



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Crises in the Central Sahel: Adaptation, Resilience, and NGO Leadership in the Face of Growing Challenges

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

14:00 – 15:30 (GMT)

Online

The Central Sahel region is facing one of the most severe crises on the continent, with over 3.3 million people forcibly displaced (UNHCR) due to several years of armed conflict.

This already critical situation is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which is worsening food security and threatening the lives of nearly 50 million people (Cadre Harmonisé 2024). Essential services, such as education and healthcare, are particularly affected, especially in remote rural areas. The crisis is disproportionately impacting women, girls, and children. To effectively address these needs, it is crucial to establish complementary approaches between humanitarian and development interventions in the region. However, recent coups in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso have severely disrupted funding, particularly bilateral aid and climate funds, while also exacerbating humanitarian access challenges. The disengagement of donors from the region poses a major risk that could further worsen humanitarian and development needs.

Despite these challenges, national and international NGOs continue to provide vital assistance and improve access to basic services through adaptive strategies and innovative solutions. In the face of the urgent and complex challenges in the region, context-specific funding for the Sahel and strengthened support through humanitarian diplomacy at all levels are essential to maintaining effective and sustainable responses.

This briefing is part of a quarterly series also covering the Lake Chad Basin, Central Africa (DRC, CAR), and Coastal Countries.

Objectives of the briefing:

- Demonstrate the adaptive capacities of national and international NGOs to stay and deliver in the context of the Central Sahel.
- Explore opportunities for additional support from the diplomatic community and Technical and Financial Partners (TFP).

Guiding questions:

- How do NGOs continue to operate within a complex and evolving environment in the Central Sahel?
- What kind of support do NGOs need to strengthen these efforts?

Duration: 1h30



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14h – 14h05	Welcoming participants
14h05 – 14h15	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Brief overview of humanitarian and development needs</i> ✓ <i>Complexity and challenges faced by NGOs</i> ✓ <i>Situation and funding trends in the Sahel</i>
14h15 – 14h45	Frontline NGOs adapting to a challenging environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Example from Mali</i> ✓ <i>Example from Niger</i> ✓ <i>Example from Burkina Faso</i> Questions & Answers
14h45 – 15h15	What support from the diplomatic community/Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) provide to accompany these efforts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Effective and tailored funding mechanisms for the complexity of the context: the example of the Sahel Regional Fund (SRF).</i> ✓ <i>Willingness and efforts to stay committed in a complex environment: the example of the World Bank.</i> ✓ <i>The role of humanitarian diplomacy in the protection of humanitarian space: examples from past experiences in the region.</i> ✓ <i>Intervention from the Swiss Special Envoy for the Sahel.</i> Questions & Answers
15h15 – 15h30	Conclusion and recommendations

Participants:

- Donors/Financial Institutions.
- Decision-makers/Diplomats.
- NGOs (national and international).
- UN Agencies.

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