"We are Together" is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Launched in March 2020, Search is implementing this 20-month project in partnership with the Société de Communication pour le Développement (ComDev), and support from the Haute Autorité pour la Consolidation de la Paix (HACP), as well as the Governorate and the Regional Youth Council of Tillabéri.

The overall objective is to strengthen young people’s resilience to violent extremism and promote long-term stability in northern Tillabéri.

More specifically, the project aims to strengthen youth’s skills and opportunities in addressing their needs to engage and mobilize their peers around shared values and interests, first, and then, as a second step, to improve trust and collaboration within and between groups.

The project covers 5 communes: Ayorou, Abala, Banibangou, Bankiléré and Sanam.

The key actors involved in the activities are young men and women (between 15 and 30 years old) from agricultural, pastoralist, semi-nomadic and nomadic communities in conflict. The program also mobilizes traditional and elected leaders from all communities, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and host communities, local authorities, and private actors.

Search for Common Ground (Search) is one of the largest peacebuilding organizations in the world. Our mission is to transform the way we deal with conflict, away from adversarial approaches towards collaborative solutions. In Niger since 2011, our programs focus on youth engagement and violence prevention in rural, sub-urban and urban environments across all seven regions of the country.
**Search in partnership with Comdev implement several activities:**

1. In each commune, Search and ComDev organize tailor-made training sessions for 150 young leaders from agricultural, pastoral, nomadic, and semi-nomadic communities in conflict transformation, the Common Ground Approach (CGA) to peacebuilding, and social communication.

2. The **Common Ground Approach** is a methodology to transform how we respond to conflict, away from confrontation and violence and toward collaboration.

3. In parallel with the training, Search and ComDev support young leaders to design and implement 30 initial community engagement activities to address existing local conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence. These activities include youth-led community dialogues, debates, and arts and sports initiatives that bring together conflicting parties.

4. Search and ComDev organize three innovation camps bringing together 150 young leaders from different communities, including representatives from the Regional Youth Council. The camp, first of all, strengthens the ties between the participants through construction activities, group dialogues, and recreational, artistic, and sports activities. Youth from communities in conflict then develop a one-year action plan for outreach and community engagement activities to strengthen peaceful coexistence.

5. Following the innovation camps, the young leaders implement their action plan with the support from Search and ComDev experts and key Nigerien institutions (HACP, land committees, peace committees, and Regional Youth Councils). These activities addressing the main community-level conflicts identified by the youth are of two types:

   a. Activities that strengthen mutual trust and peaceful relations between groups, such as the organization of inter-community events, rap or slam festivals, inter-community market days, and other community mobilization events;

   b. Youth-led conflict mitigation activities developed in partnership with community mechanisms (peace and land committees).

After the camps, young leaders have the opportunity to receive youth social development assistance. A budget of $10,000 per commune is allocated to provide direct assistance to young leaders for initiatives that meet a specific need, such as an income-generating activity for the group, training for a group, a youth club, or a contribution to the creation of a "savings group". Once youth development initiatives are selected, Search and ComDev provide direct support for their implementation through technical support and mentoring. To foster independent management, youth are also encouraged to seek co-sponsorship for their initiatives. This is a unique opportunity to deepen mutual engagement and promote community cohesion.

6. In collaboration with the Regional Youth Council, Search organizes a regional competition to showcase successful and inspiring youth-led initiatives. Finalists then have the opportunity to make a "TED-Talk" presentation to other young people and local and regional authorities. Presentations are filmed and shown at "mobile cinema" screenings in communities to stimulate discussion on key topics related to peacebuilding, youth innovation, and economic opportunities.

7. Search’s media team produces an innovative weekly radio show that extends youth initiatives to a wider audience. The magazine provides a platform to share the views of young leaders as well as those of experts and ordinary citizens, and listeners. The program stimulates debate on youth-led initiatives while soliciting community buy-in and support.