



Tackling the Humanitarian Crisis in the Central Sahel Region

General Assembly 3

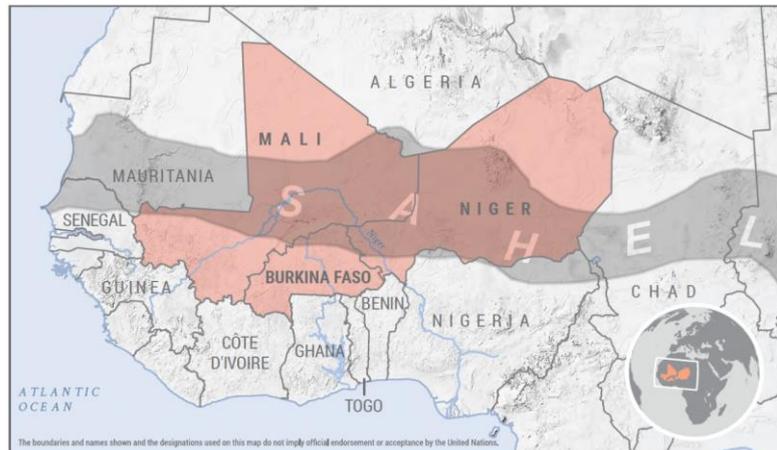
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Introduction

In the last couple of years, the Central Sahel region has suffered from a lot of catastrophes from terrorist attacks to droughts. There are now millions of people in the cross-border area of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger who require humanitarian assistance. Islamic terrorists have entered Mali in 2012 and have spread ever since to Burkina Faso and Niger.

Farmers have not been educated in what way they can use this soil for optimal use and instead they treat it not up to par and as a result the soil becomes infertile. With the already erratic weather and the growing climate change, droughts have hit this area more often



and more severely. The economies consist mostly out of agriculture and are thus easily affected by these awful matters. This situation has been overlooked for years and help is needed.

Definition of Key Terms

Central Sahel

The area where the countries Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger are in the Sahel, the area between the Sahara Desert and the tropics in the south of Africa. Even though the area is not extremely large, it struggles with a lot of problems.

Coup d'état

An illegal way to overthrow the government and gain power over a country. It is often shortened to a coup. It is typically done by a political faction, a dictator, or the military.

Displaced person

A person who was forced to flee his home due to war or another violent conflict. 35 million (42%) displaced people are under the age of 18. Displaced people are a problem that is vastly growing in Central Sahel.



Famine

The situation where there are too many people for the amount of food and result in illness and death. Famine is a common problem across all of Africa, and also in the Central Sahel.

Terrorism

Acts performed by either a single person or a group where extreme violence is used, often against civilians, with political aims. The terrorists in the Central Sahel are Islamic and their goal is the spreading of their interpretation of Islam.

Humanitarian assistance

The help for humans who are in danger to lose their lives by either man-made crises or natural disasters and prepare them from happening again.

Natural hazard

A natural event that can harm humans, animals, or the environment. Natural hazards happen all over the world, but they can't compensate for the financial and food problems in the Central Sahel.

General Overview

History

Burkina Faso was a colony of France after they invaded the country in 1896. After years of full control by the French government, the Republic of Upper Volta was established on 5 August 1960. Maurice Yaméogo was the first president and leader of the Voltaic Democratic Union (UDV). Yaméogo banned all political parties other than the UDV, soon after becoming president. After a lot of demonstrations and strikes, the military intervened, and this government fell in 1966. The military had full power with Sangoulé Lamizana on top, until the Voltans insisted on a new constitution in 1976 and 1977. Lamizana was then re-elected in 1978. Upper Volta had, after Lamizana, a couple of coups, until it became Burkina Faso on the 2nd of August in 1984 under President Thomas Sankara. Sankara had ambitious plans with Burkina Faso, such as planting 10 million trees to halt desertification of Sahel and vaccinating 2,5 million children against meningitis, yellow fever, and measles. There was another coup in 1987 where Sankara and 12 other officials were assassinated. The new president, Blaise Compaoré, led the country directly against Sankara's wishes for 27 years. After a lot of demonstrations in 2014, he resigned, and in 2015 the country held for the first in a long time fair elections.



Just like Burkina Faso, Mali also became a French colony in the late 19th century. In January 1959 Senegal and Mali united as the Mali Federation. It was then still under the French oppression. It gained independence from France on the 20th of June 1960. Senegal backed out of the federation on 22 September 1960, now the official Independence Day of Mali. Modibo Keïta became the first president of Mali. He made Mali a one-party state with a socialistic orientation. On 19 November 1968, now Liberation Day, Moussa Traoré led a bloodless military coup d'état to stop Keïta and rebuild the declining economy. It was hard to achieve this goal due to political turmoil and famine. The public became more and more unsatisfied with Traoré and demanded a multi-party democracy. The Traoré regime accepted some political liberalization. Demonstrations against Traoré led to a new government and a new constitution. 1991 was a year full of demonstrations with violent responses, which eventually led to a revolution. Since 1992, there were democratic multi-party elections. Terrorists entered Northern Mali in 2012, and conflicts in Central Mali followed in 2015. President Boubacar Keïta resigned after being arrested with the prime minister.

Niger was, like its neighbouring countries, in the late 1880s colonized by France. Niger gained independence in 1960 and in the 14 years that followed, the country was a single-party state run by president Hamani Diori. The country booked large educational progress and some economic development in the 1960s. Niger faced in the last years of Diori's regime a series of droughts, economic difficulties, and Diori was accused of mismanagement of the food supplies and corruption. A military coup followed and Seyni Kounthé led the country until he died in 1987. He led the country seeking a developing society, funded by the uranium mines, but with limited freedom. Infrastructure was built and there was very little corruption. His successor, Ali Saibou, couldn't hush the upcoming demonstrations that demanded a multi-party democratic system. A new constitution was formed, and Niger was from 1991 to 1996 a republic. This democratic government was not able to stop the declining economy and it led to the second military coup. President Mainassare, a former Colonel was assassinated after 3 years. Niger became, once again, a republic.

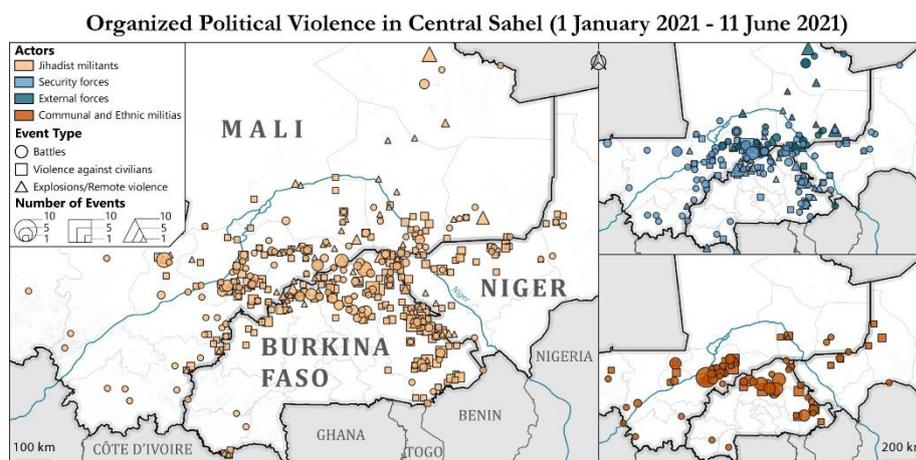
Droughts and famine

The existing drought and rising temperatures due to climate change create a severe shortage of water. People do not only need water to drink, but clean water is also a key to good hygiene. Infections and illnesses are far more severe without good hygiene. Water is also needed to plant food, and the lack of clean water has caused extreme famine in the area. Take the drought in 2010 for example. Due to the heat, the crops in Niger couldn't mature and as a result, 350.000 people faced starvation, and another 1.2 million suffered from famine. Situations like these cannot be completely evaded, but the preparation can be far superior to the former ones. Droughts have always been a part of history in the Central Sahel, but climate

change will be a major component in the incoming droughts. If the temperatures rise even more, the ground will be completely unusable, and the civilians would need to flee their current living area.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), there are 10,8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, with 8.3 million targeted with assistance. Of those 10.8 million, 4.3 million experience acute food insecurity. They also state that there is \$1.69 billion required to fully fund humanitarian response plans in Burkina Faso, Mali, and West-Niger, and only \$677 million of that is as of

November 29th, 2021, funded. The World Bank's Board of Directors approved \$570 million in International Development Association (IDA) for the new Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP). FSRP helps far more than only Central Sahel and only focuses on famine. So, although it helps a lot to battle the problem as a whole, it is far from enough. IDA is part of the World Bank specialized and established for the poorest countries in the world.



Terrorist Attacks

In 2012, several ethnic groups, especially the Tuareg people, in Northern Mali started attacking civilians under the banner of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad. The groups had several successes against the Malian army, who were under-equipped against the terrorists. These groups had benefited from the 2011 Libyan war, by receiving weapons. A French military group, send out to help the Malian army, and the ECOWAS' International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) pushed the terrorists initially back to Northern Mali, but it wasn't enough to completely shut them down. The groups have killed and abducted at least 300 state officials, community and religious leaders, and their families in the Central Sahel since 2018. In October of 2021 alone, there were already 390 security incidents with 493 deaths as a result. More than 1,500 innocent civilians have now been killed in 2021 alone. These terrorists also blockade villages to isolate certain areas and pressure them under their control to enforce their interpretation of Islam. There are now also approximately 75 non-functional hospitals and other health centres. That means that a lot of people who are hurt by the present terrorists cannot be helped at all.



There are now almost 5000 non-functional schools as a result of the terrorist attacks. The World Food Programme (WFP) has assisted almost 10.000 adolescent schoolgirls with scholarships in Niger from January to September. WFP has also revealed that in Sahelian countries 60 per cent of the population is aged under 25 and has limited job opportunities and social services. This results in a lot of young people who see no other option than to join the terrorist groups.

There are more than a million people currently displaced across Central Sahel. WFP tries to help host families who take displaced people under their roof, even though they have next to nothing themselves. Displaced people are a problem that grows wildly rapid. There are now 2.0 million people internally displaced across Burkina Faso, Mali, and West Niger. 1.4 million of those people are in Burkina Faso, where this is growing by far the fastest.

Major Parties Involved

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is one of the countries in the Central Sahel. It has the most people facing food scarcity and also has the most people displaced in the area.

France

All of the Central Sahelian countries were colonies of France. France is a founding member of the Sahel Alliance and they set up Operation Serval, an operation against the terrorists in Mali.

Germany

Germany co-hosted the high-level humanitarian event on the Central Sahel. It is also a founding member of the Sahel Alliance.

Mali

Mali is the second country in Central Sahel. Mali is since 2012 in a crisis caused by terrorists and can't fight them. It is also part of the G5S.

Niger

Niger is the third country in the Central Sahel. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and it has scored as lowest in the world on the Human Development Index.



The Sahel Alliance

The Sahel Alliance is meant to support the fight against terrorism and inequality in the entire Sahel region. It is founded by France Germany.

Timeline of Key Events

2010	The 2010 Sahel drought
January 17 th 2012	Terrorist attacks start
January 2013	France sends Operation Serval
February 16 th 2014	Establishment G5 Sahel
October 20 th 2020	High-level humanitarian event on the Central Sahel
November 18 th 2021	New Food Resilience Project approved by World Bank

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

France has sent Operation Serval, a military operation to put an end to the Islamic terrorists in Mali in 2013. They drove the terrorists back to northern Mali with the help of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). Since then, the UN Security Council has sent the third-largest peacekeeping force of the UN in operation in the world, The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). MINUSMA was created to take the tasks of Operation Serval and AFISMA over. It consists out of 16.598 members with Bangladesh contributing the most and Burkina Faso and Niger in 5th and 6th place.

WFP has assisted 10.000 adolescent schoolgirls from January until September 2021 with scholarships. They have assisted another 2.6 million people across the three countries last year. Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a fund dedicated to education in emergencies, has launched a multi-year program in the Central Sahel in January 2021. It consists of 33.3 million dollars to start up the response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. The entire project will cost three years and their goal is to bring in another 117 million dollars.

Possible Solutions

There are a couple of different problems that need to be solved. For starters, the growing terrorist attacks on civilians and state officials. The countries should look for a



way to the countries must find a way to stop the terrorists in the entire area and not only in Mali anymore. They have roamed the Central Sahel for long enough and that needs to end. The governments should, in collaboration with MINUSMA or OCHA for example, look into the violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

There should be additional measures against poor land management and desertification. The farmers who currently live in the area don't have the education to treat the soil the best way possible. Climate change has a large role in the worsening of droughts. If the area warms up even more, droughts would be more often present.

Appendix/Appendices

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