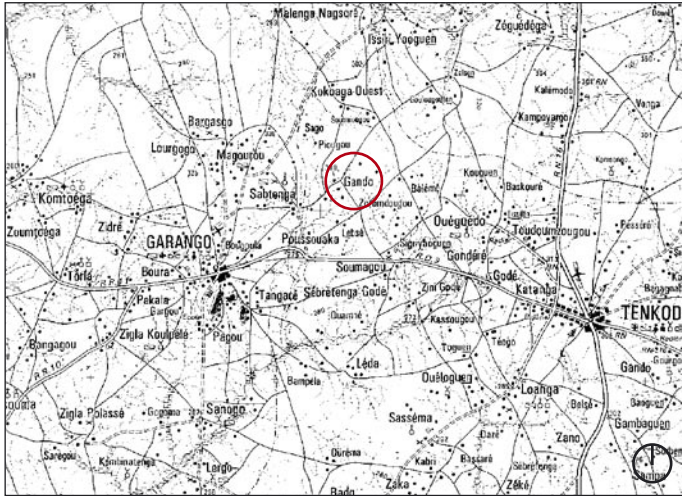


GANDO



Pic. 1: Location of Gando in the province of Boulgou



Pic. 2: The village of Gando

FACTS

- Inhabitants:** ca. 3000
- Population Density:** ca. 30 Inh./km²
- Average Income:** subsident
- Life Expectancy:** 45 (w), 43 (m)
- Language:** mòore, bissa
- Religion:** 50% moslems, 20% christians
- Climate:** dry savannah
- Topography:** flat, except few smaller rocky hills

INTRODUCTION

The village of Gando lies between Tenkodogo, capital of the province Boulgou, and Garango. The 5km dust path going to Gando is hardly driveable, especially during the rain season. Gando has no central water supply nor electricity or drainage. Its 3000 inhabitants live in several housing compounds or granges, each one housed by a family-clan spread over the dry and meagre savannah-plateau.

The most important issues of Gando are population growth and increasing desertification. Aridities become more frequent and the capacities for storing comestibles are very limited. Living becomes harder, so more and more people leave Gando to earn money in Ghana or in the Ivory Coast.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Water

Two 50m deep manual wells supply the drinking water for all 3000 inhabitants. During the daylight they need to be run permanently by the women, who's job it is also to carry the water on their heads to their houses. The wells are the places where clothes are washed and cattle is soaked.

Streets

From the asphaltic road, linking Tenkodogo with Garanko, a small dirt track (pic. 4) leads to the 5km far village of Gando. All other trails (dashed lines in pic. 2), connecting the housing compounds with each other, can not be driven by car. There is no electricity; very few people own solar panels to run a lamp at night or to listen to the radio.



Pic. 3: One of two manual wells



Pic. 4: Gando's main way

Education

There are two school buildings where most of the children, living in a 10km radius, go to. Every class has got about 80 pupils.

Health

The next basic health centre is about 8km away. Most of the people can not afford the treatment or medicine.

Other equipments

The community of Gando runs a sorghum mill, powered by a diesel engine. This means a great relief for the women's daily work. Next to the mill there is a small market place where once a week food and things like batteries and matches are sold. Apart from the market there are no further commercial activities in Gando. There is also a small, unornamental mosque, buildt of concrete blocks infront of the market place.



Pic. 5: View over typical housing structures

SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

Buildt structure

The village of Gando consists of more than 50 housing compounds (circles in pic. 2), scattered over the savannah-plateau. Around them lie the acres where almost exclusively sorghum is cultivated.

Every compound is composed of a agglomeration of several thatched huts, metal sheet covered huts and smaller sorghum stores. They always build the dead-end of the dirt trail going there. The compounds are enclosed by walls made of clay with a height of ca. 1,4m. Inside you find further walls, forming courts and leaving paths in between.

All other buildings for common purposes, such as schools, religious buildings or the wells lie outside of the compounds. In Gando there is no building that has more than one story.

Social structure

Even if Gando nowadays is politically governed by the province of Boulgou, the local chief or „king“ still plays an important role. He enjoys highest public respect, and acts as a judge, solving rivalries or conflicts. Whenever important decision concerning the society of Gando have to be made, a meeting is held. It takes place in the shadow around the roofed chief seat (pic. 6). Only certain male persons, mainly older men, are allowed to participate.

Every housing compound belongs to one family clan or extended tribal family. Up to 100 humans beings of several generations live there together. An average family clan has got about 50 members. The fluctuation between this clans is very high, polygamie and rivalries can be reasons therefor. Inside the compound every family has got a court attached to at least one hut. Men who have more than one woman have to provide at least one hut with court for each woman.



Pic. 6: The chief's seat

Images:

Pic. 1: ???; Pic. 2.: Francis Kéré; Pic. 3-4: Jan Schreiber; Pic. 5: ???; Pic. 7-8: Francis Kéré; Pic. 9: ???; Pic. 10: Jan Schreiber



Pic. 7: Boy on his way to school

Pic. 8: Women carrying water

MOBILITY

In whole Gando nobody owns a car. The common way to move is by feet, often carrying heavy loads such as water or fruits to sell them on the market in Garango. The few who can afford use bikes or even mopeds.

Since 2005, the village community disposes of a ambulance moped to take the ill or injured people to the 8km away health centre.

There is no kind of public transportation, the next buses leave from Tenkodogo.

Means of transportation, even bikes, represent a status symbol in Gando's society. This general lack of mobility contributes to the dream of leaving Gando that many inhabitants share.

MATERIALS

Almost everything in Gando is made of organic materials, above all clay. Other organic materials used for the construction are straw, natural stones, wooden branches, leaves and calabashes.

Nearly the only anorganic material that can be found is metal sheets, used for roofing or doors. The number of metal sheet covered huts has already exceeded the number of thatched huts. Metal is preferred because it is considered a modern material, despite of its obvious climatic and acoustic disadvantages. One technical advantage of metal sheets as roofing is that it has not got to be repaired or exchanged as often as traditional thatched roofs.

Source:

Students excursion in march 2005 with Dipl. Ing. Francis Kéré, Tu-Berlin

Generally the way of building with clay and straw, as the people of Gando practice it, needs a lot of care to maintain this kind of architecture. Especially because of the heavy rain falls, roofs, walls and grounds have to be remodeled or repaired every year.

In Tenkodogo are other materials available, such as cement, reinforcing steel, concrete blocs and wooden boards and beams.



Pic. 9: Top view on a typical settlement



Pic. 10: View inside a housing compound

Websites:

<http://www.fuergando.de>

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