SRF
SAHEL REGIONAL FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

FROM APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026

The Sahel Regional Fund (SRF) continued to provide flexible, predictable and locally led humanitarian financing. Across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad, SRF supported life-saving assistance while simultaneously strengthening local capacities, resilience and preparedness mechanisms.

UKaid from the British people

Sahelregionalfund.org

Sahel Regional Fund

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

FUND DIRECTOR MESSAGE



The past year has once again highlighted both the scale of humanitarian needs across the Sahel and the remarkable resilience of affected communities and local actors. Across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger, conflict, displacement, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, and economic pressures continued to affect millions of people. In this challenging environment, the Sahel Regional Fund (SRF) remained committed to providing flexible, multi-year, and locally led funding that enables partners to respond effectively to evolving needs while strengthening resilience and local capacities.

The achievements presented in this report demonstrate the value of this approach. Through the dedication of national and international partners, life-saving assistance reached vulnerable women, men, girls, and boys in some of the most difficult-to-access areas of the region. At the same time, investments in local organizations, community structures, livelihoods, essential services, and preparedness contributed to building stronger foundations for sustainable recovery.
A key lesson emerging from this portfolio is that quality funding matters. Flexibility, localization, and adaptive programming have enabled partners to respond rapidly to emergencies while remaining accountable to affected populations and responsive to changing contexts.
These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment of our partners, communities, local authorities, and donors. On behalf of the Sahel Regional Fund, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for their continued collaboration and leadership.
As humanitarian needs continue to evolve, the SRF remains committed to supporting locally driven, people-centered responses that protect lives, restore dignity, and strengthen resilience across the Sahel.

Séverine Moisy Aksoy, Fund Director

THE SAHEL REGIONAL FUND:
FINANCING AID DIFFERENTLY

A region facing multiple and interconnected challenges

Humanitarian needs across countries covered by the SRF continued to rise during 2025. Conflict, displacement, food insecurity, climate shocks, disease outbreaks and restrictions on humanitarian access affected millions of people across the region.

Credit photo: ATAD Burkina Faso



From Funding Crisis to transformation and Impact

The Sahel Regional Fund (SRF) is a regional, NGO-led pooled fund co-managed by INGOs and local and national NGOs (L/NNGOs). Built on the commitments of the Grand Bargain, it is grounded in key principles of local leadership, responsiveness, transparency, collective efficiency, and the genuine transfer of power and resources. The SRF promotes equity in governance and partnerships through a Board of Directors that provides equal representation to INGOs, L/NNGOs, and donors.
This commitment goes beyond symbolic representation and is supported by concrete financial mechanisms, including a mandatory minimum of 25% of international consortium funding channelled to local partners, dedicated direct funding windows in Burkina Faso and Chad for L/NNGOs (totalling £6.2 million to date), and the systematic redistribution of 7% of overhead costs to local actors. These measures are complemented by capacity-strengthening support, including training, mentoring, and operational tools, ensuring that institutional sustainability, and not only programme delivery, receives adequate investment.

Most pooled funds either concentrate decision-making with international intermediaries or treat localisation as a percentage target disconnected from governance. The SRF closes that gap by embedding L/NNGOs in strategic decision-making itself, from project co-design through to Board representation, while maintaining rigorous, independent oversight (an external evaluation committee, a permanent complaints mechanism, third-party monitoring in access-constrained areas since September 2025). Allocation decisions are needs-based, validated through rigorous multi-sectoral diagnostics rather than top-down targets, ensuring interventions remain relevant and locally anchored.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE ACROSS SECTORS

Life-saving support and essential services

SRF-funded projects delivered integrated, multi-sectoral responses designed to address immediate humanitarian needs while strengthening community resilience.

Health

Over **202,000 people** accessed healthcare services through supported facilities, outreach activities and mobile clinics. Investments in health infrastructure and community health systems strengthened local capacities while ensuring continuity of care.

Food Security and Livelihoods

More than **142,900 people** received food assistance and livelihood support. Programmes combined emergency assistance with agricultural recovery, livestock support and income-generating activities to strengthen self-reliance.

Nutrition

98,655 women and children benefited from nutrition interventions, while more than 72,000 children were screened for acute malnutrition. Recovery rates for severe acute malnutrition reached 98%

Protection

77,136 people accessed protection services, including case management, psychosocial support, referral services and community-based protection mechanisms.

WASH

More than **31,000 people** gained access to safe water and sanitation services, helping reduce health risks and improve living conditions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Delivering assistance to the most vulnerable populations

During 2025, SRF-funded projects provided multi-sector assistance to 523,978 direct beneficiaries through eleven active projects operating in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad.

1.4 million

People reached by SRF since 2023



GBP 121.3 million

total portfolio value

GBP 44.6 million

spent to date

GBP 15.2 million

ANNUAL BUDGET 2025-2026

38%

of programme funding channelled to national and local NGOs

Since SRF inception

The portfolio continued to prioritize populations affected by displacement, particularly internally displaced persons living in hard-to-reach and underserved areas. At the same time, assistance to host communities also contributed to efforts to strengthen social cohesion.

In 2025 - 2026

523,978

direct beneficiaries reached

225,291

indirect beneficiaries supported

55% women and girls

45% men and boys

299,383 internally displaced people

90,483 refugees

134,112 host community members

Flexible funding that saves lives and strengthens resilience

- 64 hard-to-reach locations were reached.
- More than 1,000 community feedback cases were addressed.
- 10 project modifications were approved to enable adaptive programming.

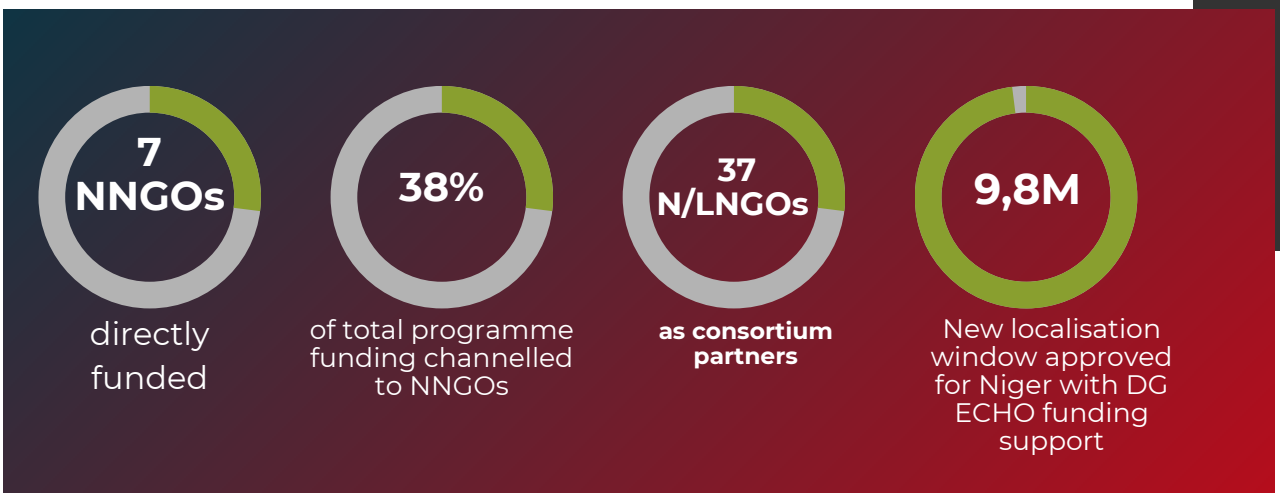
Community engagement mechanisms consistently informed programme adjustments and decisions about who and where assistance was provided.

The funding flexibility enabled partners to respond to floods, cholera outbreaks, displacement crises and other emergencies without disrupting longer-term resilience and recovery activities.

LOCALISATION AND LEARNING

Putting local actors at the centre

Localisation remains one of the defining features of the SRF model. During 2025/2026, seven national NNGOs were directly funded through dedicated local call for proposals in Burkina Faso and Chad. In addition, 37 national and local organisations received funding through consortium arrangements.



Strengthening local capacities

The SRF invested in tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives, including organisational audits, compliance support, security training, coaching and technical assistance.

Generating evidence

The SRF also expanded its learning agenda through:

- A portfolio-wide Learning Framework
- A Value for Money study on cash programming
- A Health and Nutrition Delivery Models study
- A Quality Funding Survey

The Quality Funding Survey showed 87% overall partner satisfaction, with particularly strong scores for partnership quality and support from SRF's Fund Management Unit (FMU).

The SRF is operationalising localisation through direct funding, tailored support and partnerships with local actors.

LOOKING FORWARD

Transforming humanitarian financing in the Sahel

2025/2026 illustrated how the SRF model combines flexible financing, localisation, accountability and a focus on results. Beyond programme delivery, the SRF is contributing to wider humanitarian reform discussions through evidence generation, advocacy and engagement with donors, NGOs and regional stakeholders.

Credit photo: Concern WorldWide



Expand localisation efforts in Niger and beyond.

Strengthen direct funding to national NGOs.

Scale up successful programme models.

Increase investment in learning and evidence generation.

Contribute to discussions on humanitarian financing reform and risk sharing.

The Sahel Regional Fund has shown that flexible, locally led and multi-year funding is not only more responsive to humanitarian crises but also more effective at building resilience, strengthening local leadership and achieving sustainable impact across the Sahel.

STORIES OF CHANGE

From Emergency Response to Lasting Impact

Beyond the numbers, SRF-funded projects are transforming the lives of vulnerable women, men, children, displaced people and host communities across the Sahel. Through flexible funding and strong local partnerships, communities are not only surviving crises but beginning to rebuild their futures



Restoring Hope Through Nutrition in Niger

In Niger, SRF-supported partners provided life-saving treatment to children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. Through community-based screening and referral systems, vulnerable children were identified early and referred for treatment.

In 2025/2026, more than 72,000 children were screened for acute malnutrition and 2,318 children received treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition, achieving a recovery rate of 98%. These interventions provided life-saving treatment while also strengthening local health systems and community awareness around nutrition.

Impact

- + 72,000 children screened
- +2,300 SAM cases treated
- 98% recovery rate

Supporting Refugees and Host Communities in Eastern Chad

As conflict in Sudan continued to drive displacement across the border, SRF-funded partners helped ensure access to essential services for refugees and host communities in Eastern Chad.

When a health centre serving approximately 14,000 refugees faced disruption following the withdrawal of another humanitarian actor, The SRF's flexible funding enabled a rapid handover of support, ensuring continued access to essential health and nutrition services.. This helped maintain access to essential health and nutrition services for refugees and host communities.

Impact

- 14,000 refugees maintained access to health services
- Continuity of nutrition support ensured
- Strengthened resilience of host communities

