

# MICROLINKS



## Supporting Resilient Livelihoods in Challenging Environments

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# Benjamin Kaufman



Ben Kaufman joined Mercy Corps in April 2016. As a Grants and Communications Officer, he engages partners, beneficiary communities, media and NGOs to design and advance Mercy Corps' programs in the Central African Republic. Previously, he worked in Mercy Corps' DR Congo office in Goma. Ben joined Mercy Corps after three years with the International Crisis Group, where he worked for the DC advocacy office. He earned his MA in International Relations at the University of Chicago and is fluent in French and English.

# Valentina Dal Lago



Valentina Dal Lago is a Funding Officer for Oxfam Intermón. She has been working in development on humanitarian efforts since 2005 with different NGOs. She has extensive knowledge of the EU, UN system and others as a technical advisor, manager, and evaluator for projects in the gender, civil society, project management, non-formal education, and human rights realms.

# Henri-Noel Tatangang



Henri-Noel Tatangang joined Plan International in Cameroon in 2004. He has worked in various capacities including manager of a program unit and the regional office of West Africa.

# From Relief to Resilience

Benjamin Kaufman, *Mercy Corps*

# Programs Overview

RCAP (European Union, July 2014-December 2016, Bambari/Ouaka)

Women & youth associations  
Economic development, VSLAs, alphabetization circles, protection monitoring and advocacy, Early Warning System  
Infrastructure rehabilitation including two markets

ASPIRE (CMM, Nov 2015-Oct 2017, Bouar/Nana Mambéré)

Social cohesion  
Socio-economic microprojects

RECOVER II (OFDA, Sept 2015-Oct 2016, Bambari/Ouaka)

Five components: Protection (including child protection), NFI, IGA, Shelter, WASH  
300 IGA beneficiaries, 73% women, 27% men

BIRI (OFDA, Oct 2016-Sept 2017, Bambari/Ouaka)

Four components: Protection, NFI, Economic recovery & market systems, Shelter  
300 IGA beneficiaries, 50% women, 50% men (targeted)  
Returnees 50%, IDPs 25%, host families 25%, allowing for movement of populations  
Security constraints

FROM RELIEF TO RESILIENCE

# Relief to Resilience

## The Mercy Corps Approach

We want our emergency response interventions to be market-aware and that we approach even emergency response thinking about the long-term implications of certain interventions.



# Early Economic Recovery

## › Market access

- Rehabilitating markets and access roads
- Identifying feeder markets, aggregate markets that can be rehabilitated without distorting economic markets

## › Income generating activities

- Support rapid recovery of affected enterprises by enabling them to re-establish viable economic activities
- Livelihoods identified through discussions with beneficiaries, beneficiary criteria as well
- Depending on program, three day to two month training

FROM RELIEF TO RESILIENCE

# Market Access

- › Social cohesion
- › Adapted to context – Push and pull factors
- › Adapted to context – materials
- › Transition phase



# Protection Integration

- › What are the social effects? Risks to beneficiaries?
- › Inter-connected shocks and stresses that affect communities, age groups and genders differently



FROM RELIEF TO RESILIENCE

# Lessons Learned

- › Size of IGA grants
- › IGA livelihoods adapted
- › Complementary activities
- › Changing beneficiary ratios



# TOP TAKE - AWAYS

**1** **Integration**  
Leverage other activities, e.g. financial services or protection, to build systemic resilience

**2** **Peacebuilding**  
Integrate conflict mitigation and peacebuilding into all interventions where conflict is a factor

**3** **Ecology**  
Access to water, impact of season on program activities, impact of IGAs on environment

**4** **Long term**  
Building resilience is a long-term commitment.

**5** **Social cohesion**  
Equity in provision of services in the pursuit of economic access for all

**6** **SECURITY**  
Flexibility in program management with regard to security context



# Restoring the Livelihoods Destroyed by the Conflict for Men, Women, Girls and Boys in the Sub-Prefecture of Paoua



**OXFAM**

# In-country experience

- Following the events of December 2013 (the beginning of the crisis), Oxfam has been in the country since January 2014.
- Our programs cover: WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods, Community Protection, Advocacy and Good Governance.
- We have 180 staff of which 35 are internationals.

## For locations of intervention:

- **Bangui:** Since 2014, OXFAM has been providing services in the displacement camps in Bangui and in Bimbo, the 3° (inc. districts from PK5), 5° and 8° districts, and in Begoua.
- **Bria:** Since August 2014, OXFAM has been providing services in the displacement camps and in all towns around the city and in the villages on the four axes surrounding the city.
- **Paoua:** Since April 2015, OXFAM has been providing services in the districts of Paoua: Markounda, Nana Barya, and in the communities based in the north of the sub-prefectures.
- **Batangafu:** Since May 2016, OXFAM has been providing WASH services in the displacement camps in the districts and villages where displaced people have returned.

Current donors: OFDA, CHF, GFO, ECHO, IRISH AID, AMC, MOFA, BEKOU, CHAF, DGD.....

Affected population: 300,000 people of which 570 groups receiving livelihood support, 400 people experiencing gender based violence (GBV) are participating in income generating activities.

National Partners: APSUD, ESPERANCE, GEPAD, MAHDED, AFO, Association of women jurists

Gouvernemental partners: ACDA, ANDE, Social Affairs, ANEA, Ministry of Hydrolicts,.....

Private partners: SOFIA Crédit, Credit Mutuel de la Centrafrique ( CMCA).

# Lessons learned: Bio pesticide as an alternative to chemical pesticides in a crisis context

- Improve the yield in comparison to the last campaign of bio-pesticide

- 1543 tones de black-eyed peas produced with 71% interest rate

- Efficiency of bio- pesticide: 70% success rate

Farms who in the past were using chemical products have found that the natural products had better cure and preventative characteristics which led to a better yield.

- The community prefers bio- pesticides

- They are conscious of the usefulness of the bio-pesticides. The authorities have requested to increase the training available to the general public during public sessions.

- Efficient and easy to produce and to manipulate: the inputs are locally available: tobacco, **garlic cloves**, **fresh pepper**, **dry tobacco** and papaya leaves

- **Potential Market**

- For the saponification: strong soap

- Vegetables: Fresh pepper, papaya leaves and dry tobacco

# Lessons learned: Local purchase, factor for agriculture recovery

## Local purchase of 87, 5 tones of seeds through the local channels allow:

- Finding good quality seeds that could be adopted to the local context
- Reduce the risks associated with transport and inputs: shorter delivery deadlines
- Increased interest from the groups in agriculture production
- Increased support from new groups to the industry

Seeds: 30 groupings

- The 30 groups of agriculture beneficiaries who are supported with inputs, materials, tools of conservation and transformation of agriculture products have been satisfied with the innovative approaches which put them in contract with seeds suppliers to whom they were also able to sell their products.

# Lessons learned: Livelihood initiatives in non-hot spot areas (forgotten crisis) have significantly deteriorated

- Significant decrease in agriculture production by 80% in 2016
- Significant loss in the means of production (looting, theft, use of strategies, community solidarity):
- 18 villages out of 56 villages/suburbs in the zones of intervention have never received any support in 4 years, despite:
  - Strong presence of returned refugees
  - Strong presence of displaced people living with host communities

*The community welcomed Oxfam's presence despite of the access difficulties. And this was thanks to:*

- Good coordination with the humanitarian actors in the area
- Strong participation of the community and the local actors
- Evaluation of needs

# Context: Means of livelihood (nutrition)

- Constant changing movement in the area (refugees and returnees)
- Cumulative effects of the crisis have led to the deterioration and depilation of livelihood means and the ability households to recuperate this loss: lack of employment opportunities, looting and theft (74)% - strong dependency on emergency and crisis strategies (38,9%) and (34,9%) ( EFSA 2015)
- 80% of households have lost their ability to produce 2016: 1 in every 2 households are experiencing food insecurity since 2014 ( IPC 2014, 2015, 2016)
- This zone has been classified as in Crisis (3) and urgent (4) by IPC since 2014.

## **Short- and medium-term needs : Restoration of ME**

- Winter agriculture and truck farming: inputs support (seeds and tools), conservation materials (empty bags) and transformation (mills, rickshaw, ...)
- Small commerce: small restaurant, small display, resell of food products, making bread locally, ....
- Saponification: production of home-made soap to facilitate access to the most vulnerable households
- Small jobs ...

# Beneficiaries

- **Intervention Zones: in Banh, Malé and Paoua: 56 villages and suburbs:** 28 315 people of which 17,690 women et 10,062 men (2,900 households in 80 groups) based on criteria chosen and validated by the community.
- **The community decided on and validated the criteria based on the ability of each household to work and their previous activities. (See: Criteria)**
- **Agriculture Yield: seeds** (25 kg of black-eyed peas) et 4 hoes and conservation materials (2 empty bags and 1 et 1 plastic sheet).
- - **30 groups : seeds of black-eyed peas** (500 kg) hoes (80) , windmills (2) (40) and plastic sheet.
- **Market System:**
  - **Small business: 20 groups :** allocations of some items/articles for small business
  - **Saponification: 10 groups :** 100l palm oil, 100kg caustic soda, 4 plastic canvas, 03 ponds, 6 plastics barrels, 40 pairs of gloves, 02 cups, 02 buckets, 01 pot et 2 ladles
  - **Market gardening: 20 groupings of** seeds for market gardening, 20 measuring tools, 20 rakes, 20 watering can, 20 hoes per grouping



# Impacts of the programme

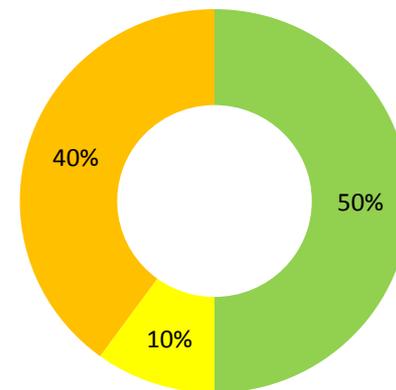
- 2483 ha were marked from the beginning for 1534 tons of black-eyed peas products in the region despite of an interest rate of 71%
- The use of bio pesticides
- increase in the availability of seeds in the area (with possibility to buy for phase II) : 767 tons of black-eyed peas
- The groups generated a medium profit USD **133 per month**.

- **Group membership to the seeds industry:**

- 78 out of 80 maintained groups currently function with **98% success rate**
- 100% of the households or groupings have started the new campaign with no support.

## Répartition de la production

■ Consommation ■ Semence ■ Vente



# Risks and mitigation measures :

Risks	Mitigation Measures
<p>➤ <b>Security:</b> Deterioration in the security situation: Unstable movement, harassment by armed groups (AB, MPC/RJ).</p> <p>➤ <b>Programmatic</b> Insufficient rainfall Erratic movement of the population 70% interest rate due to the loss of seeds protection Attacks on the cultivated fields by parasites and other elements</p> <p>➤ <b>Logistics</b> Slowness of purchase processes Lack of official papers by the local suppliers Access issues in certain areas due to limited means of transport (and forced displacements in some areas) Some areas are inaccessible during the rain season</p>	<p>➤ <b>Security:</b> Following the changes to the context and negotiating humanitarian access. Forward planning in the planning of activities.</p> <p>➤ <b>Programmatic:</b> Monitoring rain falls and sensibilization of the population Forward planning of preliminary activities Monitoring of people's movement Re-evaluation of needs to reorient the activities accordingly Monitoring and sensibilization during the first weeks after distribution. Encourage the use of bio pesticides</p> <p>➤ <b>Logistics</b> Applying concessions to the process of purchase to facilitate the supply Share resources across projects Prepare and forward plan for the distribution of kits</p>

# Recommendations

## Security:

- ❖ Educate the armed groups about humanitarian access
- ❖ Improve means of communications to monitor staff's movement in red zones.

## Programmatic:

- ❖ Regularly monitoring the context and adjusting services to the needs
- ❖ Add gender, protection and WASH activities to those of food security to ensure a more durable solution
- ❖ Propose help for the protection of seeds
- ❖ Target pre-existing activities
- ❖ Increase community participation in the cycle of the project
- ❖ Target the vulnerable areas without differentiating based on the status of people (displaced vs. returnees)

## Logistics:

- ❖ Encourage local purchase
- ❖ Be flexible to better respond to the context
- ❖ Forward plan based on needs
- ❖ Improve means of communication to hard to reach areas

# SINGUILA



**OXFAM**

# **Vulnerable Children Re- Integration Programme in CAR**

Henri-Noel Tatangang  
Plan International

# Vulnerable children re-integration programme in CAR

## Different forms of vulnerability

Some children affected by the conflict joint armed groups and caused atrocities in the communities. Others due to the conflict became unaccompanied or separated from their parents.

Some live in internally displaced camps, others live in temporal host families, others with distant relatives and a good number in the forest hiding from different forms of maltreatment.

Some children have suffered different forms of child abuses, exploitation, violence and other sufferings.

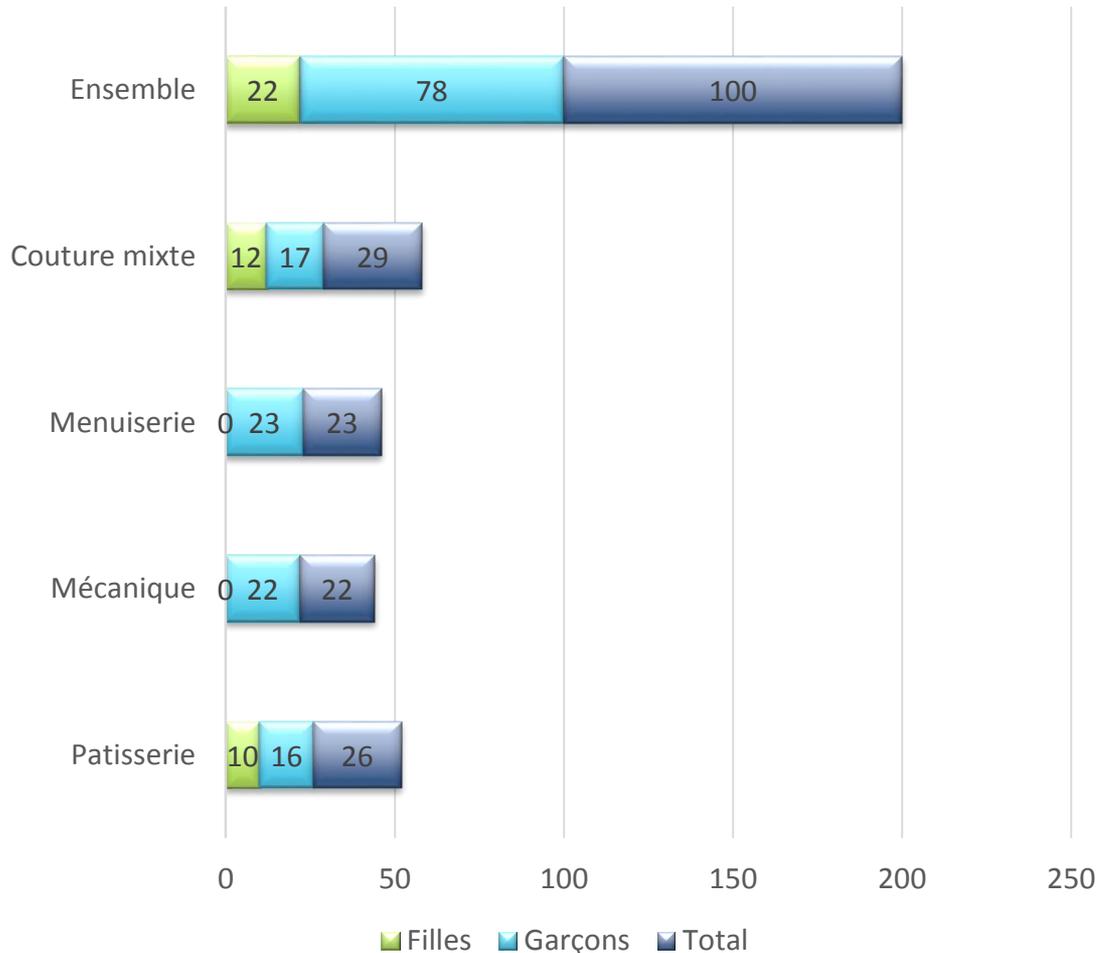
These children benefitted from Plan International's support in this project



# Project summary

- 100 Unaccompanied and Separated children (UASC) and former Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) benefitted from support towards reunification and reintegration through livelihoods training and psychosocial support
- The project provided economic empowerment opportunities for the victimized young people
  - Objective 1: Support the interim care and reintegration of UASC, including former CAAFAG, in their foster/reunited families and in their wider communities
  - Objective 2: Strengthen and provide support for economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) for 100 adolescents in the Lobaye prefecture through vocational/professional, literacy and life skills training for the beneficiary adolescents

# Data regarding youths who benefited from the re-integration programme



- In total 100 youths associated with armed groups and armed forces aged between 14 and 17 years were demobilized and enrolled in various training options. There were 78 boys and 22 girls.
- 29 youths made of 12 girls and 17 boys did tailoring
- 23 boys did carpentry
- 22 boys were trained on motorcycle mechanic
- 26 youths made of 10 girls and 16 boys did bakery training

14 Decembre 2016

Service de balayage Meca no  
demain jeudi 15/12/2016  
1 MOUSSA IBRAHIM  
2 YOUSOUF



# Social reintegration ceremony

As part of the social reintegration process, Plan International held an awards ceremony in Boda on 06 March 2017. In the presence of authorities, state actors, and non-state partners, Plan provided the following kits to the training program participants:

- 22 complete kits for motorcycle mechanics;
- 23 complete carpentry kits;
- 26 complete bakery kits; and
- 29 complete sets for mixed sewing.

To date, 98% of beneficiaries equipped with kits and reintegrated into their communities are operational and offer services to their respective communities in their respective fields.

# Project implementation risks and challenges

- Some of the children are were traumatized during the conflict and enabling them overcome this feeling we had psychosocial sessions along the training.
- Acceptance from the community of these children is a challenge. However, mediation meetings and social cohesion activities have been organized to overcome this.
- The effective productivity after the training was also seen as a challenge and close monitoring and guidance is ongoing to keep the children on track.



# Contributing to social cohesion and economic recovery

## Social cohesion

- The community is sensitized on admitting their differences and accepting to live together
- The temporal host families are prepared to host these CAFAAG
- The re-unification with biological families is also done
- The general acceptance of these children becomes a reality after a series of mediation.

## Economic Recovery

- The children do a 6 months training on an area of their choice and this benefits the community
- The children work in their communities and provide various forms of community services
- The post training support is in place to ensure the percentage of successes are high
- As much as possible the options are in line with market study to increase chances of meeting an existing need and making the business succeeds

# TOP TAKE - AWAYS

**2** Children associated with armed groups  
These children are vulnerable but have talents that can be exploited to make them useful to themselves and community.

**5** Post-training monitoring  
It is important to guide the children as they set up their businesses or activities so that they can succeed.

**3** Re-integration options  
Providing vocational training is an option to protect children for continuous abuse and exploitation.

**6** Armed conflict setting  
In such a setting, poverty, to a certain extent, pushes armed groups to crop up and the weak legal systems also ease the recruitment of children. The vocational training programme is a useful solution.

**1** Psychosocial support  
The children need to be listened to and involved in recreational activities to come out of their trauma. The trainers are equipped to identify cases that need special care.

**4** Market study  
A market study should always be done to see what outlets and options are useful for the community so that it guides the choices of training by the children.

**7** Best use of resources  
The children in the course of the training are also taught how to manage their income to make their project grow, with the possibility of some forming groups to unite efforts.

# Questions and Answers

# MORE THAN MICRO

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