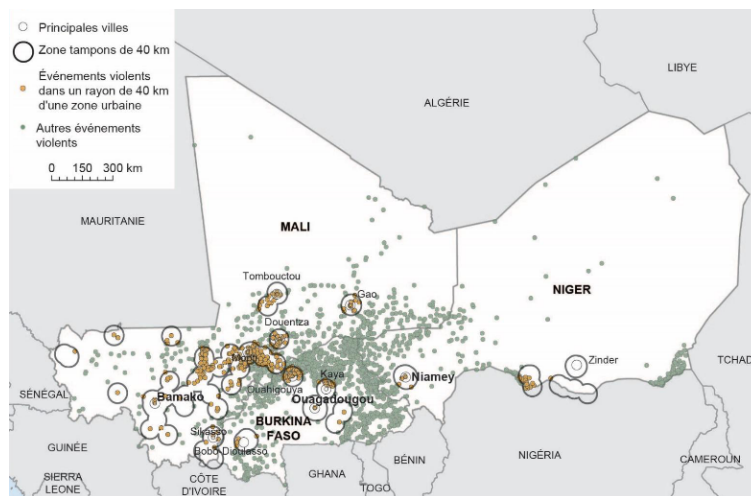


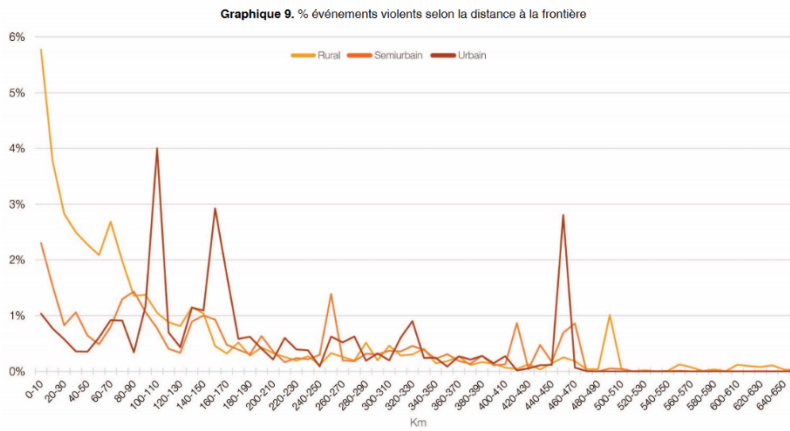
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## InfoPoint Conference: Urbanisation and Conflicts in North and West Africa

At this event, the new SWAC/OECD Report 2023 on conflicts in North and West Africa since the late 1990s was presented. This report examined whether increasing urbanisation has also led to an increase in urban violence or whether conflicts continue to be fought predominantly in rural areas. Particular attention was paid to the novel interactive policy tool of the Spatial Conflict Dynamics Indicator (SCDi), which can be used to better map the geography of urban-rural conflicts. This allows the intensity, conflict events and sub-categories such as violence against women to be represented using a geographical raster.



The last 15 years have seen an increase in high intensity conflicts that have the potential to expand, leading to more violence and more deaths. However, these conflicts are very unevenly distributed in West Africa: Nigeria, with the terror of Boko Haram, has suffered the most deaths, followed by Mali and Burkina Faso with jihadist separatist and rebel groups. The border regions are particularly affected: the violence has recently increased at Lake Chad and in the Burkina Faso - Mali - Niger border region.



Most deaths occur within a 40–80-kilometre radius of a border, mainly in rural areas. At the same time, the number of fatalities in cities is rising, indicating that many attacks are increasingly being carried out in cities or their surrounding areas.

The findings of this report will improve the understanding of where violence originates, spreads, and eventually disappears, thus contributing to the development of better strategies to address its causes.