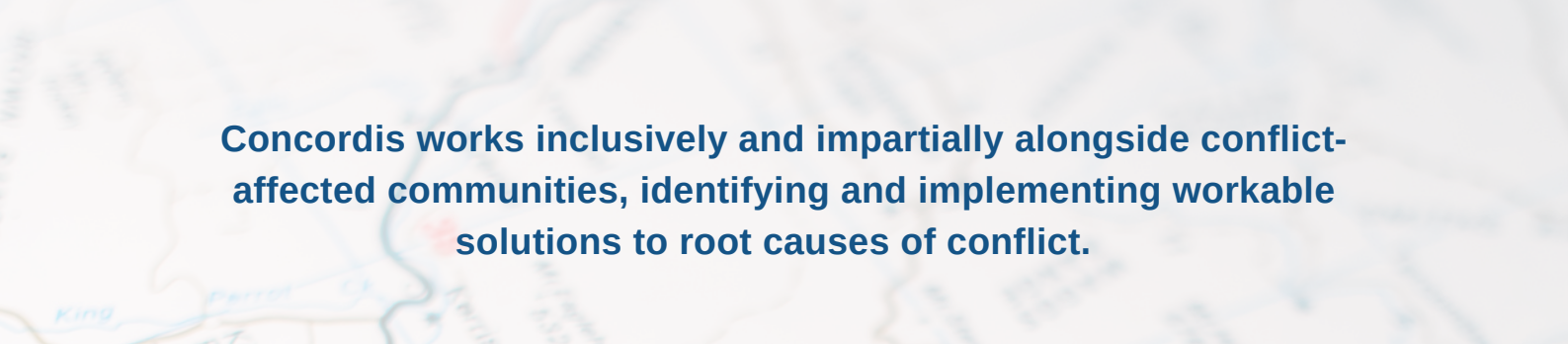


CONCORDIS INTERNATIONAL

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT ON SOCIAL COHESION AND CARTOGRAPHY OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN OUHAM PENDÉ





Concordis works inclusively and impartially alongside conflict-affected communities, identifying and implementing workable solutions to root causes of conflict.

Summary and methodology:

As part of our peacebuilding, we undertake extensive consultations in the places where we work. The teams move beyond the urban centres and meet people where the conflict is fought and felt, in villages and on cattle corridors.

It has been well documented that there are challenges to building peace in the Central African Republic, but it is less well documented that there are great opportunities to use CAR's rich mineral wealth, its farmland, and pastoralism, to promote social cohesion and sustainable economic development. This requires careful, locally owned, conflict-sensitive development work.

Thus, our methodology centred on understanding not just the fears of those living where conflict has been fought and felt, but their aspirations.

This consultation engaged 785 people in sub-prefectures of Ngaoundaye, Paoua, Bocaranga & Kouï, Bozoum & Bossemptele:

- 493 in focus groups: 292 through individual questionnaires
- 229 women: 556 men
- 371 from the settled population (47%): 414 herders (53%) including 183 foreign transhumants and 231 semi-nomads
- The 292 individual questionnaires included 51 foreign transhumants, 91 semi-nomads and 150 farmers. 98 respondents were women.

We express our sincere thanks to all involved in the making of this report.

The research team: Timea Szarkova, Donald Koe, Ousman Brihim, Stella Fizane, Jean Oscar Ganai.

The editorial team: Peter Marsden, Nicola Ukiah, Jude Ilo, Katherine Tardo, and Shaun Coustets, to whom special thanks are due for the maps in this report.

This mapping project was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and conducted by Concordis as an implementing partner of FAO.

Recommendations for Infrastructure:

Recommendations common to all areas

1. Increase access to water. Lack of water is a daily challenge for both herding and settled communities and a driver of conflict. People and animals need separate places to access drinking water, free from obstacles that block or make reaching these hazardous. Repairing broken boreholes and constructing more in places that need them is recommended to provide a secure and adequate source of water for each community. Provision of separate access to water points for people and livestock is also recommended.



2. Restore infrastructure to maintain and improve livestock health. There is a lack of veterinary services, including veterinary posts, clinics and pharmacies, in all areas covered by this programme. Restoration of these services to give adequate access in all areas is recommended. The restoration of vaccination parks across all areas is also recommended. The provision of infrastructure for livestock health must be accompanied by the provision of materials for use with this infrastructure: veterinary services need medications and vaccination parks need vaccines.



3. Improve infrastructure around and access to markets. The lack of easy, safe access to markets is a barrier to trade. Building markets in sufficient locations for each community to have easy, safe access is recommended. The provision of infrastructure that improves access to markets, including mobile phone coverage, road and bridge maintenance and improved public transport, and of infrastructure at markets, including market stalls (“etalage”) that prevent sellers having to put goods on the floor, is also recommended.

4. Reduce the distance women need to travel to reach agro-pastoral infrastructures. There is a correlation between the absence of agro-pastoral infrastructures and the presence of gender-based violence and physical violence. Most victims of GBV outside the home are violated on their way to markets, water points and the fields they farm. The restoration and provision of agro-pastoral infrastructure is recommended to reduce the distance women need to travel to this infrastructure and hence reduce the incidence of GBV outside the home.



Through a series of maps, the cartography exercise funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and conducted by Concordis in the first half of 2022 as implementing partner to the FAO portrays the state of infrastructure related to transhumance across the prefecture of Ouham Pendé and makes recommendations that address conflict between herders and farmers around transhumance.

Concordis worked with communities involved in and affected by transhumance. Transhumant herders, semi-settled and settled communities identified infrastructure around transhumance specific to their route or location – what works, what no longer works and what would be most critical to reduce conflict around transhumance.

Used well, the maps will be a robust reference for targeting future funding and activities around infrastructure to support peaceful transhumance. Concordis has already used the data to inform proposals for repairing and restoring infrastructure including wells, markets, multifunctional livestock parks and cassava drying areas.

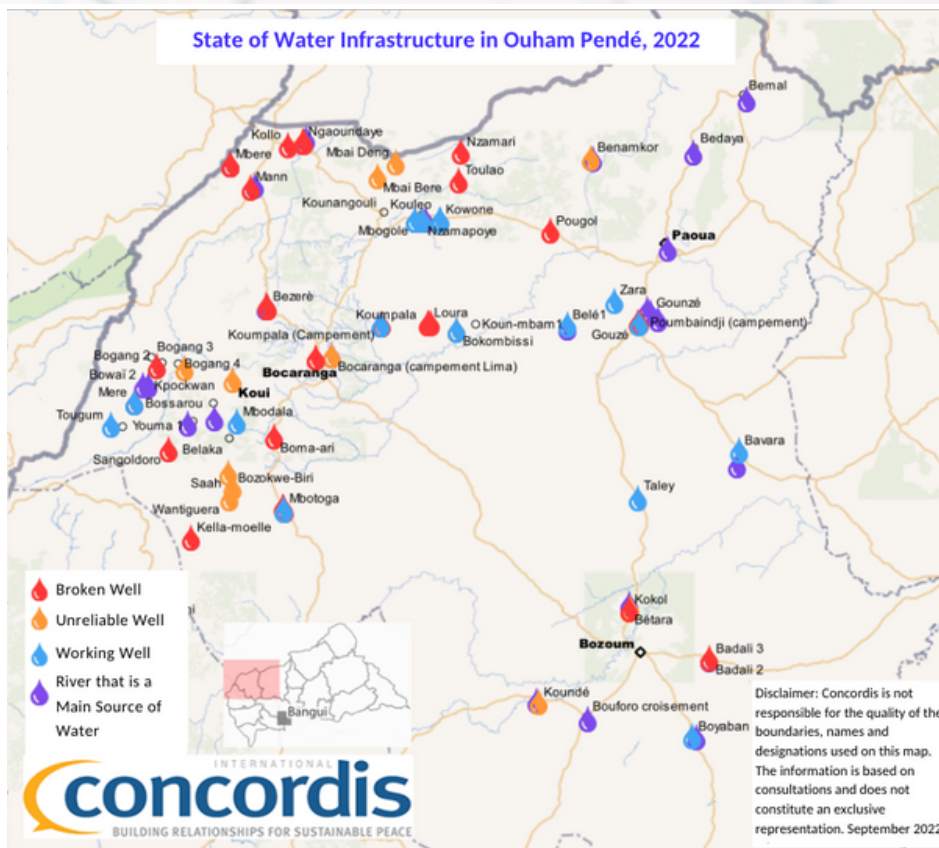
As the maps and report illustrate, this repair and restoration is much needed. The report includes clear recommendations common to all areas of Ouham Pendé for improved access to water, the restoration of infrastructure to maintain and improve livestock health, improved infrastructure around markets and the potential to reduce gender-based violence by reducing the distance women need to travel to reach agro-pastoral infrastructure. It makes specific geographic and technical infrastructure recommendations for the sub-prefectures of Ngaoundaye, Paoua, Bocaranga & Kouï, Bozoum & Bossemptele.

The report places the recommendations in the context of transhumance in Ouham Pendé, historical and current. It describes the origins of transhumance in the Central African Republic and the creation of interdependent relations between herders and farmers. It references the impact of the 2012 / 2013 crisis, which left settled communities fearful of and defensive towards transhumant herders and which displaced and stigmatised herders, undermining the trade and mutually beneficial relations that had long enabled peaceful transhumance. Delivering on the recommendations would be a strong step towards realising the potential for peaceful transhumance described in the report.

The report draws on findings from Concordis' consultations in Ouham Pendé in 2019 and 2021 which amplified the voices of settled, semi-settled and transhumant communities, setting out their lived experience, hopes and fears regarding transhumance. Findings include information on how transhumants select their routes and the impact of changes to routes on all communities.

Findings from the earlier consultations are combined with learning from the cartography exercise in the report to provide maps, narrative and insights for each key area of infrastructure.

Infrastructure and trade:



Access to water is a pressing infrastructure challenge for settled, semi-settled and transhumant communities. Given the potential for conflict around access to water, communities see the rehabilitation and maintenance of waterpoints as part of the state's security provision. Those with access to rivers and other natural sources report barriers including cultivation and contamination, but the major issues are faced by communities who depend on boreholes and wells, including pastoral wells for livestock, for their water.

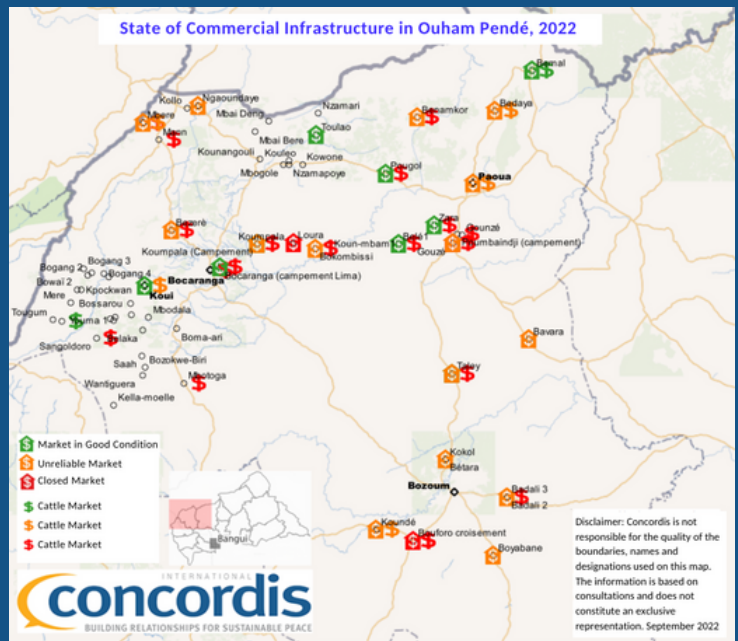
Almost all communities report unreliable or broken **infrastructure around water** and make suggestions for its repair or restoration which they say would reduce conflict and improve relations between farmers and herders.

The absence of veterinary services, including veterinary pharmacies, sub-posts and vaccination parks, is a concern for both settled and transhumant communities. Almost all communities report that services are non-existent or unreliable. **Herders are willing to pay taxes for the provision of infrastructure around cattle health including vaccination and other veterinary services**, while settled communities want transhumants' livestock treated to prevent cross-border contamination affecting their own animals. Restoring infrastructure around cattle health will **provide incentives for herders to use agreed corridors** and border crossings where this can be accessed and the **resulting revenue from taxation** will be important for building infrastructure including state institutions.

The report provides insights on perceptions of state institutions supporting agricultural development and cattle health: the services of ACDA, ANDE and FNEC have been much missed since the crisis: although all three are gradually restoring services to Ouham Pendé, this restored presence is not yet recognised by the majority of those who spoke to Concordis in 2022.

Infrastructure around herding, including cattle pens (enclosures) and pastoral wells (puits pastorales), is almost all reported as destroyed or damaged. Repairing and restoring this infrastructure is important not only to reduce conflict around trampled crops and water for livestock but also to restore economic activity through functioning cattle pens at cattle markets.

90% of herders say they buy farming produce at least once a week and 90% of farmers say selling to transhumants is important for their livelihoods, demonstrating the importance of infrastructure around trade. This is underlined by findings from the 2019 and 2021 consultations that trade between settled and transhumant communities forms a socially cohesive, economically symbiotic relationship that contributes to peaceful transhumance. The report highlights the need for easy and safe access to markets, particularly for women, and for better infrastructure at the markets, including sheds and stalls for the display of goods.



Cassava drying areas are most mentioned by those naming **infrastructure to support a peaceful co-existence**. The report details why this is so and examines categories of infrastructure communities recommend resourcing. It is striking that herders and farmers also recommend improvements to the other's key infrastructure: when considering what is necessary for a peaceful co-existence, each recognises the benefit of the other having the infrastructure needed for their livelihood.

This is a marked change from the much more adversarial relationships between herders and farmers described in the 2019 consultations, before four years of intensive peacebuilding work by Concordis with the herding and farming communities.

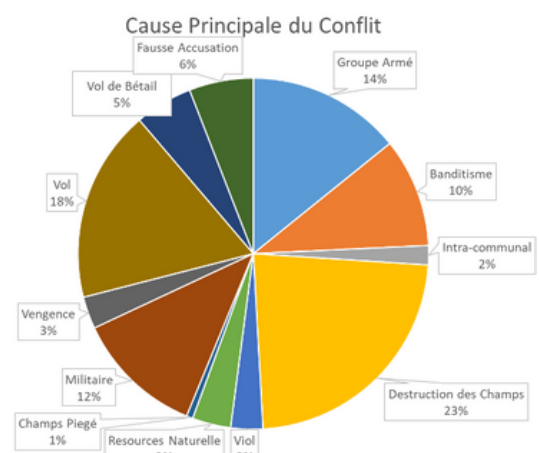
The report includes information gathered during the cartography exercise on **security and conflict around transhumance**, supplemented with learning from the 2019 and 2021 consultations. Sustainable security requires infrastructure including veterinary services, vaccination parks and fully functioning waterpoints.

Linked to access to water, communities agree that a mechanism for resolving disputes over shared natural resources – together with one for informing local communities of the arrival of herders – is an overriding priority.

Advisory Groups established after the 2019 consultation are widely recognised for their role in preventing and resolving conflicts. Sources of conflict captured in the cartography exercise are set out in the report: while not all would be solved by improved infrastructure, most will be reduced if the report's recommendations are realised.

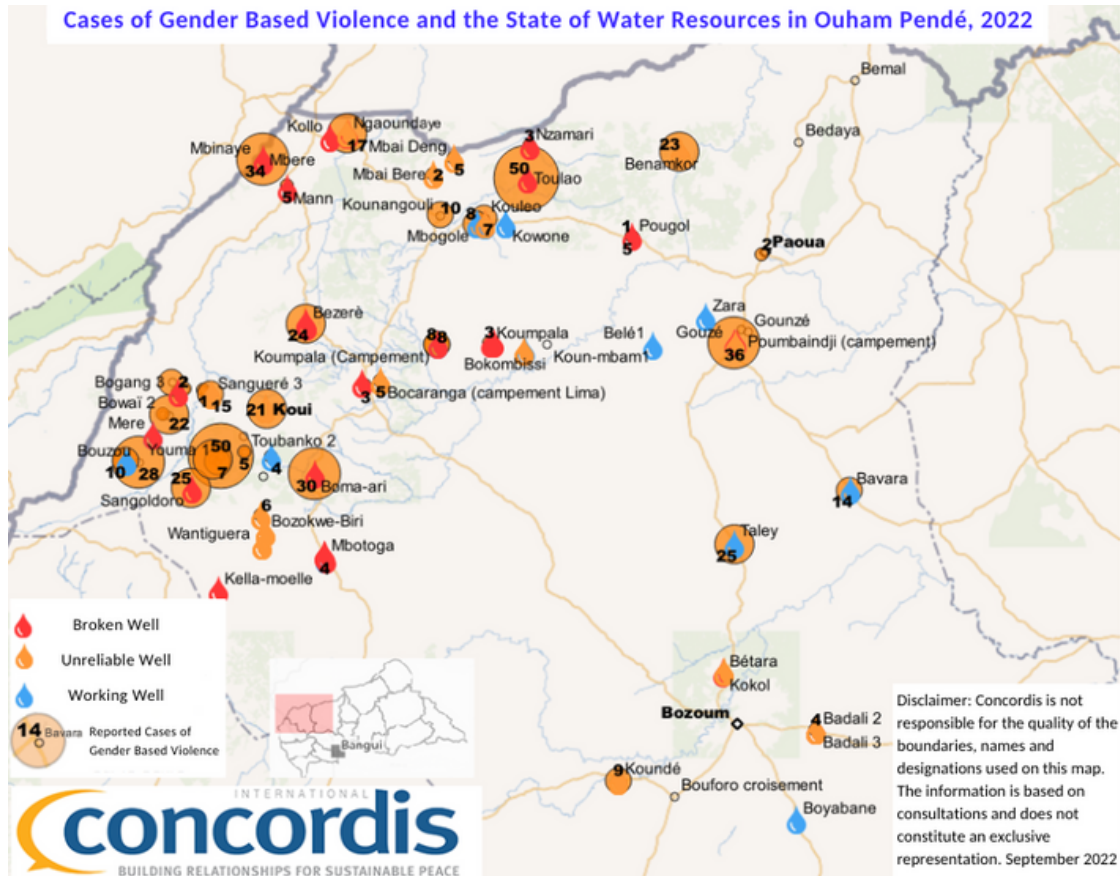
What infrastructure would support a peaceful co-existence?

Infrastructure	Count	Percentage
Cassava drying area	195	16%
Market	149	12%
Animal pharmacy	138	12%
Presence of FNEC	107	9%
Village well (Forage)	103	8%
Pastoral well (Puit pastoral)	99	9%
Veterinary post	74	6%
Cattle vaccination area	58	5%
Community warehouse	57	4%
Cattle pen (enclosure)	43	4%
Presence of ACDA	40	3%
Slaughterhouse	30	2%
Water troughs	30	3%
Butchers	19	2%
Bridge	17	1%
Presence of ANDE	14	1%
Health centre	11	1%
Seed	6	1%
Grazing zones	4	0%
NFI	4	0%
Road infrastructure	2	0%



Infrastructure and gender-based violence:

Data collected shows that **gender based violence (GBV)** is not always inflicted by people from outside the survivor's community.



The correlations between cases of GBV committed outside the home and a lack of agro-pastoral infrastructure, however, are striking: the data suggests that the restoration and renovation of this infrastructure, in particular safe access to waterpoints, would reduce incidences of GBV and increase the likelihood of peaceful transhumance in Ouham Pendé.



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