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## “CASH FOR WORK” OR COMMUNITY HEALING



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Immediately after the crisis in the Central African Republic, some districts of the capital remained deserted as tensions calmed and resentment subsided. The time had come to live again, together, at home, with the *Other*. Labor was urgently needed to rebuild, clean neighborhoods, and turn the page. "Cash for work" activities started a little over a year ago, to support the immediate recovery of communities affected by the conflict and has notably encouraged the revitalization of the local economy, facilitated the beginning of income-generating activities for vulnerable households, and strengthened dialogue among community members.

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INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS  
(DTM) in CAR

369,490  
IDPs

« CASH FOR WORK »

17,417  
beneficiaries

PRESS RELEASES

1. [EU Backs IOM Community Stabilization in Central African Republic](#)
2. [IOM Supports CAR Peace Campaign In Bangui](#)

## “PEACE COMES FROM YOU”



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Peace comes from you,” (“La paix vient de soi”) and peace comes from us, especially from living harmoniously with the *Other*. Since 15 July 2015, IOM has been supporting local artists to promote a peace campaign. The campaign was rolled out in the conflict-affected 5th District of the capital Bangui. “The objective of these campaigns is to allow conflict-affected people to meet in a neutral setting and create positive memories of positive interaction. It is important to build on rewarding collective experiences in order to have a lasting impact on stability in CAR,” says IOM CAR Chief of Mission Torsten Haschenz.

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## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

**Patricia Yassiyo** has been with IOM since the establishment of the mission. Very early on, while she hosted displaced neighbors at her own house, Patricia directly engaged with the newly arriving international staff to develop a team structure and mentor the new staff members. She has been supporting the site facilitator programme and is also the supervisor in the Community Stabilization Programme. Not only does she facilitate cash for work activities in one of the most volatile areas of the capital, she also ensures team spirits are kept high, through constant (and beautiful) singing.

*“I hope there are peaceful elections in CAR so that justice can be established – only then will development follow. Peace in CAR is like a fragile egg that has been broken and will take years to put back together, but I want the world to know about CAR and that peace will come in due course.”*

## PARTNERS

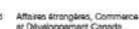
## THE SONG FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE



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“We are all brothers and sisters, children of the same nation” sang dozens of people who have benefited from the Cash for work initiative. Under the Community Stabilization project, the music group *Les Princes Divins* and IOM have produced a song about mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The project beneficiaries were involved in the recording of the music video sung in three languages: Sango, French and Arabic. Despite numerous technical and safety challenges during filming and recording, the anthem was broadcast on national and local radio stations and served as an example of mutual respect and dialogue for communities.

[Watch video](#)



## SOCIAL MEDIA



@IOM\_CAR

## M'POKO: FACING DISPLACEMENT WITH DISABILITIES

International Humanitarian Day, a blazing afternoon sun, a few meters from the runway. A group of "humanitarians" goes to the M'poko IDP camp. In the background we see airplanes: Air France, United Nations. For a moment it brings us back to the end of our mission in the country: what stories to tell friends! An interpreter joined the group and warns that some IDPs may be angry, that reception might be different from what one usually receives in the city. The group is actually three young women. They enter the camp, which is not surrounded by any fence or wall. It looks like a vast wasteland, from which arise tarpaulins, tents and children, running and stopping abruptly at the sight of one of the women's red hair. They arrive at a tent after a maze led by the interpreter. Six men and two women are seated. They smile at the sight of foreigners, but none stands up to greet them. Then the look of one of the group looks at/observes the chair on which is seated one of them. Wheels, a crank, and eyes as big as his expectations. Crutches appear, atrophied limbs, broken backs, and broken lives. One of them holds a guitar, the other metal sticks. The smiling guitarist starts the song and a voice rises: "To all the humanitarians, happy international day!"



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## KABO, THE INDEPENDENT

Kabo, 60 km from the Chadian border. Seven years have passed since the few thousand inhabitants could celebrate Independence Day. *Their* independence. Yet on August 13, more than 2000 community members and internally displaced people celebrated CAR's independence, with the goal of social cohesion. Social cohesion is a reminder that people belong to a nation, regardless of ethnicity or religion. To open the day, the Central African Republic flag was raised as the national anthem was sung. The day was marked by dances, speeches and laughter. Two teams competed in a soccer match and participants were awarded trophies by the local authorities and IOM. Earlier this summer, the town of Kabo was improved with three schools renovated by IOM. This project was part of the Return and Reinsertion of Former Combatants project that renovated community infrastructure,, allowing people to come together again.

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## VIOLENCE AND GENDER: LASTING CHALLENGE, NEW MEASURES



For over two decades, IOM has committed itself to ensure that the particular needs of all migrant women and girls are identified, especially those that are exposed to gender-based violence (GBV). Violence against women and girls is particularly prevalent and often widespread in the complex emergencies and natural disasters where IOM operates. The current situation in the Central African Republic and the recent turmoil that hit the country at the highest level of international actors make urgent new measures necessary. Gender-based violence is widespread in the Central African Republic, and yet prevention and response of GBV is highly underfunded in CAR. However, with the support of the Canadian government, IOM has started the implementation of its GBV prevention project to support ongoing efforts to reduce the incidence GBV in CAR, with a particular focus on conflict-affected women and girls, including returnees. One of the key start-up activities was the training of project staff on GBV Principles and on Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA.) Through presentations and group discussions, the group also discussed how IOM can work with the different community members to not only increase awareness on GBV, but also how response to GBV can be improved.



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<http://www.iom.int>

[CARresponse.iom.int](http://CARresponse.iom.int)