

Border security: Communities' integration and perception

Diffa and Zinder regions



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
P. O. Box 17
17 route des Morillons
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 22 717 91 11
Fax: + 41 22 798 61 50
E-mail: hq@iom.int
Website : www.iom.int

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IOM Niger also thanks all canton and village chiefs in the Zinder and Diffa regions for the mobilization of their communities selected for the study. The departmental and municipal youth councils have also contributed to the smooth running of the field researchers’ mission, for which we would also like to thank them.

Finally, our thanks go to the donor which allowed us to conduct this study, the State Department of the United States of America.

The “Engaging Communities in Border Management in Niger” Project

IOM seeks to contribute to the objectives of Niger and subregional policies and strategies to enhance border security in the Lake Chad Basin, through the integration of communities in border management, as well as the stimulation of cross-border cooperation. In close coordination with the Flintlock military exercise in Chad, the project is a continuation of the project conducted in Senegal by IOM in 2016.

Implementation Period:

October 2016 – October 2017

Budget:

990,000 USD – 590,000,000 FCFA

Primary Beneficiaries:

- Border communities in the Diffa and Zinder regions;
- Authorities present and active along the borders of the Diffa and Zinder regions;
- Authorities in charge of immigration and border management in Chad.

Activities:

Project activities have been designed to promote dialogue and participation of the border communities with the authorities, to improve the capacity of the Government of Niger in terms of humanitarian and security crisis response at the border as well as to strengthen the cross-border cooperation.

I. Involvement of communities in border management

- Field investigation in the regions of Diffa and Zinder on the communities' perception of security at the border;

- Establishing a dialogue with the authorities;
- Taking ownership of the national contingency plan;
- Creation of local committees for monitoring and coordination in collaboration with the authorities;
- Delivery of communication equipment.

II. Strengthening response capacity for border humanitarian and security crises

- Simulation exercise of cross-border crisis to identify the relevant actors and identify the needs;
- Implementation of an interdepartmental task force to draft a national contingency plan for borders;
- Simulation exercise to implement the national contingency plan.

III. Promote cross-border cooperation with Chad

- Implementation of a bilateral coordination framework;
- Dialogue on the institutionalization of coordinated, joint and mixed patrols, through bilateral workshops;
- Validation of a joint action plan on border monitoring.

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Introduction

Playing the role of a crossroad for migratory flows in West Africa, Niger is also surrounded by conflict areas where armed groups regularly conduct incursions to get supplies, recruit or launch attacks on defense and security forces and civilian populations. Border security is thus one of the top priorities of the Niger Government to protect the country from the surrounding instability.

Niger's 5,697 kilometers of border, mostly located in desert area, are not always equipped with the necessary infrastructure (roads, border checkpoints, wells, phone network) and the defense and security forces are lacking capacity to ensure constant monitoring. Accordingly, authorities must be able to count on the border communities' support to ensure the security of the borders.

The border communities are the first in line when an incident occurs in the neighbouring country or when irregular events take place at the border. They are playing a crucial role to warn the authorities. In addition, in situations of mass displacement of the population, local communities are often the first to support the displaced: they can identify the most vulnerable persons as well as the risk factors in terms of safety and health.

Engaging communities does not intend to replace authorities by community-based militias, which would constitute a factor of further instability. Engaging communities includes transmitting information to the authorities in case of incidents or suspicious activities at the border; it is a form of citizen engagement that leads communities to contribute to their own protection while ensuring the Nigerien border integrity and respecting the sovereignty of the State.

In many areas, cooperation between border communities and the authorities already exists, but often in an ad hoc and informal way. The existing mechanisms for transmitting information between a village and the departmental or regional authorities also involve many intermediaries and are, as a result, unreliable and slow. This study gives a more detailed overview in order to establish suitable strengthening systems.

This study on the integration and perception of the border security by the populations is built around the other activities implemented within the "Engaging Communities in Border Management in Niger" project. It allows us to identify more precisely the villages which could host a community prevention committee. It is also a tool for the Government to direct its action on border areas and adapt the community engagement terms for border management.

A part of the investigation is focused on terrorism and the presence of Boko Haram¹, the main security issue of the Diffa region. The group, which was initially a sect founded in 2002, launched an armed insurgency in the northeast of Nigeria in 2009. Led by Abubakar Shekau since 2010, Boko Haram intensified its attacks to launch an offensive on Diffa in 2015. The same year, Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group before being rejected in favor of Abu Al-Barnawi Mosaf, considered less extreme. The group then split in two rival factions, which led to confrontations.² Even if the group is now declining, it keeps a strong capacity of nuisance against the defense and security forces and the civilian population.

This study focuses on the communities' perceptions and was not conducted to provide an objective vision of the reality. For example, if the respondents of a said municipality believe that terrorism is increasing in their town, it does not necessarily mean that there is an actual worsening of the phenomenon in this area. It only means that the persons interviewed believe the situation is worsening.

¹ Boko Haram, from "book" in English and "haram" in Arabic, which means essentially that "western education is a sin".

² See www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/boko-haram-descends-into-in-fighting-as-reports-emerge-of-deadly-clashes-between-rival-islamist-a7231726.html

Research methodology

Objectives and expected results

To support the IOM strategy, the activities of the border management team in Niger aim to help the Government of Niger to develop the infrastructural, material and institutional capacities of the National Police and of all the defense and security forces at the border. As part of its support to the Niger State for its project “Engaging communities in border management in Niger”, funded by the United States, IOM would like to better understand the perceptions that the communities living in cross-border areas have of their integration in border management, their understanding of the migratory dynamics and their perception of the terrorism incidents in the Lake Chad basin region.

This quantitative and analytical study will therefore help national and international stakeholders adapting their actions to better involve the communities and to interact with them to better answer everyone’s needs. This study shows, a fortiori, the need to consider the communities as a key role for border management through the implementation of prevention committee, and not as a potential expiatory victim anymore.

The overall goal of this study is to learn how to analyse the current strengths and failures in terms of community integration to border management. It will participate in the implementation of a strengthening mechanism for border security through the involvement of border communities.

Background

Villages included in the study were selected during the meetings held in Zinder and Diffa, which were attended by IOM’s staff, regional Governor, prefects, mayors, representatives of youth councils and traditional leaders from the border areas. Authorities initially proposed a list of 300 villages near the border with Chad and Nigeria. Discussions then helped to choose the 99 villages that best matched the following criteria:

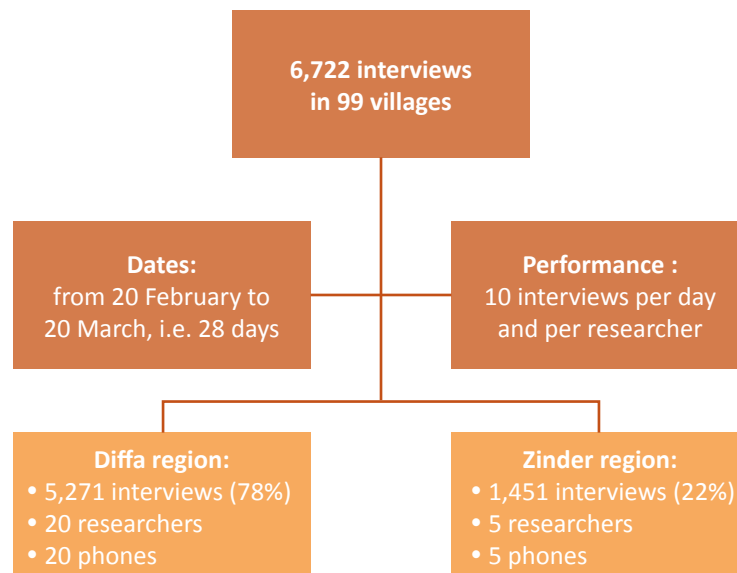
- Located within 3 km of an international border (Chad or Nigeria);
- Representative population of the border communities;
- A large enough population centre.

Participants ensured that all ethnic communities living in the border area were represented with the selection of villages.

Twenty-five researchers were recruited at the local level, based on their knowledge of the region and of the local languages, and travelled through the selected border villages for a month. A three-day training was previously provided by the IOM Border management and Information Management units, including interview and data collection methods, and the data management and transfer processes. During the investigations, two IOM supervisors in Diffa and Zinder ensured the daily monitoring of researchers and data control.

Researchers also had a questionnaire guide, providing clarification on the meaning of each question in order to facilitate their understanding. The guide also contained indications for the most sensitive questions. For example, at the beginning of the section “Perception on terrorism for local communities”, the guide explained that if the word terrorism did not seem to be adapted to the context—for security reasons—researchers could use periphrases in local languages. *Tdjirwa’ma* (the one who seeks terror) in Kanouri language and *ain bidiga dady* (those who like guns) in Hausa are for instance two expressions commonly used in the region to refer to Boko Haram members.³

³ See Questionnaire Guide in Annex.



Seventy-nine villages in the Diffa region, located in the 8 municipalities sharing a border with Nigeria or Chad, have been investigated. In the Zinder region, 20 villages of the border municipalities located east of the regional capital were covered. Relying on the youth councils network and with the support of the traditional authorities, researchers conducted an average of 270 individual interviews each.

A statistician consultant was then hired to analyse the collected data and write the technical part of the study.



Distribution of respondents by region, department and municipality

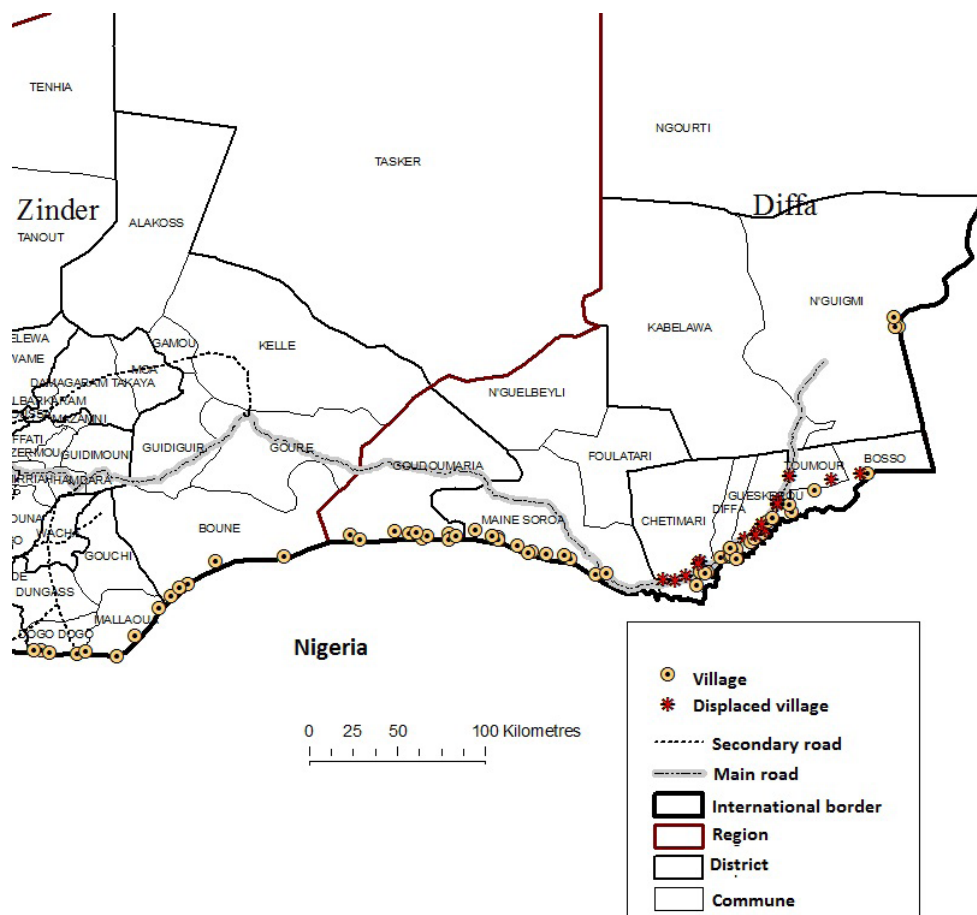
	Number	Percentage
Diffa	5,271	78.41%
Bosso	803	11.95%
Bosso	803	11.95%
Diffa	2,109	31.37%
Chetimari	523	7.78%
Diffa	577	8.58%
Gueskerou	1,009	15,01%
Goudoumaria	707	10,52%
Goudoumaria	707	10,52%
Maine Soroa	1,094	16,27%
Maine Soroa	1,094	16,27%

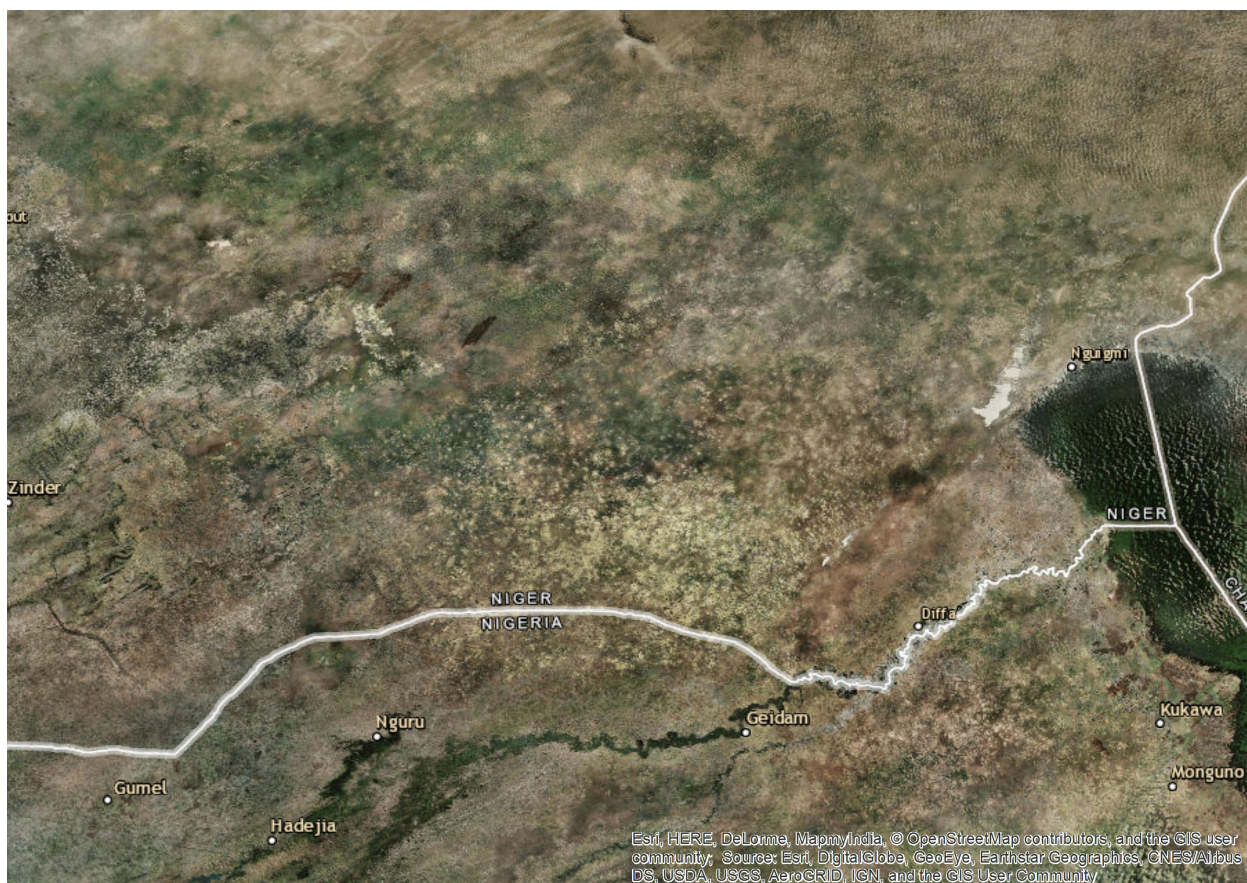
	Number	Percentage
N'Gourti	281	4,18%
N'Gourti	281	4,18%
N'Guigmi	277	4,12%
N'Guigmi	277	4,12%
Zinder	1,451	21,59%
Dungass	872	12,97%
Dogo-Dogo	511	7.60%
Dungass	72	1.07%
Mallaoua	289	4.30%
Goure	579	8,61%
Boune	579	8.61%
Total	6,722	100.00%

In the Diffa region, all municipalities share a border with Nigeria, except for N'Gourti and N'Guigmi, which adjoin the Chadian border. The entire region is subject to a State of emergency since October 2015 but all municipalities are not affected in the same way by Boko Haram. Thus, N'Gourti and Goudoumaria have been relatively spared by the attacks.

In the Zinder region, municipalities also share a border with Nigeria. They have not been directly affected by Boko Haram attacks but they have had to accommodate a fraction of the population displaced because they were fleeing the violence. Persistent rumors spread on the presence of Boko Haram and potential attacks but they have never resulted in any actions.

Map 1: Villages covered by the research





Satellite photo of the area covered by the research.

Methodological approach

Sampling

The sampling unit for this study was 99 villages located within 3 kilometres or less from the border. The sample size was not determined on the basis of the general size of the population in the covered area, but aimed at a qualitative representation of the border communities, and especially their ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity.

Investigation method

The choice of respondents was made randomly while ensuring a fair representation of age groups, social categories, nationalities and ethnicities present in the surveyed area.

The questionnaire used almost exclusively multiple choice questions (closed-ended questions). The respondent had the option to choose the answer “other” and to explain his/her response in a dedicated text field. For many questions, respondents had the possibility to give several answers. Four open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire, in order to give more freedom to respondents on specific topics.

The collected data was stored on a secured database, sorted and cleaned to allow analysis and graphical representation.

Challenges encountered

- In the municipalities of Chetimari and Gueskérou, as well as along Komadougou, security issues forced the researchers to remove their IOM uniform, or anything identifying them with IOM as they feared being targeted by Boko Haram. A few villagers also suspected the researchers were informants for the armed forces.
- Some villages are very remote and far from any major urban hub, and are not served by roads or tracks. The researchers then travelled by horse or dromedary, as the state of emergency banned movements of motorcycles within the Diffa region.
- In Bosso, Chetimari and Gueskerou, some villages were partially or totally displaced since May 2015 following the Nigerien Government call to evacuate insular villages, perceived as dangerous.
- Because of some cultural practices specific to some remote areas, it was often difficult for the investigators to lead individual interviews with women. This explains the relatively small portion of female respondents (23.45%).



Methodology of analysis

Most of the questions in this questionnaire are closed-ended multiple-choice questions. For these answers, the analysis should highlight the proportion of respondents compared to the answers they selected. The goal is to find the number or percentage of respondents choosing a specific answer to the entire survey sample. In addition, the choice “other” available with all the multiple-choice questions, allows the respondents to specify their choice in case it differs from the proposed answers.

However, the percentages expressing the choice of the respondents can sometimes reflect the frequencies within the overall responses expressed. This highlights the relative extent of the given answers as well as the most frequent choices made by the respondents. For this type of question, the sum of the extracted responses percentages can be greater than 100 per cent, as each respondent could give two or more answers.

Regarding the open questions, the basic clean helped to bring out the most frequent and most relevant answers given by the respondents.

For the various variables of the survey, graphical representations in the form of circular or stick diagrams were carried out on the basis of the percentages of the answers formulated. For multiple-choice questions, the graphical representation chosen is usually the stick diagram. For closed-ended questions with single choice, graphical representations in the form of a circular diagram were made to take into account the mutually exclusive nature of the different answers.

The results of the survey are sometimes detailed according to the regions or municipalities of the respondents, to take into account the significant differences in the responses obtained according to these geographical areas. Several factors may influence respondents’ perceptions of the studied aspects (municipalities protected from insecurity, areas severely affected by terrorism, displaced villages, etc.).

Cartographic representations are also included within the document, allowing the visualization of the variations of the answers given and the specificities of some variables of the study at the villages or municipalities’ level.

Interpretation of results



1. Sample

The researchers were told to ensure that all ethnic communities, all age groups and all sections of the population were covered by the study, to reflect as faithfully as possible the border population of this region of Niger.

1.1. Gender

Although the emphasis was placed on gender during the researchers' training, to ensure that men and women had equal opportunities to respond to the questionnaire, the interviewed individuals are largely men. Among the 6,722 responses received, there are 5,146 men, which correspond to 76.5 per cent of the sample, and 1,576 women (23.5% of the sample). It should be noted that local traditions have created difficulties for the interviews with women, even when the researcher was a woman. Some of the individual interviews had to be conducted in the presence of the husband. However, the rate of 23.45 per cent women interviewed is a very positive result in this region compared to other studies of this type.

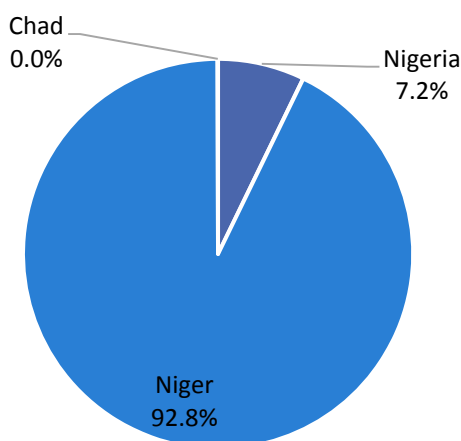
	Number	Percentage
Women	1,576	23.45%
Men	5,146	76.55%
Total	6,722	100.00%



1.2. Nationality

The study focused on persons living in the border areas of Diffa and Zinder, in the villages selected for the sample. Surveyed people are thus, in a large proportion, Nigeriens (92.8%). There is a relatively large share of Nigerians (7.2%) and a few Chadians (0.04%). Covered areas are mainly borders with Nigeria and there are strong social and economic ties between the populations on each side of the border. The presence of many Nigerians refugees⁴ in the Diffa region, who often live with host families with kinship, also explains the relatively high proportion of nationals from Nigeria. Finally, in Diffa and Zinder, weekly markets attract many Nigerian traders and buyers.

Nationality of Surveyed Persons

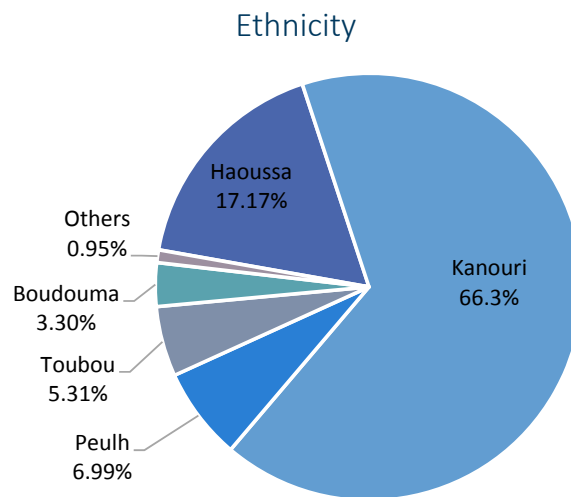


1.3. Ethnicity

The Kanouri (66% of the sample) and Hausa (17%) ethnic groups, traditionally sedentary, are also significantly present in the North of Nigeria. Kanouris predominate in the Diffa region while Hausas represent the main ethnic group in the Zinder region.

Peulhs are present on almost all the Nigerien Territory, and more generally in West Africa. Traditionally nomadic, they guide their flocks on hundreds, or even thousands of kilometres, following an East-West axis which can go as far as Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Another nomadic group, the Toubous, live mainly in desert areas in the North and East of the Diffa region, especially in the town of N'Gourti. A significant part of the Peuhl and Toubou populations are now sedentary.

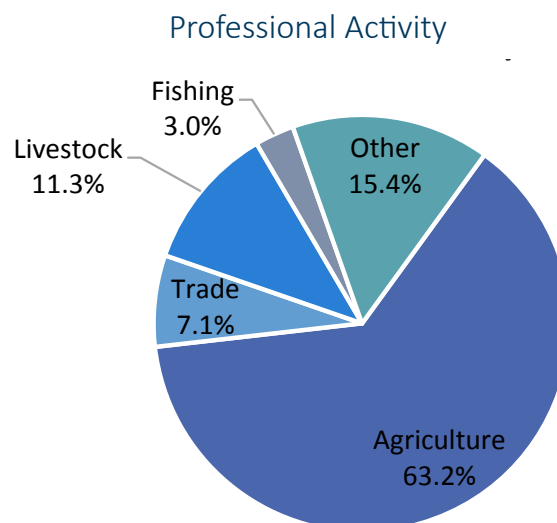
⁴ As of April 30, 2017, 106,000 Nigerian refugees were in Niger: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/ner>



1.4. Professional activity

Professional activities of the populations surveyed in the area are usually linked to the primary and trade sector. Agriculture is the most popular activity among the surveyed persons with a 62 per cent share. Then follow livestock and trade, representing respectively 11 per cent and 7 per cent of the surveyed persons. Fishing is also present in some areas and covers 3 per cent of the respondents.

These figures should not be interpreted as indicating that all respondents are employed on a full-time basis, which would be sufficient to provide for their own and family needs. Many of the persons who responded “agriculture” are involved in this activity for purposes of subsistence and for part of the year only. During the “non-active season”, which usually runs from November to June depending on the date of the first rains, there is very little work to do in the fields. Historically, many of them travelled to Nigeria to take up temporary jobs in small trade, construction work, domestic services, etc. With the arrival of Boko Haram and the resulting insecurity, this possibility was considerably reduced, aggravating even more the employment issues in the region and especially during the non-active season.



2. Perceptions of local communities on the border management

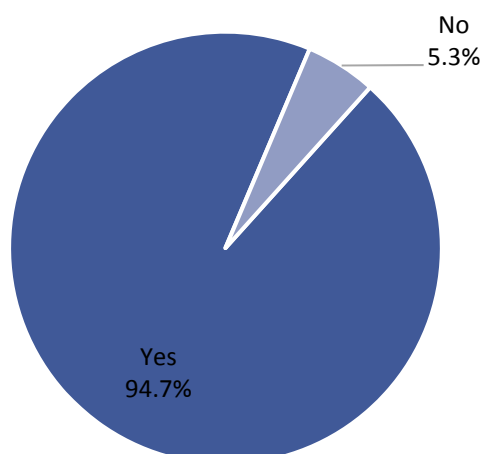
This part of the study highlights the perception of the communities living in the border areas, on the border management and their own border crossings. Because of their knowledge of the border regions and their frequent border crossings to Nigeria, these populations are well informed about the issues of border management.

2.1. Knowledge of the location and of the function of the border

A large part of the respondents reported knowing the exact location of the border (95% of respondents). This knowledge of the border location by local populations comes from their location in the border area and their frequent trips to the neighbouring country. Furthermore, east of the Diffa region, the border is marked with the Komadougou-Yobé river on a distance of a hundred kilometres, which makes its identification easier.

Regarding the function of a border, people mainly understand its role as the delimitation of the separation between two States, as 92 per cent of respondents refer to this function of the border. In addition, 30 per cent of respondents find that the border helps ensure people's safety and 27 per cent add the ease of monitoring entries and exits by the authorities. The usefulness of the border to ensure the security of the population is therefore identified relatively marginal by respondents, who, however, understand its administrative function.

Do you know exactly where the border is?



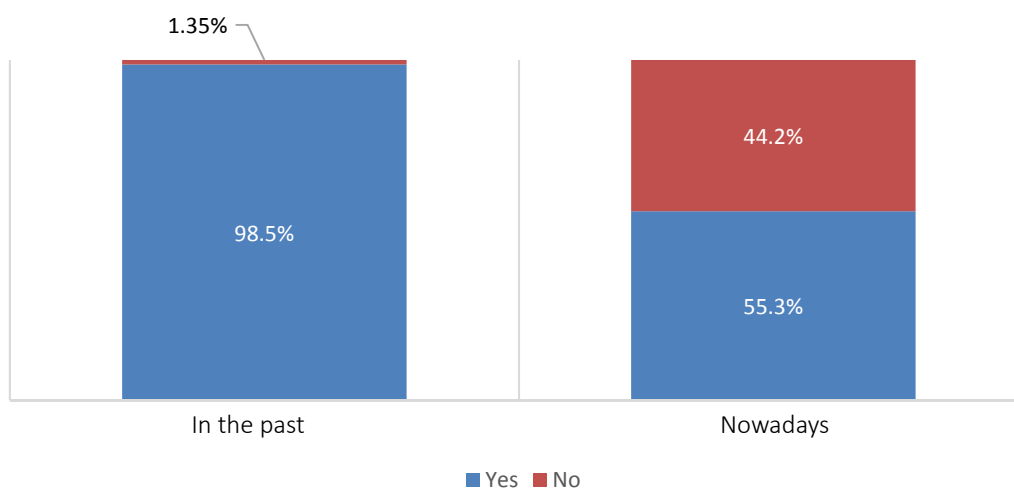
2.2. Border crossing

Among the surveyed persons, almost all have already crossed the border in the past (98%), before the presence of Boko Haram in the area. Thus, thanks to the proximity with the border, movements are recurring for various reasons (economic, family or for specific activities). This reflects the close ties between the populations of the regions of Diffa and Zinder with the neighbouring communities across the border.



While almost all of the respondents say that they were regularly crossing the border before the arrival of Boko Haram, only 55 per cent is still regularly crossing the border today, which shows the major impact the terrorist group had and still have on the populations' lives. That being said, more than half of the persons interviewed are still crossing the border today, despite the risks. Thus, even in times of high instability, cross-border mobility still plays an important role in the life of the communities, and it still affects the main trade exchanges.

Border crossing



2.3. Reasons for crossing the border

The reasons explaining the border-crossing by the border populations are mainly familial, trade and economic reasons. In addition, a large part of the populations in the area regularly travels and cross the border to work in the agricultural, fishing or transport sectors. The pastoralism, particularly among nomads (Peulh), also explains a number of cross-border movements.

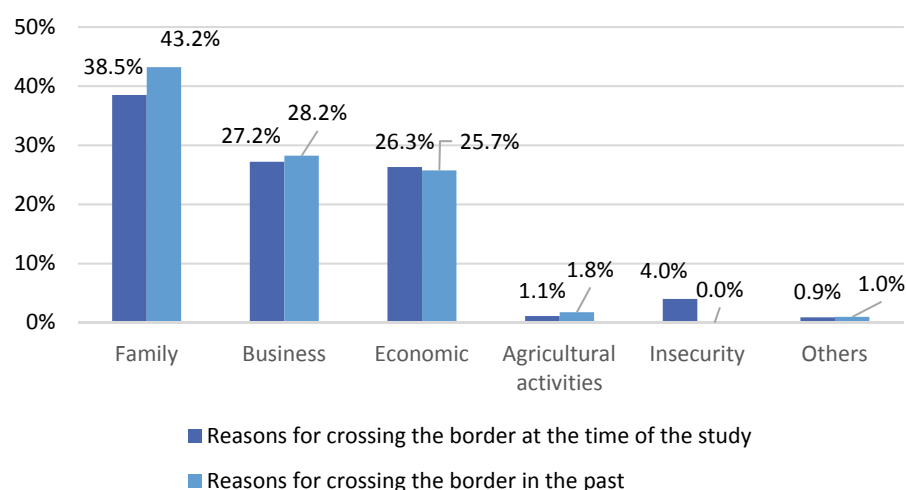
Results from the questionnaire show that people in the area mainly cross the border for familial reasons (43% before the arrival of Boko Haram and 38% during the research period). This shows the existing family relationship for the populations on each side of the border.

Then follow trade and economic reasons, which remained stable over time and affects respectively 27 per cent and 26 per cent of the respondents. Indeed, for many generations, regional trades have been following a North-South axis between Niger and Nigeria. Cereals, fuel, clothing and manufactured products from Nigeria are sold in Niger, while Nigerians buy livestock, dairy and red peppers. Many Nigeriens also spend a few months per year working in Nigeria, where salaries are higher.



A relatively small part of respondents reported travelling to engage in income-generating activities such as agricultural, livestock, fishing and transportation jobs (respectively around 1%, 0.3% and 0.2%). It is noteworthy that they often need to cross the border frequently to engage in these activities and that these movements are short-term travels.

We also noticed a recent change with a significant number of movements justified by security reasons, in particular because of the Boko Haram attacks. Thus, border-crossing for security reasons is not mentioned often at first, but becomes more important during the time of investigation (4% of the reasons against almost 0% in the past). The persons who explained they crossed the border to flee insecurity were either Nigeriens who used to live in Nigeria, or Nigerians who fled their country, in both cases to escape from violence.

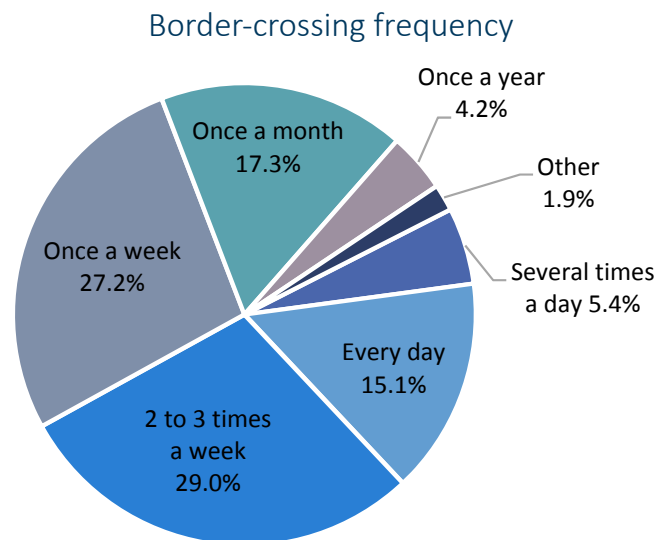


2.4. Border-crossing frequency

Populations are crossing the border frequently. Most of the respondents who reported crossing the border, do so every day or at least once a week. Border-crossing areas are thus frequently used because of the various reasons given by the populations. Because of limited number of official border crossing and the total lack of border control, most crossing trips are carried out through unofficial crossing points, and therefore not monitored by the authorities. This practice does not necessarily imply an unlawful purpose: it is simply the most convenient option for local populations. For instance, a breeder has no interest in travelling several kilometres with his herd on lands without pastures, only to reach an official border post. A previous study conducted by the IOM estimated there were 36 unofficial border crossing in the Maine-Soroa region and 30 in the Diffa region.⁵



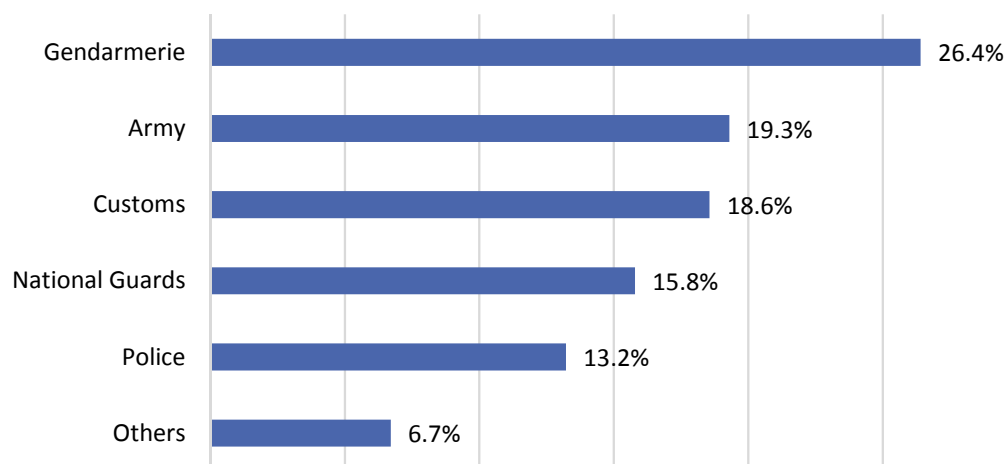
⁵ Study on Niger-Nigeria and Niger-Chat border flows in the Diffa region (In French: *Etude des flux sur les frontières Niger-Nigéria et Niger-Tchad dans la région de Diffa*), IOM, 2016. Available in French <https://publications.iom.int/fr/books/projet-de-renforcement-de-la-securite-aux-frontieres-dans-la-region-de-diffa-sedini>



2.5. Knowledge of the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) present at the border

The vast majority of respondents reported knowing the defense and security forces present at the border. Respondents identified much more the gendarmes (26.4% of responses when respondents said they knew the FDS⁶), the military (19.3% of the answers), the customs (18.6 of the answers), the members of the National Guard (15.8% of the answers) and the Police of Niger (13.2% of the answers). The prevalence of the gendarmerie and the army in the answers can largely be explained by the strong militarization of the border area as a result of the emergence of Boko Haram. Apart from its intervention group, the police do not have heavy weapons and are not the first unit deployed in the most dangerous areas. It is not part of the police's mission to patrol along the borders. However, the military and gendarmes are better equipped and lead many patrols along the border and are consequently more visible than other forces.

Which Defence and Security Forces present at the border, do you know?



⁶ In French, *Forces de Défense et de Sécurité*.

3. Security risks at the border

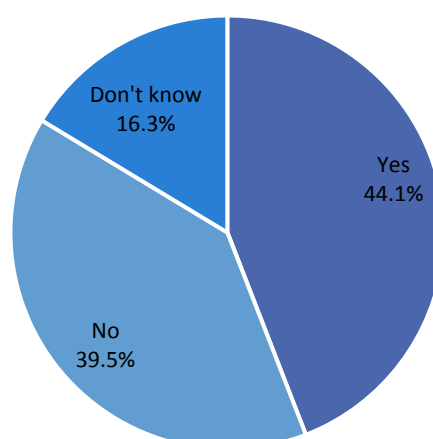
There are many security risks along the studied borders. There are numerous criminal activities such as trafficking of various kinds (trafficking in arms, drugs, persons, etc.), violent attacks and most importantly terrorist activities. Border areas of Niger, especially those in the Diffa region, are exposed to the threat of the Boko Haram group. The instability in the region also favored banditry, particularly robberies committed by the “coupeurs de route” (road bandits). This part of the study provides an overview of the perception the border communities have of security risks, security measures undertaken by the authorities and their opinion on these security actions for the border.



3.1. Knowledge of crossings of border-crossing points for criminal activities

A significant part of the surveyed persons estimated that informal border-crossing points are used for criminal activities. Thus 41 per cent of respondents reported the existence of these activities at the border-crossing areas level. The phenomenon is thus not fully clandestine; the inhabitants know it exists and have specific information on its procedures and the most affected areas.

Knowledge of the crossings of border-crossing points for criminal activities

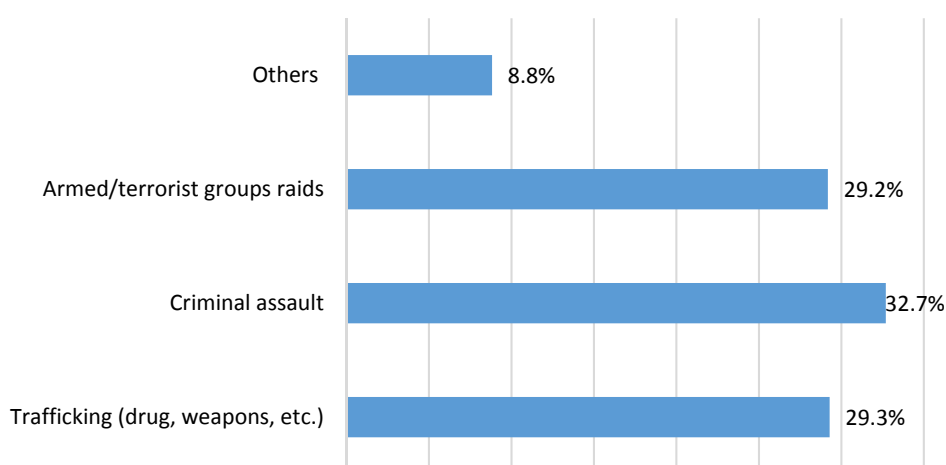


3.2. Security problems encountered at the border

Among the surveyed people, 42 per cent reported having border security problems in their village or hamlet. Violent attacks are the most reported type of security problem, as they represent 32 per cent of the answers given by the respondents. In addition to conventional crime, this term can cover Boko Haram extortion, who asks for tax from farmers and traders whenever they can. In recent years, members of the terrorist group also increased the number of raids on herds in the region, for their food supply, but also to resell the loot and fund their activity. The Peulh and Boudouma breeders who were grazing their flocks on the shores of Lake Chad were particularly affected.

Another security concerns raised by respondents include incursions by armed or terrorist groups and drugs, weapons or other kinds of trafficking (29% for each of these answers). Despite the progress of the Multinational Joint Task Force (Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Benin), Boko Haram incursions from Nigeria or from the islands in Lake Chad, have not been stopped yet. These operations are usually minimal and aiming at various goals. Many of these operations are supply missions by shops, warehouses or health centres looting.⁷ But Boko Haram continues to launch targeted attacks against the defense and security forces or civilians suspected of providing information to the authorities. In rare cases, Boko Haram carried out heavier attacks, such as the assault on Gueskérou on 9 May 2017—which nevertheless resulted in a defeat for the assailants.⁸

Security issues encountered at the border



The magnitude of the identified security problems varies depending on the region. Thus, the issue of the incursions of armed groups or terrorists is more prevalent in Diffa than in Zinder. Thirty-three per cent of the answers on insecurity in Diffa regard incursions of armed or terrorist groups, compared to only 8 per cent in Zinder. This is mainly due to the presence of Boko Haram in the Diffa region, especially along the border with Nigeria and on the riverbank of the Lake Chad, which are the main areas where the group is active. In these areas, populations regularly perceive the consequences of this insecurity. The city of Bosso, for example, was attacked by Boko Haram twice, in February 2015 and June 2016, pushing many local residents to flee to the South. Some have returned to their homes, but the city has still not regained the number of inhabitants it had before the attacks.⁹ It is noteworthy that most of the villages surrounding the city have been displaced more than 40 km away from the paved roads (around Toumour or Tchinkandji), especially after the evacuation of the insular villages which started in May 2015.

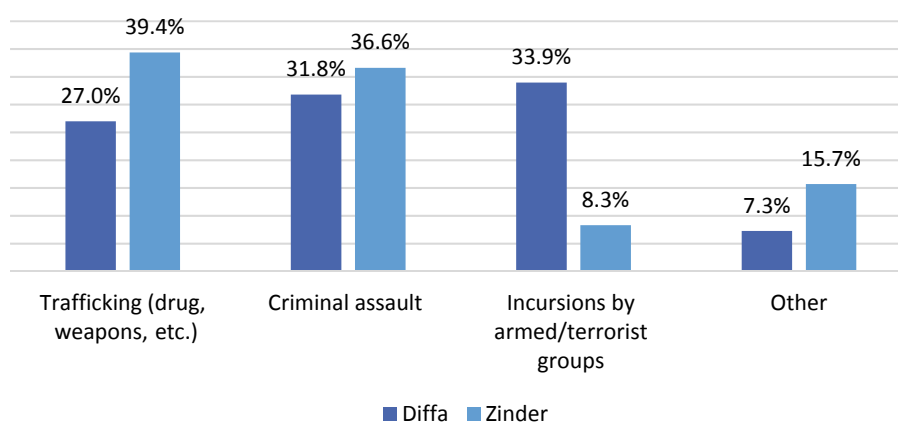
⁷ On May 2nd, 2017, a heavily armed group from Boko Haram crossed the dry riverbed of the Komadougou-Yobé river to raid the Tam and Boudoum villages. This type of operation allows the different factions of Boko Haram to obtain food supply. See the report of the UN Security Council of 2 February 2017: www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/97

⁸ See www.voafrique.com/a/une-cinquantaine-de-combattants-de-boko-haram-tues-au-niger/3804071.html

⁹ See www.liberation.fr/planete/2017/02/08/on-n-avait-pas-d-autre-choix-que-de-s-en-remettre-a-dieu_1547254

Regarding the other types of security problems, the villages from the two regions have been similarly affected. The security issue linked to terrorism is the main difference between the two regions, as border villages from the Zinder region are located outside the area affected by the Boko Haram incursions.

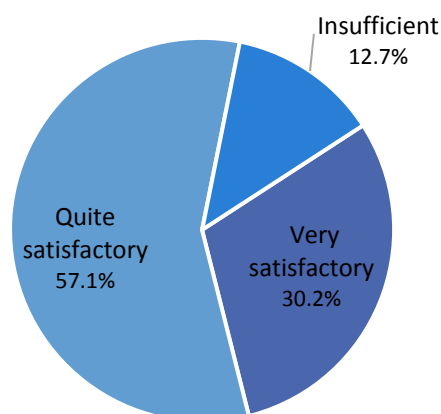
Types of security issues encountered at the border



3.3. Assessment by the respondents of the security measures taken at the border level

Thirty per cent of the respondents consider that the security measures taken at the border level are very satisfactory, 57 per cent fairly satisfactory and 13 per cent find that these measures are insufficient. Even though the negative opinions represent a small minority, a majority of respondents finds that the security measures are “fairly satisfactory”, which can be interpreted as a need for improvement and strengthening of the security system.

Assessment of the security measures



3.4. Risks that may be the result of inadequate management of border security

According to respondents, the risks most likely to be caused by poor management of border security are banditry, terrorist incursions and illicit trafficking. Thus, 69 per cent of respondents consider that banditry is the direct consequence of the poor border security management. Cattle raids are frequent in the regions and the surrounding chaos favored the formation of groups of “road robbers”,¹⁰ who rob travellers and shopkeepers using weapons as a threat.

¹⁰ The road robbers are armed groups assaulting drivers on the roads. Their activities range from simple theft to hostage-taking, and include rape and murder.

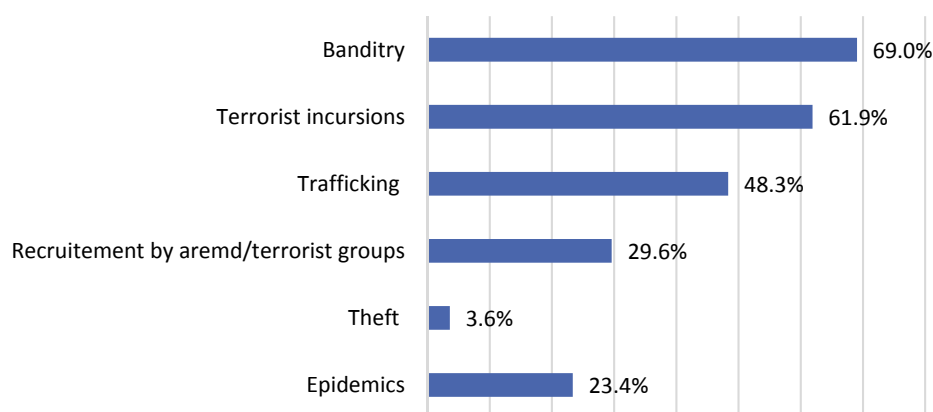
In addition, respondents are respectively 61 per cent and 48.3 per cent to name terrorist incursions and trafficking among consequences of the poor border security management.



Other problems are also reported by the populations, such as the recruitment of young people by terrorist groups (29.6%). Boko Haram mainly recruits among young people, using materialistic (“wages” well above the average income, lending a motorcycle and a telephone, etc.) and ideological arguments. It is difficult to certainly identify the number of Nigerien recruits but at least 145 ex-members¹¹ of the group surrendered to the Nigerien authorities since the end of 2016.¹² Despite the surrender of some BH members, the recruitment of new young people continues in some local areas and especially in the municipality of Mainé-Soroa, in the Tam Village and around.

Finally, epidemics appear to be an important risk resulting from poor border management (23.3%). At the time of writing this study, the Diffa region is facing an outbreak of Hepatitis E.¹³

Risks arising from border security mismanagement



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

¹¹ Since 1 June 2017, the BH ex-members who surrendered are now located in Goudoumaria (200km away from Diffa). An estimated 150 ex-members, including 80 Nigerien nationals and 70 Nigerian nationals, distributed as follow: 109 men, 15 women and 26 children (Source: Gouvernorat Diffa).

¹² According to the Governor of the Diffa Region, on 17 April 2017: www.nigerdiaspora.net/index.php/interviews/512-niger-la-victoire-sur-boko-haram-ne-sera-pas-que-militaire

¹³ See www.who.int/csr/don/05-may-2017-hepatitis-e-niger/en/

4. Perceptions of the communities on terrorism

Respondents are mainly located in areas where there are frequent incursions by terrorist groups. The terrorism threat affects first and foremost the border villages of the Diffa region. Perceptions of the local communities on terrorism are described in this part of the study, which focused on the types of terrorist activities happening in the area, the causes of terrorism, the evolution of the terrorism threat and the proposed solutions to prevent this threat.

4.1. Types of terrorist activities known by the respondents

Attacks on civilians, demolition of houses and murders, are the terrorist activities the respondents mention the most. 80.4 per cent of respondents identify the attacks on civilians as a terrorist activity. This ratio is respectively 66.5 and 63.8 for the demolition of houses and murders. Other terrorist activities are also identified such as abduction and intimidation.

The attacks on civilians cover bombings, almost always suicide-bombings,¹⁴ stabbing or light weapon attacks, sometimes associated with looting or cattle theft. Even though there were fewer cases since summer 2016, civilian massacres have nevertheless forced tens of thousands of people to flee to areas protected by the Nigerien forces, especially along the national road n° 1, connecting Diffa to Niamey. In two years, nearly 300 civilians were killed by Boko Haram in the Diffa region.¹⁵

Murders often target people suspected by Boko Haram to provide information to the authorities or to play a double game to dissuade young people of joining the armed group. Murders also happen during robberies and looting.

The two rival factions, Shekau and Al-Barnawi, have some significant differences, at least from the doctrinal point of view. The faction led by Shekau is known for being the most violent against civilians, including Muslims, while the faction led by Al-Barnawi prides itself on sparing Muslim civilians who are not opposed to him.¹⁶

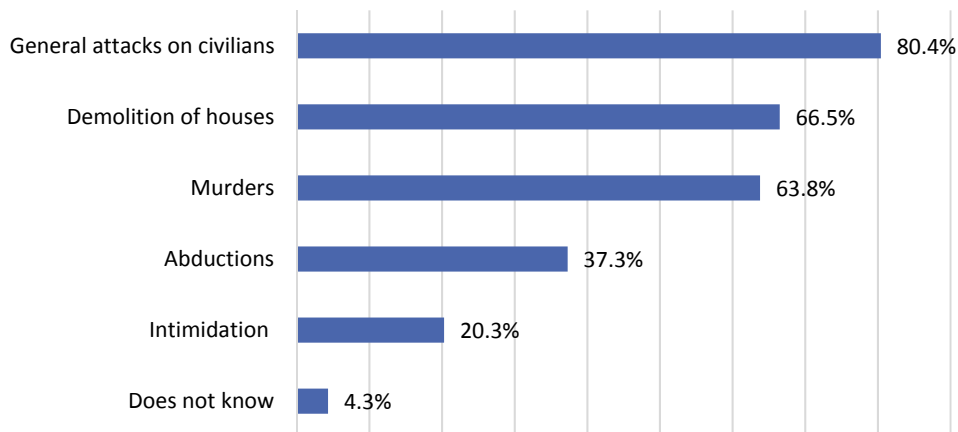
Abductions, in addition to those committed for purposes of intimidation and revenge, can be committed in at least two types of recurring situations in the region. First of all, recruitment under coercion or threat can be assimilated to abductions. Many underage people were enrolled this way, or because they were lured by the gains promised by the recruiting officers of the armed group. In addition, it has been reported that members of Boko Haram are taking their wives and children with them to Nigeria to keep them close to them, sometimes against their will.

¹⁴ See <https://afrique-tv.info/niger-deux-morts-attentat-suicide-sud/>

¹⁵ See www.jeuneafrique.com/417539/politique/niger-291-civils-tues-deux-ans-region-de-diffa-jihadistes-de-boko-haram/

¹⁶ See www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/08/jihadists-argue-over-leadership-of-islamic-states-west-africa-province.php

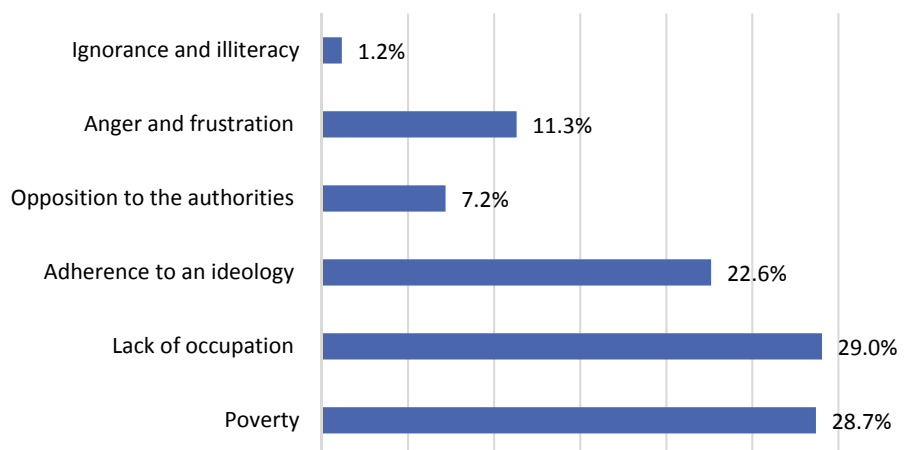
Which types of terrorist activities do you know?



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

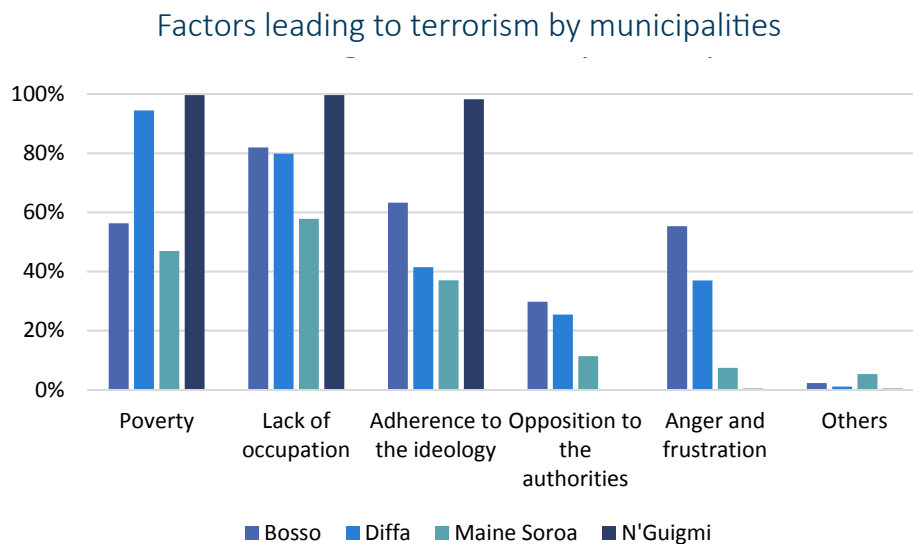
4.2. Factors favoring support for terrorism

Prominent factor leading to terrorism



For both Zinder and Diffa regions, poverty and the lack of occupation are the main reasons that drive people to terrorism: these two reasons are each mentioned in almost 29 per cent of the answers given by the respondents. Other given reasons are adherence to an ideology (22% of answers), anger and frustration (11% of answers) and opposition to the authorities (7.2%).

As the most populated municipalities, Bosso, Diffa, Mainé-Soroa and N'Guigmi were analysed in more details, thus allowing the study to show the similarities but also the differences between the different sections of the border.



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

The various reasons that can lead the populations to terrorism are mentioned to a greater or lesser extent depending on the municipality. Thus, the lack of occupation is the reason mentioned the most in the four municipalities. The reason linked to poverty is mostly mentioned in N'Guigmi and Diffa, while the adherence to an ideology is mostly mentioned in Bosso and N'Guigmi.

The strong differences between municipalities prevent us from drawing general conclusions from these results, apart from the fact that the opposition to the authorities does not seem to be the most important factor. This is an interesting lesson because it seems to indicate that, for the respondent populations, terrorism is developing less as a reaction to injustice from the authorities (answer given by 15% of the respondents in all municipalities) than because of an overall difficult situation—poverty and lack of occupation (63% of respondents).

The study also shows that, in all municipalities, almost 50 per cent of the respondents identified the adhesion to an ideology as a pulling factor leading to terrorism. For a substantial part of the population, joining Boko Haram is a consequence, exclusively or correlatively to other factors such as poverty, of an intellectual and/or religion radicalization process.

The spread of propaganda material on social networks, messaging applications, and audio recordings on memory cards, as well as the violent sermons of itinerant preachers had indeed been identified in the region even before the attacks of Boko Haram in Niger¹⁷ and continues to be observed today.¹⁸ Without being as sophisticated as the communication of the Islamic State, this media content contributed to supporting and exploiting a fertile ground for the recruitment of new fighters within the youth.¹⁹

¹⁷ See www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR348-Why_do_Youth_Join_Boko_Haram.pdf

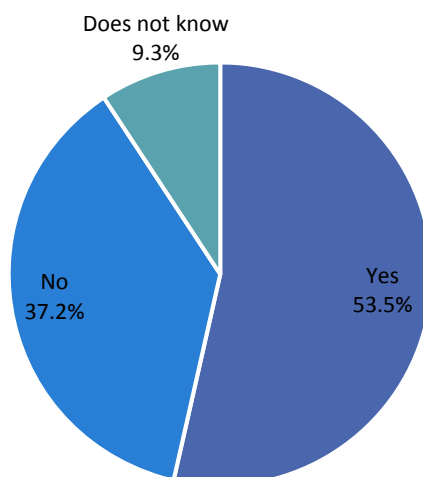
¹⁸ See www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/Motivations%20and%20Empty%20Promises_Mercy%20Corps_Full%20Report.pdf

¹⁹ Ibid.

4.3. Respondents perception regarding the protection of their community against terrorism

Despite the ever-present threat in the border areas, the majority of respondents estimated that their communities were safe from terrorism (53.5% of the respondents).

Do you think your community is safe from terrorism?



In the Diffa region, populations seemed more optimistic with 55 per cent of respondents estimating being safe from terrorism, for 48 per cent in Zinder. And yet, Zinder has not been attacked by Boko Haram, unlike the Diffa region. In this specific case, we observe a disconnection between the geographical proximity of the attacks and the feeling of insecurity among the inhabitants. Part of the explanation lies in the persistent rumors that roamed the East of the Zinder region in recent years. These rumors reported cases of infiltration of armed group fighters and the preparation of attacks, however, this threat never turned into real attacks. There is also a relative concern due to the recent military operations against Boko Haram, which could lead the group to retreat to border areas other than Diffa, and such as Zinder.

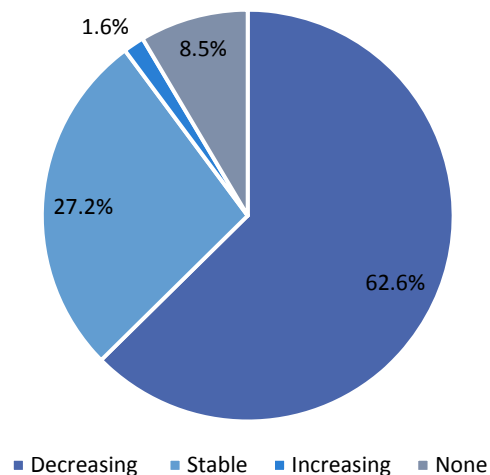
4.4. Evolution of the terrorism threat

The populations positively appreciate the evolution of the situation regarding the terrorist threat. Indeed, more than 62 per cent of the respondents think that the terrorist threat is reducing and 27 per cent consider the threat is stable. In contrast, only 1.6 per cent of respondents consider the terrorism threat to be on the rise. These results reflect the decline of Boko Haram, in Niger and in Nigeria, since the intensification of military operations, particularly with the Multinational Joint Task Force. The multiple cases of surrender of members of the group contributed to this perception of a weakening terrorist threat: since the end of 2016, at least 145 ex-members of the group surrendered to the Nigerien authorities.²⁰

It is noteworthy that the intensity of the terrorist threat can vary according to the time of year. As a matter of fact, during the dry season (October–June), the level of the river marking the border in the Diffa region is at its lowest, which facilitates the incursions of Boko Haram from Nigeria. The field investigation was conducted in February and March, i.e. during which the terrorist threat level is the highest.

²⁰ According to the Governor of the Diffa Region, on 17 April 2017: www.nigerdiaspora.net/index.php/interviews/512-niger-la-victoire-sur-boko-haram-ne-sera-pas-que-militaire

Evolution of the terrorist threat



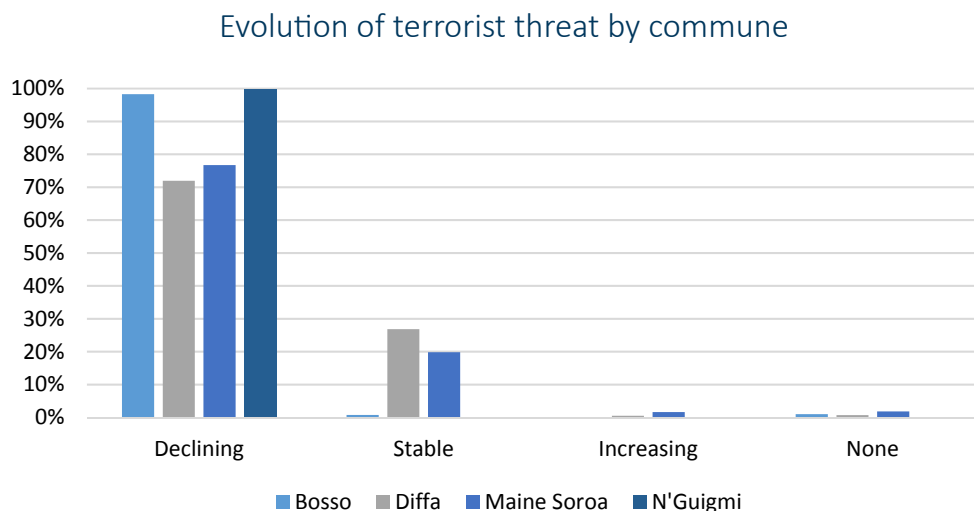
The municipalities in which inhabitants believe that the terrorist threat is increasing are located in the Zinder region, near the Diffa region (Bouné).

Respondents from Bouné (Zinder) think that the terrorist threat is increasing. Yet, this area has never been targeted by Boko Haram attacks. But the fact that it is relatively close to the area of Boko Haram operations is, however, likely to fuel the populations fear. Moreover, shortly before the study rumors were circulating in the area regarding alleged presence of Boko Haram sympathizers. This highlights the difference between the existence of an actual threat in an area and the *perception* of danger among the population.

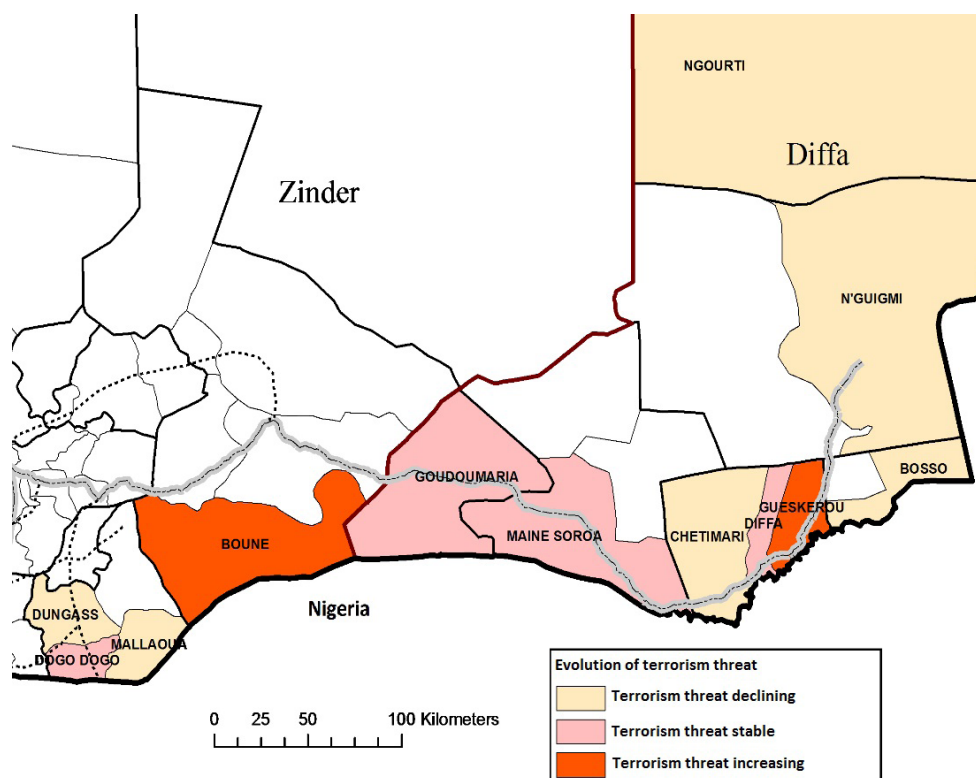


These facts were also observed in some localities of Diffa. For the villages severely affected by terrorism in the past (Bosso, Diffa, Chetimari), people often feel that the situation is improving more and more, or they sometimes think it remains stable.

For the four municipalities, respondents consider that the terrorist threat is, on the whole, decreasing. In Diffa and Mainé-Soroa, a relatively large part of the respondents considers the terrorist threat is remaining stable (respectively 27% and 20%).



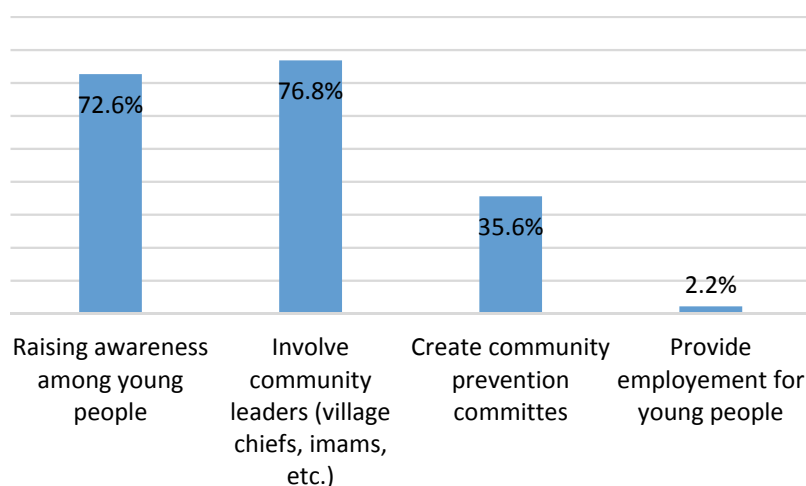
Map 2: Evolution of the terrorist threat according to respondents by municipalities



4.5. Proposal for measures to be taken by local communities to prevent the terrorist threat

Among the terrorist threat prevention measures that can be taken by the communities, nearly three quarters of respondents chose the involvement of community leaders (heads of villages, imams, etc.) and raising awareness of young people. Respondents also mentioned the creation of community prevention committees (35.6%) and job creation for young people (2%).

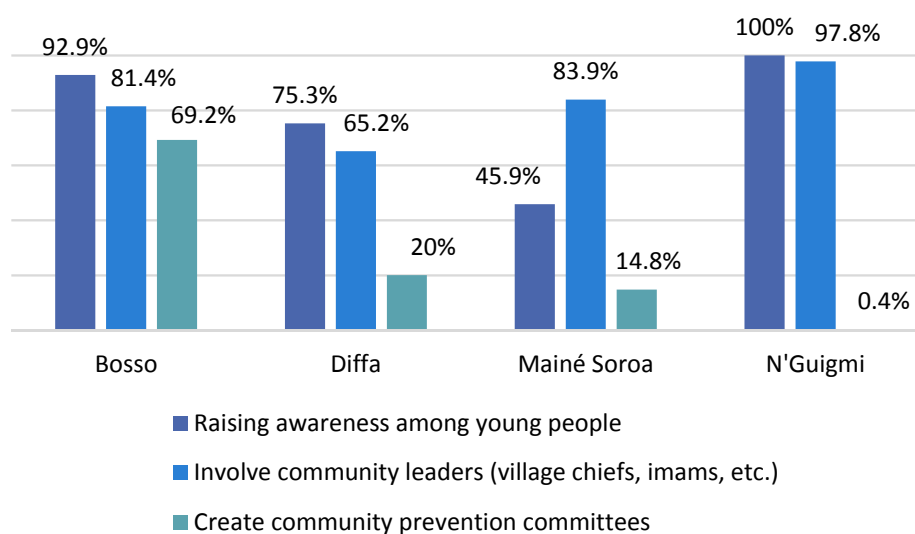
What can local communities do to prevent terrorism?



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

To prevent the terrorist threat, in the four municipalities, the two measures mentioned the most are raising awareness for young people and creating community prevention committees. There is also a significant part of the respondents in Bosso who suggested the involvement of community leaders (village chiefs, imams, etc.) to find solutions.

What can local communities do to prevent terrorism?



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

Regarding the actions to be taken by the local community to help the authorities in fighting against terrorism, respondents mostly suggested reporting to the authorities (97% of respondents). This means that communities do not claim to be able to fight against terrorism by themselves, but rely on the intervention of the authorities.



These results confirm the relevance of the community prevention committees involving traditional community leaders, but also representatives of youth and women's groups. The project within which this study was organized planned to create such committees in some of the villages close to the border with Nigeria and Chad. These structures, based on the existing customary hierarchy insofar as they will be chaired by village chiefs, will aim to centralize security and humanitarian information and transmit it to the authorities. Prevention committees are also part of the overall logic of the project, which is for the communities to become key stakeholders in border security management.

5. Effectiveness of border management

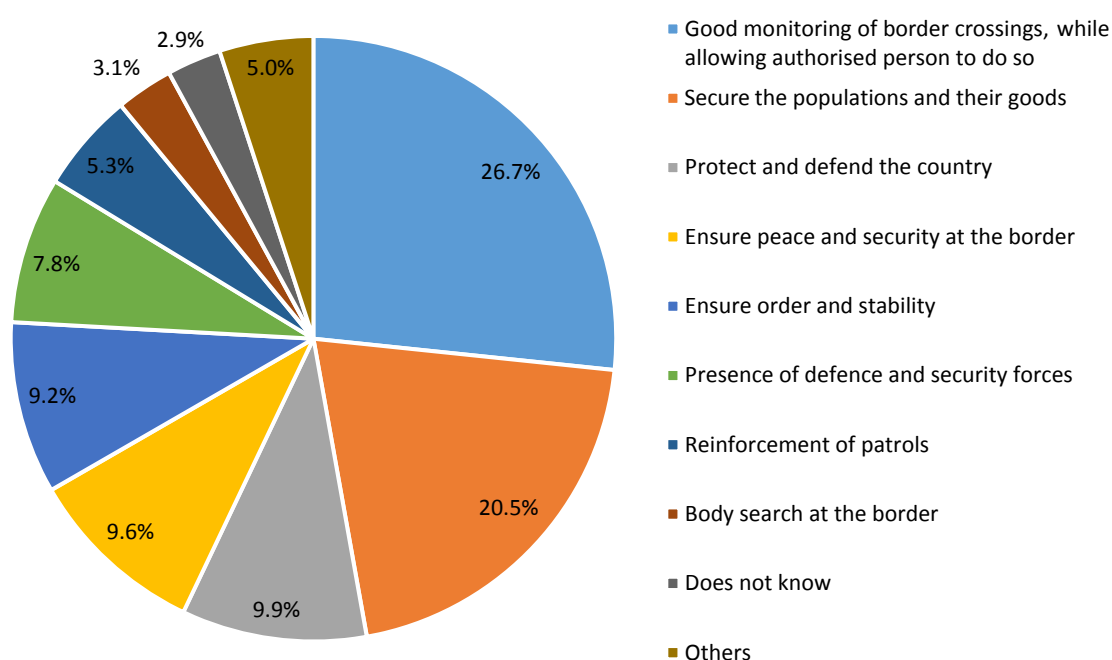
In general, the populations interviewed seem to have a rather positive outlook of the stakeholders in charge of border management, while highlighting the potential areas of improvement.

5.1. What is “security” according to the respondents

This open question gave the opportunity to the respondents to define what would be, according to them, securing the borders. Researchers received a range of different answers.

For nearly 26 per cent of respondents, border security means a good monitoring of border-crossings, which must, however, allow access to persons authorized to do so. For 21 per cent of respondents, it means to secure the populations and their goods at the border. For others, border security means to protect and defend the country (13%), ensure peace and security at the border (10%) or ensure order and stability (11%). Lastly, some respondents have directly linked border security to the presence of defense and security forces and the reinforcement of patrols, the necessary conditions for stability at the border.

What does ensuring security at the border level mean?



5.2. Patrols and security level in the area

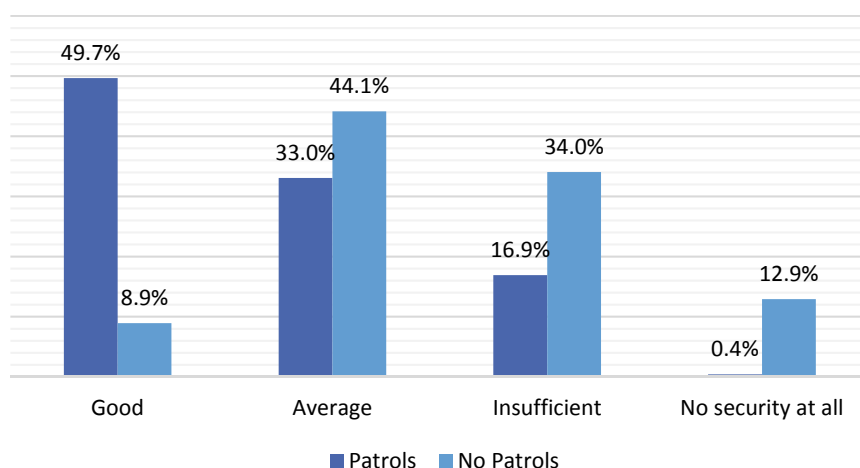
Respondents gave their opinion on the perception of the security level in their local area. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents consider the security level satisfactory, 36 per cent find it good and 21 per cent think the security level is still insufficient. Nearly 4 per cent of respondents think there is no security at all in their local area.

Security level assessment in border areas

	Number	Percentage
Good	2,615	38.90%
Average	2,413	35.90%
Insufficient	1,441	21.44%
No security at all	253	3.76%
Total	6,722	100.00%

The security level is globally apparent in areas where patrols are visible. Indeed, in areas with regular patrolling, 50 per cent of respondents think the security level is satisfactory and 33 per cent think it is average, while in the areas without patrolling, only 9 per cent of respondents consider the security level is noticeable. In addition, in areas without patrols, 34 per cent of respondents feel the security level is insufficient or think there is no security at all. These proportions are only 17 per cent and 0.4 per cent in patrol areas. The presence or absence of patrols therefore appears to be directly linked to the population's perception of security or insecurity. The permanent physical presence of the defense and security forces is not possible along the border, but regular patrolling can help reassure the population and raise the security level.

What is the security level in the area according to you?

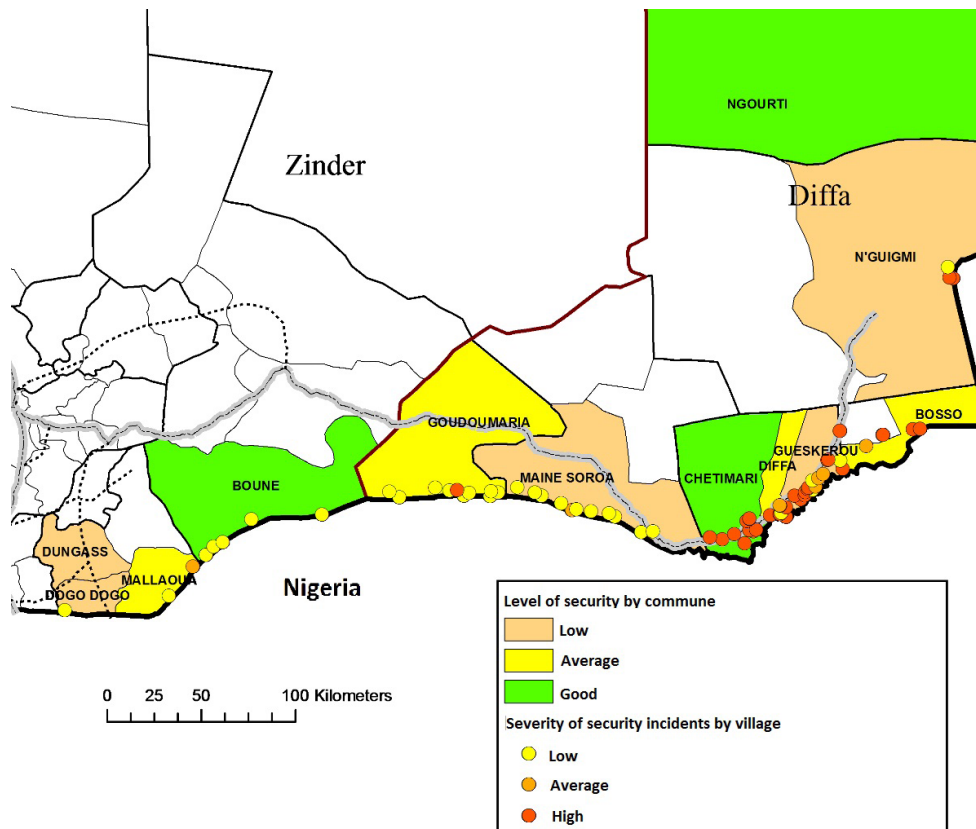


Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

5.2. Assessment of security levels in the area and in villages experiencing security problems

Villages facing the most serious security problems are located in the Diffa region. They are mainly located in the lake area, severely affected by the Boko Haram raids.

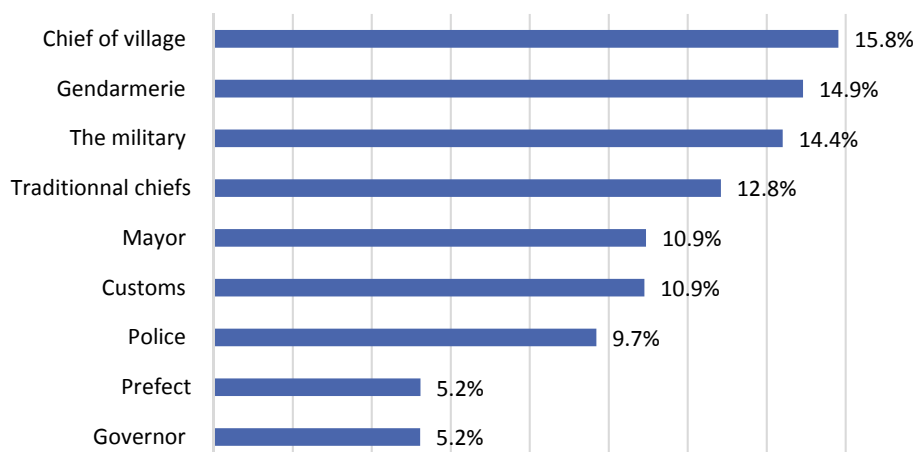
Map 3: Assessment of the security level in the area and villages experiencing security problems



5.3. Local representatives responsible for border security management, according to the respondents

The local representatives seen as responsible for border security management are primarily the closest and most familiar stakeholders to the populations. The chiefs of villages and customary chiefs (29% of respondents), mayors (11%), and defense and security forces (50% of answers) were the most cited as the persons in charge. Among the latter, the gendarmes (15%), the military (14%), the customs officers (11%) and the police officers (10%) were named. Respondents also mentioned in smaller ratio the prefects (5%) and governors (5%) as local representatives in charge of border security management.

Who is responsible for security at the border?



The presence of the gendarmerie and army in the second and third positions of the representatives responsible for border security can also be explained by the strong militarization of the border in the Diffa region.

It is important to emphasize that the village chief is mentioned first among border security officials, well before the governor, the prefect and, to a lesser extent, the mayor. This prevalence of village chiefs and the importance given to other customary chiefs demonstrates the importance of community relays for the population, including in terms of security—an area which should be subject to the competence of the State services.



In Niger, there is a parallel customary chieftaincy, complementary to the administrative hierarchy. Sultans are at the top of the customary hierarchy, followed by the chiefs of cantons or chiefs of groups for the nomadic populations, then the sector chiefs and finally village or neighbourhood chiefs in cities. From the regional to the local level, the chieftainship thus ensures a closely-knit network for the entire territory of Niger.

Traditional leaders enjoy an authority recognized by the State and the populations to arbitrate some of the disputes, regarding for example land or family relations. On the other hand, they are not competent for “blood crimes” or breach of law, cases for which the judicial authority decides. They are taken into account by the State, in particular by the Ministry of Interior, Public Security, Decentralization and Traditional and Religious Affairs. The public treasury is giving them a wage.

Unlike governors, prefects and mayors, who are removable and thus re-elected depending on political or electoral factors, customary chiefs enjoy a life-time position, which ensures a certain stability of the chieftainship. In this sense, they are key partners in ensuring the sustainability of the structures set up at the local level, such as community prevention committees.

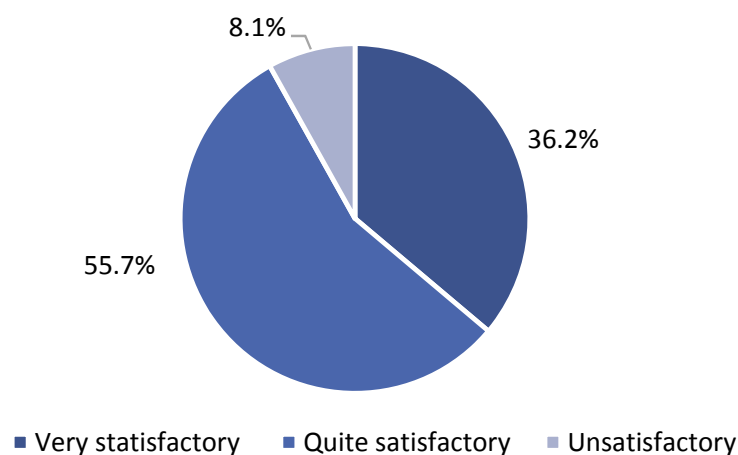
Moreover, customary chiefs are not representatives of the Nigerien State and are not, therefore, subject to some of the rules that apply to civil servants. Customs thus forbid the governors and prefects to maintain formal relations with their Nigerians and Chadians counterparts without the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the other hand, the township chiefs are in regular contact with the traditional chiefs on the other side of the border. It gives them access to valuable sources of information for border security. This is particularly true in the study areas, with populations on both sides of the border often sharing the same language and culture.

As a result, the involvement of customary chiefs in prevention and early warning mechanisms for sudden cross-border changes provides an essential guarantee of efficiency and sustainability.

5.4. Assessment of the work of the stakeholders responsible for border security

Overall, the work of the stakeholders in charge of border security management is considered satisfactory. Thus, 36 per cent of respondents find this work satisfactory and 55 per cent consider it fairly satisfactory. Only 8 per cent of respondents are not satisfied with the actions taken. Two lessons can be drawn from these results. A small ratio of respondents strongly disagreed with the work of border security officers. However, the study found that more than half of respondents consider it to be fairly satisfactory, which means that it can be improved. Discussions with the population during IOM field missions indicate that the populations expect patrols and border security operations from defense and security forces to be more frequent.

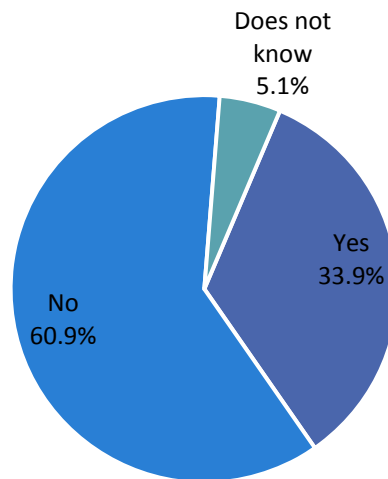
What do you think of the work of the actors in charge of border security?



5.5. Can the local authorities ensure alone the border security?

Even though the surveyed populations generally consider the work accomplished by the local authorities on border security management to be satisfactory, the vast majority of them consider that these stakeholders alone cannot deal effectively with the security problems at the border. Sixty-one per cent of respondents indicated that these authorities are unable to provide security on their own, compared to 34 per cent who think they are able. This demonstrates the importance of integrating communities into border management for support to the authorities.

Can local authorities alone completely ensure the security of the border?

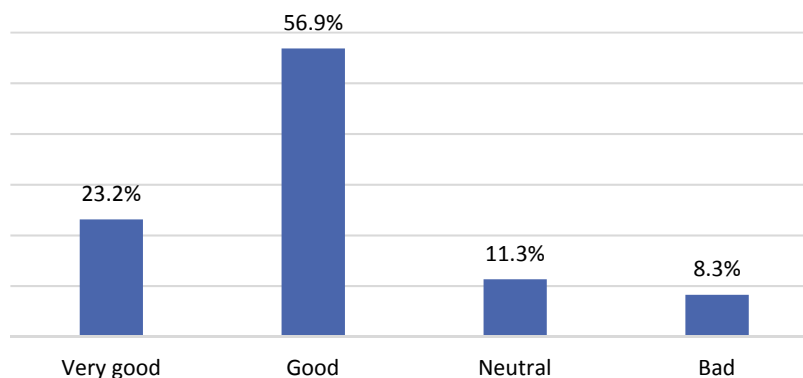


5.6. Relationship between the local community and border security officers

a. Assessment of the relationship between the local community and the border security officers

The relationship between the local community and border security officers is, on the whole, perceived as good. Fifty-seven per cent of respondents think this relationship is satisfactory and 23 per cent even consider that it is very good. Only 8 per cent of the respondents argue that the relationship between the two parties is bad.

What do you think of the relationship between the local community and the agent in charge of border security?



The assessment by municipalities, of the relationship between the local community and border security officers, shows that the communication is considered good for a large part of the municipalities. It is, however, less true in the municipalities of Chetimari and Diffa in the Diffa region and of Bouné in the Zinder region, where a significant part of respondents consider the relation between parties as bad²¹ (35% in Chetimari and Diffa and 18% in Bouné).

²¹ According to the cross-checking of collected data, before the BH attacks, relations were not very good between the population and the FDS, but since the 6 February 2015, relations improved, the population collaborate with the FDS, reports any irregular activities because the inhabitants don't want to face again the sad situation of Diffa town. In addition, thanks to the presence of numerous intelligence officers, any irregular activity is almost systematically reported.

In Chetimari, relations remain difficult, a lot of young people have been recruited by BH; military patrols are often ambushed with the complicity of the population; this explains why several villages were deserted while there is a high concentration of population in Gagamari, Boudouri and other villages.

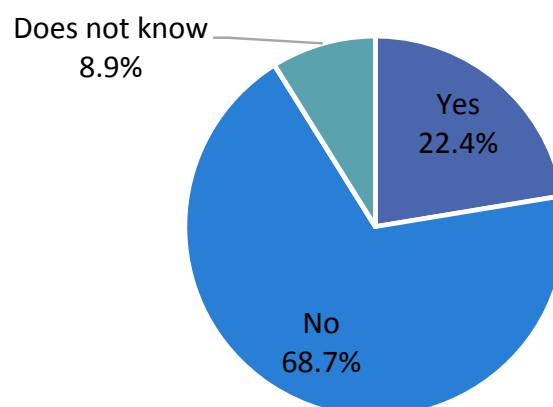
Assessment of the relationship between the local community and the border security officers

	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Bad	Total
Diffa	22,9%	61,5%	7,1%	8,5%	100,0%
Bosso	32,4%	60,6%	4,5%	2,5%	100,0%
Chetimari	2,3%	47,6%	14,8%	35,3%	100,0%
Diffa	24,8%	23,9%	15,7%	35,6%	100,0%
Goudoumaria	42,5%	54,7%	2,3%	0,6%	100,0%
Gueskerou	12,2%	76,7%	8,4%	2,7%	100,0%
Mainé Soroa	33,8%	59,1%	6,2%	0,8%	100,0%
Nguigmi	0,7%	98,9%	0,4%	0,0%	100,0%
Ngourti	0,4%	99,3%	0,0%	0,4%	100,0%
Boune	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Zinder	24,4%	41,0%	27,0%	7,6%	100,0%
Mallaoua	37,0%	58,1%	3,9%	1,1%	100,0%
Boune	1,6%	23,6%	56,4%	18,4%	100,0%
Dogo Dogo	42,9%	47,7%	9,2%	0,2%	100,0%
Dungass	3,3%	86,7%	10,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Total	23,2%	57,1%	11,4%	8,3%	100,0%

b. Dispute between the local community and the officers in charge of border security

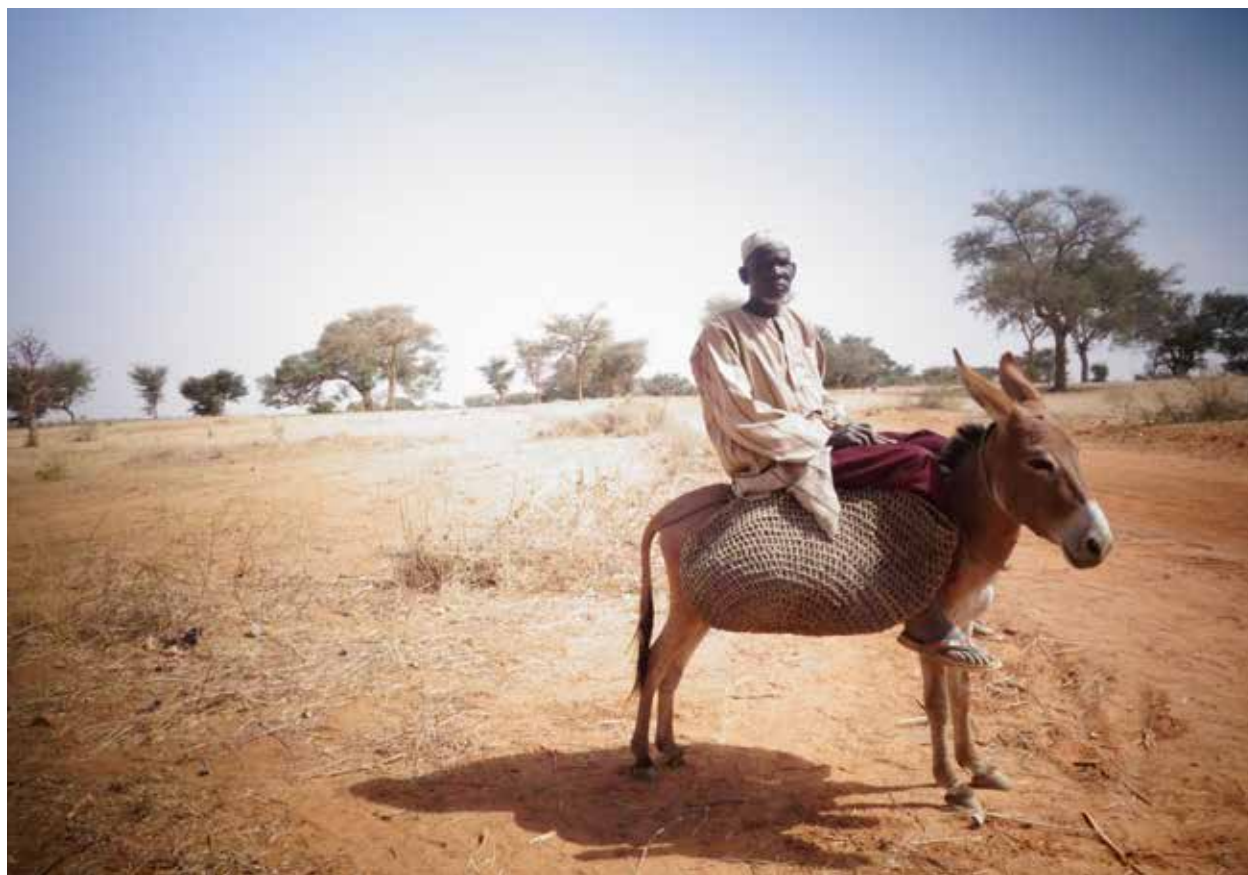
As a sign of the quality of the relations between the local community and the officials in charge of border security, a majority of the respondents confirmed the absence of disputes between the two stakeholders (69% of respondents). More than one in five respondents considers, however, that some disputes occur, which is a relatively high figure. This assessment is reinforced by the occurrence frequency of disputes, which occur “very often” according to 41 per cent of respondents.

Does the local community have arguments with the officers responsible for security at the border?



c. Reasons for disputes

Several reasons can explain the disputes between the local community and the officers in charge of border security. The most common reasons given are the slowdown during border crossing (32% of answers), fines (26%) and prevention from crossing—probably linked to the closure of the Niger-Nigeria border during military operations. Respondents also highlight the arrests of individuals as a reason for disputes (14% of cases).



Hassle (“tracasseries” in French), a term frequently used to refer to bribery, is only mentioned by a small ratio of the respondents (6.5%). However, more than a quarter mentioned the payment of fines as a cause of disputes against the police, it might also be possible that some of the hassle is also presented as legal fines. The irregular collection of money by officials in charge of border management is known for bringing lasting damage to the reputation of the State and its services which adversely affect the trust of populations.

Reasons for disputes between the local community and the officials in charge of border security

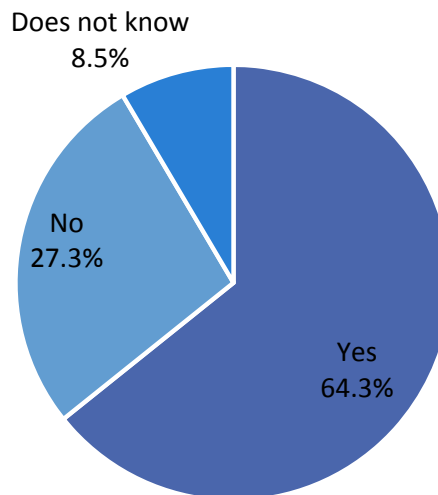
	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Fines	1,048	25.54%
Slowdown during border-crossing	1,302	31.73%
Prevention from crossing	925	22.54%
Arrest	560	13.65%
Hassle	268	6.53%

5.7. Relationship between the authorities and the local communities

a. Facilitation by the authorities of meetings with the communities

Meetings on border security are usually organized by the authorities. Sixty-four per cent of respondents declare that the authorities are organizing meetings with their communities on border security.

Are the authorities facilitating meetings with your community on border security issues?



b. Types of meetings

Meetings arranged by the authorities aim largely to raise awareness (according to 91% of the respondents mentioning the meeting activities). The authorities also organize meetings on capacity-building and training, according respectively to 35 per cent and 28 per cent of the same respondents. Since the repeated attacks of BH in the region, the regional authorities made raising awareness their top priority. Mayors, traditional leaders and youth structures are always asked to lead such initiatives for their youth. When there is an official ceremony, the authorities take the opportunity to spread this kind of message.

Capacity-building and training are led mostly by humanitarian partners or development NGOs.

Collaboration with the FDS is necessary as security is everyone's concern; this is why the regional authorities are focusing on raising awareness for the local populations so that they start collaborating on all efforts to restore peace and security in the region.

Topics of meetings between the communities and the authorities

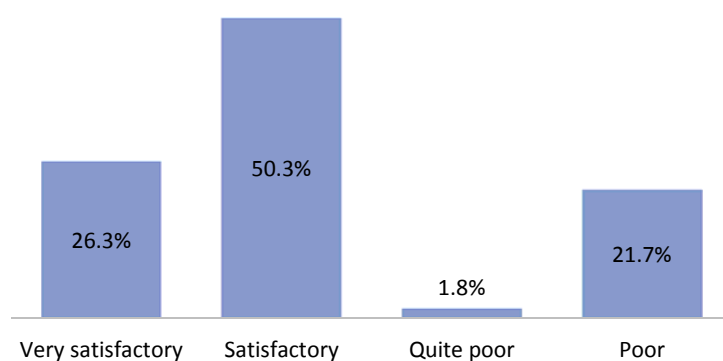
	Number of respondents by topic	Percentage
Capacity-building	1,514	35.05%
Training	1,190	27.55%
Raising awareness	3,927	90.92%
Other	188	4.35%

Note: Multiple answers are possible. Total is not equal to 100 per cent.

c. Assessment of how communities are involved by the local authorities in border security management

The involvement of the communities by the authorities is found to be satisfactory overall. Fifty per cent of the respondents found this involvement satisfactory and 26 per cent reported a very satisfactory involvement. Only 22 per cent of the respondents think the involvement of the communities by the authorities is poor. Thus, there is a fertile ground for strengthening this collaboration between the border communities and the authorities.

What do you think about how the authorities are involving your community in terms of border security?



d. Proposal for what needs to be done to establish a very good relationship between the officials in charge of border security and the communities

This was an open-ended question, without any proposed answers, to give complete freedom to respondents. This gives us an overview of the respondents' priorities regarding this matter, without influencing their answers.



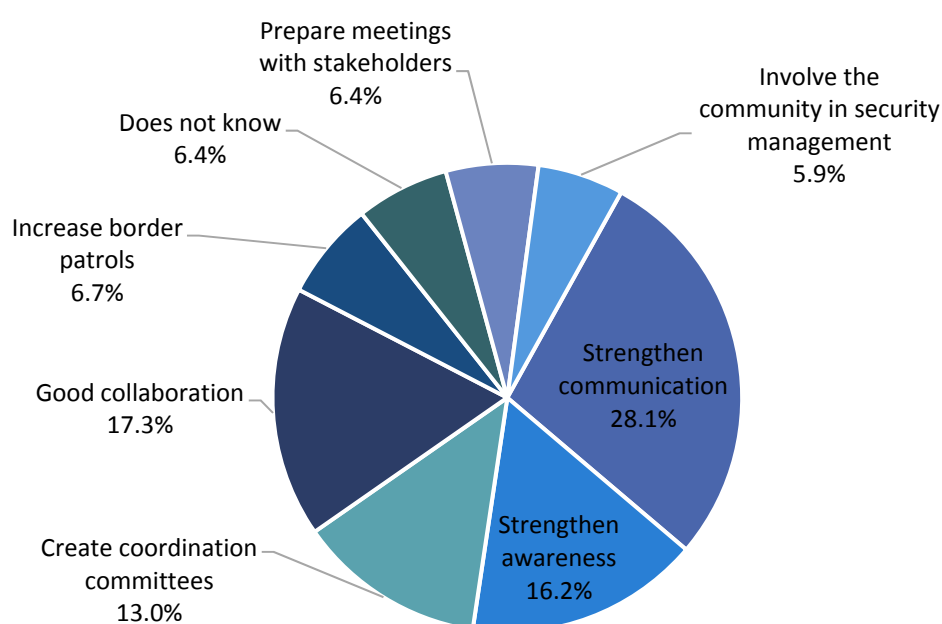
The respondents seem to recognize that it is necessary to strengthen the relations between the officials in charge of border security and the communities, for the communities to become active participants involved in border management, and to no longer be passive victims. This means to create a climate of trust between the authorities and the communities, and to implement exchange frameworks based on the local characteristics.

Respondents thus gave their opinion on the necessary actions or improvements to strengthen the relationship between the officials responsible for border security management and the local communities.

The answers most given by the populations on measures or improvements to create a climate of mutual trust are, strengthening the communication (28% of respondents), a good collaboration (17%), strengthening awareness raising activities (16%) and the creation of committees for consultation and coordination (13%). Other measures were also suggested, including the multiplication of border patrols and the preparation of meetings for stakeholders involved in border management: authorities, traditional leaders and the populations.

The relative diversity of the proposals made by the respondents should not mask the fact that most of the ideas revolve around the dialogue between people and authorities, whether through communication, awareness initiatives, better collaboration, consultation committees or meetings. These proposals reinforce the decision made regarding strengthening the communication through the implementation of a system of transmission of relevant information for border management, and the implementation of prevention village committees, two measures planned in the project.

What should be done to improve the relationship between the border security officials and the communities?

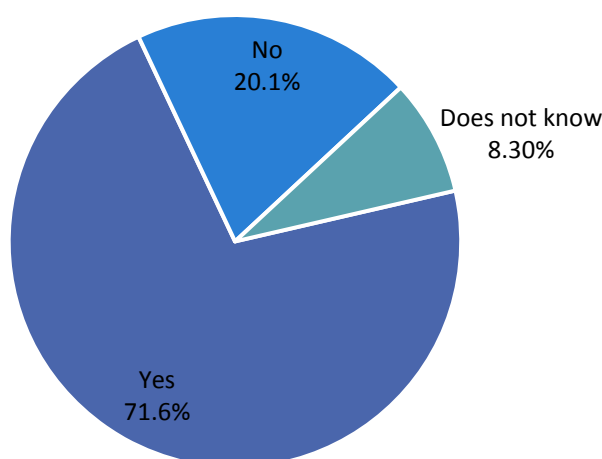


6. Communication between authorities and communities regarding border security

6.1. Intermediary person used by the communities to communicate with the authorities on border security matters

Unlike the system in force in other regions or other countries by which every citizen contacts directly to the authorities to inform them of an incident of an irregular event, people from the regions covered by the study seem to rely on intermediaries. Thus, 72 per cent of respondents confirm the existence of intermediaries between the local communities and the authorities regarding communication on border security.

Is there an intermediary between the local communities and the authorities for communication on border security?

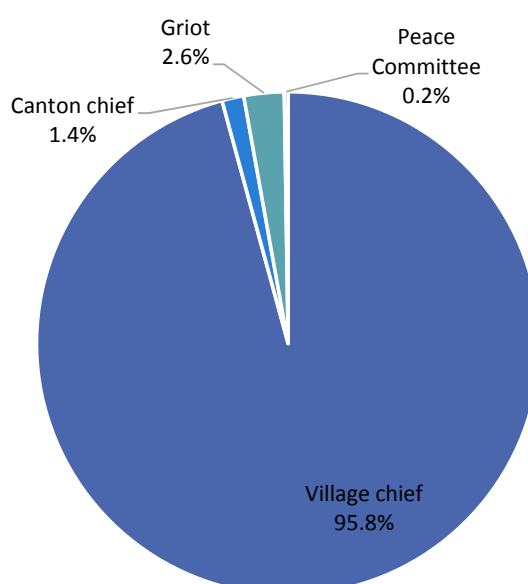


In 96 per cent of the cases, the identified intermediary is the village chief. Some respondents also mentioned the canton or tribe chiefs, the head of peace committees or the griots.²² This observation highlights the fact that traditional leaders, including the village chief, are not only trustworthy persons for the community, but they also play a central role in relaying information between the people and the authorities. Accordingly, to fit the local context, any new alert or information transmission system between the community and the authorities should reasonably rely on traditional chiefs and in particular on village chiefs.

²² Griots are traditional storytellers, sometimes also responsible for transmitting messages from one village to another.



Intermediary between the local communities and authorities for communication on border security



6.2. Proposal for provisions to implement a permanent communication and an alert system between the community and the authorities on border security

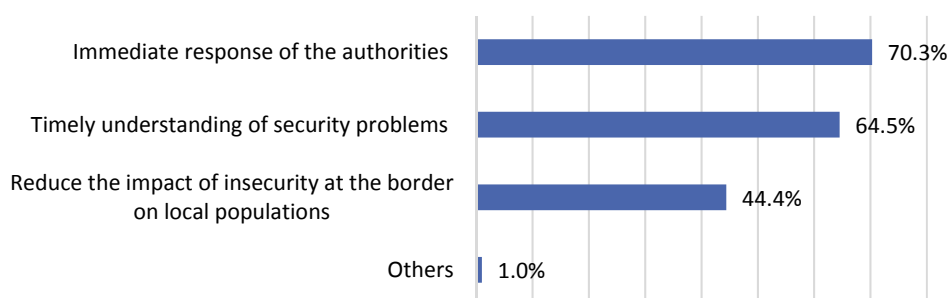
To ensure communication between communities and authorities when a problem occurs at the border, the respondents mainly identified the creation of local information committees as a tool to use (61% of respondents). There are many benefits to local committees. First of all, their collegial dimension gives different segments of the population (women, young people, community leaders) a voice, in order to centralize as much information as possible. Under the direction of a respected and stable leader, the village chief, they also benefit from the long-term support of the population. Finally, the head of the committee plays a filtering role, insofar as it guarantees the credibility and relevance of the information provided.



6.3. The benefits of good communication between communities and authorities on border security matters, according to the respondents

The benefits of good communication identified by respondents are indirectly the expectations of the authorities' responses when they warn them of an incident or a suspicious event. The most cited benefits are the immediate response of the authorities (70% of respondents), and the timely understanding of security problems (64%). In addition, 44% of respondents consider that good communication would considerably reduce the impact of border insecurity on local populations.

What are the benefits of good communication between the authorities and the local community on border security?

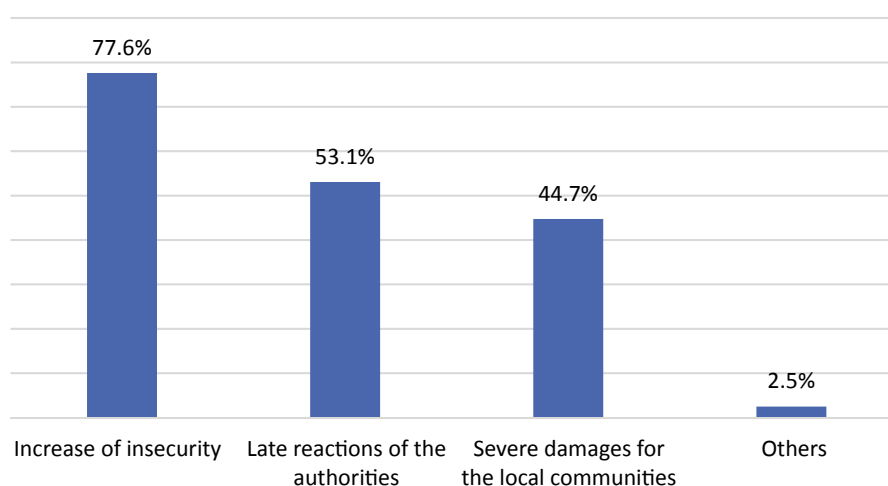


Note: Multiple answers are possible. Does not sum to 100 per cent.

6.4. The risk of miscommunication when an incident occurs at the border

Poor communication between the authorities and local communities can aggravate the risks of miscommunication or create new ones. Hence, the respondents declared that this led mainly to the increase of insecurity (for 78% of respondents) and to late reactions of the authorities when their action was called upon (53%). In addition, local communities would be more severely affected in the event of poor communication (45%).

What are the risks of poor communication between communities and authorities?



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Does not sum to 100 per cent.

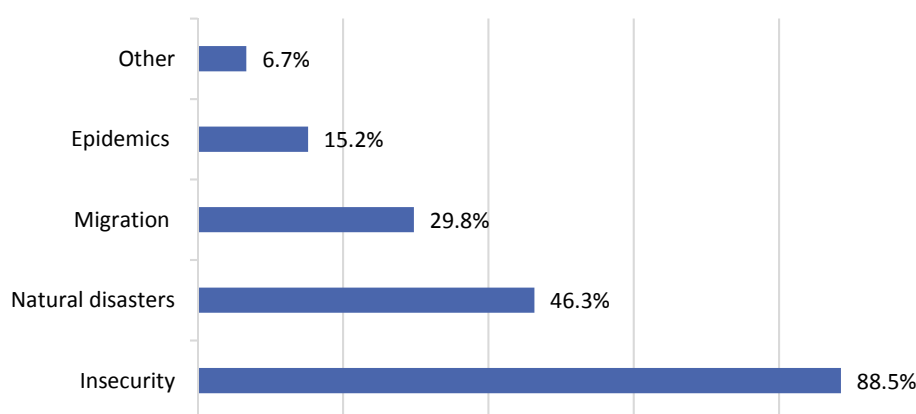
7. Crisis response plan



7.1. Causes of the mass displacements of populations at the border according to the respondents

Since 2014, the East of the Diffa region has experienced mass displacement of the population, especially in the villages of Nigeria's border and close to the Lake Chad areas.²³ More than 89 per cent of the respondents mentioned primarily the insecurity as one of the causes for this phenomenon. They also mentioned natural disasters as an important cause of mass population displacement, which used to be the main cause of displacements. People have strong lasting memories of the damages from the 2013 floods and the recurring droughts. Other causes have been mentioned such as voluntary migration and epidemics—answer probably linked to the viral hepatitis E epidemic affecting the region at the time of the research.²⁴

Causes of mass displacement of population at the border



Note: Multiple answers are possible. Does not sum to 100 per cent.

²³ As of April 30th, 2017, 106 000 Nigerians refugees were in Niger, in addition to 127 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs): <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/country/ner>

²⁴ See https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Niger/NER_Snapshot_epidemics_hepatite_E_05052017.pdf

7.2. Do you think that communities are ready to deal with a mass displacement of the population?

Respondents are relatively confident about the communities' ability to deal with situations of mass displacement of populations. Sixty-six per cent of respondents think that these communities are prepared to cope, while 28 per cent consider that they are not ready.

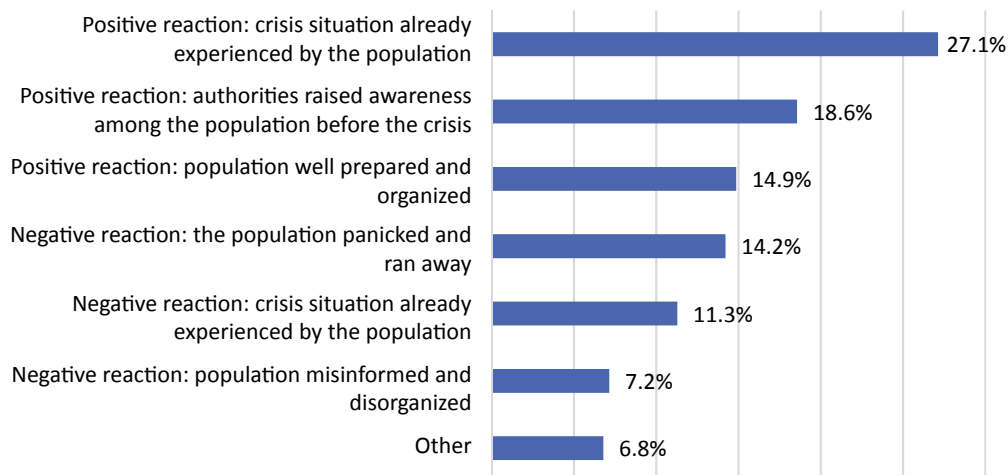
	Number	Percentage
Yes	4,431	65.92%
No	1,904	28.32%
Does not know	387	5.76%
Total	6,722	100.00%

Respondents explained their reasons why they thought they would be ready to face mass population displacements. For 27 per cent of the given answers, the communities feel they are ready to face the situation because they reacted positively during past crises. Similarly, 15 per cent consider that the communities are already well prepared and organized to deal with such phenomena. The awareness of local authorities is also an important contribution to help these communities in developing skills to deal with displacements and to ease their negative consequences (for 18% of answers).



This confidence in the ability of communities to deal with mass displacement of population is probably due to the recent event in the Diffa region, which hosted hundreds of thousands of displaced people and refugees in recent years. It should nevertheless be noted that most of the displaced and refugees are installed farther from the border than the villages covered by the study, which might explain the optimistic vision regarding their ability to absorb the flow of people.

Reasons why communities are ready or not to deal with a crisis situation, based on reaction to past crisis



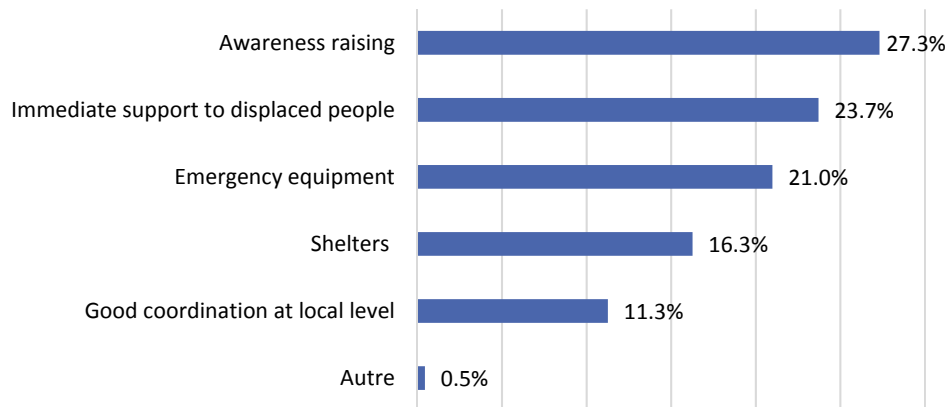
7.3. The necessary means to deal with an emergency

To deal with an emergency situation, people must develop strategies and have adequate means to respond effectively to the problems encountered. The approaches most often mentioned to deal with emergency situations are raising awareness of the population and immediate support to displaced people or refugees, according to respectively 27 per cent and 23 per cent of responses. Other ways are shelters (11% of answers) and emergency materials (21% of answers). A good coordination at the local level is also important for effective actions in cases of emergency, according to 11 per cent of the answers provided by the respondents.



It should be noted that the most frequent responses are less the existence of material resources (shelters and emergency use devices) than the preparation (raising awareness), the coordination and the effective response of communities by immediately seeing to the needs of displaced people.

What are the necessary means to deal with an emergency?

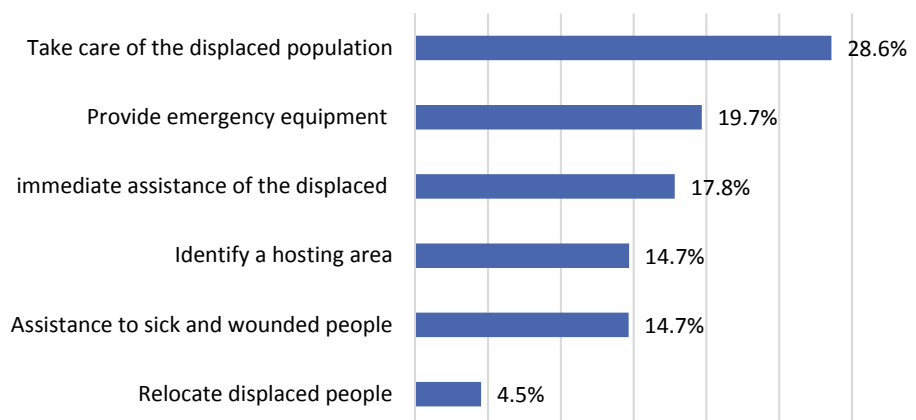


7.4. Roles the authorities should play to deal with an emergency

Involvement of the authorities is essential to deal with emergency situations. According to respondents, in emergency cases, the authorities must prioritize hosting the displaced population (mentioned by 28% of answers) and provide emergency equipment (nearly 20% of responses answers). Other aspects concern the immediate assistance of the displaced (17% of answers), assistance to sick and wounded people (14% of responses) and to identify a secured hosting area for displaced persons (also 14% of the answers). The populations' expectations regarding the role of the authorities are thus quite wide, as they cover areas as diverse as logistics, resettlement, health care or even safety. And yet these areas are often the responsibility of separate public services and administrations.

Past crisis management revealed a need for greater coordination between the different stakeholders from the relevant State. This observation has been confirmed during the simulation exercise organized by the IOM in Zinder and Mirriah, in March 2017. Taken in isolation, the services know their missions and how to conduct them. However, the general coordination, whether at the place where the crisis takes place or in the crisis councils at the departmental and regional levels (Department and Regional Operational Centres—COD and COR²⁵), would benefit from being more structured. It is precisely the purpose of the national and the regional contingency plans that will be developed within the project which implemented the present study.

What role should the authorities play when facing an emergency situation?



²⁵ In French, *Centre Opérationnel Départemental* and *Centre Opérationnel Régional* (COR).

7.5. The roles to be played by communities to deal with an emergency situation

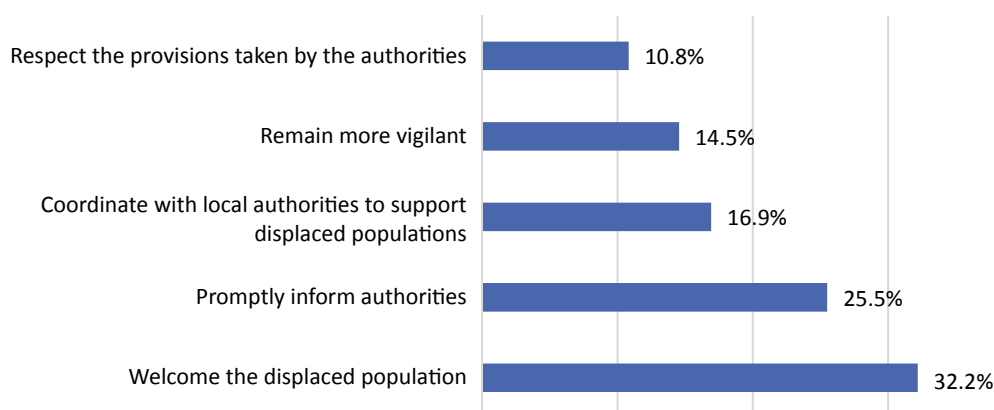
Local communities must also have a role to play to deal with emergency situations. The roles mentioned by respondents were mostly to welcome the displaced population and to promptly inform the authorities, according to respectively 32 per cent and 25 per cent of the answers provided by the respondents. These communities must also coordinate their actions with the authorities locally, to facilitate the support of displaced populations (nearly 17% answers), respect the provisions taken by this authority (10% of answers) and above all remain more vigilant (14% of answers).

The emphasis of the respondents on the hosting role of the local communities reflects how displaced people have been supported during the crisis in Nigeria, and then in the southeast of Niger. A significant ratio of these people settled not in camps but with host families with which they shared family links, or at least a linguistic or ethnic affiliation.

More than a third of the participants said that informing the local authorities and coordinate actions with them are among the roles that communities must have during an emergency situation, which denotes a willingness to have better coordination between populations and State services.



What role should local communities play when facing an emergency situation?



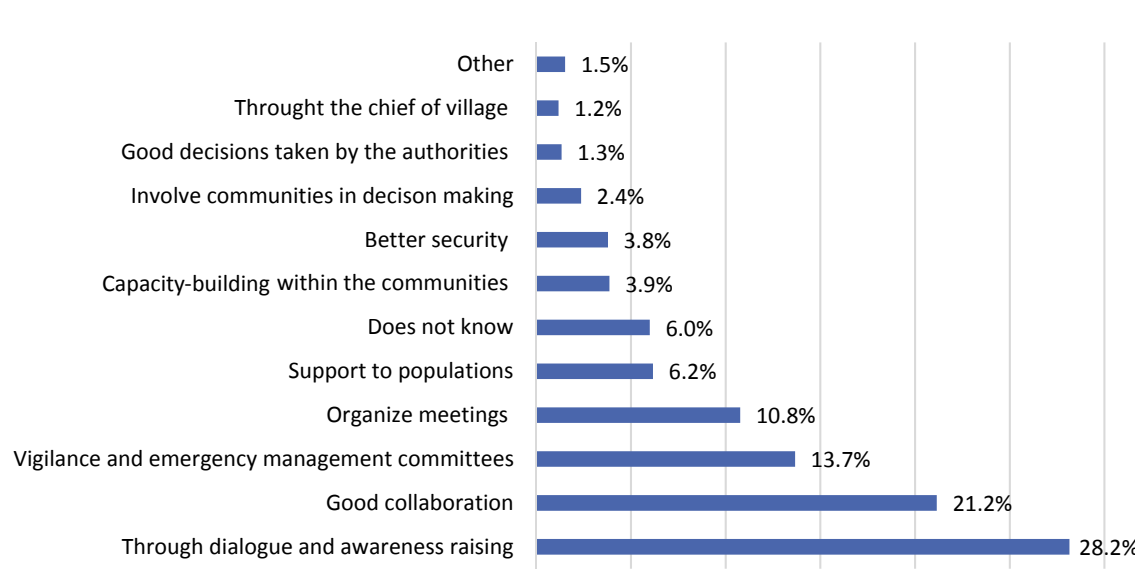
7.6. How to associate communities and the authorities for an effective management of emergency situations?

Respondents answered this open-ended question by mentioning dialogue and information exchange.

Respondents evoke the fact that the collaboration between communities and the authorities must happen mainly through exchanges and raising awareness, good collaboration and the creation of local vigilance and emergency management committees. They also suggested regular meetings between the two parties,

ensuring the communities' capacity-building to prevent and face crisis situations and provide help and support to the displaced populations.

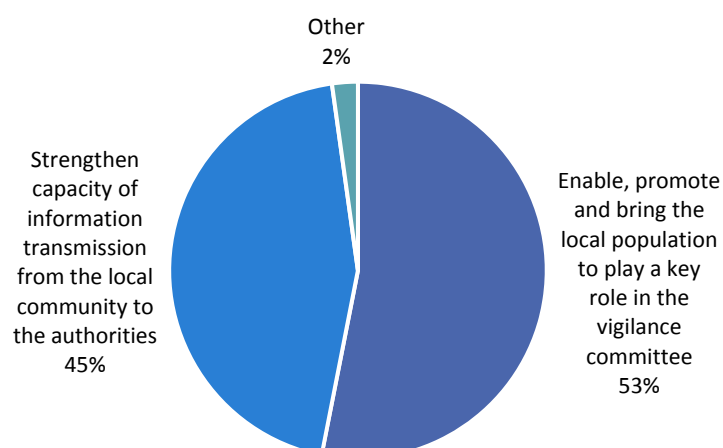
How to associate communities and authorities for effective management of emergency situations?



7.7. How can local communities help prevent emergencies?

As a result of the attention paid to issues affecting their communities through the previous questions, respondents are certainly informed on the actions they must take to prevent emergency situations. Responses to the question on what they can do to prevent such situations, show they largely select two main actions. Thus, 53 per cent of the responses indicate that they must allow, promote, and encourage the local population to play a role of vigilance Committee. In addition, in 45 per cent of cases, there should be a strengthening of the capacity of information transmission from the local community to the authorities.

How to prevent an emergency situation with the local community?



8. Management of emergency situations in the Diffa region

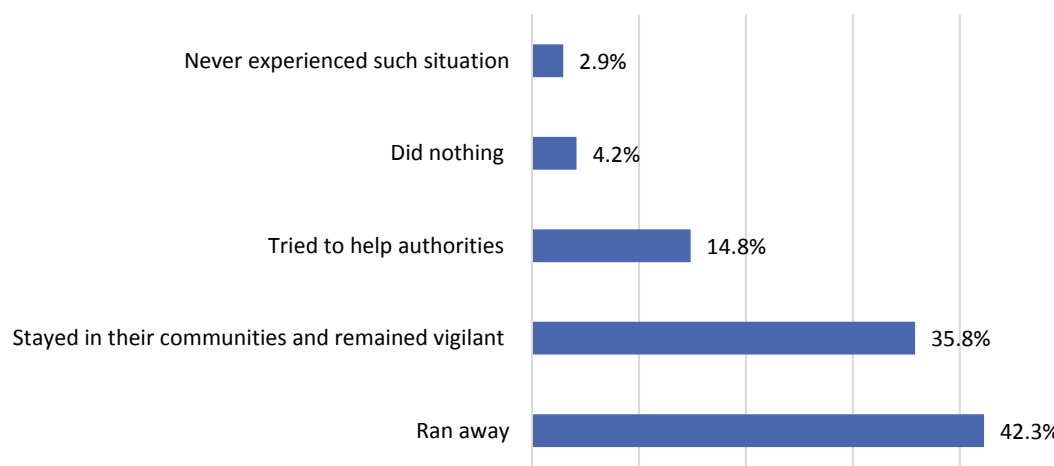
This part of the research was only conducted in the Diffa region in order to learn more about how the people of the region have reacted to the crises which struck them in recent years.



8.1. Reaction to the mass displacement of a population following a crisis situation

The majority of the villages affected by the investigation in the Diffa region was hit by a crisis involving the mass displacement of populations in the recent past. These populations have faced situations of crises in a range of ways depending on the magnitude of problems and the steps taken to deal with it. Thus, 42 per cent of respondents said they immediately fled following the panic after the unfolded events. In contrast, nearly 35 per cent of respondents stayed in their communities while remaining vigilant. 14.8 per cent of respondents say they tried to help the authorities to deal with the crisis situation.

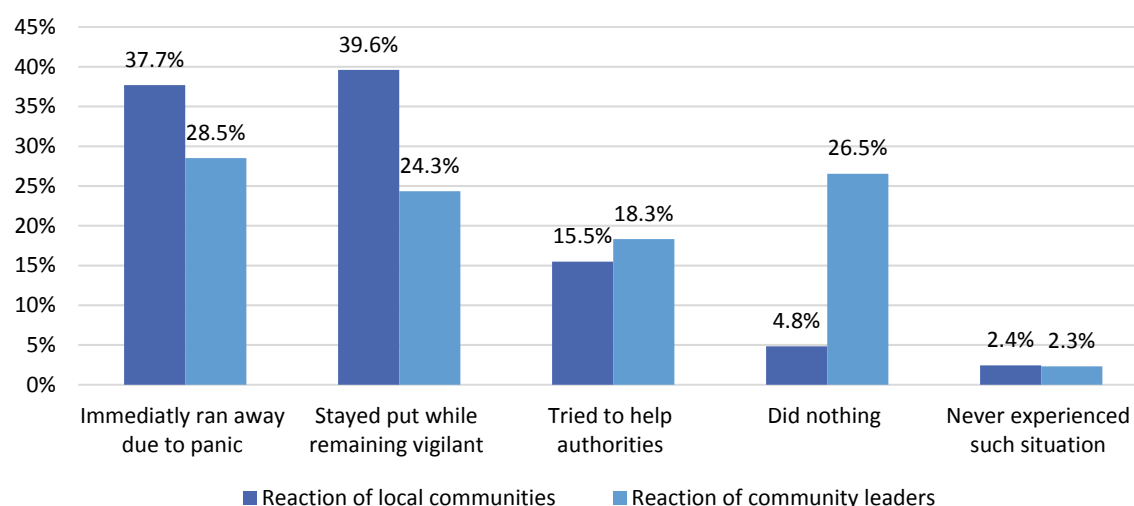
What did you do when facing a mass population displacement following a crisis situation?



8.2. The reaction of the local community and community leaders during a crisis

In regard to the local community in general and their community leaders, the reaction for some (37% for the local community and 28% for community leaders) was also to flee as a result of panic during crises while others chose to stay while remaining vigilant (39% and 24% the two respective parties). Respondents also found the community leaders did not react to the crisis situation (according to 26% of the answers), which can be analysed as a criticism against them.

Mesures taken by the local community and community leaders to face the crisis

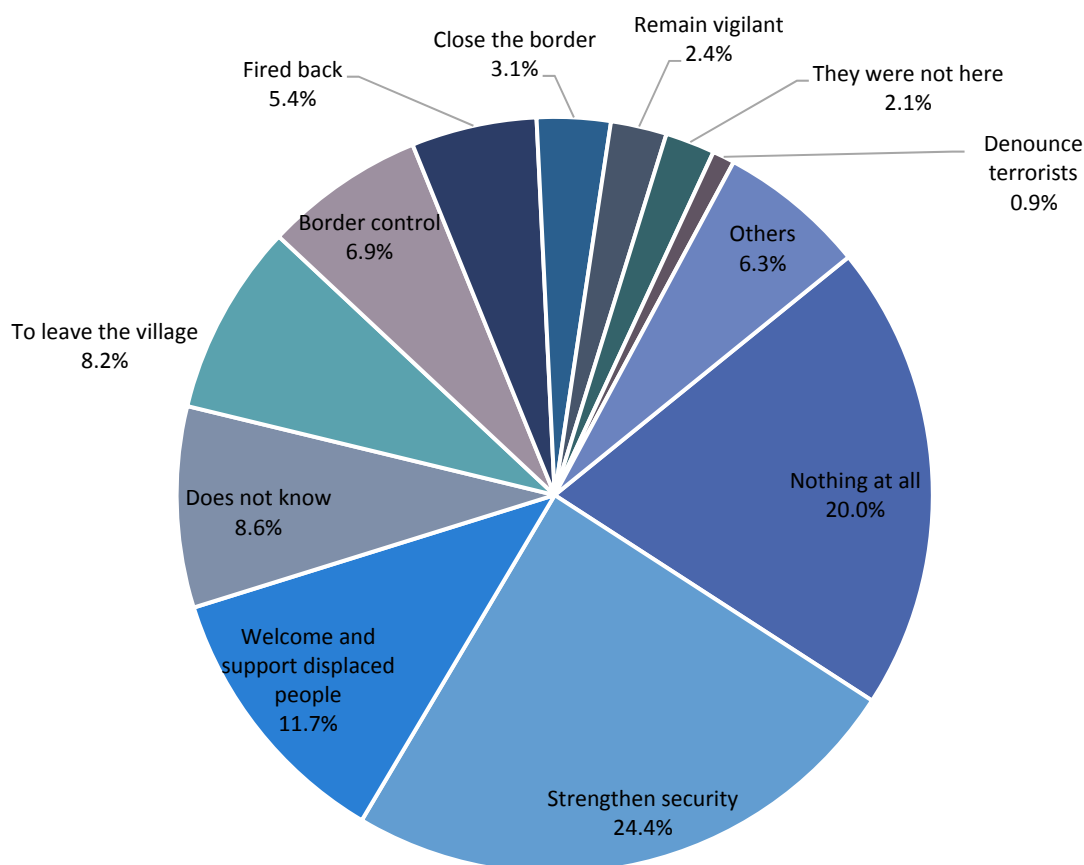


8.3. Immediate measures taken by the stakeholders in charge of border management following a crisis

To support the border management, measures must be taken immediately in order to prevent the crisis situations and deal with the encountered problems. This question was open-ended, without proposed answer with the intention not to influence the respondents' reply. The respondents most mentioned answers are: strengthening security (24% of the answers), hosting and support displaced persons (12% of answers) or the evacuation of a border village if necessary (according to 8% of the respondents). The control or closure of the border, the authorities' response and maintaining vigilance are also mentioned. It should be noted that a fifth of respondents consider that the stakeholders in charge of border management did not react.

These findings partially add up to the results of the simulation exercise organized by the IOM in Zinder, in March 2017. The authorities' reaction focuses on security (the "closure of the border", "control of the border", "retort" and "reinforce security" answers) rather than on the reception of and assistance to the displaced persons.

What were the immediate responses by the stakeholders in charge of border management?



Conclusion

This study highlights the perceptions of Diffa and Zinder communities on security management at the border, security risks and the terrorist phenomenon that affects this part of the basin of the Niger. The study shares their opinion on the efficiency of the border management, their relations with the authorities in the area and their proposals to deal with emergency situations. For the localities in the Diffa region, recently and deeply affected by terrorist attacks, the study also shares the reaction populations had during this crisis.

Communities seem to have a relatively clear idea of the border itself, even though the border is not always materialized and that border posts are rather few. Local communities know the location of the border, which they mainly associate with the delimitation between two States, but also as a means for the authorities to monitor entries and exits, as well as to ensure the populations' safety. At the same time, the border crossing is an economic and cultural widespread practice which was strongly impacted by the increase of insecurity in the region: almost all of the respondents indicate that they were crossing the border on a regular basis before the emergence of Boko Haram, compared to only half at the time of research.



Populations clearly identify different border defense and security forces, because of their frequent presence through their patrols and their interventions. The gendarmerie is the main known force by the border population. They have, overall, a rather positive image of them and they appreciate their work to ensure safety. However, a large proportion of respondents reported disputes with officials in charge of border management. Fines and hassles (bribes) contribute to serious disputes.

A significant part of the population has knowledge of the existence of crossing points used for criminal activities. In this area, crime is not an occult phenomenon; inhabitants are aware of its existence and know specific information on its terms and the most affected areas.

The communities recognized the existence of security problems at the border, among which the most frequent are armed or terrorist groups incursions, violent attacks and trafficking in drugs, weapons or other kinds. Significant differences were noted between the Zinder and Diffa regions, the latter being particularly affected by terrorism.

Regarding terrorism, a majority of respondents confirmed the presence of terrorist activities in their area. The most cited terrorist activities are widespread attacks on civilians, house destruction and murders. However, a large part of the respondents said that today their community was safe from terrorism and a large majority believes that terrorism is decreasing. Even in areas recently affected by Boko Haram attacks, such as Bosso and N'Guigmi, the populations estimate that the terrorist threat was increasingly far away and that the authorities in charge of securing the populations took charge. It is noteworthy that the intensity of the terrorist threat can vary according to the time of the year. Indeed, during the dry season (October–June), the level of the river marking the border in the Diffa region is at its lowest, which facilitates the incursions of Boko Haram from Nigeria. The field investigation was conducted in February and March, i.e. during which the level of the terrorist threat is highest.

Regarding border management, a relatively large ratio of the respondents confirmed patrolling in their area. It is thus in the localities with patrolling that respondents find the security level very satisfactory compared to the average of all the surveyed villages. Security is considered as overall satisfactory, including in villages where they encountered security problems in the past. Furthermore, respondents identify most of the local officials in charge of security management at the border, which they find satisfactory overall. However, they feel that these authorities cannot alone effectively ensure security in the area, they also need more resources and capacity strengthening.





Overall, the populations appreciate the involvement of the authorities with the local communities in securing the border. They were also able to make several recommendations on what needs to be done to strengthen the relations between the border security officials and the communities. One proposal in particular, the creation of local prevention committees, would aim to raise awareness of the population and transmitting information to the authorities regarding border security. Already used in other IOM projects, this type of structure has the advantage of including the different sections of a village population and thus, multiplying potential sources of information. The project “Engaging communities in border management in Niger” will involve the creation of prevention committees in a targeted sample of the villages of Diffa and Zinder covered by the study.

Regarding the communication between the authorities and the local communities on border security, the vast majority of the respondents confirmed the existence of an intermediary between the two parties, which is almost always the village chief. Thus, community members do not directly contact the authorities, via a toll-free number for example. This finding will be taken into account when setting up the communication equipment within the prevention committees.

In terms of emergency responses, a relatively large proportion of the respondents believe their communities are well prepared to deal with situations of mass displacement. They consider the past crisis situations as a force. In addition, the populations identified the means/tools to put in place in case of an emergency situation, among which the most important are awareness-raising for the population and immediate care for displaced persons and refugees. Also mentioned was the role respectively played by the authorities and the local communities when facing emergency crises, as well as the necessity for both parties to work together during a crisis situation. In order to strengthen the response capacity during this type of situation, the IOM is currently working on a contingency plan development for cross-border crises, which will be implemented in the Diffa and Zinder regions.

This study provides a detailed picture of the border communities perceptions and is a valuable tool for continuing the activities carried out under the project “Engaging Communities in Border Management in Niger”. It has once again demonstrated the importance of relations between the communities and the authorities for safe borders and prosperous cross-border trade.

Annexes

Questionnaire and explanations for researchers

CONSENT OF RESPONDENT		
<p><i>Consent:</i> (Part to read to potential participants)</p> <p>I am undertaking a study and I would like to invite you to participate. The research focuses on the participation of the local communities in border management in Niger, particularly in the Diffa and Zinder regions.</p> <p>Your participation is completely voluntary and we will not record the personal data you will choose to share with us. There will be no compensation or penalty whether you participate or not. You can of course withdraw your participation at any time, before we start the research. Your information and advice would be appreciated and will guide policies, programmes, and research on the participation of local communities in border management. The interview takes about an hour.</p> <p>I have presented you information about the research, do you agree to participate? (Check to confirm the verbal consent of the participant) Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY		
<p>This study is part of the project “Engaging Communities in Border Management in Niger”, funded by the United States. It was designed by the IOM to collect, analyse and understand the vision of the communities living in border areas, regarding their participation in border management, their understanding of the migratory dynamics and their perceptions on the ins and outs of terrorists’ incidents in the region of the Lake Chad Basin. This quantitative and analytical study will therefore lead national and international stakeholders to adapt their actions to better integrate communities, and interact with them to better meet their needs. In the long term this study will demonstrate the need to bring communities out of the role of potential victims of insecurity in order to make them a key player in border management, through prevention committees.</p>		<p>This column provides you with some guidance to explain to the respondents and to the authorities/ community leaders why the IOM is doing this study and why it is important for them to support it.</p>
A – BASIC INFORMATION		
<p>A.1. Date:</p> <p>A.2. Department:</p> <p>A.3. Municipality:</p> <p>A.4. Village/hamlet:</p>		<p>Prior information, very Important to collect.</p> <p>Always use the same spelling for the village/ hamlet names.</p>
B – PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT		
<p>B.1. Gender:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>	<p>If the respondent is reluctant or suspicious, you can explain that all answers given will only be known by the IOM and remind him/ her that the questionnaire is anonymous. Personal information will not be shared with the authorities, or to anyone external to the organization.</p>
<p>B.2. Nationality:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Nigerien</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nigerian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chadian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____</p>	
<p>B.2. Ethnicity:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Haoussa</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Toubou</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peulh</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kanouri</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____</p>	
<p>B.3. Age:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 18–25 year-old</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 26–40 year-old</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 41–60 year-old</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 61–80 year-old</p>	

B.4. Work activity:	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock farming <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	
C – COMMUNITIES' PERCEPTIONS ON BORDER MANAGEMENT		
C.1. What is the purpose of a border, according to you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Define the separation between two States <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring populations' safety <input type="checkbox"/> Allow the authorities to monitor entries and exits <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Does not know	<p>Ask the person what is according to her the usefulness of the border.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
C.2. Do you know exactly where the border is located?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Ask where the border is located, from where you are at the moment. The purpose of this question is to know whether the respondent is aware of the border line from the place where he/she lives.
C.3. Have you crossed the border in the past?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Ask if the person crossed the border into the neighbouring country.
C.4. Are you crossing the border at the present time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask if the person is nowadays crossing the border to travel to the neighbouring country.</p> <p>The purpose of this question is to know if the person stopped crossing the border since insecurity started.</p>
C.5. How often do you cross the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Several times a day <input type="checkbox"/> Every day <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> 2–3 times a week <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>If the answer to the previous question is YES, ask how often the respondent is crossing the border at the present time.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
C.6.a. Why were you crossing the border in the past?	<input type="checkbox"/> Familial reasons <input type="checkbox"/> Economic reasons <input type="checkbox"/> Trade/Business <input type="checkbox"/> Other (to be specified) _____	Ask why the respondent was crossing the border in the past (before insecurity started). Several answers are possible.
C.6.b. Why do you cross the border today?	<input type="checkbox"/> Familial reasons <input type="checkbox"/> Economic reasons <input type="checkbox"/> Trade/Business <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>Ask why the person is crossing the border at the present time. The goal is to know if the person crosses the border for different reasons since the insecurity began.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
C.7. Do you know the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) present at the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Ask if the person knows if FDS agents are present at the border.
C.8. If yes, which stakeholders do you know?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policemen <input type="checkbox"/> Gendarmes <input type="checkbox"/> National Guards <input type="checkbox"/> Customs <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____	<p>Ask the respondent what kind of FDS agents are present at the border.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

D – SECURITY RISKS AT THE BORDER		
	Nationalities	
D.1.a What are the nationalities of the persons crossing the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Nigeriens from other regions <input type="checkbox"/> Nigeriens from the neighbouring village/hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> Chadians <input type="checkbox"/> Nigerians <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Specify) _____	<p>Ask the nationality/nationalities of the people crossing.</p> <p>Check several answers if necessary.</p> <p>A person may have several nationalities. Specify other nationalities that are not listed above.</p> <p>The respondent(s) may not know the nationalities.</p>
D.1.b. What are the categories of people who use the border crossings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Families <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants <input type="checkbox"/> Merchants <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>Ask the respondent what are the types of persons crossing the border.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
D.2. Are border crossings used for criminal activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't know	<p>Ask the respondent if, in his/her opinion, border crossing is used by persons who commit acts prohibited by Nigerien law. Explain again that the questionnaire is anonymous and that the identity of the respondents will not be shared.</p> <p>Help respondents by providing examples of criminal activity to make the response easier (see next question).</p>
D.3. What types of security problems do local communities face at the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Theft <input type="checkbox"/> Trafficking (drugs, weapons, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Violent assault <input type="checkbox"/> Incursions of armed/terrorist groups <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None	<p>Ask what types of illegal activities are involved.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
D.4. Has your village/hamlet ever been affected by a border insecurity issue?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask the respondent is the village/hamlet where he/she lives has ever been directly affected by insecurity. Please note that this question does not concern the neighbouring localities but only the one where you are.</p>
D.5. Do you know the security measure applied at the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Border controls at border posts <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol <input type="checkbox"/> Search <input type="checkbox"/> Informants <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask the respondent if he/she knows the measures taken by the FDS and the authorities to make the border secure.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
D.6. What do you think of these security measures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Quite good <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient	<p>Ask the respondent his/her opinion on the effectiveness of these measures.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
D.7. What are the risks that can arise from mismanagement of border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Epidemics <input type="checkbox"/> Terrorist incursions/armed groups <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Banditry <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment of youth by armed groups <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Does not know	<p>Ask the person what the risks are if the border is not secure.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

E – PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON TERRORISM

E.1. Have you ever heard about terrorism?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask the person if she has ever heard of terrorism or terrorists.</p> <p>Please note that these are acts committed by members of armed groups like Boko Haram. This question does not concern banditry or, for example, the theft of flocks by individuals acting on their own.</p> <p><i>If the word “terrorism” does not seem appropriate to the context in which you find yourself, you can replace it with more indirect expressions like “Tajirwa’ma” in Kanouri or “Ain bidiga dady” in Hausa.</i></p>
E.2. What kinds of terrorist activities do you know?	<input type="checkbox"/> Generalized attacks on civilians <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of houses <input type="checkbox"/> Murders <input type="checkbox"/> Abductions <input type="checkbox"/> Intimidation <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't know	<p>Ask the person what types of terrorist activities she knows.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
E.3. In your opinion, what could lead people to this phenomenon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of occupation <input type="checkbox"/> Adherence to ideology <input type="checkbox"/> Opposition to the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Anger and frustration <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't know	<p>Ask the person what drives people to participate in terrorist activities.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
E.4. Do you think your community is safe from this phenomenon? Please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask the respondent if he/she considers his/her community could be reached by terrorism.</p>
E.5. In your opinion, is the terrorist threat on the way to disappear in the region, stable or increasing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Disappearing <input type="checkbox"/> Stable <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing <input type="checkbox"/> None of this	<p>Ask the respondent if the terrorist threat is disappearing, remains the same or if it increases.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
E.6. What do you think we can do for the local communities to prevent this kind of threat?	<input type="checkbox"/> Raising awareness among young people <input type="checkbox"/> Involve community leaders (village leaders, imams, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Create community prevention committees <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask the respondent what the communities can do to prevent terrorism.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
E.7. How do you think the local communities could help the authorities in fighting against terrorism while protecting themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert the authorities if there is a problem <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing	<p>Ask the person how the local community can help the authorities fight terrorism.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

F – EFFICIENCY OF BORDER MANAGEMENT		
F.1. What do you think border security is?		<p>Ask the respondent what it means to ensure security at the border.</p> <p>Report the answer(s) in the field provided for Kobo.</p>
F.2. Are there patrols all along the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask the respondent if there are any patrols of the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) along the border.</p>
F.3. Are there patrols in the village?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask whether the defense and security forces (FDS) patrols regularly in their villages.</p>
F.4. What is the security level in the area according to you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> No security at all	<p>What is the opinion of the respondent on the level of security in his/her area?</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
F.5. Who are, in your opinion, the local representatives responsible for border security management?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policeman <input type="checkbox"/> Gendarme <input type="checkbox"/> Customs <input type="checkbox"/> Village leader <input type="checkbox"/> Customary Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> The Army <input type="checkbox"/> Prefect <input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<p>Ask the respondent what services/authorities should ensure border security.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
F.6. What do you think of the actions of the stakeholders managing border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Quite satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory	<p>Ask the respondent for his/her opinion on the effectiveness of these services/authorities in the management of border security.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p> <p><i>If the person does not seem comfortable, you can remind her that the questionnaire will not be shared with the authorities. Answers given by the respondent will remain strictly confidential.</i></p>
F.7. Do you think the local authorities alone can fully ensure border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask if in his/her opinion, the local authorities (mayor, prefect, village chief, FDS) are able to ensure alone the border security—that is without the support of local communities.</p>
F.8. What do you think of the relations between the local community and the border security officers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Try to find out what is the quality of the relations between the respondent's community and the officers in charge of border security. The goal is to know whether the relations are good or not.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
F.9. Are there sometimes disputes between the local community and the officers responsible for border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Try to find out if there are disagreements between local communities and border security officers.</p> <p>These disagreements do not necessarily imply physical violence.</p>
F.10. If yes, how often do these disagreements happen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Not very often <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely	<p>Ask if these disputes occur very often, not very often or rarely.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
F.11. What are the reasons?	<input type="checkbox"/> Fines <input type="checkbox"/> Slowing down border crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Arrests <input type="checkbox"/> Hassle <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask what were the reasons for the disputes.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

F.12.a. Do the authorities organize meetings with your community regarding border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Find out if authorities have already held meetings with communities to discuss border security.
F.12.b. If yes, which ones?	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Raising awareness <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<p>Try to find out what types of meetings have been organized.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
F.13. What do you think of the participation of the authorities with your community on border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly poor	<p>The aim is to determine whether the authorities adequately involve the respondent's community in the management of border security.</p> <p>Choose only one answer.</p>
F.14. In your opinion, what could be improved to establish very good relations between the officers responsible for border security and the communities?		<p>Ask the person what can be done to improve relations between border communities and authorities. This question must be asked even if the person considers that the relationships are already very good.</p> <p>Report the answer(s) in the field provided for Kobo.</p>
G – RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BORDER COMMUNITIES		
G.1. Are there socioeconomic activities between local communities (between villages/hamlets)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Ask if the respondent community is in touch with other villages or hamlet located near the border for agriculture, business, work, weddings, meetings, etc.
G.2. If so, which ones?	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Farm fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure activities (hunting, group fishing, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____	<p>Ask what are the activities for which the respondent community is in touch with other villages and hamlets located near the border.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
G.3. Have these activities been affected by the insecurity crisis in Niger and the surrounding countries?	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities severely affected <input type="checkbox"/> Activities slightly affected <input type="checkbox"/> Activities not affected <input type="checkbox"/> Activities improved	Try to find out if insecurity had an impact on these activities (if they have significantly been reduced, a bit reduced, or if they remained the same or increased).
G.4. What is the nearest community? (name of the village/hamlet)		<p>Ask the name of the nearest village or hamlet from the respondent community.</p> <p>The village or hamlet should be located on the same side of the border in Niger.</p> <p>Report the response in the field provided on Kobo.</p>
G.5. Are you communicating with this community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Ask if the respondent is in touch with the nearest village or hamlet.
G.6. If yes, with which means of communication?	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> Thuraya <input type="checkbox"/> In person <input type="checkbox"/> Through intermediaries <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> The village Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>Try to find out what are the communication tools used to exchange with the nearest village of hamlet.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

H – COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND THE COMMUNITIES REGARDING BORDER SECURITY		
H.1.a Is there an intermediary person between the local communities and the authorities for communication on border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Try to find out if communications go through an intermediary person to exchange with the authorities in charge of border security.</p> <p>Example: traditional leaders, community leaders, representing women or young people, etc.</p>
H.1.b. If yes, who is the intermediary person?		<p>Explain who is the intermediary person Please mention his/her function or status (village chief, imam, etc.), not his/her name.</p>
H.2. If yes, what communication tools is the population using?	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Thuraya <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> In person meeting <input type="checkbox"/> The village Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Specify the communication tool used to contact the intermediary person.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
H.3. In your opinion, how to establish a permanent communication for problem reports, between the community and the authorities, regarding border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation framework <input type="checkbox"/> Information service <input type="checkbox"/> Local information Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask the respondent what are the most adapted measures to allow an efficient communication between communities and authorities, about border security.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
H.4. What are the tools used to guarantee information sharing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Thuraya <input type="checkbox"/> SMS <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> In person meeting <input type="checkbox"/> The village Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask the respondent what are the most efficient communication tools between the communities and the authorities for border security.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
H.5. In your opinion, what are the advantages of a good communication between the authorities and the local community, regarding border security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate response of the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Security problem(s) understood in due time <input type="checkbox"/> Low-impact of border insecurity on local populations <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask the respondent if the positive effects would enable a good communication between the communities and the authorities.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
H.6. In your opinion, what are the risks of a poor communication between the two stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast widespread of insecurity <input type="checkbox"/> Late reaction of the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Severity of the disaster in local communities <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask what are the negative effects resulting from a poor communication between the communities and authorities.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
I - EMERGENCY PLAN RESPONSE		
I.1. In your opinion what can cause mass displacements of population at the border?	<input type="checkbox"/> Insecurity <input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemics <input type="checkbox"/> Natural disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>Ask what could cause a large number of persons to cross the border or to relocate in the border area.</p>
I.2. Do you think the communities are ready to face this type of situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Ask if the communities are able to handle the arrival and relocation of a large number of persons in their village/hamlet.</p>

I.3. Why?	<input type="checkbox"/> Crisis situation already experienced, positive reaction of the population <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of local authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Community well prepared and organized for this purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Situation already experienced, negative reaction of the population <input type="checkbox"/> Panic and fleeing after threat started <input type="checkbox"/> Population already terrified, poorly informed and disorganized <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>If the answer to the previous question is yes, ask why the respondent think the communities are ready to manage an emergency situation. Several answers are possible.</p> <p>If the answer to the previous question is no, ask the respondent why she thinks that her community is not ready. Several answers are possible.</p>
I.4. In your opinion, what are the necessary tools to manage an emergency situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness <input type="checkbox"/> Support material for emergency use <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate care for displaced persons/ refugees <input type="checkbox"/> Good coordination of the situation at the local level <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>Ask what are the means that will allow a good management of an emergency situation. Several answers are possible.</p> <p><i>An emergency situation is a situation in which a large number of persons is in serious danger (disease, lack of water and food, serious and numerous armed attacks, etc.). Some examples: epidemic, floods or drought, etc. An emergency situation requires a rapid response to help the victims.</i></p>
I.5. In your opinion, what role the authorities should play when facing an emergency crisis?	<input type="checkbox"/> Host the displaced population <input type="checkbox"/> Provide emergency equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue the sick and injured people <input type="checkbox"/> Secure the hosting area <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate care for displaced persons <input type="checkbox"/> Relocate the displaced persons	<p>Ask the respondent what, according to him/her, the authorities must do in case of emergency.</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
I.6. What role the local community should play when facing an emergency crisis?	<input type="checkbox"/> Host the displaced population <input type="checkbox"/> Quickly inform local authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate locally with the authority, to facilitate the support of displaced persons <input type="checkbox"/> Remain vigilant <input type="checkbox"/> Respect and follow the measures taken by the authority	<p>In case of emergency, what can the local community do to help the people affected?</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
I.7. How to associate the local community and the authorities for an efficient management of an emergency crisis?		<p>According to the respondent, what measures should be implemented for the local community to work effectively with the authorities in case of emergency.</p> <p>Report the answer(s) in the field provided for Kobo.</p>
I.8. How to prevent an emergency crisis with the local community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable, promote and encourage the local population to play the role of vigilance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen the capacity of information transmission from the local community to the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>What measures should be implemented prior to any emergency situation to allow a better management when a crisis happens?</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>

DIFFA ONLY – PAST EMERGENCY CRISIS MANAGEMENT		
I.9. What did you do when facing the mass displacements of people from another population, after a crisis situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> You immediately fled after the panic <input type="checkbox"/> You stayed while being vigilant <input type="checkbox"/> You tried to help the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> You didn't do anything <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>How the respondent personally responded when he faced a massive displacement of population caused by a crisis?</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p> <p><i>A crisis is a rapid and serious change which causes an emergency situation (see the definition of the emergency in question I.4.).</i></p>
I.10. What was the reaction of the local community when facing this same crisis situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> The community immediately fled after the panic <input type="checkbox"/> The community stayed while being vigilant <input type="checkbox"/> The community tried to help the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> The community didn't do anything <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>How did the local community react to the crisis? What did the community do?</p> <p>Several possible answers.</p>
I.11. What were the recommendations of the community leaders at the border regarding the current crisis?	<input type="checkbox"/> They immediately fled after the panic <input type="checkbox"/> They stayed while being vigilant <input type="checkbox"/> They tried to help the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> They didn't do anything <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<p>Which measures did the community leaders (traditional chiefs, religious leaders, representatives of youth and women, etc.) suggest at the time of the crisis?</p> <p>Several answers are possible.</p>
I.12. What were the emergency measures taken by the stakeholders in charge of border management?		<p>What measures did the authorities in charge of border security took to manage the crisis?</p> <p>Report the answer(s) in the field provided for Kobo.</p>
I.13. Was the population immediately informed of the situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Try to find out if the local population was informed of the situation before being affected by a population displacement or if they only found out at the last moment.</p>

Data analysis

A. Basic information

A1. Distribution of respondents by region

	Number	Percentage
Diffa	5,271	78.41%
Zinder	1,451	21.59%
Total	6,722	100.00%

A2. Distribution of respondents by region, department and municipality

	Number	Percentage
Diffa	5,271	78.41%
Bosso	803	11.95%
Bosso	803	11.95%
Diffa	2,109	31.37%
Chetimari	523	7.78%
Diffa	577	8.58%
Gueskerou	1,009	15.01%
Goudoumaria	707	10.52%
Goudoumaria	707	10.52%
Maine_Soroa	1,094	16.27%
Maine_Soroa	1,094	16.27%
N'Gourti	281	4.18%
N'Gourti	281	4.18%
N'Guigmi	277	4.12%
Nguidmi	277	4.12%
Zinder	1,451	21.59%
Dungass	872	12.97%
Dogo_Dogo	511	7.60%
Dungass	72	1.07%
Mallaoua	289	4.30%
Goure	579	8.61%
Boune	579	8.61%
Total	6,722	100.00%

A3. Distribution of respondents by region and department

	Number	Percentage
Diffa	5,271	78.41%
Bosso	803	11.95%
Diffa	2,109	31.37%
Goudoumaria	707	10.52%
Maine_Soroa	1,094	16.27%
N'Gourti	281	4.18%
N'Guigmi	277	4.12%
Zinder	1,451	21.59%
Dungass	872	12.97%
Goure	579	8.61%
Total	6,722	100.00%

B. Respondent profile

B1. Gender

	Number	Percentage
Women	1,576	23.45%
Men	5,146	76.55%
Total	6,722	100.00%

B2. Nationality

	Number	Percentage
Nigerian	484	7.20%
Nigerien	6,235	92.76%
Chadian	3	0.04%
Total	6,722	100.00%

B3. Ethnicity

	Number	Percentage
Hausa	1,154	17.17%
Kanouri	4,455	66.27%
Peulh	470	6.99%
Toubou	357	5.31%
Boudouma	222	3.30%
Other	64	0.95%
Total	6,722	100.00%

B4. Age group of respondents

	Number	Percentage
18–25 year-old	916	13.63%
26–40 year-old	3,107	46.22%
41–60 year-old	2,239	33.31%
61–80 year-old	460	6.84%
Total	6,722	100.00%

B5. Professional Activity

	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	4,248	63.20%
Commerce	477	7.10%
Livestock	757	11.26%
Fishing	205	3.05%
Other	1,035	15.40%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C. Communities' perceptions on border management

C1. Usefulness of a border

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Frequency by terms (%)
Define the separation between two States	YES	6,168	91.76%
	NO	554	8.24%
Ensuring populations' safety	YES	2,014	29.96%
	NO	4,708	70.04%
Allow the authorities to monitor entries and exits	YES	1,839	27.36%
	NO	4,883	72.64%
Other	YES	73	1.09%
	NO	6,649	98.91%
Does not know	YES	43	0.64%

C2. Knowledge of the exact border location

	Number	Percentage
Yes	6,366	94.70%
No	268	3.99%
Does not know	88	1.31%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C3. Border crossing in the past

	Number	Percentage
Yes	6,618	98.45%
No	91	1.35%
Does not know	13	0.19%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C4. Border crossing at the time of the research

	Number	Percentage
Yes	3,717	55.30%
No	2,974	44.24%
Does not know	31	0.46%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C5. Border crossing frequency

	Number	Percentage
Several times a day	204	3.03%
Every day	575	8.55%
Often	1,191	17.72%
2–3 times a week	1,101	16.38%
Once a week	1,033	15.37%
Once a month	657	9.77%
Once a year	158	2.35%
Never	1,732	25.77%
Other	71	1.06%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C5.a. Reasons for crossing the border in the past?

	Number	Percentage
Business	1,750	26.03%
Economic	1,653	24.59%
Family	2,864	42.61%
Other	455	6.77%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C5.b. Reasons for crossing the border at the time of the research

	Number	Percentage
Business	1,275	18.97%
Economic	1,298	19.31%
Family	1,940	28.86%
Other	2,209	32.86%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C6. Knowledge of the defense and security forces present at the border

	Number	Percentage
Yes	5,964	88.72%
No	603	8.97%
Does not know	155	2.31%
Total	6,722	100.00%

C7. Identification of the known defense and security forces present at the border

	Number	Percentage
Military	2,793	41.55%
National Guards	2,285	33.99%
Customs Officers	2,686	39.96%
Gendarmes	3,822	56.86%
Police Officers	1,914	28.47%
Other	971	14.45%

D. Security risks at the border

D1. a. Identification of the nationalities of the people crossing the border

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Nigeriens from other regions	YES	3,873	57.62%
	NO	2,849	42.38%
Nigeriens from the neighbouring village/hamlet	YES	6,027	89.66%
	NO	695	10.34%
Chadians	YES	1,162	17.29%
	NO	5,560	82.71%
Nigerians	YES	4,885	72.67%
	NO	1,837	27.33%
Others	YES	89	1.32%
	NO	6,633	98.68%

D1. b. Identification of categories of people crossing the border

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Families	YES	5,397	80.29%
	NO	1,325	19.71%
Refugees	YES	3,269	48.63%
	NO	3,453	51.37%
Immigrants	YES	3,214	47.81%
	NO	3,508	52.19%
Merchants	YES	5,654	84.11%
	NO	1,068	15.89%
Others	YES	249	3.70%
	NO	6,473	96.30%

D2. Knowledge of border-crossing for criminal activities

	Number	Percentage
Yes	2,965	44.11%
No	2,658	39.54%
Does not know	1,099	16.35%
Total	6,722	100.00%

D3. Types of security problems faced by local communities at the border, according to respondents

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Trafficking (drugs, weapons, etc.)	YES	2,280	33.92%
	NO	4,442	66.08%
Violent assault	YES	2,545	37.86%
	NO	4,177	62.14%
Incursions of armed/terrorist groups	YES	2,272	33.80%
	NO	4,450	66.20%
Other	YES	687	10.22%
	NO	6,035	89.78%
None	YES	2,470	36.75%
	NO	4,252	63.25%

D4. Has your village/hamlet ever been affected by a problem of border insecurity?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	2,813	41.85%
No	3,768	56.05%
Does not know	141	2.10%
Total	6,722	100.00%

D5. Respondents' knowledge of the types of security measures taken at the border

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Border controls at border posts	YES	3,171	47.17%
	NO	3,551	52.83%
Patrol	YES	4,998	74.35%
	NO	1,724	25.65%
Search	YES	1,141	16.97%
	NO	5,581	83.03%
Key informants	YES	345	5.13%
	NO	6,377	94.87%
Others	YES	208	3.09%
	NO	6,514	96.91%

D6. Respondents' assessment of the security measures taken

	Number	Percentage
Very satisfactory	2,033	30.24%
Fairly satisfactory	3,837	57.08%
Insufficient	852	12.67%
Total	6,722	100.00%

D7. Risks resulting from a poor border security management, according to the respondents

	Number	Percentage
Epidemics	1,571	23.37%
Terrorist incursions	4,147	61.69%
Illicit trafficking	3,250	48.35%
Banditry	4,609	68.57%
Recruitment of young people	1,991	29.62%
Other	427	6.35%
Does not know	166	2.47%

E. Perceptions of local communities on terrorism

E1. Has the respondent ever heard of terrorism?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	6,576	97.83%
No	96	1.43%
Does not know	50	0.74%
Total	6,722	100.00%

E2. Types of terrorist activities known by the respondents

	Number	Percentage
Widespread attacks on civilians	5,406	80.42%
Destruction of houses	4,471	66.51%
Murders	4,288	63.79%
Abductions	2,507	37.30%
Intimidation	1,364	20.29%
Does not know	290	4.31%

E3. Opinion on what could push people to terrorism, according to the respondents

	Number	Percentage
Poverty	4,235	63.00%
Lack of occupation	4,287	63.78%
Adherence to the ideology	3,337	49.64%
Opposition to the authorities	1,060	15.77%
Anger and frustration	1,669	24.83%
Other	292	4.34%
Does not know	313	4.66%

E4. Perceptions of respondents on the fact that their community is safe from terrorism

	Number	Percentage
Yes	3,550	53.54%
No	2,465	37.18%
Does not know	615	9.28%
Total	6,630	100.00%

E5. Assessment of the evolution of the terrorist threat

	Number	Percentage
Reducing	4,098	62.62%
Stable	1,781	27.22%
On the rise	107	1.64%
No, none of the answers	558	8.53%
Total	6,544	100.00%

E6. Proposal of measures needed to allow local communities to prevent terrorist threats

	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Raisin awareness among young people	4,883	72.64%
Involve the community leaders (village chiefs, imams, etc.)	5,163	76.81%
Create Community Prevention Committees	2,392	35.58%
Nothing	105	1.56%
Others _____	368	5.47%

E7. Proposal of what measures must be taken to allow local communities helping the authorities in fighting terrorism and protect themselves

	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Alert authorities in case of a problem	6,511	96.86%
Other	468	6.96%
Nothing	166	2.47%

F. Efficiency of border management

F1. What does ensuring security at the border mean to you?

	Number	Percentage
Properly monitor border-crossings and allow the entry/exit of persons allowed to do so	1,791	26.65%
Secure populations and their goods at the border	1,380	20.53%
Protect and defend the country	665	9.89%
Ensure peace and security at the border	645	9.60%
Ensure order and maintain stability at the border	619	9.21%
Presence of Defense and Security Forces	526	7.83%
Strengthen the border patrol	357	5.31%
search at the border	206	3.06%
Does not know	195	2.90%
Other	338	5.02%
Total	6,722	100%

F2. Knowledge of patrolling along the border

	Number	Percentage
Yes	5,391	80.20%
No	909	13.52%
Does not know	422	6.28%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F3. Knowledge of patrolling in the village

	Number	Percentage
Does not know	171	2.54%
No	1,625	24.17%
Yes	4,926	73.28%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F4. Assessment of the security level in the area according to the respondent

	Number	Percentage
Good	2,615	38.90%
Average	2,413	35.90%
Insufficient	1,441	21.44%
No security at all	253	3.76%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F5. Local persons who should be in charge of border security management, according to the respondents

	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Police officer	2,118	31.51%
Gendarme	3,262	48.53%
Customs officer	2,384	35.47%
Village Chief	3,458	51.44%
Traditional chief	2,807	41.76%
Mayor	2,393	35.60%
The army	3,149	46.85%
Prefect	1,145	17.03%
Governor	1,143	17.00%

F6. Assessment of the work of the stakeholders responsible for border security

	Number	Percentage
Very satisfactory	2,430	36.15%
Fairly satisfactory	3,747	55.74%
Unsatisfactory	545	8.11%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F7. According to you, can the local authorities ensure alone the entire security of the border?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	2,281	33.93%
No	4,097	60.95%
Does not know	344	5.12%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F8. What do you think of the relation between the local community and the officers in charge of border security?

	Number	Percentage
Very good	1,557	23.16%
Good	3,822	56.86%
Neutral	762	11.34%
Bad	556	8.27%
Other	25	0.37%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F9. Does the community sometimes have disputes with the persons responsible for border security?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	1,506	22.40%
No	4,619	68.71%
Does not know	597	8.88%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F10. If yes, how often are there disputes?

	Number	Percentage
Very often	616	40.90%
Not often	619	41.10%
Rarely	271	17.99%
Total	1,506	100.00%

F11. What are the reasons?

	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Fines	1,048	15.59%
Slowdown of border crossing	1,302	19.37%
Prohibition of crossing	925	13.76%
Arrest	560	8.33%
Hassle	268	3.99%

F12.a. Do the authorities ever hold meetings with your community on border security?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	4,319	64.25%
No	1,832	27.25%
Does not know	571	8.49%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F12.b. If yes, which ones?

	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Capacity-building	1,514	35.05%
Training	1,190	27.55%
Raising awareness	3,927	90.92%
Other	188	4.35%

F13. How do you see the involvement of the authorities with your community on border security?

	Number	Percentage
Very satisfactory	1,767	26.29%
Satisfactory	3,382	50.31%
Quite weak	118	1.76%
Weak	1,455	21.65%
Total	6,722	100.00%

F14. What do you think needs to be done to improve the relationship between border security officials and communities?

	Number	Percentage
Strengthening communication	1,040	15.47%
Strengthening awareness raising	862	12.82%
Creating consultation and coordination committees	706	10.50%
Good collaboration	510	7.59%
Exchanging information	502	7.47%
Prepare meetings with stakeholders	413	6.14%
Maintain good relations	378	5.62%
Multiply border patrols	359	5.34%
Does not know	343	5.10%
Involving the community in security management	316	4.70%
Building good relationships	134	1.99%
Capacity-building	111	1.65%
Organize meetings in the village	103	1.53%
Raise awareness and support the populations	95	1.41%
Other	1,559	23.21%
Total	6,722	100.00%

G. Relationships between border communities

G1. Are there socioeconomical activities shared by the local communities (between villages/hamlets)?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	5,911	87.94%
No	765	11.38%
Does not know	46	0.68%
Total	6,722	100.00%

G2. If yes, which ones?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Agriculture	NO	1,049	17.75%
	YES	4,862	82.25%
Fish farming	NO	4,848	82.02%
	YES	1,063	17.98%
Forestry	NO	5,271	89.17%
	YES	640	10.83%
Leisure activities (hunting, group fishing, etc.)	NO	3,098	52.41%
	YES	2,813	47.59%
Others	NO	4,847	82.00%
	YES	1,064	18.00%

G3. Have these activities been affected by the insecurity crisis in Niger and neighbouring countries?

	Number	Percentage
Activities severely affected	3,532	52.54%
Activities somewhat affected	1,000	14.88%
Activities not affected	2,113	31.43%
Improved Activities	77	1.15%
Total	6,722	100.00%

G4. Do you communicate with the neighbouring community?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	6,645	98.85%
No	60	0.89%
Does not know	17	0.25%
Total	6,722	100.00%

G5. If yes, by which means of communication?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Cellphone	YES	5,224	78.62%
	NO	1,421	21.38%
Thuraya	YES	73	1.10%
	NO	6,572	98.90%
Through intermediaries	YES	1,904	28.65%
	NO	4,741	71.35%
Radio	YES	233	3.51%
	NO	6,412	96.49%
In person	YES	5,222	78.59%
	NO	1,423	21.41%
Village assembly	YES	2,279	34.30%
	NO	4,366	65.70%
Other	YES	101	1.52%
	NO	6,544	98.48%

H. Communication between the authorities and the communities regarding border security

H1.a. Is there an intermediary person between the local communities and the authorities for communication on border security?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	4,813	71.60%
No	1,351	20.10%
Does not know	558	8.30%
Total	6,722	100.00%

H1.b. If yes, who is the intermediary?

	Number	Percentage
Village Chief	3,891	57.88%
The authorities	123	1.83%
Griot	105	1.56%
Intermediary	88	1.31%
Canto chief	57	0.85%
Other	394	8.56%
Total	4,605	100.00%

1. If yes, what are the communication means used by the population?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Cellphone	YES	4,016	83.44%
	NO	797	16.56%
Thuraya	YES	76	1.58%
	NO	4,737	98.42%
Through intermediaries	YES	1,960	40.72%
	NO	2,853	59.28%
Radio	YES	148	3.08%
	NO	4,665	96.92%
In person	YES	3,522	73.18%
	NO	1,291	26.82%
Village assembly	YES	2,102	43.67%
	NO	2,711	56.33%
Other	YES	61	1.27%
	NO	4,752	98.73%

2. In your opinion, how to establish a permanent communication for problem reports, between the community and the authorities, on border security?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Consultation framework	YES	2,913	43.34%
	NO	3,809	56.66%
Information service	YES	2,085	31.02%
	NO	4,637	68.98%
Local information committee	YES	4,123	61.34%
	NO	2,599	38.66%
Others	YES	448	6.66%
	NO	6,274	93.34%

3. What could be used to guarantee information sharing?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Cellphone	YES	5,578	82.98%
	NO	1,144	17.02%
Thuraya	YES	497	7.39%
	NO	6,225	92.61%
Through intermediaries	YES	1,540	22.91%
	NO	5,182	77.09%
Radio	YES	321	4.78%
	NO	6,401	95.22%
In person	YES	4,269	63.51%
	NO	2,453	36.49%
Village assembly	YES	2,463	36.64%
	NO	4,259	63.36%
Other	YES	302	4.49%
	NO	6,420	95.51%

4. In your opinion, what are the advantages of a good communication between the authorities and the local community on border security?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Immediate reaction of the authorities	YES	4,725	70.29%
	NO	1,997	29.71%
Security problem understood in due time	YES	4,338	64.53%
	NO	2,384	35.47%
Smaller impact of border insecurity on local populations	YES	2,985	44.41%
	NO	3,737	56%
Others	YES	69	1.03%
	NO	6,653	98.97%

5. What do you think the risks could be in case of poor communication in between the two stakeholders?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Fast widespread insecurity	YES	5,216	77.60%
	NO	1,506	22.40%
Late reaction of the authorities	YES	3,567	53.06%
	NO	3,155	46.94%
Seriousness of the disaster for the local communities	YES	3,007	44.73%
	NO	3,715	55.27%
Others	YES	166	2.47%
	NO	6,556	97.53%

I. Emergency response plan in the event of a crisis

1. In your opinion, what can cause mass displacement of population at the border?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Insecurity	YES	5,950	88.52%
	NO	772	11.48%
Migration	YES	2,001	29.77%
	NO	4,721	70.23%
Epidemic	YES	1,022	15.20%
	NO	5,700	84.80%
Natural disasters	YES	3,115	46.34%
	NO	3,607	53.66%
Others	YES	451	6.71%
	NO	6,271	93.29%

2. Do you think the communities are ready to face this kind of situation?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	4,431	65.92%
No	1,904	28.32%
Does not know	387	5.76%
Total	6,722	100.00%

3. Why?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Crisis situation experienced in the past, positive reaction of the population	YES	3,329	49.52%
	NO	3,393	50.48%
Awareness-raising by local authorities	YES	2,277	33.87%
	NO	4,445	66.13%
The community is well prepared and organized	YES	1,823	27.12%
	NO	4,899	72.88%
Crisis situation experienced in the past, negative reaction of the population	YES	1,384	20.59%
	NO	5,338	79.41%
Panic and fled if a threat is approaching	YES	1,744	25.94%
	NO	4,978	74.06%
Population already terrified, misinformed and disorganized	YES	877	13.05%
	NO	5,845	86.95%
Other	YES	832	12.38%
	NO	5,890	87.62%

4. In your opinion, what are the necessary actions to handle an emergency situation?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Public awareness	YES	5,015	74.61%
	NO	1,707	25.39%
Emergency material support	YES	3,854	57.33%
	NO	2,868	42.67%
Shelters	YES	2,987	44.44%
	NO	3,735	55.56%
Immediate care for displaced persons/refugees	YES	4,353	64.76%
	NO	2,369	35.24%
Good coordination of the situation at the local level	YES	2,068	30.76%
	NO	4,654	69.24%
Other	YES	83	1.23%
	NO	6,639	98.77%

5. What do you think is the role of the authorities when facing an emergency situation?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Accommodate the displaced population	YES	5,476	81.46%
	NO	1,246	18.54%
Provide emergency equipment	YES	3,771	56.10%
	NO	2,951	43.90%
Rescue sick and injured people	YES	2,807	41.76%
	NO	3,915	58.24%
Secure the hosting area	YES	2,814	41.86%
	NO	3,908	58.14%
Immediate care for displaced people	YES	3,414	50.79%
	NO	3,308	49.21%
Relocate the displaced	YES	867	12.90%
	NO	5,855	87.10%

6. What the local community can do when facing an emergency situation?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Host the displaced population	YES	5,479	81.51%
	NO	1,243	18.49%
Rapidly inform local authorities	YES	4,340	64.56%
	NO	2,382	35.44%
Coordinate with the local authority and facilitate displaced people hosting	YES	2,879	42.83%
	NO	3,843	57.17%
Remain vigilant	YES	2,475	36.82%
	NO	4,247	63.18%
Respect and follow measures taken by the authority in charge	YES	1,841	27.39%
	NO	4,881	72.61%

7. How could the local community and the authorities work together for an efficient emergency crisis management?

	Number	Percentage
Through exchanges and awareness	1,893	28.16%
Good collaboration	1,422	21.15%
Vigilance and Emergency Management Committees	919	13.67%
Organize meetings	724	10.77%
help and support to the populations	415	6.17%
Does not know	403	6.00%
Community capacity-building	260	3.87%
Security enhancement	255	3.79%
Participation of the communities in decision-making	159	2.37%
Good decision-making from the authorities	90	1.34%
Through the village chief	79	1.18%
Other	103	1.53%
Total	6,722	100.00%

8. How to prevent an emergency situation with the local community?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
Enabling, encouraging and enabling the local population to act as a vigilance committee	YES	4,953	73.68%
	NO	1,769	26.32%
Building capacity of information transmission from the local community to the authorities	YES	4,170	62.04%
	NO	2,552	37.96%
Other	YES	206	3.06%
	NO	6,516	96.94%

Diffa only – past emergency crisis management

9. What did you do when facing mass displacements of another population following a crisis situation?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
You immediately fled with the panic	YES	2,596	49.25%
	NO	2,675	50.75%
You stayed but remained vigilant	YES	2,200	41.74%
	NO	3,071	58.26%
You tried to help the authorities	YES	911	17.28%
	NO	4,360	82.72%
You didn't do anything	YES	256	4.86%
	NO	5,015	95.14%
Other	YES	388	7.36%
	NO	4,883	92.64%

10. What was the reaction of the local community when facing this same crisis?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
The community immediately fled following the general panic	YES	2,331	44.22%
	NO	2,940	55.78%
The community stayed and remained vigilant	YES	2,449	46.46%
	NO	2,822	53.54%
The community tried to help the authorities	YES	957	18.16%
	NO	4,314	81.84%
The community didn't do anything	YES	299	5.67%
	NO	4,972	94.33%
Other	YES	380	7.21%
	NO	4,891	92.79%

11. What were the community leaders' recommendations at the border regarding the present crisis?

	Terms	Number of respondents by term	Percentage
They immediately fled following the panic	YES	1,873	35.53%
	NO	3,398	64.47%
They stayed and remained vigilant	YES	1,599	30.34%
	NO	3,672	69.66%
They tried to help the authorities	YES	1,203	22.82%
	NO	4,068	77.18%
They didn't do anything	YES	1,743	33.07%
	NO	3,528	66.93%
Other	YES	405	7.68%
	NO	4,866	92.32%

12. What were the emergency measures taken by the stakeholders in charge of border management?

Line labels	Number	Percentage
Nothing	1,053	19.98%
Strengthen security	893	16.94%
Welcome and assist the displaced persons	615	11.67%
Does not know	453	8.59%
Reinforce patrols	392	7.44%
Leaving the border village	390	7.40%
Border control	363	6.89%
They fired back	283	5.37%
Close the border	166	3.15%
Remain vigilant	126	2.39%
They were absent	112	2.12%
Report the accomplices and terrorists	50	0.95%
Other	375	7.11%
Total	5,271	100.00%

13. Was the population immediately informed of the situation?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	3,262	60.97%
No	1,431	26.75%
Does not know	657	12.28%
Total	5,350	100.00%



Government of the United States



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency