has led to multi-actor solutions to make sure that gender issues are considered in WASH planning, service delivery, and risk reduction.

UNICEF is a key player in making sure that CAR's WASH programs are gender sensitive. They do this by concentrating on menstrual hygiene management (MHM), reaching out to the community, and setting up separate bathrooms for boys and girls in schools and camps. Giving out dignity kits and teaching women about hygiene guided by professional female facilitators is another way to make this stronger. The work UNICEF does is part of its Country Programme for 2023–2027.

The Ministry of Gender, Child Protection, and Humanitarian Action helps with strategic coordination by pushing for women's participation in WASH governance structures and making sure that gender-based violence risk reduction is built into WASH

¹⁶¹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CAR-NAP-FR-web.pdf>

¹⁶² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2023_08a01.pdf

protocols, especially in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs). But it frequently has trouble carrying out its plans since it doesn't have enough resources and the institutions don't work together well.

The Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting, and Fishing has made some headway in making rural water access projects more gender-sensitive, with help from outside groups. More and more, women have been asked where to put water points and latrines to make them safer and make their lives easier.

The WASH Cluster, which is co-led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources, has included gender risk mitigation to all of its humanitarian WASH recommendations at the coordination level. This involves using the IASC GBV Guidelines, naming gender focal points in local WASH committees, and regularly collecting data that is broken down by sex and age.

UNFPA has played a key role in connecting reproductive health with gender and WASH by adding MHM supplies to emergency health kits and making sure that maternity facilities have safe, dignified access to water and sanitation.

NGOs like Action Contre la Faim (ACF), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Oxfam have done localized work that encourages women to chair WASH committees, teaches people how to fix pumps, and does needs assessments that take gender into account. These programs not only help women get better WASH results, but they also provide them more power and protection.

The CAR Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which is run by OCHA, is in charge of coordinating gender integration across sectors via Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs) and cooperative planning among the WASH, GBV, and Protection Clusters.

The 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) recognizes that women are more likely to be affected by climate change, but it doesn't include any gender-specific goals or indicators in the WASH sector. Still, it makes it possible to align with current national gender and WASH frameworks. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is still being worked on, but the Green Climate Fund is helping with the design phase. This is a great time to make sure that gender-sensitive indicators, gender-responsive planning units, and gender-disaggregated vulnerability assessments are all part of water and sanitation adaptation measures

Table 5: Gender adaptation strategies in WASH in project related policies and guidelines.

Organization / Actor	Gender Adaptation Strategies in WASH	References
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) – CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General reference to women as part of vulnerable groups affected by climate impacts. - No specific gender-disaggregated data or targets, but opportunity for future integration. - Alignment recommended with national gender policies and WASH strategies for coherence. 	République Centrafricaine. Contribution Déterminée au niveau National (2021).

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) – CAR (in development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAP process underway with Readiness support; gender integration not yet formalized. - Opportunity to include gender-disaggregated vulnerability assessments in water and sanitation. - Inclusion of gender-responsive planning units and indicators strongly recommended. 	Green Climate Fund Readiness Project Profile – CAR NAP; UNFCCC NAP Central Database (2024).
Ministry of Gender, Child Protection and Humanitarian Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of gender equity priorities in coordination with WASH actors. - Oversight of GBV-WASH coordination protocols in IDP camps. - Promotion of women’s participation in WASH decision-making structures through gender units in local governance. 	Politique Nationale Genre (2017–2021); GIZ Gender Brief CAR (2023)
Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporation of gender needs into rural water access planning. - Community water point construction with women’s input on location and safety features. - Joint technical training programs for women on pump maintenance and WASH service delivery. 	Stratégie sectorielle eau et assainissement (draft); WASH Cluster Reports (2023)
WASH Cluster CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of IASC GBV Guidelines in WASH programming (latrine lighting, locks, location). - Collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data on WASH access and needs. - Gender focal points in local WASH committees. - Coordination of gender risk mitigation in latrine and bathing site placement in displacement settings. 	WASH Cluster Strategy (2022–2024); IASC Guidelines on GBV in WASH (2015)
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of dignity kits (menstrual pads, soap, underwear) to adolescent girls and women in humanitarian contexts. - Deployment of gender-segregated latrines in schools and IDP camps. - Integration of MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management) education into school hygiene programs. - Community-based WASH promotion through trained female hygiene educators. 	UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Situation Reports (2022–2024); UNICEF WASH Country Programme 2023–2027; UNICEF (2021)

UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of menstrual hygiene products in Minimum Initial Service Packages (MISP). - Support for dignity-preserving WASH access in maternity and health units. - Collaboration with WASH actors for gender-sensitive distribution of hygiene kits in conflict zones. 	UNFPA CAR Humanitarian Reports (2022–2023); UNFPA (2021)
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women-led WASH awareness campaigns. - Engagement of women in infrastructure maintenance, including pumps and community toilets. - Participatory gender mapping in WASH needs assessments. 	ACF Reports on CAR (2021–2023)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender-segregated WASH facilities in IDP camps. - Design of WASH programs integrating protection indicators (safe access, SEA/SH prevention). 	NRC (2023); OCHA CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (2023)
Oxfam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women’s leadership in water user associations. - Training on gender, water governance and protection risks. - Community-based conflict resolution on WASH resource use. 	Oxfam WASH and Gender Briefs (2022)
CAR Humanitarian Country Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender-sensitive indicators in multi-sectoral needs assessments (MSNA). - Inter-cluster collaboration on WASH, GBV, and Protection. - Support for integrated WASH-protection planning. 	OCHA HCT CAR Strategy (2023); HNO/HRP CAR (2023–2024)
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) – CAR (in development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAP process underway with Readiness support; gender integration not yet formalized. - Opportunity to include gender-disaggregated vulnerability assessments in water and sanitation. - Inclusion of gender-responsive planning units and indicators strongly recommended. 	Green Climate Fund Readiness Project Profile – CAR NAP; UNFCCC NAP Central Database (2024).

6. Gender Action Plan

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is designed as a direct response to the structural and situational inequalities identified in the National and Project Area assessments. Specifically, the severe time poverty and safety risks documented during female consultations—where women bear the primary burden of off-site water collection—are addressed through the strategic placement of climate-resilient water systems near households and the installation of solar-lighted, gender-segregated facilities. Furthermore, the identified exclusion of women from WASH governance is countered by mandatory 35% to 50%

female representation targets in local committees and their active leadership in co-designing community resilience plans. By aligning these specific socio-economic barriers with targeted technical and institutional actions, the GAP ensures that climate adaptation outcomes are both equitable and transformative for the most vulnerable populations in CAR.

Impact Statement

The project's long-term gender transformative impact is to enhance WASH-related equity and safety for girls in climate-vulnerable communities. By integrating climate-resilient, gender-responsive WASH facilities and hygiene education in schools, the project will directly address critical barriers (including the time burden of water collection, inadequate menstrual hygiene management (MHM), and the pervasive risk of gender-based violence) that affect women and girls' safety, security, well-being, and empowerment, and force girls out of school. This project will foster safer, more inclusive living and learning environments, leading to improved gender equality, and contributing to a generational shift in women and girls' empowerment, health, and community leadership.

Outcome-Level Framework

The Gender Action Plan can be divided into four outcome-level categories: Participation and Agency, Equitable Access, Safety, and Empowerment. The plan to achieve these outcomes is detailed below.

Outcome 1: Enhanced Participation and Agency of Women in Climate-Resilient WASH and DRR Governance

This outcome focuses on ensuring women are not just consulted but are active participants and decision-makers in planning and managing climate-resilient WASH and DRR solutions.

- **Influencing National Policy:** Women and female experts will be actively involved in the revision of key national WASH and DRR policies to ensure their needs and strategic priorities are reflected. (from Activity 1.1.1)
- **Participatory Planning and Design:** The project will promote female representation in water user associations, local sanitation committees, and CR-WASH, WRM and DRR planning meetings (typically 50% or more), while keeping membership and participation voluntary. Women will be engaged to co-design community-led resilience plans/interventions, ensuring their local and traditional knowledge on water management is integrated into adaptation solutions. (from Activities 1.2.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.3.1.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3)
- **Monitoring and Feedback:** Women and girls will participate in biannual sustainability and resilience checks through gender-specific focus group discussions, providing direct feedback on the safety, functionality and inclusivity of CR-WASH infrastructure and services. (from Activity 1.2.2.2)
- **Knowledge Sharing:** A dedicated Community of Practice will serve as a platform to elevate the voices of women, gather and disseminate their specific experience and feedback, allowing them to share their needs and successful adaptation strategies with a wider audience. (from Activity 1.2.2.4)

Outcome 2: Improved and Equitable Access for Women and Girls to Climate-Resilient WASH Services and Information

This outcome focuses on ensuring that the infrastructure, services, and information provided by the project are physically, socially, and culturally accessible to women and girls.

- **Gender-Responsive Infrastructure:** All new and rehabilitated sanitation facilities in schools and healthcare centres will be gender-separated and equipped with features to support Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), such as private shower blocks and safe disposal mechanisms. This directly addresses a key barrier to females' hygiene, school attendance, privacy, and well-being.
- **Community-Led Sanitation (CLTS) and Awareness:** Using Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) approaches, it will work with communities and girls to generate demand, ensure safe access, and address social norms and cultural taboos through a community-wide, community-led approach, thereby enhancing girls' agency over their own health and education. (from Activity 2.1.2)
- **Access to Early Warning Information:** The project will co-design gender-responsive communication strategies, messages, and materials with women's groups to ensure that early warning messages for floods and droughts are relevant, timely, and delivered through channels accessible to women and girls. (from Activity 1.2.3)

Outcome 3: Increased Safety and Reduced Risk of GBV for Women and Girls in Climate-Affected WASH Contexts

This outcome focuses on mitigating the risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation, and Harassment (SEA/SH) that are often exacerbated in insecure WASH environments and during climate-related disasters.

- **Safe Infrastructure Design:** Water systems will be located as close to houses as possible. Defecation in open areas around communities will be eradicated through the CLTS approach, making sanitation accessible and safe. WASH facilities in schools and healthcare centres will be strategically designed and located to enhance safety. Features will include solar lighting, internal locks, and secure access paths, reducing the risk of harassment and assault. (from Activity 2.1.3.3 & 2.1.3.4)
- **GBV Risk Mitigation in Disaster Planning:** Disaster preparedness plans and simulation exercises will explicitly integrate measures to mitigate GBV risks. This includes establishing protocols for safe evacuation routes and secure shelters, and mapping referral pathways for GBV survivors in disaster contexts. (from Activity 1.2.3)

Outcome 4: Strengthened Capacity and Empowerment of Women and Girls to Lead Climate Adaptation

This outcome focuses on building the skills, knowledge, and confidence of women and girls, and on shifting social norms to support their leadership in climate action.

- **Targeted Capacity Building:** The project will ensure that women are provided with equal opportunities and access to in WASH and climate adaptation trainings and support. It will also identify and address the specific social and logistical barriers that prevent women from participating in such training and monitor women participation. (from Activities 1.3.1, 2.1.4, 2.3.1, and 2.3.2)
- **Promoting Women's Leadership:** The project will promote women in leadership or decision-making roles and their transition from participants to leaders. (from Activity 1.3.1)
- **Engaging Men and Boys:** Training programs will include modules on men's positive engagement in gender equality and climate action. This transformative approach aims to address harmful gender norms that limit women's empowerment and community resilience. (from Activity 2.3.1.1)

Activity-Level Framework

This project's Gender Action Plan is tailored to all activities where gender-related risks were identified, and the activity-level breakdown of risk mitigation measures is detailed in the table below. Note that under the indicators, targets, and timeline column, all indicator baselines are 0 unless otherwise specified.

Project Activity	Potential Risks	Gender/SEA/SH-specific mitigation actions/measures	Indicators, Targets and Timeline	Responsible	Budget
<p>Project Management and Governance</p>		<p>PMU includes Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer to implement and monitor GAP and coordinate gender mainstreaming across project activities. The specialist will also act as the SEA/SH prevention focal point, and will be hired to design the project's Code of Conduct, oversee the GRM, and be responsible for SEA/SH awareness raising across.</p>	<p>Target: 1 Gender, IPP, and Social Inclusion Officer hired as part of the PMU with demonstrable experience in gender and social inclusion.</p>	<p>Lead: PMU and Gender, IPP, and Social Inclusion Officer. Collaboration of all project entities.</p>	<p>Included in PMU</p>
<p>SEA/SH prevention and mitigation across components</p>	<p>SEA/SH specific risks are detailed in the project's ESS assessments and ESMP and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploitation by Personnel and Contractors Harassment of Female Workers WASH Infrastructure-Related Exacerbation of SEA/SH risks in Displacement Settings 	<p>The UN SEA Code of Conduct (applies for personnel of all UN entities and all implementing partners/ sub-contractors) is socialized with all project related stakeholders and implemented across activities.</p> <p>SEA/SH-specific trainings for internal team and project affiliated staff will be developed, including the SEA Code of Conduct, SEA/SH prevention and attention protocols, and project's GRM.</p> <p>All project-related procurement mechanisms will include a SEA/SH zero-tolerance clause in accordance with UNICEF's</p>	<p>A) 1 UN SEA code of conduct for the project staff, implementing partners, and sub-contractors and beneficiaries socialized, and implemented across activities.</p> <p>b) 1 annual SEA/SH specific training for project staff</p> <p>c) 100% of project procurement instruments integrate zero-tolerance SEA/SH clauses.</p>	<p>Gender, IPP, and Social Inclusion Officer</p>	<p>Included in PMU</p>

		<p>policy.</p> <p>A GRM is in place and socialized with all project relevant stakeholders, including specific channels for SEA/SH attention.</p> <p>At the sub-project level, SEA/SH risks will be systematically assessed and managed through dedicated safeguarding procedures aligned with UNICEF policies. Relevant prevention and response measures will be applied in accordance with UNICEF safeguarding procedures..</p>	<p>d) 1 GRM in place and socialized</p> <p>e) 100% of sub-projects undergo SEA/SH risk screening and apply relevant prevention and response measures in accordance with UNICEF safeguarding procedures.</p>		
<p>1.1.1 Update/develop key national policies, strategies, technical standards and regulations to better integrate climate adaptation, WASH, WRM, and DRR</p>	<p>Policies may remain gender-blind, failing to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. Women's groups may be excluded from consultation processes, leading to policies that do not reflect their lived realities.</p>	<p>Ensure policies explicitly address menstrual hygiene management (MHM), gender-equitable access to water, and safety for women/girls, with consultations involving women's and girls' groups.</p> <p>Ensure female groups / representatives and consultants are actively involved in the revision processes, and that their inputs are reflected in the final drafts of the new WASH Norms and Guidelines, the CLTS Practical Guide, and WASH in healthcare facilities sector strategies.</p>	<p>3 policies revised with MHM and gender-equitable provisions by Year 3.</p>	<p>UNICEF (along with respective governmental institutions and other stakeholders)</p>	<p>USD 60000of dedicated budget, integrated to Activity 1.1.1.</p>
<p>1.2.2.2 Carrying out biannual resilience and sustainability checks for the WASH sector</p>	<p>Data collection may not be sex-disaggregated, masking critical issues faced by women regarding access, safety, and functionality. Checks may focus on technical</p>	<p>Ensure data collection for the biannual checks includes sex-disaggregated data on service usage and women satisfaction.</p>	<p>A) 3 sustainability checks with gender-specific indicators, findings, and</p>	<p>Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources,</p>	<p>USD 60000of dedicated budget, integrated to</p>

	aspects and overlook social risks like GBV at water points.	Conduct gender-specific focus group discussions with women and girls to gather their unique perspectives on the resilience and safety of WASH infrastructure.	recommendations by project end. b) Improved safety of WASH infrastructure as confirmed by a summary report of women's perceptions during focus group discussions.	UNICEF, Consultants	Activity 1.2.2.
1.2.2.4 Generating, sharing, and using knowledge for sector-wide and intersectoral learning and improved adaptation effectiveness	Knowledge-sharing platforms may be dominated by male voices, and case studies may overlook the contributions and innovations of women in climate-resilient WASH.	Seek out and promote case studies, best practices and lessons learned from women-led initiatives and about women and girls specific needs and feedback on climate-resilient WASH. Ensure that the Community of Practice and its website serve as a platform for women to share their experiences and contribute to collective learning	A) At least 3 case studies published by project end addressing gender, women initiatives, needs, and voices. B) Increased awareness of women's traditional water management expertise, as confirmed by Community of Practice Reports	Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources, Ministry of Environment and national Climate Coordination Committee, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), UNICEF	USD 60000of dedicated budget, integrated to Activity 1.2.2.
1.2.1 Support the government to strengthen climate-resilient DRR and water planning through disaster preparedness plans and integrated WRM plans	Risk assessments may fail to identify the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls. Planning committees may be male dominated, resulting in plans that do not address women's needs or heightened GBV risks during disasters.	Facilitate gender-sensitive climate risk assessments and vulnerability mapping at national and regional levels to ensure plans adequately address the specific issues of and differentiated impacts on women/girls and other vulnerable groups. (e.g., safe evacuation routes, protection measures, back-up solutions for fetching water and defecation), Ensure the assessment and planning processes for	Gender-sensitive DRR and WRM plans developed for the three prefectures by end of Year 4.	UNICEF, IPs	USD 60000of dedicated budget, integrated to Activity 1.2.1.

		WRM, DRR, and WASH planning includes women and women's organizations.			
1.2.3. Improve hydrological data systems and impact scenarios for flood and drought risks to inform early warning systems and adaptive planning in the three prefectures of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga	Early warning messages may not reach women due to inaccessible communication channels. Disaster plans may not account for women's limited mobility due to caregiving roles or the increased risk of SEA/SH in evacuation shelters.	Co-design a gender-responsive communication strategy and materials with women representatives to ensure messages are relevant to women's needs and vulnerabilities. Ensure EW and early action and disaster simulation exercises explicitly include women and measures to mitigate the specific risks they face in disaster and emergency contexts.	Awareness raising, information campaign, contingency planning, and preparedness measures are designed and rolled out with specific considerations for females by project end.	General directorates of Meteorology, Civil Protection, Humanitarian Action, Environment, Water Resources, and Health, UNICEF, Women's Associations	USD 60000of dedicated budget, integrated to Activity 1.2.3.
1.3.1 Strengthen national institutional capacities on climate across the WASH and adjacent sectors	Training opportunities may favour male staff, reinforcing gender imbalances in technical and decision-making roles (there are few women in the WASH sector in CAR). Women who are trained may not be given opportunities for leadership or influence on decision-making.	Develop and deliver training modules ensuring appropriate female participation at the adequate hierarchical level. Promote equal opportunities for women's participation and leadership in training.	Baseline: Existing sector staffing (approx. <10%) Target: Women participation in all trainings is promoted, aiming for 20% or more.	UNICEF, Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resource, other participating institutions	USD 20,000 of dedicated budget, integrated to Activity 1.3.1.
2.1.2 Promote CR-WASH and sanitation through climate-adapted community-led total sanitation (CLTS) and nationwide awareness-raising	Campaigns may not address women's and girls' specific needs (e.g., MHM). CLTS processes may be dominated by men, leading to sanitation solutions that are unsafe or impractical for women and girls.	Design campaigns addressing women's and girls' needs (e.g., safe and accessible water supplies, hygiene) and involve women/girls in community-led total sanitation (CLTS) activities.	70,000 women/girls reached by CLTS interventions by project end.	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Empowerment , NGOs/CSOs, UNICEF	USD 30,000 of dedicated budget, integrated to Output 2.1 budget, includes CLTS demand-creation.

<p>2.1.3. Constructing, rehabilitating, and adapting climate-resilient sanitation in 100 climate-affected primary schools and 100 healthcare facilities</p>	<p>Construction can increase SEA/SH risks. Facilities may lack critical features for women and girls (e.g., privacy, lighting, MHM disposal). Social norms may prevent girls from participating in hygiene clubs.</p>	<p>Build gender-separated facilities with MHM-specific features (e.g., shower blocks, safe access) in schools and health centres, prioritizing women's and girls' safety.</p>	<p>a) 100% of target schools equipped WASH infrastructure with MHM-specific features by project end.</p> <p>B) 100% water systems built or rehabilitated taking females' specific needs into consideration</p>	<p>UNICEF, Awarded Private Companies, Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resource, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Local NGOs, UNICEF</p>	<p>USD 30,000 of dedicated budget, integrated to Output 2.1.</p>
<p>2.1.4 Develop capacities of local governments, communities, water operators, and the private sector to design, operate, maintain, and monitor CR-WASH services</p>	<p>Social norms, time, poverty, and lack of confidence may prevent women from participating in capacity-building activities, reinforcing their exclusion from technical and management roles.</p>	<p>Ensure gender-balanced participation in trainings</p> <p>Maintain adequate female representation in local WASH committees and school clubs</p> <p>Include MHM education to empower girls in facility utilization and maintenance.</p>	<p>A) Women participation in all local sanitation committees, water user associations, and school clubs is promoted, with the aim to achieve 35% (50% in school clubs) representation or more.</p> <p>B) School clubs and healthcare personnel in 100 schools and 100 healthcare facilities trained on MHM and CR-WASH by project end.</p>	<p>UNICEF, IPs, Private Sector</p>	<p>USD 10,000 of dedicated budget, integrated to Output 2.1.</p>
<p>2.3.1. Engage and train local stakeholders in climate risk assessment, conflict-sensitive resilience</p>	<p>Women and their traditional knowledge may be excluded from the assessment process, their specific experience and needs not</p>	<p>Actively involve women, girls, and women-led organizations in the assessment, training, and solution finding and implementation processes,</p>	<p>a) 100% of plans and implemented solutions reflecting gender-</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment, UNICEF, IPs, community groups and</p>	<p>USD 90,000 of dedicated budget, integrated to Output 2.3.</p>

<p>planning, and disaster preparedness</p> <p>2.3.3. Support community-led design and implementation of WRM and DRR solutions</p>	<p>considered in decision-making, planning, and implementation.</p> <p>Discussing harmful gender norms and the specific conditions and needs of females could be met with cultural resistance if not managed sensitively.</p> <p>Men may dominate decision-making, leading to solutions that do not meet women's needs. Women may be relegated to supportive roles (e.g., cooking) rather than active implementation and leadership.</p>	<p>recognizing their critical role in household water management and their unique perspectives on water scarcity and flood impacts.</p> <p>Co-designing local solutions to reflect their needs and traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Encourage/provide platforms for women to share their traditional and local knowledge related to water management and climate resilience</p> <p>Address harmful gender norms in training modules.</p>	<p>specific needs by project end.</p> <p>b) Increased women influence in decision-making, measured by the percentage of community-led WRM/DRR solutions that were proposed or significantly modified by women members.</p>	<p>CSOs, MEDHR</p>	
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7. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

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. Anonymous complaints will be reviewed and acted upon to the extent possible based on the information provided. 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 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

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) 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.

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).

Annex A: References

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