

3rd General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance

*4th April 2022, Madrid*

**Appendix – Note on the Emergency Development Programme and its contribution to the Civil Surge**

In 2018, in order to stabilise areas facing complex security challenges and high economic, social and climatic vulnerabilities, the G5 Sahel member countries asked the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat (SEG5) to design an Emergency Development Programme (PDU) **targeting the fragile border regions of the Joint Force's three intervention zones**, which constitute the epicentre of the Sahelian crisis.

The Sahel Alliance members mobilised in December 2018 to implement this programme: they financed, to the tune of €266 million, **22 "quick impact" projects** aimed at improving the living conditions of populations through better access to water and sanitation (Pillar 1); at strengthening the livelihoods of agricultural and pastoralist populations, by building resilience to food and nutritional insecurity in a sustainable and structural way (Pillar 2); and at supporting local communities and institutions in conflict prevention and in strengthening social cohesion (Pillar 3).

Recognising the relevance of this programme and the results achieved, Alliance members have increased their initial financial commitments with additional funding for existing or new projects. **The amounts mobilised now stands at 514 million euros, an increase of 93% over the initial budget.**

Three years into its implementation, the Sahel Alliance members note that the **PDU is an appropriate and effective tool to help meet the basic needs of populations in crisis situations and strengthen social cohesion among the communities.** Today, 22 national and 9 multi-country projects are being implemented. 5 projects have already been completed. **207 million euros** have been disbursed, demonstrating a higher implementation capacity (40%) than is usually the case for funded projects in the G5 Sahel countries.

**These projects significantly contribute to the objectives of the "civil surge":** delivery of essential services, strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations, restoration or consolidation of social cohesion. Aiming for rapid and tangible results, they focus their support on basic services to help beneficiaries stay in their territories by meeting their basic needs.

Pillar 1 projects target the overarching objective of **expanding access to water and sanitation.** They have already enabled **1 080 000 people** to have improved access to drinking water and **400 000 beneficiaries** to use better sanitation services.

Programmes under Pillar 2 provide multi-sectoral support to help people **preserve and strengthen their livelihoods.** To cope with the most extreme situations, the PDU projects have made it possible to provide food assistance to **125 000 beneficiaries.** They also develop income-generating activities, strengthen the fabric of small and medium-sized enterprises in

the territories and rehabilitate agricultural land and pastoral activities. They have thus enabled **194 000 people** to maintain and develop their livelihoods and incomes in their local areas.

The actions undertaken under Pillar 3 aim to **strengthen or even rebuild trust between the various communities but also amongst civil populations, the authorities and public institutions**. They create spaces for dialogue, conflict management committees, communication and awareness-raising tools (community radio, peace caravans) and place young people and women at the heart of the mediation and conflict prevention processes. The PDU has thus supported the creation of **1 572 structures** contributing to conflict prevention and social cohesion and has made it possible to raise awareness among **414 000 people** in the five Sahelian countries.

In the implementation of the PDU, **particular attention is paid to support to local authorities and devolved state services**, to enable them to better fulfil their role as service providers for the benefit of the populations and contribute to their revaluation in the eyes of the beneficiaries. PDU projects thus contribute to the functioning and capacity building of the municipalities, to the project management of local authorities and to the development of strategies for the mobilisation of municipal resources. They support local authorities in improving their accountability towards their constituents and in promoting inclusive and participatory governance.

Several PDU projects have been co-financed or parallel-financed by members of the Sahel Alliance, in a partnership approach that **reflects the strengthened operational coordination between donors and illustrates the benefits** (the reconstruction and economic recovery projects in Konna, Mali, and the projects of support for social safety nets in Mauritania are emblematic examples). Three of them are part of a **regional approach, at the G5 Sahel level, in order to address common challenges while also contributing to the strengthening of sub-regional integration**.

Lastly, a "**multi-stakeholder**" implementation (States, local authorities, NGOs, etc.) has been prioritised in order to best adapt to the intervention contexts of particularly fragile areas. **This implementation was characterised by a high degree of flexibility**, with adjustments (in content or geographical targeting) undertaken to reflect the difficulties encountered or the evolution of intervention situations, as well as streamlined procedures and operating methods.

#### **In light of these observations, the Sahel Alliance members:**

- Welcome the Sahel Alliance's increased involvement in the implementation of the G5 Sahel Emergency Development Programme, the results of which contribute significantly to the objectives of the civil surge. This demonstrates the continuity of the members' support to the Sahelian populations despite the deterioration of the intervention contexts.
- Recommend that an evaluation and capitalisation study be conducted on the implementation of the PDU, to disseminate the lessons and good practices that can be drawn from it in terms of anchoring development actions and intervention modalities in the most fragile Sahelian areas.

- Commit to continue their support for “civilian surge” in particular in fragile and prevention areas according to an integrated territorial approach. They call on the G5 states to strengthen the steering of public services redeployment in these areas and to coordinate the action of Alliance members.
- Encourage the use of the PDU’s results in a joint communication between the G5 Sahel and the Sahel Alliance.