

Burkina Faso

Update on the context and situation of children

Burkina Faso is a country with multidimensional complexities and increasing challenges. The combination of several factors such as conflict, weak governance, poverty, demographic pressures, coupled with climate change, as well as health crises make Burkina Faso more vulnerable, with significant consequences on its path towards sustainable development, lasting peace, and upholding of child rights.

UNICEF continues to deliver across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace spectrum of work, despite the challenging security situation. The progressive withdrawal of State presence, and persistent violence have resulted in the disruption or unavailability of basic services³, reduced access to livelihoods in the most-affected areas and substantial displacement (1.5 million IDPs, or 7% of the population, as of December 2021, of which 22.4% women and 61.5% children). Growing concerns in terms of respect for human rights, in particular grave violations against children. Despite many tangible results achieved to implement the Secretary General's planning directives, in particular the SDG joint initiatives as a pathway to address the humanitarian emergency alongside resilience building and promoting social cohesion, the overall picture is tarnished by significant challenges to ensure that all necessary human and financial resources, as well as security conditions are in place.

The Children's Climate Risk index for Faso was 7.6 in 2021, making it one of the countries where children are at an 'extremely high-risk' from the impact of climate change. An estimated 60 per cent of the water retained in dams is lost through evaporation, impacting livestock, agriculture and drinking water supply. High negative drilling rates resulting in water scarcity, in addition to other negative impacts on health, gender and protection, sanitation, as well intercommunity conflict. As climate change makes crises more common, it becomes harder to recover from them specifically for the most vulnerable families.

Burkina Faso is experiencing rapid population growth which is impeding its capacity to complete its demographic transition and to harness its economic potential. The population is relatively young with children under fifteen representing 44.1 per cent^[1] and those under 18 representing 51 per cent of the total population. This demographic situation underlines the pressing need to build channels of dialogue and partnerships with young people and adolescents who will contribute to social change and social cohesion.

A desk review of studies on the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has identified specific issues affecting children. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the health supply chain, causing stockouts for various inputs and reduced monetary earnings from occasional work and the sale of agricultural products, especially cash crops. Measures to prevent of the spread of COVID-19 revealed the pressing need to develop remote education solutions and provide mental health care to prevent stress and fear caused by isolation and the disruption of education.

Every child lives in safe and clean environment : Using the COVID-19 response as an entry point and tapping into gains in positive behavioral changes, UNICEF accelerated the Key Result for Children to end open defecation.

Every child is protected: Sociopolitical instability on top of the humanitarian crisis further impacted the children's protective environment and child protection systems, both at State and community levels. More than three out of five internally displaced persons are children, most of them showing signs of psychosocial distress and/or are exposed to violence, exploitation, and abuse, recruitment by non-state armed groups (NSAG) including the risk of grave violations of their rights. The CO

contributed towards the Key Result for Children to end child marriage (CM) by extending multisectoral and integrated support to an additional 974 villages in 2021 compared to 905 in 2020.

Every child survives and thrives: Due to the conflict, 445 health facilities closed or working at reduced capacity, affecting 1.8 million people's access to healthcare. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further aggravated the situation, considering that only 5 per cent of the total population aged 18 years or over is currently vaccinated against COVID-19. The under-five mortality rate remains stable at 87.8 per thousand lives births (LB), thanks to the continued implementation of high impact interventions, particularly in the fight against childhood diseases. Progress achieved in Key Result for Children in Nutrition with a decreased prevalence of stunting at 21.6 [2]per cent in 2021 compared to 24.9 per cent in 2020. The rate of global acute malnutrition was 9.7 per cent in 2021 compared to 9.1 per cent in 2020.

Every child learns : Deliberate attacks and threats against teachers and students, in schools continue to increase. Compared to the situation on 31 December 2020, the end of 2021 saw a 51 per cent increase of in number of schools closed due the crisis (3,280 schools - 13 per cent nationally), depriving over 0.5 million students of their right to education. A quarter of children (23 per cent girls and 26 per cent boys) were already out of school before the crisis because of economic reasons, either because they were forced to work or because of the lack of adequate resources to ensure their schooling, especially in the Eastern region. Child marriage and early pregnancy are amongst the causes of poor access to education and the frequent drop out of girls and boys in some regions, including the presence of gold mining sites, particularly in the Sahel region. 118,635 children's affected by insecurity, could access formal or non -formal education with UNICEF support.

Every child has an equitable chance in life : Multidimensional poverty affects 72.4 per cent of children aged 0-17 years, meaning that 7 out of 10 children were cumulatively deprived in at least three dimensions in 2021. In addition, around 40 per cent of children were deprived in the dimensions of housing and health, and 34 per cent in the dimensions of sanitation, water and housing. The social protection systems that every child and family needs failed to respond to multiple shocks. Social progress is being hindered by the ongoing security crisis especially in insecure regions where key development indicators remain poor[3].

[1] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), 2021.[2] 2021 National Nutrition Survey (NNS)[3] SITAN, 2021.

Major contributions and drivers of results

The CO enhance the focus on human rights based multi-sectoral integrated programing in order to achieve greater impact for children across programmes and increased it focus on keys drivers as follows:

- UNICEF **invested in community platforms** to strengthen the availability of child-centered multi-sectoral programming and services for the most vulnerable populations. These platforms include community health workers (CHWs), mother to mother groups (GASPA), community radios, youth and husband support groups. For example, CHWs have significantly contributed to ensuring the continuity of the **Key Result for Children in immunization and birth registration** services in crisis-affected regions.
- To accelerate and improve **key results for children in nutrition**, UNICEF supported multisector child-centered advocacy at all levels which contributed to upgrading of the National multisector coordination nutrition committee to the level of Office of the President. In addition, the country committed to increasing the domestic budget for nutrition from 1.1 per cent to 3 per cent by 2024 during “The 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit”. The “Stronger with breastmilk only” campaign was conducted with UNICEF’s support in alliance with “Alive and Thrive”.

This resulted in the capacity building of an additional 2,610 health workers, 3,900 CHWs, and the nomination of 13 nutrition champions in 2021 to mobilize communities. This has leveraged more funding to fight undernutrition, while nurturing community-level leaderships for the prevention of stunting and the increase of exclusive breastfeeding at national level. As a result of this action, the prevalence of stunting decreased from 24.9 per cent in 2020 to 21.6 per cent in 2021 nationwide. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices have improved with exclusive breastfeeding at 69.6 per cent in 2021 compared to 64.3 per cent in 2020, notably due to community-based multisectoral programming involving CHWs, traditional leaders and parents. Minimum diet diversity for children from 6 to 23 months old also slightly improved from 24.2 per cent, to 29.2 per cent and 31.6 per cent in 2021. In addition, 3,322,605 children aged 6-59 were reached with Vitamin A supplementation, deworming and screening of acute malnutrition.

- In 2021, 185,627 out of school children (OOSC) gained access to learning/training opportunities and 607,217 children maintained their educational routine through radio programmes. This contribution to our **Key Result in education** was possible through increasingly diversified learning opportunities for OOSC in humanitarian and development contexts which contributed also to ensuring the continuity of education in crisis-affected regions. For example, 32,829 girls were specifically supported with grants and scholarships to continue their studies and 115,500 vulnerable children received school kits. Overall, UNICEF contributed to enrolling and keeping 185,627 children, including 91,208 girls in school. In terms of the improved learning outcomes, macro-level indicators for mandatory education deteriorated during the 2020/2021 school year compared to the 2019/2020 school year, reflecting the increasing challenges in ensuring access to quality education for all children. Success rates at the end of primary education decreased by six points to 60 per cent in 2021 from 66 per cent in 2020.
- Burkina Faso continued to be in the middle of a protection crisis with increased child protection violations: One in four children experiences at least one form of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, the family home and school being the most common places of commission. By the end of 2021, a total of 314 incidents of sexual violence by armed groups were reported, compared to 37 incidents in 2020. These reports include women and girls who are victims of human rights violations, including kidnapping and use as sex slaves. An estimated 11.3 per cent of girls aged 0-14 have undergone female genital. An estimated 8.9 per cent of girls are married before 15 and 51.3 per cent before 18. This current situation is more likely to exacerbate the already precarious situation of girls and young women who are among the most vulnerable groups with an increased risk of being exposed to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence and child marriage. UNICEF and its partners reached by mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities to 137, 524, including 78,1446 girls: 4,750 parents (2,782 mothers). 240 others including 167 girls and 73 boys with severe signs of psychological distress were identified and provided with appropriate support.
- The Country Office contributed towards ending child marriage (CM) by extending support to an additional 974 villages in 2021 compared to 905 in 2020. Multisectoral interventions including education, health, WASH and child protection, notably life skills and sexual and reproductive health, leadership and negotiation skills were provided. Consequently, 133,534 adolescent girls received CM prevention and care services, bringing the total number of adolescent girls who have received prevention and care services for CM for the period of 2017-2021 to 696,568. These girls benefitted from life skills and sexual and reproductive health, leadership and negotiation skills through 2,146 adolescent clubs, and were empowered to contribute to the abandonment of CM practices in their respective villages. In collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF facilitated the adoption of the third national budgeted action plans (2022-2024) and supported the bi-annual meetings of the multi-sectoral platform for better monitoring and coordination of actions towards the national strategy for abandoning child marriage (2016-2025). In 2021, 1,235 new villages declared their commitment to end CM, FGM and violence against children. With the support of UNICEF and under the high patronage of the First Lady,

traditional and religious leaders renewed their commitment to continue the work of influencing the change in social norms in favor of the abandonment of CM, signing a declaration to this effect to promote the rights of girls and women in their communities.

- During the past few years, the CO has significantly contributed to the **Key Results for children to end open defecation** at the national and regional levels and has helped increase sanitation coverage. According to the 2020 Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), the practice of OD in Burkina Faso decreased by about 8 per cent compared to 2015 estimations, and currently stands at about 40 per cent of the total population. As a result of UNICEF's direct contribution, an estimated 751,757 people (390,914 women and 360,643 men), are now living in areas that have been declared open defecation free (ODF). Additionally, 2021 marked the celebration of the first Open Defecation Free province (Sissili: 156 ODF villages) which has greatly helped increase the engagement of authorities to end the practice of OD, and support strategies for scaling up the community-lead total sanitation approach at the national level. Furthermore, UNICEF promoted women's leadership in sanitation, through their involvement in discussions, decision-making processes and management of local water and sanitation resources or infrastructures. Approximately 358 women were empowered and trained to hold management positions in sanitation local committees and this experience will be featured as promising practice in the KRC AP Compendium Second edition 2021.
- *Strengthening social protection systems at national and community levels:* The CO mobilized forces and leveraged support including from UNICEF WCAR Regional Director's visit to the President for the adoption of the decree creating the unique Social Register by the Office of the Prime Minister. This was critical for social protection systems strengthening in Burkina Faso. It was established to attract more public investments in equitable and inclusive development from multiple stakeholders, to consolidate, harmonize and coordinate all social protection measures in favor of the most vulnerable groups, as well to strengthen the synergies of actions in favor of children. Based on the 2021 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), UNICEF planned to reach 10,000 households (70,000 people including 60 per cent children). As of 31 December 2021, due to low funding levels, UNICEF reached 39 per cent of households and 51.8 per cent of individuals (19,501 children), out of those initially targeted for cash distributions.
- *Making local governance more responsive to child rights issues:* With UNICEF's support, 13 out of 22 targeted municipalities developed their Municipal Development Plans. UNICEF also supported the implementation of social accountability and citizen control mechanisms in 183 municipalities. These achievements resulted in improved synergy between local authorities and communities regarding the issue of access to social services by the most vulnerable people. These mechanisms are contributing to strengthening ownership in local development planning and monitoring for children including public financing for children.

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Building resilience in emergency response

The triple nexus Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) is a way of working chosen by the CO to ensure long-lasting results for children by delivering interventions in a more complementary manner to respond faster and more effectively to immediate needs while, at the same time, addressing systemic vulnerabilities, increasing social cohesion and building resilience to ensure long-term progress and impact.

- **Rapid Response and Community Resilience (3RC):** The deterioration in humanitarian access leaves communities in insecure areas without access to assistance and puts them more at risk of protection abuses, with children at more risk of grave deprivations and violations. Thus, the CO sought alternative ways to respond to immediate humanitarian needs aftershocks, building on experience in development programming in the country and acknowledging that. the

communities have always been the “first responders” in terms of providing immediate assistance to affected children and families. Based on this the CO developed a resilience mechanism for inclusive response to increasing access to social services in hard-to-reach areas - Rapid Response and Community Resilience (**3RC**).

- UNICEF strengthened the leadership and coordination of its humanitarian response and appointed focal points at subregional level to support clusters and the “*Groupe de Coordination de Réponse Rapide (GCORR)*” for collective impact of the response.
- **Institutionalizing humanitarian-development-peace Nexus in WASH:** As a result of UNICEF’s technical assistance, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation established a dialogue framework for resilient WASH services and conducted in-depth discussions with multiple stakeholders on the institutionalization of the WASH Humanitarian Development Peace nexus approach. Due to these interventions, the triple nexus is now used as a criterion to validate the quality of programmes and to inform the planning, monitoring and coordination of Water and Sanitation programmes. This framework also led to the establishment of a monitoring committee and a roadmap for the institutionalization of the HDP Nexus in the WASH sector.
- **Scaling up the safe and inclusive school approach as part of the triple nexus package in education:** UNICEF strengthened the scaling up of the Quality-Child Friendly School (QCFS) approach with an important Safe School component. As a result, 2,292 schools (21 per cent of the country's 10,630 public schools) were more resilient and inclusive, benefitting a total of 480,852 children, including 232,907 girls in 2021. This process of change was accompanied by the expansion of the speed-reading ELAN approach which had a success rate of 82.7 per cent (84.9 per cent for girls) in 2021. UNICEF provided continued technical support to the MENAPLN, and communities affected by insecurity through the development of the National Education in Emergencies Strategy 2019-2024. For example, a national guide for Education in Emergencies based on Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) minimum standards and a roadmap for the institutionalization of the triple nexus was developed.

Empowering young people as social change agents

UNICEF implemented a comprehensive package of activities led by young people and invested in the promotion of innovative channels to engage with them. These interventions significantly increased their opportunities to contribute to social change and capacities to make their voices heard and build social cohesion through online and offline solutions. Over 60,000 youth participated in activities (debates, concerts etc.) and trainings (gender, early pregnancy prevention, leadership, social cohesion, COVID-19 prevention) during the “*Faso Jeunes*” caravan led by youth in eight regions including those affected by the humanitarian crisis. This action brought together authorities, civil society, private sector and more than four million people were reached via the media, social networks and telecoms on youth engagement. The number of U-Reporters increased from 60,000 to 106,000 and U-Reporters clubs scaled up from 31 to 49. Furthermore, 30 youth were trained in mobile journalism (MoJo).

Mainstreaming Gender responsive programming

UNICEF continued its support for the operationalization of the National Gender Strategy and capacity building in Gender and Children's Rights responsive budgeting. Building upon the lessons learned from 2020 capacity building activities, training modules were reviewed and adapted to the socio-cultural realities in the rural context of Burkina Faso. The updated tools were utilized in four additional rural communes in the Plateau Central and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, the Family and Humanitarian Action to set up a sustainable mechanism for collecting and capitalizing data on gender through the creation of a knowledge management system to improve the quality and the management of gender-sensitive data, including the development of gender-sensitive data collection guidelines. UNICEF also conducted the identification and capacity assessment of potential local partners in crisis-affected regions and

established an online dashboard of 70 potential local partners.

Strengthening awareness and action on the value for people and money

UNICEF provided training aimed at sensitizing staff and implementing partners in many areas, including fund optimization to achieve the 2021 AMP planned goals for children. Organizational core values were also promoted during formal and informal discussion forums. The implementation of UNICEF supported programmes will continue to take into account the complexity of the security context with special focus on the “do not harm” principle to avoid negative impact of interventions on the population. The CO’s all staff meetings were open forums where a speak-up culture and a participatory approach were promoted with the aim to strengthen team cohesion, well-being, and productivity.

UNICEF have led the OMT made significant efforts to ensure proper alignment of all existing coordination mechanisms for Faso to reduce transaction costs, avoid overlaps and maximize efficiency of efforts. Engagement along BOS requirements. UNICEF have led the OMT procurement group in 2021. In framework of the country BOS implementation, common procurement process was undertaken for LTAs issuance for UN agencies common needs of goods and services in Burkina Faso. As result, 14 LTAs covering 06 procurement areas (travel, fuel, internet data, Cash Transfer, custom clearance, transportation Office utilities etc....) were signed with local suppliers. Better price are obtained for fuel, internet data cash transfer services. This signed agreement will lead to saving for agencies in term of time for procurement staff and money for operational cost. The cost benefit study will be performed in 2022. The procurement services made for partners in 2021 is estimate to 51.2 million USD. It is mainly for vaccines, cool chain equipment and COVID-19 responses supplies. The World Bank and Islamic Development Bank have procured through UNICEF CO and PS mechanism for more than 9 million USD for COVID19 response supplies and cold chain equipment.

The trend of decreasing funding which was reported in 2020 continued to persist in 2021, despite the exponential increase in humanitarian needs. The CO only received US\$21 million in new funding (with a carry-over of \$14 million), against the 2021 HAC appeal of US\$ 157 million. The availability of flexible and multi-year funding is therefore essential to enable UNICEF to support the rapid response in the longer term, and implement resilience-building interventions.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

As part of efforts to expand the UN's footprint in the field as per the SG's planning directives, agencies under the leadership of UNICEF have rolled out integrated programmes with 10 UN agencies in Sahel Region, using the right to education as an entry point at the regional level. A new integrated programme is also being developed in Kaya – the Integrated Programme for Emergency Response and the Strengthening of Resilience and Social Cohesion (PURC)- using the right to access quality water. While the PURC is in its infancy, the UN Programme to Support an Integrated Development in Sahel Region (PADI) has demonstrated that the “One UN” approach is not only possible but critical, in order to increase both the quality and the efficiency of a UN programme response and our comparative advantage. Following an assessment, it was estimated that if all agencies applied the agreed actions, there would be a 11 per cent reduction in the overall programme budget.

In an evolving context it is essential that UNICEF remains agile and has flexible capacity to be closer to the most affected populations. To this end, UNICEF initiated the establishment of a UN Emergency Response Team (ERT) to ensure an integrated and cost-effective response. Since December 2021, through this integrated ERT approach, six operations have been finalized. As a result of these joint efforts with WFP and UNHCR and in coordination with OCHA and existing structures, we provided assistance to 10,341 households (including 15 days food rations), and 3,862 households with essential items.

The Monitoring Reporting Mechanism requirement has been integrated into the UN system priorities for each year. To this end, UNICEF provided technical support and led the establishment and functioning of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) and its accompanying technical task team. With this contribution, UNICEF produced four timely and quarterly GHN and annual reports on the situation of children affected by armed conflict. These GHN have been an opportunity to strengthen the technical capacities of relevant stakeholders to guarantee quality monitoring, verification of information, reporting and response to grave violations against children.

UNICEF also partnered with the UN to engage young people and traditional healers to provide outreach to high-risk communities/groups to promote COVID-19 vaccination services and to reduce vaccine hesitancy and rumors. As a result of this partnership, in 2021, 1,280,000 persons were vaccinated against COVID-19 and the demand-side for vaccines progressively increased. UNICEF led the production of communication assets for the COVID-19 prevention campaign implemented by the UN system in partnership with the donors.

Staff and implementing partners (IPs) were made aware of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) requirements through communication materials and training. Overall, 96 per cent of staff including newly recruited staff attended trainings on PSEA, and 83 per cent were trained on ethics and anti-fraud. Furthermore, 77 per cent of IPs participated in events and trainings on PSEA, HACT, Ethics and Fraud, while 100 per cent of CSOs implementing PCAs or SSFAs signed commitments on PSEA.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

CO have used the SG's planning directive as a practical tool to improve pragmatic actions on the ground for the PADI, and it obtained positive feedback from the local authorities because, on the one hand, they praised the reinforced collaboration among the different UN agencies; and on the other hand, they appreciated being regularly involved in all the phases of the programme design, planning, implementation and follow up. Key constraints including the lack of adequate human resources in the field for some of the partner agencies, and the absence of an interlocutor with decision making power for others. In addition, the mutual recognition is not yet enough understood and implemented by all

agencies. UNICEF will continue to support the field office with more joint UNCT missions to help move this joint agenda forward in 2022.

The Rapid response and community resilience approach is an approach designed to develop innovative ways of accessing children and communities in crisis-affected regions and communes. The approach focuses on working with local authorities and existing community-based associations/platforms to improve their capacity to identify risks that particularly affect children, make communities more resilient, conduct multisectoral needs assessments in case of a crisis and recommend actions that can be supported by UNICEF and other humanitarian actors. The main strategy is to integrate community engagement in all efforts to ensure that humanitarian initiatives are more inclusive and responsive to enhance community participation and improve the quality of the humanitarian response interventions. The 3RC approach is based on a mechanism organized with the local branches of CONASUR which is the national mechanism to prevent and respond to disasters, as well as the local associations and organizations with a strong presence in hard-to-reach rural areas and with a proven ability to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable people. So far, more than 75,000 people were reached with a multisectoral emergency response package. UNICEF conducted vulnerability and stakeholders' analysis in the most vulnerable communities, piloted key multisectoral partnerships linking the communities with the most suitable stakeholders, developed tools, trained partners, and prepared for the institutionalization process. Twelve multisectoral partnership with local NGOs were developed. The 3RC approach has created an opportunity for community-based associations to work effectively in locations where national and international civil society organizations are not able to reach because of insecurity. In addition, community organizations are provided with knowledge and capacities to ensure the continuity of humanitarian delivery in areas where other actors cannot reach. In 2022, UNICEF will

continue to support training of new local NGOs and associations; develop risk-informed programmes, enhancing community participation, planning, and prepared for emergency response; and support community-based organizations to provide integrated high impact interventions for crisis affected communities.

Moreover, the partnership with local associations through the Regional directorates of water and sanitation (DREAs) is now seen as an accelerator for the ODF process in the country. Their involvement has helped better engage community leaders and local authorities in the promotion of sanitation in their villages. This partnership combined with the consultation framework established between UNICEF and MEA provided opportunities for in-depth discussions and a mutual understanding on how to accelerate sanitation coverage from a multisectoral perspective.

UNICEF Burkina Faso initiated the application and testing of behavior sciences in nutrition and ante natal care services in 2021 to address complex development challenges. As such, the implementation Behavior Insights (BI) approach is underway as a booster in achieving results for children and pregnant women, with support from HQ and RO SBC teams. Under the umbrella of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, the BI approach is being used within child survival programming to increase the number of pregnant women who attend antenatal care earlier, complete antenatal care consultations, take multiple micronutrients supplements (MMS) tablets and follow the full antenatal care package during their pregnancy period and forty-two days after childbirth. The BI intervention builds on existing community engagement strategies, community platforms, and partnerships. Although Burkina Faso is still at the trial phase, its strategic vision is to harness adequate financial and material resources as well as partnerships to scale up the BI initiative which will be fully implemented in 2022.

UNICEF accelerated the engagement with young people and adolescents through support to the organization of a Caravan led by and for youth which convened a range of key stakeholders including youth networks, national and local authorities and the private sector. Through this initiative, the CO provided innovative solutions in terms of ensuring a participatory approach and a high level of inclusion and ownership at each step of implementation. Decentralized inclusive committees were

established in eight regions, led by young people including young representatives of IDPs, youth living with disabilities, out of school children, youth engaged in national and local networks, U-Reporters etc. These committees worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Youth and UNICEF and developed roadmaps and planning of activities so that young people in each locality both organized and benefited from tailor-made programs and events chosen by them (e.g., capacity building of leadership and children's rights). This two-way approach was critical in boosting innovation, while also maximizing the engagement of young people. For example, the decentralized committees facilitated the identification of young people proactive in climate change actions and facilitated their effective participation in the regional debate 'Youth Voices on Climate Change' alongside more than 100 young people from the Sahel region and high-level officials and scientists. Following the conclusions of several debates dealing with the lack of access to trainings due to the Internet divide, the UNICEF team created new curricula of training via SMS on HIV and Female Genital Mutilation. Overall, the Caravan attracted more than 60,000 young people through events, debates and trainings and reached more than 4 million people via social networks, telecom and mass and community media. Thanks to the Caravan, the CO was able to demonstrate proximity and responsiveness to the concerns of youth who will be

instrumental in the advancement of peace and development in the near future.