



Transforming food systems in Africa's  
drylands into global opportunities



*The transformation of Africa's drylands is not just a local challenge but a global opportunity. By investing in sustainable food systems, we can unlock the potential of these regions to nourish both their people and the world, fostering growth and resilience across the continent and beyond.*



**Abdou Diouf**  
former President of the Republic of Senegal



# A Green and Nourishing Sahel: a Source of Inspiration for the World!

**A**s climate change continues to gain ground around the world, the African continent, and Africa’s drylands in particular, stand on the front lines. Despite this vulnerability, some 300 million people are making the most of a region that has abundant economic potential and continues to demonstrate great resilience in times of crisis.

This includes Sahelian agriculture, which is the cornerstone of Africa’s future. Highly diversified according to climatic zone and natural environments, it supports agri-food chains with substantial social, economic and environmental value, and is a reservoir of innovative practices and local expertise, powered by dynamic, committed individuals.

Since the creation of SOS SAHEL, almost 50 years ago, we have been able to witness the ingenuity and resilience of the people of the Sahel. In collaboration with our partners, we are driving innovative, scalable solutions to tackle food insecurity and climate change. Our approach is grounded in local knowledge, resources, and community-driven dynamics.

Our commitment to transforming food systems directly supports global development goals: the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. Both frameworks aim for sustainable development and shared growth.

**Jean Lelong,**  
*President of SOS SAHEL International France*

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# 1. ABOUT US

Together, Actors of Change

**S**OS SAHEL International France, SOS SAHEL USA, and A BETTER LIFE join forces with communities, combining their expertise to build a fairer and more sustainable future. Our mission: to promote and support a new generation of agripreneurs and social entrepreneurs who are true catalysts of agricultural change. Our approach is based on a measurable impact strategy to sustainably transform food systems in drylands.



As a leader in environmental sustainability, food security, and nutrition, SOS SAHEL has developed and implemented impactful programs such as the Green Initiative. These initiatives are designed to strengthen local economies, enhance resilience to climate change, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Our priority is to empower local actors — especially women — by ensuring they play a central role in production and agricultural development. By investing in African-led solutions that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, SOS SAHEL fosters long-term growth and prosperity in the region.



A BETTER LIFE focuses on unlocking Africa's vast potential to address food and nutrition insecurity through sustainable development. Our initiatives include:

- Building a network of experts
- Promoting social entrepreneurship
- Creating platforms for sharing knowledge and experiences
- Leading a network of branded service centers
- Coordinating investments to drive impactful change

## OUR CORE VALUES

### Inclusiveness



Giving a voice to those who are too often overlooked, by fostering participatory approaches in which communities are fully involved and become actors of their own future.

### Sustainability



Promoting long-term solutions that reconcile economic development with the preservation of natural resources and ecosystems.

### Innovation



Encouraging new ideas, practices and approaches to transform food systems and agricultural models, drawing on local knowledge and experience.

### Partnership



Building strong, trust-based and collaborative relationships with local and global partners to achieve collective and lasting impact.



# Hakili! Our 2030 Strategy Empowering the Future of the Sahel

**Hakili!** ("Intelligence" in Dioula) is SOS SAHEL's 2020-2030 strategy, designed to empower Sahelian communities, particularly women, to unlock their region's potential through sustainable, African-led solutions. Building on the lessons learned from the "Sahel Network 2014-2020" strategy, Hakili! reflects extensive collaboration with local actors and international partners.

Through nine operational workshops and targeted initiatives, SOS SAHEL and its partners aim to achieve the Green Initiative and advance several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), creating a green, resilient, and nurturing Sahel by 2030.



## Our Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline 17 global priorities designed to encourage socially fair, environmentally sound, economically viable, inclusive, and enduring development by 2030. Adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, these objectives establish a reference framework for all actors in the development sector. Key Objectives and SDG Alignment.

### KEY OBJECTIVES AND SDG ALIGNMENT



#### EMPOWER AGRIPRENEURS

Equip agricultural entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to drive innovation in food production.



This supports **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** by enhancing food security through sustainable farming.



#### PRIORITIZING COLLABORATION

In alignment with **SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals**, SOS SAHEL fosters collaboration between diverse stakeholders from both the Global North and South to



mobilize financial resources for developing innovative and tailored solutions.



#### PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

Ensure women are at the forefront of agricultural development, by promoting greater access to natural resources and services, and by strengthening their leadership, especially within producer organizations.



This aligns with **SDG 5: Gender Equality** and empowers women as pivotal drivers of territorial growth.



#### SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

Promote and implement climate-resilient agricultural techniques to protect ecosystems and mitigate climate impacts.



This contributes to **SDG 13: Climate Action** and **SDG 15: Life on Land**, fostering sustainable land management.



## 2. Governance

At SOS SAHEL, strong governance is essential to achieving sustainable development across Africa.

Our governance structure, which includes SOS SAHEL, SOS SAHEL USA, and A Better Life, brings together a diverse team of leaders from corporate, legal, financial, research, and social impact sectors. This varied expertise enables us to address challenges effectively, with a focus on accountability and transparency.

Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, our governance directly contributes to reducing poverty, enhancing food security, and promoting climate resilience. By embracing partnerships, we leverage our strengths to amplify our impact, driving long-term, sustainable change in the communities we serve.

Our governance is more than a structure; it is a dynamic force that empowers us to respond to complex issues with innovation and adaptability, ensuring our mission remains sustainable and impactful.



*I aim to bring forward-thinking leadership to the Board, drawing on my deep connections in African business, policy, and international development.*

**Akinyi Ochieng-Moses**

Chairwoman SOS SAHEL USA,  
Head of Strategic Planning and Operations  
at the Autodesk Foundation





“My role on the Board of SOS SAHEL USA is deeply meaningful to me. I truly believe the Sahel’s potential far exceeds its challenges. A more prosperous, equitable, and peaceful Sahel is achievable if we prioritize the people of the region and place them at the heart of our future efforts. This vision is precisely what SOS SAHEL embodies. Being a part of this mission means I am committed to supporting an organization with over four decades of experience, helping to scale its impact and continue improving lives across the Sahel.”

**Leena Hoffmann**

Director of SOS SAHEL USA, Associate Fellow of the Africa Programme, Chatham House



“As Vice President of SOS SAHEL, I believe we must shift from traditional aid policies to financing impactful projects that enhance the lives of people in the Sahel. This approach not only helps to retain our youth in their home countries but also instills a sense of dignity and responsibility among them.”

**Sidy Sarr**

Vice-President of SOS SAHEL, Treasurer of A BETTER LIFE, Associate Director of Pyramid Group



“As Vice-Chairman of SOS SAHEL USA, I believe that we can inspire significant and sustainable change in communities and the environment. By creating opportunities and opening new markets, we can empower the people of the Sahel. This approach not only enhances local livelihoods but also addresses the challenges of immigration and terrorism.”

**Pierre Thiam**

Vice-Chairman of SOS SAHEL USA, Chef and co-founder of Yolélé



## 3. Our global impacts

**F**or almost 50 years, SOS SAHEL has worked in close partnership with communities across the Sahel, supporting the initiatives of local development organizations. We engage in dynamic and equitable cooperation with key stakeholders in our program areas.

Our mission is deeply rooted in a network culture that mobilizes a diverse array of stakeholders, fostering collaboration between public and private partners to support our programs. This extensive network includes more than 1,000 partners—ranging from civil society organizations, local authorities, and government bodies to entrepreneurs, research centers, training institutions, regional and international alliances, and donors. Our model is based on sharing knowledge and co-constructing solutions that address the needs and specific features of each territory.

Our partnerships have a powerful impact, demonstrated by the mobilization of diverse financial resources and the establishment of strategic collaborations with political, technical, and scientific experts, all working together to promote sustainable development in the Sahel.

**Remi Hemeryck**  
Executive Director of SOS SAHEL,  
A BETTER LIFE

- **11** countries of intervention
- **1,000** active partners
- **23** projects and programs representing €20 million in field investments







## 4. Partnership at the core of our work

**SOS SAHEL's work embodies SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, the cornerstone of our approach. By uniting diverse stakeholders, we create innovative, scalable solutions that address the region's most pressing challenges.**

This impact report showcases how our partnerships are supporting progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on:

- **Sustainable Social and Economic Growth:** Supporting the social and economic dynamics of territories by mobilizing skills, innovative tools, and technical and financial partners.
- **Natural Ecosystem Restoration:** Protecting and revitalizing landscapes and sustainable resource management.
- **Agroforestry Value Chains:** Enhancing food security and nutrition and economic opportunities for smallholder farmers.
- **Agricultural Services:** Providing farmers with essential tools and knowledge to thrive in a challenging and changing environment.
- **Governance:** Strengthening institutions and promoting dialogue platforms and transparent, accountable decision-making at all levels.
- **Advocacy:** Amplifying the voices of local communities and influencing policies for sustainable change.

This report illustrates our deep commitment to the SDGs, demonstrating the tangible impact of our work in creating a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Sahel. Together, with our partners, we are turning shared visions into lasting change.

# Our impact



## 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

To support the development of a sustainable food system, the Djigui Niokolo Project, initiated by three local NGOs and agricultural producer organizations in southeastern Senegal, brings together a wide range of financial partners and expertise:

- Local development institutions (municipalities and regional agencies) to ensure consultation and co-creation of local development plans.
- Research organizations (ISRA, CIRAD, DSU), training organizations (ABL, ISETA, etc.) to disseminate knowledge and train producers.
- Companies, foundations, and financial partners in the agri-food sector who provide funding and favor market access.
- Experts (ONAS, GRET...) and institutions specialized in water and sanitation services (Ile de France region through its SOLIDAE Program, the Syndicat des Eaux d'Île-de-France) who bring key expertise.



*The fonio program developed with SOS SAHEL in the Kédougou region is a model of multi-stakeholder co-construction through the establishment of consultation frameworks in four communes producing fonio. These meetings bring together mayors, municipal councilors, and representatives from community groups. This dialogue model is essential and highly valued for fostering collaborative work approaches and jointly evaluating the results of our actions.*

**Pape Gorgui Gueye,**  
SADEV Coordinator (Senegal, Kedougou)



**17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.**

- The Africa Days events, organized each year by SOS SAHEL, bring together a wide variety of experts, researchers, and practitioners. These gatherings, structured around thematic discussions and collaborative workshops, provide a platform for exchanging ideas on innovative practices and shared challenges. By fostering networking among local and international stakeholders, these events contribute to the emergence of sustainable partnerships. They strengthen the collective momentum around sustainable agriculture and climate resilience by encouraging knowledge sharing, skills development, and the co-creation of concrete solutions tailored to the realities of dryland regions.



**17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.**

- In Mali, SOS SAHEL partnered with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to contribute to the large-scale effort of reconstruction and economic recovery in the northern and central regions. In a context weakened by political crisis, our primary objective was to re-engage all stakeholders, producer organizations, grassroots community organizations, local authorities, and the private sector in particular, in order to define development priorities and establish national investment plans. This involves mobilizing and training local actors, and planning together under the leadership of the State. Such an approach is essential to achieving long-term results, as it ensures that mobilization, capacity building, and planning are carried out through an inclusive process led by national authorities.





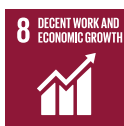


# 5. Territories and ecosystems

Integrating social and economic development at the territorial level to drive systemic changes

**S**OS SAHEL employs a comprehensive territorial approach to advance economic and social development across regions. By linking local activities with national and international markets, we foster synergy between grassroots initiatives and broader national and regional strategies. Our objective is to develop large-scale projects that highlight and enhance Sahelian products, equip and strengthen markets, and establish robust productive infrastructure.

## Our impact



### Decent work and economic growth - 8.3

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

- In Southeastern Senegal, SOS SAHEL is revitalizing the fonio sector, a drought-resistant cereal native to the Sahel that is essential to the region's food security. This initiative takes a holistic approach to the entire fonio food system, including mechanization and commercialization for long-term impact, beyond typical project limits. In collaboration with local associations and authorities, we develop an inclusive approach to territorial management. This approach now allows producers to access markets directly and to develop new partnerships.



### Climate Action - 13b

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized

- In the peripheral regions of the Niokolo-Koba National Park (Tambacounda, Kolda, and Kédougou), SOS SAHEL collaborated with the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research

(ISRA) to carry out a vulnerability study of local communities to assess their exposure to climate change effects. The aim was to identify the main climate risks, analyze the state of natural resources and existing farming practices, in order to develop relevant adaptation solutions and identify the stakeholders to be mobilized. The study highlighted several manifestations of climate change already observed by communities: strong winds, excessive heat, and declining rainfall. It also documented, village by village, the individual and collective strategies developed by farmers to cope with these changes. Building on these insights, agro-sylvo-pastoral farms were established. Designed as true learning hubs, they provide farmers, both women and men, with a space to test different combinations of innovative techniques inspired by agroecology, agroforestry, and crop-livestock integration. The objective is to strengthen local capacities and promote sustainable adaptation to climate change, grounded in knowledge and practices emerging from the field.



### Life on Land - 15.3

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

- In Chad, SOS SAHEL is contributing to the implementation of the Albia Project, led by the government with support from the World Bank, in the Ouadi-Rimé and Ouadi Achim reserve. The largest protected area in the country, it is home to around 70,000 people who directly depend on its natural resources for their livelihoods. Faced with growing pressure on land, driven by desert encroachment, the impacts of climate change, and overexploitation, the challenge is to restore ecosystems while improving living conditions for local populations. SOS SAHEL is working in particular with Chad's National Agency for the Great Green Wall to identify areas vulnerable to sand encroachment and to promote the practice of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) in the most exposed zones.

## Restoring ecosystems to improve communities' livelihoods

**S**OS SAHEL implements programs aimed at restoring land, improving forest cover and usable dry landscapes, protecting soil and vegetation from erosion, preserving ecosystem biodiversity, and replenishing groundwater tables. In its approach, SOS SAHEL promotes gender equality and women's empowerment by raising awareness among community leaders — and men in general — about the need to grant women equal rights to economic and natural resources.

### Our impact



#### Gender equality - 5.a

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources
- SOS SAHEL's Acacia program advanced women's rights and economic empowerment in rural Chad by significantly increasing women's representation in local governance from 10% to 30%. The project also enhanced women's access to financial resources through income generated from acacia gum, improving their control over economic assets and property.



#### Life on Land - 15.3

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

- The Beog Puuto program rehabilitated 30,000 hectares of severely degraded land, to combat desertification and improve soil quality, enhancing food security for 50,000 households. SOS SAHEL adopted a watershed approach that considers the dynamics of natural resources across large geographical areas and empowers local stakeholders, particularly local authorities, women and youth.



#### Life on Land - 15.9

Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

- In the Boucle du Mouhoun region in western Burkina Faso, the Yiriwari project ("improving our lives" in Dioula) supports 10,000 families, including many displaced households, in restoring agricultural production and increasing incomes after the security crisis. Through agroecological practices and soil and water conservation, SOS SAHEL and its partners aim to restore 1,000 hectares in the most affected areas. Implemented in close coordination with local authorities and land stakeholders, the project embeds natural resource protection into local development planning and ensures the sustainability of investments.





## 6. Strengthening Food Systems

Empowering sahelian entrepreneurs to build sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems

**A**ccording to estimates, by 2050, the Sahel will have over 500 million inhabitants who will require a secure environment with abundant opportunities to support their food and nutritional security and sustain their livelihoods. This will be especially crucial within the food economy, which is the region's main source of employment and income.

We support a new generation of Sahelian entrepreneurs committed to sustainable food systems which are compatible with the region's fragile natural environment and climate conditions. In collaboration with our partners, we provide a range of services and tools to thousands of farmers, from production to marketing.

### Our impact



#### Zero Hunger - 2.2

By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

- Following successful experiences in Burkina Faso and Chad, SOS SAHEL is rolling out the "Nutrisco Clubs" concept in Senegal. These clubs are an educational tool designed to combat malnutrition starting in schools. The principle is simple: raise students' awareness of good practices in nutrition, hygiene, and vegetable gardening, while actively involving their families and communities. Each club is built on three pillars: the training of teachers and students, the establishment of a school vegetable garden, and the integration of educational modules combining theory, practice, and collective discussions. The school garden plays a central role: its harvests not only diversify the meals served in school canteens, but also connect learning to concrete, hands-on activities. In the regions of Kolda, Tambacounda, and Kédougou, nine schools are currently implementing

this program. More than 1,000 students are involved, including 289 active members of the clubs (54% of them girls). In addition, over 1,500 kg of vegetables have been harvested from the gardens established. Beyond nutritional outcomes, the clubs foster social cohesion, encourage children to attend school more regularly, and contribute to improved academic performance.



#### Zero Hunger - 2.3

Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers...

- SOS SAHEL has established a network of local agricultural service centers in southeastern Senegal to equip fonio producers with essential resources such as equipment, financing, and seeds, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity. Managed by local producer unions, these centers offer services that ease the workload—particularly for women—at very affordable rates, in partnership with municipalities as part of their development planning. Thanks to these services, fonio production expanded significantly, growing from 50 hectares in 2021 to 440 hectares in 2024.







## Zero Hunger - 2.4

Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

- In Guéra province, central Chad, rural families largely depend on subsistence farming in an increasingly unpredictable climate. Soil degradation, climate change and limited access to inputs particularly affect women farmers. To address these challenges, the Nachbo program supports 3,000 farmers, 70% of whom are women, by strengthening local value chains such as sorghum, groundnuts, sesame and gum arabic. Through cooperative organization, improved market access and targeted technical support, the program fosters a more stable and inclusive local agricultural economy.
- As part of the PARIIS project led by Sahelian States and CILSS, SOS SAHEL also contributed to the development of an online knowledge management platform providing training tools on best practices and irrigation solutions, including modules in local languages.



## Clean water and sanitation - 6.5

By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- In the regions of Tambacounda and Kolda in southern Senegal, outdated drinking water infrastructure limits reliable access for many rural communities. To address this, local leaders in Linkering and Dialacoto implemented a participatory solution aligned with local development priorities. The initiative combined the rehabilitation and extension of water networks with capacity-building for local management. As a result, more than 26,000 people now have sustainable access to safe drinking water, supported by strengthened local governance and community-led management systems.



## Responsible consumption and production - 12.A

Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production:

- The Acacia Fund, initiated by Nexira—a global leader in acacia—and its clients, supports communities involved in producing gum arabic, a key ingredient derived from the acacia tree that is widely used in the food, beverage, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries. By embedding environmental and social values into the value chain, SOS SAHEL and its partners have promoted a responsible approach to production and consumption, benefiting over 30,000 families across two regions in Chad's gum basin. In 100 villages, gum production has increased significantly, from 1,600 tons to over 2,500 tons.

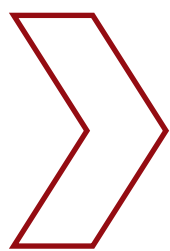


*Before, I didn't really understand my role, nor that of the other members of the borehole steering committee. Since my training, everything is much clearer: I now know what my responsibilities are, and I also understand those of the other committee members. The village of Kalifourou used to face serious problems with access to water. Today, water flows from our taps. And thanks to this, we have organized ourselves to set up a small garden.*



**Oumou Diallo**

President of the COPIFOR (Borehole Steering Committee) of Kalifourou village, in the Kolda region of Senegal



# 7. Advocacy

## Amplifying the voices of local communities

**A**ccording to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Sub-Saharan Africa has 60% of the world's arable land but only produces 10% of global agricultural output. With increased investment in agriculture, Sahelian countries can boost food production and thereby reduce poverty.

For the past ten years, SOS SAHEL has been implementing an advocacy program aimed at raising awareness of the potential of Africa's drylands. Although often perceived as difficult and unproductive, these regions are rich in human skills and natural resources. We undertake advocacy efforts to strengthen support for small-scale farmers, promote their recognition, and highlight traditional agricultural knowledge. To achieve this, we mobilize and engage a diverse range of stakeholders: policymakers, technical and financial partners, communities in our program countries, media, and the general public in both the Global North and South. We employ various levers of action:

- **Establishing strategic partnerships and alliances** by developing collaborations with key regional players who share our values and with whom we can achieve tangible results.
- **Creating multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms** to allow stakeholders to meet, exchange ideas, reflect, and co-create the solutions of tomorrow, whether through events, conferences, or digital platforms that connect different actors.
- **Mobilizing citizens** by launching petitions and digital information campaigns related to the issues facing the Sahel region and the solutions we propose.
- **Communicating through the media** by informing and offering a new narrative about the Sahel, focused on the potential of the region and its success stories.

## Our impact



### Reduced Inequalities -10.2

Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.

- SOS SAHEL's Africa Days were created to amplify the voices of local stakeholders, in particular producers and community-based organizations from the Sahel. Throughout the years, we have promoted sustainable and equitable solutions to food security and brought together stakeholders from various fields, ensuring the inclusion of women and youth, to guarantee fair access to information, encourage dialogue, and facilitate co-construction. Africa Days showcase the enormous potential of the Sahel region and celebrate its indigenous knowledge.



### Climate Action -13.3

Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

- Too often associated with crises, the Sahel deserves to be seen through a new lens, one that highlights the beauty of its landscapes, the richness of its natural resources, and the strength of its communities. In this spirit, SOS SAHEL and Nexira presented the exhibition "Trees of Life" by photographer Nicolas Henry at the ChangeNOW Summit in Paris in March 2024. Through a series of 12 photographs, the artist highlights the diversity of the Sahel's forest resources : trees, fruits, and plants, and reveals their potential for local communities as well as for the wider world. This artistic creation was born from the Acacia Program, which supports gum arabic producers in Chad and illustrates the close link between natural heritage, traditional knowledge, and future-oriented solutions.

The ChangeNOW Summit provided a unique platform to share this message, reaching not only the event's 35,000 participants but also international institutions. SOS SAHEL and Nexira notably presented the exhibition to the President of COP16, Mr. Alain-Richard Donwahi. After Paris, Trees of Life continued its journey in Dakar, where the photographs were showcased to the Senegalese public throughout Environment Month in June 2024, at the Institut Français of Dakar.



#### Partnerships for the Goals -17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships. Advocacy is key to bringing together different stakeholders to work towards common goals.

- SOS SAHEL has continued its awareness-raising and advocacy work in support of the Great Green Wall (GGW), by initiating the creation of a regional working group of non-state actors involved in the GGW. Composed of around ten members with diverse profiles (local authorities, producer organizations, community associations, NGOs, research centers), this group builds on concrete field experience and recognized expertise in key areas of the GGW. Its objective is to strengthen ties between civil society organizations, foster the sharing of experiences, and put forward clear and operational recommendations to the institutions responsible for the GGW. By highlighting proven local solutions, the group helps bring forward the reality of practices—

both successes and challenges—in order to better guide future actions. This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts undertaken in recent years, notably through the Great Green Wall Partners' Platform (PaneGGW), which showcases local initiatives and now brings together nearly 300 actors.

- In June 2024, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africa Days was held in Dakar, bringing together more than 300 participants around a key theme: forgotten crops. Over two days, panels, workshops, cooking competitions, tastings, and artistic performances turned the event into a true platform for collaboration, exchange, and discovery around these long-neglected crops, which are nevertheless essential to food security, biodiversity, and the agricultural sovereignty of the continent. One of the highlights was the official launch of the Alliance of African Crops (ACA). This coalition brings together stakeholders committed to transforming African food systems: producers, researchers, businesses, institutions, and civil society organizations. The Alliance aims to promote these local products, strengthen value chains, encourage research, and facilitate their integration into national markets. The event received strong media coverage. On this occasion, Rémi Hémerlyck, Executive Director of SOS SAHEL, highlighted in an interview with TV5 Monde the strategic role that forgotten crops can play in improving living conditions, strengthening ecosystem resilience, and reinventing the continent's food systems.











# Thank you



All our actions are made possible thanks to the support of our loyal donors and our financial and operational partners. For many years, they have stood by our side, together with Sahelian communities, to build a sustainable future. Together, we are transforming food systems, creating opportunities for farmers—both women and men—and strengthening the resilience and prosperity of the entire region.

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- French Embassy in Senegal
- Swedish Embassy in Burkina Faso
- World Bank
- Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
- Agilent Foundation
- EDF Foundation
- French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development
- JRS Biodiversity Foundation
- Kinder in Not
- French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Nexira
- Principality of Monaco : Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF)
- European Union
- City of Paris
- Centre International de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
- Région Ile de France
- World Food Programme

We thank our field partners for their commitment, professionalism, and spirit of innovation. Together, we are working to strengthen food security and the resilience of local communities.

Photo credit : Nicholas Holt - SOS SAHEL



# Impact Report 2024

Transforming food systems in Africa's drylands into global opportunities

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