



## HARNESSING COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS FOR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES IN THE SAHEL



## Introduction

In the Sahel, where humanitarian, development, and peace challenges are deeply intertwined, WeWorld, Educo, Search for Common Ground, ChildFund International, and Children Believe have formed a strategic consortium. By combining their unique strengths and approaches, these organizations deliver comprehensive, context-adapted, and sustainable solutions for children, youth, and communities in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.



## Who We Are and Where We Work



**WeWorld** operates in 29 countries, including several in West Africa and the Sahel, with a focus on humanitarian aid, child protection, gender equality, education, WASH, food security, and peacebuilding. WeWorld is recognized for its rapid emergency response and its commitment to the most vulnerable, especially displaced children and women.



**Educo** is an international NGO present in 14 countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. Educo's mission is to ensure all children fully enjoy their rights and live with dignity. In Senegal alone, Educo directly reaches over 64,000 people annually, with a focus on education, child protection, governance, advocacy, livelihoods, health, nutrition, and WASH. Educo is a member of ChildFund Alliance, leveraging global and local partnerships for greater impact.



**Search for Common Ground** is a global leader in peacebuilding, present in 36 countries, with a robust presence in West Africa and the Sahel. Search specializes in conflict transformation, social cohesion, youth and women peace and security engagement, and community resilience, working with national and local authorities, civil society, community leaders and media, including the digital, to prevent violence and build sustainable peace.



**ChildFund International** is a global child-focused development and humanitarian agency present in 9 countries in Africa, reaching millions of children and families annually in Africa. ChildFund's integrated approach spans child protection, education, early childhood development, WASH, food security, health, livelihoods, and emergency response, always in partnership with local organizations and communities. In line with ChildFund's 2030 global objective to reach many more children, expansion into Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger is ongoing. We aim to make our programs sustainable and advocate for positive adaptation so that families can recover from environment-related disruptions to their livelihoods, education and health.



**Children Believe** (a ChildFund Alliance member) has over 60 years of experience empowering children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Its programs focus on education, child protection, health, economic empowerment, and advocacy, guided by the vision that every child should have a voice and achieve their full potential.

## Complementary Approaches Across Key Sectors



### Child Rights, Protection, and Participation

Educo excels in building and revitalizing community-based child protection structures and ensuring systematic birth registration, especially in Senegal and the central Sahel. Their participatory approach empowers children and caregivers at the grassroots.

WeWorld strengthens formal and informal child protection systems, prioritizing displaced and vulnerable children, and promotes children's agency through integrated, community-based responses.

ChildFund International and Children Believe bring

robust psychosocial support and protection programs, particularly for children in crisis, conflict, and displacement, and create safe spaces for children to recover and develop positive coping strategies.

Search for Common Ground complements these efforts by fostering youth participation and leadership, ensuring young people are active agents in peace and security initiatives.



### Quality and Inclusive Education

Educo leads on education in emergencies, offering both formal and alternative learning pathways for displaced and out-of-school children, and integrating gender equality into education governance.

Children Believe and ChildFund International reinforce early childhood education, literacy, and girls' education, promote access for the most marginalized as well as providing an integrated package for the wellbeing of children in school.

WeWorld focuses on both formal and non-formal education, with a strong emphasis on girls' access, preventing early marriage and exploitation among IDPs and host communities.

Search for Common Ground adds conflict-sensitive education and peace education, equipping teachers and students to manage tensions and promote social cohesion within and beyond the classroom.



### Health, Nutrition, and WASH

Educo and WeWorld implement integrated WASH and nutrition projects in schools and communities, reducing dropout rates and improving health outcomes, especially for girls and displaced children.

ChildFund International delivers maternal and child health and nutrition programs, as well as emergency health responses.

WeWorld further strengthens local health systems and provides mental health support, while Search for Common Ground ensures health and WASH interventions are inclusive and trusted, fostering community demand and participation.



### Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

WeWorld and Educo focus on youth vocational training, women's economic empowerment, and supporting local value chains, particularly in the green economy.

ChildFund International provides livelihoods and microenterprise support to reduce child vulnerability, promote youth employment and strengthen

household resilience.

Search for Common Ground enhances community economic resilience, linking economic empowerment to social cohesion and violence prevention, and mobilizing youth and women for positive change.



## Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, and Governance

Search for Common Ground is a regional leader in conflict transformation, social cohesion, and inclusive governance, engaging youth, women, authorities, and media to prevent violence and build peace.

Educo and WeWorld integrate peacebuilding and social cohesion into their development and humanitarian programs, strengthening local

governance for child rights and supporting community participation in planning and budgeting.

All five organizations contribute to building trust between communities and authorities, ensuring inclusive access to basic services and infrastructure, and promoting the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace).



## Emergency Response and Humanitarian Action

WeWorld and ChildFund International are recognized for their rapid, conflict-sensitive humanitarian response, mobilizing food, shelter, protection, and psychosocial support during crises.

Educo applies a nexus approach, bridging emergency response with long-term resilience, and targets

children, youth, and women as key actors in recovery.

Search for Common Ground ensures all humanitarian interventions are conflict-sensitive and foster social cohesion, while Children Believe supports community-driven recovery and resilience.



## Advocacy, Partnerships, and Localization

WeWorld and Educo are active in regional and international advocacy for child rights, education, and protection, and participate in key forums to influence policy.

Search for Common Ground leads on youth and peace advocacy, influencing global and regional policy agendas and ensuring young voices are heard.

ChildFund International and Children Believe prioritize local partnerships and capacity building, ensuring interventions are sustainable, contextually relevant, and locally owned.

All five organizations work together with local NGOs, authorities, and communities, reinforcing national systems and empowering grassroots actors.



## Collective Impact and Reach

Together, these organizations reach millions of children and families annually across the Sahel, including in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas. Their programs are evidence-based, participatory, and adapted to fragile and conflict-affected contexts. They are trusted partners for major donors, governments, and international agencies, with strong accountability and transparency mechanisms.

Notable impacts include increased school attendance and birth registration (Educo), reduced violence and improved community relations (Search), expanded access to education and protection for displaced children (WeWorld, ChildFund, Children Believe), and strengthened local child protection and health systems.

## Conclusion

By harnessing their complementary strengths, WeWorld, Educo, Search for Common Ground, ChildFund International, and Children Believe offer a holistic, conflict-sensitive, and sustainable platform

for transformative change in the Sahel. Their joint action ensures every child is safe, educated, healthy, and empowered, even in the most challenging environments.