



Just Future programme – Cordaid
Perception survey conducted 20–30 October 2024

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

///// Update from the Q6 field survey



SIPRI and POINT SUD
Funded by Cordaid

JUST FUTURE
PROGRAMME



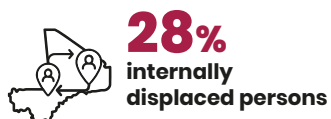
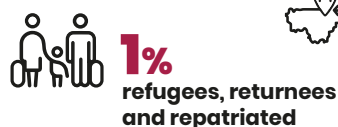
Methodology

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 544 people, in 16 communes, 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 broken down as follows:



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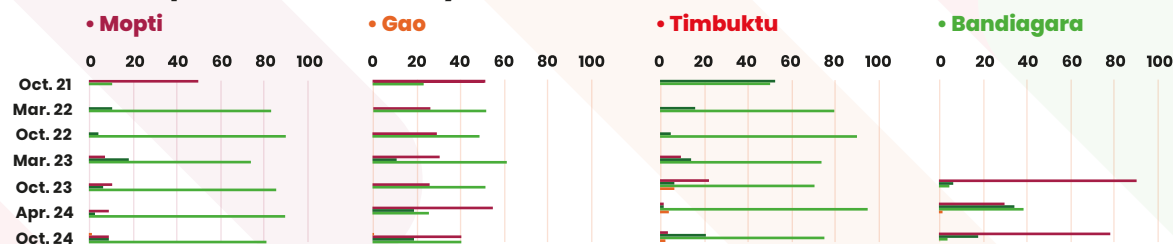
Survey areas

/// Source: map of Mali, produced by Dr O. Dembélé, coordinator of the Just Future project at POINT SUD. 17/01/25

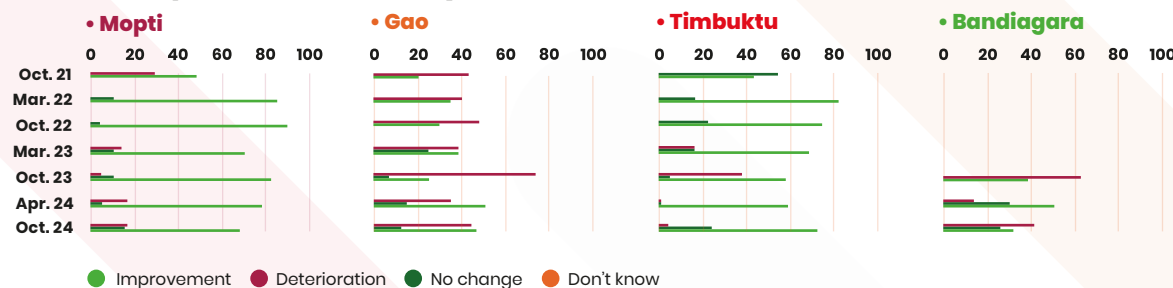


Perceptions of insecurity

Perceptions of the security situation at national level



Perceptions of the security situation at local level



Main sources of insecurity

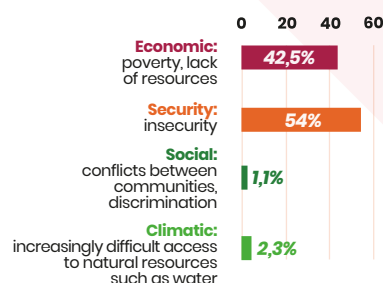


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In their immediate environment, respondents say they feel:



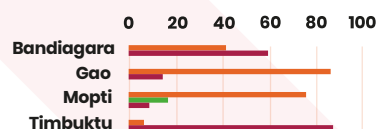
Mains sources of insecurity:



“

Last month there was a tragedy in our village, armed men came several times to sign an agreement, but the village chief didn't agree with it, I think that's why he was murdered, the next day everyone left the village. ”
(Interview with an IDP, Mopti region, October 2024).

By localities:

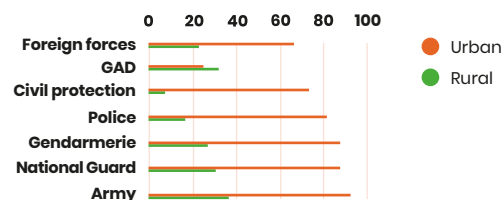


Relations between populations and defence and security forces (FDS)

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.



State forces are mainly present in urban areas.

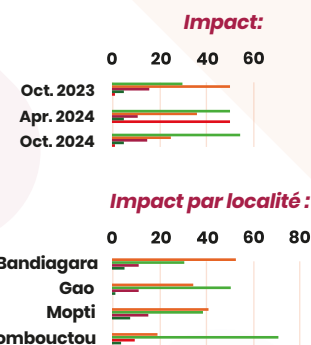


Expressed confidence in security actors

Confidence in security actors remains high (between 60 and 85% depending on the actor), but the behaviour of the FDS and Russian forces is increasingly criticised. Confidence is lower in the communes of the Bandiagara, Gao and Timbuktu regions than in the Mopti region.



Withdrawal of MINUSMA



Role of the defence and security forces



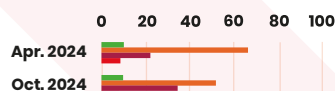
Despite continuing insecurity, relations between the populations interviewed and the FDS were described as "good" and "fair".

“

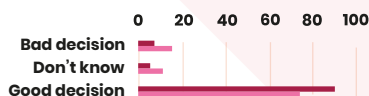
The population has no choice and no solution to the security crisis other than following the instructions given by the authorities or armed groups, there are victims on all sides, the only way out is neutrality, because if you associate with armed terrorist groups you're targeted by the army, and vice versa. ”
(Interview in the Youwarou Cercle, October 2024).

National-level policy

End of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation

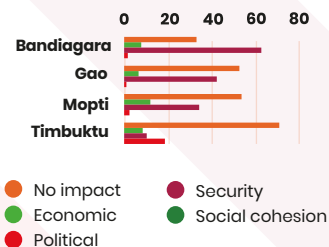


Withdrawal from ECOWAS and creation of the AES



● Creation of the AES ● Withdrawal from ECOWAS

Impact by localities

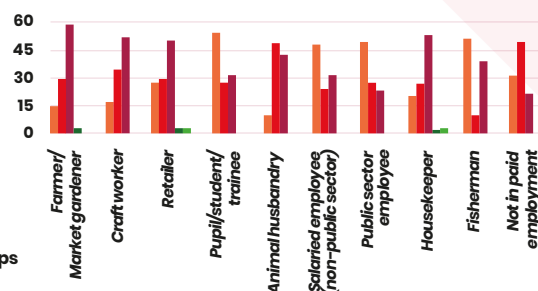
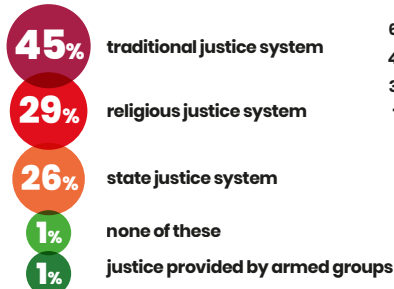


Local civil society and security issues

- “Civil society” has a strong presence at local level, involving a wide range of actors from 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**. The role of youth organisations in providing security for villages is particularly highlighted.

Access to justice

Level of confidence



- Perception of the independence of the state justice system: **52% say the justice system is not very independent**.
- **48% of people expect justice to be free from corruption** and 25% expect it to be dispensed with respect for all.
- Traditional justice: **49% say that traditional justice can deal with problems quickly**.
- **78% would like to receive a record of the chief’s decision**.
- 65% of people say that, after a decision from traditional justice, matters should then be transferred/centralised to the state level.



Conclusions

- **Living conditions for the people of Central and Northern Mali continue to deteriorate, both in terms of security and the economy.**
- **Rural populations are suffering from attacks, kidnappings, theft of livestock, and pay zakat in certain areas (effectively used as a form of taxation and funding by non-state armed groups).**
- **The situation has deteriorated severely in Bandiagara, with many villages displaced. The town of Bandiagara is home to a very large number of IDPs.**



Recommendations



Reinforce the deployment of FDS in rural zones



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



Support the introduction of community policing



Institutionalise local security advisory committees at the national scale



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