

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 settlements 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 settlements. 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.

Key messages

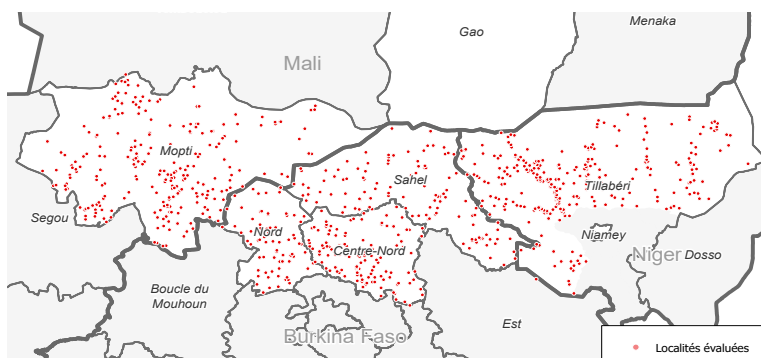
1 In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a **critical need for access to healthcare**, yet in a significant proportion of assessed settlements, KIs reported that the majority of the population does not have access to health facilities. The Sahel region seems the most heavily affected, with KIs reporting a lack of access to functional health services in 56% of assessed settlements, mainly due to the displacement of health workers and insecurity in the region. A lack of health infrastructure is cited as the main barrier to access in Mopti and Tillabéri. Respiratory problems are the main health-related problem in a growing proportion of localities in Tillabéri (21%), Sahel (19%) and Centre-Nord (16%), potentially linked to the dry season, which poses an additional vulnerability to COVID-19.

2 The Sahel, Centre Nord and Tillabéri regions seem to be most affected by a **lack of access to sufficient water**, and in Sahel and Centre-Nord, 21% and 33% of settlements reportedly have access to water within a 30 minute walk. Yet, while water seems relatively more available in Mopti and Nord, the proportion of assessed settlements using unimproved water points as their main water source was reportedly highest in these regions (17% and 34%). The majority of assessed settlements in each region does not use latrines, and in at least 75% in each region, the population does not use soap, ashes or sand when washing their hands, according to KIs.

3 As a result of the end of the harvest season, populations are reportedly moving increasingly to daily labour and petty trade, the latter accounting for the main **livelihood** activity for more than one-third of assessed settlements. Yet, while there is an increased dependency on these livelihoods, COVID-related restrictions on transportation, gatherings and border closures may negatively affect them.

Geographical coverage

Assessed settlements in the three-border area:

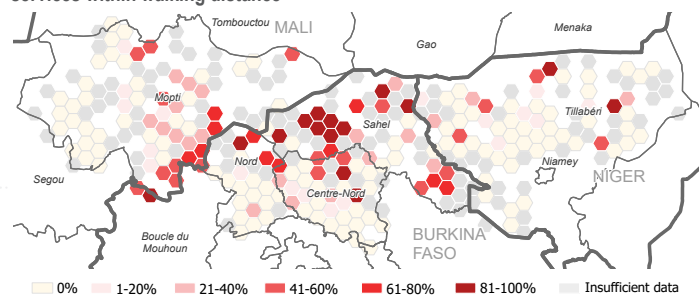


Assessed regions	Total # of settlements	# of assessed settlements	Coverage
Mopti, Mali	3 133	268	8.6%
Centre-Nord, Burkina Faso	1 169	128	11.0%
Sahel, Burkina Faso	1 337	117	8.8%
Nord, Burkina Faso	933	82	8.8%
Tillabéri, Niger	4 453	299	5.1%

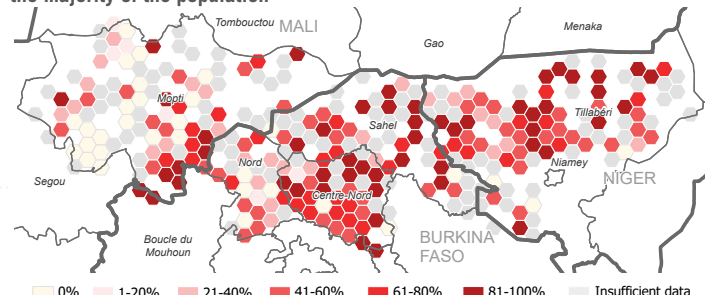
Types of key informants:

Person who has visited the settlements in the last month	1 486
Person who has had contact with someone living in the settlement	23

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



% of settlements where KIs reported a lack of access to sufficient water for the majority of the population



Key results

Proportion of assessed settlements reporting over the past month:

A presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	53%
The arrival of new IDPs during the past month	24%
Inadequate access to food for the majority of the population	60%
Disruption of usual livelihoods for the majority of the population	66%
Lack of access to functional health services within walking distance	18%
Lack of access to sufficient water	36%
The majority of IDPs lacking adequate living conditions	77%
Lack of access to functional educational services within walking distance	53%
The majority of the population not feeling safe	90%

	Mali	Burkina Faso			Niger
	Mopti	Centre-Nord	Sahel	Nord	Tillabéri
A presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	53%	76%	71%	57%	9%
The arrival of new IDPs during the past month	24%	52%	50%	20%	5%
Inadequate access to food for the majority of the population	60%	43%	62%	34%	92%
Disruption of usual livelihoods for the majority of the population	66%	45%	63%	28%	61%
Lack of access to functional health services within walking distance	18%	16%	56%	18%	10%
Lack of access to sufficient water	36%	69%	72%	30%	60%
The majority of IDPs lacking adequate living conditions	77%	81%	86%	13%	55%
Lack of access to functional educational services within walking distance	53%	34%	78%	28%	21%
The majority of the population not feeling safe	90%	63%	91%	37%	62%