

# mdrp fact sheet: Central African Republic

## MDRP-Supported Activities in Central African Republic

March 2009

**National Program:** National program is financed through the Special Project window (see below)

**Special Project:** *Projet de Réinsertion des Ex-combattants et d'Appui aux Communautés* (PRAC)

**Administrator:** Government of CAR and United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

**Financing:** \$9.7 million MDTF and \$3.3 million from UNDP

**Status:** Closed

**Objective:**

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the country's security efforts by:

- Supporting the demobilization and reintegration of 7,565 ex-combatants;
- Enhancing the capacities of the communities receiving the largest number of ex-combatants to ensure their sustainable reintegration

**Progress:**

- The project closed in 2007 - all beneficiaries have received their reintegration kits and training for a chosen reintegration activity.
- An independent evaluation of the PRAC was carried out in October 2007. The findings were shared with the partners and the Government to help inform any potential follow-up activities.
- The Government has launched several new initiatives aimed at facilitating the transition from DDR to broader peace consolidation, including a National Seminar on Security Sector Reform which took place in the spring of 2008.



**Future Activities**

The signing of the peace agreement in Libreville in June 2008 and the outcome of the Inclusive Political Dialogue in December 2008 have moved CAR along its fragile transition. The north remains very insecure and recent rebel activity highlights the fragility of the ongoing transition. However, there is now a real opportunity to progress with security sector reform, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, ensuring the necessary conditions for democratic elections in 2010. UNDP with support from partners and the UN Peacebuilding Commission is in process of formulating a new DDR program.

**BACKGROUND**



CAR has experienced a decade of successive coup attempts and army mutinies. When, in 1993, the Patassé government proved unable to consistently provide salaries, continuous strikes by education and health professionals and multiple army mutinies ensued. Patassé survived seven coup attempts during his time in office with the assistance of Libyan troops and the *Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC)* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These forces largely withdrew following the December 2002 deployment of peacekeepers from the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

On March 15, 2003, General François Bozizé and his followers, supported by troops from Chad, staged a successful coup d'état while Patassé was out of the country. An 18-month transition period was then declared to prepare for general elections and a *Conseil National de Transition* (CNT) - comprised of political parties and civil society – replaced the dissolved parliament.

**Population:** 4.1 million  
**Area:** 622,984 sq km (240,535 sq miles)  
**Life expectancy:** 39.4 years  
**Main exports:** Diamonds, timber  
**GNI per capita:** US \$360

In May 2005, parliamentary and presidential elections were held and declared generally free and fair. Bozizé won the elections in the second round and was formally sworn in as president. The security situation remains volatile however as the security forces are weak and still unable to control some areas of the national territory. Violent clashes between the Government and rebel groups, as well as widespread roadblocks and armed banditry continue to affect the north of the territory.