



Central Mali Project for Security and Development
Perception survey conducted 13–29 September 2022

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

//// Restitution of 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 European Union 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, data has been collected every three months in 15 cercles, 60 municipalities and 120 villages by a network of 30 facilitators. The 12th survey was conducted from the 13th to the 29th September 2022.



Education

62% of the sample do not have formal education, and 18% have completed the basic 1st cycle level. 62% of those surveyed completed their education at a fundamental school, while 21% attended Koranic school.

Employment / Professions

57% of the sample comprises farmers/market gardeners, 20% are homemakers, and another 8% are merchants.

Survey locations by cercle

///Source: Decentralisation/Cartography of Mali, by O. Dembélé, coordinator of the Central Mali Project.





**At the national level, confidence in the transitional authorities remains stable (71%).
Confidence in the CNT is at 39%.**

Governance

Presence of authorities and institutions

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

- Some authorities are forced to reside away from their places of work for security reasons
- Governors and prefects are mostly present in their places of work, while sub-prefects are often based away in the main towns of the cercle or region
- Education and health personnel are mostly present
- Communities consider the traditional chieftaincies to be the most important institution, ahead of the local council

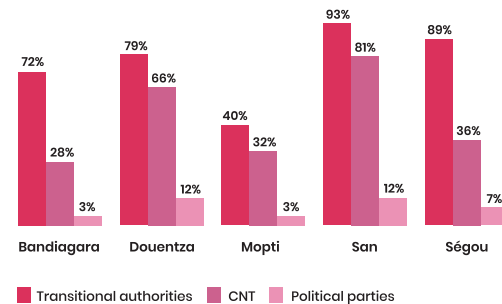
Level of satisfaction at a local level

- Mayors are in their majority appreciated, especially those who secure food aid
- Customary and traditional authorities have received medals and certificates in the presence of prefect or sub-prefect authorities during celebrations of independence

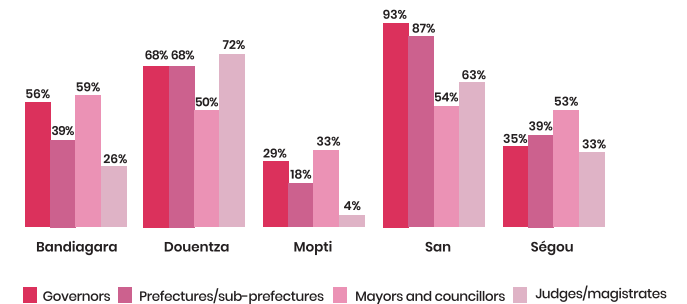
Level of confidence at a national level



Confidence in political institutions



Confidence in local authorities



The level of confidence is weaker in the cercles and regions where insecurity is higher

Access to services



- Respondents have access to a number of services, including education, health and drinking water. Electricity (EDM) is available mainly in urban areas.
- In the area of health, households report supply disruptions for some medications, expensive prescriptions, a lack of medical skills and inaccurate diagnoses.
- Services are available, but people complain about the quality, lack of equipment and insecurity, which prevents them from having access to certain types of care or to more distant schools.
- In day-to-day life, not possessing identity documents is a constraint, especially due to more frequent checks linked to the redeployment of the FDS.

Justice

63% consider the customary system to be the most impartial

24% the religious system
12% the state system

Justice can also be dispensed by Dozos or jihadist groups.



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

Development

The increase in the price of basic necessities (milk, oil, sugar, rice and millet) and the high cost of living are the most reported issues. The price of agricultural inputs and livestock feed has also greatly increased. Economic activities are all affected by insecurity with consequences for weekly markets, security for cattle when they move away from the village and the opportunity to access more distant fields and fuelwood. Faced with the risk of a food crisis, the population expects state aid.

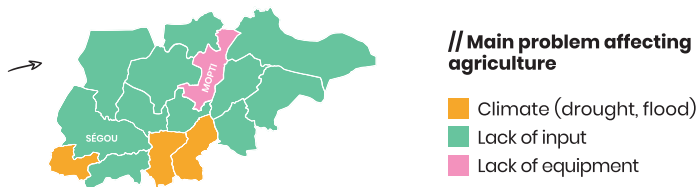
Economic activities



- 7%** from **trade**
- 3%** from **livestock farming**
- 3%** from **craftsmanship**
- 3%** from **fishing**

// Agriculture

91% of households are engaged in agriculture as a main or additional activity. Production is "partially" or "not at all" sufficient to cover families' needs. The lack of agricultural inputs, due to the increase in price, has become the main problem.



// Livestock farming

76% of households own animals. Those who do not own animals say it's because of the lack of financial means to purchase them. In the Bankass cercle, **100%** give the theft of animals as the main reason: the inhabitants of Douentza and Mopti list insecurity by conflict.

Fishing

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

It is an activity controlled by the jihadists, who impose fishing hours in some areas and prohibit it in others, especially those close to their bases. Insecurity means that Bozo fishermen are forced to turn to agriculture in the Youwarou cercle.

Trade

Trade continues but it is more difficult in cercles where insecurity is high. The poor state of the roads is a major constraint, as are the regular attacks on public transport.



83% of households consider their main source of income to be affected by insecurity.

Social activities

People continue to participate in community activities but this is essentially limited to baptisms, weddings, funerals, meetings with local authorities and collective harvesting activities.

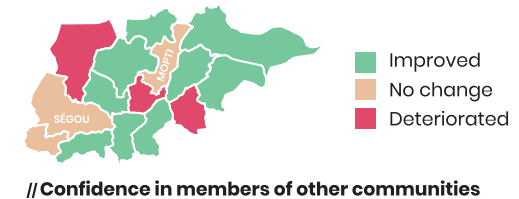
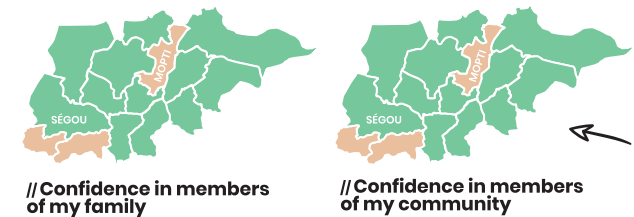
Relations between:



Survival pacts

The negotiation of pacts between communities, or between communities and armed groups, is made to the detriment of the state. The conditions of the pacts are not always respected and the localities that refuse to sign are subject to retaliatory measures. In the Niono cercle, the deterioration of relations between communities is attributed, in part, to the Dozos who accuse some villages of complicity with jihadists.

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 (**54%**) compared to **12%** who say they send all their children and **9%** who do not send any. The same proportion of girls and boys attend school. **The cercles of Mopti, Douentza and Ténenkou are the most affected by the closure of schools by jihadist groups.**

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 constraint in accessing care, particularly for pregnant women.

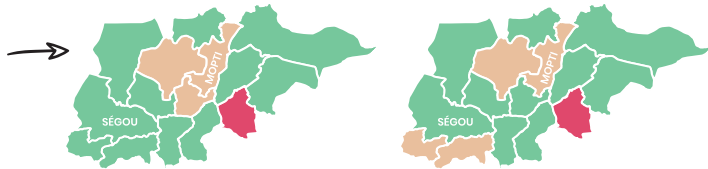
Security

Daily life for the inhabitants of central Mali is characterised by robberies and kidnappings of agents, traders, young men and livestock.

Perception of security

// Security situation in Mali

// Security situation in my locality



67%

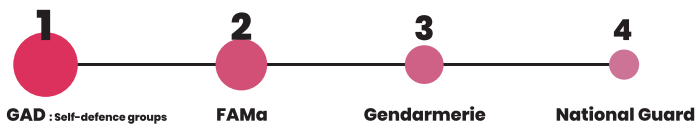
Of those surveyed consider that the security situation has improved in Mali.

- Has improved
- No change
- Has deteriorated

95% of those surveyed say they are "optimistic"

The Mourah attack (March 2022) has had a big impact in the cercles of Djenné, Bankass and Mopti. The inhabitants speak a lot about robberies, banditry and daily insecurity which prevents them from moving about.

Security forces most often present



The forces are stationed in urban areas: the majority 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. The presence of Russian forces is increasingly visible and mentioned by the inhabitants.

Confidence in security forces

Confidence in the security forces is very high:

94%

in the national guard, FAMA and gendarmerie

89%

in the police

63%

in self-defence groups

33%

in MINUSMA

1%

in jihadist groups

However, confidence is weaker in cercles where they are more present.

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 3% for jihadist groups.



96%

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)



37%

For self-defence groups



43%

For MINUSMA



12%

For security forces

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



42% said neither in danger nor safe



19% in danger

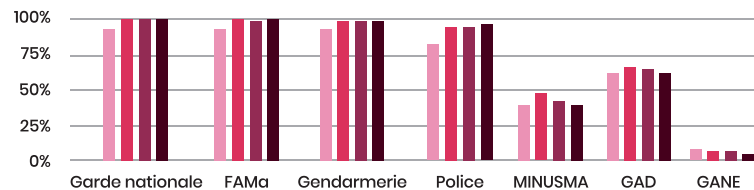


2% in grave danger

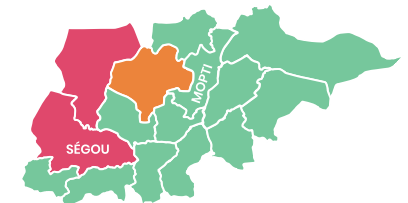


38% in security

Confidence in security bodies



The effects of insecurity:



- Food prices have increased
- My income has reduced / lack of means
- Fewer products available for sale

The main threats for populations

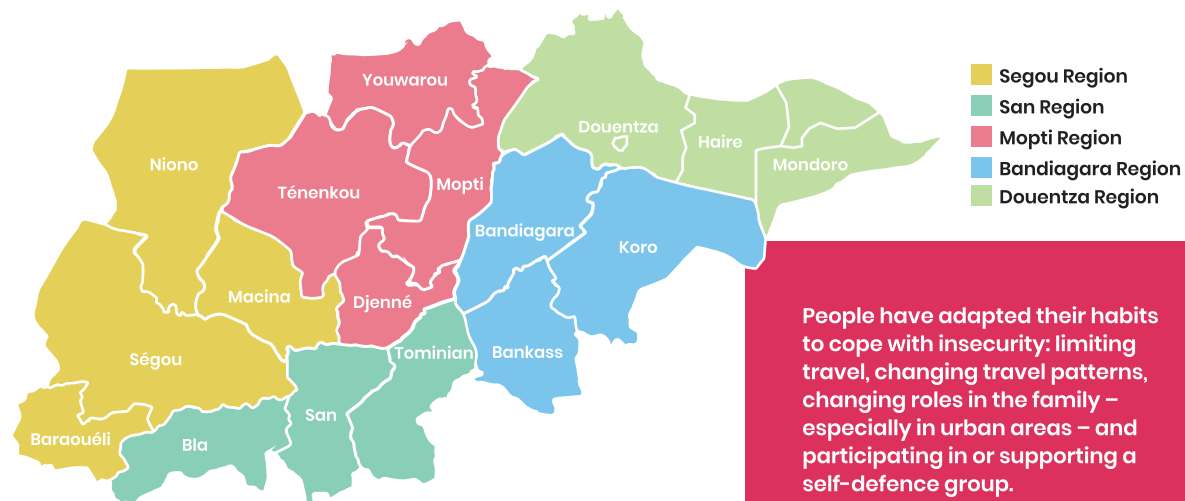
For **98%** of those surveyed: Poverty and unemployment

97% Food insecurity

40% Physical aggressions and violent theft

48% Violence from non-state armed groups

32% Agriculture / livestock farmer conflicts



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.



Conclusion

- **The main concern is food insecurity:** stocks are consumed in 6 or 7 months and households report only having one or two meals a day. The population expects the government to take measures against the high cost of living and to limit the increase in price of basic necessities, fertilisers and feed for animals. All economic activities are affected, often requiring people to take on several professional activities.
- **On an economic level, people are reluctant to travel to markets due to the poor state of the roads, curfews and insecurity.** In some areas, zakat is collected on rice-growing and pastoral activities.
The threats to rural communities are very significant: farmers are abandoning their fields and livestock farmers have difficulty moving their herds or even going to pasturelands.
- **Confidence in the transitional authorities remains high,** the FDS are more visible in the centre of country since the start of 2022 and local authorities have been redeployed. However, the decline in confidence is more marked in areas where security is worsening and discontent towards the political parties is concerning.

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