



# School of Hope for Students with Disabilities



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

# REMEMBER NIGER SUMMER INTERNS

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 Reese Terry. We are proud of her hard work and dedication to children in Niger.



## REESE TERRY

Ashley Hall '20 | Johns Hopkins University '24

Reese became enamored and inspired by the work of the Remember Niger Coalition following her initial work with them during the Summer of 2019. She was tasked with translating video interviews of Nigerien students, teachers, and parents from French to English. While watching the videos, she saw herself reflected in the eyes of young Nigerien women who shared the same aspirations and dreams of finishing their education and entering a profession where they would dedicate themselves to helping others. Since then, she has continued to advocate for the citizens of Niger, and plans to continue to do so through college and into the future.



# About 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.**

# Climate

Niger's climate is largely hot and dry, with most of the country in a desert region. The terrain is predominantly desert plains and sand dunes. There are also large plains in the south and hills in the north. In the extreme south, there is a tropical climate near the edges of the Niger River Basin. The climate divides the year into approximately three seasons: a hot season from March to May, a rainy season from June to September, and a cooler season from October until February.

# Main Industries

The main industries in Niger are uranium mining, petroleum, cement, brick, soap, textiles, food processing, chemicals, and slaughterhouses.

# About — Niger



## Marriage

- 76% of girls in Niger are married before the age of 18.
- 28% of girls are married before the age of 15.

## Childbirth

- As of 2019, Niger has the highest birth rate in the world.
- The average woman in Niger has 7.2 children.
- If the nation's current growth rate of 3.8% continues, Niger's population could triple from 22.2 million to 63.1 million by 2050.
- The average life expectancy in Niger is 61.6 years.



## About Niger

### Education

- **51% of children go to primary school**
- **20% of children go to middle school**
- **Only 5% of children go to high school**
- *Attendance rates for students with disabilities are significantly lower. By sponsoring a student at the School of Hope, you are making a positive impact that will last a lifetime!*

# SCHOOL OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



# History and Partnerships

THANK YOU!



The School of Hope is an inclusive school for children with disabilities and children whose parents or families have disabilities. The School of Hope is an extension of the Maradi Center for People with Disabilities, a resource and vocational training center for people with disabilities in the Maradi region of Niger. For several years, Remember Niger worked in partnership with the Maradi Center by providing supplies and supporting its tutoring programs. In 2019, the Maradi Center acquired land to expand its capacity to serve a wider disabled community in the region. The same year, Remember Niger expanded our partnership with the Maradi Center by building a

3-classroom school building.

In Niger, many children with learning differences and physical limitations are excluded from education. A large number of children with learning differences never even enroll in formal school. Remember Niger has found that children with family members with disabilities often become constant “helpers” or “guides”, and therefore, are excluded from the formal education system themselves.

The School of Hope serves both of these groups of children, ensuring students have a customized learning space that addresses the specific needs of students with disabilities.



# Photos

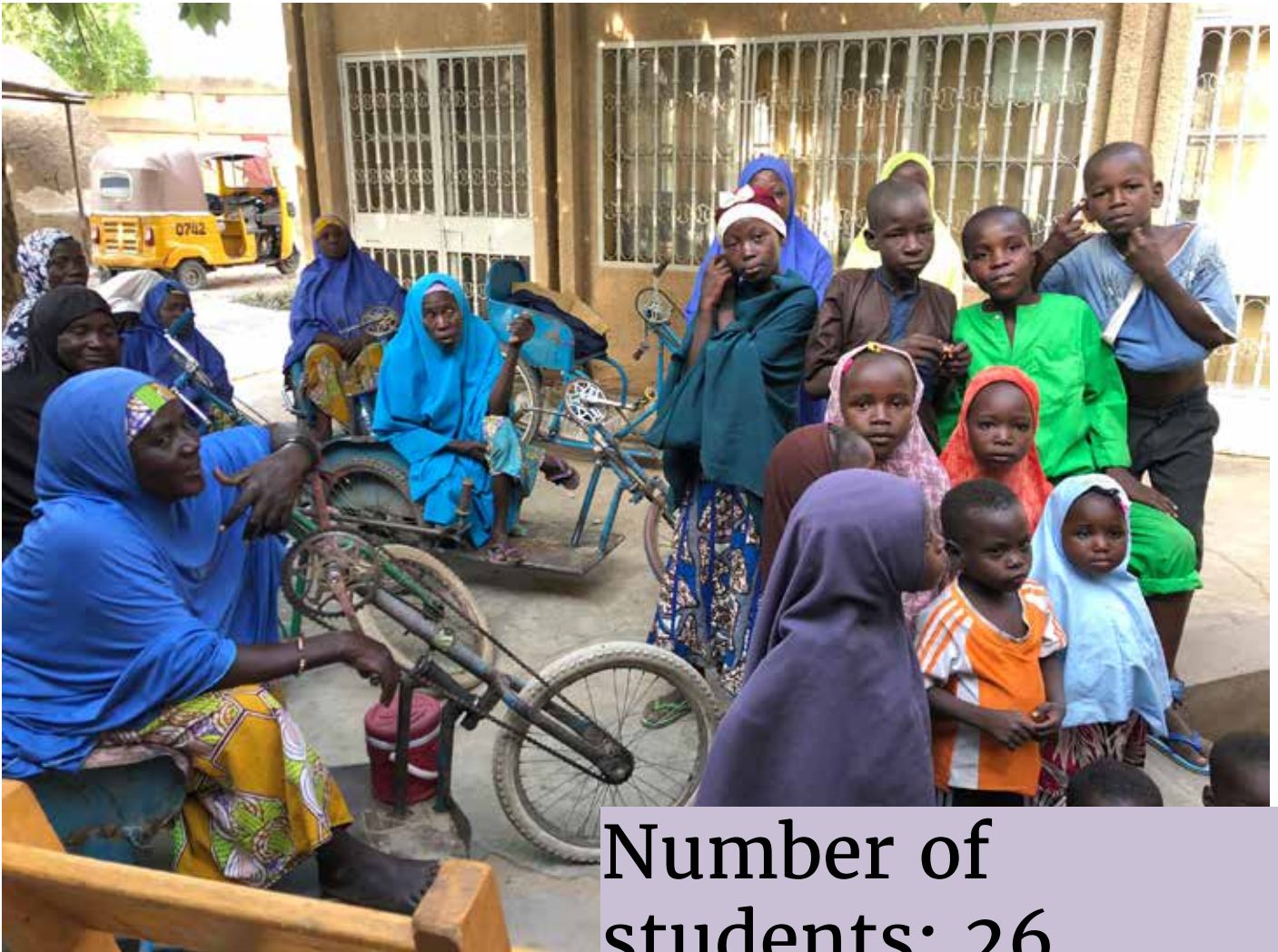


School of Hope Property During Construction



Fence around the School

# BY THE NUMBERS



Number of  
students: 26

Grades:  
Kindergarten and  
1st grade

# BY THE NUMBERS



Number of  
classrooms: 3

# Student Spotlight

**Yacoubou** is a bright and energetic 12 year-old boy with a disability that does not allow him to walk. Instead, he utilizes an arm-powered wheelchair, and he often crawls from place to place by using flip flops on his hands and knees. Yacoubou assumes he was born with the disability since he doesn't have memory of being without it.

Despite daily challenges, he has a positive outlook and is thankful for the assistance he receives at the Maradi Center. He is hopeful that he will have the opportunity to attend the School of Hope because he won't feel different because of his disability and knows the teachers will care about him.

When asked what he wants to be when he is older, he isn't sure about the exact profession yet but he knows it will involve computers. Although he has not had the opportunity to use a computer yet, he explained that because of his disability he was confident that technology was a way for him to access a good job. He also thinks that computer and technology training will allow him to help his family and contribute to the development of his community and country.



**Yacoubou, age 12**

**There are hundreds of children like Yacoubou in the Maradi region. Children and youth who are excluded from the education system because they have a disability or they are a helper to a parent or grandparent with a disability. Remember Niger is committed to ensuring that all children in Niger have the access to quality education, especially those who have been left out of the formal education system. Support from the Technical Training Foundation will have a significant impact on the learning opportunities for children with disabilities in Niger.**

# Meet the Students



Nana, age 5, pictured with her grandmother



Moussa, age 5, pictured with his mother



Ouma, age 5, pictured with her grandmother



Abdoulnasser, age 5, pictured with his mother

# Meet the Students



Rahila, age 5, pictured with her grandmother



Yassine, age 5, pictured with his grandmother



Choukouria, age 3, pictured with her grandmother



Class in session at the School of Hope

# Christmas Cards 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.

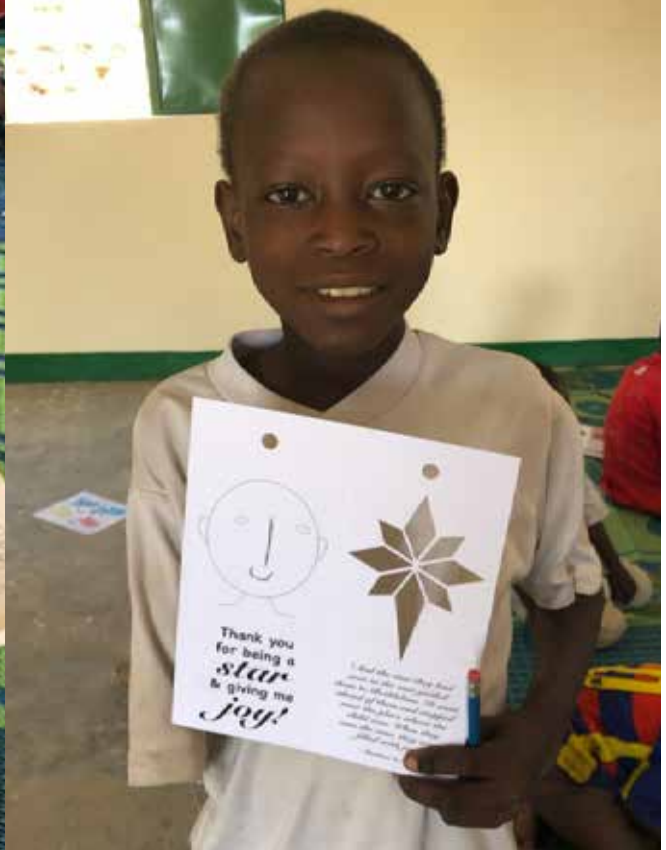
The next step is explaining how to do the project. This year the students made bookmarks that were to include a self-portrait. After the students at the first school completed their drawings, we discovered that many of them had instead drawn a picture of the person who was giving the instructions! There 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



# Christmas Cards for 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!**

[www.rememberniger.org](http://www.rememberniger.org)