

---

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO UNDERSTAND, PREVENT AND ACT ON THE  
MULTIDIMENSIONAL CRISIS IN MALI**

**Dr Moro Souley SIDIBE**

Sociologist

**Mr Mama SANGARE**

Monitoring and evaluation

**Mr Siaka Drissa TRAORE**

Agricultural Economist

**Dr Ibrahima CISSE**

Socio – Anthropologist

<https://doi.org/10.35410/IJAEB.2023.5814>

**ABSTRACT**

The documentary review reveals that the multidimensional crisis that Mali has been facing since 2012 is also the greatest crisis in its history. This covers institutional, socio-political, security and also multifaceted aspects due to the diversity of actors. The objective sought by our approach is to contribute to understanding in order to propose possible solutions despite the complexity of the crisis and the multiplicity of actors. In a specific way it is a question of defining the various capitals which constitute the framework of the means of existence, of Demonstrating how each capital is affected by the effects of the crisis, of Defining the nature of the shock which put the capitals in a state vulnerability and Propose resilience measures for different levels. We used a reading grid that allowed us to use the livelihoods analysis framework. The results obtained after analysis show us that the 5 capitals which constitute the means of existence are affected by the effects of the crisis in their nature. To achieve peace some alternatives are proposed just as in other similar cases elsewhere, similar initiatives were developed.

**Keywords:** Livelihoods, Community, Intercommunity, Interprofessional, Governance.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Since 2012, Mali has experienced the greatest crisis in its history. This covers institutional, socio-political and security aspects.

This crisis is also the one that has generated the most refugees and displaced persons in the history of independent Mali. It begins with the return in 2011 of former Tuareg fighters, former members of the Libyan army, who returned from Libya heavily armed after the fall of the regime of Colonel Gaddafi. They took up arms again for a new rebellion in January 2012 in northern Mali. Added to this is the establishment and development since 2007 of criminal and terrorist networks in the Sahel, among which Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) can be identified (C. PERNIN, H. SAYAD, 2011) . Mali's national army proved insufficiently equipped to control these and contain the 2012 rebellion.

On the eve of the 2012 presidential elections, democracy in Mali is very fragile and once again it is through the North that the crisis has arrived. The fall of Gaddafi in Libya contributed to strengthening rebel groups, which were able to arrive in Mali without being asked to surrender

the weapons in their possession (while neighboring Niger proceeded to disarm these same groups) . With Azawad's demand for autonomy, an unprecedented territorial disconnection is occurring with unexpected violence (Retailié and Walther, 2011). However, this fragmentation of state space is part of a global perspective and corresponds to lines of tension that are well identified by analysts (Rosière, 2010). If the Malian Sahara became in the 2000s an area of criminal trafficking whose actors are part of transnational logics, the latter had not yet targeted the State.

But as André Bourgeot (2011) points out, an imbalance has gradually built up due to the scale of the traffic and its financial weight, contributing to forms of territorialization making it possible to ensure stricter control over traffic. goods. What he describes as a “process of ethno-territorialization (not of “tribalization”) within spaces over which social control was exerted in the process of being diluted in favor of controls based on delinquency. There are processes of fragmentation of a remodeled space over which new powers based on armed force are exercised” (Bourgeot, 2011, p. 75).

The peace agreements resulting from the Algiers process, signed in 2015, did not provide a concrete response for a way out of the crisis, and are even out of step with the dynamics of the conflict still persisting in 2018. These agreements, far from to curb insecurity and banditry, were followed by a fragmentation of the various armed groups on tribal bases (Tuaregs in the North) (Le Point, March 2015) or community bases (Peulhs now in the center) (The Conservation, October 2016 ), which further complicates their implementation. The 2012 crisis was different from previous crises, with the proclamation of an independent state in northern Mali and the establishment of a state apparatus by secessionist Islamists and Tuaregs to administer the territories they control. In northern Mali, jihadist actors have installed a mode of governance focused both on coercion and also their substitution for the state. (M. GALY, 2013)

## **2. ABSTRACT OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1. Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the study is to contribute to the understanding of the multidimensional crisis with a view to proposing alternatives.

### **2.2. Specific objectives**

The specific objectives will consist of:

- Define the different capitals that constitute the framework of the means of existence,
- Demonstrate how each capital is affected by the effects of the crisis,
- Define the nature of the shock that put the capitals and the interactions in a state of vulnerability,
- Propose resilience measures for different levels.

## **3. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **3.1. Document review**

The review is devoted exclusively to reports, results of similar studies in Mali and elsewhere. At first, a reading grid allowed us to classify the documents and then to analyze them.

The reading grid mainly focused on the relevance, similarity, rigor of the content, in particular the clarity of the synthesis and the objectivity of the author. This work was carried out in four stages.

**3.1.1. Theme control**

This step allowed us to prioritize the documents on the basis of criteria such as the similarity with the theme chosen for the year 2021 by the Scientific Renaissance Day in Africa (JRSA).

**3.1.2. Summary**

Reading the documents allowed us to highlight the paragraphs that were similar to our study.

**3.1.3. Originality analysis**

This step analyzes the novelty, the original character or the scientific added value provided by the document in question.

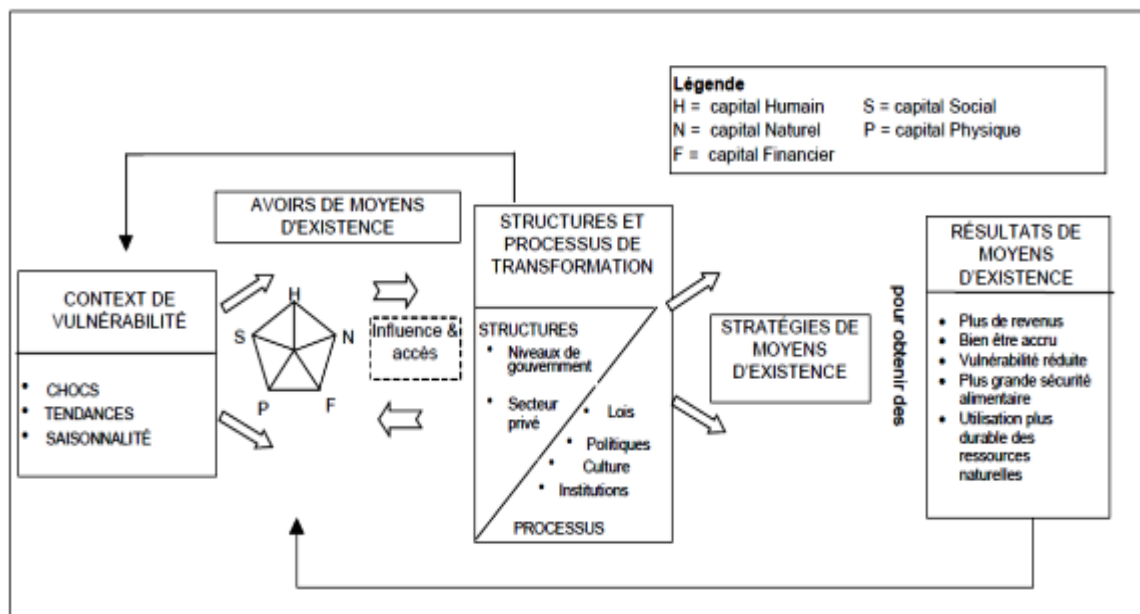
**3.1.4. Analysis of scientific validity**

The evaluation of documents and their contributions in multidimensional crises.

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**4.1. Results**

Figure: Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



Source: Adapted from Chambers, R. and G. Conway (1992) Sustainable rural livelihoods: Practical concepts for the 21st century. IDS Working Paper No. 296. Brighton: IDS.

NB: The arrows used in the figure serve to represent a variety of different relationships, all of which are extremely dynamic. None of the arrows imply direct causality, although some suggest some degree of influence.

Human capital, made up of the skills, knowledge of a community and its relations with the outside world.

Nowadays, human resources are positioned in a disparate and diversified environment. Composed of politicians, religious, trade unions and civil society, these actors have been evolving since 2012 in the greatest contradiction with the vision and orientation of the political object in Mali. Each social group is supposed to have ramifications outside the country. ILO, BIT, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb MUJAO anaçardine international without counting the various Wahhabi sects, maraboutic dynasties against jihadist networks, Bokoram etc. The failure and weakness of the Malian state, which was not considered before 2012 as a fragile state, has since resulted in a crisis of the Malian state, a crisis of legitimacy, effectiveness and efficiency. This situation paved the way for secessionist movements such as the MNLA, MPGK, MPA MPLA, MAA: MDJT, MFUA: MIA, all of which claim to belong to the State of AZAWAD.

Social capital, networks and connectivity, either vertical (benefactor/client) or horizontal (between individuals sharing the same interests), which increase people's confidence and ability to work together and expand their access to more large, such as political or civic bodies; Examples: embassies, humanitarian consulates such as Inter peace, UNDP, UNHCR, FAO, Peace Corps Human Rights. etc. the intervention of these humanitarians has increased following the deterioration of social capital.

Natural capital is made up of natural resources from which flows and services are drawn. Examples: land, flora, fauna, water, covenants/covenants and interactions. In this time of crisis, the state has lost its autonomy over these resources in terms of access and use, appropriation and expropriation of parts of the territory by new actors as well as all the resources found there.

Physical capital, Infrastructure consists of changes made to the physical environment to help people meet their basic needs and be more productive, affordable transportation; safe homes and buildings; adequate water supply and sanitation services; access to information communications: telephone, television, radio etc. The same issue goes back to physical capital, the basic infrastructure and productive assets needed to sustain livelihoods.

Financial capital Since 2012, many of Mali's financial and technical partners have put their development aid on hold. Investments and achievements are increasingly weak due to insecurity. The state does not have control over resources located in conflict zones that can generate revenue.

#### **4.1.1. Comprehension**

Understanding the crisis requires an element-by-element analysis framework to better appreciate and understand the threat to each of the elements taken separately. This framework first looked at livelihoods which are composed of five major capitals namely, human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital and their interactions between them and also with the environment. These capitals which define the mode of existence serve at the same time as our barometer to evaluate, measure the depth, the effects and the extent of the current crisis in Mali.

It should be noted that, for years, due to the complexity of the interconnected factors, Mali has experienced unprecedented vulnerability since its accession to independence. Governance is

subjected to a severe test of lack of trust between populations of the same region, and increasingly between the ruler and the ruled, resulting in serious physical and moral harm. The risk factors here are political, security and confessional.

#### **4.1.2. Some Contributions to experiment for the return of peace**

- Restore local trust in the Community victim of sadistic abuse
- At the inter-community level;
- At the intra-community level;
- At the interprofessional level;
- Communication.
- Identify all the key stakeholders with whom the conflict could arise.
- Identify communication channels through which to communicate with key stakeholders about resources.
- Compare or take into account the perceptions of the different actors involved in the use of natural resources.
- Correct the effects of trauma through psychological assistance to communities who suffered sadistic and various abuses during the occupation;
- Initiate community projects allowing these communities to communicate, negotiate and organize themselves internally, The measurement of skills could extend to aspects such as the ability to work in a team, the ability to solve common problems and mastery of ICT;
- Seek peace and social cohesion at the local level through the implementation of activities that unite social cohesion through intra/inter community dialogue;
- Discourage any discriminatory activity while promoting those that include the participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes in health and justice services;
- Unequal access to information, services and other public goods or unequal participation in decision-making and the use of ethnic and clan identities for restricted political ends are likely to banish in the process of rebuilding the social fabric.

##### **4.1.2.1. Roles of science, technical progress**

- for example: the initiation and use of the mobile phone, WhatsApp, SMS, voice. Phone booths, Orange Money etc. contribute to the improvement of social capital at the national and local level;
- Substitute techniques and new technology for weapons to eradicate unemployment, despair and restore everyone's confidence through employment;
- Perimeter development, supervision of micro dams, pipelines, fish farming promotion, fattening, small trade in technical tools (telephone, tape recorder, television and accessories);
- There must be more associations and organizations around shared objectives, the implementation of which requires the federating of skills without any exclusion.

## **5. DISCUSSION**

### **5.1. Different capitals that make up the framework of livelihoods**

Understanding the crisis requires an element-by-element analysis framework to better appreciate and understand the threat to each of the elements taken separately. This framework first looked at

livelihoods which are composed of five major capitals namely, human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital.

## **5.2. Effects of the crisis on capitals and interactions**

human capital

- Contradiction in relation to the vision and orientation of the political object,
- The failure and weakness of the Malian State in the face of external factors,
- Social group ramifications inside and outside the country,
- Secessionist movements (MNLA, MPKG, MPA, MPLA, MAA, MDJT, MFUA: MIA).

Social capital

Degradation of social capital giving way to a multitude of NGOs operating in the humanitarian field. Some of these NGOs do not seem to act in the interests of the central state due to the fact that the state is absent in the sites they occupy and evolve. The actions taken often seem likely to complicate the security axes.

natural capital

The management of natural resources changes actors, from the central state to those who provide security in the strip (armed bandits, drug traffickers, arms, humans and thugs). Access to and use of resources in bands occupied by armed bandits and drug traffickers obeys endogenous rules other than those of communities.

physical capital

The infrastructures created to ensure the well-being of the communities, just like the natural resources, change actors more or less in access and control. In these areas, the infrastructures are amortized, others change their option from traditional Western schools to Medersa or learning center. No new state achievements (Cscm, schools, small boreholes, Hydro – agricultural etc.). Only the NGOs that operate in these areas have replaced the State in terms of assistance.

Financial capital

Decrease in state revenue sources following the disappearance of state services (customs, taxes, etc.) in conflict zones. In these occupied areas, nothing is mobilized or collected at the central state level. Often the actions are taken in terms of defiance addressed to the central state such as the submission of communities to new taxes and new documents called "AZAWAD".

## **5.3. Other similar cases of conflict resolution**

According to Dr. Sékou Koureissy Condé et al, 2018, two approaches must be combined: a cross-border approach that draws its strength from the synergy between the different state forces, and a revaluation of the traditional ethnic heritage that could strengthen the sustainability of the resolutions of Conflicts. For example, once again favoring communication between the different village communities would have the effect of attenuating tensions and ethnic rivalries.

From the beginning of the 2000s, the “political war” of dividing the world into territories was followed by an “economic war” whose main objective was the control of energy resources, in particular oil and uranium. It will therefore now be a question of presenting the political, military and economic facts which will be analyzed in the period 2000-2011, with the main difficulty being the analysis of the rapid evolution of the politico-military situation in Libya and its serious consequences on the entire sub-region. (Bourgeot A, 2011).

**6. CONCLUSION**

Faced with the multiplicity of actors and the complexity of the causes of the current crisis to which the State of Mali is subject; many options remain open and at different levels for its resolution. It is necessary to encourage and multiply the alternatives in progress such as national, regional, local, community, intercommunity and interprofessional consultations. Good governance remains an essential step throughout the territory. The equitable access of the citizen to the service of the state and to resources without marginal consideration based on gender, ethnicity, clan, confession and political color in a secure Mali. There needs to be a state will to support community initiatives. Restore local trust through unifying projects without forgetting the support of bilateral and multilateral partners.

**REFERENCES**

- Bourgeot A, 2011, 37p, SAHARA DE TOUS LES ENJEUX, <https://www.cairn.info/revue-herodote-2011-3-page-42.htm>.
- Chambers, R. and G. Conway (1992) Sustainable rural livelihoods: Practical concepts for the 21st century. IDS Working Paper No. 296. Brighton: IDS. [https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/documents/114097690/114438878/Sus\\_livelihoods\\_guidance\\_sheets\\_fr.pdf/f7dbd072-9420-0cae-b660-5f474d023cf1?t=1569511964230](https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/documents/114097690/114438878/Sus_livelihoods_guidance_sheets_fr.pdf/f7dbd072-9420-0cae-b660-5f474d023cf1?t=1569511964230).
- Lecture by Dr Sékou Koureissy Condé and Jean-Marc Chataigner, March 2018, Conflict Resolution in Africa, <https://nemrod-ecds.com/?p=1553>.
- ON THE WELL-BEING OF NATIONS: THE ROLE OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL CAPITAL, OECD EDITIONS, 2, n° 81072 2001, rue André-Pascal, 75775 PARIS CEDEX 16, PRINTED IN FRANCE, (00 2001 16 2 P) . <https://www.oecd.org/en/education/innovation-education/1870581.pdf>.
- The Empire of Ghana, [http://voyagesenduo.com/senegal/3grands\\_empires.html](http://voyagesenduo.com/senegal/3grands_empires.html).
- The Tuareg rebellions in northern Mali. Between received ideas and realities, African Studies, Political Series, L'Harmattan, 2015. A. BOURGEOT, "The Malian crisis: towards a geopolitical recomposition of Saharan spaces", in Mokhefi and Antil (dir.), Le Maghreb et son Sud : towards renewed links, Paris, Ifri, 2012, pp. 91-109. <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-02165248/document>.
- War in the Sahara-Sahel: the reconversion of nomadic knowledge. Denis Retailé, Olivier Walther. In Geographic Information 2011/3 (Vol. 75), pages 51 to 68
- The Sahel: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) playground. Clemence Pernin and Houari Sayad
- Mariame Sidibe. A sociopolitical approach to the question of refugees in the state crisis in Mali: Case of Malian refugees from the Tillabéri region in Niger. Political science. University of Bordeaux, 2019. French. NNT: 2019BORD0078. tel-02165248.
- Sahara of all issues. André Bourgeot. In Hérodote 2011/3 (n° 142), pages 42 to 77
- Predominant floodplain over mountain weathering of Himalayan sediments (Ganga basin). M Lupker, C France-Lanord, V Galy, J Lavé, J Gaillardet, AP Gajurel, Geochimica and Cosmochimica Acta 84, 410-432