



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Central African Republic

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UNFPA Central African Republic 2024

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CAR	Central African Republic
CUAMM	University College for Aspiring Missionary Doctors (<i>Italian acronym</i>)
CPD	Country Programme Document
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IACD	Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IPs	Implementing Partners
IUD	Intrauterine Device
MINUSCA	Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SMSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TCNs	Third Country Nationals
TRs	Transformative Results
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WHO	World Health Organization

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INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE





INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

Dr. Agnes KAYITANKORE
UNFPA CAR Representative *a.i.*

Dear partners and readers,

I am pleased to present you the 2023 Annual Report of UNFPA in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The year under review has been challenging for CAR. Despite the barriers, UNFPA remained committed to supporting the Government and people of the Central African Republic in their efforts to achieve universal sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

I would like to take this opportunity to deeply acknowledge the work done by Dr. Shible Sahbani, the outgoing Resident Representative, who significantly contributed to the results achieved.

This report highlights our main accomplishments in 2023, including:

Increased access to SRHR services: We have worked with partners to expand access to family planning services, prenatal care, and skilled birth assistance, especially in conflict-affected areas.

Empowering women and girls: We have supported programs that promote gender equality, prevent gender-based violence, and ensure women's participation in peacebuilding efforts.

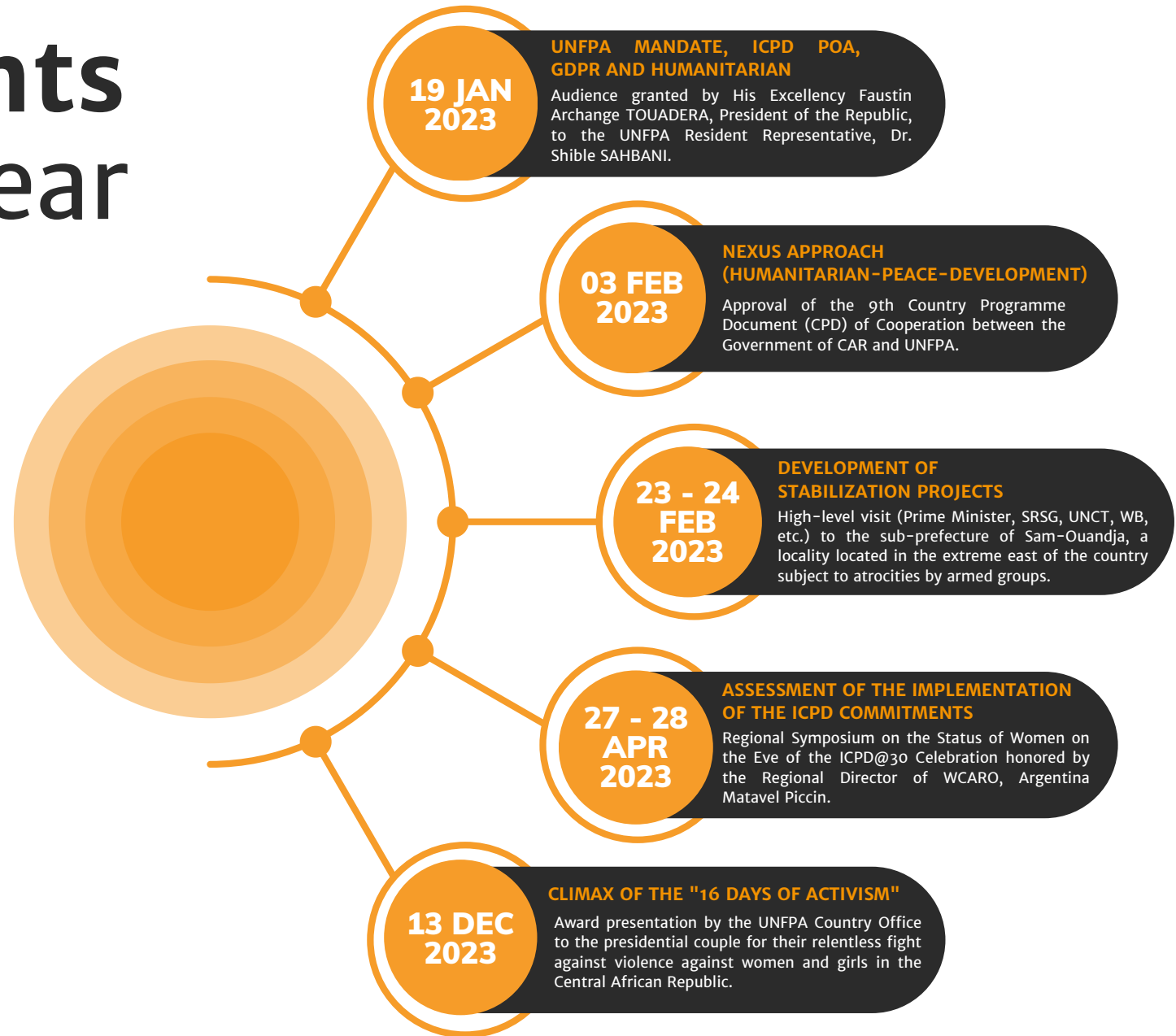
Strengthening resilience: We have provided essential assistance to displaced persons and refugees, ensuring their access to sexual and reproductive health services and essential dignity kits.

We are grateful for the continued support of our partners, including the CAR Government, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and donors. Together, we can build a better future for the people of the Central African Republic.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023



Highlights of the Year 2023





HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

UNFPA & MINUSCA RESPONDS TO

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN HAUTE KOTTO



Following the urgent appeal for aid launched by the populations of Haute Kotto, UNFPA in collaboration with MINUSCA airlifted a batch of reproductive health products and various other kits of 3.5 tonnes consisting of medicines, consumables and medical equipment, as well as dignity and office kits in Bria and Sam Ouandja.

This donation given to the health facilities of Bria and Sam-Ouandja, to the center for the care of human rights victims of Bria, to pregnant displaced women, to the women of the returnee site of Bria aims to improve care obstetric complications, assistance with childbirth, management of sexual violence and STIs, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, STIs and HIV, preservation of the dignity of women and girls.



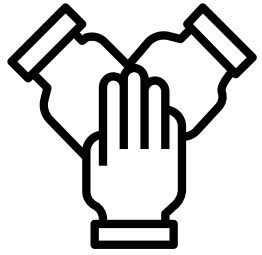
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR 15 YOUNG LEADERS IN DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Some of the 15 selected participants in the training programme.

As part of efforts to ensure the potential of every young person is fulfilled, UNFPA in collaboration with the GUTSCHOOL institute trained 15 young leaders in digital entrepreneurship. The 6-month diploma programme allows applicants to have the knowledge, but above all, the skills to ultimately allow them to create their business in the digital field. The launch of the ceremony was crowned by the presentation of training kits to the young learners.

UNFPA recognizes the potential of digital entrepreneurship to empower young people and drive economic growth, particularly in developing countries like the Central African Republic. This support is crucial because it fosters innovation, creates jobs, and reduces poverty. Additionally, it offers young people, especially women and marginalized groups, opportunities to overcome traditional barriers to employment and achieve financial independence.



INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

HIGH-LEVEL VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE UN SRSG TO BRIA AND SAM OUANDJA

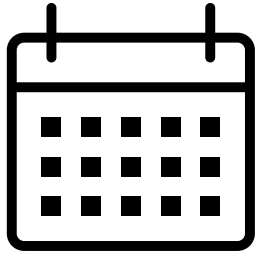


The high-level delegation composed of the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic and Head of Government, Mr. Félix Moloua, the UN SRSG, Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza, Head of MINUSCA and UN DSRSG and UN Resident Coordinator in CAR, Dr. Mohamed Ag Ayoya, as well as UN Rep a.i. Dr. Agnes Kayitankore, ministers, international development experts, among others.

From February 23 to 24, 2023, there was a high-level visit under the high patronage of the Head of Government, Prime Minister Félix Moloua, in the company of the Head of MINUSCA, SRSG Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza, along with a delegation composed of Ministers, DSRSG/RC/HC, donors, UNFPA and UNDP.

The field visit took place in Bria and Sam Ouandja for the inauguration of some stabilization projects. It was also to explore the implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) or triple nexus.

This was possible following the relative return of peace to the region and the return of IDPs, which was possible thanks to the presence of MINUSCA forces in the region. This was an opportunity to combine joint efforts between UNCT and the mission and strengthen the presence of humanitarians and development to implement the triple nexus.



INTERNATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On the occasion of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the UNFPA CAR Deputy Representative, Dr. Agnes KAYITANKORE used the opportunity to raise awareness about FGM, while calling for its abandonment via a Guira FM radio broadcast. She reiterated UNFPA's support that aids in the fight against this harmful practice which is a violation of human rights.



On the occasion of the celebration of the 2023 International Women's Day, the outgoing UNFPA Resident Representative, Dr Shible Sahbani presented an exposition on the contribution of digital technology to the empowerment of women, as well as on the risks linked to the virtual domain. The opportunity was used to announce the upcoming launch of the pilot project on literacy through new information and communication technologies in order to promote access to digitalization for girls and women.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE CPD OUTCOMES



HIGH-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENTS



The UNFPA Rep, Dr. Shible SAHBANI exchanging pleasantries with the President of the Central African Republic, His Excellency Faustin Touadera.

"Carrying forward the mandate of UNFPA" is the slogan advocated by the Resident Representative of UNFPA to rally national authorities towards understanding, ownership, and

action around the noble objectives of ensuring access rights for adolescents, youth, and women to quality services, while respecting values of equality, equity, national solidarity, and social justice without leaving anyone behind.

It is in this context that on February 3, 2023, during the audience granted by the President of the Republic, Head of State, to Dr. Shible Sahbani, Resident Representative of UNFPA, he affirmed his support and personal involvement in the success of UNFPA's mission, particularly in reducing maternal mortality and gender-based violence.

Furthermore, during the closing of the 16 days of activism in 2023, where a trophy was awarded to the presidential couple by UNFPA for including gender equality issues and the fight against gender-based violence in their political vision, the President of the Republic, Head of State, took the opportunity of the official closing ceremony of the 16 days of activism to recall the mission assigned to the Strategic Committee on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which is a coordination body placed at the Presidency of the Republic to oversee the implementation of policy and strategic orientations on issues related to the reliability of data, as well as the mapping and activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on conflict-related violence issues.

He initiated the review of the 1997 Family Code and the update of the National Gender Equity and Equality Policy, aimed at providing accessible and quality information and services to improve the well-being of Central African women.

Following its approval by the Board of Directors, the 9th country program was presented in detail to government officials and partner NGOs for implementation. This marked a step towards national ownership and accountability towards girls, youth, and women of the Central African Republic, as it strengthens collaboration among key stakeholders and lays the groundwork for a successful implementation of the 9th CPD for the years to come.



COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The new DSRG HC/RC, Dr. Mohamed Ag Ayoya, held discussions with Representative Dr. Shible Sahbani during a courtesy visit to UNFPA premises. At the heart of the discussions were the priorities outlined by UNFPA RCA in its new cooperation cycle 2023-2027, as well as the various challenges and opportunities within the framework of the UNCT, HCT, and also in the collaboration between UNFPA and MINUSCA.



DSRSG & Resident Coordinator, Dr Mohamed Ag Ayoya when he met with UNFPA Resident Representative, Dr Shible Sahbani.



Head of MINUSCA, SRSG Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza in an interaction with the UNFPA WCARO Regional Director, Argentina Matavel

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the principal instrument of the United Nations System (UN) for planning and conducting development activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in the Central African Republic (CAR). UNFPA CAR's country program (2023-2027), is aligned to national priorities and to the UNSDCF, in order to remain active and representative within the UN family.

In this regard, the Country Office is represented in all United Nations working groups to position UNFPA's mandate and contribute to the expected joint results of the United Nations system in the Central African Republic.



SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

UNFPA CAR welcomed Mrs. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Regional Director of UNFPA for West and Central Africa, from April 25th to 29th, 2023. During her visit, Mrs. Matavel met with heads of ministerial departments of the CAR Government, representatives of the United Nations system, and strategic partners for the implementation of the ninth cooperation program between CAR and UNFPA to discuss the support of the UNFPA office in CAR in achieving the 3 transformative results.



The UNFPA WCARO RD, the UN RC and the UNFPA Rep in a meeting with the President of the Central African Republic, His Excellency Faustin Archange Touadera.

She also conducted field visits and participated in the regional symposium on the status of women organized by the UNFPA Country Office in the Central African Republic at the initiative of the President of the Republic. The panelists who led the sessions during the symposium came from 10 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Mali, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo and Rwanda.



It was an opportunity for participants to assess the status of women implementation of the ICPD commitments, as well as, formulate recommendations to accelerate the implementation of these commitments.

Issues of gender-based violence, family planning, and the well-being of women, girls, and children in the Central African Republic (CAR) were at the center of discussions with various partners.

The visit of the Regional Director allowed her to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by communities and national authorities regarding the rights

of women and girls.

In addition to her official visit, the Regional Director held a discussion session with the staff of the UNFPA Country Office in the Central African Republic. This meeting, attended by the Regional Director and technical experts from the region, helped to understand the difficulties and the type of support needed by the staff of the Country Office in the CAR.

The Director commended and encouraged the staff to continue moving forward in achieving the three transformative results to change the social indicators in the CAR, which are currently unsatisfactory.



The UNFPA WCARO Regional Director and staff of the UNFPA CAR Country Office in a group photograph.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

- The project **"Support for Social Cohesion by Youth, for Youth in the Central African Republic,"** jointly implemented by UNFPA and WHO, is funded by PBF funds to the tune of \$2,500,017, with \$1,800,012 allocated to UNFPA;
- The **"Integrated Project to Strengthen HIV Transmission Prevention, Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence Cases"** is a collaboration between UNFPA and the French Red Cross (CRF), with a total funding of 2,172,843 EURO. This project aims to enhance access to information and quality services for sexual violence, HIV/AIDS prevention, and to conduct HIV prevalence studies among healthcare personnel in maternity wards and survivors of sexual violence, to provide evidence-based data for decision-making by December 31, 2023.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- The project "Provision of integrated lifesaving multisectoral sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) interventions for populations affected in Central African Republic" has a total funding of \$1,229,418.58. This project aims to provide integrated multisectoral sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services for populations living in the most vulnerable areas. Through this proposed action, UNFPA, through its partners, ensures the provision of integrated multisectoral sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services.
- The project "Provision of vital maternal and reproductive health care services to populations" operates in the eastern triangle of the country with a funding of US\$500,000 and allows for: (i) Implementation of the minimum emergency sexual and reproductive health (SRH) package through the provision of essential SRH services, including emergency obstetric and neonatal care. (ii) Provision of sexual and reproductive health kits in



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



crisis situations. (iii) Support for qualified personnel and SRH kits to existing health facilities for the provision of free SRH services. (iv) Medical care for survivors of sexual violence. (v) Training of service providers in the Minimum Emergency Package (MEP) and medical care for cases of rape. (vi) Technical mentoring.

- **The project "Improve access of vulnerable populations living in displaced and host communities to Gender-Based Violence medical and psychosocial services"** has a funding of US\$600,000 and aims to: (i) Acquire and provide post-rape kits (PEP kits and kit 9) for the repair of cervical and vaginal tears to be provided to medical centers treating rape cases in at least 60 health facilities located in crisis-affected areas in CAR. (ii) Acquire and provide dignity kits to partner agencies combating gender-based violence (GBV) that support prevention and response interventions in the areas most affected by the crisis in CAR. (iii) Update the national protocol for the

provision of clinical management of rape. (iv) Training of health service providers and psychosocial service providers on GBV in clinical management of rape and psychosocial care.

- **The project "Regional Emergency Intervention Plan for Sudanese Refugees"** with a funding of US\$200,000 provides assistance not only to Sudanese refugees and refugees crossing to neighboring countries but also to migrants and third-country nationals (TCNs).



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



- **The project "Improvement of maternal and neonatal health services and the rehabilitation of neonatology infrastructure at the pediatric university hospital complex in Bangui"** with a funding of 5 million euros implemented in collaboration with the partner CUAMM and financed by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), will contribute to the improvement of neonatal health.
- **The project "Strengthening mechanisms for prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV in the sub-prefectures of Bambouti, Ndélé, and Ngaoundaye, Rafai, Zangba, in the Central African Republic"** with a funding of US\$1,500,000 aims to: (i) Raise awareness among communities in project locations through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities. (ii) Strengthen the leadership of women's and youth organizations in combating GBV, exploitation, and sexual abuse. (iii) Promote sexual and reproductive rights. (iv) Support existing health facilities with post-rape kits and reproductive health supplies. (v) Provide training to service providers/GBV actors on clinical management of rape. (vi) Establish safe and secure spaces for women and girls. (vii) Establish a referral system for the multisectoral care of survivors' needs.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE THREE TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS (3TRs)



PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 3TRs

In 2023, the population of the Central African Republic continued to face insecurity and threats to their well-being: one in five Central Africans was internally displaced or a refugee in neighboring countries. The number of people in need of humanitarian aid and protection was estimated at 3.4 million, with 2.4 million targeted by the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

In response to this situation, the United Nations adopted an approach based on the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace" nexus to better interact using the aforementioned levers to address the multiple facets of the population's needs.



In this context, the Country Office, in the first year of implementing its 9th country program 2023–2027, adopted a 20/80 approach in its framing letter, with 20% of resources allocated to development activities and 80% to humanitarian activities.

This is in line with the five (5) modes of engagement tailored to the Central African context: advocacy, dialogue, and political support; knowledge management; capacity development; service delivery; and coordination, partnership, and South-South and triangular cooperation.

Vital interventions in sexual and gender-based violence as well as sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian contexts were able to reach 440,297 women, adolescents, and youth during the year 2023.



RESULTS

Zero preventable maternal deaths

9,025 Antenatal consultations

15,893 Vaginal deliveries

5,615 Postnatal consultations

5,796 Medical care for cases of sexual violence

174 Cesarean deliveries

1,864 Survivors of sexual violence who received medical care services within 72 hours

725 Post-abortion care



FACTORS THAT HAVE FACILITATED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE RESULTS:



141 Midwives trained in Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) to strengthen the capacities of health facilities.

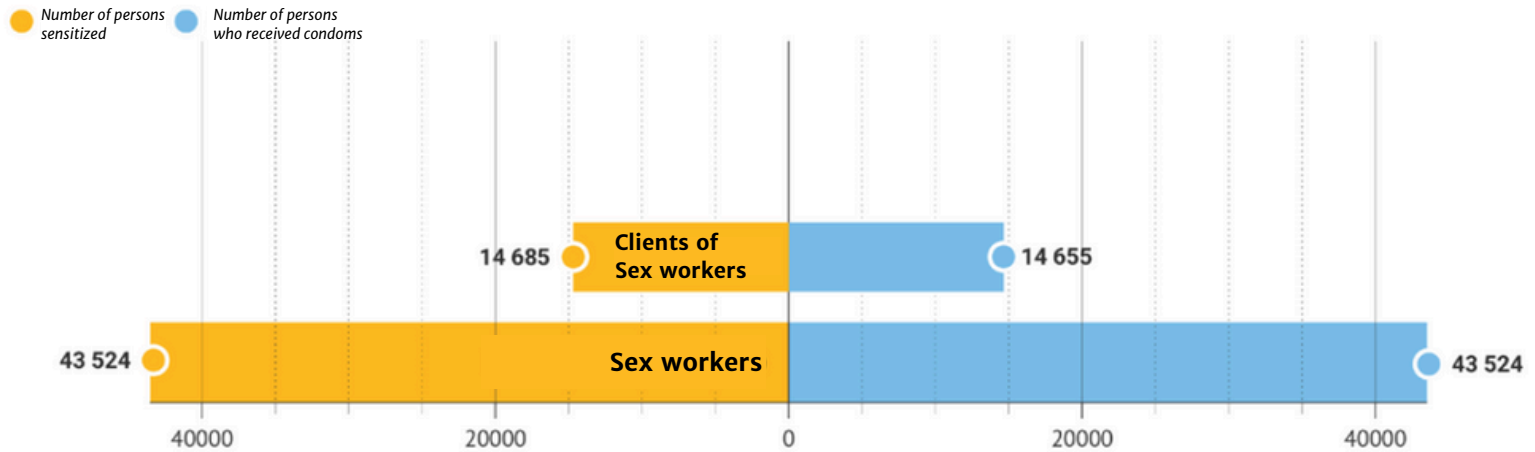
201 Healthcare personnel and social workers trained in Minimum Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC).

11 Midwives have been deployed to healthcare facilities with a shortage of qualified personnel to contribute to the provision of quality services.

18 Mobile clinics have been established for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) interventions for girls and women in areas without permanent healthcare facilities.

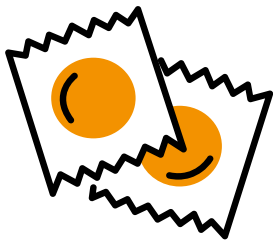
69,903

Persons (men, boys, women, and girls) have been sensitized as part of the SRH program, including:



1,680,000

Condoms distributed for preventing **unintended pregnancies**





RESULTS

Zero unmet need for family planning

258,476 Condoms

50 IUD

50,530 Oral (pills)

380 implants administered

11,449 injectables



THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE RESULTS STEM FROM ACTIONS TAKEN BY:



28,600 individuals sensitized on family planning



105 Stakeholders trained on the LMA-SIGL to ensure that no one is left behind



RESULTS

Zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices

- GBV survivors who received psychosocial/psychological support **17,188**
- Women and girls who received dignity kits **6,723**
- GBV survivors who received case management services **4,021**
- GBV survivors who received Income-Generating Activities (IGA) kits **325**
- GBV survivors who received CASH assistance **60**



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS (IPs) HAVE HAD THEIR CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO SURVIVORS:



24 Individuals trained in GBV case management

74 Individuals trained in psychosocial support

13 Safe spaces established for the empowerment of women and girls through learning small trades (gardening, sewing, culinary art, literacy), with UNFPA providing training on income-generating activities.

17 Data providers within the framework of the GBVIMS

200 Individuals trained in income-generating activities



National referral mechanism updated by the AoR



CELEBRATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

UNFPA supports the commitment of the Head of State, His Excellency Faustin Archange Touadera, President of the National AIDS Control Council (CNLS), and his Government in accelerating HIV prevention.

World AIDS Day 2023 was celebrated belatedly at PK 22 in Liton School (Bégoua) under the theme "EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES" with the national slogan "Engagement of grassroots communities in the fight against HIV/AIDS" aiming to end new HIV/AIDS infections by 2030.

In line with this year's theme, UNFPA supported community activities in collaboration with the National Coordination of CNLS for Sex Workers and the Defense and Security Forces in Damara, Sibut, and Mbaïki. 40 community relays were trained, 320 sex workers and their clients were reached, and 200 Defense and Security Forces personnel were sensitized and provided with condoms.



PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY



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