

AGORA: an enabler for improved availability of and access to basic services and livelihoods

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KEY FEATURES

- Addresses local communities' short-, medium-, and long-term basic services and livelihoods needs in a participatory manner, while empowering local authorities
- Build a **comprehensive overview** of access to and availability of basic services and livelihoods, and related governance and management systems
- Establish or strengthen platforms for local authorities and communities to **link with external actors able to support local priorities, as well as national policy frameworks**

TERRITORIAL ENTRY POINT SELECTION

Past and current projects focusing on or including a basic services and livelihoods component have utilised diverse territorial entry points. Notwithstanding variations according to country/local contexts (including level of state presence), some projects work through the formal administrative territories at the level of which local authorities plan and deliver basic services while others use data collection and participatory mapping to define catchment areas or informal neighbourhood/solidarity zones. It is also possible to define a territorial entry point based on livelihood zones, grouping together those who practice similar or interlinked/co-dependent livelihoods.

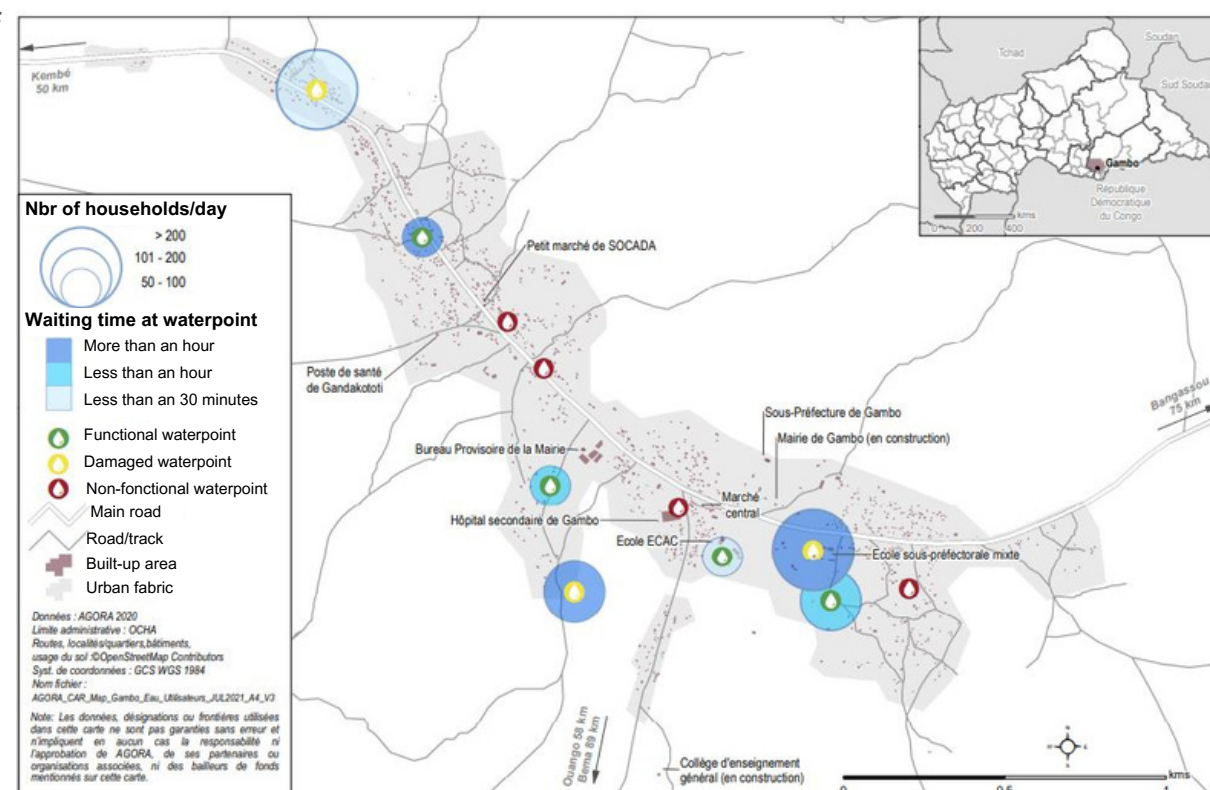
Case studies

Socioeconomic recovery in the Central African Rep.



Acted and IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) partnered with Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, COOPI, and Free Press Unlimited for a large-scale multistakeholder recovery project spanning eighteen localities across five *préfectures* in the southeastern Central African Republic. The project aims at revitalising the social contract between the State and its population by promoting peacebuilding dynamics and livelihood activities. Through area-based assessments (ABA), IMPACT mapped the ecosystem of basic services and the local social, economic, and governance dynamics in each of the eighteen target urban centers. Community members and local authorities actively participated in developing tailored local recovery plans. Acted and its partners implemented locally identified priorities from these plans, including support for agriculture and livestock, infrastructure development, literacy programmes for women, youth employment initiatives, water, sanitation and hygiene, social cohesion efforts, protection, and support for public services. Capacity building to local authorities was also provided.

Fig 1: Mapping of services in Gambo - water points usage, IMPACT, 2021

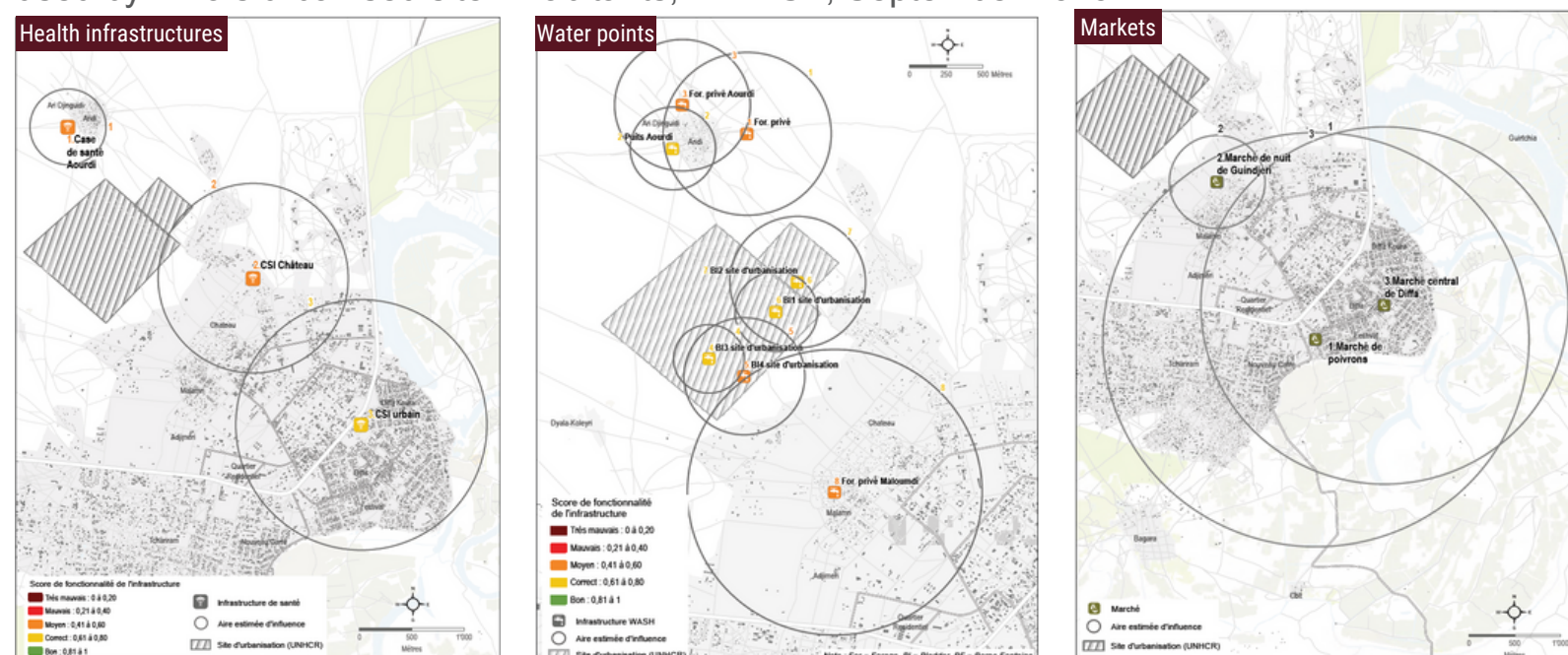


Resilient displaced and host populations in Niger



Implemented by Acted, IMPACT, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, this project targeted displacement affected people through multisectoral assistance, including supporting socioeconomic community infrastructures and strengthening livelihoods in six *communes* (admin. 3) of the Diffa *région*. It aimed to bolster local resilience and support sustainable settlement in newly urbanised mixed population (displaced and host) sites built through a UNHCR project. The targeted areas faced the challenge of a growing housing and basic service demand, whilst community infrastructure and economic opportunities were lagging behind. The needs assessments conducted in each territory served to inform local development strategies adapted to the urbanised sites and their environment as well as fed into commune-level development planning by local authorities. Locally identified priorities were successfully implemented through coordinated efforts across a diverse range of stakeholders.

Fig 2-4: Average areas of influence of community infrastructures reported as being frequently used by Diffa's urbanised site inhabitants, IMPACT, September 2019



Sustained rural development in Afghanistan



Acted and IMPACT are in the process of implementing Phase V of the Sustained Rural Development Programme in 84 traditional neighbourhood zones (*manteqas*) across four northern provinces of Afghanistan. *Manteqas* are an important identity reference for their inhabitants and are a relevant entry points between village and district levels for programming in rural areas of Afghanistan. Aimed at providing essential services, agricultural support, and education, the project builds on IMPACT's mapping and profiling of each *manteqa* to assess basic services as well as informal community governance systems that structure much of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. It utilised participatory approaches to generate community buy-in, identify key local priorities, and ensure safe access to services in a gender-sensitive manner. Community accountability schemes are integrated in each *manteqa* to enhance service effectiveness and inclusivity, and lay a foundation for sustainable livelihoods. From 2018 until now, Acted supported communities by implementing 79 of these projects, at a cost of over US\$ 2,3 million, picking up the projects identified as highest priority by the communities. These notably include infrastructure construction and rehabilitation, support

for community-based organisations, establishment of vocational training and youth development centers, and the introduction of improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

Fig 5: Mapping of water points' public availability across all 84 target *manteqas*. The darker the blue, the more water points are available in the *manteqa*. IMPACT, 2023

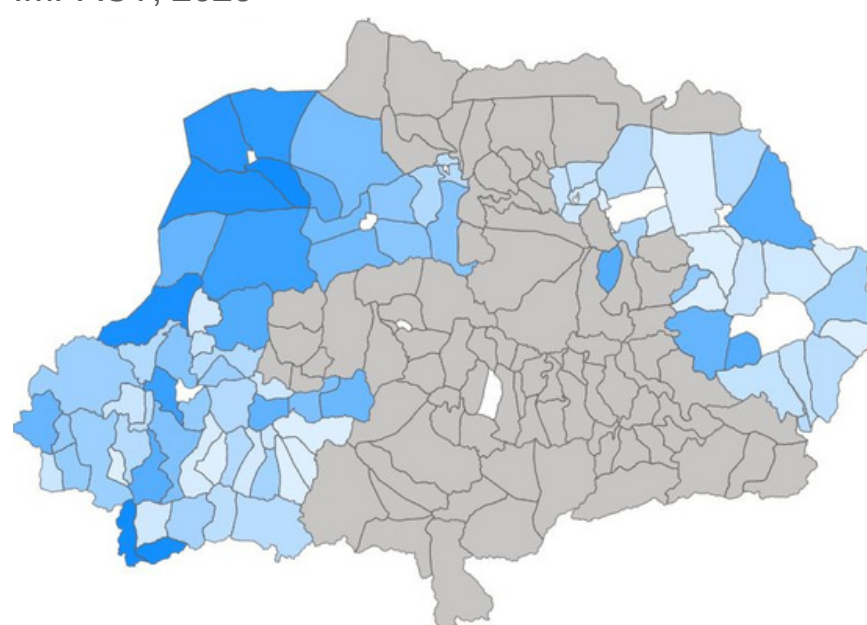


Fig 6: Top employment sectors in Atraf Balkh *manteqa* (Balkh), IMPACT, 2023

