|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated |  |  |

**MPTF OFfice GENERIC ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-2) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-3) | |
| * Programme Title: Passport to Earning (P2E) * Programme Number: SC220670 * MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00122974 | | Niger  National with components in selected municipalities in Niger, especially the regions of Diffa, Dosso, Zinder and Agadez | |
| Priority area/ strategic results  **Girls’ Education Strategy:** Niger has recently finalized a new Girls’ and Women’s Education and Training Strategy (SNAEFFF). Under Priority 2 (Growing the education and training offering), the strategy lists the ‘development of ICT competencies’, ‘the improvement of girls’ employability’, and the ‘prevention and reduction of girls’ dropout from school’.  **Youth National Policy:** i) Young girls and young boys have continuous, increased and non-discriminatory access to knowledge and opportunities to learn and develop their specific skills; ii) The commitment and participation of young people in the promotion of good citizenship and the democratic exercise of political and social leadership at all levels are strengthened; iii) Young people are better integrated into economic channels; iv) Intersectoral coordination and steering capacities for the implementation of the National Youth Policy are strengthened  **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) /Niger**  By 2027, populations, in particular women, children, adolescents, young people (boys and girls) and vulnerable groups, have inclusive, equitable and enhanced access to quality basic social services, to decent employment, social protection and protection from harmful practices.  **UNICEF Education Niger Country Office Programme for 2023-2027** Outcome: By 2027, girls and boys will have access to equitable quality education and training and acquire fundamental skills to develop their full potential, their commitment, and their active participation in their communities. (Output 3: In the area of intervention, private sector and civil society actors have the capacities and means to offer adolescents and young people opportunities for better participation and employability, in the development and humanitarian context)  **Generation Unlimited Strategic Priorities:**  1. Transform the formal school experience to build skills young people need for productive lives and the future of work  2. Provide young people outside formal schooling with opportunities for training, skill development and additional education  3. Promote equitable access to quality education, training, employment, entrepreneurship, and civic participation | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| * UNICEF | | **Government:**   * Ministry of Education * Ministry of Telecommunications * Ministry of Youth * Ministry of environment * Ministry of Professional Education * Ministry of Transport * National Agency for the Information Society (ANSI) * National agency for employment Promotion   **Private** sector:   * Chamber of commerce and industry of Niger * Microsoft (P2E platform) * Mobile Network operator (Airtel, Moov   Niger Telecom; Zamani)   * Network of youth leaders   **Other International Organizations**   * World Bank * ILO * UNFPA * UNHCR * Niger Resident Coordinator office (RCO) * UNDP | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document:  MPTF /JP Contribution[[3]](#footnote-4):   * *by Agency (if applicable)* | US$555,958 |  | Overall Duration | 12 months |
| Agency Contribution   * *Unicef* | US$ 30,081 |  | Start Date[[4]](#footnote-5) | 31.10.2022 |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Original End Date*[[5]](#footnote-6)* | 31.10.2023 |
| Other Contributions (donors)   * *Canada:* * *Denmark:* * *Germany:* * *Unicef Italy:* * *Unicef Japan:* | US$ 5,454  US$ 61,814  US$ 497,404  US$306,079  US$ 10,120 |  | Current End date[[6]](#footnote-7) | 31.10.2023 |
| TOTAL: | US$1,446,910 |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes, No Date: *dd.mm. yyyy*  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes, No Date: *dd.mm. yyyy* | | * Name: Nathalie Hamoudi * Title: Deputy Representative * Participating Organization (Lead): Unicef * Email address: nhamoudi@Unicef.org | |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Estimated at 26 million people in 2022, Niger has one of the world’s youngest population structure with a median population age of 15. With the lowest Human Development Index in the world, the annual population growth is about 3.9%, a rate that will lead to a doubling of the population in less than 20 years. Recent data reveal that equitable access to quality education and training remains a challenge, particularly for young children (under 6), adolescents (13-16) and youth (15-24). Out-of-school children and youth are estimated at 4 million by the World Bank.

Among those in-school, a great number drop out. In addition, less than 8% of children at the end of primary school acquire sufficient literacy and numeracy skills. In this context young people are not competitive and have great difficulty entering the labor market and therefore developing their full potential. 69% of young people aged 15 to 24 are not in employment, education, or training. For young women, the percentage increases to 78%.

To address this situation, Unicef Niger joined the Generation Unlimited (GenU) movement in 2020, working with national government counterparts, partners (including the private sector), and youth-led organizations, to make young Nigeriens’ voices heard, and to offer young people opportunities to be skillful, engaged, and impactful members in society.

At the launch of GenU Sahel, on 2 November 2021, the President of the Republic, Mohamed Bazoum, highlighted the Government's commitment to capacity building of young people in the country and positioned Niger to become actively engaged in the GenU mission. This interest from the Head of Government has positively encouraged the National Agency for the Information Society (ANSI) to agree to co-chair the GenU Niger Steering Committee with UNICEF. The goal of GenU in Niger is to improve the alignment and coordination of other partners around school connectivity, youth engagement, skills development, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The following are other key partners:

* Scouts, Junior Chamber International, and youth networks to support the engagement and sustainable participation of youth and girls.
* The traditional ministries in charge of education and training, but also beyond those of youth, including environment, industry, entrepreneurship, and telecommunications, to guarantee relevant institutional support.
* Telecommunications operators, such as Airtel and Zamani Telecom to amplify the voices of youth through U-Report.

UNICEF, as lead agency in the group of development partners involved in education and training, has also played a key role in amplifying youth voices, and in positioning GenU as a joint initiative supported by the UN with the support of the Resident Coordinator's office.

Previously, funds from the GenU Trust Fund were used for the Connect My School project, which reached over 6,900 students (including 3,344 girls) with tablet-based learning, equipping them with skills and competencies and exceeding the planned target of 3,600 young people, while helping to bridge the technology gap in remote areas. Through partnership with Airtel, Niger also launched U-Report and grew the number of users from 12 to 20,000 in 2021 in all eight regions of the country.

After discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands, it was agreed to transition funding from Connect My School and develop and implement Passport to Earning (P2E) in Niger. P2E is a GenU global programme, led by Microsoft, Accenture, Silatech, Dubai Cares and UNICEF, that provides young people aged 15-24 with free, world-class and job relevant skills training, and positions them for job opportunities. Built on Microsoft’s Community Training platform, it offers online digitized curricula curated at the national level, with content provided by public and private sector partners.

In 2022, groundwork for implementation of P2E in Niger was done through other sources of funding, including:

* Expanding digital connectivity as well as U-Report, which will be leveraged to develop P2E based on young people’s feedback and drive participation of young people to the platform.
* Development of partnerships and courses to provide youth with 21st century skills related to drone technology and data analysis, thereby improving their employability and entrepreneurial skills.
* Structural and technological support will be provided to 29 youth promotion centres across Niger, in which P2E activities will be developed and where young people will benefit. Ahead of P2E deployment, a tracking app has been designed, which will allow the GenU Niger team to follow-up on activities in these centers and to collect valuable data about youth visits and engagement.
* Development of an incubation programme (pre-incubation 3 months and incubation 9 months) through Abdou Moumouni University for youth-led projects on agri-business and plastic waste recycling. This will be an important partnership for the development of the entrepreneurship component of P2E,and will enable young people to develop solutions to problems in their communities and scale them up.
* Continued advocacy and engagement with government, community leaders, parents and young people to encourage girls and young women to build careers in scientific fields.

Setting up P2E Governance body aimed at developing partnerships with the Ministries in charge of Education, Youth, Entrepreneurship, Employment, ANSI and Mobile network operators

Funds which were received for P2E from the GenU Trust Fund in November 2022 will be used to implement the programme in 2023. Thus, this report highlights results that were achieved with other sources of complementary funding in 2022 and results of funding from the Trust Fund to implement the programme will be reported on next year.

# Purpose

In Niger, and within GenU’s framework, UNICEF works with public and private sector partners, and youth, to support skills development, youth engagement and employability programmes, as well as break down stereotypes about gender-based pathways or careers. The purpose is to give adolescents and young people diverse opportunities for training, so that they become well-educated and skillful citizens who are able to thrive in the current and future labor market. These goals are also aligned with key strategic documents such as the:

**Youth National Policy** which has the ambition that: (1) Young women and men have continuous, increased, and non-discriminatory access to knowledge and opportunities to learn and develop their specific skills; (2) The commitment and participation of young people in the promotion of good citizenship, and the democratic exercise of political and social leadership at all levels are strengthened; (3) Young people are better integrated into economic channels.

**Niger Girls’ Education Strategy** which focuses on ‘development of ICT competencies’, ‘the improvement of girls’ employability’, and the ‘prevention and reduction of girls’ dropout from school’ among other priorities.

**United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) Niger** aspires that by2027, populations, in particular women, children, adolescents, young people (men and women) and vulnerable groups, have inclusive, equitable and enhanced access to quality basic social services, to decent employment, social protection, and protection from harmful practices.

The year 2022 served as the culmination of the current UNICEF country programme, providing the basis to assess and plan for the next phase of Unicef’s partnership in development cooperation assistance and humanitarian response with the Government and the United Nations system in Niger. This led to the finalization of Niger's Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2022-2026, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 and UNICEF's Country Programme Document (CPD) 2023-2027.

2023 marks the start of Unicef Niger’s new Country Programme Document. The P2E GenU programme aligns with the Education Outcome, specifically:

* Outcome: By 2027, girls and boys will have access to equitable quality education and training and acquire fundamental skills to develop their full potential, their commitment, and their active participation in their communities.
* Output 3: In the area of intervention, private sector and civil society actors have the capacities and means to offer adolescents and young people opportunities for better participation and employability, in the development and humanitarian context.

In line with UNICEF’s and GenU’s focus on skills development and employability, Passport to Earning in Niger aims to build the skills and employability of an initial 3000 young people in Niger.

# Results

Adolescents and young people are increasingly interested in capacity building opportunities on digital literacy and employment due to multipurpose digital technology in social interactions, education, business, and work environments. The following were key achievements for and with adolescents and young people, which helped to lay the groundwork and develop the partner and programme ecosystem for Passport to Earning in Niger.

Young people’s participation and engagement in U-Report in Niger has been gradually increasing to 85 active U-Report communities across the country, now consisting of 34,216 U-Reporters (68% men and 32% women) – up from around 20,000 in 2021. Various ICT equipment was given to strengthen the communities’ digital literacy and engagement. Further, over 10 polls via the U-Report platform on themes such as transforming education, girls’ education, COVID-19, skills and employability were conducted, with participation of around 29,650 young people. U-Report will be leveraged to drive engagement in Passport to Earning and obtain feedback from young people on how to make it especially relevant for their context.

Ahead of the implementation of the GenU-supported P2E programme, Unicef launched a poll via the U-Report digital platform to obtain feedback from young people on their needs in terms of skills, employability, and entrepreneurship. 4,785 young people responded. According to the survey results:

* 96% are interested in vocational training (offline 57% and online 43%).
* The three main reasons why respondents want to attend a vocational training are the following: get new skills (32%), learn a job (23%), have a degree (20%).
* 42% of respondents are interested in trainings related to ICT, communication, and marketing.

In addition, increasing digital connectivity is important for implementation and scale up of P2E. Efforts to connect schools and communities to the internet have continued, with an additional 6,683 additional young people gaining connectivity in 367 schools in 2022.

UNICEF Niger has also been working with the government to provide youth with 21st century skills related to drone technology and data analysis, thereby improving their employability and entrepreneurial skills. Niger became the first francophone African country to host a campus of the African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA), which aims to support the training of a skilled workforce in African countries. Following an agreement between ANSI and Unicef, initial steps were taken to set up the ADDA in Niger (ADDA-N) as a scale-up of the original model developed in Malawi. In collaboration with Virginia Tech and the UNICEF Regional Office for Southern Africa, the first online course for the Certificate of Drone and Data Technology Level 1 (CDDT 1) of the ADDA-N was conducted during the period of 5 September to 7 October 2022. A total of 20 Nigerien youth including 9 women passed the exam with 22 registered. The second cohort of CDDT 1 and the first cohort of in-person training for the Certificate of Drone and Data Technology Level 2 (CDDT 2) are planned for 2023 with the contribution of different donors. Opportunities are being looked into to link this innovative programme to the Passport to Earning platform in Niger.

Also in 2022, UNICEF supported an incubation programme (pre-incubation 3 months and incubation 9 months) through Abdou Moumouni University incubation center for youth-led projects on agri-business and plastic waste recycling. This will be an important partnership for the development of the entrepreneurship component of P2E, and will enable young people to develop solutions to problems in their communities and scale them up.

The 29 youth promotion centres across Niger are also among institutions that will benefit from P2E and in which P2E activities will be developed. Ahead of P2E deployment, a tracking app has been designed, which will allow the GenU Niger team to follow-up on activities in these centers and to collect valuable data about youth visits and engagement.

In follow up to the Transforming Education Summit, young people of Niger produced a [youth declaration](https://fr.transformingeducationsummit.sdg4education2030.org/ATYouthDeclarationConsultation), defining youth priorities for education which was presented to the President of the Republic for advocacy and buy-in. Over 50 young people, coming from the 8 regions of Niger, took part in this, and developed a roadmap. to on how Nigerien youth can be meaningfully engaged to help transform education in Niger.

On International Women and Girls in Science Day, in collaboration with Girls in ICT Niger, 100 young people participated in a debate on scientific professions that are either little known or practiced by women (such as hydrogeology, geotechnics, software engineering). This was to encourage young girls to build careers in scientific fields by breaking down the limitations that society has fixed for them, or they have fixed for themselves.

Overall, with the funding from complementary sources, 8,660 adolescents and young people were reached with capacity building, civic engagement and employability opportunities, covering the four GenU priority areas: connectivity; skilling and employability; entrepreneurship and social impact.

**Work Plan 2023 and next steps**

As mentioned, funding from the GenU Trust Fund – received in November 2022 - is being used in 2023 to develop and implement P2E, building on advances in partnerships and programmes in 2022 from complementary funding sources. The U-Report work plan for 2023 was finalized in January and includes capacity building workshops for adolescents and young people as well as initiatives to engage them in social impact activities, which will better enable them to participate in the P2E platform. These activities will be integrated in the P2E work plan by the end of April 2023.

The next steps are:

* Formalize the P2E working group with key stakeholders, including government partners, start-up representatives, private sector and youth representatives, to serve as a governing body for the project’s implementation by end of June 2023.
* Finalize the P2E work plan, with proper ownership from government’s counterparts by end of May 2023. This includes establishing the digital platform, capacity building activities, services that will connect young people to skilling, internship and employment opportunities and youth consultation activities.
* Develop a communication plan for the P2E programme, by end of June 2023, based on the validated work plan
* Launch a skills mapping exercise under the Prime’s Ministry leadership through CAPEG (*Cellule d’Analyse des Politiques publiques et d’Evaluation de l’action Gouvernementale* - Public Policy Analysis and Government Action Evaluation Unit) to inform the key offerings on P2E.
* Hold a multi-stakeholder design workshop to define an execution road map, including targeted municipalities and criteria for selecting the 3,000 direct beneficiaries.
* Establish a Community of Practice composed of experts that will serve as employability coaches, mentors and “champions” with the skills and influence to support young people facing barriers to access employment or internship opportunities.
* Support the Government in establishing the digital skilling and certification platform with Microsoft

The partnerships mentioned earlier will allow the programme to run successfully: partnership with ministries and public institutions is important for optimal implementation of P2E; involvement of youth associations/networks for youth engagement; partnership with the private sector, including mobile phone operators, to amplify the voice of youth with free text messages for the polls launched on U-Report platform; and support from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office for strategic positioning of GenU in Niger and coordination with other UN agencies.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document** **/ AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets (most of these targets relate to the next phase of the programme in 2023 and will be defined through a workshop with key stakeholders in Q2 2023)** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1[[7]](#footnote-8)**  **Outcome 1: By 2023, young men and women will have opportunities to develop job-relevant skills through the skills and professional development content, courses and trainings.** |  |  | A workshop is scheduled with key actors to co-develop the work plan for this outcome. We are tentatively scheduling it in the last week of May |
| **Output 1.1**  Young people, especially young women, have tools, information, and safe spaces to improve their lifelong learning and employability including in emergency situations  **Indicator 1.1.1**  Number of young women and men who completed the skills learning and professional development courses (disaggregated into male/female/youth with disability)  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target: 3,000** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Output 1.2**  Young men and women are more proactive in seeking information, expressing their opinions and aspirations, and participating effectively in decisions that affect them.  **Indicator 1.2.1**  Number of young women and men who participated in the regular polls on P2E skills and employability agenda  **Baseline:** 2,460  **Planned Target:** **200,000 (30% female) (Direct = 800)** |  |  |  |
| **Indicator 1.2.1**  Number of young women and men who participated in the regular polls on P2E skills and employability agenda  Baseline: 2,460  Target achieved: 4 785 (31% female) |  | [U-Report Niger](https://niger.ureport.in/opinion/6279/) |
| **Outcome 2**  **Outcome 2: By 2023, public, private, and civil society partners at regional and local levels will have enhanced capacities to support skills development and employability of young people** |  |  | A workshop is scheduled with key actors to co-develop the work plan for this outcome. We are tentatively scheduling it in the last week of May |
| **Output 2.1:**  Local authorities and decentralized structures have resources and capacities to offer young people friendly learning spaces and career centres that meet quality standards |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.1.1:  Number of service providers (learning and career advisors) able to deliver holistic support to enhance employability  Baseline: 0  Planned Target: 290 (10 per centre) |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2  Number of young women and men who received career counselling or business plan guidance  Baseline: 0  Planned Target: 20,000 |  |  |  |
| **Output 2.2:**  Education actors have strengthened capacities to ensure that adolescents and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and friendly services for employability  **Indicator 2.2.1:**  Number of organizations, networks, or enterprises/start-ups connected to P2E programme to provide trainings/internship  Baseline: 0  Planned Target:50 |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2:  Number of young women and men who completed training/internships (disaggregated into male/female/youth with disability)  Baseline: 0  Planned Target:450 (first cohort)  (25% female) |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2.3:  Number of youth connected to job and business opportunities (start-ups)  Baseline: 0  Planned Target:100 |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2.4:  Number of community/youths centres supported to provide distance learning (hybrid platform)  Baseline: 0  Planned Target: 9 |  |  |  |

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g., UNDAF) or project document. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)