

# Moving Forward: Experience on employment creation and migration management

## Lessons learned for future actions (Sahel Lake Chad / West Africa)

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Boosting Employment and  
Combating Irregular Migration:  
Findings and Evidence-Based  
Solutions from Counterfactual Impact  
Evaluations in Africa  
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# Understand the context of the Sahel/West Africa countries

Sources : last available MLS report (December 2024)

- West Africa experienced positive economic trends in 2024
- In 2024 severe food insecurity in West Africa (particularly in the Sahel) ,
- In 2024, displacement in the SLC region continued to increase
- Significant instability and political tensions in West Africa

# Key challenges in Sahel/West Africa countries

Sources : last available MLS report (December 2024)

## Key Challenges identified in the Region

- o Demography
- o Extreme poverty
- o Lack of stability
- o Economic fragility
- o Low resilience
- o Impact of climate change on agriculture and pastoral activities
- o Security issues linked to geopolitical context

# For an operational follow up in Sahel/West Africa capitalising CIEs

- **2 main high priority CIE recommendations**

- Beyond promoting skills, connect and support the private sector

- Promote more coordinated interventions between Member States and other development institutions

- **2 EUTF completed projects**

- Archipelago

- IPAS

- **1 future regional project under NDICI:** the Individual measure Migration in West Africa

# ARCHIPELAGO PROGRAMME

20 projects  
competitively  
selected

managed by African and European  
business support organisations (BSOs)  
and training centres

45

African partners

40

European partners

10,500

direct beneficiaries – youth,  
entrepreneurs and business support  
organisations (BSOs)

15 million euros

For a duration of 58 months from  
January 2019



- The ARCHIPELAGO programme aims to provide young people with training and skills adapted to the labour market and the needs of the private sector.

It develops adapted entrepreneurship and dual vocational training programs (in companies and training centers) validated by a certification.

Accountability and ownership of the Programme by the **private sector** through business support organizations (chambers, employers and sectoral associations)

**Systematically linking TVET programmes and labour markets**

**Integration into national TVET system initiated**



# ARCHIPELAGO PROGRAMME



ARCHIPELAGO  
une initiative africaine et européenne  
pour la formation professionnelle



EUROCHAMBRES



ARCHIPELAGO  
Une initiative du secteur privé africain  
et européen pour la formation  
professionnelle et l'accompagnement  
à l'insertion économique des jeunes  
en Afrique



## COUNTRIES:

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali,  
Mauritania, Niger, Senegal



EUTF  
PARTNER:  
sequa



BUDGET:  
EUR 15.0M



From  
01/2019 to  
12/2023

## Objective of the project

To better match the labour offer (skills available in the labour market) and demand (generated by the local private sector and productive economic growth).

*"After successfully completing the course, I was able to improve a number of aspects in terms of the quality assurance of my products and the efficient structuring of business processes and systems as a whole. Thanks to the ARCHIPELAGO programme, I have also been able to come into contact with experts in my field, senior contractors where our work placements have been carried out and fellow apprentices from whom I can continually learn and grow."*

## Main achievements



**10,550 young people** benefitting from dual professional training.



**49 new and 35 improved professional training programmes.**



**1,759 jobs created**, including 1,020 self employed positions and 739 with wage employment.

## Successful approaches



**Private sector-centred approach** through collaboration with chambers of commerce and industry.



**Systematically linking TVET programmes and labour markets** through a bottom-up project design.



**Integration into national TVET system initiated** (national recognition of programmes, integration into regular TVET offer, contribution to national TVET legislation).



# IPAS Program (2019-2025)

- 15,5M€ project in 13 WA countries
- Providing financing and skills to accelerate the development of existing small companies and improve the success of new entrepreneurial projects



- Main outputs:
  - 22 entrepreneurship support structures trained
  - 100 companies supported and +300 trained
  - +300 Technical Assistance Missions completed
  - +5,600 jobs created or maintained

# NEW Individual Measure Migration

- to foster an environment conducive to growth and stability, and help combating the spill-over of insecurity as well as tackling the root causes of insecurity and irregular migration
- 2 complementary actions
  - **Action 1 “Managing Migration Better in West Africa**
  - Improve the sustainability of the migration management systems;
  - **Action 2 “Unleashing the Potential of Youth in West Africa”**
  - Improve the inclusion of youth in resilient and climate-smart green economic transitions that address the root causes of irregular migration in West African countries.



# IM Action 2 Unleashing the potential of youth in West Africa

## Proposed activities

- **Specific Objective 1.** Reducing the gap between the skills of young
  - Output 1.1. Increased competences of **young men and women, including potential migrants** and returnees, in line with **private sector needs** for **climate neutral economy**
- **Specific Objective 2.** Increasing labour inclusion and entrepreneurship of young people
  - Output 2.1. Increased diaspora investments in the creation or growth of green, circular and low-carbon formal and informal enterprises in West Africa.
  - Output 2.2. **Increased capacities of MSMEs** linked to the green sector, with an emphasis on young and women-led businesses, to access technical support and finance.
  - Output 2.3. Increased availability of **technical and financial support for green**, circular and low-carbon **economy**

# Conclusions

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- The **intertwined challenges of unemployment and irregular migration** in Western Africa demand a multifaceted, evidence-based response.
- This evaluation has demonstrated that **well-designed employment creation initiatives** can significantly mitigate the drivers of irregular migration.
- **Global Gateway strategy** will play its full role in reducing the global investment gap in the areas of transport, energy and digitalisation, as well as health and education. The private sector has an important role to play as a key partner

# Thank you



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