

Bridging the Gaps



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

RET GERMANY

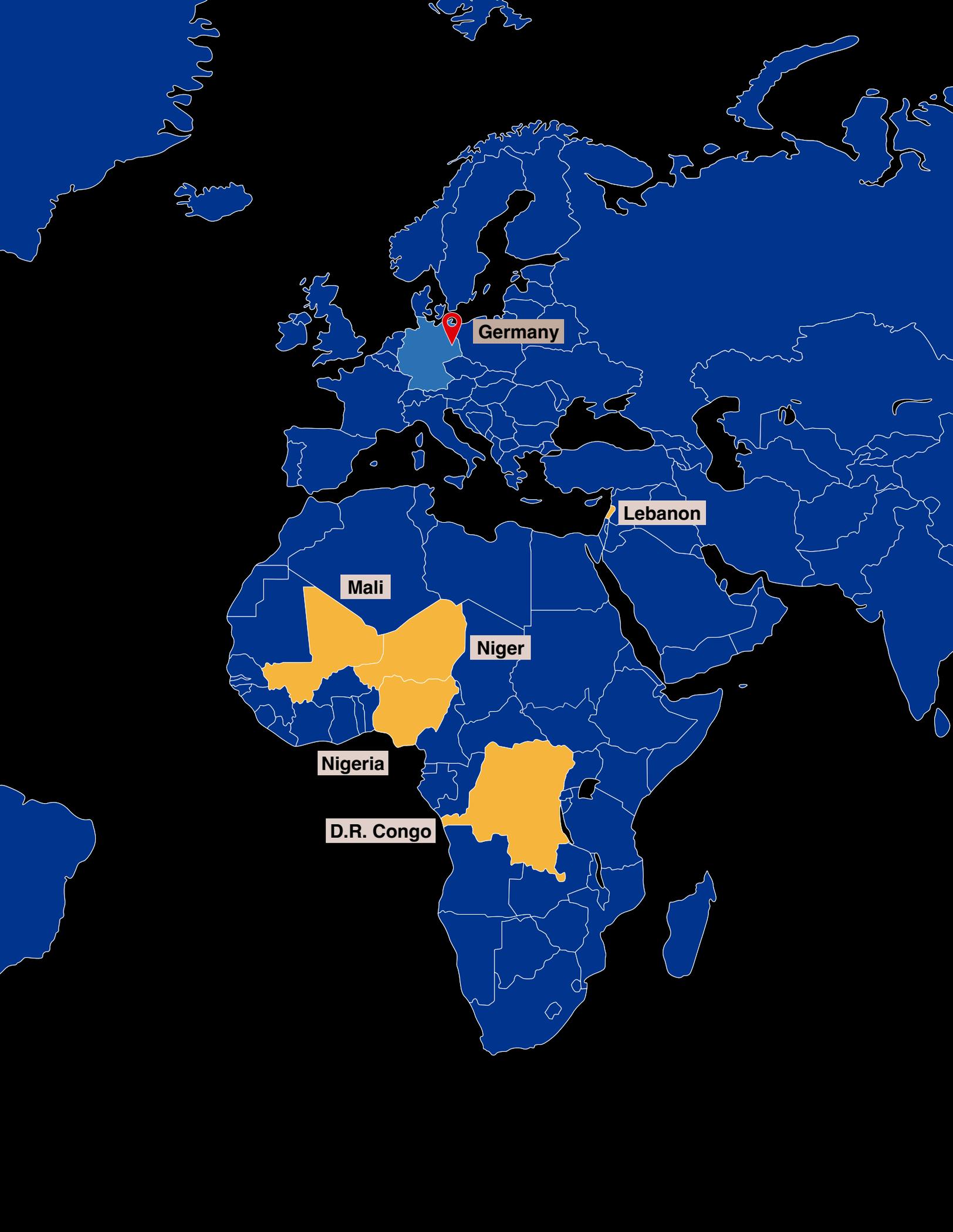




# WHERE WE WORK

Since 2015, RET Germany has supported communities afflicted by violence, armed conflicts, and disasters.

**RET Germany HQ Office**  
Berlin



Germany

Lebanon

Mali

Niger

Nigeria

D.R. Congo



# D.R. CONGO

In 2024, we continued our efforts to support conflict-affected populations in D.R. Congo through a multiyear project funded by Germany's BMZ. The project, "Multi-sectoral support for sustainable quantitative and qualitative improvement of the food and nutrition situation and peaceful and inclusive co-existence of conflict-affected populations," has been implemented in Ituri and North Kivu since 2021. Our interventions have focused on multiple sectors, including food security, nutrition, protection, peacebuilding, and social cohesion, aiming to improve the well-being and resilience of vulnerable communities.

Throughout the year, we provided

agricultural support to improve food production, nutritional assistance for vulnerable groups, and training programs to strengthen local capacities. The project also facilitated peaceful co-existence activities, fostering dialogue and social cohesion among communities affected by conflict. Additionally, we promoted income-generating activities and sustainable livelihood initiatives to enhance self-sufficiency among displaced and host populations.

The impact of the project in 2024 was substantial:

- 2,421 beneficiaries (1,697 in North Kivu and 724 in Ituri), including demobilized youth, Batwa, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and vulnerable

host communities, received direct support.

- Agricultural productivity improved by 98.55%, according to the mid-term evaluation, with final results pending the endline assessment.
- 950 farmers were trained
- 31 savings groups were established to support cooperative development.
- Food security was enhanced through legal support for 185 farmers, and land access was restored in 31% of cases, despite ongoing conflict.
- Over 23,000 community members were reached through nutrition awareness campaigns, with 77% of farmers reporting improved dietary diversity.
- Social cohesion efforts resulted in 172 mediated conflicts
- 1,200 participants engaged in peacebuilding activities.

Additionally, psychosocial support services were provided to more than 9,070 individuals, exceeding initial targets due to the heightened need stemming from the conflict.<sup>[1]</sup>



*Members of the Bukombo cooperative showcase their agricultural products during an exposition fair in Masisi Territory, accompanied by a field monitor and RET focal point—highlighting the impact of community-led initiatives on local livelihoods.*

*[1] This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented in partnership with IPAP (Provincial Inspectorate of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Livestock), ACPEJ (Action des Ex-Combattants Pour l'Encadrement des Jeunes et la lutte contre l'enrôlement des enfants et les violences sexuelles basées sur le genre), FIDAP (Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés), and PAP (Programme d'Appui au Développement des Populations Forestières).*

# LEBANON

In Lebanon, we continued our work under the project “Strengthening Resilience and Peaceful Coexistence of Lebanese and Syrian Refugees,” focusing on agriculture, food production, and infrastructure. Key actions included the completion of a 15 km agricultural road in Arsal, the installation of irrigation systems in Al Qaa, and the distribution of tools and equipment to farmers. Additionally, we provided training on modern agricultural practices, fish farming techniques, and post-harvest methods, while also promoting social cohesion through community events and youth engagement.

The project spanned multiple sectors, including water management (e.g., irrigation systems and water committees), agriculture (e.g., demonstration fields and pest control training), and fisheries (e.g., fish farming support and processing workshops).

We also emphasized digital literacy, deploying a “Weather Early Warning Application” for farmers, and fostering public-



*With her newfound skills, Mrs. Wafa (above) started a small business from her kitchen. Customers quickly discovered the exceptional quality, and her reputation grew rapidly.*

private partnerships to sustain economic development. Social cohesion activities, such as festivals and joint community initiatives, were organized, though some were delayed due to security concerns.

We achieved significant milestones in 2024:

- 10.7 km of irrigation pipes were installed, benefiting 200 households;
- 1,020 farmers received agricultural tools;
- And out of the 1,700,000 trout fingerlings distributed, 30,000 were allocated to demonstration farms for training purposes, model farms, technical follow-up and monitoring, while the remaining were distributed to 167 fish farmers.
- Training programs reached 1,003 farmers (including 254 women) and 667 farm workers
- 5,465 farmers accessed weather alerts via the LARI-Leb App.
- Social cohesion events engaged 1,935 participants, surpassing the proposed targets.

Despite challenges like security risks and logistical constraints, the project improved livelihoods, reduced water costs, and strengthened community ties.<sup>[1]</sup>

*[1] This transitional development project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with GATE Lebanon (local Lebanese non-governmental organization) and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute – LARI.*



*18 talented Syrians and Lebanese youth participating in a two-day workshop led by two university professors. Youth acquired expertise and insights in various creative disciplines, including painting, drawing, loom wool weaving, and handicraft.*



Additionally, we provided training on post-harvest techniques, food processing, and sustainable farming practices, with a focus on empowering women and vulnerable groups. The project also fostered social cohesion by establishing community committees and organizing joint agricultural activities between Lebanese and Syrian participants.

We addressed challenges such as economic instability, security risks, and displacement dynamics by adapting project activities. Most of the fish farms are located in Shwaghir village which is within Hermel Casa (Governorate), and training modules were adjusted to meet evolving needs. RET worked in partnership with our

local partners GATE Lebanon and the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) to ensure technical support and capacity building, including the development of a mobile early-warning app for weather and pest alerts, which reached over 53,200 users.

The project had the following impact on local communities:

- 186 households have been assessed for the endline survey and have benefited from the new irrigation system, with water costs reduced to below USD 40 per household.
- Over 97% of surveyed households actively cultivated their gardens, and participants reported improved skills and income opportunities.
- Despite economic hurdles, the project enhanced food security and livelihoods for 4,000 farmers and strengthened community resilience.

Efforts to integrate Syrian refugees into local committees succeeded in Al-Qaa, promoting social cohesion. The project's emphasis on sustainability ensured long-term benefits, such as the registration of a water management committee with local authorities, securing continued infrastructure maintenance. Overall, our interventions delivered measurable improvements in nutrition, income, and intercommunity relations.<sup>[2]</sup>

*[2] This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented from 2024 to 2027 in partnership with GATE Lebanon and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute – LARI.*

# MALI



Through PAMSSA, and in partnership with ALPHALOG and REFOR, we worked closely with local communities to implement capacity-building programs, enabling farmers and artisans to adapt to changing environmental conditions while improving their productivity and self-sufficiency. The project also emphasized community-based peacebuilding efforts, fostering dialogue and collaboration between different groups to reduce tensions and encourage cooperative economic activities.

In 2024, we implemented the PAMSSA project in Mali, a multi-faceted initiative aimed at improving youth employability, food security, and peace. The project aimed to strengthen economic resilience and social cohesion by fostering peaceful relationships and economic interdependence among communities. We provided training in sustainable agricultural techniques, climate-resilient farming, and income-generating artisanal skills, equipping beneficiaries with the tools needed to enhance food security and economic stability.

- 500 individuals received training in climate-resilient agriculture and artisanal trades, leading to improved food security and increased incomes.
- 200 women and youth gained access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, fostering economic empowerment.

The project facilitated 10 community dialogue sessions, strengthening peaceful coexistence and reducing local tensions. As a result, participating communities reported a 20% increase in agricultural yields and greater economic stability, demonstrating PAMSSA's contribution to resilience and social cohesion in Mali.<sup>[1]</sup>



*Young apprentices gain hands-on welding experience as part of the PAMSSA project in Mali.*

*[1] This project's implementation began in late 2022, will run through 2025, is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by RET Germany in partnership with ALPHALOG and REFOR.*

# NIGER

In 2024, we continued implementing the project “Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion for Refugees and Displaced Persons in the Diffa Region,” focusing on agriculture, income-generating activities (IGAs), financial inclusion, and vocational training.

Key interventions included:

- Supporting 1,233 farmers with seeds for rain-fed crops
- Establishing 18 pilot home gardens, and
- Revitalizing fish farming groups.

We also facilitated the formation of 13 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and provided cash grants to 100 beneficiaries to launch IGAs. Additionally, a pilot poultry farm was introduced to diversify income sources and improve food security. These efforts aimed to enhance self-reliance and resilience among



refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities.

We collaborated closely with local authorities, the UNHCR, and technical services to ensure effective implementation. Challenges such as water scarcity and technical issues in fish farming were addressed through adaptive measures, including irrigation planning and community training. The project emphasized participatory approaches, ensuring

beneficiaries were actively involved in decision-making and skill-building activities.

The project directly reached 1,737 individuals (781 women, 956 men), including 1,507 refugees and 128 IDPs.

Key results included:

- 1,233 farmers supported with seeds, yielding 1.23 tons/ha of millet;
- 151 kg of fish sold before production halted; and
- 1.6 million Naira generated by young artisans.
- VSLAs collectively saved 1.25 million Naira, while IGAs produced profits of 2.6 million Naira from sheep sales.

Despite challenges, the project strengthened economic autonomy and food security, with indirect benefits reaching 8,685 people. Our interventions demonstrated cost-effectiveness and sustainability, laying the groundwork for long-term community resilience.<sup>[1]</sup>

*[1] This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through 2024. It is being implemented in partnership with the local organization Soutien aux ONG, SongES.*



*Our incredible women - program participants members of the Bonhawey Bane, Sabaga Siney, and Kandé Gomni cooperatives speaking about their hard work in storing and selling rice.*

# NIGERIA

In 2024, we set the stage for a bold expansion into Nigeria, laying the groundwork for a cross-border project aimed at strengthening livelihoods, food security, and peace in the country's conflict-affected north.

Launching in Katsina State, one of the regions affected by displacement and insecurity, our new initiative will provide training in climate-smart agriculture and skilled trades to 9,000 vulnerable youth and women.

In partnership with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) and CCDRN, a local Nigerian organization, the project will build small businesses, empower cooperatives, and create conflict mediation committees across Katsina's hardest-hit communities.



This marks the first time we've launched operations in Nigeria. And it fits into our growing footprint across the Sahel. By coordinating efforts between our teams in Niger and Nigeria, we're helping stitch a new safety net for communities facing instability, climate shocks, and economic hardship on both sides of the border.<sup>[1]</sup>

*[1] This project is being implemented in consortium with Arbeiter Samariter Bund e.V. (ASB) and in partnership with the Center for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).*

# RET GERMANY BOARD MEMBERS

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