



Remember  
**NIGER**  
COALITION

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!



Remember Niger Coalition | Annual Report 2018

**10 years of providing quality educational opportunities in Niger**

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

**Dear Friends,**

**T**his year the Remember Niger Coalition celebrates its 10-year anniversary! Together with our partners in Niger and the US, we have worked diligently to ensure that thousands of Nigerien children attend school and receive a quality education. We have constructed school buildings, provided sponsorships and scholarships to students who otherwise would not be in school, trained teachers, provided nutritious meals to students, established computer labs and so much more. Through our efforts, we have built a solid foundation on which to grow and to have an even greater impact in the years to come.

There have been many moments and faces that have stayed with me throughout past 10 years. The tears streaming down Mahamadou's face as he stood close to his father is one such moment. He was crying because he could not go to school.

His father sells tea on the side of the road and he does not make enough money to send his children to school. Mahamadou's sister was receiving a sponsorship, but there wasn't one available for him. At age 6, he didn't know the full implications of what he was missing. But, he knew he was missing out on something important, and he wanted it badly. Fortunately, we were able to fix the situation quickly for Mahamadou, and he is now in kindergarten!

Thanks to your support, we are breaking barriers to education in Niger for thousands of



children just like Mahamadou. This past year, we have accomplished our mission to expand quality educational opportunities for Nigerien children in new ways.

We have overcome obstacles for girls by constructing three new classrooms at the Hamsa Girls' Education Center, as well as expanding our scholarship program to include over 75 girls and young women. Additionally, we have installed a solar-powered well and constructed a water tower at the School for the Deaf, which will provide access to clean water and allow the school to expand their garden.



**In 2018, our accomplishments included:**

- **8 classrooms constructed**
- **2,561 students supported**
- **500+ student meals daily**
- **1 garden expanded**
- **1 solar-powered well installed**
- **271 sponsorships**
- **75 scholarships for girls and young women**

Despite our many achievements, our work is not finished. The words of Naomi still ring in my ears. Several years ago, I was visiting her 6th grade classroom when she stood up and declared how thankful she was for the support that we have given her through the sponsorship program. However, she went on to say that we must remember that there are more children like her – children who are too poor to pay the fees, but who desperately want an opportunity to go to school. Naomi's determination, despite her obvious nervousness, touched my heart and has stayed with me. It serves as a reminder that we must not be deterred in our efforts to expand quality educational opportunities.

I want you to know how much we appreciate the investments you have made in the lives of Nigerien children, and I invite you to renew your commitment as we move into the next decade.



*Naomi, 6th grade sponsorship student*

There is still much work to be done. Yet, together we continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands of children just like Mahamadou and Naomi. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kara VanderKamp  
Remember Niger Coalition  
Founder and Exective Director

# YOU BUILT IT!

*by Coleen Colton, Remember Niger Coalition board president 2011-2015*

It is summer, 2014. The little tree that I planted three years ago has already grown tall enough to provide some shade, relief from the scorching afternoon sun in Aguié. I tell Kara how happy I am to see my little tree grown so tall, and Kara insists, "No, Coco, that's the tree I planted!" We argue and laugh and fight for bragging rights. Then I say, "I can't believe this school building has gone from a construction site to such a busy place full of happy kids!" Kara looks me in the eye and says, "You built it, Coleen." I feel acknowledged, disbelieving, humbled. I built that.

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***"Ten years and four trips to Niger later, I am delighted and almost in disbelief when I consider the progress and influence of the Remember Niger Coalition."***

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It was about ten years ago that I first heard of Remember Niger when two women from my church, Ruth and Pat, spoke one Sunday morning about their trip to Niger with Kara VanderKamp. When I learned that some members of the group had struggled with communication during the trip because of their limited abilities in French, I offered to use my language skills to help in any way I could.

Shortly thereafter, I attended a Remember Niger meeting at Ruth's home and was surprised to learn that this organization was truly in its infancy. Very little had been established at the time, and Kara was seeking out volunteers to help her realize her dream of educating Nigerien children. Her vision and determination never wavered, so it was an easy decision for me to become a volunteer



translator and interpreter for the organization.

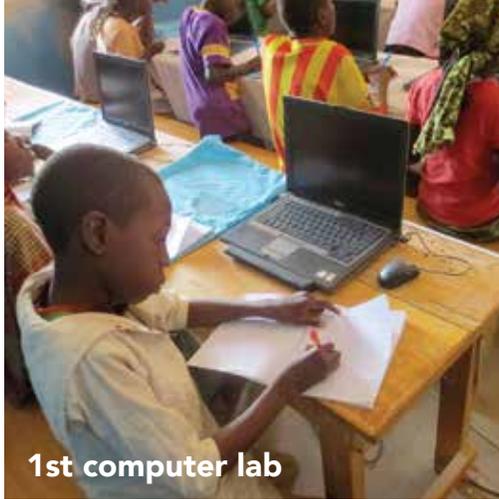
Ten years and four trips to Niger later, I am delighted and almost in disbelief when I consider the progress and influence of the Remember Niger Coalition. We have grown from a few hundred students in two or three schools to helping nearly 2,600 children and young adults in twelve different schools and education centers. Our faculty has grown, and the teachers and administrators have been able to continue their own education and provide a respected, loving and successful environment for learning. Our students consistently achieve success at the highest-level assessments required in Niger.

Your support has built schools, purchased furniture and supplies, created jobs, provided nourishing meals and established safe places to learn and play. You have given unprecedented opportunities to girls and boys, students with hearing loss, and other students with disabilities. Most important of all, you have helped ignite the curiosity and desire for learning in the hearts and minds of our students.

Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire." Your donations, your prayers, your work, your enthusiasm, your belief in what is possible have lit that fire in children all across Niger, from Niamey to Zinder. Look at their smiling faces. Look at the schools. Then look in the mirror and say to yourself, "I built that."



1st volunteer trip



1st computer lab



1st food program



1st scholarship recipients



1st middle school



1st latrines



1st partners

*“You have given unprecedented opportunities to girls and boys, students with hearing loss, and other students with disabilities. Most important of all, you have helped ignite the curiosity and desire for learning in the hearts and minds of our students.” - Coleen Colton*



1st solar powered well



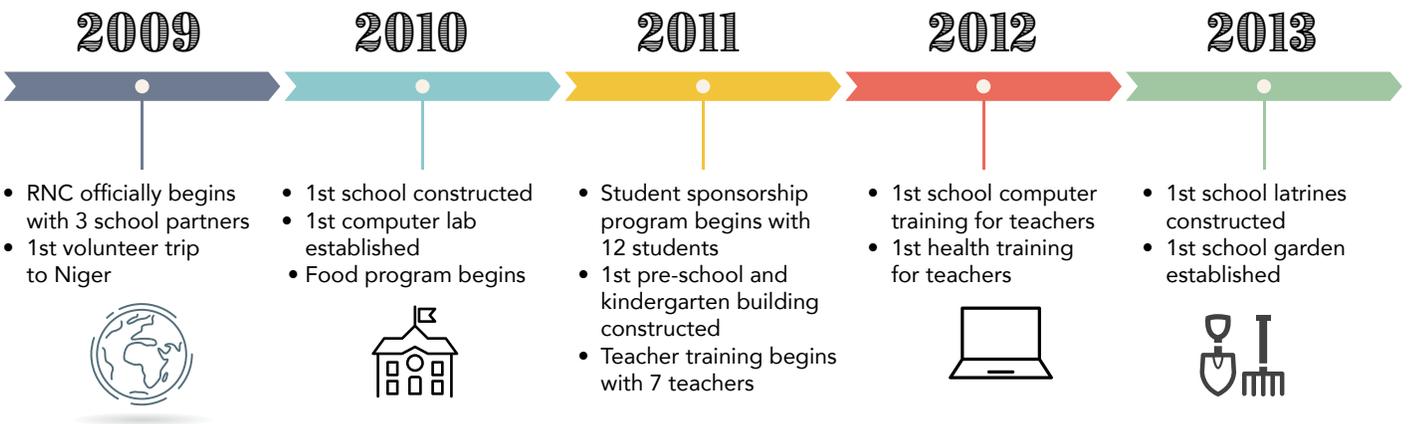
1st garden



1st sponsorship recipient



# 10 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

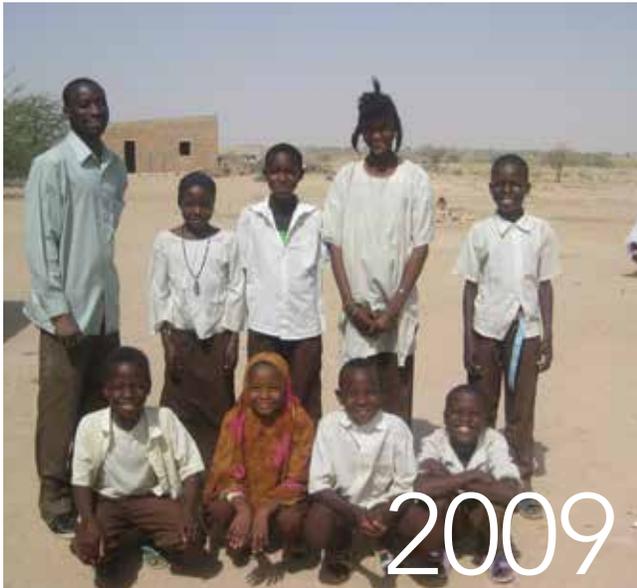


*“Since 2009, we have grown from 3 school partners to 10 and from 300 students to 2,561. All of this was made possible by our partners in the United States and in Niger, who are on the ground working hard each day. There are administrators running the schools, teachers in classrooms, students committed to their work and parents dedicated to taking their children to school and supporting them.”*

*-Kara VanderKamp, Remember Niger President*



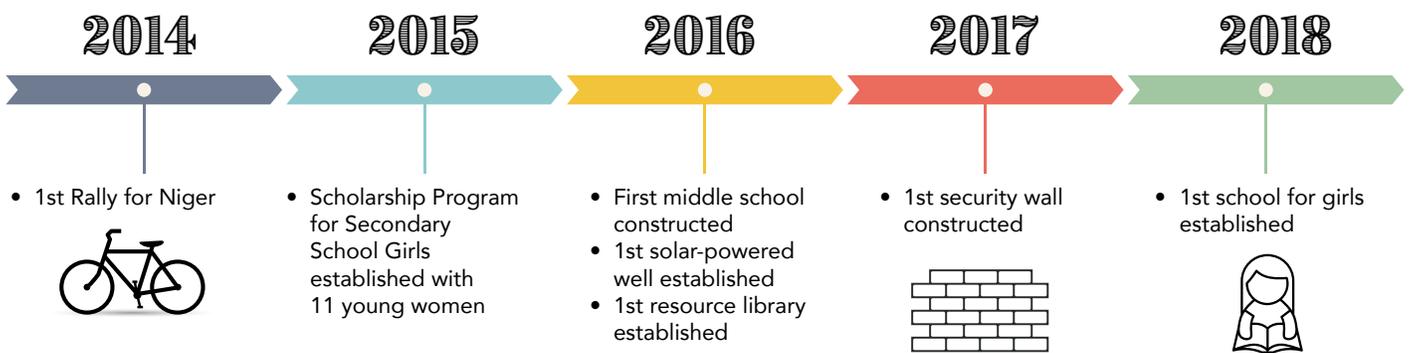
*Remember Niger board members and Zinder school committee members from the 2009 trip to Niger.*



The first class of graduating students supported by Remember Niger at Zinder was a class of 8 students.



Six of the students, now in twelfth grade, were recently reunited. In Niger, only 11% of students continue to secondary school, making this group remarkable.



## A Strong Foundation for Future Growth

**2561** students supported now

**36** classrooms constructed

**10** Nigerien school partners

**1000s** of student meals

**500** primary school sponsorships

**75** secondary girls' scholarships

**3** computer labs

**3** solar-powered wells

**2** gardens

**8** volunteer trips to Niger



# SCHOOLS IN NIGER

**T**he United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP), currently ranks Niger 189th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index<sup>1</sup>. A land-locked country with only one water source in the south western part of the country, nearly four-fifths of the country is made up of the Sahara Desert. Niger is one of, if not the poorest countries in the world, with food insecurity affecting 20% of the population (nearly 30% during periods of poor rainfall). Exacerbating Niger's food security issues is the dramatically rising population; at 4% per year, Niger has one of the highest growth rates in the world, with women having an average of 7 children each<sup>2</sup>.

Niger's high growth rate is due both to societal pressure, as well as a source of labor in rural areas where families depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Niger's rising population has earned the country a position among the youngest countries in the world, with more than 67% of the population under 25-years-old. Yet, Niger currently ranks last among 189 countries on the United Nation's Education Index. With only 38% of children attending primary school and 11% attending secondary school,

the need to improve Niger's educational infrastructure is paramount in order to prevent the country from continuing on a downward spiral of poverty and under-development<sup>3</sup>.

The Remember Niger Coalition is working to address Niger's educational infrastructure by supporting Nigerien partners in their endeavor to transform their society. The Remember Niger Coalition uses a collaborative partnership model, working with local organizations and partners and supporting their efforts to develop and execute long-term plans to operate a quality education system that addresses and overcomes some of the biggest challenges to education in Niger.

Partnerships begin with an existing school or the creation of a new school. Generally, new schools begin with one class to which the consecutive class is added each year. Therefore, all of the schools that we work with are at different stages of development. When complete, the primary schools serve about 350 students in pre-school through 6th grade. Middle schools serve about 250 students in 7th grade through 10th grade, and high schools serve about 200 students in grades 11 through 13.

1- <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>  
2- <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/niger>

3- <http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-41015715/how-niger-is-trying-to-slow-the-world-s-highest-birth-rate>

**● NIAMEY**

**Primary & Secondary School**

Total # of students..... 510  
 Boys..... 259  
 Girls ..... 251  
 Total classrooms ..... 10

**School for the Deaf**

Total # of students..... 161  
 Boys..... 92  
 Girls ..... 69  
 Total classrooms ..... 7

**● AGUIE**

**Primary School**

Total # of students..... 360  
 Boys..... 193  
 Girls ..... 167  
 Total classrooms ..... 8

**● MADAOUA**

**Primary School**

Total # of students..... 261  
 Boys..... 140  
 Girls ..... 121  
 Total classrooms ..... 5

**● TAHAOUA**

**Primary School**

Total # of students..... 27  
 Boys..... 11  
 Girls ..... 16  
 Total classrooms ..... 2

**Hamsa Girl's Center**

Total # of students..... 12  
 Girls ..... 12  
 Total classrooms ..... 1

**● TSIBIRI**

**Boarding School**

Total # of students..... 407  
 Boys..... 229  
 Girls ..... 178  
 Total classrooms ..... 8

**● ZINDER**

**Primary & Secondary School**

Total # of students..... 668  
 Boys..... 326  
 Girls ..... 342  
 Total classrooms ..... 17

**● DOGONDOUTCHI**

**Primary School**

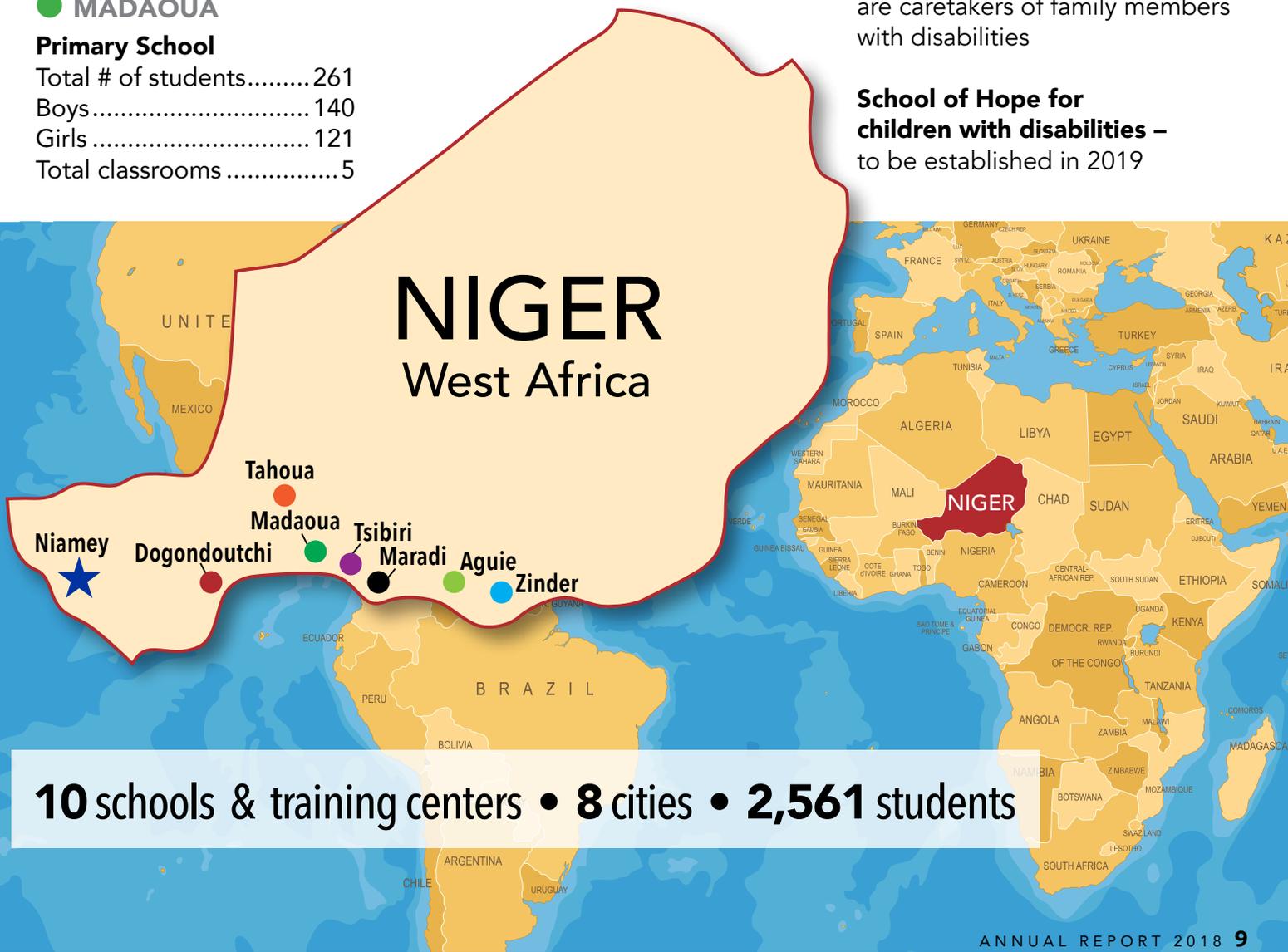
Total # of students..... 75  
 Boys..... 42  
 Girls ..... 33  
 Total classrooms ..... 5

**● MARADI**

**Center for People with Disabilities**

Total # of students..... 80+  
 Tutoring program for students with disabilities and children who are caretakers of family members with disabilities

**School of Hope for children with disabilities – to be established in 2019**



**NIGER**  
 West Africa

**10 schools & training centers • 8 cities • 2,561 students**



# 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP IN NIGER



*Ibrahim Abdou and Isti Garba, director of the Tsibiri Boarding School.*

**T**he Remember Niger Coalition works collaboratively with its Nigerien partners, who run and operate the schools and educational institutions. Our partners include churches and religious organizations, special needs training centers, associations and nonprofit organizations. We help build and support schools, but only as the need is identified and articulated by our Nigerien partners. Local architects, laborers, construction firms, educators, organization and community leaders, and parents all contribute to these projects.

Remember Niger Coalition consults with Ibrahim Abdou, the director of a Nigerien nonprofit organization that shares our values and goals. He assists with project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In this role, he 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.

## Dedicated School Partner

**L**eahtou Issoufou is one of the leaders of a Remember Niger Coalition school partner. She is making a profound difference as the principal of a thriving primary school in her rural village. In just ten years, Leahtou has grown her school from a small kindergarten of 20 students to an elementary school with over 350 students. Every year, 100% of the 6th grade students pass the national exam to move on to middle school. This is extraordinary when compared to the national pass rate of 45% with only 11% of students going to middle school.

Leahtou started her career as an elementary teacher in the public school system. Nine years ago, her church asked her to become the principal of a new school they hoped to establish. Leahtou left the security of her government job to help make the new school project a reality.

The school's success is a direct result of Leahtou's leadership. She is invested in each student and communicates regularly with parents who listen to her and implement her advice. She finds the best teachers, supports them well, and sets an example for them of dedication, resourcefulness, and problem solving. As a result, her teachers work hard for their students and are loyal to the school.



*Leahtou Issoufou*

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***“Remember Niger Coalition 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. We have achieved excellent results on all of the exams, and all of the schools we support are ranked first in their respective regions.”***

*- Ibrahim Abdo*

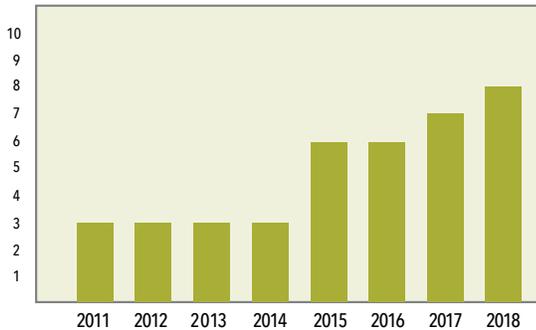
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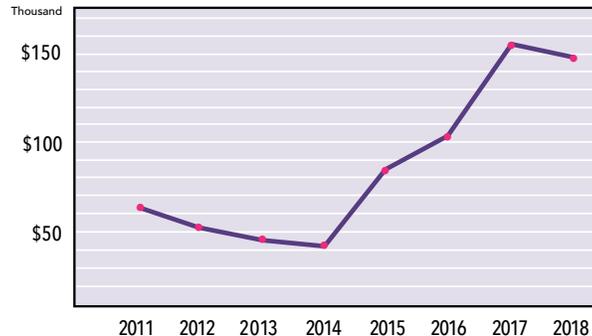
*Ibrahim Abdo, far right, and leaders of the Center for People with Disabilities*

# SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

**Number of Classrooms Constructed**



**Annual School Construction Expenses**



## How does the SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM help us achieve our mission?

Remember Niger Coalition provides support to its school partners for the construction of new classrooms, latrines, security walls, and other required structures. Classroom infrastructure is pivotal to our mission to create quality educational opportunities in Niger. The planned progression toward multi-level educational complexes in our partner school communities provides permanent space for thousands of students to receive quality educations, pre-school through high school, in preparation for university and professional level degrees.

Since 2009, we have provided funding for the construction of 36 classrooms in 8 communities currently serving over 2,561 students in 5 of the 7 regions in Niger.

**In 2018, we provided funding and oversaw the construction of 8 classrooms which will provide enough space for 450 students:**

- **3 middle school classrooms – Hamsa Girls' Education Center**
- **3 primary school classrooms – Madaoua School**
- **2 pre-school classrooms – Agueie School**



*School partners in front of newly constructed latrines.*



*Students gather in a temporary classroom while their permanent school building is under construction.*



**Aguie Pre-school** The Ague School was established in 2007 with a pre-school in a temporary school building. Since that time, Remember Niger has constructed two 3-classroom buildings, and, in 2018, a 2-classroom pre-primary school building was constructed. The primary school is now complete with 377 students in pre-school - 6th grade.



**Salama Primary** The Salama school was established in 2016 with a pre-school class in a temporary classroom. A solar-powered well and latrines soon followed, and in 2018 we completed a new 2-classroom primary school building.

# SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

## Hamsa Girls' Education Center

The Remember Niger Coalition has partnered with the Hamsa Girls' Education Center since 2016, when we constructed a solar water well and security compound wall around the school. **In 2017 and 2018, we provided 5 latrines and 4 classrooms.** The Center began with the 1st class of middle school and now has the space to grow into in the coming years.



*Classroom at the Hamsa Center*

The Hamsa Center aims to address the factors that perpetuate the cultural notion that girls don't need an education in Niger. Keeping girls in school and building their skills not only reduces child marriage, but also increases the economic productivity of married girls, while having long-standing effects on the girl, her family, and her community.

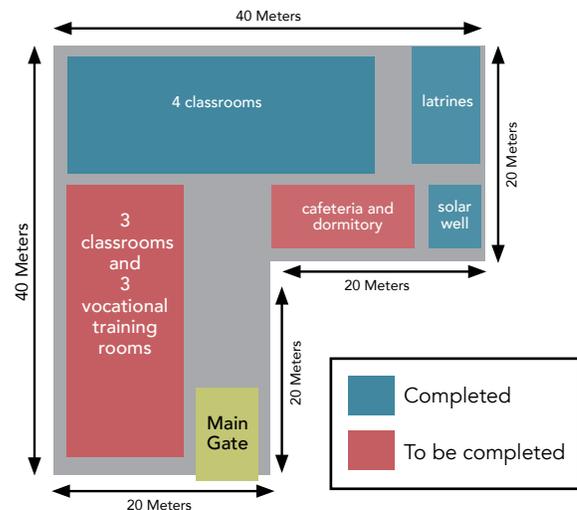
**Approximately 76% of girls are married before the age of 18 & 1/3 before the age of 15 in Niger. However, in girls who have a secondary education, only 18% marry before the age of 18.**<sup>7</sup>

### Girls' Education in Niger<sup>6</sup>

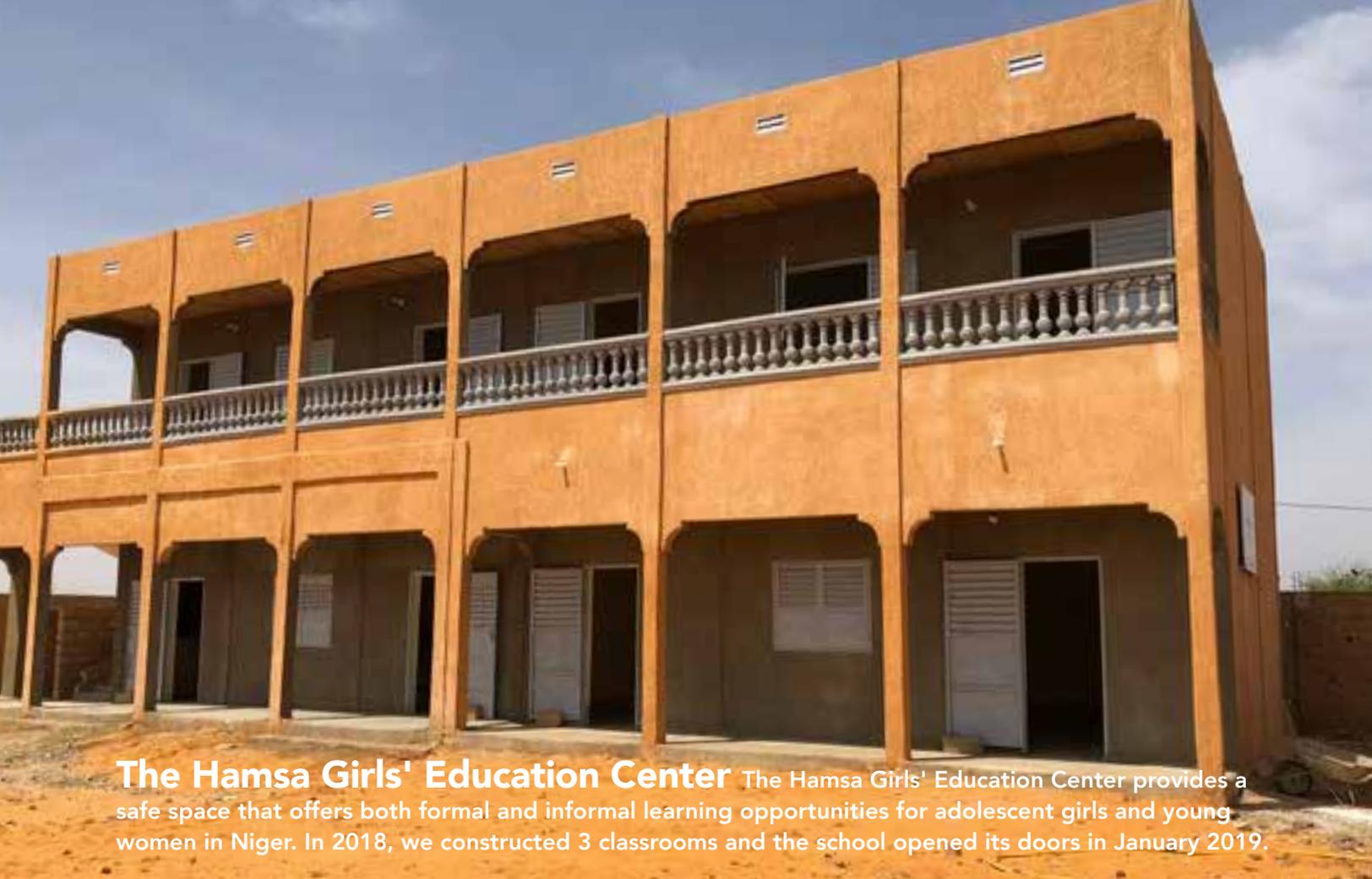
- 31% of girls attend primary school
- 8% of girls attend middle school
- 3% of girls attend high school

Through a culturally sensitive, diverse approach that offers both formal educational opportunities such as tutoring and test support, as well as skills training, the Hamsa Center aims to help break the cycle of multi-dimensional poverty, reduce early marriage rates through sensitization, and improve the overall quality of life for this generation of young women and generations to come. Under local community leadership, the Hamsa Girls Education Center provides a safe space that offers both formal and informal learning opportunities for adolescent girls and young women in Niger.

Investing in local grassroots programs throughout Niger, like the Hamsa Girls Education Center, will develop strong and resilient young women who will become empowered and fully engaged economic and social catalysts.



<sup>6</sup><http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/education-index>  
<sup>7</sup><https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/niger/>



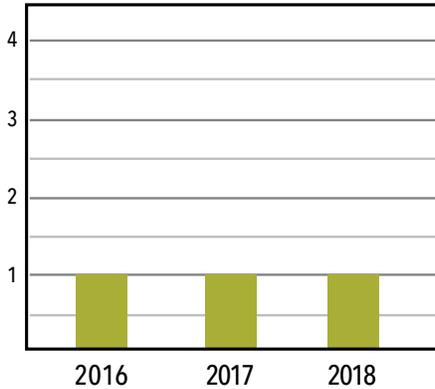
**The Hamsa Girls' Education Center** The Hamsa Girls' Education Center provides a safe space that offers both formal and informal learning opportunities for adolescent girls and young women in Niger. In 2018, we constructed 3 classrooms and the school opened its doors in January 2019.



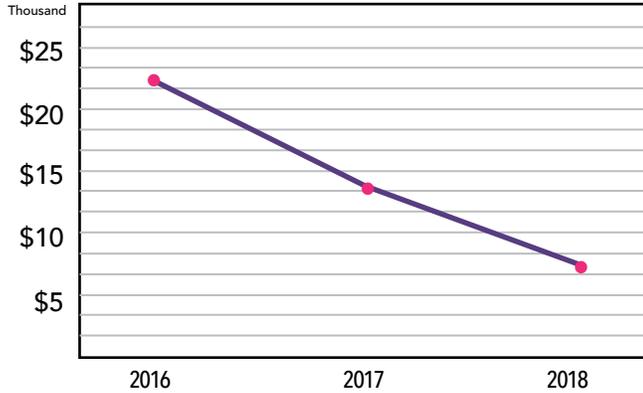
**Scholarship Recipients** Twelve girls from the Hamsa Girls' Education Center receive scholarships throughout the Scholarship Program. In 2018, there were 75 girls in the program, which is designed to ensure that girls and young women continue their education through secondary school.

# SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Number of Solar Wells Installed



Sustainable Schools Program Annual Expenses



## How does the SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM help us achieve our Mission?

The Sustainable Schools Program includes investments in solar-powered components and clean water for the schools and training facilities. Creating self-sufficient and sustainable educational communities is critical to the long-term viability of the schools we support. Solar power and water security projects produce ideal campus environments, increase teaching time and contribute to the health and financial autonomy of schools.

In 2016, Remember Niger received a donation of 100 solar panels through *Water Mission* in Charleston, SC. The program expenses were higher that year because of the cost of shipping the panels to Niger. Program expenses vary from project to project depend-

ing on whether or not a well has already been dug on the school property. For example, **in 2018, we funded the installation of a solar-powered pump with a water tower at the Niamey School for the Deaf.** The overall expense of the project was less than previous projects because there was already a well on the property, although it was no longer functioning. Moving forward, this refurbished well will efficiently provide a reliable source of water, which is critical during the hot season. Additionally, the garden will have a greater yield because it will be expanded and the crops will be watered consistently. The fruits and vegetables help supplement the students' daily lunches and provide much needed nutrition.



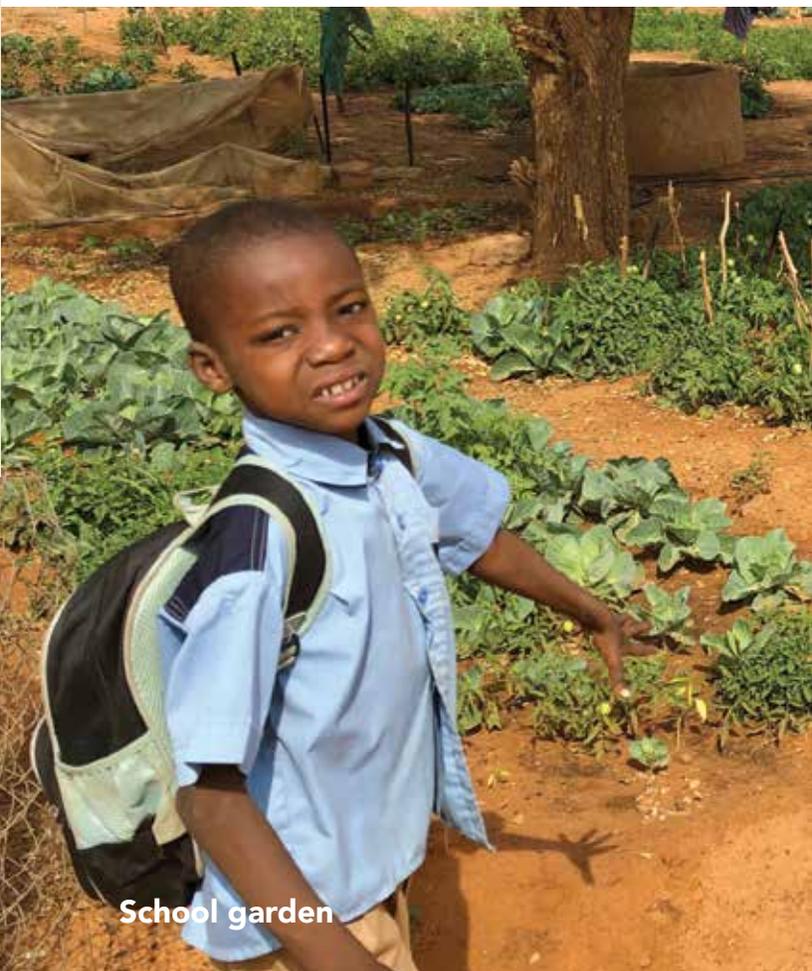
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*“We are very proud to present you with this key. We hope that the water serves you well, that your garden is fruitful, and that the kids always have enough to drink.”* -Kara VanderKamp, Remember Niger President

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Clean water



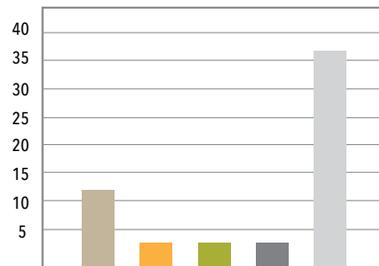
School garden



Solar powered well and water tower

# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Pass rate on 6th Grade National Exam



Academic Enrichment Annual Expenses



## How does the **ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM** help us achieve our Mission?

In addition to constructing classrooms and creating a sustainable educational environment, the Remember Niger Coalition works collaboratively with its school partners to ensure that students receive a high-quality education. As the needs are identified by our partners, we provide support for:

- **teacher training**
- **school furniture and supplies**
- **student meals**
- **school gardens**
- **hygiene and sanitation education**
- **physical education**
- **computer labs**

Each element plays an important role in ensuring that students receive a well-rounded, high-quality education that prepares them for

the next grade and level of school.

In 2017 and 2018, we continued to provide support for the academic enrichment needs including meals for students, computer for administrators, and teacher training scholarships. However, based on our partner requests, our focus shifted temporarily to solar powered wells and school construction. We continue to see the Academic Enrichment Program as vital to achieving our mission and plan to increase our support in 2019.

The 6th grade national exam that every student must pass to matriculate to middle school is a key measure for assessing a school's quality. There has been a nearly 100% pass rate at the schools we support during the past 10 years. In 2018, 97% of the students passed the standardized exam.





School supplies



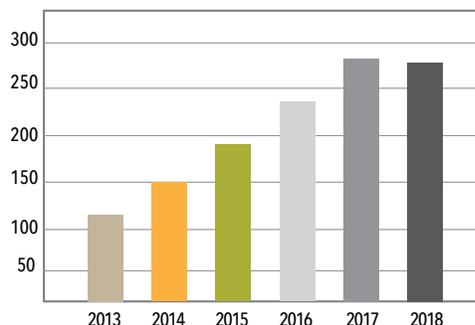
Teacher training



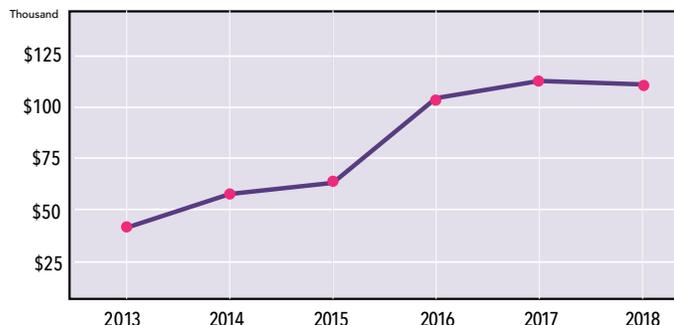
Physical education - soccer uniforms and equipment

# STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Number of Sponsored Students



Student Sponsorship Annual Support



## How does the STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM help us achieve our mission?

**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:**

- 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.
- Sponsorship 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.
- Sponsorship helps establish and grow schools. When a new school begins with a kindergarten, Remember Niger provides 5-10 sponsorships,

which is often the majority of the students. The number of sponsorships continues to grow until 50 students are sponsored when the primary school is complete through 6th grade. As the school grows, the percentage of sponsored students becomes less and less, eventually plateauing between 15 and 20% of the total student population.

- Sponsorship provides a means for monitoring and evaluating all our programs and assessing the health of the schools we support.

**In 2018, Remember Niger Coalition provided sponsorships to 271 students. The number of sponsorships has remained steady for the past two years, because we focused on scholarship recruitment in 2018. However, plans include growing the program again in 2019.**



**Remember Niger supporters have sponsored 500 students since 2009!**



Sponsor meets the student she supports

*“Our daughter lacks nothing for her studies and that is why we say thank you. We are proud of the quality of education in our daughter's school and we see the progress she continues to make.”*

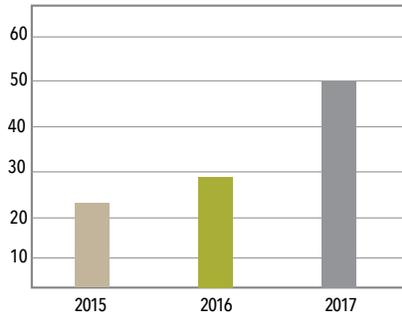
*- Mother of a sponsored student*



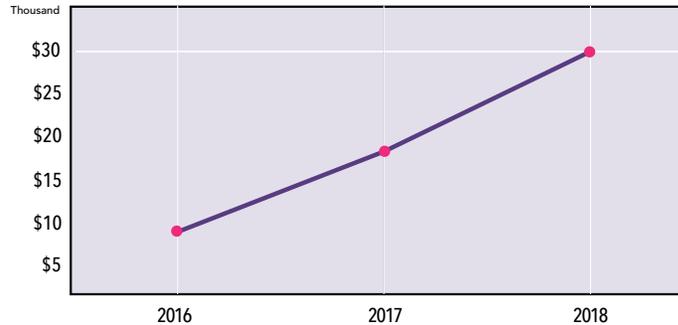
Sponsorship students make holiday cards for their sponsors

# GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIPS

**Number of Girls Scholarships**



**Girls Scholarships Annual Support**



## How does the GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM help us achieve our Mission?

The Remember Niger Coalition is providing scholarships to girls and young women in order to raise attendance rates in secondary and high school. For girls who are educated beyond primary school, the likelihood of an early marriage is reduced significantly. Furthermore, the longer a girl stays in school, the less likely she is to be married before the age of 18. With pregnancy and childbirth before the age of 18 leading to a number of complications, including both maternal and infant mortality, there are numerous reasons to push for girls to stay in school.

The Remember Niger Coalition also works with partner organizations that provide housing for women from rural villages to attend secondary school in cities, as well as one organization that helps women obtain professional and advanced degrees in computer science and business. With each of these partners, RNC provides critical scholarships that make it possible for women to participate. The program was formalized in 2016 with 24 scholarship recipients. In 2018, we provided scholarships to 75 girls and young women across four different programs and schools.



**The program was formalized in 2016 with 24 scholarship recipients. There are now 75 girls and young women in the program.**



Scholarship recipients at the Hamsa Center



**Romana**

11 years old • 10 siblings • Her father is a subsistence farmer and her favorite subject is physics • She wants to be a doctor



**Mariama**

15 years old • 15 siblings • Her father is a subsistence farmer and her favorite subject is math • She wants to be a judge



**Salamatou**

17 years old • 9 Siblings • Her father is a subsistence farmer and her favorite subject is science • She wants to be a professor



**Nana**

16 years old • 8 siblings • Her father is a subsistence farmer and her favorite subject is science • She wants to be in the military



**Bintu**

14 years old • 10 siblings • Her father is a subsistence farmer and her favorite subject is history • She wants to be a doctor



**Roufaida**

14 years old • 9 siblings • Her father is a chauffeur and a subsistence farmer. Her favorite subject is physics and she wants to be a judge

# HELP FOR THE DISABLED

## How does the **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM** help us achieve our Mission?

The Remember Niger Coalition is committed to supporting all Nigeriens in accessing quality educational opportunities, particularly those who are underrepresented in education and have the fewest opportunities in Niger, including children with disabilities.

### Niamey School for the Deaf

**S**ince 2015, the Remember Niger Coalition has partnered with the Niamey School for the Deaf, a school established in 1982 by the Niamey Association for the Deaf, with an aim to provide high quality learning opportunities for hearing impaired students throughout Niger. The Niamey School for the Deaf serves about 160 children each year.

In 2018, our priority for the Niamey School was to create a sustainable source of water for students and staff. We installed a solar-powered pump in the existing well and constructed a water tower, which will enable them to expand the garden and increase yields of produce. The school garden will also serve as a hands-on educational tool teaching valuable gardening skills that can benefit students both in school and at home.



*Primary school students at the Niamey School for the Deaf express a joyful "Merci Beaucoup!"*



*Tutoring session at the Maradi Center.*

6-<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/health/>



## The School of Hope for Children with Disabilities

**T**he Remember Niger Coalition and the Maradi Center for People with Disabilities are partnering together to create the School of Hope for Children with Disabilities. The Maradi Center for People with Disabilities is a dynamic resource and vocational training center for people with disabilities in the Maradi region of Niger. The Maradi Handicap Association and the Hosanna Institute worked together to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to receive vocational training. Additionally, the Center provides a specialized tutoring program for children with disabilities, as well as providing tutoring to children whose parents have disabilities. Remember Niger has found

that often, it is the children who become constant “helpers” or “guides” for family members with disabilities and, therefore, are excluded from the formal education system themselves. For the past three years, we have provided school supplies to the Maradi Center, and in 2019, at the Center’s request, we are working with them to build a school community specifically for children with disabilities and children whose parents or families have disabilities. By building a school, many children who have been excluded from education will be able to attend school while their parents are participating in Maradi Center programs.

# BE CONNECTED PROGRAM

## How does the BE CONNECTED PROGRAM help us achieve our Mission?

The Remember Niger Coalition launched the Be Connected program in 2016 as a way of building bridges between groups and organizations in the United States with the schools we support in Niger. This program helps us accomplish our mission by unifying people

in the two countries in order to expand quality educational opportunities in Niger. For partners who are unable to travel to Niger, we have created avenues for connecting US groups, churches and organizations with specific students, teachers, administrators, schools and projects in Niger.

In 2018, **Sunrise Ministries**, a long time supporter of Remember Niger, formed a meaningful connection with the Madaoua School in Niger. Sunrise members raised over \$20,000 through many different fundraisers to build a 3-classroom primary school building. In October, four volunteers from Sunrise traveled to Niger to meet the Madaoua school committee and to visit the construction site. They enjoyed reading to the students, leading craft projects and playing soccer and whiffle ball.



*Lydia, volunteer with Sunrise Ministries, enjoys making crafts with the kids.*



*Erin reads a book to the students in Niger.*

**“What made this trip extra special for me was not only the children, but also that we got to sit down with the school committee and discuss the school and its future. We were so excited to tell them in person that we raised enough money to build their much-needed school building; that we weren’t just a faceless entity out there, but that we were people who really do care about the children in Madaoua.”**

*- Erin Placencia, Sunrise Ministries*



**"We are very pleased to hear from you through the visit of our partner Kara during her visit to our school in Madaoua. We are delighted to count you among the people who will help the smooth running of our school so that it can grow and become a great school of reputation in the city of Madaoua. Thank you in advance for the help you will give us in the realization of the second school building of three classrooms that we hope to build this year."**

*- Pastor Moussa Souley for the School Committee*



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## Rally for Niger

The "Rally for Niger" is a variety of fundraisers that are organized and facilitated by groups of Remember Niger supporters around the United States. The 3rd Annual **School Spirit Run for Niger 5K** in Charleston, SC in October 2018 raised over \$18,000 for the construction of a new school building in Niger. Construction will be complete in early 2019. Over 300 local students, teachers and family members represented 13 schools in the Charleston area.

Also in October, the **Georgetown Presbyterian Church** hosted its annual Rally for Niger on the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal path. Funds were given in support of the Hamsa Girls' Education Center. The excitement about the Hamsa Center has been palpable. Members of GPC are pleased to support this critical effort to provide not only an education, but also a safe and welcoming space for girls and young women who are looking forward to a bright future. The congregation is looking forward to hearing about the progress of the Center, and is looking forward to the success stories that are sure to come.



*Student participants in the School Spirit Run for Niger.*



*Team leader Mary Beth Meggett claims the trophy for her winning team!*

**The Rally for Niger brings people of all ages together in support of quality educational opportunities for all children in Niger.**





## Rotary Connections

**R**otary 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 and a global grant. In 2018, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club and the Montgomery Village Rotary Club provided funding for latrines at the Hamsa Girls' Education Center. Funds were raised to furnish classrooms in the newly constructed school buildings thanks to a matching grant from the Montgomery Village Rotary Club. Additionally, members from North Saint Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Rotary Club and New Brighton / Mounds View Rotary Club sponsor students and provide scholarships to girls and young women.

## Church Connections

**I**n 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. For example, a women's group at James Island Presbyterian Church has connected with the Hamsa Girls' Education Center to provide feminine hygiene products for the girls and young women at the Center. The school nurse uses the resources provided by the Charleston women to teach health and hygiene lessons at the school.

## School Connections

**S**chools in the United States are forming meaningful connections with students in Niger. In 2018, we partnered with 5 schools where students connected with Nigerien students and schools in a variety of ways. Often the partnerships begin with interactive presentations designed to help U.S. students understand what life is like for children in Niger. Follow-up activities include making crafts, writing letters, and holding fundraisers for children in Niger. Several schools provide sponsorships for students, and others contribute funding for student meals at the Tsibiri Boarding School.



Shannon and Ryan Wilson, pictured with their mother Michele, helped organize a fundraiser at their elementary school in Washington DC. "Nickels for Niger" has provided a sponsorship for a young girl in Niger for two years.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

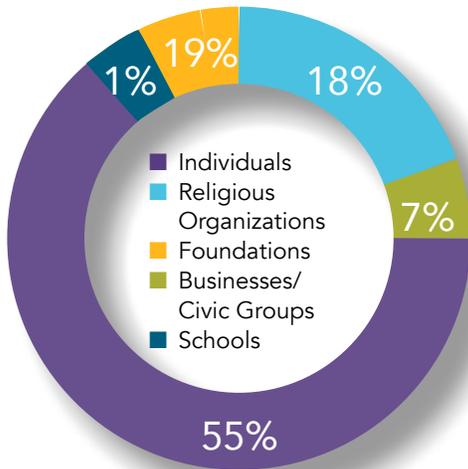
## Statement of Financial Position

	As of 12/31/17	As of 12/31/18
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	74,250	69,720
Pledges Receivable	14,758	11,866
Prepaid expenses	0	1,407
Investments	46,540	42,842
Fixed Assets (Net of Depreciation)	837	1,712
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$136,385</b>	<b>\$127,548</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts/Grants Payable	14,282	8,709
Payroll Liabilities	2,982	3,429
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$17,263</b>	<b>\$12,138</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets	111,232	107,000
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	7,890	8,409
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$148,445</b>	<b>\$119,122</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets (Prior Year to Current Year)</b>		<b>-\$3,712</b>

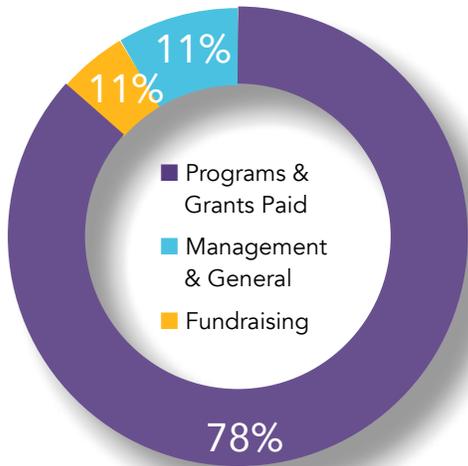
## 2018 Statement of Activity

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
Contributions and Grants Received	165,003	220,506	385,509
Program Service Revenue	4,545		4,545
Investment Income	6,672		6,672
Other Revenue	5,674		5,674
Total Net Assets Released from Restrictions	219,987	-219,987	0
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>401,881</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>402,400</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Programs and Grants Paid (Supporting Projects for Niger)	312,869		312,869
Program Service (Volunteer Travel to Niger)	4,545		4,545
Management & General	42,711		42,711
Fundraising	45,988		45,988
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$406,113</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$406,113</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>-\$4,232</b>	<b>\$519</b>	<b>-\$3,712</b>

**2018 Income Total: \$402,400**



**2018 Expense Total: \$406,113**



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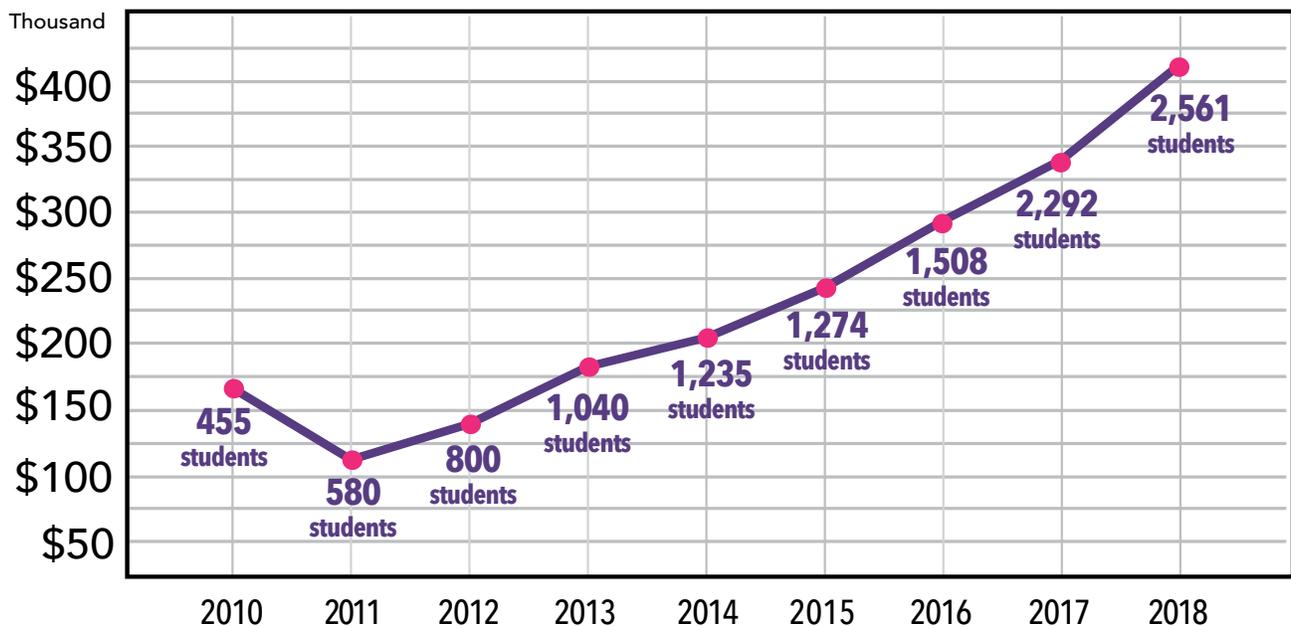
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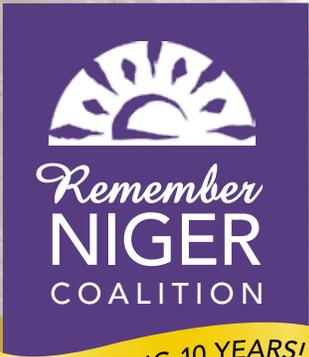
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**Growth in Income**





CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

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