Portraits Croisés

Local Analysis of Conflict and Resilience Dynamics in the Cercles of Ansongo, Bourem and Gao

Gao Region, Mali

November 2018
CONFLICT AND RESILIENCE DYNAMICS IN GAO
- KEY MESSAGES -

1. Chicken and egg? The presence of more security forces, if they do not have the population’s trust, does not give a sense of security, but rather the contrary (Ch. I)

2. The MOC’s mandate: understood by few and a source of conflict (Ch. I)

3. The MOC is a tool for reconciliation and trust-building both internally and for the wider community (Ch. I)

4. A strong feeling of mistrust between communities in Gao: the communitisation of insecurity (Ch. II)

5. The return of the State: stabilization or the beginning of new tensions? (Ch. II & IV)

6. Intensification of inter-communal tensions (Ch. II)

7. Feelings of marginalisation expressed by communities on the outskirts of Gao (Ch. II & IV)

On the return of the State to Gao

8. The implementation of the Peace Agreement: different expectations and levels of motivation (Ch. III)

On the management of the conflict

9. High expectations regarding the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) risk derailing it: DDR is perceived as a right, a support to employment (Ch. III)
- RECOMMENDATIONS -

1. Adapting security management mechanisms to the local context: creating a more inclusive and coordinated security management framework

For concerted security management

2. Deconstruct the community prism for the return of social cohesion

For increased social cohesion

   a. Encourage the creation of spaces for inclusive and participatory dialogue between communities and authorities
   b. Support the facilitation, by Gao’s High Court, of information and awareness-raising campaigns on justice between the justice system and communities
   c. Organize a regional meeting between the women of the three cercles of Ansongo, Bourem and Gao to build trust between them
   d. Enhance the role of traditional leaders in the three cercles of Ansongo, Bourem and Gao in the restoration of trust between communities
   e. Organize community dialogue sessions to combat stigmatization between young MOC fighters, particularly nomadic, and sedentary youth from Gao

3. Support the implementation of the MOC through targeted actions

For the restoration of trust between the MOC and civilians

   a. Institutionalize civilo-military dialogue between civilians and the MOC
   b. Adapt the MOC’s capacity to the needs of the field
   c. Construct the buildings and premises assigned to the MOC away from residential areas of Gao

4. Clarify the scope of the DDR process to prevent frustration

For the effective implementation of the Peace Agreement in Gao

   Make of the Implementation of the Peace Agreement an opportunity for social transformation