



Just Future Programme - Cordaid
Perception survey conducted from 5 to 14 March 2023

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

//// Restitution of Q3 field survey



SIPRI and LASDEL
Cordaid funding

JUST FUTURE
PROGRAMME

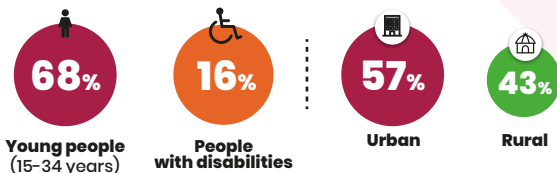


Methodology

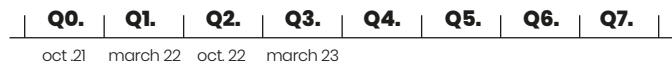
As part of the “Just Future” programme funded by Cordaid, SIPRI and its partner LASDEL are conducting perception surveys with a representative sample of 693 people in 6 communes and 27 localities in the Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions of Niger.

In line with the expectations expressed by CORDAID towards the categories of the population with the least voice, particular attention was paid to the inclusion of women, young people, people with disabilities and displaced persons or refugees.

The **sample** was therefore distributed as follows:



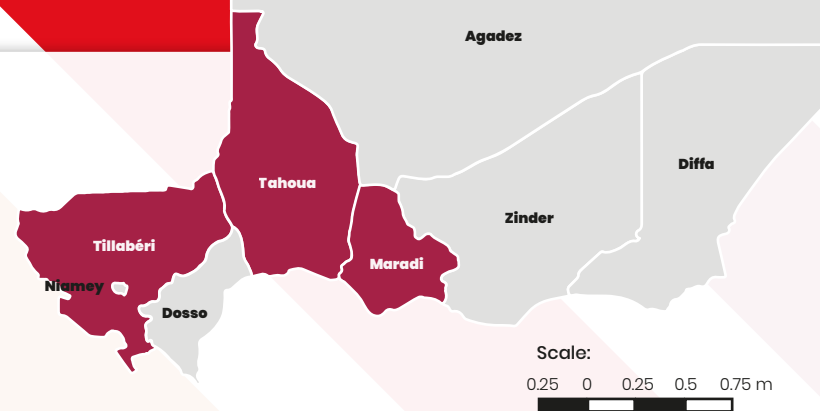
Historical timeline of the surveys:



Perception survey conducted from 5 to 14 March 2023 – This project is funded by Cordaid

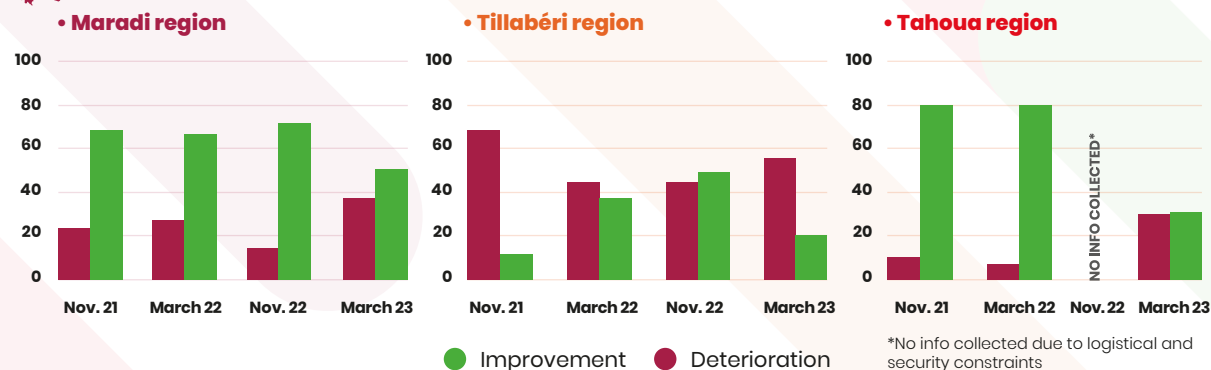
Survey areas

Source: map of Niger

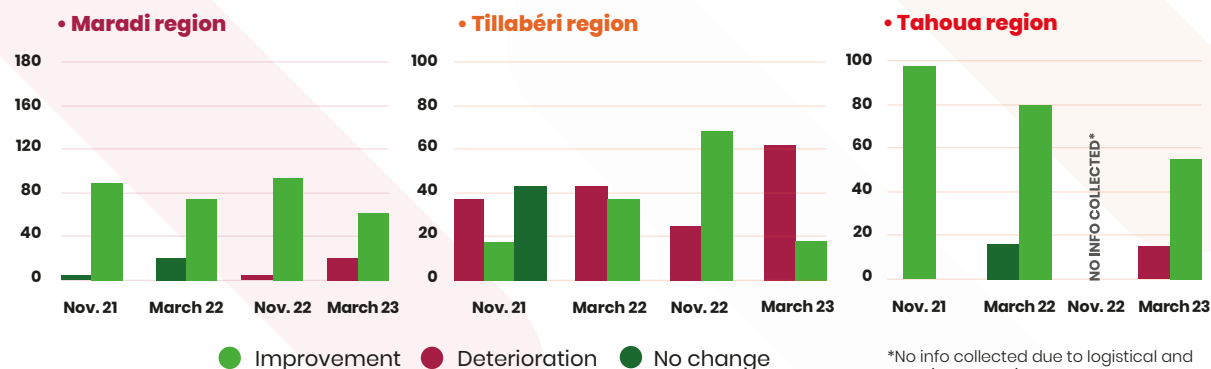


Perceptions of insecurity

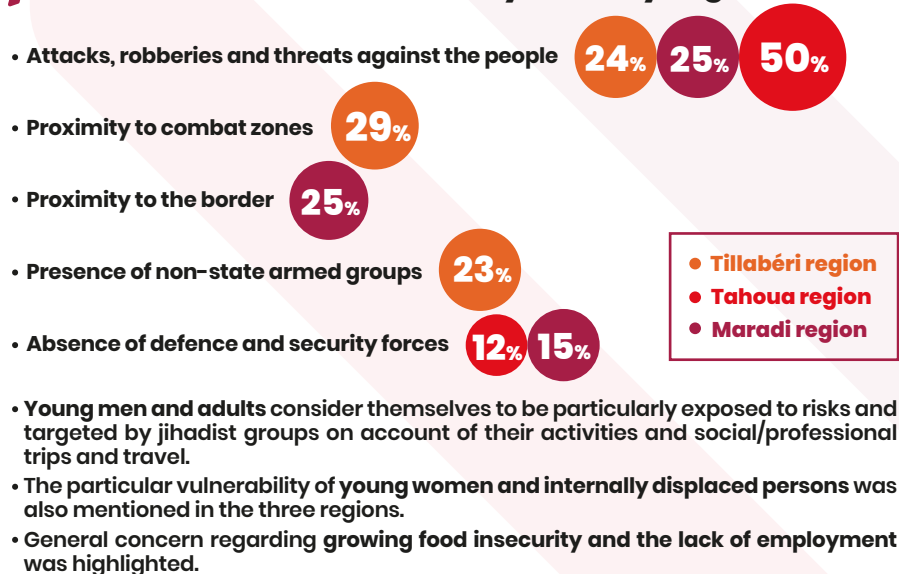
Perceptions of the security situation at national level



Perceptions of the security situation at local level



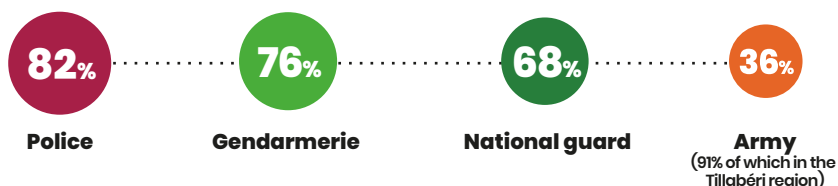
Main sources of insecurity cited by region



Relations between people and state security forces

The perceptions collected 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.

State security forces

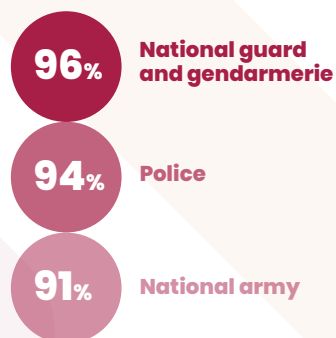


Perception survey conducted from 5 to 14 March 2023 – This project is funded by Cordaid

Despite persisting local insecurities, the continued trust in state security forces reflects the people's high expectations in terms of dialogue with these forces, their presence and the need for protection on a daily basis. The people ask for them to be visible more often and more extensively outside the urban centres.



Confidence in security actors



Existence of neighbourhood watch committees ('comités de vigilance') made of residents and known to the local authorities. They look out for crime in the neighbourhoods by organising night patrols and reporting issues to the security forces.



Limitations in the relationship with defence and security forces

This remains a sensitive issue for the respondents due to the following limitations and criticisms:

- **Lack of forces in the area or late responses** after attacks and robberies committed against the people and their property (especially cattle), particularly in rural areas.
- Direct exchanges with the forces prevented by a **fear of reprisals** by jihadist groups. Relations with the forces can also be characterised by a **reciprocal lack of trust** in areas where insecurity is highest (particularly in the Tillabéri region).
- **Lack of anonymity** when exchanging information with the forces.
- Persistence of **arbitrary behaviour** in daily interactions with the police force and gendarmerie in particular (corruption, lack of transparency of procedures).

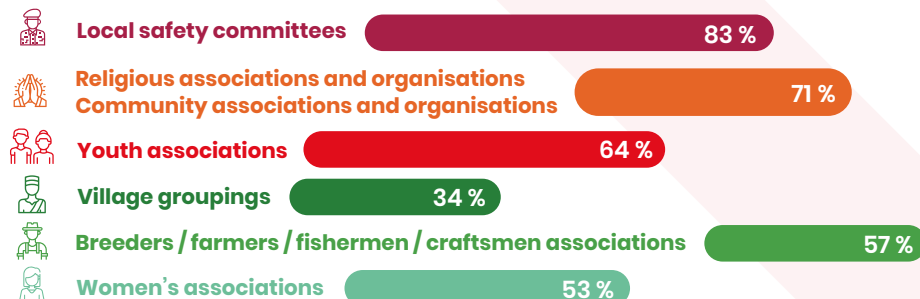


In March 2023, in the Tillabéri region, the people reported cases of community discrimination due to the forces' lack of knowledge of the local context and a lack of dialogue with the communities concerning their perceptions of insecurity. Certain socio-professional categories such as farmers and transporters believe that they are particularly at risk of discrimination and violence from the forces. The same applies to young men and internally displaced persons in the Tillabéri and Maradi regions.

Local civil society and security issues



76% of respondents believe that certain local actors of civil society have a role to play where issues of security are concerned. The most cited actors, in order of frequency are:



Civil society's roles and activities

In order of frequency by regions:

- Information meetings about local security (Tillabéri, Maradi)
- Direct contact and exchanges with the forces (Tahoua)
- Watching over neighbourhoods, property, herds (Maradi)
- Management and reduction of local tensions and conflicts (in the three regions)



Limitations faced by local civil society on security issues

Significant limitations continue to be observed in terms of their **ability to function and take action** in the field:

- Lack of funding
- Severity of insecurity and a prevailing fear of reprisals
- Limited access to security information



Conclusion

- The first survey conducted in 2023 confirms the **worsening of the security situation in the Tillabéri region and the increase in vulnerability in the border areas**. Daily crime continues to be widespread in the three regions. The situation of refugees and IDPs (from Mali or Nigeria) is an additional shared element of concern.
- Faced with these different insecurities, **the people call for the state security forces to be more responsive and present**, especially in rural areas. They also need more direct, confidential and less intimidating access to them to obtain information about the security situation. This way, they want to be increasingly "associated" with security issues.



Recommendations

- **Assist the local civil society with the collection of information from the people** about the development of the security situation through unobtrusive and secure mechanisms (applications, focal points, relays by local actors of civil society trained in doing so).
- **Promote regular meetings and discussions with the forces** through awareness-raising meetings and information, cultural, sports, health activities involving local security committees and the people in order to improve the flow of information about the local role of forces and the different means of contacting them, and to encourage trust.
- **Guarantee the confidentiality concerning security issues** particularly through witness protection and the preservation of anonymity when reporting issues or making complaints.