



Just Future programme – Cordaid  
Perception survey conducted 15 to 24 April 2024



# Perceptions of security in the regions of Bandiagara, Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu in Mali

///// Update from the Q5 field survey



SIPRI and POINT SUD  
Funded by Cordaid



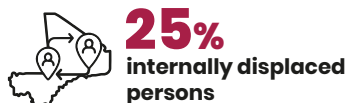
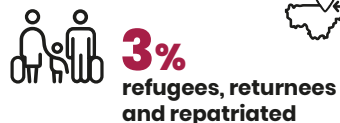
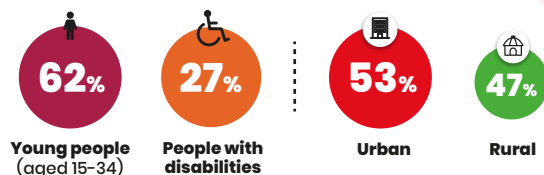
## Methodology

As part of the “Just Future” programme, funded by Cordaid, SIPRI and its partner POINT SUD are conducting regular perception surveys among a representative sample of 541 people, in 16 communes and 18 villages, in the Bandiagara, Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu regions of Mali.

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

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:

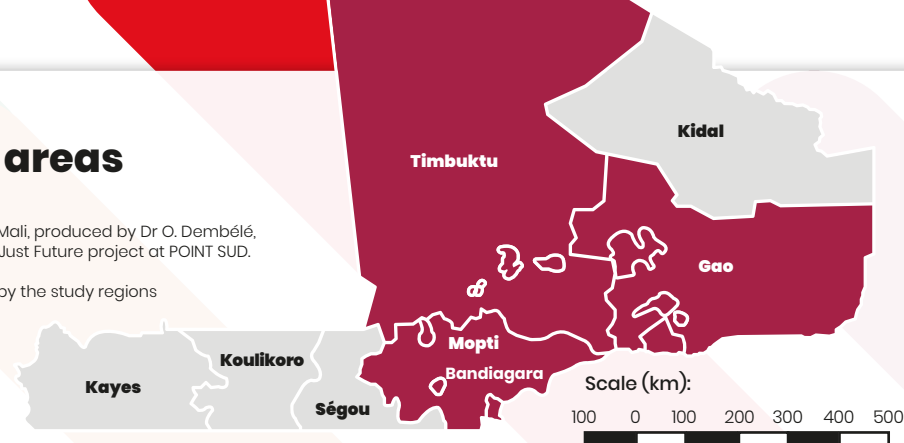


Perception survey conducted 15 to 24 April 2024 – This project is funded by Cordaid

## Survey areas

/// Source: map of Mali, produced by Dr O. Dembélé, coordinator of the Just Future project at POINT SUD.

● Area covered by the study regions  
● Other regions

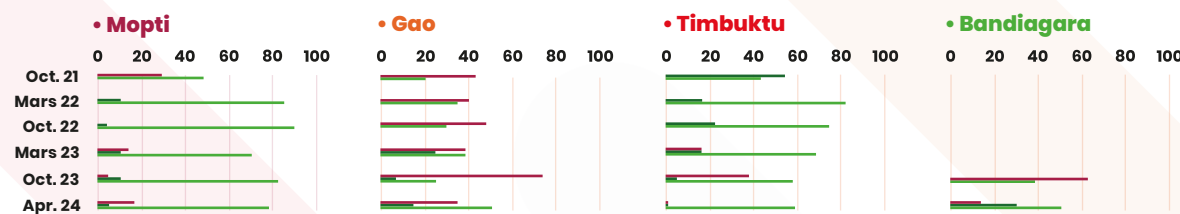


## Perceptions of insecurity

### Perceptions of the security situation at national level



### Perceptions of the security situation at local level



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

### Main sources of insecurity

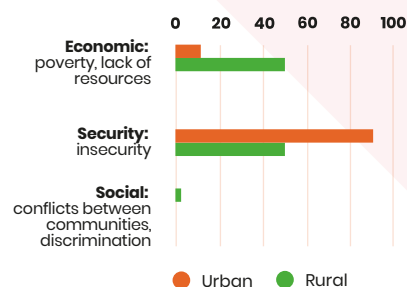


## Just Future Programme – Cordaid Update from the Q5 field survey

In their immediate environment, respondents say they feel:



### Sources of insecurity



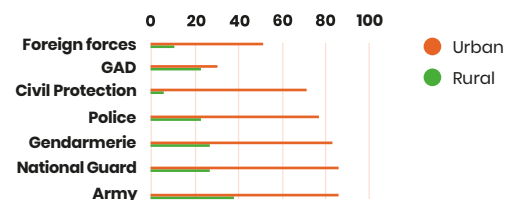
“We feel like we’re in prison in our own country, we can’t even travel to Gao or Gourma because of the insecurity caused by the presence of armed jihadist groups.”  
(Statement from a young leader, Gao region, April 2024).

## Relations between populations and defence and security forces (FDS)

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 above all how they give meaning to their environment.



### The defence and security forces are mainly present in urban areas.

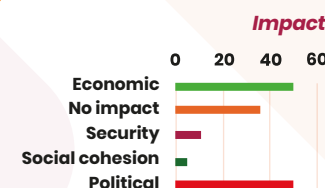


### Expressed confidence in security actors

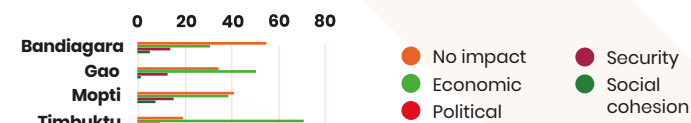
Confidence in security actors remains high (between 80% and 95% depending on the actor), but the behaviour of the FDS and Russian forces is increasingly criticised. Some populations say they have been “betrayed” by their behaviour, and accuse them of committing abuses.



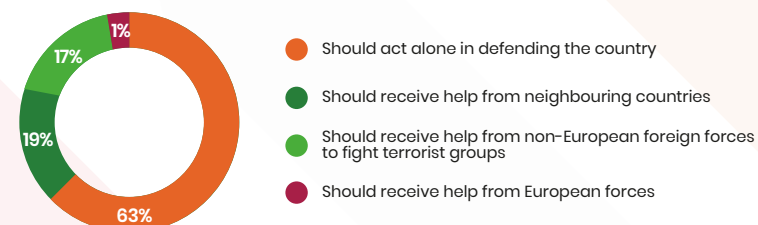
### Withdrawal of MINUSMA



### Impact by region



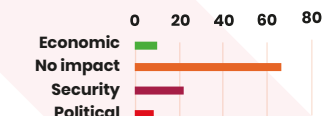
### Role of defence and security forces



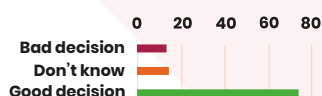
Despite the continuing insecurity, relations between the populations interviewed and the defence and security forces were described as “good” and “fair”.

## National-level policy

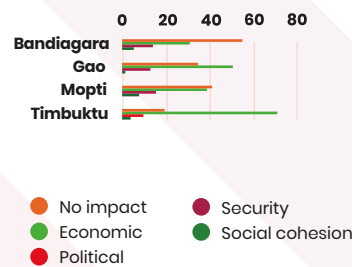
### End of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation



### Withdrawal from ECOWAS



### Impact by region



## Local civil society and security issues

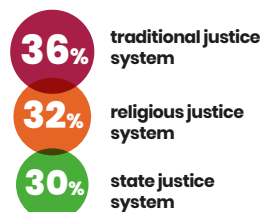
- “Civil society” has a strong presence at local level, involving a wide range of actors from local populations, ranging from **traditional and customary authorities** and **religious leaders** to **women's** and **youth organisations**.
- The main activities are the organisation of meetings and **awareness-raising** sessions, but **few concrete actions** are put forward.
- Young people's associations** and **movements** are recognised as playing a more important role in everyday relations with **the defence and security forces**.

## Access to justice

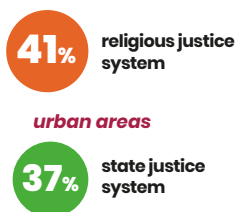
### Level of confidence



#### national level



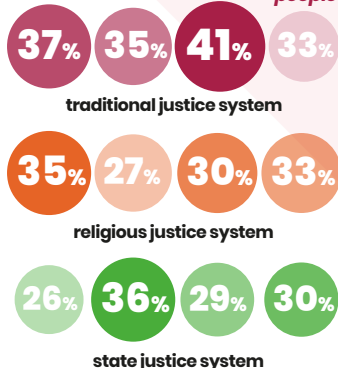
#### rural areas



#### urban areas



### Women Men Adults Young people



- 48% of people expect justice to be free from corruption** and 22% expect it to be dispensed with respect for all.
- 46% say they turn to the village chief for help with a family dispute or a dispute with a community member because the problem will be dealt with quickly.
- 24% prefer traditional justice because they know the chief, and 20% prefer it because it is free.
- For 45% of those surveyed, traditional justice and state justice do not deal with the same issues.**



## Conclusions

- Living conditions for the populations of Central and Northern Mali continue to deteriorate, both in terms of security and the economy**, but this new survey nonetheless confirms the positive perceptions and confidence that populations have in the transitional authorities to improve the situation.
- However, this survey shows that confidence in the defence and security forces is declining and that armed forces are increasingly seen as a source of insecurity.** The violence of the state armed forces (FAMA), and especially Russian forces, was widely reported during discussions, in particular arbitrary arrests and summary executions, which are causing terror among populations. **Government propaganda was also criticised, in view of the lack of results on the ground.**



## Recommendations



**More operational deployment of the defence and security forces in rural areas**



**Institutionalise local security advisory committees at the national scale**



**Combat discrimination that leads to abuse, and train the defence and security forces to respect human rights**



**Increase the security of routes and marketplaces to overcome the isolation of rural areas by enabling essential goods to be transported**



**Support the introduction of community policing**



**Support employment in the regions, especially for young people:**

The situation is exacerbated by the lack of electricity. The withdrawal of MINUSMA has increased unemployment in the areas where it was formerly present, and measures should be taken to provide economic opportunities, especially for young people.