



Central Mali Project for Security and Development
Perception Survey conducted between 7 and 21 February 2022

Governance, Development and Security in the Regions of Bandiagara, Douentza, Mopti, San, and Ségou

///// Report on the Q10 Field Survey



SIPRI and POINT SUD
European Union Funding

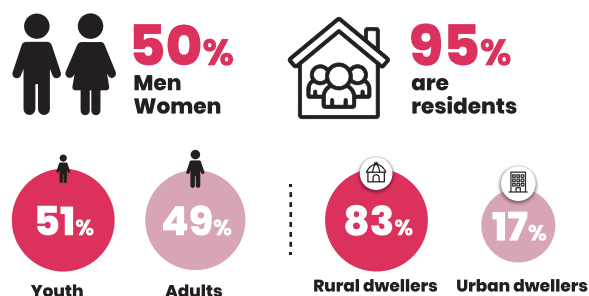


CENTRAL MALI PROJECT

Methodology

Within the framework of a project funded by the Delegation of the EU to Mali, SIPRI and its partner POINT SUD are conducting perception surveys among a representative sample of 1 800 households in the regions of Central Mali.

Since 2019, the data has been collected every three months in 15 cercles (second-level administrative units), 60 towns, and 120 villages via a network of 30 facilitators. The tenth survey was undertaken between 7 and 21 February 2022.



Education

60% of the respondents in the sample are uneducated, and **19%** have completed the fundamental (primary) level of the 1st cycle.
60% of the respondents have attended primary school, and **22%** attended Koranic school.

Professional groups

59% of the sample comprises farmers/market gardeners, **18%** are homemakers, and **7%** are retailers.

Locations of Survey per Cercle

/// Source: Decentralisation / cartography of Mali, created by O. Dembélé, coordinator of the Central Mali Project, results of the Q10 Survey, 18/05/2022





At the national level, the confidence in authorities overseeing the transition has increased to **77%**

Governance

Presence of authorities and Institutions

The presence of government authorities and agents varies with the level of insecurity

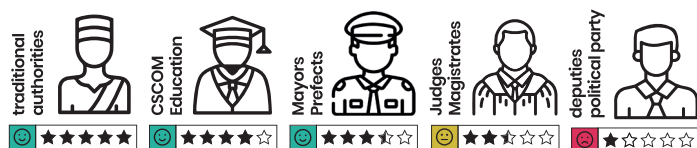
- Some authorities are compelled to reside away from their workplace for security reasons
- In the cercle of Ségou, the mayors are not residing in their villages which are located north of the river
- Education and health care workers make up the majority of the stakeholders who are present in their workplaces.
- The communities consider the traditional chieftaincies as the most important institution, ahead of the local council.

Level of Satisfaction

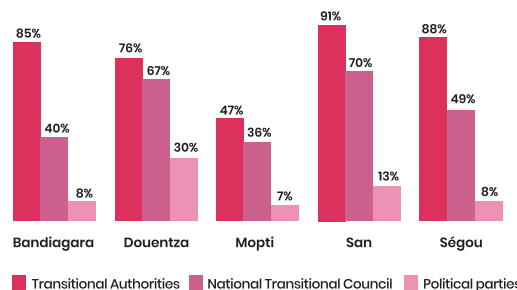
Respondents who experience greater insecurity express a higher dissatisfaction with government representatives. Higher levels of insecurity also invoke a stronger sense of abandonment among respondents, especially in rural areas, particularly in the cercles of Djenné, Mopti, Niono, and Ténenkou.

The traditional and customary authorities, village / neighbourhood leaders, and religious leaders handle the everyday management of communities.

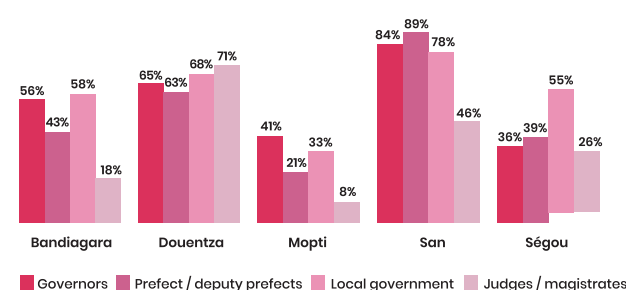
Level of Trust



Trust in political institutions



Trust in local authorities



Access to Services



- Satisfaction levels are generally fine, except for electricity
- In rural areas, most services are available to respondents within a day of travel
- Cercles of Baraouéli, Djenné, Macina, Tominian, and Youwarou have reported the lowest access to services
- The lack of identity documents is an additional constraint due to the more frequent controls linked to the redeployment of the FAMa (Malian Armed forces). The population is more exposed to extortion by the security forces.

The cities have better provision of services whereas the rural zones pay the price of the insecurity, with agents travelling less and less often across the territory.

The services to which locals most often have recourse are, by order of importance: the health centre, the watering hole, the chieftaincy of the village / neighbourhood, the primary school, and the town hall.

Only **20%** of interviewees say they have been asked to pay taxes over the last three months.

Justice

64% consider the customary system to be the most unbiased

23% the religious system

12% the state system

Justice can also be administered by the Dozos or jihadist groups.



In the event of a minor conflict, serious crime, a conflict relating to natural resources, the inhabitants turn to the local / village leader and the traditional authorities.

Development

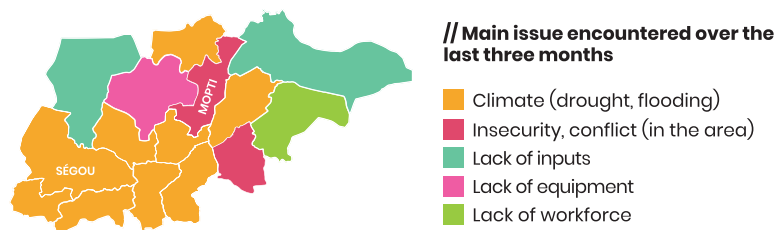
Food insecurity is a major threat. In some areas, the harvest supplies are almost already depleted. The increase in the price of food for cattle, of essential products and of cement are areas of concern. Fuel shortages have been reported.

Economic Activities



// Agriculture

81% of households practise agriculture as their main or secondary activity. The production is “partly” or “not at all” sufficient to meet the family’s needs.



// Livestock farming

(78%) of households own animals. The concentration of cattle is considered a threat by the inhabitants, especially in the region of Ténenkou, where families have moved their cattle towards safer cercles to avoid possible thefts.

Fishing

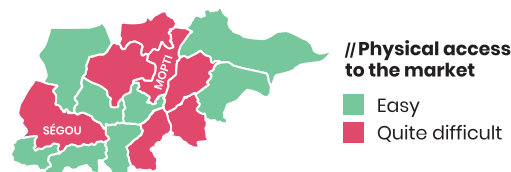
The main use of fishing products is to feed the family.

The lack of fish is a major problem, leading to a rise in prices.

It is an activity that is heavily controlled by the jihadists, imposing fishing schedules on certain localities and banning it in other areas, particularly those close to their bases.

Trade

Trade-related activities continue, though it has become more difficult in the cercles where insecurity is higher. Participation in fairs is considered important in terms of social cohesion. Fairs act as spaces for essential information exchange, and limitations on them weaken the connection between communities and reinforce their isolation.



85% of households consider their main source of income to be affected by insecurity (versus **79%** in November 2021) and the main consequence of insecurity is the increase in the price of foodstuffs (**36%**) and the decrease in income (**35%**).

Social Activities

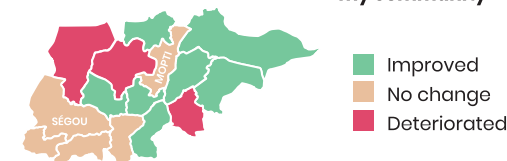
Baptisms, weddings, and funerals continue to bring communities together.

81% say that relations between family members have improved. For **69%** of the respondents, relations between members of the same community have also improved, except in the cercles of Niono and Bankass. In the Niono cercle, the locals report a resurgence in confrontations between Dozos and Fulbe, resulting in internal displacements. In Bankass, following numerous abductions of the cercle’s residents, the trust between communities has eroded.

Signing of non-aggression Pacts

Pacts are negotiated between communities, or between the communities and armed groups, to the detriment of the government. The conditions of pacts are not always respected and the towns that refuse to sign are the subject of retaliatory measures.

Signing these agreements is a question of survival for the local communities.



Education (6-18 years old) and Health

The majority of respondents said that they send “some of their children” to school (**54%**), compared with **14%** who send all their children to school, and **10%** who do not send any. **Girls and boys are educated in the same proportions.**

Children continue to be vaccinated. In the event of illness, the CSCOM (Community Health Centre) or the clinic are the main providers sought. The poor state of the roads is mentioned as a barrier to accessing health care.

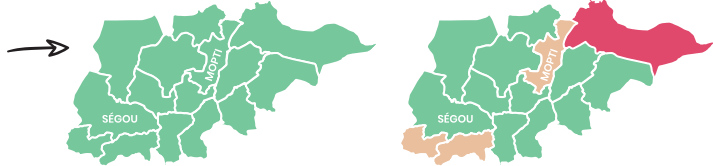
Security

The daily life of the inhabitants of Central Mali is characterised by hold-ups; the abduction of agents, retailers, or young men; and cattle heists.

Perception of Security

// Security situation in Mali

// Security situation in my town



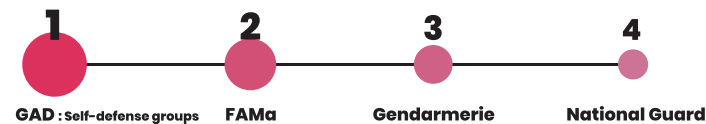
78% of interviewees believe the security situation has improved in Mali. The perception is the same for men (81%) and women (75%), adults (77%) and young people (80%).

- Has improved
- No change
- Has deteriorated

94% of interviewees say they are "optimistic"

Differences exist depending on the cercles, as in that of Ténenkou where the situation remains volatile, with numerous security incidents.

The security actors most often present



The national forces are present in urban areas and on the main arterial roads but are not very visible in rural areas. Jihadist groups are mainly present in the cercles of Douentza, Mopti, Niono, and Ténenkou. The presence of foreign forces is reported in Sévaré.

Perception survey conducted between 7 and 21 February 2022 - This project is funded by the European Union

Confidence in Security Forces

Confidence in security forces is very high:

over **94%** towards the national guard, FAMA, and gendarmerie

87% towards the police

67% towards self-defense groups

Only **46%** say they have confidence in MINUSMA and **6%** in the jihadist groups. Confidence in MINUSMA is higher in rural areas (**38%**) than in urban areas (**19%**).

except in the cercles of Bankass, Mopti, Ténenkou, and Youwarou where the majority of respondents say they don't trust them.

Perception of Insecurity

A majority consider the national guard, the FAMA, the gendarmerie, police, self-defense groups (GAD), and the MINUSMA respect the inhabitants without discrimination versus 7% for the armed jihadist groups.

93% of the respondents consider the jihadist groups to represent a source of insecurity.

The main reasons:

- Potential targets of jihadist groups (national guard, FAMA, gendarmerie)
- Corruption (police and gendarmerie)
- Illegal behaviour (GAD and MINUSMA)
- Arbitrary violence (jihadist groups)

40% for the GAD

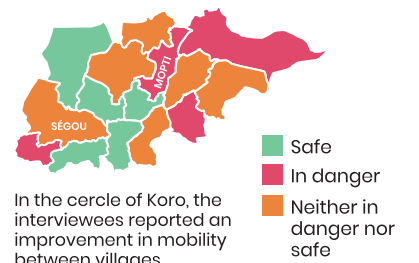
37% for the MINUSMA

12% for the security forces

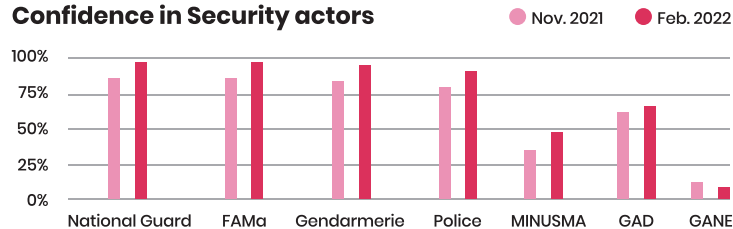
The price to pay for security is often very high for the villages, which must provide men and resources. In the cercle of Niono, locals report being held to ransom by both the jihadist groups to which they pay zakat, and by the Dozos, who make the same inhabitants pay again, accusing them of collaboration.



How do you evaluate your current situation?

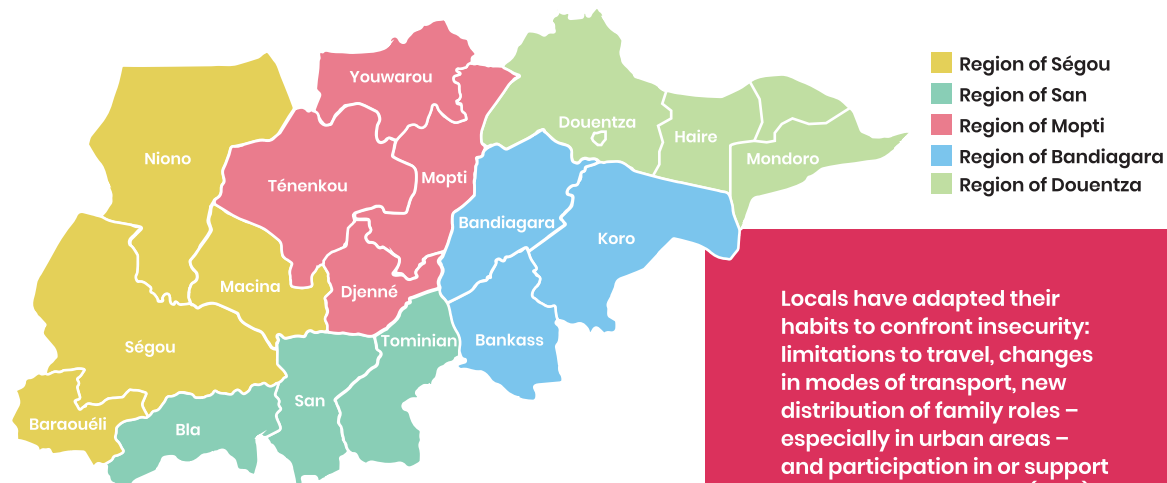


Confidence in Security actors



The Main Threats for Local Populations

- Poverty and unemployment -> for 97%
- Food insecurity -> for 97%
- Violence of jihadist groups -> for 43%
- Physical aggressions and violent theft -> for 40%



Locals have adapted their habits to confront insecurity: limitations to travel, changes in modes of transport, new distribution of family roles – especially in urban areas – and participation in or support of self-defense groups (GAD)



Conclusion

- While security seems to have improved, the economic situation has deteriorated.
- The perception of improvement of security has consequences on economic activities: while the constraints still exist, we have observed that insecurity is no longer mentioned as the main constraint on activities.
- However, there has been a sharp decline in income and the food crisis remains the main concern.
- Indicators are deteriorating in the region of Ségou and the Niger river is increasingly mentioned as a 'border' between state- and jihadist-controlled areas.

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