



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Regional Office  
for West Africa (Sahel)

# MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMME: Promotion of Peace and Sustainable Development through Strengthening Youth Competencies for Life and Work in the Sahel

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



14 AUGUST 2018

**Youth represent a large portion of the Sahel's population, and when equipped with skills for life and work, they are a great asset and the agents of change within their societies. A vision for youth that is focused on their needs, priorities, and aspirations would help to further develop their potential and creativity for peaceful and sustainable development in the Sahel.**

<b>Programme Impact</b> Contribute to the strengthening of skills for life and work in 9 Sahel region countries for youth socio-economic and cultural insertion and to render societies more just, inclusive, and respectful of human dignity.	
<b>Target Countries</b> Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal	<b>Beneficiaries</b> The final beneficiaries of this programme are young people (men and women) in particular young people excluded from the formal education system, employment, and society.
<b>Budget: 4.5 million USD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds mobilized to date: 200,000 USD (UNESCO), 120,000 USD (UNOCT), and 20,000 USD (APCEIU)</li> <li>• Funds to mobilize: 4.16 million USD</li> </ul>	<b>Duration</b> The programme's projected duration is four years (2018-2022).

## CONTEXT

In the Sahel region, many youth come of age amidst famine and political, economic, and security crises. The majority of these youth have not had the benefit of engaging in pertinent learning opportunities. Between 40 and 80% of youth in the Sahel, depending the country, are currently excluded from all forms of schooling and training (GEM Report 2017-18). Immense disillusion and frustration can lead youth to leave their region or to join or collaborate with trafficking networks, organized crime groups, and violent extremist organizations. In this context, youth are often perceived as constituting a potential threat to stability and security.

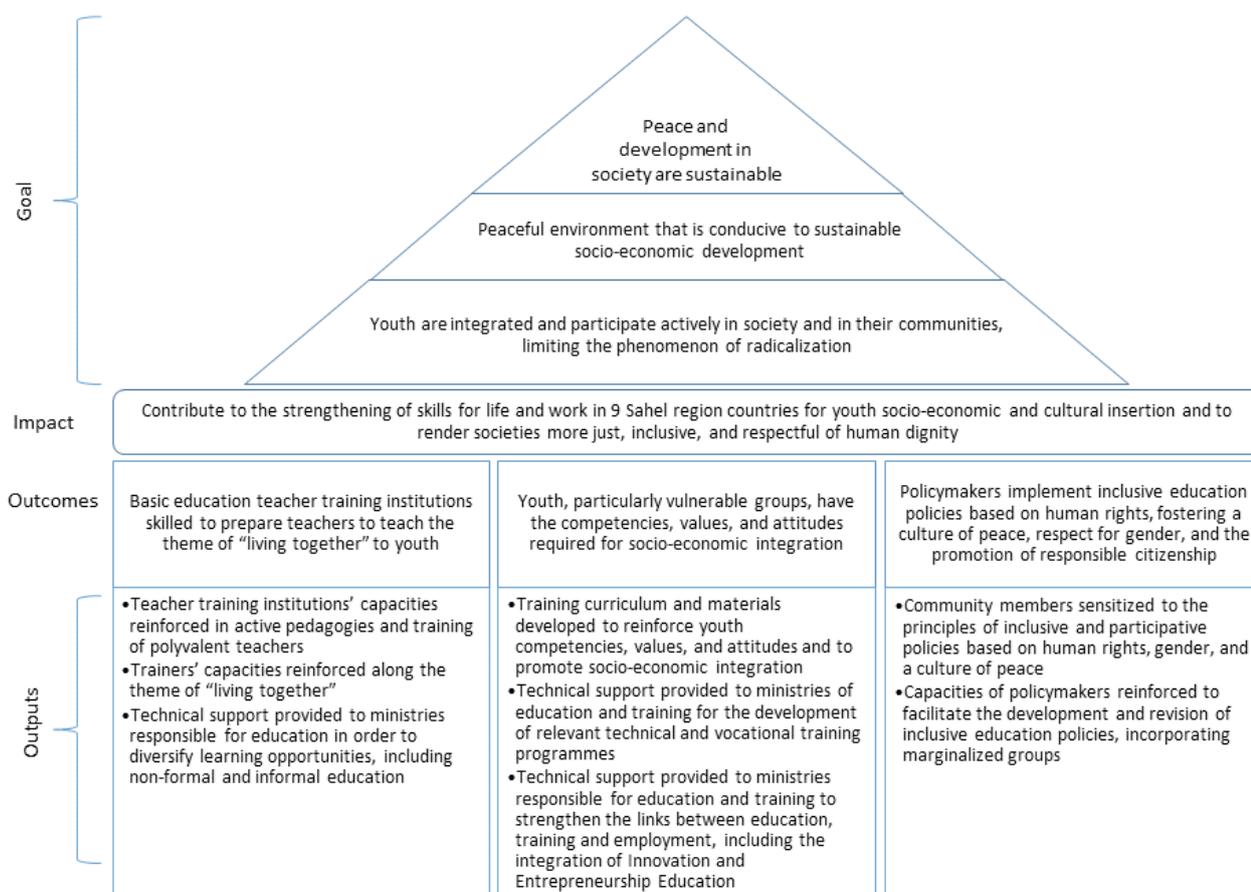
However, representing an important part of the population, youth are a significant asset to the societies of Sahelian countries, which have enormous development potential in terms of economic growth, natural and energy resources, cultural heritage and social fabric. In this sense, education systems should provide individuals, from a young age and throughout their lives, with the knowledge, competencies, attitudes, and behaviours for living together and becoming productive citizens who value tolerance, peace, and justice and who are open to the world.

## ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS

A situational analysis of the Sahel region identifies several causes of the socio-economic exclusion faced by young men and women, which constitute the **factors leading to radicalization and violent extremism**. The following main problems are addressed within the framework of this programme proposed by UNESCO:

- **Insufficient acquisition of basic knowledge**, skills, and values for "living together" by youth, due to deficits in teacher training institutions, insufficient coverage of emerging values (peace, citizenship, living together, health, etc.) in education settings, and few learning opportunities with relevant content for out-of-school youth
- **Insufficient youth competencies for empowerment and socio-economic integration**, due particularly to insufficient programmes and materials to develop young people's skills, values, and attitudes; inadequate technical and vocational training programmes; the mismatch between education, training, and employment, especially in relation to innovation and entrepreneurship; and the lack of effective support services for the socio-economic integration of young people and women
- **Non-inclusive education policies**, attributable to the insufficient knowledge of the principles of inclusive and participatory policies, based on human rights, gender equality, and the culture of peace by various actors and the weak integration of these policies within national development strategies

## THEORY OF CHANGE



The programme activities were identified in collaboration with authorities and beneficiaries from each target country at a Regional Consultation and Planning Meeting (Bamako, Mali, May 7 - 8, 2018).

## UNESCO

UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

### Multisectoral and Participatory Approach

UNESCO's Education, Human & Social Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information sectors will work together, involving the beneficiaries, including youth, and in synergy with partners on the implementation of this programme in order to produce positive, sustainable results.

### UNESCO's Areas of Competence:

- Reinforcement of policymakers', training institutes' and teachers' capacities
- Integration of emerging themes into policies
- Training and sensitization of community members and actors

### Tools developed by UNESCO for the prevention of violent extremism:

- The prevention of violent extremism through education : A guide for policymakers (UNESCO, 2017)
- Teacher's Guide for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (UNESCO, 2016)
- Youth-led guide on the prevention of violent extremism through education (UNESCO MGIEP, 2017)
- Transformative pedagogy for peace-building : A guide for teachers (IICBA, 2017)

**“Place young people at the heart of interventions and consider them as full-fledged implementing partners.”**

**“Encourage youth to become autonomous and show them that it is possible.”**



Credit: National Youth Council of Mali, 2018

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**UNITED NATIONS  
Office of Counter-Terrorism**



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Cultural Organization

**APCEIU**

Asia-Pacific Centre of  
Education for International Understanding  
under the auspices of UNESCO



**SECRETARIAT PERMANENT  
DU G5 SAHEL**

This programme is part of the Integrated Counter-Terrorism Assistance Initiative (I-ACT) for the G5 Sahel, managed by the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)