Hello Everyone!

Thank you all for joining me today. My name is Joel Himes, and I'm excited to present my project on "Niger's Political Shift: Examining the Possible Factors Driving the 2023 Instability."

[Slide: Introduction]

In this presentation, we will delve into the complexities of Niger's political landscape, exploring key indicators and historical events that contributed to the country's instability over the last 25 years leading up to the recent coup.

[Slide: Background]

On July 26, 2023, Niger faced its fifth military coup since 1960, with President Bazoum being detained and a new junta leader declared. This incident sparked regional and international concern about instability. Various factors have historically driven coups in Niger (and around the world), including weak governance, corruption, economic troubles, factionalism, and extreme poverty.

[Slide: Relevant Coup Timeline]

Let's take a closer look at Niger's tumultuous journey through nearly three decades, highlighting significant events and transitions in leadership.

1996: A coup overthrowing President Ousmame led to new leadership under Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, aiming to restart democracy.

1999: Mainassara was assassinated, paving the way for President Tandja.

2010: A military council led by General Salou Djibo captured President Tandja, suspending the constitution and dissolving state bodies. Issoufou wins election.

2021: A coup attempt occurred two days before President Bazoum took office, attributed to Captain Gourouza.

2023: The recent coup involved General Omar Tchiani detaining President Bazoum, leading to a suspension of institutions, closed borders, and a curfew.

[Slide: Analytical Goals]

To understand the drivers of instability, we have six analytical goals:

1. Niger Governance: Examine World Governance Indicators from 1996 to 2022 to assess political stability, corruption, and government effectiveness trends.
2. Niger Economic Health: Explore Economic Indicators over the specified time frame, including GDP growth, inflation, and unemployment rates.
3. Niger Leadership: Highlight Leadership Regime Effectiveness during different presidential tenures.
4. Niger Leadership: Conduct an ANOVA on Government Effectiveness to statistically compare leadership regimes' impacts on governance.
5. Niger Foreign Aid: Uncover Data Points related to Foreign Assistance and examine its role in the country's economic health.
6. Niger Foreign Aid: Regression Model - DAC Flows & Niger GCF to explore the relationship between foreign aid and Gross Capital Formation.

[Slide: Stakeholder Value]

Understanding Niger's political instability is crucial for various stakeholders:

* For U.S. counterterrorism efforts: Niger's cooperation is essential, considering its hosting of U.S. drone bases and Special Forces engaged in anti-terrorism operations.
* Informed Decision-Making: Analyzing historical data can provide insights into the country's political landscape and contributing factors to the coup.
* Conflict Resolution: Identifying triggers for instability can pave the way for effective conflict resolution strategies.

[Slide: Describing the Data]

The curated dataset from the World Bank contains 1478 rows and 30 columns, offering insights into governance, economic indicators, and foreign aid. Minimalized Missing data in columns was handled by an Analytical Goal, case by case basis.

[Slide: Niger Governance]

The analysis of the aggregate -2.5 to 2.5 World Bank Governance Indicators reveals negative trends in Political Stability, Control of Corruption, and Government Effectiveness. These indicators suggest ongoing challenges for Niger's governance. Please note the visuals in place highlighting whether a coup or attempted coup.

[Slide: Niger Economic Health]

Examining GDP growth, inflation, and unemployment rates reveals vulnerabilities from internal and external factors impacting the country's economic health. Please note the negative trends in GDP and inflation (deflation), in which the combined occurrence of negative GDP growth and deflation can create a self-reinforcing cycle where reduced spending from deflation further depresses economic activity.

[Slide: Niger Leadership]

Different leadership regimes have exhibited varying levels of government effectiveness. Each leader faced unique challenges during their tenure, contributing to Niger's political landscape. This violin plot highlights the Gov Effectinvess displayed on the first line chart. All leaders had a negative aggregate GE rating during their tenure. But how different are those numbers?

[Slide: Niger Leadership - ANOVA]

From the previous slide - Using ANOVA, we found significant differences in government effectiveness between Ibrahim Bare Mainassara's regime and Mahamadou Issoufou's and Mamadou Tandja's regimes. It allows us to reject two of the group's null hypotheses when compared but not the third. Allowing us to further drill down on our umbrella ANOVA of rejecting our null hypothesis stating the means of the different groups are equal. In other words, the factor has no effect on the dependent variable.

[Slide: Niger Foreign Aid]

Niger's reliance on foreign aid, approximately 44% of gross capital formation (for 2021), has implications for its economic planning and sustainability. This indicates a significant reliance on foreign aid to finance a substantial portion of the country's physical and human capital investments. Niger heavily depends on external funding to support its development projects and faces challenges in generating sufficient domestic resources for its development needs.

[Slide: Niger Foreign Aid - Regression Model]

Following our previous slide (just how strong is this dependence on Foreign Aid) Our regression model shows a strong relationship between Net Bilateral Aid Flows and Gross Capital Formation, suggesting the impact of foreign aid on Niger's economy. This is backed up by the values shared in the model (p-value and r-squared explanation of variance), Residual Analysis, a variance inflation factor of 1 (min possible value), and Cross-Validation Analysis of an acceptable RMSE.

[Slide: Summary]

The presentation examines historical events and indicators behind Niger's political instability, covering weak governance, corruption, economic challenges, and poverty over the past three decades. It reveals significant factors, including political instability, financial vulnerabilities, and reliance on foreign aid, potentially explaining the recurring shifts in Niger's political landscape.

[Slide: Contact Information]

Thank you for your time, and I hope this presentation has shed some light on the complex factors driving Niger's political instability. If you have any questions or want to explore the project further, don't hesitate to contact me.