

Context

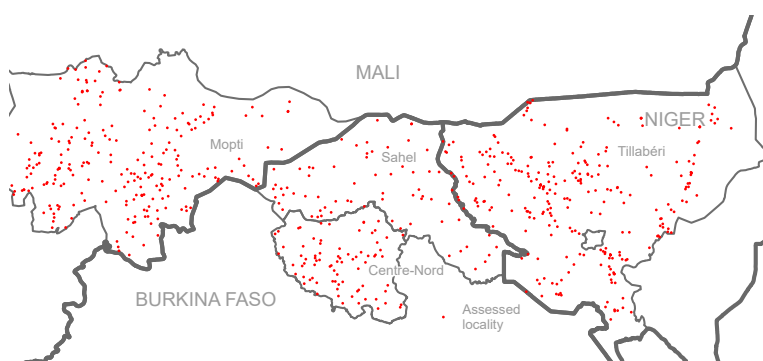
The border area between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger has been characterized by a climate of insecurity due to the presence of armed groups, criminality and rising tensions between communities. Access to affected populations is limited in some localities due to the security situation, poor infrastructure and difficult geographical conditions. In collaboration with the humanitarian coordination mechanisms in the three countries, REACH has set up a monthly monitoring of the humanitarian situation in the departments located in the border area in order to address the lack of information about these localities. The monthly assessment provides an overview of the relative severity of multisectoral needs between the geographical areas and their evolution across time. All the products related to this assessment are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

Methodology

The methodology used by REACH to collect information in the border zone between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger is the so-called "Area of Knowledge" methodology. The aim of this methodology is to collect, analyse and share up-to-date information about the region, including in areas that are difficult to access. The information collected concerns multi-sectoral humanitarian needs, accessibility of basic services and displacement dynamics. The data is collected at the settlement level, through interviews with key informants (KIs) selected on the basis of their recent (less than a month) and detailed knowledge of the situation in a settlement. Results are reported when at least 5% of the settlements in each region have been assessed and should be considered indicative of the humanitarian situation. For more information, please consult the [Terms of Reference](#) of the research.

Geographical coverage

Assessed localities in the three-border area:



Assessed regions	Total # of localities ¹	# of assessed localities	Coverage
Mopti, Mali	3 133	240	7.7%
Centre-Nord, Burkina Faso	1 169	103	8.8%
Sahel, Burkina Faso	1 337	94	7.0%
Tillabéri, Niger	4 453	399	9.0%

Types of key informants:

Person who has visited the settlements in the last month	952
Person who has had contact with someone living in the locality	185

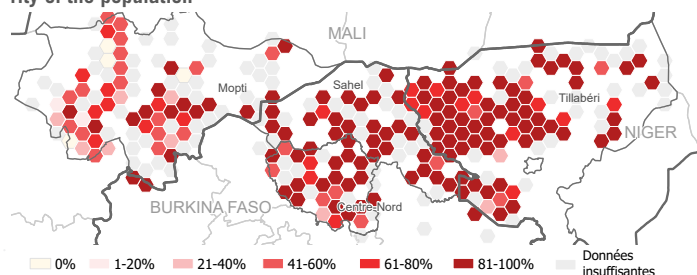
Key messages

1 The proportion of settlements where the majority of the population reportedly does not have sufficient access to food seems to have increased in all regions except for Mopti, compared to November 2019. While insecurity remains an important driver for food insecurity, climatic factors are playing at least an equally important role in the regions of Sahel, Centre-Nord and Tillabéri. Food security assistance is considered the priority sector for most settlements in each region, followed by a need for protection.

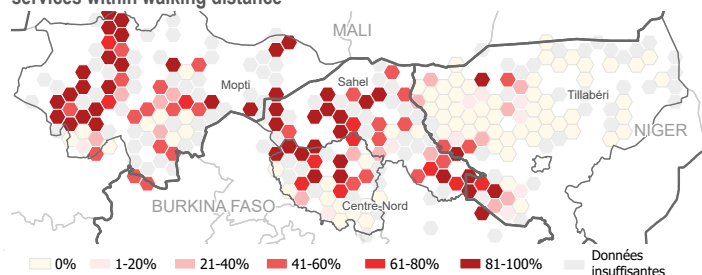
2 Across the three-border area, 25% of assessed settlements do not have access to health facilities and 37% lack access to education, according to KIs. These indicators seem most severe in Mopti and the assessed regions in Burkina Faso, closely related to insecurity. Nevertheless, barriers to access to education are on the rise in Niger compared to November, most notably due to the increased targeting of education facilities along the Burkina Faso-Niger border by armed groups.

3 In more than half of the assessed settlements in each region, the majority of the population did not feel secure over the month prior to the assessment, according to KIs. The sentiment of insecurity is highest in Mopti and Sahel (87% and 87%) and lower in Centre Nord and Tillabéri (63% and 60%); yet, the two latter regions have both seen an increase in the perception of insecurity compared to November. The known or suspected presence of armed groups can pose an obstacle to access to services and infrastructure.

% of settlements where KIs reported inadequate access to food for the majority of the population



% of settlements where KIs reported a lack of access to functional educational services within walking distance



Key results

Key results	Mali	Burkina Faso		Niger
Proportion of assessed settlements reporting over the past month:	Mopti	Centre-Nord	Sahel	Tillabéri
A presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	48%	70%	57%	7%
The arrival of new IDPs during the past month	23%	50%	48%	4%
Inadequate access to food for the majority of the population	63%	81%	96%	86%
Disruption of usual livelihoods for the majority of the population	68%	45%	76%	48%
Lack of access to functional health services within walking distance	29%	47%	59%	9%
Lack of access to functional nutrition services within walking distance	58%	55%	67%	35%
Insufficient access to water	26%	68%	90%	44%
The majority of IDPs living in very precarious shelter conditions ^{1,2}	31%	21%	52%	30%
Lack of access to functional educational services within walking distance	63%	43%	70%	12%
The majority of the population not feeling safe	87%	63%	87%	60%

1. This indicator reflects a proportion of KIs among the assessed settlements that had reported that IDPs were present in the settlement (see line above in the same table on 'a presence of internally displaced people')

2. Type of shelter counted in the "very precarious shelter conditions" category are : makeshift straw / grass huts, transition shelter (structure and plastic sheeting, emergency or makeshift shelter, no shelter, public building, refugee housing unit (RHU))