



# SWEDD

AUTONOMISATION  
DES FEMMES ET  
DIVIDENDE  
DÉMOGRAPHIQUE  
AU SAHEL

SAHEL WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT  
AND  
DEMOGRAPHIC  
DIVIDEND

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

AUGUST 2023



WORLD BANK GROUP



## **SWEDD Annual Report 2022**

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THE SWEDD PROJECT

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT



# Acknowledgements

**T**he project's Regional Technical Secretariat would like to express its sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations who have contributed to the implementation of the SWEDD project in member countries to date. Their support, collaboration and dedication are invaluable to the commitment to women's health and education and girls' education to empower women and capture the demographic dividend in the Sahel.

Our thanks go first and foremost to the ministers that are members of the Regional Steering Committee (Comité Régional de Pilotage - CRP), decision-making body of the SWEDD project, and in particular to Chairman for his leadership and commitment to the SWEDD commitment to the SWEDD project.

Our special thanks go to the Country Management and Coordination Units (UGP/UCP) of SWEDD in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, for their strong commitment and our principal financial partner, the World Bank for its unfailing support.

Our thanks go to the regional, African and development organizations involved in the development organizations involved in the project, namely WAHO, ECOWAS, the African Union and AFD, for their invaluable contributions, technical and financial support necessary for the success of the project.

Our thanks also go to the FIFA General Secretary General of FIFA and to the thirteen (13) international footballers from nine (9) current and (4) new SWEDD countries, who spontaneously agreed to take part in the Stronger Together 2022 campaign for girls' education and women's leadership.

Finally, we would like to thank all our partners and the people who have supported the implementation of the project during 2022, and we look forward to continuing to work together to promote women's empowerment and the capture of the demographic dividend in the Sahel.



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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AFD</b>	French Development Agency
<b>AfriYAN</b>	African Youth and Adolescent Network on Population and Development
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 19
<b>CREG</b>	Regional Consortium for Research in Generational Economics
<b>DD</b>	Demographic Dividend
<b>DDNO</b>	Demographic Dividend National Observatory
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>EmONC</b>	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
<b>LMIS</b>	Logistics Management Information System
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>ORDD</b>	Demographic Dividend Regional Observatory
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>RMNCNH</b>	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Nutritional Health
<b>RSC</b>	Regional Steering Committee
<b>RTS</b>	Regional Technical Secretariat
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
<b>SWEDD</b>	Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>WAHO</b>	West African Health Organisation
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WCARO</b>	West and Central Africa Regional Office

# General Information about the Project

Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD)

## COMPONENTS

**Component 1:** Improve the regional demand for health services and empower women and adolescent girls

**Component 2:** Reinforce regional capacity and availability of RMNCHN commodities and qualified health workers

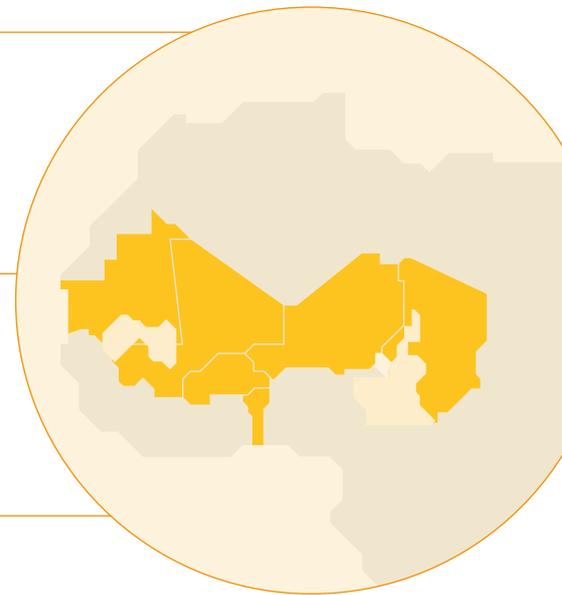
**Component 3:** Foster commitment and capacity for policy development and project implementation

## DURATION

- Phase 1 (2015 -2020)
- Phase 2 (2022-2024)

## MEMBER COUNTRIES

BENIN, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CHAD, CÔTE D'IVOIRE,  
GUINEA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER



## TARGET CATEGORIES

**Primary targets:** Women, adolescent girls from 09 countries

**Secondary targets:** children, men, health personnel, governments, members of the civil society, community and religious leaders.

## PARTNERS

- World Bank
- UNFPA
- WAHO
- AU
- AFD



## Foreword

**L**aunched in 2015 in response to a call from the Heads of State of six countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) that founded the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, this regional initiative to reduce gender inequalities and address the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women is a creative and holistic implementation of the so-called "4E" approaches (women's empowerment, increasing access to reproductive health services, girls' education" and employment). Its aim is to accelerate the demographic transition in the Sahel countries.

Over the years, SWEDD has established itself as a powerful tool for regional integration, placing women's empowerment at the heart of public policy. It encourages countries to invest more in addressing the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women, making them citizens who actively participate in the economic and social development of their countries. It is built on a fruitful partnership between countries and institutions supporting development: the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), the African Union and the French Development Agency (AFD).

The year 2022 witnessed the implementation of phase 2 of the SWEDD Project and the commitment of four other countries (Congo, Gambia, Senegal and Togo) to join this partnership in the service of women's empowerment in order to capture the demographic dividend.

Admittedly, significant progress has been made towards transforming the lives of adolescent girls and young women in the countries piloting the SWEDD Project. However, it must be acknowledged that new needs have arisen as a result of the security, political and health crises that have affected many of the SWEDD Project countries. These are major challenges that call for more effective interventions that are better adapted to the requirements of the countries' situations at different levels of implementation of their project.

A particular feature of this project is the important role of the Regional Steering Committee, which is a governance body led by the supervising ministers. This clearly indicates that this project is under the guidance of the countries' decision-makers. Also, on behalf of the Regional Steering Committee, I would like to reaffirm countries' commitment to making the SWEDD Project an innovative model of a regional integration and a fruitful partnership between development institutions and countries. Its aim is to make human capital the foundation of productivity and prosperity to be built in countries with the talents of adolescent girls and young women.

Finally, I would like to thank all the partners involved in this wonderful human adventure for the diversity of their contribution to making the SWEDD Project a resounding success. These include in particular the World Bank, UNFPA, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), the African Union and the French Development Agency (AFD).

**Mr Ousmane Mamoudou Kane**

**Acting President of the Regional Steering Committee of the SWEDD Project**



# 1

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022 marks the relaunch of events following the lifting of restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The scaling up of activities began as part of phase 2 of the SWEDD project. The extension of the project has persisted with the support of four new countries: Congo, Gambia, Senegal, and Togo, in the preparation of their Project Appraisal Document (PAD). Overall, significant results have been achieved, while at the same time new challenges have emerged in terms of the technical assistance that needs to be provided to the countries.

Under component 1, the year 2022 was marked by several achievements. First, the finalisation and validation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies for Guinea, Benin, Cameroon and Mauritania. Second, the rolling out of the Stronger Together Campaign on the theme of “Girls’ education and women leadership”, together with a digital campaign, the capacity building of stakeholders, the finalisation of the knowledge management platform and the new SWEDD website. And finally, the participation of football stars in promoting girls’ education. SBCC’s activities have produced a number of results in line with the three different components of the project in various countries.

Community-based interventions aimed at empowering women have begun to be scaled up. Safe spaces are being set up both in communities and in schools to prepare adolescent girls and young women for leadership and for the acquisition of life skills that are vital for empowerment. The curriculum is used by mentors. The revised curriculum is used by facilitators to help prepare husbands and the next generation for positive masculinity. In total 2111 safe spaces, 506 clubs for future husbands and 500 husbands’ clubs (Mali) have been set up in 2022, with an average number of beneficiaries per category of 55, 16 and 15 respectively. Community-based intervention approaches have been harmonised and integrated in Niger and Cameroon. This exercise will be continued in the other countries.

The new countries (Cameroon, Guinea and Benin) proceeded with the development of sub-projects aimed at empowering women in their respective countries. However, among these three countries, only Benin has completed the sub-project development cycle, the call for tenders and the recruitment of NGOs, as well as the establishment of 350 safe spaces benefiting 27,608 beneficiaries. Cameroon and Guinea are at the stage of identifying beneficiaries and setting up safe spaces.

In terms of keeping girls in school, 891,135 adolescent girls out of an estimated 748,645 benefited from at least one of the interventions relating to schooling (transport services, accommodation, food, school supplies, additional lessons). In terms of women’s economic empowerment, 141,209 adolescent girls and women, or 83.2 per cent of the 2022 target, benefited from interventions in the areas of vocational training, credit or productive asset subsidies. Nevertheless, disparities have been noted, particularly between old and new countries (with the exception of Benin).

Under Component 2, countries have planned and implemented key activities to ensure the accessibility and availability of reproductive health inputs. These are contraceptives and quality human resources in the SWEDD project intervention areas. Significant achievements have been recorded. Of the 665,153 new female users of a modern contraceptive method targeted in 2022, 664,167 have been registered, i.e., 99.85 per cent of female users.

In the area of training health personnel, an important step has been taken, that of evaluating and analysing the costs of the three centres of excellence (Niger, Côte d’Ivoire and Mali). These activities contribute to the sustainability and accreditation of diplomas awarded in accordance with the standards set by the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES).



In terms of health human resources, 449 midwives have completed their basic training through short continuous training sessions. This was in the context of quality assurance of reproductive health services (EmONC, family planning (FP) including post-partum FP and gender), out of a total of 9,526 midwives trained since the beginning of the project.

Under component 3, the following achievements were recorded: teams from nine SWEDD countries were trained in design, to support evidence-based planning, on the one hand. They were also trained in the use and updating of the impact model, which is a modelling tool used not only to quantify vulnerable target groups but also to determine the potential for change. Furthermore, 63 country experts were trained in the process of introducing DD-sensitive budgeting. The results framework of the regional SWEDD project was reviewed using a consultative approach involving all stakeholders. Also, 41 experts from 11 SWEDD project countries were trained in techniques for developing gender-responsive policy briefs. In addition, an assessment of national parliamentary networks on population and development was conducted in six countries.

With the aim of improving the legal framework in accordance with the project's themes, the experts from the platform of legal officers and the countries' legal teams have worked on finalising their action plans. They based their work on a situational analysis of the legal context in each country and on the identification of problems and contextual, structural and socio-cultural factors. These factors prevent the full application of laws, regulations and court rulings in favour of women, adolescents and young people.

As part of promoting the results of the SWEDD Project, a high-level panel under the theme: "SWEDD: Partnership for transforming the lives of women and girls" was organised on April 27, 2022. The event took place on the sidelines of the session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development and was chaired by Ms Diene Keita, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Director of UNFPA.

In terms of the strategic management of the SWEDD project, the Regional Steering Committee was held, followed by the implementation of some recommendations on the TA. These recommendations focused in particular on the organisation of quarterly meetings, the repositioning of the TA, the drafting of the annual report, the updating of the evaluation report and the funding agreement. In addition, regional meetings focused on sharing experiences in monitoring and evaluation, on community-based interventions, and on supporting countries in preparing their Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and related documents.

Financial implementation varies from country to country. The financial resources mobilised in 2022 for technical assistance amount to \$6,821,158, with an implementation rate of 78.6 per cent.

Finally, in terms of 2023 priorities, the Project will focus on strengthening the achievements of 2022. These will be even more focused on capacity development for the transfer of skills to countries in order to achieve the expected results.



Stronger Together  
EDUCATION  
DES FILLES  
ET  
LEADERSHIP  
FEMMINILE

RØDE

# 2

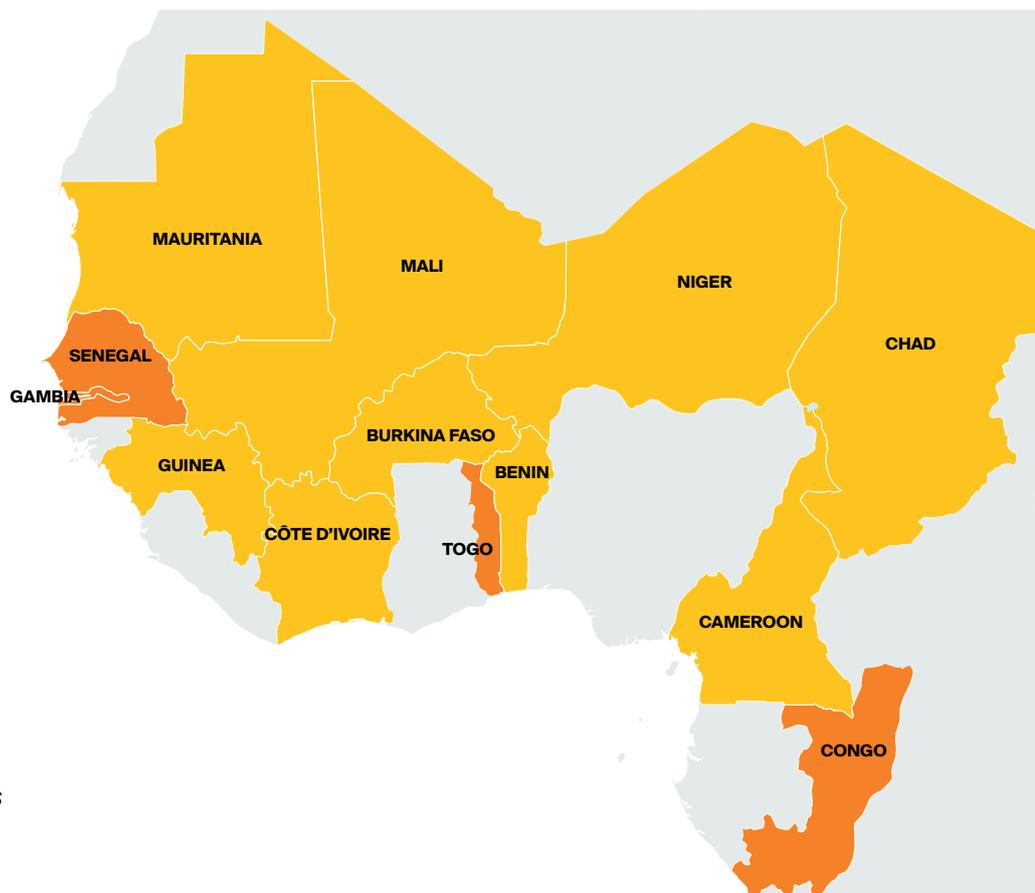
## INTRODUCTION

Once restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic were lifted, activities were relaunched throughout 2022. Events were rolled out in SWEDD phase-2 countries. In addition, four new countries : Congo, Gambia, Senegal and Togo joined the project for phase-3, marking the gradual extension of SWEDD. These new countries have started preparing the documents required for the World Bank's funding agreement.

The activities were carried out in a climate of scaling up SWEDD interventions with the implementation of ambitious annual work plans. These plans make it possible to extend SWEDD's interventions and make up for any delays. In addition, the new countries are in the final stages of submitting their Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and related documents. These include social and environmental backup plans, and the establishment of management units using the preparation funds made available to them.

The activities carried out by the countries are deployed under the supervision of the SWEDD Project's Regional Technical Secretariat, with the support of the UNFPA offices in the countries covered, as well as international and national partners, service providers and consultants, according to their areas of expertise.

This report for the year 2022 takes stock of the progress made in implementing the SWEDD, the levels of programmatic and financial implementation of the TA plan, the constraints and lessons learned and the priorities for the year 2023. Achievements are presented by project component and sub-component.



SWEDD countries

# 3

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022





This chapter deals with the achievements made by the countries. It is made up of the elements gathered in the assessment reports of the SWEDD Project management units of the countries as well as the data from the results frameworks at regional and national levels. It also takes into account the reports of the technical support partners for the implementation of the activities.

The format of the report follows the structure of the project's components and sub-components.

## Component 1

Improve the regional demand for health services and empower women and adolescent girls

**This component aims to increase demand for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and nutritional health services by (i) raising public awareness of these services and (ii) strengthening the status of girls and women.**

Component 1 is the heart of the SWEDD project. It includes the social and behaviour change communication component and community-based interventions contributing to the reduction of vulnerabilities affecting adolescent girls and women. It is implemented through a set of integrated activities involving training, life skills development, sexual and reproductive health, gender, vocational training and support for economic initiatives to ensure the empowerment of young women. This component also takes into account the education of girls and the preparation of men for positive masculinity.

The main achievements for 2022 are as follows:



## Sub – component 1.1: Social and Behaviour Change Communication

2022 was marked by the completion of several major projects. First of all, the finalisation and validation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies for Guinea, Benin, Cameroon and Mauritania. Then, the running of the Stronger Together Campaign on the theme of “**Girls’ education and women leadership**”, as well as the running of the digital campaign and capacity-building for stakeholders. Finally, the finalisation of the knowledge management platform and the new SWEDD website.

### The Stronger Together campaign

#### **Amplifying high-level advocacy and mobilising influential stakeholders in support of the empowerment of women and girls:**

The launch ceremonies in the countries were presided over by the SWEDD supervising ministers, **with the virtual participation of the Chairman of the SWEDD Regional Steering Committee for the majority of countries.**

On September 8, 2022, **Benin’s** Minister of Social Affairs and Microfinance and supervising minister, Véronique Tognifodé, launched the #StrongerTogether campaign, which focuses on reducing the vulnerabilities that affect adolescent girls, with the aim of keeping them in school and reintegrating them into it. The prevention of pregnancy in schools was one of SWEDD-Benin’s priorities for this year’s campaign. On October 12, 2022, the International Day of the Girl Child, SWEDD organised an advocacy event chaired by the supervising minister, under the theme “protection of the rights of the girl child”, in the historic town of Ouidah. The event marked the launch of the distribution of 5,460 installation kits for vulnerable girls who have dropped out of school, and an employability programme for 1,200 unemployed graduate girls.

Meanwhile, **Burkina Faso** marked the launch of the campaign on September 26, 2022 with a joint interministerial declaration on the #StrongerTogether themes, under the aegis of the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene and the Minister of National Education.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, at the instigation of the supervising minister, Mrs Myss Belmonde Dogo, Minister of Solidarity and of the Fight against Poverty, a number of community awareness-raising activities have been carried out in various regions where the country's most vulnerable girls and women live. These activities included campaign launches on October 3, 2022 in Bondoukou and October 19 in Korhogo, as well as a government debate held on October 27 to discuss the themes of the campaign.

In **Mali**, the supervising minister, M. Bréhima Kamena, Minister of Urban Planning, Housing, Land, Spatial Planning and Population, launched the campaign alongside Mr. Wadidié Founè Coulibaly, Minister of Promotion of Women, Children and the Family.

In **Guinea**, the launch of the campaign was coupled with the launch of the SWEDD project on May 20, 2022 in Labé, in the presence of Prime Minister Mohamed Béavogui and Dr Lanciné Condé, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Planning.

In **Chad**, the supervising minister of the SWEDD project, Mr Moussa Baraki, Minister of Economic Prospective and International Partnerships, launched the campaign with the Minister of National Education and Civic Promotion. An exemplary community campaign has been carried out in this country, involving the administrative and military authorities, religious leaders, AfriYan young people, women role models from the SWEDD project and civil society. Several conference debates were organised to discuss the reintegration of girls who had dropped out of school, under the auspices of the Ministry of women.

In **Mauritania**, the campaign was launched in December 2022 by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors, Mr Mamoudou Ousmane Kane, on the sidelines of the first meeting of the SWEDD countries' parliamentarians. This meeting took place in Nouakchott from December 20 to 22, 2022, offering an opportunity for new stakeholders to get involved.

A number of activities were carried out between January and March 2023. These included updating the national SBCC strategy to adapt communication tools to the different types of target audience. There were also two capacity-building workshops for journalists in the project area and awareness-raising activities in schools. A campaign in schools reached 55 secondary schools across the country. **A caravan was launched in Nema by the Minister of National Education, reaching 45,000 pupils and 800 teachers.** Imams and midwives took part in the school visits, answering questions asked by teenagers. Lastly, the audience for the campaign's Facebook page has doubled since December 2022, reaching **4,400 subscribers.**

In each of the participating countries, the 2022 edition involved more than 100 authorities and influential stakeholders. These include ministers, partner representatives, religious and traditional leaders, national celebrities, female role models and young people.

### **14 celebrities from the world of football join forces to get girls into school**

As part of the innovative partnerships for girls' enrolment, the RTS has initiated an activity to mobilise fourteen (14) celebrities from the world of African football from the thirteen (13) SWEDD countries around the issues of empowering women and girls and capturing the demographic dividend.

The SWEDD project was keen to take advantage of the fame and influence that footballers have on thousands of people, particularly young people, in order to launch an awareness-raising campaign involving key players from the world of football. In addition, most African footballers are involved in community development through philanthropic and social activities in the fields of education and health. The aim of this partnership is to involve footballers and in particular their foundations in supporting activities to empower women in their respective countries.

## Stakeholders involved in the Stronger Together campaign:

Public and local authorities (**9 Governments of SWEDD countries, 9 PMUs**)

**17 music celebrities**

**14 Football celebrities**

**46 Community Ambassadors** for the fight against gender-based violence

**10 National, regional and international media**

**967 Religious and traditional leaders**

**38 Role model** women and girls.



## L'ÉQUIPE PANAFRICAINNE SWEDD DE FOOTBALL

#StrongerTogether @CampagneSWEDD #SWEDD



Mrs. Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura, FIFA Secretary General, and 13 renowned African footballers recorded videos in support of the campaign: Steve Mounié (Benin), Jonathan Pitropa (Burkina Faso), Henri Patrick Mboma (Cameroon), Trésor Lua Lua (Congo), Salomon Kalou (Côte d'Ivoire), Steve Trawally (Gambia), Josuha Guilavogui (Guinea), Amadou Haidara (Mali), Cheikh El Khalil Moulaye Ahmed aka Bessam (Mauritania), Youssouf Alio Oumarou aka Bale (Niger), Alassane Ndour (Senegal), Rodrigue Casimir Ninga (Chad), and Sheyi Emmanuel Adebayor (Togo).

**SBCC 2022 best practices:**

**Burkina Faso: religious and customary authorities at the heart of the campaign**

The campaign was marked by the publication of a joint ministerial declaration by the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene (the supervising minister) and the Minister of National Education on the campaign's themes. Awareness-raising activities for religious and traditional authorities were organised in Boussouma and Dédougou from September 26th to 28th, 2022. The PMU was able to rely on community radio stations and social media to disseminate the campaign messages, particularly the Single. A total of 11 community radio stations were enlisted to broadcast programmes produced by specialists, beneficiaries and resource persons from the Ministry of Education's decentralised departments in the two target areas.

**Chad: the SBCC to provide reproductive health services**

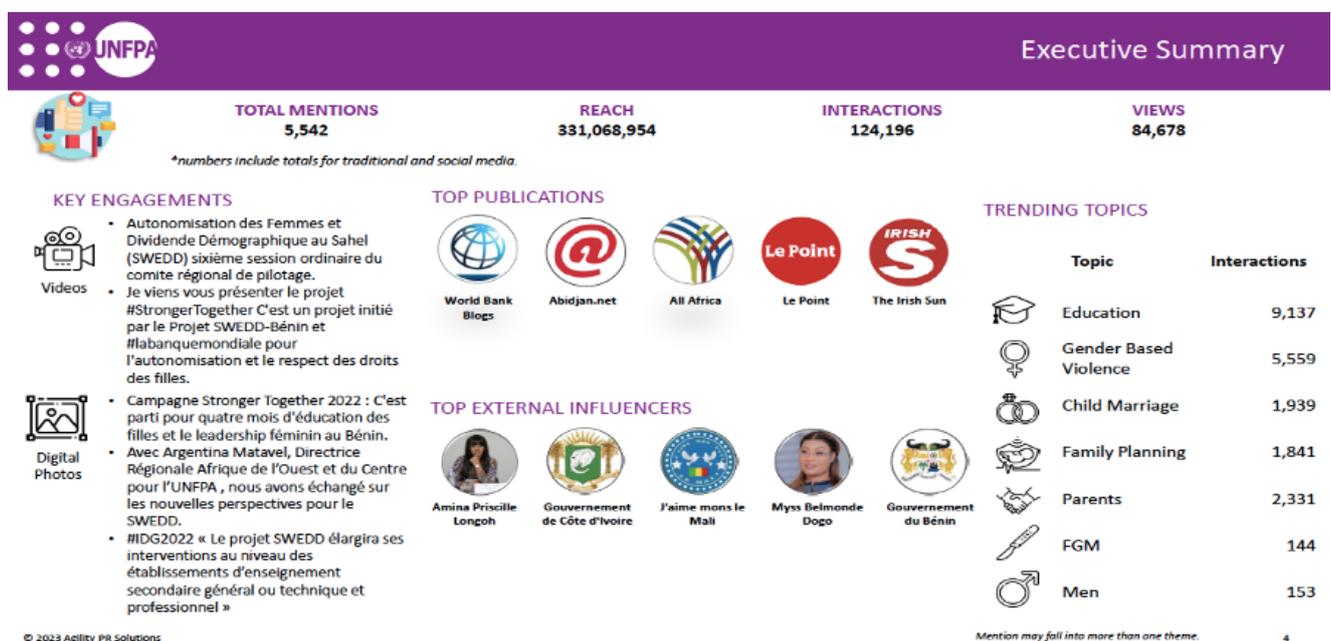
A new feature of the 2022 campaign is the deployment of a mobile clinic providing reproductive health services. Its qualified personnel offer quality services to girls and women in hard-to-reach and distant towns and villages.

The involvement of religious and traditional leaders in the campaign caravans led to the cancellation of 301 early marriages, including 230 cases involving girls aged between 12 and 18, and 2,231 girls who had dropped out of school returning to school.

More than 100 religious and traditional leaders were involved in capacity building, with the aim of participating in national and international conferences on the themes of the SWEDD project.

Community ambassadors for the fight against gender-based violence and harmful practices were also elected.

According to the Agility report, the **digital campaign** has helped to make the campaign's themes the most followed and commented on, with education, gender-based violence, child marriage and family planning at the top of the list.



**SBCC's activities have produced a variety of results, as illustrated below:**



**More than 331 million people reached by the campaign messages in 2022**, over 80 per cent of them are young people aged between 18 and 35: social media (73.7 million); press coverage (257.4 million).



**10,000 installation kits distributed to vulnerable girls who have dropped out of school and the professional integration programme for 1,200 unemployed graduate girls in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.**



**Bicycles distributed to 3,500 vulnerable girls** in Mali

Bicycles distributed to 50 girls located more than 10km away from schools in Chad



**13 world-renowned footballers from SWEDD countries and the FIFA Secretary General took part in the Stronger Together Campaign.**



**8 ambassadors to fight violence against women** elected in 4 provinces in Chad

**17 music celebrities** involved in the Stronger Together Campaign



**10 national, regional and international channels** working to broadcast the campaign



**38 life stories of women role models gathered for the White Paper**



**10 AfriYan youth networks** mobilised for the community mobilisation and digital campaign

**2 national SBCC strategies** and SBCC 2022 operational plans developed (Benin, Mauritania)



**3 mapping reports from experts and institutions** working in SBCC (Benin, Cameroon, Guinea)

Creation of 1 **SWEDD website** and 1 "SWEDD Knowledge Base" **knowledge management and sharing platform.**

Capacity-building



## 8 technical support missions

to SWEDD countries enabled national capacities to be strengthened in the following areas: development of communication plans, budgeting (Cameroon), SBCC strategy (Mauritania, Benin), M&E (Benin) SWOT surveys (Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Benin).

Training young people from the

## AfriYan

network to run social media and gather information on audience engagement and interaction, enabling better management of digital campaigns in SWEDD countries.



Support for the

## 9 SWEDD countries

in planning and budgeting SBCC activities and the Stronger Together campaign.



Capacity-building for

## 54 communicators

on the themes of the Campaign and the SWEDD project in Benin.



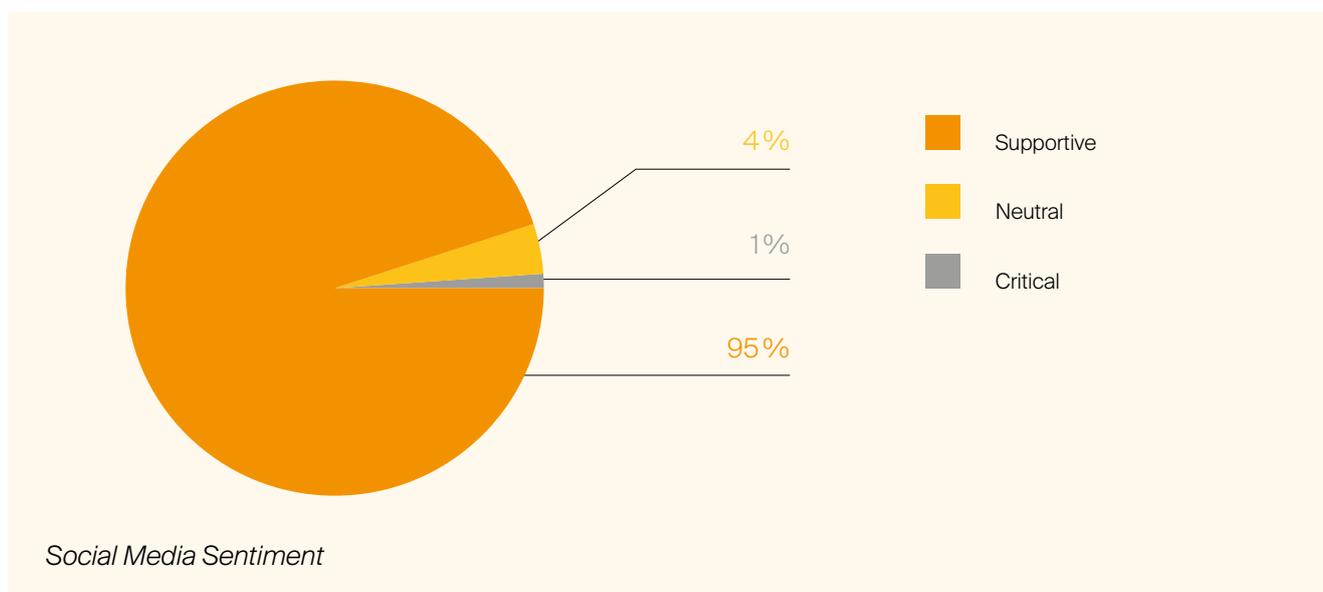
### Impact de la CCSC sur l'autonomisation des femmes dans les pays SWEDD

- As the Agility 2022 report shows, the SBCC campaigns have contributed to breaking the taboo on issues of sexual and reproductive health and planning. They have also raised awareness among families and communities of the importance of educating girls, fighting GBV and harmful practices, and preventing sexually transmitted infections. 95 per cent of the overall audience on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) and 90 per cent in traditional media (radio, television, press) are in favour of the messages disseminated by the SWEDD project.
- Of the 300 million people reached by the Stronger Together campaign messages via social media and mass media, **over 80 per cent are young people aged between 18 and 35.**
- The Stronger Together campaign also witnessed a strong commitment from the most influential stakeholders in the communities, including the ambassadors, in the fight against harmful practices and violence against women. This increases the impact of the messages about social and behavioural change.

The success factors of the StrongerTogether campaign include the greater involvement of beneficiaries, better segmentation and prioritisation of target audiences, as well as the personalisation of messages and their alignment with communication channels.

Furthermore, the involvement of national and local authorities in the development of national SBCC strategies has a greater impact. Partnerships with key influencers such as religious and traditional leaders, music celebrities, footballers, youth and women's networks, the media and the private sector also have a significant impact.

On the media front, having forged partnerships with channels such as Trace, which broadcasts musical content that is highly appealing to young people, has made it possible to reach SWEDD's target audience. The Single broadcast on Trace Media was widely taken up in taxis, public transport and other public spaces, reaching a large audience.





© SWEDD Burkina Faso

### Knowledge management and sharing platform of the SWEDD project

All stakeholders have produced a number of documents since the establishment of the SWEDD Project in 2015. The accumulated documentation needs to be organised and available, and above all easily accessible in order to be better exploited according to the needs of the countries. It has become essential to build up the SWEDD project archives and to organise them in order to preserve the memory of this experience, which is currently being written by a number of stakeholders.

Following the recommendation of the National Steering Committee (NSC), the Regional Technical Secretariat (RTS) finalised the development of the SWEDD knowledge management platform in 2022, with technical support provided by CREG. This platform, known as the "Swedd Knowledge base", or SKB in short, aims to capitalise on the project's achievements and to disseminate the resulting good practices. The SKB platform has two components: (i) documentation of resources and (ii) a community of practice. Its aim is to give stakeholders in SWEDD countries and target partners access to a virtual space. This space facilitates: the management of information; the management of knowledge; the strengthening

of learning capacities and ensures easy access to information. The development of the platform has been carried out through various stages. First, a process was put in place to prepare the design of the platform, followed by the collection of platform resources and the development of the platform's Community of Practice. Finally, the elaboration of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the management of the platform.

SOPs make it possible to simplify and standardise the procedures for the management and running of the knowledge management platform. They will enable each party involved in the platform's feeding and running process to easily carry out the tasks assigned to them. The platform is linked to the SWEDD project website.

The last step before the official launch of the SKB platform is the organisation of a review of the documents posted on the platform with the involvement of the SWEDD PMUs and UNFPA country offices. This will take place at the next Steering Committee meeting.



## Sub-Component 1.2: Community-based interventions to promote women's empowerment

Sub-component 1.2 aims to create demand for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and nutritional health products and services (RMNCNH) through community-based interventions. It focuses on: (i) improving life skills through community and school-based safe spaces, promoting positive masculinity and transforming social gender norms by supporting the establishment of husbands' clubs and clubs for future husbands, (ii) keeping girls in school, (iii) economic empowerment of young women, and (iv) fighting gender-based violence (Cf. table below).

Community-based interventions aimed at empowering women have begun to be scaled up. Safe spaces are being set up both in communities and in schools to prepare adolescent girls and young women for leadership and for the acquisition of life skills that are vital for empowerment. The animation curriculum is used by mentors in 2111 new safe spaces. Scaling up in new locations is a gradual process. In 2022, 1006 new husbands' clubs and clubs for future husbands have been set up. The revised curriculum is used by facilitators to help prepare husbands and the next generation for positive masculinity. In 2022, community-based

intervention approaches were harmonised and integrated in Niger and Cameroon. This exercise will be continued in the other countries during 2023 to give greater impact to community activities.

The new countries, Cameroon, Guinea and Benin, developed sub-projects aimed at empowering women. Each country received 4 sub-project documents covering the following themes: "Keeping girls in school and securing their future", "Increasing economic opportunities for women and girls", "Improving skills and knowledge in terms of sexual and reproductive health", and "Strengthening survival care capacities for victims of GBV". The terms of reference of the NGOs were also drawn up and validated. However, among these three countries, only Benin has completed the sub-project development cycle, the call for tenders, the recruitment of NGOs and the establishment of safe spaces by making them operational. Benin will have installed 350 safe spaces by 2022, involving 27,608 beneficiaries. Cameroon and Guinea are at the stage of identifying beneficiaries and setting up safe spaces.

## Number of safe spaces, husbands' clubs and clubs for future husbands and their beneficiaries in 2022

Country	Safe spaces		Clubs for future husbands		Husbands' clubs	
	number	beneficiaries	number	beneficiaries	number	beneficiaries
Benin	350	27 608				
Côte d'Ivoire	1 134	69 752		-		
Mali	500	15 052	500	7 500	500	7 500
Mauritania	127	2 726	6	-	-	-
Total	2 111	115 138	506	7 500	500	7 500

In the other countries, safe spaces continued to be organised. In terms of life skills development, 260,748 adolescent girls and young women have completed training in safe spaces, i.e., 68.6 per cent of the 2022 target. However, **90.54** per cent of adolescent girls and women benefiting from interventions in safe spaces have a good knowledge of the harmful consequences of child marriage and early pregnancy, as well as the advantages of birth spacing. Whereas the forecasts were **80** per cent in 2022 and **87** per cent in 2024.

### Keeping girls in school: more than 800,000 teenage girls benefit from educational support

Out of a forecast of 748,645, 891,135 adolescent girls benefited from at least one of the interventions relating to schooling (transport services, accommodation, food, school supplies, additional lessons), representing a performance of 119 per cent. This performance is also reflected in the school retention rate of adolescent girls enrolled in secondary schools in the areas covered by the project, which reached 93.18 per cent, exceeding the 2022 target (88.70 per cent).

### Economic empowerment: almost 150,000 teenage girls and women benefit from economic support

In total, 141,209 teenage girls and women, or **83.2** per cent of the 2022 target, received economic support in the form of vocational training, credit or productive asset subsidies.

At country level, major innovations are being implemented with convincing results in the area of economic empowerment of adolescent girls, young girls and women to reduce gender gaps and achieve equity and equality. This is the case in Chad, which has developed four interventions. The first involves women forming groups, whose members undergo training beforehand. This training is followed by the provision of agricultural production tools. The second involves training young women in the manufacture of bio-insecticides. The third focuses on training in the processing and conservation of local products. Finally, the fourth project involves the acquisition and provision of VSLA (village savings and loan association) kits.



### Chad

The group identification process was carried out in 10 provinces, benefiting 1,115 groups with 330,080 members. Among them, 3,150 members benefited from training in techniques for processing local products. Training in market gardening was organised for 200 beneficiaries. At the end of this training, a batch of equipment was given based on the initially expressed needs. In addition, 200 members of women's groups were trained in the manufacture of bio-insecticides, with the aim of providing them with simple, accessible and natural resources.

This will enable them to deal with the problems they face.

Training agents on the implementation of VSLAs also benefited 150 members of the groups who were trained on the microcredit system to help communities have the capacity to invest in development, including in their families. Kits were acquired and made available to 148 VSLA groups with more than 3,398 members, who were able to contribute savings of 29,157,000 CFA francs.



### Burkina Faso

In terms of residual activities, the PMU financed the individual projects of adolescent beneficiaries of safe spaces. For example, 21 teenage girls from Soukuy in the Boucle du Mouhoun region received support to carry out

their individual projects under the "feminine entrepreneurship" sub-project. In addition, 270 teenage girls have benefited from installation equipment after completing their training in various professions at vocational centres.



### In Mali

Reversing the domination of sewing, cooking and hairdressing in women's professions is well under way, but it is still dominant according to the SWEDD Mali project report which states that out of a total of 320 girls/women recruited, 43.8 per cent were recruited in beauty / hairdressing, followed by electricity/drawing/construction at 11.9 per cent, and in 3rd and 4th

place, 9 per cent were hired in sanitary plumbing jobs, and 8.9 per cent in media. It's worth noting the emerging role of professions that are generally masculine, in particular electricity and construction, which are increasingly being filled by young women enrolled in the professional training courses run by the SWEDD project

### Prevention and support for survivors of GBV

The objective is far from being achieved in terms of cases of GBV and harmful practices referred for health, social, legal and security care, according to the referral process in place. Only 694 cases were referred out of a forecast of 13,413. With this result, the project is 5.2 per cent away from its target for 2022. One of the reasons given for this is the delay in setting up referral and support mechanisms. This is due, among other factors, to the weakness of the national systems in place.

It is important to highlight the example of Côte d'Ivoire, where **16,459 people** were reached through community awareness campaigns (legal and judicial texts, prevention and management of GBV cases) and **5,843** people through focus groups run by legal clinics with the support of 50 community relays. A total of **378** victims of GBV received legal and judicial assistance.

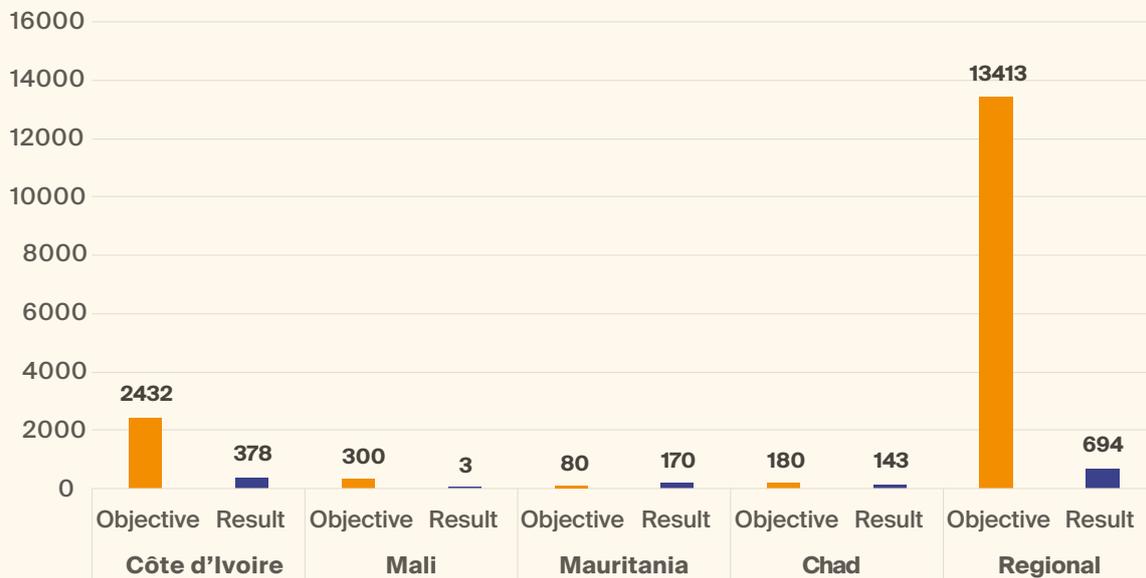


Figure 1: Number of GBV and harmful practices cases referred to health, social, legal and security services in the project's intervention zones according to the referral process in place in 2022.



## Component 2

Reinforce regional capacity and availability of RMNCHN commodities and qualified health workers

**This component should make it possible to strengthen regional capacities in terms of providing the essential elements (products and qualified personnel) needed to provide reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and nutritional health services.**

With UNFPA support, countries have planned and implemented key activities to ensure the accessibility and availability of RH inputs, including contraceptives, and quality human resources in the SWEDD project intervention areas. The main achievements are summarised below and presented by sub-component.

### Sub-component 2.1: Improving access to contraceptives at community level

The RTS, together with the PMUs, continues to support the implementation of capacity-building plans in countries to improve the community supply of contraceptive products through the following priorities:

- Supporting countries in rolling out community-based distribution (CBD) plans;
- Purchase/provision of inputs and other materials/kits for optimal implementation of CBD;
- Coordination of country actors;
- Documentation and dissemination of best laboratory practices.

Of the 665,153 new users of a modern contraceptive method targeted in 2022, 619,870 have been reached, i.e., **93.2** per cent of the target. The availability of contraceptive products at service delivery points has improved. Out of a 2022 forecast of **24.44** per cent, the breakage rate of contraceptive products reached **21.54** per cent.

At country level, as shown in the graph below, Benin, Mali and Chad are performing well. Chad is **90** per cent ahead of the 2022 target.



Figure 2: Number of new female users of a modern contraceptive method per country, by target and achieved result

## Sub-component 2.2: Improving the performance of the pharmaceutical supply chain, last-mile distribution

Phase 1 of the project allowed the former countries to implement pilot models for last-mile distribution. These public-private partnership models were rigorously evaluated in order to select the model that would be scaled up for the second phase of the project. This process of strengthening the supply and distribution chain at peripheral level has benefited from the technical assistance of the RTS in order to improve the indicators of availability of RMNCHN products in peripheral health units. According to a checklist, a total of 12 last-mile RMNCHN product distribution pilots have been developed and tested in the first seven SWEDD countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

Meanwhile, countries continued to strengthen their supply chains.

This involves:

- Support for supply chain capabilities through the exchange of stock information
- Computerization of logistics data
- Support for countries to intensify pilot projects for last-mile delivery
- Documentation of the impact of Covid-19 on countries' supply systems.

In Benin, the SWEDD project has supported the Ministry of Health in recruiting 77 logisticians. Before being sent to the field, with the support of the CHMP, they received training in the distribution of health products, with a focus on contraceptive products and the logistics indicators to be monitored. In addition, in order to ensure the availability of contraceptive products as closely as possible to users, the National Council for Primary Health Care set up a Technical Working Group supported by the SWEDD project (PMU, UNFPA and CHMP). The actions carried out have resulted in a diagnosis of the health products supply chain. This diagnosis was carried out through the active collection of logistics data in the field, and the organisation of a workshop with supply chain stakeholders at different levels of the health pyramid.

Although the target of 24 pilots tested for last-mile distribution was not achieved, some countries did make considerable progress. This is the case in Mali. The implementation report for the pilot project in the Kolokani and Dioila health districts located in the Koulikoro region shows that the average rate of availability of medicines rose between 2021 and 2022 from **28** per cent to **81** per cent and from **56** per cent to **81** per cent respectively for the Kolokani and Dioila health districts; in other words, an increase of **52** per cent and **25** per cent respectively over the same period.



### **Sub-component 2.3: Improving the availability of reproductive health workers in rural areas, strengthening the role of midwives and other personnel involved in the provision of RMNCHN services**

The regional strategy for reinforcing human resources in health is to support basic training schools, centres of excellence, the clinical mentoring centre and the continuous training. It also consists of supporting the integrated offer of RMNCHN services and the partnership with learned societies for the innovation of RMNCHN practices in the SWEDD area.

To this end, the 6th Statutory Meeting of the Regional Council for Health Professional Education was held in Ouagadougou from June 16th to 18th, 2022. It was an opportunity to evaluate and analyse the costs of the 03 centres of excellence (CE) in Niger, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali towards sustainability and accreditation (validation of the accreditation criteria for institutions in accordance with the standards set by the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES)). The following results were obtained at the end of the meeting:

- A revised accreditation document to be applied in the context of each centre of excellence;
- A summary of the challenges faced by the centres of excellence;
- Assessment tools for the three prepared centres of excellence;
- The centres of excellence are supported in the development of their business models with the purpose of achieving long-term strategies;
- A communication proposal on the activities of the centres of excellence and SWEDD's activities in general is available.

In addition, the training fields of the Centres of Excellence in Niamey, Abidjan and Bamako have been strengthened with the introduction of modules on innovation and the integration of gender and GBV. The short-term continuing digital training of midwives (MW) has been continued and a partnership has been developed through a collaborative training platform between CE and other MW schools. Within this framework, the technical and material capacities of the 3 CE have been reinforced, enabling 287 midwives to be trained in gender, contraceptive techniques and menstrual hygiene management: (Niamey: 135 midwives, Bamako: 125 midwives and Abidjan: 27 mentor midwives).

At country level, the number of midwives in the project's intervention areas who have completed their basic training with short-term continuous training sessions as part of the quality assurance of reproductive health services (EmONC, FP including post-partum FP and gender) is 9,526 compared with a forecast of 12,417, i.e., 77 per cent of the annual target.

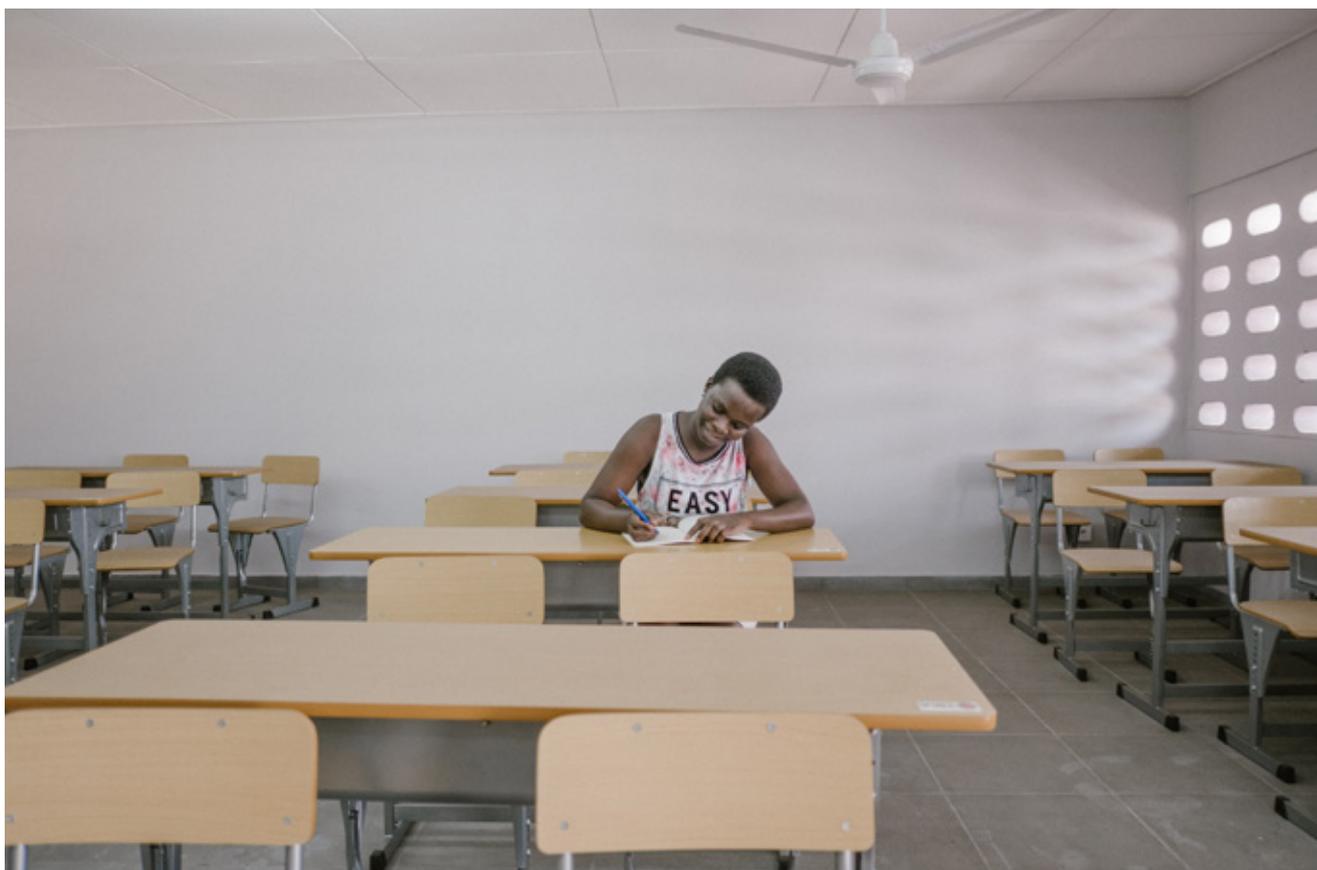
In Mali, for instance, the improved availability of reproductive health workers led to the following results:

- 323 active midwives were recruited as part of the project, resulting in (i) a 68 per cent increase in the number of working midwives in the three focus areas (Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso) and (ii) a 23 per cent increase in the number of working midwives nationwide.

The deployment of these midwives has made it possible to provide the following services:

- 67,984 prenatal consultations, 17,338 deliveries,
- 30,785 new female users of FP methods recruited, 72,000 direct beneficiaries of at least one service offered by midwives, 20 trainers deployed to strengthen human resources in health, 15 private midwifery practices set up with the support of the SWEDD project, generating more than 57 million in turnover in 2022.





## Component 3

Component 3 aims to strengthen (i) advocacy and political commitment in favour of the RMNCHN by drawing on the networks of religious, traditional, communicators and young people, (ii) capacity for policy making, for monitoring and evaluating demographic dividend issues, and (iii) project implementation capacities.

The implementation has been marked by the reinforcement of the interventions, combined with the development of a technical assistance plan, all through a consultative process. This involved all stakeholders. During 2022, the following main achievements were registered:

- Teams from **09** SWEDD countries were trained in the design, use and updating of the project's impact model;
- **63** country experts were trained in the process of introducing DD-sensitive budgeting;

- Proposals for project documents for SWEDD3 were developed and the results framework was reviewed using a consultative approach involving all stakeholders;
- **41** experts from 11 SWEDD Project countries were trained in techniques for developing gender-responsive policy briefs;
- An assessment of national parliamentary networks on population and development was conducted in 6 countries.



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### Sub-component 3.1: Strengthening advocacy and political commitment in favour of RMNCHN at regional and national levels

#### Harmonised and budgeted action plans for the countries' legal teams (Equipes Juridiques Pays-EJP)

As part of improving the legal framework, and in accordance with the themes of the project, the regional platform of legal officers and the countries' legal teams have worked on finalising their action plans. A situational analysis of the legal context was carried out in each country in order to identify the problems as well as the contextual, structural and socio-cultural factors preventing the full implementation of laws, regulations and court decisions in favour of women, adolescents and young people.

#### An assessment of national parliamentary networks on population and development conducted in 6 countries

This has mainly included identifying existing networks in the countries, revising the community leaders' action plans drawn up in 2021 and building capacity in resource mobilisation.

In order to encourage community leaders to support the project's themes, particularly keeping girls in school, fighting against female genital mutilation and practices that are harmful to sexual and reproductive health, 02 main targets have been identified:

1. **Community and religious leaders**, their mapping and mobilisation through the signing of commitments enabled action plans to be drafted. Moreover, the action plans were updated to take account of advocacy actions, with basic notions of advocacy and resource mobilisation techniques being shared.
2. **Parliamentary networks on population and development**: an assessment was conducted in 6 countries and interviews were organised with those responsible in order to gather information about the background, the achievements and the main challenges.



The number of community and religious leaders committed to actively promoting the enrolment of girls and keeping them in school, the reproductive health of adolescents, and the elimination of GBV and harmful practices was 15,155, compared with a forecast of 18,744 in 2022, i.e., an achievement rate of 74.7 per cent.

Eighteen (18) national and regional legal frameworks in favour of enrolling and keeping girls in school, adolescent reproductive health, and the elimination of GBV and harmful practices have been adopted, compared with a forecast of 25, i.e., 62.1 per cent of the target set for 2022.

In terms of the number of complaints recorded and actually handled, the figure is 90.9 per cent, compared with a forecast of 85 per cent in 2022.

## Sub-component 3.2: Building capacity for policy development, monitoring and evaluation of demographic dividend issues

### Capacity-building of DDNO: 41 experts trained in policy development and demographic analysis

In order to build capacity, but also to take greater account of Gender in DD research and advocacy, the joint RTS-WB team has initiated consultations with countries in order to identify together the actions that need to be implemented. It was therefore recommended to:

- Broaden research and advocacy on the BSDD to also include gender-disaggregated analyses of public spending;
- Strengthen DDNO's capacity to develop Policy Briefs that take gender analyses into account and use a language that is more accessible to the general public;
- Strengthen the advocacy capacities of the DDNO and the PMU to systematically include Gender aspects in DD advocacy

Within this framework, **41 experts** coming from 11 countries of the **SWEDD** Project: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo and Senegal have had their capacities strengthened in terms of policy development and demographic analysis. In particular, the aim is to develop an in-depth understanding of gender dynamics in relation to the DD dimensions and their analysis/integration into the drafting of Policy Briefs. It is also important to build their capacities in translating demographic and economic evidence that integrates gender into simpler and more accessible language for a non-technical audience. Each of the 11 countries has therefore developed a draft Policy Brief relating to a gender analysis of youth and the labour market, translated into colloquial language.



### **63 country experts trained in the process of introducing DD-sensitive budgeting**

A regional workshop was organised for 63 experts from 11 countries on the stages of DD-sensitive budgeting: budget transformation, back-calculation and integration of the DDMI, linking the DDMI to the functional budget and calculating budget elasticity. The experts were also introduced to gender analysis of public spending. Seven (07) countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Chad) now have a functional budget in the sense of DDMI and 02 countries (Mali, Mauritania) have carried out the DDMI back-calculation process. Thus, 7 countries have DD-sensitive budgets, 6 of which (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Chad) are at the implementation stage, while Mauritania has almost completed the process. Mali has already completed the process 4 years ago. However, it must be resumed with the change of institutions.

### **Survey on school dropouts: suggested remedial solutions**

A study on school dropouts was carried out in the 9 SWEDD countries in order to understand the extent and causes of this phenomenon. At the end of the survey, each country has 2 reports (on the extent and causes of the phenomenon) and a regional report drawn up by the Population Council. Furthermore, proposals for remediation with the Ministries of Education are formulated for each of the nine countries.

### **A pool of country experts on the established impact model**

A 5-day training workshop was organised for 46 people from PMUs, sectoral ministries and UNFPA offices, to ensure greater ownership and deeper understanding of the impact model. The workshop included sessions on an introduction to the impact model, building and updating the country profile model with all the indicators, and using data to create a country model.

### **Project results framework adapted to project developments**

The results framework has been reviewed in order to take into account the current needs of the SWEDD project as it enters its 3rd phase. This phase includes more countries and even more adolescents and girls in vulnerable situations. The exercise was based on a consultative approach involving the M&E managers of the PMUs and UNFPA, the IPs, the AU, WAHQ, RTS and the WB.

Seven (07) out of the nine (09) countries have an operational demographic dividend observatory, out of a forecast of 8 units. However, of these nine countries, only Mali has adopted the full process of demographic dividend sensitive budgeting. In addition, the number of national and regional publications relating to the demographic transition, population issues and DD recorded was 163 out of a forecast of 185 in 2022.



### Sub-component 3.3: Building project implementation capacity

This chapter covers the activities carried out by the RTS for the strategic management of the SWEDD Project. These include the meeting of the SWEDD Project's governance body, the Regional Steering Committee, as well as the regional seminars organised as part of the three components' programming. These also involve assisting countries in preparing their Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and related documents for phase 3 of the SWEDD Project.

#### Meeting of the SWEDD Project's highest governance body: performances observed despite the crises.

The 6th ordinary session of the project's Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was held face-to-face on March 24, 2022 in Nouakchott, in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It illustrated the relaunch of activities of all the SWEDD Project's branches. This governance body was prepared on March 21st and 22nd 2022 by three (03) parallel meetings: the meeting of the SWEDD PMUs coordinators, the consultation of the Monitoring & Evaluation Officers and the meeting of the Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS and the African Union).

Under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Mohamed Ould Bilal MESSAOUD, Prime Minister of Mauritania, the meeting was chaired by Mr Ousmane Mamoudou Kane, Chairman of the RSC, and attended by the supervising ministers of the 9 SWEDD countries and the representatives of the technical and financial partners: the World Bank, UNFPA and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO). The meeting was also attended by representatives of the multi-sectoral teams in charge of preparing projects for the new countries (Congo, Gambia, Senegal and Togo), as well as representatives of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The governance body examined and approved the programmatic and financial report for 2021 and the 2022 work plans of the PMUs and technical partners. It welcomed the project's achievements despite the threefold health, security and political crisis, and appreciated the spirit of innovation and resilience of the member countries. Finally, it urged the countries to strengthen cross-border initiatives in order to maximise the project's impact, and welcomed the new countries joining the SWEDD network.

### **RSC recommendations: implementation status (see annexe)**

- Organise quarterly meetings on the repositioning of TA, involving the Representatives in the SWEDD countries and the Regional Director.
- Draw up the annual TA report on the basis of data collected on a quarterly basis
- Update the current AT evaluation report
- Financing agreement for the TA provided by UNFPA and WAHO through the World Bank for the new countries

### **Participation in the UN Commission on Population and Development**

On the sidelines of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development session and under the chairmanship of Ms Diene Keita, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Director of UNFPA, SWEDD organised a high-level panel on April 27, 2022 under the theme: "SWEDD: Partnership for transforming the lives of women and girls". The event brought together 149 participants. Among them were government representatives from SWEDD countries, the UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa, UNFPA country offices, Regional Economic Communities in Africa, implementing partners, donor partners including the World Bank, CSOs, media representatives and the general public. Panellists representing the World Bank, Ministers from some SWEDD countries and UNFPA highlighted the impact of the multi-sectoral approach adopted by the SWEDD project on beneficiaries, target communities and countries. Partnership was highlighted as a key accelerator for the achievement of transformative outcomes. They issued a call to action to countries asking them to create the conditions necessary for inclusive scaling up. Development partners were also invited to jointly support the countries and the regional dynamics driven by the SWEDD project.

### **Regional meeting for sharing experiences and discussing the SWEDD M&E system**

The meeting of the monitoring-evaluation managers of the nine (09) SWEDD PMUs and those of the UNFPA country offices was held from November 7 to 11, 2022 in Cotonou (Benin), as an extension of the recommendations of the 6th ordinary session of the project's Regional Steering Committee (RSC). The meeting was attended by members of the SWEDD Working Group for the countries in preparation (Congo, Gambia, Senegal and Togo), the World Bank, WAHO, the implementing partners (Pop Council, JHU, CHMP, CREG) and OM-Consulting. The meeting provided an opportunity for a broad exchange of country experiences, leading to the establishment of a harmonised framework for monitoring the induced effects of the project. It also enabled country experts to be brought up to speed on the regional Delta M&E platform with a view to its effective use. In addition, the essential instruments needed to harmonise and operationalise the M&E system at all levels were developed.

### **Strengthening countries' capacities to transform gender-based social norms**

A meeting to share and harmonise the SWEDD Project's community interventions was held in Douala (Cameroon) from November 14 to 16, 2022. Its main objective was to build the capacity of key actors in SWEDD countries, in particular Benin, Cameroon and Guinea, to effectively manage safe spaces and husbands' clubs and clubs for future husbands' programmes on the basis of minimum standards, through the lessons learned and the experiences of phase 1: i.e., Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Chad.

The organisation of this workshop made it possible to offer the SWEDD country teams a physical space for meeting and exchanging in terms of sharing knowledge and learning from each other. The option of grouping the countries in pairs, with one country from phase 1 and one from phase 2, gave each team the opportunity to interact and learn from each other's experiences in the field.

## Documenting interventions: understanding the success of programmes

A documentation of good practices identified during phase 1 of the SWEDD Project has been initiated by the RTS and the World Bank in collaboration with the countries. This consists of a systematic and meticulous documentation process of the SWEDD project's key interventions in order to better understand how and why programmes succeed or fail depending on the implementation context. Twelve themes were selected in collaboration with the countries, and the stages of documentation were developed by consensus.

The 5 stages of this documentation are the following:

- Documentary review and framing of the mission with a work plan,
- Data collection on the field,
- Analysis and drafting of briefing notes,
- Validation of documented key results,
- Dissemination of the results.

The documentation of good practices was entrusted to the IPs and the WAHO according to their area of expertise. The pilot phase was conducted by the Population Council. It focused on the curriculum for animating safe spaces. Each documented good practice is to be presented in the format of an operational brief designed to enable countries to learn about the process of development, implementation and evaluation and to make the most of it to improve future interventions.

Five (05) operational brief drafts are currently being reviewed prior to publication. The process is ongoing and should be completed during the first half of 2023.







# 4

## BALANCE SHEET

The financial implementation of the countries is shown in the following table:

Country	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Global
Benin	74.51%	66.32%	55.21%	70.97%
Burkina Faso	100.24%	73.91%	107.99%	102.00%
Cameroon	4.00%	25.00%	67.00%	25.00%
Côte d'Ivoire	20.3%	60.3%	62.3%	36.25%
Guinea	35%	10%	55%	11%
Mali	96.00%	35.00%	71.00%	81.00%
Mauritania	32.70%	44.70%	54.50%	40.20%
Niger	100%	100%	100%	100%
Chad	96.14%	86.58%	81.3%	92.08%

The financial resources mobilised for UNFPA technical assistance in 2022 amount to \$6,821,158.05, with an implementation rate of 78.6 per cent. The distribution of the implemented budget for each component is shown in the graph below:

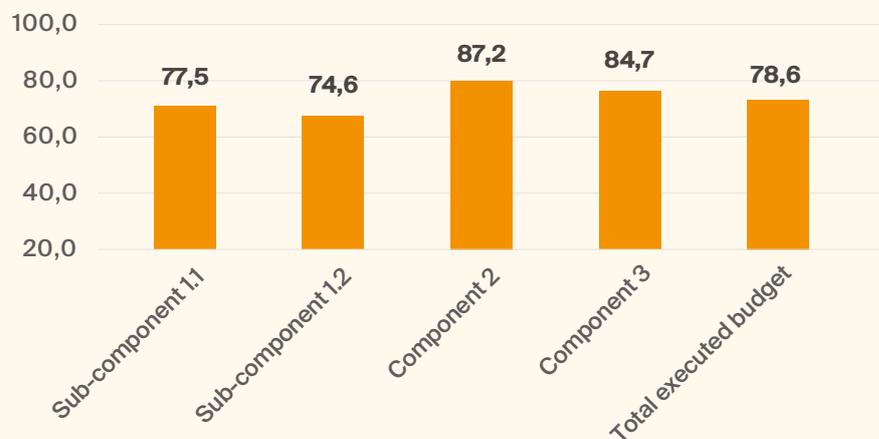


Figure 3: UNFPA Budget implementation rate in 2022 (in per cent)



# 5

## CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### The main financial constraints encountered are related to:

- The unpredictability of technical assistance needs with unexpected emerging needs, which affects initial budget allocations;
- The delay in mobilising the second disbursement received in June instead of January 2022;
- The mobilisation of resources to provide technical assistance to new countries not covered by the WAHO/UNFPA convention.

### To ensure optimum financing of technical assistance, it will be necessary to:

- Define upstream with the World Bank the distribution key of the technical assistance sections between the PMUs and the RTS;
- Combine the last two instalments of the convention to avoid any delays;
- Mobilise additional resources to support new countries that are not covered by the current convention between WAHO and UNFPA.



# 6

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES IN 2023

Priorities are determined by country needs and annual planning is carried out in order for the RTS/SWEDD to coordinate the deployment of these resources at regional level. In order to implement SWEDD, each country develops a budgeted Annual Work Plan (AWP), which includes the activities to be carried out over the following year (or 18 months). This process is under the responsibility and coordination of the PMU/PCU in each country. The budgeted AWP is accompanied by a joint AWP developed with the support of the UNFPA country office to support the implementation of the planned activities. The PMU/CPU is responsible for coordinating and expressing requests for TA.

The technical assistance plan for 2023 focuses on strengthening the achievements of 2022. These will be even more focused on capacity building in order to transfer skills to countries with the aim of achieving the results of the project's three components.

### **Component 1: Improve the regional demand for health services and empower women and adolescent girls**

To support countries in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the SBCC campaign, it is planned to:

- Organise a regional workshop to share experiences and build countries' capacity on the M&E of SBCC activities;
- Provide technical support to countries for the monitoring, implementation and documentation of SBCC strategies. In addition, guide them in the use of impact monitoring and measurement tools;
- Develop partnerships with regional and international media in support of the Stronger Together regional campaign and generate a regional report of the campaign;
- Update the SBCC Regional Strategy;

- Ensure functionality of the knowledge management platform, the SWEDD website, networking and media coverage.

To support the PMUs in accelerating the implementation of community interventions, the RTS intends to:

- Conduct technical assistance missions in support of the implementation of: safe spaces, husbands' clubs, clubs for future husbands, projects to keep girls in school, financial inclusion: Cameroon, Guinea, Mauritania;
- Conduct technical assistance missions for the development of sub-projects in Gambia, Congo, Togo and Senegal;
- Organise a regional workshop to share experiences between the members of the legal platform;
- Organise a regional symposium on the gender transformational approach;
- Organise a regional workshop to reconstitute the results of the mapping study of economic opportunities and idea fairs;
- Document the interventions of component 1.2.

### Component 2: Reinforce regional capacity and availability of RMNCHN commodities and qualified health workers

- Provide technical support to countries in the preparation, implementation and M&E of community-based campaigns for the distribution of contraceptives (Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, ..);
- Organise a workshop to share the SWEDD experiences in terms of last-mile distribution pilots;
- Support countries in the design, experimentation and documentation of last-mile distribution pilot projects (Cameroon, Guinea, Benin);
- Retrospective documentation of the interventions of component 2;
- Provide technical support to countries for the implementation of clinical midwifery mentoring and documentation of experiences;
- Strengthen the technical and pedagogical capacities of centres of excellence in e-learning and produce a report on COE.

### Component 3: Foster commitment and capacity for policy development and project implementation

- Support the implementation of the action plans of the networks of community leaders, parliamentarians and lawyers, including the strengthening of their advocacy capacities;
- Identify and document good practices in terms of advocacy led by community leaders and lawyers;
- Support countries in building the capacity of their DDNO;
- Carry out a study on the impact of empowerment interventions for adolescent girls, young women and women on reducing vulnerabilities in SWEDD countries;
- Provide technical assistance to countries in updating NTA profiles and DDMI reports;
- Support countries in the implementation of their DD-sensitive budgeting roadmap;
- Enhance data collection for the documentation of the project's induced effects;
- Deploy local technical assistance across UNFPA countries: joint AWP.





التفكير في اللغة العربية  
مادة اللغة العربية لصفحة  
مؤلف: د. محمد عبد الحليم  
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# 7 CONCLUSION

The year 2022 marks an important phase in the strengthening of the experience of reducing gender inequalities and creating the means of empowering adolescent girls and women in order to capture the demographic dividend. After Covid-19, the resumption of face-to-face activities coincides with the geographical extension of the SWEDD countries network. Significant achievements have been registered by the countries, with contrasting results due to differences in the period of implementation. The phase 1 countries that have received their funding for phase 2 are in the midst of rolling out their activities (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Chad). The new countries of phase 2 are in the start-up phase (Benin, Cameroon and Guinea). Burkina Faso and Niger are waiting for round 3 of funding, at the same time as the four countries (Congo, Gambia, Senegal and Togo) eligible to prepare their DAPs (Development Action Plans) for funding in 2023. This diversity of situations is a source of experience for each of the countries; it also controls the focus of technical assistance.

Throughout 2022, UNFPA provided technical assistance (TA) to the SWEDDII countries and also to the SWEDDIII countries in preparation. UNFPA experts (RTS, WCARO and Country Offices), TA-providing agencies and international consultants have been mobilised to respond to the increasing number of requests from countries. TA has been segmented to adapt the offer to the needs of countries according to their programme's level of maturity. A manual of procedures for the provision of TA is currently being validated and will help to normalise the TA service. In this way, UNFPA is pursuing its commitment to delivering quality technical assistance that meets the specific needs of each country, which has clearly demonstrated its flexibility and its great capacity to adapt. This is the challenge that must be addressed in 2023



## ANNEXES

## RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR THE SWEDD PROJECT

BENIN		BURKINA FASO		CÔTE D'IVOIRE		MALI		MAURITANIA		NIGER		CHAD		CAMEROON		GUINEA		REGIONAL	
Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result

## Component 1: Improve the regional demand for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health services and empower women and adolescent girls

## IODP#1: School retention rate of adolescent girls who are enrolled in secondary schools and who benefit from school enrolment interventions in the project's intervention areas.

85%	80,00%	97%	97%	98%	97,60%	90%	97,72%	95%	96,10%	88%	86%	88%	98,14%	99%	ND	60%	ND	88,70%	<b>93,18%</b>
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## IODP#2: Percentage of adolescent girls and women who benefit from interventions in safe spaces and who have good knowledge of the harmful consequences of child marriage and early pregnancy and of the benefits of birth spacing.

87%	75,91%	80%	97,53%	98%	85,91%	85%	97,49%	98%	91%	94%	97,10%	80%	99,00%	55%	ND	60%	ND	80%	<b>90,54%</b>
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## IRI#1: Number of adolescent girls who have benefited from at least one of the interventions relating to schooling (transport services, accommodation, food, school supplies, additional classes, (UCT) or (CCT))

27000	30147	68714	68714	146160	68905	264 000	464355	50 000	156420	56471	21392	78600	63100	17700	4430	40000	0	748645	<b>891 135</b>
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## IRI#2: Number of beneficiaries having completed training in safe spaces (SS)

24000	19324	32511	11154	157370	42500	29 000	24200	27 000	9828	34000	29142	52613	124601	13523	0	10000	0	380017	<b>260 749</b>
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## IRI#3: Number of adolescent girls, young girls and women who have benefited from at least one intervention providing economic support (vocational training, credit, productive asset subsidies).

28970	24148	23621	4383	7500	2235	32 791	64886	5 000	3534	8500	3568	25000	35503	20250	2952	18000	0	169632	<b>141 209</b>
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## IRI#4: Number of cases of GBV and harmful practices in the project's areas of intervention that have been referred for health, social, legal and security care according to the referral process in place.

8000	0	100	0	2432	1066	300	3	80	170	50	0	180	143	1500	0	771	0	13413	<b>694</b>
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## Component 2: Reinforce regional capacity and availability of RMNCHN commodities and health personnel.

## IODP#3: Number of new female users of a modern contraceptive method

100 000	150000	0	NA	80 797	82766	150 000	151586	50 000	43819	15 000	10147	97 974	186319	104000	7 184	67382	32346	665153	<b>619 870</b>
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## IODP#4: Breakage rate of contraceptive products at service delivery points in the project's areas of intervention

30%	ND	ND	NA	15%	12%	15%	13,13%	30%	23,90%	49,97%	38,00%	40%	21,20%	30%	ND	10%	21,00%	24,44%	<b>21,54%</b>
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## IRI#5: Number of pilots tested for last-mile distribution of RMNCHN products according to a checklist

2	0	4	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	3	6	2	1	0	3	0	24	<b>12</b>
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BENIN		BURKINA FASO		CÔTE D'IVOIRE		MALI		MAURITANIA		NIGER		CHAD		CAMEROON		GUINEA		REGIONAL	
Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result	Objective	Result
<b>Component 3: Foster political commitment and build capacity for policy development and project implementation</b>																			
<b>IODP#5: Number of countries that have adopted demographic dividend sensitive budgeting</b>																			
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	9	1
<b>IODP#6: Number of national and regional legal frameworks supporting the enrolment of girls and keeping them in school, the reproductive health of adolescents, and the elimination of GBV and harmful practices.</b>																			
2	3	2	0	3	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	9	11	2	0	2	0	25	18
<b>IRI#7: Number of countries with an operational demographic dividend observatory</b>																			
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	8	7
<b>IRI#8: Number of national and regional publications on demographic transition, population issues and the Demographic Dividend</b>																			
4	2	5	1	22	14	50	56	24	19	41	18	29	50	6	0	4	3	185	163
<b>IRI# 9: Number of community and religious leaders committed to actively promoting the enrolment of girls and keeping them in school, the reproductive health of adolescents, and the elimination of GBV and harmful practices.</b>																			
2310	1640	1931	2092	1200	695	5 200	5201	800	480	4260	1860	1843	2187	750	0	450	1000	18744	15 155
<b>IRI# 10: Percentage of complaints actually handled</b>																			
80%	System currently being set up	65%	System in place but 0 cases recorded	85%	No complaints filed	98%	100%	95%	100%	75%	System in place but 0 cases recorded	100%	90%	70%	System currently being set up	70	System currently being set up	85%	90,85%

A line is missing for the following indicator “Number of midwives in the project's areas of intervention who have undergone basic training with short-term continuous training sessions as part of the quality assurance of reproductive health services”.

## RSC 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Recommendations	Implementation Status	Materials	Next Steps	Those in charge
<b>Make information on the Technical Assistance funding mechanism available</b>	We present a summary table showing funding by country and the contribution to UNFPA.	1. Tableau des financements SWEDD 2.docx	Hold an explanatory session between the Chair of the RSC and the Regional Director of UNFPA WCARO.	RTS Coordinator
	It should be noted that only Benin still has a Country Fund Code.  Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Chad are the SWEDD 2 countries for which technical assistance is funded from the WAHO/UNFPA convention.  Technical assistance in Senegal, Togo, Niger, Burkina Faso, Congo and Gambia is also funded by the RTS, despite the fact that they are not covered by the WAHO/UNFPA convention.  Similarly, a third table shows the forecasts of disbursements on this convention.	2. Tableau des prévisions des décaissements par pays 2021-2024.docx  3. Calendrier des décaissements de la convention UNFPA-OOAS.odt	Hold a session with the World Bank to clarify the financing mechanism for technical assistance to new countries.	RTS Coordinator
<b>Involve the participating countries in the Technical Assistance evaluation process</b>	Technical assistance plan validated with all countries	4. Présentation Plan de déploiement AT.pptx	Organise a senior management meeting with the representatives of the SWEDD countries to discuss the repositioning of technical assistance.	RTS and DRD Coordinator
			Hold a meeting in each country to present the TA plan to the National Steering Committee and the supervising minister	UNFPA representatives
			Submit quarterly reports on the implementation of the TA to the Chairman of the NSC	SWEDD Manager at UNFPA
			Hold an evaluation session of the country TA plan for the Chairman of the NSC as a prelude to the RSC	UNFPA representatives
			Strengthen TA coordination mechanisms at all levels: → PMU and UNFPA Country Office (monthly) → PMU, UNFPA Country Office, RTS and WAHO (every two months) → RTS, WAHO, AU, IPs and WB (quarterly)	SWEDD Manager, UNFPA Country Office RTS Coordinator RTS Coordinator

Recommendations	Implementation Status	Materials	Next Steps	Those in charge
<b>Make the technical assistance operational plan and the mechanism of coordination with the countries available according to the specific needs of each one</b>	<p>Following the sessions held with the TTLs team in November 2021 in Dakar and the sharing session with the Coordinators on November 14 in Nouakchott, the following process has been put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Effective participation of UNFPA country offices' focal points in the development of SWEDD PMUs' budgeted AWP.</li> <li>→ Consultation between UNFPA country offices, PMUs and RTS for the identification of joint AWP activities (sometimes with the participation of UNFPA Resident Representatives)</li> <li>→ Holding of bilateral sessions with each PMU to confirm the list of Technical Assistance activities from November 24 to 26, 2021.</li> </ul> <p>Participation of the UNFPA Chad Representative in the National Steering Committee meeting in charge of validating the 2022 AWPB (Annual Work Plan and Budget).</p>	<p>5. Note conceptuelle discussions sur l'AT avec les pays.docx</p> <p>7. Plan d'assistance technique STR 2022.xlsx</p>	<p>Coordination of TA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ PMU and UNFPA Country Office (monthly)</li> <li>→ PMU, UNFPA Country Office, RTS and WAHO (every two months)</li> <li>→ RTS, WAHO, AU, IPs and WB (quarterly)</li> </ul>	<p>SWEDD Manager, UNFPA Country Office</p> <p>RTS Coordinator</p> <p>RTS Coordinator</p>
<b>Strengthen the mechanisms of sharing experiences between countries (virtual platform of resources, study tours, technical support missions, creation of thematic exchange forums).</b>	<p>The existence of a knowledge management platform developed by the RTS and containing all the resources generated as part of the project. It will be launched in June 2022</p> <p>The existence of 04 consultant rosters, which will be updated with the expertise of each SWEDD country.</p> <p>In consultation with the country offices and the World Bank, an exchange mission programme will be proposed.</p> <p>The existence of communities of practice on: (i) SBCC, (ii) Safe spaces, husbands' clubs, clubs for future husbands, (iii) Keeping girls in school, (iv) Access to economic opportunities, (v) Monitoring and evaluation, (vi) DDNO.</p>	<p>Platform link: <a href="https://sweddkb.creg-center.org/">https://sweddkb.creg-center.org/</a></p> <p>Link to rosters</p>	<p>Launch of the platform</p> <p>Updating the rosters</p> <p>Drawing up an exchange mission programme</p>	<p>RTS Communication</p> <p>RTS &amp; UNFPA procurement</p> <p>RTS</p>
<b>Support the chair of the Regional Steering Committee to ensure the sustained effectiveness of the SWEDD governance body</b>	<p>A support plan for the chair of the RSC exists and is updated every year. On this basis, a position of technical assistant to the chair is funded by the RTS through the UNFPA country office.</p>	<p>8. Plan d'accompagnement Présidence CRP 2021.docx</p>	<p>Update of the RSC Chairman's Support Plan for 2022</p>	<p>RTS</p> <p>Technical assistant to the Chairman</p>
<b>Assisting the World Bank in mobilising partners in order to increase the financing of countries and bring together the energies contributing to the achievement of the SWEDD objectives.</b>	<p>Following the Nouakchott meeting with the RECs and the AU, a plan for the engagement of partners was developed and submitted to the World Bank. This plan calls for a meeting with all the RECs on the sidelines of the AU summit in July 2022.</p> <p>The RTS is also taking part in SWEDD identification and preparation missions in the new countries.</p> <p>The RTS is also calling on national and international expertise in order to support the countries.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with Chad on the organisation of a round table to mobilise additional resources.</p>	<p>9. Rapport consultation avec les REC.docx</p>	<p>Monitoring the implementation of the RECs engagement plan</p>	<p>RTS Coordinator</p>







# SWEDD

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AUTONOMISATION  
DES FEMMES ET  
DIVIDENDE  
DÉMOGRAPHIQUE  
AU SAHEL

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SAHEL WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT  
AND  
DEMOGRAPHIC  
DIVIDEND