



UN  
CDF

LOBI  
LOCAL CROSS  
BORDER INITIATIVE





# CHALLENGES

The **borders** of West Africa, drawn during the colonial period, harbour great economic **opportunities**, which remain largely untapped. However, at the same time, they give rise to a number of conflicts.

On one hand, the cross-border zones are places of **social, cultural and economic exchanges** between countries whose border populations still share numerous social and family links.

On the other hand, they are often a subject of conflicts and constitute a fertile ground for illicit traffic as well as extremist movements - problems that are exacerbated by low levels of border security and an insufficient offer of **basic services in cross-border zones**.

The Local Cross Border Initiative (LoBi) programme aims at testing and developing support tools and a financing mechanism for cross-border initiatives. It thereby demonstrates the importance of local invest-

ments in cross-border areas as well as the necessity of integrating cross-border concerns into regional, national and local policy-making.

LoBi also aims at creating the enabling conditions to facilitate dialogue between local communities and citizens on both sides of the borders. It does this by investing in projects with a strong cross-border impact which favor social cohesion as well as cross-border local economic development thus contributing towards sustainable development and conflict prevention.

The development of cross-border spaces will strengthen the **shared capacity** of countries to respond to common challenges (migration pressures, climate change, food insecurity), better manage shared natural resources, tackle regional disparities, enhance the effectiveness of service delivery and boost the ability of regional markets to compete internationally.

# AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME OF FINANCING LOCAL CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT

The cross-border zones in least developed countries (LDCs) are among the most deprived regions in terms of infrastructure and the provision of basic services. However, these zones are home to **promising cross-border dynamics** which, once systematically supported by an adequate governance framework, can contribute to achieving **sustainable and inclusive development**.

This unexploited potential has led UNCDF to launch, in cooperation with the **Government of the Luxembourg and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**, a local cross-border development approach which provides local authorities in cross border zones with the necessary technical and financial support tools to engage in cross-border cooperation.

LoBI was launched in 2012 and is currently being implemented in the WAEMU zone in West Africa.

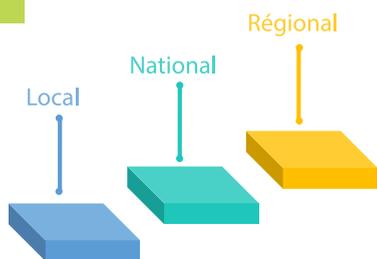
The LoBI programme contributes not only to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) but it also constitutes an important contribution to the post-2015 agenda, in particular with regard to Objective 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Eliminating Poverty.

Building on its unique expertise in local development financing, UNCDF - with the support of his partners - aims at facilitating access to investment finance for local authorities in cross-border regions. By supporting cross-border exchange and coordination between local authorities, the programme ensures that the investments respond to the priority needs of populations.

The cross-border financing mechanism as well as the supporting tools for local authorities are currently tested in two cross-border zones: IIRSAhel, between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and SKBo, between Burkina Faso, Mali and Ivory Coast.



# LOBI AT A GLANCE



A regional governance option is defined to improve the cross-border cooperation.

Strategies for the cross-border cooperation are defined by the national governments.

An institutional and financial mechanism for the financing of local cross-border development is defined.



## COMMITTED PARTNERS :



- WAEMU
- ECOWAS
- GOVERNMENT OF LUXEMBOURG

## Our analytical tools:

- Comparative analysis of national strategies and policies
- Comparative analysis of legal, regulatory and financial frameworks
- Summary micro-project sheets
- Management handbook of the cross-border Local Development Fund (LDF)
- Cartographic directory of the pilot zones

### Phase 1

Political results and piloting of supporting tools.

### Phase 2

Review and evaluation of phase 1.

### Phase 3

Investments and implementation of the cross-border LDF.



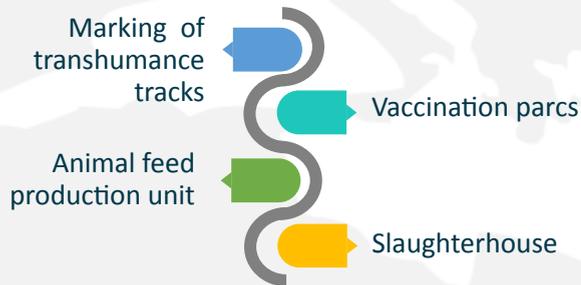
## IIRSAHEL

Mali (Gao and Tombouctou)

Niger (Téra and Tillabéri)

Burkina Faso (Dori, Djibo, Sebba and Gorom-Gorom)

In **IIRSAHEL**, LoBI supports a cross-border development centered on the implementation and the financing of infrastructures that support the production and commercialization of livestock products. The choice of investments is based on the level of complementarity and the existence of value chain or other linkages between them. In IIRSAHEL, LoBI supports the following investments:



With the support of UNCDF and its partners, the local coordination framework, called **C3Sahel**, was reinvigorated in 2014. The C3Sahel acts as the project implementor and has ownership of the investments. It is supported by a technical unit set up in partnership with the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and based in the municipality of Dori.

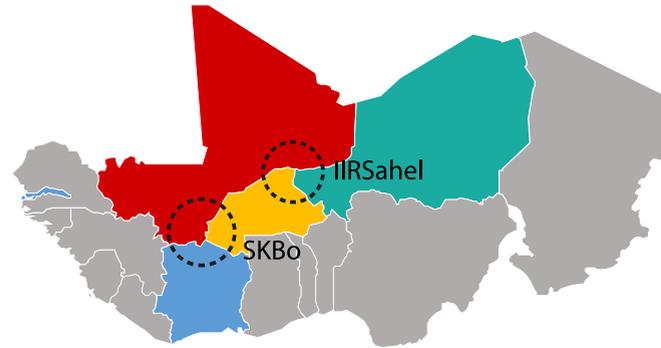
The creation of the cross-border Local Development Fund (LDF) to finance these investments, will allow to test a new local cross-border development financing tool, which - once it has proven concept - may be scaled up by other international or regional organizations.

## SKBo

Mali (Sikasso)

Ivory Coast (Korhogo)

Burkina Faso (Bobo Dioulasso)



In **SKBo**, LoBI support the economic partnership between cross-border agricultural cooperations and the economic interested group BMCI. The SKBo zone is known for its trade and commercialisation of fruit products, which constitute an important vector for stimulating inclusive economic development.

LoBI also works with the cross-border network of radios called 'Kurumba' for the production and the broadcasting of radio programs to raise awareness on cross-border issues (security, human trafficking, use of pesticides, etc.).

In both zones, UNCDF builds on promising existing cross-border dynamics and uses local authorities as the key entry point to supporting sustainable cross-border initiatives.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). UNCDF uses its capital mandate to help LDCs pursue inclusive growth. This is done in three ways:

First, using 'smart' Official Development Assistance (ODA) to leverage and unlock public and private domestic resources for local development.

Second, promoting financial inclusion, which includes digital finance, as a key enabler of poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Third, demonstrating how localizing finance outside the capital cities can accelerate growth in local economies, promote sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure development, and empower local communities.

## CONTACT US



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