Perception of security in central Mali
Survey conducted from 4th to 19th October 2021

Survey of the perception of security among the population in the Mopti, San and Ségou regions.

Report of the field survey

SIPRI and POINT SUD
Financed by the European Union
**Survey of perception of security**
4–19 October 2021

**Context of the investigation**

In accordance with the national policy of combating insecurity, the establishment of security, development, and governance hubs (PSDG) must promote social and economic development, the redeployment of public services and the restoration of trust between the population and the security forces.

In order to understand the effect of these PSDG hubs on the everyday life of the population, a first survey (Q0) was conducted in May 2021 in the localities of Konna and Timissa. The second survey was conducted from 4 to 19 October 2021 among a representative sample of 771 people distributed between an experimental group (PSDG localities) consisting of respondents living in communes where a security camp has been established (Konna, Tominian, Timissa and Saye) and a control group (control localities) consisting of people living in neighbouring communes without security camps (Takoutala, Senossa, Mougna, Soum-Bamanan, Diamankank, Kouara).*

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**Survey localities**

Survey conducted in the regions of Mopti, San and Ségou

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**Social and economic situation**

- **95%** of households are engaged in agriculture
- **92%** own livestock

The produce is used to feed the family but is insufficient to cover all requirements.

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*The methodology of the survey was based on randomly administered questionnaires. The sample size was determined on the basis of estimates of the population at the commune level, with a 5% margin of error.

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**The two main effects of insecurity:**

**Increased food prices and reduced income.**

For example, depending on the localities (May–Oct. 2021): prices of oil (+85%), sugar (+27%), rice (+21%)

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**Survey of perception of security Q1 – Projet Stabilisation – PSDG – This project is financed by the European Union**
51% of those surveyed perceive a deterioration of the security situation in Mali.

89% of the respondents said they were optimistic.

Living with insecurity

Over 45% of respondents said they supported a self-defence group (GAD), and between 75% and 90% said they limited their movements or changed their modes of travel, in order to adapt their daily lives to the insecurity.

The three main threats:

1. Poverty and unemployment
2. Food insecurity
3. Physical attacks

Presence of security actors

The survey respondents say they mainly trust the following:

+ 80% armed forces, National Guard, Gendarmerie and civil protection, self-defence groups.
+ 75% police and youth brigades.
+ 30% MINUSMA

According to 83% of the respondents in the control localities and 73% in the PSDG localities, non-state armed groups (GANE) are a source of insecurity.

For reference, May 2021:

Konna
Timissa

The perception of the security situation has improved in all the localities except Konna and Takoutala.
The detachment and its functions

99.63% of respondents are satisfied with the establishment of a camp in their locality.

Does the camp seem secure enough to you?
- 100% in Timissa and Tominian
- 93% in Saye
- 69% in Konna

Level of satisfaction with the location of the camp

When they meet these patrols, the great majority of respondents say they feel safe.
- 100% in Tominian and Timissa
- 88% in Konna and 55% in Saye

Our investigations show that the most visible functions of the detachment are patrols (78% motorized, 60% on foot) and road checkpoints.

THE RESPONDENTS SAY THAT THEY MAINLY ENCOUNTER PATROLS at markets, in towns and on main roads, and to a lesser degree on pasturelands.

At Tominian, the forces are more visible, and are engaged in securing public spaces and patrolling in remote fields and pasturelands.

The two main factors giving rise to a sense of insecurity are a fear of reprisals by GANE and extra-legal behaviour of the armed forces.
Impact and links with communities

Impact of the establishment of a camp on people’s daily life

More than 70% of respondents in Saye, Timissa and Tominian say that the establishment of the camp has restored security.

At Konna, the camp has led to the restoration of:
- security, for 36% of respondents
- public services, for 29% of respondents

The main problems identified are a lack of patrols and a lack of communication with the people.

Links with communities

Participation in social activities

Members of the detachments take part in social activities in Konna, Timissa et Tominian. Participation in social activities is considered important, particularly as regards social, cultural and sporting activities and meetings with local and traditional authorities.

Discussions between the detachment and the communities

Discussions have been organized in all the localities. The main topics that people wish to discuss are:
- Restoring peace and combating insecurity
- Aid and co-operation with the population
- Development of the locality

Focus on Saye

The survey brings out a more complicated situation in Saye: the population is satisfied with the establishment of the camp, but its location is thought to be inappropriate because it is too close to the locality.

However, the camp is considered to be sufficiently secure and 67% of people are reassured by its establishment. On the other hand, the people report few activities other than road checkpoints and patrols at markets. Only 55% of those surveyed say they are reassured when they meet patrols, as against over 80% in the other three localities. The lack of communication or meetings between the forces and the population is highlighted.
The percentages of those answering "yes" to the question, "Are you reassured by the establishment of the camp in your locality?" are as follows:

- **100%** in Tominian and Timissa
- **72%** in Konna
- **67%** in Saye

The main reasons for satisfaction

- **80%** in Konna and Tominian, the camp has led to an improvement in the security situation.
- **39%** in Saye and Timissa, the camp enables economic activity to take place.

What ought to be improved

- In Konna, Saye and Timissa: Establish early warning mechanisms to respond as needed in case of attack.
- In Tominian: Organize regular discussions between the people and the forces deployed.

Communicating with the camps

- With the exception of Konna, the people do not know how to contact the camps.
- If they hear about an attack, the people would notify the usual local authorities, but also the self-defence groups present in the locality.
- With the exception of Timissa, the people have very little contact with the detachments.

Conclusion

- The situation varies widely between the localities surveyed.
- The deployment of forces responds to people’s request for protection and provides reassurance.
- But the impact of the deployment of defence and security forces remains limited to the locality.

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