



Remember  
**NIGER**  
COALITION

2019 -  
2020

**GALMI  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**



The mission of the Remember Niger Coalition is to unify people and mobilize resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger.



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Remember Niger is fortunate to have 5 talented student interns working on various projects this summer. Each intern has put together yearbooks for our schools in Niger. This yearbook was completed by Morgan Langer. We are proud of her hard work and dedication to children in Niger.



**MORGAN  
LANGER**

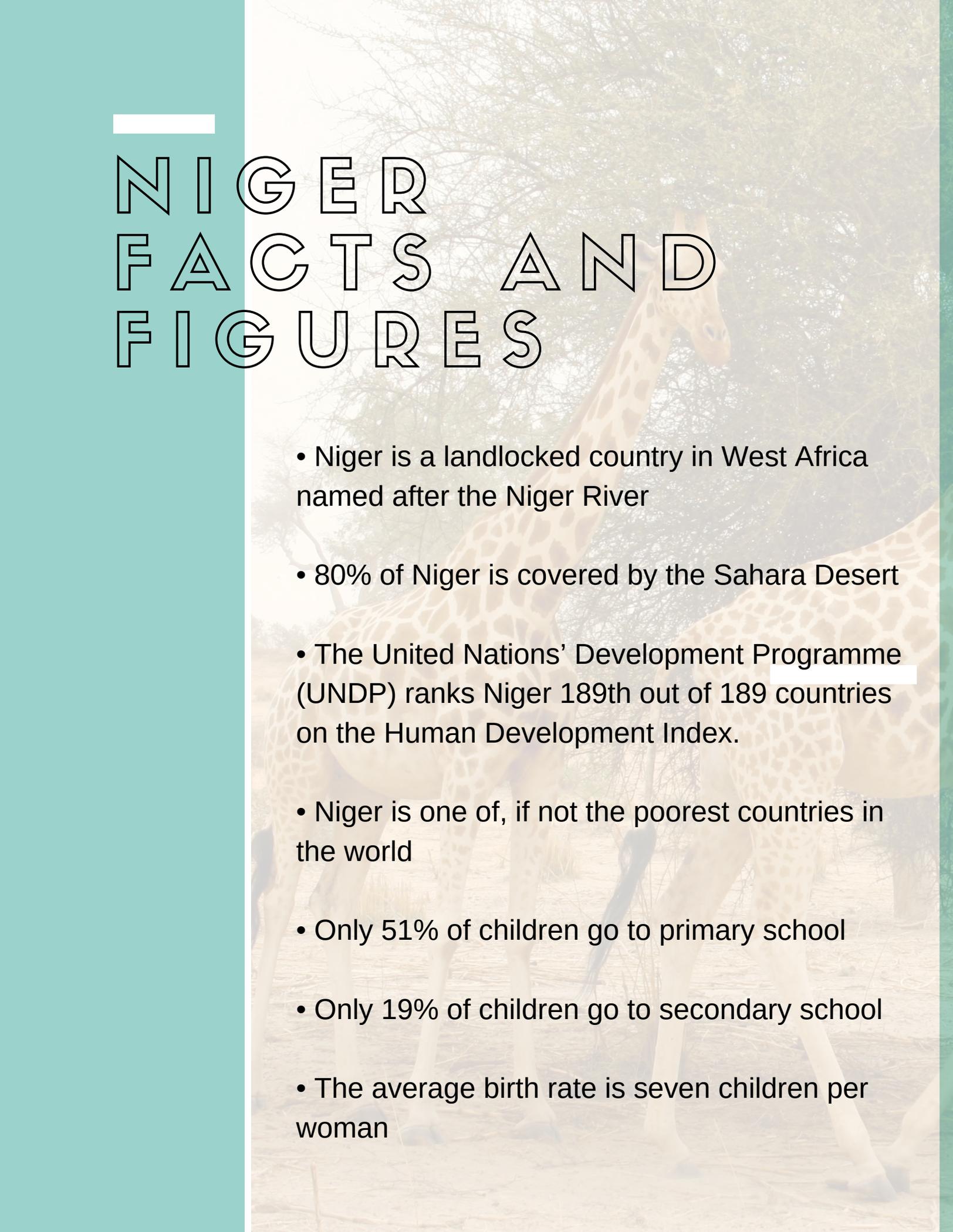
I am a recently graduated high school senior. I plan on attending The University of Wisconsin next year. I run and ski cross country, and I love to sing in choir or on my own. I am in NHS and have over 100 hours of community service, many of those thanks to opportunities at my church. Remember Niger Coalition has inspired me with their dedication to education. I am glad I had this chance to help out in a small way.

# About the Remember Niger Coalition



Remember Niger Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to unifying people and mobilizing resources to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger, Africa. 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 Niger, the least developed country in the world. In the 2019-2020 school year, we partnered with 13 schools and over 2700 students.





# NIGER FACTS AND FIGURES

- Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa named after the Niger River
- 80% of Niger is covered by the Sahara Desert
- The United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) ranks Niger 189th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index.
- Niger is one of, if not the poorest countries in the world
- Only 51% of children go to primary school
- Only 19% of children go to secondary school
- The average birth rate is seven children per woman

# Galmi School and Remember Niger

Remember Niger Coalition began partnering with the Galmi School in 2019. The school is the combined efforts of 3 different churches in Galmi who had a vision for quality education for the children of the community. The school has a very good reputation in the village and parents are eager to send their children to school there. The administrator of the Galmi School is an alumni of the Tsibiri Boarding School, a school that Remember Niger has supported for over 10 years.



**Galmi School Board**

# GALMI

- **Population of Galmi** is between 8,000-10,000 people.
- Galmi is about **300 miles east of Niamey**, the capital city of Niger. It is on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert and has a very **dry and rocky landscape**.
- Galmi is well known for its **purple and red onions** popular in West Africa. A well-known landmark is the missions hospital, **Galmi Hospital**.



Galmi school is located near Madaoua

# About the school

**The Galmi School** is a Christian school for children in 1st-6th grade. It is the combined effort of three different churches in Galmi. About 300 students are enrolled. The school has a very good reputation in the village and parents want their children to attend. The administrator of the Galmi School is an alumni of the Tsibiri Boarding School, a school that Remember Niger has partnered with for 10 years. Remember Niger was pleased to welcome the Galmi School as a new partner in 2019.



# Q&A With the School Administrator

Ashirou is the administrator of the Galmi School. He is a former student from the school in Tsibiri, a school with an excellent reputation that is also supported by Remember Niger. We enjoyed talking with him and learning more about the Galmi school.

**Q: Is the Galmi school a Christian school?**

**A:** Yes the the school is a Christian school. Most of our teachers are Christians, they know what they are doing and they are not here because of the money. They want to help the children and they show the love of Christ in teaching.



Ashirou  
Pictured Right

**Q. What is the vision of the school's leaders?**

**A.** Our vision is to improve the schooling of the girl, to improve education in general, and we want this school to be a school of reference in the region of Tahoua. All the students who have gone to this school are always among the best students in the region.

**Q. Is the Galmi school connected to the Tsibiri school?**

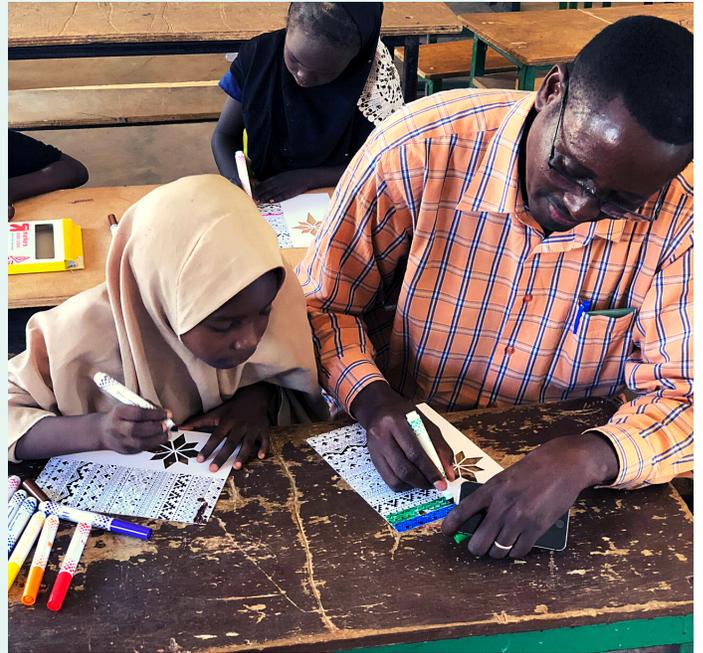
**A.** We do not have a direct connection to the Tsibiri school but I call them often for advice. They have more experience in running a school than we do and also in education. We have students who leave here to go to Tsibiri and students who leave Tsibiri to come here, so we have a very good relationship. And also most of the parents of pupils here are former pupils of Tsibiri.”

# Student Spotlight



**Sahliya** greeted me with a smile when we met at school on her first day of first grade. Her family experienced an unexpected tragedy last year and Sahliya was left orphaned. Her grandmother, Mariama, lovingly cares for her but without a job, it is difficult for Mariama to provide food for Sahliya. It is a tremendous relief to know that her young granddaughter will receive a meal every day at her school, supported by Remember Niger. Feeding a child for one month costs about \$10. But, an unexpected \$10 expense in Niger can break a family. People in Niger go through long periods during the year when there is not enough food and they are hungry. It is critical that we supply a daily meal to students at school. Because of your support, the parents and grandparents of the students at the Galmi school know that their children will receive a nutritious meal. For Sahliya, this means that each school day her stomach is full and she is able to concentrate on her studies.

# STUDENTS



# STUDENTS



# Christmas Gifts for Sponsors

Each year before the fall trip to Niger, we plan a holiday art project that the students make for their sponsors. Although we typically visit the schools in October and November, preparations begin long before then.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining supplies in Niger, all materials needed for a project are brought with us in our luggage. That means the cards themselves, as well as pencils, crayons, paints, and markers need to be purchased and packed in advance. Since the schools have so few supplies, our goal is to leave as much as possible at each location. Therefore, we bring along as many items as the weight allowance for our luggage allows.

Although one package of pencils or markers is quite light, when multiplied by 100 or 200 you now have a very heavy load! I once had my carry-on stuffed with crayons and colored pencils (since my checked bags were already at their weight limit), and when I tried to lift it up to the overhead bin on the plane, I tipped over backwards into a fellow passenger's lap! Luckily, the gentleman was a retired teacher and was very understanding when I explained what I was transporting.

Since the classrooms are usually filled to overflowing with students, it's important that each card we bring along is labeled with the sponsorship student's name and grade beforehand. That way we can account for everyone and ensure they take part in the project. As I distribute the cards, the students often smile and laugh at my difficulty in pronouncing their names. However, they're also eager to help with the process, and it ends up being a fun time together.

# Christmas Gifts for Sponsors

The next step is explaining how to do the project. This year the students made bookmarks that were to include a self-portrait. After the students at the first school completed their drawings, we discovered that many of them had instead drawn a picture of the person who was giving the instructions! There were more than a few portraits of Ibrahim, our Nigerien colleague and Ann, our volunteer from Charleston. Sometimes we forget how easy it is for things to get “lost in the translation” when French is a second language for both the students and us!

Observing the students work on their projects is always a lot of fun. Like children everywhere, some are slow and methodical, while others finish quickly and are ready to move on. Many are checking to see what their neighbor is doing, or negotiating the sharing of markers and crayons. The classroom buzzes with activity. For some students, drawing is a skill they have not had much opportunity to develop. Others display an amazing amount of artistic ability. Regardless, it's always a joy to watch them embrace the opportunity to create a gift for their sponsors.

As we finish at each school, I leave behind a number of supplies for the teachers and students to continue using. They are always so appreciative of everything we're able to give them! At the end of our trip I gather up all the finished cards and bring them back home, where the next step will be to match them up with each student's photo in preparation for the holiday mailing. By the time our sponsors receive their student's card or gift, it is the culmination of many months of preparation!

# BOOKMARKS



The kids are very excited to share their bookmarks!



Remember  
**NIGER**  
COALITION

*Thank You!*

FOR SPONSORING A STUDENT TO GO TO  
SCHOOL IN NIGER. YOUR STUDENT  
COULD NOT GO TO SCHOOL WITHOUT  
YOUR SUPPORT. YOU ARE HAVING A  
POSITIVE IMPACT THAT WILL LAST A  
LIFETIME!