

## Project evaluation report

Evaluation details	
Project title	Prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS among youth in the conflict-affected areas of Ouham and Ouham-Pendé
Organisation	UNFPA, ACABEF
Sector	Health
Project duration	1 August 2007 – 30 June 2008 (including a no-cost extension)
Project budget (ERF)	\$ 50,907
Place	Ouham-Pendé and Ouham (Paoua, Bossangoa et Bozoum)
Dates of evaluation	30 September – 1 October 2008
Evaluation team members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicolas Bokossy, FAO</li> <li>• Davide Stefanini, DRC</li> </ul> The French Cooperation had planned to participate in the evaluation but was prevented from doing so at the last minute for security reasons
Examined documents	Project document, work plan, final narrative report, consultation register

### Context

*Briefly describe the context in which the project was implemented, including the local security and political context, the displacement situation, and the assessed needs of the people in the area.*

With an HIV prevalence rate of 6.2%, the Central African Republic is the country the most affected in the region. Armed conflict in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures has disturbed the functioning of health infrastructures. In Bossangoa, Bozoum and Paoua, HIV prevention and testing had virtually broken down. In response, UNFPA started a project to prevent HIV/AIDS among uniformed services in these three places in 2006. This project is a follow-on project that is targeted at people affected by violent conflict.

### Results

*Compare the results (outcomes and impact) on the ground with the 'expected outcomes' and indicators in the project sheet and work plan. If possible, add summaries.*

The main goal of this project was to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV/AIDS, as well as mortality and morbidity with reproductive health services for people affected by conflict in the area of Paoua. The project was implemented by ACABEF, the Central African Association for the Well-being of Families, under the supervision of UNFPA. The project document and work plan list the project objectives.

*Recruit personnel to render the ACABEF's service centre in Paoua operational*

ACABEF recruited and trained two staff, one midwife and one IEC (information, education and communication) officer to render ACABEF's service centre in Paoua operational. The centre was also equipped with a motorbike, eight bicycles, a megaphone and office furniture. During a visit to the centre, the evaluation found that it functions well; the objective has been achieved.

*Train animators to carry out communication activities, give advice and engage in educational discussions with youth on HIV prevention*

ACABEF trained 26 animators to conduct training sessions in villages. IEC activities aimed at social mobilisation (mass training outside the centre), training sessions at the centre and education discussions for which the animators went from door to door. Seven 'social mobilisation' sessions were organised, as well as seven visits to villages for educational discussions and several training sessions at the centre. During these activities, the animators distributed male and female condoms provided by UNFPA.

Between September 2007 and September 2008, ACABEF staff held 2,083 individual consultations at the centre, including 1,563 for displaced people. The evaluation team finds this encouraging as a start but thinks that more should be done to mobilise people to come to individual consultations. The average number of 160 consultations per month or 6 per day should be increased. The chief doctor of the prefecture hospital in Paoua, the representative of the Ministry of Public Health in the region, should be more closely involved in ACABEF's HIV prevention activities.

*Test people for HIV/AIDS and refer those with positive results so that they receive medical assistance*

Of the 2,083 people who came for consultations, 179 were tested for HIV and 88 tests (49%) came back positive. ACABEF referred these latter to the chief doctor at the prefecture hospital in Paoua for free medical assistance with drugs provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Twenty-two receive anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and 66 cotrimoxazole (CTM). ACABEF also receives food from WFP to provide nutritional assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. Compared with the number of consultations, the number of people who were tested is low, at 8.6%. The evaluation team finds that the achieved result is laudable but that much could be done to improve it. ACABEF should review its counselling and consultation methods to encourage more people to take the voluntary test.

## Constraints

*What constraints were faced during the implementation of the project, including security and logistical constraints or constraints internal to the organisation (lack of staff, etc.)? Was the project duration extended as result? If yes, was it justified?*

The launch of HIV prevention activities was delayed due to the late arrival of HIV testing kits and condoms in Paoua. The 26 animators have only limited support for their activities. ACABEF does not have a generator, thus no electricity, and no sound system for mass social mobilisation sessions. There is no audio-visual equipment to show films on HIV prevention at the centre.

## Impact of ERF funding

*What impact did ERF funding have on the overall programme activities of the organisation? Were ERF-funded activities compatible to activities of other organisations in the same area? Were these well coordinated?*

Thanks to ERF-funding, ACABEF's centre in Paoua became operational. As there are no other voluntary testing centres in Paoua, the funding enabled ACABEF to close this gap. The evaluation team encourages a closer exchange of information between the prefecture hospital in Paoua and ACABEF's centre, and a deeper involvement of the chief doctor in health coordination so that people who are tested positively can receive ARV treatment.

## Conclusion

*What is the evaluation team's overall conclusion? Was ERF funding helpful? Was the project implemented according to the plan? Did it have an impact on the ground? What are the lessons learnt?*

This project responded to some of the urgent needs of people affected by conflict in the Paoua area. The evaluation team has found some irregularities which explain the low number of HIV tests. According to testimonies from several people in villages in the area, people in the area may be opposed to HIV-testing for cultural reasons. Thus, the evaluation team recommends ACABEF's central office in Bangui, with the help of UNFPA, to support the centre in Paoua in putting place a training strategy for community and traditional leaders. The centre also needs to be reinforced with necessary equipment to facilitate the 'social mobilisation' of a greater number of people in the Paoua area.