



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
**REGIONAL PROJECT FOR YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT IN THE SAHEL  
(RPYES)**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES)

Total Resources Required: \$100,000,000

Implementing Partner: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Start Date: 30 January 2021 - End Date: 31 December 2025

PAC Meeting Date:

### Brief Description

The issue of youth empowerment and participation in political and socio-economic spheres is central to the stability of the Sahel. The sub-region has the youngest population in the world, with 65% of the population being under the age of 35.<sup>1</sup> It is predicted that the continent's youth population will increase by 42% by 2030 and it could double from present levels by 2055.<sup>2</sup> Although this demographic situation entails excellent opportunities, it also presents risks. The nature and level of youth engagement in political and socio-economic processes will largely determine whether the youth bulge will have positive or negative consequences.<sup>3</sup> However, capacity gaps at various levels along with other limitations often hinder effective engagement of youth in governance processes in the Sahel, which suggests a significant need for action.

<sup>1</sup> L Tracey and E Kahuthia, 'Beyond rhetoric Engaging Africa's youth in democratic governance' Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Policy Brief 99, February 2017 p 2.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Office of Special Adviser, 'Youth Empowerment', <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/peace/youth.shtml> accessed 03 July 2020.

<sup>3</sup> L Tracey and E Kahuthia, 'Beyond rhetoric Engaging Africa's youth in democratic governance.'



Moreover, persons with disabilities in the Sahel region continue to face challenges to participate in governance and socio-economic processes fully. These challenges can be attributed to discriminatory attitudes, inequalities, and marginalisation as well as other structural, social, political, institutional and cultural barriers. This raises a serious concern considering that the region has a population of 20 million persons living with disability.

Leveraging UNDP's Support Framework for the Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and the African Union's Youth Strategy, the UNDP Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel aims to complement the work of UNDP country offices in the Sahel, member states and other development partners. The project will invest in youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, while opening up space for youth engagement in social, political and economic spheres. It will also support the upscaling of successful youth initiatives (e.g. YouthConnekt) that recognise the centrality of youth for the Sahel's development and socio-economic transformation. This project aims to contribute to the job creation for youth as part of wider efforts towards economic development of the Sahel. It is expected that by addressing these multiple dimensions of youth development and engagement the project will help reduce radicalisation, migration and conflict pressures. The initiative takes a market-led approach to create employment opportunities and will simultaneously upskill the workforce according to the demand of the marketplace. Over an initial period of 5 years, the project will achieve the following outcomes:

**Outcome 1.** Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on green & digital technology related jobs

**Outcome 2.** Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel

**Outcome 3.** Enabling environment which removes barriers and provides opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability

**Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):**

- UNDP SP TIER 2, OUTCOME 1: **Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions**
- REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (2018-2021) RRF, OUTCOME 2: **Regional growth is inclusive, sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterised by structural transformation**

**Indicative Output(s) with gender marker2:**

**RPYES Outcome 1. Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on green and digital technology related jobs**

Output 1.1. Enhanced capacities for employability and economic livelihoods for rural and urban youth; Gender marker: GEN2

Output 1.2. Increased youth access to quality apprenticeships, internships and volunteer placements for enhanced employability and work readiness; Gender marker: GEN2

**RPYES Outcome 2. Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel**

Output 2.1. Increased engagement of and co-creation with the youth in political, peacebuilding and socio-economic development processes; Gender marker: GEN2

Output 2.2. Enhanced engagement of Youth in climate resilience and Greening the Sahel; Gender marker: GEN2

**RPYES Outcome 3: Enhanced enabling environment and opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability**

Output 3.1. Governments and other actors supported to put in place legal, political, cultural and structural frameworks for increased youth engagement as political change agents; Gender marker: GEN2

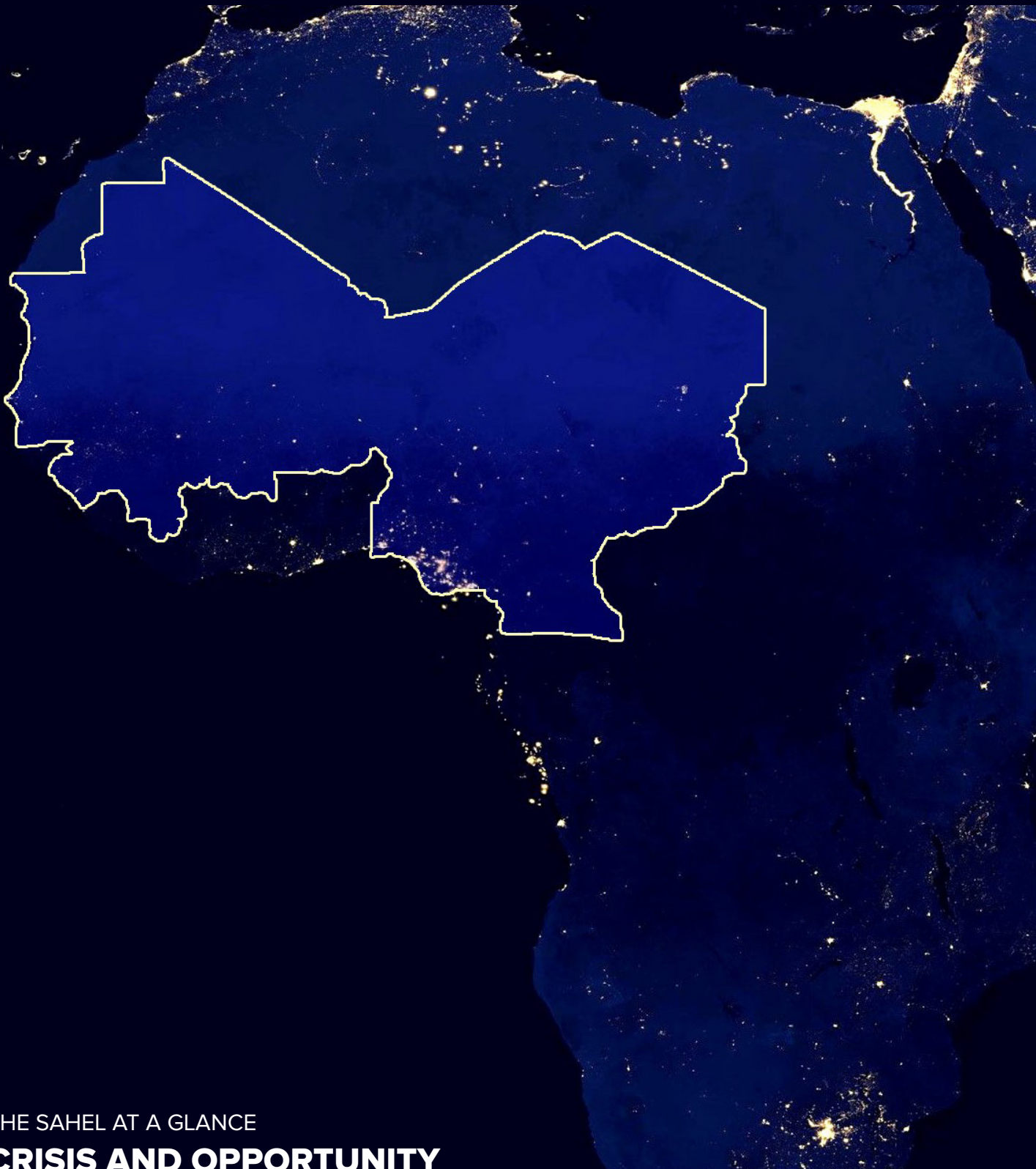
Output 3.2. Enhanced mobilization and engagement of youth through volunteer infrastructures and online platforms; Gender marker: GEN2



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'AA', is written over a horizontal line.

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**

Assistant Administrator & Regional Director for Africa  
United Nations Development Programme



## THE SAHEL AT A GLANCE

# CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY

### ENERGY

**169 MILLION**  
people lack electricity

 **87%** of which live in rural areas

**Opportunity:** Vast potential for solar and wind energy to power the Sahel and beyond

**UNDP's work:** Putting our global expertise with renewable energy to work throughout the Sahel

### YOUTH



**WIDESPREAD  
EXTREME POVERTY**

likely increasing because of COVID-19

**Opportunity:** Nearly two-thirds of the population is under age 25—young people who can power the global industries of today and tomorrow

**UNDP's work:** Providing training and funding to thousands of young entrepreneurs to create wealth and jobs

### GOVERNANCE



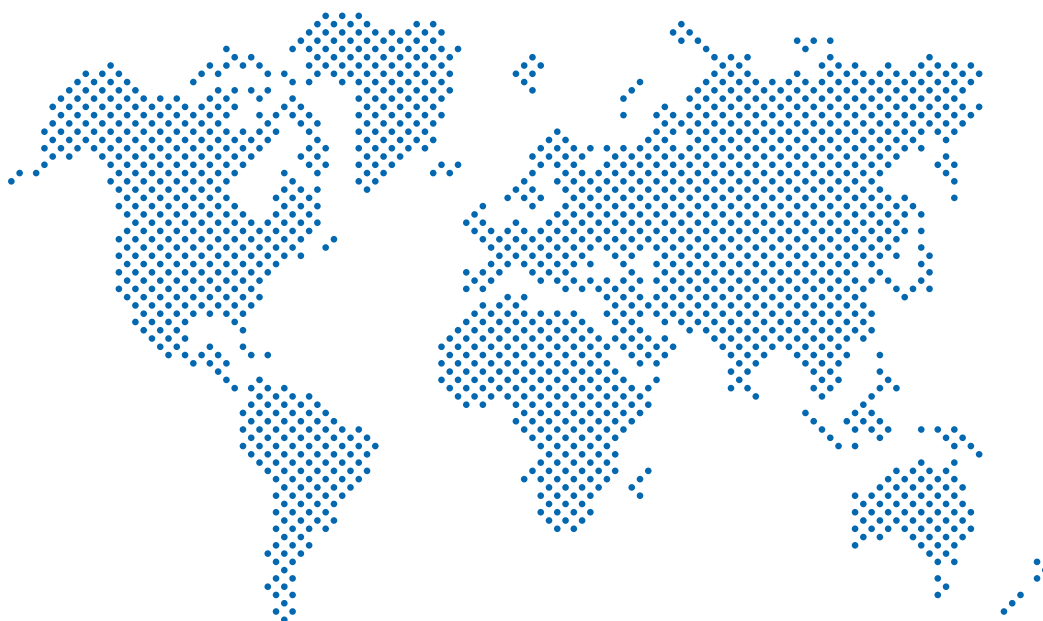
**FAILURES IN GOVERNANCE**

allow for deadly attacks in which thousands are killed and millions are displaced

**Opportunity:** Good governance makes way for stability, peace and progress

**UNDP's work:** Revitalizing governance through policy analysis, training, financial de-risking, and getting women and youth involved

## DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE



1 in every 6 person in the world is between ages 15 and 24



65% of the Sahelian population is under the age of 35



**Sahelian Countries**  
Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal

According to the United Nations statistics, there are 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 globally as of 2019, accounting for one out of every six people (17%) worldwide. In response to the situation, the UN Youth Strategy-Youth 2030<sup>4</sup> aims to facilitate expanded global, regional and country-level action to address the needs of young people, while building the agency and advancing the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world. The strategy also aims to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.<sup>5</sup> Being the most youthful continent, Africa aspires to empower its youth as a pathway to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa Agenda 2063. Despite the commitments and investments by African countries and partners, youth empowerment issues remain and call for urgent innovative solutions that equip youth with the necessary capacities, build on their existing potential and put them in the driver seat to shape the continent's future.

Like in other parts of the African continent, the Sahel experiences a youth bulge with 65% of the population under the age of 35. The region has a youthful population with over 150 million people under the age of 25. Although the Sahel experiences deep-rooted security, human rights, political, economic, and environmental challenges, it is also characterized by abundant natural, cultural and human resources. The youthful population presents important opportunities for harnessing the demographic dividend and achieving sustained peace and prosperity in the region. However, governments in the Sahel and the international community remain cognizant of the need for collaborative and mutually reinforcing approaches to addressing the multi-faceted nature of the ongoing crisis through the implementation of innovative strategies and frameworks that take into account the need for strong youth engagement in peacebuilding, socio-economic development, governance, security and stabilization. The next paragraphs highlight youth empowerment challenges in Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

**Cross-Border Conflict And Insecurity:** The security of Sahelian States is invariably tied to regional and transnational security dynamics, with some countries more susceptible to these dynamics than others.<sup>6</sup> Sahel countries have experienced the most rapid increase in militant Islamist groups' activities of any region in Africa in recent years. Violent extremist activities particularly across the Sahel mainly in the border areas of the Lake Chad basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria), the Liptako Gourma (comprising Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and north-eastern Nigeria continue to have an adverse effect on youth development. In 2019 alone, there were more than 700 violent episodes. Fatalities linked to these events have increased from 225 to 2,000 during the same period. This surge in violence has uprooted more than 900,000 people, including 500,000 in Burkina Faso in 2019 alone. Due to sustained violence and insecurity, youth in the Sahel are unable to fully participate in democratic processes and institutions leading to dissatisfaction with the leadership and lack of confidence in decision making processes and institutions. Multiple security and development responses have been deployed to address the youth crisis. While some progress has been realized, the continued escalation of violent extremism underscores that more needs to be done. Despite these challenges, many youth-led peace building initiatives in the Sahel aim at strengthening inclusion in democratic processes as firewalls to counteract increasing violence and insecurity.<sup>7</sup> There is therefore an urgent need to support these initiatives, positively engage youth as peace builders and give greater attention to their positive contribution towards lasting peace and development in the Sahel.

**Limited Civic Engagement And Political Participation:** The UN System's first priority for youth empowerment is "Engagement, Participation and Advocacy - Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world".<sup>8</sup> In most countries across the Sahel region, "years of poor governance, and absence of rule of law have hindered young people civic and political engagement". Although 65 percent of young Sahelians are under 35, "youth have little voice in government at both the local and national levels". Youth participation is culturally slowed down by gerontocracy where it is widely believed across the region that elders lead and the young submit. It is also hindered by standard electoral rules that place age limits. Due to numerous cultural, legal and social barriers, youth remain under-represented at the highest political levels. For instance, in Senegal, "youth represent 2-3 percent of parliament, a minimal level of participation that negatively impacts the consideration given to their priorities and concerns by the legislators".<sup>9</sup> Young people also continue to be marginalized and largely excluded from major decision-making processes in government with few of them representing in cabinet. To ensure that youth's voices are amplified, it is vital to promote qualified and well-trained young people to hold strategic positions to make them influential in decision-making processes. In addition to legislation, proper structural changes and awareness raising for a cultural shift are needed to make the environment more conducive for enhanced youth engagement and participation in development and peacebuilding processes.

4 [https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080\\_UN-Youth-Strategy\\_Web.pdf](https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf)

5 UN Youth Strategy, page 5

6 UNECA, Conflict in the Sahel region and the developmental consequences, 2017, page 23

7 Youths and Peace Processes in Cameroon: opportunities and challenges, A local Youth Corner Cameroon Publication 2020

8 UN Youth Strategy, page 10

9 See IPI report, Building Peace and Development in the Sahel: Enhancing the Political Participation of Women and Youth, January 2015, page 3

**Unemployment and Underemployment:** Having decent work is crucial for young people and their future but it also has a domino effect on local communities, countries and the world as a whole.<sup>10</sup> Most youth in the Sahel region have limited access to quality employment, income-generating activities and any sustainable socioeconomic integration opportunities. In the context of an enduring economic crisis, youth unemployment and underemployment could be very dangerous if left unaddressed. Unemployed and underemployed youth are at higher risk of political manipulation and recruitment by extremist groups, and involvement in violence.<sup>11</sup> In fact, Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) across the Sahel have exploited three regional deficits to recruit youth: limited citizen participation in politics; underdevelopment and the inequitable sharing of resources; and weak educational systems. Insecurity and violence at work, for youth who are mostly employed in the informal sector, could also lead to their recruitment into illicit and violent activities.<sup>12</sup> Creating jobs in the Sahel needs fast inclusive investment in human capital to ensure better skills for productive jobs.

**Gender-Based Violence:** The United Nations, together with partners, is leading efforts to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. From early forced marriage to femicide, trafficking to sexual harassment and sexual violence to harmful traditional practices, violence in all its forms is a global impediment to sustainable development, peace and prosperity in the Sahel. Gender-based violence prevents women from fully engaging in society, scars successive generations, and costs countries millions in health expenses, job days lost, and long-term impacts. Women and girls in the Sahel are highly exposed to the risks of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence, difficult maintaining dignity, etc.<sup>13</sup> Over 75 percent of girls in Chad and Niger marry before the age of 18. Girls drop out of school and many become pregnant soon after, and because of their young age and complications during pregnancy, Sahel countries have some of the highest maternal mortality rates globally. As far as youth is concerned, the situation in the Sahel region calls for urgent action to ensure that young women effectively participate as empowered citizens and lead decent livelihoods.

**Impact of COVID-19 on Youth:** Since early March 2020, Sahelian governments have put in place mitigation and prevention measures to stem the spread of COVID-19. Market closures, border closures and movement restrictions have negatively disrupted the structurally weak socio-economic sector for young people which was already made vulnerable by conflict. COVID-19 deepens the vulnerability of populations and further threatens their resilience.<sup>14</sup> Across the world and specifically in the Sahel countries, COVID-19 has reduced young people's opportunities to access health care, basic social services and employment. Around one in five of the world's youth are not in employment, education or training and youth unemployment rates are about 3 times as high as those of adults. Despite the socio-economic challenges and diverse humanitarian impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to recognize young people's engagement to stop the spread of the virus. Through volunteerism and other means of engagement, youth have been engaged in community awareness raising, sensitization and providing support to persons in need such as persons with disability and older persons. In Mali and Niger, 97 UN community volunteers were mobilised to support community sensitization programmes. It is worth a special mention that COVID-19 pandemic offers a historical opportunity to increase the use of digital technology. UNDP's recent study on Africa's digital solutions to tackle COVID-19 revealed that "the high rate of mobile phone helps spur innovations that are then adapted to each country's problems".<sup>15</sup> Post COVID-19 era is an opportunity for UNDP and partners to foster creative solutions and technological solutions for and with youth.

**Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:** The Sahel is experiencing extreme temperatures, fluctuating rainfall and droughts, all of which can degrade land, change grazing patterns, and reduce water supply for both animals and people. The region is one of the world's climate change hotspots. Increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, more frequent droughts and floods and land degradation threaten the livelihoods of a population in which the majority relies on agriculture for survival. Environmental shocks, insecurity, chronic hunger and malnutrition have a dangerously symbiotic relationship in the Sahel. The relationship between climate, conflict and COVID-19 is complex but derives primarily from reduced livelihoods opportunities and increased resource scarcity (especially in areas economically dependent on natural resources).<sup>16</sup> Combined COVID-19 and climate change consequences will have an outstanding impact on the Sahelian youth particularly in the rural areas where natural resource and livelihoods dependence are dominant. This project endeavors to capitalize on youth's ability to contribute to greening the Sahel through volunteerism and eco-entrepreneurship initiatives. UNDP will tap into its high-impact innovations including the 10x10x10 initiative and the Youth Ecobrigade to gain quick-wins in greening the region.

**Irregular Migration:** Despite the establishment of institutions such as youth ministries, national youth councils, or state structures dealing with youth empowerment, the politicization of these institutions and the ensuing lack of trust in them limit their effectiveness. Consequently, youth from countries in the Sahel are taking increasing risks to cross the Mediterranean. The multiple security incidents, which caused the death of 600 migrants at sea in 2013—a figure that had increased to 800 in the first half of 2014—call for a deeper reflection on the issues raised by unregulated African migration and the challenges this immigration poses to the continent's long-term developments.<sup>17</sup> Responding to irregular migration requires African governments to demonstrably build societies that attract young Africans to channel their energies and aspirations into the national development project.<sup>18</sup> There is therefore an urgent call to engage young people in shaping their future.

**Positive Contribution of Youth in Shaping the Socio-Political Ecosystem:** It is fundamental to recognize the positive role of youth in peace building and community resilience in the Sahel region. Youth have been the engine of development and change in the living conditions of their communities. They are playing decisive roles in preventing and resolving inter and intra-community conflicts. Their full recognition, inclusion and support is necessary for the sustainability of the development processes in the region. As a matter of fact, across the Sahel countries, youth are involved in facilitating peace process. In Mali, hundreds of thousands of young people have taken to the streets to protest pervasive corruption, extreme poverty, and protracted conflict. Their involvement in the protests was driven by their desire to foster a positive social change in Mali. In the same vein, in Nigeria during the END SARS protest,<sup>19</sup> the young people stepped out and made their voices heard demanding positive change in the policing system. Moreover, Sahelian young people are making full use of information and communication technologies (ICT). They are at the forefront of finding new and innovative ways to communicate with their peers, their governments, mass media and their communities through social media and other channels. They also use social media to spread peace messages, encourage dialogue among people from different ethnic groups and nationalities. Social media is a powerful bridge to promote tolerance and mutual understanding.

The youth empowerment situation in the Sahel region calls for concerted efforts by UNDP and partners. There is a need to adopt an inclusive and youth driven approach to address youth development challenges. The systemic correlation between youth unemployment, youth poverty, social exclusion, violent conflict, irregular migration and deteriorating environment due to climate change affect young people in the Sahel. The cross-border dimension of the empowerment problem and the spillover effect necessitate a holistic regional approach. The regional approach will also support regional dialogues on sensitive issues and emerging political issues.

The Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel will be implemented at two levels (UNDP-led) through the 10 Country Offices and at the regional level through the Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa and the expanded structures of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), which include working groups – Governance, Security and Resilience. The UNISS Support Plan which was adopted in 2018 has provided the mechanism for harmonizing, coordinating and partnering with UN agencies in the implementation of the project.

10 Youth and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, p.35

11 Responding to the rise in violent extremism in the Sahel, Africa Security Brief, No36, December 2019

12 Responding to the rise in violent extremism in the Sahel, Africa Security Brief, No36, December 2019

13 UNFPA, West and Central Africa, a forgotten region: women and girls pay the heavy burden, March 2020

14 United Nations, Rapid Assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Mali, page 3.

15 UNDP, Africa's digital solutions to tackle COVID-19, July 2020.

16 World report, Youth and climate change, p.24.

17 Building Peace and Development in the Sahel: Enhancing the Political Participation of Women and Youth

18 UNDP, Scaling Fences: Voices of irregular African migrants to Europe, p.8.

19 Protest against a police unit known as the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, or SARS.



The UNDP Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel is developed in the context of various global and regional institutional frameworks and agendas which require the promotion and consolidation of democratic governance. The programming context includes but is not limited to:



**SDG 5** calls for an end to all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls; ensuring women’s full and effective participation, representation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making and undertaking reforms to give women equal rights to resources. The goal of inclusive governance and peacebuilding cannot be met without the realisation of women’s rights and the promotion of gender equality. Thus, women’s empowerment and equality should not be limited to governance processes but should also extend to peacebuilding initiatives. This is in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS) provided for under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325, 1828, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, and 2242 as well key instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).



**SDG 10** calls for reduction of inequality within and among countries to ensure no one is left behind. Inequalities persist due to governance deficits and weak institutional structures, fragility and peace and security challenges. With the likelihood of deepening existing social, economic and political inequalities due to COVID-19, SDG 10 should inform all UNDP engagements in governance and peacebuilding.



**SDG 11** stresses making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The establishment of inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and communities requires strong democratic institutions and participatory and responsive local governance which provides effective delivery of public services and political goods. This requires inclusivity and participation of all citizens including youth, women, persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities in governance processes in order to ensure peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.



**SDG 13** calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its effects. Considering the increasingly clear impact of climate change on governance processes, conflict prevention, peace and security in Africa, it is imperative to consider the effects and programme accordingly, in light of ongoing work by the UN in this regard including the new Climate Security Mechanism.



**SDG 16** stresses the need to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. This calls for conflict prevention, management and resolution; promotion of the rule of law, increased access to justice and strengthening of governance institutions to ensure effective and efficient delivery of public services and goods.

**UN RES 2419** unanimously adopted, reaffirming the important role that youth and youth-led civil society can play in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

**Agenda 2063** is the blueprint and strategic framework which captures the aspiration of Africans for the political, social and economic transformation of the Continent. Agenda 2063 provides Africa’s agenda for inclusive and sustainable development that is driven by freedom, unity, self-determination, progress and collective prosperity of its citizens. Particularly, Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 outlines the desire for “An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. Further, Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 espouses the desire for “A peaceful and secure Africa”. Aspiration 6 calls for a people-driven development, particularly one driven by women and youth. Goal 17 under this Aspiration calls for full gender equality in all spheres of life. It articulates the aspiration for women and girls’ empowerment as well as addressing violence and discrimination against women and girls in Africa.

**African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)** was established pursuant to the AU’s Peace and Security Protocol. APSA’s objectives, principles and values aim at the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. Thus, it is necessary for UNDP’s programming on peacebuilding in Africa to take into consideration the knowledge, experience and efforts of APSA in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding.

**UNDP’s 2018-2021 Strategic Plan (SP)** outlines UNDP’s commitment to support countries’ efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms with the objective to promote sustainable development and create resilient communities. UNDP is mandated by UN Member States to be the support platform of the UN Development System providing an integrator function in support of countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The SP provides signature solutions to be adapted for various development solutions in line with this mandate. Signature solution 2 focuses on strengthening effective, inclusive and accountable governance in order to enhance sustainable development and human security. Signature solution 3 emphasises UNDP’s commitment to support national and recovery capacities for resilient communities, especially in addressing the impact of disasters and emergency situations on human security. This is timely considering the impact of COVID-19 on different countries in Africa. Signature solution 6 stresses the importance of strengthening equality and the empowerment of women. The SP is the guiding document in efforts by UNDP to support the creation of pathways to peaceful, democratic, just and inclusive communities. The next strategic planning process will begin in 2020, with the Africa Governance and Peacebuilding Offer informing it.

**UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel:** The persistent development challenges in the Sahel attracted the attention of the UN Security Council hence the adoption of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) in 2013 with three pillars: governance, security and resilience as an integrated and

well-coordinated response to the Sahel crisis. In 2018, a UNISS Support Plan (SP) was elaborated to scale up efforts to promote greater coherence, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders for expedited sustainable development of the region. This was in support of ongoing efforts to promote peace, stability and inclusive development and other initiatives by concerned governments, other UN agencies, regional organizations and other partners in accordance with the UNSCR 2391 (2017). These combined with the unfolding of the UN Decade of Action for the implementation of the SDGs are an added galvanizer for a sustained momentum in the Sahel.

**Africa's Promise:** The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa 2020 aims to “strengthen UNDP’s position as Africa’s premier enabler and integrator for the 2030 and the 2063 Agendas”. The Africa Promise and its Implementation Plan commits UNDP to support Africa’s people, its governments and institutions as they seek to consolidate recent gains and effectively address the challenges that remain, such as weak governance institutions, persistent inequality, rapid population growth, rising violence, stalled industrialisation and climate change.

**National Development Plans of Sahel Countries:** The countries remain the anchors of regional and sub-regional frameworks and initiatives for achieving the identified priorities through their National Development Plans.

1. The Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017 – 2020) emphasizes focus on tackling constraints to growth, leveraging the power of the private sector, promoting national cohesion and social inclusion and allowing markets to function while upholding core values as enshrined in the constitution.
2. Senegal’s “Plan Senegal Emergent” (PSE 2014 – 2018) places emphasis on structural transformation of the economy and human capital growth, welfare and sustainable development, governance, peace and security.
3. The Mali ‘Government Action Plan (2013 – 2018) and 2019-2023 strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development (cadre stratégique pour la relance économique et le développement durable - CREDD) focuses on strong and credible institutions, the restoration of security of people and goods throughout the national territory, the implementation of a policy of national reconciliation, the construction of an emerging economy and the implementation of an active development policy.
4. The Burkina Faso National Plan for Economic and social Development (PNDES) 2016-2020) emphasizes strong, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through the structural transformation of the economy and complements the Presidential Programme which seeks to build, along with the people, a country of democracy, economic and social progress, freedom and justice.
5. Niger’s Plan for Economic and Social Development (PDES) 2017-2021) has been prepared against the backdrop of persistent security threats, illegal immigration, a decline in commodity prices, climate change to lay emphasis on cultural renaissance; social development and demographic transition; acceleration of economic growth; improved governance, peace and security; environmental sustainability.
6. In the “Chad We Want” (2017 – 2021), the Chad National Development Plan focuses on accelerating the structural transformation in the social, governance and rule of law, economic and environment. In this regard, the aim is working for a peaceful, respected and involved Chad in its regional and international environment; providing every citizen with the possibility to access water and health, housing, energy and mobility; and building a dynamic, highly economical and environment friendly Chad.
7. The key priorities of Cameroon Vision 2035 include macro-economic stability, diversification of the economy, revitalizing the private sector’s ability to deliver social services, developing basic infrastructure and natural resources, while protecting the environment, creating closer ties with neighbouring countries with respect to trade, finance, transport, forestry, education and tourism, strengthening human resources and the social services, and integrating vulnerable groups into the economy and promotion of good governance.
8. The Gambia National Development Plan (NDP 2018 – 2020) aims at delivering good governance and accountability, social cohesion and national reconciliation with key attention on revitalizing and transforming the economy for the wellbeing of all Gambian citizens.
9. Mauritania’s Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP) 2016-2030 intends to build a prosperous society with strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to meet the basic needs of all citizens and their access to well-being. The SCAPP intends to bring about the structural transformation required to build a society based on well-being, strong social cohesion and social justice.
10. The Guinea government is committed to tackling root causes of persistent poverty through its long-term vision of a prosperous, emerging Guinea by 2040 linked to UN Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063. This will be operationalized through the four strategic priority areas of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES), namely: (i) promotion of good governance for sustainable development; (ii) sustainable and inclusive economic transformation; (iii) inclusive development of human capital; and (iv) sustainable management of natural capital.

## Cross-Cutting Approaches >

Building on the guiding principles outlined above, there are several cross-cutting approaches that this Offer will adopt in order to realise its overall goal as well as to make inroads into its strategic objectives and impact areas.

1. Working with young people as critical actors and equal partners in creating effective systems of governance as well as contributing to peacebuilding for the present and coming generations.
2. Employing a deliberate and conscious gender justice lens - paying particular attention to the ways in which women, in all their diversities, are impacted by and impact programmes, thus crafting programmes that speak to the particular needs, challenges and agency of women and girls.
3. Focussing on discovery, innovation and the harnessing of technology for development as a way of working to not only identify existing solutions but coming up with new ideas and innovations to solve complex development challenges and improve outcomes.
4. Recognising the agency of those most marginalised and reaffirming people’s sense of identity, dignity and purpose – working in partnership with, rather than for them, co-creating programmes and interventions understanding that they are best placed to craft solutions to their challenges, this will also ensure sustainability and greater impact fostering trust and ownership over the process and outcomes that result.
5. Greater civic space and engagement – promoting an enabling environment for the functioning of civil society, including building its capacity and resource base to contribute to a vibrant and robust civil society for greater social accountability and to support the realisation of the objectives set out in this offer as well as sustain the gains beyond 2025 when this offer comes to an end.
6. Focusing on cross-border areas – paying particular attention to the specific development, governance and security challenges in cross-border areas, recognising that governance and peacebuilding opportunities and challenges often require a cross-border approach due to their transnational nature. Recognizing the critical role of local governments at the cross-border to institutional cooperation, access to basic services and to boost economic development through economic infrastructures.
7. Strategic Partnerships – Strengthening and broadening strategic collaboration, cooperation and partnerships with other UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral partners, regional mechanisms especially the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms such as ECOWAS, ECCAS, as well as other regional institutions, notably, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Liptako-Gourma Authority, and G5 Sahel. Strategic partnerships between regional institutions and local actors (civil society and local institutions) are critical to providing concrete roots to regional integration (regional cooperation for people).
8. Cognisant of impacts of climate change - Climate change has wide ranging socio-economic as well as political implications, including on service delivery as well as participation in governance amongst other areas. The effects are felt acutely on the most vulnerable and marginalised segments of the population, of which women and girls are disproportionately represented. Keeping this in mind, this offer will be cognisant of the impacts and implications of climate change in the various outcome areas outlined. Recognizing that climate change is transforming the economic opportunities, it will require capacity building and support to businesses.



The UN System defines youth/young people as those between 15 and 24 years old. The majority of Sahelian states subscribe to the African Union definition that recognizes youth as any person between the ages of 15 and 35 (African Youth Charter).

To address the multifaceted challenges that confront youth, the project adopts a “by, with and for youth” approach to innovatively address youth empowerment challenges in the Sahel region. In that vein, the project is an ambitious and complex solution that promotes inclusive youth civic engagement, political participation and enhanced economic opportunity, knowledge management, innovation and technology in the face of political, security and economic obstacles in the Sahel region. To create a lasting impact, the project will adopt a strategy that is aligned to UNDP and partner plans and strategies, built on learning from and capitalizing on the past and existing initiatives, leverages the potential of young women and men as agents of change, promotes innovative use of technology, and ensures appropriate geographical, thematic and target group coverage that leaves no one behind.

## Alignment to Global, Regional and Country Programming

From a global perspective, although it cuts across different thematic areas due to the cross-cutting nature of youth empowerment, the regional project seeks to contribute to Agenda 2030 mainly SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16. It is fully anchored in the UN Youth Strategy-Youth 2030 and contributes to implementation of the 2015 United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 and the 2018 UNSCR 2419. Launched in 2018, UNDP Youth Strategy aims to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people’s needs, realize their rights and unleash their possibilities as agents of change. The project is also aligned to UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Outcome 1 “Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions”, output 1.1.2 “Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs”. Finally, the project takes its global inspiration from the Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace (Youth-GPS, 2016-2020).

At the regional level, the project is anchored in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA)’s Regional Programme Outcome 2: Regional growth is inclusive, sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterised by structural transformation. It also translates into action AFRICA’S PROMISE: The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa which, flowing from UNDP Strategic Plan’s six signature solutions, which positions youth and employment and empowerment as its second strategic impact area.<sup>20</sup> More specifically for the Sahel, the UNISS provides the framework for the international response in the Sahel and is in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2391 (2017). Built around six priority areas, the UNISS places women and youth empowerment at the heart of sustainable development and peace in the Sahel region. In terms of coordination and strategic cooperation, RPYES will align to, collaborate with and support initiatives of regional organizations and institutions such as the G5 Sahel, ECOWAS and the African Union 2063 Agenda to advance the youth agenda. The project will also work with the Africa Union Youth Envoy to promote the African Youth Charter in order to ensure ownership by Sahelian governments and young people. The project will also be an opportunity to support and leverage on the African Continental Free Trade (AFCTA).

The project is aligned to the UN Support plan for the Sahel which aims to improve coordination and strengthen collaboration with all partners in the region, including national and regional institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, to work towards operationalizing and implementing the Security Council resolutions on the Sahel. The overarching goal of the UN Support Plan for the Sahel, targeting 10 countries namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, is to scale up efforts to accelerate shared prosperity and lasting peace in the region. The Support Plan, covering the period 2018-2030, will help implement identified priorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063.” It also aims at mobilizing public resources and triggering private investments in the 10 countries in support of ongoing efforts and initiatives by governments, international and regional organizations, and other partners.

Lastly, the country level programming context offers entry points for positioning, successful implementation and sustainability of the expected project development impact. All the 10 Sahel countries have development plans that highlight youth as a strategic priority area. We will closely align with existing national youth policies or provide technical and strategic support for their formulation, review and implementation as needed. The project, through consultations with UNDP Country Offices and governments, ensures full alignment with national development plans and UNDP Country Programme Documents (CPDs).



## Learning from Past and Ongoing Youth Programming

Past and ongoing peace and development programming by UNDP and other partners offer an avenue for learning to better implement the project while also trying to be as innovative as possible. Reports from the initiatives in the areas covered by this project point out the following lessons at different levels:

AREA	KEY LESSONS LEARNED
Political Participation and Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the dialogue between youth and local community fosters youth participation in decision-making structures (the Liptako Gourma)</li> <li>- Mainstreaming of COVID-19 prevention and response throughout the implementation. The innovative U-report platform mobilized and engaged more than 10,000 adolescents and youth in decision making-processes (The Gambia)</li> </ul>
Peacebuilding and Conflicts Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involving local communities in developing action plans to address conflict drivers and risk factors related to youth engagement in violence strengthens peace in rural areas (Mali)</li> <li>- Communication and sharing of information/data/document is an important element to maintain through regular exchanges between the various projects stakeholders for better sustainability and peaceful environment (Mali)</li> </ul>
Livelihoods Initiatives (Socio-Economic Activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting youth economic empowerment and leadership as agents of change positively impacts their communities (the Liptako Gourma)</li> <li>- Taking into account gender equality when supporting youth empowerment increases the positive impacts of the project (Burkina Faso)</li> </ul>
Green Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involving youth in sustainable ecosystems restoration activities contributes not only to the protection of the environment but also offers jobs to young people</li> </ul>
Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key lessons from the UNISS implementation in the Sahel since 2013 highlight the need to scale up the absorptive capacity of national and regional institutions to deliver on their mandates.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Diversify sources of development assistance (currently, 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.</li> <li>- The UN Support Plan for the Sahel offers avenues for innovation, efficiency and partnerships for a more coherent, coordinated and integrated collective action. It is time to turn challenges into opportunities.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>

### Capitalizing on the Programmatic Gains of Existing Youth Empowerment Initiatives

The project seeks to create synergies and capitalize on ongoing UNDP and other youth development initiatives in the region. This is in-line with a key strategy of the project – to discover what is already working well, and find ways to support scaling for greater impact, while also generating new approaches to solve current challenges.

- **Regional Stabilisation Facility for Lake Chad (Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger):** The regional stabilization facility for Lake Chad aims at consolidating the military operations gains and establishing the conditions necessary to transition from military to civilian responsibility for security, and from the provision of humanitarian assistance to the resumption of stalled development processes. The facility leverages youth both as beneficiaries of the programme, and as agents of it. The dire state of local economies has contributed to a sense of hopelessness amongst many young people across the Lake Chad Region. This hopelessness fuels recruitment into radical and extremist groups, but it also drives migration, youth crime and delinquency, and drug abuse to escape the hardships of daily life. Hopelessness and dependency also characterise the attitude of many young people towards the future. The facility has two result areas: (i) Immediate stabilisation of specific areas, cleared of Boko Haram and other armed group control, but where communities remain vulnerable to continued infiltration and attack and (ii) Initiation of extended stabilisation activities across the Boko Haram-affected states and regions, through support to implementation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Regional Stabilization Strategy.
- **UNDP Africa Regional Programme for Scaling Up YouthConnekt:** In 2018, UNDP together with the Government of Rwanda launched the YouthConnekt Africa (YCA) programme that seeks to empower young people across the continent. Endorsed by the African Union, YCA is currently being implemented in 20 African countries. Among other things, YCA includes an entrepreneurship and skills development component which provides training, business support services and access to capital for young entrepreneurs, while also seeking to connect these entrepreneurs to opportunities and information in sectors such as agribusiness, Blue Economy and ICT. Most Sahel countries are working on launching their YouthConnekt Chapters. This project will support reimagining YouthConnekt within each country's context and designing tailored components to propel youth empowerment in the region. There will be direct collaboration with the YouthConnekt Hub based in Kigali.
- **The UNDP/TEF Regional Entrepreneurship Programme:** UNDP in collaboration with the Tony Elumelu Foundation launched in 2017 a joint youth entrepreneurship programme covering the areas of (i) Promoting entrepreneurship development in Africa with a focus on start-ups and existing SMEs, (ii) Providing entrepreneurship skills training to start ups and emerging African entrepreneurs, (iii) Delivering Business Development Services (BDS) necessary for start-ups and existing SMEs across Africa for growth and diversification and (iv) Promoting innovation, technology development, networks and market linkages among African Entrepreneurs. The project will support the scaling up of the UNDP-TEF collaboration and explore opportunities of scaling it to other countries.
- **Other Development Partner Initiatives:** There is a plethora of national and regional youth development initiatives currently being implemented within the Sahel. UNDP, through the proposed new Sahel Development Solution and Innovation Lab, can work with partners to identify those initiatives that have had breakthrough results, and look at ways to bring some of these to greater scale and impact. Given the urgency of the challenges in the Sahel, it will be important for the project not to seek to constantly reinvent wheels, but to leverage and scale programmes that already exist, whether those programmes were started by the UN/UNDP or other actors.

### Fostering Strategic and Political Support for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel Region

Promoting youth empowerment in the Sahel is a political and human rights imperative. The project will endeavor to foster strategic alliances and collaborations with local and regional actors to ensure holistic and inclusive youth empowerment. In line with the UNISS engagement for the Sahel to scale up efforts to accelerate shared prosperity and lasting peace in the Sahel countries and the region at large by implementing priorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the African Union Agenda 2063, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and UNDP will provide strategic support to the member states and regional stakeholders including the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), ECCAS and G5 Sahel. This approach is vital in advancing the youth agenda, particularly with regard to their political participation, peacebuilding efforts and their role as agents of change and transformation.

<sup>21</sup> Summary Report of UN Support Plan for the Sahel, P.8

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### **Co-Creating with Youth as Agents of Change in the Sahel**

Full “youth ownership” entails youth participation and partnership in conceiving and designing the program, setting goals, managing the budget, reviewing staff performance, and having the standing as a full stakeholder such that youth can challenge project managers about their decisions without fear of reprisal. Special focus will be on disadvantaged and marginalized youth including those in rural areas, illiterate youth, minorities, people with disabilities and young women. The project will firstly develop consensus on ways to increase meaningful youth civic engagement and political participation through inclusive policies and practices, and secondly work collaboratively to build the capacity of youth leaders to play lead roles as agents of change and transformation. To curb the penchant of disenchantment among the youth in the Sahel, the project will provide high level strategic and political support for intergenerational, intercultural and interfaith dialogue to foster healthy relationships and reasonable democratic behavior across the Sahel socio-political spectrum. Using the co-creation model, UNDP intends to hold a series of online consultations, technical meetings and enable direct involvement of youth networks and organizations throughout the project implementation. Co-creation fosters shared vision, ownership and decision making during the implementation. UNDP will think with the youth and leverage their relevant expertise and resources. Co-creation will help foster out-of-the box thinking and solving shared challenges during the implementation.

### **Promoting Volunteerism as a Means of Mobilizing and Engaging Youth**

Through its network of existing national and regional volunteer schemes, national volunteer organizations platforms and capacity to mobilize UN Volunteers, the UNV programme will support this youth empowerment project in the Sahel. With the technical support of the UNV Regional Office in Dakar, the UNV Programme will leverage onsite national youth volunteers throughout the 10 Sahel countries to support national development plans.

### **Ensuring Inclusiveness “Leaving No One Behind”**

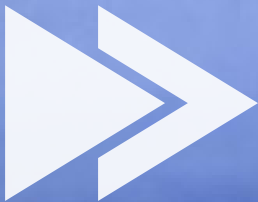
Youth are underrepresented in decision-making and power structures in the Sahel and feel marginalized, excluded and vulnerable. Through a mapping exercise, three main areas that are vulnerable to conflict were identified for the implementation. These areas are 3 epicenters of conflict, rural and cross-border areas. Firstly, in the 3 epicenters of conflict (Liptako Gourma, Lake Chad Basin and North-Eastern Nigeria), youth are both victims and actors of conflict. There is a higher level of youth vulnerability due to exposure to risks and reduced capacity to overcome their socio-cultural and economic challenges. Secondly, more than 65 percent of youth in the Sahel live in rural areas. Youth in rural areas have more grievances on livelihoods and increased vulnerability. Thirdly, in the cross-border areas, cross-border immigration, human trafficking, drugs consumption, and illicit economic activity lead to frequent tensions between “natives” and “foreigners.” The proliferation of light weapons means that conflicts often turn violent. These three areas call for special attention while ensuring that the project doesn’t leave behind any group including those in urban areas, literate or illiterate, young women, youth with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

### **Promoting Digital Technology and Innovation**

The project will introduce a number of innovations to address challenges faced by young people in the Sahel. Innovation and digital technology will be at the heart of the project’s implementation. The project will help fill gaps in data collection and facilitate in-depth analyses on youth issues in order to facilitate strategic decision-making in favour of youth in the Sahel. Also, youth-led businesses in the informal sector will benefit from digital innovations, since innovations can enable customers to digitally access the businesses’ services. Areas for targeted support will include the use of cost-effective digital technologies such as high-resolution satellite imagery, mobile phones/tablets, and e-commerce technologies. The project will also facilitate access to the cost-free UNV managed online volunteer platform that can serve to engage youth through online opportunities. The use of innovations will be based on values of inclusivity and equity, to avoid creating new forms of marginalization.

### **Nurturing Strategic Partnerships with Local and International Partners**

The project will build on the existing partnership momentum and nurture more strategic collaborations with national and international partners across the Sahel. UNDP and partners will work to consolidate support and promote comprehensive approaches to addressing the youth empowerment challenges in the Sahel. Sustained youth meaningful engagement, capacity development and partnership with UN agencies, private sector, foundations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, NGOs, CBOs, Youth Groups and other partners will create a regional community of practice and ensure that knowledge created is permanently maintained and available. This project will be bottom-up in orientation and will take into consideration the socio-cultural, anthropological and political dynamics of each context.





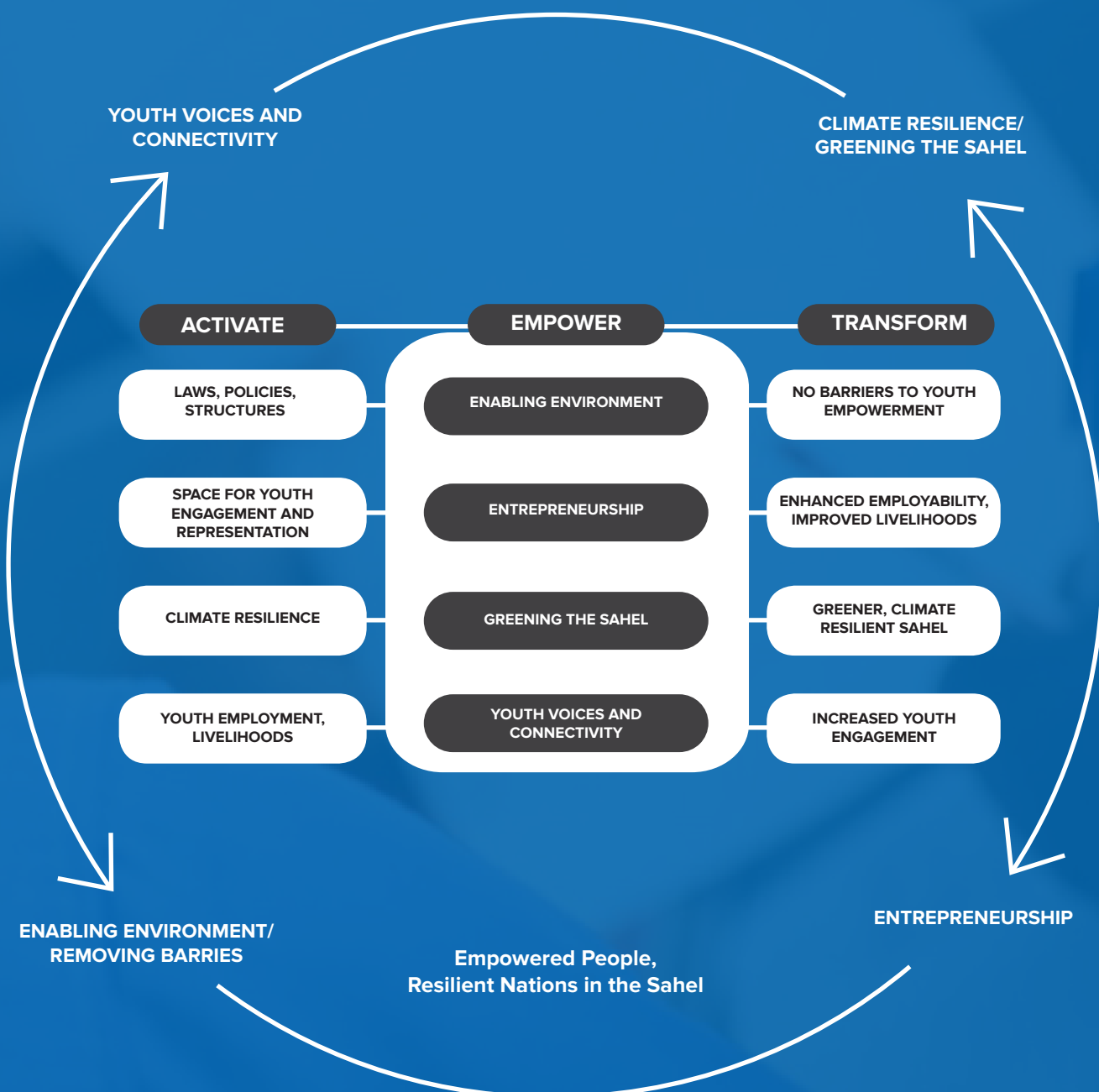
## PATHWAYS TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN THE SAHEL >

The project aspires to create impact through 4 key youth empowerment pathways to ensure that youth are heard, connected and fully equipped to participate in their societies' social, political, economic development, climate resilience and peacebuilding efforts. Youth empowerment has been historically hindered by legal, regulatory, policy, structural, cultural and social barriers that require creating an enabling environment that makes it possible for youth to really be engaged and drive change in the Sahel region.

### Theory of Change >

In light of the complex and multidimensional nature of the crises in Sahel, youth individual and collective commitment must necessarily be raised throughout the region. In this respect, the youth empowerment project for the Sahel is based on the following theory of change:

- If an enabling political, legislative, policy, cultural and structural environment is in place to facilitate youth empowerment in the Sahel,
- If young people and youth organizations can make their voices heard, have the capacities to connect and effectively participate in decision making structures and processes,
- If young Sahelians have access to entrepreneurship, skills development, and employment opportunities,
- If youth engagement is enhanced through volunteerism, national service and mobilization pathways to participate in their countries' peace and development processes,
- If young women, people with disabilities and other marginalized people's inclusion is effective and a solid co-creation partnership is ensured to foster Sahelian youth engagement, ownership and networking,
- If young people are resilient, well equipped to engage in key initiatives such as greening the Sahel and lead sustainable solutions to their own socio-economic development challenges,
- And, if youth interventions in the Sahel are contextualized to regional and country specific dynamics,
- Then, Sahelian youth will be fully empowered and become true agents of change and transformation. Sahelian youth will be able to shift the development paradigm in the region and build a new Sahel free of organized crimes, violent extremism, cross-border illegal activities and human trafficking. Youth will have more decent livelihoods and be in a better position to shape their own futures. In doing so, youth will be able to facilitate the political stability of Sahelian states and sustain long term development.



## RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Anchored in UNDP Strategic Plan, the UN Youth Strategy, the UNDP Regional Programme and Renewed Strategic Offer for Africa, this project aims to address youth empowerment challenges through four pathways: youth voices and connectivity, greening the Sahel, promoting entrepreneurship and creating an enabling environment.

### Expected Results >

By focusing on these 4 pathways, UNDP and partners will co-create with youth to achieve four outcomes. The four outcomes will be achieved through partnerships and capitalization on existing initiatives to produce 8 output level results. The outputs are produced through a set of selected innovative and inclusive activities that put youth at the centre of all actions and strategies. All efforts will be deployed to uphold the “Leaving No One Behind” principle. Special measures will be taken to grant equity and equal participation and access for female youth, people with disabilities (PWDs), Refugees, IDPs, youth from Cross-Border Areas, epicentres of conflict, rural areas and other marginalized and at-risk youth.

### ▶️ **OUTCOME 1. EXPANDED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH WITH A FOCUS ON GREEN AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY RELATED JOBS”**

The unemployment and underemployment situation in the Sahel region calls for swift action involving co-creation with youth and support to the most marginalized. Through consultations and documentary situation analysis, youth in the Sahel are affected by lack of employment opportunities. Although there have been initiatives in the targeted countries focusing on job creation for the youth, the project is expected to make a difference by further engaging the youth as co-creators of their own employment and shapers of their future employability through innovative entrepreneurship and use of digital technologies. The project will review existing successful youth employment and entrepreneurship initiatives that can be further scaled or/ enhanced for greater impact, while exploring opportunities for co-creating new initiatives as well. At output level, 2 results will enable to achieve the first outcome.

### Outputs and Activities >

**Output 1.1: Enhanced employability and economic livelihood opportunities for rural and urban youth (GEN2):** Employability and economic livelihoods are key to youth empowerment in the Sahel. Sahelian youth have skills and capacities to create innovative enterprises. They can also acquire new skills as needed and improve their employability. UNDP and partners will empower youth and create avenues for them to put their talents to use and be supported as necessary. This output will consist in co-creation of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through a set of activities. The project will support COVID-19 affected young persons to develop and implement innovative enterprises and access employment opportunities. Support will be

provided to urban young persons to develop and implement digital technology related self-employment business opportunities while rural youth will be more empowered through creation of and access to agro-preneurship opportunities and skills development. Lastly, eco-entrepreneurship opportunities will be created for youth with special focus on Greening the Sahel. The project will ensure equal access to its interventions for both young men and women. Under this output, a set of indicative activities has been planned as highlighted below:

- **Activity 1.1.1:** Support promotion of youth employment with focus on vulnerable and at-risk youth within communities most impacted by COVID-19: COVID-19 has exacerbated the livelihoods and employability situation in the Sahel region by further limiting opportunities and locking down the countries' already weak economies. The project will endeavour to collaborate with youth and other actors to both a) identify existing successful initiatives that can be scaled, and b) create new opportunities that offer employment through access to finance, capital support for small businesses, massive youth employment public works initiatives and skills development initiatives that enable youth self-employment and improve their competitiveness on the labour market.
- **Activity 1.1.2:** Support to creation of opportunities for eco-entrepreneurship focusing on Greening the Sahel: Greening the Sahel has been identified as a priority for ensuring sustainable livelihoods and economic stability of the region. While most of the environmental protection work is done on a volunteer basis, this project seeks to promote youth employment through engaging them as eco-entrepreneurs. The initiatives under this activity will be focused on developing tree and plant nursery businesses and selling greening related products. The businesses shall benefit their creators but also employ more youth as they grow. UNDP and partners will support the creation of eco-enterprises through connecting the youth for increased access to finance and seed capital, skills development, collecting and disseminating lessons from other youth similar initiatives, facilitating the supply chains, business registration facilitation and connection to role models and resource persons. Experiences from other countries/regions that have implemented successful youth eco-entrepreneurship initiatives will be reviewed to identify good practices and models for possible replication.
- **Activity 1.1.3:** Support engagement of urban youth in social entrepreneurship and digital technology: The project will support urban youth to develop and implement social enterprises and innovative digital technology related businesses. The interventions will include support to manufacturing and/or selling social impact products in the community, cross-border trade facilitation, innovative use of technologies for communication, internet connectivity, care services and other businesses that make the technologies accessible and create new uses that empower and employ youth. Youth will be supported from business concept development and implementation as needed to ensure growth and sustainability. They will also be supported to comply with government requirements. This will also be facilitated by involvement of the governments in the project's management structures.
- **Activity 1.1.4:** Support engagement of rural youth in agro-preneurship opportunities: Youth in rural areas have the opportunity to engage in agri-business. The project will facilitate their employability by providing support for business development and implementation processes. UNDP and partners will co-create with the youth rather than telling them what to do or doing it for them. Youth will be facilitated to learn from other youth's initiatives in the field, connect with role models and financiers, access capital (loans and grants), and improve supply chain management. Facilitation will be provided in a wide range of agro-preneurship including equipment acquisition, crop production, transporting and selling products, value addition and processing, marketing and awareness raising on innovative techniques and technologies.
- **Activity 1.1.5:** Support access to finance for youth with disabilities and marginalized youth's innovative business plans: The project is fully committed to "Leaving No One Behind" in all interventions. In this vein, youth with disabilities and other marginalized youth's business ideas will be nurtured and facilitated to access finance in collaboration with government, banks and other financial institutions. Selected innovative business plans with noticeable multiplier effect shall benefit from seed capital grants from the project. The same youth will also benefit from business development and management capacity building and be connected to appropriate role models for coaching and accompaniment.

**Output 1.2:** Increased youth access to quality apprenticeships, internships and volunteer placements for enhanced employability and work readiness (GEN2): To secure decent employment, young graduates need access to practical exposure and work readiness opportunities. Internships, mentorship, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities are key to develop new trade skills and bridge the gap between school and workplace skills. They improve youth's readiness to competitively enter the labour market. To increase the employability of the Sahelian youth, the project will implement 3 interrelated activities. In the first place, the project will provide support for provision of apprenticeship opportunities for young graduates. Secondly, the project will facilitate access to internship placements for youth in rural and urban areas. Thirdly, we will support governments and youth organizations to provide volunteer placements to youth that enable youth to contribute to development and peace processes while also increasing their employability and creating connections for future ventures and jobs.

- **Activity 1.2.1:** Support provision of apprenticeship opportunities for young women and men: Under this indicative activity, youth will be facilitated by being placed as apprentices to learn skills in job-rich professional trades thus enhancing their employability. The apprenticeship will be mainly facilitated in partnership with the private sector and will focus on sectors/trades that will be identified by a consortium of stakeholders including the youth themselves. Naturally, the process will take into account the country context. The partners involved in the activity will seek to ensure a high level of retention of the young apprentices in their host institutions. The youth will also be facilitated to transition from learning to getting employed and starting their own self-employment ventures after apprenticeship. The supported ventures will also be an opportunity to provide jobs to other youth where possible.
- **Activity 1.2.2:** Facilitate access to internship placements for youth in rural and urban areas: Internships access will be facilitated by connecting rural and urban young persons to public service, civil society and private sector organizations. UNDP and partners will engage with these partners and youth to identify needs and facilitate internship placements and accompaniment during and after the internship. The activity will also require collaboration with universities and other higher learning institutions to prepare the students for internship and raise their awareness on their importance in improving labour market penetration and job creation for fresh graduates. The internship placements will especially bridge the gap of the work experience and hands-on skills that are required by most hiring organizations.
- **Activity 1.2.3:** Support governments and youth organizations to provide volunteer placements to youth: In collaboration with UNV and other volunteer involving organizations (VIOs), UNDP and partners will leverage the opportunity offered by volunteer placements to increase youth's job readiness and develop skills while also serving their societies. As with internships, youth will be connected with opportunity providers and be accompanied throughout their volunteering journey to ensure that they develop the needed skills and position themselves for employment opportunities within and outside the host organizations. Volunteers will be deployed in different organizations in the private sector, public service, CSOs, FBOs, UN agencies, regional bodies and international development agencies. UNV and other VIOs' volunteerism policies as well as government laws and policies will facilitate the volunteers' mobilization, deployment and management as applicable.

## ▶ OUTCOME 2. ENHANCED YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICAL, PEACEBUILDING, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE INCLUDING GREENING THE SAHEL

The project will promote youth engagement to change the political and socio-economic situation in the Sahel. Youth are expected to become fully empowered and engaged agents of change in their countries and the region at large. Recent involvement of the Sahelian youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, political changes and creation of opportunities for socio-economic change speak for themselves. UNDP and partners will build on the created momentum to advocate for and provide support to ensure that youth's voices are heard, and connectivity opportunities are created. To achieve this objective, the project will focus on 2 inter-related output level results as set out below.

**Output 2.1:** Increased engagement of and co-creation with the youth in political, peacebuilding and socio-economic development processes (GEN2). Co-creation with youth is very key to ensure their sustainable engagement in their societies. The activity level results under this output include (i) supporting youth engagement in the promotion of human rights in the Sahel, (ii) supporting youth initiatives aimed at promoting government transparency and accountability, (iii) promoting the prevention of violent extremism in the Sahel, (iv) scaling up the YouthConnekt Sahel to enhance the engagement of youth groups on key themes inclusive inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity, (v) establishing the Sahel Development Solution and Innovation Lab and, lastly, (vi) supporting campaigns, advocacy and events to promote effective dialogue and massive youth mobilization around key economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

- **Activity 2.1.1:** Support youth engagement in the promotion of human rights in the Sahel: UNDP and partners will support to develop, implement and promote youth engagement activities related to human rights awareness and accountability. The activity shall include research, think tanks reports, workshops, campaigns and activism for the promotion of human rights in the Sahel countries and the region at large. The project will work with youth organizations and other human rights centered partners to identify viable and impactful interventions to be supported.
- **Activity 2.1.2:** Support youth initiatives aimed at promoting government transparency and accountability: It is critical to involve young people as agents of change lobbying and working for responsible public management, transparency and accountability. Youth will be supported to develop and implement initiatives that promote transparency and accountability. Support to youth and their organizations will allow their voices to be heard and shape how governments conduct business and handles the interests and affairs of citizens. Efforts will also be made to promote inclusive youth representation in decision and policy making processes. Youth will not only be supported to act as watchdogs of government action, but also, and perhaps more importantly, contribute their expertise, innovative skills and technologies to develop solutions for more responsive and accountability governance and public service delivery.
- **Activity 2.1.3:** Promote the prevention of violent extremism through inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity: Violent extremism is one of the biggest threats for sustainable peace and development in the Sahel region. The project will foster inclusive development through social protection initiatives that uplift the historically left behind people including young women, PWDs, minorities, refugees, IDPs and other marginalized groups. The project will support initiatives from youth and other actors aimed at promoting tolerance and respect for diversity. The key activities will include research and documentation of issues and best practices, education and awareness raising campaigns, online, TV and radio programmes airing social change messaging, community work and dialogue, etc.
- **Activity 2.1.4:** Scale up the YouthConnekt Sahel to enhance the engagement of youth groups on key themes: The YouthConnekt programme has been identified as one of the most impactful flagship initiatives in Africa. The project seeks to reimagine and scale up the initiative in the Sahel while ensuring that it is fully tailored to the regional and country specific contexts. The YouthConnekt Sahel and its national level chapters will foster youth connectivity for enhanced employability, entrepreneurship, experience exchange, and engagement in development and peace processes, among other things. YouthConnekt gatherings, campaigns, social media outreach and innovation awards shall be supported among other initiatives. The activity will require collaboration with the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, Sahel governments, youth groups and other YouthConnekt chapters.
- **Activity 2.1.5:** Establish the Sahel Development Solution and Innovation Lab: The Development Solutions and Innovation Lab will serve as an all-in-one resource centre for innovative solutions across the Sahel region and has the potential to serve the whole continent. The regional Lab will be a go-to hub for research, solutions development, replication and scale-up, technological transformation and dissemination of best practices across the region and beyond. It will collaborate with a range of partners and resource institutions including UN agencies, Think Tanks, Research Institutes, Youth Organizations, Regional and Continental Bodies, Governments, universities and other higher learning institutions in Africa and other continents.
- **Activity 2.1.6:** Support campaigns, advocacy and events to promote effective dialogue and massive youth mobilization around key economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights: Selected youth groups campaigns and events will be supported through awareness raising, advocacy with government and other partners, financial support and mobilization facilitation through social media and other channels. Both national and regional level campaigns and events will be supported including in-person and online gatherings.

**Output 2.2:** Enhanced engagement of youth in climate resilience and greening the Sahel (GEN2). Climate resilience is key to achieving sustainable peace and development in the Sahel region. Over the past 2 decades, governments and partners have considered it important to invest in greening the Sahel. The ambitious Great Green Belt initiative is a sign of the importance attached to greening the Sahel. To contribute to the region's greening ambitions, UNDP and partners will focus on three activity level results. Firstly, the project will support Youth Ecobrigade through the 10x10x10 initiative for tree planting across the Sahel (see Activity 2.2.1 for more on the 10x10x10 initiative). Secondly, the project will create opportunities, resources and tools for young individuals already employed or planning to be employed in sectors/industries targeted for greening - such as Agriculture, Buildings, Waste management, Energy supply, and Forestry. Thirdly, the project will engage youth in the restoration of the degraded agricultural landscapes/eco-systems in the Sahel region.

- **Activity 2.2.1:** Support Youth Ecobrigade through 10x10x10 initiative for tree planting across the Sahel: The Youth Ecobrigade that was initiated in Rwanda shall be context tailored and scaled-up to Sahel countries for increased environment care and tree planting in the region. UNDP's 10x10x10 initiative shall serve as a reference for the greening intervention. As highlighted in the Africa's Promise: UNDP's Renewed Strategic Offer for the Sahel, the project will aim to engage 10 million youth in order to plant at least 10 million trees across the 10 Sahel countries.
- **Activity 2.2.2:** Develop opportunities, resources and tools for young individuals already employed or planning to be employed in sectors/industries targeted for greening: As noted above, some of the targeted sectors/industries include Agriculture, Buildings, Waste management, Energy supply and Forestry. However, in each country/context, an assessment will be made to determine the most relevant industries/sectors. Youth will be supported to create capacity building resources tools that will benefit them and their peers in the effort to improve their employability, engagement and participation in their societies' development processes. Initiatives under this activity will come from the youth themselves and their organizations. Key interventions will include coaching, mentorship, new techniques and lessons learnt documentation and dissemination, study tour guides, manuals and access to learning tools and equipment for the specific professional trades.
- **Activity 2.2.3:** Engage youth in the restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes/eco-systems: Youth will be engaged as agents of change based on their specific field skills and abilities to contribute to agricultural landscape restoration efforts in their countries. The initiatives will be developed and implemented in collaboration with youth, governments and other partners specialising in the field. Equal participation for young women, PWDs and other marginalized youth will be ensured.

## ➤ OUTCOME 3. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT WHICH REMOVES BARRIERS AND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIO-POLITICAL CHANGE AND INCREASED RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS, STRESS, HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

Sustainable youth empowerment is almost impossible unless there are youth-friendly laws, policies, structures and institutions combined with improvements in cultural practices and beliefs. Although youth have been able to overcome obstacles, experience demonstrates that past efforts to promote youth empowerment were hindered by the lack of a conducive environment. This often creates barriers to youth development which, when coupled with negative social perceptions and stereotypes of youth in society, can severely hamper progress on the youth agenda. The project seeks to facilitate youth empowerment for the present and the future by creating more conducive environments in collaboration with youth, national and international development actors.

**Output 3.1.** Governments and other actors supported to put in place legal, political, cultural and structural frameworks for increased youth engagement as political change agents (GEN2). The project will, firstly, support the development and review of laws, policies, strategies and structures that hinder and enable youth empowerment in the Sahel countries. The new or revised enabling instruments (laws etc.) will be key to paving the way for greater recognition of the youth's potential, providing them with more empowerment opportunities and allowing them to have a voice within the development and peace processes in their societies. The second activity result will consist in promoting intergenerational and interfaith dialogue and collaboration for increased youth participation and civic engagement. In doing so, the project will help to pull down the barriers of misconceptions and poor understanding that exist between youth and older generations. It will also help to foster greater understanding by people of different, including on the role of young women and men, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups in the society.

- **Activity 3.1.1:** Support the development and review of laws, policies, strategies and structures that enable youth empowerment in the Sahel countries: UNDP and partners will endeavour to remove all the legal, policy and structural barriers that have limited youth empowerment in the Sahel. The project will conduct advocacy, engage youth and other actors and support governments and parliaments to develop/revise and approve legislations, policies and structural changes that can provide a basis for enhanced youth empowerment. The new/revise enabling instruments (laws, policies, etc.) will offer a more conducive environment to increase youth employability, job co-creation, social protection, space for youth voices amplification, access to information, accountable governance, youth participation and representation in decision making processes. Among the youth engagement structures targeted to be created are Youth Advisory Boards at country level. In this regard, the project will endeavour to replicate the Kenyan experience in collaboration with the UNV Regional Office.
- **Activity 3.1.2:** Promote intergenerational and interfaith dialogue and collaboration for increased youth participation and civic engagement: Youth in most Sahel countries are victims of gerontocracy. Social norms prescribe that youth should follow and allow elders to lead. Radical interpretations of Faith are also known to fuel violent extremism and influence the political ecosystem of the region. The project seeks to bring together young and older people, people from different faiths and beliefs, and those without any religious leaning to have open dialogues, discuss issues and find ways for enhanced tolerance, understanding, collaboration, mutual respect and youth participation. UNDP and partners will support research, campaigns, events, and communication activities and provide financial support to innovative initiatives in this area.

**Output 3.2:** Enhanced mobilization and engagement of youth through volunteer infrastructures and online platforms (GEN2): Under this output, the project will support national volunteer schemes and platforms in all Sahel countries for massive deployment of youth as on-site volunteers. Secondly, UNDP and partners will support mobilization and engagement of youth as online volunteers. Lastly, the project will provide support to coaching, mentoring and capacity building of volunteers in preparation for post-volunteerism employment. In collaboration with UNV programme at regional and country level, there will be support for promoting volunteerism at large scale in the Sahel region. Learning from recent successes in youth engagement through volunteerism – such as the experience of the remarkable contributions of youth volunteers to mitigate and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic - the project will establish new and support existing volunteer schemes and volunteer platforms to massively engage youth as agents of change in their communities. The use of digital technology will be key to the success of these interventions. Past interventions have shown that there is a need to prepare volunteers for the after-volunteering experience. It is in that regard that the project will ensure that coaching, mentoring and capacity building will be facilitated throughout the volunteering experience. These efforts will allow the volunteers to serve better but also position themselves for better livelihoods and better participation in the society as empowered citizens.

- **Activity 3.2.1:** Support national volunteer schemes and platforms in all Sahel countries for massive deployment of youth as on-site volunteers: In collaboration with UNV and other VIOs, the project will provide technical and financial support for massive deployment of youth as volunteers at country and regional level. The volunteers will benefit the deployments by being further engaged in the development processes through service provision and learning from the workplace. The project will also leverage the experience of YouthConnekt, which has developed successful programmes to engage youth in community development through volunteerism and civic engagement.
- **Activity 3.2.2:** Support mobilization and engagement of youth as online volunteers: The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that online work can make as much of a difference as on-site services. The project will work with UNV and other VIOs, governments and other partners to mobilize and deploy online youth volunteers to support their communities in different ways. Online volunteers are usually not paid allowances, but the project will ensure that they benefit from learning opportunities and improve their job readiness and get further engaged beyond the volunteering journey.
- **Activity 3.1.3:** Provide support to coaching, mentoring and capacity building of volunteers in preparation for post-volunteerism employment: While volunteerism offers a pathway to increased youth engagement, it can also be an avenue for bridging the school to workplace transition gap by providing volunteers with hands-on skills and improving their work readiness. Most volunteers who serve in organizations end up being absorbed or spotted by sister organizations for post volunteerism careers. The project will work with volunteer host organizations, UNV, other VIOs, youth organizations and other partners to ensure that this positive transition is made possible through in-service coaching, mentorship, training and other capacity building means. The project will provide technical and minimal financial support as needed.

### Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results ➤

The proposed regional youth empowerment project aims at creating an enabling environment that paves the way to enhancing youth capacities, engagement and employment in the region. Within an initial period of 5 years, UNDP and partners will co-create with youth to ensure that youth voices are heard, and youth connectivity is made possible through offline and online platforms and campaigns. Youth will be further engaged as volunteers and eco-entrepreneurs in "Greening the Sahel" efforts through the 10x10x10 initiative, Youth Ecobrigade and volunteer schemes and platforms across the 10 Sahel countries. Innovative entrepreneurship and use of digital technologies shall be used to propel youth employment and empowerment in the region. More than 40 million youth will be mobilized, engaged and empowered by the project. To achieve its ambitious targets, the project will have a coordination team composed of staff at regional level (Dakar) and UNDP country offices. The team will be supported by the focal persons at UNDP Dakar Sub-Regional Hub, RSCA in Addis Ababa and UNDP HQ. The proposed project budget is USD 100,000,000.

### Partnerships ➤

Nurturing strategic partnerships is one of the key principles of this project's strategy. UNDP strongly believes in partnerships as a key pathway to achieving sustainable peace and development. The project will adopt a strategy that allows mobilization of youth organizations, CSOs, FBOs, private sector, financial institutions, foundations, UN agencies, governments, regional and continental bodies, bilateral donors and other partners to contribute to youth empowerment in the region.

Partnerships will be built with international financial institutions (IFIs) including World Bank, AfDB and Islamic Development Bank. Local IFIs will also be targeted at country level to facilitate youth's access to finance. Among sister UN agencies, partnerships are targeted with UNICEF through a proposed regional Joint Flagship Initiative on Youth Empowerment which will mainly focus on youth entrepreneurship and social protection. Other UN agencies, funds and programmes include UNV, PBSO, UNFPA, UNCDF, ILO, IOM and UNHCR. UNV will be part of the project and lead on the volunteerism component of the planned interventions. Youth organizations and private sector will not be left behind and shall be integral part of the project's partnerships strategy. Governments are the main owners of the project activities at country level. The project will work closely with UNDP Cos which will contribute monetary and/or in-kind resources and serve as entry points to reach out to bilateral and multilateral partners and connect with youth organizations. Government partners will play a central role in planning, implementation, coordination, evaluation and sustaining the results of the project. There will also be partnership with regional bodies including AU, ECOWAS, G5 Sahel and Alliance Sahel.

Lastly, the project will build partnerships with multi- and bi-lateral development institutions such as the European Union and state members that are active in the region like Germany (GIZ), France, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium (Enable), Luxembourg, Denmark and Sweden. Efforts will be made to collaborate with Japan (JICA&TICAD), KOICA/Korea, UK/DFID and USA/USAID. Among the targeted foundations are Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), Jack Ma Foundation and MasterCard Foundation. The targeted partners will be able to contribute either money or expertise and lessons the project can learn from and leverage on. Partners will be engaged at the country and regional level to co-design specific initiatives, rather than approached post-facto for funding.

## Risks and Assumptions >

### A - Risks

- **Impact of COVID-19:** COVID-19 has severely impacted the socio-political and economic landscape in the Sahel. Until a vaccine/cure for COVID-19 is widely available, and business can return to normal, COVID-19 will continue to impose risks and constraints on the implementation of initiatives including this project. However, COVID-19 is also an opportunity to explore new and more innovative ways of engaging youth and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of initiatives. The project team will explore new innovative ways to engage young people across the Sahel region.
- **Conflict related security challenges:** The Sahel region is currently facing serious conflict related challenges. The geographical target zones could be severely impacted by the hostilities which will negatively impact youth and, indeed, the wider project. The project team should put in place an appropriate and context specific conflict mitigation and management plan for the project, taking into account specific factors relating to young people.
- **Political circumstances:** Volatile political circumstances could impact UNDP assistance at country level. UNDP will use its existing management capacities and situation analysis tools and methodologies to assess the political economy of each selected country and tailor its activities accordingly as a way of minimizing this risk.
- **Limited funding:** Given the current economic crisis, if full expected funding is not mobilized, activities may have to be shifted, scaled back and reprogrammed. The project team will need flexibility during the planning and implementation phases. UNDP will prepare a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and seek new partnerships with traditional and emerging bilateral and multilateral partners

### B - Assumptions

All the above-mentioned risks and the volatility of the context will impose an adaptive programming approach and constant consultation with the stakeholders. The risks will be addressed by frequent communication to all stakeholders and a high degree of flexibility in implementation as part of the risk mitigation strategy that will be designed along with the Annual Work Plan. The project formulates the assumption that all Sahelian youth empowerment relevant stakeholders and national governments are committed and willing to work together towards achieving the project results. It is also assumed that the project will be able to mobilize the needed resources, build on the good political will of governments to be part of the initiative and that security and health situation will allow the project activities to be implemented as planned.

## Stakeholder Engagement >

The main stakeholders in this project are young people in the Sahel, youth organization, youth networks, national youth councils, young politicians, young peace builders, media, academia, think tank. In line with its commitment to gender equality, the project team will integrate and mainstream gender throughout the implementation including by ensuring young women's representation in the steering and technical committees. This project will also apply principles in line with UNDP's strategy on civil society and civic engagement (2012) and the guiding principles on young people's participation in Peace building (2014) developed by the interagency network on youth development/working group on Youth and Peace Building. Issues related to gender and inclusion of young people with disability, LGBTI community, internal displaced persons (IDP), and refugees are at the heart of this project. Specific and targeted actions will be taken to respond to their special needs within the implementation of the project.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC) >

The successful Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation which took place in March 2019 in Buenos Aires confirmed the great contribution that South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is making to strengthen country capacities for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>22</sup> The Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation defines South-South cooperation (SSC) to be "a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation."<sup>23</sup> In line with UNDP's strategy on SSC/TrC, this youth empowerment project will help accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda including UNDP strategic offer "Regenerating the Sahel". As such, this project will leverage the potential of youth organizations and networks in the Sahel to enhance cooperation and youth exchanges, youth leadership and prompt South-South and triangular knowledge exchanges to enhance youth empowerment. RPYES will also work closely with YouthConnekt, country offices Global Lab, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to promote the inclusion of youth leaders from Sahel countries and the South in particular within UNDP.

In line with the SDGs implementation process, RPYES will also leverage UNDP existing hub for territorial partnership, cooperation among subnational stakeholders such as local authorities, civil society organizations, Universities, and private sector representatives, in order to exchange best practices, lessons learned and tools for youth empowerment.

## Knowledge >

Innovation and knowledge are core segments of this youth empowerment program in the Sahel. As a result, numerous innovative knowledge tools and products will be developed in the context of this project in order to consolidate UNDP leadership and added value in the area of youth empowerment. Targeted innovative and cutting-edge methodological tools, best practices, and guidance notes to enhance policy and programming on youth empowerment in the field.

<sup>22</sup> Country Experiences in South-South and Triangular Cooperation enabled by the United Nations Rome-based agencies, 2019.

<sup>23</sup> UNDP, south-south and triangular cooperation framework

RPYES will support a regional platform of youth knowledge and advocacy products developed during the implementation. RPYES will disseminate lessons learned, best practices, production of books on youth empowerment in the Sahel. Throughout the implementation, RPYES will partner with universities and think tank institutions in the region to develop some outstanding tools on youth-led complex monitoring and evaluation system which will contribute to the global reflection of youth-focused indicators in the context of the 2030 Agenda or in the context of the implementation of the UNSC resolutions on youth, peace and security.

## **Sustainability and Scaling Up** >

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With regard to the sustainability of the project approach and results, RPYES will prioritize an institutional learning process with a focus on building the capacity of Sahelian youth networks and organizations including institutional capacity development, strengthening of national systems and processes. RPYES will support a comprehensive youth peace building community mapping systems in order to establish a strong and broad global network of practitioners, a roster of youth leaders and experts in the Sahel region, a detailed data base of youth organizations in urban, rural and cross border areas. RPYES will ensure national ownership of the activities for sustainability. The project will equip countries with youth-friendly legal, regulatory and policy instruments which will enable lasting institutional and structural change with regards to youth empowerment and employment. UNDP and partners will ensure that these instruments and structures are fully owned by governments, youth and other stakeholders to ensure their sustainability beyond the duration of the project. Efforts will be made to ensure that necessary funding and support are availed by governments and regional bodies to sustain the development gains of the RPYES across the region.

In time of post COVID-19, RPYES will develop innovative communication tools to support youth related activities and collaboration in the Sahel region. RPYES will ensure that visibility is fully integrated in the project implementation with a focus on a comprehensive communication strategy. In addition, as described in the strategy section, RPYES should develop a joint UN strategic communication with other UN entities as needed. The ultimate objective is to communicate the results of the project at all levels as well as the different partnerships established. Social media and RPYES web portal will be instrumental to feature progress and partnership, best practices and successes. RPYES will also work with traditional media organizations to ensure visibility within print and broadcast media, as well as in fora and conferences.



## A - COST EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

The project team will systematically use cost analysis in the RPYES activities. Under the supervision of the project coordinator, the project team will continuously update the finance and budget-tracking systems in Atlas to allow easier cost analysis. Effectiveness in the implementation implies to develop and apply tools and processes that are based on or generate evidence. The project management team shall also track how much it costs to deliver each of the outputs. This cost evidence will inform the project throughout the implementation. To this end, gathering and methodically analyzing evidence about the costs of different interventions will help direct available resources toward the program to reach impacts.





## **B - PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The strategy of RPYES is meant to yield outstanding results with available resources, making the best of the youth presence at grass roots levels including youth focal point in each country office in the Sahel as well as within other interagency partnerships and civil society. As explained in the strategy, RPYES will maximize synergy and collaboration with other UN entities including some multilateral development institutions such as AfDB, European Union and World Bank as well as bilateral donors engaged in the Sahel (Japan, USA, Germany, etc.). RPYES management and support team will be located at the regional level in Dakar with a focal point in each Sahel country office. The team will benefit support from UNDP HQ, RSCA Addis Ababa, regional hubs and country offices. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the governance and management arrangement section.

# RESULT FRAMEWORK

## Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:<sup>24</sup>

UNDP SP OUTCOME 1 (TIER 2): Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (2018-2021) RRF, OUTCOME 2: Regional growth is inclusive, sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterised by structural transformation

AFRICA'S PROMISE: THE UNDP RENEWED STRATEGIC OFFER IN AFRICA: (1) Develop programs that highlight and engage youth and women as agents of change and champions of peace and stability (2) Contribute to the greening Sahel the Sahel initiative by planting 10 million trees in 10 countries over 10 years through 10 million youth

## Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (2018-2021) RRF INDICATOR: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

<sup>24</sup> UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					
		Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	FINAL
Output 1.1. Enhanced capacities for employability and economic livelihoods for rural and urban youth	<b>RPYES Outcome 1. Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on co-creation of green and digital technology related jobs</b>								
	a. Number of COVID-19 affected young persons supported to develop and implement innovative enterprises and access employment opportunities (disaggregated by sex, disability status and rural vs. urban location)	TBC	2020	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	b. Number of COVID-19 affected young persons supported to access employment opportunities (disaggregated by sex, disability status and rural vs. urban location)	TBC	2020	15,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	105,000
	c. Number of urban young persons supported to develop and implement digital technology related self-employment business plans (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	d. Percentage of rural young persons supported to develop and implement agro-preneurship (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	e. Number of opportunities of eco-entrepreneurship opportunities created for youth focusing on Greening the Sahel	TBC	2020	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	f. Number of young persons with disabilities and other marginalized youth supported to access finance (disaggregated by gender and rural vs. urban location)	TBC	2020	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
Output 1.2. Increased youth access to quality apprenticeships, internships and volunteer placements for enhanced employability and work readiness	a. Number of young graduates supported to access apprenticeship opportunities (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
	b. Number of young persons in rural and urban areas facilitated to access internship placements (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
	c. Number of volunteer placements created for youth in partnership with government and youth organizations	TBC	2020	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
Output 2.1. Increased engagement of and co-creation with the youth in political, peacebuilding and socio-economic development processes	<b>RPYES Outcome 2. Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel</b>								
	a. Number of rural and urban young persons engaged in human rights promotion campaigns in the Sahel (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	500,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	9,000,000
	b. Number of young persons mobilized to participate in initiatives aimed at promoting government transparency and accountability (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	1,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	12,000,000
	c. Number of campaigns and online fora exchanges organized through co-creation with youth to prevent violent extremism through inclusive development, tolerance & respect for diversity	TBC	2020	5	10	10	10	10	45
	d. Number of countries having fully functional national YouthConnekt chapters to enhance the connectivity of youth groups around key themes	0	2020	2	2	2	2	2	10
	e. Established and fully functional the Sahel Development Solution and Innovation Lab	TBC	2020	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
	f. Number of rural and urban youth participating in regional and country level campaigns and events to promote effective dialogue and massive youth mobilization around key economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights (disaggregated by sex and disability)	TBC	2020	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	9,000,000

**Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:**

UNDP SP TIER 2, OUTPUT 11.2 Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services<sup>42</sup> and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs

**Project title and Atlas Project Number:**

Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES), Project Number: TBD

**RPYES Outcomes:**

Outcome 1. Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on co-creation of green and digital technology related jobs

Outcome 2. Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel

Outcome 3. Enhanced enabling environment and opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					
Output 2.2. Enhanced engagement of Youth in climate resilience and Greening the Sahel	a. Number of Sahel countries with functioning Youth Ecobrigade initiatives through 10x10x10 initiative for tree planting	TBC	2020	2	2	2	2	2	10
	b. Number of urban and rural youth engaged in tree planting campaigns for greening the Sahel (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	8,000,000
	c. Number of co-creation capacity building resources and tools created for young individuals employed or planning to be employed in the sectors of agriculture, buildings, waste management, energy supply and forestry based on the necessity of the selected geographical areas	TBC	2020	2	2	2	2	2	10
	d. Number of urban and rural youth engaged in initiatives aimed at restoration of degraded Agricultural Landscape (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	TBC	2020	1,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	12,000,000
Output 3.1. Governments and other actors supported to put in place legal, political, cultural and structural frameworks for increased youth engagement as political change agents	<b>RPYES Outcome 3: Enhanced enabling environment and opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability</b>								
	a. Number of countries supported to develop or review laws, policies, strategic plans and put in place structures/institutions that facilitate youth empowerment at country level	TBC	2020	1	2	2	3	2	10
	b. Number of country and regional level intergenerational and interfaith dialogue events organized to promote youth participation and civic engagement	TBC	2020	3	10	10	10	10	43
Output 3.2. Enhanced mobilization and engagement of youth through volunteer infrastructures and online platforms	a. Number of national volunteer schemes and platforms in all Sahel countries established/strengthened and fully operationalized for massive deployment of youth as on-site volunteers	TBC	2020	2	4	4	0	0	10
	b. Number of young persons mobilized and engaged by volunteer schemes and platforms as on-site volunteers; UN and non-UN volunteers (disaggregated by sex and disability)	TBC	2020	100,000	3,000,000	300,000	300,000	200,000	1,200,000
	c. Number of young persons mobilized and engaged as online volunteers (disaggregated by sex and disability)	TBC	2020	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
	d. Number of youth volunteers having benefited coaching, mentoring and capacity building of volunteers in preparation of post-volunteerism career	TBC	2020	105,000	305,000	305,000	305,000	205,000	1,225,000

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans: [Note: monitoring and evaluation plans should be adapted to project context, as needed]

## MONITORING PLAN

MONITORING ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	FREQUENCY	EXPECTED ACTION	PARTNERS (If Joint)	COST
Track results progress	Collect and analyse progress data against the results indicators in the results framework to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs	Quarterly/Semi-annually	Project management team should monitor the progress of the project implementation	UNDP Youth organizations	N/A
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log frame. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's social and Environment standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk	Quarterly	Project management team identified risks and actions are taken to manage risks Identified specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	Annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	UNDP Project management team Youth organizations	N/A

## EVALUATION PLAN<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Optional, if needed

EVALUATION ACTIVITY	PARTNERS (If Joint)	RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTPUT	UNDAF/CPD OUTCOME	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	KEY EVALUATION STAKEHOLDERS	COST AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
Mid-Term Evaluation	ALL	UNDP SP TIER 2, OUTPUT 1.1.2	Regional Programme for Africa (2018-2021) RRF, Outcome 2	Mid 2023	UNDP, Program Steering Committee, Governments, Beneficiaries, Partners	50,000 USD
Final Evaluation	ALL			End 2025		50,000 USD

# MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

REGIONAL PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN THE SAHEL (RPYES) <sup>26,27</sup>				BUDGET USD				
RESULTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL USD	
<b>RPYES Outcome 1.</b> Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on co-creation of green and digital technology related jobs								
Output 1.1. Enhanced capacities for employability and economic livelihoods for rural and urban youth Gender marker: Significant	Activity 1.1.1. Support promotion of youth employment with focus on vulnerable and at-risk youth within communities most impacted by COVID-19	800 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	18 800 000	
	Activity 1.1.2. Support to creation of opportunities for eco-entrepreneurship focusing on Greening the Sahel	400 000	400 000	500 000	500 000	500 000		
	Activity 1.1.3. Support engagement of urban youth in social entrepreneurship and digital technology	600 000	700 000	800 000	800 000	800 000		
	Activity 1.1.4. Support engagement of rural youth in agro-preneurship opportunities	600 000	700 000	800 000	800 000	800 000		
	Activity 1.1.5. Support access to finance for youth with disabilities and marginalized youth's innovative business plans	800 000	800 000	900 000	900 000	900 000		
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 1.1</b>		3 200 000	3 600 000	4 000 000	4 000 000		4 000 000

<sup>26</sup> Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

<sup>27</sup> Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

Output 1.2. Increased youth access to quality apprenticeships, internships and volunteer placements for enhanced employability and work readiness Gender marker: Significant	Activity 1.2.1. Support provision of apprenticeship opportunities for young men and women	600 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	12 800 000
	Activity 1.2.2. Facilitate access to internship placements for youth in rural and urban areas	600 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	
	Activity 1.2.3. Support governments and youth organizations to provide volunteers placements to youth	800 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 1.2</b>	2 000 000	2 700 000	2 700 000	2 700 000	2 700 000	
<b>GMS 8% OUTCOME 2:</b> Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel		416 000	504 000	536 000	536 000	536 000	2 528 000
<b>TOTAL OUTCOME 1:</b> Expanded access to employment and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth with a focus on co-creation of green and digital technology related jobs		5 616 000	6 804 000	7 236 000	7 236 000	7 236 000	34 128 000
<b>RPYES Outcome 2.</b> Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel							
Output 2.1. Increased engagement of and co-creation with the youth in political, peacebuilding and socio-economic development processes Gender marker: Significant	Activity 2.1.1. Support youth engagement in the promotion of human rights in the Sahel	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	15 000 000
	Activity 2.1.2. Support youth initiatives aimed at promoting government transparency and accountability	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	
	Activity 2.1.3. Promote the prevention of violent extremism through inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity	400 000	400 000	400 000	400 000	400 000	
	Activity 2.1.4. Scale up the YouthConnekt Sahel to enhance the connectivity of youth groups around key themes	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	
	Activity 2.1.5. Establish the Sahel Development Solution and Innovation Lab	500 000	500 000	500 000	500 000	500 000	
	Activity 2.1.6. Support campaigns, advocacy and events to promote effective dialogue and massive youth mobilization around key economic, social, cultural, civil & political rights	500 000	500 000	500 000	500 000	500 000	
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 2.1</b>	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	
Output 2.2. Enhanced engagement of Youth in climate resilience and Greening the Sahel Gender marker: Significant	Activity 2.2.1. Support Youth Ecobrigade through 10x10x10 initiative for tree planting across the Sahel	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	13 000 000
	Activity 2.2.2. Develop opportunities for co-creation capacity building resources and tools for young individuals already employed or planning to be employed in the sectors of Agriculture, Buildings, Waste management, Energy supply and Forestry based on the necessity of the selected geographic zone	600 000	600 000	600 000	600 000	600 000	
	Activity 2.2.3. Engage youth for restoration of degraded Agricultural Landscape	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 2.2</b>	2 600 000	2 600 000	2 600 000	2 600 000	2 600 000	
<b>GMS 8% OUTCOME 2:</b> Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel		448 000	448 000	448 000	448 000	448 000	2 240 000
<b>TOTAL OUTCOME 2:</b> Enhanced youth engagement in political, peacebuilding, socio-economic development and climate resilience including greening the Sahel		6 048 000	6 048 000	6 048 000	6 048 000	6 048 000	30 240 000
<b>RPYES Outcome 3.</b> Enabling environment which removes barriers and provides opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability							
Output 3.1. Governments and other actors supported to put in place legal, political, cultural and structural frameworks for increased youth engagement as political change agents Gender marker: Significant	Activity 3.1.1. Support the development and review laws, policies, strategies and structures that enable youth empowerment in the Sahel countries	700 000	800 000	700 000	700 000	800 000	8 200 000
	Activity 3.1.2. Promote intergenerational and interfaith dialogue and collaboration for increased youth participation and civic engagement	900 000	900 000	900 000	900 000	900 000	
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 3.1</b>	1 600 000	1 700 000	1 600 000	1 600 000	1 700 000	
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>TOTAL USD</b>
Output 3.2. Enhanced mobilization and engagement of youth through volunteer infrastructures and online platforms Gender marker: Significant	Activity 3.2.1. Support national volunteer schemes and platforms in all Sahel countries for massive deployment of youth as on-site volunteers	1 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	1 000 000	15 400 000
	Activity 3.2.2. Support mobilization and engagement of youth as online volunteers	700 000	500 000	800 000	700 000	700 000	
	Activity 3.2.3. Provide support to coaching, mentoring and capacity building of volunteers in preparation of post-volunteerism employment	800 000	800 000	800 000	800 000	800 000	
	<b>TOTAL OUTPUT 3.2</b>	2 500 000	3 300 000	3 600 000	3 500 000	2 500 000	
<b>GMS 8% OUTCOME 3:</b> Enabling environment which removes barriers and provides opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability		328 000	400 000	416 000	408 000	336 000	1 888 000
<b>TOTAL OUTCOME 3:</b> Enabling environment which removes barriers and provides opportunities for youth's meaningful engagement in socio-political change and increased resilience to shocks, stress, household and community vulnerability		4 428 000	5 400 000	5 616 000	5 508 000	4 536 000	25 488 000
<b>MANAGEMENT UNIT</b>							
MANAGEMENT UNIT/ EVALUATION	Evaluation	22 000		50 000	22 000	50 000	144 000
	P4						
	UN VOLUNTEERS	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	10 000 000
	G7 HUB IB						
	Other recruitments (consultancies, etc.)						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES)</b>		18 114 000	20 252 000	20 950 000	20 814 000	19 870 000	100 000 000

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP's unique mandate at the crossroads of governance, economic recovery and capacity-building allows an integrated area-based development approach. The project will be implemented in an integrated and mutually reinforcing way with a view to have considerable impact on the youth in the Sahel region. The overall governance and strategic leadership will be ensured by the Project Board that will be chaired by the Regional Director (RBA). The Board will be composed by representatives of the regional bodies (AU, ECOWAS, ECCAS) and the 10 targeted countries' governments. It will also comprise the UNDP RRs, UNDP Dakar Sub Regional Hub Coordinator, the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) Director, Regional Bodies Representatives (AU, ECOWAS, ECCAS, G5 Sahel), Sahel Countries UNDP RRs & Government Representatives and Regional Sahel Youth Representatives. The board will meet twice a year to assess progress and provide strategic orientation to the regional and country level technical teams with regards to achievement of the project objectives and quality assurance. The project board's terms of reference are attached to this project document.

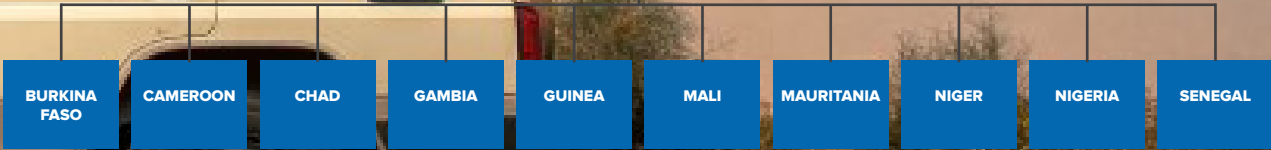
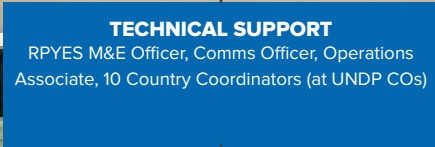
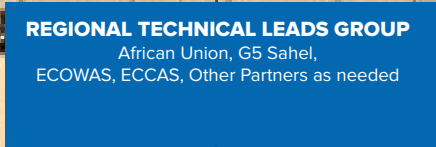
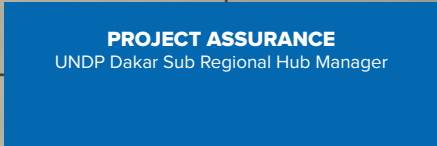
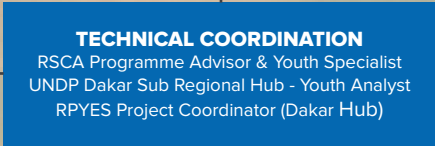
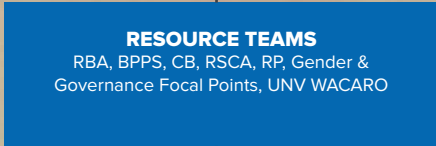
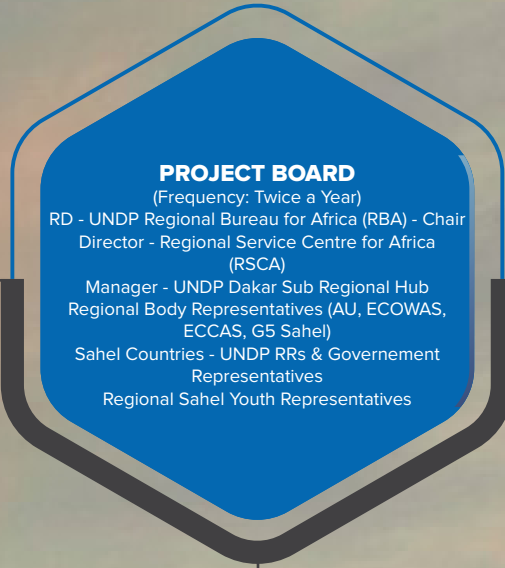
UNDP will establish a project management structure within the UNDP Dakar Sub Regional Hub under the overall supervision of the RSC Sub Regional Hub Coordinator that will coordinate and provide strategic oversight as well as guidance during the implementation of the project with the day-to-day technical support of RSCA Youth Team and RPYES Project Coordinator. UNDP will build on its network of country offices located in the 10 countries of the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Senegal) to deliver grassroots activities in the specific targeted zones. It will also capitalize on the network of the UNV programme in the region, through its West and Central Africa Regional Office (WACARO) and Field Units (FUs) in the targeted countries. Activities will be implemented by the RSCA in close collaboration and coordination with the regional and sub-regional institutions such as G5 Sahel, ECOWAS, ECCAS and AU. The project management structure will draw support and guidance from relevant staff within the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), BPPS, CRU/CB, Regional Service Centre in Addis Ababa and the Dakar Sub Regional Hub as part of the regional and global support mechanism.

The day-to-day implementation of the project, at regional level (Dakar), will be led by a Project Coordinator (P4) supported by a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (IUNV), a Communications and Digital Media Officer (IUNV), and an Operations Associate (G7). The project will hire in each of the 10 targeted countries a UNV (National or International) as Country Project Coordinator. In implementing the project, UNDP will coordinate with its country offices including UNV field units, government counterparts, regional institutions, Youth and Women Councils, other UN agencies that will join the project, CSOs, FBOs and other relevant regional and national partners. Collaboration and coordination will be particularly important for joint activities, with the aim of encouraging youth empowerment innovative approaches to the challenges and opportunities in the Sahel region.

As UNDP programmes and projects adhere to the objectives and requirements of Social and Environmental Standards (SES) including strengthening capacities for managing social and environmental risks, UNDP will support and work with partners to ensure that quality assurance standards including SES are considered in the design of national and regional projects that may be developed as a result of the implementation of this project. This will be particularly important as regional initiatives in line with the Sahel strategic offer will address other key pillars such as energy, socio-economic interventions, governance, to respond to and mitigate the multidimensional and complex challenges in the Sahel region. The project board will meet at the inception of the project and then every three months to review progress, address identified issues and provide guidance.



# PROJECT ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## LEGAL CONTEXT

This project forms part of an overall programmatic framework under which several separate associated country level activities will be implemented. When assistance and support services are provided from this Project to the associated country level activities, this document shall be the “Project Document” instrument referred to in: (i) the respective signed SBAA for the specific countries; or (ii) in the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document attached to the Project Document in cases where the recipient country has not signed an SBAA with UNDP, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof. All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by UNDP (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

This project forms part of an overall programmatic framework under which several separate associated country level activities will be implemented. When assistance and support services are provided from this project to the associated country level activities, this document shall be the “Project Document” instrument referred to in: (i) the respective signed SBAA for the specific countries; or (ii) in the Supplemental Provisions attached to the Project Document in cases where the recipient country has not signed an SBAA with UNDP, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof.

This project will be implemented by UNDP in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures. To ensure its responsibility for the safety and security of the UNDP personnel and property, UNDP shall: (a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; (b) assume all risks and liabilities related to UNDP’s security, and the full implementation of the security plan. The UNDP shall undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

- ▶ UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
- ▶ UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]<sup>28</sup> [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]<sup>29</sup> are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
- ▶ Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/SES>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/AM>).
- ▶ UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
- ▶ In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
- ▶ All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
- ▶ UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
  - Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in such responsible parties, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
    - Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
    - Assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible parties, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
  - UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible parties, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s obligations under this Project Document.
  - In the performance of the activities under this Project, UNDP as the Implementing Partner shall ensure, with respect to the activities of any of its responsible parties, sub-recipients and other entities engaged under the Project, either as contractors or subcontractors, their personnel and any individuals performing services for them, that those entities have in place adequate and proper procedures, processes and policies to prevent and/or address SEA and SH.
  - Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure

<sup>28</sup> To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

<sup>29</sup> To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner



- that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
- The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org).
  - In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
  - Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.
    - Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.
  - UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible parties, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
    - Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.
- Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.
- Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
  - Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
  - Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, mutatis mutandis, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

## Annex 1: Project Risk Register

PROJECT TITLE: REGIONAL PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN THE SAHEL (RPYES) PROJECT NUMBER: TBC    DATE: 25 DECEMBER 2020																																																				
#	DESCRIPTION	RISK CATEGORY	IMPACT & LIVELIHOOD - RISK LEVEL	RISK TREATMENT/ MANAGEMENT MEASURES	RISK OWNER																																															
	<p>Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event, cause and effects.</p> <p>Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Safety and Security</p> <p>Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)</p>	<p>Describe the potential effect on the project if the future event were to occur.</p> <p>Enter likelihood based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected)</p> <p>Enter impact based on 1-5 scale (1 = Negligible; 5 = Extreme)</p> <p>Based on Likelihood and Impact, use the Risk Matrix to identify the Risk Level (High, Substantial, Moderate or Low)</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>UNDP ERM - Risk Matrix</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td rowspan="5">Impact</td><td>5</td><td style="background-color: #e6f2ff;"></td><td style="background-color: #cce5ff;"></td><td style="background-color: #a2c4c9;"></td><td style="background-color: #7fb3d5;"></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td style="background-color: #cce5ff;"></td><td style="background-color: #a2c4c9;"></td><td style="background-color: #7fb3d5;"></td><td style="background-color: #5499c7;"></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td style="background-color: #a2c4c9;"></td><td style="background-color: #7fb3d5;"></td><td style="background-color: #5499c7;"></td><td style="background-color: #3178e3;"></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td style="background-color: #7fb3d5;"></td><td style="background-color: #5499c7;"></td><td style="background-color: #3178e3;"></td><td style="background-color: #1f69e0;"></td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td style="background-color: #5499c7;"></td><td style="background-color: #3178e3;"></td><td style="background-color: #1f69e0;"></td><td style="background-color: #1f69e0;"></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="5">Likelihood</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="5">■ SUBSTANTIAL ■ MODERATE ■ LOW</td></tr> </table> </div>	Impact	5					4					3					2					1							1	2	3	4	5			Likelihood							■ SUBSTANTIAL ■ MODERATE ■ LOW					<p>What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.</p>	<p>The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.</p>
Impact	5																																																			
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1	Impact of COVID-19: COVID-19 has severely impacted the socio-political and economic landscape in the Sahel.	Social and Environmental	<p>Until a vaccine/cure for COVID-19 is widely available, and business can return to normal, COVID-19 will continue to impose risks and constraints on the implementation of initiatives including this project.</p> <p>P = 5 I = 4</p>	<p>The project team will explore new innovative ways to engage young people across the Sahel region. COVID-19 affected youth are supported as a special target group of the project. With proper strategies, COVID-19 pandemic situation also presents an opportunity to explore new and more innovative ways of engaging youth and other stakeholders.</p>	Project manager																																															
2	Conflict related security challenges: The Sahel region is currently facing serious conflict related challenges.	Safety and Security	<p>The geographical target zones could be severely impacted by the hostilities which will negatively impact youth as agents in project and the wider project.</p> <p>P = 4 I = 3</p>	<p>The project team should put in place an appropriate and context specific conflict mitigation and management plan for the project, taking into account specific factors relating to young people.</p>	Project manager																																															
3	Political circumstances	Political	<p>Volatile political circumstances could impact UNDP assistance at country level.</p> <p>P = 2 I = 4</p>	<p>UNDP will use its existing management capacities and situation analysis tools and methodologies to assess the political economy of each selected country and tailor its activities accordingly as a way of minimizing this risk.</p>	Project manager																																															
4	Limited funding		<p>Given the current economic crisis, if full expected funding is not mobilized, activities may have to be shifted, scaled back and reprogrammed.</p> <p>P: 2 I: 2</p>	<p>The project team will need flexibility during the planning and implementation phases. UNDP will prepare a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and seek new partnerships with traditional and emerging bilateral and multilateral partners. The private sector will be a key partner to the project.</p>	Project manager																																															

## Annex 2: Social and Environmental Screening Template

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document. Please refer to the [Social and Environmental Screening Procedure](#) and [Toolkit](#) for guidance on how to answer the 6 questions.

Project Information		
1	Project Title	Regional Project for Youth Empowerment Regional Programme in the Sahel (RPYES)
2	Project Number	TBC
3	Location (Global/Region/Country)	Africa/Sahel Region

### Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

#### QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

##### Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

This project takes into account human rights because it will enable youth in the selected countries to have jobs. And that respects their right to employment. Similarly, freedom of expression will be ensured through their civic engagement and political participation. Furthermore, the project will enhance youth engagement in human rights and transparent governance activities.

##### Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

The programme will ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Young women will be supported for employment co-creation and self-employment through innovative entrepreneurship, eco-employment and digital transformation. People with disabilities, refugees, IDPs and other marginalized and at-risk youth are specially targeted to ensure that the project will Leave No One Behind.

##### Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

The project contributes to reducing vulnerabilities and strengthens resilience of communities to shocks, emergency situations, conflict, anticipated impacts of climate change, disaster risks. RPYES will strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in the selected countries. It will improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. The project will engage youth as agents of change and co-creators of solutions for greening the Sahel through volunteerism and eco-entrepreneurship.

#### QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?

Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.

#### QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?

Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6

#### QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?

Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
Risk 1: Impact of COVID-19: COVID-19 has severely impacted the socio-political and economic landscape in the Sahel.	I = 4 P = 5	High	Until a vaccine/cure for COVID-19 is widely available, and business can return to normal, COVID-19 will continue to impose risks and constraints on the implementation of initiatives including this project.	The project team will explore new innovative ways to engage young people across the Sahel region. COVID-19 affected youth are supported as a special target group of the project. With proper strategies, COVID-19 pandemic situation also presents an opportunity to explore new and more innovative ways of engaging youth and other stakeholders.

QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?		
Select one (see SESP for guidance)		Comments
Low Risk		
Moderate Risk	X	
High Risk		
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
Check all that apply		Comments
<b>Principle 1: Human Rights</b>		
<b>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management		
2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	X	COVID-19 pandemic effect
4. Cultural Heritage		
5. Displacement and Resettlement		
6. Indigenous Peoples		
7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		

Signature	Date	Description
QA Assessor	December 25th, 2020	UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

## SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
Principle 1: Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)
1. Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2. Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? <sup>30</sup>	No
3. Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4. Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5. Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
6. Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	
7. Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8. Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
1. Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2. Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3. Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4. Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? For example, activities that could lead to natural resource degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being.	No

<sup>30</sup> Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
<b>Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below</b>	
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	
1.1 Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes	No
1.2 Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4 Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5 Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6 Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.7 Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8 Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction	No
1.9 Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	Yes
1.10 Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11 Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.	No
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</b>	
2.1 Will the proposed Project result in significant <sup>31</sup> greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2 Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3 Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding	
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</b>	
3.1 Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2 Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3 Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4 Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5 Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, and erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6 Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7 Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8 Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labour standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9 Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>	
4.1 Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2 Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No

<sup>31</sup> In regards to CO<sub>2</sub>, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>	No
5.1 Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2 Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3 Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? <sup>32</sup>	No
5.4 Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>	
6.1 Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	Yes
6.2 Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3 Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.	No
6.4 Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	Yes
6.5 Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6 Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7 Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8 Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9 Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
<b>Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>	
7.1 Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2 Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3 Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol	No
7.4 Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5 Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

<sup>32</sup> Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

### Annex 3: Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Action Plan

Target Partner (Name)	Targeted Area(s) of Cooperation/Existing Programmes and Initiatives	Concrete Actions and Timing for Engagement (Deadlines)	
EU	Youth Empowerment, Gender, Climate Resilience, Stabilization, Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Preliminary research on potential partners, their priorities for the region and how UNDP can position the YERPS as an impactful programme</li> <li>-Build on existing initiatives and leverage existing partnerships, i.e. RFF proposals, Funding Windows proposals, PBF Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives, etc.</li> <li>-Organize meetings with partner teams to discuss the programme design, identify areas of collaboration (entry points, mutual benefit) and potential for partnership</li> <li>-Share the final prodoc and other key programme documents</li> <li>-Discuss funding commitments and other terms of collaboration</li> <li>-Organize official programme implementation launch and invite all key partners</li> <li>-Organize regular and ad-hoc meetings with partners</li> <li>-Share updates on progress and timely report on funding received; 2021-2025</li> </ul>	
France	Youth empowerment, Stabilization, governance, peace and security		
Netherlands	Youth empowerment, Stabilization, governance, peace and security		
Denmark	Youth empowerment, Stabilization, governance, peace and security, COVID-19 recovery, Greening the Sahel		
Sweden	Youth empowerment, Stabilization, governance, peace and security		
Germany	Youth empowerment, Stabilization, governance, peace and security		
Japan/JICA&TICAD Secretariat	Youth Empowerment, entrepreneurship, gender, Climate Resilience, Entrepreneurship		
KOICA/Korea	Youth Empowerment, Gender, Climate Resilience, Entrepreneurship		
Luxembourg	Youth Empowerment, Entrepreneurship		
Australia	Youth Empowerment, Violent Extremism		
Belgium	Youth Empowerment		
Spain	Youth Empowerment in the Sahel		
AfDB	Youth Empowerment-entrepreneurship, Climate change and Adaptation		
AFREXIBANK	Youth entrepreneurship		
BOAD	Youth entrepreneurship		
Islamic Development Bank	Youth entrepreneurship		
PBSO/PBF	Governance, gender, youth, peace and security		
World Bank			
Germany – GIZ			
UK - DFID			
USAID			
ILO		Youth empowerment, decent jobs, employment	
UNICEF	Youth and adolescents' empowerment, skills development, entrepreneurship, Generation Unlimited initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Presentation of the programme proposal to for their commitment to join as key partners – Dec 2020</li> <li>-Overall joint coordination, regular meetings, updates on progress – 2020-2025 (UNV is part of the programme from the design stage).</li> <li>- Collect UNV proforma costs</li> </ul>	
IOM	Youth migration		
UNV	Volunteer Mobilization, Youth Engagement, Volunteer Schemes		
UNDP HQ, RSSA/Hub and COs	Youth Empowerment, Youth Engagement, Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Presentation of programme design and LPAC by end of Dec 2020</li> <li>-Approval of 2021 annual workplan + funding commitment, by end of Jan 2021</li> <li>-Overall coordination, regular meetings and updates, reports – 2021-2025</li> </ul>	
10 Sahel Country Gov'ts	Youth Empowerment, Youth Engagement, Employment		
Regional and National Youth Organizations	Gender, youth, peace and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the programme proposal to for their commitment to join as key partners – Dec 2020</li> <li>- Mapping of key youth-led civil society organizations in the Sahel region</li> <li>-Participation in joint coordination, regular meetings, updates on progress – 2020-2025</li> </ul>	
AUC (in-kind support)	Youth Empowerment		
ECOWAS	Youth Empowerment	Regular meetings, updates on progress – 2020-2025	
G 5 Sahel	Youth Empowerment		
ECCAS	Youth Empowerment		
WANEP	Youth Empowerment		
Kofi Anan Peacekeeping International Training Center (KAIPTC)	Regional Training Center and Capacity building on Youth Empowerment		
<b>TOTAL</b>			



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