WORLD BANK GROUP

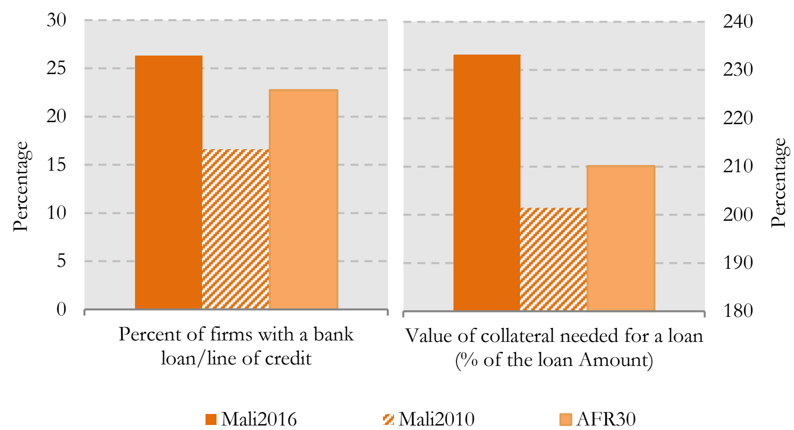
The World Bank Group conducted face-to-face interviews with top managers and business owners of 185 enterprises in Mali from July 2016 through October 2016. The Enterprise Survey (ES) sample is representative of Mali's formal private sector. The ES covers several aspects of business environment along with measures of firm performance. Below are the main highlights from the survey.

Firm performance in Mali is positive but has declined as compared to previous years

Between 2013 and 2015, firms in Mali experienced positive annual sales growth (10%), remarkably higher than the average for the 30 Sub-Saharan African countries (AFR30) for which ES data are available (0.6%). However, firms' performance between 2013 and 2015 was lower than in the period covered by the previous ES (2005-2008), when sales grew at an annual rate of 39%. Employment growth was also positive (3.5%) and almost in line with previous years (4.1%). However, firms in Mali performed worse than their regional comparators, where the average annual employment growth rate was 6%.

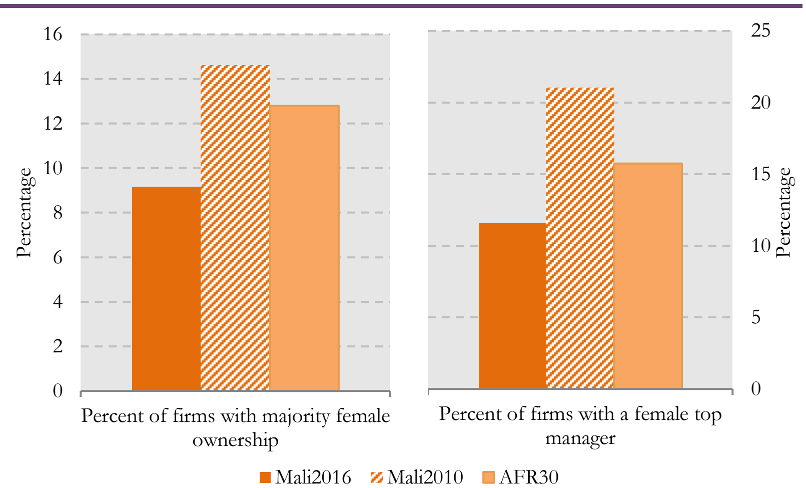
Access to finance has improved, however the value of collateral requirements has increased

The percentage of firms with a bank loan or line of credit has increased from 17% in 2010 to 26% in 2016. Further, firms in Mali are slightly more likely to have a bank loan or line of credit than firms on average in regional comparators (23%). However, more collateral is required to secure a loan. Between 2010 and 2016, the share of collateral relative to the loans amount increased from 201% to 233%. The value of collateral needed for a loan is also higher in Mali than in regional comparators where the average value of collateral needed for a loan was 210%.



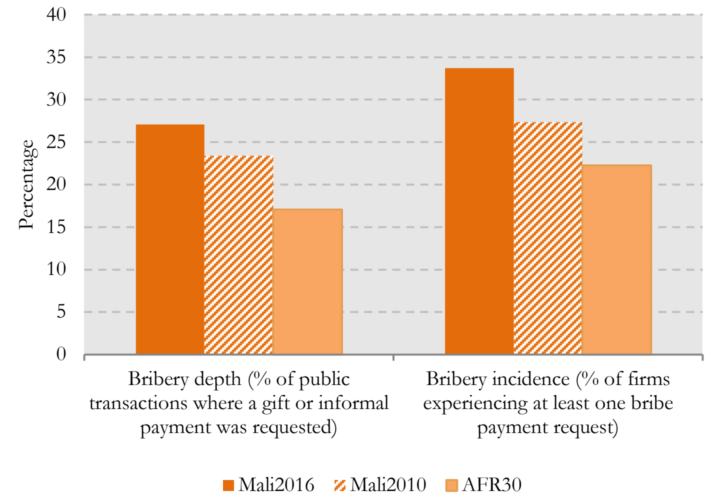
Female participation in the private sector has decreased since 2010

The percentage of firms with a majority of female owners declined from 15% in 2010 to 9% in 2016. The same negative trend characterized another measure of female participation in the private sector, the share of firms with a female top manager. The share of firms run by a female top manager almost halved between 2010 and 2016, declining from 21% to 12%. The participation of women in the private sector is also lower than regional comparators. On average, in the 30 Sub-Saharan African countries with ES data 13% of firms have majority of female owners and 16% of firms are run by a female top manager.



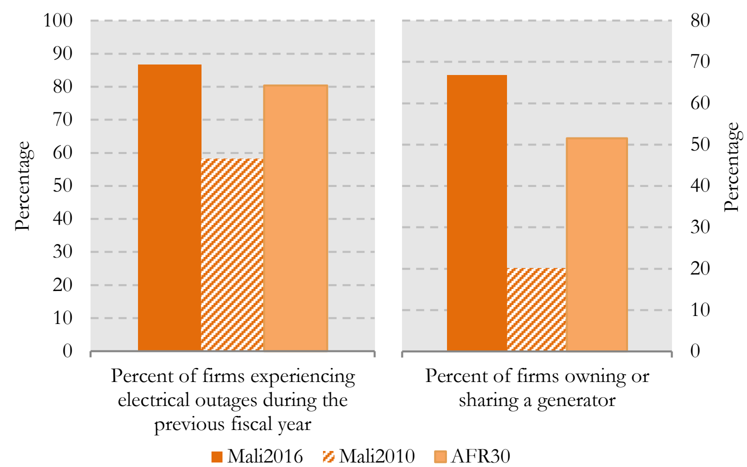
Firms in Mali experience more requests of gifts or informal payments than firms in regional comparators

Corruption has increased in Mali between 2010 and 2016. The share of public transactions that was accompanied by the request of a gift or informal payment (bribery depth) increased from 23% in 2010 to 28% in 2016. The share of firms that experienced at least one bribe payment request across six transactions involving access to utilities, permits, licenses, and taxes (bribery incidence), has also increased from 27% in 2010 to 34% in 2016. Firms in Mali face higher bribery depth and bribery incidence than firms in regional compators (17% and 22%, respectively on average).



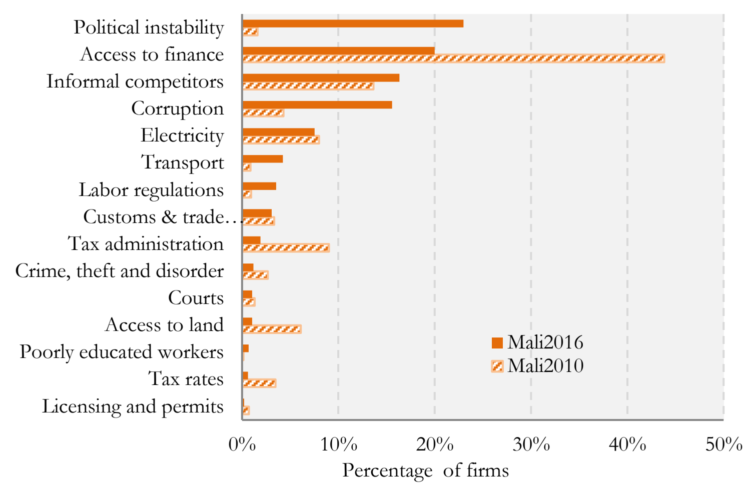
Electricity supply in Mali has deteriorated since 2010

The percentage of firms experiencing electrical outages increased from 58% to 87% between 2010 and 2016. As more firms experienced electrical outages, more firms also purchased or shared a generator. During the same period, the percentage of firms owning or sharing a generator increased from 20% to 67%. On average, firms in Mali struggle with electrical issues more than firms regional comparators. Both, the percentage of firms experiencing electrical outages and the percentage of firms owning or sharing a generator is higher in Mali than in the Africa region where on average 80% of firms experience power outages and 52% of firms own or share a generator.



Firms in Mali consider political instability as the biggest obstacle in their everyday operations

Enterprise Surveys ask business owners and top managers to name the biggest obstacle that they face in their everyday operations. In 2016, the most frequently chosen top obstacle was political instability, identified as the biggest obstacle by 23% of firms, compared to just 2% in 2010. The second most frequently cited biggest obstacle in 2016 was access to finance (20% of firms compared to 44% of firms in 2010). The third and fourth most cited biggest obstacle were informal competition and corruption, each cited by 16% of firms.



The Enterprise Analysis Unit is a joint World Bank and IFC team of economists, survey experts specialized in private sector development. Surveys implemented by the team reveal what businesses and firms experience across the world by interviewing representative samples of the formal, non-agricultural, non-extractive, private sector with 5 employees or more. The resulting globally comparable firm-level data is used to construct business environment indicators and measure firm performance. The findings and recommendations help policy makers identify, prioritize, and implement policy reforms that support efficient private economic activity.

For more information on the survey visit http://www.enterprisesurveys.org

Generated using Enterprise Survey data as of September 11, 2017