

Sahel Alliance 5-year Results Report



**ALLIANCE
SAHEL**

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Preface

Dear readers,
Dear members and partners,

Strong partnerships lead to strong results. And they change people's lives for the better. That is the clear message of this report.

Ever since it was founded in 2017, the Sahel Alliance has been and still is the largest and strongest international network of development cooperation actors in the Sahel. The members of the Alliance have been working jointly and in close cooperation with their partners in the region. Together, they are committed to providing the Sahelian population with security, sustainable livelihoods and better prospects for the future.

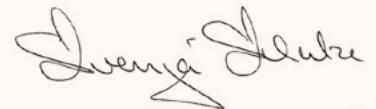
As current President of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly, I find it reassuring to see that the joint approach of our Alliance is having a meaningful impact for the people living in the Sahel region. For example, we have improved access to drinking water for more than 8 million people. More than 1.5 million people have participated in our technical vocational training and skills development initiatives. They are now better equipped to make a living and to provide for their families. And more than 2.3 million people now have improved access to energy. Energy that helps people to light their homes, irrigate fields and power machines.

In my view, these results are cause for hope. They show that our engagement, your engagement as members of the Alliance, makes a difference for the people in the Sahel region – even though the circumstances are not easy and the political situation is challenging.

I am confident that the Sahel Alliance is and will remain the most important international platform for fostering sustainable development, peace and stability in the Sahel. To fulfill this role, we need to listen to our partners in the region. We need to discuss how we can respond to the needs of the people in the Sahel even better. We also need to find appropriate ways of strengthening the quality and quantity of the Sahel-Alliance as an organization.

I look forward to embarking on this journey for another year as President of the Sahel Alliance. During my visits to the region, it became very clear that the Sahel Alliance priorities during my presidency – education, social security/resilience and basic services/decentralization – remain important ones.

I will remain committed to the Sahel. And I encourage you – as members of the Sahel Alliance – to do the same. Thank you very much for your dedicated work.



Svenja Schulze
*German Federal Minister for Economic
Cooperation and Development*



Introduction

The situation in the Sahel has been deteriorating over the past years undergoing a series of coups and complex political transitions, accelerating violent conflicts, and increasing state fragility. Struggling economies have been further affected by the fallout from various global and regional crises, as well as the consequences of climate change. As a result of these compounding shocks, vulnerability, displacement, and food insecurity have increased dramatically while undermining the social contract.

Addressing the causes and consequences of the crises in the Sahel have been at the forefront of our efforts, sharing innovations and mobilizing increased financing for key priorities. This report highlights the results achieved in the 2017-22 period, offering valuable analysis in terms of coverage, alignment with country priorities and progress overtime.

We need to continue to innovate, collectively scale up what has worked and together with the people of the Sahel pursue strong joined up policy dialogue on critical reforms to find durable solutions to development challenges in the Sahel. I believe the Sahel Alliance as a platform for engagement will continue to be instrumental in achieving this ambition by fostering regional dialogue and coordination.

Ousmane Diagana
*World Bank Vice-President for
West and Central Africa*



The Sahel paradox

The Sahel shows a striking paradox between **the wealth of potentials** and yet many challenges faced by its populations. The region is rich in **natural resources** such as oil, natural gas, gold, phosphates and minerals, and has some of the continent's largest aquifers, as well as surface waters such as Lake Chad and the Niger River. These resources offer **tremendous opportunities** for economic diversification and the development of livelihoods. In addition, the Sahel has also great potential for **renewable energies**, and solar energy in particular. The region can also count on the dynamism of a **particularly young population** with a **rich cultural heritage**.

Yet, the Sahel remains one of the poorest regions in the world, facing security challenges and major economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities. Fragility is particularly critical in **peripheral and cross-border areas**, where governments have less influence and where basic social services have little or

no coverage. **Pressure on natural resources** is a recurring source of conflict between farmers and livestock herders. Despite rapid urbanisation, **64% of the Sahelian population lives in rural areas** and depends mainly on agriculture and livestock income.

"Despite its resources, the Sahel remains one of the poorest regions in the world, facing security challenges and major economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities."

The region is also exposed to **climatic and environmental hazards**, with irregular rainfall, drought and recurrent flooding. In 2024, the food and nutrition situation remains extremely worrying: over 38 million people are currently experiencing acute food and nutrition insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa. The

COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the war in Ukraine on the global cereal and fertiliser market exacerbated economic, health and nutritional vulnerabilities. Lastly, economies are often characterised by a largely informal labour market, narrow tax bases, underdeveloped industrialisation, and a dominant agricultural sector with little focus on processing activities.

¹ Source: World Bank. [Bringing forth water to combat food insecurity and climate change in the Sahel](https://www.worldbank.org/) (worldbank.org)

² Out of a population of 401.1 million. According to the consolidated results of the Harmonised Framework analysis. Source: RPCA - https://www.food-security.net/uploads/2024/03/EN_Press%20Release%20PREGEC%20meeting_March_2024_Lome.pdf



An unprecedented humanitarian crisis

The five-year period covered by this report is marked by a **major deterioration of the security and humanitarian context**. The cross-border area of the central Sahel, stretching from Mali to Burkina Faso and Niger, has now become the second main hot spot for violence in West Africa after Nigeria. This level of violence, compounded by the region's structural fragility, has led the Sahel to plunge into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

By 2024, 1 in 5 people in the central Sahel would need humanitarian assistance and protection, i.e. 17 million people¹. These developments resulted in internal displacement and migration between countries and within the region².

The region is experiencing political instability, with a series of coups since 2020. Governance crises appear to be the result of deep and persistent dissatisfaction with governments, which are struggling to overcome many challenges.

Besides, multi-faced violence perpetrated by various actors further exacerbates the crisis. Despite the efforts of development partners to help improve the situation in the Sahel, the security, political, health and humanitarian crisis affected the actions of Sahel Alliance members. The COVID-19 and subsequent coups led to the partial or total suspension of several development projects. In addition to difficulties in supplying equipment and accessing some areas, the closure of borders - following ECOWAS sanctions which have now been lifted - also hampered trade and some external technical support.

In this context, action on the ground has often had to be redirected to ensure continued support to the population. The Sahel is one of the regions where development institutions have the most pushed their limits of intervention in crisis.

Despite major constraints, Sahel Alliance members strengthened their commitments in the Sahel over the last 5 years, with 1,330 projects under implementation by the end of 2022 for a total amount of over €26 billion.

As a forum for dialogue, the Sahel Alliance was also used by its members to share their positions, their assessments of the situation and possible solutions to ensure the continuity of actions for the Sahel populations.

¹ Source: Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, One in five people in the Central Sahel needs humanitarian aid: Now is the time to turn words into action | IASC (interagencystandingcommittee.org)

² According to national statistics and the UNHCR, on 31 March 2024 in the central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger), Chad and Mauritania, 5,387,541 people were refugees, asylum seekers, repatriated refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and repatriated IDPs. Source: [Situations Sahel Crisis](https://www.unhcr.org/situations/sahel) ([unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org))



Rethinking a new Sahelian consensus

Last year, almost 34.5 million¹ Sahelians have been in need of humanitarian aid, and the number of refugees and internally displaced people continued to rise. Political instability, security threats, escalating conflicts in the Middle East, disruptions to global and local trade and production, increased frequency and intensity of weather-related events, as well as the consequences of a possible exit of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from ECOWAS, are disastrous signs for the Sahel region. However, despite these many challenges, the populations of the Sahel remained resilient and focused on their craving for a stable and prosperous region.

While geopolitical interaction had an impact on the work of development stakeholders - including the work of the United Nations and regional institutions such as ECOWAS, the G5 Sahel, the G5 Joint Force, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Liptako Gourma Authority, as well as other initiatives such as the Sahel Alliance, the Sahel Coalition, the Great Green Wall Initiative and Generation Without Limits - **the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) continued to prove, more than ever, its relevance.**

We also achieved major successes in strengthening our commitments and strategic dialogues between humanitarian, development and peace and security stakeholders, leading to major achievements, in particular strengthening commitments around the UN-Society platform, while simultaneously engaging in programmatic dialogue on priority issues identified in the Sahel. We also reached out to other Special Envoys for the Sahel, including Canada, the EU, Japan, the UK and the US. Key visits to donor countries with various Regional Directors of UN Agencies were organised to advocate and mobilise broader

partnerships for the Sahel region. In addition, the United Nations in the Sahel continued to strengthen its visibility strategy by ensuring the production of communication tools and the dissemination of data-based knowledge products, while optimising its media presence to reach a wider audience.

As for our historic achievements as part of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, we would like to mention some of them:

- ◇ The joint FAO²-IOM³ initiative on transhumance and conflict prevention;
- ◇ The UNDP⁴-led stabilisation facility in the Lake Chad Basin, and now in the Liptako-Gourma region;
- ◇ And the WFP⁵-led resilience initiative, which helps supported communities to empower and become self-sufficient in food aid, with a probability of 80%.

"Despite these many challenges, the populations of the Sahel remained resilient and focused on their craving for a stable and prosperous region."

Together, we are stronger. It is counterproductive to have different strategies

for the Sahel. We need a collective vision. **We invite you all to create a new modus operandi and to renew the spirit lying at the heart of the Sahel Alliance.** We should rethink a new Sahelian consensus and create a pact to work on a common basis. **The Sahel Alliance should inspire all stakeholders in development, with a new paradigm for Peace and Development, aligned with regional and national realities, which will amplify the full potential of the Sahel.**

Our common voice is essential, as it will give a new momentum to our regional collaboration, attract impartial international attention and change the narrative on the Sahel.

Abdoulaye Mar Dieye

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel



¹ Source: OCHA - www.unocha.org/publications/report/burkina-faso/humanitarian-community-war-ns-345-million-people-need-humanitarian-assistance-violence-haunts-sahel-region

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

³ International Organization for Migration.

⁴ United Nations Development Programme.

⁵ World Food Programme.

The Sahel Alliance at a glance

Created in 2017 in response to the multiple challenges facing the populations of the region, the Sahel Alliance is a platform for coordinating development cooperation in the Sahel, bringing together the actions of 27 international partners.

This coordination is facilitated by regular dialogue on strategic, sectoral and thematic issues, fostering a common understanding of the issues and challenges affecting the region, sharing experience, best practice and analytical tools, and defining joint public policy messages.



Objectives

Improve coordination and coherence
between the Sahel's main development partners;

Increase the effectiveness and impact of financed projects in order to achieve sustainable improvements in the living conditions of populations, particularly the most vulnerable.

Members of the Sahel Alliance

Currently, the Sahel Alliance has 27 members:

18 full members*



9 observer members*



* As of 1 June 2024.

Priority Sectors and Themes

The members of the Sahel Alliance decided to focus their efforts on **5 priority sectors**, in line with the development priorities of the Sahel countries:



Agriculture, rural development and food security



Education, employment and youth



Governance



Decentralisation and access to basic services



Energy

These sectors are complemented by **3 cross-cutting sectors** common to all the Sahel Alliance's activities:



Gender

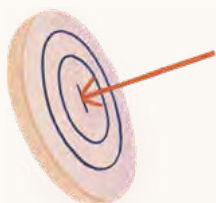


Climate



Private Sector

Members' actions are based on **four key principles**:



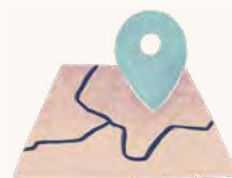
Targeting actions
on 5 priority sectors



Mutual accountability
between members and
Sahelian countries on shared
objectives



**Innovative and flexible
approaches,**
adapted to the constraints
and specificities of the field



A stronger commitment in
**the most vulnerable
and fragile areas**



The governance of the Sahel Alliance relies on 3 bodies:

The General Assembly (GA)

Meets once a year and sets the main political and strategic guidelines for the Sahel Alliance. The General Assembly is responsible for maintaining a close, high-level dialogue with the authorities of the Sahel countries.

The Operational Steering Committee (CPO)

Meets three times a year, oversees the Sahel Alliance's priorities, activities and agenda at the operational level.

The Coordination Unit (UCA)

Provides the general secretariat for the Alliance and coordinates the implementation of GA and CPO decisions.

To ensure the Alliance's presence on the field, a network of spokespersons has been established in each of the Sahel countries, supported by liaison experts from the UCA. In each country, this operational coordination complements existing traditional development partner coordination frameworks.



A partnership dynamic adapting to changing contexts

Dialogue and partnerships with various stakeholders in the Sahel are at the heart of the Sahel Alliance's work. Closely involved in the development of the Alliance's conceptual framework, the G5 Sahel and its executive secretariat were privileged partners from 2018 to 2022.



29 September 2017

Alongside the World Bank's Annual Meetings, consultation of the G5 Sahel States on the Alliance's operationalisation strategy.

30 October 2018

Signature of the partnership agreement between the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel to strengthen the coordination of joint efforts and coherence.

6 December 2018

SA members join forces to fund the Emergency Development Programme (PDU) of the Priority Investment Programme (PIP) at the Nouakchott Conference.

Signature of the revised partnership protocol between the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel to strengthen dialogue on the strategic and programmatic framework of the G5 Sahel.

10 July 2023

Technical collaboration between SA members and national and local authorities responsible for development policies. The Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI)¹ promoted by the Sahel Alliance helped to forge multi-sectoral responses in areas identified as priorities.

Mali's decision to withdraw from the G5 Sahel (2022), followed by Niger and Burkina Faso (2023), the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES/ASS) (2023) and the announcement of the withdrawal of the 3 countries from ECOWAS (2024) affected this dynamic.

The Emergency Development Programme (PDU²)

The Emergency Development Programme was designed in 2018 in response to strong demand from member countries in the Sahel. This programme specifically targeted fragile border regions, the epicentre of the Sahel crisis.

The PDU relies on three pillars:

- 1 Improve people's living conditions through **better access to water and sanitation**.
- 2 Increase **the livelihoods of farming and pastoral populations** by building resilience to food and nutrition insecurity in a sustainable and structural way.
- 3 Support local communities and institutions in **preventing conflict and strengthening social cohesion**.

Following an initial funding of €266 million, the Sahel Alliance members increased their commitment in 2022 to **€552 million, corresponding to an increase of 107% on the initial budget**.

Results by mid-2022:

Over 1,300,000
people benefit from improved access to drinking water

1,700,000
people were able to improve their livelihoods

900,000
people received training in conflict prevention and social cohesion

In this new context, the members of the Sahel Alliance made some adjustments by continuing, where possible, to consult and cooperate with their Sahelian partners, while remaining attentive to the sensitivities and development priorities of each country.

¹ In French: Approche Territoriale Intégrée (ATI)

² In French: Programme de Développement d'Urgence

Fragile areas as the priorities' focus

Interventions in fragile areas are one of the priorities of the Sahel Alliance. These regions, which are often border regions, face major security, humanitarian and climatic vulnerabilities. Far from the capitals, they also often suffer from inadequate public services.

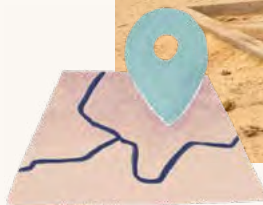
The Integrated Territorial Approach

At the heart of this commitment to fragile areas, the Integrated Territorial Approach (ITA) aims to respond to the most urgent needs of populations in several sectors, while addressing the root causes of crises in areas at risk. It allows development initiatives to be better coordinated at local level, and to pool the resources and approaches of Sahel Alliance members working in these areas.

In 2020, ten priority areas were identified by the members, in collaboration with the authorities in each country. For each area, members of the SA volunteered to coordinate the activities.

To support the ATI's implementation, the ATI Database (BD ATI), a geographic information system, was developed. This allows to centralise and cross-reference:

- ◇ Contextual data to analyse needs at ground level;
- ◇ Data on activities financed by members.



Examples from Mauritania and Chad

The ATI helped support the implementation of the regional growth strategy for the Hodh Ech Charqui priority area in Mauritania and strengthen dialogue with local authorities in the Kanem and Barh-el-Ghazel priority areas in Chad.

In the central Sahel, the continuous worsening of security severely hampered the implementation of concerted actions in the areas initially identified. In Mali and Burkina Faso in particular, as access to the affected areas proved impossible, planned projects were redirected towards the Southern Arc and secondary towns respectively.



ATI in Chad

ATI in Mauritania



¹ Strategy for accelerated regional growth and shared prosperity

The Sahel Facility Foundation

The “Sahel Facility”, created in 2021, is a trust fund to finance community projects in the Sahel countries and to support the ATI. The facility is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German development bank KfW. Since December 2022, the Agence française de développement (AFD) has been

providing financial support to this mechanism and has joined its Strategic Council. The funding is intended for national and international NGOs working to build the capacity of local communities in the Sahel region and promote peace, social cohesion and prosperity.

 <https://facilite-g5sahel.org/>

In December 2023, projects worth a total of **€35,000,000** started in the five countries.

Implementing common diagnostic and analysis tools

The Sahel Alliance encourages sharing analyses and data to promote a better common understanding of the issues and to contribute to the formulation of effective responses.

♦ The Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA)

This study was carried out to identify areas, in particular border areas, facing conflict or the risk of violent conflict, to get a common understanding of vulnerability factors and develop a prevention and response strategy.

This study highlighted the importance of developing programmes focused on conflict prevention and influenced the design of several projects. The ATI methodology and the selection of priority areas are based on this research.

The initiative was strongly supported by the G5 Sahel, the Sahel states and partners.

♦ The Sahel Analysis, Monitoring and Learning Platform³ (PASAS)

This platform serves as a tool for producing, capitalising on and disseminating knowledge, developed by the AFD in response to a request from Sahel countries. This platform operates within the framework of the momentum created by the RRA . It aims to inform the strategic and operational decisions of local and international development stakeholders engaged in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin. PASAS carries out context analyses, territorial diagnoses, context monitoring and thematic studies to provide input for operational thinking. More than 300 resources are available online at pasas-minka.fr.

¹ Study carried out in 2019/2020 supported by the Sahel Alliance and led by the World Bank, with contributions from AFD, Germany and UNDP.

² With €5 million in funding from the French Peace and Resilience Fund Minka, the project began in 2020. In 2022, additional funding was provided by the FCDO.

³ In French: Plateforme d'analyse, de suivi et d'apprentissage au Sahel (PASAS)



The Integrated Territorial Approach in Burkina Faso: a multifaced support from the European Union

In line with the Integrated Territorial Approach, the European Union's action has initially focused on emergency and stabilisation zones along the Ouaga-Kaya-Dori-Djibo OKD axis, in the "red" conflict zone (2021), and then on the Ouagadougou-Bobo Dioulasso-Dédougou-Koudougou OBDK "triangle" (2023), with the aim of preventing the spread of the security threat.

The OBDK "triangle" represents the country's food breadbasket. It hosts around 10% of the country's internally displaced persons (IDPs) while a growing influx of IDPs is expected as a result of the security situation. Therefore, this area is crucial to strengthening food security for vulnerable populations, promoting socio-economic development and providing opportunities for young people - all of which contributing to stabilise an essential area for Burkina Faso as well as for the West African region, being the region's key safeguard in the fight against spill over.

" The OBDK triangle is crucial to strengthening food security for vulnerable populations, promoting socio-economic development and providing opportunities for young people.

The EU's action in these areas (around a hundred municipalities) aims to provide multidimensional support by:

♦ **Improving access to basic social services:** social protection, health, education, water and sanitation;

♦ **Supporting the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector** to rebuild the economic framework through productive activities and vocational training

♦ **Strengthening social cohesion** (tackling radicalisation and violent extremism, preventing and managing conflicts linked to the exploitation of natural resources, etc.).

The integrated territorial approach in Burkina Faso is also linked to a regional dynamic favouring the management of cross-border relations and migratory flows in a stable and secure environment. It aims to contribute to the stabilisation of key territories (the border area between Mali, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Ghana) to counter the spread of the terrorist threat.

Hans Stausboll
*Director EU-Africa Relations
in the European Commission's Directorate-General for
International Partnerships (DG INTPA)*



Analysing results over 5 years: What impacts?

Overview

The Sahel Alliance project portfolio includes all projects funded by full members of the Sahel Alliance that meet the following criteria:

- ◇ Projects funded in at least one of the Sahel countries;
- ◇ Projects focusing on one of the Sahel Alliance's priority and/or cross-cutting sectors.

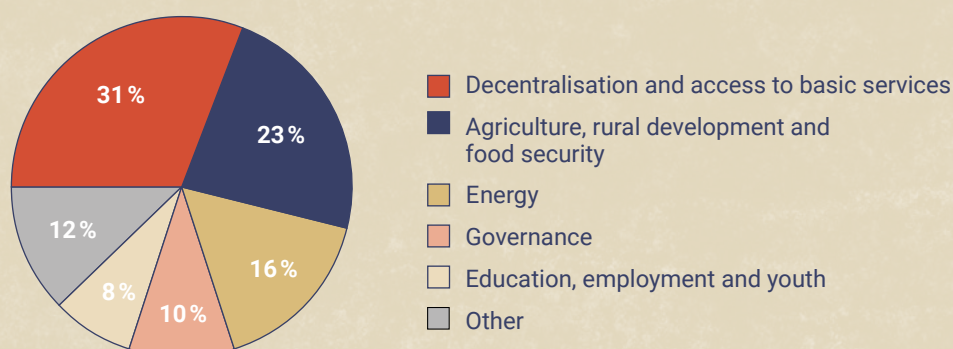
The project portfolio is updated annually.

In 2022, the portfolio includes **1,330 projects under implementation, worth a total of €26.47 billion.**

Since 2018, the "Decentralisation and basic services" (31% of the portfolio in 2022), "Agriculture, rural development and food security" (23%), "Energy" (16%) and "Governance" (10%) sectors have been predominant in the Sahel Alliance portfolio. The share of the "Education, employment and youth" sector (8%), despite a steady increase since 2018, remains relatively low given the importance of the challenges.

Members are particularly active on climate and gender issues. Not less than 50% of projects under implementation in 2022 have gender equality as a significant objective. Nearly 30% of the projects have a main or significant objective for at least one of the 4 climate markers.

Project portfolio of the Sahel Alliance in 2022 by sector

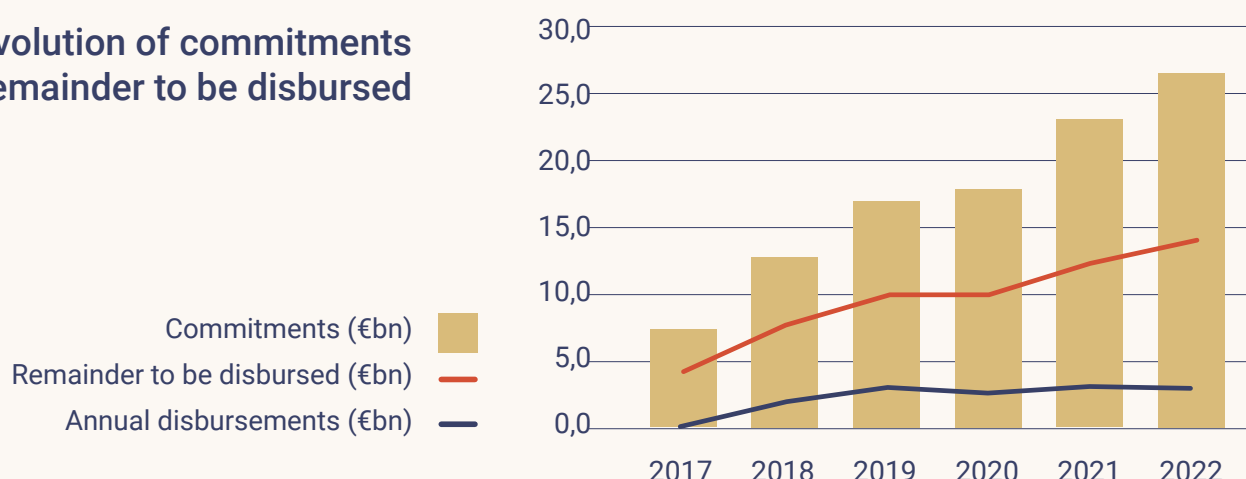


Portfolio implementation

| | | Number of projects under implementation by sector | Financial commitments (in millions €) |
|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Priority Sectors | Education, employment and youth | 139 | 2 008 |
| | Agriculture, rural development and food security | 290 | 6 055 |
| | Decentralisation and access to basic services | 319 | 8 182 |
| | Energy | 75 | 4 109 |
| | Governance | 204 | 2 598 |
| Cross-cutting sectors | Gender | 60 | 504 |
| | Climate | 49 | 756 |
| | Private Sector | 35 | 1006 |
| Others | Multi-sector projects | 112 | 919 |
| | Others | 47 | 332 |
| Total | | 1330 | 26 469 |

Evolution of the portfolio over 5 years

Evolution of commitments and remainder to be disbursed



Since the launch of the Sahel Alliance in 2017, **the number of projects being implemented has tripled in volume and quadrupled in value.** The growth in the portfolio is due to the continuing increase in the number of members of the Sahel Alliance.

This increase also reflects a significant rise in the portfolios of most members. The World Bank, France, the European Union, Germany and the African Development Bank are the main contributors.

Commitment to accountability

This report is in line with the accountability commitment, one of the pillars of the Sahel Alliance. The objectives in terms of mutual accountability involve:

- ◊ Alignment with partner countries' strategies and priorities,
- ◊ Increased information sharing,
- ◊ The definition of a framework for measuring the outcomes and impacts at national level.

Shared objectives by sector as well as national and project indicators to measure the achievement of these objectives were defined by SA members and partner countries when the Sahel Alliance was created. They have been progressively supplemented by other indicators, in order to get an overall view of the evolution in terms of results.

Therefore, a results' framework for the Sahel Alliance has been developed, including in 2022:

- ◊ **32 national indicators**, measured on the basis of publicly available statistical data from the partner countries;
- ◊ **18 project indicators**, compiled by aggregating the project results included in the SA portfolio and communicated by its members.

The information presented in this report is thus based on an analysis of project indicator data for the 2017-2022 period. This report focuses more specifically on the 14 project indicators (out of 18) that best illustrate the most significant achievements of the projects supported by SA members.

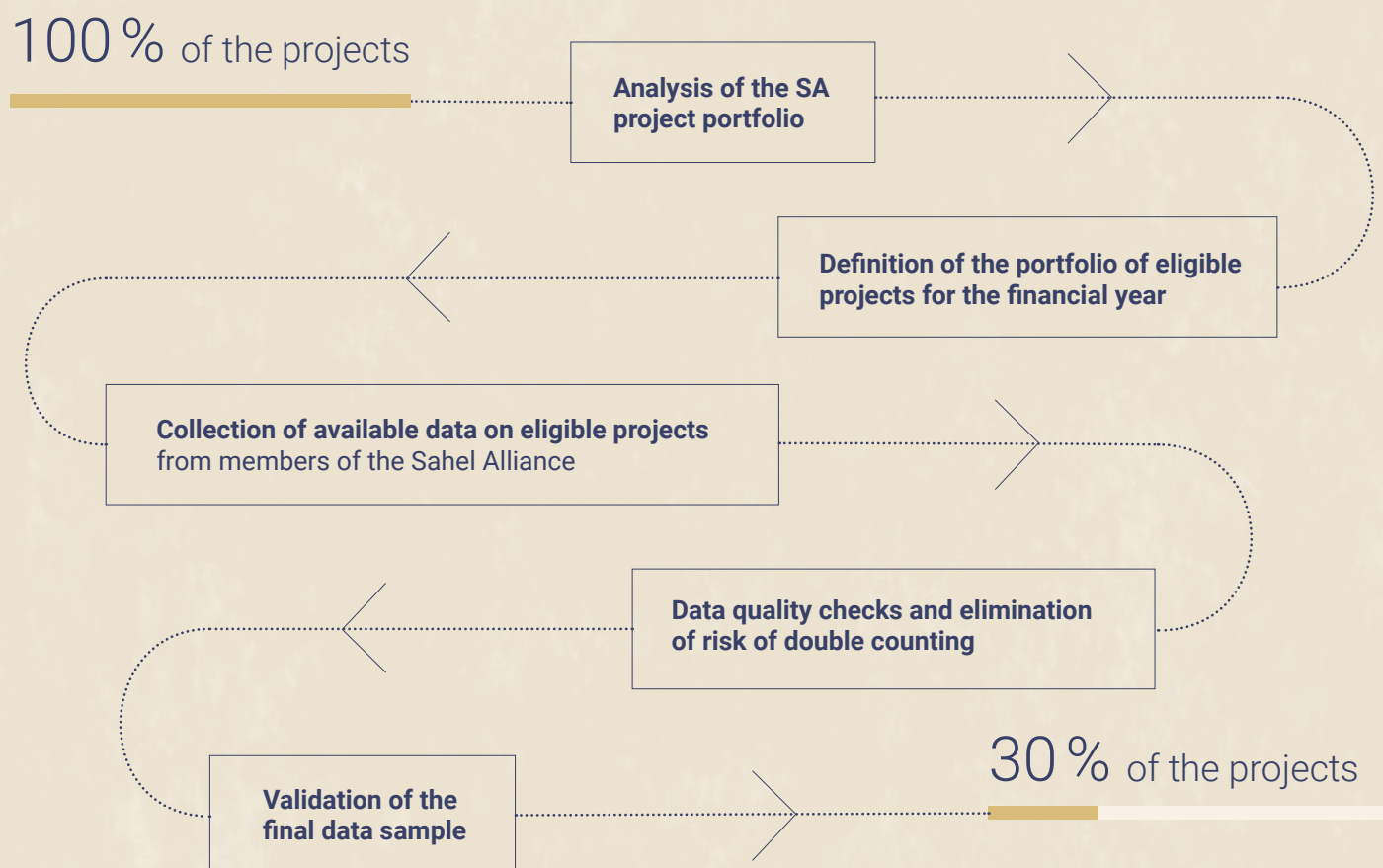


Methodology for aggregating project results

Currently, project indicators are filled in for around 30% of eligible projects by Sahel Alliance members. Although this figure represents only part of the results of the funded projects, it already provides a valuable initial assessment.

In this report, the projects closed during the period and the projects currently being implemented in the Sahel Alliance portfolio were analysed from 2017 to 2022.

For the 18 project indicators, the following approach was used to collect the data.



Although the results consolidated in this report are partial, the indicators show substantial and ongoing support from Sahel Alliance members to Sahelian populations, particularly in terms of food security, water and sanitation, health and skills development.

Overall, these results are aligned with the priorities of the accountability frameworks adopted by the five Sahel countries.



Main results of the Sahel Alliance project indicators over 5 years*

Education, employment and youth



1,510,351
persons received **vocational training** and/or skills development courses



Agriculture, rural development and food security



1,236,558
hectares of land covered by **sustainable management techniques**



3,435,722
farmers or livestock breeders were given access to advisory services for the **sustainability** and **resilience** of their activities



22,506,694
persons received **food assistance** and/or livelihood support

Decentralisation and access to basic services



1,564,704
persons received coverage by **social safety nets**



901,422
women of childbearing age used a **family planning method**



5 409,956
children were **vaccinated**



8,009,547
persons gained improved access to **drinking water** supply services



3,221,009
persons gained improved access to **sanitation services**



3,330
medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres, etc.) supported by SA members

Energy



2,351 033
persons received access or improved **access to electricity**

Governance



2,317
civil society organisations (including media, opinion leaders) received support from SA partners

Private sector



166,944
small and medium-sized enterprises were created or supported



269,647
jobs were **created**



* Results as of 31 December 2022, from a sample of SA projects

Results analysis by sector

This chapter presents the relevant project results indicators by sector, preceded by a brief analysis of the issues for each of them.

Education, employment and youth



Challenges

The Sahel is one of the world's regions with the greatest **deficits in terms of education and youth employment**. Rapid population growth increases the difficulties in meeting educational needs.

- ◇ Over 40% of children in the primary school age group do not attend school.
- ◇ A child born in the Sahel can expect to attend school for 3 years, compared with 7.8 years in the rest of the world.
- ◇ Just over one young person in two (57%) is literate, compared with 75% overall in sub-Saharan Africa.

"A number of initiatives supported by NGOs and communities are allowing a minimum education service to be provided in crisis situations in the Sahel."

Funding for education in emergencies in the Sahel (ESU) remains essentially humanitarian and is provided by multilateral international organisations and local NGOs. Although donors also finance ESU to a lesser extent, general coverage of needs remains low even though demand has grown exponentially over the period.

Despite these challenges, the data shows that a number of initiatives supported by NGOs and communities are allowing a minimum education service to be provided in crisis situations in the

The conflicts led to many schools closing down and had a devastating social impact on education. Strikes in this sector, resulting from administrative malfunctions, have exacerbated the vulnerability of the education system in the Sahel region, with heavy consequences for the number of schooling months per year.

The development of vocational or employability skills is reduced due to inadequate or underdeveloped vocational and technical education. Yet, improving attractive employment opportunities for young people is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty and boosting social inclusion and resilience in the region.



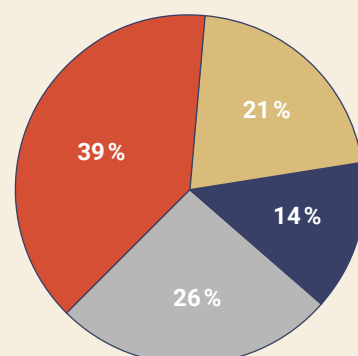
Results



1,510,351
persons received **vocational training** and/or skills development courses

Amount allocated to projects in the sector

- Primary education
- Vocational training
- Youth employment
- Other



Education, a fundamental human right

Education is not a privilege, it is a fundamental human right, a powerful vector for development and one of the best ways to reduce poverty, raise health standards, promote gender equality and advance peace and stability. Yet, it is severely undervalued, particularly in times of crisis.

In the Sahel, the needs are considerable; the number of forcibly displaced people rose by 33% between 2022 and 2023, reaching over 4 million people. Insecurity, extreme poverty, climate change and the impact of the COVID crisis are structural challenges for education for all, overturning decades of progress. **In the central Sahel, the school drop-out rate is one of the highest in the world**, with almost half of children not attending school - 12 million children in 2023, twice as many as in 2020 - the majority of them being girls and young people with disabilities, particularly in rural areas. Attacks on schools have led to the closure of more than 64% of schools in 2 years.

To tackle this major crisis, the mobilisation and coordination of technical and financial partners (TFPs) is essential, particularly within the Sahel Alliance, as is the use of local stakeholders and their strengthening.

AFD has been operating in the education sector in the Sahel for over 20 years, supporting public policies and education systems in the region's countries. We are currently funding nearly 50 projects for a total of €461 million, mainly through donations (80%) from funds allocated to us by the French government or delegated to us by the Global Partnership for Education. Thanks to this funding, France has contributed to the enrolment

of 900,000 students, the majority of whom are girls, in primary and secondary education, and to improve teachers' professional skills and the effective management of education systems. Our actions are always carried out at the request of the partner countries and tend to respond as precisely as possible to the specific needs and context of each territory. Therefore, we provide support for public policies, through budget financing and tailor-made programmes or projects, taking into account the diversity of challenges faced by the population: education, but also health, climate, security, etc. We ensure that our actions are coordinated with other partners in order to provide complementary and effective actions.

In Burkina-Faso and Niger, AFD was chosen as a partner agent for Global Partnership for Education financing and has carried out high-impact actions for education systems up until the last few months. In

Chad, in the Lake region, AFD has simultaneously taken into account the various concerns of populations: in addition to security issues, there are significant needs in terms of access and quality of education for young children, as well as health and nutrition. The implementation of this project, carried out in close collaboration with other TFPs, in particular the Swiss cooperation, has been entrusted to local NGOs, working as closely as possible with the affected populations.

Access to the basic service that is education as part of an integrated territorial approach, advocated by the Sahel Alliance, seems to be most relevant in the Sahel; it is an excellent means of coordination between development partners to ensure better territorial coverage, including in the most fragile areas.

"Our actions are always carried out at the request of the partner countries and tend to respond as precisely as possible to the specific needs and context of each territory."

Laurent Biddiscombe

*Executive Director,
Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS)
Agence française de développement (AFD)*



Increasing access to vocational training and career guidance in Niger



Niger ————— 2021 – 2023

ProEMPLOI: Programme to promote employment and labour market integration in Niger



Youth



Germany and the European Union

The project has improved the employment and income situation of young people, as well as economic actors, in the three target regions (Agadez, Tillabéri and Zinder).

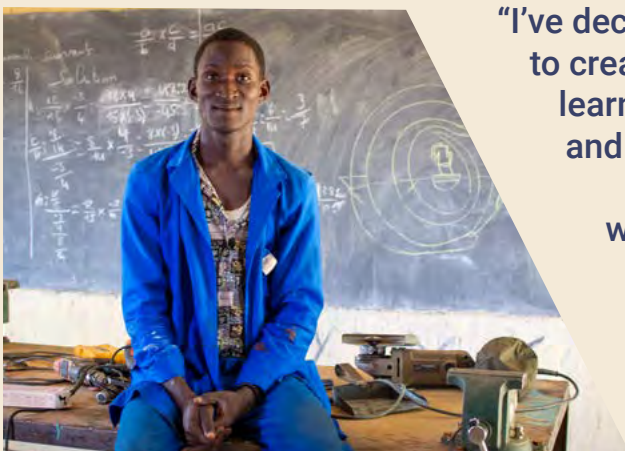
The ProEMPLOI project in Niger aims to increase the number of vocational training and career guidance available while promoting the sustainable development of the private sector through advice and coaching. The adopted approach covers the three pillars of the labour market: demand, supply and placement.

According to the headmaster of the Tillabéri technical secondary school, Mansour Moussa, “technical training for young people solves a number of labour shortage problems in a number of jobs in the region. Every young person we train has a business idea and wants to be financially independent.”

Some of ProEMPLOI's key activities:

- ◇ Training young people within local structures
- ◇ Providing equipment for the various training centres
- ◇ Strengthening trainers' capacities
- ◇ Training of coaching trainers to help young people to start their own business and facilitate their professional integration after their training.

ProEMPLOI has been implemented in **33** municipalities.



“I’ve decided to learn to weld, so I could use my two hands to create my own job! Little by little, I am getting better. I learned new techniques, like working with gas welding and making new objects, like chairs and tables. In five or six years’ time, my ambition is to open my own workshop. I also want to train young people, just as my workshop supervisor taught me.”

*Saidan Oumourou,
Welding trainee
Tillabéri Technical Secondary School*

Results

- **1,433 young people**, including **774 women**, were trained via **28 courses**.
- **1,403 young people** received a **vocational training certificate**, including **765 girls**.

As of 30 September 2022

Agriculture, rural development and food security



Challenges

Agriculture and pastoralism account for 40% of regional GDP and employ between 60 and 80% of the population in the Sahel. However, agricultural production remains insufficient to adequately meet the population's food needs.

Since the 1973-74 droughts and famine, and despite partial recovery in production thanks to the development of irrigation, the Sahelian populations have been living with recurring food insecurity, exacerbated by growing instability in many regions.

"Agriculture and pastoralism account for 40% of regional GDP and employ between 60 and 80% of the population in the Sahel."

Climate change is exacerbating this situation. Over 90% of Sahelian farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism for their livelihoods, particularly in areas affected by insecurity. Lack of water and land degradation affect 80% of the population living in arid or semi-arid areas.

Improving the yield and competitiveness of the agricultural sector and supporting the adaptation of farming practices to climate change are essential to reducing poverty in the region.

Results



1,236,558
hectares of land covered by
sustainable management
techniques



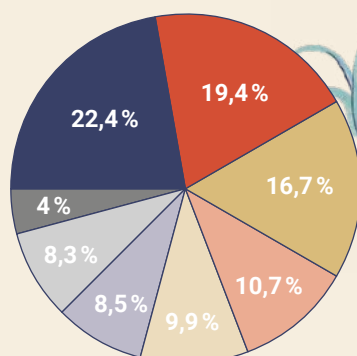
22,506,694
persons received
food assistance and/or
livelihood support



3,435,722
farmers or livestock
breeders were given access
to advisory services for the
sustainability and **resilience**
of their activities

Amount allocated to projects in the sector

- Sustainable agriculture, ecosystems
- Food safety, nutrition
- Structural investments
- Local integrated actions
- Value chains
- Livestock farming, pastoralism
- Institutional support
- Other



Peri-urban vegetable gardens to strengthen food security in Mauritania



Mauritania — 2020 – 2022

Promoting vegetable
peri-urban gardens



Market gardeners



Spain and the European Union

Mauritania is heavily dependent on imports of horticultural products, which are essential for food security. To address this shortfall, the National Agricultural Development Plan is focusing on the peri-urban areas of major cities for horticultural production, based on their proximity to consumers.

As part of the Mayors' Climate and Energy Convention, AECID¹ is supporting the Nouakchott region to develop urban agriculture. **The project to promote peri-urban vegetable gardens aims to increase the income of small-scale farmers in the city by improving their farms.**

The project focuses on four areas:

- ♦ **Production:** agricultural resources management, technical training and adapting to market demands;
- ♦ **Stock management and product processing;**
- ♦ **Marketing:** market knowledge and negotiation skills;
- ♦ **Social and associative organisation** of producers.

¹ Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Results



- ➔ Over a two-year period, the project has helped nearly **200 farms** to develop **sustainable agriculture** in order to strengthen the value chain for horticultural products, reinforce producers' associations and make progress in consolidating an activity that generates jobs and revenue.

Fighting malnutrition in Niger



Niger ————— 2018 – 2023

USAID / Hamzari



Vulnerable Communities



The United States

USAID implements activities to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in Niger, which face chronic crises and conflicts due to food insecurity, persistent poverty and the impact of climate change. These include the USAID Hamzari initiative, which addresses the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in high-risk municipalities in the southern region of Maradi.

Key interventions:

- ♦ **Support for the “habbanaye” tradition:** this practice consists of lending an animal, usually a goat or sheep, to a member of the community in need. After the weaning of the new generation, the loaned animal is returned to its owner, while the beneficiary family keeps the offspring in order to constitute its own herd.
- ♦ **Cooking demonstration sessions:** teaching how to prepare nutritious local food to improve eating habits.
- ♦ **Creation of community granaries:** ensuring access to nutritious food throughout the year.
- ♦ **Small-scale food processing:** enabling women to preserve food for longer and sell their products on local markets.



Results

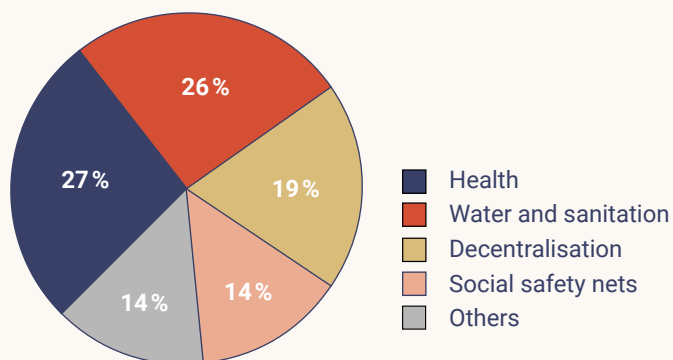
- **11,578 cooking demonstration** sessions were organised, attended by **49,474 pregnant and breastfeeding women**.
- Over **100 granaries** have been created, each employing **5 members** of the community
- **5,879 women** have participated in processing, value-adding, and **marketing activities**.

Decentralisation and access to basic services



The “Decentralisation and basic services” priority sector has been analysed through 4 key areas, in order to provide a more detailed view of the challenges and results.

Breakdown of funding allocated to the “Decentralisation and basic services” sector:



● Decentralisation

Challenges

Initially intended to promote democracy and citizen participation, decentralisation is now recognised as an effective way of providing local, high-quality basic services. However, local and regional authorities are also facing new challenges, particularly in terms of sustainable local economic development (natural resources, waste management, climate change), sometimes in contexts of fragility or insecurity that increase social needs.

In practice, decentralisation implementation greatly varies depending on the willingness of governments to reform

and on political stability or instability factors in a given country. In financial terms, military expenditure, as well as the expenditure linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, has weighed heavily on the budget for local governance and decentralisation.

"Decentralisation is now recognised as an effective way of providing local, high-quality basic services."

Adequate funding for local authorities to meet the needs of the population remains a major challenge in all countries.

Some responsibilities have been transferred to local authorities in several sectors, but are insufficiently funded. Similarly, the inadequacy of local taxation is currently a real challenge for providing local authorities with sufficient own resources.



Decentralisation: a vital reform for lasting peace and prosperity

When governance is driven by citizen needs, remarkable change can happen. Centralised political systems across the Sahel have slowed national economies, weakened basic services, and impeded accountability mechanisms.

Decentralisation in many Sahelian countries aims at bringing governments closer to citizens, allowing communities for greater access to decision-making and making their voice heard in shaping their future.

These reforms are critical as the complex causes of regional insecurity require a collective and inclusive response. The response must include effective local governance that reflects and equitably meets the needs and priorities of citizens.

Sustainable governance, management of renewable natural resources (constituting the basis of the region's economy), and provision of basic services are powerful conflict prevention tools. USAID is proud to

support efforts in the Sahel to bolster local governance, improve the provision of basic services, and ensure citizens are at the centre of public action. Through its programming, USAID fosters enabling conditions that reduce

tensions between farmers and herders, enhance institutional capacities of municipalities, bolster accountability between local policy makers and the population, and ensure citizens can exercise their right to vote. USAID also assists local governments across the region in providing their constituencies with access to quality health care, education, clean water, and nutritious food. Local governance, the heart of decentralisation, is foundational to establishing fair and inclusive processes, as well as to building

sustainable peace and prosperity in the Sahel, by moving the power closer to the people.

"Local governance, the heart of decentralisation, is foundational to establishing fair and inclusive processes, as well as to building sustainable peace and prosperity in the Sahel, by moving the power closer to the people."

Alyson McFarland
Country Representative
USAID/Burkina Faso



A support programme for refugees and host communities in Chad



Chad ————— 2019 – 2025

Refugees and Host Communities Support Project (PARCA¹)



Refugees and host communities



The World Bank

The Refugees and Host Communities Support Project (PARCA) aims to improve access to basic services, livelihoods and social security systems for refugees and host communities in Chad. The project is also strengthening national refugee management systems.

Among basic services, PARCA provides specific support for access to health and education by financing the rehabilitation or construction of new public service infrastructure in targeted areas. Another focus of the project is to extend Chad's social protection system to include poor and vulnerable households from the refugee and host communities, thereby strengthening their resilience.

"I still remember the 22 km I had to walk when I was 10 to go to school in Goré. I also remember that we had to walk for miles to get water. Today, water is accessible to our children."

Donadji Donald
40 years old

"The community spontaneously decided to help build the village school, as the village was so delighted with the initiative to build a school."

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Kobo school site

¹ Projet d'appui aux réfugiés et aux communautés d'accueil.

Results

- **5,000 students** have permanently left the makeshift straw schools in Nya Pendé².
- **5 primary schools** have been built, including **10 modern buildings** equipped with tables and benches.
- Over **171,000 people** benefited from a **social security programme**.
- Over **160,000 people** now have an **improved access to community health and education facilities**.

² Host region for Central African refugees in the far south of Chad.

Restoring and strengthening the social contract in Mali



Mali ————— 2021 – 2026

Accountable Local Governance
Programme (PGLR/PGLR+)



Populations of 240 municipalities in Timbuktu, Gao/Ménaka, Mopti and Ségou



The Netherlands

The Accountable Local Governance Programme (PGLR/PGLR+) helps to restore and strengthen the social contract between local authorities and citizens, through more inclusive and accountable governance. **The programme helped to restore trust and cooperation between public officials and the population, including young people.**

PGLR+ focuses on the inclusive participation of young people in local governance, gender equality, social inclusion and conflict sensitivity. The programme helps to develop basic social services and to improve the management of local public affairs. It works by strengthening skills, dialogue, collaboration and critical thinking.

It is implemented by four NGOs: SNV, Oxfam Novib, the V4T Foundation and ICCO.

"The PGLR programme has a particular approach that I can describe as a qualitative change in the management of our local municipalities. Young people are at the heart of this programme. They are empowered on a number of topics related to governance. The progress I have seen in our community is the blossoming of citizenship within them and also their participation in town hall activities. Because before, people were not very interested. Thanks to the project, everyone is able to play their part. And when the population is informed about the use of its money, it becomes very devoted to fulfilling its duty."

Souaibou Touré
Mayor of Cinzana

"The PGLR enabled the renovation of the Youth Centres (Maisons des Jeunes), which became functional centres for various activities: we organise public performances and youth meetings there, and it has become a very important place for meetings and exchanges."

Fatoumata Dicko
Young leader

Results

→ **Operating in 240 municipalities** in the Timbuktu, Gao/Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou and Bougouni regions, the programme created a network of over **11,800 young leaders** (in 2022).



● Health

Challenges

The Sahel is the region of the world with the worst health indicators. The WHO estimates that 10.6 million people are in need of emergency health services in the Sahel region. In recent years, malnutrition has worsened as a result of increased conflict, and the shutdown of health facilities in some regions has reduced communities' access to healthcare. The chronic malnutrition rate is close to 40%. Maternal and infant mortality remain very high (856 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates in the world).¹

¹ Source: WHO releases more than US\$ 8 million for the Sahel's humanitarian response. WHO | African Region (who.int)

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimate that nearly 2,900,000 children aged between 6 and 59 months could be affected by global acute malnutrition in the Sahel. The tri-border area (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) is particularly affected, accounting for around 70% of areas affected by nutritional insecurity.

In terms of supporting health insurance coverage, several Sahel countries are implementing adaptive social protection programmes. These programmes can provide beneficiaries with access to 100% free general health insurance.

Results

The projects cover a wide range of topics: **neonatal health, primary health, prevention, COVID-19, sexual and reproductive health and institutional support.**



901,422
women of childbearing age used a **family planning method**



5,409,956
children were vaccinated



3,330
medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres, etc.) supported by SA members

● Social Safety Nets²

Challenges

Sahelian countries have demonstrated their willingness to **strengthen social protection** and to develop adaptive social protection systems (ASP). While each country followed its own trajectory, all have at least one social safety net and several contributory and non-contributory social protection programmes. However, the overall coverage of these programmes remains low, varying between 6% and 20%, compared with a global average of 47%. This low coverage also reflects limited public spending in this sector.

Until now, policy frameworks for social safety nets have focused on chronic problems, such as tackling structural poverty and vulnerabilities, rather than on specific risks such as drought or flooding.

² "Social safety nets are non-contributory transfer programmes targeted at poor or vulnerable populations (Grosh et al., 2008). They aim to boost household consumption of basic products and essential services".

³ According to the latest figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for 2021

Results



1,564,704
persons received coverage by **social safety nets**



Identifying and treating malnutrition in Niger



Niger ————— 2017 – 2020

Identifying and Treating Malnutrition in Niger



Mothers and children



Italy & UNICEF

The Italian Cooperation and UNICEF worked together to reduce maternal and child malnutrition, in Tillabéry and Diffa regions in Niger through expansion of selected high-impact nutrition and health integrated community case management (iCCM) interventions.

Through a financial contribution to UNICEF Niger, Italy provided technical, logistical and financial support to the Government of Niger for the implementation of a curative, preventive and promotional package of health and nutrition interventions in 11 municipalities of three districts (Ouallam, Tera and Tillabéry) in the Tillabéry region. The initiative also included treatment of severe acute malnutrition among under five children as well as the deworming of children aged 12-59 months in the Diffa region.

Results

- **803 community health workers** were trained and equipped, giving them the ability to offer a full range of curative and preventive services to their communities.
- **64,707 episodes of illnesses were treated in 30,000 children** under the age of five.
- **58,525 mother-child pairs** were **treated** for by trained volunteers.
- **2,328 support groups for mothers** of the community were created.
- **234,240 caregivers** received **information on infants and young children feeding** and on other vital health practices.
- **24,669 children** were **screened for acute malnutrition** by community health workers. Among them, **2,685** were referred to a health facility for **treatment**, including 751 cases of severe acute malnutrition and **1,134** cases of moderate acute malnutrition.

Between August 2017
and December 2020



Social safety nets in Mauritania: Breaking the intergenerational poverty chain



Mauritania 2015 – 2024

Tekavoul



140,000 of the country's poorest households



Funded by Mauritania and several members of the Sahel Alliance

The Mauritanian authorities launched the “Tekavoul” project to tackle poverty in the most-affected regions. A social register has been created based on community targeting: the community itself identifies the most vulnerable people, according to pre-established criteria and quotas. In urban areas, the approach is based on a general census of the entire population. The social register currently includes over 200,000 households, representing a third of Mauritania’s population, and covers the entire country.

The Mauritanian government decided to extend the Tekavoul programme nationally, increasing the number of beneficiaries to 140,000 by 2023. The quarterly cash transfer is MRU 3,600 (€88) per household for 2024. Local payment operators, supported by teams of programme coordinators, distribute the cash transfers. Over 90% of beneficiaries are women,

who are identified as being primarily responsible for their children’s education.

Furthermore, beneficiaries receive free general health insurance. Over 600,000 people are supported by the government under this scheme. During lean periods or external crises, the government supports the affected populations via the El Maouna component. During the COVID-19 pandemic, over 210,000 households received assistance. Last year, 3,000 households affected by flooding received assistance in Nouakchott and over 500 in the wilaya of Inchiri.

This Mauritanian initiative is supported by several members of the Sahel Alliance.

"The criteria for being a beneficiary are fair, equitable and transparent. Citizens feel that there is transparency and justice, as well as assistance that reduces their daily suffering and difficulties. For each money transfer, beneficiaries are invited to social promotion sessions. These sessions are the key to bringing a change in mentality and habits. They are the only counterpart to the cash transfer: beneficiaries have to participate in order to receive their quarterly transfer."


Moulaye El Hacen Zeidane Abd El Maleck
Tekavoul National Coordinator

More information:



www.alliance-sahel.org/en/actualites/social-safety-nets-mauritania-tekavoul/



 Tekavoul, breaking the intergenerational poverty chain in Mauritania

Emergency support to prevent conflict in Chad



Chad ————— 2018 – today

Inclusive Development in Hosting Areas in Chad (Diza¹)



Indigenous peoples, refugees and returnees



AFD/France, European Union

Chad hosts several hundred thousand refugees,² Chadian returnees and internally displaced persons. The rapid deterioration in security in the region led to a significant increase in the number of vulnerable populations. This situation, combined with insufficient agricultural production, now poses a major risk of conflict in the region.

To reduce this risk, AFD and the European Union have been supporting the Inclusive Development in Hosting Areas in Chad (Diza) plan since 2018. This plan aims to improve living conditions for the affected populations in three particularly tense regions in the east of the country. The main objectives are to guarantee access to food, basic services and social protection.

One of the key measures implemented under the Diza plan is cash transfer. This scheme provides direct cash assistance to beneficiaries. Over 3,800 households receive 15,000 CFA each month, i.e. around €23. This unconditional distribution targets the most vulnerable families, thus encouraging household consumption, increasing their income and purchasing capacity thanks to a regular, long-term income, and allowing the creation of income-generating activities or training in such activities.

¹ Développement inclusif des zones d'accueil au Tchad.

² According to UNHCR figures, Chad was hosting over 1.1 million refugees in March 2024.

"I have a job in a hotel, in catering, and I have been finding it hard to cope. Since I started receiving cash, it has been a great help."

Afaf Ousman,
Cash transfer beneficiary

"I attended a commercial training course and we studied management: expenses, profits... Thanks to the weekly market, the profits from my business supplement my income. My children can go to school and I take care of them."

A mother from Sila



● Water and sanitation

Challenges

In 2022 in the five countries, the rates of access to water and sanitation services show contrasting values. Nonetheless, the following trends can be identified:

- ◇ The access rate to **basic drinking water services** is at least 50% in each country. However, 38 million people do not have basic access to water.
- ◇ The access rates to at least **one basic sanitation service** vary between 12% and 55% depending on the country. Overall, 68 million people do not have access to basic sanitation.

◇ Access to basic hygiene has deteriorated the most, with rates ranging from 9% (Burkina Faso) to 42% (Mauritania).

In terms of sanitation, the trajectory for the five countries indicates that current efforts would have to be multiplied by **4.6** on average to achieve an access rate to at least one basic sanitation service for all by 2030.

Results



8,009,547
persons gained improved
access to **drinking water**
supply services



3,221,009
persons gained improved
access to **sanitation**
services



Strengthening access to water and sanitation in N'Djamena



Chad 2019 – 2024

N'Djaména Water & Sanitation project (PEAN)



Populations of the north-eastern districts of N'Djaména



France/AFD, the Netherlands and the European Union

The city of N'Djaména has experienced rapid urban and demographic growth for more than a decade, leading to increased pressure on land use. The newcomers and the most precarious populations have settled in the north-east of the city, where houses have been built without connection to the drinking water and sewerage networks. This suburb is home to over 20% of the capital's population, i.e. over 200,000 people.¹

The inhabitants of this area lack access to basic urban services, in particular drinking water and adequate sanitation systems. Without drainage infrastructure, these neighbourhoods suffer tragic consequences during rainy periods (flooding, material damage, economic activities' slowdown, etc.).

The N'Djaména Water and Sanitation Project (PEAN) was been set up to support the Chadian authorities in tackling these challenges. The objectives of the project are the following:

- ◇ Increase the coverage rate of N'Djaména's drinking water network,
- ◇ Strengthen the capacity of the Chadian Water Company (Société Tchadienne des Eaux),
- ◇ Implement new management structures for public water points in peri-urban neighbourhoods.

¹ According to the French National Institute for Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED).



"Before, I used to bring my daughter to the hospital quite often, and when I drank the water from the unauthorised wells, it gave me a stomachache. I have been feeling better since I started drinking water from the hydrant. Me and my daughter no longer have stomachaches or diarrhea."

Mrs. Aché Adoum
Local resident

Results

- 20,000 people got access to drinking water
- 25 standpipes built
- 2 retention basins installed
- 200,000 people reached by the infrastructure
- 2 pumping stations built
- 914 family toilets built
- 16 schools equipped with toilets for 28,000 students
- 70,000 people benefiting from public toilets

In 2022





Challenges

The Sahel region has abundant energy resources, but their exploitation and sustainable management remain highly challenging.

Traditional combustibles (mainly forest biomass) account for 70-75% of national energy resources, while hydrocarbons account for 15-25% and renewable energies for less than 10%. In a context of structural and widespread forestry deficit, this extreme energy dependence exposes the population to high vulnerability, as does dependence on external financing and hydrocarbon imports, even for oil and natural gas producing countries such as Niger and Chad, which are subject to fluctuations in global market prices.

Rural electrification rates are among the lowest in the world, at less than 5% in countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad and

Mauritania, despite a high potential for renewable energy and favourable solar exposure. In areas with access to electricity, the quality of service is often mediocre, with frequent outages and voltage fluctuations. Over two thirds of the generated electricity is thermal, with the exception of Mali, where hydroelectricity accounts for 40% of supply. Yet, the region has a significant hydroelectric potential, of which less than 20% is currently exploited.

"The Sahel region has abundant energy resources, but their exploitation and sustainable management remain highly challenging."

The commissioning of a number of solar and wind power plants, as well as the widespread use of solar streetlamps, helped to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

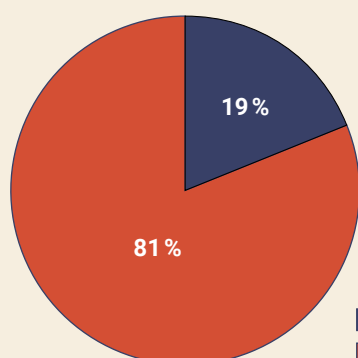
Achieving sustainable development objectives in the energy sector requires a change of scale, but also a change of vision and paradigm.

Results

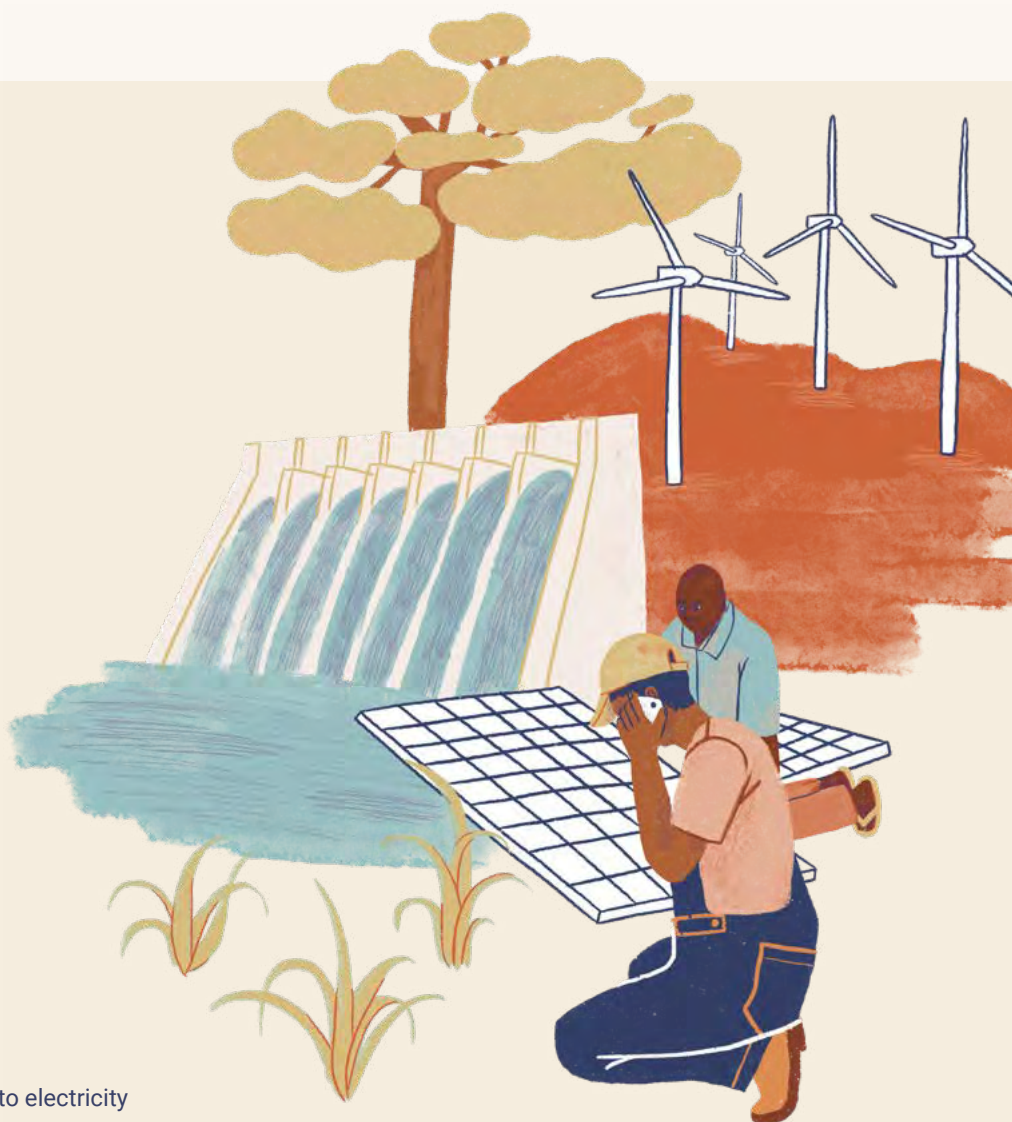


2,351,033
persons received access
or improved access
to electricity

Amount allocated to
projects in the sector



■ Access to electricity
■ Clean and renewable energy



Supplying energy to communities in the Boucle du Mouhoun region



Burkina Faso ——— 2017 – 2022

Energy and Sustainable Economic Growth Project in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region (ECED-Mouhoun)



People from 16 localities in the Boucle du Mouhoun region



Canada

The ECED-Mouhoun project in Burkina Faso has contributed to the economic growth of communities in the Boucle de Mouhoun region. Since its launch in 2017, the project has extended the national electricity network to 16 localities and equipped 39 health centres and social services with solar panels, to provide energy to the most remote communities.

The project assisted 90 individual producers and 38 women's groups by providing solar-powered irrigation, conservation and production systems. Two women's groups benefited from the hybridisation of their multifunctional platform, enabling a solar energy source to be integrated to supplement fuels. The village of Touruba now has two hybrid engines powering a cereal huller and a flour mill.

Women beneficiaries are witnessing a number of benefits from the new scheme:

- ♦ **Reduced costs:** lower expenses for fuel and oil, as well as lower repair costs.
- ♦ **Improved quality of service:** the flour produced is finer and no longer carries the smell of petrol.
- ♦ **Diversification of economic activities:** women have developed new activities such as producing and selling natural juices and recharging mobile phones.

These new sources of income enable the cooperative to grant repayable loans to its members, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and income-generating activities.

"The solar hybrid platform really makes our work easier and increases our income. Now all you have to do is press a button and it starts. With the other platform, it was taking too long to get started and, more importantly, we had to put a lot of manpower into it."

Mandé Bibata
Member of the Toroba PTFM



Challenges

Governance is an essential vector for peace, security and sustainable development. Adopting sectoral reforms, based on participatory and democratic approaches, and building institutional capacity are two fundamental aspects of an essentially political field.

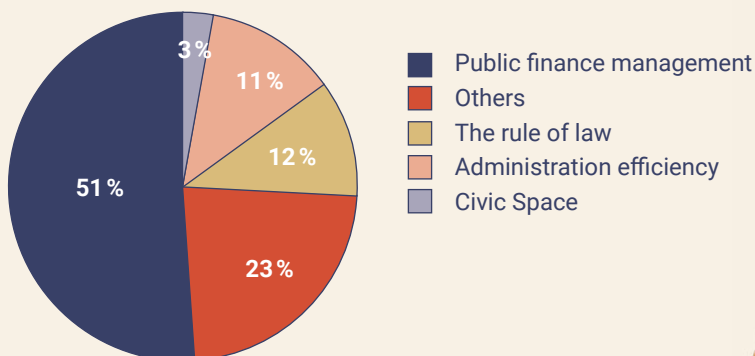
Analysis of the internal (political, social, economic) and external (geopolitical, international relations) factors indicates that the **Sahel crisis is mainly a crisis of governance**. The ability of governments and their local authorities to carry out their functions and provide social basic services is at the heart of the challenges: today's populations are seeking justice, security, transparency, accountability and participation.

Results



2,317
civil society organisations
(including media, opinion
leaders) received support from
Alliance Sahel partners

Amount allocated to projects in the sector



Developing effective governance processes thanks to local communities

Governance is at the heart of the European Union's integrated strategy for the Sahel, updated in 2021. Years of commitment to development cooperation in Africa have had a significant impact, but the expected results in terms of socio-economic growth and stabilisation are not always reached. If the security-development nexus has not been fully secured, this is also due to weak and inadequate governance.

An effective system of governance is essential to catalyse Africa's great resources, including human capital. However, there are often serious weaknesses in governance that do not guarantee the protection and proper use of resources needed to create an effective welfare system with adequate management. These shortcomings have distant roots going back to colonialism. **Current socio-economic models are the result of processes based on imposed models, with no overall vision for development, and hardly suitable for implementing solid governance structures.**

The EU and its partners in the Sahel and Africa have clearly identified the need to improve governance and reduce corruption as priorities. **Governance is essential to ensure that the government actions for its citizens are more effective, to build a solid social contract and to guarantee the fulfilment of individual aspirations, striving towards a common interest.** The model has to be contextualised, adapted to the various local characteristics and based on the needs of the African partners. Local communities, with their specific needs and resources, are essential to developing effective governance processes. This decentralised level is particularly useful and complementary to the central authorities. Acting simultaneously in all sectors is also essential. Ultimately, this is an integrated and consistent broad-spectrum intervention, which does not

exclude the security and defence sector, as the ambition is to identify the root causes of socio-economic and security problems, including crime and violent extremism. In the shorter term, this also implies a sharper organisation of the defence and security forces, as part of a strategy of territorial control, to ensure the protection of the population.

Local experience is a valuable resource. There is much to be learned from traditional forms of social organisation, resource management and knowledge of territories and ways of life. The traditional approach to justice at local community level, or how resources are shared and managed, can lead to the definition of socio-economic models that are respectful of identities. Inclusiveness remains central: women and young people, civil society and other social stakeholders should be able to play their part and participate in the decision-making and management process.

"Local experience is a valuable resource. There is much to be learned from traditional forms of social organisation, resource management and knowledge of territories and ways of life."

Civil resurgence is central to the EU's integrated strategy for the Sahel. For the EU, this is in line with the guiding principle of all its partnership policies, namely ownership by African countries, a principle also shared with the African Union. This approach is based on the idea that processes are defined locally with the international partners supporting and accompanying them, for their mutual benefit in the future. In this context, governance appears to be the main objective for achieving stability and ensuring prosperity in the Sahel countries. Consequently, concerted and agreed **action plans between the partners - the EU and African countries in particular - are necessary for effective and coherent coordination, capable of responding to needs and filling the gaps. This is why the coordination and alignment work of the Sahel Alliance is fundamental.**

Emanuela C. Del Re
EU Special Representative
for the Sahel



Preventing conflicts over natural resources in Niger and Burkina Faso



Niger, Burkina Faso — 2019 – 2024

USAID Terres Eau Vie



Farmers and livestock breeders

The United States

For centuries, farmers and herders living in the Sahel have competed over natural resources, both between and amongst themselves. This competition has intensified for a number of reasons: demographic boom, social inequalities, climate change, dwindling natural resources, and poor farming practices.

In response to this accelerating crisis, the USAID Terres Eau Vie project supports governments and communities in Niger and Burkina Faso to manage the use of natural resources and reduce conflicts. This initiative aims to bring stakeholders together to identify common problems, set rules and implement management plans. This process is formalised in local conventions or charters, designed to comply with local customs and national regulations.



"Thanks to the local convention, a ban on felling trees has been implemented. The area is now heavily reforested and green."

*Wazirou Abdou Gago
President of a grazing committee in Niger*

Results

- To date, over **40 agreements** of this type **have been signed**, covering about **690,000 hectares**. These agreements helped to reduce conflicts in some regions by half.
- In 2021, with the support of USAID, the Nigerien government included this **methodology** into **national guidelines for communal development plans**.

Preventing and managing conflicts over natural resources



Mali, Niger — 2021 – 2023

The Justice and Stability in the Sahel programme (JASS)



Communities sharing natural resources (rural communities)



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) - the UK

Launched in 2021 in Mali, the Justice and Stability in the Sahel (JASS) programme aims to address land conflict, natural resource management and access to justice for over 27,000 marginalised people. Since 2023, the programme has extended its activities to Niger. To prevent conflict, JASS tackles the underlying structural causes of instability and promotes learning and best practices to strengthen the resilience of communities to climate shocks. JASS is implemented by Mercy Corps.

"Before, women were not consulted in matters of land management, but today as the women's representative on the village land commission, I see that our voices are beginning to matter."

*Woman member of a Land Commission
Banamba locality*

"We are very moved by the support of JASS to agropastoralists and pastoralists through the rehabilitation of barren pastures in our area. We have a huge grazing field, but the grass has been very poor for years and unable to meet the food needs of livestock. Today, our animals do not have any more to wander into farms for fodder, avoiding unnecessary tensions."

*Bakary Koné
Pastoralist from Toula
village of N'Tossoni
commune*

Results

Supporting conflicts' resolution mechanisms:

- **200 Village Land Commissions** or Commissions Foncières (COFOs) established or supported. These have successfully resolved 84%¹ of reported land conflicts.
- **12 Conflict Resolution Committees** have been set up and successfully resolved 83%² of reported conflict incidents.

Promoting inclusive governance:

- **Organisation of 24 dialogues on social standards and inclusive governance** with community leaders, reaching nearly **8,000 people**, including **3,295 women**.

Reducing pressure on scarce natural resources:

- **Training of 1,000 farmers**³ – from communities affected by conflict between farmers and livestock breeders – in climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Influencing land governance actors:** adoption of more effective approaches to inclusive land governance by government bodies, civil society groups, and NGOs.

¹ 118 out of 140 reported land conflicts were resolved.

² 111 conflicts including between herders and farmers have been resolved by the CRCs.

³ 704 women, 296 men.

Challenges

Despite increasing efforts and initiatives for more gender-inclusive societies and economies, the Sahel continues to have some of **the lowest gender indicators in the world** in many areas such as education, health, the economy, access to land and justice, as well as high rates of gender-based violence (GBV).

The literacy rate for women in the region is 32.5%, limiting their access to formal employment and accentuating the income disparity between men and women. Although most Sahelian women are active in family farming, as the main producers and processors of foodstuffs, they lack access to land and inputs, and as a result are often neither paid nor given any recognition.

"The literacy rate for women in the region is 32.5%, limiting their access to formal employment and accentuating the income disparity between men and women."

The most alarming data relates to violence inflicted on women. In 2021, figures show an increase in sexual assaults, from 15% in 2020 to 34% in 2021.

The rights of women and girls must be reaffirmed and placed at the heart of humanitarian and development action, in order to prevent and respond to GBV. Involving community groups, government stakeholders and donors in promoting the role of women and girls is necessary to facilitate their access to services, resources and livelihoods.

Results

The SA results framework does not contain a specific "gender" project indicator. However, the monitoring of gender objectives are included in the Sahel Alliance's portfolio database from 2019 onwards.

The data shows that 50% of eligible projects have gender as a significant objective and 12%, have gender as their main objective. The majority of these projects are categorised as "health" or "education".



Gender equality, a key to stability and sustainable development

Everywhere across the Sahel, women play a central role. When they are free to participate fully in all socio-economic spheres, they become agents of change. **They contribute to improving living conditions for their families, their communities and their countries, and are catalysts for social cohesion, economic resilience and adaptation to climate change.**

Gender equality has a multiplier effect on the achievement of sustainable development goals, and the economic benefits of such an approach are no longer to be demonstrated.

In the Sahel, access to entrepreneurship is enabling women to innovate in all sectors, from crafts and textiles in Burkina Faso to agricultural processing in Mali, cosmetics in Niger and livestock farming in Chad. This dynamism stimulates economic growth and contributes to social stability.

In recent years, despite the efforts and commitment of partners and countries in the Sahel, gender inequalities have persisted, hindering the development and well-being of women, teenage girls and girls. They continue to face major constraints in terms of access to information, education, health, protection and justice. Heavy domestic burden and institutional barriers often confine them to the informal labour market, and they have difficulty accessing to property and productive resources. Despite the progress made, their participation in political and institutional life also remains marginal.

These obstacles are now coupled with the effects of multidimensional crises and numerous security, humanitarian and environmental challenges, which tend to affect them disproportionately and contribute to increasing gender inequalities, in particular their exposure to gender-based violence. However, **periods of crisis also represent an opportunity that places women at the heart of family resilience and, when they are supported and well equipped, enable them to become agents of peace and sustainable development, as well as to build social bonds.**

This is why the African Development Bank and Canada are working in synergy to advance the gender agenda in the Sahel, in particular through the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), which aims to bridge the gap between men and women in terms of access to finance and to unleash the entrepreneurial capacity of African women. This initiative contributes to the funding of the Project to promote business links for small and medium-sized businesses in Sahelian countries, which will support nearly 1,400 companies run by women.

Future areas for investment exist to advance gender equality in the Sahel. By supporting women-led green initiatives and the creation of green funds dedicated to them, we can help to strengthen women's resilience faced with climate change. Similarly, investment in agro-processing has the potential to increase the food resilience of households and communities, contributing to food sovereignty. **Investing in women's skills and their access to decent employment is a strategic approach to economic growth and poverty reduction in the region.**

The inclusion of men in awareness-raising and training initiatives tackling stereotypes and assumptions is essential, as they are an integral part of the solution. Finally, investment in support of inclusive governance and the implementation of international commitments, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Maputo Protocol, are fundamental to the region's development.

To this end, the African Development Bank and the Government of Canada invite the members of the Sahel Alliance to actively engage with the countries of the Sahel to jointly address the root causes of fragility and pave the way for sustainable and inclusive development.

Malado Kaba

*Director of the Gender, Women and Civil Society Department
African Development Bank*



Marie-Claude Harvey

*Director, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Chad, Niger & Sahel Development Program,
Global Affairs Canada*



Strengthening girls' rights to education in Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso — 2020 – 2024

Les Filles Accèdent à une
Scolarisation Sûre et à Temps
(FASST)



Girls and teenage girls from 6 to
16 years old



Canada

In Burkina Faso, children and adolescents, particularly girls aged between 6 and 16, face numerous obstacles to their right to education, especially in areas affected by insecurity (the North, Centre-North, Sahel and East regions).

The FASST project helped to foster change in favour of gender equality and girls' education at the community level.

Undertaken actions contributed to improving the perceptions and behaviour of all children in general, and of girls in particular.

FASST is implemented by Plan International in partnership with the Strømme Foundation and in collaboration with MENAPLN.

"Some girls drop out of school because their parents don't provide adequate support and don't believe in their potential. They believe that young girls should stay at home, learn housework and get married. I would like to encourage parents to allow girls to continue their education and to refuse early marriages that cause them so many problems. I hope that the FASST project will be able to continue with us into the next school year and support many young girls."

*Latifa, 14 years old
Beneficiary of the FASST project*

Results

As of 31 March 2023

- **Over 20% increase in enrolment:** the number of students enrolled in schools and accelerated learning centres rose from 72,991 (including 36,465 girls) to 89,956 (including 44,700 girls).
- **Capacity-building for girls:** activities with 405 mentors helped 2,214 girls to develop their ability to make their voices heard, and to choose and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.



Challenges

Most climate scenarios indicate that temperatures in the Sahel will rise by at least 2°C in the short term (2021-2040)¹, which is 1.5 times higher than the global average. This region is particularly vulnerable to soil degradation and desertification. Climate change is expected to have significant economic repercussions for the Sahelian countries: loss of GDP, lower agricultural yields, reduced labour productivity, as well as damage to infrastructure caused by flooding. Although renewable energies offer an opportunity, their technical maintenance remains a challenge, and the planned increase in installed capacity remains lower than the projected growth in consumption.

"The combination of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to climate change can contribute to the resilience and sustainability of actions undertaken in all economic sectors."

In the southern Sahel, climate resilience is closely linked to the preservation of vegetation cover. The growing competition for land between farmers and livestock herders is likely to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change and demographic pressure, aggravating conflicts. The people most affected will be the poor and most vulnerable populations, in particular women, young people, ethnic minorities, nomadic groups, displaced persons and people with reduced mobility.

The combination of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to climate change can contribute to the resilience and sustainability of actions undertaken in all economic sectors.

Results

Without specific project performance indicators, an analysis of Rio's markers across the SA's project portfolio provides an overview of its integration as a cross-cutting dimension.

Nearly 30% of projects have a significant or main objective for at least one of the 4 climate markers.

Most of the funding is allocated to adaptation (mainly for projects in the agricultural sector), followed by mitigation (for projects in the energy sector).



¹ According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Towards climate-change resilient agriculture

Climate change is a major factor for the future of the Sahel. Climate shocks and extreme weather events, such as droughts and heavy rainfall, could multiply and worsen. These developments are also associated with other challenges: accelerated demographic growth, low economic productivity and lack of diversification of production, political conflicts and crises, inter-community tensions and violent extremism. This dynamic is a source of impoverishment for households, mainly peasant farmers, and is triggering population displacement, the exodus of many young people and competition for land and natural resources.

Developing sustainable, climate-resistant agriculture capable of reducing poverty and malnutrition is a priority for the Sahel Alliance. In particular, the agriculture sector accounts for 23% of the Alliance's total portfolio, corresponding to €6.054 billion out of a total of €26.4 billion, most of which is allocated to regional programmes, mainly in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. In addition, the Sahel Alliance members contributed €755 million to climate change adaptation, the majority of which was also allocated to regional interventions and actions in Burkina Faso and Niger.

Spain, as a member of the Sahel Alliance, also supports the need to modernise agriculture and productive development, and to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change. AECID strengthened its sectoral and geographical

expertise by implementing various projects, several of which were co-financed with EU funds. This is the case of the "DeSIRA" initiative, which promotes innovation through agricultural research in Niger (€5m), and also of the "Covenant of Mayors" project, which aims to support sustainable planning to promote energy efficiency in order to mitigate climate change (among other countries, in Mauritania with €1.9m). Innovation for resilient, productive and healthy agro-pastoral systems is important, which is why the "PRISMA" project was implemented in West Africa, and in particular in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Lastly, the project to support the Food Reserve Network in West Africa (most of which is in the Sahel) was designed to implement the regional emergency storage strategy in response to food and nutrition crises.

"Developing sustainable, climate-resistant agriculture capable of reducing poverty and malnutrition is a priority for the Sahel Alliance."

Recognising its importance as a transversal issue to be addressed, Spain, during its presidency of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly (2020-

2023), did focus on the impact of climate change on economic and social development, among other priority issues for the region. Finally, AECID welcomes the creation in 2019 of the Sahel Alliance's climate working group, with the aim of promoting the integration of climate change-related actions into the Alliance's sectoral interventions. This group is already a knowledge-sharing platform, capitalising on new opportunities for green growth and enhanced resilience. These are great assets to contribute to a sustainable future.

Antón Leis García

*Director of the Spanish Agency
for International Development
Cooperation (AECID)*



Smart agricultural technologies in rural areas



Mali, Niger — 2019 – 2023

Climate Smart Agriculture
Technologies (CSAT)



Rural households, young
people and women



Norway

Climate-smart agricultural technologies have become essential for improving livelihoods and ensuring food security. These technologies enable the sustainable intensification of agricultural production and increase of producers' resilience to climate change, as well as the creation of economic opportunities for young people and women.

The project is implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

"We received training in a number of innovative farming techniques, such as microdosing, sowing density, weeding... In the half-hectare field where we used to harvest 125 kg with the local variety, we now produce up to 600 kg with the improved variety, giving a yield of 1,200 kg/ha."

Halilou

*Agricultural producer
Magaria/Zinder, Niger*



"The project taught us good farming practices: how to use fertilisers wisely, how to properly harvest, etc. We can now feed our families well, but we can also sell the rest of our production to earn money."

Tahirou Diamouténé

Kaboila/Sikasso, Mali

"Thanks to the CSAT project and its platforms, we received training in the production and processing of soy-based products such as awara, but also soumbala, milk, biscuits and many other products, which now enable us to generate money."

Rahamou Mamane

Bengou/Dosso, Niger



Results

→ The Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies (CSAT) project is helping over **40,000 rural households** in Niger and Mali.

Private Sector



Challenges

Despite the instability, the Sahel countries offer the prospect of solid, sustained macroeconomic growth. However, the economy remains undiversified, highly dependent on agriculture and the extractive industry, with a private sector consisting mainly of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The informal sector is predominant and the business climate in the region is hesitant. The banking sector remains inaccessible to the majority of the population,¹ and the number of businesses with a bank loan or credit line remains very low (Mali 26%, Mauritania 33% and Niger 28%).

"Despite the instability, the Sahel countries offer the prospect of solid, sustained macroeconomic growth."

Finally, security challenges have a considerable fiscal impact, which is reflected in national budgets by a decline in revenue and an increase in military and security spending, to the detriment of social sectors.

Given this context, particular attention must be paid to the private sector. The Sahel, with its young and entrepreneurial population, has tremendous potential opportunities, provided that the competitiveness of economic players is strengthened and private investment is supported.

¹ The extended banking coverage rate (EBR) remains very low (Burkina Faso 41.3%, Mali 36.7%, Niger 14.7%).

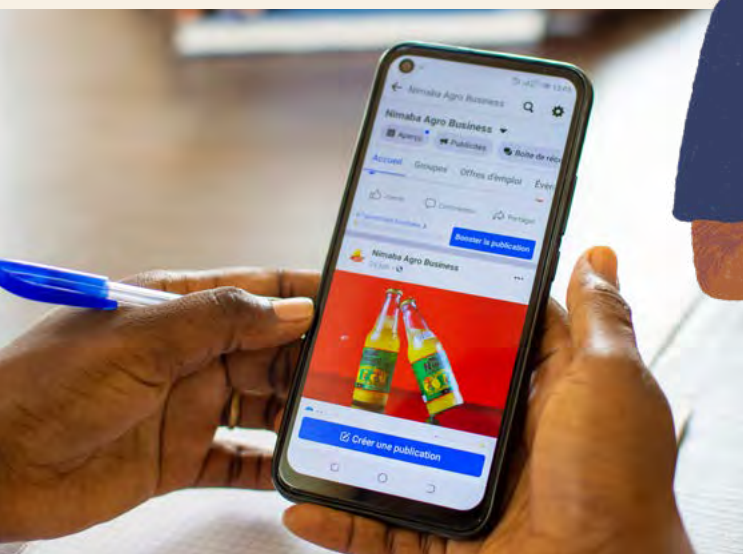
Results



166,944
small and medium-sized
enterprises were created
or supported



269,647
jobs were
created



Supporting entrepreneurship for young people and women

The Sahel is a land of challenges as well as opportunities. The devastating combination of climate change, mass migration, trafficking and the rise of violent extremism has led to recurrent humanitarian crises and massive food insecurity.

However, this vast African region has great potential in terms of human resources. The Sahel is one of the youngest regions in the world: almost 65% of the total population is under 25. Young Sahelian people are a priority for development cooperation, which aims to empower them to play a leading role in the political, economic and social life of their communities. Resilience and development in the Sahel will come from the people living in the region, and more specifically from young people, who are the driving force behind improvement and change.

Education at all levels, and in particular higher education, vocational training and the transfer of knowledge and technology, are tools needed to help young people in the Sahel find employment and to boost their dynamism. The challenge is to combine the needs of local socio-economic realities with the need for modernisation and innovation, particularly by focusing on high added-value sectors, in order to achieve a high level of economic productivity. When all these conditions are met and these objectives achieved, young Sahelians will benefit from more employment opportunities and a better life.

Women are another invaluable asset in the Sahel, making a powerful contribution to meeting the region's challenges and playing a decisive role in putting the Sahel on the road to stability and development. The potential they have to offer as key agents of change for peace-building and economic transformation is a tremendous resource for accelerating progress in the Sahel region.

Women entrepreneurs in the Sahel operate mainly in the informal sector and are involved in low-income activities. Even when they are highly educated, the social pressure of family responsibilities and discrimination in the labour market limit their independence and legitimate aspirations. Playing a key role in the Sahel means addressing the challenges of developing women's entrepreneurship. This means addressing gender imbalances in the private sector, promoting the inclusion of women, strengthening their resilience and guaranteeing access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

In general, support for small and medium-sized businesses is increasingly seen as a strategic way of promoting economic growth, with a major impact on development. The creation of inclusive jobs, particularly in fragile contexts, will be essential to foster broader economic and human development, also involving the most peripheral regions.

For effective action in the Sahel, we need to work to bring together the best energies of all stakeholders in sustainable development cooperation. The private sector and civil society can provide local businesses with innovative practices and expertise. In this respect, diaspora associations can encourage this development process.

Training, job creation for young people, the promotion of entrepreneurship and an enticing environment for women entrepreneurs can therefore ensure sustainable growth for the region. The road to peace and prosperity is still long, but it is with this vision and this model of sustainable and inclusive development that the Sahel will reach its goal.

"Resilience and development in the Sahel will come from the people living in the region, and more specifically from young people, who are the driving force behind improvement and change."

Stefano Gatti

*Director General for Development & Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of Italy*



Investing in the potential of young Malian entrepreneurs



Mali ————— 2019 – 2024

Support Fund for Business Creation by Young People (FACEJ¹)



Young people starting and/or developing businesses



Denmark and the Netherlands

The mission of the Support Fund for Business Creation by Young People (FACEJ) is to help young people in Mali who have completed technical, vocational or higher education courses to launch their own businesses. The fund also supports young entrepreneurs already in business with strong growth potential.

One of FACEJ's key objectives is to support at least 40% of young women entrepreneurs in creating or developing their own businesses.

The fund is implemented by the PLAN-BØRNE fonden consortium and Swisscontact.



"With support from FACEJ, I bought the first machines we needed to process fruit. Without this investment, our project would not be at this stage today. Consumers are starting to show interest in made in Mali products. We are three workers and we produce enough cashew apple juice to supply our customers. I'm not trying to boast about our juice, but compared to other companies' juices, it's the best, there is no doubt about it..."

*Gabdo Gindo,
Promoter and director
of Nimaba Agro-Business in Sikasso.*

¹ In French: Fonds d'appui à la création d'entreprise par les jeunes.



La solution nous l'avons baptisée le Smart Track.

Anti-theft systems made in Mali

Portrait of SMART CARD, a young Malian company operating in the security sector, which received support from FACEJ (in French)

Results

→ To date, over **1,900 businesses** received support from FACEJ in the Sikasso, Bamako, Timbuktu, Segou, Mopti and Kita regions.

Conclusions and perspectives

The Sahel Alliance has achieved one of its primary objectives: maintaining the focus on the Sahel despite a challenging international context. It successfully created a dynamic framework for dialogue, exchange, analysis and expertise, fostering a better shared understanding of the issues and challenges faced by the region.

In line with the accountability commitments made at the launch of the Alliance, this report presents the achievements that have been measured over the past five years and draws a number of lessons learned. First, it highlights the increased engagement of Sahel Alliance members in a difficult and constantly changing environment, which remains aligned with the development priorities of the Sahelian countries. Although data collection is still limited, it demonstrates tangible results, in particular in terms of strengthening agricultural and food systems and access to basic services, especially drinking water and sanitation. These indicators also reflect the ongoing efforts of Sahel Alliance members to adapt to the realities on the ground and to promote multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approaches rooted in the territories, particularly the most fragile ones. The range of tools available to achieve the Alliance's objectives was also expanded over the period with, for example, the creation of the Sahel Facility and the Sahel Analysis, Monitoring and Learning Platform (PASAS). Beyond the numbers, the many testimonies we see in this report illustrate the tangible impact of this better-coordinated action on the lives of the Sahelian populations.

Taking into account the security and humanitarian context, and the challenges that directly affect people's lives and hinder the economic and social development of the Sahel countries, this report also shows a number of limitations. Some priority sectors, such as education, continue to receive insufficient support. The consultations needed to build an integrated territorial approach aimed at improving access to basic services in the most vulnerable areas have, in some cases, been undermined by the rapid increase in insecurity. Lastly, current regional dynamics challenge existing joint partnership and accountability frameworks and are inviting us to rethink them.

This observation opens up new perspectives. 2022 was, in many ways, a pivotal year, demonstrating the urgency of a situation that has been steadily deteriorating. It was an opportunity for in-depth reflection within the Alliance and consultation with its partners to question its field of action, its operation and its results, and to seek ways and means to enhance its capacity to deliver effective and impactful responses.

This allowed the Alliance to refocus on a narrower set of strategic priorities, focusing on the prospects of young people in the Sahel, resilience to shocks of all kinds and the ability of territories to pursue their own development trajectories. The operational translation of these priorities has been at the heart of our coordination efforts in recent months, in particular through the identification of joint Sahel Alliance initiatives, aimed at providing responses that address the regional and national challenges, and learn from past experiences. We are actively pursuing our efforts to make the most of, and even create, new financial instruments that will be the vehicles for this enhanced ambition.

The reasons that led to the creation of the Sahel Alliance in 2017 are even more relevant today, given the complexity of the issues at stake and the growing needs of populations. More than ever, the Alliance needs to be more effective in supporting its members' activities. This report invites us to take a clear and objective look at the results achieved in the first five years of its existence and at our capacity to contribute collectively to reducing the factors of fragility in the region in order to lay the foundations for sustainable, equitable and fair development.

Emmanuel Debroise
*Head of the Coordination Unit
of the Sahel Alliance*



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Main results of Sahel Alliance project indicators over 5 years

Education, employment and youth



1,510,351
persons received **vocational
training** and/or skills
development courses



Agriculture, rural development and food security



1,236,558
hectares of land covered by
**sustainable management
techniques**



3,435,722
farmers or livestock
breeders were given access
to advisory services for the
sustainability and **resilience**
of their activities



22,506,694
persons received
food assistance and/or
livelihood support

Decentralisation and access to basic services



1,564,704
persons received coverage
by **social safety nets**



901,422
women of childbearing
age used a **family
planning** method



5,409,956
children were
vaccinated



8,009,547
persons gained improved
access to **drinking water**
supply services



3,221,009
persons gained improved
access to **sanitation
services**



3,330
medical facilities (hospitals,
nursing homes, medical
centres, etc.) supported by
SA members

Energy



2,351,033
persons received acces
or improved **access
to electricity**

Governance



2,317
civil society organisations
(including media, opinion
leaders) received support from
SA partners

Private sector



166,944
**small and medium-sized
enterprises** were created
or supported



269,647
jobs were
created

