

January 2016

ENHANCING SECURITY IN THE SAHEL

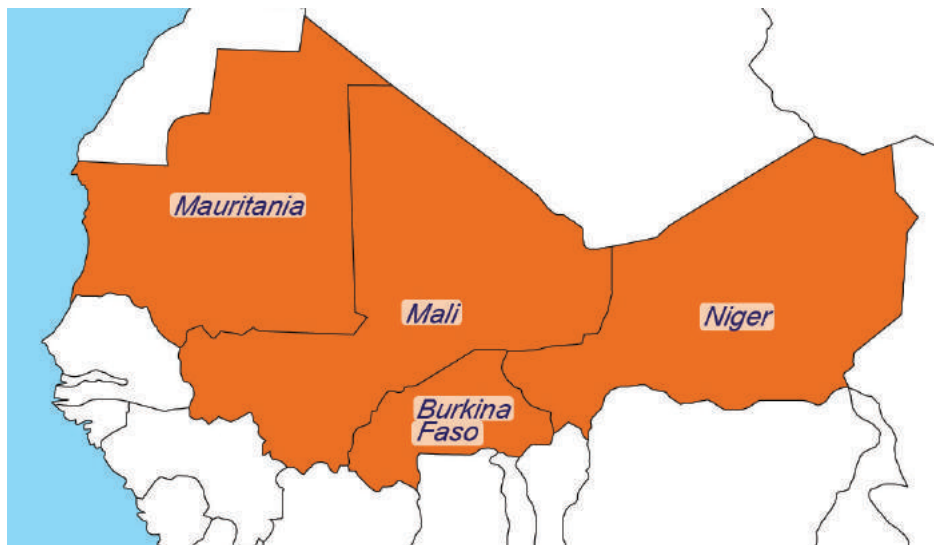


The Sahel region is one of the most unpredictable and volatile regions in Africa today. The porous and largely unregulated borders are a major contributing factor to insecurity in West Africa and in the Maghreb. Weak border controls have allowed transnational criminal and terrorist groups (such as AQIM, MUJAO, Al-Sharia, Boko Haram, Al-Mulathameen Brigades) to expand activities in recent months with relative ease throughout the region with negative impacts on the local populations.

In this context, IOM will work within Niger, Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso to assess and enhance their respective border management control mechanisms with the objective to contribute to the enhancement of regional security in the Sahel by developing stronger and more coherent approaches to border management. More specifically, it will focus on strengthening operational and strategic capacities to foster stronger connections between migration control and law enforcement systems among the States in the Sahel. A parallel JICA funded specific initiative will be closely coordinated in Niger, the most fragile country, to ensure resource efficiency and maintain successful results at regional level.

The overall implementation of the project will be carried out at the regional level with a strong emphasis on supporting the implementation of specific and adapted country level interventions.

As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management. Areas of work include border management, conflict prevention, community stabilisation, migration and development and counter trafficking. These activities take the form of direct assistance, capacity building and information sharing as well as awareness-raising. IOM's central objective is to improve and develop global, regional and country level responses to protect and assist migrants in need and to support governments to reinforce their migration management capacities.



Main beneficiaries

- Immigration, border and law enforcement authorities of the republics of Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso.
- Cross-border communities in the Sahel region.

Budget

2.925.000 USD

Primary Objectives:

Through two complementary initiatives funded by the Government of Japan and known as “*Coordinated Border Management in Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso*” and “*Immigration and border Management in Niger*”, IOM seeks to contribute to the realization of the policies and strategic objectives defined at the sub-regional level by the G5 Sahel countries (Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad) through the enhancement of regional security in the Sahel by strengthening operational and strategic capacities as well as regional approaches on immigration and border management.

Implementation period:

April 2015 – March 2016

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES IN MAURITANIA

Objectives

1. To strengthen border security in the Sahel and increase human and material resources at the borders of the countries concerned;
2. To complete the mapping of all border posts in operation along the Mauritanian borders towards the officialisation of their status and functions;
3. To strengthen the capacities of training officers at the border posts of the targeted countries in the project.

Activities

1. Organization of the second regional meeting of senior border police officers in Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso, in Nouakchott;
- 2.1. Identification of all official border crossings and assets in Mauritania and conduct an inventory on each border crossing;
- 2.2 Construction of a border post at Fassala-Nere in Southeastern Mauritania;
3. Organization of a 3 weeks-long training of trainers for G5 Sahel border police officers in Ouagadougou, Mali from 25 January to 12 February 2016.

The project activities have been designed to promote synergies and to respond to both regional and national priorities: Comprehensive assessments will be conducted during the inception phase to ensure relevance and convergence of the various concrete measures, building on existing structures. At the same time, IOM will seek to foster regional cooperation and information exchange to harmonize best practices in the Sahel. Considering the inclusion of similar activities in the bilateral project “Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Managing Border and for Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali (March 2015 – February 2017)” managed by IOM Mauritania and funded by the Government of Japan under the Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building, IOM will not target or partially target Mauritania and/or Mali under some activities of this project in order to ensure no duplication but complementary impact towards the common overall objective, enhanced capacity for border security in the region.