

Vision Statement for Sahel Regional Fund 2030

The SRF is a **pioneering financing mechanism led by NGOs** piloting new approaches in the Sahel region. The SRF is committed to providing **protection and humanitarian assistance** to conflict and displacement affected populations in hard-to-reach and resource-scarce locations across the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and East Chad region. The SRF Theory of Change serves as the cornerstone of our vision, fostering a blend of diverse intermediate roles, co-implementation models, and catalytic projects. Our goal is to enhance the operational approaches of NGOs in the Sahel region to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian aid by getting more resources into the hands of people in need.

Our vision is propelled by four **synergistic funding windows**, each contributing to:

- Local Aid Acceleration: Speeding up the process of localizing aid.
- Enhanced Humanitarian Impact Aid: Boosting the efficiency and impact of humanitarian aid in the Sahel.

These funding windows support:

1. Scalable Humanitarian Operations: NGO-led consortia collaborating with N/LNGOs to expand humanitarian efforts and adapt programs in a cost-effective manner.
2. N/LNGO Empowerment: N/LNGOs gaining influence and recognition to steer the localisation agenda and humanitarian response, bolstered by their enhanced capacity to provide high-quality, value-for-money emergency assistance in compliance with regulations in Sahel's hard to reach areas.
3. Catalytic investment: Strategic funding in research, innovation and coordination acting as a catalyst to significantly improve the quality of responses and advance the humanitarian reform agenda.

This multisectoral and integrated approach aims to transform the landscape of humanitarian aid delivery in the Sahel, ensuring more localized, efficient, and impactful response that respects the dignity of affected communities. As local, national and international humanitarian agencies, our vision encompasses the following essential elements:

1. **Quality Funding:** The SRF aims to revolutionize funding by ensuring that resources directly reach those on the ground; we emphasize flexibility, predictability, and multi-year funding. Multi-year funding improves and strengthens our ability to plan longer term, and subsequently, better address ongoing and emerging challenges. Furthermore, flexibility offers us the opportunity to adapt our response and thus remain relevant to rapidly evolving Sahel contexts and humanitarian needs. Lastly, predictability and multi-year funding improves our ability to plan and allocate resources efficiently -this reduces uncertainty and enhances long-term planning, stability and continuity, allowing us to better address ongoing

conflicts and the growing challenges of accessing hard to reach locations in Sahel countries. Thus, quality funding aims to maximize impact.

2. **Investing Differently:** As NGO led fund, we see an opportunity to invest differently and thus reducing humanitarian intervention that are supply driven. We emphasize transparency and participation of affected population for resource allocation and project design. Our approach focuses on efficient use of resources to allow for better value for money. We support a blend of different NGO actors offering substantial and relevant technical and geographical complementarities. We dedicate resources to local actors to strengthen their organisational and technical capacity. By doing so, we can more effectively and gradually address the immediate and growing needs of conflict- and displacement-affected populations at a larger scale. Local actors can respond swiftly during emergencies. By redirecting resources where they are most needed, we ensure resources directly benefit those in need and thus ensure meaningful outcomes for affected communities.
3. **Equitable Partnerships:** We promote partnerships and capacity sharing that respect and value local knowledge, expertise, and agency. We encourage the co-construction of innovative and sustainable approaches that enhance the impact of humanitarian actions. By doing so, we account to people affected by crises and who benefit from the responses provided, our partners and ourselves.
4. **Building resilience:** Building local capacity strengthens resilience. Communities become better equipped to handle future crises independently. Increasing access to basic services ensures that communities receive essential support for their long-term well-being. We work together to build a multi-sectoral, integrated, adaptive and gradual approach based on the real needs of the targeted vulnerable communities. The SRF recognizes that humanitarian efforts must complement existing development initiatives and therefore must align with national recovery plans. By doing so, we bridge the gap between immediate relief and sustainable solutions through multiyear and flexible funding, as well as complimentary capacity support.
5. **Supporting national and local duty bearers' efforts and community-based system:** Supporting national and local duty bearers as well as community-based system through targeted and systematic engagement is essential for effective and contextually relevant humanitarian assistance. It strengthens self and community resilience and ensures that aid efforts align with local needs and priorities. By doing so, we will build trust with communities, local and national actors and promote lasting change.

Localisation is not just a goal; it's a fundamental principle cutting across our governance system, as well as our financial and programmatic framework that guides our actions toward a more equitable and effective humanitarian response.



Our Guiding Principles: Agility, Intelligence, and Relevance:

Agility: We adapt swiftly to changing contexts, seizing opportunities and addressing challenges with flexibility. Our actions remain nimble, ensuring timely responses to emerging needs.

Intelligence: Informed decision-making drives our approach. We analyze data, learn from experience, and apply strategic insights. Our intelligence guides effective interventions.

Relevance: We stay attuned to the pulse of the Sahel. Our actions align with the real needs of affected populations. Relevance ensures meaningful impact and lasting solutions.

Accountability: We are accountable to the people we assist, our partners and ourselves. We will take responsibility for our actions and provide means, processes and tools to be held accountable vis a vis our actions, principles and commitments.

Transparency: We will uphold transparency in our decision-making. Transparency in humanitarian aid is crucial for ensuring that resources are used effectively and reach those in need. Our transparent practices will contribute to build trust between donors, NGOs, and the communities we serve. This trust is essential for the successful implementation of aid programs.

This vision drives our mission and guides our actions toward a safer, more dignified future for all.