Central Mali Project for Security and Development
Perception survey conducted 12-26 June 2022

Governance, security and development in the regions of Bandiagara, Douentza, Mopti, San and Ségou

///// Restitution of field survey
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Restitution of field survey Q11

Methodology

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

Since 2019, data has been collected every three months in 15 cercles, 60 municipalities, and 120 villages by a network of 30 facilitators. The 11th survey was conducted from 12th to 26th of June.

50% Men
96% are residents

51% Youths
49% Adults
83% Rural
17% Urban

Education

63% of the sample do not have formal education, and 19% have completed the basic 1st cycle level. 60% of those surveyed completed their education at a fundamental school, while 20% at a Koranic school.

Employment / Professions

59% of the sample comprises farmers/market gardeners, 18% are housewives, and another 8% are traders.

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Governance

Presence of authorities and institutions
The presence of State agents and authorities varies according to the level of insecurity
- Some authorities are forced to reside away from their place of work for security reasons
- Compared to sub-prefects, governors and prefects are found in their place of work more often.
- Education and health personnel are mostly present. Those cercles where education is most at threat are Douentza, Segou and Tenenkou.
- Communities consider the traditional chieftaincy to be the most important institution, ahead of the town hall

Level of satisfaction
The greater the insecurity, the greater the dissatisfaction with the representatives of the state and the greater the feeling of abandonment among the population—especially in the cercles of Mopti, Tenenkou and Youwarou. Traditional and customary authorities, village/neighbourhood chiefs and religious leaders are responsible for the day-to-day management of communities.

Access to services
- Respondents are satisfied with access to services, the exception being access to electricity. Electricity is available to 35% of the respondents, who mostly reside in urban areas (98% versus 23% of those surveyed in rural areas).
- The closure of schools or the lack of teachers forces pupils to go to neighbouring villages. Some children drop out because of the distance they have to travel.

Level of confidence

Justice
- 69% consider the customary system to be the most impartial
- 19% the religious system
- 10% the state system

In the case of minor conflicts or serious crimes or conflicts over natural resources, people turn first to the neighbourhood/village chief and the traditional authorities.
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Development

The increase in the price of basic necessities (milk, oil, sugar, rice and millet) and the high cost of living are the issues most reported during this survey. The lack of food forces people to eat only once a day and “rice is prepared without ingredients”, as families can no longer afford to buy condiments.

Economic activities

72% of income comes from agriculture
- 8% of trade
- 3% from livestock
- 3% from craft
- 3% from fishing

Agriculture

83% of households practice agriculture as a main or additional activity. Production “partially” or “does not at all” cover the needs of the family.

Livestock

76% of households own animals whether they are residents, IDPs, nomads or migrants. The populations of the Tenenou and Youwarou cercles own the fewest animals. Livestock is increasingly sold or moved to Bamako or to the sub-region as in the Ivory Coast.

Social activities

Baptisms, weddings and funerals continue to bring communities together. Several collective events took place at the time of the survey, including collective weddings and the Sankonné collective fishing rite in San. 77% say that relations between family members have improved. For 68% of respondents, relations between members of the same community have also improved, with the exception of the cercle of Niono. 47% (54% in February 2022) of those surveyed report that trust between members of other communities has improved, but it has deteriorated in the cercles of Bankass and Niono. 50% of rural people say that these relations are improving, while 43% of urban people say that they are deteriorating.

Pact negotiations

The negotiation of pacts between communities, or between communities and armed groups is done at the expense of the state. The conditions of the pacts are not always respected and municipalities that refuse to sign are subject to retaliatory measures. The negotiation of these pacts is a matter of survival.

Education (6-18 years) and health

More than half of those surveyed say that they send “some of their children” to school (55%) compared to 13% who say they send all of their children and 9% who send none. Girls and boys are enrolled in the same proportions.

Children continue to be vaccinated. In the event of illness, the CSCOM or dispensary is preferred. The poor state of the roads is mentioned as a constraint in accessing care, particularly for pregnant women.

Fishing

The main use of fishing products is to feed the family. A lack of fish is a major problem, leading to higher prices. This is an activity that is very much controlled by the jihadists, who impose fishing hours in some areas and prohibit it in others, especially those close to their bases.

Trade

Trade is still practised, but it is more difficult in cercles where insecurity is greatest. The poor state of the roads is a major constraint. The RN15, which links Sévaré to Burkina Faso via Bankass and Koro, is still very dangerous with numerous attacks. The population limits its movements and the use of public transport, which is regularly attacked.

84% of households consider their main source of income to be affected by insecurity.

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Security
The daily life of the people of central Mali is characterised by robberies and kidnappings of agents, traders, young men and livestock.

Perception of security

Security situation in Mali

62% of those surveyed consider that the security situation has improved in Mali. The perception is the same for men (81%) and women (75%), adults (77%) and young people (60%).

93% of those surveyed say they are "optimistic"
The impact of the Mourah attack (March 2002) was very strong in the cercles of Djenné, Bankass and Mopti. Livestock farmers were going to the Mourah fair, which affected the area. In early June 2022, attacks on civilians in the Bankass cercle in the villages of Diallassagou, Deguessagou and Dianwell led to the displacement of surviving populations.

More presence of security bodies

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

The forces are stationed in the main towns: the bulk of the forces are in the towns, whether they be the FAMA, the national guard, the gendarmerie or the police. Self-defence groups ensure security in rural areas.

Confidence in security forces

Confidence in the security forces is very high:
- 94% in the national guard, FAMA and gendarmerie
- 88% in the police
- 64% in self-defence groups

Only 38% say they have confidence in MINUSMA and 5% in jihadist groups.

Perception of insecurity

A majority consider that the national guard, FAMA, gendarmerie, police, self-defence groups and MINUSMA respect the population without discrimination, compared to 6% for armed jihadist groups.

Those surveyed consider that the jihadist groups are a source of insecurity

Main reasons:
- Potential targets of jihadist groups (national guard, FAMA, gendarmerie)
- Corruption (police and gendarmerie)
- Lawless behaviour (self-defence groups and MINUSMA)
- Arbitrary violence (jihadist groups)

The price to be paid for security is often very high for those villages that have to provide the Dazos with men and equipment.

How would you describe your current situation?

Confidence in security bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Security bodies</th>
<th>Nov. 2021</th>
<th>Feb. 2022</th>
<th>June 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Guard</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINUSMA</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAD</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How would you describe your current situation?

- Secure
- In danger
- Neither in danger nor secure

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The main threats to populations

- Poverty and unemployment → for 98%
- Food insecurity → for 97%
- Physical attacks and violent robberies → for 46%
- The violence non-state armed groups → for 43%
- Agriculture / livestock farmer conflicts → for 41%

Conclusion

- As a result of last year’s poor harvests, the lean season and insecurity, people are facing an acute food shortage. Access to fields is limited, armed groups prevent the movement of people as well as goods. Electricity, water and fuel shortages have an impact on many trades and therefore on people’s income. The increase in prices is worrying (basic necessities, agricultural inputs, fertilizers, etc.). The population expects the state to take measures to limit the increase in prices.
- The persistence of insecurity has no impact on the confidence that the population has in the transitional authorities, but they still expect the situation to improve.
- Indicators are deteriorating in the Ségou region and the river is a border between areas under state control and those controlled by jihadist groups.

People have adapted their habits to cope with insecurity: limiting travel, changing travel patterns, changing roles in the family – especially in urban areas – and participating in or supporting a self-defence group.

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