



SAHEL

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL



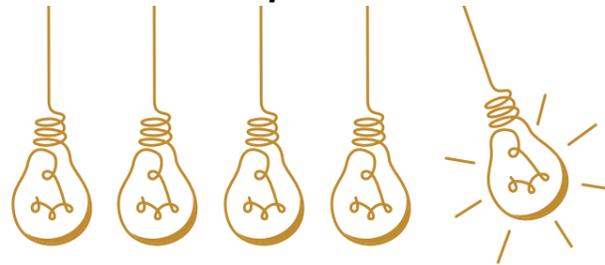
THE GRIOT

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Office of the Special Coordinator
for the Sahel (OSCS)



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FOREWORD

ABDOULAYE MAR DIEYE

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The Sahel is literally a youthful region, with two thirds of its population being young vibrant people, 46 to 50 percent of the region's population under 15 years old, and under 24 said to number above 230 million. This indeed is an asset and represents great hope for the future of the region.

Recognizing the power of Africa's youth, African Union member states adopted in 2006 the African Youth Charter to reaffirm their commitment to the development of the continent's population between the ages 14 and 35 years old, and to ensure the participation and involvement of young people in the development agenda of Africa.

The United Nations Integrated Strategy of the Sahel (UNISS) also underscores a focus on youth as critical to addressing root causes of the multifaced challenges in Sahel. Thus, youth empowerment constitutes one of the priority areas of intervention of its accompanying United Nations Support Plan (UNSP).

Young women and men of the Sahel have shown incredible resilience and creativity in various fields. In this edition of the newsletter, we will showcase just a few initiatives led by youth. These are innovative, effective and inclusive responses from nine (9) young men and women who are real actors of change in the Sahel, tackling the challenges facing their countries and making a difference in their communities. Please note that from where they come from, there are many more.

So, kindly allow us to take you on a journey from Cameroon, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger to Senegal, where we will be highlighting the transformative actions of youth, with a focus on climate resilient agriculture, transformation and technology to protect the environment.

In this same month in conjunction with Generation Unlimited (GEN-U), a global multi-sector partnership set up to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people, we have jointly, with the active participation of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, started the process of establishing a Generation Unlimited Sahel! More on this, inside this newsletter.

In light of all of the above and more, we dedicate this edition of the newsletter to all the brave young people who are contributing to building strong foundations for thriving Sahelian societies, sparing no effort to ensure a better future for themselves and their countries.

Thus, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Moussa, Teslem, Almamy, Issoufa, Fanna, Mariana, Fatima, Rodrigue and Larissa for sharing their stories and for inspiring other young people and all of us.

I congratulate the Offices, Agencies, Funds and Programmes of the United Nations and Partners for their work in supporting the youth of the Sahel. Finally, a special thank you to the United Nations Resident Coordinators offices that delegated focal points to assist in the production of this edition of the newsletter.

I hope you will be enthused by these stories and that it will guide governments, United Nations and partners' decisions and interventions in support of youth empowerment.

In the words of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during his 2019 New Year's address, "in a world in turmoil, youth are our greatest source of hope."

Enjoy!

ABDOULAYE MAR DIEYE

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

02

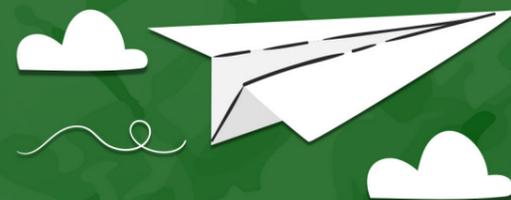
DISCOVER WITH US

DESTINATION: SAHEL

DESTINATION SENEGAL



MOUSSA DIOUF
30 YEARS OLD
CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE
CONSULTANT AND FOUNDER OF
AGRO EXPERT FARMING



Let's Go Green!

Moussa Diouf, 30 years-old from Senegal, is an expert in sustainable management of horticultural agro-systems, a consultant on Climate Smart Agriculture an entrepreneur and founder of Agro Expert Farming (based in the region of Thiès); he is active in the production and marketing of products and also provides training for others. He is also the initiator of Let's Feed Africa, a non-profit association active in the field of agriculture. He holds a diploma in agro-ecology.

During the preparation of his thesis for the validation of his master's degree, Moussa already knew what he wanted to do. His internship at the Institut Sénégalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA) and the difficulties encountered by young people after leaving university only heightened his desire to become an agricultural entrepreneur.

To achieve this, Moussa had the idea to provide training to young people who, like him, wanted to work in agriculture. Through the Horticultural Center Petit Mbao and his startup, Agro Expert Farming, he launched a training course on the techniques of vegetable gardening. The first seminar lasted 5 days with the participation of 20 people paying 25 000 Fcfa each. Through this exercise, which was done monthly, he was able to raise capital to start his own business.

Currently, Moussa is working with the NGO, United Purpose on a project in the Saint Louis region called Soil Management for Promoting Climate Resilience, which aims to promote agro-ecological practices that will enable small farmers in the Senegal River Valley to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

In St. Louis, for example, before the intervention of his company, a group of women farmers had varying difficulties with the soil, attacks by insects on their crops and cultivated sole vegetables. Thanks to the training offered, the women are now able to grow various vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, eggplant, and chili peppers, allowing them to diversify their production, sell and earn money. This has contributed to the evolution of their interest group. With this group of 25 women, Moussa and his team have adopted a mentoring system, through which they train at least 10 people per month. In 3 months, over 750 people have benefited from this training.



AT FIRST, I HAD NOTHING, I HAD JUST GRADUATED. THROUGH A FACEBOOK PAGE I CREATED WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I OCCASIONALLY SHARED STORIES ON OUR EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS, THE ACTIVITIES AND DISCOVERIES ON THE FIELD. TO START A FARMING BUSINESS, YOU NEED LAND, MONEY, MATERIALS, WHICH I DIDN'T HAVE AT THAT TIME, BUT I WAS MOTIVATED BY THE IDEA OF HAVING MY OWN FARMING BUSINESS.



“

MY SATISFACTION IS WHEN I GET CALLS FROM PEOPLE TELLING ME THAT, THROUGH MY TRAININGS AND FACEBOOK POSTS, THEY WERE ABLE TO GET INTO AGRIBUSINESS. THIS PROVES THAT IN RETURN THEY ARE ALSO IMPACTING OTHERS OR CREATING JOBS.

I LOVE WHAT I DO. THE GREATEST PLEASURE I GET TODAY IS NOT THE MONEY, IT'S THE FACT THAT I CAN HELP OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE GROW. I ASK YOUNG PEOPLE NOT TO WAIT FOR A JOB FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT TO TRY TO START DOING SOMETHING AND I KNOW THAT WE CAN FIND IT IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE



More than **10,000** people trained in Senegal, including youth, women and the elderly



More than **10,000** farmers sensitized on climate change in local languages and through local radios



Support provided to women's groups who have adopted climate friendly agricultural practices and increased their yields



60% of young people trained were able to create an agricultural business



Creation of a networking platform allowing farmers to sell their harvest



Established partnerships with organizations such as GIZ, United-Purpose, CIPA in Mbao, Sahel Vert and other producers' organizations

DESTINATION

MAURITANIA



TESLEM MINT MEISSA

23 YEARS OLD
FOUNDER - SAHA CAFÉ



A Cup of Coffee with a Twist!

Inspired by her grandmother who used to roast date pits and mix them with milk to make an herbal tea, **Teslem Mint Meissa** from Mauritania, 23 years-old, started making "coffee" from date pits. SAHA CAFÉ, as it is called, is the product of three years of research on how to produce coffee with dates. In 2018, after graduating with a professional degree in logistics and transportation, the idea came to her to recycle this natural waste and make it an ecological and economical product.

How does this work? She works in collaboration with a group of women who collect the pits for her, which she then recycles, turning them into a product. Teslem has been able to empower the women as this engagement has had a direct impact on their income. In her summation, to make her country better, and the larger the Sahel, she is committed to highlighting the opportunities it offers through innovation and entrepreneurship, which she believes will help change the negative view of the Sahel. ([Click Here](#))

With the financial support of 30 thousand MRU (684.19 Euros) by OPPAFRIKA, a programme that finances craft projects, and the encouragement of her friends and family, in May 2021, the first "coffee" made of date pits was born.

And it gets better. While Teslem is awaiting approval for sale of the coffee from date products, she is working on developing other products from date pits such as beauty products (e.g oils and scrubs), a process which she has already begun to experiment on. She also intends to export to other countries in the sub-region and has already gotten interest from a country in the region. And she is not done, because currently, Teslem is pursuing her master's degree in economic analysis at the University of Nouakchott.

So, when next in Nouakchott, look out for SAHA Café and have a cup on us!

“

I got into this business because of the great advantages in terms of economic feasibility and human health benefits.

My ambition is to transform this artisanal project into an industrial project, from Saha coffee to a food processing company that will create employment.

Mobilize, create, innovate, undertake and sow in the minds of the new generation that creating and valuing local products is an asset. Never underestimate the work, start small, start with the means you have.

My vision is to make my coffee accessible to everyone in the world and thereby inspire other young people.

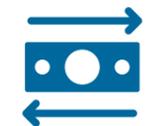


الصحة
SAHA CAFÉ

قهوة مستخلصة من نواة التمر
café à base de noyaux de dattes

من مذاق جيد
إلى صحة جيدة

Du bon gout
à une bonne santé



Product accessibility to all (sold at 50 MRU per 100 grams (1.15 euros), i.e. 4 times cheaper than imported coffee)



Promotion of local agricultural products



Financial empowerment of women's artisanal organizations that are the main suppliers of the raw material, i.e. date pits



It offers an alternative, pure and healthy drink for people who want to reduce their caffeine consumption.

DESTINATION MAURITANIA



ALMAMY CHOUAIBOU DIAGANA

25 YEARS OLD
CO-FOUNDER - SMART SYSTEM
SERVICES



Trash That, Trash It Smart!

Alamy Chouaibou Diagana, 25 years old from Mauritania, developed smart system services with his older brother in 2018, the first smart trash collection and processing system used in Mauritania to reduce problems related to waste management. His initiative aligns with the SDG 3, 9 and 11.

The smart trash system aims, among other things, to: notify and alert when trash bins are filled up and ready for collection, indicate trash bin locations, measure the level of methane gas produced; and coordinate waste collection.

Alamy, holds a higher technician diploma in networks and telecommunications, technical-commercial option, and a License 3 in Finance and Management. He is also the co-founder of RIMROBOTIQUE, a YouTube educational channel that trains the public on robotics and electronics ([Click Here](#)). He is also co-founder and President of the Union of Young Mauritanian Entrepreneurs and a member of the Network of Young Mauritanian Scientists.



AT ONE POINT, THE CITY OF NOUAKCHOTT WAS DIRTY, AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO CLEAN IT UP AT A LOWER COST AND ALLOW THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF NOUAKCHOTT TO HAVE ACCESS TO A WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE.



Objectives of Smart Trash Systems

Through Smart System Services the following solutions have been developed:



SMART TRASH

Manufacture smart garbage cans; Intelligent, ecological and sustainable waste collection and management; Environmental Consulting and Waste Management Plan.



DROPOFF

Make waste collection service providers accessible to individuals, without subscription or commitment.



SMART ECOLO

Digital portal freely available to town halls to report filled garbage cans, illegal garbage dumping, and public places not served by waste collection, through the mobile application SMART TRASH.



I BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE TECHNOLOGY IS A MEANS FOR PEOPLE TO BE MORE HUMAN AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT. I BELIEVE THAT NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE A WAY TO ERADICATE MOST OF THE PROBLEMS OF OUR DAILY LIVES IN OUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES. I STRONGLY BELIEVE IN THIS AND TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE MUST MAKE ACCESSIBLE AND INTEREST THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THESE TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH ONLY LIMIT IS THE REACH OF OUR IMAGINATIONS.



I HAVE MUCH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: I SEE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY OUR VAST TERRITORY, THE SAHEL; I SEE YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG PEOPLE TURNING MORE TOWARDS THE PROFESSIONS OF THE FUTURE; I SEE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO PREFER TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL HERE IN THE SAHEL, RATHER THAN TO GO ABROAD; I SEE MY COMPANY BECOMING, ALONGSIDE OTHERS, ONE OF THE AFRICAN MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, IN TERMS OF INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.



30 young people trained on waste management and the environment



20 young people trained in electronics and field data collection using software such as KOBOTOOLBOX, BUSINESS MODEL CANEVAS and DESIGN THINKING



Discussions with the Government, on the implementation of a legal framework for waste management; agreement with a town hall for implementation of Smart Trash and negotiations with others



Meeting with the Nouakchott Region President on efficient waste management, and its environmental impact, leading to a collaboration with ASTON (African Smart Town Network)

DESTINATION NIGER



ISSOUFA BACHIR BOUNOU

36 YEARS OLD
FOUNDER - AGRI-BUSINESS
CONSULTING (ABC)



Leadership and Growth

Agro-Environmentalist Engineer, **Issoufa Bachir Bounou**, 36 years old from Niger, is a Doctor of Soil Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana), AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) Programme, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

After his graduation in 2015 and the training in leadership of the program Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI-USA) in 2016, he created the company Agri-Business Consulting (ABC). Motivated by the spirit of helping young people develop their talent in agribusiness and the creation of employment, he aims to strengthen skills in scientific research, agricultural innovation, and inclusive agribusiness. Issoufa collaborates with producers, young people living in rural and urban areas of Niger and young leaders in the region (Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Congo, Cameroon etc.), and also works on entrepreneurial leadership.

He is the promoter of several projects in the agricultural field through ABC.



“

MY FIRST BIG CHALLENGE GROWING UP WAS HOW TO FINISH SCHOOL. MOST PEOPLE SAY THAT CHILDREN BORN INTO POOR FAMILIES DO NOT WIN ANYTHING THROUGH FORMAL EDUCATION. I HAD IT IN MY HEAD THAT WITH EFFORT, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

WORKING WITH YOUTH IS, IN MY OPINION THE BASIS FOR ANY SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT. MY EFFORT AND CONVICTION ENABLED ME TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST UNIVERSITY DEGREE (PHD IN AGRONOMY), A FIRST IN MY VILLAGE. I HAVE BECOME A ROLE MODEL FOR THE YOUTH IN MY COMMUNITY.

Agri-Business Consulting (ABC) Projects

01 FROM BLACK TO GREEN

Through this project, ABC promises to improve the household solid waste sector in Niger by integrating a participatory approach using the 'sorting trash' technique.

02 E-KOKARI (EFFORT)

An Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform for accessing information (crop production and protection technologies, weather and advisory support) from their cell phones anywhere in Niger to help them improve their agricultural and pastoral production.

03 FARAHA.NET

An E-Commerce solution platform in Agri Business that allows women and young people to sell their garden produce, pastoral and rice products on the Internet, thereby increasing their financial income and popularizing their products (In prototyping phase).

04 THE AGRICULTURAL-SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

It helps farmers and students develop their agricultural business models adapted to the climatic conditions of Niger. It promotes a new model of commercial agriculture that combines innovative practices with ecological agriculture.



2,000

Producers accompanied on the project for dissemination of new varieties of cowpea (IT98K-205-8 and IT97K-499-35) to increase the resilience of producers to climate change in the regions of Tillabery and Zinder (Niger)



12,000

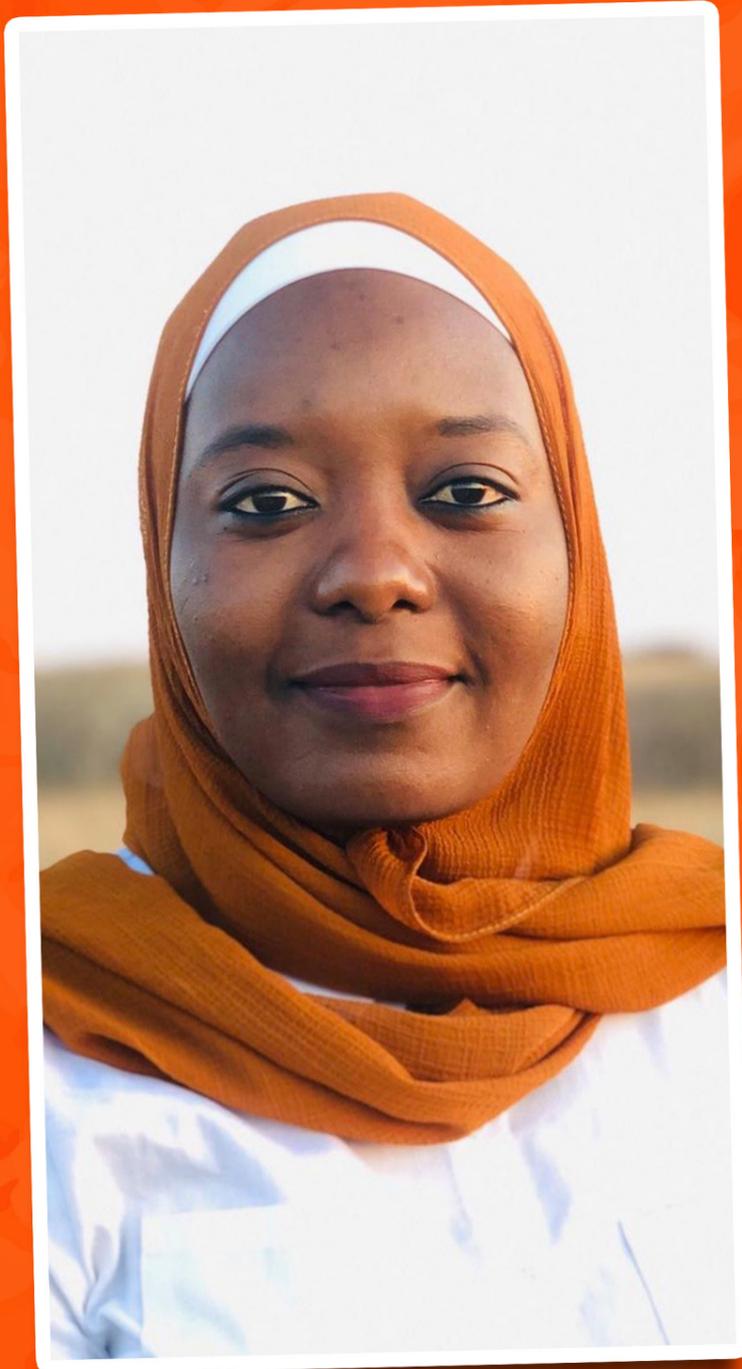
Producers accompanied on the project to disseminate new horticultural techniques to increase the nutritional conditions of the population of Niger (household garden)



36,000

Producers in the Niamey and Tillabéry regions (32 villages involved) and Diffa have benefited from the practical training programme for young people in agribusiness and leadership

DESTINATION NIGER



DR. FANNA MAÏNA

**34 YEARS OLD
BIOTECHNOLOGY ENGINEER**



A Confluence of the Old and the New: Agricultural Genetics

Born and raised in Zinder, Niger, **Dr Fanna Maïna**, 34 years old, is a biotechnology engineer at the University Saad Dahleb (Blida, Algeria). She holds a Master's degree in Biodiversity and Environmental Management from the University Dan Dicko Dan Koulodou (Maradi, Niger), and pursued her academic training at Kansas State University (Kansas, USA), where she obtained a PhD degree in agronomy.

In Niger, she works with multidisciplinary teams in institutions and laboratories (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger-INRAN) on crop improvement in the Sahel. She is particularly interested in developing tools that can facilitate new methods in breeding programmes, to ensure effective crop improvement by identifying the best breeding strategy.

Specifically, Fanna studies plant genetics to help build the capacity of small breeding programs to develop and deliver better-adapted varieties for smallholder farmers and end-users for current and future environments.

Her work seeks to bridge the gap between scientific and farmers' knowledge to develop new crop varieties adapted to growing environments by using participatory varietal selection. Thus, every step of her research and implementation is linked to how rural people understand and use the product, which is why Fanna surveyed and worked with more than 60 farmers in villages in Niger.

Fanna is motivated by the ability and opportunity to improve many people's lives, especially young people. Her successes and the work she does every day pushes her forward.

Her country and Algeria support her in her studies and research activities. She is also a former fellow of the USAID Feed the Future Sorghum and Millet Innovation Laboratory, collaborates with international agencies through her institution INRAN and works actively on national and international projects that impact the populations of West Africa. She is very passionate about sharing knowledge, inspiring young scientists and learning more. Therefore, outside of her work, Fanna is involved in training students and technicians in laboratory testing, especially in molecular biology and bioinformatics, in Niger.





My country has experienced severe food crises over the years, often due to reduced agricultural production. I witnessed the second food crisis in 2004 when many farmers did not produce crops due to lack of rainfall and locust invasion. If we do not act quickly, food shortages will be recurrent in the Sahel. My vision is to ensure food and nutritional security in the Sahel, in the face of climate change.

I see a future where no one goes to bed hungry, where food is not a matter of luck or privilege. A future where young people have the opportunity to contribute and make an impact in the community. I want to see my work reach millions of people around the world, to fight hunger and improve livelihoods

I call on young people to believe in themselves, to work hard and to make their voices heard. Our work and achievements will benefit not only local people in the Sahel, but also many communities around the world.



DESTINATION

GUINEA



MARIAMA CIRE CAMARA

22 YEARS OLD
AGRICULTURAL
ENTREPRENEUR



From Land to Table!

When 22-year-old **Mariama Cire Camara** from Guinea talks about her career and the impact she wants to have in her community, she emphasizes her passion for agriculture, the possibility of self-sufficiency and food security, and the creation of jobs for youth and women.

Holder of a bachelor's degree from the Institut Supérieur de Formation à Distance, she is dynamic and enterprising. She has taken numerous training courses in entrepreneurship, agricultural techniques, and the processing and marketing of local products. This has enabled her to develop garden crops such as potatoes, eggplants and chilli peppers on a two-hectare land which she markets through her company Sonna for Sustainable Development, Sonna being her mother's name.

Mariama started farming out of passion and to contribute to the fight against poverty, create jobs for other young people and prevent irregular migration.

Thanks to the INTEGRA programme initiated by the European Union, she has benefited from coaching in the preparation of business plans, which she is utilizing to grow her business. And wait for it, she is not only a young and enterprising farmer, she is also an active advocate for women and girl's rights through the NGO 'Amical des Jeunes et Femmes Leaders de Guinée' of which she is the President. We dare say that we will be hearing much of Mariama in the future!

“

SINCE I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, I FOLLOWED MY MOTHER TO HER GARDEN WHERE SHE WAS GROWING VEGETABLES. AS I GREW UP, I FOLLOWED HER STEPS, THUS WHAT I AM DOING PRESENTLY CAME FROM THERE. I SEE WITH OPTIMISM A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THE SAHEL AND FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN. MY AMBITIONS ARE TO CREATE MORE THAN 5,000 JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN BY 2030, TO INCREASE MY PRODUCTION AND TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF MY BUSINESS TO OTHER LOCALITIES IN GUINEA AND THE SUB-REGION.

Community Impact

Since 2017 to present, she has successfully impacted her community through:



EMPLOYMENT

The creation of 150 direct and indirect jobs (100 girls and 50 young men)



LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

Contribution to local development and environmental protection through climate-friendly agriculture



CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building of 6 women's agricultural groups and sharing of expertise in cultivation techniques



NETWORKING

The sharing of experience with entrepreneurial friends from the sub-region, specifically from Senegal and Mali



RURAL COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration with local populations, especially those in the rural areas of Dounet and Soumbalako



“

I STARTED WITH 250,000 GUINEAN FRANCS (13,976 FCFA) THAT I BORROWED FROM A FRIEND, AND THEN THE PDAIG (INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN GUINEA), A GUINEAN ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY THE WORLD BANK THAT HELPS FARMERS, GRANTED ME FINANCING.

THE JOY IN MY WORK IS TO BE IN ACTION AND TO SEE YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRED BY ME. MY GREATEST PRIDE IS THE SUPPORT OF MY PARENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO TODAY TAKE MY EXAMPLE AS A MODEL

DESTINATION GUINEA



FATOUMATA CHERIF

31 YEARS OLD
BLOGGER AND ACTIVIST



Rubbish Selfies?

Standing in the middle of a rubbish dump with her smartphone, Guinean blogger **Fatoumata Cherif**, 31, captures a 360 degrees selfie video of her surroundings. She calls it a 'rubbish-selfie'.

Since 2017, Fatoumata has been leveraging technology and social media to draw attention to poor trash management in her home country, especially the garbage that took over the seashores of the capital city of Conakry.

In the face of this reality, Fatoumata got into action: she devised a strategy based on taking selfies, which are snapshots or short videos of herself with a backdrop that shows trash in public spaces in her city. She aimed to raise public awareness of the problem of trash in Conakry and to mobilize community support to clean public spaces. Once she published the "rubbish-selfies" online, people started sharing and commenting on it, and given the public interest, Fatoumata decided to move from social media to field action. She was quickly joined by a team of volunteers and other young people who were drawn to the cause.

Together, they decided to clean the beach of Tombo at the tip of Conakry and the beach of La Minière – a popular neighbourhood beach that had become a dump. Over several months the team would meet every Sunday until they transformed the beach into an attractive area for sports and recreational activities. For both cleaning efforts, nearly 400 youth volunteers and from local associations were mobilized.

Fatoumata is proud that the "rubbish-selfies" initiative has now been replicated in several countries across Africa, including Mauritania, Senegal, Cameroon, Mauritius and Madagascar. Today, Fatoumata has embarked on a new mission, using information technology to foster civic engagement. The main objective is to promote and educate young people on existing laws linked to climate change, desertification and the preservation of the environment. She says: **"If we don't know that these laws exist, we can't really contribute to their implementation in the field."**

She is collaborating with local and international partners, including students at Guinean universities, to develop an application, an interactive map that will allow citizens to be alerted to and report environmental problems.

For Fatoumata, if her country is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is crucial to stimulate change at the local level and involve communities.





It had become something normal; the trash was there every day and it was no longer a problem. I said to myself that we had to draw the attention of the citizens, but also of those in power. Youth, when made aware of a problem, can take action.

We chose to clean the beach of Tombo because it was in front of a school, and we thought about the message that this gave to the children who are taught that the environment must be preserved, when in front of them, the beach has become a rubbish dump.

If we don't manage to change something locally, we won't be able to reach the global targets and so at my level, I had to do something as a citizen.



DESTINATION CAMEROON



RODRIGUE SATEU

30 YEARS OLD
CO-FOUNDER AND NATIONAL
COORDINATOR OF YOUTHKMER
VOLUNTEER FOR SDGS



Community Action!

Touched by the problems of his community, **Rodrigue Sateu**, a 30-year-old Cameroonian, resigned from his job as a computer scientist and development and quality assistant, which was becoming too demanding and prevented him from doing what he dreamed of: to build a better world. Today, he works with a team of 11 other young people to bring concrete solutions to the problems identified in their community.

Rodrigue is now co-founder and National Coordinator of Youthkmer Volunteer for SDGs. This organization aims to engage youth in advocacy, mobilize them and the private sector around concrete action – focused on the needs of the Sahel – that can lead to the development of their communities and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Implementation of activities to promote social cohesion
- Capacity building of youth and youth associations
- Implement behavioral change awareness activities
- Awareness and commitment of schools and institutions to education for sustainable development
- Sharing information and resources in the ten (10) regions of Cameroon with particular emphasis on the Adamaoua, North and Far North regions
- Supporting the best, popularizing best practices and rewarding champions
- Implementation of actions aimed at protecting the environment and combating desertification

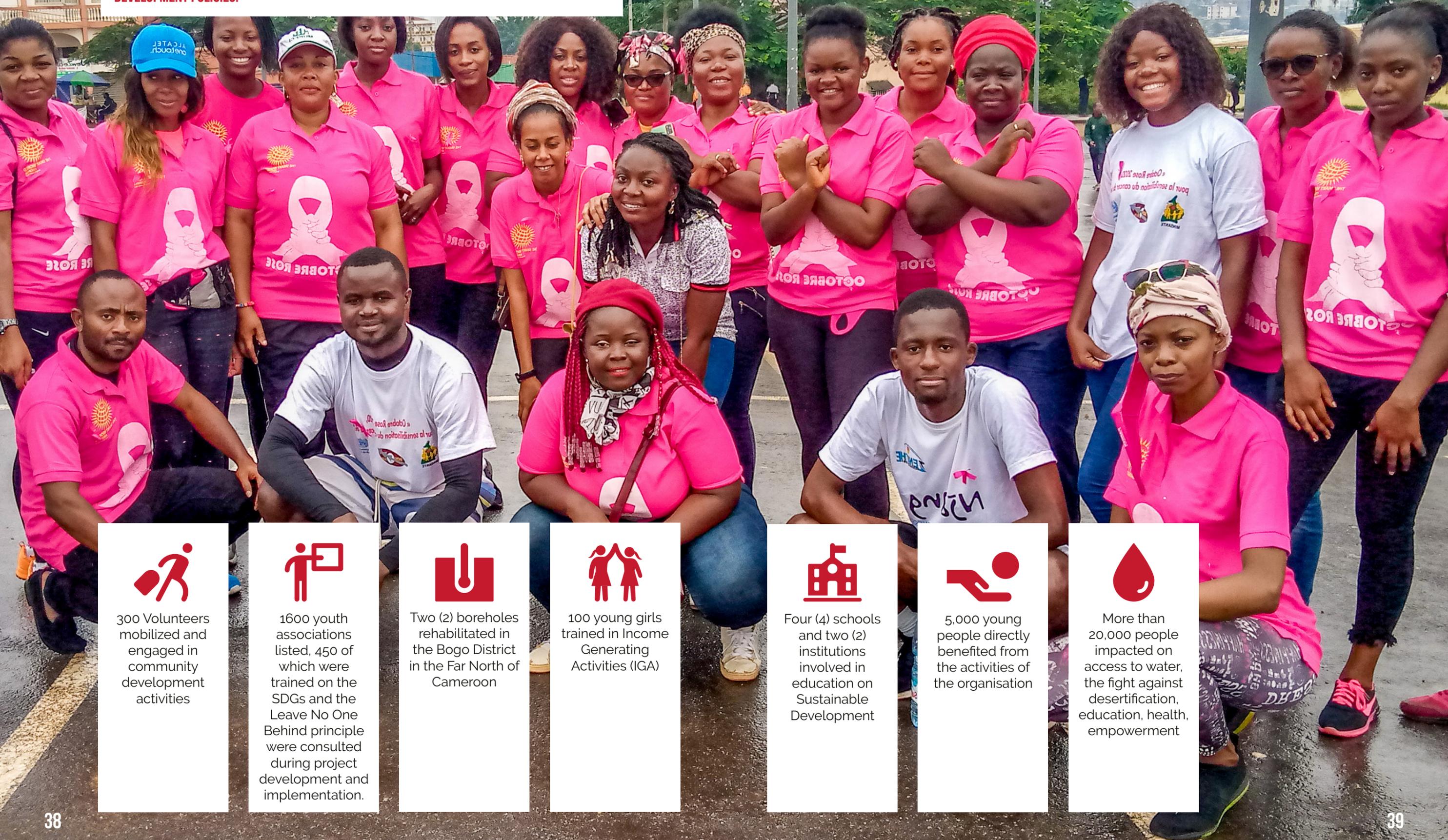
Rodrigue is also the founding president of The Smart World Association and the DigCit Movement. Within this framework, he is active with other youth and local communities and in developing their communities. For example, in the region of Maroua in Far North Cameroon, the collaboration with the youth, in an anti-pollution project, allowed for the identification of points of accumulation of plastic bottles, which were causing risks, and use of technical and logistical support to remove them.

“

I DECIDED TO WORK TO BRING THE CHANGE I DREAMED OF FOR THE SAHEL. THE SMILE I GIVE PEOPLE THROUGH MY ACTIONS GIVES ME THE MOTIVATION TO GET OUT OF BED EVERY MORNING.

66

I DREAM OF A GREEN SAHEL, A SAHEL WHERE WOMEN AND YOUTH ARE PLACED AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.



300 Volunteers mobilized and engaged in community development activities



1600 youth associations listed, 450 of which were trained on the SDGs and the Leave No One Behind principle were consulted during project development and implementation.



Two (2) boreholes rehabilitated in the Bogo District in the Far North of Cameroon



100 young girls trained in Income Generating Activities (IGA)



Four (4) schools and two (2) institutions involved in education on Sustainable Development



5,000 young people directly benefited from the activities of the organisation



More than 20,000 people impacted on access to water, the fight against desertification, education, health, empowerment

DESTINATION CAMEROON



**LARISSA ELYSÉE
TUAYO FEUGUIM**

**27 YEARS OLD
ENVIRONMENTALIST**



Reducing Climate Footprint, One Office at a Time

27-year-old Cameroonian **Larissa Elysée Tuayo Feuguim** is passionate about environmental issues and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. She studied Physical Geography and then enrolled in a master's degree programme in Natural Resource Management for the Climate Change and REDD+ option.

Upon completing her studies, she was recruited as an intern greening officer at the Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience Unit of the UNDP office in Cameroon. Larissa drafted a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy Paper for the office. She called for projects from the Greening the Blue initiative and submitted a proposal to her supervisor, who guided her throughout the process. A few months later, her project was selected and funded up to 65%. The office supported the rest and appointed her as a Youth UN Volunteer to implement the project and support the operationalization of the 'UNDP Cameroon goes green' program. The project aims to contribute to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of UNDP Cameroon Office by 25% by 2025 through awareness-raising on good practices (better management of electricity, water, waste, papers and eco-driving); calculation of the office's greenhouse gas emissions; migration to renewable energy; support to the process of revising Cameroon's National Determined Contribution (NDC), she also assists the office in addressing SDG target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality through the global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network initiative.

Besides the office, the project has had a significant impact on the surrounding community. First of all, on the staff of UNDP Cameroon (about 130 staff) who, after the solar lamp installations and switch to LED Bulb and street lighting at the UNDP Cameroon office and considering the huge savings that the office made in financial terms, decided to switch their various homes to green. We will like to acknowledge UNDP Greening Moonshot, who funded all these activities.

Larissa did not stop there. During the celebration of World Environment Day 2021, she worked with about 50 young people on the importance of sustainable waste management. They collected about 2,000 plastic bottles from the streets of Yaoundé and handed them over to recycling company and with fellow UN Volunteers, they planted 200 trees. Her actions helped raise US\$63,000 from the UNDP Greening Moonshot Fund to implement the 'Greening the Blue' initiative.

Before joining the UN System, Larissa worked with people living with disabilities and orphans to strengthen their knowledge on climate change issues, especially how they can adapt to it by practising Urban Agriculture (production of their vegetables, among others) to sustain themselves.





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MY MOTTO IS TO STOP THE COMMON MISPERCEPTION ABOUT THE SAHEL: 'THE SAHEL IS NOT THE DESERT! THE SAHEL IS NOT POVERTY! THE SAHEL IS NOT DEVOID OF BIODIVERSITY'

“

MY PRIMARY MOTIVATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE LAWS OF NATURE AND TO BE A CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST WHO UNDERSTANDS GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND OTHER LAWS OF NATURE. BUT THE HOPE OF SEEING THINGS IMPROVE IS MY BIGGEST MOTIVATION BECAUSE WITH THE AWARENESS SESSIONS ON GOOD PRACTICES AND THE FACT THAT THE STAFF ARE MORE AND MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT I DO ON A DAILY BASIS GIVES ME A GREAT HOPE, THAT OF A BETTER FUTURE

03

WHAT'S NEW



**ANNOUNCEMENTS
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
AND EVENTS**

Unlocking Opportunities for Youth in the Sahel

On Wednesday, 7 July, 2021 the United Nations Under Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for the Sahel, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye and the Chief Executive Officer of Generation Unlimited (Gen U), Kevin Frey conveyed a meeting to discuss the setting up of a u GenU Sahel with Youth Representatives, Regional Directors and UN Resident Coordinators in the ten countries under the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).

Youth being a top priority for the UNISS and the UN Support Plan for the region, Gen U Sahel will serve as a unique platform to connect the Youths with the public and private sector with an aim to create job opportunities, equip young people with the right skills and tools to adapt to technological and economic change, and massively boost employment in the region contributing to the transformation of the Sahel.

In addition to empowering young people of the Sahel, the regional model will also help foster coordination of youth related programmes and activities implemented at the country and regional level, and harmonization of frameworks and strategies, including the UN Youth 2030 Strategy and the G5 Sahel Strategy for Youth among others, while developing new approaches for governments, institutions and businesses to better engage with youth.

The initiative was welcomed by the seventy-one participants, including young social-entrepreneurs, who expressed their interest and support to the regional platform which will enable the youth of the Sahel to finally have a seat at the table, make their voice heard and actively contribute to the development, stability and prosperity of their countries and region.

The Special Coordinator and GenU CEO recalled that over half the population in the Sahel is under 25 and that nothing can be done without the creativity, energy and innovation that our Youth can bring to the transformation process required to turn challenges in the Sahel into opportunities.

GenU Sahel will be officially launched in September through a set of concrete actions that are being developed by Youth, for Youth and with Youth.

Young people will be in the driving seat of GenU Sahel to shape their present and future.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Launch of the Gen U Sahel
Conversations with Sahel populations on Spark Blue
Governance Roundtable Discussions

Communications

Social Media Campaign on Changing the Sahel Narrative

Knowledge products

Rapid Assessment Study of UN Investment in the Sahel
5W Mapping exercise
Predictive Analysis Project

On Friday, 9 July 2021, the Sahel region received US\$1.6 Billion from the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), and other development partners, in support of development and resilience of the Sahelian countries within the framework of UNISS.

The funding will be distributed across all ten countries under the UNISS, 40% of the development and stabilization investment will contribute to implement activities under the following five pillars of work: (1) Higher education infrastructure, development for youth and resilience in cross border areas, (2) Socioeconomic and financial inclusion and empowerment of youth, (3) Private sector development, (4) Women's economic empowerment and (5) Early childhood development.



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FOR MORE

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PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

PARTNERS

Government Partners



Financial Institutions



Regional and Sub-Regional Partners



UNITED NATIONS IN THE SAHEL

OSCS - Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel

UNOWAS - United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

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

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

WFP - World Food Programme

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ILO - International Labour Organization

IOM - International Organization for Migration

IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development

UNCDF - United Nations Capital Development Fund

OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

WHO - World Health Organization

UNECA - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Dessertification

UNIC - United Nations Information Centre

MINUSMA - United Nations Mission in Mali

UN-PBF - United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

UNAIDS - United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNV - United Nations Volunteers

SPECIAL THANKS

Mrs. Yasmine Chaitou
RCO Mauritania Focal Point

M. Thierno Souleymane Bah
RCO Guinea Focal Point

M. Jean Njita
RCO Cameroon Focal Point

Regional Directors

Resident Coordinators

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs)

PRODUCTION TEAM

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UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL

Working Together for a Prosperous and Peaceful Sahel

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