

RESULTS SUMMARY

SOLID - Durable Solutions in the Cameroon-CAR Displacement Corridor

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i> SOLID - Durable Solutions in the Cameroon-CAR Displacement Corridor
	<i>Partner:</i> APROSPEN (strategic local partner); ACF, CARE, NRC (consortium partners)
	<i>Country:</i> Cameroon and Central African Republic
	<i>Period:</i> January 2023 - December 2025

CHANGE	<p>By mid-2025, refugees and host communities in the Cameroon-CAR border corridor had made measurable progress toward durable solutions. The proportion of targeted households living below the national poverty line fell from 95.5% at baseline to 69% in Cameroon and 77% in CAR at midline – exceeding the programme’s target of a 20 percentage point reduction by 2026, one year ahead of schedule.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>The Cameroon-CAR border hosts one of Central Africa’s most protracted displacement crises. Over 350,000 Central African refugees live in Cameroon – mostly outside formal sites, dependent on host communities under increasing strain. In CAR, recurring violence since 2013 produced 490,000 IDPs and displaced more than 750,000 people regionally. Host and displaced communities face the same deficits: limited water access, disrupted livelihoods, weak civil documentation, and inadequate protection. Standard programming addresses these populations separately – while there are fewer approaches capable of supporting voluntary return in CAR and refugees’ socio-economic integration and resilience in Cameroon – simultaneously, across a shared corridor.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>DRC served as consortium lead and direct implementer in Ouham-Pendé (CAR) and Lom & Djérem/Mbéré (Cameroon). Danida SPA co-funding (8.3 mil. DKK / 1.1 mil EUR) in Cameroon, financing protection, social cohesion, and capacity-building – components underrepresented in the primary EU budget but critical to enabling smooth socio-economic integration. Twenty-five percent of Danida SPA funds were sub-granted to APROSPEN, DRC’s strategic local CSO partner in East/Adamawa. After the SOLID project delivered a holistic package of integrated activities/services on both sides of the border, conditions for both socio-economic integration of CAR refugees in Cameroon and dignified and safe reintegration of returnees in CAR improved, because populations faced reduced risks, strengthened livelihoods, and restored legal status simultaneously – not sequentially.</p>
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IMAGES		
	Community protection committees in Ngaoui DRC Cameroon	Farmer Field Support in Ndokayo DRC Cameroon

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

DRC and partners delivered programming across five integrated components. Protection and psychosocial support: community protection committees trained and equipped; 1,256 protection cases managed (600 in CAR, 656 in Cameroon); GBV sensitisation conducted across both zones. Water and sanitation: 70 water systems constructed or rehabilitated, improving access for 36,500 people; 70 water management committees established. Economic strengthening: 453 VSLAs supported, reaching 11,255 members (63% women); 999 income-generating activities created; 286 hectares cultivated through farmer field schools. Social cohesion and governance: 892 conflicts recorded, 417 resolved through mediation; 10 municipal MoUs signed governing cross-border coordination on civil documentation, conflict resolution, and resource management; 3 inter-municipal syndicates established in Cameroon. Civil documentation: 6,529 civil status documents and 115 land and property documents issued across both countries.

LESSONS

The Cameroon-CAR displacement corridor functions as a single social and economic system. SOLID's central lesson is that durable solutions in protracted cross-border crises require institutional architecture – not just service delivery. Cross-border coordination platforms, involvement and MoUs with local actors, and in particular municipalities, and simultaneous investment on both sides of the border produced a comprehensive response to refugees' challenges, combining an excellent knowledge of both contexts with a detailed analysis of cross-border challenges. A second lesson concerns resilience design: the poverty target was met a year early despite a government-imposed mining ban that caused mining income to collapse from 37% to 2% of household revenues at midline. SOLID's livelihood diversification model – VSLAs, IGAs, farmer field schools – absorbed this shock, a relevant design lesson for programming in volatile informal economies. The consortium is currently building on SOLID's successes and lessons learned to design the second phase of this cross-border initiative, together with UNHCR. In this second phase, APROSPEN will not only be strategic partner, but full member of SOLID consortium.

EVIDENCE

SOLID's integrated cross-border approach led to measurable poverty reduction, socio-economic integration and safe and dignified returns because protection, economic, WASH and social cohesion activities were delivered simultaneously across the same displacement corridor. Primary evidence: an independent midline survey (Rapport de l'Étude Midline SOLID, July 2025, n=2,833 across 25 communes, Feb-June 2025) documents poverty falling from 95.47% (Cameroon) and 99.41% (CAR) at baseline to 69% and 77% respectively – exceeding the 20 percentage point target ahead of schedule; the Year 2 EU interim report (Rapport Intermédiaire Année II, April 2024-March 2025) records 225 million FCFA in cumulative VSLA savings in Cameroon. At midline, 79% of respondents reported improved service access; 91% rated objectives as achieved or largely achieved. Limitations: outcomes are programme-wide; DRC-zone data is not disaggregated by partner; outputs are self-reported to the EU donor; and Danida SPA's specific financial contribution cannot be isolated from the available documentation.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Fragile contexts and displacement

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

X

Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights

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Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights

X

Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights

X

Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

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Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work

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