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## High-Level Humanitarian Event on the Central Sahel Side-event on Unlocking Humanitarian and Resilience Investing for the Sahel

Friday, 16 October 2020, 17:00-18:30 CEST (Zoom connection)

### **Description:**

Multidimensional challenges of economic fragility, climate change, food insecurity and conflict in the Sahel, necessitate holistic and integrated interventions. Humanitarian and development responses are insufficient to address the scale and complexity of needs in the region, already facing a funding shortage and potential additional impact of declining aid budgets due to COVID-19.

Collaboration not only across regional political bodies and national governments, humanitarian and development organizations, but also with investors and corporate partners is therefore necessary to support and co-design shared solutions to these challenges.

There is an urgent need and opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to create a shared strategy for mobilising and de-risking private capital through investable projects to complement existing donor-funded strategies.

### **Objectives:**

The goal of this side-event is to facilitate multistakeholder action by helping to identify and invest in bankable projects and collective alignment in the Sahel by blending public and private capital. By supporting the basic services track, we see an opportunity to assemble a targeted group of key stakeholders to collaborate on unlocking investments, and understanding key barriers, in sectors such as food security, WASH, health and renewable energy.

Public-private collaboration will be essential to build long-term solutions in the Sahel, and we hope that this event will support and inform the Ministerial Roundtable with key recommendations on how to engage business and investors.

The event will leverage relevant communities that the World Economic Forum has been convening;

- **Humanitarian and Resilience Investing Initiative;** Identifying pioneering projects that catalyse investor capital in fragile contexts. Co-chaired by the Forum, ICRC, World Bank Group, Credit Suisse, and the Netherlands.
- **Food Action Alliance;** through collective and aligned action seeks to strengthen the impact of agricultural value chains to produce food sustainably and efficiently, that is accessible to all, supporting a transition to healthier diets and improved environmental outcomes.
- **Africa Regional Action Group;** community of leaders ensuring adequate public-private response to COVID-19 and to jointly chart rebuilding and recovery efforts.

### **RSVP:**

To express interest in participating, please contact [andrej.kirn@weforum.org](mailto:andrej.kirn@weforum.org) and [william.lubega@weforum.org](mailto:william.lubega@weforum.org), by Wednesday, 14 October