INFORMATION NOTE ON THE PROPOSED SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The project “Support of the African Union to the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in the Central African Republic” aims at providing support to 1000 Victims of Sexual violence in the districts of 1) Paoua (Ouham-Pende), 2) Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Brebazi), 3) Bambari (Ouaka) chosen because of the great need for enhancing the response to sexual violence.

It will, within the framework of weakened or non-existent infrastructures of the State, provide protection and assistance to victims of sexual violence, whose majority remain women and children, through support (medical, legal and psycho-social); identifying and building existing national capacity in this area while supporting communities to develop mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

The project uses a two-pronged approach: (i) respond to the urgent needs of victims of sexual violence (ii) at the same time prevent a further escalation of violence by recording cases of sexual violence, support for the establishment of a monitoring and reporting so that national stakeholders, with the support of the AU and other partners, take measures relating to justice for the victims and contribute to a dramatic reduction in this type of violence.

This project is the first initiative of the African Union, in cooperation with the NGO Médecins d’Afrique (MDA), international NGO for support to health development in Africa. The project will run for a period of six months, renewable on the basis of results obtained.

Expected as part under this programme are the 3 rehabilitation of three health structures equipped with materials, medicines and medical equipment; the support to 1000 victims of sexual violence; the establishment and operationalization of a network of listening cells established and operationalized; building the capacity of health agents, Community groups and leaders built in the area of prevention and support of VSV.

The following activities will be implemented within the framework of the project:
1. Rehabilitation of 3 health centres in areas outside Bangui (Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Paoua).
2. Provision of basic medical equipment, medical kits, emergency care equipment, specific kits and drugs for support to VVS (PEP kits, ARV, PMTCT kit, kit STI / HIV) care.
3. Support for victims of sexual violence by the medical, psychological, legal and socio-economic empowerment for the most vulnerable.
4. Build the capacity of the government and the community to develop mechanisms for the prevention and response to VSV.
5. Development of a network of actors and support in the field to community volunteers to provide psychological support and monitor the evolution of the reintegration of victims.

6. Legal support to victims

The build together, manage together and transfer approach adopted by the project is an approach that aims, within the context of the weak national institutions, at building the capacity of national stakeholders, while ensuring their participation in the designing, execution and management and project management for transferring, at the appropriate time, to them the management of the project as part of an exit strategy.

The programme will rely for its implementation on the deployment of African experts in the medical, psychosocial and legal, investigation and forensic fields to respond to sexual violence; as part of the efforts for stabilization and reconstruction made by the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Central African Republic.