



Remember Niger
Coalition

Annual Report | 2023

SOMETHING WONDERFUL



REMEMBER NIGER COALITION

Our mission is to mobilize resources and unify people to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger. We use a collaborative partnership model, working alongside Nigerien school committees to ensure community-driven solutions to the many obstacles in providing and acquiring a quality education in Niger.

Local leadership and investment provide resilience during challenging times, making the schools sustainable and more successful. Our partner schools have averaged a 90% pass rate on the national 6th grade exam, and nearly 100% of the students matriculate to middle school.

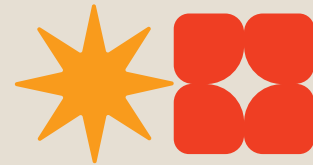


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**“None of us, including me,
ever do great things.
But we can do small things
with great love, and
together we can do
something wonderful.”**

- Mother Teresa



From the **CEO**

Dear Friends,

One thing I have learned from 15 years of working in Niger is to expect the unexpected. I have often said that you should have plans A through H, but be ready to use plan Z. This lesson hit home again in July 2023 when Niger experienced a coup d'état. The borders were closed and tight sanctions were put in place by regional countries. It took nearly six months before we could travel back to Niger to visit our partner schools. We learned several lessons during this challenging time.

First and foremost, it reinforced our belief in our partners in Niger and the US. Our partners believe in our mission and are ready to respond when times are difficult. With the borders closed, food was expensive and difficult to obtain. Through the quick thinking of our Nigerien partners and your generosity we were able to ensure that over 300 of our most vulnerable students and their families received food, and through that support, we continue to provide meals to over 200 boarding students despite the high food prices.

The second thing we learned was that our model of partnership with Nigeriens who own and operate their schools and projects is effective. Even if we are unable to enter the country, the schools will continue to run and provide a quality education to the students served. Moreover, in 2023, we were able to complete our projects and programs without interruption, which included training over 67 teachers and administrators, constructing 9 classrooms with the capacity for over 300 primary school students, 8 latrines at two schools, a computer lab at the girls' school, and much more.

Finally, we recognize now more than ever that providing a quality education to children and youth in Niger is critical to the development and long-term stability of the country. It is vital that more young people receive an education that prepares them to be leaders and positive contributors to their communities and country. Therefore, we are determined to continue our work by supporting our partner schools and projects.



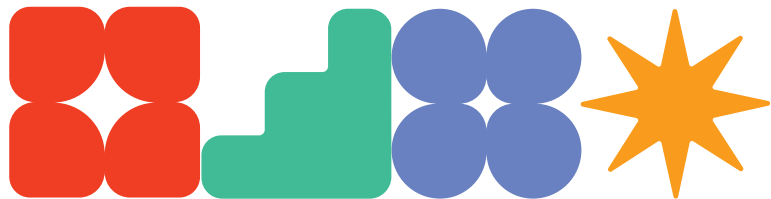
Moving forward, we will focus on:

- School security through the construction of security walls and capital projects that impact the safety of students, including permanent, cement brick classrooms and latrines.
- Empowering our partners through programs like our Teach-the-Teacher training program and other professional development opportunities.
- Equipping schools for success so that they have what they need to provide a high-quality education to their students.
- Expanding our impact through new and existing partnerships so that more Nigerien children have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education.

I have always loved the quote by Mother Teresa, “None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.” So much so that it graced the cover of Remember Niger’s first brochure 15 years ago when we first began. It is a recognition that we need to work together in love and unity to effect positive, lasting change. As I look back, it’s so clear that all that has been accomplished has been because of you – our partners – and your contribution. Your kindness, generosity and sacrifice have made an enormous difference in the lives of thousands of Nigerien children. Your commitment has helped establish schools that will continue well into the future and impact thousands upon thousands more lives. I invite you to continue this rewarding and life-changing work with us. Together – with great love – we will continue to do something wonderful!

Kara VanderKamp

Kara VanderKamp
Founder and CEO
Remember Niger Coalition



OUR IMPACT IN 2023




18
School partners



8
Latrines built




67
Teachers received training




309
Sponsorships for boys and girls




9
Classrooms built



98
Scholarships for girls in secondary school



300
Students/families were provided food in emergency



704
Students in running clubs

WHERE WE WORK

Niger is a land-locked country located in West Africa with nearly two-thirds of its land mass within the Sahara Desert. Niger has an estimated population of over 25 million people, and over half of the population is under the age of 14. According to UNICEF, “Niger has one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in the world.” Niger currently ranks 189 out of 191 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index. Additionally, Niger is last on the United Nations Education Index, with only 51% of children attending primary school and 22% attending secondary school.



Remember Niger works throughout the country of Niger, serving in seven of the eight administrative regions.

NUMBERS BY REGION:

NIAMEY CAPITAL

of Schools 3
of Students 819

TILLABERI Region

of Schools 1
of Students 63

DOSSO Region

of Schools 1
of Students 37

AGADEZ Region

of Schools 1
of Students 340

TAHOUA Region

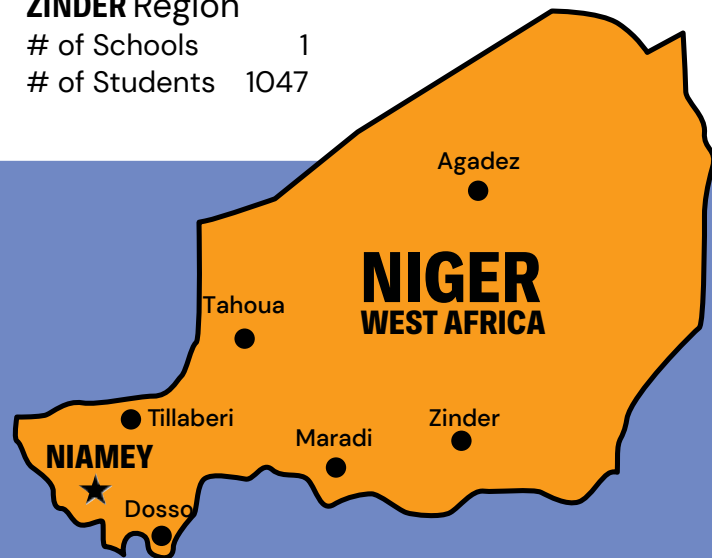
of Schools 6
of Students 1995

MARADI Region

of Schools 5
of Students 899

ZINDER Region

of Schools 1
of Students 1047



Total girls: 2735
Total boys: 2465

5,200
Total students!

HOW WE WORK

Remember Niger partners with organizations and local leaders who seek to establish high-quality schools for children and youth in their communities.

By working side-by-side with our Nigerian partners who own and operate their schools, both public and private with religious and economic diversity within each school, we are able to ensure that more children receive a high-quality education in the least educated country in the world. Our Nigerian partners include churches and religious organizations, associations, and nonprofit organizations. We help build and support schools, but only as the need is identified and articulated by our Nigerian partners. Local architects, laborers, construction firms, educators, organization and community leaders, and parents all contribute to these projects. Our partners recognize the power of education and the positive impact it will have on their communities. Many of the school leaders had the opportunity to attend schools of excellence where they received the investment and support needed for success. They want to pass that same opportunity on to the next generation.

A Model School - The Galmi School

The Galmi Primary School serves as an excellent example of how Remember Niger works with our partners and how schools are established in Niger

The Galmi Primary School was established in 2003 through the collaboration of two community churches. Galmi is in the Tahoua region of Niger and is 250 miles east of Niamey. The village of 9,000 people is known for its red onions, which they export throughout the region. The onion crop is a large part of the economy and many of the parents of students at the school are onion farmers.

Remember Niger began working with the Galmi Primary School in 2019 after Achirou Salouf approached the organization about a possible partnership. Already, the school had a long history of providing a quality education to its students. Moreover, the needed infrastructure was in place with six permanent classrooms, four latrines and an



Achirou Salouf (left), pictured with a member of the Galmi Primary School Committee, is one of the school's founders and currently serves as the school administrator

office. However, several years of poor crop yields had taken a toll on the school, which was evident in the low enrollment rate. There were about 200 students attending the school, while there was capacity for over 300 students. Parents simply were unable to afford the minimal school fees. In 2019, through the Remember Niger sponsorship program, 25 vulnerable children were given the opportunity to attend the school. In addition to giving underserved children a chance to receive a high-quality education, the consistent income from the program helped stabilize the school's finances. It meant that teachers' salaries were paid regularly and on time and they had the supplies they needed. Additionally, since the partnership began, the teachers and administrators have participated in the Remember Niger Teach-the-Teacher program annually, thus growing their capacity.



“They put love in my heart through their kindness and investment in me. I have always wanted to do the same thing for others. That’s the reason why I helped start this school for the children in Galmi”



Achirou’s Story

Achirou’s (a-she-rue) father enrolled him in the Tsibiri Christian Boarding School when he was a young boy. (The Tsibiri school is a Remember Niger partner school.) It was an unusual decision for a man who was not a Christian and did not go to school himself. However, Achirou’s father saw the potential value in having his son receive a quality education. This decision changed the course of Achirou’s life and the lives of thousands of Nigerien children. He excelled in elementary

school and was given a scholarship to attend the best secondary school in his region. Eventually, he chose to go to nursing school and settled in Galmi, where he worked as a nurse at the hospital.

Achirou talks passionately about the support he has received throughout his life. The love and care that his parents, neighbors, teachers, and missionaries gave him molded and formed him. “They put love in my heart through their kindness and investment in me. I have always wanted to do the same thing for others. That’s the reason why I helped start this school for the children in Galmi.” In order to start the school, Achirou opened a community clinic. This new endeavor provided him with the flexibility to help lead the new school and gave him extra income, which he invested in the school. “We want to put love in the hearts of our students by giving them the chance to go to a school where the teachers care for them and want the best for them. It will change their lives. And, I hope that they will want to do the same for others when they are older.”

Q&A with the **COUNTRY DIRECTOR**

Ibrahim Abdou, Remember Niger’s country director, oversees project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and works closely with the administrators and leaders of the schools. Additionally, he provides valuable insight into cultural norms and helps navigate legal and governmental issues. Ibrahim has assisted with Remember Niger Coalition projects since we were established in 2009.



What has been encouraging during the past 2–3 years?

Remember Niger Coalition has grown in every sector of activity and has had a large impact, which has been recognized by the government of Niger and especially by the communities that benefit directly from them. At the top of the list are the parents of our students, who are very happy with the support that RNC provides towards the quality education of their children. RNC is doing a good job of putting teachers and students in a good condition of work with permanent, cement block classrooms. We can be confident that our teachers are well-trained and providing a quality education because of our teacher training program. We have achieved excellent results on all of the exams, and many of the schools we support are ranked first in their respective regions. Also, I want to mention that it has been encouraging that we have been able to help our most needy students and their families when times are difficult. For example, we provided food to these families during COVID and then after the coup d’état when the



Ibrahim Abdou and Kara VanderKamp at the Guidan Arna primary school.

country’s borders were closed and sanctions had been put in place by the regional countries. Finally, I find it very encouraging that with many of the schools, RNC leaders and staff are like family with the school leaders. What I mean by that is that we have a lot of trust and care for one another.

What has been challenging during the past 2–3 years?

As you can imagine, there are many challenges when working in Niger, but I’ll talk about a few. First, there is an overwhelming number of needs. We do what we can, but it never seems like it’s enough. And, of course, security is always on our mind. The safety of the students, teachers and staff is a high priority for us. We have been strategic in where we work – in areas that do not have high levels of insecurity. However, we are constantly monitoring the situation and thinking about how we can do better to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. For example, we continue to put security walls around the schools. Finally, is the health of the students, teachers and administrators. Unfortunately, we lost two of our school leaders in 2024. They were both suffering from chronic diseases, which is common in this country. Again, we are working with our partners to find ways to promote the health of everyone within the school communities.

What are the shared commitments guiding us?

Three commitments or values come immediately to mind. First, innovation & creativity at the schools. A good example of this is Pastor Souley-

We are a small NGO but we take care of the schools and listen to their concerns. We do this for people too. Sometimes we go outside of our normal projects to meet a need because it's the right thing to do. People notice this. They can see that we are really for Nigeriens, and we care about them specifically."

–Ibrahim Abdou

mane, the leader at the School of Hope for children with disabilities. He is always thinking about how they can develop their school – the quality of the education, the training of the teachers, the change in the environment. For example, he regularly visits the local Ministry of Education in his city to talk to them about the challenges of educating children with disabilities. This is important because the government knows about what they are doing and supports their efforts. Secondly, we recognize that sacrifices have to be made to achieve our goals. School leaders, teachers and parents all make sacrifices so that their children are able to go to high-quality schools. An example of this is how disabled parents let their children who are their helpers attend school. It truly is a sacrifice – at least in the short term. The parent often has to stay at home because their "helper" who pushes them in the wheelchair, is occupied in the classroom. Finally, we are committed to empowerment. RNC empowers our partners to help them achieve their visions of creating a school in their community. The school leaders empower their staff by providing them with the training and supplies they need and the teachers empower their students. The desire is that everyone has the opportunity to grow and thrive and be the people God created us to be.

What draws people to engage, partner and connect with Remember Niger?

This is an interesting question, because it's true that we have more requests for partnership than we have the ability to commit to. I believe this is because RNC is very open with our partners. When we visit and arrive at schools, we are not strangers. People like that we are open with them and



Ibrahim, far right, with leaders at the Azzel primary school.

we listen to them. Also, we are a small NGO but we take care of the school leaders and staff and listen to their concerns. At times we go outside of our normal projects to meet a need because it's the right thing to do. I mentioned earlier the examples of how we were able to feed our most vulnerable students and their families during extremely challenging times. People notice this. They can see that we are really for Nigeriens, and we care about them specifically. Finally, we follow through when we say we are going to do something. They can trust us. Their dreams become a reality.

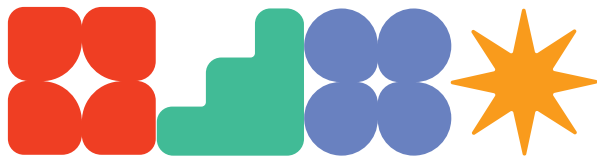


Where can RNC get better?

For every organization to get better, it's important to be unified. We must stay within the same vision which will create trust and attract more partners to us. We need more resources, because as we grow and increase our capacity we can accomplish more. More children will be able to attend high-performance schools, which will impact their families and communities.

New classrooms and latrines CAPITAL PROJECTS

In Niger, there are not enough school buildings. Permanent, safe school buildings are critical for a quality education. Practicing good health and hygiene is also essential. In 2023, Remember Niger and our supporters constructed 9 classrooms and 8 latrines.



NEW CLASSROOMS

Azzel Primary School

6 New Classrooms

Remember Niger established a partnership with the Azzel Primary School in 2019 after learning about catastrophic flooding at the school. After continuous flooding, the difficult decision was made to relocate the school to safer property. Remember Niger facilitated the construction of two, 3-classroom buildings in 2023 and the school opened for students in the fall. Students are thriving in their new classrooms and they are safe from flooding.

Guidan Arna Primary School

3 New Classrooms

The children who attend the school are from five remote villages around the school. The school currently has 220 students. At the time our partnership began, the school had 4 classrooms made of straw, and one permanent classroom. Parents pooled their money each year to rehabilitate the classrooms. Remember Niger began construction on 3 new permanent cement block classrooms in 2023.

NEW LATRINES

New latrines were constructed at the Koira Kano primary school and the Aguié middle school. Proper health and hygiene is an important part of a quality education. Four latrines were installed at each school and students at the middle school now have separate facilities for boys and girls.

Koira Kano Primary School

4

New
Latrines



Aguié Middle School

4

New
Latrines



FURNITURE AND SUPPLIES

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches, and the resulting matching grant from One Day's Wages, we were able to ensure that the new classrooms at the Azzel primary school were fully outfitted with desks, seating, and chalkboards. Our Empowering Education through Essentials programming is the avenue used to provide the "essentials" beyond teachers and infrastructure that are necessary for education – desks and chairs, chalkboards, fans (including solar when needed), and teacher and student curriculum.



Teacher Training and Technology

TEACH-THE-TEACHER

This annual training, which takes place in September, helps guarantee that the teachers have the skills necessary to provide a high-quality education to their students.

Remember Niger Coalition continued its partnership with the Niger Ministry of Education to provide training to 67 teachers, directors, and administrators through our Teach-the-Teacher program. This year, we added workshops for administrators and middle school teachers in addition to the training we typically offer to primary school teachers. The seminar included 9 sessions focused on administrative and property management of schools and 7 sessions focused on developing skills in oral and written comprehension. The training took place at the Tsibiri boarding school, which provided an ideal venue with a kitchen, dormitories, and classrooms.

As a result of the training, the teachers and administrators who attend the seminar have demonstrated that they are better equipped to provide educational instruction to students and manage their classrooms through integration of key technologies and understanding of the Ministry of Education requirements.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS TRAINING POSSIBLE!

IMF Giving Together
 Henry E. Niles Foundation
 CPPS Heritage Mission Fund
 Olive Tree Foundation

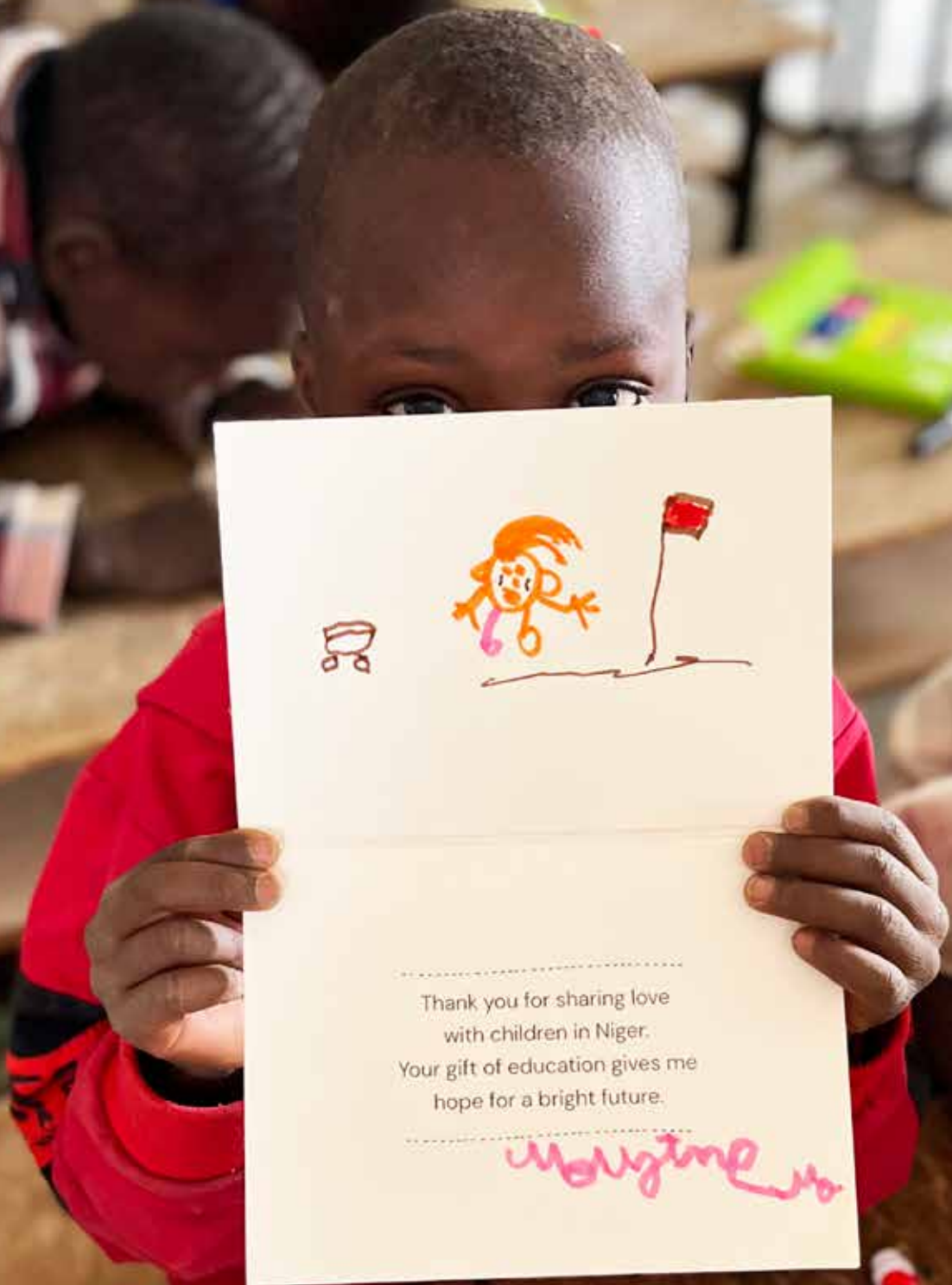
Teaching students how to use computers helps prepare them to be successful in the future. In 2023, Remember Niger facilitated a gift of new computers for the Kollo Girls School.

Bridging the digital divide, especially due to the limited access to technology and the internet for most people in Niger, is a key goal of our Equipping for Success through School Resource Centers programming. By providing computers and RACHEL systems, students can acquire

digital literacy skills and access additional educational materials. In 2023, Remember Niger installed 10 computers at the Kollo Girls' School in preparation of equipping the school with a full resource center.

STUDENTS AT THE KOLLO GIRLS SCHOOL HAVE ACCESS TO NEW COMPUTERS





309 CHILDREN RECEIVED SPONSORSHIPS TO GO TO SCHOOL

Sponsorship Program for Boys and Girls

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

As a student sponsor, you are doing something wonderful by changing the trajectory of the child's life.

The Remember Niger Sponsorship Program matches vulnerable children in Niger with sponsors who make it possible for the child to attend school. The children in the program are in preschool through 6th grade and they cannot afford the cost of going to school. They are from the most vulnerable groups, including the disabled, orphans, girls and those living in extreme poverty. In 2023, sponsors provided 309 students with a quality primary school education in the world's poorest nation. Without such sponsorships, these children would not have been able to attend school.



Sponsorship students make cards every year for their sponsors.



Biniyaminou received a sponsorship in 2023. He is 9 years old and his favorite subject is history.

A SPONSORSHIP PROVIDES A STUDENT WITH:

- A quality education
- Tuition, books and supplies
- Uniforms, meals, transportation and boarding*
- Opportunity to reach her/his full potential
- Hope for a successful and healthy future

**varies according to school*

Girls' Advancement

KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Continuing their education empowers girls to make informed decisions about their lives, helping to break the gender inequality cycle by challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes.

Only 9% of girls in Niger will complete primary school and fewer than 5% will continue to middle school. Remember Niger's Girls' Advancement program provides critical access to secondary education for girls by giving them the opportunity to enroll in and stay in school through our scholarship program. Their chances of success are bolstered through the targeted tutoring and mentorship that is included in the program. We also work to educate parents and communities regarding the value and importance of girls' education. This threefold approach addresses many barriers girls in Niger face in acquiring secondary education.

Through the Girls' Advancement scholarships, girls are provided tuition, supplies, transportation, and other critical support so that they can continue their education beyond primary school. In 2023, 98 girls received full scholarships, enabling them to continue middle school and high school. 92 additional middle school girls received tutoring alongside the full scholarship girls. This programming is a crucial element to our overall work, as the more educated girls become, rates of early marriage and number of pregnancies will decline. This will improve overall well-being of not only women in Niger, but entire communities.

THE MORE EDUCATED A GIRL IS, THE MORE LIKELY SHE IS TO:



- Marry later and have fewer children
- Make informed choices regarding family planning, resulting in improved maternal and child health
- Contribute to the financial well-being of her future family, helping to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty
- Participate in the decision-making processes and conversations in their communities

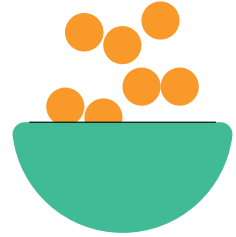


**IN 2023, 98 GIRLS
RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO
ATTEND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Health and Wellness

GROWING UP HEALTHY

Nutrition is an essential component of a quality education. In 2023, we provided thousands of nutritious meals to students at our partner schools.



On July 26, 2023, a coup d'état occurred in Niger. As a result, borders were closed and sanctions were put into place, resulting in extremely difficult challenges for Nigeriens. Because of your quick and generous response to our call for assistance through the Emergency Food Program, we were able to provide food to 200 boarding students for the entire year and emergency food to over 300 vulnerable students and their families. Remember Niger's country director, Ibrahim Abdou, and the leaders of our partner school, the School of Hope for children with disabilities, organized a food distribution for the most vulnerable students and their families. Each family received a 50-pound sack of rice, a bag of beans, and oil.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM PROVIDED:

- Meals for over 300 students and their families in one of the most vulnerable communities in Niger
- Meals for over 200 boarding students for the entire school year



Food Programs and School Gardens

Food insecurity is a significant barrier to education for Nigerien children. The Remember Niger Food Program ensures that students receive at least one nutritious meal each school day, guarding against food insecurity. By making sure students are well nourished, cognitive abilities improve (based on test scores) and school attendance is higher. Simply put, students who are not hungry are better equipped to engage in learning.

Remember Niger accomplishes this by supporting meal programs and gardens at our schools.

Not only do school gardens provide food for students, they also provide a learning opportunity because the students are responsible for the gardens – learning to grow and prepare their own food.



Youth Running Clubs

We added Youth Running Clubs (YRCs) as new programming in 2023. Three partner schools were trained in coaching YRCs and successfully implemented the program. The YRCs provide the space, instruction, and opportunity for students to develop positive self-esteem by understanding that every person is a child of God and is endowed with a God-given purpose. Through participation in the YRCs, each child learns and develops the skills needed to realize their life purpose. The clubs are also a great opportunity to develop youth leaders and can serve as a healing outlet for trauma. The YRCs expanded very quickly and over 700 students were participating by the end of 2023! We are excited about the ways this program is impacting students and communities.



BENEFITS OF RUNNING CLUBS:

- Experience the love of God
- Develop leadership skills
- Healing outlet for trauma
- Improve physical health

We extend our sincere thanks to the Micah 6:8 foundation for making it possible to implement the first year of the Youth Running Clubs.

TRAVEL TO NIGER

In March 2023, Mark Willey, supporter from Georgetown Presbyterian Church and Julie Frye with Remember Niger traveled to Niger to visit our partners and the students.

Mark Willey is Videographer and Director of Music at Georgetown Presbyterian Church. He dedicated his trip to filming our partners and students. When he returned home, he created a 20-minute documentary that captures his experience and the work of Remember Niger. We extend our sincere thanks to Mark for devoting his time and talent to further the mission of Remember Niger.

Julie Frye is Chief Communications Officer for Remember Niger. This was her first trip to Niger. The team traveled across Niger to the Kollo Girls School, the School of Hope for children with disabilities, the Niamey School for the Deaf, and many others. They also toured a women's health clinic, attended church, and shared many meals with our Nigerian friends and partners.



What is one thing you'd like to tell Remember Niger supporters?

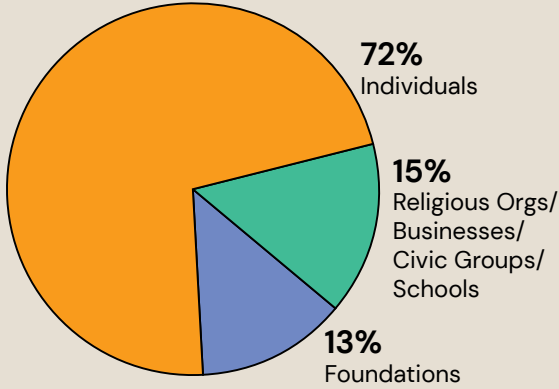
MW: The schools Remember Niger supports are indeed extraordinary and are making a difference. The faculty and staff are incredibly dedicated and the students who attend these schools are so grateful and eager to learn.

What is one thing you'd like to tell Remember Niger supporters?

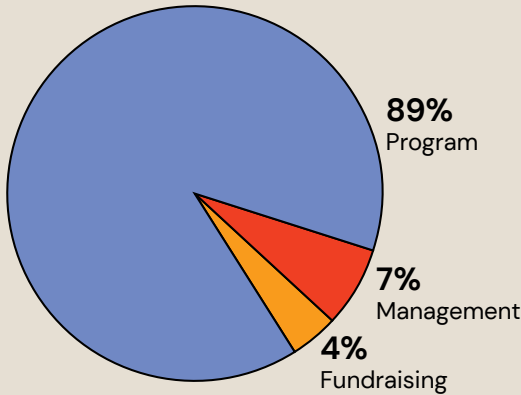
"I am in awe of the truly transformative opportunity you are giving to children in Niger. Each day when they go to school, they experience a world of hope and growth."

FINANCIAL

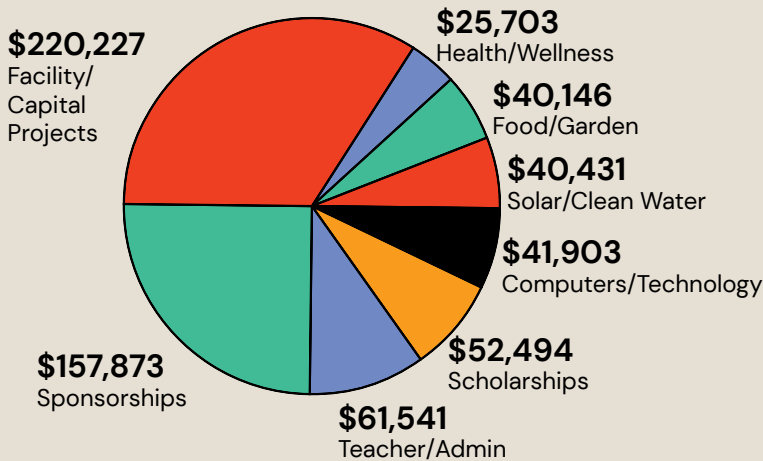
REVENUE



EXPENSES



PROGRAM EXPENSE BY AREA



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue	
Foundations	\$91,778
Individuals	\$508,308
Religious Orgs/Businesses/ Civic Groups/Schools	\$105,898
TOTAL	\$705,984

Expenses	
Projects and Programs	\$640,318
Fundraising	\$28,842
Administration	\$48,787
TOTAL	\$717,947

Remember Niger Coalition's financial statements, presented above, will be reviewed by Dolinka, VanNoord & Company, PLLP CPA's in June 2024. They will be available upon request.



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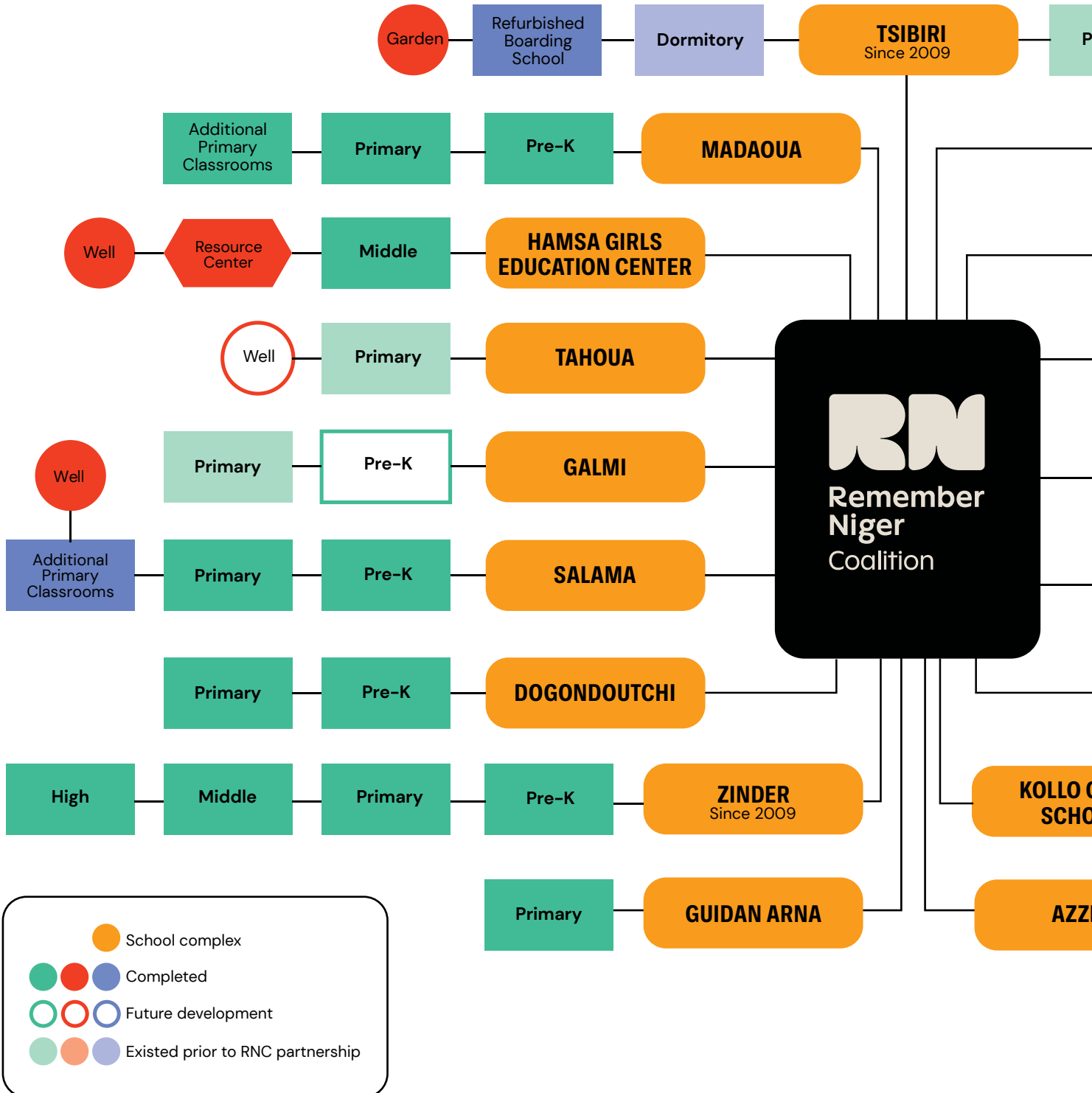
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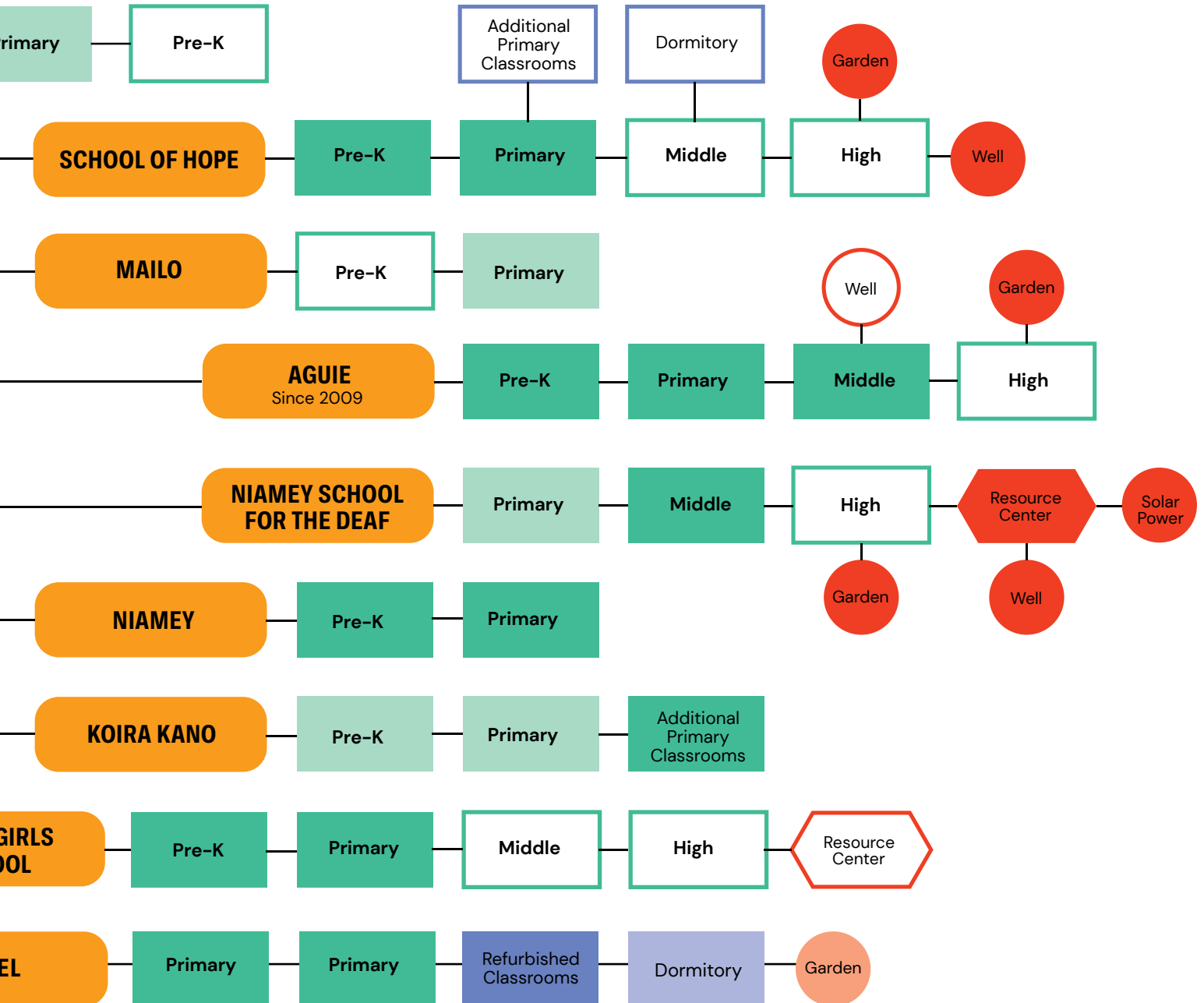
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OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

When Remember Niger was founded in 2009, we partnered with 3 schools and 400 students. In 2023 we partnered with 18 schools and over 5,000 students.







YOUR SUPPORT IS CREATING SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Your gifts and partnership have a significant impact on the lives of children in Niger.

There are many different ways to support the mission of Remember Niger Coalition; contributions, in-kind giving, and volunteering. Whatever you choose, know that your gift makes a difference and we appreciate your generosity!

To make a donation online, use the QR code or visit www.RememberNiger.org/donate.

To mail your donation, please make your check payable to Remember Niger Coalition and send to:

Remember Niger Coalition
430 E 8th Street #146
Holland, MI 49423



Additional ways to give:

- Employer Matching Gifts
- Donor Advised Funds Stocks & Securities
- Planned Gifts
- Memorial Gifts

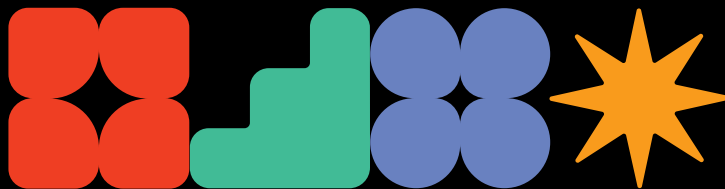
To learn more please contact Kara VanderKamp at: kvanderkamp@rememberniger.org

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