

# THE SAHEL ALLIANCE IN A NUTSHELL



FAQ

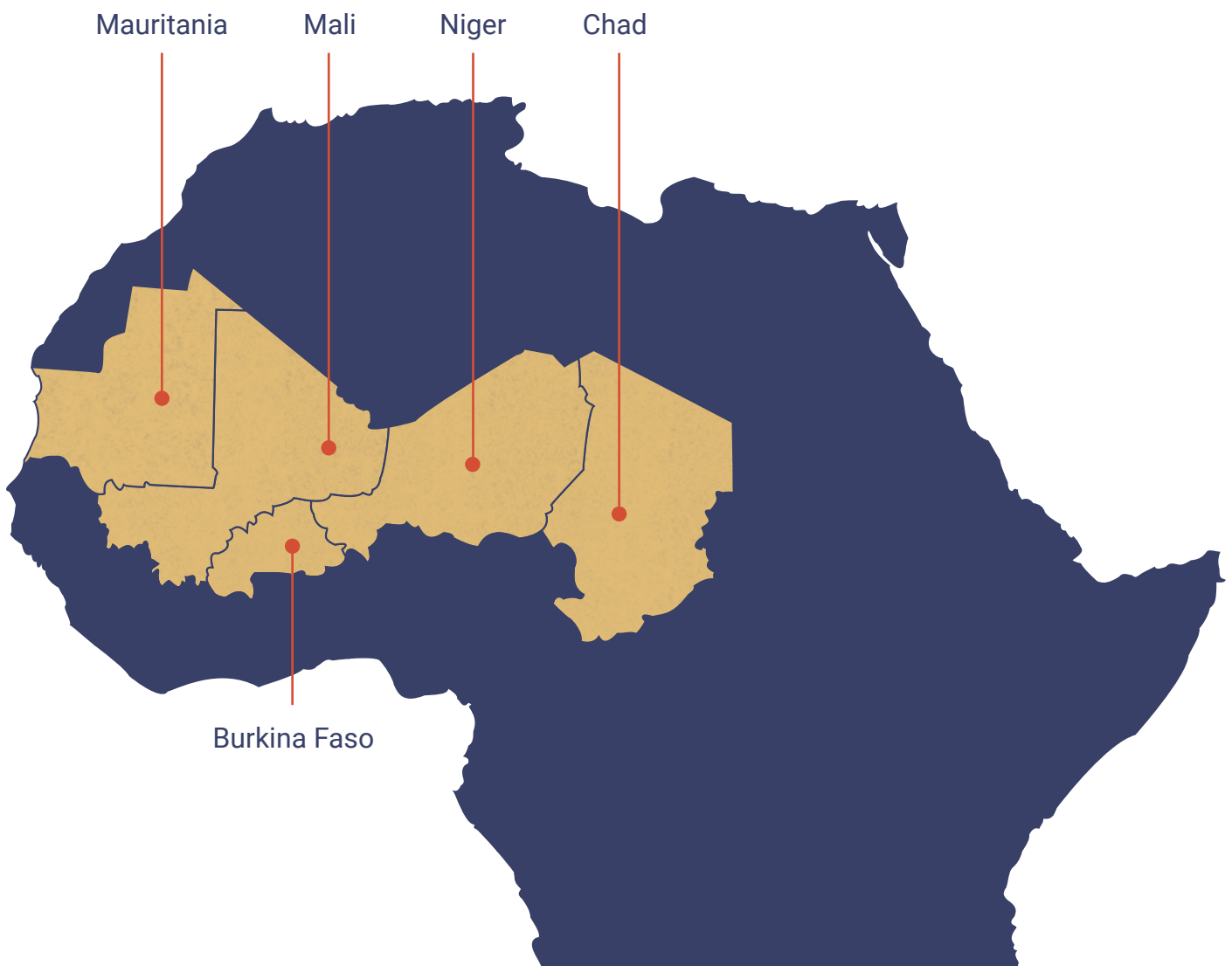


ALLIANCE  
SAHEL

2023



## FAQ: **The Sahel Alliance** in a nutshell



# What is the Sahel Alliance?



The Sahel Alliance is a **platform for coordinating development aid to the Sahel**, bringing together 27 bilateral and multilateral development partners (18 full members and 9 observer members).

Launched in 2017, the Sahel Alliance now brings together most of the international cooperation institutions working in the Sahel.

## Its goal?

**To provide a more coordinated, joint, appropriate and effective response to the development challenges and priorities of the countries and people of the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad).**

The members of the Sahel Alliance have chosen to focus their efforts on **5 priority sectors**, in line with the development priorities set by the G5 Sahel countries:



**Agriculture, rural development and food safety**



**Education and youth employment**



**Governance**



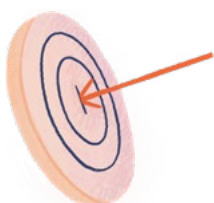
**Decentralisation and basic services**



**Energy**

One of the Alliance's main objectives is to **improve and accelerate the implementation of the projects** financed, particularly in vulnerable areas, in order to **achieve greater impact for the beneficiary populations**.

With this in mind, the members are developing their actions according to **4 key principles**:



**Targeting actions**  
on 5 priority sectors and 3 cross-disciplinary themes (Climate, Private Sector, Gender).



**Mutual accountability**  
between partners on shared objectives.



**New, more innovative**  
and flexible ways of working.



**Fragile and vulnerable areas**  
are the focus of a special commitment.



# How does the Sahel Alliance work?

The governance of the Sahel Alliance is based on a solid structure, to be put in place in 2019, comprising the following bodies:

- ◇ **General Assembly (GA)**
- ◇ **Operational Steering Committee (CPO)**
- ◇ **Coordination Unit (UCA)**

The **General Assembly** is held once a year to define and give direction to the Alliance's major political and strategic guidelines. It is responsible for maintaining an enhanced, high-level dialogue with the national authorities, the rotating presidency and the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat. The first General Assembly was held in Nouakchott on 25 February 2020 under the French Presidency, the second, third and fourth respectively in N'Djamena on 15 February 2021, in Madrid on 4 April 2022 and in Nouakchott in 2023 under the Spanish Presidency.

The **Operational Steering Committee** sets the Alliance's priorities, activities and agenda at operational level. Eleven CPO meetings have been held over the last four years (2019-2023), the first 9 of which were chaired by Germany, in the person of the Director for Africa at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Mr Christoph Rauh. The 10th and 11th meetings of the CPO were chaired by the World Bank, represented by Mr Ousmane Diagana, Vice-President for West and Central Africa.

The **Alliance Coordination Unit** has been based in Brussels since April 2019. Headed since 2022 by Emmanuel Debroise, it is responsible for providing the Alliance's general secretariat and coordinating the actions of its members to implement the decisions of the AG and the CPO.

To bring the Alliance to life **on the ground**, a network of **spokespersons** has been created in each of the G5 countries. They represent the Alliance Sahel both internally (in relation to members present locally) and externally (in relation to the authorities, partners and third parties). Their mission is to facilitate communication, coordination and implementation of Alliance decisions in the field. To complement and support this mechanism, UCA liaison experts are deployed in each of the G5 countries.







## What is the difference between the Sahel Alliance and the Sahel Coalition?

The Sahel Alliance works with the G5 Sahel as **co-actors of pillar 4 (development aid)** of the Sahel Coalition.

The Sahel Coalition is a **global initiative** announced at the Pau Summit on 13 January 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 African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of La Francophonie.

The aim of this initiative is to **provide a more collective response to the challenges faced by the Sahel region**, by bringing together the actions taken by the G5 Sahel states and their international partners. The aim is to offer **coherent action at regional level, encompassing all the players involved in the Sahel**, whether they are working on **security, political or development issues**.

The Sahel Coalition is suggesting a new framework for international action, based on **four complementary pillars**, each with its own steering mechanism.

1

**Fighting armed  
terrorist groups**

2

**Supporting  
the return of the  
State and local  
authorities  
to the region**

3

**Strengthening  
the capabilities  
of the armed forces  
of the region**

4

**Development aid**

coordinated by the G5 Sahel  
and the Sahel Alliance

# How does the Sahel Alliance ensure that its actions are consistent with the national and regional priorities and strategies of the Sahelian countries?

With regular consultations throughout the development of the Sahel Alliance's conceptual framework, the five countries and the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat have shared their common priorities and concerns on an ongoing basis.

The Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel signed a **partnership protocol** on 30 October 2018 in Niamey, the aim of which is to **increase coordination and coherence** between the action of Alliance members and the priorities and needs expressed by the G5 countries. This agreement aims to **strengthen joint efforts** in response to a multidimensional crisis and represents a key step in the dialogue between the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel. It will be updated in June 2023.

**The G5 Priority Investment Plan (PIP)** Donor Conference, held on 6 December 2018 in Nouakchott, was another important milestone in the partnership. Alliance members have mobilised heavily to fund the PIP's **Emergency Development Programme (PDU)**. Through their contribution to this programme, they have made a greater commitment to implementing **quick-impact projects in extremely fragile border areas**, in response to a strong request from the G5 Sahel Heads of State.

The partnership between the Alliance and the G5 is also reflected in the participation of representatives of the G5 Sahel bodies in meetings of the Alliance's governance bodies, and in consultations or the involvement of G5 development experts in the work of the Alliance.

## What is the Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI)?

The commitments made at the first General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance in Nouakchott in 2020 confirmed that members' **actions in vulnerable areas need to be better coordinated, more coherent and more effective**.

The decision has been taken to promote the **Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI)** in fragile areas, a multi-sector, multi-stakeholders approach, tailored to each area and its characteristics. It aims to promote local and decentralised development, based on shared analyses.

The goal is to articulate a **coordinated response from the various players operating in these areas**, supported by the G5 authorities and adapted to the needs of the populations and to local, regional and/or national strategies.

The implementation of the ATI is structured around **5 main phases**:

- ◇ Identifying priority areas;
- ◇ Carrying out joint diagnostics by area, to understand the issues at stake, identifying the factors that determine vulnerability and defining an appropriate response;
- ◇ Enhanced dialogue with local, national and regional authorities;
- ◇ Coordination of development activities within each zone, by defining a coherent operational strategy and planning activities with all the stakeholders involved;
- ◇ The introduction of a strengthened results monitoring framework.



## How are priority areas defined?

The definition of “priority” areas is part of the implementation of the Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI).

The members of the Sahel Alliance have decided to **concentrate their coordination efforts in 1 to 3 areas per country**, based on the 28 priority intervention areas identified by the G5 Sahel in the CAPI (Integrated Priority Action Framework). The areas chosen in agreement with the members of the Sahel Alliance and the authorities of the G5 countries reflect a focus on both **conflict zones** and **prevention zones**.

While this approach aims to strengthen efforts in priority areas, it must not be seen as being to the detriment of interventions in other areas/regions.

## What is the Sahel Alliance results framework and how is it monitored?

In order to strengthen their coordination, the Alliance members have defined common **objectives for each area of intervention**, as well as **indicators to measure the achievement of these objectives**. This results framework, approved with the partners, includes 25 national indicators and 15 project indicators.

The Sahel Alliance Coordination Unit (UCA) is responsible for updating the national indicators annually on the basis of publicly available data, with the support of the various sectoral groups.

**Project indicators** require specific work to collect and aggregate data from Alliance Sahel labelled projects. This work was carried out by UCA in 2020 and led to the publication of the Sahel Alliance’s 3-year results report, in collaboration with the Sahel Chair of FERDI (Foundation for International Development Studies and Research).

The Alliance’s 5-year results report will be published at the end of 2023 and will be available in its public version on the Sahel Alliance website.







## What is the “Sahel Alliance” portfolio of labelled projects?

In order to ensure effective coordination between members in the various sectors of activity and in a spirit of mutual accountability, the sharing of data and information is essential. The Sahel Alliance has therefore implemented a database listing the projects implemented by its members in the priority sectors and cross-cutting topics selected. This database forms the portfolio of projects labelled Sahel Alliance . It only concerns full members.

Each member includes in this portfolio projects that meet the following criteria:

- ◊ Projects implemented in at least one of the G5 Sahel countries;
- ◊ Projects in progress with a balance to pay by 01/01/2017 or projects under examination (in progress);
- ◊ Projects in one of the Alliance’s priority and/or cross-cutting sectors.

The project portfolio database is updated once a year and is used to produce the annual report on the portfolio of projects labelled Alliance Sahel.

## The G5 Sahel Facility

[facilite-g5sahel.org](http://facilite-g5sahel.org)

At the end of October 2021, the G5 Sahel and the Sahel Alliance launched the “G5 Sahel Facility”, a **funding mechanism** designed to provide flexible support for programmes in response to the crisis in the Sahel. The G5 Sahel Facility was founded within the framework of the Sahel Alliance in the legal form of a non-profit foundation. It was initiated by the German Development Bank (KfW), under a mandate from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in cooperation with the G5 Sahel. The aim is to **finance projects to support communities in peripheral and disadvantaged areas** of the

G5 Sahel countries. This involves helping them to make the most of the region’s potential to create economic and social opportunities, peace and prosperity. Particular attention is paid to the **priority areas** of the Integrated Territorial Approach. Programme implementation partners are NGOs chosen through an open and transparent selection process, who work closely with local communities. The G5 Sahel Foundation received initial funding of €50 million from the German government, as well as a French financial contribution of €5 million.



# How to keep up with news from the Sahel Alliance?

## Website

**[www.alliance-sahel.org](http://www.alliance-sahel.org)**

The Sahel Alliance website is updated every week with reports on events, feedback on progress in terms of coordination, interviews and themed articles linked to the Alliance's priorities. The website also allows users to browse the interactive map of projects and find the founding texts, reports and declarations of the Sahel Alliance.

## Newsletter

**[www.alliance-sahel.org/en/contact/#newsletter](http://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/contact/#newsletter)**

Every month, the Sahel Alliance sends out an email newsletter to keep you up to date with its news and share useful resources for those involved in development aid in the Sahel.

## Social Media



On Twitter and Facebook, the Sahel Alliance shares institutional news on a daily basis and highlights the efforts made by its members on the ground.

## Contact

In Brussels, you can contact the Sahel Alliance Coordination Unit (UCA) team via the Communications and Advocacy Officer: **[aude.rossignol@giz.de](mailto:aude.rossignol@giz.de)**

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## **Sahel Alliance Members**

### **Full members:**

Germany, France, European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, United Nations, Italy, Spain, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, United Kingdom, European Investment Bank (EIB), Norway, Sweden, Canada, United States, West African Development Bank (BOAD).

### **Observer members:**

Japan, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Tony Blair Institute, Ireland, International Organization of la Francophonie(OIF).

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