



Just Future programme – Cordaid
Perception survey conducted from 09 to 18 May 2024

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

///// Update from the Q5 field survey



SIPRI and LASDEL
Funded by Cordaid

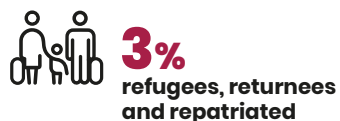
JUST FUTURE
PROGRAMME



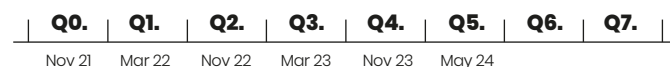
Methodology

As part of the “Just Future” programme funded by Cordaid, SIPRI and its partner LASDEL are conducting regular perception surveys among a representative sample of 893 people in the Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions of Niger, in 5 communes and 7 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:



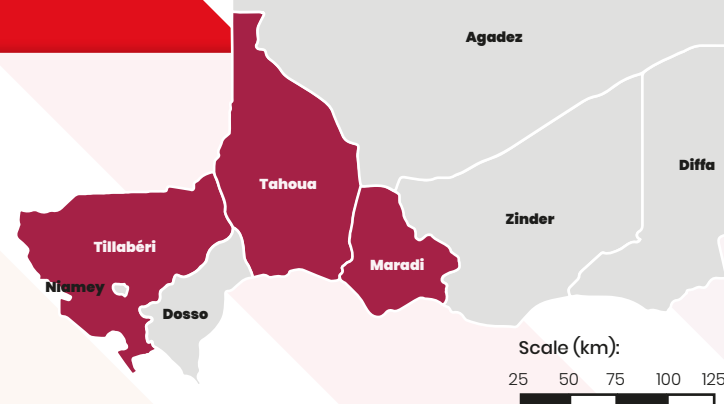
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Survey areas

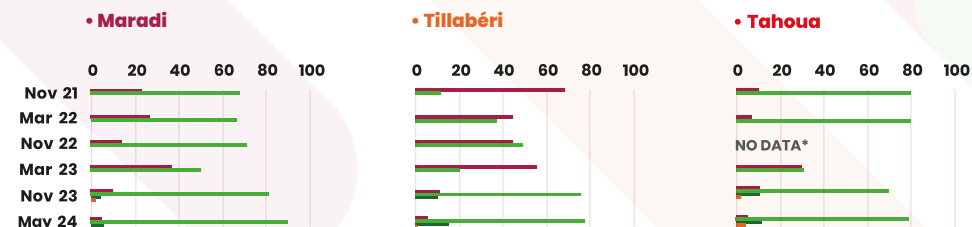
/// Source: map of Niger



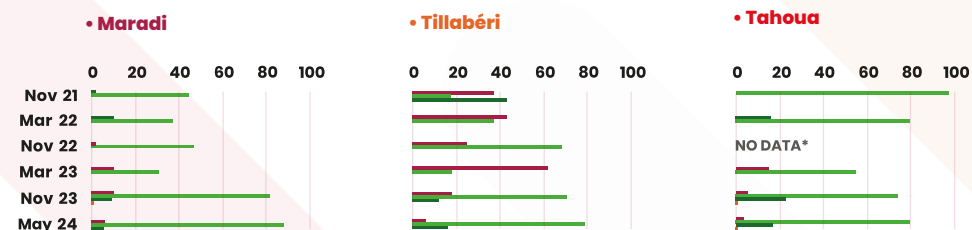
Perceptions of insecurity



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 collected due to logistical or security constraints

Over **80 %** of respondents report that the situation has improved in the country as a whole. At local level the situation is more nuanced.



Main sources of insecurity at local level

Maradi

This is the region most affected by rural banditry and an influx of people fleeing the violence in north-west Nigeria. The border is reported to be a hotbed of insecurity. Respondents particularly mention the theft of cattle and other grazing animals, robberies, kidnappings for ransom, and road robbers.

Tillabéri

Violence from armed jihadist groups is much more prevalent here than in the other two regions, and respondents describe particularly violent attacks against the population. Due to security constraints, the survey was conducted in urban areas, with an increase in the proportion of internally displaced persons in the sample. The internally displaced persons felt safe there. Arbitrary arrests were widely reported.

Tahoua

Cattle rustling is mentioned as a major problem, as is the presence of road robbers. The lack of security on the roads isolates families and communities from one other.

In your locality, do you feel:



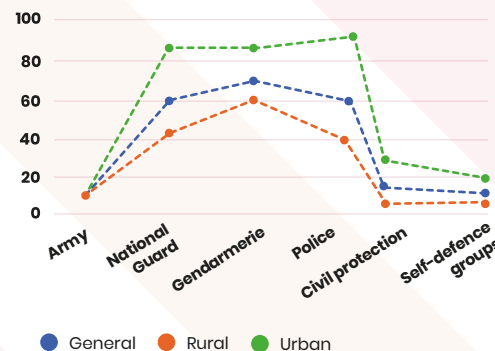
The deterioration in the economic situation has left a large number of inhabitants in a daily situation of precarity: food insecurity, the abandonment of fields far from the villages, the closure of fairs and markets. Women are particularly hard hit by the lack of access to the markets where they sell produce and handicrafts.

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.



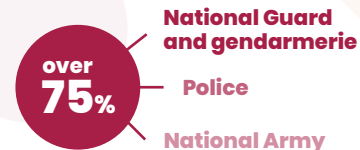
The defence and security forces are mainly present in urban areas



The presence of the FDS 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 greater commitment by the military authorities in the fight against terrorism.



Expressed confidence in security actors



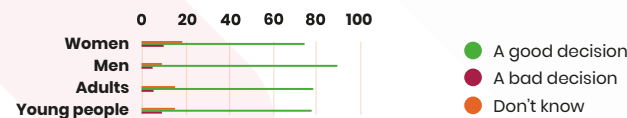
Relations with security forces were described as "very good" by 47% of respondents in the Maradi and Tahoua regions and "good" by 30% of those in the Tillabéri region.



In the fight against armed terrorist groups, the majority of the population (62%) think it that is up to the FDS alone to defend the country and that the priority should be securing the borders (60%). 19% think that the armed forces of Niger should rely on the armed forces of neighbouring countries, 3% on non-European forces and 1% on European forces.

National policy

In your opinion, Niger's exit from ECOWAS is:





Limitations on relations with defence forces

69% of the population are confident about the departure of American troops, and 66% think it will have no impact, including in the Tahoua region, where American forces were stationed. Women are less confident (**62%**) than men (**81%**) about the evolution of the security situation.

Local civil society and security issues



Only **50%** of respondents say that civil society actors in the field of security are effective. According to the respondents, the most active organisations are:



Women's organisations



Youth associations/ fadas

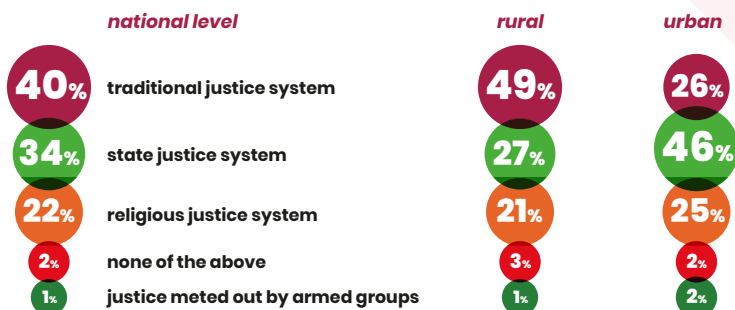


Religious associations

In the event of a security problem, **33% of respondents say they turn to civil society actors**, particularly in the case of tensions within the community (**42%**) or attacks on people and property (**34%**).

Access to justice

Level of confidence



- In the event of problems of justice, 77% of women say they would go to a court, compared with 86% of men, 83% of adults and 78% of young people.
- The traditional chief is preferred for family disputes or disputes with a member of the community. If they disagree with a decision made by the chief, 80% say they would go to the state court.
- 50% report that traditional justice and state justice do not deal with the same issues.



Recommendations



While urban areas generally have good security, the deployment of the FDS should be made more visible in rural areas.



Internally displaced persons have been victims or witnesses of violence. The majority of respondents condemn the lack of infrastructure, drinking water and healthcare. National and international partners should provide support to people suffering from trauma.



Access to state justice should be strengthened. While customary justice plays an important role on a day-to-day basis, it can also be discriminatory if it is not formalised. It is essential to strengthen collaboration between the formal justice system and customary justice. Educating populations about their rights and responsibilities is an essential precondition for justice.



Setting up discreet and secure communication mechanisms between the population and the FDS would avoid exposing the population to reprisals after they have reported crimes and offences.



Communication between the security forces and the population is essential in the fight against insecurity.