

DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE – CAR JOINT RESPONSE 4

1. Summary	Max ½ page
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Project name	CAR Joint Response 4
IATI Activity Identifier	NL-KVK-41160054-200311
Reporting period	1 January – 31 December 2018
Country	Central African Republic
Locations	Ouham-Pendé and Ouham prefectures
Lead organization	Cordaid
Joint Response Participating NGOs	ICCO&KiA/ACT, Cordaid, Plan Nederland, Stichting Vluchteling/IRC, SOS Kinderdorpen, World Vision
Response Task Force	Cordaid, PLAN Nederland, World Vision
Budget	EUR 4,690,000
Total actual expenditure in EUR	EUR 4,706,500
Total direct target group planned	92,446
Total direct target group achieved	110,760 (without double counting)
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2. General information	Max 1 page
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Please provide a brief description of the Joint Response, including the key strategic objectives. Describe the link to the objectives as outlined in the UN Humanitarian Response Plan and the contribution of the consortium to these. If there is no linkage between the JR and the UN HRP/Clusters, please explain why this is the case.

The Joint Response in the CAR 4th Phase (CARJR4) is a logical continuation of the first three phases, as the CAR is experiencing the worst displacement crisis since the conflict started in 2013/2014; still more than half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance¹. In order to respond most effectively to the needs, the CARJR4 has been developed in line with the first strategic objective of the HRP 2017: *Affected populations confronted with sudden shocks have access to humanitarian assistance that preserves their survival and dignity.*

After a joint needs assessment was done in the beginning of 2018, the prefectures of Ouham and Ouham Pendé were chosen as the areas of implementation, based on the needs, the HRP and the presence of the partners. The humanitarian assistance given by the JR4 partners has been through activities focusing on Protection, Food Security & Livelihoods, WASH, Shelter and CASH (with the objectives of each sector reflecting the HRP), to fulfil the overall objective of the JR4 of alleviating human suffering through the effective and efficient implementation of humanitarian response activities. The assistance has been provided to the most vulnerable population including IDPs, host communities and returnees.

Please provide a brief description of the context of the Joint Response, including changes that have occurred during the project period. Explain how the JR members have responded to unexpected changing circumstances and general challenges of working in acute / protracted crisis context.

¹ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/rca_ocha_2017_hrp_revise_.pdf

Before the actual kick off of the 4th phase of the CARJR, a revision of the area of implementation was done, due to lesser funds available; it was decided to focus the response on the prefectures of Ouham and Ouham Pendé only and to exclude Ombella M’Poko, based on the gaps and needs and on the response capacity of the partners. A joint needs assessment was done, and activities were based on the outcome of this assessment. After these changes were incorporated in the setup of the JR the CARJR4 was officially launched in April 2018.

In Ouham and Ouham Pendé there was an apparent calm observed in the beginning of 2018. But despite this, Bocaranga (Ouham-Pendé) remained the theater of regular movements of armed groups operating on the axes of interventions of the CARJR4 project. A progressive installation of armed groups from July onwards was reported with the proliferation of protection incidents.

Two major events took place in the second half of 2018, related to the resurgence of armed groups activities (alleged elements of the Anti-Balaka group), which committed several human rights violations, coupled with cases of robberies and threats to humanitarian aid workers, as well as night raids in NGO bases/facilities. On the other hand, clashes between the Anti-Balaka and Seleka armed groups took place in the neighboring sub-prefecture of Batangafo at the end of October 2018, causing a massive displacement of populations at the beginning of November in several villages in the sub-prefecture of Bouca.

Due to these events, consortium members had to put in place additional internal security measures and coordinate with other actors to monitor the area. For instance, Plan requested MINUSCA² for security clearance before field visits, which led some field trips to be canceled.

The attack and occupation of the city of Bocaranga and its surroundings by the elements of the armed group of 3R, caused a permanent psychosis in the area leading to a massive displacement of population towards the bush and other neighboring cities. Some IDPs continued living with host families while others remained in camps. Due to the insecurity, almost the entire population of Bocaranga was deprived of means of production and it was practically impossible for them to engage in agricultural activities, strongly impacting the agricultural campaign. Furthermore, MNLC³ members threatened reprisals against humanitarian actors on the Ngaoundaye axis, and then sequestered staff of an international NGO.

These turbulences and security deteriorations that occurred in the project sites (Bocaranga, Kouï and Ngaoundaye) resulted in limited staff movements and the temporary suspension and consequent delay of activities, in particular as well cash transfers and training of local partners. This resulted in underperformance of some of the (protection) activities, as a number of planned workshops/trainings for community members were not completed.

Furthermore, not only the security was fragile in the JR context, but from October 2018 to date, the Ministry of Health declared an epidemics of Hepatitis E and Yellow Fever in the prefecture of Ouham, resulting in more delays for project implementation.

3. Activities and Results

Max 6 pages

Sector: Food Security and Livelihoods (FSC)	Subsector: Short-term livelihood support; Availability of, access to and consumption of food.
Number of beneficiaries planned:	27,578
Number of beneficiaries reached:	25,957
Main achievements: Describe the main achievements under this sector (in addition to the results published in IATI) and explain how you have worked in line with relevant quality standards (such as CHS and Sphere).	

² United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

³ National Movement for the Liberation of the Central African Republic (armed group)

The 5 CARJR partners used different approaches in implementing FSC activities, to assist the communities with livelihood support and to contribute to economic autonomy of the people.

A large number of households received **seeds and/or tools and training** to produce vegetables. In Ouham Pendé, representatives of 100 food groups received training on community farming techniques, production, multiplication and conservation of food seeds, who in turn organized on-the-job trainings for the members of their food group. The groups in turn were supplied as well with seeds. Another 200 HHs, of which 109 (55%) were represented by women heads of household initiated vegetable gardens through market garden seeds, agricultural tools and training on the development of vegetable gardens received upstream.

In combination with the activities under MPC, beneficiaries were supported with seeds after land was prepared through CFW. One of the activities had a specific focus on vegetable garden production for communities and school feeding; a total of 1015 children benefited from the produce generated through these activities – monitoring showed that around 80% of the parents gave support to their children with the produce obtained. The combination between CFW and rainfed agricultural production was also made, using this opportunity to bring together different vulnerable groups to promote pacific living and create a peaceful framework for community dialogue.

Another focus of the JR members was on **income generating activities (IGA)**; beneficiaries were supported through trainings in the area of their preference and start up kits were provided as well. In 17 villages saving groups (SG) were set up for vulnerable girls and women; they benefited from a range of trainings including on good governance, entrepreneurship, sustainable management of IGA and saving groups. After being trained, each received \$197 to help them start their IGA. The women started saving activities during the lifespan of the project and with the assistance received they planned to start small businesses such as selling cakes or grilled peanuts and expanding their field of cultivation.

105 Parent Teach Associations (PTA) members (planned for 84) were trained on livelihoods assets improvements. PTAs were chosen as beneficiaries aiming that through them the community would enhance their capacity of protecting children. All 105 PTA members received an IGA kit at the end of the training; 84 through JR4 funding and the additional 21 through other sources obtained by the JR partner. Additional training and material were given on how to dry the agricultural product, which was possible due to a lower price of agricultural tools.

In an ongoing activity from CARJR3, 74 adolescents aged 16 to 18 year old were trained in a livelihood skill (motorcycle mechanics, animal husbandry, sewing and/or carpentry) for six months (October 2017 - March 2018); after passing an exam all received on April 7th a kit to start a professional activity and earn an income for their family. The content of the kits was tailored to the training attended: for motorcycle mechanics, tools for repairing motorcycles; for animal husbandry, goats and/or pigs; for sewing, it was composed of a sewing machine, fabric, apron, quilting; for carpentry, tools and wood. By the end of the project, 50 adolescents out of the 74 (67%) were already earning money to contribute to the households income. A new vocational training cycle started in September 2018 with another 40 adolescents, which continues until the end of March 2019.

Another group of 125 young people received as well vocational training through mentors from the communities, including a 2 day training on sustainable business development comprising a Competency-based Economics for Enterprises (CEFE) module. The aim of this training was to teach young, future entrepreneurs the basics of business management and financial risk management and to encourage their entrepreneurial spirit. After they finished the 2 months training, they received a kit to support their IGA; the content of the kit was tailored to the training attended.

In addition to the trainings given to improve the people's food security on the long-term, 200 HHs received **emergency food assistance** through a food fair in Ouham Pendé.

Changes & challenges: Explain deviations between the intended (planned) results and the achieved results (if deviation is more than 10%) in this strategic objective, and the causes of these deviations. In case of specific changes & challenges, please refer to individual Joint Response members.

In Bocaranga, World Vision and Cordaid had the intention to organize a seed fair but after conducting an assessment for the feasibility, it was concluded that a seeds fair was not possible due to unavailability of suppliers. Therefore instead seeds & tools were distributed directly to the beneficiaries.

Besides the lack of suppliers, a lack of financial service providers and a lack of formal local professional training structures were also challenges faced. Due to the latter some of the training programs as described above were delayed as individuals working in the different professions having the capacity to be a trainer were not easy to find, resulting as well in late distribution of kits. For these trainings, post-training monitoring will continue under CARJR5.

Additionally, some of the young women were unable to start a livelihood after the training; they explained that they did not feel secure enough with the knowledge learned to start a business on their own and could not find a qualified master in their community to support them. For future trainings it will be seen if the training period can be extended.

A challenge in the SGs was that the members were illiterate and therefore had to ask their children to help with accounting. This entailed risks of confidentiality. To mitigate those risks, beneficiaries received additional training in accounting and calculation through stones and stick. An effort was done to promote women participation in the PTA groups, but only 28 out of 105 participants were female. Continuous sensitization is needed to promote equal gender participation, which continues to be an important area of focus in the next phase of CARJR.

The food groups that received seeds did not succeed in getting the expected return; they dealt with various issues such as an attack of armyworms on the maize and cowpeas, livestock passing the fields during transhumance and delays in planting of the seeds in the agricultural calendar and in weeding the fields. In some areas like on the Bouar-Bozoum axe people are engaged in mine production and therefore neglected farming activities, resulting in lower yields. For the next phase of the CARJR, this will be taken into account. The security context in the three sub-prefectures as well as the abundant rains also caused delays and reduced produce in the agricultural activities.

The school feeding activity did not reach the number of school children envisioned; in practice the time was too limited to reach this many children with the inputs from the vegetable gardens, but some schools did start interventions. This accounts for not reaching the total number of beneficiaries planned through FSC activities. For future interventions, current experiences will be considered.

Please formulate lessons learned around these changes & challenges and provide suggestions on how to prevent, improve or solve this in the future.

In future project design, it should be considered to incorporate literacy training for SG members at least for basic modules relating to financial management.

The vocational training and provision of an installation kit, tailored to the training attended, for those that completed their training was very much appreciated by the communities and beneficiaries, but feedback was given that they would need more training. For the next training sessions, the possibility of increasing the training period from three to four months to strengthen the competencies of the selected learners will be evaluated.

The animal husbandry was a challenging training, as it was difficult to find qualified trainers and to have the training adapted for low educated adolescents, ensuring practicality. Unfortunately, some of the animals provided as part of the kits died and some disappeared before the end of the training,

leaving the adolescents with no means to start their livelihood. Therefore, it was decided to refrain from a new round of vocational training in animal husbandry.

Sector: Protection (PRO)	Subsector:
Number of beneficiaries planned:	38,433
Number of beneficiaries reached:	65,208
Main achievements: Describe the main achievements under this sector (in addition to the results published in IATI) and explain how you have worked in line with relevant quality standards (such as CHS and Sphere).	
<p>Protection activities were implemented with a focus on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection.</p> <p>In total 365 GBV survivors were provided with medical, legal and professional mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) (through psychologist/PSS team or referral to more specialized services) including distribution of dignity and NFI kits and socio-economic reintegration services (through support to start IGA, support to education and vocational training). Cases were registered in the health centers but were also referred through local women's associations and community organizations.</p> <p>Children were supported in various ways: child friend spaces (CFS) were rehabilitated and built with regards to Child Protection minimum standards to provide a protected space for children where they could attend activities. As annexes to 5 CFS, active listening centers were built to provide PSS and referral services in a confidential matter. Other support was given in the form of school kits, training, education support and medical assistance.</p> <p>144 unaccompanied children were supported through the Temporary Foster Family (FAT) network, with the aim to reuniting them with their biological families; 553 children received birth certificates. Support through the existing structures was also provided to 20 EAFGA⁴ as part of the prevention and responses mechanisms to child recruitment and EAFGA.</p> <p>In Ouham and Ouham Pendé, a wide range of local community members received training and were sensitized on Child Protection and Child Rights, case management (including referral system and guidelines), humanitarian principles, (prevention of) GBV, peaceful coexistence and community leadership. These sensitizations have been conducted with the purpose to increase communities' basic knowledge of living together and respect for the diversity. Among the participants were temporary host families, local women's associations and protection committees, RECOPE⁵, PTAs, community leaders, state partners, NGOs and CFS instructors/facilitators on child rights, child protection and response. Impacts are observed at the community level, through behaviour change in the way of living. If in the past, problems in a young environment were resolved with violence it has now been observed during the monitoring that young people are making use of dialogues to settle their differences.</p> <p>Capacity-strengthening workshops for community health workers (CHWs) were organised in Ngaoundaye and Bocaranga on GBV core concepts and clinical care for sexual assault survivors. 2 key events were also celebrated: International Day of the African Child (June 16th) and International Day of the Girl (October 11th) to promote the rights of the child and in the latter a special focus on girls. In December 2018 one member organized the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Ngaoundaye to discuss with communities the issues that affect women and girls and limit their</p>	

⁴ French acronym for Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups

⁵ Réseaux Communautaires de Protection de l'Enfance

potential; the same was organised in Ouham in 7 communities. Radio messaging was also used to raise awareness.

In 7 schools, 14 peace ambassadors were trained on social cohesion, culture of peace, peaceful cohabitation, nonviolent communication, reconciliation and forgiveness. These trainings were intended to instil in young students identified by their peers to be promoters of peace and social cohesion in their different schools and in their immediate communities.

In 3 communities, an exit strategy started during CARJR4; the RECOPE were consulted to identify the support needed for them to be able to themselves provide prevention and response services under CPIE. All three RECOPE received an IGA kit. The head of Social Affairs in Bouca sub-prefecture was capacitated with a motorcycle to be able to identify cases and do follow-ups independently. RECOPE were supported with bicycles, megaphones, office supplies and other visibilities to enable them to better identify and follow up on vulnerable children and do awareness training.

Mediation happened between two groups of women of Hausa and Farawine/NDougba, after they had an argument following the attack of an armed group in September 2017 in Bocaranga. On both sides, women expressed their frustrations in a mutually respectful manner and decided on recreational activities to participate in together (e.g. soccer).

Changes & challenges: Explain deviations between the intended (planned) results and the achieved results (if deviation is more than 10%) in this strategic objective, and the causes of these deviations.

In case of specific changes & challenges, please refer to individual Joint Response members.

The major challenge faced remains insecurity; it delayed activities and made monitoring of activities more complicated. One of the members had 5 targeted attacks against the field base in Bossangoa by armed men for looting (four times) and robbery purposes (one time). 6 motorbikes, 1 laptop, 4 air conditioners and other office furniture were robbed.

Due to insecurity, some children spent more than 3 months in Temporary Foster Families (FATs), and it made post reunification monitoring complicated, limiting it to follow-up by phone. Some children are still living with FATs due to insecurity, which is being followed up in 2019.

Insecurity also made that for different workshops and trainings not all targeted beneficiaries could be reached, another limiting factor for this was the lack of available trainers. Trainings that were planned to be led by doctors were also difficult to organize in the second half of the year. This was due to insecurity, doctors frequently being in Bangui as well as that in October all district health staff were mobilized in the response against the epidemics.

The total number of GBV survivors reached was lower than the target. Women and girls are not yet free to report GBV incidents because of sociocultural norms and practices (a common belief in the community is that a “good” woman keeps silent despite the violence she faces otherwise risks facing additional violence by her partner) and lack of family support. Reporting incidents for survivors is a big challenge, emphasizing the need to continue awareness activities in targeted areas and develop creative methods on GBV topics to bring about behavioural change. On the other hand, much community awareness raising and training has taken place to also reduce the number of GBV cases.

It was not possible to provide a PEP kit to all the survivors, this due to stock outs. In response to the stock-out of PEP kits, the IRC is continuously advocating to the GBV sub-cluster to provide regular follow-ups and communication on the availability of PEP kits.

During the midterm, the target for the number of unaccompanied and separated children was reduced, as certain communities and government authorities did not yet have the necessary knowledge on the tracing and tracking systems to refer cases to SOS Children's Villages. The training that was provided promotes the implementation of a strong referral mechanism. The budget was

reallocated to the management of child protection cases requiring immediate nutritional support. These additional protection cases, suffering from acute malnutrition, are ensured to be registered, referred to and transported to the General Hospital of Bossangoa. This need was clearly identified during individual needs assessments, especially in the CFSs and as part of the case management activities. Moderate Acute Malnutrition remains an issue that needs more attention since Health and Nutrition actors are largely absent in the region. This has been flagged with the RTF to take into account for CARJR5.

Some staff encountered intimidation and threatening by community members involved in early marriage. The involvement of local authorities (the mayor, village chief, gendarmerie, religious leaders, the RECOPE) in the management of the early marriage cases has ensured the safety of the staff and the continuity of activities in the locality.

Conditions of the road, logistical challenges and limited phone and internet coverage also challenged the implementation. The project teams sensitized the community about delays that were of direct effect to the community; some partners have procured satellite phones and VHF radios.

The insufficient number of health actors and the absence of free-of-charge health services limited members' capacities to meet all the needs of the registered protection cases, notably for victims of SGBV and children suffering from acute malnutrition. Only the General Hospital of Bossangoa, with the support of Doctors Without Borders (MSF Holland), had sufficient admission capacities. Field observations by SOS-CAR teams have shown alarming rates of moderate acute malnutrition in Ouham.

Less youth ambassadors were trained than targeted in the log-frame, this was due to an omission in the log-frame set-up, since 6 of the 20 youth ambassadors mentioned there were already trained in 2017; only 14 were trained during CARJR4.

One member did not manage to train as many people as targeted on protection topics, because of an omission in the log-frame, in which the target included as well the committees trained on WASH topics, which were counted as well under the WASH section. Besides this, a local implementing partner trained 56 people instead of the planned 76 for three main reasons: i) the local partner insisted that they could not train all 76 people targeted at once; ii) the fund allocated to the specific budget line of the project was not enough for two different training sessions; iii) the project ran out of time to request for budget revision to accommodate the second training. Hence, it was opted to go for one training with the maximum number of 56 people.

Please formulate lessons learned around these changes & challenges and provide suggestions on how to prevent, improve or solve this in the future.

CFS were found to be very helpful in preparing children for a more responsible social life. Through games they discover their strengths and their weaknesses; they learn in the same way the notions of team and complementarity.

A good practice was the engagement of local authorities as it increased awareness in the communities and interest from community members on the specific topic; it also ensured ownership by the local authorities and it facilitated direct exchanges between the local authorities and the community members, which is not a common practice. Overall, when topics like child fragility become part of the collective awareness of the community, parents and the community as a whole understood that children are vulnerable and that they deserve to be protected, which it predisposes them to feel safer.

Involvement of many stakeholders (parents, children, heads of the health structures to determine the apparent ages, magistrates, Mayor and sub-prefect) facilitated the realization of issuing

documents / identity papers to beneficiaries in time. The mayor and sub-prefect of Bouca even took the advantage of the ceremony to raise awareness on the importance of identity documents and encouraged parents to register their children at birth.

The participation of the RECOPE in the sensitization activities contributed significantly in their capacity strengthening, this supported the localization efforts and sustainability of the project.

In the management of child protection cases requiring immediate nutritional support, it has been found that this is less time consuming compared to provision of alternative care for unaccompanied and/or separated children (UASC). This will be taken into account for CARJR5.

The provision of financial support instead of in kind distribution of food to the FATs /biological family was found positive and a more dignified approach: the FAT/parents could buy food of their choice or use it for other non-food needs like medicines, school supplies or hygiene items.

The involvement of case management staff working in other locations was found very useful to trace the biological parents of the UASC under CARJR4 case management, also to restore family ties, especially for children in Kaga Bandoro.

Another lesson learned is that it would be helpful to target men with GBV-focused activities to make them part of the positive change in men's and communities' behaviour regarding their perception of women's social roles and rights.

As response to the attacks of the field base, the JR partner has collaborated with community members of influence to get back part of the stolen assets. In addition, it has reinforced passive safety, purchase of megaphones, ringing alarms, whistles, strengthening the number of guards and resorting to a guarding company and executed safety evaluation of the base by INSO⁶.

Sector: Multi-Purpose Cash (CSH)	Subsector: (Un)Conditional and unrestricted cash
Number of beneficiaries planned:	13,022
Number of beneficiaries reached:	17,393
Main achievements: Describe the main achievements under this sector (in addition to the results published in IATI) and explain how you have worked in line with relevant quality standards (such as CHS and Sphere).	
<p>Most of CARJR4 partners used Cash for Work (CFW) as cash based intervention approach, reaching over 17,000 people. Beneficiaries of the conditional, unrestricted CASH support were selected in a participatory way, engaging authorities and community leaders. One JR partner set up committees composed of community members who were in charge of the identification of CFW beneficiaries in Kouï, Sangrelim, Bocaranga and Ngaoundaye.</p> <p>Work that was done included rehabilitation of roads (including filling potholes), rehabilitation of markets and clearing, parcelling and fencing lands for vegetable gardening. Unskilled workers received 2,500XAF per day, skilled workers 3,500XAF per day. One JR partner combined the CFW activities with training & capital for households to start up IGA. Some partners included sensitization on child rights and nutrition needs in CFW activities, to make sure the children in the households would benefit as well and to prevent children to participate in the activity as members of a household.</p> <p>24 households were selected to receive unconditional and unrestricted cash during the duration of the CFW program. These were selected because they were vulnerable households unable to participate in the CFW activities: criteria included households headed by an elderly person or living with a disability (physical or mental), households headed by a person with chronic illness or</p>	

⁶ The International NGO Safety Organisation

<p>child headed households. Definition of vulnerability criteria for selection of beneficiaries was done in a participative way, engaging authorities and community leaders. Selected households were verified before being provided with the same amount as the non-skilled workers of 2,500FCFA per day, following FSL/ Cash working group cluster guidance.</p>
<p>Changes & challenges: Explain deviations between the intended (planned) results and the achieved results (if deviation is more than 10%) in this strategic objective, and the causes of these deviations. In case of specific changes & challenges, please refer to individual Joint Response members.</p>
<p>Insecurity was the main challenge JR partners faced while implementing their cash activities. Especially between July-August and October-November, the volatile security situation caused delays in project implementation. For example, Bocaranga-Paoua axe was not accessible after MINUSCA was attacked, therefore the intervention area needed to be changed. One partner reported staff being robbed at gunpoint; three armed men took all their belongings including the money to be paid for CFW. The incident was reported to MFA and is still under investigation. The stolen funds have been included in the financial report. Despite the incident, the payment to beneficiaries of CFW has been concluded in the meantime. To prevent further risks, a new risk management measure was put in place: payment will be done by two teams travelling simultaneously in different payment areas; the amount of cash that must be physically carried from Bangui to distribution points will be minimized by opening a bank account in a local bank; and there will be coordination with local security forces (MINUSCA) to determine when patrols happen. And all cash movements will be kept as confidential as possible.</p> <p>Another challenge is the lack of financial providers, resulting in the staff to distribute cash payments themselves. Also, local suppliers were not able to provide the requested quantity of materials needed for CFW activities in due time and during rainy season the roads hampered mobility, all delaying activity implementation; one partner faced the challenge of dealing with complaints from the local construction committee members about not being incentivized, while being actively involved.</p>
<p>Please formulate lessons learned around these changes & challenges and provide suggestions on how to prevent, improve or solve this in the future.</p>
<p>Due to insecurity, constraints in logistics and accessibility, it was discussed with community members and decided to only do payments every 4 to 5 weeks rather than daily. If financial service providers will start to operate in the area, this would help to reduce part of the security risk. To improve the working relationships with the community, some partners will change the set-up of the CFW implementation, and will have a more present role of their staff through being based in the locality in order to do the daily monitoring of progress in work and the management of tools and supplies, while community members of the construction committees will only be actively involved in key moments (such as the selection of beneficiaries, elaboration of the workplan, regular monitoring visits by the authorities and payments).</p> <p>Consortium members also mentioned that for the use of the CFW modality, a market study is an absolute necessity to determine the actual amount per task and per day as well as the work opportunities within the revenue generating activities. Also, accompanying the beneficiaries is essential to help them make rational use of the money they receive.</p> <p>However, multipurpose cash as an intervention was found to be a relevant tool to use: it provided more choice and dignity to the beneficiaries and eased project implementation, positively impacting quality of implementation and relationship with communities.</p>

<p>Sector: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WSH)</p>	<p>Subsector: Provide emergency WASH services to population affected by a humanitarian shock; Immediate WASH needs of conflict affected populations are met whilst protecting their safety and dignity, respecting the minimum standards;</p>
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	Restore safe and equal access to WASH services in functional institutions in most vulnerable areas to enhance and maintain basic services.
Number of beneficiaries planned:	44,208
Number of beneficiaries reached:	48,579
Main achievements: Describe the main achievements under this sector (in addition to the results published in IATI) and explain how you have worked in line with relevant quality standards (such as CHS and Sphere).	
<p>Within 3 months after their displacement, more than 600 people benefited from hygiene kits each consisting of an insecticide-treated mosquito net, baby pot, plastic bucket with tap, plastic bucket without faucet, pieces of laundry soap, large cup and carafes. These kits enabled the 100 HHs to improve their hygiene conditions, restore their dignity and protect themselves against malaria.</p> <p>Through the construction of household latrines (100), latrines with hand washing facilities in community health care facilities (30 stands) and latrines in schools (83 stands), sanitation standards improved in the different communities. In the schools in Ouham Pendé, as a result of the construction of latrines, the lot of excreta of children and teachers lingering previously around the 10 schools was completely removed, allowing children to freely roam around the nearby bushes to play, harvest and safely eat forest products. The change in sanitation situation also reduced the many flies previously present in these schools, nearby water streams are less polluted and the separation walls between girls' latrines from the boys' provide a certain level of privacy to the youngsters. The use of these facilities will help the children develop good hygiene habits which they will share with the rest of their families and keep for the rest of their life.</p> <p>In total 54 waterpoints/boreholes have been rehabilitated and constructed in Ouham and Ouham Pendé; for each water point a village committee was set up for its management and maintenance. The members of these committees received training on good water point management practices. The number of boreholes was higher than planned, because within the budget it was possible to rehabilitate 7 extra water points.</p> <p>4 out of these water points were constructed after an alarming statement of the outbreak of viral hepatitis E and later yellow fever in Bocaranga-Koui and Ngaoundaye; the JR partners decided to use funds from the joint budget to respond to this crisis. Thanks to this and material donated by UNICEF, activities were set up to access drinking water (including chlorination), distributed hygiene kits and sensitized communities on good hygiene practices and rehabilitated latrines to improve sanitation to cope with the epidemic.</p> <p>Another achievement is the borehole that was constructed in Bossemtele prea, where previous attempts to get water had failed due to the deep water table.</p> <p>The WASH activities were all combined with sensitization messaging through radio messages on Maigaro Community Radio (Bouar), through the set up & training of hygiene clubs and awareness raising campaigns. The number of people reached through the radio campaigns has not been included in the total number, as the radio could not provide numbers.</p> <p>Generally, the sphere standards were respected while implementing WASH activities: boreholes were constructed in respect of the distance separating them from latrines (over 30 meters); latrines have been constructed respecting gender considerations, separating girls and boys in order to preserve their intimacy. But not everywhere Sphere standards were reached, in the schools where the number of students/teachers increased throughout the year, the original number of latrine stands planned was not sufficient looking at the ratio of users per stand.</p>	

<p>Changes & challenges: Explain deviations between the intended (planned) results and the achieved results (if deviation is more than 10%) in this strategic objective, and the causes of these deviations. In case of specific changes & challenges, please refer to individual Joint Response members.</p>
<p>In project implementation areas, structural vulnerabilities coincide with short-term ones; this combined with the fact that the needs in terms of WASH in the area were high, resulted in a main challenge to identify and select the beneficiaries for the various activities. Heavy rains delayed as well the management and rehabilitation of water points during the rainy season. Sensitization on ownership of infrastructures stays important, as damages did occur to latrines and waterpoints. Communities have to be involved as much as possible in construction to increase their sense of ownership. Lack of qualified local labour, access and security issues have been a challenge for contractors. It is important that these types of issues are incorporated in the planning of contractors in order to reduce delays.</p>
<p>Please formulate lessons learned around these changes & challenges and provide suggestions on how to prevent, improve or solve this in the future.</p>
<p>Activities should, where possible, be better planned in line with seasonal changes to reduce difficulties/delays in implementation. To minimize frustration, it is necessary to multiply the village-by-village launching workshops to strengthen the involvement of local leaders in the project definition process as well as the implementation. This combined with more advocacy for the prevailing needs in the WASH sector (especially the need for latrines).</p>

Sector: Shelter (SHL)	Subsector: Affected people have access to shelter, protecting them from weather conditions and contributing to their security, dignity and well-being.
Number of beneficiaries planned:	600
Number of beneficiaries reached:	672
Main achievements: Describe the main achievements under this sector (in addition to the results published in IATI) and explain how you have worked in line with relevant quality standards (such as CHS and Sphere).	
<p>100 households were supported with the construction of shelters in the Kouï sub-prefecture. The type of shelter that was chosen was a permanent shelter, made with materials locally available. This was in line with other projects implemented in the area. This has increased the dignity of the targeted households and protected them from weather conditions (households having an average size above 6 in this area). During the sensibilization and mobilization of the community for this activity, a total of 910 people attended; the people who did not benefit themselves supported other community members with the construction of the shelters.</p>	
<p>Changes & challenges: Explain deviations between the intended (planned) results and the achieved results (if deviation is more than 10%) in this strategic objective, and the causes of these deviations. In case of specific changes & challenges, please refer to individual Joint Response members.</p>	
SOS had originally planned to support 200 IDPs with NFIs, but this activity was cancelled with the changes due to budget cuts.	
Please formulate lessons learned around these changes & challenges and provide suggestions on how to prevent, improve or solve this in the future.	
None found.	

Please describe the coverage of the Joint Response, including beneficiary numbers per sector and disaggregated data in case these figures are not published in IATI.

The CARJR4 focused on activities in the priority sectors as identified the HRP 2017: Food Security & Livelihood, Shelter & NFI, Protection, WASH and CASH (CASH was also used as modality in other sectors):

Total of beneficiaries for FSL: 25,957

Total of beneficiaries for WASH: 48,579

Total of beneficiaries for Shelter: 672

Total of beneficiaries for Protection: 65,208

Total of beneficiaries for CASH: 17,393

Total of beneficiaries for Accountability: 7,948

4. Added value / Collaborative Impact

Max 2 page

4.1 Please describe what added value/collaborative impact was generated and/or gained from the Joint Response or the DRA mechanism by the JR members for the affected population and/or the JR members?

<p>Coordination/ Collaboration/ Advocacy</p>	<p>The consortium approach enabled implementers to holistically reach a significant number of beneficiaries through multi-sectoral joint activities. The establishment of a framework of coordination between the actors avoided duplicative work and ensured shared knowledge of each partner's activities. Partners worked together in the 2 prefectures and held local coordination meetings. In Ouham Pendé, a harmonized approach in MPC amounts facilitated the acceptance of all partners by the communities. There was complementarity between the partners in the prefecture to coordinate the identification of villages and avoid duplication.</p> <p>In Ouham, regular exchange meetings took place between the project managers from Plan and SOS during which the development of project activities were discussed and joint planning of activities was conducted. The communication and collaboration system between the partners improved despite security constraints and significant geographical distances.</p> <p>All partners participated in a training on cash based programming that was organised in Bangui, benefitting the project activities.</p> <p>Partners participated in the cluster system locally (one partner being the hub in terms of collecting and sharing information on the humanitarian context) and at national level, contributing to overall information sharing with OCHA and contributing to the HNO and HRP.</p> <p>Advocacy efforts took place for the dissemination of the CCAS guidelines and promoted the right of survivors to obtain medical certificates without conditions and free of charge as well as to reduce the price for birth certificates.</p> <p>After the viral hepatitis E and yellow fever outbreak in Ouham Pendé, the consortium decided to have a joint response: the population was supported with water points and chlorination of water.</p>
<p>Social Cohesion</p>	<p>Within the CARJR4, it was the first time that the social cohesion component was integrated in the project. This had an important impact in reconciling two groups of women (mentioned in the Protection section of this report). Solidarity among communities is key in preventing and responding to GBV and in cases of denial of resources where husbands leave their wives, in order to rebuild women's livelihoods.</p>

Innovation	As part of the innovation budget SOS CAR developed a child protection risk mitigation system in collaboration with Plan International over a 7-day period bringing together 240 community members (90 girls, 90 boys, 30 women and 30 men). The goal is to use this system during next phases of the joint response. Cordaid also set up a new (before not existing) early warning system for the prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters and localization activities. CAR Civil Protection has been supported in setting up an early warning system for crises and disasters in areas outside Bangui. This support enabled the establishment of regional focal points; which will enable this structure to gather information in real time and to provide mechanisms for anticipating and managing risks.
Visibility & communication	All CARJR 4 partners collected Life Stories about beneficiaries and can be seen in their submitted reports. In The Netherlands, the partners jointly communicated about the work done in CAR through a newspaper ad and an online photo-video.

4.2 Elaborate on lessons learned of the Joint Response, gained through the JR members' activities or added value activities and provide recommendation for future cooperation.

The delay in the implementation of the activities that was caused by discussions within the consortium during the first quarter, including the Joint Needs Assessment, has reduced the time of the effectiveness of these in the field. It did result in partners working in a smaller geographic area, increasing the collaboration and complementarity between the partners. Collaborations and complementarity have proven to benefit the beneficiaries, staff, organization and project implementation and will continue in JR5.

Capacity strengthening of local partners continues to be difficult, capacity available is limited and security constraints hampered planned trainings. It is thus important to identify partners and authorities, as well as their needs and capacities at the beginning of the program and strengthen the monthly monitoring activities.

The added value of the involvement of local authorities (the mayor, village chief, gendarmerie, religious leaders, the RECOPE) has ensured the safety of humanitarian staff and the continuity of activities in target localities. It is therefore very important to keep investing in the relations with these critical project stakeholders and plan sufficient time for this during activity implementation. Synergy/experience sharing is essential in a consortium to foster mutual learning as well as harmonisation of activities amongst the partners, in order to work as a consortium and have a similar approach.

The MPC approach is beneficial to the whole community, as households receive cash and decide how to spend it; follow-up surveys conducted after cash distribution showed that households used these funds for their household needs, including school fees, health care, clothing, agricultural supplies and other household items. Due to the MPC activities, markets are revitalized and roads are rehabilitated to increase security and facilitate commerce (the government does not take on infrastructure work in these communities). This responds to a real need expressed by the community. The household participation approach to CFW has also promoted cohesion within the households, as one member is always willing to work for the well-being of their family.

Reporting of GBV incidents remains a significant challenge. One of the factors that hindered higher reporting and access to quality services is the continued stigmatization (it is a common perception especially among men that going to the listening centers would expose the household to judgement). Continuing awareness activities in targeted areas and introducing creative methods to talk about GBV could help bring about behavioural change in communities. It would also be helpful to engage men in GBV awareness and prevention and response activities to positively impact

behaviours surrounding and perceptions of women’s roles and rights. The identification of focal points among the CBOs to work in the listening centers enhances women’s participation in the GBV preventive and response activities.

In some of the villages, partners noticed the spirit of wait-and-see attitude becoming more and more important in villagers' mentalities, to the extent that community participation is becoming increasingly difficult. Therefore, it is essential to reinforce and multiply awareness-raising and community mobilization sessions at village-level project launching workshops. Awareness-raising work for women and men on changing attitudes and practices towards women is needed in all humanitarian projects.

There is still more need for advocacy for strengthening of the health care system in the area of implementation.

5. Cross cutting humanitarian topics	Max 2 page
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Please elaborate on each of the cross cutting humanitarian topics focused on in the Joint Response and describe how these have been applied in the activities of the JR members and in the added value activities.

Gender	<p>The gender aspect has been taken into account in the implementation of the project by all consortium members. Amongst the partners, training on gender and GBV topics of the staff as well of the local partners was provided, ensuring that gender mainstreaming is understood by all the staff involved in project implementation and that gender inequalities are effectively diminished. Attention was given to the gender balance in the teams with particular focus on the recruitment of women, especially for case management.</p> <p>In the communities, both men and women have benefited from the project more or less equitably. In local committees that were formed it was sought to have men and woman represented.</p> <p>Men’s participation in awareness raising campaigns was reported by JR partners as good/positive. The participation of men in these campaigns and the training of leaders on GBV and gender issues brings about a change in the community with regards to women’s involvement and participation in decision making.</p> <p>In Ouham, a gender study was conducted in order to identify and respond to the specific needs and resources of boys and girls.</p>
Accountability	<p>Throughout the implementation of the activities, community participation and accountability has been a key focus for achieving results. The launching of the activities was done in two stages linked to two levels: i) at the national level in the presence of the national authorities, representatives of the specialized services of the State as well as humanitarian actors and ii) at the local level in the presence of local authorities, representatives of local notabilities, implementing partner organizations, humanitarian actors as well as representatives of civil society.</p> <p>During and after the project activities, communities were participating through involvement during PDMs, monthly meetings, evaluations and complaints and feedback mechanisms.</p> <p>The partners ensured the inclusion of local population and leaders in various phases and activities of the projects. A partner presented the project plans & activities in workshops including local authorities and population; in some areas</p>

	<p>it was possible to have community-based beneficiary identification through local committees. In campaigns, local authorities were used to raise awareness.</p>
<p>Localisation</p>	<p>Several members worked together with local implementing partners. They were involved during the whole project cycle in joint-assessments, project design and during implementation. In total 6 local NGOs and/or actors received training and coaching during CARJR4 to strengthen their capacity. Local actors also received financial and/or material support.</p> <p>However, partners also mentioned that capacity development of local partners and local actors needs a long term plan, intensive coaching and follow-up by people that know the local context very well. Relationships need to be established and that requires time. Where possible, the relationship with local partners established in previous JRs was continued. But a multi annual capacity strengthening plan is recommended for better results.</p> <p>In total 18% of the direct costs from the different JR partners and from the joint budget was spend on/by local actors.</p>