



**2019-
2020**

**Salama
preschool
and
primary
school**

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



Remember
NIGER
COALITION

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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.

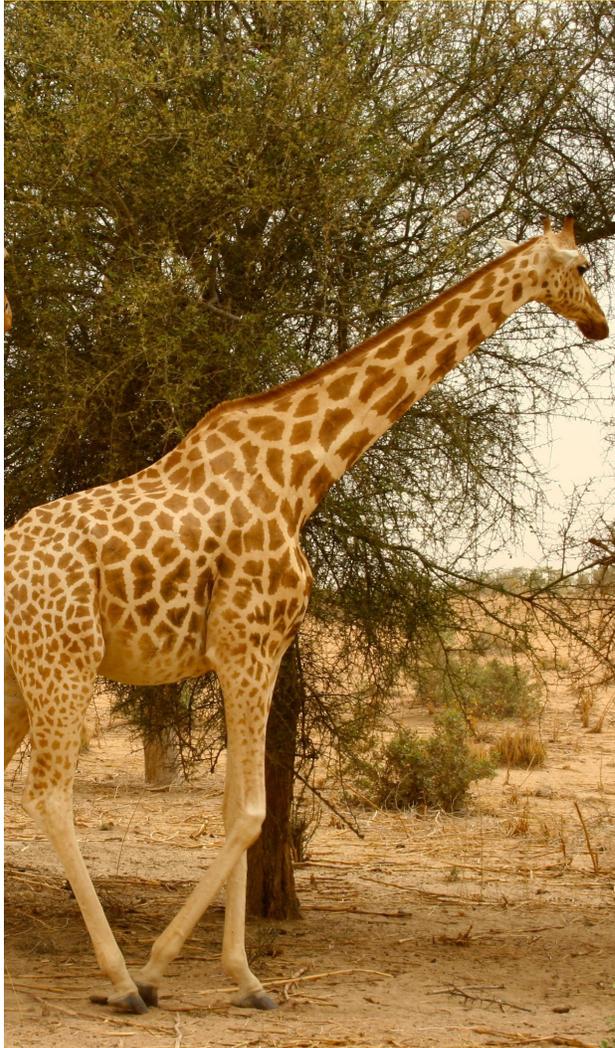


About the Remember Niger Coalition

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 FEATURES



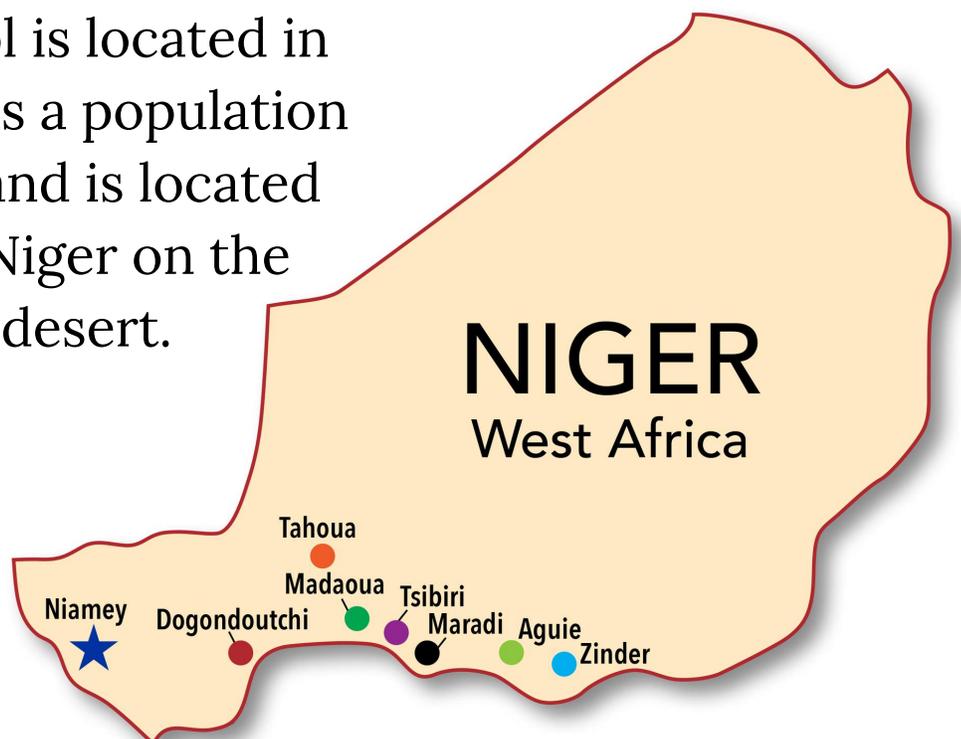
- Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa named after the Niger River
- 80% of Niger is covered by the Sahara Desert
- The United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) ranks Niger 189th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index.
- Only 51% of children go to primary school
- Only 19% of children go to secondary school
- The average birth rate is seven children per woman
- Most families are subsistence farmers



Salama School



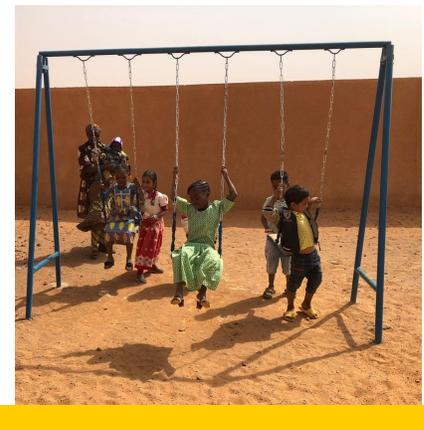
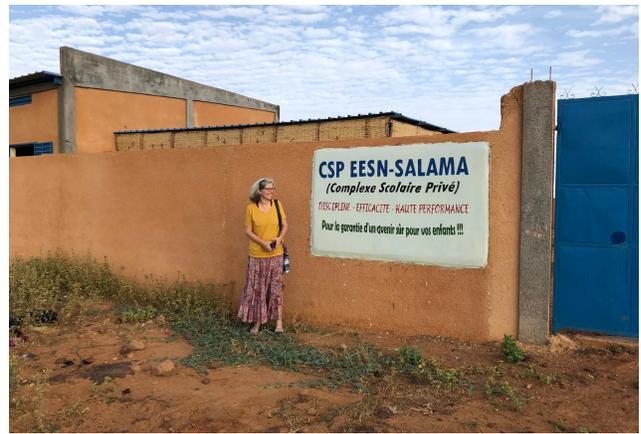
The Salama School is located in Tahoua. Tahoua has a population of 20,000 people and is located in the middle of Niger on the edge of the desert.



Our facilities



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.



Inside the Salama Primary School

“Our visit today at the Salama School was uplifting and encouraging! We began by visiting each classroom. Each class had prepared a special presentation for us. The students sang songs, recited Bible verses and performed skits for us. It was impressive to see the hard work they had put into our visit and it was really heart-warming to get to have this fun interaction with them.”

*Kara VanderKamp,
Executive Director,
Remember Niger
Coalition,
January 2020*



Teacher Spotlight

Mariama Harouna is a founding member of the Salama Primary School Committee, which has partnered with the Remember Niger Coalition since 2016. She began her career as an English teacher. She was chosen from among her peers to help establish a new public middle school in Tahoua, Niger, of which she was assigned as the first principal. In this role, she was dedicated to the success of all of her students, including those within the most vulnerable populations.



Additionally, she focused on keeping girls in school and helping them succeed. Often, she would visit students and their parents in their home if the student was struggling in a class or skipping school. She currently works at the Education Department for Inclusion for Children with Disabilities. Mariama and her husband, who is the Pastor of the Salama Church, live in Tahoua, Niger, and they have four children – three girls and one boy.



Salama School Board

History of the Salama School

The Salama Protestant Church is a small reformed denomination with roughly 1,200 members attending churches spread throughout Niger. The church in Tahoua seeks to positively impact their community by providing a quality, Christian education to the children of their community. Tahoua has a population of 20,000 people and is located in the middle of Niger on the edge of the desert.

In October 2015, the founding administrator of Madaoua Primary School introduced the Remember Niger Coalition team to the leaders of the Salama Church in the city of Tahoua. They were seeking a long-term partnership in order to establish a high-quality, Christian school. The partnership was formalized in 2016.

Remember Niger helped the church establish a pre-primary school in a temporary school building on the church campus, obtain land for the permanent school site, and gain official recognition from the Nigerian government.

Remember Niger has funded the construction of 5 latrines and the installation of a solar powered pump and water tower. In 2018 construction was completed on a new 2-classroom primary school building. In 2019, an all-purpose classroom and playground was added for the children to enjoy.

We are pleased to partner with the Salama School because of our respect for its leaders and members and our common vision for education in Niger.

Students



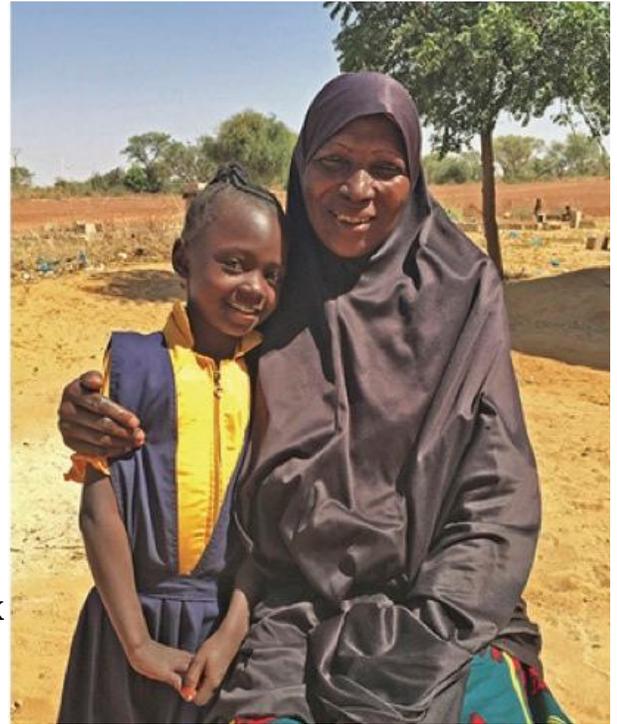
Students



Student Stories

A Grandmother's Love

Salamatou is 55 years old. She earns money by preparing and selling food for snacks to school children at recess. Salamatou was the youngest of seven children. Due to the generosity of her siblings who paid for her schooling, she attended primary school, but her years of dreaming to be a nurse were over when she didn't pass the 6th grade national exam. As with most girls in Niger, Salamatou was not allowed to repeat her final year of school and test again. Instead, she married at a young age and had six children.



Despite setbacks, Salamatou has maintained a positive attitude throughout her life and has no regrets. The experience changed her life's course drastically, but instead of falling into despair, Salamatou has found a career surrounded by school children and has dedicated herself to making sure that each of her children and grandchildren can go further with their education than she did. Thanks to her determination and persistence, Salamatou is proud to report that one of her daughters is enrolled in nursing school.

Salamatou has not let hardships or disappointments deter her. One of her sons recently passed away. In Niger, fatherless children are considered orphans. Without missing a beat, Salamatou and her husband took their grandchildren into their home. She is now focused on making sure that each grandchild attends school. She pays for their educations from her own income. Salamatou knows first-hand how hard she has had to work for meager wages and how important an education is. With an education, you can get a good job, support yourself and help others. This belief in helping others and the importance of education is common in Niger. And it is Salamatou's hope that she will pass along her belief in education and generosity.

Sponsorship story

*By Kara VanderKamp, Executive Director,
Remember Niger Coalition*

When we arrived at the Salama School that morning, there were parents and young children standing at the gate to greet us. We had communicated to the committee that we would offer 8 new sponsorships to students in need. I noticed a young boy crying near the entrance of the school. He was standing with his father and looking very sad. I asked Mariama, the secretary of the school board what was wrong. She told me that they only had places for 8 new sponsorships students, and so he was not able to attend school this year. Instead, his little sister was going to school.

Mahamadou was heartbroken. I told her that we would find another sponsor for him and that he should be included. This is such a great example of how valued education is in Niger. The director of the school told us that the children love going to school and are eager to be there.

A new playground!



Merry Christmas from the children to their sponsors

*By Karen Pepin, Sponsorship Coordinator,
Remember Niger Coalition*

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.

Cont. on next page

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!



The kids hard at work making bookmarks for our wonderful sponsors!





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!