



ALLIANCE
SAHEL

Results Report 3 years of the Sahel Alliance





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Preface

The Sahel Alliance was created in 2017 to provide concrete and collective responses to the challenges facing the populations of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad. Challenges that are only growing - from social vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change. Challenges that are increasingly intertwined, with instability setting the stage for disruptions to security which, in turn, reinforce it. Challenges accentuated, of course, by the health crisis of the coronavirus and its consequences in all areas. To break the spiral of violence and despair, it was urgent to unite energies, resources and goodwill. We have been working together for three years, in close collaboration with the central and local authorities. This increased mobilisation is bearing fruit: on the ground, in particular in the most fragile areas, aid is arriving faster and yielding initial concrete results, encouraging examples of which are provided in this report. In the course of these three years, the Alliance has grown steadily. It now comprises 24 partners and donors, full members and observers. New players have expressed their intention to join us. The Alliance has become a privileged

interlocutor and a major partner for the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel, as evidenced by the € 266 million that we have provided to finance the Emergency Development Programme. In February 2020. Our first General Assembly was held in Nouakchott. We have made strong commitments to further increase our political and technical dialogue with the G5 countries and to implement an integrated territorial approach in vulnerable areas. Such an approach is based on a greater involvement of political and administrative authorities, security forces, humanitarian workers and civil societies in the projects carried out by development agencies.

We must now go further, by linking our efforts even more closely to the imperatives of combating armed groups, strengthening national security forces and deploying States across all their territories. Faced with terrorists ready to use the strategy of chaos, security, public service, humanitarian and development stakeholders must act hand in hand to build a Sahel of peace and stability together. This is the objective of the International Coalition for the Sahel, which was created this year following the Pau Summit.

As the leader of our Alliance, Spain will therefore have its work cut out for it. However, it can rely on the support of our Coordination Unit and of the German chairmanship of the Operational Steering Committee, as well as, of course, on France's commitment. Thanks to these early successes, to this momentum and to this renewed governance, the Alliance now holds all the keys to fully realising the ambition that it has fostered for the past three years: to free the people of the Sahel from urgency and provide them with real prospects for the future in the long term.

M Le Drian

JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN
FRENCH MINISTER
FOR EUROPE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Introduction

Within the 3 years of its existence the Sahel Alliance has substantially grown, becoming a unique and effective coordination platform. Starting out with the three founding members EU, France and Germany, it has continuously grown now comprising of thirteen development partners who stand for a portfolio of 17,1 billion euros (31/12/2018). The Alliance has developed to become the central format for coordination and political dialogue with regard to development policy for the Sahel G5-countries, thereby having created an important space for exchange on best practices, common action and innovation. Beyond that, the Sahel Alliance is working on the ground, bringing tangible improvements for

the population in the Sahel region. This report highlights the Alliance's impact and provides insights into some of its projects.

Development policy remains crucial to address the root causes and effects of the ongoing conflict which cannot be solved or mitigated by military intervention alone. It is key in order to provide rapid assistance to the most vulnerable segments of society and to address the need for better governance and decentralization. Development policy helps reinstitute participation and trust of the population, improve the infrastructure and the access to basic services like health, water and education. It creates jobs and opportunities for the young and growing populations in the Sahel while sustaining the natural base

of agriculture that nourishes and provides income to large segments of society. All these are issues the Sahel Alliance has been working on from the beginning. The challenges the G5 countries are facing need to be addressed foremost by the governments, local authorities and the civil society of the G5 countries. They cannot be tackled by the international community alone.

Furthermore, the G5 countries need to implement vital reforms. With regard to governance this concerns for instance the instauration of effective decentralisation and anti-corruption policies.

If development partners and the G5 work together, we can make a real difference and give young people in the Sahel a positive perspective for their future.

CHRISTOPH RAUH
AFRICA DIRECTOR OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT - CHAIRMAN OF THE SAHEL
ALLIANCE STEERING COMMITTEE



Presentation



The G5 Sahel region, between potentials and challenges

The G5 Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad) holds great potential, endowed as it is with abundant human, cultural and natural resources, offering opportunities for rapid growth. The region also possesses a remarkable cultural and physical heritage, including in particular the Banc d'Arguin National Park, the Ennedi Massif, the historic library of Timbuktu ... In terms of natural resources, the Sahel is home to some of the largest aquifers on the continent, as well as important surface waters such as Lake Chad and the Niger River. The region is rich with oil, natural gas, gold, iron ... These resources present an important opportunity for economic diversification, the development of value chains and the livelihoods of the inhabitants. The region also has great potential for renewable

energy, particularly solar and wind, which is still largely under-exploited. Despite these strengths, the Sahel remains one of the poorest regions in the world, facing both security problems and strong economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities. Nearly half of the Sahelian population lives on less than \$ 1.25 a day and the countries in the region are ranked among those with the lowest development index. For several years, the five countries have been confronted in various parts of their territories with multifaceted crises and security threats which are hampering peace and sustainable development in the region. In 2014, the heads of state of the region created the G5 Sahel, an intergovernmental framework for cooperation, to coordinate their actions and offer a regional response to the various challenges.

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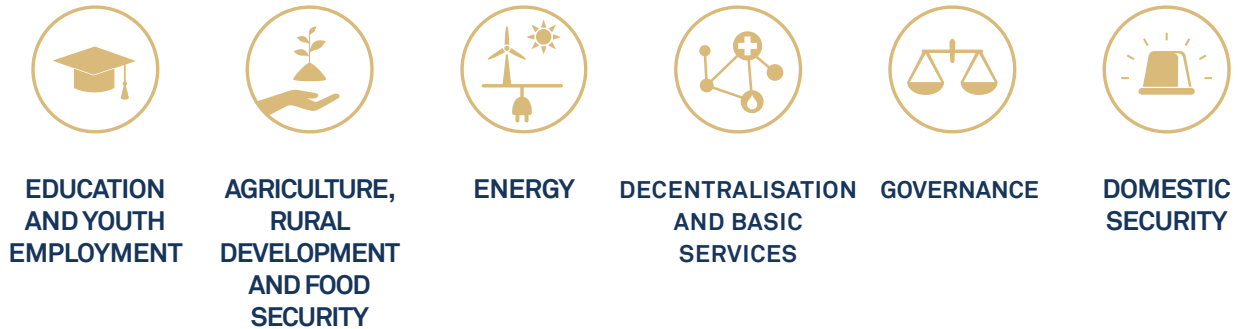
The Sahel Alliance

Aware that crises are largely rooted in poverty, injustice and the lack of essential services, several donors have decided to combine their actions, with the desire to support stabilisation and long-term development efforts of the G5 Sahel countries, and particularly to reach outlying and neglected areas. The Sahel Alliance was launched in 2017 by France, Germany and the European Union. The initiative now involves 13 multilateral and

bilateral development partners. Its primary objective is to support the G5 Sahel countries in crafting a coordinated, joint, appropriate and effective response to the challenges they face. The Sahel Alliance is not a new organisation or a financial advocacy forum, but rather a mechanism to strengthen the coordination of partners for faster, more effective aid with greater impact.

The Sahel Alliance in brief

6 priority sectors

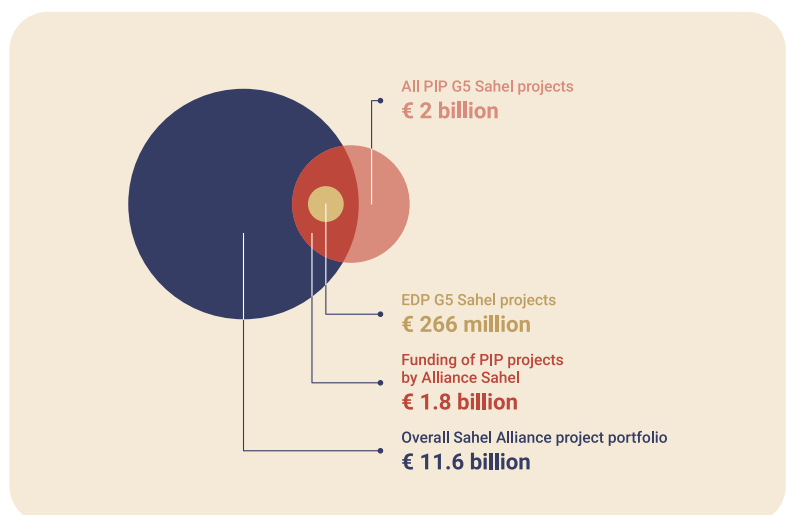


4 cross-cutting themes



Financial commitments as of 12/31/2018*

Members fund more than 800 Sahel Alliance labelled projects in the region. These projects are in progress or under study, for a total amount of 17.1 billion euros, with a balance to be paid/dispensed of 11.6 billion euros. Alliance members also invested nearly 1.9 billion euros in the G5 Sahel countries in 2018.



* These figures are currently being updated

Project implementation: inventory*

NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY PRIORITY SECTOR

	Education and youth employment	Agriculture, rural development and food security	Energy	Governance	Decentralisation and basic services	Domestic security	Transectoral	TOTAL
Projects under study	22	31	30	23	42	6	0	154
Current projects	75	186	48	113	194	38	8	662
Completed projects	5	14	3	19	16	7	0	64
TOTAL	102	231	81	155	252	51	8	880

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT (IN MILLIONS OF €)

	Education and youth employment	Agriculture, rural development and food security	Energy	Governance	Decentralisation and basic services	Domestic security	Transectoral	TOTAL
Projects under study	608	879	884	956	690	142	0	4,159
Current projects	979	3,246	1,726	1,507	4,812	268	30	12,568
Completed projects	10	59	43	171	112	5	0	400
TOTAL	1,597	4,184	2,654	2,634	5,614	415	30	17,126

REMAINDER TO BE DISBURSED (IN MILLIONS OF €)

	Education and youth employment	Agriculture, rural development and food security	Energy	Governance	Decentralisation and basic services	Domestic security	Transectoral	TOTAL
Projects under study	608	879	884	956	690	142	0	4,158
Current projects	531	2,014	1,265	657	2,836	155	7	7,465
Completed projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,139	2,893	2,149	1,613	3,525	297	7	11,623

* as of 12/31/2018
(figures currently being updated)

The Sahel Alliance has 13 full members*



THE COMMITMENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SAHEL ALLIANCE

- To uphold the founding principles and priority areas of the Alliance set out in July 2017.
- To ensure that their actions are complementary to and synergistic with the priorities of the G5 Sahel, both in the reinforced dialogue with the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel and the authorities of the G5 countries, and in the implementation of projects on the ground.
- To integrate into the portfolio of designated programs and projects in the 6 priority sectors and the 4 cross-cutting themes of the Sahel Alliance. Members are engaged in a collective exercise of mutual accountability and aid effectiveness, and regularly participate in reporting results and collecting data.
- To promote synergies between partners through co-financing and joint funding facilities.

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MEMBER ACTIONS ARE GUIDED BY FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES



Targeting

actions according to 6 priority sectors.



Mutual accountability

between partners on shared objectives.



New modes of action

that are more innovative and flexible.



Fragile & vulnerable areas

are the subject of a special commitment.

* on 31/10/2020

THE SAHEL ALLIANCE HAS 11 OBSERVER MEMBERS*



Observer members participate in decision-making meetings of the Sahel Alliance as well as in the work and activities of sectoral and thematic groups, including in the field in the G5 countries. However, they do not integrate their development projects into the portfolio designated and monitored by the Alliance.

Strengthened relations and dialogue with the G5 Sahel within the framework of the security-peace-development nexus

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Having been consulted regularly throughout the construction of the conceptual framework of the Sahel Alliance starting in 2017, the five countries and the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel have continuously shared their common priorities and concerns. While the G5 Sahel and the Sahel Alliance share development goals, their functioning and prerogatives tend to be more complementary than juxtaposed.

Alliance Sahel & G5 Sahel sign a partnership protocol in Niamey to strengthen joint efforts in response to the multidimensional crisis.

06/12/2018

The Sahel Alliance General Assembly held in Nouakchott parallel to the G5 Sahel Heads of State Summit.

30/10/2018

The G5 Priority Investment Plan (PIP) Donors' Conference in Nouakchott underscored the relevance of the partnership. SA members contribute € 1.3 billion to the PIP, including € 266 million for the Emergency Development Programme (EDP).

25/02/2020

* on 31/10/2020

Starting 2018, the Sahel Alliance has encouraged a specific dialogue with each G5 country in the development field. This reinforced framework for AS - G5 dialogue primarily supports an increased effort towards operational coordination, the identification of priority localities and intervention areas, the search for co-financing, the establishment of new financial instruments, the adaptation of intervention modes and procedures, support for public policy reforms, etc.

The first General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance, held on February 25, 2020 in Nouakchott, alongside the G5 Heads of State Summit, declared: «Establish a dialogue on public policy reforms in a spirit of mutual accountability. In order to ensure the coherence, complementarity

and effectiveness of the framework for dialogue, the members and observers of the Alliance work closely with the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel. They work together to support the priorities identified by the roadmap of the current presidency. In this sense, accelerating the identification of priority areas where the intervention principles of the G5 Sahel's Integrated Priority Action Framework (IPAF) and its Emergency Plan can be implemented is essential in order to strive for tangible results». The Operational Steering Committee of the Sahel Alliance of June 24, 2020, in which the Executive Secretary of the G5 and the current presidency of the G5 Sahel took part, aimed in particular to facilitate the prioritisation of actions in fragile

areas, mainly through the integrated territorial approach (approche territoriale intégrée or ATI), to promote new financial instruments (facilities, trust fund) and adapted procedures, to establish a reinforced dialogue with the G5 Sahel and to define the ways by which the Sahel Alliance can work with the Coalition for the Sahel and the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S) within the framework of the security-peace-development nexus.

Building a global dynamic in the Sahel together

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The Sahel Alliance is working with the G5 Sahel as co-actors in the fourth pillar (development aid) of the Coalition for the Sahel.

This global initiative was announced at the Pau summit on January 13, 2020, by the heads of state of France, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President

of the European Council and the High Representative of the European Union, the President of the Commission of the African Union and the Secretary General of La Francophonie. The Coalition for the Sahel wants to provide a more collective response to the challenges of the Sahel region, by bringing together the actions led by the G5 Sahel States and their international partners. The objective is to

enable, at the regional level, a coherent action, which encompasses all the levers and actors involved in the Sahel, whether they relate to security, political or development issues. This initiative offers a new framework for international action, through four complementary pillars, each with its own steering mechanism.



Pillars of the Coalition

coalition-sahel.org

1

**FIGHT AGAINST
ARMED TERRORIST
GROUPS**

2

**STRENGTHEN THE
CAPACITIES OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE
STATES OF THE REGION**

3

**SUPPORT THE RETURN
OF THE STATE AND
ADMINISTRATIONS TO
THE TERRITORY**

4

DEVELOPMENT AID

**COORDINATION BY THE G5
SAHEL AND THE SAHEL
ALLIANCE**

FOR A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH

The World Bank Group's commitment to the Sahel will reach US \$ 8.5 billion thanks to resources mobilised through the International Development Association for the 2020-2023 cycle. Increasing by more than 2 billion compared to the previous International Development Association (IDA) cycle, it will be part of the recently adopted Fragility, Conflict, Violence strategy. This ambitious programme will seek, on the one hand, to invest in conflict prevention and resilience, respond to the current security, health, economic and climate crisis and, on the other hand, to initiate the structural reforms and investments needed to enable an economic transformation as well as job creation. The intervention principles on which this programme is based are: Increase resource mobilisation from governments, the World Bank Group, other partners, the private sector and other non-state actors; Focus on a number of limited priorities likely to deliver tangible results for the people by 2023, prepare critical thematic priorities to be developed / pursued / deepened over the next 2 IDA cycles in order to lay the groundwork for key reforms for economic transformation in the medium and long term; Increase our speed of execution for faster and more effective impact. The multi-sectoral and territorial approach, meanwhile, is based on a strong desire to adapt our operational model in order to obtain faster and lasting results, both in areas already affected by violence and in areas still spared but under pressure and subject to risks of extension of conflicts in the short and medium term (prevention

areas). This approach will be structured around the following three focus areas: Better understand the dynamics of conflict, thanks to (i) analytical tools, such as the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and an investment in operational research, and (ii) cooperation with members of the G5 and the Sahel Alliance with a view to frequently updating the list of "fragile areas" (in conflict or prevention); Then, recalibrate the projects under implementation to quickly reorient them towards fragile areas, as part of a multi-donor intervention, in consultation with security actors and humanitarian workers. In a sense, it is a matter of replicating on a larger scale what we have jointly achieved in central Mali in the town of Konna, by reorienting existing projects towards specific needs, in close collaboration with the government and local elected officials, communities, Sahel Alliance partners and national and international security forces. Finally, put in place an instrument for intervention in line with the development of multisectoral emergency projects to invest in conflict prevention and the resilience of vulnerable communities, territories and groups, in order to have a large-scale impact that is rapid and measurable for the populations in fragile areas. This approach will require maximising the use of the flexibilities offered by internal procedures for responsiveness that are adapted to the complexity and volatility of situations. The objective is in fact to implement these operations within the framework of good coordination within the Alliance and with security and humanitarian actors.

SOUKEYNA KANE
DIRECTOR OF WORLD BANK OPERATIONS FOR MALI,
BURKINA FASO, NIGER AND CHAD



An active coordination of the partners in the 5 countries

Local activities and projects in the G5 countries are essential in the coordination work of the Sahel Alliance. A dedicated system has been set up in each of the countries. Local representatives of the Sahel Alliance members have appointed spokespersons amongst them who coordinate the network of Sahel Alliance members and represent it externally. The G5 national focal points (CNC) are key interlocutors in each of the 5 countries. Since 2020, the spokespersons have been assisted by liaison experts from the Sahel Alliance Coordination

Unit, who assist them in monitoring and implementing activities intended to increase project coordination and effectiveness. Development partners work with local and national authorities to develop appropriate intervention strategies in fragile areas, which involve all the relevant stakeholders. The Sahel Alliance Coordination Unit supports the operationalisation process on the ground, particularly in the collection of project-related data and the development of maps.

At the heart of the action: priority intervention areas

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Identifying priority areas for intervention in consultation with the G5 countries is currently a major focus of the Alliance's work.

SEVERAL KEY TOOLS

The **Integrated Framework for Priority Action (IFPA)**, adopted at the G5 Sahel Summit in February 2020, constitutes a reference document for donor programming in fragile cross-border areas. It pleads for concrete, realistic and flexible actions, with rapid and measurable results, as part of the operationalization of the security-stabilization-development nexus. The IFPA endorses in particular the identification of Priority Intervention Areas (PIA), in which the efforts and specific measures to be taken must be concentrated and it entails an Emergency Plan integrating the **Emergency Development Programme (EDP)**.

In line with the principles of action prescribed by IFPA, the members of the Sahel Alliance are also working to effectively implement the **integrated territorial approach (ITA)**. This aims

to coordinate security, humanitarian and development actions to address the root causes of the crisis at the territorial level. Its dual objective is (i) to respond to emergencies and support the resilience of populations and (ii) to invest in prevention in areas at risk. It provides for the adaptation of modes of action according to the contexts and according to a typology of the intervention areas. Lastly, this approach promotes the security of these areas, the return of the State, justice and essential services, and the restoration of the confidence of the populations. Defining priority areas must occur in consensus with the G5 countries, by fully and closely involving the local authorities and the stakeholders working in the field.



Identifying realistic, flexible and measurable actions in the fragile areas

Bringing about genuine change in the Sahel requires a focused long-term engagement that is able to meet the population's most urgent needs at the same time. This is no small task. The different crises that undermine progress in this vast region are deep-rooted and intertwined, requiring a coherent, efficient and coordinated response focused on fragile and priority areas.

Aware of this, the Sahel Alliance's Steering Committee (Comité de Pilotage, COPIL) decided earlier this year to commit to delivering such a response. In order to identify fragile and priority areas, a challenge in itself, different tools have come into play, including the 'Integrated Framework for Priority Action' (IFPA), the World Bank's Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA Sahel) or the Platform for Analysis, Monitoring and Learning (Plateforme d'Analyse, de Suivi et d'Apprentissage au Sahel, PASAS). IFPA stands out for both having received the political support of the G5 Sahel countries and being the result of a close partnership between those countries and the European Union.

In February 2020, the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel at the Nouakchott summit adopted IFPA with a view to identify realistic, flexible and measurable actions in fragile areas and to broaden humanitarian interventions. Its purpose is not to replace the Strategy for Development and

Security (Stratégie pour le développement et la sécurité, SDS) or the Priority Investments Programme (Programme d'investissements prioritaires, PIP), but to supplement them with a programme of quick-impact projects. IFPA provides a list of 'Priority Intervention Areas' (PIA) where concrete, flexible and realistic actions may be undertaken in order to obtain quick and measurable results, within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. In turn, PIAs are addressed by the 'Emergency Development Programme' (EPD), created in July 2018 at the specific request of the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel countries.

Under IFPA, actions follow an integrated approach at the local and regional level, covering four different axes: security, governance and reconciliation, infrastructures and resilience, human development and humanitarian action. These actions are all guided by five principles: ownership, coherence and coordination, subsidiarity, pooling of resources and accountability.

Great challenges lie ahead of the region. We have no doubt that under the political leadership of the Presidency of its General Assembly, the Sahel Alliance can deliver positive change and that assets such as IFPA can succeed and become points of reference for the Sahel.

ANGEL LOSADA

EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SAHEL



Acting on the root causes of vulnerability

The Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel have initiated a constructive collaboration to achieve their common development objectives. In order to formalise and circumscribe the framework of their collaboration, to increase their impact and accelerate the implementation of joint projects, a Partnership Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel and the Alliance Coordination Unit (ACU) on October 30, 2018. The agreement aims to strengthen coordination in the areas of great fragility of the G5 Sahel through a swift implementation on the ground of projects funded by members of the Sahel Alliance, which is likely to highlight the interplay of the partners' various skills. In this context, the UCA supported the preparation of the Emergency Development Programme (EDP) as well as the mobilisation of funds and the monitoring of its implementation. The general objective of the EDP is to act on the root causes of vulnerability and improve the living conditions and social cohesion of populations in fragile cross-border areas of the Sahel.

These areas correspond to the three intervention zones of the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel, the West zone (Mali-Mauritania border), the Centre zone (Mali - Burkina Faso - Niger) and the East zone (Niger - Chad).

It comprises three pillars of intervention:

- Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations;
- Conflict prevention and strengthening of social cohesion.

The EDP implementation report to date shows positive results despite tremendous challenges, particularly as regards the coordination of stakeholders, cumbersome procedures and information sharing. In addition, as part of the implementation of the Priority Investment Program (PIP) according to an integrated territorial approach, the G5 Sahel has developed the Integrated Framework for Priority Action (IFPA). The IFPA is intended to be a programmatic yardstick that emphasizes realistic, integrated, inexpensive actions with swift and visible impact.

A two-year Emergency Plan has been drawn up for its implementation. It includes twenty (20) priority actions for which the financing requirement amounts to approximately fifty million euros (€ 50 million). To this end, the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel has extensive expectations regarding the establishment of a rapid reaction facility for the Sahel led by the BMZ. The collaboration between the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel and the Sahel Alliance will be strengthened based on orientations given during the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance in Nouakchott on February 25, 2020.

- Access to water and sanitation;

MAMAN SIDIKOU
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE G5 SAHEL



Development projects that meet the priorities of the G5 Sahel

The projects supported by members of the Sahel Alliance align with the national development plans of the 5 countries, but also with the frameworks established by the G5 Sahel. Two major initiatives are driving and bringing together a large number of development projects:

The Priority Investment Programme (PIP)

As part of its development mission and to make security actions in the region sustainable, the G5 Sahel developed a Priority Investment Programme (PIP) that consists of 40 regional projects, representing a cost of 2.4 billion euros, in 2014. PIP projects mostly target the border areas of the Sahel and illustrate

the solidarity and cooperation between these countries that have chosen to bring a regional solution to crises. The PIP mainly focus on infrastructure initiatives aimed at creating greater access (roads, bridges, air links, extension of telephone coverage), access to resources (agro-hydraulic projects, electrification) and

governance (inclusion of women, support for justice). It also includes an emergency stabilization programme to be deployed in the most vulnerable regions. The contribution of Sahel Alliance members to the PIP amounts to 1.8 billion euros.

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The Emergency Development Programme (EDP)

In 2018, the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel requested that the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel (SPG5 Sahel) urgently launch quick-impact projects: the Emergency Development Programme (EDP). It targets fragile cross-border regions in the three intervention zones of the Joint Force:

- The Western zone (border between Mauritania and Mali)

- The Centre zone (junction between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger)
- The Eastern zone (border between Niger and Chad)

The objective is to improve the living conditions and the resilience of vulnerable populations, in particular by improving access to water while facilitating social cohesion and conflict resolution as pertains to natural resources.

Through the EDP, which they are funding at the tune of 266 million euros, Alliance members have shown their ability to commit to the implementation of emergency projects in highly fragile border zones. They were thus able to respond to a very specific request from the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel.

Improve access to water in Niger under the EDP

In Niger, less than one in two people have access to drinking water in rural areas. In the North Tillabéry and Western Tahoua region, located along the Malian border, this problem is exacerbated by major security disturbances which Tillabéry and West Tahoua cause repeated displacements of the population and increase their vulnerability. The hydraulic and sanitation component, implemented under the

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme (PROSEHA), is part of the G5 Sahel Emergency Development Programme (EDP). This initiative for access to drinking water represents an amount of EUR 10 million, co-financed by the European Union via the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUR 8 million) and by the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2 million EUR). The project aims to provide better access to water and sanitation to

some 120,000 direct beneficiaries in 5 departments located in the 2 regions of Tillabéry and Tahoua.

RESULTS TARGETED AND BEING ACHIEVED BY THE PROJECT:

120,000

people will be newly supplied with drinking water;

32

hydraulic structures built and/or rehabilitated;

24

pastoral hydraulic works constructed and/or rehabilitated;

217

latrines built in schools, health centres and/or public places.



Support and encourage the private sector in the Sahel

Prosperity and inclusive growth are critical factors in ensuring sustainable development, peace and stability. Improving the living conditions and perspectives of young people in the Sahel region is therefore essential.

Private businesses, which create jobs and meet the specific needs of populations through their range of products and services, play a key role towards achieving that goal. The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a dramatic blow to the already relatively precarious situation of these companies in the Sahel.

In this context, much effort must be expended to support and promote the activity of the private sector. The Sahel is a dynamic region with a young and enterprising population, full of potential: better access to training, skills development and support to entrepreneurship can lead to concrete employment opportunities for young people, giving them confidence in the future. The Sahel is also a large market with considerable potential for improvement, provided that the competitiveness of economic actors

is strengthened, that more industries develop, and that private investment is diversified (thanks to an improvement in the business climate). The Sahel, for example, enjoys significant levels of sunlight that could support a strong industry of clean and sustainable energy generation and become a source of income thanks to export.

Public investment alone is not enough to ensure the sustainable and inclusive growth that the Sahel needs. As committed partners in the region, we must support the efforts of the Sahel countries to improve the investment and business climate, allowing the private sector to thrive, and to participate fully in the socio-economic development of the populations.

For this reason, the EU and the EIB have chosen to launch and co-chair the "private sector" group within the Sahel Alliance in 2019. We are particularly happy to be able to lead these discussions, reflections and potential actions in a common spirit of exchange and coordination, with all the other partners of the Sahel Alliance and in close connection with the Sahelian partners. The general objective of the group is to pay particular attention to the development and support of the private sector in order to enhance its potential and multiply its critical contribution to the stabilisation

and development of the region. To this end, the group lays a particular emphasis on job creation, access to financing, economic inclusion and sustainable growth.

The Sahel Alliance will seek to strengthen the spirit of constructive collaboration, by mutually sharing experiences and knowledge, by aligning objectives between donors in order to maximise the impact of resources and avoid duplication. Alliance members are already actively working to strengthen the business environment, support access to finance, improve infrastructure, and strengthen the capacities and technical skills of SMEs and young entrepreneurs. It is time to jointly capitalise on these efforts.

We are pleased to note the strong commitment of the members of the Sahel Alliance in the group, which has already started working and launched monthly thematic workshops with a first workshop dedicated to access to financing in the Sahel countries, which was a resounding success. We would like to thank them warmly for their participation.

SANDRA KRAMER
DIRECTOR OF EU-AU RELATIONS, WEST
AND EAST AFRICA, EUROPEAN UNION



MARIA SHAW-BARRAGAN
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL PARTNERS DEPARTMENT-
OPERATIONS IN AFRICA, CARIBBEAN, PACIFIC,
ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA





The need for strengthened and innovative partnerships

On behalf of the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, we welcome this 3-year report of the Sahel Alliance. As founding member, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has been actively involved in the Sahel Alliance since inception in 2017 to jointly confront the multidimensional crises and the unique development challenges facing the Sahel region. The Bank is leading the Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security Working Group, co-leading the Climate Mainstreaming Working Group together with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and represented in the various other important working groups. The challenges and opportunities in the G5 Sahel have never been greater. So has the need for strengthened and innovative partnerships along the security-development-humanitarian nexus. The Sahel Alliance is hence a pertinent platform to accelerate concerted delivery and more efficient, effective and agile development interventions in the Sahel region. Only a collective and coordinated approach focused on synergies and complementarity for inclusive and sustainable results on the ground across the G5 Sahel, particularly in the most fragile regions, will support the materialization of a stable and prosperous Sahel. Drivers of fragility, conflict and violence are

complex, multi-dimensional, interlinked, compounding and evolving. Hence, prevention and mitigation measures have to cater this, be context-specific and adapted during implementation in dynamic environments in order to achieve comprehensive and lasting transformation. There are many noteworthy initiatives in this regard. For example, with its partners, the Bank is deploying one of its flagship initiatives, Desert to Power, to help speeding up economic development in the Sahel region through the deployment of solar technologies at scale. The Bank's interventions are also supporting the creation of decent jobs for youth through its Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. In close partnership with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) and other Sahel Alliance partners, the Bank is implementing the Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the West Sahel (P2RS) and the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture (ACSA) flagship of the Feed Africa Strategy, which contribute to reducing poverty and improving food and nutrition security in the Sahel. The Bank is currently preparing the second phase of P2RS in the G5 countries with the ambition to benefit 3,000,000 people during the period 2020-2025. Through innovative approaches and mechanisms as well as strong partnerships, including with the Sahel Commission on Climate Change, the Bank has leveraged scarce resources to support the implementation of key climate resilience programs in the Sahel

region. These include climate risk finance and insurance such as the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Program (ADRFi), the Great Green Wall Initiative, and interventions that contribute to access to high quality, reliable climate and weather information that are so importantly needed in the Sahel. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the poorest and most vulnerable communities especially hard, exacerbating prior pressures. Again, this is where collaboration in the Sahel Alliance and with other partners, including but not limited to UNHCR, IOM, ICRC etc., matters for concerted efforts in COVID-19 response projects, boosting economic empowerment of women in the Sahel as well as other inclusive, capacity and resilience building interventions. All of these are important contributions to improve the quality of life across the Sahel. The momentum is there to unlock the region's great opportunities and potential. The Sahel Alliance has never been more in demand as we collectively support the G5 Sahel governments to rapidly advance inclusive and green socio-economic progress, enhance livelihoods, address climate change and bolster resilience in the G5 Sahel countries. The African Development Bank is fully committed to do its part in this regard. Together, we will continue to strive for a prosperous, stable and resilient Sahel.

MARIE-LAURE AKIN-OLUGBADE
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR WEST AFRICA
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB)



Analysis of results over 3 years. What impacts?



Analysis of implementation of the projects

Each member organisation has the opportunity to include, in Alliance Sahel's project portfolio, development projects that meet the following criteria:

- Implemented in the G5 Sahel countries;
- Relates to one of the six key sectors of the Sahel Alliance;
- Implementation was not completed as of January 1, 2017.

The projects that fall under the portfolio are then designated as "Sahel Alliance".

SA Global Portfolio	880 projects
	Commitment: € 17.1 bn
	Remainder to disburse: € 11.6bn
Sample of projects included in the exercise of collecting and aggregating results	507 projects
	Commitment: € 9.8bn
	Remainder to disburse: € 5bn

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For greater accountability, a harmonised database of projects labelled "Sahel Alliance" has been developed. This tool allows detailed project monitoring with a particular focus on disbursements already effected as well as on disbursement forecasts. Portfolio data is updated annually to monitor and analyse changes in commitment and disbursement rates and allow increased transparency with

G5 Sahel countries, beneficiaries and members of the Alliance. Furthermore, in accordance with the Paris Declaration, the imperatives in terms of mutual accountability entail alignment with the strategies and priorities of partner countries. Increased information sharing and the definition of a common framework make it easier to measure the results obtained.

How was the project monitoring method developed?

The six sector groups were tasked with developing a strategy and defining common objectives by priority sector, as well as indicators. The definition of this results framework, focused on alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, was carried out in four phases:

G5 SAHEL CONSULTATIONS

2018

A consultation process with partner countries was initiated to ensure that the indicators selected by the sector groups are aligned with the monitoring indicators used by Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.

INCLUSIVE PROCESS

2020

In-depth work with G5 Sahel partners was carried out in order to produce target values for the indicators in line with the priorities and development plans of each of the G5 Sahel countries.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

jul. · dec. 2017

Development of a results framework by sector.

2019

The indicators and the various sources of information available have been stabilised and finalised.

The validated results framework contains:

- 25 national impact indicators
- 15 so-called “project” indicators, corresponding to result / product / output indicators.

How were the project results aggregated?

The aim of “project” results aggregation is to group together a set of similar achievements in the field for a number of selected projects. The results aggregation carried out by the Sahel Alliance focused on 15 so-called «project» indicators included in the Sahel Alliance results framework as well as 7 indicators for additional «projects». It was based on the following principles:

- Precisely define the indicators to be aggregated and therefore target the type of achievements taken into account;
- Define a method for collecting and entering data from concrete achievements in the field;

- Define a precise method of dealing with the risks of duplicate counting in order to obtain reliable and not overestimated figures. An innovative method based on the comparison of the precise GPS coordinates of the locations where the projects were implemented thus made it possible to ensure that the achievements reported by different projects could not be similar. Any other

contextual element allowing for the risks of double counting to be excluded were also taken into account: the type of beneficiaries, the sector in which they work, the mention of an institution ...

A sample of 507 projects to be included were defined at the end of the results aggregation for this report.

The imperative of accountability

The need for the stakeholders involved in the development of the Sahel to strive to ensure the maximal effectiveness of their actions is all the greater in these times that are fraught with multifaceted challenges. This imperative requires that these actions be coordinated, but also that it be possible to monitor them in order to analyse them, report to the main stakeholders, and thus optimise their impact.

Crafting a relevant response to Sahelian issues therefore requires quality accountability from all. Everyone is aware of this, but the task remains difficult. The establishment of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel illustrate the willingness of

public stakeholders to combine efforts for improved results. We must welcome these initiatives that allow for a better coordination of the development actions carried out in the field by pooling expertise and project data. However, their success also hinges on a constant, in-depth examination of these actions and their associated flows that only independent

instruments can perform in an objective manner.

This outside perspective, grounded in local expertise, is the very essence of the Sahel Chair that Ferdi created in 2018. Based in Ouagadougou, it is an independent tool and aims to inform the decisions of public and private actors in their action to end the crisis and for the sustainable development of the region. Its work examines the implementation of different plans and policies and their effects, the purpose being to strengthen their impact

their development partners.

The Sahel Chair is of course only one link in the chain, but a link that we seek to make as useful as possible by fighting against the partitioning of actors, in particular through networking experts from various backgrounds (researchers, soldiers, diplomats, civil society actors, etc.).

The partnership established between the Sahel Chair and the Sahel Alliance with a view to collecting and aggregating the

results of projects in the Alliance Sahel portfolio in this way takes on its full meaning. This fundamental exercise of accountability has thus made it possible to develop an innovative method with a view

to aggregating the results of several institutions and highlighting concrete advances in the field. Accountability, a complex exercise that is ever so necessary in the search for efficiency, but also for trust with the populations, is everyone's business, and it is collectively and transparently that the challenges of this region will be overcome.

« *A relevant response to Sahelian issues implies reciprocal and quality accountability* »

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TERTIUS ZONGO
DIRECTOR OF THE SAHEL CHAIR OF THE
FOUNDATION FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH ON
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FERDI)



What changes in the lives of populations?

For all of the 507 projects selected in the monitoring and evaluation exercise, all the concrete achievements of the projects were collected. This made it possible to highlight

648 concrete and tangible achievements in view of the objectives of the Sahel Alliance on the ground realised in the first 3 years of the Sahel Alliance.

Education and youth employment



THE SAHEL IS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST REGIONS IN THE WORLD

The birth rate remains high in the G5 Sahel countries, while life expectancy is increasing. The 50 million or so young people under the age of 30 now represent almost 65% of the total population of these countries. Creating economic opportunities for the populations and above all for the youth is a priority of the Sahel Alliance. This means increased access to education and job opportunities by 2022.



Number of people who have benefited from vocational training and/or skills development initiatives thanks to the support of SA members.

Indicator

Result

419,045

102 «EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT» PROJECTS ARE PART OF THE ALLIANCE’S PORTFOLIO.

64 projects were included in the collection and aggregation of results. Projects in this sector revolve around two major focus areas:

- Promote basic education. The activities consist of school infrastructure works, materials on which teaching is based, training, and incentives to promote schooling;
- Improve the professional integration of young people. The activities mainly focus on strengthening the content and quality of training.
- 1,874 classrooms were built, renovated or rehabilitated in Mali;
- 1,000 Burkinabé students received financial assistance to finance the cost of their studies;
- 50 Chadian schools received 39,153 textbooks and teaching guides.

Some key results achieved by the projects in the field:

- 213,334 Nigerien students attended primary school;



Investing in the employability of young people in Niger

SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS IN THE REGIONS OF AGADEZ AND ZINDER

The beneficiaries of the project are primarily young girls and boys from the regions of Agadez and Zinder, aged 15 to 30, rural and out of school or with little education. The project contributes to improving the living conditions of young people through the development of their professional skills and enhancing their employability.

5,982 young people have already benefited from short-term technical training, allowing them to develop professional skills that help them enter the local economic fabric. As part of the implementation of each training action, a partnership protocol has been established with several workshop supervisors (maîtres d'atelier or MA). The MA makes a commitment to providing paid employment to at least 50% of the young people received on internship. At the end of the training, **3,206** young people were professionally integrated, including **1,268** young people through salaried employment and **1,938** young people through self-employment.

« Before, we were at home. An organisation trained us to be able to work. We learned to drive and repair vehicles. Studying the rules of the road is very useful to us. Before, we didn't have anything to do. Now we have an occupation in our life. My wish is to be hired as a driver by an organisation or to become self-employed. »

IBRAHIM RABIOU, AGE 20

« We are happy with this project. It gave us support and allowed us to become active. We have made a lot of progress. We learned working techniques [hairdressing]. We know how to do everything including braids, weaving, applying false eyelashes and false nails. What I want now is to receive a grant and open my own salon. »

FANNATOU OUMAROU, AGE 28



NIGER



EUROPEAN UNION
- IMPLEMENTED
BY LUXEMBOURG
COOPERATION (LUXDEV)



2016 - 2020



6,900,000 €



YOUTH





Support the Chadian education system for the benefit of students

PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LOCAL MANAGEMENT (PIQBEPL)

This project concerns **50** schools in N'Djaména and Moundou and their outskirts, encompassing **30,000** students. It mobilises several partners and NGOs around the Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion. This initiative promotes good practices in the educational and administrative management of schools in order to improve the quality of basic education and to promote local management in Chad.

The **50** schools benefiting from the project are receiving support through the distribution of equipment and capacity building for educational stakeholders. Sixteen motorcycles were distributed to educational inspectors, more than **5,000** items of school furniture (table-bench, teachers' desks and boards) were manufactured and distributed to schools and around **40,000** textbooks and educational guides are being printed and distributed in the **50** schools. In addition, work has begun on the construction of **123** new classrooms, the rehabilitation of

100 old classrooms and the construction of **221** latrine cabins and **17** water points. In terms of capacity building, among other things, **876** teachers were trained in French, **2** training sessions for school directors were organised and hundreds of members of Parents' Associations (PA) benefited from the training related to the use of associations and accounting management. The project provides support for the decentralisation of the management of the Chadian education system in order to improve the management of resources and the governance of schools in the intervention areas. To this end, a study on the phenomenon of repeating school years was carried out and made available to actors in the education system. Two plans for re-entry and end of school year reports have been produced and are being tested as part of improving the management of educational resources and planning. A pedagogical guide for a positive evaluation of pupils and a guide for managing pupils with academic difficulties have been

developed. A «training of trainers» will accompany the rollout of the guides in the **50** beneficiary schools.



CHAD



FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



2017 - 2020



6,000,000 €



STUDENTS





Agriculture, rural development and food security



TWO OUT OF THREE INHABITANTS MAKE A LIVING FROM AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

With low yields and the loss of more than a third of crops each year, agricultural production in the G5 countries remains fragile. A situation made worse by climate change. It is therefore imperative for the region to develop sustainable agriculture that is resistant to climate change and likely to attract job seekers in order to reduce poverty. It must also succeed in managing the conflicts between farmers and breeders, an important factor in the crisis.

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Indicator	Hectares of land benefiting from sustainable management techniques thanks to the support of SA members	Number of people with improved access to drinking water supply services thanks to support from SA members	Number of producers or breeders with access to advisory services for the sustainability and resilience of their activities	Number of people who received food assistance
Result	1,479,565	514,617	1,134	2,910,286

231 «AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY» PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIANCE'S PORTFOLIO.

157 projects were included in the exercise of collecting and aggregating results. The projects mainly focus on activities aimed at increasing agricultural yields as well as capacity building activities for farmers' organisations and networks. In the livestock sector, the activities consist in providing support (health, food) to livestock or developing certain networks for the marketing of meat. Food security projects develop transfer mechanisms (in cash or in kind), as well as food crisis management and prevention mechanisms.

Some of the key results achieved by the projects in the field:

- **125** associations of Chadian farmers and breeders were trained to promote a rational and sustainable use of agro-pastoral resources by creating job opportunities for the youth;
- **2,224** livestock farmers in the Gao region in Mali have benefited from hydro-agricultural facilities;
- **8,000** Sahelian farmers were linked with consumers through a food system to create opportunities for vulnerable farmers;
- **15,146** animals were supplied and vaccinated in Niger;
- **11,600** producers in Niger received improved seeds for millet, sorghum, cowpeas and tigernuts.

Economic empowerment of women farmers in Mali



WOMEN'S ACCESS TO MEANS OF PRODUCTION FOR AN AGRICULTURE THAT IS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE (AGRIFED)

This UNWOMEN programme facilitates women's access to means of agricultural production by placing the strengthening of women farmers' capacity for resilience at the heart of its interventions. Objective: to empower **25,000** urban and rural women facing socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Advocacy activities are organised with various stakeholders, involving village chiefs, administrative authorities and other leaders and members of the community. Thanks to the financial support of Luxembourg, in April 2019, UN Women was able to launch a simple and adapted platform to strengthen the marketing of agricultural products from rural women. The "Buy From Women" platform is an open-source innovation from UN Women that provides farmers and processors with a mobile and web application allowing them easier access to information, training, funding opportunities and to national and international markets. The platform was also selected from among 700 projects to be represented at the Paris Peace Forum in November 2019.

In addition, with an emphasis on building capacity in sustainable and modern production systems, the programme helped build new skills for **11,385** women farmers in sustainable farming practices.

brings us closer and consolidates our relationships within our community (...) »

ALPHONSINE DEMBELE

« (...) I have been doing market gardening for over 20 years. We only knew about growing shallots according to our traditional practices. I had no knowledge of market gardening techniques. Thanks to the AgriFeD programme (...), we have acquired new knowledge, which improves production and increases our income. Better still, the programme has enabled us to diversify our market gardening output with the introduction of the cultivation of potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, etc., which greatly enhance household food security and contribute to reducing child malnutrition, poverty and to strengthening our budgets. Thanks to the project, we now know the real calendar for market gardening activities. In addition, this project

	MALI
	LUXEMBOURG / UNWOMEN
	2016 - 2021
	3,950,000€
	WOMEN / RURAL POPULATIONS



Inclusive development of the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso



PROJECT TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN BURKINA FASO

Bringing together a multitude of stakeholders under the leadership of the Burkina Faso Ministry of Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Development, the PSAE project organises a wide range of activities. Its goal? To improve the living conditions of rural populations in the eastern region by increasing the productivity of agro-pastoral facilities and strengthening food security. By building and upgrading infrastructure and supporting farmer training, the project contributes to increasing the yield of agricultural and livestock production systems. 33 km of rural roads under labour intensive works and **42** km of conventional roads have been built, opening up access to remote areas. In addition, **18** lowlands have been developed to support rain-fed agriculture and storehouses for related storage. A side effect of these activities is the increase in the income of the populations and the stimulation of the local economy. In order to provide specific support for the creation of youth employment, **10** tractors and **300** tillers were distributed to cooperatives of young agricultural

entrepreneurs, accompanied by targeted training. Aimed at the eastern region of Burkina Faso - a region caught up in recent years by serious problems of insecurity -, the project encourages the peaceful coexistence of farmers and herders, by facilitating the sustainable management of space and land and by reducing conflicts over the use of resources. All the structures created under the project, such as water points for livestock or vaccination stations, are subject to land regularisation procedures. Thanks to this inclusive approach, and to this concentration of resources on a specifically defined territory, even in a degraded context, the results are tangible. The project is a model of building partnerships to provide comprehensive solutions to the problems encountered by the agricultural sector in this region of the country that is particularly affected by malnutrition.



BURKINA FASO



FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



2016 - 2022



48,000,000 €



YOUTH / RURAL POPULATIONS





Lake Chad Basin: environmental protection and resilience

PROGRAMME TO REHABILITATE AND STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN ('PRESIBALT')

The Lake Chad basin remains a very fragile area that is exposed to various stresses, which have been accentuated by climate change and human factors. The magnitude of the situation therefore calls for a regional intervention approach. The PRESIBALT programme is a regional operation that improves the resilience of vulnerable populations dependent on natural resources in the Lake Chad basin. Interventions target Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic and Chad.

In Chad, the programme is carrying out major development works to improve water availability from the tributaries of the Chari-Logone and Komadougou-Yobé in order to revitalise the flood plains and preserve ecosystems and biodiversity. Thanks to the project, **60** ha of Small Village Irrigated Perimeters (Petits périmètres irrigués villageois or PPIV) and **36** boreholes were also built. Placing the protection and strengthening of the resilience of socio-ecological systems at the heart of the programme, agreements were signed with UNESCO and SOS ELEPHANT to, among

other things, create protected areas in the Chadian part of the basin. The agreements also made it possible to carry out studies on hydro-climatic variability within the Lake Chad basin, to train 10 community teachers in environmental education and to plant a total of **3,000** seedlings.

A honey house centre is also under construction and **250** people from the beneficiary communities have been trained in beekeeping.

The programme is implemented through a modular approach in order to take into account the security context and the extreme urgency to carry out actions to safeguard the environment and economic activities for the populations. This approach makes it possible to adapt the implementation of the programme according to different levels of security and according to local specificities.



CHAD



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB)



2016 - 2021



6,500,000 €



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS DEPENDENT ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN



Access to energy



THE SAHEL HAS ENORMOUS RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL

The electrification rate in all the G5 Sahel countries is around 20%, a rate twice lower than the average for sub-Saharan Africa and four times lower than the world average. The sector remains largely characterised by the absence of competition and a production that is too limited to meet demand. Improving public electricity services therefore requires more efficient management of the sector, in order to reduce losses, improve the financial health of the operators, encourage private sector investment and ensure that populations have access to reliable, clean and affordable electricity. Innovation is the other key factor in the development of the electricity sector. Innovative solutions must be found to lower the cost of new energies, improve network efficiency, increase the competitiveness of the operators and devices, and digitise infrastructures and decentralised services.

33

Indicator	Number of people who received electrical access or improved electrical access thanks to the support of SA members	Number of households with access to off-grid electricity services	Installed renewable capacity (MW)	Additional transfer capacity between Alliance countries (MW)
Result	554,233	146,302	54	Not reported

81 «ENERGY ACCESS» PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIANCE'S PORTFOLIO.

35 projects were included in the collection and aggregation of results. The energy access projects consist of activities aimed at increasing: energy production; people's access to electricity and capacity building in the management of public electricity companies.

Some key results achieved by the projects in the field:

- **17,548** solar lanterns were distributed to rural areas in Mali to expand access to energy services;
- **35,458** Nigeriens had improved access to electricity;
- **14,718** domestic biogas installations were supplied in Burkina Faso.



Decentralisation and basic services

SUPPORTING THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE MOST ISOLATED REGIONS

The availability and quality of basic public services are generally low in the G5 Sahel countries. The region has a high rate of infant mortality and access to drinking water, primary health care or social protection remains very limited. Providing these services would not only accelerate the development of the region, but also restore or increase citizens' confidence in public institutions and their legitimacy. The decentralisation and deconcentration of public services would make it possible to better ensure the provision of these services and to bring elected officials and administrations closer to their citizens, thanks to the transfer of competences and of related resources to the level of local communities and territories.



34

Indicator	Number of people who have benefited from improved access to safe drinking water supply services thanks to the support of SA members	Number of people with improved access to sanitation services	Number of children vaccinated	Number of women of childbearing age using a family planning method	Number of medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres, etc.) that have benefited from the support of SA members
Result	5,363,385	1,595,320	3,397,996	661,211	520

252 «DECENTRALISATION AND BASIC SERVICES» PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIANCE'S PORTFOLIO.

144 projects were included in the collection and aggregation of results. The projects in the field of decentralisation and basic services cover several sectors - water, sanitation, health, economic activity. In the field of drinking water, activities mainly relate to infrastructure. For sanitation, these are works or service development activities (waste collection). The health-related activities focus on targeted actions (vaccination, contraception), the creation of infrastructure and training of health personnel.

Some key results achieved by the projects in the field:

- **1,609** Mauritanian decentralisation actors (mayors, municipal councillors, municipal administrators) were trained in methods of efficient management of communities in Mauritania;
- **31,500** Malian women benefited from births assisted by qualified personnel;
- **2,523** latrines were built in Chad;
- **20,000** water storage facilities were built in Mali;
- **127,500** Nigerians benefited improved access to administrative services.

Local solutions for a sustainable management of migration



PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATORY FLOWS ('PROGEM')

The capacities of local authorities located on the main migratory routes in Niger need to be strengthened. Indeed, the socio-economic impacts of migration and forced displacement must be better managed and improved access to basic services is essential for host communities and migrants. With the support of the ProGEM programme, **18** municipalities and **3** regions have set up local observatories, bringing together mayors, the main municipal and regional elected officials, local technical agents as well as representatives of civil society. As an internal advisory tool, they help municipalities and regions systematically collect information and analyse the effects of migration. On this basis, they propose appropriate development measures benefiting both host communities and migrants. The recognition of the positive and negative impacts of migration has helped depolarise the phenomenon, thus strengthening social cohesion. Through this programme, the local economy was stimulated with the creation of **4,500** temporary jobs and the

construction of **87** social and economic infrastructures. Over **300,000** people have improved access to basic services and economic opportunities, and **70,315** people have participated in conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities. More than **850** municipal officials, elected officials and civil society actors have been trained on several occasions on migration-related topics.

« I sell spaghetti that I prepare at home. Previously the market was small, and there were fewer customers, I used a 50 kg bag of flour to make my pasta every two weeks, and there were often leftovers. Now, things have improved: I use one 50 kg bag every week to generate the same amount of sales. »

HOUWEIKA KOURNI, TRADER

	NIGER
	EUROPEAN UNION / GERMANY
	2016 - 2021
	38,500,000 €
	HOST COMMUNITIES / MIGRANTS / RETURNEES



Local participatory governance at the heart of development



PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND PEACEFUL COHABITATION IN CHAD ('PRCPT')

Many positive dynamics can be observed when the participatory planning approach is taken. Thanks to financial and technical support, the local governance structures see their responsibility reinforced in terms of inclusive development planning, as well as the preparation and updating of Local and Communal Development Plans. The programme has helped ensure a significant participation of women and youth in this planning process, and provided support to a total of **70** local, communal and cantonal administrative structures, 86% of which are functional.

The objective of this initiative? To reduce cross-border destabilising factors in order to improve the living conditions of populations in the intervention areas, strengthen their resilience capacities and increase economic opportunities. The programme supports the implementation of development actions identified and prioritised in the Local and Communal Development Plans, taking into account the real needs of the populations and the interests of vulnerable groups.

200 social infrastructures have been built or rehabilitated and **256,160** people have improved access to basic social services. A total of **18,027** people were supported in developing income-generating economic activities and **6,994** jobs were created with the support of the programme.

« The PRCPT project selected us to benefit from agricultural inputs in November 2017. All this support has helped change the general economic situation of the group and particularly to the improvement of my living conditions. Our yields have actually increased thanks to the efficiency of the implementation of biopesticides as advised by the PRCPT facilitator. (...) There is nothing more important than the technical, institutional guidance that we receive from GIZ/PRCPT through its staff members who are with us in the field on a daily basis. It's not money that we want, but innovative ideas to help us increase our income. »

A. HASSAN,
MEMBER OF THE MANZOULA GROUP



CHAD



EUROPEAN UNION /
GERMANY



2016 - 2022



28,550,000 €



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
/ YOUTH / WOMEN





An inclusive social protection system in Mauritania

SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET SYSTEM IN MAURITANIA

This project supports the establishment of the main pillars of the national social protection system in Mauritania, the provision of cash transfers to targeted poor households. More specifically, it provides support to the Mauritanian government in the deployment of the Social Register, the TEKAVOUL social transfer programme, and the shock-responsive social safety net programme, ELMAOUNA. The Social Register is a tool for identifying the poorest households in Mauritania, currently numbering around **175,000** registered households. This tool helps target social interventions more effectively. For example, the Social Register has made it possible to reach the most remote populations of the country as part of the response to the COVID-19 health emergency.

About **43,000** households (**260,000** individuals) facing extreme poverty have benefited from cash transfers under the TEKAVOUL programme. In total, **94.5%** of the beneficiaries of this project participated in social promotion activities,

which cover important issues such as hygiene, nutrition and child protection. The project provided a framework for reflection towards the establishment of the ELMAOUNA programme, a permanent mechanism for prevention, early warning and response to food and nutritional insecurity shocks. This system makes it possible to better anticipate crises and avoid emergency responses. In 2019, **3,800** households benefited from cash transfers during the lean season (June to September 2019) using social protection tools (Social Register, TEKAVOUL payment platform).

Female leadership was encouraged through a pilot programme to promote female entrepreneurship. Thus, more than **2,000** women were able to receive technical support (training) or financial support. A second part of the "Social safety nets" project will be implemented from 2020 to 2025.



MAURITANIA



WORLD BANK



2015 - 2020



25,000,000 €



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



An innovative approach rooted in the community in Niger



NIGER POPULATION AND HEALTH SUPPORT PROJECT

A community-centred initiative that stimulates the supply and demand for quality reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health services, as well as nutritional counselling in five vulnerable regions of Niger. The goal? To lower maternal and infant mortality rates and improve family planning for child development, women's empowerment and poverty reduction.

Since its inception, the project has increased the number of pregnant women who turn to skilled health professionals and tripled the number of women aged 15 to 49 who use modern contraception. In addition, **10%** more infants were vaccinated against measles and the number of newborns whose growth chart is monitored and who benefit from nutritional counselling has increased from **1,300** in 2014 to more than **360,000** in 2018.

The project's success is based on Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs), an innovative problem-solving approach that promotes

« I used to give birth at home. If there was a problem, there was no one to help me. Since the project started, I prefer to give birth at the clinic, because I know that if I need assistance, I will be taken care of. »

ALIMATOU IDRISSE

reflection, experiments and original modes of collaboration, anchored in the community. Each RRI focuses on a single, concrete goal, and brings together various stakeholders, such as local and religious authorities, health professionals, and community members to complete actions within 100 days. These initiatives take place several times a year in health centres to test new ways to improve the efficiency of health services.

In order to achieve sustainable results, the project supports the education of girls and adolescents by equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to boost their empowerment. These project awareness activities cover **684** villages.

Over the period 2016-2022, **7,700** school-aged girls will benefit from school grants and hygiene kits.



NIGER



WORLD BANK



2015 - 2021



87,000,000 €



WOMEN / GIRLS



Governance



The G5 Sahel countries are faced with a lack of institutional, territorial and financial governance. Citizens are demanding more justice and public institutions that are accountable and attuned to their needs. They also want to participate more in their country's democratic life. Administrative delays, corruption and the poor redistribution of resources have led citizens to harbour little confidence in their institutions and governments. The Sahel Alliance can help, with the support of the states and of civil society, to strengthen the social contract at every territorial level.

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Indicator	Number of magistrates, judges, lawyers and registrars who have received training	Number of civil society organisations (including CSOs, media, opinion leaders) that have received support from SA partners
Result	2,374	1,264

155 «GOVERNANCE» PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIANCE PORTFOLIO.

83 projects were included in the collection and aggregation of results. These projects mainly focus on: the rule of law (justice, children's rights); financial governance (local taxation) and citizen participation.

Some key results achieved by the projects in the field:

- **132** Malian infrastructures have been rehabilitated, including police stations, prisons and professional residences;
- **12** remand centres were rehabilitated in Chad;
- **2,992** Mauritians received administrative assistance under the "Advancement of Human rights and dialogue in Mauritania" programme.

Support the redeployment of services to citizens in the northern and central regions of Mali



PROJECT TO RESTORE STATE AUTHORITY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN MALI

This initiative supports the return of the essential functions of the Malian state to the northern and central regions through support for the redeployment of administrative services, magistrates and security forces. **146** buildings of state structures, such as the Territorial Administration, Local Authorities and judicial services, have been rehabilitated and equipped. The quality of the rehabilitated or built infrastructure has been a distinctive factor in the reaffirmed presence of the State thanks to qualified technical staff and regular and close monitoring of rehabilitation and construction works. By favouring paid high labour intensive work, the project has also fostered the conditions necessary for the revitalisation of the local economy.

185 civil servants of the State services, including **34** women, were trained. The project also contributed to improving the working conditions of agents through the provision of **200** kits of IT and office automation equipment, as well as basic standard documents and texts.

In addition, in order to restore confidence between public services and citizens by ensuring them a minimum of subsistence income-generating activities, more than **4,000** temporary jobs have been created by 15 local businesses and **9** micro-projects have been carried out for the benefit of **447** households, including **333** female heads of household. Almost **90%** of the direct and indirect beneficiaries reported that they were satisfied with the various achievements of the project.

« Our building was very small, it could not cover all the needs of our services. We have benefited from an expansion and a conference room, as well as many resources that did not exist before (...) We are very satisfied and we are now operating in conditions which allow us to work better today. »

DEMBA KONTA,
2ND DEPUTY MAYOR OF YOUWAROU COMMUNE

	MALI
	NORWAY / NETHERLANDS / MINUSMA / UNDP
	2014 - 2020
	11,500,000 €
	STATE AGENTS



Facilitate the structural transformation of the Burkinabè economy



SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) IN BURKINA FASO

To support decentralisation and the transformation of the economy in Burkina Faso, the efficiency and accessibility of the available range of electronic communication services must be improved throughout the territory of Burkina Faso. With the support of this project, the organisational capacities of the National Agency for the Promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ANPTIC) in the management of its human resources, administrative and operational procedures have been strengthened. Two technical manuals were developed and a strategic vision document was reinforced. The project supports ANPTIC in its mission to implement the Burkinabe government's information and communication technology (ICT) development programmes. **400** administrative buildings have been connected to the computer network, and computer cabling work is currently underway in 707 administrative buildings to interconnect **10,000** users. In total, a

78% coverage rate of the administration in electronic communication services was achieved.

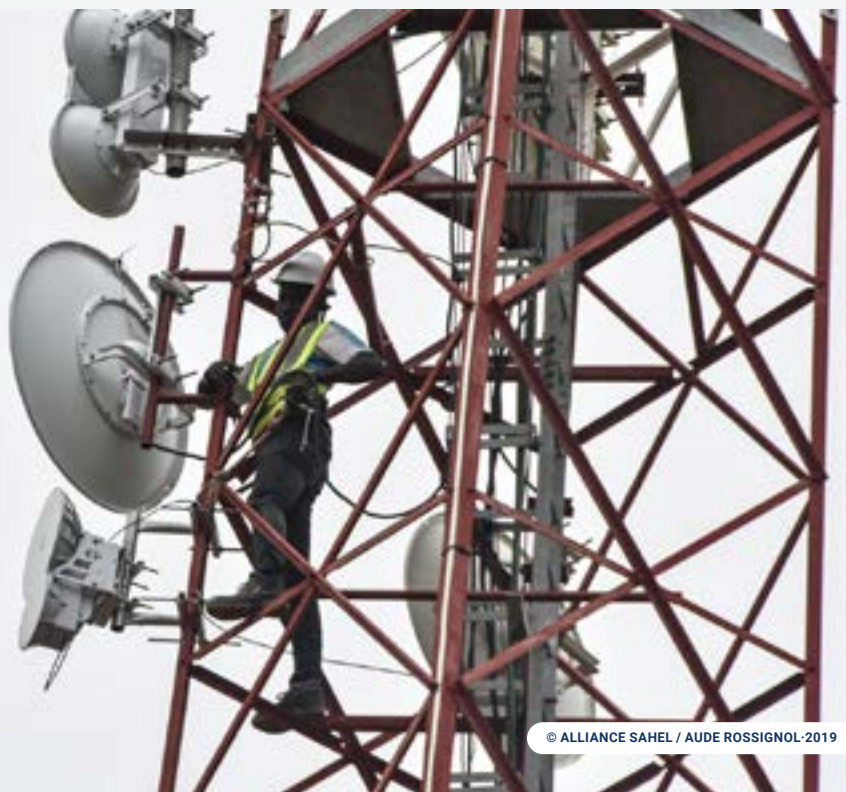
« This system allows us not only to have storage, but also to gain quick access to the data we need to manage the educational system. If the system is interconnected with the school administrations, we could for example connect to the Sahel Regional Directorate and quickly update the information if a school that was functioning encounters a problem, and take action accordingly. This allows us to react quickly. »

F. SAWADO, GO,
DG OF STUDIES AND SECTORAL
STATISTICS OF THE MINISTRY
OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

In order to improve access to Burkina Faso, the project also aims to develop the existing telecommunications network, the National Computer Network of the Administration (RESINA +), by satellite technology, and aims to make

it accessible throughout the territory to provide access to Internet to populations who are deprived of it because of their geographic location. For these purposes, five satellite stations have been deployed for the benefit of RESINA + for the extension and strengthening of the bandwidth. In addition, **65** towers were installed to deploy the network.

-  BURKINA FASO
-  LUXEMBOURG
-  2017 - 2020
-  22,300,000 €
-  PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
STAFF / RURAL
POPULATIONS





A community-based approach for the protection of women and girls

FOR A LIFE WITHOUT VIOLENCE AND WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE DIÉMA CERCLE IN MALI

Through the strong involvement of a wide range of actors, such as local, religious, traditional and health authorities, as well as civil society organisations and health departments, the project is anchored in a local network and ensures the sustainability of the actions implemented under the project. The goal? To contribute to the eradication of harmful traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation and early forced marriages, in 7 communes of the Diéma Cercle in the Kayes region of Mali.

7 Committees for the Defence of Women's Rights (CDDM), in each of the 7 municipalities of intervention, have been created. The committees carry out advocacy and mediation actions between the population and the local authorities in order to resolve conflicts related to forced marriages, the education of girls, the minimum age for marriage, civil documentation of

marriages, etc. Broad awareness among the population of the Diéma Cercle was achieved through awareness-raising campaigns carried out among **17,604** people and public institutions (mayors, school directors, health personnel) and traditional actors (imams, "village chief", marriage counsellors, community workers). Support was provided to enable local and community leaders to take charge of awareness-raising activities in their communities.

The project directly supports the implementation of the Malian State's National Programme to Combat the Practice of Excision (PNLE) by promoting it to public institutions in the intervention area. The project also contributed to the signing of two declarations in favour of the abandonment of the practice of excision and the signing of three declarations against early marriage in communes of the Diéma Cercle.



MALI



AECID (SPAIN)



2017-2019



273,051 €



WOMEN / GIRLS



Domestic security



The multiplication of cross-border threats in the Sahel region (terrorism, trafficking, organised crime) is putting pressure on the internal security forces, as they lack human, financial and material resources and find it difficult to define clear common priorities. The Sahel Alliance works in particular on the justice and rule of law aspect, which is at the heart of the development-security nexus, in order to establish a relationship of trust between the ISFs and citizens, while strengthening their capacities.

43

Indicator	Number of members of the internal security forces (police, gendarmerie and nomadic guard when there is one) who have benefited from training aimed at strengthening operational, judicial and administrative capacities.
Result	677

51 «DOMESTIC SECURITY» PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIANCE'S PORTFOLIO.

22 projects were included in the collection and aggregation of results. The projects in the field of internal security focus on training and capacity building activities for the structures in charge of security and police matters.

- **859** members of Chadian government institutions were trained in security and border management, conflict prevention and the protection of civilians;
- **106** actors from Niger's government institutions were trained in the field of border management and security;
- **263** members of Burkinabé local communities including teachers, health workers, farmers and veterinarians saw their capacities strengthened in order to improve the quality of their services.

Fight against gender-based violence



CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE MAURITANIAN POLICE IN ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Since its start in 2017, the project has worked in close partnership with the Mauritanian police in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Since 2020, the intervention has been extended to also cover Rosso, Sélibabi, Aioun, Kiffa and Aleg. The project intervenes at the level of the Mauritanian police, in particular the brigade for the protection of minors, to carry out awareness-raising activities on sexual violence and to improve and strengthen procedures for handling GBV cases.

Thanks to the project, a manual of procedures for handling GBV cases in accordance with international and national standards, comprising procedures for support, referrals and data management, was created and made available to the police. These tools have helped to improve police officers' capacities to provide an adequate response to victims and to sensitise police officers to the phenomenon of GBV and especially sexual violence. It also contributed to improving institutional collaboration with health services for the medical care of victims. The new

intervention areas benefit from the tools developed during the first phase of the project and from knowledge sharing by the police services of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. In addition, coordination and information sharing between regions (wilayas) receive specific support. The Spanish police unit specialising in violence against women directly supports the project by sharing knowledge and experiences with the Mauritanian police. This particularly pertains to the collection and analysis of data on GBV cases with a view to make optimal use of them for more adequate protection. In order to strengthen the prevention of GBV, the project supported the police in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou in the development of a GBV-related prevention plan with the participation of key stakeholders for the protection of rights (local authorities, civil society, staff of justice and police). This plan, which will be revised to be aligned with the new intervention areas, enables a public condemnation of violence and an increase in awareness on GBV. The action also contributes to

improving the public image of the police as agents of protection working on behalf of the populations. The creation of a press office specialising in the media's treatment of GBV within the police will further reinforce social de-stigmatisation.

	MAURITANIA
	AECID
	2017-2021
	PHASE 1 : 95,000 € PHASE 2 : 211,573.68 €
	WOMEN / GIRLS / BOYS



Gender



By adopting the Sahel Alliance Gender Roadmap in 2019, the members make a commitment to strengthen the dialogue with their partners on this cross-cutting subject, in order to better take into account gender concerns and issues. They also pledged to set up projects and programmes dedicated to gender and to advocate at the political level for better consideration of the rights of women and girls. The commitment of SA members and observers also relies on the G5 Sahel partners, at the level of the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat, and through the G5 women's platform, as well as through initiatives carried out locally at the level of each of the G5 Sahel countries. The Sahel Alliance, through its multisectoral support and its principles of intervention, is committed to supporting the countries and the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat in their efforts to adopt a favourable institutional and legal framework and proactive public policies in terms of promotion of gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and girls in order to speed up implementation to increase the results for the most vulnerable populations.

THIS COMMITMENT IS REFLECTED IN CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD:

- **26,540** Sahelian adolescent girls and women have benefited from interventions for economic empowerment (vocational training, credit, subsidy of productive assets);
- **906,166** Malian adolescents were informed about reproductive and sexual planning and health services;
- **52** Chadian community liaisons were trained in health and reproduction.





Investing in a better future for girls

PROJECT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND IN THE SAHEL (SWEDD)

The goal of the project? To improve the empowerment of women and girls and their access to quality reproductive, child and maternal health services to help accelerate the demographic transition and reduce gender inequalities in the Sahel.

One of the priorities of the SWEDD project is to invest in education and vocational training for girls and women. Since the launch of the project, more than **100,000** girls in precarious situations have benefited from project support in the form of school kits, scholarships, accommodation or educational support. In addition, a total of **98,074** women received vocational training.

In order to promote a change in social norms in favour of the empowerment of women and girls in the Sahel, advocacy activities are being implemented at several levels, mobilising all actors in society: religious leaders, health workers, political leader, legislators and husbands, to end discrimination and violence against women. More than **4 million** people have been sensitised on the issues of early

marriage, reproductive, maternal and child health and violence against women. Special awareness has been achieved through "husband schools" where men meet to discuss and learn about matters affecting household life and family planning so that they can fully contribute to the promotion of the well-being of mother and child. Over **1,640** husband schools have already been established across SWEDD countries.

« I'm happy that I'm not being forced into a marriage I don't want. I don't want to get married now, not until I'm 20. I want to continue my studies and become a midwife. It is important to study to be successful in life. Success means chasing your dreams »

HAWA FALL, AGE 15



BENIN / BURKINA FASO /
TCHAD / IVORY COAST /
MALI / MAURITANIA / NIGER



WORLD BANK



2015-2020



250,000,000 €



WOMEN / ADOLESCENT
GIRLS / GIRLS



Climate change mainstreaming group

The Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, not only because of its biophysical features but also because of its environmental degradation, poverty, food insecurity, rapid population growth, gender inequality, political instability and conflict. Climate change is likely to compound these existing vulnerabilities.

According to the ND-GAIN Index which summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience, all the Sahel countries rank among the 20% most vulnerable and least ready to climate change, and three (Niger, Chad, Mali) are among the most vulnerable and least ready 10%.

All five of the G5 Sahel countries have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change and have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Common priority sectors for climate adaptation and mitigation identified in both the countries' respective economic development plans and NDC include climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, water management and increasing access to energy.

Despite the existence of a wide range of national climate change commitments across the G5 Sahel countries, integration of climate change into sectoral policies, ministries, and local development plans is limited, although varies by country. Technical and financial

capacity to implement climate change policies, plans, and programming is also limited at both the national and local government levels. At the same time, relatively strong regional institutions, transboundary approaches and locally-led action provide capacity for action.

Acknowledging the importance of climate as a cross-cutting issue that needs to be taken into account, the AS formally established a climate working group in July 2019. The main objective of the transversal Climate Group is to promote climate change mainstreaming into sectoral interventions of the Alliance Sahel, with the aim to help ensure vulnerabilities are not exacerbated, to climate-proof their respective efforts and to make sure that their strategies, programs and projects also contribute to the national priorities and commitments to address climate change.

The Climate Mainstreaming Group of the Sahel Alliance is co-chaired by the African Development Bank and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and attended by approximately 18 representatives of bilateral and multilateral members. A joint workplan has been developed. This group already offers a platform for knowledge sharing and outreach and has engaged in a dialogue with the UNFCCC focal points of the relevant countries concerned and the development partners to identify the possibilities for enhancing the implementation of the NDCs while unlocking new opportunity for green growth and stronger resilience.

Conclusion and future prospects





The Sahel Alliance is celebrating its 3-year anniversary. Although still young, this initiative launched by Germany, France and the European Union has been an undeniable success, bringing together, in three years, a large number of aid actors in the Sahel. Strong governance bodies have been put in place, without compromising the agility and flexibility of their origins. Partnerships have been forged with the G5 Sahel, which is fully involved in our decisions and whose concerns must remain the foundation and framework of our interventions. Strong orientations and priorities have been defined and conveyed to the highest political level. The relevance of the initiative is no longer in doubt. But the Alliance must now consolidate its action and demonstrate, in a tangible and visible way for our beneficiaries and for the sake of public opinion, increased effectiveness on the ground. The urgency of the situation, which continues to deteriorate despite increasing amounts of aid, demands it. This increased efficiency requires innovative approaches, novel ways of operating that are adapted to the specificities and constraints of the field, increasingly coordinated and coherent interventions that take into account all the challenges to which they must respond. These new modes of action, and the range of tools that accompany them, are already operational, as the numerous testimonies in this report illustrate. Increasing our effectiveness also means being able to measure the results obtained, to assess the successes and limits of our action. This is the subject of this report, which summarises the considerable work carried out over nearly two years in partnership with the Sahel Chair, whose collaboration I welcome. Work that could always be further improved, of course, but which was intended to be as fair as possible. The scope of the analysis is

limited by the amount and quality of data collected. But it does allow us to draw several lessons, for example that the implementation rates of projects, admittedly variable between sectors and countries, are higher than what is generally believed, that their very concrete impacts are far from being negligible (half a million farmers supported in their activities, access to drinking water for 7% of the inhabitants of the G5 Sahel, more than 1,200 civil society organisations supported, etc.). It also shows that the sectors of decentralisation and basic services on the one hand, and agriculture, rural development and food security on the other, constitute the two main sectors of intervention of our members by volume. This is entirely consistent with the needs of the G5 countries and the realities of this environment, where a majority of the inhabitants live from agriculture and where essential services remain largely insufficient in the peripheral areas. But I would like to make a plea here for us to step up our efforts in the field of education and youth employment. The Sahel countries will not be able to sustainably meet the challenges they face if their youth are not educated, socially integrated and have no prospects for the future. I hope that this report will encourage us to do better and to do more, together with and on behalf of the Sahelian populations. This ambition guides the day-to-day action of the Alliance Coordination Unit, which draws strength from the disciplinary and cultural diversity of the women and men who make it up. I know that I can count on the determination of the presidency of our general assembly and of our operational steering committee, and beyond that, our members, to achieve this.

ADRIEN HAYE
HEAD OF THE SAHEL ALLIANCE COORDINATION UNIT



Closing word

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Three years after its creation, the Sahel Alliance has established itself as the main platform for coordination and consultation on international development cooperation in the region and as a privileged mechanism for dialogue with the G5 Sahel and its Member States. My accession to the presidency of the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance coincided with a serious of the security situation and development conditions in the region against the backdrop of the pandemic, with its direct impact on people's lives. In addition, the prevailing complex political situation creates new uncertainties as regards the stability of the region. Since my election to the presidency of this institution, I have seen the potential of the Sahel Alliance to meet the enormous needs of the region and to maintain a harmonious and structured dialogue with the authorities of these countries. My intention is to elevate the role of the Alliance to that of a leading actor for development. In addition to priorities such as interventions in fragile areas, pandemic response, food

security, resilience and climate change, there are a number of issues related to governance, human rights and the promotion of equality and women's rights to be taken into account in defining our action in the Sahel. My country holds the presidency of the General Assembly as a token of its commitment to the region, which is a top priority for Spain. Our involvement in this nearby region is anything but new: for years, we have been deploying considerable resources and efforts to support the countries that form part of it in their development, peace and stability processes. In the difficult economic situation that prevails today, Spain has renewed and strengthened its commitment on all fronts: politics, development and security. At the political level, this commitment is reflected in intense collaboration and political dialogue at the highest level with the G5 Sahel and its member states, as well as an increased diplomatic presence. In the area of security, let us point out our participation in the EU's CSDP missions, our logistical support to Operation Barkhane, MINUSMA and the G5

Sahel Joint Force, as well as our leadership in the initiative in favour of regional stability GAR-SI Sahel, led by the EU. In the area of development, Spanish cooperation is based on an integrated approach to development, promoting resilience, access to basic social services, economic development and institutional reinforcement, with the promotion of gender equality being at the heart of our priorities. Our participation in the Alliance is a testament to our strong will to contribute to the common goal of supporting the achievement of the development goals of countries in the region. The Sahel Alliance is a large family that now has 13 members and 11 observers, and works hand in hand with the G5 and its member states. I am grateful for all the efforts expended to make this very close collaboration possible, and I am convinced that only coordinated work and the involvement and ownership on the part of the G5 Sahel countries will allow us to provide an appropriate response to the challenges that lie ahead.

MS. ARANCHA GONZÁLES LAYA
SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EUROPEAN
UNION AND COOPERATION - PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SAHEL ALLIANCE



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