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CAR Support Platform
GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

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Baoro Development Hub

Fact Sheet - August 2025

What is the Baoro Development Hub?

To advance the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration's recommendations for providing durable solutions to forcibly displaced populations, with the CAR Solutions Support Platform serving as a key mechanism, a development hub approach is being piloted in communities hosting Central African refugee returnees from Cameroon. In 2024, Baoro in Nana Mambéré province, was selected by the government as a pilot "development hub". The pilot aims to transform Baoro into a **sustainable and thriving economic hub**, leveraging local resources to promote resilience, social cohesion, and long-term prosperity, while serving as a model for other refugee return areas.

Basic information of Baoro

- **Host community**: 60,807
- **IDP in host families: 4,170**
- **Facilitated returnees from 2019 to 2025**: 3,095
- **Spontaneous returnees:** more than 2,000
- **Main livelihood activities**: Agriculture, livestock farming, foraging, and trade.
- **Ethnic groups:** Gbaya, Gbanou, Kare, Pana, Boffi, Yakoma, Banda, Mandjia, Peuhl, Foulbe, and Mbororo.

Why was Boao chosen for the pilot project?

The selection was based on criteria developed in collaboration with government partners,

- A generally stable security situation.
- Hospitality and capacity to welcome internally displaced persons (IDP), IDP returnees, and refugee returnees. Host communities and local authorities generously made available more than 6 hectares of land for housing construction and economic activities.
- The area's strong economic potential, particularly in livestock and agriculture, along with the availability of raw materials and production space.
- The strategic geographic location of Baoro, which is situated on a main road of the region
- Access to essential social services, including education and healthcare.
- The complementarity with ongoing initiatives by national and international partners in the region.
- Representation from nearly all ethnic groups.

What is UNHCR doing in Baoro, in support of the Government, to promote durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations?

- Rehabilitate, construct, or expand schools, healthcare facilities, administrative buildings, and water supply infrastructure, and deploy sustainable energy solutions, including installation of solar panels.

- Build durable and sustainable housing for refugee returnees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable host community members.
- Distribute agricultural tools (such as power tillers) and livestock to agro-pastoral cooperatives composed of returnees, and displaced persons and members from the host community.
- Strengthen the capacity of mixed cooperatives on farming techniques with the support of government structures.
- Support peace and reconciliation initiatives led by local community structures by providing equipment, such as communication tools and visibility materials.

What are our partners doing in Baoro?

- **Baoro Sub-Prefecture and Town Hall**: Provide public services, including the issuance of administrative documents (e.g., birth certificates).
- **Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA) and National Agency for Livestock Development (ANDE)**: Support agro-pastoral activities and strengthen the capacity of agro-pastoral cooperatives.
- **Finn Church Aid (FCA)**: Conduct monitoring and protection activities, promote peaceful coexistence, and support returnee cooperatives and community structures.
- **Le Projet d'Appui au Retour et à la réintégration en RCA (PARET)** : Conduct post-return and post-reintegration monitoring for returnees.
- **Mercy Corps**: Deliver training in sewing and knitting for repatriated women, internally displaced persons, and host community members; provide training in masonry and carpentry.
- **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**: Provide support in the areas of housing, land, and property, as well as the strengthening of community infrastructure (e.g. market);
- **PREPASS and PRAPAM government projects**: Support local groups through agro-pastoral activities and literacy programmes.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**: Implement interventions in nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as education.
- **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)**: Provide support in restoring state authority, promote peaceful coexistence, and rehabilitate/construct basic social infrastructure (e.g. Baoro Multipurpose Centre).
- **Water for Food**: Construct water points in Baoro neighbourhoods.
- **World Food Programme (WFP)**: Support food security, particularly through the distribution of food and seeds to returnees.
- **World Vision**: Implement the humanitarian-peace-development nexus project, with activities in areas of protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and food security.

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Individual story

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Govini Francine, a 38-year-old mother of five, was internally displaced due to the conflict in Baoro in 2014. After five years in Bouar, she returned to her hometown with her children in 2019, determined to rebuild her life.

In addition to farming, she has taken on the role of a mason, working on the Baoro development hub project supported by UNHCR to build durable housing for returnees like her and vulnerable host community members.

Francine helps with bricklaying and transporting materials, "*It's an opportunity for me to earn an income and provide for my family's basic needs*," she explains.

Passionate about her community's development, she encourages other women to join the effort and work together for lasting prosperity in Baoro. "*Let's all mobilize to support the project and offer our children a better future!*", she concludes.

Our thanks to the members of the Core Group of the Central African Republic Solutions Support Platform

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