Causes and Components of Violent Extremism in the Sahel

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CAUSES AND COMPONENTS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE SAHEL
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Social Science Approach

Two types of violence coexist:
- Extremist jihadi violence
- Inter-community violence

These two types of violence can occasionally dovetail or overlap
Violent extremism takes advantage of environmental tensions
Violent extremism feeds local community violence
Some extremist groups use identity-focused rhetoric
Inter-community violence is the symptom and result of structural issues
The movements in question are: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA), Al-Morabitoun, Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM/GSIM), Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS), Ansar ul Islam, Macina Liberation Front (MLF). (Guichaoua, March 2019)
Corruption by institution — Percentage of those surveyed who think that most people who work in these institutions are corrupt

source: Global Corruption Barometer Africa, 2019
Bribery by service – Percentage of people questioned who use these services and have paid a bribe in the previous 12 months
source: Global Corruption Barometer Africa, 2019

**BRIBERY RATES BY SERVICE***

*Percentage of people who used these services and paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.

- Police: 28%
- Utilities: 23%
- IDS: 21%
- Schools: 16%
- Public Clinics and Health Centers: 14%
SAHELE PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES 1901-2017

Sahel precipitation anomalies 1901-2017

University of Washington
Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean
Food insecurity phases
(October-December 2018 and June-August 2019)
Grazing situation in the Sahel – March 2019

Movement causes

- Insecurity
- Insecurity and likely degradation of fodder resources
- Overgrazing and likely degradation of fodder resources
- Insecurity and intercommunity conflict
- Insecurity and seeking pasture
- Seeking pasture
- Seeking pasture and markets
- Early movement

- Transhumance is now prohibited in Southern Benin

9 - 10,000 camelids
11 - 15,000 cattle and sheep
15 - 23,000 head
Thousands of head
Thousands of cattle
423,458 head
4,400 head
44,232 head
11,500 sheep, 2,000 cattle
1,250 - 3,000 head
2,400 - 3,200 head

Thousands of head

Source: Revenu Brûlé Minéral (RBM), Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES IN THE SAHARA-SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA
The “militiazation” of rural societies and security privatization

- Dan Nan Ambassagou (Dogon) Militia
- Macina Liberation Front (MLF)
- Ansar ul Islam
- Alliance for the Salvation of the Sahel (ASS)
- The Koglweogos
SUMMARY

Define the nature of the violence: violent extremism and/or extreme violence? To what extent do these two forms of violence overlap in time and space?

Mixed motivations of violent activities and possible intermingling of forms of violence

Peoples’ perceptions of threats and insecurity are important to understanding the dynamics and logic behind how the enemy is conceived of, and to implementing dialogue and mediation.

"Full-security” governance imposed by anti-terrorism efforts overlooks the rural, pastoral and agrarian dimensions of violence.

By tolerating and/or encouraging security privatization, governments are delegating a sovereign power to armed civilians and compromising domestic tranquility.

Jihadist groups intentionally politicize and fuel violence between communities by inserting themselves in the social fabric.

"Militiazation” of rural societies exacerbates latent conflicts and provokes new conflicts (cycles of reprisals and violence)
FOR MORE INFORMATION …..


INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FEDERATION, *In the center of Mali, people are caught in the trap of terrorism and counter-terrorism*, Survey report, November 2018.


