



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mali Mètre VI Mai 18 – 25, 2015

OVERVIEW

The current edition of the survey Mali Metre aimed at the investigation of public opinions in Mali about the confidence in political institutions, as well as regarding several current topics and challenges like the Peace Agreement of Alger, the countries security situation, the reconciliation and justice, the regionalization, the major challenges for Mali, as well as the priorities of the government and others.

The survey was realized between May 18 – 25, 2015 all over Mali with the exception of Kidal. Altogether 1803 people above 18 years were interviewed. The method of quotas has been used based on the following criteria: location, sex, age and level of education.

The rapport is structured in two parts: First, the context and the methodology and second, the findings of the survey.

ON THE CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

The President of the Republic: Altogether, more than two thirds (66,3 %) of the citizens expressed to have either confidence (23,3 %) or strong confidence (43,0%) in the president regarding the current security, institutional and socio-economic challenges Mali is facing. On the other hand, 16 % have little confidence and 15 % have no confidence altogether.

The Government: The findings indicate that slightly less than 6 out of 10 citizens (59, 1 %) have confidence in the government. This contrasts with 16, 4 % of the population that do not have confidence in the government and 19, 7 % who have only a limited confidence in the government.

The High Council of Collectivities (HCC): The proportion of citizens who express to have confidence in the HCC is 48,8 %. On the other side, 15,8 % declare not to have confidence, 18,8 % have little confidence and 16,6 % do not have an opinion.

The National Assembly: A slight majority of the citizens (52 %) expresses to have confidence on the Malian parliament. Out of those, 31,3 % declare to have confidence and 21,1 % sais to have strong confidence. These numbers are contrasted by 18,7 % who declare not to have confidence, 22,6 % who have only limited confidence and 6,3 % who sais to have no opinion.

MAJOR CHALLENGES OF MALI

Insecurity is perceived a major challenge by 71,7 % of the citizens. This number is followed by 49,9 % who believe the unemployment is the most pressing challenge. Further issues perceived as major challenges are: food insecurity (44,3%), poverty of the population ((27,4 %) and corruption (27,1%).

ON CORRUPTION

More than two out of three citizens (67 %) estimates that the level of corruption is considerable; out of those 23,8 % believe that the level of corruption is high whereas 43,2 % estimate that it is very high. The sectors that are perceived to be the most corrupted are: the police (52%), justice (44,4%), municipality (36,8 %), customs (34,5%), the health sector (32 %), and the school system (30 %).

ON THE AGREEMENT FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN MALI

The significance of May 15, 2015, day of the signature of the peace agreement: A majority of the citizens (68%) believes that May 15 holds a significance. Out of those, 37,7% believe that May 15 is an important date for the further peace process in the country whereas 31,4 % assign even a historical importance on that date as to end the armed conflict. On the other hand, 16,5 % estimate that the signing of the peace agreement has no impact/significance regarding the crisis and 14 % do not have an opinion.

Knowledge about the content of the peace agreement: Less than one out of five citizens (19 %) declares to have knowledge about some major aspects of the agreement. The main sources of information are the radio (67 %) and the television (59%).

Major actors regarding the implementation: For a large majority (88%), the government of Mali is the key player when it comes to the implementation of the peace agreement. Further main protagonists are: armed groups (42 %), the MINUSMA (28 %), and the financial and technical partners of Mali (27%).

The Peace Accord and the unity of the country: More than half of the population (55,9%) think that the Peace Agreement do on no way threaten the national unity as opposed to 29,4 % who believe the opposite and 17,4 % who state to have no opinion.

Meaning of the word “Azawad”: Around 30 % state to not know the meaning of “Azawad” as opposed to 18 % who say that “Azawad” is an invention by the rebel groups and 17 % who believe that “Azawad” is a region in the north of Mali that is occupied by armed groups. For roughly 12 % “Azawad” is a region in Mali where the armed groups impose their own law on local populations.

Judgement of the government’s signature of the Peace Agreement: A great majority of the inquired (80,1%) are in favor of the Malian government signing the Peace Agreement; 42,2 % judge this signature as good and 37,9 % as very good. Only a small minority (12,3%) disapprove the government’s signature and 7,5 % state to have no opinion.

The delay caused by the non-signature of the Coordination of the movements of Azawad (CMA): Almost two out of three citizens (63,5 %) declared not to appreciate the delay caused by the CMA's refusal to sign the Agreement.

Likely consequences of the non-signing of the Agreement by all parties: For a significant majority of 71 %, the fact that not all negotiating parties have signed the Agreement will cause a deterioration of the insecurity. Others believe it will lead to further political instability (35 %) and will mean an impossibility to reconcile the populations (24, 8%).

On the support of the MINUSMA in the implementation of the peace agreement: 35 % do not believe in the MINUSMA's support with regard to the implementation of the Peace Agreement as opposed to 26 % who declare to have confidence in the mission's support and 15 % who express to have no opinion on this.

Without the signature by the CMA, the majority of the citizens (50, 1%) believe that it will be difficult for the Malian government to implement the Peace Agreement. 28 % believe that without a signature by the CMA the Agreement cannot be implemented altogether.

On the contrary, 60, 6 % of the population believes that the government could easily implement the Peace Agreement if the CMA signed it.

ON THE REGIONALIZATION

Meaning of "regionalization": Slightly less than half of the citizens (48, 7%) declares not to know the meaning of "regionalization". For those who know the term, the regionalization implies: (1) more autonomy for the regions (22 %), (2) independence for the regions (17 %), (3) strengthened decentralization (12 %), (4) to strengthen the participation of the population regarding the management of their region (11%), and (5) less power to the capital Bamako and more power to the regions (9%).

Regionalization as an adequate response to the crisis: For a significant minority of 44 % the regionalization is in fact an adequate response to the recent crisis the country has been facing since 2012. On the other hand, 33 % believe the opposite and 23 % have no opinion.

Improvement of governance through regional elections: 64 % of those understand the significance of regionalization believe that the election of regional decision-makers by direct elections would improve the quality of governance in Mali.

Potential risks of the regionalization process: For those who understand the significance of the political term "regionalization", a potential risk of this process is an aggravation of corruption (23,3%), the weakening of the authority of the central state (13,5 %), establishment of nepotism/patronage (12,4 %), and an increase of inequalities between the regions (12,1 %).

Citizen's Identity: A large majority (71 %) considers itself as citizen of the country, whereas for 15, 8 % their prime identity is on the level of their region. 8, 9 % of the citizens identify first and foremost with his or her community and 2, 4 % consider themselves as citizens of the ECOWAS.

Willingness to pay higher taxes in order to contribute to the development of their region: 77, 6 % of the citizens would be willing to pay higher taxes in order to contribute to the development of their region as opposed by 17, 2 % who would not do so and 5,2 % without opinion.

Perception of perspectives of future generations in Mali: Despite the effects of the crisis, 63, 8 % of the citizens are optimistic about the perspectives of future generations in Mali by estimating that their children will live a better life in the future. 20 % think the opposite is true and 16, 3 % have no opinion.

Evaluation of the decentralization in Mali: A majority (51, 7%) believes that the decentralization in Mali can be characterized as a success; 20, 2 % think that the decentralization has been a great success and 31, 5 % believe that it has been a partial success. On the other hand, 18, 3 % estimate that the decentralization in Mali has been rather a failure (partial or total) whereas 30 % have no opinion.

ON SECURITIZATION OF MALI

Meaning of the word “Security”: For a majority of those interviewed (61 %), “security” primarily means to live without the feeling of physical threats. For one third (33, 3%) security means living in peace with others or live in a safe and healthy environment (25, 7%). Living in good health or to be able to receive treatment is equivalent to security for 23, 8 %. 21, 6 % understand “security” as the freedom of movement and the freedom of assembly.

Judgement of the current state of security in the country: A great majority of 79 % does not feel sufficiently safe. Out of those, 24, 5 % estimate they are not at all safe whereas 54, 5 feel not safe enough. Less than one fifth (18, 9 %) feels safe and secure.

Fear of terror attacks: An overwhelming majority of 86, 5 % is generally afraid of terror attacks. Out of those, 43, 2 % are very afraid, 26, 7 % are afraid and 16, 5 % are somewhat afraid. Only 11,1 % declare not to feel threatened by terror attacks.

Securitization of the communities: The majority of the population (61, 9%) trusts in the Malian armed forces as providers of security followed by the gendarmerie (41%), the national guards (37%), and the police (31 %). Only 8, 5 % declared to believe that the armed groups can provide security to their community and 13, 4 % believe the MINUSMA could do so.

Judgement of the Malian armed forces’ capacities to secure the country: Around 70 % believe the Malian armed forces are capable of securing the country’s security in general. A minority of 18, 7 % has little confidence in the Malian army and only 5, 7 % do not believe in the army’s capability to provide security.

The MINUSMA mandate: For almost two out of three citizens (65,2 %), the mandate of the United Nations mission should aim at the protection of civilians, followed by the reorganization of the security and defense forces (26,2 %), the support of the reconciliation process (23,0%), and the fight against human rights’ violations (19,1%).

Accomplishment of the mandate: More than 45 % of the citizens estimate that the MINUSMA has not accomplished its mandate so far. Out of those, 18, 6 % believe that the MINUSMA has accomplished its mandate only very little whereas 26, 7 % believe it is has not at all accomplished its mandate. A small minority thinks that the MINUSMA has sufficiently (14, 8%) or fairly (17, 5 %) accomplished its mandate. 22, 4 % do not have an opinion.

General accusations against the MINUSMA: According to the survey, the main accusations against the MINUSMA are: not to fight against the armed groups (48, 3 %), complicity with certain armed groups in the north (40, 1 %), not to protect civilians against attacks from armed groups and terrorists (39, 1 %), not to held the Malian armed forces to fight the armed groups in the north (33, 1%).

Judgement of the MINUSMA military personnel according to nationality: According to the survey, Malians appreciate the Chadian soldiers (80 %), followed by the Nigerians (55 %) and the Chinese (51 %). The least popular are the Bangladeshi troupes in whom only 23, 0% declare to have confidence.

The French military mission in Mali: The French military mission to fight terrorism in the north of Mali is appreciated by 66, 7 % out of whom 30, 5 % judge the mission very positive and 36, 2 % positive.

Judgement of the European training mission for the Malian armed forces (EUTM): A great majority of Malians (84%) judge the mission generally positive, out of those 52, 2 % believe it is very positive whereas 31, 2 % think it is positive.

Presence of UN troupes after the signing of the Peace Agreement: According to the survey, almost half of the citizens (46 %) wish that the UN troupes stayed in Mali less than one year after the signature of the Agreement whereas 26, 3 % think UN troupes should stay in the country for 1-3 years after the signature. Only 10, 5 % believe UN troupes should be present in Mali between 4-5 years after the Agreement.

Presence of French military after the signing of the Peace Agreement: 47, 9 % believe that French military troupes should remain in the country for less than one year after the signature, opposed by 24 % who think that the French military should be present between 1-3 years after the signature of the Agreement.

RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE

Reconciliation between the people: A large majority (74 %) feels personally affected by the crisis and 81, 1 % believes that a reconciliation among the Malians will be necessary.

Evaluation of the aims of reconciliation: For almost 62 % of the citizens, the national reconciliation should focus on forgiveness. A significant minority believes that it should also focus on the unification of the Malians (41, 7%), the compensation/restitution for the victims of the crisis (32, 8%), the establishment of the truth regarding the excesses against the population (28, 8%), and the identification and judgement of those responsible for the excesses (25, 8 %).

Actions of the state to reconcile with the population: In order to reconcile the state and the society, the majority esteems necessary that the state provides security of people and goods (51, 4%) and

that the state engages in a dialogue with its citizens (51, 2%). Other necessary actions are: to provide social services and access to those (45, 1%) and the creation of employment (25, 7 %).

PRIORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

According to the survey's findings, a large majority views the combat against the insecurity as main priority for the government (72, 8%) followed by the fight against youth unemployment (56, 5 %). Other priorities should include: fight against poverty (48, 8 %), fight against food insecurity (36, 6%), against corruption (33, 4%), engagement for the development (29, 3%), as well as the reconciliation among the Malians (28, 1%).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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