



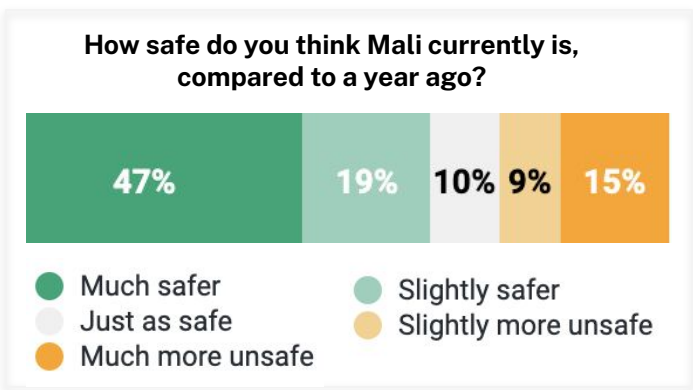
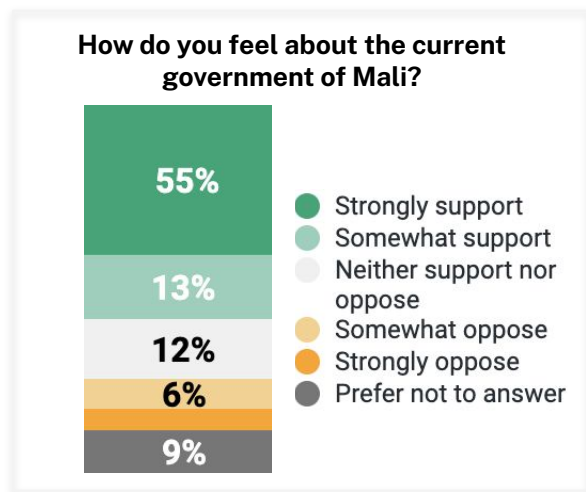
# Amid Diplomatic Shake Up, Malians Think Country Moving in Right Direction

Tracking Global Events | February 16th, 2023

Over the past few months, Mali's military junta has upended the country's alliances. They have sought closer ties with Russia, pushed France to the margins, and strained the country's relationship with international organizations like the United Nations and the African Union. This trend has continued in early 2023 with the government expelling the Chief of the Human Rights Division of the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSMA) and receiving visits from Russia's Foreign Minister and Burkina Faso's Prime Minister. **Premise launched a survey to understand how contributors perceive the country's safety, and to better understand sentiments on the country's evolving alliances.**

## Insights

- **72% of respondents believe that Mali is generally moving in the right direction**
- A majority of respondents also support the current military rule with **55% strongly supporting, 13% somewhat supporting, 21% choosing to not answer or to remain neutral; 10% opposed the military rule**
- A majority of respondents feel the security situation is improving: **46% believe that Mali is much safer than it was a year ago, 19% believe is it slightly safer**



Some of our contributors (**30%**) had not heard the news that the Chief of the Human Rights Division of MINUSMA was expelled from the country.

But majority of those that had heard this news were also support of the decision to expel the Chief with **41% strongly supporting, and 13% somewhat supporting**. A further 31% chose to not answer or to remain neutral, and only a combined 15% opposed the expulsion.

Based on each contributor's response to how safe they think the country is, we then asked them to select all the different factors they think have contributed to making the security situation better or worse.

Some of the top changes cited include **efforts of the Malian Armed Forces, military support from Russia, and the withdrawal of French troops from the country.**

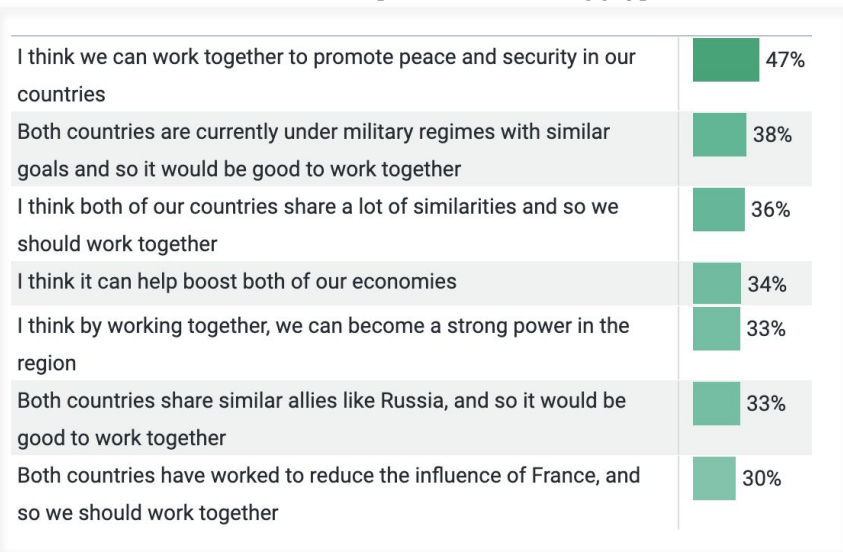


On February 7th, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, visited Mali to meet with the military junta, who are seeking Russian assistance in battling an Islamist insurgency. Mali had already been receiving some military support from the country, but during his visit, Lavrov promised “further military support and declared Russia’s wider backing for Africa in the face of what he described as the West’s ‘neo-colonial approach’”.

- A majority of respondents that had heard about Lavrov’s visit were in support of it with **53% strongly supporting, 16% somewhat supporting**. A further 20% chose not answer or to remain neutral, while a combined 10% opposed the visit.
- One of the promises Lavrov made was to continue helping Mali to improve its military capabilities. We asked contributors to select the various ways this promise made them feel, and many contributors report being **excited (46%)** and **hopeful (45%)**. Between **13 to 15%** report also being **worried** for various reasons.



### Why do you support a potential federation between Burkina Faso and Mali? [Select all that apply]



Burkina Faso’s Prime Minister also visited Mali recently and suggested that the two countries form a federation to improve their economic standing on the continent.

- A majority of respondents were in support of a federation between Mali and Burkina Faso, with 51% strongly supporting, and 24% somewhat supporting. While only a combined 8% oppose.
- People selected multiple reasons for this support ranging from their similar form of government (both countries are currently under military rule) to the belief that both countries can work together to promote peace and security.

## Methodology

Using a method of convenience sampling, Premise collected sentiment data on these current event issues in Mali between February 8 to 15. In cases requiring rapid data collection, we utilize this type of nonprobability sampling involving the sample being drawn from the population that is ready to assist. We received about 900 submissions from mostly young males in all 8 regions and Bamako, the capital.

## Premise in Action

Premise offers a unique ability to quickly source information from real people on the ground in hard-to-reach places. Over five million people in 138 countries are using the Premise app on their smartphones, enabling our customers to monitor a situation over time and employ a data-driven approach to timely decision-making. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about Premise.