

## EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDU)

“Common Ground” : Strengthening Mutual Trust and Collaboration between Communities, Local Authorities and Defence and Security Forces in the Tillabéry Region (Niger)

**DONOR(S)**  
The Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)

**COUNTRY**  
Niger

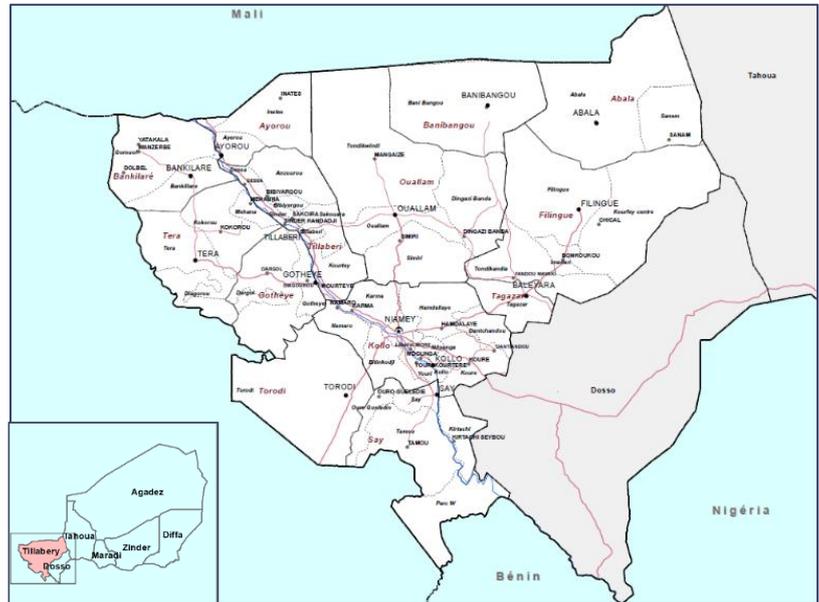
**AMOUNT**  
200.000 EUR

**DATES**  
November 2018 - November 2019

**PHASE**  
Closed

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**  
Search for Common Ground

**PDU PILLAR**  
Pillar III: Strengthening social cohesion



*Intervention area: Bankilaré ; Banibangou, Tondikiwindi, et Abala in the Tillabéri region.*

### DESCRIPTION

The "Common Ground" project aims to strengthen social cohesion in the Tillabéry region of Niger. The project was developed and implemented by the NGO *Search for Common Ground* which specialises in conflict prevention and transformation. The French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) financed the project with a total amount of EUR 200.000 in order to create fora for peaceful exchanges between different communities and to strengthen collaboration between communities, local authorities and the defence and security forces (FDS) in the region.

The project is part of the G5 Sahel’s **Emergency Development Programme (PDU)**, an initiative aimed at stabilising border areas in the G5 Sahel countries, and supports the operationalisation of Pillar III of the PDU: *Supporting local communities and institutions in conflict prevention and strengthening social cohesion by reinforcing the local socio-economic fabric.*

### OBJECTIVES

This project is based on the observation that only concerted action will enable local actors to respond to the needs and expectations of all stakeholders and to overcome fears and prejudices to ultimately work together and to restore stability to the region. Thereafter, this project aims to:

- Create safe spaces for exchange and collaboration between communities, local authorities and FDS in the Tillabéry region in Niger;
- Support communities, local authorities and FDS to develop and implement joint initiatives that meet the expectations of the populations of the target communes.

## PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The following activities were completed in the framework of this projects. As this is a regional project, some of the activities were implemented in Mali:

- 1 cross-border conflict analysis conducted
- 10 planning workshops and 10 action plans set up in Niger and Mali
- 80 peace ambassadors and 4 radio focal points trained in Niger
- 119 peace ambassadors trained in Mali
- 14 expression forums organised (to mobilise all stakeholders)
- 12 participatory theatre and/or mobile cinema sessions held
- 15 socio-economic and cultural initiatives in Niger implemented between August and October: Construction of gutters for rainwater drainage; Support in the form of In-Kind-Gifts (livestock feed, farming materials and seeds); Reparation of two ambulances; Awareness-raising campaign for security forces and communities; Rehabilitation of boreholes; Installation of a generator; Rehabilitation of a solar energy system.
- 7 episodes of "Génération Sahel" (sub-regional radio programme) were produced and broadcast as well as 10 radio spots.



Photo : © Search for Common Ground

### 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 119 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