

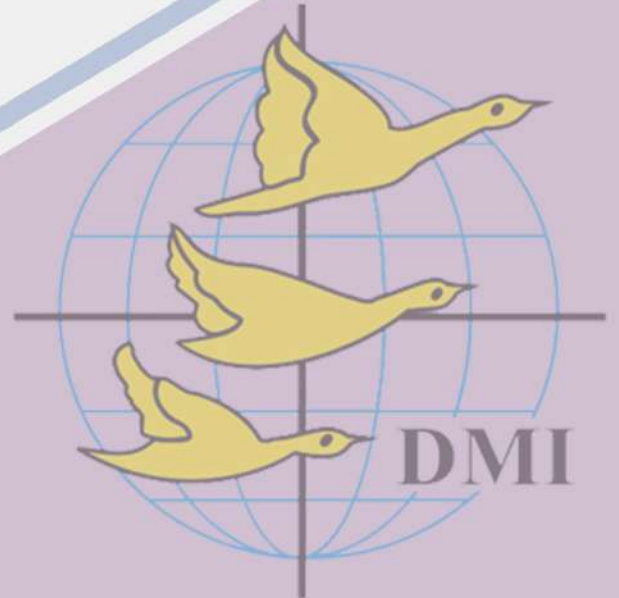


DMI MISSION- CAR

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



ANNUAL REPORT



2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



I am delighted with our mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) and I can recall the core activities we undertook five years ago and their impact in 2023. We believe that our work will be even better in the upcoming years, guided by our strategic mission of enabling underprivileged communities, which are predominantly women, children, and youth, to have opportunities for education, and development, and become champions of change.

We believe that this mission is crucial in bringing together entire women and children communities in light of the changing socio-economic scenario. Our colleagues and partners in our program looked at how the world was changing and hence came up with a single strategic mission by mobilizing people in different groups, such as Self-Help Groups (SHG), Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), Federations, etc. With the partnership with people and gender equality at its heart, the plan sets ambitious development goals for how DMI can best contribute to fighting the present distress of farmers, illiteracy, unskilled, and poor income.

Our focus is to empower women through microfinance (women's bank) and skill development, and child development through community schools and education, health, and well-being through school feeding and promotion of vertical gardens, enabling persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable families/communities with professional services and relief materials, etc.

By working more closely together with our partners and taking new initiatives such as the construction of the school and vocational training center, we will ensure that our efforts are aligned to have the maximum impact and that we truly function as one DMI group across four directions namely Mbaiki, Damara, Bimbo, and Boali in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR).

The strength of the partnership rests on the clear guidance of how we will work through 2024, striving to build and improve sustainable practices in our work in all areas. In the context of the present plan, I look forward to serving as a voice for vulnerable women and children living in abject poverty and ensuring recognition for the work of DMI.

I look forward to working with partners around the globe, and I would like to thank all of our supporters, donors, partners, staff, and volunteers for their contributions. In particular, I thank our Father Founder, Superior General, Provincials, and Co-sisters in Bangui who supported consolidating our planning and have been able to campaign more vigorously and realistically than ever before.

Throughout this report, I invite you all to reflect on the range of DMI's activities to help people lift themselves out of poverty and find greater equality in CAR.

May God bless and guide you for a global mission!

Sr. Vijili Dali, DMI

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,



The sense of gratitude will make the person great- by Rev. Fr. J.E. Arul Raj. The Founder of DMI & MMI.

I am excited to share our annual report for 2023 with you. Despite the challenges faced in the Central African Republic (CAR), a country with a population of fewer than 6 million, we continued to make significant progress in empowering children and women in our community.

In this report, you will see that we faced both difficulties and successes. Thanks to the dedication of our team, the support of our donors and partners, and the resilience of the people we serve, we were able to have a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

To achieve our goal of promoting the well-being and inclusion of young people in development, we recognized the need to strengthen our internal systems. We reviewed and revised our policies, appointed an Administration officer, and ensured we were operating at the highest possible standards.

Compared to the previous year, we expanded our scope of work to include humanitarian response and opened a Women's Bank, Education, Women Empowerment, Food security and livelihood, office, and Training center for women and young girls, and humanitarian response. We are known for our evidence-based approach, and the WFP acknowledged our work.

As we look to the future, we are confident that we will continue to grow our program portfolio to respond to emerging issues affecting persons with disabilities in rural villages, women's economic empowerment, and food security programs to tackle hunger.

We look forward to building upon our foundation in 2024 and beyond, nurturing existing partnerships, and forging new networks to have maximum impact on our work in line with our strategic plan.

Thank you for reading our annual report and for your ongoing support.

May God Bless You All!

Sr. Amala Francis, DMI

Introduction

DMI-AHI, despite the challenges, it is important to celebrate successes and continue pushing towards the mission in Central African Republic (CAR). DMI-AHI initiated its socio-pastoral programs in Sep-2017 by the call of Cardinal Dieudonné Nzapalainga in CAR. DMI-AHI is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation registered under the society act of CAR (Reg. No 0223/ 2018/ MPCE/DIRCAB/SPONG/ UC DP).

DMI-AHI has have established a strong collaboration with the local church leaders to promote our socio-pastoral programs in the diocese. Our collaboration with various government and local community leaders has helped the target communities to improve their socio-economic standard. DMI-AHI has boosted professional confidence through advocacy and networking. The collaborations with various partners contributed to promote income generation, quality education, social well-being, and lead to the exchange of ideas. DMI-AHI has expanded its program coverage to another two dioceses namely the diocese of Mbaiki and diocese of Kaga-Bandoro.

In 2023, 8 DMI sisters and 62 staff engaged in this development mission in CAR. About 58,191 women, children, youth and persons with disability of the marginalised and the disadvantaged were reached through socio-development programs by partnering with United Nation organisation such as WFP, FAO, and faith based organisations namely BEC, Africa Directo, Church in Need etc., in CAR. DMI-AHI team set right and upheld the slogan of “Drop Guns, Take Pens,” Empower women Empower Nation and Feed Central Africans by Central Africans. The target populations have equipped resourcefully and emancipated from the illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment, poor income, bondage, and patriarchal systems for a dignified life.

VISION

A world where the poor live with dignity and empowered towards self-reliant to continue their development.

MISSION

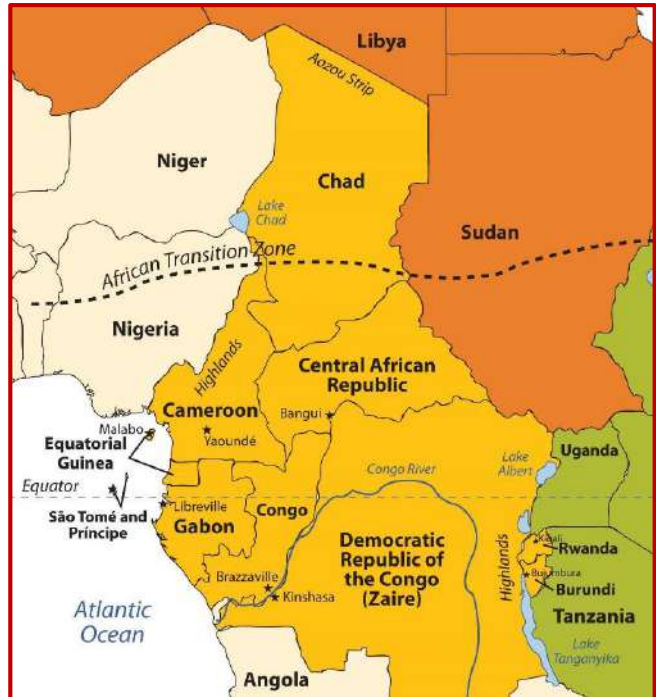
To enable underprivileged communities exclusively women, children and youth providing opportunities for their education, development and they become champions of change.

CORE VALUES

**Accountability
Justice
Integrity
Dignity
Collaboration**

Geographical Coverage

The Central African Republic is a landlocked nation within the interior of the African continent. It is bordered by Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo. Much of the country consists of flat, or rolling plateau savanna, about 1,640 feet above sea level. At 622,984 square kilometers (240,535 SQ MI), the Central African Republic is the world's 45th largest country. DMI-AHI team covers 47 rural and urban locations covering four areas namely Mbaiki, Damara, Bimbo, and Boali in Central African Republic. Since 2017, DMI reached over 12200 families through women empowerment, food security and livelihood, education, and humanitarian assistance programs



Country Program Fact-sheet

S.No	Particulars	Status as of December, 2023	Status as of December, 2022
A	Geographic Coverage		
1	Number of Prefectures having programs	3	2
2	Number of districts having programs	6	4
3	Number of Villages having programs	80	56
B	Participant coverage		
1	Women Empowerment- Number of Women members in Community Institution – VSLA	7,274	4,274
2	Education program- Number of Children supported in Government and Church schools	50,127	33,065
3	Agriculture-based Livelihood Promotion- Number of Small-holder Farmers Reached	2000	1000
4	Primary education of DMI- Number of Kids served under 10 years	1260	620
5	Small business-based Livelihood Promotion- Number of Women Supported	963	0
6	Food assistance program- Number of war affected and differently-abled persons reached	800	500
C	Key results under each program		
1	Number of VSLAs that are self-managed (Book-keeping and Management)	202	220
2	Number of federations formed by VSLAs	6	4
3	Value of loan capital created by the Women' Bank to promote education of members children and take-up/expand income generation activities (USD)	228,333	0
4	Number of group business started by VSLA members	25	200
5	Number of members involved in individual income generation activities	3000	3206
6	Number of VSLAs involved in social service/charity activities groups of federation	45	30
7	Number of schools having 'school garden'	60	
8	Number of schools participating in the "Prevention of Early pregnancy" activities	6	0
9	Number of schools participating in the "Promotion of Safe-schools" activities	6	0
D	Revenue Generation Program		
1	Funds raised by local donation	1200	500

Program Strategies and Activities and Impacts

Women Empowerment: the marginalized and destitute women and young girls promote and protect their rights by enhancing skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.

Food security and livelihood: the marginalized farmers adopt and promote sustainable farming skills in order to secure food and nutrition for their health and well-being.

Education for the Children: the children of marginalized and destitute women access formal education and nutrition for higher education, professional jobs, and good health.

Humanitarian Assistance: marginalized communities avail relief assistance and professional services for managing life during disastrous situations.

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to access Good Health and Well-being- PWDs are supported with relief Materials-Food and non-food items during emergencies. They are given counselling and guidance to continue their works and jobless to find jobs with decent income for their dignified life.

Major Programs and Activities

Women Empowerment:

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are at the heart of DMI's programs and intrinsic to its development approach. DMI-AHI works intensively in promoting and protecting the rights of marginalized and destitute women and young girls. The main objective is to empower the vulnerable women and young girls to achieve social harmony through VSLA and entrepreneurship programs for their economic and social wellbeing and lead a dignified life.

- DMI-AHI trained over 18,000 women members from 45 villages on Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) to cultivate the practice of savings, bookkeeping, and record maintenance. VSLA members cultivated savings and saved the amount of 18,000,000 CFA (31,000 USD).
- Another remarkable achievement this year is that DMI-AHI has facilitated VSLA members to inaugurate and open a "Women Bank" to support women members with microcredit for their economic development. DMI-AHI trained women in small business management to avail and use microcredit for their small businesses to generate income and sustain their lives.



Food security and livelihood promotion: 2.7 million people almost half of the population of CAR (44%), live in acute food shortage. Semi-starvation and subsistent farming practices immensely affect the food security. This program ensured food security and livelihood by upholding a slogan of “Feeding the Central African Republic by Central Africans”.

- DMI-AHI has trained and supported over 2000 farming families with crop, vegetable seeds, fruit saplings and farm tools to increase and secure food production and consume nutrition.
- DMI-AHI has also trained 1531 farming families on livestock promotion, supported them with micro-credit for goat, poultry and piggery farming to ensure household economic security.

Education for the disadvantaged Children and Youth- Years of conflict have strongly impacted the education system and resulted in vulnerable children with poor access to quality education and increased youth unemployment. Children lack access to a quality education and the unemployed youth lack access to job opportunities due to a lack of job-oriented skills.

- “Drop the guns and Take the pens” has been our sole campaign among the children.
- DMI constructed community schools for children below 15 years to have access to a quality primary education.
- In collaboration with the World Food Program, we have supported over 50,000 poor and the needy school children to avail midday meals through school feeding program.
- DMI constructed a DMI St. Joseph’s Global school for the poor children at Kpalongo – Samba

Vocational Training-DMI-AHI makes every unemployed and unskilled youths to access various vocational skills and equip them skillfully for their sustainable lives.

- DMI trained and created employable opportunities for 842 youths in tailoring, catering, and beautician.
- DMI trained 723 youths in handicrafts and gari making.

Humanitarian Assistance- Political and security conditions remain unstable throughout the Central African Republic. Armed and criminal groups continue to operate in large areas of the country, and they regularly commit acts of violence. Violence in CAR has caused massive internal displacements. Those displaced and vulnerable populations particularly pregnant women, lactating mothers, malnourished children, and differently-abled persons have restricted to access medical care, food, water, and shelter due to the conflict and years of intense violence.

- Supported over 1500 pregnant women, lactating mothers, malnourished children with nutrition supplements, and differently-abled persons with medical aid, food, and non-food items.
- 1321 community members availed medicines, counselling and treatment for their well-being during health camps.

Impact/Outcomes

Women Empowerment

- 202 Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLAs with 18,000 women members) are self managed.
- Promoted a National Federation and the sub-federations in all 6 communities.
- VSLA members saved the amount of 18,000,000 CFA (31,000 USD)
- Value of loan capital created by the Women' Bank to promote education of member's children and take-up/expand income generation activities (USD)
- 45 VSLAs involved in social service/charity activities
- 25 VSLAs initiated group micro-business for their development
- 3000 out of 7,274 engaged in various businesses- tailoring, beautician, handicrafts, decoration, hospitality, bead making, etc.
- Created employable opportunities for 1540 young girls in vocational skills (tailoring, catering, beautician, handicrafts and gari making)

Food security and livelihood promotion

- 1650 out of 2,000 farming families adopted sustainable farming to cultivate vegetables and fruits
- 845 out of 2,000 women farmers have initiated agri-based business
- 1531 farming families have a regular income from livestock / animal husbandry

Education for the disadvantaged Children and Youth

- Constructed 3 primary schools in the Bimbo 2 and 3 zones, and 1 in Ngbangba.
- 1,800 poor children access a quality education and nutrition
- 60 schools have school gardens to cultivate vegetables for their own consumption
- 50,127 poor and the needy school children have access to midday meals and nutrition
- 6 junior children's parliament adopted the local governance system to manage their functions
- 6 schools participated in the Prevention of Early pregnancy and Promotion of Safe-schools' activities

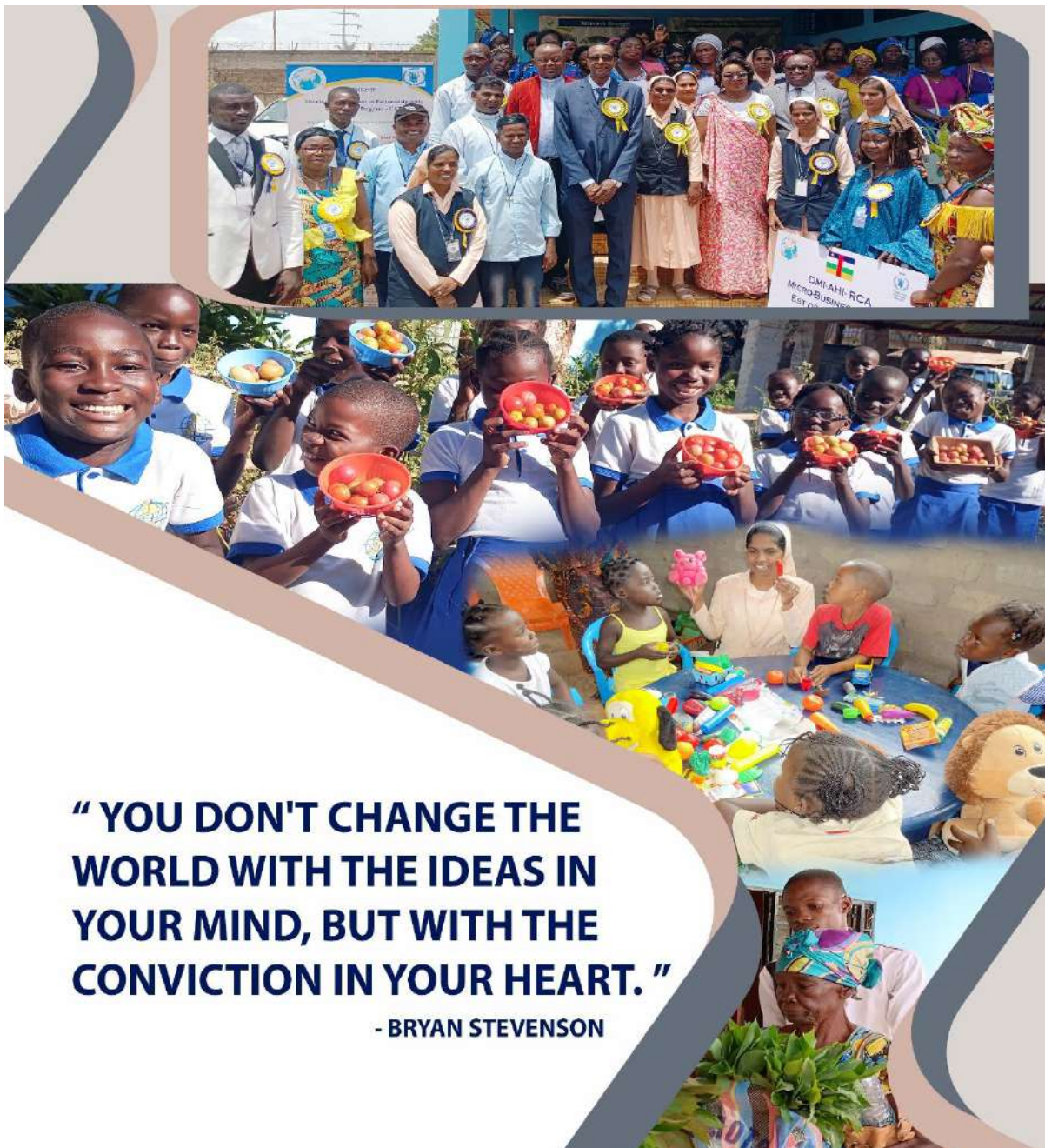
Humanitarian Assistance

- 821 differently-abled persons availed ration and non-food items
- 1500 pregnant women, lactating mothers, and malnourished children availed nutrition and improved their health.
- 1300 community members availed medicines, counselling and treatment from 14 health camps

In-country revenue generation activities

DMI team in Central African Republic, have established rapport with local church leaders and government leaders that enabled them to implement empowerment and welfare programs for women and children.

- Constructed 5 community schools to educate the children,
- Constructed 1 vocational training center for women and young girls to equip them skillfully and generate income for their sustainable life.
- Set up a system of voluntary fund collection from the beneficiaries of FFA (Food for Asset), and the federation takes a small part to save, concerning their own development, two objectives are set- Children's education and the creation of micro-business with an interest rate of 1% for education and 2% for business.



**“ YOU DON'T CHANGE THE
WORLD WITH THE IDEAS IN
YOUR MIND, BUT WITH THE
CONVICTION IN YOUR HEART. ”**

- BRYAN STEVENSON

Program Photos



Economic Activities for women group members



Training on gender based violence



Food Security Program



VSLA activities for women group



Vocational skill training - Tailoring



Games for School Children



Teaching School Children



School Children engaged in Garden



Midday Meals for School children



Humanitarian Assistance to the War affected family

Stories of Change - 1



Ms. Ndelafei Rosine is a 34 years old married women hailed from the rural poor living with her 6 children in the sakpa3 district in Samba. She was married to a blind man who lost his sight due to violence and political crisis. In fact, the rebels took away two of his eyes, and he stopped working. Since then, she was carrying everything on her solder alone, she found the life as meaningless and at one point of time she wanted to run away leaving her husband and children.

At this crucial, time, DMI team entered in her life and the situation of life has taken a positive turn since then. She joined DMI, and observed socio-economic changes in life. She learned vocational training and entrepreneurship and enhanced her skills to start a micro-credit business (petty shop) and tailoring. She availed a loan to expand her business. Now, she is able to earn a decent income that supported her children to have food and education and take care of her husband with peace and joy. She expressed her gratitude to DMI and PAM for the assistance and offer vocational training to change her gloomy life in to happy life.

Special events, visits and media coverage

The DMI team in the Central African Republic observed the following major events, had special visits and also covered the programs in media during 2023.

International Women's Day Celebration-

DMI celebrated the international women's day with 2200 VSLA members in Bangui.

The theme Accelerating Equality and Empowerment was portrayed during the event to promote equality of women in the society.



The guests were Minister of Tourism, Representative of PAM, Representative of the Palme D'or Society who encouraged women participants to achieve gender equality.

Celebration of Micro-Business within DMI AHI- DMI-celebrated the microbusiness of women with



1200 women members on 29th June-2023 at Bangui and promoted women's bank for mutual support, economic empowerment process and solidarity. The guests were First Lady of the Central African Republic, Tina

Marguerite TOUADERA, Minister of Agriculture, WFP Country Director with her team who honored and appreciated women's acceleration in economic empowerment.

International Day of Peace-

celebrated the international peace day with over 600 women members on 29th Nov-2023. The day was honoured by the Deputy for the Village of PK22, Mr. Mayor of Begoua and the DMI AHI team.



Visit of the PAM Cooperating partner- Madame Aline, responsible Officer of the World Food Program visited DMI organisation on 16th Mar-2023 at Bangui. She appreciated DMI efforts to empower women and support children through food and nutrition.

Mission Director' Visit- Rev. Sr. Vijili Dali, DMI, Mission director visited CAR in July-2023. She appreciated the commitment of sisters and staff to align the programs in line with mission of DMI and encouraged them to progress and expand their mission to reach out the neediest and empower them through various innovative programs



Country Annual Financial Report

Details	Receipts (Central Africa Franc)	Payments (Central Africa Franc)	Balances as of end December 31, 2023
Opening balance as of January 1, 2023	18,746,173	18,746,173	0
Interest-free Loan received from DMI Society and need to be repaid in 2024	13,500,000	13,500,000	0
Total Receipts from all donors and payments from that fund	604,177,352	593,026,083	11,151,269
Total Receipts from in-country donation/fee/sale and other minor incomes	13,400,000	11,400,000	2,000,000
Total (Central Africa Franc)	649,828,525	636,672,256	13,151,269
Total USD @600	1,083,039	1,061,120	21,919

Notes:

- ❖ DMI Society directly funded the construction of School building and this years' investment was **Franc 67,500,000 which is USD 112,500** and it is recorded in the Society' account
- ❖ Estimated cash-value of food supported by WFP was **Franc 796,404,000 which is USD 1,327,340** and not included the HHI books of accounts
- ❖ Loan amount to be repaid to DMI Society in 2024 is **USD 22,500**

Special Mention and Thanking Note to Donors

DMI AHI Central African Republic by the honor of proclaiming the good news throughout the world, and following the vision and mission according to the founder of the congregation of DMI in India, the honor is ours DMI AHI Central African Republic thank the government of the Central African Republic for allowing our Organization to operate in the territory of this beautiful country, the CAR, We would like to thank Cardinal Dieudonné NZAPALAINGA for his call to our congregation since 2017 to work in religious communities in order to put our experience into practice among the people of the Central African Republic.

A special thank you to Sister VIJI for supporting the mission of DMI in the Central African Republic, without forgetting Sister LOLITHA who then came to the Central African Republic to visit for the complementarity of this mission entrusted to the Country Director of DMI AHI in the Central African Republic and her teams.

We thank our Catholic Church donors – Bishop Episcopal Conference – Italy financial support for women training center at Sasara- Bangui. We thank the United Nations partners such as: The World Food Program (WFP), The FAO which never stops supporting the mission of DMI AHI in the Central African Republic in the context of food security

We thank Non-Governmental Organizations such as: TEARFUND for placing their trust in DMI to carry out their project,

Our sincere thanks to the first lady of the Central African Republic Tina Marguerite TOUADERA for her enormous support to our organization for the success of our program.

In the name of the Founder of the congregation of DMI Father Arulraj, We, the DMI team in Central Africa, say thank you for all the medium support made available to our mission in Central Africa.



COUNTRY ANNUAL PLAN - 2024

A. Program & Financial Plan:

Program Area/Plan details	No. of village /Panchayat	No. of direct participants	Annual Projected budget	Funds raised for this program	Balance funds to be raised for this program
Women Empowerment	100	30,000	384,494,516	0	384, 494,516
Child Development	100	150,127	180,152,000	0	180,152,000
Youth Development	65	3,000	63,056,419	0	63,056,419
Agri-based Livelihood	100	12,000	126,112,838	0	126,112,838
Small business-based Livelihood	40	6,000	60,000,000	0	60,000,000
Women' Bank	12	30,000	278,333,000	0	278,333,000
Total (Franc)			1,092,148,773	0	1,092,148,773
Total (USD) @600			1,820,248	0	1,820,248

B. Staffing Plan:

Category of staff/Numbers in each category	No. of Senior Leadership staff (CD/DCD/Senior Manager & others)	No. of Middle-level staff (Unit / office / program / Project Manager, Coordinator)	No. of Entry-level staff (Officer/Assistant and other support staff)
DMI members	2	4	2
In-country staff	1	7	7
Paid volunteers/Federation Leaders	0	9	20
Consultant	0	1	0
Total	3	21	29

C. Capital Investment Plan:

Category of Capital Investment	No. of Units to be purchased	Budget (USD)	Amount of funds raised for this
Purchase of Four-wheel vehicle	1	30,000	0
Purchase of Two-wheel vehicle	8	10,400	0
Laptops, desk-top and printers	4	2,000	0
Total		42,400	0

D. Revenue Generation Plan:

S.No	Sources of Revenue Generation	Annual Surplus Amount to be generated (USD)
1	Primary School	1,000
2	Vocational School	2,000
3	Agro-farm	6,000
4	Agro-business	6,000
	Total (USD)	15,000



AIDE HUMANITAIRE INTERNATIONALE

(A unit of DMI congregation)

PB: 115, Sica 2- Bangui,

Central Africa Republic

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