

# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL REGION THROUGH JOB CREATION FOR YOUTH

The Sahel region faces many challenges, including insecurity, rising extremism, and lack of economic prospects and employment opportunities. In this context, the number of young people in the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) is unprecedented, with over 60 percent of the population below 25 years of age. Two thirds of them live in rural areas and are poorer and more often lack access to employment, skills, financial services and technology than adults. In addition, because of their vulnerabilities, they may be at risk of radicalization, negative coping mechanisms or migration, given that this region is also both the departure point for migrants and a key corridor of different migration routes. If no action is taken to improve access to education, vocational training and quality employment, the Sahel could potentially become a hub of mass migration, losing its younger generations in search prospects not available in the region, and becoming a potential hotspot for recruitment and training of radical groups.

To build sustainable peace in the Sahel region, urgent attention is therefore needed to bridge the humanitarian-development and peace nexus, while systematically enhancing youth's opportunities to support their countries economically, environmentally and socially, in order to address adverse drivers of youth migration and prevent some triggers of radicalization or tendencies towards negative coping mechanisms.



## GOAL

The project assists in building resilience and social cohesion among rural youth in fragile contexts in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), and in helping them to access sustainable employment opportunities, including piloting employment schemes (both rapid-temporary and long-term ones). The focus on youth livelihoods support, training and empowerment supports the humanitarian-development and peace continuum in the region, and addresses selected adverse drivers of youth migration and youth radicalization.

## IMPACT

The creation of rapid temporary employment, and ultimately sustainable employment and livelihoods for rural youth in fragile contexts, will lead to increased resilience and stability, and enhanced social cohesion. It will also have an impact on the long-term sustainability of peace in the region.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 1 600 442

### Duration

September 2020 – August 2023

### Resource Partners

Federal Government of Germany,  
Federal Ministry of Food and  
Agriculture (BMEL)

### Beneficiaries

Rural young women and men, rural youth  
networks, Ministries of Youth, Ministries  
of Agriculture, Ministries of Labour and  
producers' organizations in the five target  
countries

# APPROACH

The project is interlinked with FAO's overall corporate programme on youth employment, Decent Jobs for Rural Youth, which addresses the main drivers of improved job prospects in rural areas. In particular, through its specific pilot nature, the project is innovatively designed to bridge the humanitarian-development and peace nexus, while job creation for young women and men is at the core of its activities. The outputs include:

- enhancing global-level recognition towards the piloted approach, with featuring/reporting/contribution of project activities in global processes;
- strengthening local, national and regional capacities for youth employment-centred policy coherence and planning, including by sharing good practices for integrated solutions; and
- developing an action plan for youth-inclusive and resilient economic transformation pathways, informed by youth engagement and accompanied by technical support to develop financing plans in G5 Sahel countries.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/050/GER  
Donor ID: GER-FAO-2020-2

## Project Title

Building resilience in the Sahel Region through job creation for youth - Bridging the humanitarian-development nexus in the context of fragility

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