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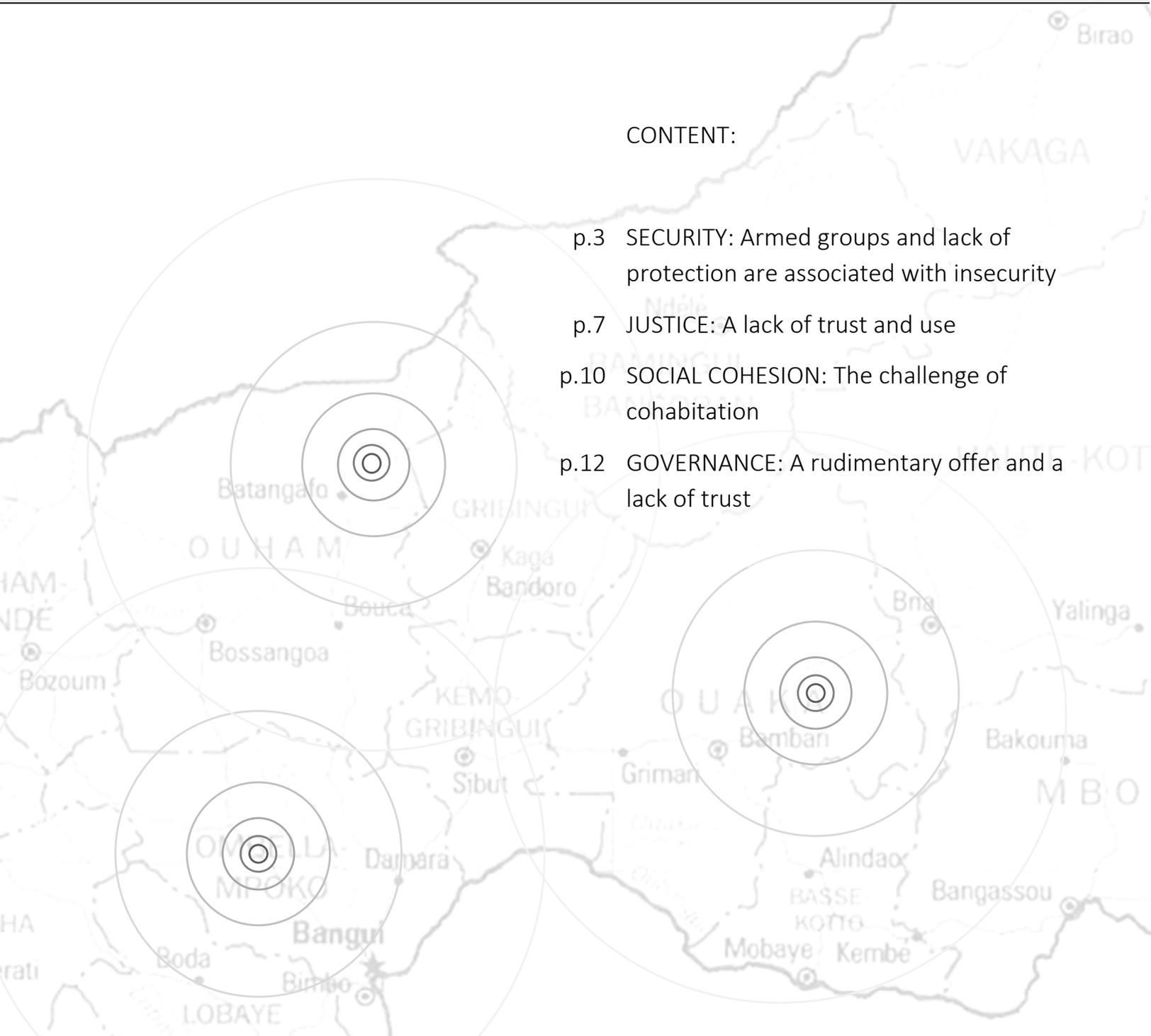
PEACE  
JUSTICE &  
SECURITY  
POLLS

CENTRAL  
AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC

REPORT 1 – NOVEMBER 2017  
(june – july 2017 data)

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Vinck P, Pham PN, Balthazard M, Magbe AS. *Peace, Justice and Security Polls, Report 1. (2017). Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, United Nations Development Program.*

### About the poll

This survey is the first of a series of surveys in the Central African Republic (CAR) to provide reliable data and analysis on peace, security, justice, reconstruction and social cohesion. The project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the MINUSCA Civil Affairs. HHI is responsible for data collection, independent data analysis and report writing, in collaboration with the Central African NGO Echelle – Appui au Développement.

Perception surveys are conducted with the objective of collecting data representative of the adult population at the prefecture level in CAR. Adults are randomly selected from prefectures throughout CAR, in five cities and oversampled in Bangui. The sample is randomly drawn using a stratified multi-stage approach and based on the estimated population size. By design, the sample is composed of 50% women, interviewed by women. For this first survey, a total of 6,254 interviews were conducted. Trained interviewers conducted the interviews. All interviewers undertook a week of training organized by HHI, in partnership with the NGO Echelle. The analysis uses a weighting factor to reflect differences in population size and probability of selection between strata. The prefectures of Basse and Haute Kotto as well as those of Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou could not be covered due to insecurity.

Prefecture	Sample
Bangui	1,761
Ombella-M'poko	1,097
Bamingui-Bangoran	433
Basse-Kotto	--
Haute-Kotto	--
Haut-Mbomou	--
Kemo	432
Lobaye	215
Mamberei-Kadei	432
Mbomou	--
Nana-Manbere	432
Nana-Gribizi	177
Ouaka	432
Ouham	224
Ouham-Pende	216
Sangha-Mbaere	213
Vakaga	190
<b>TOTAL CAR</b>	<b>6,254</b>

*Error margin of  $\pm 5$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

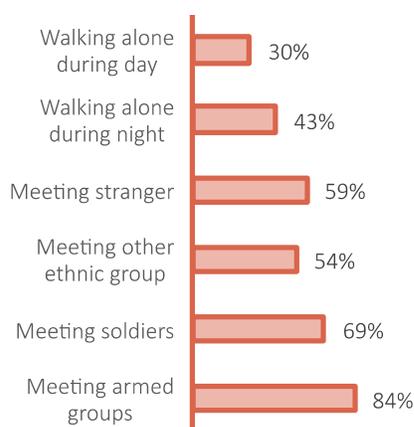
To view the online report and interactive maps, visit [www.peacebuildingdata.org/CAR](http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/CAR)

## SECURITY: Armed groups and lack of protection are associated with insecurity

Establishing and strengthening basic security are essential elements of peacebuilding. This survey included a series of general questions about the security situation, the causes of insecurity, and the perception of security actors.

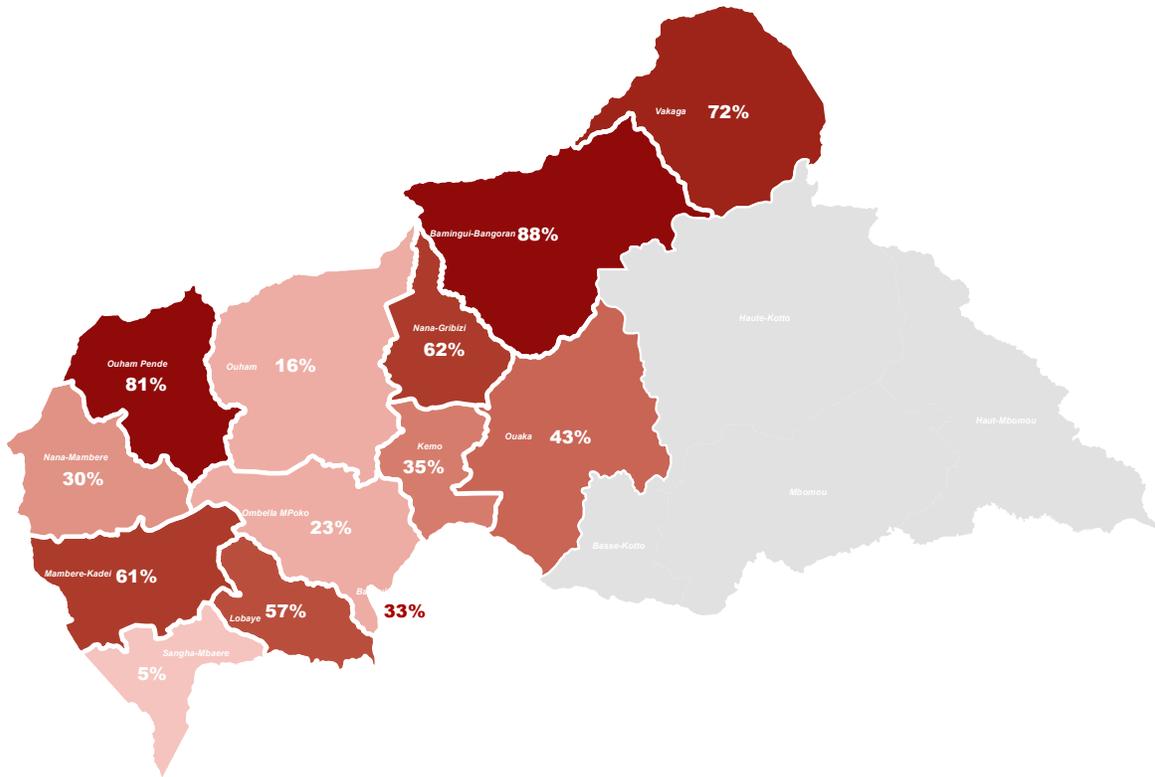
Respondents' sense of security was assessed in 12 common situations. Respondents were less likely to feel safe in situations such as meeting with armed groups (84%) and meeting soldiers (69%). More than one in two respondents also feel insecure when they meet people they do not know and / or people of another ethnic group. Two out of five people feel insecure while walking alone at night in their neighborhood or village. These results suggest that people are not safe in the presence of someone unknown, armed or from a different ethnic group.

Figure 1: Perception of insecurity in different situations  
(% not safe)



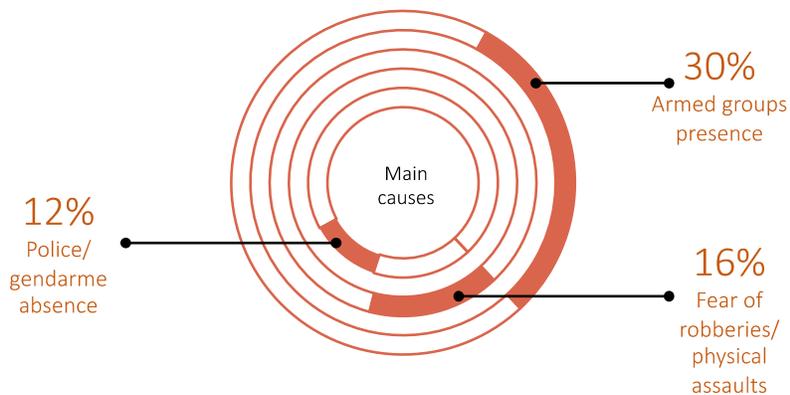
Geographically, although the feeling of insecurity exists everywhere, it is, among the prefectures covered by this survey, more common in the East and in the North. For example, 88% of respondents say they feel insecure if they walk alone at night in their neighborhood or in their village in the prefecture of Bamingui-Bangoran, and 81% express the same feeling in the prefecture of Ouham Pende. However, even in Bangui, one in three state they feel insecure at night.

Figure 2: Perception of insecurity per prefecture – walking alone at night



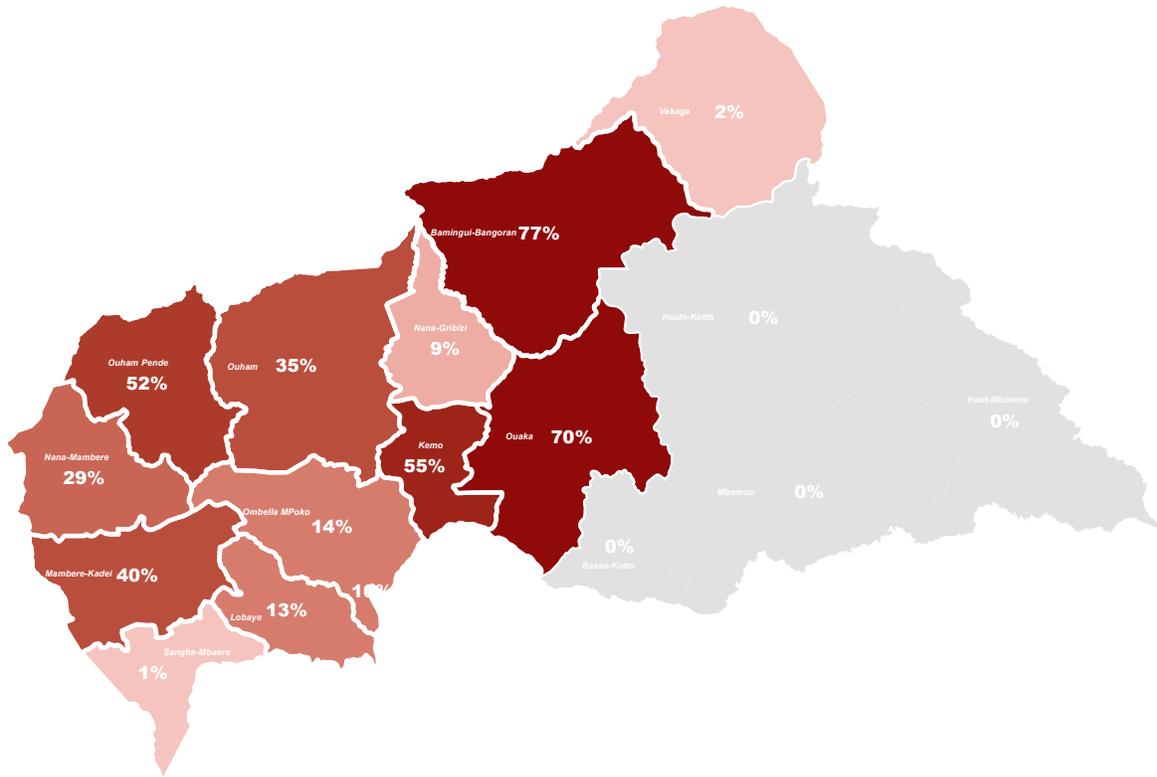
The three most frequently identified causes of insecurity are: the presence of armed groups (30%), the fear of robbery or physical violence (16%) and the absence of police/ gendarmerie (12%).

Figure 3: Three main commonly identified causes of insecurity (% respondents)



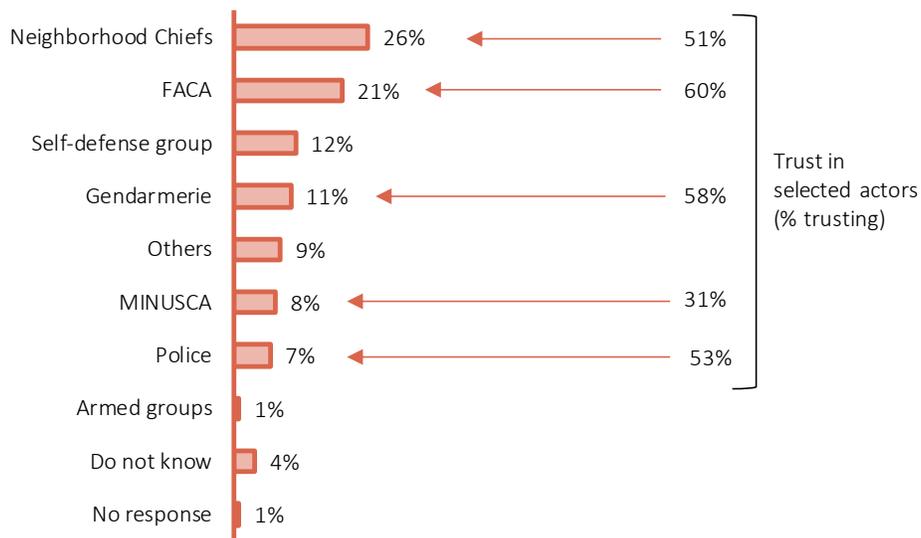
The presence of armed groups is most frequently mentioned as a source of insecurity in the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran (77%) and Ouaka (70%). Less than 15% of the respondents mention the armed groups as the main reason for insecurity in the prefectures of Vakaga (2%), Sangha Mbaere (1%), Nana-Gribizi (9%), Lobaye (13%), Ombella M'Poko (14%) and in Bangui (10%). In these prefectures, interviewees declare that their main causes of insecurity are the fear of robbery or physical violence (Vakaga, Nana-Gribizi, Lobaye), the absence of gendarmes (Sangha-Mbaere) or the scarcity of street lighting (Ombella M'Poko, Bangui).

Figure 4: Mains cause of insecurity per prefecture – presence of armed groups



The absence of police is a major cause of insecurity for 12% of the population. Only 7% of the respondents say that the police are the actor who mainly provides security in their neighborhood or in their village. Generally, respondents identify most frequently neighborhood chiefs as the primarily actor providing security (26%), followed by the FACA – the Central African national army (21%); 12% of the respondents talk about self-defense groups.

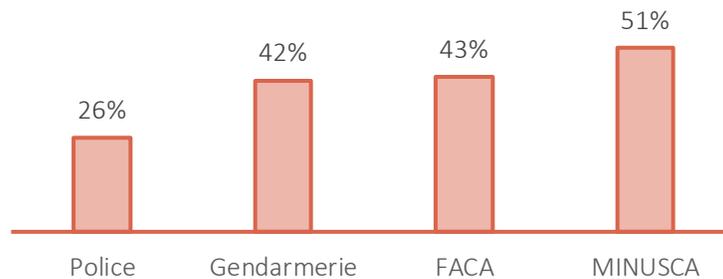
Figure 5: Who mainly provides security in the neighborhood/ village and trust level (% trusting)



Neighborhood leaders are most commonly perceived as providing security. Nonetheless, only one in two respondents say they have confidence in them (51%). A slightly higher percentage states they trust the formal actors of the security sector, such as the Central African army or FACA (60%), the gendarmerie (58%), or the police (53%).

The survey also asked interviewees to judge the contribution of different actors to their neighborhood or their village security. One in four respondents (26%) believes that the police contribute positively to the safety of their neighborhood or their village, whereas this percentage is close to one in two for the gendarmerie (42%), the FACA (43%) and the MINUSCA (51%).

*Figure 6: Contribution to security to neighborhoods/ villages*



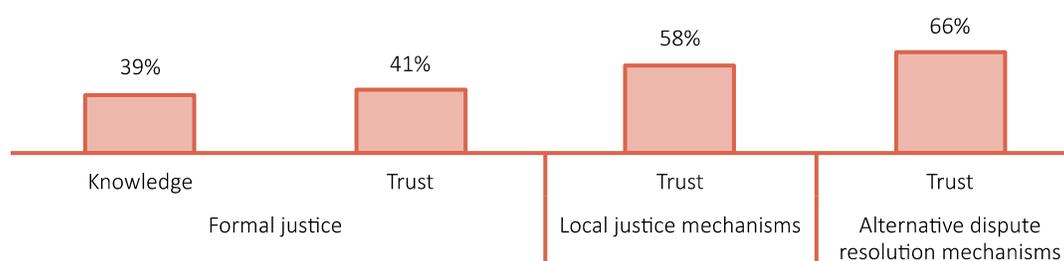
However, the police are not present outside of urban centers. Therefore, the small percentage of respondents reporting a positive contribution of the police may also reflect the lack of activities of the police in the villages. In neighborhoods and villages reporting FACA deployments, perception of a FACA positive contribution to security is less frequent than among the rest of the population: 35% of the respondents say that the FACA contribute positively to their security when the FACA is present, compared to 50 % when the respondents reported no deployments. These results suggest that although the role of the FACA is relatively positively perceived, their presence in neighborhoods and villages is accompanied by a decline in trust, perhaps because of their behavior. For the MINUSCA, the percentage of people who positively consider their contribution to their security is similar whether the force is present or not; 51% of the respondents said the MINUSCA contribute positively to their security when the MINUSCA is present, compared to 55% when the MINUSCA is not present.

## JUSTICE: A lack of trust and use

The 2013 crisis has particularly affected the justice sector in CAR. To this day, despite a revival of the justice sector across the country, several jurisdictions are still inoperative, lack staff or require rehabilitation or construction. When present, the formal justice system suffers from major dysfunctions. In some prefectures, the absence of the formal national justice system left a gap filled by other actors such as local or traditional justice actors, internal security forces (ISF), or others, with a potential effect on respondents' trust in and use of the formal justice system.

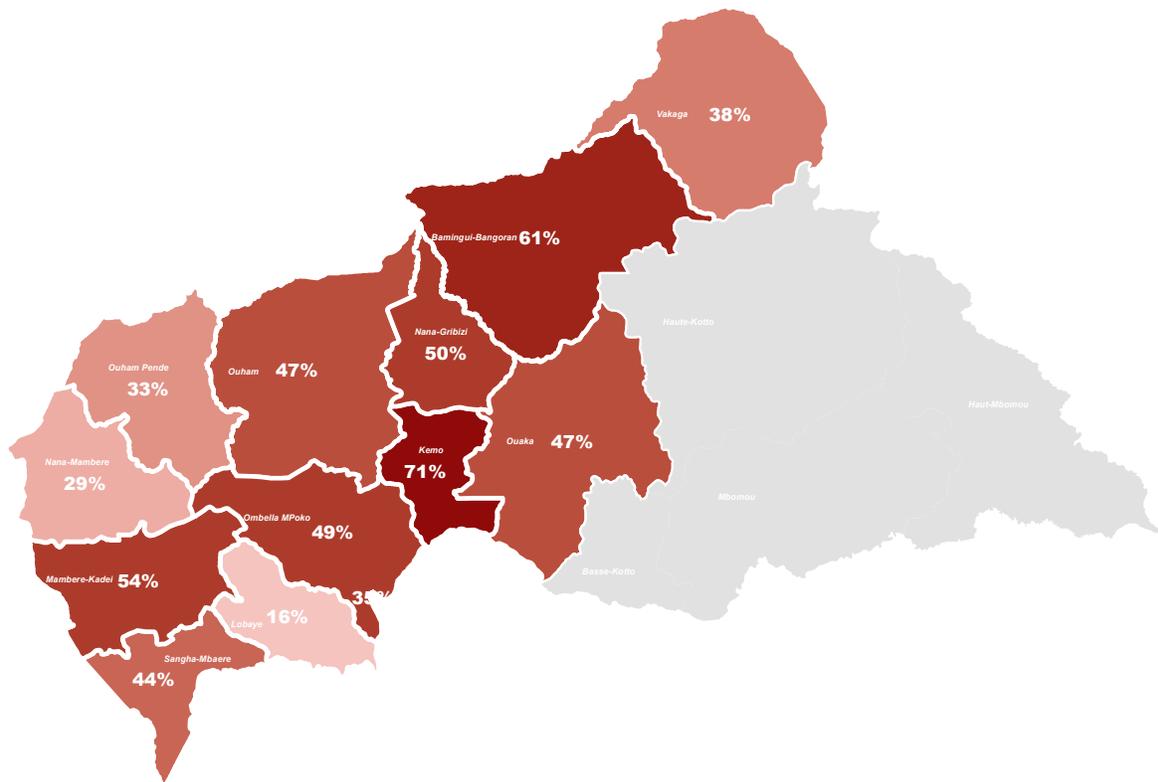
The level of trust in the justice system is mixed. More than two in five respondents (41%) express they are confident or very confident in the judicial system, but 58% and 66% state they are confident in local justice mechanisms or in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, respectively. The small percentage of people (39%) who say they have knowledge (good or very good) of the formal justice system may have influenced the percentage of people who said they trust the formal justice system.

*Figure 7: Trust in justice mechanisms (% knowledge and/or trust)*



The percentage of respondents who trust the justice system is particularly high in the prefectures of Kemo and Bamingui-Bangoran (71% and 61%) where jurisdictions are not operational, while only 35% or less of the respondents expressed confidence in the justice system in the prefectures of Lobaye, Nana-Mambere, Ouham Pende and in Bangui. In Bamingui-Bangoran, for example, the high percentage of trust in the judicial system, despite its non-existence, could indicate that the inhabitants of this prefecture have confidence in the *idea* of such a system and aspire to the presence of a formal justice system. Conversely, the low percentage of respondents with confidence in the judicial system in the prefectures such as Nana-Mambere or in Bangui, where the jurisdictions are operational, could indicate discontent or justice system dysfunctions.

Figure 8: Trust in the formal justice system per prefecture (% trust)



In general, respondents perceive the justice system as corrupt (45%), inaccessible (32%), expensive (23%), or non-existent (20%). About one-third of the respondents mentioned that "it works well" indicating that the system is operational but not necessarily that it is functioning as it should. A majority of respondents (64%) suggest that improving the system would require fighting corruption.

Figure 9: Perception of the justice system

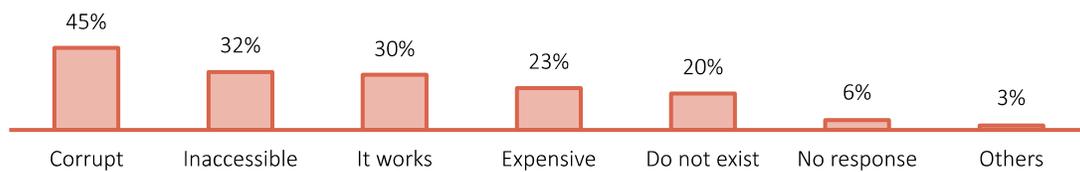
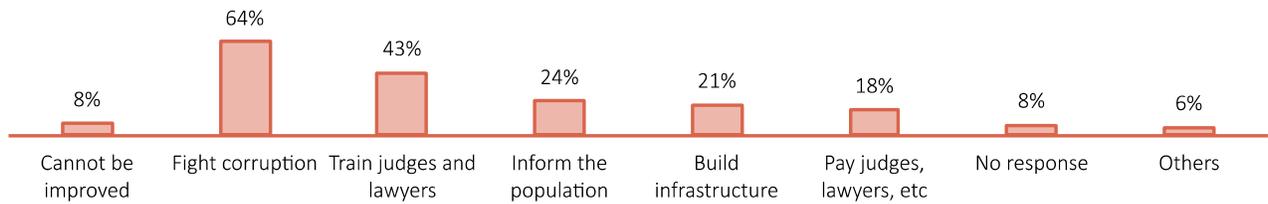
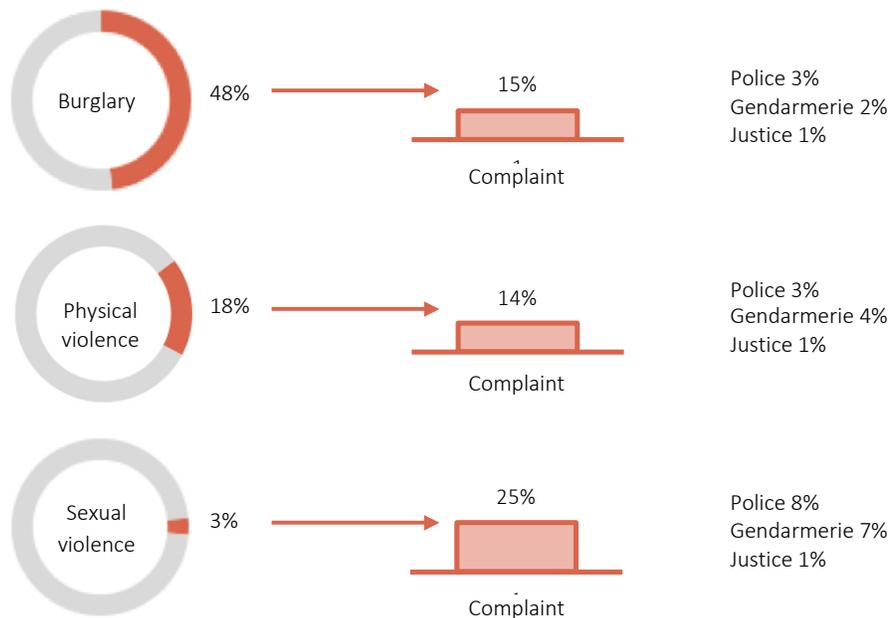


Figure 10: Measures to improve the justice system



Despite a certain level of trust in the justice system, respondents use it very little. In the last two years prior to the survey, the incidence of violence shows that 48% of those questioned were victims of burglary, 18% were victims of physical violence and 3% were victims of sexual violence. Of those who mention being victims of these crimes, 15% lodged a complaint about the burglary, 14% about the physical assault and 25% about the sexual violence. However, of the victims who complained, less than 10% used the internal security forces (police and gendarmerie) and only 1% of the victims say they reported it to a court.

Figure 11: Crimes and complaints to justice actors

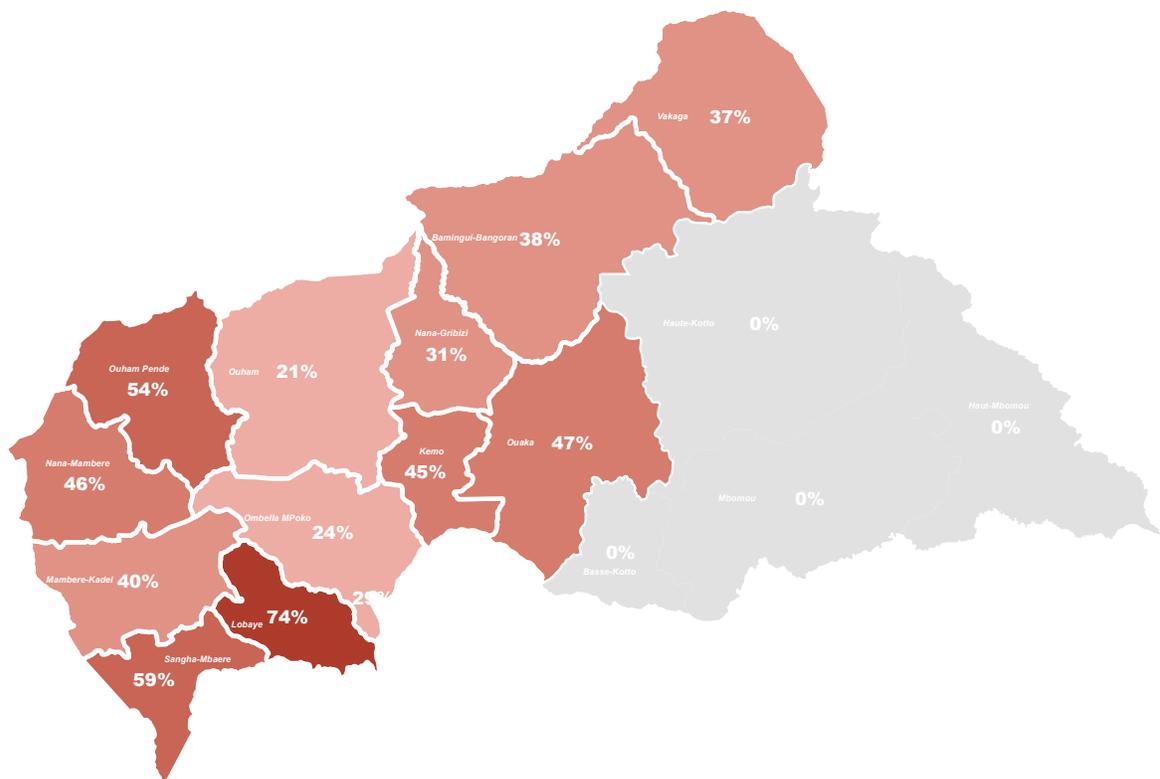


Among women, 52% of the interviewees report being robbed, 20% say they were victims of physical violence and 5% they were victims of sexual abuse. Of those who say they have been robbed or abused, 13% lodged a complaint about robbery and physical assault, while 29% have complained of sexual violence. When they lodged a complaint about burglary or physical attacks, less than 5% resorted to internal security forces (police and gendarmerie), and less than 1% to the courts. Among the women who lodged a complaint about sexual violence, 9% said they did so to the police, 7% to the gendarmes, but less than 1% to the courts.

## SOCIAL COHESION: The challenge of cohabitation

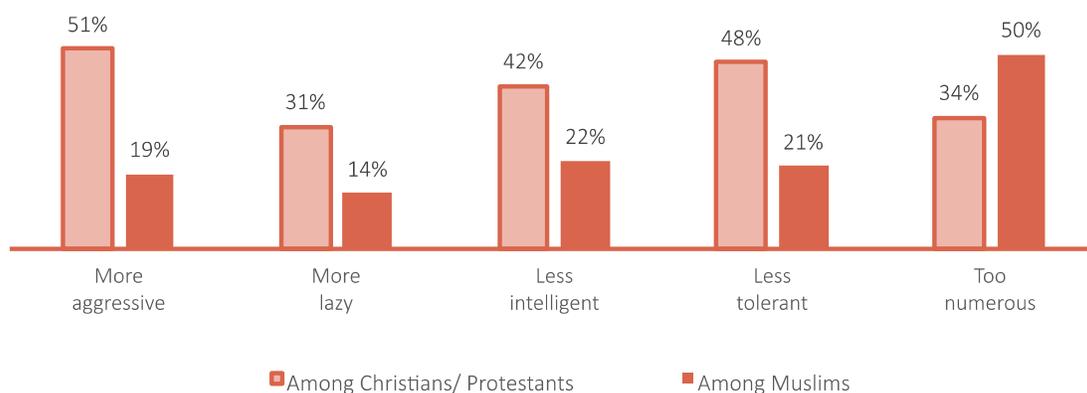
Considering the sectarian dimension of the violence that affected the Central African Republic, the poll explored several aspects of inter-group relations, starting with the respondents' trust in members of their ethnic and religious group, and trust in another ethnic or religious group. The results show that while 61% of the respondents say they trust members of their ethnic or religious group, only 40% state they trust members of other ethnic or religious groups. Fewer than one in four respondents expresses trusting members of another ethnic or religious groups in the prefectures of Ouham (21%) and Ombella M'Poko (24%). It is only in the Lobaye and Sangha Mbaere that more than half of the interviewees judge their intergroup relations positively.

*Figure 12: Trust towards people from another ethnic or religious groups*



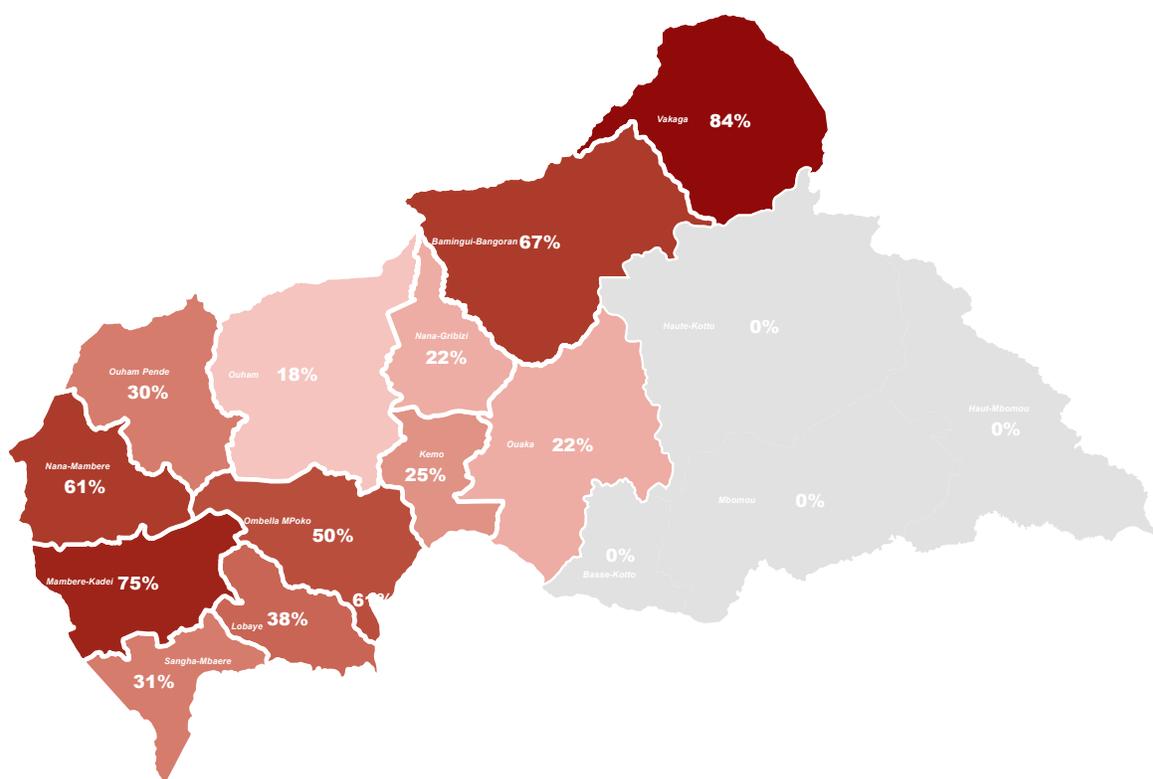
The survey specifically explored the perception of 'other groups' and stereotypes. The results indicate that among Christians and Protestants, compared to Muslims, higher percentages of respondents believe that people of different religions than their own are more aggressive, lazy, less intelligent and less tolerant. Among Muslims, smaller percentages of people express these stereotypes. However, half of them believe that people of another religion than theirs are too numerous.

Figure 13: Negative stereotypes about people of other religious groups, per religion



Negative stereotypes about Muslims may explain why less than one in two respondents (45%) say they are comfortable with having a Muslim as neighbor. The percentage of people comfortable with this idea is the lowest in the prefectures of Ouham (18%), Nana-Gribizi (22%), Ouaka (22%), and Kemo (25%).

Figure 14: Comfort with Muslims as neighbors (% comfortable)

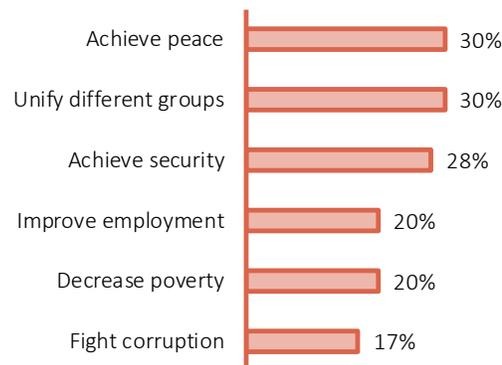


## GOVERNANCE: A rudimentary offer and a lack of trust

Infrastructure, the service sector and public assistance are, at best, rudimentary in the Central African Republic. A series of questions was asked to assess respondents' satisfaction with social services and basic needs. Few respondents rated their access to services as good or very good. Respondents are most positive about their access to schools (25%) and clean water (22%), followed by their housing (18%), access to food (13%), and health care (13%). They were less positive about job opportunities (4%). Access to services and basic needs is generally perceived more positively in Bangui and in the neighboring prefecture of Ombella M'Poko.

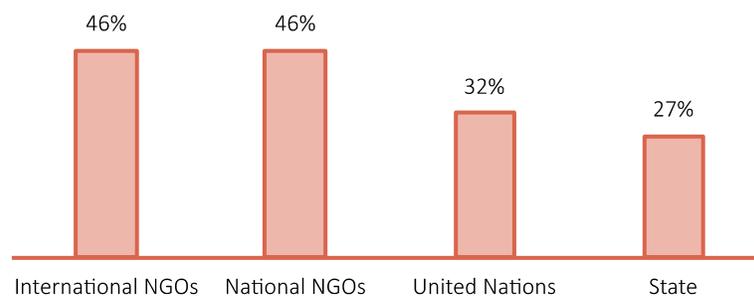
Respondents were also asked to rank the performance of the government on common post-conflict development goals. Overall, a large percentage of respondents do not perceive government performance as positive. Fewer than one in three respondents judge positively the government's efforts to unify religious and ethnic groups (30%) as well as to achieve peace (30%) and security (28%). Fewer than one in five judge anti-corruption efforts positively.

*Figure 15: Perception of government performances (% positive)*



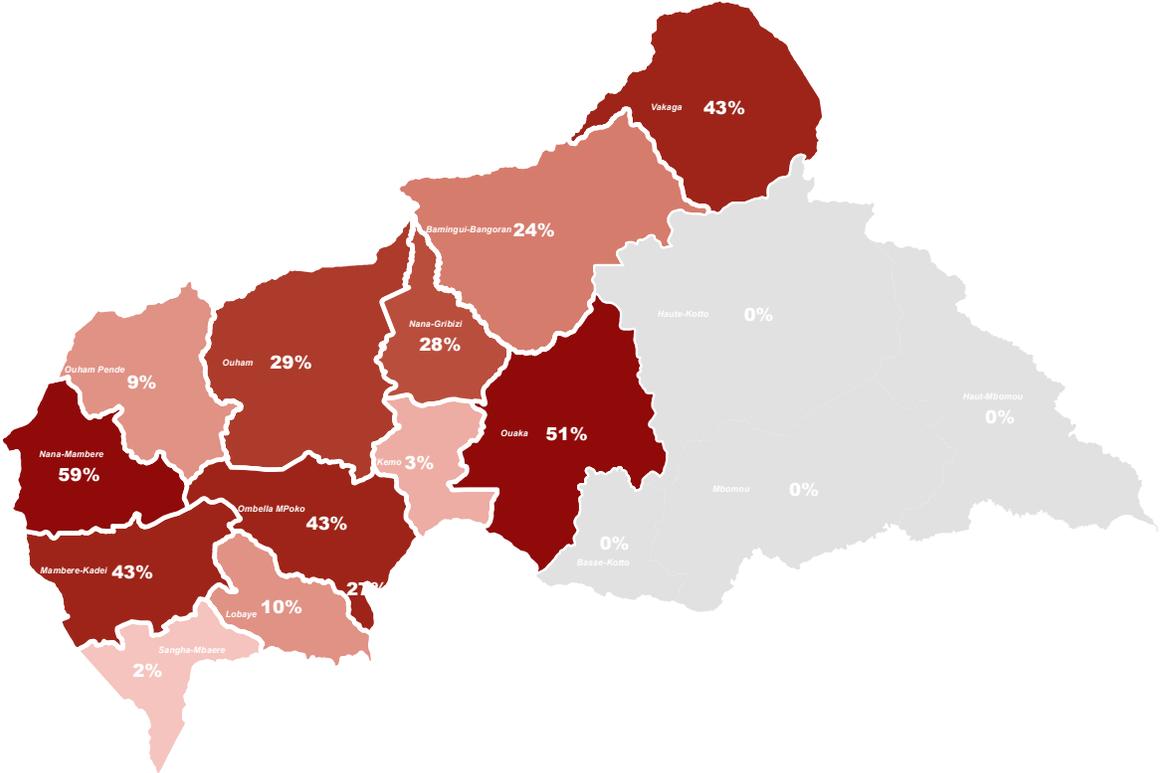
In comparison, the efforts of international and national NGOs to improve the situation in CAR were more often considered positively (46% and 46% respectively) than the efforts of the government (27%) or the United Nations (32%).

*Figure 16: Perception of NGOs, United Nations and the State's performances at improving the situation in CAR (% positive)*



Geographically, the perception of government efforts varies greatly between prefectures. For example, 30% of those surveyed rated the government's efforts to establish peace positively, but this percentage varies from 2% to 59% between prefectures.

Figure 17: Perception of government performance to establish peace, per prefecture (% positive)



The frequently negative perception of government efforts and access to basic services and needs may explain the lack of trust in state actors. Approximately one in two people express trust in the national authorities (47%), as well as in the authorities of the city (48%) or the neighborhood / village (51%). Geographically, the level of trust in neighborhood/ village authorities varies greatly among prefectures. It is the lowest in the prefecture of Nana-Gribizi (24%) and in Bangui (27%).

Figure 18: Trust in authorities (% trust)

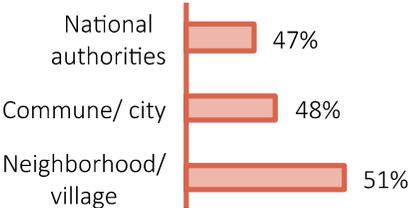
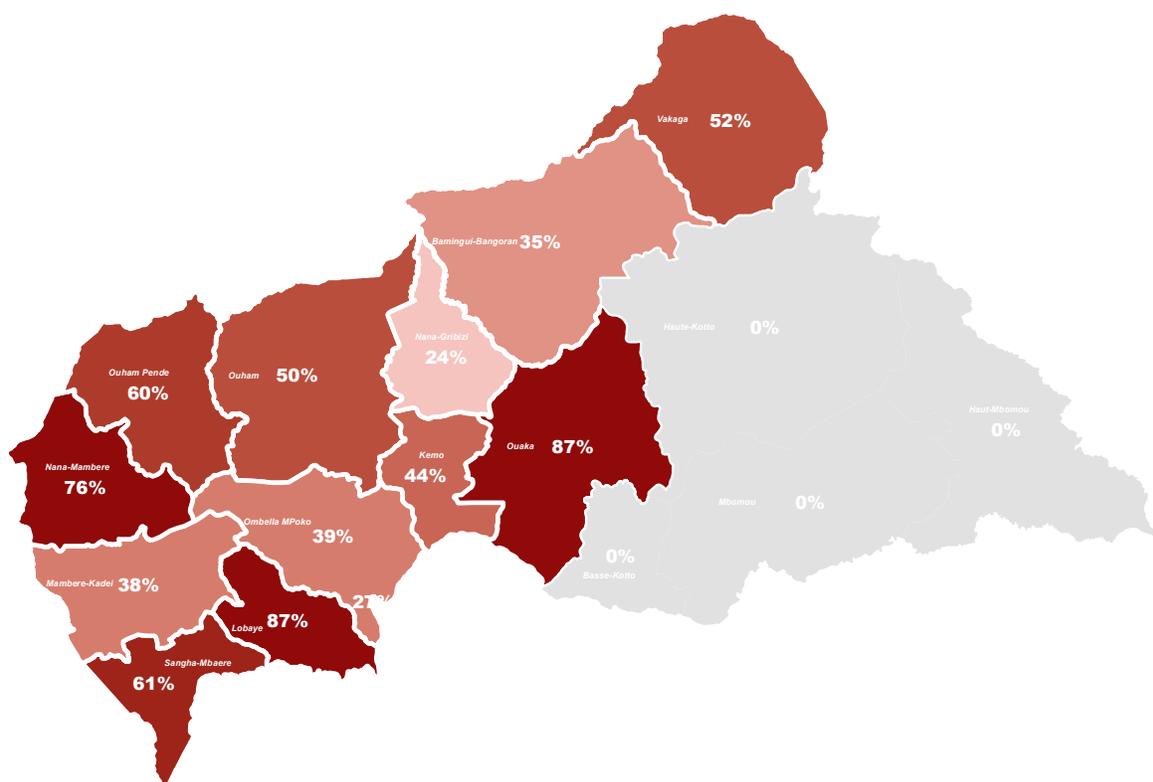
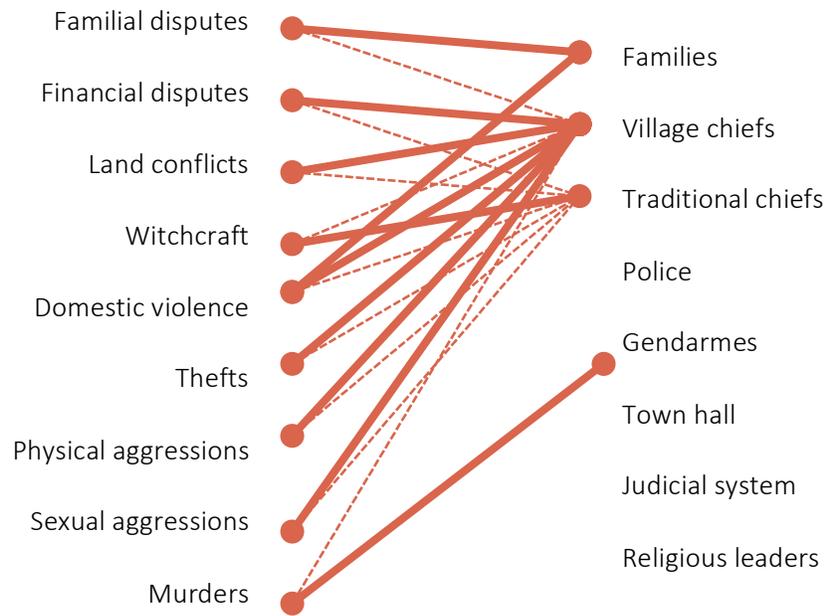


Figure 19: Trust in neighborhood/ village authorities, per prefecture (% trust)



The importance of neighborhood and village leaders is underscored by the responses obtained when respondents identified whom they would contact first in a series of disputes or crimes. With the exception of family disputes and murder situations, respondents most frequently mention approaching village and neighborhood chiefs first. When the answers are disaggregated by prefecture, the two most frequent answers vary. For example, in first or second place, Nana-Gribizi respondents say that religious leaders should be approached for family disputes and domestic violence, while respondents of the prefectures of Kemo and Bamingui-Bangoran refer land conflicts and witchcraft cases to the town hall. Respondents of Ombella M'Poko, Mambere Kadei, Nana-Mambere, Sangha Mbaere, Ouham and Ouaka mention gendarmes for criminal cases such as robbery, physical and sexual assaults, and killings, while Bangui respondents would refer sexual assaults and killings mainly to the police and the judicial system. Differences between prefectures may reflect respondents' confidence in neighborhood or village leaders' abilities to resolve certain types of disputes as well as the presence and accessibility of a formal justice system including the security forces.

Figure 20: Main actors to resolve hypothetical disputes/crimes  
 (2 most frequent responses – the most frequent response is indicated by a thick line)



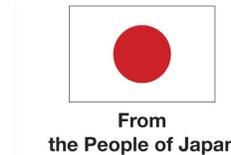
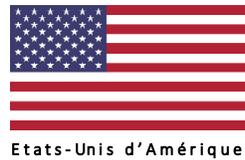
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