

THE SAHEL REGIONAL FUND



The new humanitarian fund to address the recurrent crises in the Sahel region. The SRF is hosted by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), governed and led by leading NGOs in the Sahel and initially supported by UK aid (FCDO). The fund ambition is to evolve into a multi-donor pool fund with a longer timeframe.

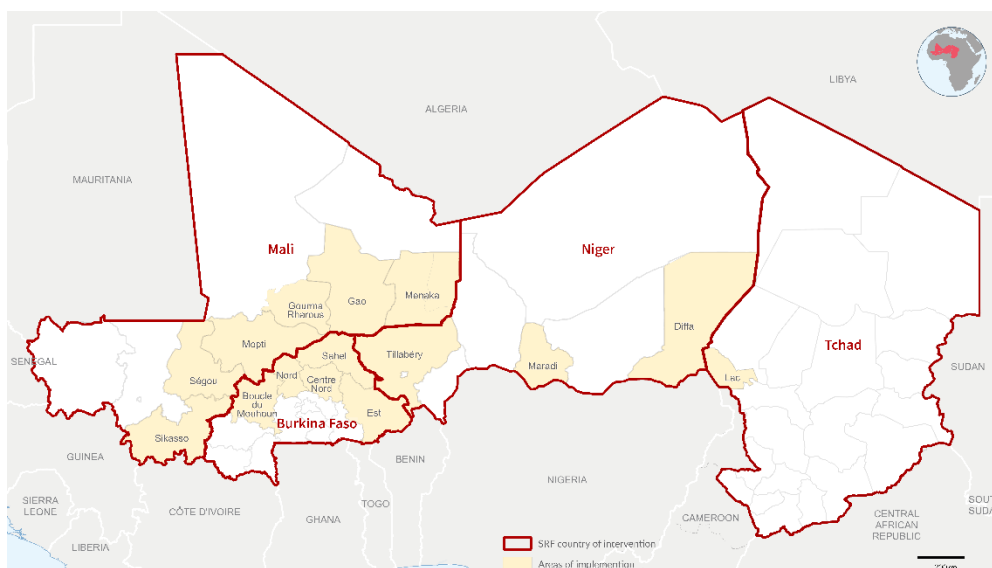
The SRF mission

To reinforce protection and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, by providing funding for immediate relief to affected populations, strengthening local capacities, supporting skilled aid organisations and paving the way for lasting solutions - in particular for women, girls, the elderly, and persons living with disabilities who are amongst those most affected by the crisis.

The objective of this new regional mechanism led by NGOs is to support the implementation of an efficient response model and form evidence on high quality Value for Money approach (VfM). It will closely coordinate with and constructively challenge the broader response to see how we can collectively do better. The goal is to have more vulnerable people in the Sahel hard-to-reach hotspots have as many of their basic needs met more comprehensively through a higher quality, Value for Money (VFM) and principled humanitarian response.

The main purposes of the SRF are to provide predictable, flexible, and long-term funding for international and national humanitarian NGOs, to implement integrated multi- sector and cross-border response, to strategically and inclusively engage with local stakeholders and first responders and to support a more principled and effective response by using data and evidence as drivers for interventions. This will also underpin a joint regional NGO advocacy agenda to influence policy and humanitarian reform.

The sectors of intervention are lifesaving humanitarian assistance addressing food security, nutrition, health, and protection and access to essential services based on socio-economic vulnerabilities and capacities – all while promoting an early recovery approach as the foundation for building resilience in the humanitarian hot spots of the Sahel region.



The SRF geographic focus is Liptako Gourma (LG), Lake Chad Basin (LCB) and South-Western Niger (SW Niger) in the Maradi region.

All three locations are under-resourced hard-to-reach conflict affected, which face challenges coping with the influx of conflict-affected and displaced people. The SRF could later expand its geographical focus.

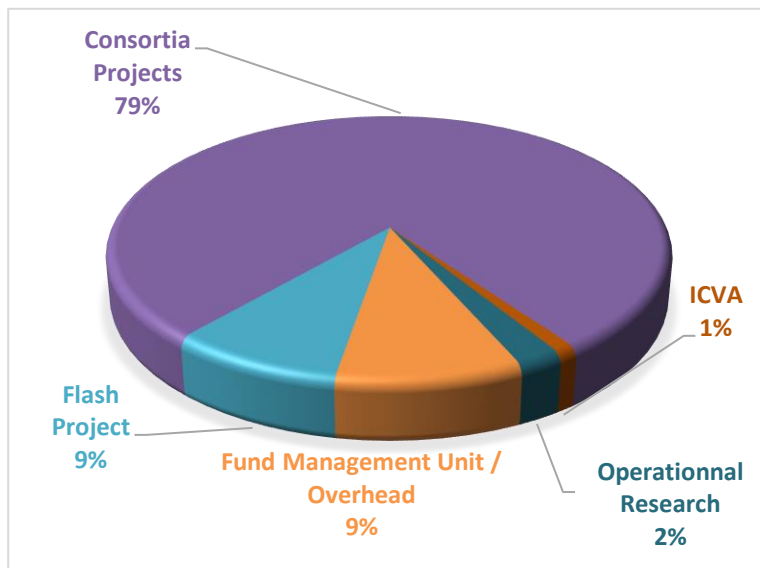
The SRF is aligned with the **Grand Bargain 2.0**, whose overarching objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian system. The Grand Bargain is centered around the people we are committed to serve and focus on two enabling priorities - localization and quality financing.

The Funded activities will be possible through a first envelop of 33.000.000 GBP that will fund:

Three multi-country consortia supported through predictable, flexible and long-term funding: The SRF finance three consortia composed of leading INGOs and national/local partners that can deliver demand-driven humanitarian response and offering substantial and relevant technical and geographical complementarities (Duration: 35 months)

A Catalytic window: The SRF will finance action research and a regional NGO coordination network with a view to catalysing the improvement of humanitarian response in the region:

- **Two operational research**, with the potential to affect a step change in the quality of the response and reform agenda, will be financed to inform strategic priority investments and to disseminate key evidence.
- **A regional network** of NGOs to promote a more effective and principled humanitarian action and strengthen synergies between initiatives at country and regional level.



A localized RRM: DRC implement a localized rapid response mechanism (the FLASH project), through which local reputed NGOs are supported to deliver emergency assistance and protection within the first week of small-scale and multiple displacements, building on endogenous protection systems and existing local responders (Duration: 32 months)

The governance

- **Governance board:**

The SRF board is composed of permanent and non-permanent members that ensure a representation of INGOs, donor(s), local organisations, and independent observer(s). Its role is to ensure proper oversight and enable the SRF to make consistent progress toward its mission. The SRF board is responsible for adopting sound and ethical governance and operational framework based on the SRF charter and mission statement.

- **Evaluation Committee:**

It's external to the Governance structure but is accountable to the Governance Board. The evaluation committee evaluates eligible concept notes and project proposals and presents the Board evaluations with its recommendations.

- **Grievance Committee:**

A permanent body which decides on what action is to be taken with reports of grievances, complaints, concern, and potential conflicts of interest related to the functioning of the SRF and its integrity.

- **Fund Management Unit:**

Secretariat of the board without being one of its members. Among other things, it develops the SRF Operation Manuals and its frameworks, funding allocation strategy, screen the proposals, evaluates the projects, endorses the financial management, monitors the projects and the associated risks, engage in communication and advocacy initiatives.

Do you want to know more?

www.sahelregionalfund.org

Séverine Moisy (Fund Director): severine.moisy@sahelregionalfund.org