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

///// Report on the Q10 Field Survey
**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.

![Chart showing gender and age distributions](chart.png)

- **50%** Men
- **95%** Women

![Chart showing education levels](chart.png)

- **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.

![Chart showing professional groups](chart.png)

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

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**Perception survey conducted between 7 and 21 February 2022**  
**This project is funded by the European Union**
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 Djenne, Mopti, Niono, and Télenkou.

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

Access to Services

- Satisfaction levels are generally fine, except for electricity.
- In rural areas, most services are available to respondents within a day’s travel.
- Circles of Baroouelé, Djenne, Macina, Tomoinian, 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.

Level of Trust

- 64% consider the customary system to be the most unbiased.
- 23% the religious system.
- 12% the state system.

Justice

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

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 watoring 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.
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

72% of household income comes from agriculture

8% from retail
4% from livestock farming
4% from the craft industry
3% from fishing

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.

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.

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%).

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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.

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%).

Perception of Security

- 78% of interviewees believe the security situation has improved in Mali. The perception is the same for men (81%) and women (79%), adults (77%) and young people (80%).
- 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.

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)

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.

The security actors most often present

1. GAD: self-defense groups
2. FAMA
3. Gendarmerie
4. National Guard

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.

Confidence in Security actors

- 42% say they are neither in danger nor safe
- 20% in danger
- 4% in great danger
- 31% safe

How do you evaluate your current situation?

In the cercle of Koro, the interviewees reported an improvement in mobility between villages.

Source: Decentralisation, cartography of Mali created by D. Dembélé, coordinator of the Central Mali Project. Results of the Q10 Survey. 08/06/2022

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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%

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 Ségué and the Niger river is increasingly mentioned as a 'border' between state- and jihadist-controlled areas.

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