



Just Future Programme – Cordaid  
Perception survey conducted 23 October to 5 November 2023

# Perceptions of security in the Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions of Niger

///// Update from the Q4 field survey



SIPRI and LASDEL  
Funded by Cordaid

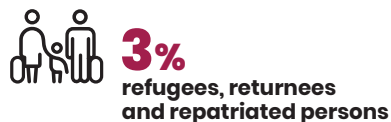
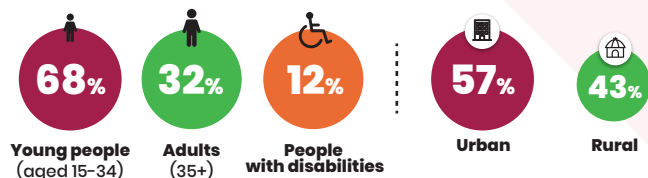
JUST FUTURE  
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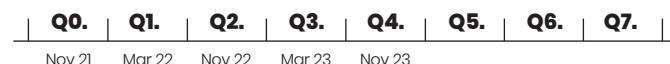
## Methodology

As part of the “Just Future” programme, funded by Cordaid, SIPRI and its partner LASDEL are conducting perception surveys among a representative sample of 710 people in the Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions of Niger, in 6 communes and 27 villages.

In line with Cordaid's expressed aim of reaching the sections of the population with the least voice, particular attention is paid to the inclusion of women, young people, people with disabilities and displaced persons or refugees. The sample is distributed as follows:



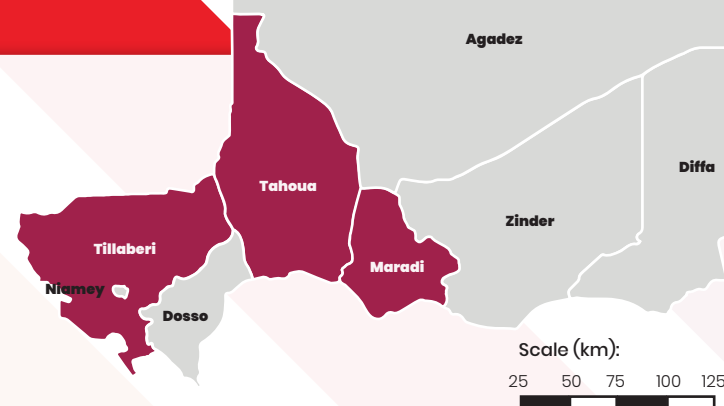
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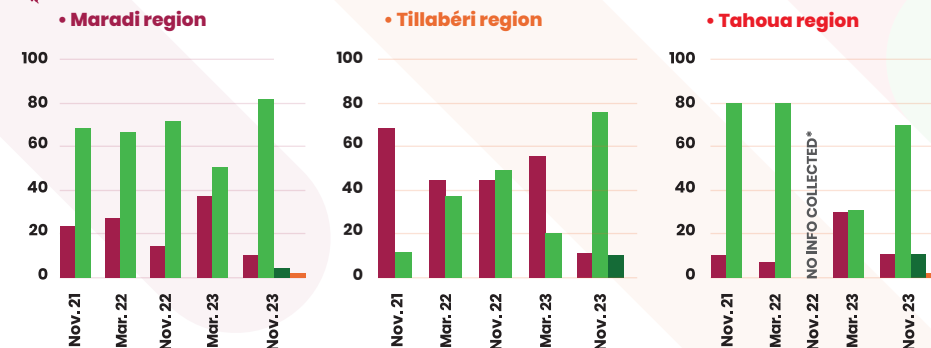
## Survey areas

/// Source: map of Niger

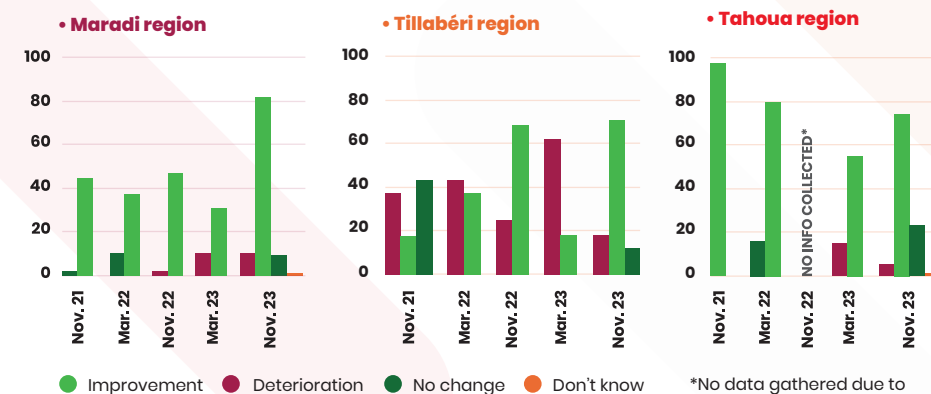


## Perceptions of insecurity

### Perceptions of the security situation at national level



### Perceptions of the security situation at local level



● Improvement ● Deterioration ● No change ● Don't know

\*No data gathered due to logistical and security constraints

Over 70% of respondents report that the situation has improved in the country. At local level, the situation is more nuanced: in the Tillabéri region, because of the presence of armed groups, people feel only “partially safe” and limit their movements.



## Main sources of insecurity at local level

- Attacks, thefts and threats against the population
- Presence of non-state armed groups
- Presence of displaced persons/refugees



The deterioration in the economic situation has left a large number of inhabitants in a situation of everyday precarity: lack of access to land, inflation, closure of markets and large numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees.

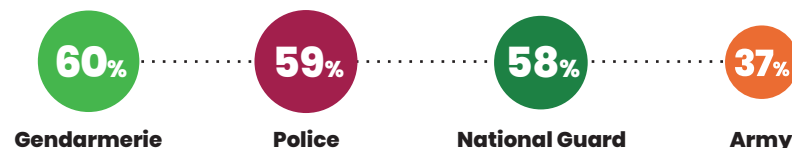
## Relations between populations and state security forces



The perceptions collected reflect the subjective impressions of the respondents. They provide information about how people understand and interpret what they see, believe, think and feel, and how they give meaning to their environment.



## Security actors perceived as the most visible and present at local level



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The presence of DSFs (defence and security forces) varies from region to region. The state armed forces are still viewed favourably. The departure of foreign troops and the seizure of power by the military have raised hopes of a fightback against terrorist groups.



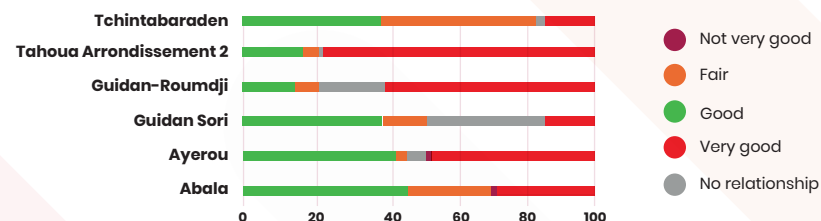
## Expressed confidence in security actors



Relations with state armed forces were described as “very good” by 42% of respondents in the Maradi and Tahoua regions, and “good” by 30% of those in the Tillabéri region.



## Perception of day-to-day relations with the DSFs

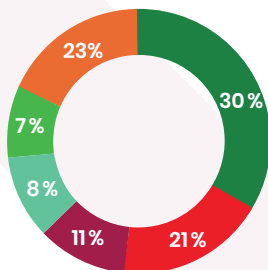


## Limitations

- The DSFs have very little presence in rural areas.
- The main factor stopping people from contacting the DSFs is the fear of reprisals.
- Only 16.5% of those questioned had recently called on security services.

## Limitations on relations with DSFs

- Access is difficult/I don't dare contact them
- Fear of reprisals following contact with DSFs
- They are not present in the area
- The difficulty of reaching them by telephone
- Prefer not to answer
- Other



## Local civil society and security issues

Only **46%** of respondents said that actions by civil society actors in the field of security were effective. According to the respondents, the most active organisations are:



**Women's organisations**



**Youth associations/  
fadas**

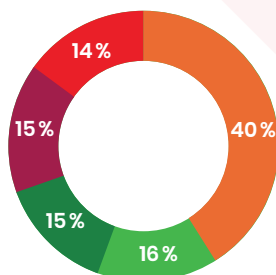


**Religious associations**

In the Tillabéri region, village groups and herders' associations are very active. All the organisations deal with security issues and most of them organise meetings regarding security with local populations. Herders' associations, youth associations and local security committees take on responsibility for guarding neighbourhoods, property and livestock. Religious associations and management committees are mainly concerned with managing conflicts between people in the local area.

## Expectations for civil society actors:

- To inform and communicate with populations about the security situation
- To set up complaint mechanisms in the event of problems with the DSFs
- To help strengthen cooperation between populations and security forces
- To have direct access to the DSFs in the event of security problems
- To maintain regular dialogue with the security forces



There are still **significant limits** to their ability to **operate and to take action** on the ground:

- Lack of funding
- Lack of skills/information
- Limited access to information on the security situation and DSFs



## Conclusion

The changes in the political context in Niger following the coup d'état on 26 July 2023 and the imposition of sanctions by ECOWAS have altered the security situation in villages and weakened the position of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

However, the survey showed that there are high expectations for the military government's ability to improve the security and economic situation. The lack of economic opportunities is a crucial issue.

The causes of vulnerability for populations in Niger vary from one region to another, but across the country, poor rainfall, restrictions linked to the presence of armed groups, displaced populations and insecurity continue to affect the lives of millions of people.



## Recommendations



**While urban areas are more or less secure, a more visible deployment of DSFs is needed in rural areas.**



**Set up discreet and secure communication mechanisms between local populations and the DSFs to avoid exposing citizens to risk.**



**Reduce the isolation of rural areas by enabling the transport of basic goods to tackle economic suffocation.**



**Extend the deployment of joint patrols to facilitate exchanges between populations and DSFs.**