**A Peacebuilding Partnership for the Central African Republic**

*Today, my message to you is simple: it doesn’t have to be this way. You—the proud citizens of the Central African Republic—have the power to choose a different path….You can choose peace.*

- President Obama, Dec. 9, 2013

Following decades of chronic poverty, poor governance, and political strife, the people of the Central African Republic (CAR) now face a new crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Since late 2013, armed groups have deliberately attacked civilians and intentionally divided communities along religious lines. Muslim and Christian communities that formerly lived in peace together have been divided along religious lines and ripped apart by violence. Thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, and millions left in dire need of humanitarian assistance to survive. Despite the signing of a ceasefire and deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, the road out of crisis and toward a peaceful, stable future remains long.

Yet, amid the ongoing violence and struggles to keep a fragile transition process on track, communities continue to work for peace. Interreligious leaders risk their own lives to help mediate conflicts and prevent violence. Women, youth, and elders initiate projects to bring their communities together and meet common needs across conflict lines. Human rights journalists provide information to quell rumors and ensure humanitarian needs are met.

**The Vision**

*We believe a different future for the Central African Republic is possible. We believe atrocities can be prevented and resilient peace fostered.* We know this takes more time and focused resources than are often provided by donors in moments of crisis.

Building on US policy commitments to prevent mass atrocities, promote resilient societies, and support development solutions that strengthen local systems for change, USAID is launching a public-private partnership to support a new future for the people of CAR. We believe such a partnership can meet both an urgent need and a critical opportunity: *to ensure international donor support for peacebuilding is sustained beyond the current crisis and is provided in ways that break chronic cycles of violence and lay a stronger foundation for sustainable peace in the CAR.*

The CPP Partnership seeks to support the efforts of civil society groups in CAR who are already working to prevent violence and build social cohesion, or who may have the potential to do so. It seeks to strengthen the resiliencies of civil society to sustain such work through a still volatile transition while expanding civil society reach to have broader national impact. Projects supported by the Partnership may include a range of efforts in community peacebuilding, human rights, transitional justice, and social cohesion.
Goals and Objectives
The goal of the CPP is to support and strengthen locally-led peacebuilding and atrocity prevention efforts in the Central African Republic over the next five years (2015-2019).

Building on current work underway in CAR and following broad consultations with partners, initial objectives for the partnership include:

- Fostering livelihoods in communities impacted by violence as a foundation for peace.
- Engaging youth and women as leaders and agents of positive, peaceful change in the communities and country.
- Supporting and strengthening inter-religious and other community peacemaking and conflict mitigation efforts.
- Promoting civil society engagement in and help link community-level needs and voices with national transitional process related to national dialogue, transitional justice, and reconciliation.

USAID has identified up to $7M that may be put toward the partnership, with a goal of leveraging private resources to reach a total of $15 million or beyond, from both USAID and private donors.

Join Us
USAID is seeking private donors – foundations, corporations, and non-governmental groups - who are motivated to join the Partnership by investing their resources and partnering with us for a better future in CAR. We encourage donors to join us in contributing resources, know-how and networks to shape the vision and implementation of the Partnership.

More information on the CAR Peacebuilding Partnership can be found at www.grants.gov, or by e-mailing Bridget Moix at CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov.

“We hope you will join us in supporting the people of CAR to end atrocities and advance a more peaceful future for their country.”

“Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security priority and a core moral responsibility of the United States of America.”
- Presidential Study Directive 10, 2011

“The ultimate goal of development cooperation must be to enable developing countries to devise and implement their own solutions to key development challenges and to develop resilience against shocks and other setbacks.”