Remember Niger Coalition | Annual Report 2019
Unifying people and mobilizing resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger
Our mission

Remember Niger Coalition (RNC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to unifying people and mobilizing resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger, Africa. We are unique in that we partner with and support Nigerien organizations who have a remarkable vision for their country and share our core values. Through a holistic approach and by working side-by-side with our Nigerien partners, who own and operate their schools, we are able to ensure that more children receive a high-quality education in the least developed country in the world.

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Dear Friends,

This report highlights Remember Niger Coalition’s 2019 achievements and is a call to further unification and action to ensure that more Nigerien children have the opportunity to go to school. Half of all children in Niger have never stepped inside a school building. All of their potential for realizing their God-given talents and purposes often vanishes without the transformational power of education. The Remember Niger Coalition is responding by partnering with Nigerien leaders to establish schools in communities throughout Niger. By connecting and working with like-minded and like-hearted people in Niger and around the world, we have had a great deal of success in positively impacting the lives of children, their families and their communities.

In 2019, we:

- Partnered with and supported 13 schools with over 2,600 students.
- Built and helped the Nigerien disabled community establish an inclusive school.
- Expanded into a new region to partner with a boarding school for nomadic children.
- Connected a partner school to solar powered electricity.
- Established a new teacher training program to increase the efficacy of teachers and staff.
- Provided sponsorships to 305 primary students and 72 scholarships to girls in secondary school.

In addition, 2019 was a year of celebration. We celebrated as one of our partner schools became self-sufficient. This was a milestone for our organization, and it is gratifying to help a school develop into an independent organization. Moreover, it demonstrates that self-sufficiency is an achievable goal for our school partners.

2019 was Remember Niger’s 10-year anniversary. We celebrated by bringing two of our partners from Niger to the United States. It was a joy to watch them engage with donors and partners at special parties and events, including at churches, schools and the Niger Ambassador’s Residence in Washington, DC.

Ultimately, 2019 brought into clearer focus our path forward for accomplishing our mission and realizing our vision. We are constantly seeking to improve the way we work and refine our methods and strategy so that we can become more effective and have a greater impact. This report not only highlights our 2019 achievements, but also lays out objectives for the next 3-5 years, which are based on what we have learned since our beginning. We will continue to build upon the strong foundation we have laid in the previous 10 years. We thank our partners and donors for their commitment to the Remember Niger Coalition and the children of Niger, and we renew our invitation to you to continue to partner with us in this life-changing work. If this is your first introduction to the Remember Niger Coalition, I invite you to start a relationship with us today.

Kara VanderKamp
Executive Director
Remember Niger Coalition
After ten years of working in Niger, the Remember Niger Coalition is pleased to announce that a partner school reached self-sufficiency in 2019. Congratulations to the Niamey Primary School for having the leadership, infrastructure and capacity to work independently while maintaining its high standard for quality education.

A primary goal of the Remember Niger Coalition is for our Nigerien partner schools to be sustainable and self-sufficient.

Since our founding in 2009, our strategy has been to partner with Nigerien organizations and community leaders who seek to establish schools in their communities in order to expand quality educational opportunities for Nigerien children and youth. We work to empower our partners by assisting them in building their capacity, which will ensure that their schools become sustainable and self-sufficient. Moreover, their schools will be models in their communities and regions, and the school leaders will be experts in their field. In many cases, they will mentor other school leaders and assist organizations in the establishment of new schools.

While the Remember Niger Coalition continues its work to build the capacity of current school partners, the Niamey Primary School’s success provides us with the opportunity to increase our impact through new partnerships. This is an important step forward in realizing our vision that every child in Niger receive a quality education.
We help move the schools and educational centers we support towards sustainability and self-sufficiency in the following three ways:

1. We help administrators acquire the tools they need to succeed, including leadership and management skills, compliance with government requirements, and an organizational structure that promotes success and sustainability.

2. We connect our partner schools and educational centers with non-governmental organizations, foundations, and associations and equip them to develop their own new strategic partnerships.

3. We construct and install the necessary infrastructure to ensure that our school partners have the capacity to be successful.
Remember Niger Coalition uses a collaborative model of partnership in which we work side by side with Nigerien educational institutions, including churches, associations and non-profit organizations. We are committed to building strong relationships with our partners, which we see as fundamental to achieving our shared goals. The foundation of our partnerships consists of three core values: respect, trust, and a passion for providing quality educational opportunities to all Nigerien children and youth.

The Remember Niger Coalition partners with private and public schools in 6 of the 8 administrative regions in Niger. We currently have 13 partners who are at different stages in the establishment of safe and sustainable school communities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Pre-primary Classrooms</th>
<th>Primary Classrooms</th>
<th>Secondary Classrooms</th>
<th>Vocational Classrooms</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
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</table>

**REMEMBER NIGER COALITION TOTALS**
- Schools: 13
- Regions: 6
- Students: 2,637
Remember Niger Coalition (RNC) provides support to its school partners for the construction of new classrooms, latrines, security walls, and other required structures. Additionally, RNC refurbishes existing buildings and classrooms when necessary. School infrastructure is pivotal to our mission to create quality educational opportunities in Niger. In order for quality learning to take place, students and teachers must have facilities that are safe and adapted to their needs.

In 2019, RNC worked with the association for people with disabilities and the Hosanna Institute to build the School of Hope, designed specifically to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
STUDENT PROFILE:
Ouma

Age 5
Grade Kindergarten
About Ouma is an orphan. She lives with her grandparents, both of whom are disabled. She wants to be a nurse when she is older. Her favorite activity is to make dishes and other objects in the mud.

Mother Ouma’s mother died during an operation for a pain in her stomach.

Father After his wife’s death, he left Ouma with her grandparents and they have not seen him since.

Grandmother Aicha became disabled at age 12. She was treated for a high fever with an injection in her lower back, which caused her to become paralyzed. She did not have the opportunity to go to school, and she has to beg for money in the street in order to buy food. She is thrilled that her granddaughter is receiving an education.

The School of Hope

In 2019, the Remember Niger Coalition partnered with the Maradi Association for People with Disabilities and the Hosanna Institute to establish the School of Hope, a school specifically designed for children with disabilities.

The three-classroom building was completed in November 2019 with one class ready for use in October when the school year began with 20 kindergarten students. This is the first phase in establishing a primary through high school complex for all children, including students with learning differences and unique needs. When complete, the school will serve over 600 students.

The design of the School of Hope classrooms takes into consideration issues of accessibility and barrier-free spaces, including handrails, wide doorways, and access ramps. Construction included the installation of four accessible latrines and hand-washing stations, customized to meet the special needs of the disabled community.

The School of Hope serves:
• Children with disabilities
• Children who have parents, grandparents or guardians with disabilities
• Children from the neighborhood
Azzel Primary School

Refurbished after flooding

In 2019, Remember Niger Coalition expanded its impact by entering into a new partnership with a public primary school in the Azzel community in the Agadez region. Established in the 1950s, the Azzel Primary School has been a pillar of the community for nearly 70 years and currently serves 265 students from 10 surrounding villages. The school has 8 classrooms, a kitchen, a large garden, a dormitory for students, and a dormitory for teachers. The students’ dormitory is particularly critical for serving children who come from nomadic families.

In 2018, the school experienced a catastrophe when the neighboring river overflowed and flooded the campus, damaging 80% of the buildings and completely destroying the teachers’ dormitory. The community stepped in, mobilized by the school’s organizing committee, and raised funds to repair the main classroom building. Remember Niger Coalition contributed by refurbishing 4 classroom buildings, which helped enable the school to reopen. However, many projects remain, including rebuilding the housing for teachers and the school kitchen.

100% of community members contributed funds towards the project, which enabled the restoration of the main school building. The community was invited to a meeting including a tour of the refurbished school.

Remember Niger assisted in the repairs of ceilings, floors and classroom infrastructure, all of which were badly damaged in the flooding.
Solar Power

Zinder Middle School

Niger is rich in sunlight—a natural resource we seek to harness in order to help our partner schools achieve independence and sustainability. Through the Remember Niger Coalition School Sustainability Program, we are working to connect all of our partner schools to solar-powered electricity by 2025.

In 2019, Remember Niger Coalition began its solar power initiative at the Zinder Middle School. This project was generously funded by the Gaithersburg Rotary Club and the Montgomery Village Rotary Club. Water Mission, an international non-profit based in South Carolina, donated the solar panels. The Zinder School, which will add a high school in 2020 and, therefore, will serve all grade levels, will be fully connected to solar power by the end of this year.

Due to the high cost of electricity and frequent power outages, the school at Zinder lacked a consistent and cost-effective connection to electricity. Now, middle school students are learning in classrooms with good lighting and fans that cool them during the hot season.
Remember Niger’s programming includes on-going school support initiatives. This programming goes beyond physical infrastructure to support school administrators, teachers, and staff in providing the highest possible quality education to students. School support initiatives include teacher and staff training, technology provision, in-school food programs, and health and wellness programs. By providing on-going support to partner schools, Remember Niger maximizes our students’ in-school time in order to support them in succeeding academically and building a strong path to post education career opportunities.

By providing soccer balls and equipment for outdoor play, Remember Niger encourages the importance of physical activity as part of a quality education.
In Niger, only 23% of schools have access to clean drinking water and 27% have access to sanitation facilities. Water-related diseases related to poor hygiene or sanitation are one of the leading causes of death among children under five. However, students at Remember Niger Coalition supported schools are not thirsty, and they have handwashing stations and bathrooms. In 2019, we completed construction on a solar powered well at the Niamey School for the Deaf. Our goal is to continue to establish solar powered wells at all of the schools we support by constructing a new well every year.

Food scarcity is a chronic problem in Niger. The World Food Program estimates that 30% of Nigeriens do not have enough food during periods of poor rainfall. Moreover, 39% of children in Niger are undernourished and over 75% of children under the age of 5 are anemic. In order to counter this problem, Remember Niger Coalition is working with its partner schools to ensure that students are provided nutritious daily meals, particularly the youngest children in pre-primary classes. In 2019, our partner schools provided thousands of meals to over 800 students. Our goal is to ensure that 100% of the students are receiving daily meals by 2024.

Lydia is a sweet kindergarten student who was sick on her first day of kindergarten. Although she was at school, she couldn’t keep her eyes open and kept falling asleep. Her parents could not afford to take her to the doctor. Instead they had to cling to the hope that she would get better. All too often, parents in Niger face the choice between taking an ill child to the doctor or feeding their family. An appointment with the doctor and treatment cost about $15. But, an unexpected $15 expense in Niger can break the family.

Fortunately, parents of the students at Remember Niger Coalition partner schools do not have to make that choice. For Lydia, this meant that she saw a doctor, was diagnosed with Malaria and began taking the life-saving medication right away.

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Teacher Training, Resource Center, Middle School

Niamey School for the Deaf

The Niamey School for the Deaf serves over 160 elementary children each year, but because of resource and space constraints, the school has not been able to offer middle school level education to students. Students who complete elementary level education at the Niamey School for the Deaf are eligible to move on to middle school in mainstream public schools. Since 2007, 62 students have left the Niamey School for the Deaf to attend mainstream public school. Seven of those students have successfully moved on to high school and only one student has graduated from high school.

In order to ensure that deaf children in Niger are afforded the same opportunities as their hearing peers, the Remember Niger Coalition has partnered with the Niamey School for the Deaf to expand its capacity to address the need for specialized educational services for deaf students.

Together, we are improving the academic level and test results of students by implementing a three-pronged strategy, which includes teacher training, creating a resource center, and establishing an inclusive secondary school on the deaf school campus.

Teacher Training

In September 2019, funds from International Monetary Fund (IMF) Giving Together allowed Remember Niger to expand its impact by facilitating a week-long teacher training for Niamey School for the Deaf teachers, faculty, and key members of the school community. This training program featured topics on computer and technology use and integration, utilizing learning tools and materials designed for hearing impaired and deaf students in the classroom, and working with students with learning differences. Remember Niger Coalition will continue to facilitate several one-day trainings throughout the school year to build upon and reinforce what teachers learned.
Thanks to the generosity of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Giving Together, Henry Niles Foundation, and volunteers, Remember Niger has been able to significantly enhance the services and resources available at the Niamey School for the Deaf. In September 2019, a Resource Center was established to serve as a library and computer lab to support specialized learning for the students at the Niamey School for the Deaf. The Resource Center, which is temporarily being housed in a classroom, is now being used by the 160 students attending the school and will be made available to the wider Deaf community in Niamey, including alumni of the Niamey School for the Deaf and members of the Niamey Association of the Deaf.

In 2020, the Remember Niger Coalition will establish an inclusive middle school on the Niamey School for the Deaf Campus thanks to a grant from the MoneyGram Foundation. Construction is expected to begin in May 2020 and the school will open its doors in October 2020.

“The training in technology and pedagogy is exactly what we asked for and needed. Already, I can see the impact of the training in the classrooms. Teachers are integrating what they learned into their daily lessons. It was a very empowering experience for all of us. And, it’s exciting to see our students learning on the computers.”

- Chaibou Aoudi, Director of the Niamey School for the Deaf
These students received scholarships in 2019 to attend Zinder Middle School.
In its first semester of operations in 2019, the Hamsa Girls Education Center had the following accomplishments:

1. The inaugural cohort of students had perfect attendance for their first semester; All students had been out of school and are now reengaged in their education;

2. One classroom was fully furnished and in use for students this academic year;

3. Health center programming and its services were utilized by students on a regular basis;

4. Head of School personally delivered first semester grades/report cards to each student and her parents. This process helped foster strong relationships and communication between the school, parents and students.

The Hamsa Girls Education Center is central to our efforts to keep female students in school to reduce the incidence of early marriage and to support girls in recognizing opportunities for themselves by furthering their education. Remember Niger believes that its pilot partnership with the Hamsa Girls Education Center will demonstrate the importance and impact that access to high-quality, female-centered education can have in Niger. The Center has significant plans to grow over the next four years. By 2022, the Center will enroll 150 full-time students and 75 students in its out-of-school programs.
The Remember Niger Coalition envisions a country in which all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education. The sponsorship program provides critical support to children who cannot afford to attend one of our partner schools.

Individuals who sponsor a student in Niger pay an annual fee to cover the cost of tuition, books and supplies, uniforms, meals and boarding.*

In 2019, Remember Niger supporters provided sponsorships for 305 students in primary school. These children would not have been able to go to school without the help of their sponsors.

*varies according to school

In 2019, Remember Niger supporters provided sponsorships for 305 students in primary school! These children would not have been able to go to school without help from their sponsors.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Ann Carswell, volunteer from Charleston, SC, poses with Yassine. She delivered a postcard from his sponsor during her visit to Niger in October 2019.
STUDENT PROFILE:

Maman joined the sponsorship program when he was 7 years old. He and his eight siblings live in a rural village. His father is a farmer and the family lives off of what he produces. Maman’s father is very proud of his son since he is the first person in his family and village to attend school. When Maman was in 2nd grade, his father said, “Maman is an enormous help for the family since he is able to read and write already. We are so proud to have a child who is attending school. In Niger, only wealthy families are able to send their children to school. Now, our child is in school too. Maman works hard and he will have a good job when he is older, God willing.” Maman is in 6th grade and will take the official government exam at the end of the year. If he passes the exam, he will be able to go on to middle school. He is eager to continue his education so that he can become a teacher. Maman wants to help support his parents and village when he is older.

The student sponsorship program is at the core of all that we do because it allows us to accomplish our mission in the following ways:

1. Children who would not have the opportunity to attend primary school are now receiving a quality education. These students include girls, children from rural and poor homes and children with disabilities.

2. It unifies the Remember Niger community by providing supporters with a direct, one-to-one connection with a student in Niger. Sponsors have an opportunity to develop a meaningful connection and see the impact of their support.

3. It helps establish and grow schools. When a new school begins with a kindergarten, Remember Niger provides sponsorships for 5-10 children, which is often the majority of students in school at that time. The number of sponsorships continues to grow until 50 students are sponsored when the primary school is complete through 6th grade. As the population of the school grows, the percentage of sponsored students shrinks, eventually plateauing between 15 and 20% of the total student population.

4. The sponsorship program provides a means for monitoring and evaluating all our programs and assessing the health of the schools we support.
The Be Connected program is designed to facilitate opportunities that connect individuals, organizations and groups around the world with students, teachers, administrators, schools and projects in Niger. We recognize that only a small percentage of Remember Niger supporters in the United States will have the opportunity to travel to Niger to meet our students and Nigerien partners in person. The Be Connected program overcomes the challenge of proximity by providing tangible ways for our partners in both countries to connect in meaningful ways despite the physical distance between them.

Remember Niger 10th Anniversary Celebration – Our Nigerien Partners visit the United States

2019 was a special year for the Be Connected program. Ibrahim Abdou and Mariama Harouna traveled from Niger to the United States to celebrate our 10-year anniversary with US partner organizations, groups and
individuals. During their 14 days in the US, they visited and presented at 3 churches and 8 schools, attended 4 celebration events and met with hundreds of individuals.

Ibrahim and Mariama engaged with students at elementary, middle, and high schools in Charleston, SC. Kara VanderKamp facilitated question and answer sessions in which the students were actively engaged and eager to learn more about what it is like to be a student in Niger.

Two of our mission partner churches in South Carolina, Rockville Presbyterian Church and James Island Presbyterian Church hosted events for our partners from Niger.

In Washington, DC, we were welcomed by the Nigerien Embassy. The Ambassador hosted a special reception for more than 80 people at his residence. Nigerien delicacies were served, special guests addressed the crowd, and it was a celebratory time of reflecting on the impact of our work in Niger.

The two-week visit culminated with a spectacular celebration hosted by Georgetown Presbyterian Church. Board members, volunteers, rotary club members, members of foundations, students, teachers, Nigeriens and Americans joined together in a time of celebration and renewed commitment to accomplishing even more in the future.

**Ibrahim Abdou** represents Remember Niger Coalition in Niger. He assists with project implementation and monitoring and evaluation. In this role, he works closely with the administrators and leaders of the schools and often coaches and mentors them. He has assisted with RNC projects since we were established in 2009.

**Mariama Harouna** is a former English teacher and middle school principal. She is a founding member of the Salama Primary School Committee, which has partnered with the Remember Niger Coalition since 2016. Mariama currently works for the Department of Education in the office of Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities.
Women’s circle members at James Island Presbyterian Church sewed sanitary products for females at the Hamsa Girls’ Education Center. In October 2019, Ann Carswell, circle member and volunteer, traveled to Niger. She met with Saratou, the school nurse, and trained her on how to use the products so that Saratou can teach the girls at school. In the future, instruction will be provided so that the girls are able to make the products themselves.

Rotary Clubs throughout the country have provided support to schools and projects in Niger since 2012. Support has come through individual members, clubs, district grants and a global grant. In 2019, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club and the Montgomery Village Rotary Club provided support for solar power at the Zinder school. And, the Montgomery Village Rotary Club generously gave funding to the Hamsa Girls’ Education Center for operational support.

Remember Niger Coalition and the US Embassy Women’s Association teamed up to help refurbish classrooms at the Niamey School for the Deaf. The Association organized a clean-up day where they worked side by side with the teachers, students and community members to paint the classrooms. After they were finished, everyone shared a meal together. Additionally, association members have provided art classes, assisted with computer classes and provided supplies and teaching tools to the teachers.
Students in the United States are forming meaningful connections with students in Niger. In 2019, we partnered with 7 schools where students connected with Nigerien students and schools in a variety of ways. Often the partnerships begin with interactive presentations designed to help students in the United States have a deeper understanding of what life is like for children in Niger. Follow-up activities include making crafts, writing letters, and holding fundraisers for children in Niger. In 2019, the National Junior Honor Society at Laing Middle School raised funds to provide student meals at the Tsibiri Boarding School. Students at Taylor Elementary School provided a sponsorship for a young girl in Niger through their “Nickels for Niger” fundraiser.

In 2018, Remember Niger partnered with 14 churches in the United States. These churches provided support for school construction, student sponsorships and scholarships, teacher training and more.

Our “Rally for Niger” includes a variety of fundraisers that are organized and facilitated by groups of Remember Niger supporters around the United States. In October, Georgetown Presbyterian Church hosted its annual Rally for Niger on the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal path. Funds were given in support of scholarships for secondary school girls.
### Statement of Financial Position

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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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| Liabilities and Net Assets  |                |                |
| Current Liabilities         |                |                |
| Accounts Payable            | 24,193         | 17,377         |
| Accrued Expenses            | 4,198          | 3,429          |
| **Total Current Liabilities**| 28,391     | 20,806         |
| **Net Assets**              |                |                |
| Without Donor Restrictions  | 144,525        | 99,765         |
| With Donor Restrictions     | 290            | 6,976          |
| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $173,206 | $127,548 |

### 2019 Statement of Activity

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without donor restrictions</th>
<th>With donor restrictions</th>
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Financial figures for FY19 have not been reviewed as of press time. Numbers will be reviewed by certified public accountants in Spring 2020, and will be available by request afterwards.
We cannot help children in Niger without your support and involvement. Please consider getting involved with the Remember Niger Coalition. We need volunteers, church and school partners and individual gifts and talents! To learn more, please contact RNC founder and executive director Kara VanderKamp by calling (616) 350-1818 or emailing KVanderKamp@rememniger.org.

You may make a donation to the Remember Niger Coalition in one of the following ways:

Text
Text “GIVE” to (616) 209-4319

Online
Visit rememberniger.org

Check
Make payable to Remember Niger Coalition and mail to 430 E 8th Street #146 Holland, MI 49423

Fundraise or Volunteer
For information on fundraising or volunteering, please call Julie Frye at (843) 514-8749 or email jfrye@rememniger.org

Other
For gifts of stock or to include us in your estate, please contact Kara VanderKamp at (616) 350-1818 or kvanderkamp@rememniger.org
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Capital Projects

When RNC was established in 2009 we began by supporting 3 schools with a total of 400 students. In 2019, we partnered with and supported 10 schools with over 2,600 students. Thank you for the investments you have made to make all of this possible. We invite you to join us as we expand our impact by continuing to create more opportunities for children in Niger to receive a quality education. Together we are making a difference in the lives of thousands of children and their families in Niger.

Unifying people and mobilizing resources to provide quality educational opportunities in Niger
In 2009, we began by supporting 3 schools that were at different stages of development.

* Temporary classrooms were used for the preschool classes.

- Shapes filled with a solid color represent existing structures.
- Shapes filled with white represent plans for construction by 2025.
- Shapes filled with pattern represent projects in existence before RNC partnership was formed with that school.