



Just Future Programme - Cordaid
Perception survey conducted from 9 to 18 November 2022

Perceptions of security in the Maradi and Tillabéri regions in Niger

////// Restitution of Q2 field survey



SIPRI and LASDEL
Cordaid funding

JUST FUTURE
PROGRAMME

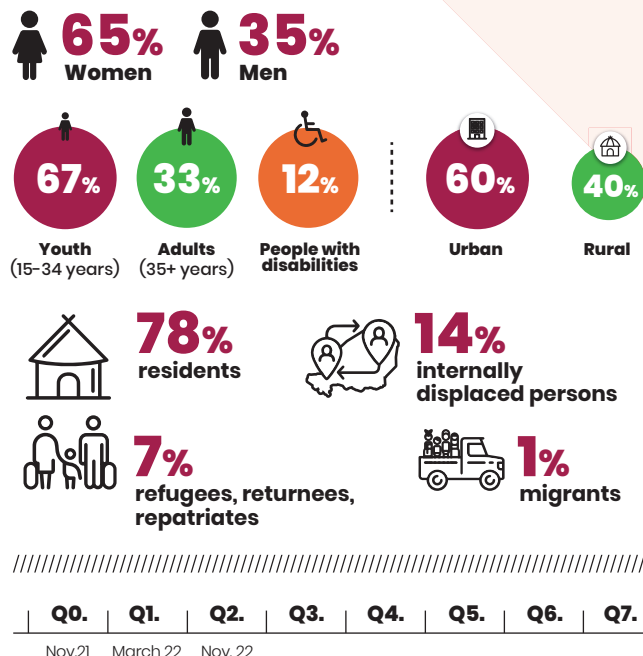


Methodology

As part of the Cordaid-funded "Just Future" programme, SIPRI and its partner LASDEL are conducting perception surveys in the regions of Tillabéri and Maradi in Niger. The surveys cover 15 localities spread over two communes and have a representative sample size of 478 respondents.

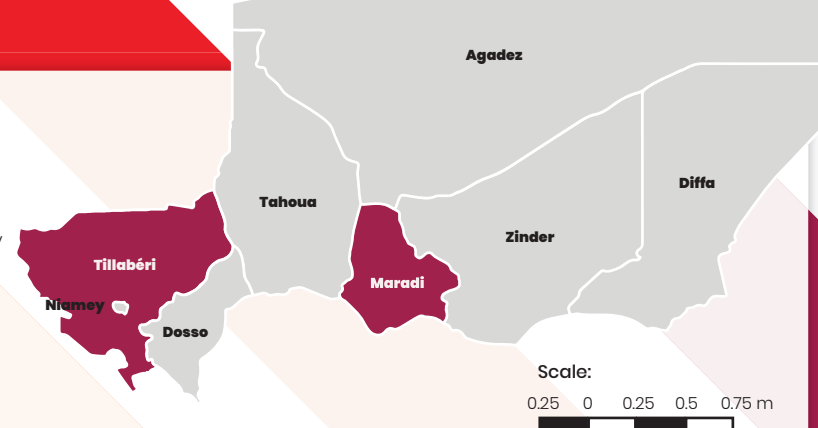
The questionnaires are administered by a team of seven male and three female facilitators.

In line with CORDAID's expectations of the least represented groups, particular attention was paid to the inclusion of women, youth, people with disabilities and displaced persons or refugees during the surveys. The sample is therefore distributed as follows:



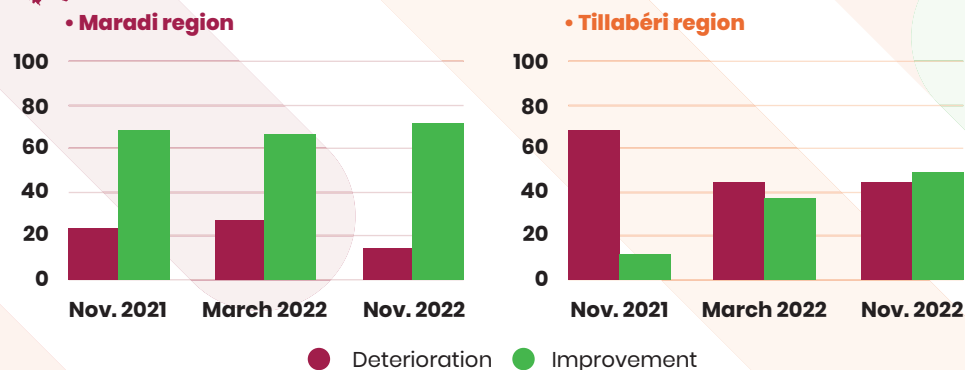
Survey areas

/// Source: mapping of Niger, carried out by Dr. O. Dembélé, coordinator of POINT SUD.

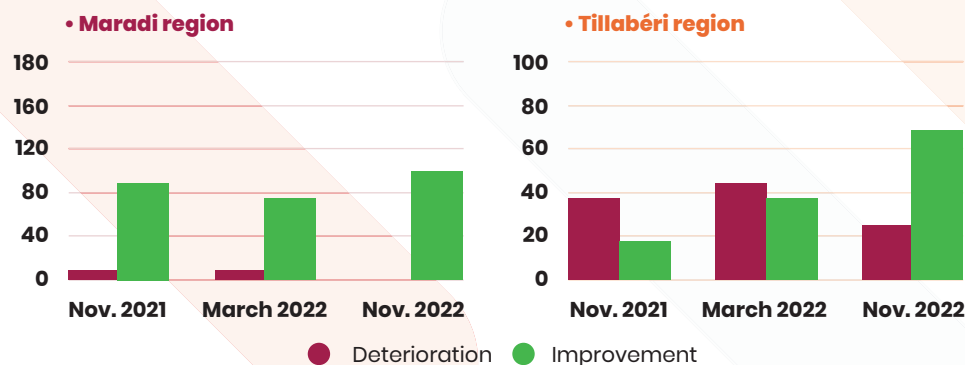


Perception of security

Perception of the security situation at national level



Perception of the security situation at local level





Main reasons for insecurity

Tillabéri region:

37%

Violence from non-state armed groups

31%

Attacks, robberies and threats against the population

Maradi region:

45%

Proximity to the border

25%

Attacks, robberies and threats against the population

15%

Absence of defence and security forces

Poverty, unemployment and food insecurity have persistently emerged as some of the most significant concerns of respondents across all surveys.

Relations between the population and the state security forces



The perceptions reflect the respondents' subjective impressions. They provide information about how people understand and interpret what they see, believe, think and feel, and most importantly, how they make sense of their environment.



Security actors perceived as most visible and present at local level

63%

Police

50%

Gendarmerie

39%

National Guard

12%

Army



Confidence in security actors expressed towards

90%

the police, gendarmerie, national guard, army

29%

international forces

These results only concern the Tillabéri region where G5 Sahel forces have been deployed since October 2017 and French forces since 2014 as part of Operation Barkhane. Their mandates are not well understood and respondents criticise them for not responding to attacks.

14%

the vigilance committees

The confidence expressed is explained by the mobile nature of the Defence and Security Forces or their absence, which leads residents to organise themselves for the daily surveillance of their villages and property.



Limitations expressed by the population with respect to their relationship with the defence and security forces

The subject is considered "sensitive" by the respondents and refers to the following limitations:

- **Lack of intervention** of forces in case of attacks;
- **Geographically limited** patrols;
- **Fear of retaliation** by jihadi groups in case of contact with the forces;
- **Mutual mistrust** between the forces and the population due to insecurity (in particular in the Tillabéri region);
- **Arbitrary behaviour** including the risk of confusion between civilians and members of armed groups; corruption; blackmail and sexual harassment.

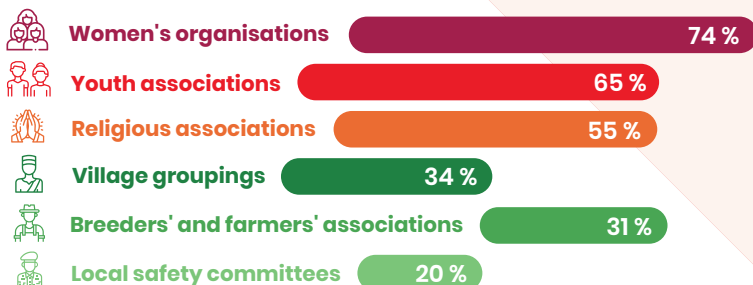


In 2022, the respondents indicated that there was a degree of uniformity in how the forces behaved with different communities. However, in the Tillabéri region, respondents pointed out that the Defence and Security Forces lacked an understanding of local realities and a consideration for the community opinion while sometimes resorting to unnecessary use of force.

Local civil society and security issues



For **60%** of respondents local civil society actors have a role to play in security issues. The most cited actors, in order of frequency, are:



Roles and activities carried out

- Security awareness and information meetings
- Forming informal neighbourhood, property and livestock watch groups
- Mediating local tensions



Limitations faced by local civil society on security issues

The population does not make much use of civil society actors on security issues. The main reasons are:

- The **lack of human and financial resources**;
- The **lack of expertise and information** in a complex security context (access to information is mainly through occasional meetings with the forces or through family or personal contacts);
- The **suspicion of corruption and politicization**;
- The **severity of insecurity and the prevailing fear of reprisals**, particularly in the Tillabéri region.



Conclusion

- While the Tillabéri region suffers from daily attacks and violence by jihadi groups, the Maradi region remains exposed to crime and banditry. The **level of insecurity therefore remains concerning at local level**.
- In **addition to fear of violence** there is also a fear of **accelerated deterioration of socio-economic conditions** with significant risks of food insecurity and water shortages due to climatic difficulties and operating constraints imposed by the insecurity.
- Although the civil society is not considered very "active" on security issues, it still has an impact. It can serve as an **interlocutor for people's complaints** but it can also **provide information on local security conditions** in this area.



Recommendations

- Train local civil society to collect and transmit security information to the population.
- Inform the population on the presence and mandates of the different forces in order to reduce mistrust.
- Train the defence and security forces to respect human rights and in particular to respect the citizens' anonymity when filing complaints.