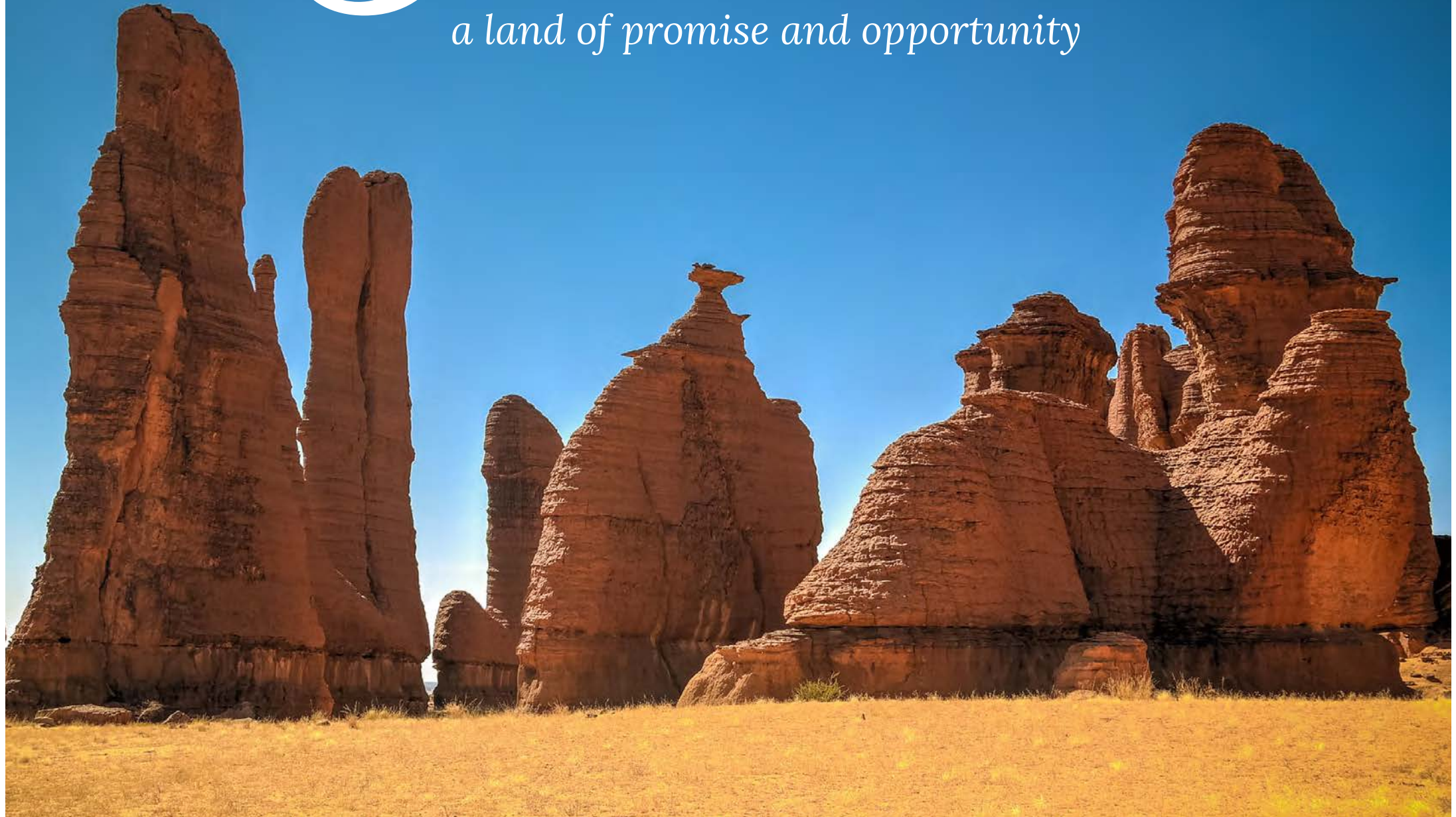




UNISS  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# SAHIEL

*a land of promise and opportunity*



“THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE URGENT  
MOBILIZATION TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES  
AND PEOPLE OF THE SAHEL.

António Guterres United Nations Secretary-General




Children playing under a temporary shelter in an IDP site in Kaya, Burkina Faso, December 2019 (UNICEF).

“ ONLY A COLLECTIVE, INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH, OWNED AND LED BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, WILL SUPPORT SUSTAINED PROGRESS TOWARDS THE LASTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE SO URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE SAHEL.

**Amina J. Mohammed** United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Aerial Panoramic landscape view of the Sahel and oasis at Dogondoutchi, Niger Shutterstock.com



“THE SAHEL IS  
THE MOST  
YOUTHFUL  
REGION OF  
THE WORLD  
WITH 64.5% OF  
YOUTH AGED  
LESS THAN 25  
YEARS.

An Internally displaced  
young woman in Sevare,  
Mali. WFP/Aurélia Rusek  
UNDP

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## ■ SAHEL A LAND OF PROMISE, POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITY

The United Nations (UN) is working to establish a peaceful and prosperous Sahel.

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By **Amina J. Mohammed**  
United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

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Mali, Severe PBF project  
UNESCO Aurélia Rusek/2020

# FOREWORD

*The Sahel is a place of untapped resources and opportunities. But, the region also has many complex and multifaceted challenges. The urgency of addressing the root causes of these challenges calls for greater solidarity, increased mobilization from the international community and strengthened partnerships. All these elements are essential for building lasting peace and preventing a relapse into conflict.*

## **THESE SHARED OBJECTIVES AND HOPES FOR THE SAHEL**

will not be attained without the engagement of youth and women. Women and young people are agents of change and will contribute to the prosperous and peaceful transformation of their countries. We need to ensure that all have access to the necessary skills and opportunities to play their role.

This spirit of hope drives our efforts in the Sahel. The United Nations has refocused its Integrated Strategy for the Sahel based on the renewed needs of people and the environment and has developed a UN Support Plan to assist the countries of the Sahel.

In this regard, this photobook illustrates the ways the UN is working using the Support Plan to guide coverage, targeting of vulnerable groups and ensuring maximal use of resources

for wider gain as exemplified by the joint projects implemented and showcased.

In 2020, COVID-19 has caused a global health, humanitarian and development emergency. It has shown us how fragile our systems are and the risk of reversing the gains for women and children. Yet it has also provided an opportunity to recover better to be more resilient to future shocks.

The pandemic has underlined how vital the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is for reducing inequalities, promoting prosperity and sustaining peace. The UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and the UN Support Plan supported by the UN system with strengthened leadership have been designed to address these intertwined challenges and offer innovative solutions.

Thus, the emphasis in this book to showcase the work done by the UN in the Sahel, espousing the linkages between humanitarian, development and sustaining peace nexus for purposes of addressing immediate and long-term concerns and sustainability of gains made.

Much remains to be done. We must show real impact for people and for the planet. This publication reflects the work carried out on the ground by the United Nations through the “One UN Approach” and its vision for the Sahel.

Together, we can put an end to the crisis and offer a better future for the people of the region.

**Amina J. Mohammed**  
United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

# SAHEL

*a land of promise*

“THE SAHEL SITS ATOP OF SOME OF THE LARGEST AQUIFERS ON THE CONTINENT... THE COSTAL AND MARITIME ZONES OF THE REGION, ARE AMONG THE RICHEST FISHING GROUNDS IN THE WORLD.

*Despite varied and complex challenges, the people of the Sahel have proven to be resilient. The United Nations is working assiduously with the people of the Sahel to meet their objective to establish a peaceful and prosperous Sahel.*

**THE SAHEL, THE VAST SEMI-ARID REGION OF AFRICA** separating the Sahara Desert to the north and tropical savannas to the south, is as much a land of opportunities as it is of challenges.

The Sahel is endowed with abundant human, cultural and natural resources, offering tremendous potential for rapid growth. Yet there are deep-rooted ecological, political, human rights and security challenges affecting the prosperity and lasting peace of the region. The nature and complexity of these problems cannot be overstated, and they reverberate through communities and whole nations.

Those worst affected are the most important >



Fisherman on the Chari river  
near the boarder of Cameroon,  
Dougia, Hadjer Lamis region, Chad,  
December 2018 (UNDP).

“THE CHALLENGES OF THE SAHEL ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, AND THE REGION WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE IN AN ENVISAGED FUTURE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT THIS REQUIRES FROM US A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH AND PERSEVERANCE.

**Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas**

Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel. (UNWOAS)

resources of the Sahel people – Women and Youth.

Despite this, the people of the Sahel have proven to be resilient and taken a firm stand to address the complex human security and development challenges facing them. Therefore, the United Nations Secretariat, Agencies, Funds, Programmes and Country Teams, are working assiduously with the people of the Sahel to meet their objective to establish a peaceful and prosperous Sahel. The United Nations is doing this under the auspices of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), which is at the centre of the international response in the Sahel in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2391 (2017).

**What this photo-book represents is only a fraction of the work of the United Nations across the 10 countries under UNISS namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia.**

These photos and personal histories from the region enable us to share our interaction with the Sahel communities that we serve. They illustrate the United Nations' work across a range of actions and life-saving efforts, security, sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion, preventing crisis, deepening governance and the rule of law, provision of essential services – education and health; Water, Sanitation

and Hygiene (WASH); work with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), livelihoods, job creation for women and youth, economic revitalization with special focus on agriculture and renewable energy.

We take this opportunity to thank the Governments and the remarkable people of the Sahel as well as our donors, civil society, the private sector and partners in the academia, who we work closely with to achieve these results.

By sharing a part of their story here, women, youth and people from all walks of life in the Sahel have shone a light on the challenges they face every day and how the UN collectively is helping to improve their lives. ■



Young girls benefiting from a school scholarship in Libore, Niamey district, Niger, May 2019 (UNDP).



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

# UNISS OVERVIEW

*In 2013 the United Nations made a bold decision to confront the Sahel crisis. It deployed results-focused multi-dimensional approach through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). The UNISS aims to address the root causes of the Sahel crisis (10 countries) with special focus on Women and Youth.*

**THE UNITED NATIONS ENGAGEMENT IN THE SAHEL** encompasses many areas to support the countries of the region address multidimensional challenges, and foster peace and development.

The United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) was launched in 2013 by the United Nations Secretary-general to provide a framework for UN interventions in the Sahel region.

The United Nations has since recalibrated the UNISS in order to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. A UN Support Plan has also been developed to enable Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs), and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), as well as Resident

## SOME KEY FIGURES



Population **300 million**

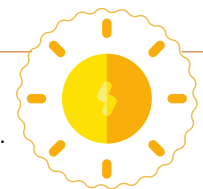
**64%**  
are under 25

**50.3%**  
are women

The participation of men and boys for better **gender equality** is promoted through **1,640** clubs for husbands and future husbands.



Solar energy potential **13.9 billion kWh/years.**



More than **600 hectares** of land have been allocated by local authorities to Senegal women rice producers.

Coordinators to work together and in close coordination with Sahel countries, regional organizations and partners to improve the living conditions of people in the Sahel.

Seven years after its launch, the objectives of the UN Sahel Strategy are still valid, and continue to be implemented through a preventive, integrated and concerted approach to strengthening governance, security and resilience of the countries of the Sahel.

**In 2019, in the framework of the UN Integrated Strategy, the implementation of programmes in the region showed a strong cross-pillar focus, bringing UN entities and implementing partners together across borders.**

More than ever, our UN APFs at regional level are working closely with Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and external partners to support national governments and regional organizations. Our partnership with G5-Sahel and ECOWAS will be reinforced in 2020, echoing the strong regional commitment to overcome the current situations.

Our strategic priorities will remain: Inclusive/equitable growth, access to basic services; resilience to climate change, decreasing natural resource scarcity, malnutrition and food insecurity; prevention of violent extremism and crime; access to justice and human rights; access to renewable energy, and Empowering youth and women.

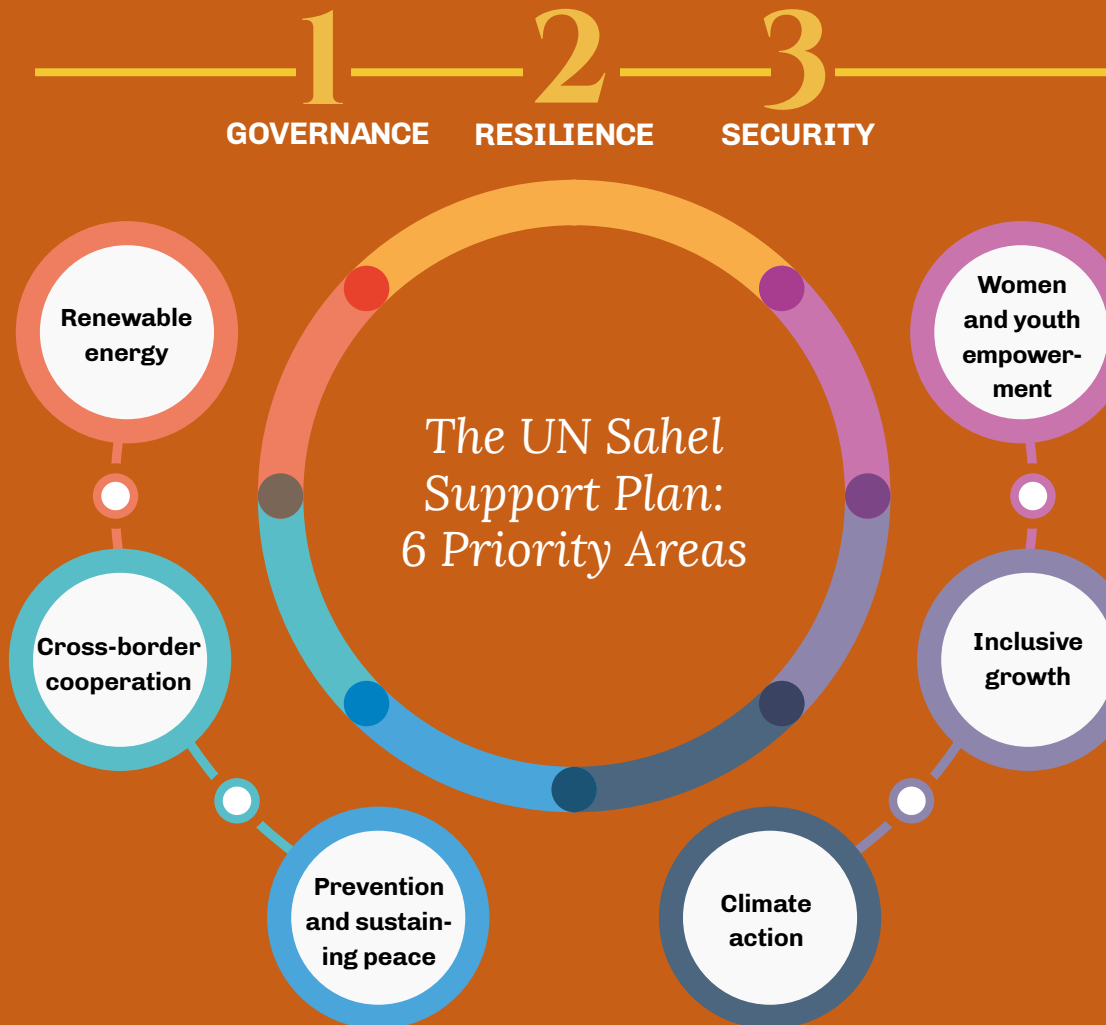
This approach is fully illustrated by the significant number of important projects that the UN has been implementing as part of the Integrated Sahel Strategy to support the countries of the Sahel region. ■



Children in Dar es Salam  
refugee camp in Baga Sola,  
Chad, February 2020 (UNDP).

## OUR 3 WORKING PILLARS:

Over the past two years, the R-UNSDG has made concerted efforts to integrate the three pillars - Governance, Security, and Resilience - in a coordinated manner across multiple countries and has done so with substantial success. In this volume of work, we feature some of the achievements that have been made.



## OBJECTIVES:

The overall objectives of UNISS is to tackle the structural problems of the Sahel that make the region vulnerable to conflicts, such as poverty, underdevelopment and governance challenges. The strategy also aims at promoting an integrated and regional approach to the activities of the United Nations system and key actors in the Sahel, to tackle the problems and bring greater coherence to broader international interventions in the Sahel.

## PILLARS:

The UNISS is built around three broad areas of support; Governance, Resilience and Security, formulated as strategic goals and organized according to key themes. The strategic goals are aimed at supporting and strengthening continuing initiatives and addressing previously identified gaps. These three areas are complementary and form an integrated response to the Sahel crisis. In particular, the approach is premised on the integration of humanitarian and development interventions, ensuring that lifesaving activities meet immediate needs while building the resilience of people and communities as part of a long-term development agenda. Three strategic working groups have therefore been set up to achieve the objectives of the Strategy; Governance Pillar Working Group, the Resilience Pillar Working Group and the Security Pillar Working Group. ■



THE SAHEL ALSO HAS MORE POTENTIAL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, SUCH AS SOLAR AND WIND, THAN MOST OTHER REGIONS IN THE WORLD.

Water supply systems powered by solar energy. WASH activities in Mauritania, August 2019 (UNICEF).

“WE CANNOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE SAHEL BY ONLY LOOKING AT THE CHALLENGES. WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNITIES AND MAKE INVESTMENTS IN THE REGION’S POTENTIAL, SUCH AS IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR, TO TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY AND TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY AND EXCLUSION.

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**

United Nations Development Programme Assistant  
Administrator and Regional Director for Africa

Chami village, Banc d’Arguin National  
Park, Mauritania, January 2019 (UNDP).



# A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

*Too frequently, narratives describing the Sahel usually focus more on challenges such as violence and conflict, extremism and terrorism, shocks and vulnerabilities, often ignoring the region's abundant opportunities and enormous potential, given its natural, demographic and cultural assets.*

## POPULATION AND URBANISATION

A stable Sahel, with a population of over 300 million, and a rising trend of urbanization offers immense opportunities for the global market.



## YOUTH

The Sahel is the most youthful region of the world with 64,5% of youth aged less than 25 years. Investments in education and vocational training could yield a demographic dividend.



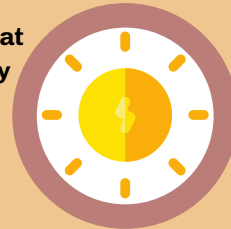
## INFRASTRUCTURE

The presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative including the Trans Saharan Highway, regional fibre optic, Trans Saharan Gas Pipeline and continental trade corridors offer opportunities for business and growth.



## ENERGY

The Sahel is endowed with great potential for renewable energy such as solar & wind. Its solar energy potential translates to about 13.9 billion kWh/ year compared to the world all electricity consumption of 20 million kWh/year in 2016.



## WATER

In addition to its rich grasslands, the Sahel sits atop of some of the largest aquifers on the continent as well as surface water which are major sources of livelihoods and international cooperation. The coastal and maritime zone.



## SOCIO - CULTURAL COHESION

Interaction between Arabic, Islamic, Nomadic, Indigenous, Traditional cultures could serve unifying force for partnership and driver for progress and trade.



## MACROECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The macroeconomic conditions in the Sahel (economic growth, fiscal balance, debt sustainability and inflation) have been steadier and stronger than the continental average over the past decade.



## NATURAL RESOURCES

One of the richest region of the world in terms of its abundant natural resources such as oil, natural gas, gold, phosphates, diamonds, copper, iron ore, bauxite, biological diversity and precious woods, among many other assets.



## CULTURE AND TOURISM

The Sahel is blessed with cultural and physical heritage that endear the region to the rest of the world: the Cameroonian and Futa Jallon mountains, the Mali empire and the Sokoto Caliphate.



# WHERE WE WORK

*For the last 7 years, the UN has been working in these 10 diverse countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.*

“THE SAHEL IS ENDOWED WITH ABUNDANT HUMAN, CULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFERING TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR RAPID GROWTH.

**THE SAHEL REGION IS BLESSED WITH CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL HERITAGE** that

endears it to the rest of the world, such as the Cameroon mountain and the Futa Jallon mountains, the Mali Empire, the Sokoto Caliphate and the Timbuktu historical library. And a stable Sahel, with a population of over 300 million and a rising urbanization trend, offers immense opportunities for the global market.

Together, the geographical expanse of the Sahel, covers about 7 million square kilometres with a population of more than 300 million people, characterized by a high population growth rate ranging between 2.6 and 3.8 percent.

The area includes mostly arid and semi-arid places; and climate has a strong influence on the day-to-day economic development of the region, particularly in terms of access to water, food security, health, ecosystems, and livelihoods.

In addition to its rich grasslands and large aquifers, the region has huge surface waters such as the Lake Chad, and rivers in Niger, The Gambia and Senegal, which are major sources of livelihoods and areas of extensive international cooperation. The coastal and maritime zones of the Sahel are among the richest fishing grounds in the world. ■





**Climate change** has a strong influence on the day-to-day economic development of the region, affecting access to water, food, health, ecosystems and livelihoods.

**1.5** times:

Temperatures in the Sahel rise 1.5 times faster than the global average.\*\*

**Radicalisation,** violent extremism and terrorist attacks are blocking development, blighting the lives and futures of too many children and youth in the region.



**5,275,913**

**Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs)** who have been forced to flee their homes but who remain within their own country.\*

**1,282,451** Number of refugees who have been forced to flee their country and cannot return due to persecution, conflict and violence.\*

**85** million people By 2050, more than 85 million people from sub-Saharan Africa are expected to be forced to migrate.



# CHALLENGES AND COMPLEXITIES

For years, the improvements and growth witnessed in the Sahel have been overshadowed by a couple of complex and multi-dimensional challenges. These are characterized by mutually reinforcing factors of vulnerability, instability and insecurity. These risks are intensified by political and governance crises, unequal distribution of wealth and lack of access to resources, opportunities and basic services. The demographic bulge, combined with climate change, could worsen a phenomenon of violence and conflict, and lead to displacement and migration. The security situation is complex, even as vulnerability to climate change is intense. Multiple factors have created a breeding ground for violent extremism, terrorism and criminality in the Sahel and beyond.

## These factors include:

- endemic poverty, inequality (including gender inequality), deep exclusions and human rights abuses;
- limited access to basic services like health, education, water and energy;
- high rate of youth unemployment;

- governance challenges and a lack of capacity of public service. Without a dedicated, integrated, and coherent global approach to addressing trans-boundary and regional level needs in the Sahel, none of the three agendas (2030 Sustainable Development, 2063 African Union Vision and Sustaining Peace) can be fully achieved.

## Emerging Lessons

Key lessons from the UNISS implementation since 2013 highlight the need to scale up the absorptive capacity of national and regional institutions to deliver on their mandates. The need to strengthen coherence, coordination and partnership for the Sahel, and to better address the humanitarian-development nexus and its linkages to peace, while aligning strategies, programmes and funding, was also acknowledged.

Other key lessons include the need to diversify sources of development assistance (currently, just four donors account for 57 percent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the region) in order to trigger investment, attract private

sector engagement and to leverage the vast opportunities in the Sahel, as well as promote participatory monitoring and impact assessment. The UN Support Plan for the Sahel offers avenues for innovation, efficiency and partnerships for greater coherent, coordinated and integrated collective action. It is time to turn challenges into opportunities. ■

(Source UN Support Plan for the Sahel Report)

“SAHEL OFFERS AVENUES FOR INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTEGRATED COLLECTIVE ACTION. IT IS TIME TO TURN CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

# GOVERNANCE

**IN THIS SECTION:** Women and youth empowerment.  
Crisis prevention. Education. Support for birth registration

Governance and development  
masterclass programme in Burkina  
Faso, UNODC, March 2020

**AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL**, we seek to increase investments by augmenting the role of local authorities: civic education and public sensitization to facilitate the participation of women and youth in decision-making remains a priority for engaging national partners. The administration of the security sector, as well as improved border crossing management for human security, are two approaches being used to strengthen sub-regional integration. Strengthening the national infrastructure for peace, particularly in volatile regions, and increasing intervention capabilities for cross-border mediation and reconciliation remain key priorities.

**Extension of state authority, strengthening natural resource governance, enhancing human rights; civic education and public sensitization to facilitate the participation of women and youth in decision-making remain priority for engaging national partners.**

**THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY** (LGA) which has received USD 8 million from the Swedish Government is an example of a successful multi-agency cross-border partnership located at the confluence of the border provinces of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. This project is being

implemented jointly, ensuring that UN's efforts at the national and regional levels are coherent and complementary, while strengthening the humanitarian-development-security nexus, social cohesion and human rights protection. The programme promotes local development with the local communities and authorities. At the same time, it is a capacity building initiative, strengthening the administrative and human capacity of the regional entity, LGA, to respond to its core mandate.

Under Priority Area Six of the UNISS Support Plan for the Sahel, UNDP and UN-ECA have teamed up to strengthen LGA's financial mechanism to facilitate efficient implementation and realization of regional priorities and programs. The joint programme has been validated by the LGA and its Ministerial Council.

UNDP and UNOPS have finalized a joint energy project to be financed by Sweden. The project aims to address the SDG Goal #7 which corresponds to UNISS Priority Area #5 that calls for the promotion of "access to renewable energy."

The initiative will support the implementation of the LGA regional energy programme and rural electrification benefiting about 30,000 households inhabiting the borders regions of the Liptako-Gourma region.

**The energy initiative will support the implementation of the Liptako-Gourma regional energy programme and rural electrification targeting to benefit about 30,000 households inhabiting the borders regions.**

With a total budget of USD 3 million sourced from the Peace-building Funds (PBF), the UNDP Country Offices in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, have extended their support to the national governments of the three countries, to support the "Promotion of community security and social cohesion in the Liptako-Gourma" region. The project which was an operational product of UNISS had a time-frame of 18 months. The project sought to create income generating activities for youth including women, promoting collaboration and reducing conflicts between security agencies, local authorities and border communities.

This project provided some 300 young people with equipment, enabled them to improve on their capacities in diverse occupational fields and jump-started income generating activities. This programme is particularly implemented in Dori in Burkina Faso and in Bamako, Mali with the view to address communal conflicts and youth recruitments for violent extremism. ■

(Source: United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel)

# Empowering the Youth

*Supporting youth training and employment and reducing gender inequality to transform Sahel societies.*

**AFRICA HAS THE YOUNGEST POPULATION** in the world and the Sahel is one of the continent's most youthful regions. This youthful population constitutes a great wealth because young people are the key actors in the construction of societies and the driving force behind the Sahel's economic development. However, if the population grows too fast and is too young to work, it can become a barrier to development.

Achieving demographic transition requires controlling population growth and meeting the needs of young people by providing them with quality education and vocational training, as well as better access to the labour market. A special effort must be made to focus on girls and women: their empowerment can quickly lead to more sustainable fertility rates. Improving reproductive health services and family planning, supporting girls' schooling and life skills, are essential to empower girls and reduce gender inequalities. Well educated and healthy young people, especially



**A girl trained in metalworking in Bamako, Mali, May 2019 (UNFPA)**



Young women trained in electrical work in Am Timan, Chad, May 2019 (World Bank).

Young girls benefiting from a scholarship in Niger, May 2019, UNFPA



adolescent girls and women, are more able to reach their potential and contribute to improving lives in their Sahel communities.

The stories compiled here show the ambition and creativity of young people in the Sahel and depict the enterprising solutions they are finding to respond to people's needs. A community of young entrepreneurs is emerging throughout the Sahel, in both large cities and rural areas. These are young women and men with a fervent desire to change the negative narrative that we hear too often about this region of the world. All they want is to be supported and trusted. >

## SAHEL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND (SWEDD)

Keeping girls in school and increasing women's economic opportunities, is vital to development. The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) is one of the United Nations Population Fund's flagship programmes in the region. Implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, Cameroon and Guinea (and in two other Sub-Saharan countries - Ivory Coast and Benin) SWEDD promotes the empowerment of women and adolescent girls and facilitates their access to quality reproductive, maternal and child health services.

**The programme works with women and girls, aged from 10 to 19, using innovative approaches. Safe spaces accommodate vulnerable young adolescent girls who are out of school. Supported by a "mentor", they learn about human rights, life skills, and sexual and reproductive health. With support for schooling, the programme provides them with assistance in the form of scholarships or school kits.**

Vocational training, including in non-traditional activities, is offered to them. Centres of excellence offering Master's degrees promote advanced education in the obstetrical sciences (midwifery and nursing). Men are encouraged to become more involved in home life, through clubs for husbands and husbands-to-be. >



**Scholarship for vulnerable girls including Sanitary and school items in Tiemena Village, Mali, May 2019, (UNFPA)**

“THESE ARE YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN WITH A FERVENT DESIRE TO CHANGE THE NEGATIVE NARRATIVE THAT WE HEAR TOO OFTEN ABOUT THIS REGION OF THE WORLD. ALL THEY WANT IS TO BE SUPPORTED AND TRUSTED.





**A young boy trained in mechanics, Mali, May 2019 (UNFPA).**

**Young girls benefiting from a school scholarship in Libore, Niamey district, Niger, May 2019 (UNFPA)**

WELL EDUCATED AND HEALTHY YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND WOMEN, ARE MORE ABLE TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.



The SWEDD programme works with women and girls, aged from 10 to 19, using innovative approaches. Safe spaces accommodate vulnerable young adolescent girls. Mauritania, 2020 (UNICEF)



**TESTIMONY**

**JOSIANE  
DABIRÉ**

*Master's student in  
governance and development  
in Burkina Faso*

“The masters programme meets our expectations regarding the fight against corruption, because from the very beginning we learn how corruption manifests itself, what are the different aspects of corruption, what are the different means of fighting corruption, what is the legislative and institutional framework for fighting corruption. And this is already an advantage for us, especially for me, because I already have a degree in auditing and corporate finance. This master's degree will enable me to improve my curriculum vitae. In five years' time, I would like to work at the High Authority for the Fight against Corruption in Burkina Faso as a compliance auditor. And in 10 years, I would like to specialize in tracking down illicit financial flows.” ■

Governance and  
development master-  
class Programme in  
Burkina Faso, March  
2020 (UNODC)

# Crisis Prevention

*Combating violent extremism and promoting social cohesion and peace.*

**THE REGIONS OF MOPTI AND SEGOU** in Mali, and the Northern Sahel region of Burkina Faso are experiencing an exponential increase in social tensions marked by episodes of extreme violence. Living together has become more difficult and communities are under severe strain. In this context, UN agencies, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the peacekeeping operation in Mali (MINUSMA), are working closely together to prevent the root causes of the insecurity by tackling youth radicalisation, combating violent extremism and promoting social cohesion and peace. >

**In the village of Zamaï, Maroua region, north Cameroon, UNICEF and UNDP have trained 400 Teachers from Koranic school in 11 localities trained on the prevention of violent extremism, Zamaï village, Maroua, Extreme North region, Cameroon, March 2020 (UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP) >**

**BOKO HARAM HAS HAD A HUGE NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the youth of the region, who are exposed to religious brainwashing, conscription and forced recruitment that leads them to join the ranks of these violent extremist groups. Confidence in administrative and traditional authorities has also eroded, leading to some young people to become radicalised. Trained Koranic teachers play a crucial role in the in crisis prevention and help prevent violent extremism. >

Sevare Mali, Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), February 2020, UNESCO.

Mercredi, le 26 Février 2020

Grammaire: Les mots invariables

Reliens: Les classes de mots invariables sont: Les adverbes, les prépositions, les conjonctions de subordination, les conjonction de coordination, les onomatopées, interjections

Verbes: Il existe un grand nombre d'

...sont très variés: bien, très, peu

...pourtant, soudain, ja  
...ent...

Les adverbes servent à compl  
- Un adjectif: Ta chanson est par  
- Un verbe: Tu chantes mal!

- Un adverbe: Tu chant  
- Un adjectif: Franchement, c

Prépositions: Les prépositi  
- Un nom, compleme

- Un verbe, compl

- Un adjectif: él

- Un verbe: lices,  
- Un adjectif: chanter,

- Un verbe: rd.

- Un adjectif: ai toi!

Amadou Cissé, the director of the Merdessa at a Koranic school speaks to students. Teachers promote social cohesion through peace message in the Merdessa Darou Hadiss school in Sevare. Sevare Mali, Peace building Fund (PBF), February 2020, UNESCO.



**UNESCO and UNODC** are using an inventive educational approach to empower teachers and learners to examine local contexts, beliefs, values, knowledge, and attitudes to develop spaces for self-reflection, appreciation of diversity, critical thinking, and justice. This programme inculcates in young people the quest to learn to live together, gain the competencies to engage with their communities, foster peace and embrace a culture of civic responsibility with a global view outlook. It targets more than 200,000 young people in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. ■

Student attending a lesson on combating violent extremism and promoting social cohesion Severe Mali, Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), February 2020, UNESCO.

**TESTIMONY**  
**OUMAR**  
**MAÏGA**

*At the Koranic school of Sévaré in Mali*

**“I COME FROM A VILLAGE IN THE TENENKOU CIRCLE,** in Mopti region.

Tenenkou is a place that has really been affected by violence. Peace is essential.

The fact that a course on peace was introduced in our school was really important for us. This information is useful for me but also for the whole community. We can discuss it with our family and our community and pass on these messages of peace and living together.”

Through the project ‘young people as actors for peace and national reconciliation’, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in partnership with UNICEF and IOM, and funded by the PBF, supports regional reconciliation support teams. ■

Beneficiary of the PBF project  
in Savare, February 2020  
(UNESCO, UNICEF and IOM)

# Health and Education

*Promoting universal, quality health coverage and supporting national efforts to enable all girls and boys to complete primary and secondary education equitably, is key to national development.*

**WE CANNOT BUILD A RESILIENT AND PROGRESSIVE NATION**

if we do not have access to basic services, especially health, education, nutrition and clean water. The Sahel is marked by conflicts, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma and Lake Chad regions, and instability of increasing complexity. This threatens access to basic services, which have always been relatively scarce.

**A child who is out of school means unrealized potential and missed opportunities. Children should have the chance to develop skills and acquire the knowledge and values they need to become responsible and productive adults.** >

Community health worker immunizes a child against Polio at a clinic in Basura village, The Gambia, May 2018 (UNICEF).

“ TO BE ABLE TO GO  
TO SCHOOL, A CHILD  
SHOULD BE HEALTHY.

Young students in school in  
Burkina Faso UNICEF



Vaccination at the Serrekunda health centre, Kanifing, The Gambia, May 2018 (UNICEF).

To be able to go to school, a child should be healthy. Access to safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns, help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria and measles. These diseases are the main causes of maternal and child mortality in the Sahel and more generally in Africa. Local health services are often chronically lacking. A web of inequalities acts as a barrier to universal quality care. Discriminatory social norms translate into attitudes, behaviours and ultimately laws, which particularly disadvantage women and girls. In a world now threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, investments in health systems and extensive awareness campaigns are more necessary than ever in the Sahel. Close coordination between health and humanitarian operations are essential to mitigate the far-reaching consequences of the pandemic and ensure a coherent and effective response to protect the most vulnerable.

**United Nations Agencies Funds and Programmes are working in coordination with national authorities and regional partners to support their responses in the fight against COVID-19. ■**



Children from a Fulani village in central Mali being taught near the Dialakorobougou displaced persons site in Bamako, Mali, February 2020 (UNESCO).



A Young girl studying on a computer powered by the Mbackombel eco-village project, Senegal, (UNDP)



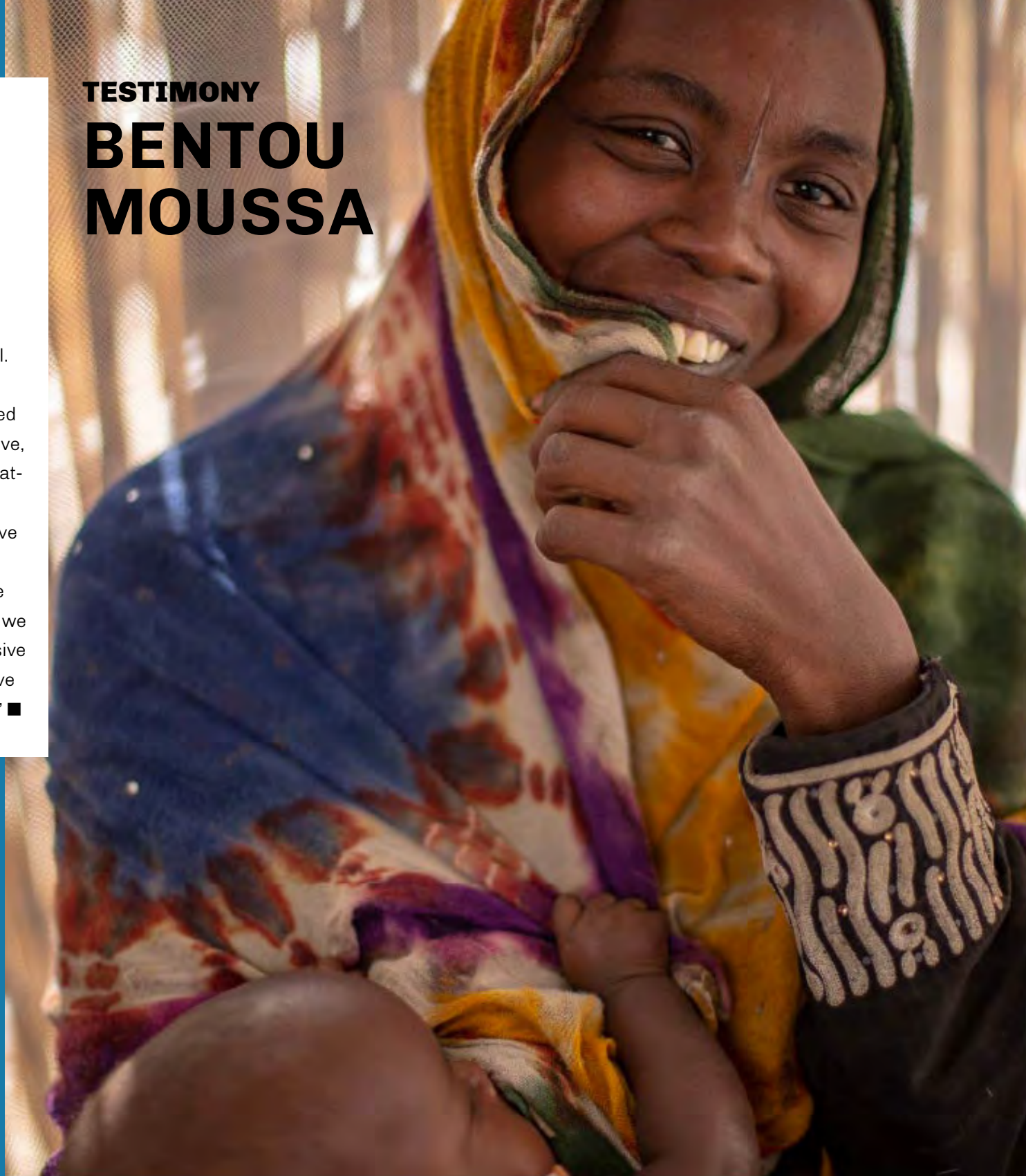
Impregnated mosquito nets distribution campaign in Zaal, Chad, (UNDP).

*Mother of three  
children in Tandal  
Sabit Island near  
Bol, Chad*

“During my last pregnancy I had headaches, I didn’t feel well so I went to the hospital. There, they confirmed that I was pregnant and they tested me for malaria. It was positive, so they gave me malaria treatment and a mosquito net. I have always preferred to give birth at the hospital rather than at home because of the risk of complications but as we live on an island, it is expensive to go to the hospital, you have to mobilise financial means.” ■

## TESTIMONY

# BENTOU MOUSSA



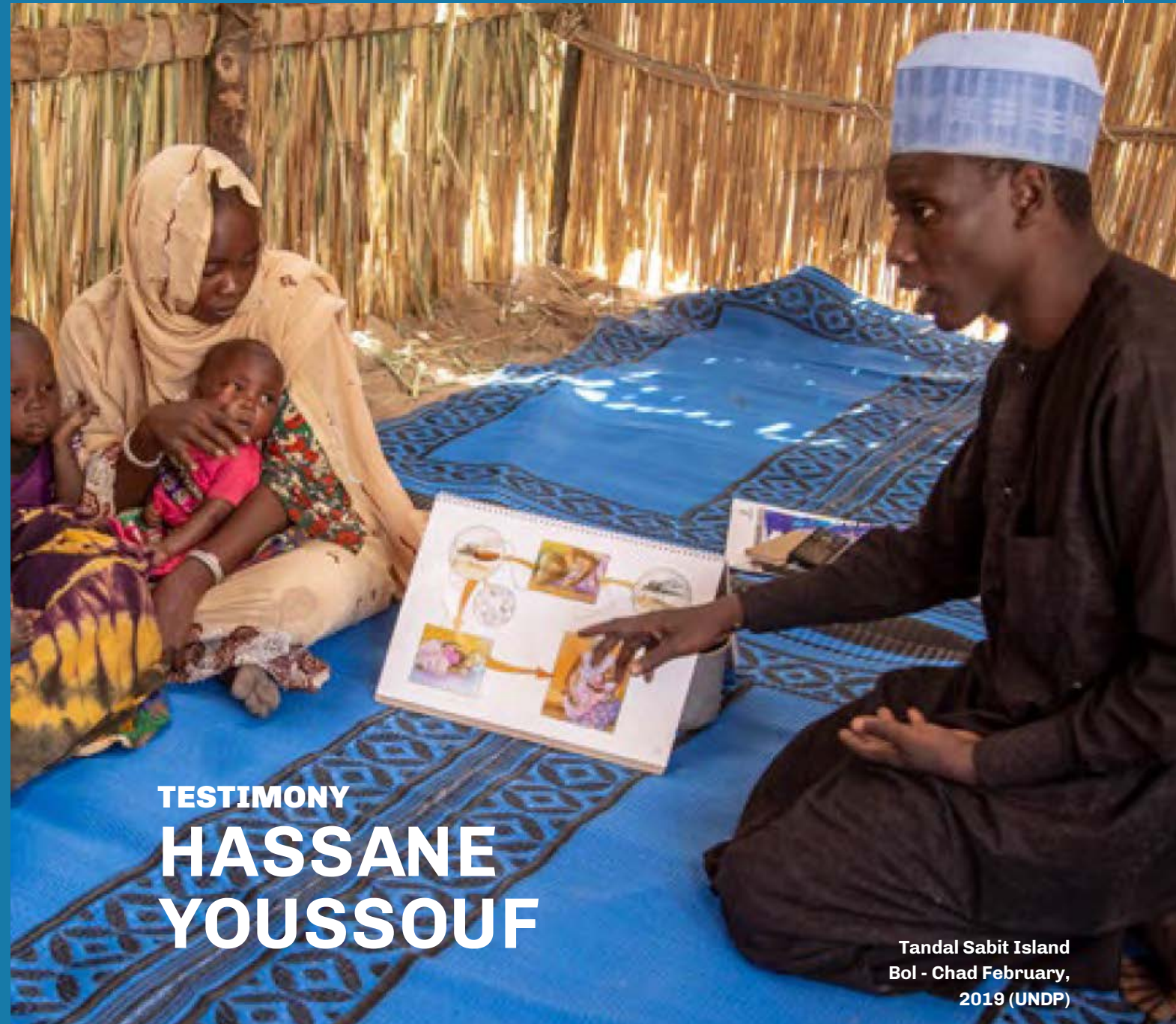
Tandal Sabit Island  
Bol - Chad February,  
2019 (UNDP)

## Community health worker in Bol, Chad

‘My little brother died of malaria. After that, I noticed that the number of malaria cases in my community had risen sharply. That’s why I decided to become a community health worker: to raise awareness in my community about the dangers of malaria. I go door-to-door or do focus groups.

**I follow up with pregnant women by encouraging them to go for antenatal consultations.**

They trust me. But here, there are still a lot of women who deliver at home because even though the visit is free, the preventive treatment is free and so is the mosquito net, they still have to pay for tests, such as ultrasounds when they go to the hospitals.” ■



TESTIMONY  
**HASSANE  
 YOUSOUF**

Tandal Sabit Island  
 Bol - Chad February,  
 2019 (UNDP)



*Every year, about a third of children in Cameroon are not registered at birth. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, rural areas are particularly affected, with a birth registration rate of only 48% compared to 81% in urban areas.*

**THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE marks the beginning of a child's life in legal terms. This omission exposes children and deprives them of a number of rights, including nationality (they are stateless) and education (the child cannot go to school) or the right to vote. This project aims at a thorough reform of the national civil registration system. The relocation of civil registry offices to health facilities enables mothers to register their baby's birth soon after delivery.**

Mothers and their new born have to get the birth certificate of their new borns at the civil status office at Bamare Islamic

hospital in Maroua, Far North Cameroon. Since August 2019, UNICEF supports a pilot project to get birth certificate and child recognition certificate directly in 12 health facilities in Far North Cameroon. In 6 months, more than 1325 birth certificates has been registered at the civil status office at Bamare Islamic hospital, it's more than what the town office is registering in one year. This project, supported by UNICEF and the European Union, aims to fundamentally reform the functioning of the national civil status system. The aim is to increase the rate of birth registration, in particular newborns, in two pilot areas in the Far North and East, where the lowest rate is found in the country and of the most acute issues. ■



THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A CHILD'S LIFE IN LEGAL TERMS.

A portrait of Bakary Bouba, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a white traditional West African garment. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**TESTIMONY**

**BAKARY BOUBA**

*Secretary of Civil  
Status at Maroua  
hospital in Cameroon*

“This region is highly marked by customs and habits. Sometimes husbands don’t want their wives to go out to collect their child’s birth certificates. And often they don’t want to make birth certificates for girls because they say that making a birth certificate is for going to school, and if the girl doesn’t go to school then there is no problem because at a certain age she will be married anyway. But fortunately with the support of UNICEF, and the awareness campaigns, mentalities are starting to change.

The number of birth registrations at the commune level has already increased a lot since the project was set up.” ■

## TESTIMONY

**MAPSATOU  
ZAKARIYAHOU**

*Mother of a  
3-month-old baby  
boy in Maroua,  
Birth Certification  
– Cameroon*

“I believe that the birth certificate is very important so my child will be able to go to school. I didn't have the chance to go to school myself. When my first child was born, it was my husband who went to the town hall to get the birth certificate. But this time, it is much easier for me to come and collect the birth certificate at the hospital where I gave birth because the documents are already ready and I can collect them when I come for my child's vaccination.” ■

UNICEF



# RESILIENCE

**IN THIS SECTION:** Woman and youth economic empowerment. Supporting youth entrepreneurship. Support to economic recovery. Agriculture. Food security. Income generating activities. Nutrition. Climate change.

**STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE** to ensure people's food security and promoting access to renewable energy as a driving force of development in the Sahel.

In the Mopti region of Mali, poor soils combine with the effects of climate change, affect productivity, resulting in high levels of food and nutrition insecurity.

In Soufouroulaye, the World Food Programme (WFP) has put in place a series of actions to strengthen food security and community resilience.

**The creation of a community garden ensures the availability of food throughout the year, especially during the lean season, and improves the population's nutrition.**

**The restoration of land using a technique of digging "half-moons" to capture rainfall, as well as the creation of filter dikes and a pond, has enabled better cultivation and the return of fishing.**

The whole community participates in the work, in ex-change for a small cash stipend. The village dairy has also been rehabilitated, improving the quality and quantity of dairy products and creating jobs. >



Community participating in land reclamation in Kaya, Burkina Faso, using the half-moon technique, Burkina Faso, March 2020 (WFP)

“THE RESTORATION OF LAND, USING A TECHNIQUE OF DIGGING “HALF-MOONS” TO CAPTURE RAINFALL, HAS ENABLED BETTER CULTIVATION



Local woman, Zoanga Rihanata at the Goulghin village nutritious garden school in the area of Kaya, Burkina Faso. WFP

**AROUND 60 WOMEN ARE WORKING** in the nutritious and school garden of Goulghin, a village located 20 km Northwest of Kaya, where WFP is carrying out several activities to reinforce food resilience.

The objectives of these achievements are, inter alia, to improve and diversify the meals of the pupils, to improve the school environment and to facilitate the empowerment of the women of the village.

The target population includes host community and displaced people. Burkina Faso is currently the world's fastest-growing displacement crisis with close to 840,000 people have been displaced by conflict and drought in the last 16 months (March 2020)





The Scaling-up resilience program in the G5 Sahel countries is aimed at building resilience and improving livelihoods of the most vulnerable in chronically food insecure and risk-prone environments. WFP Burkina faso.



About 60 women work and produce a variety of food stuffs, in the nutritious and school garden of Goulghin, a village located 20 km Northwest of Kaya, where WFP is carrying out several activities to reinforce food resilience.

# Women and Youth economic empowerment

*The acute fragility faced by the Sahel region has resulted in conditions that leave women and girls vulnerable, requiring targeted responses. Empowering women and youth for peace and development in the Sahel, is one of the six priorities embedded in the UNISS approach.*

“EMPOWERING  
WOMEN AND  
YOUTH IS ONE  
OF THE 6 UNISS  
PRIORITY AREAS.”



Women are generally the ones who build houses in the Chad lake region. Traditional houses are made from locally available materials such as earth, wood and various fibres, Chad lake, June 2018 (UNESCO).

**EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH** is one of the 6 UNISS priority areas. Its objective include:

● **TO ADDRESS BOTTLENECKS**

millitating against women and youth attaining their full potential and empowering them as custodians of peace and development in the Sahel.

● **INCREASE THE NUMBER** of women and youth participating in leadership positions at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. (SDG: 5.5)

● **PROMOTE LEGISLATION**

to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services and inheritance, in accordance with national laws. (SDG: 5.a) >

UNDP supports internally displaced women in Chad (UNDP).



**DESPITE THEIR KEY ROLE** as economic actors, women often encounter severe constraints in accessing the resources they need to be key agents of change, such as land, information, finance, infrastructure technology and markets. Despite the existence of norms and standards on the political participation of women, they are unevenly represented in parliaments and in decision-making positions. >

Women in Baga Sola, Chad,  
February 2019 (UNDP).

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** is widespread in the region, regardless of race, class, ethnicity and religion. Despite the significant increase in the number of laws on violence against women and girls, sociocultural barriers perpetuating gender-offensive traditions and impunity challenge their enforcement. Female genital mutilation and child marriage are practised in a large majority of countries.

**THE UNITED NATIONS SUPPORTED THE G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES** in developing and implementing a gender strategy and facilitated the main-streaming of a gender perspective in security-related activities. Gender-responsive peace dialogue platforms led by women's groups helped to broker discussions between vulnerable communities, defence and security forces and the criminal justice system, strengthening cross-border community dialogues for peace-building and for rebuilding trust. United Nations-led joint programmes are also promoting reforms in the gender and security sectors, including through targeted training in gender-based protection and small arms trafficking and control. ■

*Source: Report of the Secretary-General Economic and Social Council: Implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support for South Sudan and the Sahel region by the United Nations system*





Above: WFP is expanding its resilience operations to invest in building community assets, promote education, improve nutrition and health, and create jobs for young people. It aims to support 2 million people in 800 communities across 5 Sahel countries — Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger — until 2023. WFP/Aurélia Rusek

Left: A young woman at the launch of the 2020 campaign “No to excision in Mauritania” UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme to fight female genital mutilation (FGM). Nouakchott, Mauritania, February 2020 (UNICEF).



Fanta Kamian tests the quality of the milk before pasteurization. The rehabilitation of this dairy has created at least 10 jobs in Soufouroulaye, Mopti region, Mali, February 2020 (WFP).



## TESTIMONY

## DOUNGO DEMBÉLÉ

*33 years old, mother  
of four children in  
Soufouroulaye, Mali*

“The scheme allows me to lessen my family expenses because I grow the food we need. Now we don't have to buy food anymore. Therefore, the money I have I can put into something other than food. Whenever I harvest my produce, I divide it into two parts: one goes into home consumption and the other one I transform into a cube of shallot powder (soumbala) for sale to make extra income. I have never seen a project like this. We work in the fields for ourselves and at the same time we receive money for community work time (cash assistance). Thanks to the money I receive, I have been able to pay for private lessons for my children and also pay for some food. I have also taken care of myself sometimes with this money.” ■

Beneficiary of WFP project who  
comes every day to water her  
plot. Mali, 2020 (WFP)

# Supporting youth entrepreneurship

*The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – the global development network of the United Nations, has developed several multi-country and national programmes to support youth employment in the Sahel and assist them in their entrepreneurial projects.*

“SUPPORTING YOUTH TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT AND REDUCING GENDER INEQUALITY TO TRANSFORM SAHEL SOCIETIES.



Young girls from a Girl's Club making jewellery in Kaya, Burkina Faso, March 2020 (UNDP).





RESILIENCE: WOMEN & YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

TESTIMONY  
**COUMBA  
DIAKITÉ**



## Founder of “Be Recycle” in Mali

### **BASED IN BAMAKO, COUMBA DIAKITÉ TRANSFORMS USED TYRES INTO FURNITURE**

and decorative objects: “Tires are burned in the open air, generating health problems for the population and a negative impact on the environment.”

The 12-week training in the TEF entrepreneurship program has helped her develop her five-year business plan. Then UNDP Mali also sponsored her trip to the Abuja forum, the African business forum. “Participation in the Abuja forum allowed us to exchange ideas with other young entrepreneurs in Africa, to find out how things are done in other countries. Today, Mali is facing an economic, political and security crisis. With the support of the United Nations organizations and the Tony Elumelu Foundation, young people manage to get funding and to be visible both here in Mali and outside.”

Thanks to the support of UN Women, Coumba was able to participate in the Bamako international fair. Even though her order book is full, she worries about the lack of opportunities for other young people in Mali: “You may have ambition and want to move forward but you need adequate support from the state or an organization to have credibility.” ■



**TESTIMONY**

# NAOMIE OUEDRAOGO

*25 years old, hairdresser in  
Kaya, Burkina Faso 'Dreaming  
Future' Project*

"I went to school, but it wasn't working out. The 'Dreaming Future' training showed us how to take control of our lives. You can't rely on anyone and everyone has to prepare his or her future. The training inspired me a lot to get into hairdressing; hitherto I didn't take it seriously. After the training, I set up a hairdressing place under this tree in front of my house. From here, I hope to grow the business and to own a proper place. I am hopeful." The 'Dreaming Future' project is a local initiative developed by teachers and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to empower young people between the ages of 12 and 20 with enterprise development and vocational training. After a course focusing on coaching and personal development, beneficiaries take charge of their future by undertaking a project that they thought up themselves." ■



## *Producer of the first organic strawberry jam in Burkina Faso*

Abdoul could have used his master's degree in law to become a lawyer or a magistrate, but he preferred to follow his passion and become a young agricultural entrepreneur: "I wanted to prove to young Burkinabes that you can work on the land as a profession. That you can produce and be a farmer and still flourish." The young entrepreneur has developed an agro-ecology centre that houses a production site, an onion preservation store and a training centre where he trains a new generation. With ProFeJec, an incubator is supporting Abdoul for one year to develop Burkina Faso's first organic jam.

**"Over the past six months, I've learned how to look for partnerships, how to find synergies between young entrepreneurs, how to do market research, and how to develop packaging for strawberries."**

Abdoul's mother, who has also been trained by ProFeJec, is currently making the jam. But the young man hopes to develop a small production facility and plans to hire three new people. The jam is already proving popular, selling by word of mouth at Ouagadougou's markets. ■

### TESTIMONY

# ABDOUL RAZACK BELEMYINGRÉV



**SPECIAL INTERVIEW**

# From NIGER to NASA

*Dr Fadji Zaouna Maina:*

*Hydrologist Dr Fadji Zaouna Maina has an admirable and empowering CV.*

*The 29-year old NASA scientist who was born and raised in Zinder, Niger - has been recognized as a 'Rising Star in Civil and Environmental Engineering' by MIT; and one of the Most Influential 30 under 30 people in Science by Forbes Magazine. In this interview she shares more about her inspirational journey and the importance of empowering women and girls into science and technology.*

**To start with, tell us more about yourself other than what we read on Wikipedia?**

I am a polyglot ( Hausa, French, English, and Italian). I love reading, jogging, taking pictures of nature and flowers, and learning new languages. I love to travel around the world and meet and learn from different communities.

I graduated from high school at the age of 16 and left my hometown Zinder to study for my bachelor's degree in Morocco. I then went to France for my master's and Ph.D. degrees. After graduating, I spent a year working in Italy before moving to California and eventually here at NASA in Washington DC.

My research [at NASA] focuses on water resources. I use mathematical models along with satellite data to understand the water cycle and how our water resources will respond to a changing climate. I have performed research to tackle water resource issues in France, Italy, the US (California and Colorado), and in the High Mountain Asia.

**What got you interested in studying engineering and what can the governments of the Sahel, do, to encourage more women in the field?**

I grew up in a city well-known for its water scarcity. My curiosity to understand this

problem and my desire to solve this issue led me to study STEM. I've come to understand that science is what we need to solve our issues. With that being said, I think given all the problems that we have in the Sahel region, we definitely need science to address them. These issues are endless, and they keep increasing, we can no longer afford the luxury of neglecting the participation of women.

In today's world, we need people from different backgrounds and with different views to build a better future for the Sahel. Men cannot address these issues alone, and we know it. Everyone can bring knowledge, and therefore, we need women in the field of science.

To encourage women in science, we need quotas and more scholarships dedicated to women. We need to create environments either in universities or in schools where women can feel safe and welcome, have a sense of belonging, and where they can fully express their talents. We not only need to support women, but to acknowledge that they are needed too because, they belong to the scientific community too.

**Why is it important to empower and encourage women and girls to enter the so-called male-dominated fields; and why is it key to encouraging girls to take up STEM**

**subjects in schools?**

In today's world, it is in everybody's interest to have women on the table. The challenges of climate change, diseases, hunger, insecurities, etc. of this century can't be fixed by men alone. Expertise and success is for everyone.

**You are also very passionate about understanding and mitigating climate change and pollution. Today more than before, the impact of climate change and extremities is one of the world's biggest points of debate. As a hydrologist what are your views pertaining to climate change, more so how the Sahel is impacted, and what should be done?**

Let's stress that we are just experiencing the beginning of climate change. Today in the Sahel region, floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and devastating. We know that scientists have predicted that the future will be tough in the Sahel with more extremes (floods and drought). >

“WITH THAT BEING SAID, I THINK THAT THE UN IS PART OF MY LIFE!”

But at the same time, we have the power of Science, I believe that the same science that has predicted this dark future will fix this issue and create a better future. It is time more than ever to invest in science and scientists (especially women).

**What does your job at NASA entail? How is a day like in the life of Dr Maina?**

At NASA, I use mathematical models along with satellite data to understand how water resources have changed over the past 30 years in mountainous regions such as the High Mountains Asia. Mountainous regions are very sensitive to a changing climate. In High Mountains Asia alone more than 1.4 billion people depend on the mountains for their water supply. These environments are already witnessing the impacts of climate

“MY SAHEL IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL REGIONS IN THE WORLD! BY BEAUTIFUL I MEAN A REGION WHERE YOU CAN TRULY ENJOY NATURE & CULTURE”

change, we need to better understand how this changing climate is shaping the water cycle in these regions, to be able to provide and design sustainable solutions to climate change.

I love my job, using cutting-edge technology and the latest satellite data to understand how a tiny part of our Earth functions.

A normal day in my life is full of science, coding, reading, writing, and chasing new scientific ideas. I also spend some time working on projects and ideas about girls' education. I want to give back to my society. After work, I love going back to my daily activities including sports, movies, or reading.

**Many people in the world, have a very boxed view of the Sahel. What is your Sahel? What is your Niger?**

One of the most beautiful regions in the world! By beautiful I mean a region where you can truly enjoy nature and breath-taking landscapes (e.g. sunset on the Niger River, a ride in the desert, an afternoon in the savannah, climbing the rocks in my hometown Zinder, the diversity of the fauna and flora, to cite just a few) while discovering a diverse and rich culture - hospitality, different ethnicities with diverse way of living.

The Sahel is a region where people have

less yet they give more; they do their best to give everything they have, a pure sense of humanity. That is my Sahel!

I would like to see everyone from all over the world visit my region, unfortunately, it is impossible today given the insecurity of the region. I deeply wish that one day this will be over, and my people will be able to share their kindness with the world.

**And as a Nigerian, and a woman changing the game, narrative and breaking stereotypes; what message would you send to women who look up to you?**

Never give up. We know the path is very hard almost impossible but please keep going and learning. We need you and we believe in your abilities to change the world. An entire generation and many generations to come need you to clear the path and show them that it is possible.

**Is enough being done to empower women in all areas that matter, including in leadership?**

No. There is a lot to be done to empower women. In 2020, we are still dealing with child marriage, gender-based violence, discrimination, and misogyny. The big and most important decisions are still made by men. We will claim that it is enough the day we won't be surprised to see a woman in





Damagaram sultan residence and portrait of sultans guard in national uniform Zinder, Niger Shutterstock

A photograph of the Grand Mosque of Agadez in Niger, featuring a tall, slender minaret with a textured, mud-brick facade and a series of small, dark, rectangular openings. The minaret is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a low, thick wall made of the same mud-brick material, with several small, rounded, conical structures on top. The ground is sandy and light-colored. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

“A REGION WHERE YOU HAVE  
BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES,  
RICH CULTURE, AND  
HOSPITALITY, WITH A  
DIVERSE WAY OF LIVING.”

Grand mosque of  
Agadez in Niger  
Shutterstock

a high-level position, and all the women will be free to do what they want and draw their future.

**What are your hopes for the future of your country and the Sahel at large?**

The wisdom of our elders and the way they educate the youth. In my region, we deeply care about each other. The youth today are eager to see a change and to live in a better Sahel.

**From a developmental perspective; what is the future you envisage? What should a successful Sahel look like?**

A region, where gender equality and women power are normalcy and where we will no longer employ words like gender-based violence and child marriage.

A Sahel where every citizen no matter their age, gender, rank, and background contributes to harness its natural resources and to build a sustainable environment. A resilient Sahel, well prepared for climate change and its consequences.

**As an informed and successful young African Woman, what role are you playing towards the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?**

As a young Sahelian woman working in the field of earth sciences, my work aligns

with more than 10 out of the 17 SDGs. In a commentary I co-authored for Nature Magazine in 2019, we studied the impacts of climate change in the Sahel and provide guidance on how to cope with a changing climate in the Sahel. We specifically highlighted the importance of gender equality and women's freedom in the fight for climate change in the Sahel.

I deeply care about education. Education has changed my life, and I want every single girl to have the same opportunity. I participate in many activities to showcase science and inspire the youth to get interested in science. Science, I believe, will help us in our fight for poverty, hunger, inequalities, and gender-based violence.

As a woman, I must give back to all the Sahelian women; they helped me to have access to a good education and an excellent career path. I don't want to stop here, and my wish is to contribute to youth education. I want to stand with all my sisters, so I use my voice to speak up about gender equality. When you are a young woman from the latest country in the world, you wisely use your spare time to make a change while doing your best in your everyday work. It is not an option; it is a duty.

**How familiar are you with the UN work in the Sahel?**

As a girl who grew up in the Sahel, I am quite

familiar with the UN work. First UNICEF and UNESCO, as someone who was passionate about education at my early age, I remember all the work they have done to improve education, eliminate child marriage and improve the lives of so many children in Niger. I am grateful for their work, it meant a lot for a girl living 1000km away from the capital who got to understand the importance of education and to know that her voice matters. As crisis and insecurity spark in the Sahel (in Niger and Mali in particular), I got to know the work of OCHA and UNHCR. I know many relatives who work for the UN, especially in my parents' region, Diffa. Besides, my sister is currently working for MINUSMA in Bamako. I have recently worked with OCHA to talk about climate change in the Sahel, UNICEF Niger to talk about girls' education, and Initiative Spotlight to raise awareness of gender-based violence and its consequences on women empowerment.

With that being said, I think that the UN is part of my life!

**Finally, what is your message to the African youth?**

The future is yours and is waiting for you, go and grab it. Let's shine and rise together. The future of Africa is bright, and we strongly believe it! ■

*Interview by reGina Jane Jere*

# Agriculture and food security

*People in the Sahel derive most of their income from agriculture, which is almost exclusively rain-fed and small-scale, and livestock.*

People in the Sahel derive most of their income from agriculture, which is almost exclusively rain-fed and small-scale, and livestock.

Women farmers in the Sahel, face a number of structural barriers that limit their access to land, information, finance, infrastructure, technology and markets. Building resilience requires an integrated approach that addresses these issues in parallel and in the context of climate change.

**However, women farmers fare considerably better when they have access to renewable energy sources for processing crops, milling cereals, irrigating fields, cooling and heating product storage systems and transporting products to markets.**

More generally, renewable energy supplies can provide more equitable and sustainable livelihoods for families, farmers, entrepreneurs, health centres, schools, and small and medium-sized enterprises. >



**Aerial view of Chad Lake in Choua near Bol, Chad, February 2019 (UNDP).**





**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE** from the village of Arbinda in Kaya, Burkina Faso are given plots of land for free for by residents of Kaya for gardening. UNDP supports both the displaced and the resident of Kaya, by providing them with gardening kits, pumps sprinkler systems, as well as wire fencing. The violence in Burkina Faso has displaced nearly 780,000 internally (March 2020 OCHA). 95% of these IDPs are hosted by host communities. UNDP/ Aurélia Rusek >

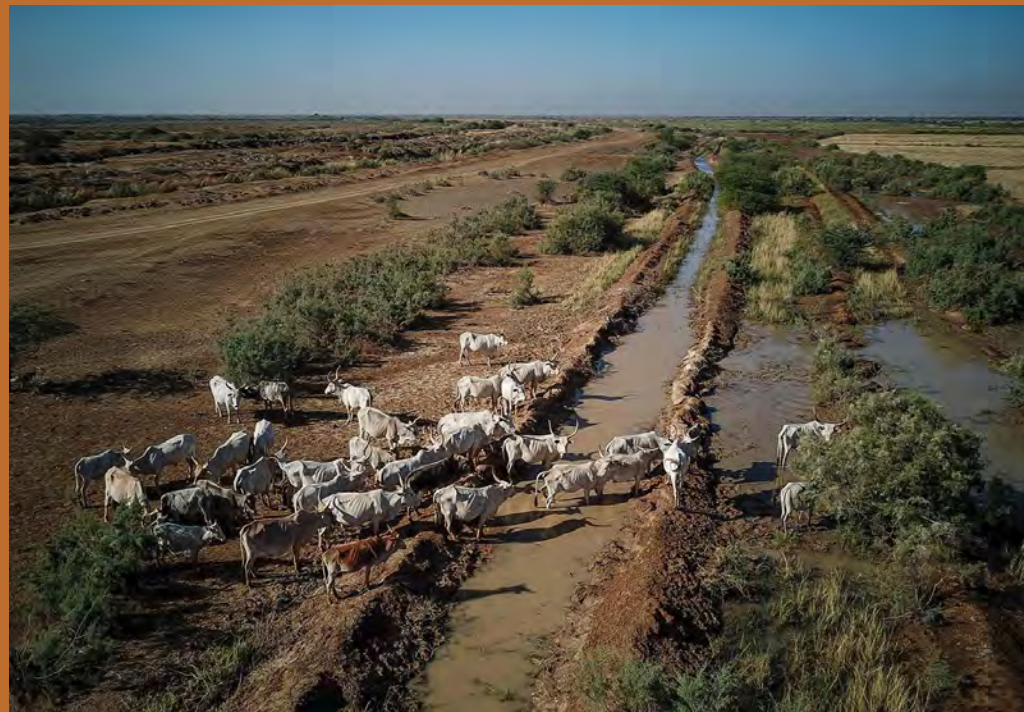


**Men and women from the community work in the tree nursery created in the village of Koyli Alpha as part of the Great Green Wall Initiative, Senegal, December(FAO).**



WOMEN  
FARMERS  
TODAY FACE  
A NUMBER OF  
STRUCTURAL  
BARRIERS...  
BUILDING  
RESILIENCE  
REQUIRES AN  
INTEGRATED  
APPROACH.

**Sustainable pastoralism fosters peaceful coexistence among communities increasing food and nutritional security.**



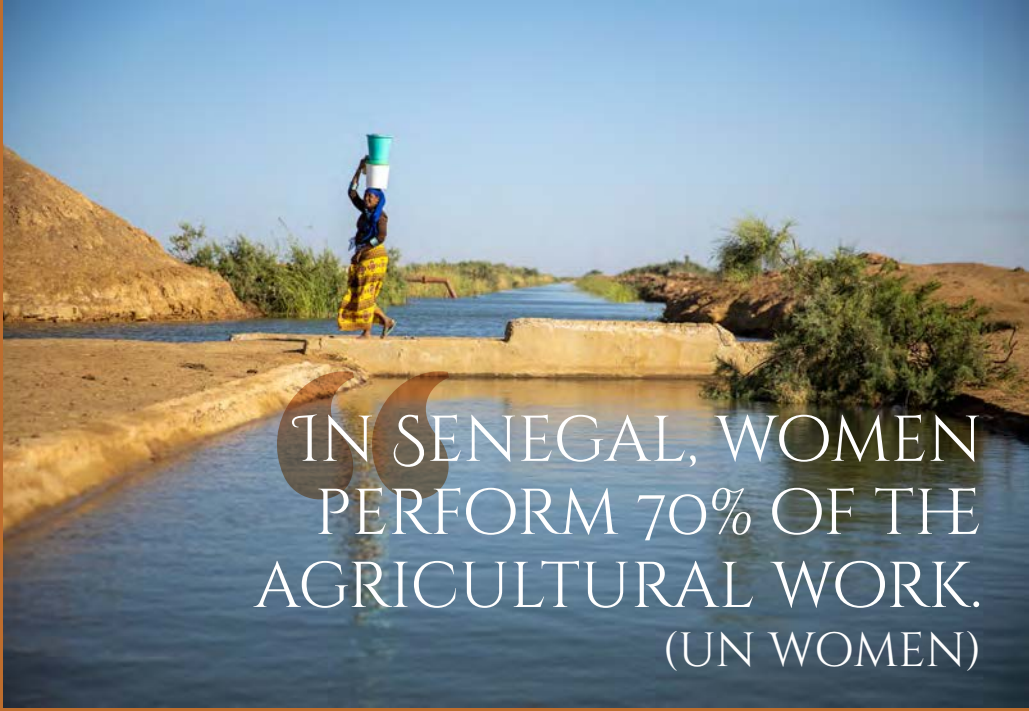


Some beneficiary of cash distribution actions in Birni N'Gaouré, Dosso region, Niger, February 2020 (FAO).

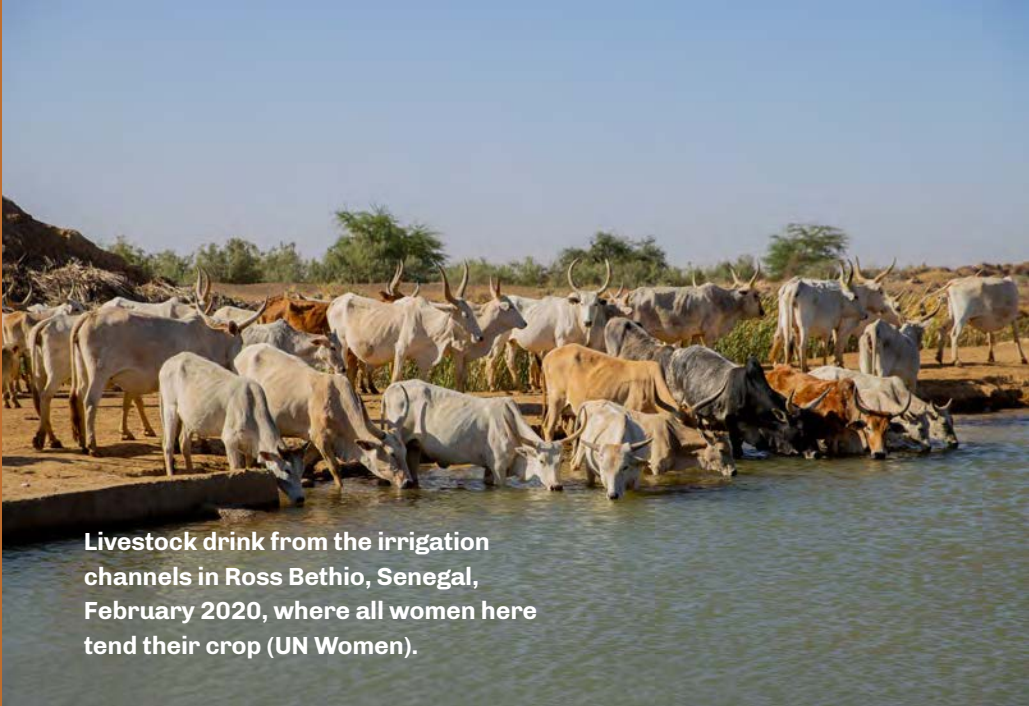
**UN WOMEN** has set up a climate smart agriculture project which covers regions with high agricultural potential in Saint Louis, and plans to impact more than 30,000 Senegalese women farmers, with the aim of helping them to attain economic empowerment as well as strengthening climate smart agriculture in Senegal. >



Photograph: Olivier Girard



IN SENEGAL, WOMEN PERFORM 70% OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORK. (UN WOMEN)



Livestock drink from the irrigation channels in Ross Bethio, Senegal, February 2020, where all women here tend their crop (UN Women).



**MORE THAN 600 HECTARES** of land has been allocated by local authorities to women rice producers in Senegal, and more than 1,500 women have been trained in production, processing and marketing techniques under AgriFed. >



REFAN is a women organisations of 16 000 women organised in GIE, (Groupement D'interet Economique.) Ndeye Gaye, ( in Green) is vice president of REFAN a rice transformation factory in Ross bethio, Saint-Louis, Senegal.





Rice processing plant in Ross Bethio, Senegal, February 2020 (UN Women).



Jam produced by the women's group of Sor Daga in Saint-Louis, Senegal, February 2020 (UN Women).



**SENEGAL** is one of the largest consumers and importers of rice in West Africa. Since 2018, UN Women has been supporting REFAN, a network of 16,000 women farmers in northern Senegal, to facilitate access to land, skills, technologies and agricultural inputs for climate-resilient production. The programme also promotes access to finance and markets. >





Smart Agric: The irrigation channels in Ross Bethio, Senegal, February 2020 (UN Women).

## TESTIMONY NDEYE GAYE

*Vice-President of the  
Women Farmers Network in  
Northern Senegal (REFAN)*

**“IF WOMEN WANT TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT,** they must be well trained and supported with financial resources. Women are in front of all the activities of the family: education, health and household. From now on, women no longer want to rely on their husbands. Women want to have their own income-generating activities that allow them to better manage their families. This readjusts the balance between men and women. Before, women didn't make decisions. It was the man who made all the family decisions. Now, the decisions are discussed together.” ■



**TESTIMONY****FATOUMATA  
NIANG**

*Member of the Sor Daga women's group in Saint-Louis, Senegal*

**“WE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE JAMS, JUICES AND SYRUPS,** and rice soaps. My life has changed a lot. Now I earn more. I help my husband a lot. Now, when the children get sick, I can go to the doctor and buy medicine for them.”

Thanks to the support from UN Women, the Dor Saga women's group was able to purchase their first grain-processing machine. With the income generated, they have been able to invest in two more machines. ■



# Renewable energy

**THERE IS A HUGE POTENTIAL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY** generation in the Sahel region, which needs to be harnessed to stimulate socio-economic development, and support the achievement of sustainable development goals

Renewable energy sources, in particular solar, are diverse and flexible, ranging from solar lanterns to large 24 / 7 on-demand grids, solar photovoltaic systems for domestic use, stand-alone mechanical equipment requiring energy, and micro and mini grids.

In Mopti region, a solar station has transformed the village of Soufouroulaye.

It powers the town hall, clinics, schools and the youth centre. It supplies more than 50 public lighting points, providing light for nearly 90 people. Rural radio stations, a water pumping system for the women's community garden, a 20-battery charging centre and all the small and medium-sized enterprises. >



**The solar station supplies over 50 street lighting points in Soufouroulaye village, Mopti, Mali, February 2020 (UNDP).**





**MORE GENERALLY**, renewable energy supplies can provide more equitable and sustainable livelihoods for families, farmers, entrepreneurs, health centres, schools, and small and medium-sized enterprises. ■

Soumaila Kamaian, in charge of maintaining the solar village in Soufouroulaye, Mopti, Mali, February 2020 (UNDP).



**TESTIMONY**

**ABDOULAYE  
TRAORE**

*Small grocery owner in  
Soufouroulaye, Mali*

“Before we used solar batteries but now we get electricity, we can have television and refrigerators in which we can store products. I can sell fresh water and drinks. I used to close the shop at nightfall but now I can stay open until 10 or 11 pm. My income has increased a lot because I make more sales. It has really changed our lives.” ■

**TESTIMONY****MADIRORE  
KAREMBE**

*Owner of the Soufouroulaye  
welding workshop in Mali*

“Now I get electricity in my workshop,  
I have much, much more work than  
before and I have had to hire appren-  
tices. People come from all over Mopti  
region to get their machinery repaired,  
especially agricultural machinery.” ■



UNDP

# The Sahel's one million cisterns programme

*The 1 million cisterns for the Sahel programme is a new water-gathering and storage systems initiative led by FAO and in complementarity with other agencies like WFP.*

**THE 1 MILLION CISTERNS FOR THE SAHEL PROGRAMME** is a new water-gathering and storage systems initiative led by FAO and in complementarity with other agencies like WFP.

**In collaboration with UN women, the programme principally focuses on vulnerable women in rural communities, in six countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and The Gambia) affected by climate shocks. Inspired by a Brazilian programme "Fome Zero", the programme is benefiting about 5 million people across the Sahel with access to water, including safe drinking water and for agricultural usage.**

In addition to water, the initiative seeks to provide climate-resilient agricultural products and support their commercialization. The programme also trains farmers on agro-ecological practices, together with the construction and maintenance of cisterns. The broader objective of the programme is to create job opportunities; and extend social safety nets to vulnerable women in rural communities and assist them to break from the vicious cycle of poverty. >





Cistern in Dabally, Senegal,  
July 2018 (FAO)

“5 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE SAHEL ARE BENEFITING FROM THE 1 MILLION CISTERNS PROGRAMME WHICH GIVEN THEM ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND FOR AGRICULTURAL USAGE.





## TESTIMONY

# MBOYA KA

*Mother of five children in  
Douli, Senegal*

“Before we got the cistern, I had to travel nearly 9km each day to buy water, often with one or more of my children, and I spent more than 1,000 CFA francs. Now I can do other things, like cultivating my garden and meeting other women. I have also learned how to plant some of the seeds I received and I know how to use the vegetables I produce.”

\*In Senegal, the average salary in 2019 is estimated at 92,000 CFA



# Supporting economic, income generating and other activities



Refugees and local people build the first of a thousand houses in bricks for the host community and refugees from Mali, Ouallam refugee camp, Tillaberi, Niger, January 2020 (UNHCR).





Sidi is a Malian jeweller who has taken refuge in Niger. UNHCR has created MADE51, a global brand of hand-crafted decoration and accessories made by refugees, December 2019 (UNHCR).



22-year-old Adama is a “model girl” in her village. She raises community awareness of the struggle against female genital mutilation (FGM), Komsilga, Burkina Faso, March 2020 (UNFPA)



The restoration of this road has improved the accessibility of Soufouroulaye and facilitates trade between villages. Mopti region, Mali, February 2020 (WFP).



An IDP elderly man working on his sewing machine Burkina Faso, March 2020 (UNHCR)





Income Generating Activity, Savare, Mali 2020 (UNDP)





**Women – some with disabilities engage in different income and revenue generating activities in Sevare region Mali (UNDP 2020)**

# SUSTAINING PEACE

**IN THIS SECTION:** Women peace ambassadors. Youth peace ambassadors.  
Education for children in emergencies.

**PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS AND BUILDING PEACE;** preventing violent extremism and crime; and promoting access to justice and human rights, is what priority two of the UN Support Plan for the Sahel entails.

**OUR OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA INCLUDE** To build peace and address the root causes of conflicts and violent extremism through prevention, good governance, social cohesion, response to human security threats, and access to justice outcomes with tangible impacts.

**BUILD LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEACE** and strengthen capacity of national institutions and communities to prevent conflict, violence, combat

terrorism, crime and violent extremism, including through education, development programmes, and inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. (SDG: 16.1; 16.4, 16a)

**STRENGTHEN RULE OF LAW,** access to justice and human rights, including administration of justice, with emphasis on support for programmes to eliminate gender-based violence and combating corruption. (SDG: 5.2, 5c, 16.3, 16.5)

**STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT,** mediation and trust building to foster reconciliation and social cohesion in communities seriously affected by conflicts. (SDG: 16.7) >

Cultivons la Paix

Acceptons-nous pour  
mieux Vivre Ensemble

Cultivons la Paix

“THE JOINT PROJECT ON “YOUTH AND STABILIZATION FOR PEACE AND SECURITY” IS IMPLEMENTED BY UNFPA, UNICEF AND UNDP IN THE FAR NORTH REGION OF CAMEROON. THE PROJECT AIMS TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF TOLERANCE AND “LIVING TOGETHER”; TO FACILITATE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.



# Women Peace Ambassadors

**PEACE, JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS** and effective governance based on the rule of law are essential elements for sustainable development.

**In the Sahel, some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others are caught up in a seemingly endless cycle of conflict and violence. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive effect on a country's development, hampering economic growth and unleashing suffering on the population that can persist for generations.**

Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are pervasive in places of conflict or where there is no rule of law. Nations must take action to protect those most at risk. Today, the citizens of the Sahel experience slow administration, corruption and >



2020 (UNDP)



Mali, Soufourou  
Ambassador, February  
2020 (UN WOMEN)



poor redistribution of resources, meaning they have little confidence in their government. They are asking for more justice and public institutions that are in line with their needs. They wish to be more involved in the democratic life of their countries.

**Through their programs, UN agencies work with governments and communities in Sahel countries to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights are at the heart of this process, including improving access to justice for vulnerable communities, combating human trafficking and reducing illegal arms trafficking. >**

“UN AGENCIES WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE SAHEL TO FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT.”

Mali, February 2020  
(UN WOMEN)



# Youth Peace Ambassadors

**ACTIONS ALSO AIM AT STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL** capacities for citizen engagement, mediation and reconciliation in communities severely affected by conflict. This includes the creation of local infrastructures for peace and the strengthening of communities to prevent conflicts, combat terrorism, crime and violent extremism, particularly in cross-border regions where refugees, displaced persons and host communities often coexist. >



, 2020 (UNDP)



HONDJABA MARIE

PANTTA

Thème: Tolérance au sein de la Communauté.

Je suis née en 2000 de la communauté  
Lila, Dimphe Nour  
elle la population elle la jeune du quartier  
Bongori  
à l'école  
le nom: Mlle  
le lieu: Bongori  
le quartier: Bongori  
le pays: Cameroun  
National: Par le chef de quartier  
le rôle en un de ses



Cameroon, 2020 (UNDP)

**TESTIMONY**

**BERNADETTE  
WEYME**

*Young Ambassador for Peace in  
Meme, Cameroon*

“I wish for peace to return to our city. In Meme, three people were killed in Boko Haram suicide bombings in one day in 2018. That day, I was on my way to the market when my father called me and told me to run. I am so afraid that such attacks could come back to our city. Here we have a lot of internally displaced people. Some of them come to take water from our well and sometimes we don't have enough water for our family, so we have to walk to the backwater and it's very far. After this training, I would like to organize peace talks about this water problem. If we give water to the people, we give peace.” ■

Cameroon, 2020 (UNDP)



# Education for children in emergencies

*Education is a major challenge in conflict-affected countries.*

“CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP SKILLS AND ACQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES THEY NEED TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE ADULTS



**IN BURKINA FASO, MALI AND NIGER**, more than 8 million children between 8 and 14 were out of school in December 2019. When violent extremists target education, it becomes impossible to ensure safe schooling in the traditional sense of the term. The risk of attack creates fear in local communities, forcing schools to close, teachers to flee and children to stay at home. But even in these desperate times, innovative approaches can provide solutions. For example, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working with governments in West and Central Africa to provide new teaching and learning tools. As part of the "Education can't wait" initiative, it is diversifying educational options, to reach children wherever they are. ■



Mali, Scholarship Beneficiaries  
2020 (UNESCO)



Girls at A Koranic school in Zamai - in Cameroon



**TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SOCIAL COHESION,** an

education manual on the Culture of Peace has been developed and translated into national languages (Bambara and Peulh) and distributed to forty schools in the two regions. 85 teachers of formal, non-formal, medersas, youth trainers and volunteers have been trained in Peace Education. To date, more than 5,500 students have benefited from Peace Education and Living Together training sessions, 45% of whom are girls. >

Cameroon, Maroua, Koranic schools, 2020 (UNDP)



School children in  
Merdressa Darou Hadiss in  
Sevare. Mali, Scholarship  
Beneficiaries 2020 (UNESCO)



Mali, Scholarship  
Beneficiaries 2020 (UNESCO)

A CHILD WHO  
IS OUT OF  
SCHOOL MEANS  
UNREALIZED  
POTENTIAL  
AND MISSED  
OPPORTUNITIES

School children in Merdressa  
Darou Hadiss in Sevaré, Mali,  
February 2020 (UNESCO)





Sevaré Mali, February  
2020 (UNESCO)

## TESTIMONY

# SALOU

*7 years old, internally displaced in Mali and enrolled in a school in Bamako UNESCO/UNFPA/UN Women*

Salou arrived at the Dialakorobougou IDP site near Bamako in May 2018 with his seven siblings and parents. Originally from the central region of Mali, the family had to flee violence. Their village was looted and burned. Salou used to work with his father on their farm and had never been to school. The first school was located more than 2.5 kilometres from his village. So this is the first time he is going to school in his life. A total of 70 children like Salou from the IDP camp have attended nearby schools. They have received school kits containing uniforms, school bags, as well as notebooks and teaching materials. ■



## TESTIMONY

# HUSSAIN

*The 14 year old, is able to continue his schooling through the radio education programme in northern Burkina Faso (UNICEF)*

“I was in class in my village when we heard people shouting. Then some people started shooting. They shot at our teachers and killed one of them. They set fire to the classrooms. I was scared. Then we ran away. My father said we have to leave. And we left with my parents, my grandparents, my sisters and brothers. I used to love school, to read, to count and to play during recess. I haven't been to school for a year. One day when I was playing ball with my friends, some people came up to us and said they will give us a radio to learn. That's great. The whole family listens to the radio lessons now with programmes in Fulfulde, Songhai and Tamashek. Abdoulaye\* (The focal point for radio education) is helping us. He is like a family member to us now. We learn to read, write and do maths. I hope peace will return so all the children will be able to go back to school. I miss my friends and hope all of them are well and alive.” ■



# LIPTAKO-GOURMA

*The Liptako-Gourma region, which straddles Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, is the epicentre of the security crisis in the Sahel-Saharan strip. Despite conflicts and climate insecurity, the region also holds great promise. Since 2012, the region has been plagued by climate insecurity and violence.*

**THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGION** has broad social, cultural and economic continuity, encompassing diverse ethnic groups with interdependent traditions. Difficult climatic and environmental conditions make it a severe and fragile area, despite the great potential for socio-economic growth from the region's lives-stock, agriculture, mining and fishing resources. Trans-boundary transhumance, a critical means of subsistence in the region, is particularly affected by insecurity, making it the main cause of inter- and intra-community conflicts in the region.

**The security crisis began in Mali and was largely concentrated in the north until the end of 2013, when it began to spread to the centre of the country. The conflicts have rippled into Niger and Burkina Faso, where the situation deteriorated considerably in 2019 with a proliferation of armed groups, increasing community clashes and the rise of violent extremism.**

In all three countries, these conflicts have stifled economic activity and led to the closure of several thousand schools and

health centres. Many young people now find them-selves in a situation of social insecurity, further exacerbating their distrust of administrative and traditional authorities and exposing them to recruitment by radical religious groups and non-State armed groups. Women are particularly vulnerable to this upsurge in conflict, which is accompanied by an increased risk of sexual violence. There is an urgent need for more effective coordination between security and justice actors and communities in resolving the Liptako-Gourma cross-border conflicts. UN agencies are working with member states and the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) to ensure that urgent humanitarian needs are met and basic social services - such as access to education, clean water and health-care - continue. They are also working in a coordinated response to increase the resilience of local communities and to prevent attacks by armed groups and jihadists, which could spread to neighbouring countries. ■





# LAKE CHAD BASIN

*On the border of four countries - Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon - the Lake Chad region is at the heart of a web of interlocking crises: security, humanitarian and environmental.*

## **THE SITUATION IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN**

is one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. Once one of Africa's largest water reservoirs, Lake Chad used to be the source of subsistence for millions of people. But several environmental disasters, including droughts caused by climate change and poorly implemented dam and irrigation projects, have caused the lake to shrink by about 90% since the 1960s.

**During this time, the population of the basin has continued to grow. The resulting drastic reduction in livelihoods has led to increased migration, as well as conflicts between fishermen, farmers and herders.**

In this alarming context of economic and environmental deterioration, the terrorist group Boko Haram emerged in 2009 and has attracted or forcibly conscripted many young people. Over the past decade, the terrorist group's insurgency has killed more than 36,000 people and displaced several million from their homes. Killings, abductions and human rights abuses have become widespread.

Today, women and girls face a high risk of sexual violence. Infrastructure has been damaged, depriving millions of people of access to basic services - education and health - that were already scarce in the region before the conflict.

Nearly 10 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection\*. The protracted crisis calls for a rapid transition to self-sufficiency. Dis-placed people do not need to wait for the conflict to be fully resolved before they can begin to rebuild their lives. In addition, coordination of humanitarian and development strategies must be maintained and strengthened.

The United Nations stabilization strategy for the Lake Chad Basin requires a regional and cross-border approach for a holistic and structural response to development challenges. It comprises several pillars, including the prevention of violent extremism and peace building; the reintegration of people associated with Boko Haram; and the strengthening of resilience, through actions to reduce the effects of climate change and reboot the economy.

\*Source: OCHA / May 2020 ■

“  
IN JULY 2019, UNDP  
LAUNCHED THE \$100  
MILLION REGIONAL  
STABILIZATION  
FACILITY FOR THE LAKE  
CHAD TO SCALE UP  
INTERVENTIONS IN  
CRITICAL AREAS OF THE  
LAKE CHAD BASIN.

A woman on Chari river on  
the border with Cameroon,  
Mahada, Hadjer Lamis,  
Chad, January 2019 (UNDP)





# Protecting Lake Chad

**THE PROJECT “BIOSPHERE AND HERITAGE OF LAKE CHAD” (BIOPALT)**, implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), aims to safeguard Lake Chad’s biodiversity and ecosystem, which is threatened with extinction.

The project includes a wide range of activities, from the establishment of an early warning system for droughts and floods to the restoration of degraded ecosystems, such as spawning grounds, supporting the growth of Spirulina and the preservation of the Kouri breed of cow.

This is done with particular attention to income-generating activities through the promotion of a green economy and the conservation of the basin’s natural resources. >

**N’galamia Island  
in the Lake, Chad,  
February 2019  
(UNDP).**



# La Spiruline

*The green economy of Lake Chad*

Spirulina (*Arthrospira platensis*) is a blue-green algae rich in protein and vitamins, particularly interesting for combating malnutrition. Originally from Lake Chad where it has been used by the Kanem women for thousands of years, it is now produced easily and on a large scale in various countries for food and cosmetic purposes.


**The BIOPALT project aims to support local populations in green economy projects that produce Spirulina and in a pilot project for the ecological rehabilitation of Spirulina habitat, in order to sustainably develop the activity of women and improve their income. ■**



Lake Chad, Choua close to Bol, February 2019 (UNDP)



**The Koulikimé site in the lake region  
holds more than 300 former  
members of Boko Haram, Chad,  
(UNDP) Aurélia Rusek**



*The people of the Sahel  
have proven to be resilient  
and taken a firm stand to  
address the complex human  
security and development  
challenges facing them.*

A Taureg man in Timbuktu – Mali Shutterstock.com

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**ACRONYMS**

**UNOWAS:** United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**UN Women:** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

**UNESCO:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund

**UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund

**WFP:** World Food Organization

**FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**ILO:** International Labour Organization

**IOM:** International Organization for Migration

**IFAD:** International Fund for Agricultural Development

**UNCDF:** United Nations Capital Development Fund

**OCHA:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**OHCHR:** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**UNODC:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**WHO:** World Health Organization

**UNECA:** United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**UNIC:** United Nations Information Centre

**UNV:** United Nations Volunteers

# HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE NEXUS



UNITED NATIONS  
INTEGRATED STRATEGY  
FOR THE SAHEL

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

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