

Enabling Social Innovation in Central African Republic



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Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ¹

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Central African Republic 's social innovation ecosystem.

✓ Direct focus on social innovation 🔗 Connected but indirect focus on social innovation ✗ No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation 🔗



The government of the Central African Republic (CAR) integrates the spirit of social innovation through its National Development Plan (PND) 2024–2028, which emphasizes "social justice, innovation, and partnership with the private sector" as core pillars ². Public policy discourse aligns social progress with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, focusing on community-led reconstruction and sustainable social safety nets rather than a singular legal term ³.

Government Body for Social Innovation ✓



- Key leadership roles for driving social impact and community-centered innovation are distributed across several institutions:
- Ministry of Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation: Orchestrates the PND and coordinates international innovation financing ⁴.
 - Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation: Focuses on community-led social cohesion and peacebuilding innovation ³.
 - Agency for the Development of Vocational Training (AFPA): Supports skills development for youth and women, acting as a bridge to social entrepreneurship ⁵.

Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✓



The National Development Plan (PND) 2024–2028 serves as the central framework, prioritizing the "development of quality human capital" and "inclusive growth" ². Furthermore, the African Union's 10-Year Strategy on the Social and Solidarity Economy (adopted February 2025) provides a regional strategic umbrella that CAR actively implements to formalize social enterprises ⁶.

Policies, Laws & Regulations ✓ 🔗



- Support Project for Socio-Economic Inclusion (PAISEMD): Provides a regulatory and financial mechanism to promote innovation in local sectors like beekeeping and dairy, specifically targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities ⁷.
- Guichet Unique de Formalisation des Entreprises (GUFÉ): The ongoing digitization of this "one-stop shop" for business creation lowers barriers for social entrepreneurs to formalize their ventures ⁷.
- Law on Decentralization: Empowers local communes to lead community development initiatives, serving as an indirect legal enabler for localized social innovation ².

Official Statistics



CAR utilizes the National Social Household Registry to track the impact of social interventions. Recent data collections, such as the World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook (2025), monitor resilience and livelihood shifts among the 5.7 million citizens to better target innovative social safety nets ⁸.

Government Programs



- Support Programme for Reconstruction of Grassroots Communities (PARCB-2): A flagship program that restores social infrastructure and promotes climate-resilient community models ⁵.
- National Volunteering Initiatives: Often coordinated with the UN Peacebuilding Fund, these programs mobilize youth for community work and social mediation ³.
- Digital Transformation Projects: Initiatives like the Central Africa Backbone improve digital access, enabling e-services in health and education ⁵.

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders



- UNDP Accelerator Labs: A key driver in CAR that identifies and scales local "grassroots" innovations for governance and public services ².
- World Food Programme (WFP): Implements "home-grown" school meal programs that innovate by sourcing directly from smallholder farmers, boosting both nutrition and local economies ³.
- Central African Diaspora: Increasingly recognized as a strategic stakeholder through programs like PAISEMD, which mobilize diaspora expertise for local IDP support ⁷.

Support Initiatives



- Broader support infrastructure is provided through international partnerships:
- Innovation Challenges: Periodic calls for applications from groups like the WFP Innovation Bridge target startups focusing on food security and resilience ³.
 - Youth Centres: Government and UN-led centers provide digital literacy and vocational training tailored to the social needs of post-conflict recovery ⁵.

Collaboration



Collaborations are largely project-based, such as the WFP-Ministry of Health partnership to implement the 11th African Day of School Feeding (2026), which focuses on scaling resilient nutritional programs ¹⁰.

Events & Awards



- The **AU Innovation Festival (InnoFest25)** and local youth forums provide platforms for Central African innovators to showcase social impact projects, particularly in agriculture and digital inclusion ¹⁰.

FINANCE

Financing Schemes



Funding for social innovation typically comes from international grants and public-private partnerships:

- **Multilateral Grants:** The **African Development Bank** and **World Bank** provide significant financing for socio-economic inclusion projects like PAISEMD ⁷.
- **Philanthropy and NGOs:** Organizations like **fundsforNGOs** track active grants for grassroots conservation and social restoration projects in CAR ¹¹.

Inclusiveness of Financing



Financing is intentionally designed to be inclusive; for instance, the **PAISEMD project** targets over 50% women for its beekeeping and dairy innovation training ⁷.

SOCIETY

Public Awareness of Social Innovation



Awareness of social innovation is often framed through "resilience" and "social cohesion." Research is primarily practitioner-led, with the **World Economic Forum (2025)** highlighting that 84% of African early-stage entrepreneurs now prioritize social or environmental impacts ⁶.

Research



ANVAR promotes the valorisation of technologies, inventions and innovations and has led reviews of the national strategy in this area. The PND 2026–2030 further strengthens this direction through a dedicated science, technology and innovation program.

Education



While specific "social innovation" degrees are not yet widespread, the **African Union Decade of Education and Skills Development (2025–2034)** is driving curriculum reforms to include more innovation-focused content ¹⁰.

Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

CAR is working to improve its business climate through the digitization of administrative procedures to foster private initiative ⁷.



Innovation Capacity

The country is actively participating in regional innovation clusters to translate local inputs into tangible social outcomes ¹⁰.



Social entrepreneurship

Purpose-driven entrepreneurship is rising, with a significant percentage of new ventures being led by youth and women ⁶.

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity



Political participation



population

Volunteering

CAR maintains a strong culture of community support and local "self-help" groups, which are foundational to social innovation in the country ³.

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countries



Sustainability

Ranked 132nd in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index, the country focuses its social innovation on climate-smart agriculture to protect its vast natural resources ¹².

