

THE LIMITS AND PITFALLS OF MULTILATERAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSES TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE SAHEL REGION AND COTE D'IVOIRE

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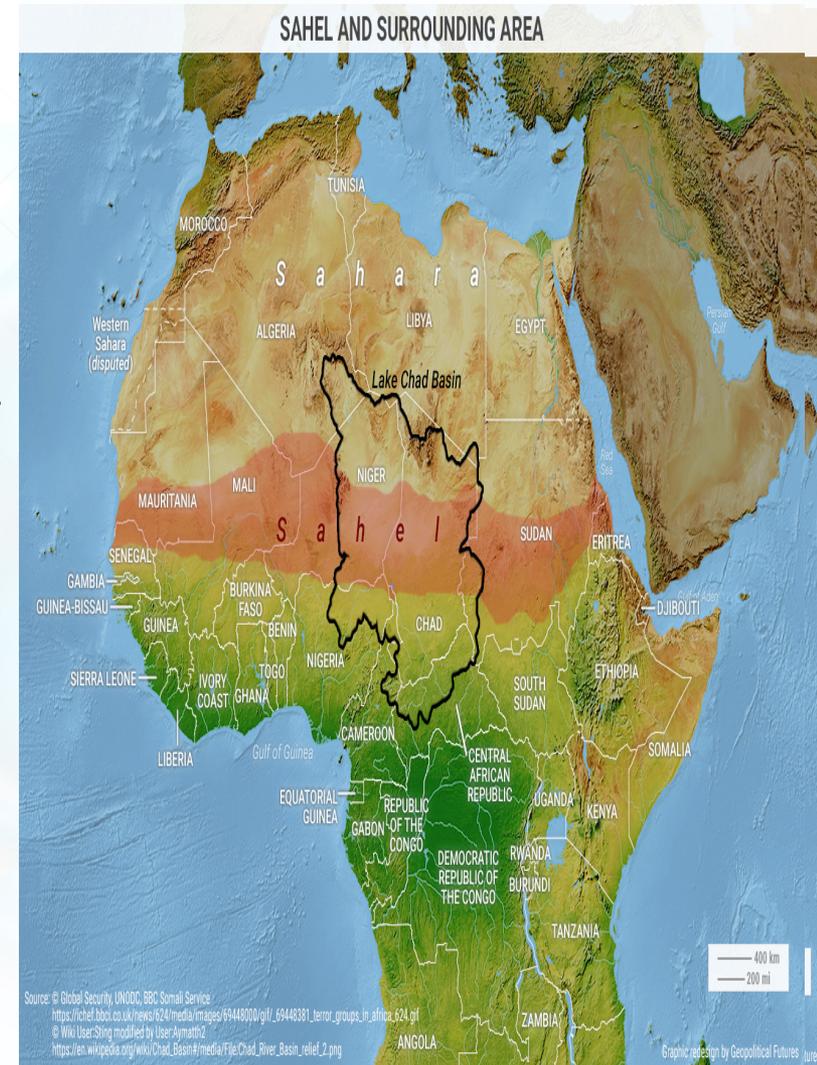
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Presentation Outline

- Background/Introduction
- Objectives of the research
- Research methodology
- Presentation of key research findings
 - ✓ Multilateral level
 - ✓ Regional level
 - ✓ National level – Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso & Cote d'Ivoire
- Conclusion and Recommendations

Background/Introduction

- The Sahel region has many complex and multi-layered security challenges.
- The combined effects of the challenges is impacting on democratic consolidation and efforts to achieve the SDGs.
- The enduring and protracted nature of challenges, raises critical questions about the efficacy of multilateral, regional and national responses.
- A part of the WANEP/UNDP project - **“Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crisis Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and Cote d’Ivoire”**, a research was undertaken to assess the limits/pitfalls of the current interventions.



Objectives of the Research

Main Objective - assess the gaps in the multilateral, regional and national responses to the peace and security challenges in the Sahel especially as it affects women and girls and proffer evidence-based policy recommendations to address the threats.

Specific Objectives:

- Examine the complex and multi-layered peace and security challenges in the Sahel region and Cote d'Ivoire;
- Analyze the specific challenges facing women and girls in the Sahel region and Cote d'Ivoire;
- Interrogate the multilateral, regional, and national responses (both Government and CSOs) to the peace and security challenges in the Sahel region and Cote d'Ivoire;
- Identify and discuss the limits/pitfalls in the response strategies to the peace and security challenges in the Sahel region and Cote d'Ivoire ; and
- Provide evidence-based policy recommendations to address the existing gaps to inform appropriate and effective interventions in support of the SDGs.

Research Methodology

- Qualitative/case study approach
- Country focus - Mali, Niger, & Burkina Faso. Cote d'Ivoire added (due to proximity to selected countries and strategic importance)
- Data Collection- Both secondary and primary data (in-depth interviews)
- Data Collection and analysis done by WANEP and four national consultants.
- Data gathered subjected to content analysis and thematic analysis.
- Limitations – elections in BF,CD and Covid 19 restrictions

Sahel region, Africa

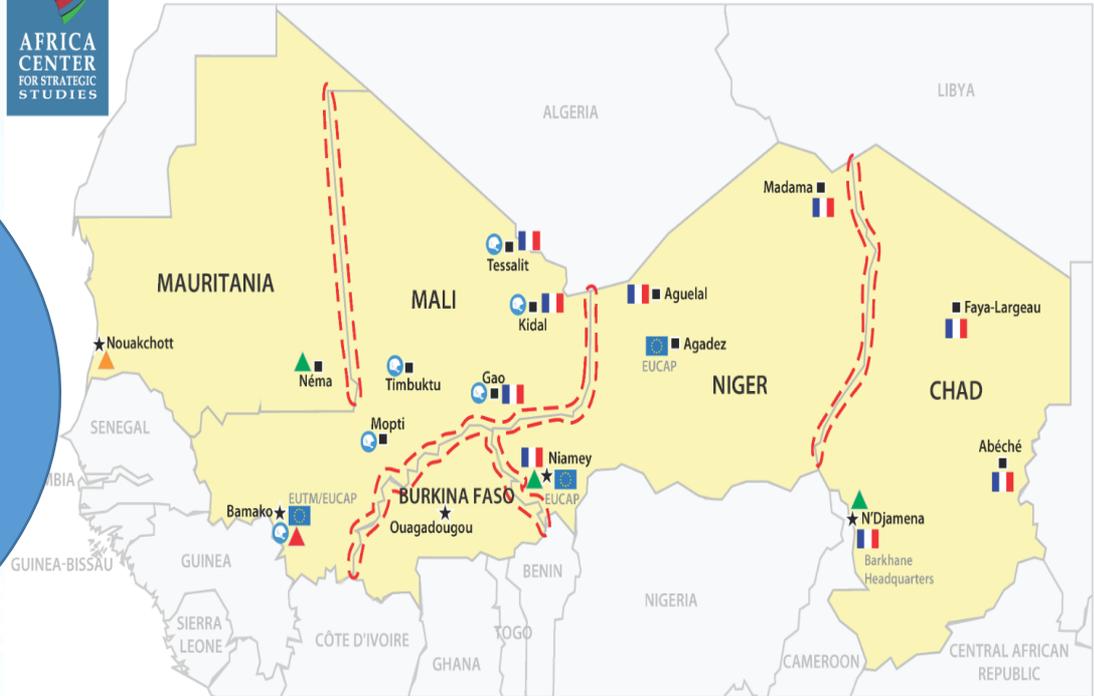


Key Research Findings

More focus on identifying and discussing the limits/pitfalls in the response strategies to the peace and security challenges in the Sahel region



REGIONAL SECURITY RESPONSES IN THE SAHEL



- ★ Capital
- Urban Area
- G5 Sahel Countries
- ▲ G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat
- ▲ G5 Sahel Joint Force Headquarters
- ▲ G5 Sahel Command Post
- G5 Sahel Joint Force Focus Areas
- MINUSMA Deployment
- Operation Barkhane (France)
- European Union Training Mission (EUTM) and European Union Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP)



Key Peace and Security Challenges

1 Political Insecurity

poor governance, weak state institutions, corruption, lack of state presence, political repression, injustice, election violence etc

2 Community Insecurity

Inter-ethnic conflicts, farmer-herder conflicts, crime, transnational organised crimes, terrorism, violent extremism etc.

3 Environmental Insecurity

Impacts of climate change, land degradation, resource depletion, disasters etc.

4

Health Insecurity

COVID-19, malaria, meningitis, poliomyelitis and HIV-AIDS, malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, etc

5

Economic Insecurity

Poverty, unemployment, shut down of small scale businesses, cut in FDI, etc.

6

Food Insecurity

hunger, famine, rise in food prices etc.

7

Personal Insecurity

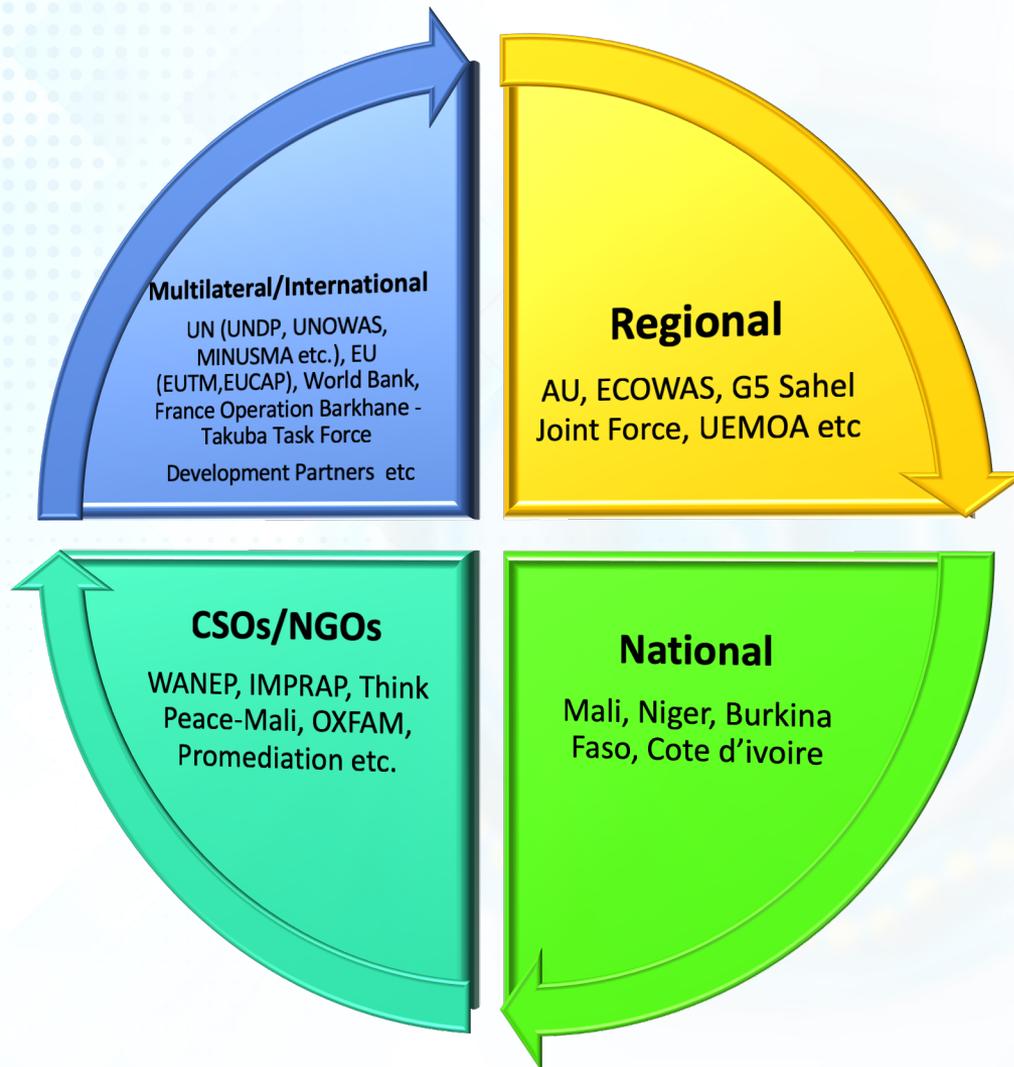
physical violence in all its forms, unlawful killings and human rights violations, human trafficking, humanitarian crisis etc.

Women/Girls

economic exclusion, limited participation in political and public life, poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, gender-based violence, harmful cultural practices, COVID-19 related problems, etc.

For girls- forced marriages, child pregnancy, child labour etc.

Responses



Multilateral/ International (Limits/Pitfalls)

- Difficulty in sustaining short-term gains or key achievements for greater impacts due to insecurity.
- Non-alignment of most development plans and projects with the realities on the ground
- Non-involvement of communities, especially those in the rural area in initiatives affecting them
- Limited functional coordination among stakeholders
- Multiplicity of Sahel strategies and initiatives leading to duplication of activities.
- Lack of strong feedback mechanisms to inform subsequent policies and programmes
- The discontinuity and short-term funding packages and project duration does not provide a lasting impact of interventions

Regional (Limits/Pitfalls)

- Limited human, logistical and financial resources to implement initiatives.
- Weak functional coordination and cooperation among regional actors
- Limited/or no involvement of communities in initiatives affecting them - less inclusive and participatory policies.
- Differentiated understanding of terrorism and violent extremism leading to contradictory positions on issues among G5 member states.



AFRICAN UNION



National Level - Governments (Limits/Pitfalls)

- Lack of follow-up on projects implemented with the support of international partners to inform subsequent interventions **(Burkina Faso)**
- Weak financial and material resources mobilization capacity to implement policies **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso)**
- Technical and operational difficulties in dealing with security threats -corruption, local mistrust, insecurity, COVID-19, human rights violations etc. **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso)**
- Lack of strong leadership and crisis management skills among political and security actors **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso).**
- State-centered approaches to peace with limited involvement of citizens **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire)**

- Failure of the truth and reconciliation process leading to cycle of violence (**Côte d'Ivoire**)
- Difficulty in the implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement (**Mali**)
- Wide gap between the array of policies adopted and the implementation of WPS commitments (**Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire**)
- Harmful socio-cultural norms and practices continue to limit women's power of self-determination in especially the economic and political scene.
- Women are not actively involved in local governance – sometimes cause by limited education and culture.

National Level – CSOs (Limits/Pitfalls)

- Limited coordination and competition among civil society actors **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire)**
- Lack of financial, technical, and material resources to carry out the myriad of activities – affects ownership of projects supported by international actors **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso)**
- Most CSOs interventions focus on the national context with few having a regionwide approach
- Short-term funding packages and project cycles of CSOs intervention does not provide for lasting impact/change **(Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire)**
- The risk of politicization of CSOs and attacks by political actors **(Niger)**

Conclusion

- From the study, it is quite clear that addressing the peace and security challenges would require a multi-faceted approach, strong political commitment and perseverance from both national and external actors.
- It is also clear that stability in the Sahel could only be achieved if stakeholders move beyond counterterrorism and divert a greater share of resources toward democratic governance, sustainable development and improving the livelihoods and security of vulnerable people especially women and girls.

Recommendations

1. Align strategies to national development policies and action plans to ensure context and culturally specific interventions **(Multilateral/International/Regional Actors)**
2. Promote a bottom-up approach to peacebuilding by investing more in the indigenous actors and initiatives to promote peace, security, development and justice **(Multilateral, regional and Governments)**
3. Establish a strong comprehensive integrated framework of initiatives to ensure coherence and targeted responses **(Multilateral, regional and Governments)**
4. The UN (UNOWAS) as the lead multilateral institution can consider developing a knowledge management platform to improve synergy among international partners **(Multilateral/International)**
5. Develop effective feedback mechanisms to assess the gaps and outcome of interventions to inform future strategies to enhance transparency and accountability **(Multilateral, regional and Governments)**

1. Enhance the utility and relevance of the state to the people by improving governance, access to basic welfare services, guaranteeing people's safety and security and making the state present in all regions (**Governments**)
2. Countries should budget for peace or peacebuilding and develop a robust, innovative, and resilient resource mobilization strategy to support the implementation of initiatives (**Governments**)
3. Strengthen the implementation of the commitments under the WPS agenda to address the peculiar challenges of women (**Governments, with CSOs support**)
4. Prioritize the needs and rights of the most vulnerable population especially women and girls in post-COVID-19 recovery efforts (**Multilateral, regional and Governments**)
5. Strengthen the capacity of CSOs especially women and youth through long term financial and technical support to allow them play their full and meaningful role in peacebuilding initiatives (**Multilateral/International**)
6. Leverage on the use of digital technologies in the light of COVID-19 to address the peace and security challenges in the region (**Multilateral, regional, Governments and CSOs**)

