

Summaries of CRDM-CAR safeguard documents (for translation)

Project: Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR).

Accredited Entity (AE): UNICEF. **GCF ESS Category:** B. **Target prefectures:** Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga.

This document contains a stand-alone summary for each of the four environmental and social safeguards (ESS) annexes — ESMF, IPP, SEP and GAAP. Each summary preserves the technical terminology used in the source instruments and required for Green Climate Fund (GCF) compliance, while remaining concise enough to be translated into French and re-used as needed.

ESMF — Environmental and Social Management Framework (Annex 06)

Purpose and scope

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) sets out how the CRDM-CAR project will identify, avoid, minimise, mitigate, and where residual impact remains, compensate environmental and social (E&S) risks throughout its six-year implementation. Because some sub-projects are still to be defined during implementation, the ESMF establishes the screening procedures, mitigation hierarchy, institutional responsibilities and monitoring requirements that apply to every sub-project, including the preparation of cluster level Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for all cluster of subprojects classified as moderate risk once locations are known, and, where required, Environmental and Social Commitment Plans (ESCPs).

Project description

CRDM-CAR is led by UNICEF as Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE), with the Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources (MEDHR) serving as co-EE, financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with co-financing from UNICEF and the MEDHR. It strengthens the resilience of vulnerable children, women and marginalised groups by delivering climate-resilient WASH services and disaster risk management (DRM) in Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga. The project is classified GCF ESS Category B (moderate, site-specific and reversible risks).

Applicable E&S standards

The ESMF aligns with the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and the GCF revised ESS Standards, which adopt the IFC Performance Standards (PS1–PS8) as the interim ESS framework. It is consistent with UNICEF safeguards policies, ILO core conventions (C29, C105, C138, C182, C100, C111), the UN PSEA framework, UNDRIP, CRC, CEDAW, and CAR national environmental and social legislation.

Main E&S risks identified

- **Water resources (PS3):** groundwater over-abstraction in drought-prone areas; contamination from poorly sited sanitation facilities.
- **Biodiversity (PS6):** habitat disturbance near sensitive ecological zones, including the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park.
- **Labour and working conditions (PS2):** occupational health and safety (OHS); risks of child or forced labour in remote sites; contractor labour conditions.
- **Community health and safety (PS4):** dust, noise, waste and traffic during works; water-quality risks; flood exposure.
- **Safeguarding:** sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA/SH) and gender-based violence (GBV) risks linked to contractor presence and influx.
- **Inclusion:** exclusion risk for women, IDPs, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities (PWD).
- **Land access (PS5):** disputes over land use; potential economic displacement; managed via Voluntary Land Donation (VLD).

Mitigation and management

The ESMF applies the mitigation hierarchy (avoid → minimise → restore → offset). Each sub-project or cluster of sub-projects is screened. Borehole sub-projects/clusters require hydrogeological assessment. Sanitation facilities are designed flood-resilient. A biodiversity action checklist applies near sensitive habitats. A Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) protocol governs land contributions, with no involuntary resettlement. A Labour Management Procedure (LMP) and a Code of Conduct (CoC) bind all personnel, including contractors and sub-contractors. A SEA/SH Action Plan implements survivor-centred response, mandatory PSEA training and zero tolerance. An inclusion strategy ensures meaningful participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, PWD and IDPs.

Institutional arrangements

UNICEF is the Accredited Entity (AE) and Executing Entity (EE) for E&S oversight, monitoring and reporting. The Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulic Resources (MEDHR) is a co-EE. Local authorities, contractors, Water User Associations (WUAs), Village Development Committees (VDCs) and NGO partners share day-to-day execution and monitoring. A dedicated Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Officer and a Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer are embedded in the Project Management Unit (PMU).

Monitoring, reporting and disclosure

Monitoring includes routine site inspections, contractor monthly reports, semi-annual E&S safeguards reports, grievance logs, OHS incident reports, water-quality monitoring and biodiversity tracking. Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) are issued for any non-compliance. Independent E&S audits are foreseen. The ESMF and downstream ESMPs are disclosed in line with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The project-level GRM is multi-channel, free, confidential and accepts anonymous submissions. Grievances are categorised (general request, concern, incident, fraud) with response timelines from 12 hours (incidents/SEA-SH/GBV) to 31 days. SEA/SH and GBV cases follow a survivor-centred, fast-track protocol with referral to GBV services. The GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) remains accessible in parallel and does not require prior use of the project GRM.

Glossary

- **ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)** — framework document setting how the project identifies and manages E&S risks across all sub-projects.
- **ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan)** — moderate risk cluster-level plan listing impacts of one sub-project or a cluster of sub-projects and actions to manage them.
- **ESCP (Environmental and Social Commitment Plan)** — binding list of E&S actions the project commits to, with deadlines.
- **GCF ESS** — Green Climate Fund Environmental and Social Safeguards.
- **IFC Performance Standards (PS1–PS8)** — international benchmark standards adopted by GCF as its interim ESS framework.

- **AE / EE** — Accredited Entity / Executing Entity.
- **GRM (Grievance Redress Mechanism)** — confidential complaints system.
- **SEA/SH (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment)** — prohibited under the UN PSEA framework.
- **OHS (Occupational Health and Safety)** — rules to protect workers from injury and illness.
- **LMP (Labour Management Procedures)** — contractor labour rules aligned with ILO core conventions.
- **VLD (Voluntary Land Donation)** — free, informed and documented land contribution; no involuntary resettlement.
- **IRM (GCF Independent Redress Mechanism)** — independent GCF body for grievances.

IPP — Indigenous Peoples Plan (Annex 06a)

Purpose

The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) ensures that CRDM-CAR respects the rights, dignity, knowledge and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in line with the GCF Environmental and Social Policy, IFC Performance Standard 7 (PS7), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Convention 169 (where applicable) and CAR national legislation. The IPP prevents adverse impacts, ensures culturally appropriate benefits and guarantees meaningful participation throughout the project lifecycle.

Indigenous Peoples covered and locations

CAR officially recognises three Indigenous groups: M'bororo Fulani, Aka and Litho. The project directly engages M'bororo Fulani communities in Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga and Bangui. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultations were held in Bangui, Bossangoa and Ndélé during 2025.

Socio-economic and cultural baseline

M'bororo Fulani are nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists whose identity, culture and economy centre on cattle. Most speak Fulfulde (and Falata) with partial Sango. Customary governance relies on clan chiefs, elders and imams. Protracted conflict, land tenure insecurity and marginalisation are pushing parts of the population toward sedentary livelihoods. Women and youth face specific barriers to water access and income generation.

Anticipated positive and adverse impacts

Positive impacts include climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure, dedicated cattle watering points, capacity-building, Fulani representation in planning and oversight committees, and policy reforms recognising pastoralist knowledge. Adverse risks include conflict over shared water points, land tenure pressures, dependency on external aid and mistrust of governance. These risks are addressed through mitigation, benefit-sharing measures and conflict-sensitive design.

Mitigation and benefit-sharing

- Boreholes and cattle watering points sited in/near Fulani temporary settlement areas and transhumance corridors to prevent conflict at shared resources.
- Local training in operation and maintenance (O&M) of water facilities.
- Priority employment for Fulani community members where feasible.
- All project communications also produced in Fulfulde.
- Where relevant, Fulani leaders sit on multi-stakeholder committees, WUAs and water resource planning bodies.

FPIC process

FPIC was formally obtained from Fulani national leadership on 17 August 2025 under conditions including proportional inclusion of beneficiaries, use of Fulfulde and participation in governance. FPIC is treated as ongoing: it is renewed through regular consultations, women's and youth

focus groups, and adaptive engagement on any emerging issue affecting Fulani lands, livelihoods or culture.

Culturally appropriate consultation and disclosure

Communications are produced in Fulfulde. Consultations respect customary leadership: clan chiefs in Bangui; the Federation of Cattle Herders (Fédération Nationale des Éleveurs Centrafricains, FNEC) in Bossangoa; the customary chief and his spokesperson in Ndélé. Information is shared at Friday gatherings at mosques, community meetings and through designated focal points.

Institutional arrangements and capacity-building

A Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer in the Project Management Unit (PMU) oversees IPP implementation. Co-execution with the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Energy and partner organisations. Capacity-building strengthens Fulani leaders' participation in climate governance and water resource management.

Monitoring and grievance redress

Monitoring relies on regular consultations, participatory field visits, focus group discussions (FGDs), sex- and group-disaggregated indicators and grievance records, with feedback reported back in Fulfulde. Indigenous Peoples access the GRM through customary and religious leaders, UNICEF/partner staff, hotlines, mobile complaint collectors, and the GCF IRM. Anonymity, confidentiality and protection from retaliation are guaranteed.

Key contacts

- **Bangui:** customary leadership (clan chiefs, imams) or UNICEF project staff.
- **Bossangoa:** UNICEF/partner staff; mobile community feedback collectors; FNEC.
- **Ndélé:** customary chief and his spokesperson; the Sultan Mayor.
- **Project-wide:** UNICEF Complaints and Feedback Management (CFM) system; Gender, IPP and Social Inclusion Officer.
- **GCF IRM:** irm@gcfund.org ; <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>

Glossary

- **IPP (Indigenous Peoples Plan)** — safeguard plan protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights and benefits.
- **FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent)** — IPs are asked first, with full information in their language and time to decide, without pressure.
- **UNDRIP** — UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- **IFC PS7** — international standard on Indigenous Peoples; requires FPIC for certain impacts.
- **ILO C169** — Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (applied where ratified).
- **M'bororo Fulani / Aka / Litho** — the three Indigenous Peoples officially recognised in CAR.
- **Fulfulde** — language of the M'bororo Fulani; used for project communications.

- **FNEC (Fédération Nationale des Éleveurs Centrafricains)** — National Federation of Cattle Herders.
- **WUA / VDC** — Water User Association / Village Development Committee.
- **GRM / IRM** — project Grievance Redress Mechanism / GCF Independent Redress Mechanism.

SEP — Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 07)

Purpose

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) operationalises GCF ESS requirements, IFC PS1, the GCF Information Disclosure Policy and UNICEF safeguards policies. It ensures that affected parties, other interested parties and vulnerable/disadvantaged groups participate meaningfully in CRDM-CAR through transparent, inclusive consultation, information disclosure and grievance redress throughout the project lifecycle.

Project summary

CRDM-CAR strengthens climate-resilient WASH services and disaster risk management (DRM) in CAR. It comprises two components: (1) policy and institutional capacity for climate resilience and (2) climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and community-based DRR. The project reaches approximately 504,600 direct beneficiaries and 2,564,074 indirect beneficiaries across Bangui, Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga.

Stakeholder identification and analysis

- **Affected parties:** rural and peri-urban communities, women, youth, children, IDPs, Indigenous Peoples (Fulani, Kara, Gula, Runga, Gbaya), health and WASH workers, CBOs.
- **Other interested parties:** national and local government, UN agencies, NGOs, development partners, private sector, academia.
- **Vulnerable/disadvantaged groups requiring targeted engagement:** women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWD), Indigenous Peoples, IDPs in informal settlements.

Engagement completed

An inception workshop was held in April 2025 with government, NGOs, UN agencies and civil society. Community consultations took place in Bossangoa, Ndélé and Birao (April–July 2025), including focus group discussions (FGDs), community workshops and site visits. Dedicated Indigenous Peoples consultations were held in Bangui, Bossangoa and Ndélé in August 2025, with FPIC obtained from national Fulani leadership. Digital surveys captured institutional and community perspectives. Bilateral meetings with development partners, government agencies and municipalities validated project design.

Future engagement programme

- Bilateral meetings and technical working groups (TWGs) with government and partners.
- Community consultations and local planning forums in each prefecture.
- School-based workshops and youth assemblies.
- FGDs, women-only dialogues and accessibility audits with disability organisations.
- Capacity-building sessions, community scorecards and monitoring committees.
- Engagement frequency: quarterly with government; bi-monthly with local authorities and CBOs; each school term with youth; semi-annual with PWD; bi-annual with donors.

Information disclosure

Materials are produced in French (formal) and adapted for oral delivery in Sango, Fulfulde and Arabic. Channels include the UNICEF website, social media, WhatsApp, local radio, in-person community meetings, household visits, school campaigns, women-led networks and direct outreach. Channel choice is matched to literacy, language and access conditions of each group, in line with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

Complaints are categorised (requests/observations, concerns, incidents, fraud) with response timelines from 12 hours to 31 days (90 days maximum for complex cases). Anonymous submissions are accepted. SEA/SH and GBV cases are fast-tracked with survivor-centred response. Fulani communities can use customary dispute-resolution pathways (clan chiefs, religious leaders) as entry points. The GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) remains available in parallel.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Participation rates, stakeholder satisfaction and grievances resolved are tracked through quarterly monitoring and bi-annual community feedback sessions. Mid-term review (MTR) and terminal evaluation assess engagement effectiveness. UNICEF reports annually to the GCF on SEP implementation, in line with the AE's monitoring and reporting obligations.

Key contacts

- **UNICEF OIAI:** Integrity1@unicef.org
- **GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM):** irm@gcfund.org ; <https://irm.greenclimate.fund> ; online form at <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>
- Local channels: community focal points, mobile community feedback collectors, customary leaders, UNICEF/partner phone numbers, anonymous submissions (suggestion boxes, SMS, hotline). Specific numbers and addresses shared at community inception meetings.

Glossary

- **SEP (Stakeholder Engagement Plan)** — plan setting how the project engages stakeholders throughout its life.
- **Stakeholder / Affected party / Vulnerable group** — categories used to organise engagement.
- **FGD (Focus Group Discussion)** — structured small-group conversation.
- **CBO (Community-Based Organisation)** — local organisation rooted in and serving its community.
- **GCF Information Disclosure Policy** — GCF rules on what project information must be made public.
- **IFC PS1** — international standard on E&S risk management, stakeholder engagement and the GRM.
- **GRM / IRM** — project Grievance Redress Mechanism / GCF Independent Redress Mechanism.
- **FPIC** — Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples.

- **MTR** — Mid-Term Review.

GAAP — Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 08)

Purpose

The Gender Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP) ensures that CRDM-CAR benefits women and girls equitably and contributes to gender equality. It is anchored in the GCF Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan, IFC PS2 (labour) and PS4 (community health and safety), CEDAW, the UNICEF Gender Action Plan and CAR national gender policy. The GAAP identifies gender barriers and sets out specific actions, targets and sex-disaggregated indicators.

Gender context in CAR

CAR ranks among the lowest countries on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII). Significant disparities exist in literacy, employment, political participation and asset ownership. Women and girls bear disproportionate WASH and household-care responsibility, constraining education, income generation and leadership. Gender-based violence (GBV) — including intimate partner violence (IPV) and child marriage (61% of girls before 18) — remains endemic. Climate change (droughts, floods) amplifies these vulnerabilities, increasing time poverty and exposure to harm.

Gender analysis findings

Women have limited participation in WASH and DRM decision-making. WASH infrastructure often lacks safety features (lighting, locks, privacy). Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is inadequately supported in schools. Climate and early-warning information does not always reach women through male-dominated channels. Survivors of violence face stigma, fear and weak referral pathways.

Gender Action Plan — key actions and targets

- **35–50% female representation** in WUAs, sanitation committees and school health clubs.
- **100 gender-segregated WASH facilities** in schools and health facilities with MHM features (private shower blocks, disposal mechanisms).
- **Solar-lit, locked** water points and sanitation facilities sited for safety and proximity to households.
- **Training for women** in WASH O&M, climate adaptation and DRR.
- **Gender-responsive Early Warning Systems (EWS)** delivered through channels accessible to women (radio, community networks, women-to-women messengers).
- **Integration of GBV prevention** into disaster preparedness planning and contingency plans.

Institutional arrangements and capacity-building

A Gender, Inclusion and Social Inclusion Officer in the PMU oversees gender mainstreaming. The MEDHR, the Ministry of Gender, Family and Child Protection (MGFCP) and NGO partners support women's participation in governance and capacity-building. Training engages men and boys as allies and addresses harmful gender norms.

Prevention of and response to SEA/SH and GBV

All personnel sign a UN Code of Conduct prohibiting sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA/SH). Annual PSEA training is mandatory, aligned with UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standards. WASH infrastructure is designed with safety features. Survivor-centred GBV referral pathways link to health, legal and psychosocial services.

Monitoring with sex-disaggregated data

Progress is tracked through sex-disaggregated indicators on WASH access, safety, participation and GBV risks. Bi-annual resilience checks include gender-specific focus group discussions with women and girls. Sex- and age-disaggregated data feed annual reporting to the GCF.

Grievance channels accessible to women and girls

Multiple channels ensure women and girls can raise concerns safely: confidential feedback to trained female staff, anonymous submission boxes, SMS hotlines, community focal points. Anonymity and protection from retaliation are guaranteed. SEA/SH cases are acknowledged within 12 hours and managed by specialised staff trained in survivor-centred support, with referral to GBV service providers.

Key contacts

- **UNICEF OIAI (allegations involving staff/partners):** Integrity1@unicef.org
- **GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM):** irm@gcfund.org ; <https://irm.greenclimate.fund>
- Project-level channels: trained female staff, anonymous reports, hotlines/SMS feedback, Complaints and Feedback Management (CFM) structures. Numbers shared at community meetings.

Glossary

- **GAAP (Gender Assessment and Action Plan)** — plan identifying gender barriers and setting specific actions, targets and indicators.
- **Gender** — social roles, responsibilities and opportunities given to women, men, girls and boys.
- **GBV (Gender-Based Violence)** — harmful acts directed at people because of their gender.
- **IPV (Intimate Partner Violence)** — violence between current or former partners; a major form of GBV.
- **SEA / SH** — Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment; prohibited under the UN PSEA framework.
- **PSEA** — Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- **MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management)** — support for safe, dignified menstruation.
- **Sex-disaggregated data** — numbers reported separately for women/girls and men/boys.
- **GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan** — GCF rules requiring gender mainstreaming and a GAAP for every funded activity.
- **CEDAW** — UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- **IASC** — UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

- **EWS** — Early Warning System.
- **WUA — Water User Association.** Community-level committee that manages a water point (borehole, tap stand, small piped scheme, etc.) on behalf of its users, covering operation and maintenance, fee collection, hygiene around the water point and dispute resolution.