



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# Sahel Programme

## Gender Initiatives



**SAHEL**





# OBJECTIVE

Improve the effectiveness of security operations and judicial proceedings for terrorism and transnational organized crime (TOC) in the Sahel through increased gender considerations within the criminal chain.

# APPROACH

## CONTEXTUALLY APPROPRIATE

Taking into account cultural values and norms.

## SYSTEMATIC

All links in the criminal justice chain (police, gendarmerie, judges/prosecutors/clerks, prison authorities, social services).

## INCLUSIVE

With civil society actors.

## INTEGRATED

At all levels: tactical, operational and strategic.

## SUSTAINABLE

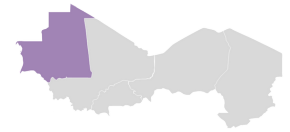
At all stages: prevention, repression, retribution, rehabilitation, reintegration.

**30** ACTIVITIES

**5** COUNTRIES

**1.4** MILLION \$





# MOURCHIDATES NETWORK

## *Female religious leaders on alternative discourses to violence*

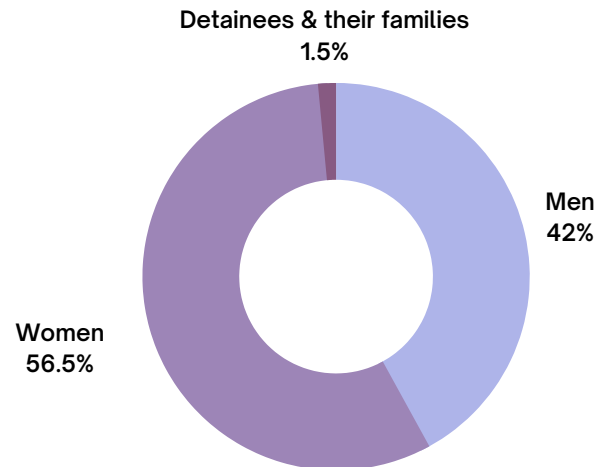
UNODC, in partnership with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Original Education (MAIEO), the National Cell for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (CellRad) and the Association of Female Heads of Households (AFCH), has set up a network of 50 *Mourchidates* - female religious and community leaders in charge of sensitizing the population on violent radical discourse and preventing violent extremism.

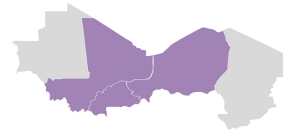
**50**

AWARENESS  
RAISING  
ACTIVITIES

**7557**

PEOPLE  
SENSITIZED





# #WhyNotMe Campaign

## Socio-behavior change campaign on women in security & justice

Based on the concept of edutainment, the #WhyNotMe campaign encourages girls and women to pursue their vocation in the defense, security and justice sectors. Through the use of humor, it invites people to deconstruct gender stereotypes and to rethink perceptions of the security and justice sectors as exclusively male.

It specifically addresses the phenomenon of women self-censorship by answering #WhyNotMe and highlights the key role played by the environment of girls and women in encouraging or discouraging their professional vocation. [Humorous TV](#) and radio spots as well as billboards will be widely broadcasted on the national territories in order to accompany the recruitment actions of female staff. *Read more about the campaign [here](#).*

Political commitment to bring about **inclusive and sustainable** structural reforms.



**Increasing the rate of women** in these sectors at all levels of decision-making and responsibility.



**Diversified security and justice services** that are representative of the population and capable of establishing constructive relationships with them.





# G5 Sahel Gender Award

*Promoting gender champions in the security and justice sectors*

UNODC Sahel Programme supported the G5 Sahel in the organization of the first edition of the G5 Sahel Gender Award, in collaboration with UNOWAS, UN WOMEN, UNHCHR, UNV and UNFPA. The Award recognizes the role model of Gender Champions in the security and justice sectors for their contribution to the integration of women and gender mainstreaming in the Sahel.

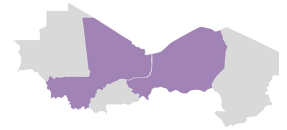
Through a participatory approach, national and regional authorities in the Sahel selected the Sahelian Gender Champions, who were announced on 19 December 2022, the anniversary date of the creation of the G5 Sahel, by the Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel through a [press release](#).

During the 67th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Sahelian Gender Champions participated in a side-event on innovative approaches for advancing gender equality in Sahel security and justice and shared best practices.



**G5 SAHEL  
GENDER  
AWARD**





# Prévôts of the Sahel

## Building gender-sensitive security services in the Sahel

Prévôts are security officers integrated in a military battalion's operations. Their main missions consist in conducting police and judicial operations (gathering intelligence, securing the crime scene, collecting evidence, hearing suspects, witness, and victims) in military operations zone. As of January 2022, 0 women had been trained or deployed as prévôts in national and regional security forces of Sahel. This negatively affects strategies, operations and ability to understand and respond to the needs of communities where women represent a majority of victims in the region.

**11**  
TRAINERS

5 in Niger  
6 in Mali

Increased sustainable capacity-building to mainstream gender-sensitive operations and awareness of the benefits of gender-diverse teams.

**30**  
FEMALE PRÉVÔTS  
READY TO BE  
DEPLOYED

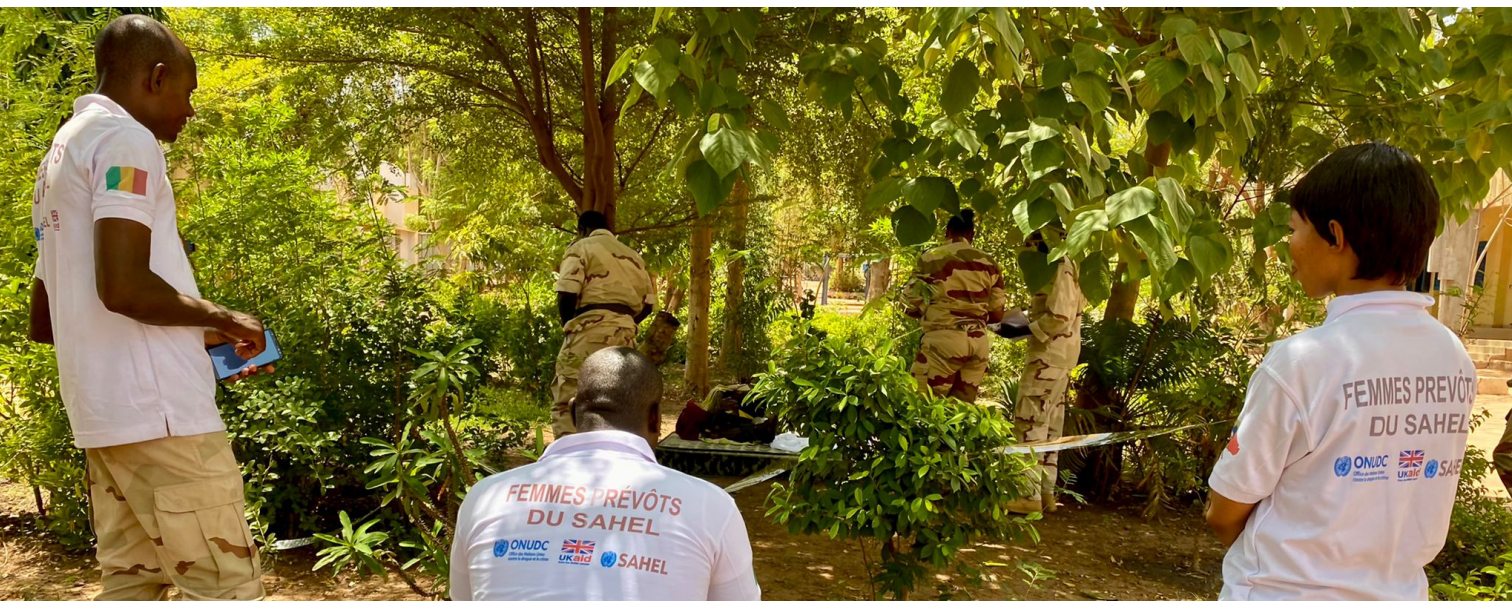
15 in Niger  
15 in Mali

Establishment of 2 nationally-owned pipelines with 15 female provosts per country ready to be deployed as soon as deployment conditions allow it. [Read more for Mali.](#)

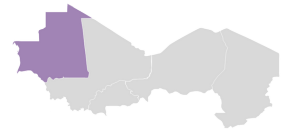
**68**  
GENDARMES AND  
MILITARIES  
SURVEYED

16 in Niger  
52 in Mali

In-depth understanding of obstacles and opportunities to the deployment of female gendarmes as provosts.







# Méharist Units

## *Building gender-sensitive security services in the Sahel*

Méharists are certified Judicial Investigative Officers recruited from nomadic communities in south-east Mauritania. They have played an important role in the fight against terrorism when Mauritania faced a wave of attacks between 2008 and 2011, thanks to their ability to conduct searches in the desert and to engage with populations in remote areas through the use of camel patrols.

Even though Méharistes units are constantly in contact with women and girls belonging to remote communities, whether to provide support, collect intelligence or conduct arrests, these units are exclusively composed of men and have never been trained on gender-sensitive operations and engagement with populations.

Read more about this project [here](#).



## **12** TRAINERS ON PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS & GENDER-SENSITIVE OPERATIONS

### **9** TRAINING MODULES ON GENDER-SENSITIVE MEHARISTE OPERATIONS

- Gender and Méharist Units
- Recognizing GBVs
- Managing GBVs
- Gender-sensitive treatment of victims and witnesses
- Collection & preservation of evidence in the desert
- Gender-sensitive mediation in nomadic communities
- Gender and intelligence
- Management of natural resources
- Role of Méharists in PVE





# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**Regional Office for West and Central Africa**

Almadies Extension - Zone 10, Villa 10 - BP 455

**Dakar, Senegal**

[www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)

