



### Project 5: Gender and Peace: let's mobilize for an inclusive peacebuilding process

October 2024



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#### Duration:

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Length:     | 2.5 years     |
| Start Date: | February 2023 |
| End Date:   | June 2025     |

#### Budget:

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$1.5 Million</b> |
| <b>EXTRA:</b> | <b>£1 Million*</b>   |

#### Implementing Agencies and Partners:

**COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale**

**Partners:** Association de Coopération et de Recherche pour le développement au Tchad (ACORD Tchad); CELIAF

#### CONTEXT

In Chad, gender and human rights issues are major challenges. Chad ranks 4th globally in terms of gender inequality, according to the Human Development Index and the Gini index, calculated in 2022. Several laws have been enacted to combat discrimination against women, including Law No. 001/PR/2017 of 8 May 2017, which criminalizes numerous forms of gender-based violence, and the law ratifying Ordinance No. 12/PR/2018, which sets a 30 percent quota for women in all appointed positions, with the aim of gradually moving the quota toward parity.

Since 2014, the Lake Chad Basin region, including the Lake province, has been affected by numerous incidents and threats, resulting in the displacement of millions of persons in the area, including internal displaced persons and refugees. The security situation remains concerning, with non-state armed groups, including Boko Haram, spreading insecurity. Residents are caught in a conflict trap, exacerbated by climate change.

In the Lake Chad region, the marginalization of women and girls worsens within this insecure context, driven by various structural and multi-faceted factors. These include land conflicts, unequal access to natural resources, chronic underdevelopment, limited national government presence, and periodic flooding, combined with the insurgency of the non-state terrorist group Boko Haram. Inequalities and discriminatory practices, particularly against women, girls and vulnerable groups, as well as gender-based violence, are widespread.

Women and girls are excluded from dialogue on peace issues and remain marginalized from economic and social life due to discriminatory social norms. They are further marginalized in terms of access to economic services, land ownership and control. In rural areas, 15 percent of women own land (21 percent share it with others), compared to 58 percent of men who own land (7 percent share it).

#### OBJECTIVES

The "Gender and Peace" project, approved as part of the 2022 global call of the Gender Promotion Initiative, aims to create an environment conducive to locally-led peacebuilding initiatives.

**\*This project has benefited from an additional allocation of £1,000,000 from the UK (FCDO/ISF) which allowed to extend and strengthen the project's actions**

It seeks to implement the Women, Peace, and Security agenda at the local level, supported by women-led organizations and the two Chadian networks, Cellule de liaison des associations Féminines (CELIAF) and Association de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement (ACORD).

Specifically, the project's objectives are to:

- Promote inclusive dialogue spaces for peace, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence, including through traditional mechanisms and authorities.
- Strengthen the capacities of women's organizations and networks to contribute to these dialogues and promote gender equality, through micro-grants.
- Reduce the socio-economic marginalization of women and girls through a revolving fund, encouraging men's advocacy for a culture of equality.

## PEACEBUILDING IMPACT

The two networks collaborated with members of 80 women-led civil society organizations, engaging approximately 1,360 members across the Bol, Liwa, Bagasola and Ngouri departments in the Lac province of Chad. The members participated in capacity-building activities on project cycle management to develop local peacebuilding proposals, with 34 proposals funded in 2024. More than 200 members also received training on women's leadership and entrepreneurship, paving the way for a revolving fund designed to empower them economically and socially by the project's end in 2025. The revolving fund has supported over 1,500 women in their economic projects. Psychological and medical care have also been provided to victims of SGBV.

Through advocacy with local and traditional authorities for gender empowerment and equality, authorities in the four departments have adopted action plans committing to the full, meaningful and effective participation of women and young women in local and provincial decision-making and conflict management. These action plans are now integrated into departmental development plans. In addition, 84 local change agents have initiated mediation and negotiation actions to identify and resolve 28 local conflicts amicably within their communities.

Out-of-school girls and women aged 14 to 25 have also been involved in project activities, appropriate to their age, to promote empowerment and participation in the peacebuilding process and socio-economic activities.

The project has fostered behavioral changes in individuals and institutions conducive to peacebuilding, altering perceptions of women's contributions to social cohesion. Through training and awareness-raising campaigns, 93 percent of women in the project area reported becoming aware of the importance of their participation in peacebuilding mechanisms (up from 37 percent at the project's start), and 94 percent of men committed to promoting gender equality and combating GBV. Furthermore, 450 men participated in discussions on the causes of GBV, how to prevent it, and how to promote gender equality. More women also reported awareness of national policies promoting gender equality.

### Testimonial

*"I've been here in the Ngouri zone for five years, and I know the plight of women in this locality. They are endowed, discriminated against and subjugated at every level, but today I see a change. Women organizing meetings and calling us to reason and to the smooth running of life in society is something to be proud of."*

**The Zone Commander of the Ngouri territorial brigade**

*"This project deserves a ceremony of encouragement and congratulation for the actions carried out in my department. We can't yet say that your project has succeeded; there's still a long way to go, but the results are nonetheless visible. Thanks to your actions and the advocacy carried out by the women, the members of the committee and myself have integrated Mrs. Fatimé Adam Abaye as a permanent member."*

**The Prefect of Mamdi, Chairman of the Comité Départemental d'Action (CDA)**