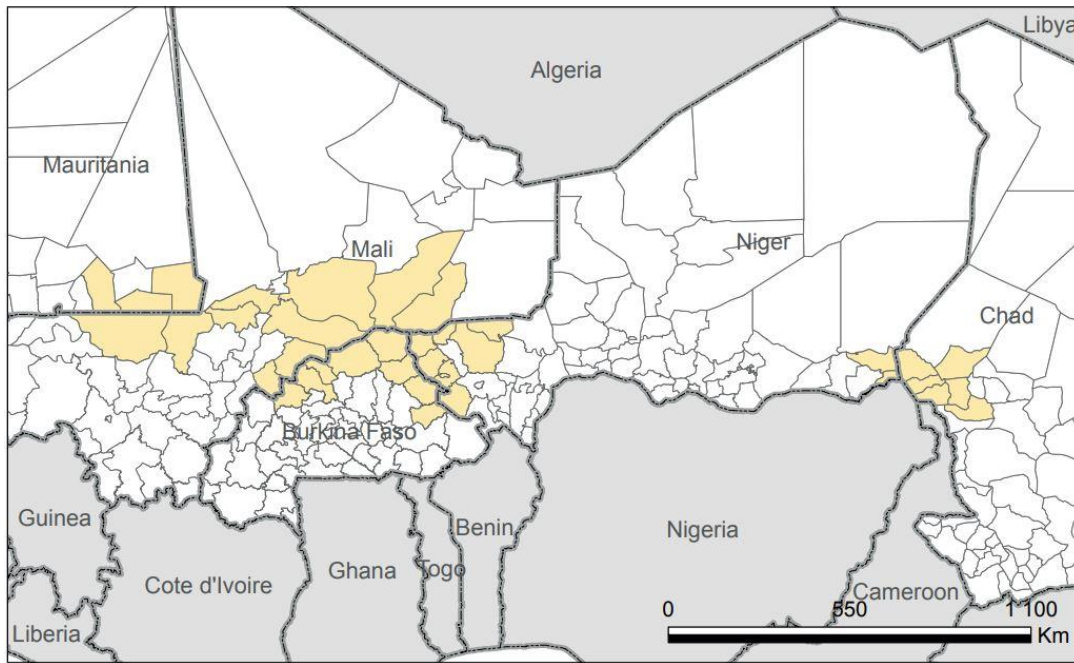


Strengthening Human Security & Community Resilience in the Sahel



Progress Report (January 2018)

Period covered: January 2017 – December 2017

**UNDP SAHEL PROGRAMME
Dakar Platform for West and Central Africa
Regional Service Center for Africa**



Project title: Strengthening Human Security & Community Resilience in the Sahel

Area of Intervention: Sahel Region: Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger & Regional Office

Budget: 1,000,000 Euros

Funding: Luxembourg

Period : January 2017 – December 2017



Figure 1: Mother of five, Balki Elh Sanda, beneficiary of the project IGA in Abalak, Central Niger



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List of Acronyms

CSC	Conseil Supérieur de la Communication	<i>Burkina Faso</i>
CSO	Civil Society Organizations	<i>Worldwide</i>
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality	<i>Worldwide</i>
DNPGCCA	Dispositif National de prévention et de Gestion des Catastrophes et Crises Alimentaires	<i>Niger</i>
IGA	Income Generating Activities	<i>Worldwide</i>
MATD	Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation	<i>Burkina Faso</i>
MCP	Ministerial Coordination Platform	<i>G5 Sahel</i>
ONAFAR	Organisation Nationale des Faits Religieux	<i>Burkina Faso</i>
SCAP/RU	Systèmes Communautaires d'Alertes Précoce et de Réponses aux Urgences	<i>Niger</i>
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	<i>Worldwide</i>
UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel	<i>Worldwide</i>
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	<i>Worldwide</i>
VSO	Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories	<i>Niger</i>



A. Executive Summary

1. Background & Context

Peace and stability are fundamental prerequisites for socio-economic development and building strong communities. The complex development context of the Sahel region and the interconnected nature of the challenges facing its people are compounded by institutional weakness to address them. “Strengthening Human Security and Community Resilience in the Sahel” is part of UNDP’s wider effort to operationalize the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel in a coherent manner that tackles regional issues through targeted community-level interventions.

Empowering individuals and communities is of paramount importance for people to be able to face the recurrent crises that affect the region, including those stemming from climate change, conflict, resource competition or food shortages. The overarching goal of this project is to capitalize on key achievements and to continue strengthening formal and informal mechanisms at the community level to promote social cohesion, community security and economic resilience. Under this phase funded by the Grand Duché of Luxembourg, only Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger¹ benefitted from the financing. The project worked towards enhancing the capacities of traditional leaders, community mechanisms and local authorities to promote community security and social cohesion as well as improve economic resilience to recurrent crises by supporting inclusive access to resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

¹ These three countries benefitted from the first instalment due to key achievements. With the next funding, the two other countries will be considered



B. Intervention Framework

1. United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel

Adopted in 2013 by the UN Security Council, the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) aims **to reduce the** socio-economic vulnerability of populations in the Sahel countries. It is built around three broad areas of support formulated as strategic goals: Resilience, Security, and Governance. The Strategy supports and strengthens a UN coordinated response to the Sahel crisis. This includes the integration of humanitarian and development interventions, ensuring that lifesaving activities meet immediate needs while building the resilience of people and communities as part of a long-term development agenda.

As the lead of the UNISS Regional Working group on Governance, UNDP has facilitated the organization of thematic meetings, gathering the Regional Governance Working Group composed of United Nations Agencies. Each of these meetings was an opportunity to collectively discuss and identify initiatives to support the G5 Sahel countries², and Cameroon, Guinea, Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Regional Economic Commissions (RECs).

In 2017, following an independent review of the Strategy, the UNISS was taken to another level to get a “One UN vision for the Sahel” under the leadership of the UN Deputy Secretary General as foreseen in the UN Reform and in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within that framework, and in order to strengthen the

² Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.
The other countries as members of the West Africa Regional undg



“regionality” of our actions in the Sahel, the regional office has committed to increase its engagement with regional partners.

2. UNDP’s Pivotal Role

To address the challenges relating to governance, security and resilience in the Sahel, UNDP developed a framework and a Programme dedicated to the Sahel to support the implementation of the UNISS and its Strategic Plan 2014-2017. This plan put emphasis on three complementary areas: the adoption of sustainable development patterns; the introduction and/or strengthening of inclusive and effective systems of governance; strengthening resilience.

The UNDP regional approach for the Sahel is intended to strengthen the linkage and coherence of interventions at country and regional level; efficiently deal with transnational and regional issues through the development-humanitarian-security nexus as a collective approach through collaboration among countries.

The UNDP regional action which is based on the ownership and management of projects in Africa, is based on five “principles of regionalism” which are mutually supportive and represent special added value of regional or sub-regional development approaches:

- i. promoting regional public goods and services, on the basis of a reinforced regional co-operation and integration;
- ii. managing cross-border “externalities” (challenges and opportunities) and spill overs - such as trade, the environment, and conflicts;
- iii. continuously raising awareness, dialogue and action on the most sensitive or emerging development issues which, again, will be best addressed by drawing on multi-country and regional experiences;



- iv. fostering experimentation and innovation to overcome institutional, financial and/or informational hurdles that could be too large to be dealt with by each country, in isolation;
- v. creating and sharing knowledge, experience and expertise on development - in particular through South-South and triangular co-operation - to enable the various countries to relate to relevant regional and extra-regional experiences and to take advantage of them.

Thus, UNDP plays a pivotal role in the implementation of the Strategy, by chairing the governance pillar and co-chairing the resilience and security pillars, and implementing its.

Against this background, UNDP developed four regional strategic projects for the Sahel (Phases 1 to 4), with the support of the Government of Japan. Phase-2 has served as a foundation for this Luxembourg-funded project.

3. Objectives of the project

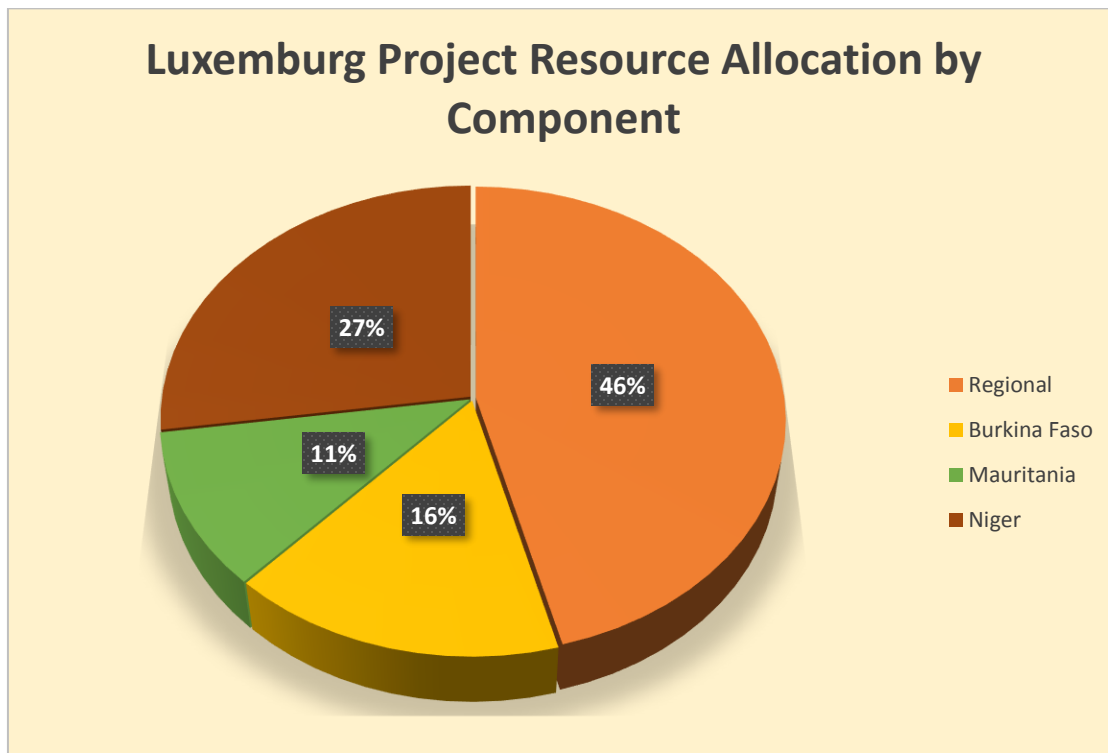
Outcome 1: Enhanced capacities of local communities and local authorities to jointly promote community security and social cohesion. Outcome activities will foster stronger local governance structures through proactive multi-stakeholder engagements for peace consolidation and social cohesion, and efficient local administrations in various localities of the Sahel region.

Outcome 2: Improved economic resilience to recurrent crises by supporting inclusive access to resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities to reduce inequalities and foster stability. Outcome activities will include interventions at the community level that improve people's ability to achieve their basic needs and improve community resilience to recurrent crises through improved access to resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities.



C. Key Results at the Regional Level; Challenges & Recommendations

1. Budget



As stated earlier and although activities were conducted at the country level, the regional component has been reviewed giving greater emphasize on regional integration which is the decisive factor in tackling national and local issues.

2. Implementation and Achievements

Under the project, the following key results were achieved:

- technical assistance was provided to the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat:



- G5 Sahel Integrated Youth Strategy: ahead of the African Union-European Union Summit in Abidjan in November 2017, a “Strategic Reference Framework” (Cadre de Résultats Stratégique) was prepared and presented to the G5 Sahel bi-annual Ministerial Council meeting. The validated document will now serve as a basis to elaborate the Youth Strategy. This is one reason of the balance at the regional level.
- Organization of the G5 Sahel Round Table to support its Priority Investment Plan (PIP). This initiative was supported with funding from previous projects. Given the UNISS and the latest initiatives to support the Sahel, the project planned to assist the organization of the event. The funds earmarked created a balance on the regional component due to the postponement of the Round Table from December 2017 to March 2018; and now rescheduled to June 2018.
- The Ministerial Coordination Platform of the G5 Sahel (MCP): supporting the CMP through this initiative aims to ensure the operationalization of the Platform according to the UNISS Steering Committee recommendations as well as the UNISS adherence to the MCP thematic groups on Resilience, Governance, and Security.
- **In September 2017, the project also facilitated the participation of 10 young leaders from Youth Associations of the G5 Sahel region living in conflicts zones the Regional Consultations for West and Central Africa- Youth for Peace and Security based on the UN Security Council Resolution 2250. The delegation was led by the Head of the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat’s Youth Programme.**



3. Constraints and Risks

- In spite of a late kick off at country level due to administrative procedures, the UNDP country offices were able to implement the project according to their initial workplans.
- Even though the project has reached out thousands of direct and indirect beneficiaries, implementing partners indicated the difficulty to manage the influx of applicants for trainings and IGAs.
- Flooding caused by heavy rains due to the impacts of climate change, have prevented access to some intervention zones during the implementation period. However, this situation was mitigated with accelerated implementation plans in each country to yield the expected results initially planned.

4. Project Coordination and Management

The Sahel Programme staff is so far financed under funding from the Government of Japan. This helped in allocating the entire funding from Luxembourg to project activities, with the support of short term consultancies. The Programme will discuss this matter with the Luxembourg to seek avenues for a contribution to the management of the project.

5. Visibility

The project management ensured that the emblem of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg appears whenever an activity is funded through the project. The project will reach out to the Luxembourg local representatives in the countries when field visits are planned in 2018. A visibility mission was undertaken only in Niger where the project management also visited other project sites. Due to the end of the year commitments, field visits to project sites will be



made in Mauritania and Burkina Faso in the first quarter of 2018 and representations will be informed accordingly for their participation.

6. Financial status as of 29 January 2018

Rapport financier intermediaire / Sahel fonds Luxembourg					
Depenses sur CDRs					
	Project	2017	2018	Total	
Comp Reg	00104235	81 225,88	13 043,16	94 269,04	
Burkina Faso	00105608	160 019,31	2,18	160 021,49	
Mauritanie	00105611	62 563,27	1 928,75	64 492,02	
Niger	00105613	282 034,36	0,87	282 035,23	
Total					
		585 842,82	14 974,96	600 817,78	
Nex advances Mauritania				76 072,16	
Commitments					
PO opened in the Regional component				20 666,25	
Other commitments					
Transfer to Mauritania				75 000,00	<i>Funds earmarked for Mauritania to complete the demining project in the country according to the Ottawa Convention and as a component of the fight against the threats of terrorism</i>
Planned Activity in Niger				50 000,00	Capitalization activity to procure a forage which will supplement the installation of multifunctional platforms to alleviate women's chores
UNISS- Regional Activities				10 000,00	Coordination of the activities of the three pillars of UNISS
Special Post Allowance for Sahel Programme Associate				4 000,00	This amount is complementary to the salary of the core UNDP staff assigned to the Sahel Programme
UNV Finance Analyst				25 000,00	
G5 Sahel Youth Strategy & Support to Round Table				100 000,00	Preliminary activities undertaken. Elaboration of the full Strategy to be conducted
Sub-Total Commitments				264 000,00	
Total Commitments				284 666,25	
Expenses + Nex Advances + Commitments (1)				961 556,19	
Total Allocated Resources (2)				1 046 025,10	
GMS 8% (3)				83 682,01	
TOTAL (1) + (2) + (3)				1 045 238,20	
Balance = (2)-(1)-(3)				786,90	
Taux de delivery				100%	



D. Key Results at the Country Level; Challenges and Recommendations

1. Burkina Faso

Outcome 2: Improved economic resilience to recurrent crises by supporting inclusive access to resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities to reduce inequalities and foster stability. Outcome activities will include interventions at the community level that improve people's ability to achieve their basic needs and improve community resilience to recurrent crises through improved access to resources and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In Burkina Faso, the project supported an existing Mediation Platform to assess the impact of the dialogue between the Burkinabè civil society and the government, to enhance the national peace and reconciliation process, and to



ensure greater synergy between the two parties. As a reminder, the first session of the framework for dialogue between the State and CSOs, was held on 24 February 2015 following the uprising of the population which led to the ousting of President

Figure 2 - 2nd session of the concertation and dialogue framework between the Government & CSOs under the leadership of the Prime Minister with the UNRC in Burkina Faso



Blaise Compaore from power. It highlighted the need for symbiosis between CSOs and the State for sustainable inclusive development. The symposium, held on 16 June 2017 to capitalize on this great initiative, was chaired by the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, His excellency, Mr. Paul Kaba Tièba, who represented the President of the Republic. The meeting also featured the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Burkina Faso, the Minister of the interior and territorial administration, the Governor of the Central Region, the President of the National Council of CSOs, among others, in line with the Burkina Faso National Development Plan (PNDES) CSOs resolved to work for social cohesion through the promotion of good citizenship and peace at all levels.³ The CSOs committed to the Mediation Platform in a participatory manner to ensure virtuous and peaceful governance processes in Burkina Faso, as well as access to information for all and across the country.

Key Results

Partnership with ONAFAR

The “*Organisation Nationale des Faits Religieux*” or ONAFAR (literally translating to “The National Observatory of Religious Facts”) is a new state body created in 2015. Its purpose is to monitor religious media content, to prevent extremist speeches with a view to preserving peaceful coexistence between the different religious groups in Burkina Faso. ONAFAR is not intended to punish, but especially to study the files submitted to it, on facts and religious messages, while also complying with regulation on cultural practices in Burkina Faso. It is composed of 10 members:

- Four (4) from the Federation of Islamic Associations in Burkina Faso,
- Two (4) from the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions,
- Two (2) from the Episcopal Conference of Burkina Faso.

UNDP’s partnership with ONAFAR has yielded the following results:

³ <https://burkina24.com/2017/06/16/paul-kaba-thieba-aux-osc-le-burkina-est-fier-de-vous/>



– *ONAFAR office refurbishment:*

ONAFAR was, thanks to UNDP’s partnership, able to hold an ordinary session, in its refurbished office building, allowing the structure’s revitalization into legality after a two-year hiatus, and most importantly, the constitutional selection of a new executive council of 10 members (including 2 women).

– *ONAFAR’s strengthened functionality:*

The project equipped the cell with two computers and one printer and facilitated the ONAFAR office’s operationalization and aided towards the improvement of communication between its members. This point was a strong recommendation from the ONAFAR regular session report held from 18 to 21 October 2017. Indeed, it emerged from the exchanges of the ordinary session that information did not always reach those concerned in time, and that one of the greatest challenges observed from the outgoing office was communication.

- *Availability of the annual activities report from the outgoing office:* the consolidated report was submitted to the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MATD) in November 2017.
- *Review of the ONAFAR statutes and guidelines:* the UNDP Country Office in Burkina Faso supported the update and approval of ONAFAR’s revised constitution with funding from the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.
- *Preparation of a draft 2018 AWP for the incoming office from previous recommendations:* the draft of the 2018 activities will serve as an advocacy document with partners for funding.
- *Strengthening ONAFAR members’ and religious leaders’ technical capacities*

These activities included trainings that allowed members of the ONAFAR office (8 men and 2 women) to have a common understanding of conflict prevention and management in their



respective religions. The ONAFAR members and religious leaders (5 women and 13 men) were then trained (October 18 to 21 2017) on the decryption of religious media content, to help them organize themselves into teams to follow and positively influence the media. The purpose of the training was for members to prevent religious or ethnic conflicts through the decryption of messages. During the training session, the UNDP Burkina Faso Country Director remarked that: *“(UNDP’s) mandate is to accompany countries in the goals of sustainable development. And as such, peace is a central factor in achieving these goals, beyond being itself an objective, the Development Goal 16, which evokes the building of open and peaceful societies, in countries where access to justice is guaranteed and responsible institutions are in place. I believe that Burkina has understood this principle, which explains our support.”*⁴ This was all made possible thanks to the office equipment and tools provided to the members to fulfil their mission.

Insertion of young entrepreneurs in a lucrative value chain



Figure 3: A group of trainees receiving their training certificates in poultry farming

Five hundred (500 of which 430 are young women) young promoters from the Boucle du Mouhoun (mid-West) and North regions were trained and equipped with local poultry farming skills and inputs and thus allowing them to integrate the local poultry sector. This income stream allows them to improve their livelihoods, and subsequently, the local economy. The trainings

offered to the selected participants are as follows:

⁴ <http://faso24.com/news/decryptage-des-contenus-mediatiqes-a-caractere-religieux/>



- Poultry habitat
- Poultry feed
- Benefits of producing locally
- Health monitoring
- Poultry management

Challenges

The security situation in the northern and Sahel regions is one of the most pressing challenges for ONAFAR in the fulfilment of its mission given the difficult access to the remote areas of the country. This makes it difficult to undertake awareness-raising and capacity-building missions to these areas of the country.

The ONAFAR also faces certain constraints related to its lack of an operating budget and limited logistical means, which ultimately impede on its mission. This makes ONAFAR's activities heavily dependent upon strategic partnerships.

Moreover, only supervising administrations (MATD and CSC)⁵ hold referral rights of to ONAFAR. Referral by third parties are not permitted; whereas it would have made it possible to fill the staffing deficit within the structure (10 members for the whole territory).

Recommendations

- Create a website to increase the visibility of ONAFAR and facilitate referrals by citizens (creation of a referral option on the website);
- Set up "focal points" to facilitate the observation of religious facts and bring ONAFAR closer to the people;

⁵ Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MATD) and the High Council of Communication (CSC)



- Revise the decree establishing the creation, composition, attributions and functioning of ONAFAR
- Develop and publish a practical guide on the observance of religious facts (for members of ONAFAR and the permanent technical secretariat);
- Develop and publish a practical guide and leaflets on good practices in religious tolerance and strengthening social cohesion (for religious leaders, religious program animators, others)⁶;
- Develop a strategic plan (over 5 or 6 years) to reflect ONAFAR's vision of promoting interreligious dialogue, tolerance and respect for differences in Burkina Faso and seeking funding;
- Develop a communication plan.
- Support ONAFAR's awareness-raising and training activities to a wider audience, particularly on the theme of conflict prevention and management.
- Provide technical and financial support to ONAFAR for capacity building of members.
- Involve customary authorities in ONAFAR mediation and awareness activities whenever necessary.

2. Mauritania

***Outcome 1:** Enhanced capacities of local communities and local authorities to jointly promote community security and social cohesion. Outcome activities will foster stronger local governance structures through proactive multi-stakeholder engagements for peace consolidation and social cohesion, and efficient local administrations in various localities of the Sahel region.*

⁶ The 2018 Annual Work Plan of the Sahel Programme will address this issue by conducting a mapping of religious and traditional education centers and teachers.



The Mauritania component of this project focused on three main activities within the border areas of Mauritania with Mali and Senegal, namely Fassala, Bassikounou, Gougui, Goueye, Kaédi, Rosso, Diama, and Ndiago.

The first was a workshop on the prevention of violent extremism in the border areas and sensitization in partnership with the justice department, youth, women's groups, oulémas/religious leaders, and local authorities in the border regions with Mali.

Secondly, sensitization campaigns were held with local security committees on Small Arms and Light Weapons, (SALW) their dangers and effects in seven border checkpoints along the area separating Mali and Mauritania.

Finally, the project supported the implementation and enforcement of the national integrated border management strategy as well as fighting against extremism through the National Commission on Mediation and Independent Local Observatories.

Key Results:

- 420 people young people, 60% of whom are women and 40% men were sensitized in the border areas about the dangers of terrorism and violent extremism and the proliferation of small arms in the communities of Fassala, Basseknou, Gougui, Goueye, Rosso, Diama and Ndiago;
- 80 border agents in the border areas along Mali were trained on the issues of countering violent extremism and border security in the access points of the wilayas of Hodh Charghi, Hodh El Gharbi and Assaba
- The establishment of 3 Integrated Border Management Committees in Hodh Echarghi and Hodh El Gharbi;



- The demining of 1,000,000 square meters in Sebkhya Fogra⁷. This area posed a threat to nomadic populations and several fatal accidents occurred on this site;
- Destruction of 35 anti-mines vehicle;
- The controlled destruction of 93 antipersonnel mines;
- The realization of an awareness campaign along the Mauritanian northern border in order to encourage a change of behavior among the populations in these dangerous zones. More than 8500 posters have been distributed to nomadic populations (35000 people reached during this campaign)

Challenges

At the political level, municipal and regional elections were taking place in Mauritania which have sometimes had an impact on the project's course in regard to local administrations and government partnerships.

Recommendations

- Build local actors' and communities' capacities through awareness-raising and training;
- Develop local safety committee systems in the different areas along the Mali border points;
- Develop economic activities for the benefit of population in rural areas s along border points (drinking water wells, vaccination parks, etc.);
- Equipment of border posts and strengthen border communities' resilience through capacity building

⁷ Article 5- Compliance Report (page 3) – Mine Action Review –
http://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Mauritania_Clearing_the_Mines_2017.pdf



3. Niger

The Niger component was implemented to achieve outcome 2 of the project *"Economic resilience to recurrent crises by supporting inclusive access to resources and sustainable livelihoods is improved"*. The beneficiary communes were Abalak (Tahoua region, North-Wests), Diagourou and Téra (Tillabery region, Liptako-Gourma).

The UNDP Niger Country Office partnered with 3 NGOs and government entities to implement this project:

- AJEDEV, a local development organization focusing on youth, was contracted from the implementation of the initiatives aiming at creating sustainable income generating activities and livelihoods reinforcement.
- The UNDP Multifunctional Platform Project, for the installation of three (3) multifunctional platforms in a rural area which serve as a generator with outlets and a heavy-duty battery, a mill, a welding machine.
- The National Disaster Prevention and Management Facility (DNPGCCA) for the establishment, equipment and capacity building of 5 vulnerability monitoring observatories (VSOs) and ten (10) Community Alert Systems for Early and Emergency Response (SCAP / RU)

Key Results:

- Vocational training of 50 young people (24 young women and 26 young men) identified in Abalak in sewing, and mechanics.



- 50 young people (23 young women and 27 young men) received financial support to conduct income-generating activities (IGAs) such as small businesses, bazars, netting, retail and animal rearing.
- 220 young people (121 women and 99 men) benefitted from labor-intensive activities related to the installation of the Multifunctional Platforms.
- Increased access to energy for at least 6,000 inhabitants in rural areas through the establishment of three multifunctional platforms (initially only two were planned) which alleviate the domestic work of women.
- Awareness-raising and social support of young people against violent extremism and the dangers of the use of drugs.
- The activity related to the establishment and equipment of the 5 Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories (VSOs) and 10 Community Early Warning and Response Systems (SCAP/RU) is being discussed with the government counterparts for full execution.

Although the relevance of the activities selected is satisfactory, their timing (seasonality) had to be taken into consideration in certain cases (see Challenges).



Figure 4: High Intensity Labor activities in Abalak; Young men trenching half-moons to fertilize the soil for farming and/or grazing



Figure 5: Aghaly benefitted from an Income Generating Activity of the project and he opened up his own shop



Challenges

In terms of challenges faced during the implementation period:

- fairly short time dedicated to the implementation of certain activities such as vocational training.
- it was noticed in the project how much the needs are high, making it difficult sometimes to choose beneficiaries, although this was done with the support of the local authorities. This indicates how highly the investment was worth and needed and highlight what is at stake and what is expected from development partners.
- the difficulty to access intervention sites due mainly to security reasons prompted the implementing partners to move some of the project activities from Abalak to Téra.

Recommendations

As a measure to ensure the project's sustainability in Niger, the following recommendations were made for better results:

- review the possibility for longer term training sessions for greater coverage and impacts;
- advocacy for more funding to address the challenges of the area, especially for young people facing idleness;
- In the future, schedule PTFM equipment installations in the villages at the beginning of the year, which will facilitate the delivery and the availability of beneficiaries who are not occupied by field work.



Conclusion

Overall, the project has been implemented as planned at the country level. The exception resides at the regional level where the support to the regional institution (G5 Sahel) had to be rescheduled a few times.

During field visits, beneficiaries have demonstrated great satisfaction for the support provided to them from the Government of Luxembourg. Meanwhile, the needs remain acute for socioeconomic and employment opportunity to reduce populations' vulnerability, and increase their resilience so they are better equipped to face daily challenges.



Figure 6: Ms; Sanda being interviewed by the project team

Success story: *Balki Elh Sanda is a mother of five children in the city of Abalak (pictured above). Ms. Sanda did not have a job or any revenue. She benefitted from seed grant from the project to start up a business. She decided to buy material and saw to make bed sheets and comforters to sell. She was able in a four-months period to sell all her items and renewed her stock. With the*

interests earned, she bought sheeps to fatten them and sell. She can now take care of her five children. She proposed to teach other women in the area so they can provide for themselves and their families. Her plan for the future is to open her own center with sewing machines to grow her business and where she could train other women. There are many other stories like Ms. Sanda's which changed lives in the community thanks to the project.



The beneficiaries and technical authorities of the project in all three countries have praised the Sahel Programme’s initiative, which is undoubtedly contributing to the stabilization and occupation of able-bodied youth, and potential “candidates” for migration and radicalization.

In the next phase, the project will emphasize solutions to youth unemployment and idleness through capacity building at the local, national, and regional levels.

Activities & beneficiaries (direct & indirect) per area of intervention in each Country

Activity Description	Direct/indirect Beneficiaries
Burkina Faso	
Conflict prevention & management training	10 (8 men + 2 women)
Training of religious leaders	18 (13 men & 5 women)
Value chain chicken farming	500 [430 women (86%) & 70 men]
Mauritania	
Violent Extremism: Sensitizations in border communities on the dangers of terrorism, the proliferation of small arms and mines in 8 cities/wilayas	420 [252 women (60%) & 168 men]
Training of border agents on preventing/countering threats of terrorism	80 agents
	3 integrated border management committees established in Hodh Charghi, Hodh El Gharbi, and Assaba



Activity Description	Direct/indirect Beneficiaries
	8500 flyers distributed & 35000 people reached
Demining area of Sebkhya Fogra (North-Western Mauritania by the border with Western Sahara)	1,000,000 square meters cleaned
	35 anti-mine vehicles destroyed
	93 antipersonnel mines destroyed
Niger	
Installation of Multifunctional Platforms	3
Labor intensive activities by young people (creation of half-moon, house building for the platforms)	220 (121 women & 99 men)
Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories	5
Community Alert Systems for Early & Emergency Response	10
Vocational training of young people in sewing, mechanics	50 (24 women & 26 men)
Income Generating Activities for young people for small business, retail, animal rearing	50 (23 women & 27 men)
Access to electricity through the multifunctional platforms	6000 (direct and indirect beneficiaries)