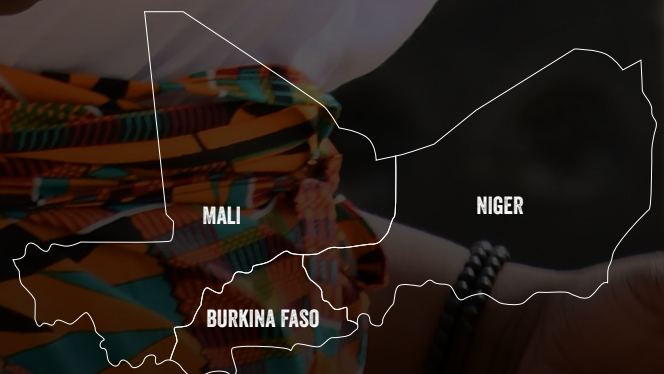




YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN CRISIS

**AT THE CENTRE IN
THE CENTRAL SAHEL RESPONSE**

PROJECT BRIEF
1st April 2021 - 31st March 2023



In the context of the humanitarian crisis affecting the Central Sahel, this project supports young people, especially girls and young women, working with them through their own associations, organisations and networks, as well as their communities and societies, by:



Increasing economic assets



Increasing social assets



Improving social cohesion



Strengthening gender transformation



Improving their adaptation to climate change



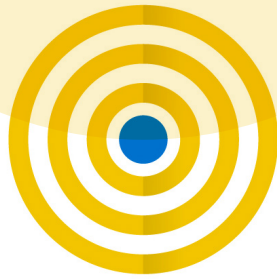
APPROACH

Plan International works with different stakeholders so that girls and young women become more resilient in overcoming the social, economic and environmental challenges that currently undermine their rights in the three Central Sahel countries. By doing so, we contribute to strengthening communities' resilience and protection, especially for young women and girls. Even in crisis settings, Plan International works to advance equality for girls. Through strategic partnerships, our interventions in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are implemented in a coordinated, multisectoral, and integrated approach that intensifies our gender transformative programming and influencing initiatives, and fully embed the HDP (humanitarian-development-peace) nexus.

CONTEXT

The Central Sahel has been plagued by an unprecedented humanitarian crisis for close to a decade with needs that have drastically increased in the last two years, in correlation with protracted conflict, massive population displacement, socio-political instability, and climate change combined with major inflation and food shortages due to the Ukraine crisis. The lingering effects of climate change in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger combined with challenges to address the root causes of the endemic poverty, limited access to essential services and livelihoods, and human rights violations in conflict-affected areas will likely continue to affect the protection of the most vulnerable communities and increase their humanitarian needs.

TARGET



5,137
DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS
in the 3 countries

17,168
INDIRECT
PARTICIPANTS
in the 3 countries

The project aims to reach vulnerable host communities, internally displaced persons, and refugees with at least **70% OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS.**





INTERVENTION AREAS

Burkina Faso: Koupela commune (Centre-East region), Kaya and Pissila communes (Centre-North region)

Mali: Timbuktu

Niger: Tillaberi and Tera communes (Tillaberi region)

FUNDING

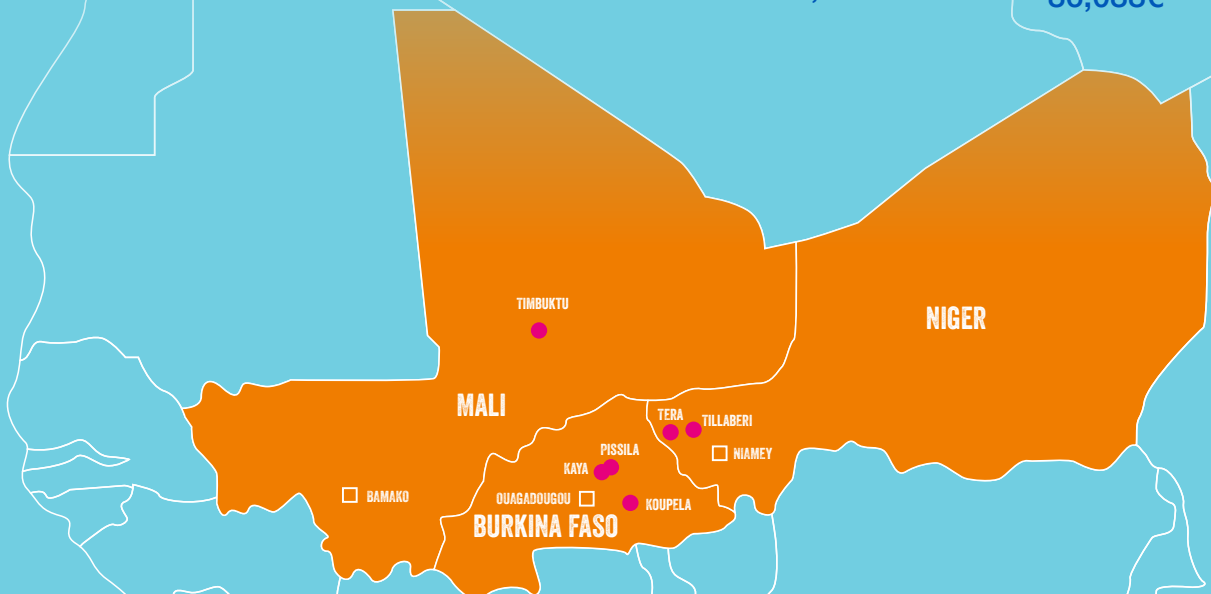
Mali:
378,350€

Niger:
238,353€

Burkina Faso:
86,088€

Total:
928,043€

Regional budget:
225,253€



OUTPUTS OF THE PROJECT

I. ENGAGEMENT OF MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR YOUTH ACTIVISM ASSOCIATIONS IN THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE, BY UPSCALING THE YOUTH CHALLENGE FUND (YCF) MECHANISM

- Funding of 46 initiatives of associations and groups of young people through the flexible mechanism of the YCF
- At least 10 networks of young activists in the Central Sahel supported through training opportunities, webinars, online meetings, etc.
- Technical support for the monitoring and coordination of the YCF Program.

The Youth Challenge Fund is an inclusive, competitive, flexible, and participatory fund initiated by Plan International supporting girls and youth groups (participants aged 15 to 30) in West and Central Africa. It aims to strengthen girls' and youth organizations and support them in implementing innovative projects and community services that provide solutions to their challenges.



II. YOUNG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY YOUNG WOMEN, BENEFIT FROM ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND ENGAGE IN STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION BETWEEN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES, DISPLACED PERSONS/REFUGEES

- Support to non-formal vocational training initiatives for out-of-school and displaced girls
- Identification of and support to decent income-generating activities for and/or professional integration of young people, with a focus on girls and young women
- Implementation of youth-led community prevention initiatives supporting the rebuilding of community cohesion.



III. THE VOICES OF YOUTH, ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN CRISIS ARE AMPLIFIED

- Amplifying the voice and power of girls through the dissemination of various communication products
- Joint influencing and advocacy initiatives
- Creating and strengthening safe spaces for girls to express themselves, both virtual and in-person
- Identification of and political engagement with partners, decision-makers, and various organizations.

Girls Out Loud provides safe, private online spaces for girls to discuss key gender issues.

In private Facebook and Instagram groups moderated by Plan International, girls ask questions and discuss topics such as self-image, gender-based violence and adolescent pregnancy.

Girls Out Loud is now live in 18 countries throughout the world, and is giving girls a voice in the changing world in addition to amplifying their voices through technology.

Girls Out Loud in Burkina Faso, the world's most dynamic group.

Created on 10 June 2020, #Yatpugnet Burkina has 1,150 members as of November 2022. The participants are adolescent girls and young women aged 13 to 24 living in the main cities including areas affected by the security and displacement crisis.

#Yatpugnet Burkina also organises meetups and events to include vulnerable girls with no access to internet and mobile technologies.



TESTIMONIES



BURKINA FASO - ABSETOU, KAYA

Because of the training provided under the project, Absetou, 26, now understands the hardships IDPs endure through their displacement.

"Plan International has advised us on how to live with IDPs, so that they can feel good. I have displaced friends, we talk together. Some of them tell us their story. I tell myself that I have suffered but at least I am not alone."



NIGER - AMINA, TILLABERI

Amina, 20, is a member of an association that received funding under the YCF.

"Our association is the local youth council of Tillaberi, so we cover everything related to young people, who make up the majority of the population here. We aim to promote and protect children's rights, and to solve problems related to employment, health, poverty, education, violence, insecurity, etc. as far as possible. With this funding, we will socialise the laws about children's rights and try to convince parents living in Tillaberi to respect those rights. We have planned artistic activities and awareness raising activities in the communities."



MALI - DRAMANE, TIMBUKTU

Dramane Cisse, 45, is a peer educator trained in peace and social cohesion by the project.

"During the sensitisation sessions, people talk very openly. They know that the discussions are confidential, so they feel very comfortable. We got to the bottom of the reasons for the conflicts in the discussions, and it got better. The sessions were so useful that the participants asked us to continue."



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Plan International is fully committed to providing a safe, protective and supportive environment for all children, young boys and girls in all their diversity. Their welfare, development and dignity will at all times be of paramount consideration.

The pictures are used for illustrative purposes.