



Consolidation of Peace Through the Engagement of Women and Youth and Strengthening the Capacity of Communities in the Border Region of Hodh Chargui


October 2023



Duration

Length: **18 months**
Start Date: **24/09/2020**
End Date: **24/03/2022**

Budget

 TOTAL: **\$1,500,000**
UNHCR: **\$800,000**
IOM: **\$700,000**

Implementing Agencies



Partners

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC) Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Original Education
Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports
ONG Globe
Save the Children
SOS Desert (National NGO)
Local elected officials
Local Communities

CONTEXT

Analysis carried out by UNHCR in 2020 revealed the urgency to avoid an escalation of tensions into open conflicts. Most of the [conflicts identified between Malian refugees and the host population of Hodh Chargui \(HEC\) occur over the sharing of natural resources \(watering points, grazing, land sharing...\)](#) in a region where pressure on nature resources are high (weak agricultural production, reduced grazing areas, difficult access to water,...) and risks of instrumentalizations of grievances by violent extremist groups were high.

The project builds on pre-existing efforts by stakeholders to promote peaceful coexistence in the Hodh Chargui and is designed to support the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus through conflict prevention.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Strengthen social cohesion in the Hodh Chargui region through better inclusion of young people and women in local communities and regional institutional decision-making process, and in the socio-economic life of their communities.
- ▶ Support vulnerable communities (refugees, migrants and host communities) in the border areas of HEC with particular attention to women and young men and women.
- ▶ Support communities through better, meaningful socio-economic inclusion of youth and women based on a better understanding of the dynamics of radicalization and the role of young people and women as agents of peace, the creation or strengthening of local and inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

- ▶ Around 100 conflicts regarding access to natural resources were resolved by the village committees. Conflict resolution at community level has allowed to anticipate conflicts and reduce their impact on social cohesion.
- ▶ A framework for cooperation between village committees and authorities was developed in line with local development plans, and strengthened collaboration between these actors. The support to village committees was mentioned and incorporated in these plans.
- ▶ A meaningful inclusion of young people and women in local decision-making was achieved. Today, around 75% of village committee members are young people and women, compared with only 40% previously.

- ▶ The project contributed to the strengthening of the Mbera Fire brigade, as well as the creation of 8 eight fire brigades outside the camp.
- ▶ In terms of social cohesion, the village committees and the camp's fire brigade, as well as those established outside the camp, continue to play an important role in conflict resolution as well as in the fight against bush fires. For example, in 2022, around ten bushfires were extinguished by fire brigades and village committees. In terms of sustainability, the setting up of management committees for income generating activities, including not only beneficiaries but also representatives of village committees and communes, has ensured the continuity of activities and their economic impact on women.
- ▶ Official recognition of the committees and inclusion of their work in communal development plans ensures the sustainability of these community-based conflict prevention and management structures.

Project achievements and other key results:

- ▶ 58 new village committees created, and 76 existing village committees were revitalized and trained on community management with a better inclusion of youth and women in the decision-making process (77% of committee members are women and young men).
- ▶ Creation of 14 mixed women's and youth clubs including host and refugee populations
- ▶ Creation of a cooperation framework aimed at strengthening dialogue and collaboration between authorities and village committees.
- ▶ [Publication of a study on the vulnerability of the refugee and host youth in the Hodh Chargui](#)
- ▶ Elaboration of participatory community plans for the identification of communities' prior needs.
- ▶ Construction of community stores, livestock feed stores, market garden well and drinking water supply network in two localities (Avernane, Koussana)

■ CATALYTIC EFFECTS

Financial:

- ▶ MRP : \$ 1.100.000
- ▶ ECHO : \$ 1.500.000
- ▶ Japan : \$ 300.000

Non-financial:

Official recognition of the 134 village committees created and revitalized through an official decision signed by the governor of the HEC region (Wali). This has enabled the committees to work more closely with the authorities to resolve community conflicts and is the major institutional catalytic effect of the project.