



THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES

WHY IS THE EU WORKING WITH AFRICA'S "G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES"?

In 2014, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger set up the "G5 Sahel" group of countries to foster close cooperation in the region and tackle the major challenges that these countries face. Since then, the EU has stepped up cooperation with this African-led initiative to build a strong partnership on many fronts: from political dialogue, to development and humanitarian support, to strengthening security and tackling irregular migration.

The Sahel region faces a number of pressing challenges such as extreme poverty, frequent food and nutrition crises, conflict, irregular migration and related crimes such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling; governance challenges, demographic growth or climate change. Violent extremism also poses a serious security challenge to the region and has potential spill-over effects outside the region, including Europe.

G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES



WHAT ARE THE EU'S MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT TO THE G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES?

The EU is now supporting the G5 Sahel countries on **3 MAIN TRACKS**:



POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP

The EU is a strong political partner of the G5 Sahel countries and has set up regular "EU-G5" dialogues. High Representative Vice-President Federica Mogherini has held annual meetings with G5 Sahel Foreign Ministers to strengthen cooperation in areas of shared interest such as development, governance in fragile areas, improved security, including the fight against terrorism and illicit trafficking. The EU is also strongly engaged in Mali's peace process.



SECURITY AND STABILITY SUPPORT

The EU supports concrete regional-led security initiatives. The EU has already provided €147 million to establish the African led G5 Sahel Joint Force which aims to improve regional security and fight terrorist and criminal groups. The EU is itself a key security player in the region, with its 3 Common Security and Defence Policy missions; EUCAP Sahel Niger, EUCAP Sahel Mali, EU training mission (EUTM) in Mali. The EU also provides other programmes to improve support stability and security in the region.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The EU, together with its Member States, is the biggest provider of development cooperation to the region with **€8 billion** over 2014-2020. It uses all its tools to support development efforts in the region, notably the 'EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa' under which **€1.140 billion** has been committed so far for the region. The EU has also financed since 2015 under the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) several regional programmes in the G5 Sahel for €14 million. The EU is also a member and key supporter of the **Sahel Alliance**, set up to coordinate existing EU and Member States development cooperation better in the region, in a faster and more interlinked way than before through joint action.

HOW IS THE EU INVOLVED IN THE SAHEL ALLIANCE?

The EU is a member of the Sahel Alliance, launched and signed by the EU, France and Germany in July 2017. It is currently composed of 12 members: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Denmark, EU, UNDP, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank. It aims at coordinating and delivering aid quicker and more efficiently in the region. It will have a particular focus on peripheral, cross border and fragile zones of the Sahel. Since its launch, the Sahel Alliance has identified priority six priority areas:



On 30th October 2018, the Alliance and the G5 Sahel signed a partnership protocol, which establishes the framework of the cooperation between the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel.

The "Programme d'Urgence Développement" (PDU) was coordinated within the Sahel Alliance. It gathers the contributions of the EU and other donors, such as France and the UNDP.



€266 million

The total amount of the PDU of the Sahel Alliance (including €98.3 million though the EU Trust Fund with German and Danish contributions).

WHAT SECURITY SUPPORT DOES THE EU PROVIDE IN THE SAHEL?



THE G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE

The EU has fully supported this African led initiative from the very beginning and provided a contribution of €147 million to help set it up. This EU funding is provided through the African Peace Facility and can only cover non-lethal equipment. This support also includes the establishment and operationalisation of a Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law compliance framework for the G5 Sahel Joint Force together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Building on the EU's defence planning capacity and expertise, the EU has set up a one of a kind **Coordination Hub** to gather together the many offers of international support to the G5 Joint Force. The Hub is already up and running and enables donors to channel much needed assistance. In practice it works by matching the offers of donors to a Recognised List of Needs provided and determined by the Joint Force.

To step up action on security, particularly in border areas in the Sahel countries which face terrorist and security threats, the G5 Sahel countries have set up their own regional security force. The Joint Force is comprised of troops from Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, and operates in all five countries. The G5 Joint Force has permanent forces deployed along the borders, able to operate together under a centralised command and communication structure. This will help tackle the pressing terrorist and security threat in the region, which is a cross-border issue for all the countries concerned.

MISSIONS UNDER THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

The EU currently has three CSDP missions and a specific action in the Sahel:



1- **EUCAP Sahel Niger** is a civilian capacity building Mission supporting the Nigerien Internal Security Forces (Police, Gendarmerie and National Guard) in strengthening the Nigerien capacities to fight against terrorism, organised crime and irregular migration, through advice, training and delivery of equipment. The Mission established a field office in Agadez, with a permanent presence from April 2016. The Mission provides its support to the Nigerien presidency of the G5, in particular regarding the operationalisation of the Police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. The mandate of EUCAP Sahel Niger runs until 30 September 2020.



2- **EUCAP Sahel Mali** is a civilian mission providing expertise in strategic advice, training and equipment to the Malian Police, Gendarmerie and National Guard, and the relevant ministries in order to support the restructuring of the Malian Internal Security Forces and reform in the security sector. Its mandate runs until January 2021. The Mission also supports the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the Malian Police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, in coordination with the other CSDP missions in the region.



3- EUTM Mali is a military training mission deployed in March 2013 in the aftermath of the crisis that provides advice to the Malian authorities in the restructuring of the Malian Armed Forces, from a “wartime” to a post-conflict/ peacetime structure in the frame of the implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement and the general security sector reform, through the training of battalions and support for the elaboration of the first Defence Programming Law ever adopted in Mali. Its mandate runs until May 2020.

In addition to these three Missions, the EU initiated, in summer 2017, the process of **Regionalization of CSDP action in the Sahel**, aiming at combining Civilian and Military expertise, with the final objective to enhance the capabilities for co-operation of the five G5 Sahel countries and to support regional cooperation structures, in particular those of G5 Sahel. In this context, a network of security and defense experts was deployed in EU delegations. This will notably enable the organization of training and advisory activities in the region, in close coordination with other EU and international actors.

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS IN MALI?

The EU actively supports Mali's peace process and is a guarantor of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in 2015. The EU supports the United Nations Security Council Resolution for targeted sanctions against those who threaten the Mali peace agreement, and is a major partner of Mali on security and development. **Two EU CSDP missions, one military (EUTM) and one civilian (EUCAP Sahel Mali)** provide strategic advice and training to Mali's Armed and Internal Security Forces and relevant ministries in order to contribute to the restoration of Malian territorial integrity, the protection of the population, and to support the reform of the security sector.

€500,000

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE/VICE-PRESIDENT FEDERICA MOGHERINI visited Mali in June 2017 and announced EU support of €500,000 to the monitoring body ('Comité de Suivi') of the peace agreement in which the EU Special Representative for the Sahel, represents the EU, also within the international mediation.

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT THE REGION WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE?

The European Union is one of the largest providers of humanitarian aid to the Sahel countries. In 2018, the European Commission allocated €193 million, to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to forced displacement, emergency food assistance, lifesaving nutrition treatment, essential health care, water and sanitation and protection to the most vulnerable population in the five G5 Sahel countries. Furthermore, the EU also supports disaster risk reduction initiatives to enhance emergency preparedness and response.



1 MILLION

Thanks to EU support, about **1 million vulnerable people** received emergency food assistance in 2018



430,000

The EU also supported the treatment of **430,000 children** for severe acute malnutrition

EU ASSISTANCE PER G5 SAHEL COUNTRY:

BURKINA FASO



- European Development Fund: **€628 million** (2014–2020) support for:
 - (i) good governance
 - (ii) health
 - (iii) food security, sustainable agriculture, water
 - (iv) sustainable energy, mainly via budget support
- EU Trust Fund for Africa: **€245.8 million** (since 2016) plus regional projects
- Humanitarian aid: **16.1 million** (2018)
- Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) 2015–2019: **€22.7 million**

CHAD



- European Development Fund: **€542 million** (2014–2020) support for:
 - (i) food security, nutrition and rural development
 - (ii) sustainable management of natural resources
 - (iii) consolidation of the rule of law
- Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: **€170.7 million** (since 2016)
- Humanitarian aid: **€66.7 million** (2018)
- Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) 2015–2019 : **€9.85 million**

MALI



- European Development Fund: **€665 million** (2014–2020) support for:
 - (i) peace consolidation and State reform
 - (ii) Rural Development and food security
 - (iii) education and
 - (iv) infrastructure
- African Investment Facility: **€114.8 million** for the construction of road and energy infrastructures
- Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: **€270.8 million** (since 2016)
- Humanitarian aid: **€41.3 million** (2018)
- Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) 2015–2019: **€22.5 million**
- EU CSDP Missions: **EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUTM Mali**

MAURITANIA



- European Development Fund: **€160 million** (2014–2020) support for:
 - (i) food security and sustainable agriculture
 - (ii) strengthening the rule of law and
 - (iii) the improvement of the health system
- African Investment Facility: **€20.5 million** for the construction of infrastructure (2016 – Rosso Bridge)
- Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: **€135.5 million** (since 2016)
- Humanitarian aid: **€74.9 million** (since 2014)
- EU-Mauritania Fisheries Protocol: the EU pays a financial contribution of **€61.625 million** per year for the partnership, comprising **€57.5 million** for the access to waters and **€4.125 million** for supporting local fishing communities in Mauritania and improving fisheries governance

NIGER



- European Development Fund: **€716 million** (2014–2020) support for:
 - (i) food security and resilience
 - (ii) supporting the State in delivering social services
 - (iii) security, governance, and peace consolidation
 - (iv) road infrastructure for regions at risk of insecurity and conflict
- Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: **€317 million** (since 2016)
- Humanitarian aid: **€38.7 million** (2018)
- African Investment Facility: **81 million** (2019)
- Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) 2015–2019: **€23 million**
- CSDP Mission: **EUCAP Sahel Niger**