



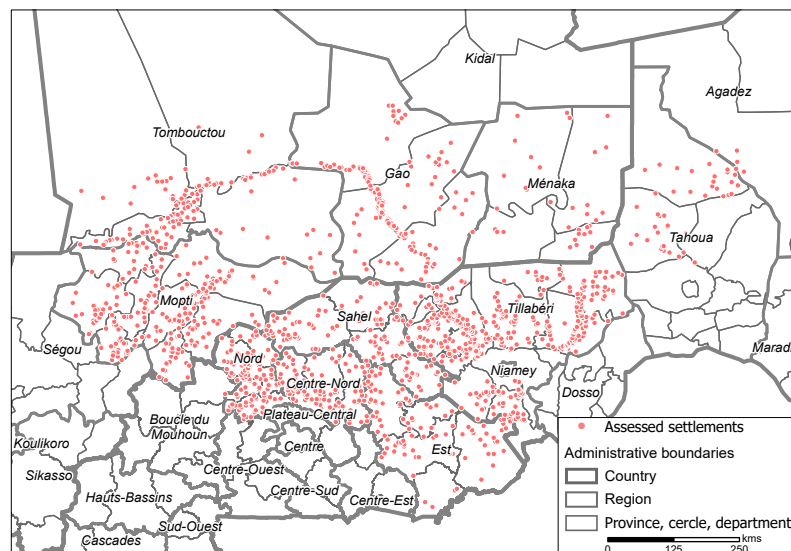
Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)

Three Borders area | Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

May 2021

Geographical coverage

Assessed settlements in the Three Borders area in May 2021



Admin 2 (province, cercle, department) covered

Burkina Faso (province) | Bam, Namentenga, Sanmatenga, Gnagna, Gourma, Komondjari, Koupela, Tapoa, Loroum, Passore, Yatenga, Zondoma, Oudalan, Seno, Soum, Yagha

Mali (cercle) | Bourem, Gao, Ansongo, Anderamboukane, Inekar, Menaka, Tidermene, Bandiagara, Bankass, Djenné, Douentza, Koro, Mopti, Tenenkou, Youwarou, Dire, Goundam, Gourma-Rharous, Niafunke, Timbuktu

Niger (department) | Tassara, Tillia, Abala, Ayerou, Banibangou, Bankilare, Filingue, Gotheie, Ouallam, Say, Tera, Tillabery, Torodi

Assessment coverage

- 1 953 KIs interviewed**
 - **1 739** had visited the settlements in the last 30 days
 - **214** had been in contact (in person / phone) with someone from the settlement in the last 30 days
- 1 591 settlements assessed**
- 49 / 49 Admin 2 assessed with 5% coverage or more**

Context overview

Since the beginning of the 2012 crisis, the population of the border zone between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger ('Liptako-Gourma' region) has been affected by the consequences of community-based conflicts, owing to the socio-economic challenges and access to scarce resources such as land and water. These conflicts have been exploited by armed groups, causing the displacement of more than **1.9 millions IDPs** and more than **310.200 refugees** as of June 2021⁴. Consequences of heightened and frequent insecurity spread across the three countries, limiting access to vulnerable populations and creating information gaps about their urgent needs. To address this information gap faced by the humanitarian response in the Three Borders area, REACH conducts a monthly Humanitarian Situation and Needs Monitoring (HSM), in collaboration with clusters and the humanitarian community. This project aims to provide overviews of the dynamics in the region and the needs in the region's hotspots. All the information products are available on the [Reach Resource Center](#).

Methodology

REACH employs its 'Area of Knowledge' to collect information in hard-to-reach areas. This methodology aims to collect, analyse and share up-to-date information regarding multisector humanitarian needs, access to basic services and population displacements. It also allows data collection in hard-to-reach settlements. Data is collected at settlement-level through Key informants (KIs), and is aggregated at the Admin 1, 2 and 3 level. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have recent and precise knowledge about a specific settlement of the Three Borders area. When assessed settlements have more than one KI reporting on the settlement, data is aggregated at the settlement level. Data is only reported for Admin 2 in which 5% of settlements have been assessed.

This Situation Overview presents data collected between the **4th and the 31st of May 2021**. Unless otherwise specified, all percentages represent the proportion of settlements assessed where KIs have reported that specific response for the majority of the population of the settlement in a 30-days period prior to the data collection. **Therefore, findings presented in this product should be considered as indicative.**

Key results

		Burkina Faso				Mali				Niger	
% of assessed settlements where KIs have reported:		C-N ¹	Est	Nord	Sahel	Gao	Mopti	Menaka	Tbkt ¹	Tahoua	Tillabéri
	The presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	95%	49%	65%	89%	37%	67%	86%	46%	40%	8%
	The arrival of new IDPs during the past month	2%	20%	13%	5%	27%	11%	22%	7%	38%	33%
	The arrival of returnees during the past month	21%	20%	54%	38%	31%	60%	0%	29%	0%	0%
	Lack of access to enough food for the majority of the population	15%	33%	60%	59%	56%	70%	64%	47%	74%	81%
	Disruption of livelihoods for the majority of the population	13%	13%	12%	41%	39%	70%	64%	47%	72%	42%
	No access to functioning health services within walking distance	0%	4%	2%	6%	34%	29%	45%	40%	34%	3%
	No access to functioning nutrition services within walking distance	0%	4%	2%	3%	39%	38%	64%	44%	45%	15%
	Insufficient access to water	36%	51%	57%	67%	42%	39%	52%	43%	57%	51%
	The majority of IDPs not living in adequate conditions ^{2 3}	13%	72%	44%	37%	65%	91%	72%	61%	14%	58%
	No access to functioning educational services within walking distance	13%	52%	19%	74%	44%	50%	64%	47%	21%	20%
	The majority of the population not feeling safe	13%	44%	22%	45%	54%	100%	62%	65%	81%	35%

1. In this Factsheet the following abbreviations are used : C-N for the Centre-Nord region ; Tbkt for the Timbuktu region

2. Percentage calculated on the total number of settlements where KIs reported the presence of these population groups in the settlement in the 30 days prior to data collection

3. The definition of «adequate condition of living» is left to the discretion of the KIs.

4. World Food Programme. [Central Sahel Situation Report](#), June 2021; these figures represent the total number of registered IDP and refugees in the three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), and not only in the regions assessed by the HSM.

5. KIs could select all relevant options to answer this question

6. The definition of « within walking distance » and «functioning market» is left to the discretion of the KIs



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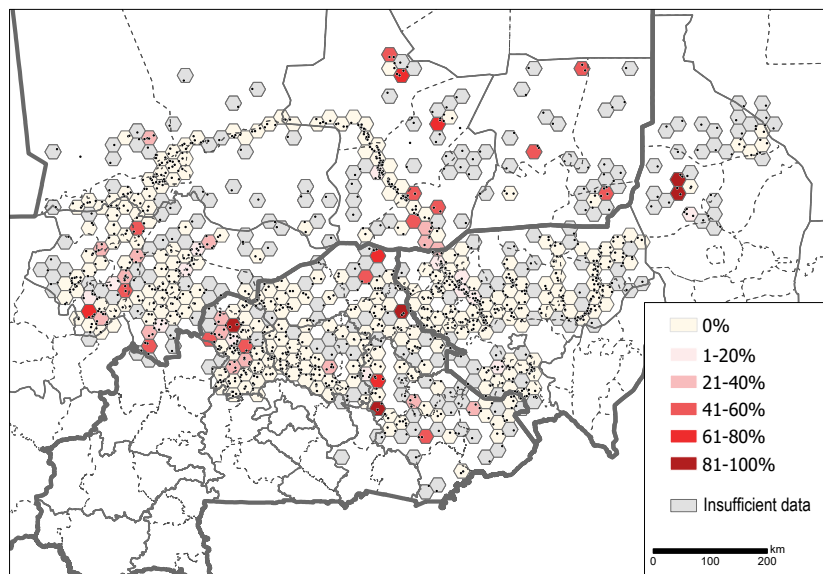
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Displacement and population movements

% of assessed settlements where KIs have reported recent arrival of IDPs or refugees:



Population displacement seems to remain dynamic in Niger and Mali, with KIs in more than 40% of assessed settlements reporting that the IDPs in their settlement had been displaced for less than three months. More specifically, KIs reported a considerable movement of people in the Menaka and Tahoua regions at the Mali-Niger border. Meanwhile, in Burkina Faso, KIs reported that the IDPs living in more than 50% of assessed settlements have been displaced for more than seven months. In the meantime, the two regions where the largest proportion of assessed settlements reported IDP presence were both in Burkina Faso (Centre-Nord and Sahel regions). These last observations highlight that the push factors that forced the population to flee their home settlements are settling, as the duration of the displacement seems to be lasting. The presence of a number of returnees was reported by KIs in some assessed settlements, particularly in the Sahel region (Burkina Faso) and the Timbuktu region (Mali). However, it remains as of today unclear whether these returnees are permanently settling back in their areas of origin, as opposed to seasonal commuting.

Main push factors triggering population displacement for IDPs (% of assessed settlements in the Three Borders area)²:

Violence in settlement of origin	64%	
Preventive displacement	20%	
Inter/intra-community tensions	13%	

Insecurity, expressed in several forms, remained the main factor to justify IDPs movements in the three countries. In Burkina Faso and Niger, security shocks in the settlement of origin represented the main reason for displacement among most IDPs present in a large majority of the assessed settlements. In Mali, preventive displacement or community-based tensions were reported as the main reason for the displacement of IDPs present in more than 60% of assessed settlements, according to KIs.

Top 3 regions with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported the presence of IDPs / returnees / refugees:

IDPs	Returnees	Refugees
1 C-N ¹ 95%	1 Sahel 29%	1 Tahoua 6%
2 Sahel 89%	2 Tckt ¹ 24%	2 Nord 3%
3 Menaka 86%	3 C-N ¹ 18%	3 Sahel 2%

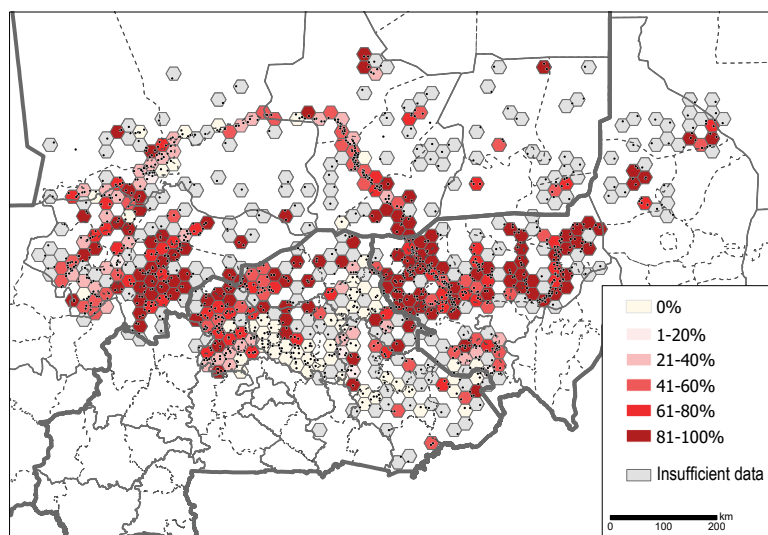
Food Security and Livelihood

At the start of the 2021 lean season, the situation regarding food security in the Three Border area remained precarious. According to KIs, the majority of the population in 60% of total assessed settlements was food scarcity. In the Nigerien regions of Tahoua and Tillaberi, this proportion rose to 81% of total assessed settlements. Various reasons explain these difficulties to access food, depending on the area. In Burkina Faso, lack of secure access to arable lands was reported as the main cause of the constrained access to food resources in the vast majority (93%) of the assessed settlements in the Sahel and the Centre-Nord regions. Whereas in Mali and Niger, this problem seems to be rooted in a combination of several factors, such as high prices, poor access to functioning markets or lack of cattle. KIs for an important proportion (44%) of settlements in the Mopti region have pointed the discontinuation of humanitarian distributions as the main cause of the lack of access to food resources.

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported the absence of functioning markets within a walking distance and main reason (Three Borders area / Top 3 regions)^{5,6}:

Three Borders area	16%	Absence of market ⁷
Menaka	52%	Insecurity
Timbuktu	45%	Absence of market ⁷
Tahoua	36%	Absence of market ⁷

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported a lack of access to food:



% of assessed settlements in the Three Borders area where KIs reported that the majority of the population had access to their usual livelihood:



7. Within walking distance



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Health and Nutrition

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported the absence of functioning health services within a walking distance and main reason of the access constraint (Three Borders area / Top 3 regions)^{5 6 8}:

Three Borders area	16%	Health services too far away
Menaka	45%	Health services too far away
Timbuktu	40%	Health services too far away
Gao	36%	Health services too far away

According to KIs, the consequences of insecurity in the Three Borders area accounted for the main reason behind the lack of access to functioning health services for the population of more than 50% of the assessed settlements in the Nord, Sahel and Tillabery regions.⁸ These consequences range from health-workers displacement to insecurity on the road or the destruction/closure of health infrastructures. However, the main barrier for the population to access health services seemed to be the long distance between the settlement and the closest functioning health infrastructure, according to the KIs.

Shelters and Non Food Items (NFI)

% of assessed settlements where the majority of IDPs were not living in adequate housing conditions (Three Borders area/Top 3 regions)^{2 3}:

Three Borders area	56%
Mopti	91%
Menaka	72%
Est	72%

Top 3 main reasons why the majority of IDPs was not living in adequate conditions (% of assessed settlements)^{2 3 9}:

- 1 Shelter does not guarantee protection / intimacy standards **56%**
- 2 High risk of eviction **15%**
- 3 Insecurity in the area / neighbourhood **13%**

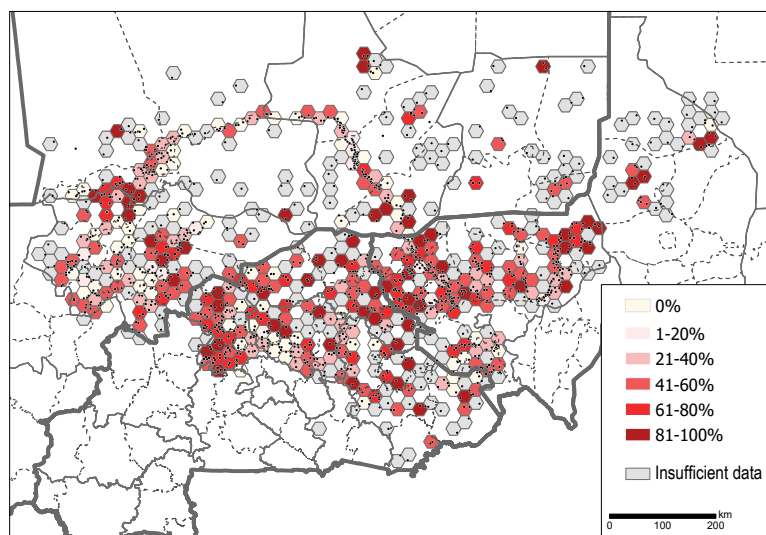
Regarding shelter conditions, KIs reported that the majority of the host communities was living in solid shelters or traditional huts in about 95% of total assessed settlements. On the other hand, the situation seems more unstable for displaced communities. In 25% of assessed settlements of Burkina Faso and Niger, KIs reported that the majority of IDPs were living in precarious shelter conditions such as makeshift shelters, transition or emergency shelters, public buildings or refugee housing units (RHU). In the Sahel and Centre-Nord regions (Burkina Faso), these figures could become alarming when contrasted with the long duration of the displacement for a large proportion of IDPs, according to KIs (cf. "Displacements and population movements" section), or the absolute number of IDPs reported in these two regions (about 900,000 as of May 2021)¹⁰. Furthermore, KIs reported that the majority of IDPs seemed to be welcomed to the host communities at no cost in 68 % of the assessed settlements. However, land occupation by IDPs without agreement has also been reported: in Gao and Tahoua, KIs reported this situation in 50% and 76% of assessed settlements, respectively. The absence of any type of agreement can create a high risk of eviction for these populations.

8. Percentage calculated on the total number of settlements where KIs reported that the majority of the population did not have access to functioning health services in the last 30 days.

9. Percentage calculated on the proportion of settlements where KIs reported that the majority of IDPs were not living in

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported insufficient access to water to cover households needs:



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported handwashing without soap or ash for the majority of the population (Three Borders area / Top 3 regions):

Three Borders area	71%
Tillabery	95%
Nord	82%
Tahoua	77%

Access to clean water in the Three Borders area remains limited. According to KIs, the majority of the population had access to enough water to cover household needs in about one settlement out of two (51%) amongst assessed settlements in the whole area. Regarding water sources, KIs reported that population in the Three Borders area are mainly using water coming from human-operated pumps (HMP) or improved water wells. However, KIs in Mali indicated that the majority of the population of 24% of assessed settlements in the country was using non-improved water wells or natural water streams (rainwater, rivers or surface water) as their main source of water. The use of natural water streams and non-improved sources of water raises the question of both the quantity and the quality of the water, shedding light on the potential illnesses and consequences on health for these populations. Furthermore, insecurity still seems to be an important factor in preventing groups of population from accessing vital resources. KIs in the Malian regions of Timbuktu and Gao have indicated that populations could not have access to their usual water source because of insecurity in about 20% of assessed settlements. In the region of Menaka, this percentage reached 40%. The presence of a "water management committee" (or similar institution) was reported by KIs in almost half of the total assessed settlements. In the Est region the presence of such an institution was only reported by KIs in 28% of the assessed settlements.

% of assessed settlements where the majority of the population did not use latrines (Three Borders area / Top 3 regions):

Three Borders area	60%
Tillabery	86%
Tahoua	85%
Est	73%

adequate conditions.

10. Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONASUR). «Enregistrement des personnes déplacées internes du Burkina Faso», May 2021



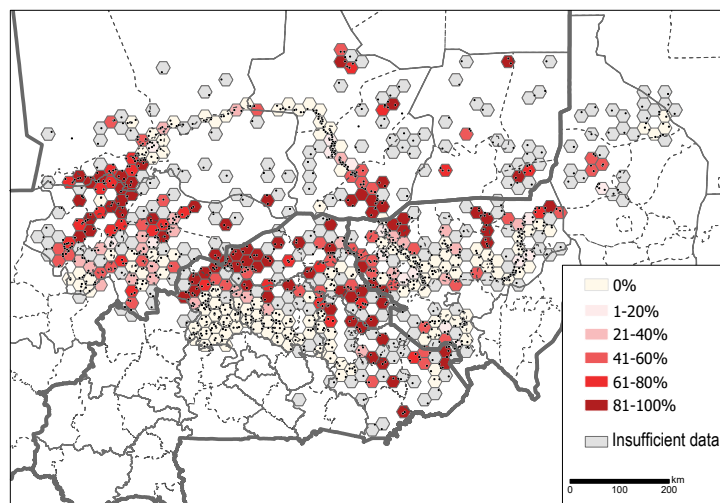
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Education

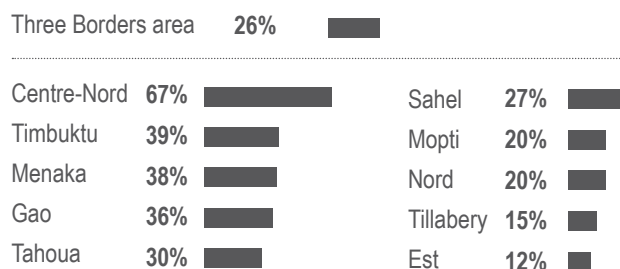
Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported lack of access to functioning education services within walking distance⁶:



The general problem of the lack of access to essential resources and basic services which affects the Three Borders area does not spare the education sector. In the whole region, KIs indicated that the majority of the population in more than a third (38%) of total assessed settlements did not have access to functioning education services within a walking distance. The situation seems even more critical in some regions such as Menaka or the Sahel, where this proportion reached 64% and 74%, respectively. In Niger, according to KIs, the majority of the population had access to functioning education services within a walking distance in 80% of total assessed settlements in the country. Regarding the situation in Burkina Faso and Mali, the main reasons explaining this lack of access to education services seemed to be the poor number – or sometimes total absence – of education workers and teachers in the area, whether they were already displaced or they decided to stop teaching because of insecurity (sometimes after being threatened).

Accountability to Affected Populations

% of assessed settlements where at least part of the population received humanitarian assistance:



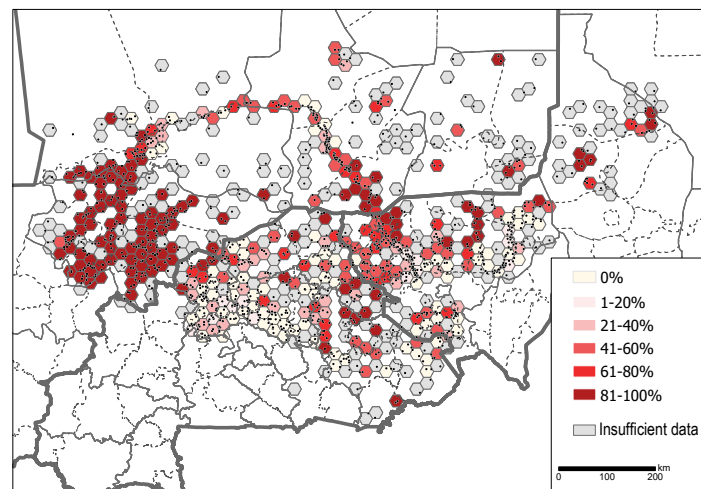
Top 3 priority sectors of humanitarian intervention for the majority of the population (% of assessed settlements in each country)¹¹:

Mali	Burkina Faso	Niger
1 Food sec. ¹² 81%	1 Food sec. ¹² 77%	1 Food sec. ¹² 78%
2 WASH 37%	2 WASH 55%	2 WASH 49%
3 Livelihood 37%	3 Cash 33%	3 Health 41%

11. KIs were asked which humanitarian sectors they thought were priorities in their settlement. They could choose up to three priority areas of intervention.

Protection

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that the majority of the population did not feel secure:



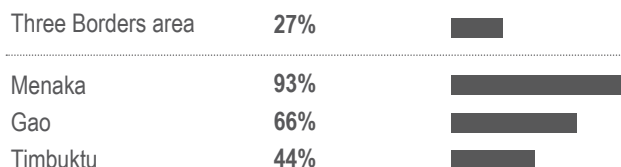
Main protection concerns (% of assessed settlements in the Three Borders area)⁴

Violence (armed groups)	52%
Cattle theft	33%
Risk of abduction	20%
Criminality	19%

Perception of insecurity amongst the population is still very strong in some areas. In the whole Three Borders zone, the majority of the population did not feel safe in the settlement in more than half (51%) of all assessed settlements, according to KIs. This perception of insecurity was particularly widespread in the region of Mopti, where it concerned the population in all (100%) of assessed settlements of the region. Violence by armed groups seemed to remain the main concern regarding protection issues: in the Tahoua, Est and Sahel regions, where these groups are particularly active, this percentage was above 70% of assessed settlements in each region. In Mali, community-based violence and conflicts over access to resources have also been mentioned often by KIs as the main protection issue of the majority of the population. KIs reported the absence of protection services (or similar institutions) in more than two-thirds (68%) of total assessed settlements in the whole area.

Communication

% of assessed settlements where a stable telephone network did not exist (Three Borders area / Top 3 regions):



Difficulties in getting access to information about humanitarian assistance affected the population of 20% of total assessed settlements in the three countries, while some regions appeared more isolated. In the Nord and Menaka regions, this issue concerned more than 45% of assessed settlements in each region, according to KIs. In addition, whereas KIs of Burkina Faso reported the radio as the population's preferred medium of communication, the populations in Mali and Niger preferred the use of telephones – according to KIs –, thus remaining more dependant on the stability (or the existence) of the telecom network.

12. Food security.