

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The Situation in the Sahel Region

Student Officer: Emily Miliou

Position: Deputy President

INTRODUCTION

The Sahel Region, located south of the Sahara Desert in Africa, has chronically been a region of instability in terms of politics and economy. The region's dry, arid climate renders it difficult to produce sufficient crop yields, due to prolonged periods of drought; a problem which has led to many people suffering from starvation and acute malnutrition. Environmental factors have also severely affected the region's agricultural output, with the issue of desertification, (the decline of soil quality) being a primary cause. Currently, up to 7 million people in the region risk falling into a food crisis, while this figure is estimated to double by the end of 2020. Agricultural problems have also caused many economies within the region to be fragile, as they depend highly on imports, while lack of industry and infrastructure means that the region suffers from high poverty rates. Further, political instability has been an issue for several years, ranging from coups in pursue of democracy, rebellions, terrorism and drug trafficking, all of which have had negative consequences for the populations. There are an estimated 860.000 internally displaced people within three countries of the region, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, as a result of politically-related violence. Maritime piracy in the western coast of Africa has also been observed to be on the rise, with goods such as oil being seized and stolen, and many crew members being injured or killed. Such crime is detrimental to economies who depend on naval good transportation, resulting in trade related losses due to fear of piracy. Lastly, there remains the issue of violations of human rights, specifically observed in countries like Mauritania and Sudan, where militia groups have tortured, raped, killed and looted during conflict; Mauritania is also one of the few remaining countries in which slavery continues to be practiced, without any laws criminalizing it.

For these reasons, the region remains poor, with low human development indicators and facing multiple crises simultaneously. A resolution is, hence, essential for the restoration of development and progress in the region.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

TheSahelRegion

A region in Africa which forms the transitional zone of the Saharan Desert to the humid southern savannas; countries within the region include Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan.

FoodInsecurity

A term referring to a state in which one does not have an adequate quantity of food available, or a reliable access to nutritious food.

Malnutrition

A deficiency or imbalance in one's intake of food and nutrients

PoliticalInstability

The possibility for important and sudden changes in a country's policies or leadership.

Coup'd'etat

A sudden exercise of power in politics

Transhumance

A seasonal migration of livestock animals and animal herders, through lowlands and mountains.

Terrorism

Defined as any act which intends to cause serious harm or death to civilians, with the purpose of frightening a population or threatening an international organization or government to act, or to abstain from doing so.

OrganisedCrime

Refers to any group of more than three persons, having existed over a time period, during which has committed crimes for material or financial benefit.

InternallyDisplacedPersons(IDPs)

Persons who, as a result of violence, armed conflict, human or natural disasters, have been forced to flee their homes, without however, crossing internationally recognized state borders.

MaritimePiracy

Refers to any criminal acts of violence, such as rape or detention, committed by crew or passengers of a private ship, directed against other persons or property on the vessel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FoodInsecurity

Climate

One of the primary causes of the issue of food insecurity in the Sahel region is its climate. The Sahel region is located just south of the Saharan Desert, and right above the equator line; this results in a hot, windy and dry climate, which makes agriculture difficult due to the semi-arid state of the region. The Sahel is also prone to extensive drought periods, where unusually dry weather and lack of rainfall result in land which is unable to produce crop yields. Climate related reasons such as these have contributed largely to the food insecurity issue of the region, with around 2.3 million children dying in 2011 due to severe malnutrition and food deficiencies. Moreover, figures from 2014 show that up to 9.4 million people living in the Sahel region were at risk of facing extreme food deficits. Due to the unreliable conditions (such as unpredictable rainfall) caused by the regional climate, Sahelian countries are largely dependent on imports and aid, however funds towards food programmes in the region have been chronically low, and at times severely inadequate. Statistics such as these prove that the food crisis of the Sahel is a crucial issue that is necessary to be dealt with in order to decrease the amount of preventable deaths.

DesertificationandSoilDegradation

Another factor which has recently contributed greatly to the issue of food insecurity in the region is that of climate change, and in particular, desertification. The Sahel has been described to be one of the most vulnerable regions of the world in regards to changes in climate; this is mostly due to the degradation of the soil's quality, which makes the growing of crops and grazing of animals much more difficult. The term desertification refers to the process in which land gradually turns into desert due to the decline of soil quality. As a process, it is caused by a variety of reasons; the main cause of this in the Sahel is the overgrazing of livestock animals. Due to a growth in population, increased demand for food leads to more animals being raised with the intention to be slaughtered, however such animals strip the land of vegetation, rendering it infertile and barren. Climate change also contributes to desertification, as warmer and drier weather becomes more frequent, meaning that land can sustain less and less crops. This leads to low agricultural yields, therefore food-related crises and issues such as starvation.



PoliticalInstability

Coups

Political instability within this region originates in the strive towards democracy, and the fight against corrupt governments and leaders. Nearly all Sahelian countries have, in recent times, experienced disruptions in politics in the form of attempted coup

¹ "Person. "Sahel Climate Region." *ArcGIS StoryMapsEsri*, 7 Dec. 2019, storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2195b7376b50491abbfc2b4805ed11110.

d'etats; In 2005, there was a coup in Mauritania, while seven years later, a coup d'état was carried out in neighbouring Mali. In both cases, the coup was a result of the people's dissatisfaction towards the current regime, with the Mauritanian coup carried out against the dictator, and the one in Mali organized due to the government's inability to deal with an ongoing food crisis and violence in the north of the country. The President at the time was ousted during both coups, and in the case of Mauritania, democratic elections took place two years later, while in Mali, power was seized by the National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State (CNRDR).

Government Policies

Sahelian government's policies in dealing with both domestic and international affairs have long been subject to criticism. This can be seen in countries like Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, where government policies have remained unresponsive and have inadequately dealt with increasing internal violence and conflict. Heads of state and political opponents have failed to recognize the rise of ethnic militia groups and extremism. In Mali, politicians are reluctant to act in regards to rising insecurity in the northern and central regions, (result of the ethnic group Touaregs insurgency over land) due to their prioritization of the south's stability. Burkina Faso's current leader's political opponents have called for him to step down due to his failure in dealing with the threat of extremism, which targets specific ethnic groups within the country. Nigerien politicians, on the other hand, have felt threatened within the region due to their borders with Nigeria, Libya and Mali, all of which pose a violent threat to the country's stability.



² ""Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel." *Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel* | Center for Strategic and International Studies 24 Aug. 2020, www.csis.org/analysis/politics-heart-crisis-sahel.

Criminality

IntercommunalConflicts

The Sahel region has seen a recent rise in intercommunal conflict between farmers and herders; such conflict has resulted in violence and the death of thousands of people in recent years, and has been recently recognized as a security threat to the region. The root of such conflicts lies in the increasing demand for land and water, as well as the threat of violence from armed groups in certain areas. Farmers in the region often clash with herders in transhumance, as both groups have been migrating through the region in search for more fertile land. Intercommunal conflict between herders and farmers is particularly observed in Nigeria and Mali, as well as Burkina Faso; in Mali, such conflict has been further aggravated by terrorist groups recruiting people from the Fulani ethnic group (largest herder group in the Sahel) As a result of intercommunal conflicts, there have been several violent incidents in the region which have led to the death of thousands of people, with 1,300 being killed in the January-June 2018 period in Nigeria, and 160 Fulani herders losing their lives in an incident on March 23 2019, at the hands of an armed conflict group. Intercommunal conflict also increases the amounts of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with around 300,000 people becoming displaced in 2018.

OrganizedCrime

Organized crime has been an issue which has plagued the Sahel region since the 1990s. In particular, drug trafficking has been prevalent, with armed groups using this as a means of financial gain and funding towards their operations. The most common drugs found in such trafficking rings are cocaine and cannabis; estimates place the amount of cocaine circulating the region to be around 50-100 tonnes annually. The Sahel is an attractive region for drug trafficking, due to its proximity to Morocco (where cannabis is harvested) and lack of governmental control near borders and more remote areas. However, drug trafficking harms the region greatly, due to its negative impacts on governments; paired with the already insufficient government control in such areas, illegal drug-related activities further weaken the states ability to govern effectively. Drug traffickers may also be providing local communities with services, and acting as a governing force over the area, which may make state control seem illegitimate, and by consequence, render drug trafficking easier. Drug-related crime in the Sahel has also been linked to the presence of Islamic terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda, however no substantial evidence has been found to prove this claim. Armed conflict groups such as the Tuareg and Arabs in Northern Mali who have turned to

trafficking, have led to an increase in tensions in the region, as competition amongst tribes for access to drug networks has risen and in many times, has resulted in violence.

Terrorism

The domestic threat of violence within Sahelian countries poses a threat to nation's stability with equal if not larger importance than cross-border conflicts. Existence of extremist groups in the Sahel has resulted in a large number of people becoming internally displaced, losing property, falling victim to violence, or being killed. The most prominent extremist groups in the Sahel are the Islamist terrorist groups Boko Haram, (originating from Nigeria) and al Qaeda. Both groups remain active in conflict across the Sahel, however pose more threat to certain countries. Boko Haram, founded in 2002 in north-eastern Nigeria, has incited fear in the Lake Chad basin, through their acts of terrorism; as a group, they have caused numerous killings, abductions and bombings with the aim to overthrow the government and existing Western ideas. In 2014, Boko Haram were responsible for the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls in the Nigerian town of Chibok; four years later, the group attacked another school in the region, kidnapping 110 girls. For these reasons, many girls fear attending school in Nigeria.

Maritime Piracy

Maritime piracy has been a subject of international alarm in the continent of Africa since 2005, although it has been limited to the eastern coast, and more specifically the country of Somalia. Recently however, there has been an increase in incidents of maritime piracy off the western coast of Africa, in the gulf of Guinea and the Niger river's delta in Nigeria. The main reasons behind the rise in piracy in Western Africa are the lack of sufficient law enforcement in ports & around coasts, and poverty. Groups typically involved in such pirating incidents are usually from communities which have not been given the opportunity to develop economically. Pirate attacks in Nigeria seem to be rooted in the country's oil related corruption, which has led to many stealing and reselling oil on the black market for profit. This has negative consequences for the economy of the country, with Nigeria producing a sixth of its maximum oil production capacity, and with many multinationals, such as Royal Dutch Shell selling their Nigerian oil blocks due to theft. Such economical impacts further worsen the cycle of corruption and poverty, which results in an even larger incentive for pirates to hijack ships and seize goods, making maritime piracy a large security threat to the region.



3

HumanRightsViolations

The issue of human rights violations in the Sahel poses a threat to international and regional security, with the region accounting consistently scoring high on the Human Rights Violations index. In the Sahel, different types of such violations are observed, however most predominantly acts of slavery, killing & torturing of civilians at the hands of the government, and destruction of private property. Globally, slavery is a practice still going on illegally today, however in Mauritania, slavery was not abolished until 1981, with laws regarding its legal status still being criticized for being too weak. An estimate made in 2007 by an aid group placed the number of enslaved people living in Mauritania at around 600,000, accounting for 20% of the population at the time. Although such figures are difficult to verify, thousands of women and children in particular fall victims to slavery. The roots of the practice are racially based, with slave owners belonging to the lighter skinned Arab-Berber group inhabiting the region, and slaves typically being more dark-skinned. Many slaves who escape, face severe poverty, living without access to drinking water and in slums outside main cities.

In Sudan, the majority of human rights violations are observed in the Darfur, an area which has been in conflict since 2003. During the conflict, genocides against Darfuri people have occurred, which have killed up to 500,000 people and affected 3 million. In 2016, the Sudanese government was alleged to have used chemical weapons against the people of the Darfur, displacing millions of people. Several people have been indicted by the ICC (International Criminal Court) on accounts of crimes against humanity, torture and rape. Militias backed by the Sudanese government are

³ ""Piracy in West Africa | Africa Renewal." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/piracy-west-africa.

stated to have engaged in acts of sexual mutilation and rape against women and children, with this often being conducted in front of mothers, husbands and other children. Although levels of violence in the region have subsided, many of the perpetrators and violators have never been tried, and many IDPs still live in refugee camps, in appalling conditions.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

BurkinaFaso

Burkina Faso is a country which has chronically suffered from high poverty rates and low development indicators, ranking 15th out of the 25 poorest countries globally. More than 1.2 million people living in the country suffer from food shortages, and up to 560,000 have been internally displaced. Amongst the reasons for such figures is the issue of climate change, as 80% of the country's inhabitants rely on agriculture and livestock to survive, however, the nation has experienced shortages in rainfall and hence prolonged droughts which lead to malnourished and food insecure civilians. Further, Jihadist groups under the umbrella of al-Qaeda in the north of the country have disturbed stability and led to a rise of violence and conflict, with many fleeing areas particularly affected. There is also the issue of lack of funds towards the country, with less than 50% of the necessary budget being funded in 2019. Aid organizations are further unable to access certain areas, where many displaced persons are in need of aid.

Mauritania

Mauritania suffers greatly from extreme poverty, with a GDP per capita of 1188 USD, about 25% of its population living on under 1.25 dollars daily and 21% of children under the age of 5 suffering from chronic malnourishment. Multiple factors contribute to such indicators. Mauritania is a nation particularly vulnerable to changes in climatic conditions, having experienced a 20-year long drought period, leading to 90% of the country becoming desert. Due to agricultural problems, previously nomadic populations have had to adjust in living in slum-like conditions, with no access to proper sanitation or clean water. Further, governmental corruption and instability (such as the 2005 coup) and a fragile economy have resulted in the country being incredibly poor, with government officials usurping money designated for public use in combatting food insecurity, hence making it difficult for the country to exploit its natural resources. Another crucial issue in need of being solved is that of slavery within the country; multiple accounts from people previously enslaved testify the existence of slavery in

modern Mauritania, even though the practice was outlawed 39 years ago. Current figures estimate that two in every 100 people in Mauritania live as slaves, where people will be forced into labour, (such as washing clothes and feeding livestock) without receiving payment and instead being provided with food and water. The practice is mostly prevalent along the Malian border, however reports observe its existence in the capital and large towns.

Niger

Similarly to other Sahelian nations, Niger has long been an impoverished nation, in need of aid and action to combat persisting issues. With one of the fastest growing populations on the planet, the problem of food insecurity is particularly prevalent, as 1.5 million people were estimated to suffer from food deficits in 2017. Niger is at high risk for changing landscapes due to climate change, with the UN estimating that 80% of land is infertile or not suitable for an adequate yield of crops. Rising temperatures in the country (at a rate 1.5 times faster than the global average) and sparse rainfall lead to nearly 30% of people needing urgent food assistance seasonally. Moreover, Niger experiences instability in the sector of government, with regimes switching between democratic and military. As a consequence, the country sees frequent coups, such as the 2010 coup d'état, where rebel soldiers overthrew the government in an attempt to restore democracy, organizing elections the following year. Due to its proximity to equally unstable countries such as Mali and Nigeria, there are currently 50,000 IDPs, mostly in regions around the borders of such countries as a result of military group-conducted violence.



4

Mali

Arguably one of the most crisis-stricken countries of the Sahel region, Mali faces a multitude of challenges which have led to it having some of the lowest human development indicators in the world, as well as being the 22nd poorest country, with 78% of the population being affected by poverty. a common phenomenon in the Sahel, 3.6 million people reliant on subsistence agriculture have experienced food insecurity, caused primarily by climate change-related soil degradation and lack of suitable fertilizers. The issue of food insecurity is most prevalent in the northern and central regions of the country. In such regions, the issue of organized crime and terrorism also persists. The Tuareg rebellion of 2007-9, (which had as an aim the imposition of Islamic law across the country) organized by the nomadic ethnic group Tuareg in northern Mali led to around 11,000 being displaced from their homes. Violence from such armed groups continues today, amplified from the presence of jihadist groups like al-Qaeda. The government has faced criticism by both international bodies and by the people of Mali due to their inability to deal with crises, such as the insurgencies in the North. Ethnic cleansing and intercommunal conflicts between tribes are also common, with incidents of violence being particularly observed against the

⁴ "Wires, News. "Niger Authorities Say 14 Troops Killed during Ambush." *France 24*France 24, 26 Dec. 2019, www.france24.com/en/20191226-niger-authorities-say-14-troops-killed-during-ambush-g5-sahel-force-west-africa.

Fulani herder tribe, over power and land usage. The perpetrators of many such incidents are rarely punished by Malian authorities, as they show tolerance towards them, and have a general weak presence in areas in which they are active, such as the northern and central regions. There have also been reports of Malian authorities carrying out killings of Fulani people which they suspected to be linked with jihadist groups. Mali is also a hub for drug trafficking, with much of the cocaine and cannabis from Morocco passing through the country en route to the Western African coast. Drug trafficking also makes the enforcement of authority difficult, with many traffickers controlling local communities. In 2012, Mali experienced a coup which resulted in the military rebel group seizing power.

Sudan

Sudan, located on the east of the Sahel belt, has been an epicenter of violence in the region since 2003. In particular, the Darfur region in the west (bordering Chad, the Central African Republic and South Sudan) has experienced multiple incidents of conflict and instability. The Darfur genocide against the local Darfuri people had its basis in ongoing conflict within Sudan, where the muslim Arab population of the country clashed with the christians in the south. Historical intercommunal conflict also contributed greatly to the outbreak of violence in the region, with the Arab nomadic herders being frequently at conflict with African farmers. The Sudanese government exploited tensions between the two groups, and armed Arab militia groups in order to back the genocide against the local African people. Crimes such as systematic rape, well poisoning, killing, and torture were conducted, specifically against children and young girls, with reports of abduction, gang-rape and sex trafficking being made. The recruit and use of children in armed groups is also reported to have been a frequent practice, although such groups deny these allegations. As a result of the genocide, 400,000 people lost their life, with 360,000 fleeing and living in refugee camps in eastern Chad. There, food is rationed and opportunities are limited, with most camp inhabitants receiving 40% of their daily calorie needs. Further, there have been reports of increased violence in such camps between communities, over theft of food and water.

AmnestyInternational

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) who aims to fight human right abuses and injustices around the world. They act in multiple sectors, such as armed conflict, discrimination, migrants, refugees & asylum seekers, and torture. Founded in 1961, the organization has been active in the Sahel region through

reporting and spreading awareness. Amnesty has seen multiple successes since their foundation, with some of the most notable ones being their advocacy for the creation of the ICC (International Criminal Court) in 1998, in which Sudanese criminals were tried following the Darfur genocide of 2003. Further, AI's work focuses also in gathering signatures, and letters from the public in order to appeal certain injustices, such as the freeing of anti-slavery activists in Mauritania in 2017. The organization also provides resources, accessible to the general public, in which they detail situations like the crisis in Mali, in multiple languages. Amnesty International has been acclaimed as a highly effective organization in campaigning for justice and the uphold of human rights; in 2001, they worked on more than 47,000 cases globally, with only 2,000 being left opened

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
11 December 1958	Burkina Faso becomes an independent country
20 June 1960 28 July 1960	Mali becomes an independent country from the rule of France Mauritania gains independence
1962-64	First Tuareg Rebellion takes place in northern Mali
10 July 1978	Bloodless coup takes place in Mauritania resulting in the military taking over
1981	Mauritania becomes the last country to abolish slavery

27 January 1996	Niger experiences a military coup which overthrows the country's first democratically voted president.
February 26 2003	Darfur genocide takes place in Sudan
3 August 2005	A military coup d'etat takes place in Mauritania, which results in elections
2007	Mauritania passes law that prosecutes slave owners
February 2007-2009	Third Tuareg rebellion takes place in Mali
February- August 2010	Drought and famine in the Sahel
January 16 2012	Mali War begins
14 April 2014	Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping by Boko Haram in north-eastern Nigeria

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

[S/RES/2018](#)

Resolution2018(2011)

This resolution relates to the threat of piracy in the region; it condemns the threat of piracy and armed robbery in the Guinea gulf, while also calling for a strengthening in regional cooperation in order to combat this issue.

[S/2004/525](#)

Report of the Security Council Mission to West Africa, 20-29 June 2004

This is a report made to the Security Council detailing the UN mission to Western Africa in 2004. It summarizes the mission's focal points, which included the link between development and security, as well as the region's weakened borders, which makes dealing with rising problems increasingly difficult. The mission entailed discussions held in key countries, like Nigeria, where recommendations such as the need for an identification of a coherent strategy for United Nations intervention for conflict prevention were made.

UN Support Plan for the Sahel

The UN Support Plan for the Sahel is a plan adapted by the UN, aiming to cover the time period of 2018-2030; it aims to strengthen and improve the collaboration and coordination between all regional partners, which includes the private sector and national institutions. Further, it aims to implement and operationalize the SC resolutions regarding the Sahel. The plan is focused around six main areas of concern, including the climate crisis and sustaining peace. It outlines possible risks to the full implementation of it, as well as monetary needs, investments done in the region and a framework for the accountability of results. The support plan also follows the 17 sustainable development goals till 2030 set out by the UN.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The UN Mission to West Africa (UNOWAS) is a specialized political mission, established in 2002, in the Sahel and Western Africa region. Based in Dakar, Senegal, the mission falls under the auspices and management of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). The mission aims to increase activity in preventive diplomacy, and good political mediation, through addressing issues such as threats to peace and security, between borders in the region, and by promoting respect for human rights and governance. They also work closely with other organizations and entities in the region, such as the Sahel Group of Five, in order to further strengthen the approaches towards issues including organized crimes, terrorism, drug-trafficking and maritime piracy and insecurity. As a framework, they utilize the UN's Support Plan for the Sahel, and the Security Council's resolutions related to the Sahel crisis.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Agricultural Regulations

A solution to tackle the food insecurity crisis of the region could be stricter regulations in the agricultural sector. This would suggest a monitoring of land usage, promotion of fertilizers and more sustainable use of water. Due to the region's vulnerability to climate change and desertification, stricter regulations could prevent further damage from being done; this could lead to less people suffering from food insecurity. The region could enforce punishment to those who do not abide by the regulations, and re-direct funding towards programs which promote the use of fertilizers and pesticides which aid crop yield. Further, in cooperation with the UN's WASH program, the region could push towards sustainable water usage, such as wells and more modern irrigation systems, adapted accordingly to the climate.

Investigations in Human Right Violations

In order to further prevent human right violations from occurring in the Sahel, there could be an increase in investigations and reporting on such matters. This could be operationalized through specialized governmental forces, monitored by organizations such as the UN, which aim to identify such violations and carry out the necessary legal actions, including the trial of war criminals in the ICC. Moreover, local communities could be encouraged to report incidents of violations of human rights, in order to manage the issue as most possible. A way of encouraging people to report such incidents could be in incentives by the government, or through ensuring their safety following the report.

Peacekeeping

Coastal

Regarding the issue of piracy, a possible solution could be an increase in peacekeeping and security enforcement in the coastal parts of the region. This could mean a creation of a specific governmental or international task force which, in cooperation with regional organizations would monitor activity in ports where piracy is frequent; there could also be a possibility of increase in security measures on arriving cargo, and boats present in the harbours.

Trafficking

Possible solutions in tackling the issue of drug trafficking in the region include a promotion of co-operation between affected countries in strengthening border security; this could be done through increasing the amount of peacekeepers or security

personnel at borders, or implementing more definitive physical measures, such as fencing and points of crossing. Further, there could be, (along with coastal patrols for piracy), an increase in monitoring of ships carrying cargo leaving the port, in order to seize vessels carrying drugs or other illegal substances.

FoodSecurity

The issue of food insecurity in the Sahel can be managed through numerous solutions; one example of such is the creation of a food programme in each country which suffers from a food crisis. Food programmes provide food insecure people with meals which aim to fulfill their caloric and nutritional daily needs, with millions of people around the world already being helped by such programmes. Moreover, as a more long-term and sustainable solution, farmers of the region could be provided with modern technologies and methods which help increase yields, at times of drought or climate change, so as to prevent starvation and malnutrition amongst those who are reliant on sustenance farming.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. “Chibok Girls Still Undereducated, Unsafe Five Years after Abductions: DW: 13.04.2019.” *DW.COM*, www.dw.com/en/chibok-girls-still-undereducated-unsafe-five-years-after-abductions/a-48314902#:~:text=Five%20years%20after%20the%20kidnapping,Nigeria%20are%20still%20not%20safe.&text=In%20February%202018%2C%20militants%20of,Five%20died%20in%20the%20aftermath
- “2010 Nigerien Coup D'état.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 May 2020 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Nigerien_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat#cite_note-Todd-2.
- “2012 Malian Coup D'état.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Aug. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Malian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat#Tour%27%C3%A9s_resignation_and_later_events
- “Africa | 'Army Coup Foiled' in Mauritania.” *BBC News*, BBC, 11 Aug. 2004, news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3553906.stm
- Al-Lami, Mina. “Africa's Sahel Becomes Latest Al-Qaeda-IS Battleground.” *BBC News*, BBC, 11 May 2020, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52614579.
- “Allegations of Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Sahel - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State* U.S. Department of State, 9 July 2020, www.state.gov/allegations-of-human-rights-violations-and-abuses-in-the-sahel/.
- Ap. “World News Briefs;Niger's Elected President Ousted in Military Coup.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 28 Jan. 1996, www.nytimes.com/1996/01/28/world/world-news-briefs-niger-s-elected-president-ousted-in-military-coup.html?pagewanted=1.

- Authors: Stephen Starr. "Maritime Piracy on the Rise in West Africa." *Combating Terrorism Center at West Point*, 16 Nov. 2017, www.ctc.usma.edu/maritime-piracy-on-the-rise-in-west-africa/.
- Buentempo, Carlo. *Sahelian Climate: Past, Current, Projections*, 2010, www.oecd.org/swac/publications/47092928.pdf.
- "Causes of Desertification - Desertification - Eduqas - GCSE Geography Revision - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC, www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zctymnb/revision/4#:~:text=The%20Sahel%20is%20a%20narrow,main%20causes%20of%20desertification%20include%3A&text=Overgrazing%20%2D%20an%20increasing%20population%20results,goats%20are%20overgrazing%20the%20vegetation.
- CBS News. "Report: Children In Darfur Tortured, Raped." *CBS News*, CBS Interactive, 20 Apr. 2007, www.cbsnews.com/news/report-children-in-darfur-tortured-raped/.
- "Climate Change in Burkina Faso: Fighting through Hell and High Water." *Oxfam International*, 2 Dec. 2019, www.oxfam.org/en/climate-change-burkina-faso-fighting-through-hell-and-high-water.
- "Desert Insurgency: Lessons from the Third Tuareg Rebellion." *Taylor & Francis*, www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09592318.2011.573406.
- "Desertification - Causes and Prevention Strategies - Hot Deserts - AQA - GCSE Geography Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC, www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpnq6fr/revision/4#:~:text=4%20of%204-,Desertification%20%2D%20causes%20and%20prevention%20strategies,some%20desert%20areas%20is%20increasing.
- edition, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Arabic. "Child Slavery in Mauritania: A Generation in Search of Freedom." *Alaraby*, *The New Arab*, 22 July 2020, english.alaraby.co.uk/english/society/2020/7/22/the-modern-day-child-slaves-of-mauritania.
- The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Sahel." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 26 May 2020, www.britannica.com/place/Sahel.
- "The Extent of Human Rights Violations in Darfur." *Case Study: Human Rights Violations in Darfur*, www.mtholyoke.edu/~gerla22f/classweb/Case%20Study%20Darfur%20Intro.html#:~:text=Today%20in%20the%20Sudan%2C%20the,citizens%20in%20the%20Darfur%20area.&text=The%20extent%20of%20the%20violence,human%20rights%20on%20multiple%20levels.
- "Fighting Hunger in Niger: 3 Causes of Hunger, 3 Causes for Hope." *Concern Worldwide*, www.concernusa.org/story/hunger-in-niger-causes-hope/.

- “Food Insecurity: Definition of Food Insecurity by Oxford Dictionary on Lexico.com Also Meaning of Food Insecurity.” *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, www.lexico.com/definition/food_insecurity.
- From the October 2002 issue of World Press Review (VOL. 49, No. 10), and Meron Tesfa Michael. “Drought Spreads Across Continent.” *WorldPress*, www.worldpress.org/Africa/719.cfm.
- “Human Rights Violations.” *Our World in Data*, ourworldindata.org/grapher/human-rights-violations.
- “In Sahel, Battle against Child Malnutrition Continues | Africa Renewal.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/africarenewal/news/sahel-battle-against-child-malnutrition-continues.
- Jason. “Drug Trafficking in the Sahel.” *Stichting Jason*, 21 Apr. 2019, jasoninstitute.com/2019/04/21/drug-trafficking-in-the-sahel/.
- Jazeera, Al. “Timeline: Mali since Independence.” *News | Al Jazeera* Al Jazeera, 13 Aug. 2013, www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/03/2012322111037483270.html.
- “Mali Human Rights Situation Still a Concern – UN Report | | UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1001781.
- “Mali Rebels Claim to Have Ousted Regime in Coup.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 22 Mar. 2012, www.theguardian.com/world/2012/mar/22/mali-rebels-coup.
- “Mali.” *Mali | World Food Programme*, www.wfp.org/countries/mali#:~:text=However%2C%20land%20degradation%2C%20lack%20of,a%20high%20human%20and%20economic.
- Maps, Ngm. “Six Years Ago, Boko Haram Kidnapped 276 Schoolgirls. Where Are They Now?” *276 Schoolgirls Were Kidnapped by Boko Haram Six Years Ago. Where Are They Now?*, 18 Feb. 2020, www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2020/03/six-years-ago-boko-haram-kidnapped-276-schoolgirls-where-are-they-now/.
- “Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea.” *UNOWA*, 14 Sept. 2016, unowa.unmissions.org/maritime-security-gulf-guinea.
- “Mauritania.” *Human Rights Watch*, www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/mauritania.
- “Mauritanie.” *RFI*, www1.rfi.fr/actu/fr/articles/068/article_37855.asp.
- Mednick, Sam. “Briefing: Burkina Faso's Rapid Descent.” *The New Humanitarian*, 20 Jan. 2020, www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/12/20/Burkina-Faso-displaced-attacks-extremist#:~:text=At%20a%20Glance%3A%20Burkina%20Faso's%20deepening%20crisis&text=More%20than%201.2%20million%20people,is%20undermining%20the%20humanitarian%20response.
- “More than 7 Million Are at Risk of a Food Crisis by June 2020 in Sahel - Burkina Faso.” *ReliefWeb*,

reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/more-7-million-are-risk-food-crisis-june-2020-sahel.

- “Niger.” *Niger | World Food Programme*www.wfp.org/countries/niger.
- “Peace in Sahel Requires Tackling Causes of Instability, Special Adviser Tells Security Council amid Calls to Advance Development, Fight Terrorism | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13637.doc.htm
- Person. “Sahel Climate Region.” *ArcGIS StoryMaps*, Esri, 7 Dec. 2019, storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2195b7376b50491abbfc2b4805ed1110.
- “Piracy in West Africa | Africa Renewal.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/piracy-west-africa.
- “Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel.” *Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel | Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 24 Aug. 2020, www.csis.org/analysis/politics-heart-crisis-sahel.
- “Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel.” *Politics at the Heart of the Crisis in the Sahel | Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 24 Aug. 2020, www.csis.org/analysis/politics-heart-crisis-sahel.
- “The Sahel Crisis.” *FAO and the Sahel Crisis : FAO in Emergencies*, www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/sahel/intro/en/#:~:text=Despite%20continuous%20efforts%20of%20governments,3%20of%20the%20Cadre%20harmonis%C3%A9.
- “Sahel Emergency.” *Sahel Emergency | World Food Programme*, www.wfp.org/emergencies/sahel-emergency.
- “The Sahel: One Region, Many Crises | Africa Renewal.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/sahel-one-region-many-crises.
- “The Sahel: Promoting Political alongside Military Action.” *Crisis Group*, 12 Nov. 2018, www.crisisgroup.org/africa/sahel/mali/sahel-promoting-political-alongside-military-action.
- *Sahel_en*reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/sahel_en_4.pdf.
- “The Social Roots of Jihadist Violence in Burkina Faso's North.” *Crisis Group*, 3 Nov. 2017, www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/burkina-faso/254-social-roots-jihadist-violence-burkina-fasos-north.
- Stebbins, Samuel. “These Are among the 25 Poorest Countries in the World.” *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 3 July 2020, eu.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/07/afghanistan-madagascar-malawi-poor-est-countries-in-the-world/39636131/.

- “Sudan.” *Amnesty International* USA, www.amnestyusa.org/countries/sudan/#:~:text=Conflict%20in%20Darfur&text=Systematic%20human%20rights%20abuses%20have,and%20government%20backed%20Janjawid%20militia.
- “Tell Mauritania to Release Anti-Slavery Activists Moussa and Abdellahi.” *Amnesty International*, www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/mauritania-free-anti-slavery-activists/.
- Thelwell, Kim. “Examining the Causes of Poverty in Mauritania.” *The Borgen Project*, Kim Thelwell [https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The Borgen Project Logo small.Jpg,17July2020,borgenproject.org/causes-of-poverty-in-mauritania/](https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The%20Borgen%20Project%20Logo%20small.Jpg,17July2020,borgenproject.org/causes-of-poverty-in-mauritania/).
- “UN Agencies Raise Alarm in the Central Sahel Where Millions Face Hunger amid Rapidly Escalating Humanitarian Crisis.” *UNICEF*, 25 Aug. 2020, www.unicef.org/press-releases/un-agencies-raise-alarm-central-sahel-where-millions-face-hunger-amid-rapidly#:~:text=The%20unprecedented%20escalation%20of%20humanitarian,not%20been%20reached%20since%202012.
- *UN Support Plan for the Sahel*, www.un.org/africarenewal/sites/www.un.org.africarenewal/files/English%20Summary%20Report%200.pdf.
- “UNOWAS | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, dppa.un.org/en/mission/unowas#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Office%20for,West%20Africa%20and%20the%20Sahel.
- “The Unspeakable Truth about Slavery in Mauritania.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 8 June 2018, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jun/08/the-unspeakable-truth-about-slavery-in-mauritania.
- “West Africa and the Sahel, December 2019 Monthly Forecast.” *Security Council Report*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2019-12/west-africa-and-the-sahel-2.php#:~:text=Key%20Recent%20Developments,security%20threat%20in%20the%20region%E2%80%9D.
- “What Is Malnutrition?” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 6 Feb. 2017, www.who.int/features/qa/malnutrition/en/.
- “What We Do.” *Home*, www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/.
- Wires, News. “Niger Authorities Say 14 Troops Killed during Ambush.” *France 24*, France 24, 26 Dec. 2019, www.france24.com/en/20191226-niger-authorities-say-14-troops-killed-during-an-ambush-g5-sahel-force-west-africa

- “World Report 2019: Rights Trends in Sudan.” *Human Rights Watch*, 17 Jan. 2019, www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/sudan
- Written by Robert Muggah, Founder. “The Sahel Is Engulfed by Violence. Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Extremists Are Largely to Blame.” *World Economic Forum*, www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/all-the-warning-signs-are-showing-in-the-sahel-we-must-act-now/