

The program is set up to be flexible and inclusive, adaptable to changing circumstances and allowing the different stakeholders to test and alter details to given environments. The program's design allows for LOBI to be implemented in any cross-border region in the world providing insights into national policies' reform and promoting cross-border cooperation through the establishment of framework agreements, the negotiation of Local Development Plans and the implementation of Local Development Funds. LOBI is set to be a Global Program.



Project: LOBI

Goal: To strengthen the cross-border governance in the West African region through the definition of regional and national strategies and the promotion of pilot cross-border local development processes in order to improve economic development and security in the area.

Period: five years

Partners: UNCDF, Government of Luxembourg, UEMOA and ECOWAS

Location: The SKBo region (Mali -Burkina -Ivory Coast) and in the IIRsahel's programme region (Burkina -Mali-Niger)

Total project cost: USD 11,770,000

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or visit our website: <http://www.uncdf.org/en/Local-Cross-Border-Initiative>



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LOBI Local Cross-Border Initiative



The Challenge

Cross border areas have long been a central concern to West Africa's sub regional politics. The demarcation of borders during the colonial period and the strategic location of natural resources in cross-border areas have historically posed threats to peace and stability. Yet, these areas hold a largely untapped potential for development.

Socio-economic integration, undertaken as part of joint actions by neighboring states, has been shown to accelerate economic growth and promote sustainable peace and stability in cross-border regions. Furthermore national governments alone cannot achieve the MDG targets set for 2015.

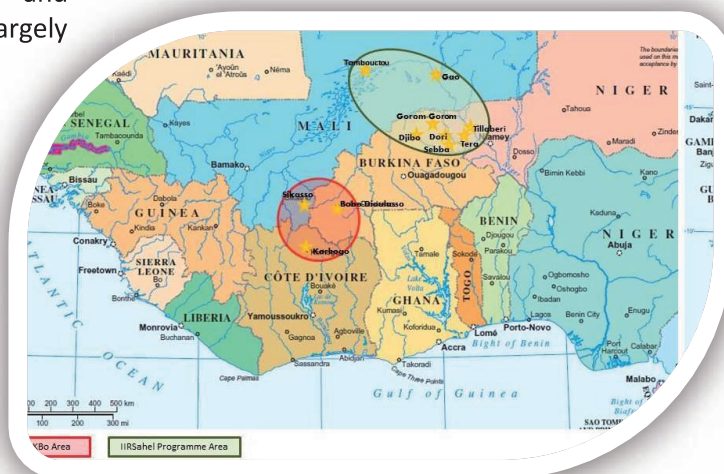
As highlighted in international declarations such as those of Rio,

Aalborg or Johannesburg, the transfer of functions to local Authorities is vital to create actors responsible for the provision of basic public services. The level of decentralization in West African countries varies. Results become tangible but constraints like inadequate transfer of power, inefficient administration of the local councils and insufficient resource availability hamper progress. While sub-regional institutions like UEMOA and ECOWAS must play a key role in pushing the cross-border cooperation and regional integration agenda, national governments must support the decentralization process to allow local authorities to assume their role as service providers and catalyzers of development.

How we are helping

In partnership with the African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and with the support of the Government of Luxembourg, UNCDF is launching a **Local Cross-Border Initiative (LOBI)** which will support and strengthen the governance of two West African cross-border regions through the

definition of regional and national strategies and the piloting of cross-border local development processes to improve the economic stability and human security in these regions.



The programme will be implemented over a 5 year period, using local authorities as key entry points and partners in the SKBo area (Mali –Burkina -Ivory Coast) and in IIRSAhel's program region (Burkina -Mali-Niger). Within the process of local development and decentralization much needed financing to these two neglected areas will be increased, by both using international aid flows and national development programs.

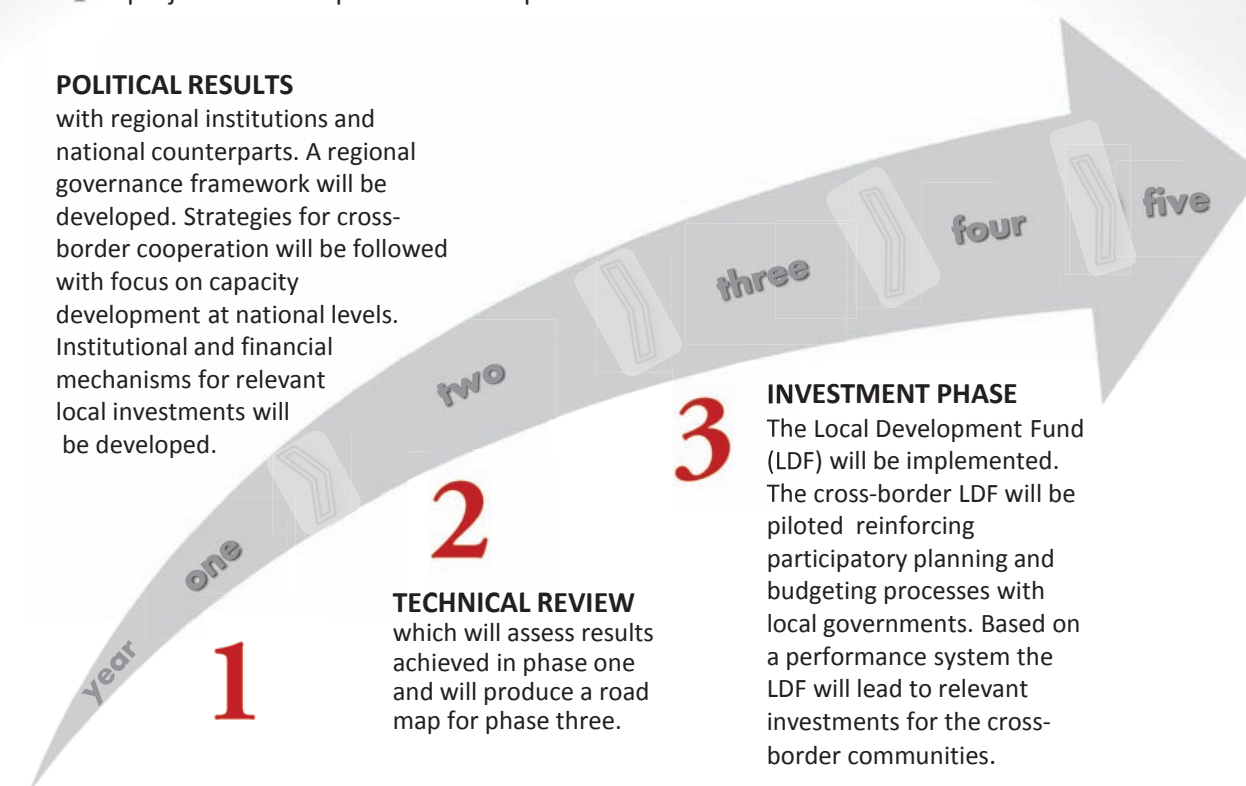
UNCDF will pilot a cross-border local development fund (LDF) which will increase investments and support innovations in local economic development, gender and food security as well as directly contribute to the sustainability of the provision of basic services to cross-border communities.

Developing the SKBo area and IIRSAHEL program region requires building the shared capacity of the respective three countries to respond to growing migratory pressure, tackle regional disparities, enhance the effectiveness of service delivery and boost the ability of the regional market to compete internationally. Emphasis will be placed on local development for the integration process to work.

The project will be implemented in 3 phases:

POLITICAL RESULTS

with regional institutions and national counterparts. A regional governance framework will be developed. Strategies for cross-border cooperation will be followed with focus on capacity development at national levels. Institutional and financial mechanisms for relevant local investments will be developed.



TECHNICAL REVIEW which will assess results achieved in phase one and will produce a road map for phase three.

INVESTMENT PHASE The Local Development Fund (LDF) will be implemented. The cross-border LDF will be piloted reinforcing participatory planning and budgeting processes with local governments. Based on a performance system the LDF will lead to relevant investments for the cross-border communities.

LOBI's partition in 3 phases is giving the program a broad foundation, building step-by-step a solid structure, that allows to detect challenges at an early stage, permits to recalibrate and hence, to mitigate risks. In a **first phase**, a regional governance framework is designed where within, the program will help national systems to position themselves and to adapt their respective policies. Moreover, a survey on existing regional funds, transfer mechanisms, Local Governments' cross-border cooperation and investment systems will be conducted.

In the **second phase** the political outputs of the first phase will be evaluated and the technical feasibility of cross-border funds will be assessed.

In a **third phase** a local budgeting and planning process (Local Development Plans LDPs) will be set up. Clear procurement procedures and a performance based grant system will be established. A main output of the LDPs should be Resource Mobilization to enable Local Governments to sustainably deliver basic services.

