FOCUS ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (p.3)

p.4 PEACE: People prioritize justice as a means toward a lasting peace but have little confidence in the current peace agreement.

p.7 VICTIMS: The sense of victimization is widespread and legitimate, requiring an inclusive approach to transitional justice.

p.10 VICTIMS: Victims ask for punishment of those responsible, material reparations, and individualized services.

p.13 RESPONSIBILITIES: Many actors must be held responsible for the violence, and for different crimes.

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p.19 TRUTH: The search for the truth is important for peace and justice, but the population lacks knowledge and confidence in the Truth, Justice, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR).

GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19

p.21 GOVERNANCE: The 2020 presidential election was anticipated as credible, but not very inclusive. Peace and security were the main electoral issues.

p.25 COVID-19: Despite the low number of cases reported, the pandemic has had a significant socio-economic impact and continues to worry the population.
About the poll

This poll is the sixth in a series of surveys conducted in the Central African Republic (CAR) to provide data and analyses on peace, security, reconstruction and social cohesion. The purpose of these surveys is to provide reliable, valid and regularly updated data to inform all actors involved in reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts and to serve as a reference for planning and evaluation of these efforts. The project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) in collaboration with MINUSCA and, with the assistance of the United Nations team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in conflict, of the Peacebuilding Fund and of the United States. HHI is responsible for the collection and independent analysis of data, and report writing, in collaboration with the Central African NGO Echelle – Appui au Développement. Questionnaire design and validation of results is implemented in consultation with the national authorities and international partners.

Perception surveys are conducted with the objective of collecting data representative of the adult population in CAR at the prefecture level. Adults are randomly selected from prefectures throughout CAR, oversampled in Bangui. The random sample is drawn using a stratified multi-level approach and based on the estimated population size. The sample is 50% female, interviewed by women.

The sixth survey was conducted from November 23 to December 25, 2020 in 13 prefectures and Bangui for a total of 5,297 interviews. Experienced investigators conducted interviews. All interviewers were national and participated in a week of training organized by HHI, in partnership with the NGO Echelle. The analysis used a weighting factor to reflect differences in population size and probability of selection between strata. Interviews in several prefectures were interrupted due to insecurity. Despite these interruptions, data could be disaggregated at the prefecture level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Préfecture</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangui</td>
<td>1,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ombella M’Poko</td>
<td>964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamingui-Bangoran</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basse-Kotto</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haute-Kotto</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haut-Mbomou</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemo</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobaye</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mambéré-Kadéi</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbomou</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana-Mambéré</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nana-Gribizi</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouaka</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouham</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouham-Pendé</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangha-Mbaéré</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vakaga</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,297</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Margin of error at the prefecture level is ± 5 percentage points, 95% confidence level

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

After two decades of civil war and armed conflict, and in a context of continuing violence, the Central African Republic (CAR) has put in place several transitional justice mechanisms to fight impunity and establish national reconciliation. The national reconciliation strategy calls for judicial processes targeting violations against civilians, developing protections for internally displaced persons and refugees, and establishing a Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. The 2015 Bangui Forum, popular consultations held to advance the implementation of these measures, proposed several initiatives, including the creation of a Special Criminal Court, and the establishment of a reconciliation commission. These agreements also provided for additional transitional justice measures, such as the construction of monuments and memorials for victims of violence, granting reparations to victims, control of ex-combatants, exclusion from amnesty, and measures aimed at commemorating the victims.

It is in this context that this sixth survey sought to better understand the experience of the population and their views in relation to transitional justice, including,

- The ordinary justice system delivered by the courts and tribunals and the Special Criminal Court (SCC), a court of hybrid composition within the national justice system and with a transitional mandate, specifically to investigate and adjudicate serious crimes committed in the country since 2003.

- The Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR, by its French acronym), a non-judicial mechanism which is not yet operational but for which a law was promulgated in April 2020. The CVJRR has for mandate "to investigate, establish the truth and locate the responsibilities on serious national events since March 29, 1959, date of the disappearance of the President Founder Barthélémy Boganda, until December 31, 2019". The commissioners were appointed in December 2020.

- In addition, it should be noted that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating, at the request of the Government, “war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the context of a conflict in CAR since the 1st July 2002, the violence having reached its peak in 2002 and 2003”, and, separately, "war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the context of the resurgence of violence in the CAR from 2012".

The survey was implemented before the eruption of violence in CAR in mid-December 2020. The results described in this report therefore reflect the opinion of respondents before the attacks by the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) in December 2020 and January 2021.

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1 Loi Organique N°20-009 Portant Création, Organisation et Fonctionnement de la Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation (CVJRR), promulguée par le Président de la RCA, le 7 avril 2020.
2 Situation in Central African Republic, ICC-01/05
3 Situation in Central African Republic II, ICC-01/14
PEACE: People prioritize justice as a means toward a lasting peace but have little confidence in the current peace agreement.

In response to an open-ended question (no answer suggested to participants) on the measures to be taken to reach lasting peace in the Central African Republic, participants in the December 2020 survey indicated, among their most frequent answers, the need to judge (54%) and / or imprison (38%) those responsible for the violence that shook the country. These responses indicate the importance given to a retributive or punitive form of justice, even though, the analyzes presented in this report also show the importance of restorative justice. The demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) of combatants remained the main priority (DDR, 68%) of the population. These results show a notable stability with previous polls, even if the priority given to justice decreases slightly. In December 2020, women noted more frequently than men that those responsible should be jailed (44% vs. 32%).

Ask directly about the possibilities of having peace under certain conditions, participants were positive about the possibility of having peace in the Central African Republic, but less than one in four people were positive about the possibility of having peace if those responsible for the violence of 2002-2003 and / or since 2013
remained unpunished. Men tend to be less positive than women about the possibilities for peace in the event of impunity.

**Figure 2 : Perspectives on Peace and Impunity**

- **Possible to have lasting peace in the Central African Republic**
  - Yes, 87% (91% men, 82% women)

- **Possible to have peace if those responsible for the violence of 2002-2003 go unpunished**
  - Yes, 25% (19% men, 31% women)

- **Possible to have peace if those responsible for the violence since 2013 remain unpunished**
  - Yes, 22% (16% men, 28% women)

The results of this poll show that peace remained, in December 2020, the main priority of the population and that justice and the fight against impunity were seen as essential to the establishment of a lasting peace. For the population, this is an urgent demand. Only one in six people (16%) felt that the population lived in peace nationally, and only one in three felt that they lived in peace in their neighborhood or village. These percentages have not changed over the past year. Still, the public remained optimistic that the situation will improve in the year following the poll.

**Figure 3 : Perspective on peace**

- **People live in peace in the neighborhood/village (% positive)**
  - 37% (34% men, 41% women)

- **The population lives in peace at the national level (% positive)**
  - 14% (18% men, 13% women)

- **Evolution of the peace situation in the next 12 months (% positive)**
  - 70% (62% men, 74% women)

The Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR)⁴ signed in 2019 between the Central African Government and 14 armed groups includes the rejection of impunity, largely reflecting the wishes of the population in this regard. Yet the APPR remained little known in December 2020, with less than half of participants indicating good knowledge of the agreement. Confidence in the APPR was low (32%), although it

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⁴ Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine, February 2019.
increased slightly from the last survey. Women tend to be less informed and confident in the APPR than men. Positively, better knowledge of the APPR is associated with increased confidence in the peace agreement.

**Figure 4 : Perspective on the Peace Agreement**

- **Heard of the APPR (% yes)**
  - Poll 5 (Feb. 2020): 67% (Women) vs. 76% (Men)
  - Poll 6 (Dec. 2020): 69% (Women) vs. 84% (Men)

- **Knowledge of the APPR (% good – very good)**
  - Poll 5 (Feb. 2020): 41% (Women) vs. 48% (Men)
  - Poll 6 (Dec. 2020): 44% (Women) vs. 52% (Men)

- **Trust in the APPR (% trust)**
  - Poll 5 (Feb. 2020): 26% (Women) vs. 32% (Men)
  - Poll 6 (Dec. 2020): 26% (Women) vs. 38% (Men)

- **Trust in the APPR (% trust)**
  - Among those who have knowledge of the Agreement:
  - Poll 5 (Feb. 2020): 50% (Women) vs. 53% (Men)
  - Poll 6 (Dec. 2020): 48% (Women) vs. 58% (Men)
**VICTIMS:** The feeling of victimization is widespread and legitimate, requiring an inclusive approach to transitional justice.

In situations of multiple and protracted conflicts in which civilians are often targeted, such as in the Central African Republic, it is normal for a large part of the population to consider themselves a victim. This sixth survey asked participants if they saw themselves as the victim of a series of three conflicts and events:

- The disappearance of Barthélémy Boganda, the first President of the Central African Republic who died in 1959 in a plane crash after fighting for independence.
- The violence of 2002-2003 and the coup d’état of François Bozizé.
- The violence since 2012-2013, the coup d’état of the Seleka rebels and the mobilization of anti-Balaka militias.

Overall, 88% of participants claimed to be the victim of at least one of the three events considered (93% of women versus 83% of men). In total, 85% identified themselves as a victim of violence since 2012-2013, 52% as a victim of the violence of 2002-2003, and 21% as a victim of violence following the disappearance of Barthélémy Boganda.

The percentage of people who identified as a victim varies depending on the age of the participants. Among those under 35, for example, only 15% and 46% said they were victims of the events linked to Boganda’s disappearance and the violence of 2002-2003, respectively. This result is expected considering that they were not born or were very young at the time of the incident/conflict. However, even among those who could not directly experience the events, a significant percentage of people said they were victims, which reflects the intergenerational nature of the violence experienced, and the long-term consequences of violence and conflict.

**Figure 5: Victim Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>&lt;36</th>
<th>36-55</th>
<th>&gt;55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, 21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, 52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, 85%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, 88%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the different events, the main reasons why the respondents, women and men, considered themselves victims are: 1) material losses, 2) physical suffering, 3) psychological suffering and 4) loss of a family member. Additional reasons included loss of money, control of the village by armed groups, sexual abuse, or loss of a job.

Figure 6: Experience of victims of different events

There are differences between the experiences of violence cited by women and men. For the events of 2002-2003, lower percentages of women, compared to men, mentioned being a victim because they suffered material losses (women: 55%; men: 66%), or physical suffering (women: 36%; men: 49%), while higher percentages of women said they were victims of monetary losses (women: 26%; men: 17%). For the 2013 crisis, fewer women than men said they were victims of physical suffering (women: 40%; men: 50%) but more women than men mentioned being a victim because they had lost a member of their family or extended family (women: 48%; men: 37%) or suffered a monetary loss (women: 31%; men: 24%).

For the two periods of violence selected, about one in ten reported being a victim of sexual abuse. In connection with the events of 2003, 14% of women and 12% of men said they were a victim of sexual violence; since the 2013 crisis, 14% of women and 8% of men mentioned the same thing. There are few studies on conflict-related sexual violence in CAR. However, the United Nations Mapping Report of Human Rights Violations 2003 - 2015 documented systematic and widespread incidents of sexual violence against women, girls, men and boys between 2003 and 2015. Considering of the stigma associated with experiences of conflict-related sexual violence, it is quite possible that this type of crime is underreported.

Figure 7: Experience of victims of different events per gender

Victim of violence following the disappearance of Barthélémy Boganda

- Physical suffering: 25% (24% male, 59% female)
- Psychological suffering: 35% (18% male, 16% female)
- Economic losses: 18% (7% male, 14% female)
- Loss of a family member: 7% (1% male, 1% female)
- Sexual assault: 1% (7% male, 1% female)
- Job loss: 1% (14% male, 9% female)
- Forced recruitment: 1% (1% male, 1% female)
- Participation in conflicts: 1% (1% male, 1% female)
- Do not know: 1% (1% male, 1% female)

Victim of violence of 2002-2003

- Physical suffering: 55% (36% male, 42% female)
- Psychological suffering: 38% (26% male, 14% female)
- Economic losses: 14% (9% male, 9% female)
- Loss of a family member: 9% (1% male, 5% female)
- Sexual assault: 1% (2% male, 0% female)
- Job loss: 3% (1% male, 1% female)
- Forced recruitment: 1% (1% male, 1% female)
- Participation in conflicts: 0% (0% male, 0% female)
- Do not know: 0% (0% male, 0% female)

Victim of violence since 2012-2013

- Physical suffering: 70% (40% male, 44% female)
- Psychological suffering: 48% (31% male, 29% female)
- Economic losses: 14% (9% male, 9% female)
- Loss of a family member: 9% (1% male, 4% female)
- Sexual assault: 1% (3% male, 1% female)
- Job loss: 4% (1% male, 1% female)
- Forced recruitment: 1% (1% male, 1% female)
- Participation in conflicts: 0% (0% male, 0% female)
- Do not know: 0% (0% male, 0% female)
VICTIMS: Victims ask for punishment of those responsible, material reparations, and individualized services.

Measures for victims

In response to an open-ended question (no answer suggested to participants) on the measures to be taken for the victims of the violence of 2002-2003 and for the victims of violence since 2013, participants most frequently noted the need to punish responsible (56% concerning 2002-2003, 61% concerning 2013) but also to restitute losses (47% and 54% respectively), to compensate the victims (28% and 33% respectively) as well as to provide psychological services (34% and 36% respectively) and basic services (27% and 30% respectively). Similar results were obtained by asking participants more directly what reparations or compensations should be given to victims (no response suggested to participants).6

For all three questions, more women than men indicated that victims should receive psychological support, assets (money or livestock), or recognition of their suffering. On the other hand, men more than women indicated that victims should receive individual compensation.7

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6 The question was formulated in hypothetical terms « if reparations or compensations were available ».
7 Answers to all three questions were similar. Only responses on reparations are presented in figure 9.
Responses regarding measures for victims frequently indicated a demand for material reparations (restitution of losses, money ...) and services (psychological support, basic services ...) for individuals. However, collective reparations are often implemented because of cost and because they can be more inclusive of different communities of victims. Collective reparations can be symbolic (e.g. formal recognition) or material (e.g. community goods).

In response to direct questions on the preferred types of reparations, participants indicated in December 2020 a preference for individual reparations (64%) rather than collective (26%) or mixed (10%) reparations, as well as a preference for material reparations (69%) rather than symbolic (18%) or mixed (13%) reparations. Men indicated that they preferred individual and / or material reparations more often than women.
Nonetheless, a larger percentage of participants indicated that collective and/or symbolic reparations would be acceptable if it was the only choice (54% and 37%, respectively). These results show strong differences between men and women. Almost three in four women (71%) found it acceptable to have only collective reparations, compared to 36% of men, and 44% of women found it acceptable to have only symbolic reparations, against 30% of men.

![Figure 11: Acceptability of collective and symbolic reparations](image)

For the participants, the state (51%) and the international community (38%), in particular France (38%), should pay for reparations. About one in three people identified those responsible for crimes (35%) or international non-governmental organizations (34%) as the ones who should pay for reparations. Women indicated more frequently than men that international and national non-governmental organizations should pay for reparations, while men indicated that the international community had this responsibility more frequently than women.  

![Figure 12: Responsible for the payment of reparations, per gender (% respondents – poll 6)](image)

The overall results suggest high expectations for reparations. It is thus essential that the transitional justice mechanisms put in place engage the population in a dialogue around these expectations.

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8 The questions on who should pay for reparations was an open question allowing participants to give their own responses. In the context of this question, international community refers to countries susceptible to provide aid to the CAR as well as United Nations agencies.
RESPONSABILITIES: Many actors must be held responsible for violence, and for different crimes.

In the December 2020 survey, punishment of those responsible for the violence was the measure most frequently proposed for victims of different conflicts (see page 10). Participants also identified trial and imprisonment of those responsible among the first steps in achieving lasting peace (see page 4). When asked about the measures to be taken against those responsible for the violence, the majority of respondents also mentioned the need to try them (86%) or imprison them (68%). Punishing those responsible for the violence is therefore important for the population. The survey explored who should be held accountable, and for what crimes.

The participants were asked to identify people or groups who, according to them, should be held responsible for the violence of 2002-2003 and the violence since 2012-2013. In response to this open question (no answer suggested), the participants identified around forty actors, most often senior leaders and other leaders of armed groups and governments of the time, including for 2002-2003 rebel groups leaders (47%), Bemba (38%), Bozizé (38%) and the commanders of their militias (21%), and for the violence since 2012-2013, Séléka (79%) and Anti-balaka (51%) leaders.

Figure 13 : Groups and individuals to be held responsible for the violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsible for the violence of 2002-2003</th>
<th>Responsible for the violence since 2012-2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebel groups leaders</td>
<td>Sélékas leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bemba</td>
<td>Anti-balaka leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozizé</td>
<td>Sélékas combatants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bemba combatants</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozizé commanders</td>
<td>Muslims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patassé commanders</td>
<td>Peulhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Anti-balaka combatants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozizé combatants</td>
<td>French forces commanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel groups combatants</td>
<td>Government of Bozizé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patassé combatants</td>
<td>African force commanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patassé government</td>
<td>French force soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozizé government</td>
<td>MINUSCA commanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACA commanders</td>
<td>FACACommanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative authorities, leaders</td>
<td>Admin. authorities, leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACA soldiers</td>
<td>African force soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative authorities, combatants</td>
<td>Christians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>FACA soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>Admin. authorities, combatants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, the results show that the public does not want to see only leaders and commanders being held accountable. Between 10 and 20 percent of those questioned more generally mentioned combatants, whatever their level, including combatants from Bemba (23%), Bozizé (19%), and rebel groups (17%) for the violence of 2002-2003 and the violence since 2012-2013.
2002-2003, and the Séléka (40%), and Anti-balaka (21%) fighters for the violence since 2012-2013. For the two periods, 20% (2002-2003) and 25% (2012-2013) wanted France to be held responsible for the violence. For 2012-2013, participants further noted the need to hold Muslim populations (24%) and / or Peuhls (23%) accountable, which suggests continuing inter-community tensions. For both periods, 10% or less of participants mention the FACA, MINUSCA or administrative authorities as responsible for the violence.

In terms of crimes for which perpetrators should be held accountable, regardless of the period of violence, participants most frequently identified murders (72%), destruction of property (55%) and massacres (48%). Four out of ten people indicated torture (43%) and rape (42%). These latter forms of violence (torture and rape) were more frequently identified by women as forms of violence for which the perpetrators should be held accountable.

Figure 14 : Crimes for which perpetrators must be held responsible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murders</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction of assets</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massacres</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapes</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation of assets</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequestration</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual slavery</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavery</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taken together, these results show high expectations for multiple actors to be held accountable and held accountable for multiple forms of violence.
JUSTICE: Despite high expectations, knowledge and trust in formal justice, including the Special Criminal Court (SSC), remain limited.

The formal justice system has an important role to play in meeting the expectations of the population in terms of the fight against the impunity of the persons and groups responsible for the violence. In 2015, the national judicial system set up a Special Criminal Court (SSC) with the mandate to investigate and judge serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the country since January 2003. The SSC was established in October 2018 and has a renewable mandate of 5 years. The December 2020 survey shows that the formal justice system, including the SSC, nevertheless remains relatively unknown and suffers from a lack of public confidence, especially when compared to the traditional and alternative justice systems.

Knowledge

In December 2020, most participants indicated that they had good or very good knowledge of the ordinary, traditional and alternative justice systems as well as the SCC. Nevertheless, higher percentages of participants said they knew about traditional justice (74%) and alternative justice (77%) compared to ordinary justice (60%) and the SSC (52%). The results are similar for women and men except for traditional justice which is slightly more frequently known by men than by women (79% against 70%).

The lower knowledge of the SCC can be explained by the relatively recent creation of this Court. However, while the percentage of people who have heard of the SSC has increased steadily since December 2018 (2018: 63%; December 2020: 75%), the percentage of participants indicating a good knowledge of the SCC remains relatively constant (2018: 47%; 52% in December 2020) in the various surveys.

Figure 15: Knowledge of different justice systems and the SCC (% good – very good knowledge)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Good Knowledge</th>
<th>Very Good Knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary justice</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional justice</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative justice</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Loi Organique N°15-003 Portant Création, Organisation et Fonctionnement de la Cour Pénale Spéciale, promulguée par le Président de la RCA, le 3 juin 2015.

10 Formal justice refers to the national justice system meaning judges, lawyers and courts including the Special Criminal Court. Ordinary justice refers to the national justice system but excludes the Special Criminal Court. Traditional or customary justice includes the heads of districts and villages, town halls and any other administrative or traditional body. Alternative justice corresponds to alternative conflict resolution or mediation mechanisms implemented by religious leaders and NGOs.
Trust

As with knowledge, the results of the December 2020 survey show that trust in the SSC and ordinary justice is lower than trust in traditional and alternative justice systems. In December 2020, 47% of participants indicated that they were confident in ordinary justice, 45% trusted the SSC, 59% were confident in traditional justice and 70% in alternative modes of justice (e.g., mediation). Women were less confident than men in all types of justice, including the SSC (37% vs. 54%). The results indicate that confidence in ordinary justice has been relatively stable since December 2018, and slightly decreasing for the SSC.

The results show that a better knowledge of justice systems is associated with a higher level of trust in these systems. For example, while 45% of participants reported having confidence in the SSC in December 2020, this percentage is 72% among those who indicated that they have a good knowledge of the SSC. Similarly, while 47% of participants indicated having confidence in ordinary justice in December 2020, this percentage is 62% among those with a good knowledge of ordinary justice. These results suggest that an improvement in

\[^{11}\text{For the participants who had not heard of the SCC, a brief and neutral description was provided.}\]
knowledge may be associated with an improvement in the perception of different justice systems and of the SCC.

**Figure 18 : Trust towards different justice systems and the SCC (% confident) related to knowledge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Justice System</th>
<th>% Confident (general)</th>
<th>% Confident (if good knowledge)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary justice</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional justice</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative justice</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Perception of ordinary justice and the SCC**

In addition to trust, the participants were led to discuss their perception of ordinary justice. An open question on the perception of this system shows that the participants had mixed views. About one in three people say that ordinary justice is done as it should (38%) and / or works well (37%) while similar percentages of participants see ordinary justice as corrupted (33%) or the justice of the wealthy (33%).

**Figure 19 : Perception of ordinary justice system**

- Justice is served as it should: 38%
- It works well: 37%
- It is corrupted: 35%
- This is the justice of the rich: 33%
- We have to pay: 28%
- I do not know enough to have an opinion: 8%
- It does not exist/ impunity: 6%

More generally, views were also divided as to the access (52% good - very good), the quality of work (55% good - very good) and the contribution to conflict resolution (63% good - very good) of the ordinary justice. In all these areas, traditional and alternative justice systems were viewed positively more often than ordinary justice. The results are similar for women and men. Confidence in ordinary justice is positively associated with better access (an additional 12% of respondents say they are confident), the perception of the quality of work (an additional 22% of respondents say they are confident) and the perception of its contribution to resolve conflicts (an additional 18% of respondents say they are confident).
The perception of the SSC was examined in relation to its contribution to justice, peace and reconciliation. In December 2020, participants had mixed views on these aspects, with around half noting a contribution to justice (54%), peace (60%) and reconciliation (57%). Nonetheless, views were more frequently positive among participants indicating that they had a good knowledge of the SSC.
TRUTH: The search for the truth is important for peace and justice, but the population lacks knowledge and confidence in the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission.

Although participants did not identify knowing the truth as a specific measure to be done for victims, most of them indicated in December 2020 that knowing the truth is important, whether in relation to violence following the disappearance of Barthélémy Boganda, the violence of 2002-2003, or the violence since 2012-2013. The emphasis on truth corresponds to the direct experience of these events.

An open-ended question asked participants to identify the contribution of knowing the truth. For a majority of respondents, knowing the truth about these events would be a positive contribution to peace (70%), and to justice (61%). A little more than half of the respondents indicated that it would also be a contribution to reconciliation between Central Africans (56%). The results suggest that knowing the truth is perceived by a majority of respondents as being a positive element for restoring peace. Overall, the results are similar for women and men.

The Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR), a non-judicial mechanism, has the mandate "to investigate, to establish the truth and to locate the responsibilities on serious national events from March 29, 1959 until December 31, 2019 ". In December 2020, 59% of respondents mentioned having heard of the CVJRR (compared to 37% in February 2020). A little less than half of the participants said they had a good

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and very good knowledge of the CVJRR (43%) and were confident in it (40%). As with formal justice mechanisms, including the SSC, the level of trust increases among respondents who say they know about the CVJRR (40% to 71%).

**Figure 24: Knowledge and trust on the CVJRR**

- **Heard of the CVJRR (% yes)**: 59%
- **Knowledge of the CVJRR (% good)**: 43%
- **Trust in the CVJRR (% confident)**: 40%

**Figure 25: Perception of the CVJRR**

- **Perception of the CVJRR (if good knowledge)**: 70%
- **Perception of the CVJRR (general)**: 49%
- **Contribute to justice (% a lot and extremely)**: 49%
- **Contribute to peace (% a lot and extremely)**: 57%
- **Contribution to reconciliation (% a lot and extremely)**: 56%

About half of the participants indicated that the CVJRR contributes to bringing justice for the violence committed since 2003, while around 60% of the respondents said that the CVJRR contributes to peace in CAR, and to reconciliation among Central Africans. Compared to all respondents, higher percentages of participants indicate that the CVJRR contributes to justice, peace or reconciliation among those who have a good knowledge of the CVJRR.
GOVERNANCE: The 2020 presidential election was anticipated as credible, but not very inclusive. Peace and security were the main electoral issues.

Participation and inclusion

In December 2020, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra was re-elected for a second term in the first round with 53% of the votes. The electoral process was marked by violence over much of the country preventing the voting in more than a third of the sub-prefectures. However, more than three quarters of voters were able to vote.

Before the election, 82% of the survey participants indicated that they intended to vote, with more likely voting intention among men than women (88% versus 75%). Voting intentions were lowest in the prefectures of Lobaye (63%) and Nana Gribizi (48%). Among the 18% of participants who did not intend to vote, the main reasons given are the perception that it does not change anything (43%), that it is not useful (28%) or a lack of interest (20%).

Figure 26: Voting intentions in the elections of December 27, 2020, by gender and prefecture

Positively, at the time of the poll, a majority of participants judged the electoral process to be credible (73% positive) and a similar percentage (77%) positively judged the work of the National Elections Agency (ANE). Nevertheless, less than one in three people felt included in the electoral process (30% included). Among those who viewed the ANE’s work negatively (23% of participants), the main criticisms concerned the lack of impartiality (59%), problems with the voters list, including the lack of payment of enumerators (44%) and their unreliability (37%), as well as the lack of information to voters (40%). Although there was no difference between men and women regarding the perception of the credibility of the elections and the work of the ANE, women felt less included in the electoral process than men (25% against 35%). The feeling of inclusion was lowest in the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé (11%), Ouaka (16%), and Bamingui-Bangoran (16%).

Security issue and the prospects for peace

The electoral period presented a significant risk to stability and the prospects for peace in the Central African Republic. In December 2020, only 40% of those polled were confident that the elections would run peacefully. Women were less frequently positive than men (34% vs. 46%). Similarly, few Central Africans expected political parties to abide by electoral rules (37%) or being ready for a peaceful political dialogue (40%). Participants were generally more pessimistic about their outlook for peace and the elections in the Lobaye, Ouham-Pendé, and Vakaga prefectures.
When asked about their top three priorities in the upcoming elections, security concerns were also reflected in participants’ responses, with 82% of the participants citing peace and security. These priorities were in fact mentioned much more than any other priority, including freedom from conflict (50%) or employment (30%).
In fact, participants’ mistrust of the possibility of a peaceful election materialized. The announcement of the invalidation of the candidacy of former President François Bozizé by the CAR Constitutional Court in December 2020 was followed by the creation of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), a coalition of armed groups. The CPC called for the postponement of the elections and ultimately engaged in violence in the East and North, and in the West towards Bangui, during the electoral process and after the announcement of the results.
COVID-19: Despite the low number of cases reported, the pandemic has had a significant socio-economic impact and continues to worry the population.

Official reports of the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the Central African Republic suggest that the impact of the pandemic has been relatively limited, with just over 5,000 cases and 63 deaths as of March 17, 2021. Nonetheless, those interviewed suggested in December 2020 that the pandemic had a frequent impact on participants’ income, work, social interactions, and mental health. Almost all respondents said they had heard of COVID-19 (99%).

In response to an open-ended question (no answer suggested to participants) on the impact of COVID-19, more than half of participants mentioned loss of income (56%) and high percentages indicated an impact on their ability to participate to social or religious activities (45%), mental and emotional impact (39%) or permanent job loss (34%). The data were similar for women and men. However, the socio-economic impact was perceived differently between prefectures, with the loss of income most frequently mentioned in Bamingui-Bangoran (84%), Mbomou (82%) and Vakaga (77%).
More generally, COVID-19 remained a significant concern in December 2020, since nearly three-quarters of people (74%) indicated that they were concerned or very concerned that they themselves or someone in their household could contract COVID-19. There is no gender difference for this statistic. However, there are significant differences between prefectures, with a very low level of concern in Nana-Mambéré (2%), compared to more than 90% of concerned people in the prefectures of Ouham-Pendé (94%), Kemo (90%), Nana-Gribizi (92%), and Mbomou (97%).
The Peace, Justice and security polls project is an initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the MINUSCA Civil Affairs.

To view the online report and interactive maps, visit www.peacebuildingdata.org/CAR

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