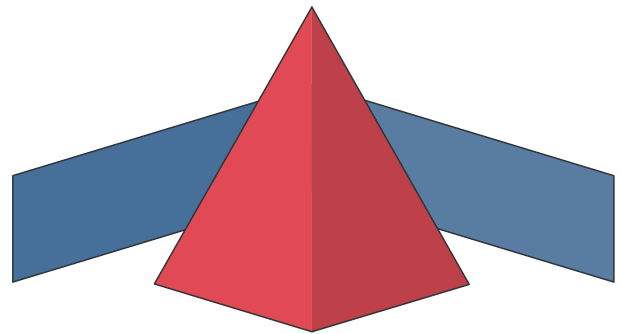


 MALI

Mali is one of the ten countries in Africa with the highest levels of **criminality**, ranking 9th in the Index.

While the country has only one criminal market that exerts a severe influence on society, only one market scores lower than a 5, suggesting a vast breadth of diverse **criminal markets** operating in the country. Two of the highest-scoring criminal markets in the country are those for illicit **non-renewables** and illicit **flora**, scoring 7.5 and 6.5, respectively, illustrating the significant impact of the environmental crime markets. **State-embedded criminal actors** are ubiquitous among the country's political class, with rampant corruption, nepotism and clientelism poisoning every corner of the country's political institutions. A complex web of drug-trafficking networks, entrepreneurs and political elites means that the political class is almost inseparable from criminal actors in the country.

As a result of the pervasiveness of state actors in organised-criminal activity, Mali performs poorly with regard to **resilience**, ranking 44th in Africa. While **non-state actors** and **international cooperation** are moderately effective in the country, the vast majority of the **resilience** building blocks are characterised by regulatory or institutional frameworks that are either extremely ineffective or non-existent. Of particular concern is the almost complete lack of **political leadership** on the issue of organised crime, ineffective and corrupt **law-enforcement** agencies and the absence of any state **support for witness and victims** of organised crime.



6.20
CRIMINALITY SCORE

9th of 54 African countries
3rd of 15 Western countries



CRIMINAL MARKETS 5.90



CRIMINAL ACTORS 6.50



2.63
STATE RESILIENCE SCORE

44th of 54 African countries
15th of 15 Western countries



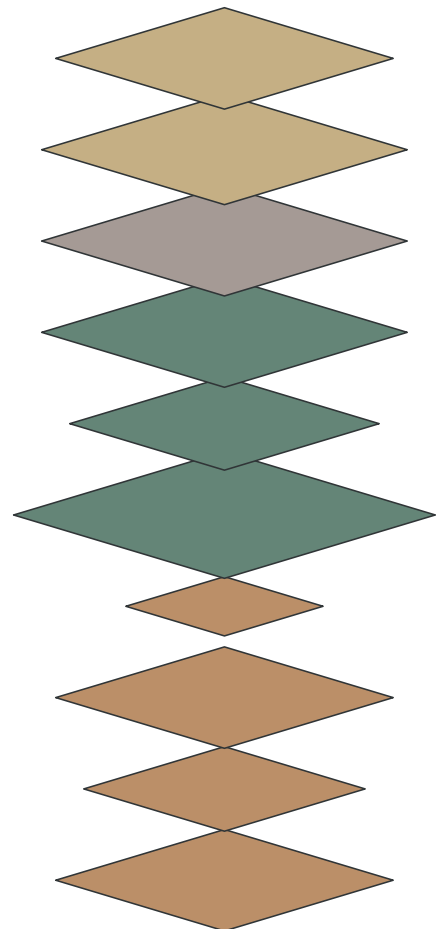
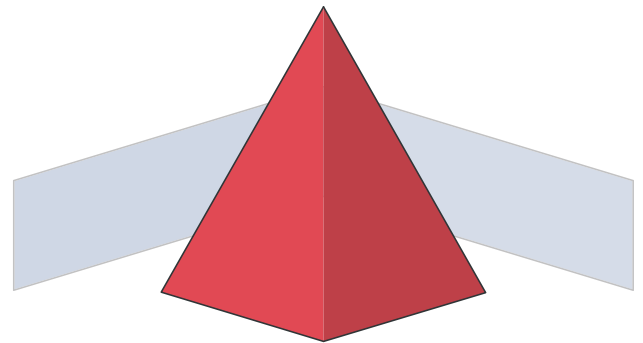
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	6.50
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	5.5
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	7.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	9.0
FOREIGN ACTORS	4.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	5.90
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	6.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	6.5
ARMS TRAFFICKING	6.5
FLORA CRIMES	6.5
FAUNA CRIMES	5.5
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	7.5
HEROIN TRADE	3.5
COCAINE TRADE	6.0
CANNABIS TRADE	5.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	6.0



Criminal Markets

As mentioned above, nearly all of the ten criminal markets are well established in Mali, with scores for all but one market ranging between 5 and 7.5. These scores reflect the prevalence of all types of criminal markets, from the exploitation markets, environmental crime markets and the drugs markets. The most pervasive criminal market in Mali is **non-renewable-resource crimes**, driven almost entirely by the considerable illegal gold mining operations carried out in the country.

Mali has large gold mining reserves and is a key transit country for the illicit trade in this non-renewable resource. Evidence suggests that there is significant illicit trade between Mali and refiners in the United Arab Emirates. The livelihood of many actors in Mali is linked to the illicit market, with local criminal and government involvement. Malians also operate extensively in the gold (and diamond) sectors of other West African countries, most notably Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to gold



and diamonds, fuel is also smuggled into Mali from neighbouring countries where fuel is heavily subsidised.

Illegal logging represents a considerable problem in Mali. There is excessive exploitation of timber in and out of Malian forests by loggers for economic purposes, with more than 60% of the country's protected forests having disappeared. The current export of timber and fuelwood to neighbouring countries, and to Asia, was cited as a great concern.

With regard to the exploitation markets, both **human trafficking** and **human smuggling** receive high scores for Mali. Internal trafficking is more prevalent than transnational trafficking in Mali, and its most prevalent form is the recruitment of child soldiers. Terrorist organisations and armed groups continue to recruit and deploy children, mostly boys, in combat, requiring children to carry weapons, staff checkpoints, guard prisoners, and conduct patrols. Women and girls from other West African countries are recruited, lured by promises of jobs as nurses or waitresses in Bamako, but exploited in sex trafficking throughout Mali, including in hotels and in small mining communities.

Furthermore, Mali is a transit point in the Sahel on routes to Libya, Mauritania, Niger and Algeria. Malians rely on established, but decentralised, smuggling networks to facilitate their passage across the country's borders. Sub-Saharan migrants generally move throughout most of the country using public transport without the assistance of smugglers. However, smuggling is prevalent in the north, where armed groups have taken over territorial control and offer protection to, and feed off, the human-smuggling industry. Smuggling is predominantly facilitated by Touareg tribes. The Touareg have long been associated with separatist insurgent movements in the country's north, as well as with rising levels of violent extremism. It is broadly assumed that profits gained from the smuggling trade contribute to these ends, and thereby to the continued insecurity and ineffective state consolidation in the country.

The **cocaine**, **cannabis** and **synthetic drug** markets are all present to similar degrees in Mali. While cocaine trafficking involves relatively few actors, namely well-established criminal networks in Bamako, the market has penetrated politics at the local and national level. While Mali is not a producer of cocaine, it is a key transit hub, with the northern part of the country arguably being the most important transit hub in the Sahel region. The country is also a significant transit point for cannabis and synthetic drugs, particularly Tramadol and methamphetamines.

Criminal Actors

All four **criminal actor** types are relatively firmly established in Mali, although the organised-crime landscape is dominated by **state-embedded actors**. Indeed, such actors are assessed to be more influential in Mali than in almost any other country in Africa, scoring 9 in the Index. High-level corruption and embezzlement of state resources have been seen in recent Malian government administrations. Clientelism is the bedrock of Malian politics, serving to undermine formal institutions and facilitate wider practices of corruption.

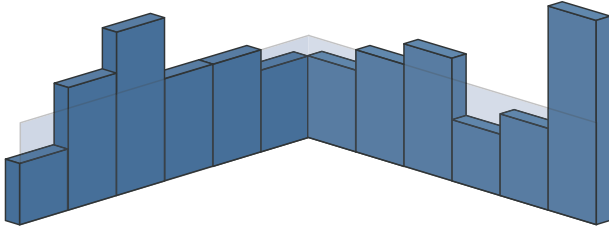
The major traffickers in Mali have become political entrepreneurs whose influence is palpable in electoral campaigns in northern Mali. Some are embarking on political careers, running in local or legislative elections. Others prefer to remain in the shadows and finance the electoral campaigns of their protégés or relatives. Access to political power is a source of both direct enrichment (in the form of public procurement corruption) and political benefits: notably parliamentary immunity, diplomatic passports, and access to the highest state institutions and public contracts. These national political networks are essential guarantees of influence as well as protection of trafficking activities. They are coupled with political support at the highest level in the subregion. Traffickers are also connected to state administrations through their investments in the legal economy (transport, construction and real-estate sectors), aiming to diversify their activities and launder their money.

Criminal networks also exert significant influence in Mali, with kidnapping for ransom, smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of South American cocaine across the Sahara having vastly increased criminal rents for armed groups. Organised crime in Mali helps fund most armed groups through direct involvement, taxation or protection rackets. Mali has numerous armed groups dedicated to a number of illicit activities. The networks behind irregular migration in Mali are not necessarily organised in a hierarchical manner. Instead, they build on a history of transnational (illicit) trade relations extending across the region. Given human-smuggling networks' horizontal, interconnected nature, the big drug traffickers have ties to both the Malian authorities and the politico-military groups in the north of the country. In many cases, trafficking networks are integrated into or merged with these groups, who themselves depend on drug trafficking for their financing and access to weapons.

There are also some **mafia-style groups** operating in Mali, which often engage in illegal activity in the oil sector. Owing to their religious ideology, these groups don't engage in drug trafficking. However, they do tax the illicit trade, so they nevertheless feed off that criminal market.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	1.5
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	3.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	4.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	2.5
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	2.5
LAW ENFORCEMENT	2.0
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	2.0
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	2.5
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	3.0
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	1.5
PREVENTION	2.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	5.0

Mali is clearly in a vulnerable position, with high levels of **criminality** and low levels of **resilience** to organised crime, ranking 44th in Africa on the latter scale. The 2012 crisis in Mali saw the collapse of the state and disruption of the provision of basic services to the population in large parts of the country. Today, the Malian government and its international partners are still working on the restoration of state services and the return of state administration to the entire territory of Mali. The country's inadequate governance, institutional fragility, geographic location and widespread insecurity have, together, created fertile ground for the expansion of illicit trafficking and organised-criminal activities.

There is a convergence between corruption and high levels of organised crime in Mali, such as human trafficking, drug and contraband smuggling, and kidnap for ransom. At the centre of the Sahel region, Mali – particularly its northern regions – is a transit area for different forms of illicit global trafficking. The kinds of corruption evident in Mali are closely associated with the country's ongoing political and security problems, in particular the operations of organised crime and terrorist groups on its territory.

However, Mali, to its credit, has ratified all 10 relevant international treaties and conventions pertaining to organised crime. On the other hand, although international legal frameworks to fight organised crime are in place, they are poorly implemented and executed.

It is widely acknowledged that pervasive impunity and limited access to justice are among the underlying causes of organised crime's entrenchment in Mali. Despite the existence of two supervisory bodies in Mali and their publication of quality reports, those involved in malpractice are rarely prosecuted owing to a lack of resources and political will. Legal proceedings hardly take place when organised crime is involved. Corruption presents a major challenge in the judiciary, both in terms of the bureaucratic corruption issues, which permeate the system, and insufficient judicial independence to pursue politicised cases. Furthermore, there are reports that alleged corruption and complicity among local police and gendarmes in the town of Farako may have facilitated forced labour and sex trafficking in mining communities. Mali's security forces are undermined by persisting corruption networks, some linked to organised crime.

One source of encouragement for Malian citizens is the presence of large active networks of civil society organisations in Mali. From a regional perspective, Mali has a reputation for having a relatively open media. Attacks on journalists have declined in recent years, even though press freedom is still fragile. The establishment of the G5 Sahel Journalist Coordination by journalists in Mali is a positive step. However, with regard to social protection measures, Mali performs extremely poorly. There is no witness protection programme and the government has failed to offer adequate support for victims of organised crime, and in particular for trafficked persons.

