**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project “Youth and Peace: A Cross-Border Approach between Mali and Burkina Faso” is a pilot project of the United Nations System and aims to promote the engagement and participation of young people in the peace-building and security consolidation process through a participatory governance approach, involving young people as peace and development agents in local conflict prevention and management mechanisms.

The project provides support to the governments of Mali and Burkina Faso in the framework of the implementation of the G5 Sahel’s Integrated Youth Strategy for the Construction of Peace and Security. The project is also part of the G5 Sahel Emergency Development Programme (PDU) and contributes to pillars 2 and 3:

2) Strengthening agricultural and pastoral populations’ livelihoods by building resilience to food and nutrition insecurity in a sustainable and structural manner;
3) Supporting local communities and institutions in preventing conflicts and reinforcing social cohesion by strengthening the local socio-economic fabric.

Chart: Breakdown of overall project budget of 3,000,000 USD (in millions)

- Burkina Faso: 1.35
- Mali: 1.65
PROJECT PROGRESS in December 2020:
Despite the difficulties mentioned related to insecurity and COVID-19, progress in terms of change is perceptible. The involvement of authorities and actors in conflict prevention and management issues, the acceptance of dialogue between traditional and religious leaders and youth (girls and boys) through exchanges during workshops and trainings, as well as the understanding of the need to involve youth in decision-making in state and non-state structures for conflict prevention and management and the consideration of their needs and aspirations remain positive elements in terms of behavioral and societal change. The security context and the COVID pandemic have led to a readjustment of the programming of activities
Readjustments were requested and accepted by the PBF to take the pandemic into account. This allowed the assumption of certain activities in support of the fight against the VIDOC pandemic. Thus, two multifunctional centers have been rehabilitated in Burkina Faso in the two regions (North and Sahel) to serve as a framework for exchanges and experience sharing between young people on issues related to security and the prevention and management of local conflicts. These readjustments will not only make it possible to achieve the objectives, but also to respond to an urgent need expressed by young people. In Mali, these readjustments made it possible to support the regional health departments and the holding of two meetings with the Defense Security Forces on the strategy for monitoring and preventing contamination at the borders.
Of the 2,330 people affected by the project, 725 (31%) are women. The involvement of young men and women with community leaders and local authorities to identify problems within the community was a starting point to better engage in the benefit of peace. Thanks to the trainings received, women as well as youth are integrated and active in the animation and management of conflicts.
689 young people including 205 women from the North and Sahel (Burkina Faso) and in Koro, Bankass and Tominian (Mali) with information have taken ownership of the Integrated Youth Strategy of the G5 Sahel and have created a framework for monitoring the implementation of the strategy at the national and local levels and to do this, they have created a WhatsApp group more specifically in Koro, Bankass and Tominian. Strategic partnerships have been established around the implementation of Result 3 with the national technical committee of the G5 Sahel, the coordination of the PUS-BF, the National Youth Council, the ECOWAS national volunteer program and the UNDP Regional Center in Dakar through strategic meetings that have been organized.

NB: It should be noted that the project should initially end in December 2020 however the project has been extended until April 2021.

What is the Emergency Development Programme?
In 2018, the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel asked the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel (SEG5 Sahel) to launch quick-impact emergency projects. Consequently, the Emergency Development Programme (PDU) came into life in order to stabilise fragile border areas identified by the G5.

In response to the G5 Sahel’s request to finance the PDU, the Sahel Alliance’s members collectively mobilised 199 million Euro dedicated to 21 projects and programmes in total. These projects meet the following 3 criteria:

I. The project is located in sensitive cross-border areas as identified by the G5
II. The project responds to specific thematic or sectoral issues
III. Actual achievements are visible by the end of 2018 / beginning of 2019