Established in 1989, PartnersGlobal is an international non-governmental organization that works through a global network to transform conflict, strengthen democratic institutions, and achieve sustainable development. We work in complex and conflict-affected environments across the world, including the Sahel. Currently, the Sahel faces serious security challenges at both national and trans-national levels. A lack of accountable and transparent security processes, insufficient coverage of law enforcement, and barriers to accessing justice mechanisms exacerbate these challenges. Moreover, low levels of citizen trust in government and poor perceptions of law enforcement inhibit collaboration between local populations and law enforcement on security issues.

The Roadmaps to Security in Senegal and Burkina Faso project, funded by the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) aims to improve public perceptions of law enforcement integrity and effectiveness. Implementing partners PartnersGlobal, Partners West Africa Senegal (PWA-S), and La Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen (FOSEC) convene actors from civil society and the security sector around an area of common concern – road security – to encourage collaboration and joint problem-solving. Given the dynamic security contexts in the Sahel, Roadmaps follows an iterative, participatory approach, in which diverse stakeholders, such as representatives from national line ministries and agencies, local law enforcement agents, and civil society leaders, provide inputs on how to design interventions for maximum impact.
Through innovative interventions, Roadmaps is strengthening relations between civil society and law enforcement, and between security sector actors at national and sub-regional levels. Pilot initiatives for road security, jointly developed and implemented by law enforcement and local populations, are promoting a more inclusive approach to road security and addressing targeted localities’ key areas of concern. The pilot initiatives offer a range of activities that enhance mutual understanding and trust between citizens and the security sector, as well as law enforcement’s capacities to handle different issues. Examples of activities include:

- **Open Door Days**: Law enforcement invite civil society to their offices to ask questions, share security concerns, and learn about their roles and responsibilities;
- **Citizen Debates**: Civil society gathers to constructively debate and discuss their security priorities and how they can play a role in improving road security;
- **Sensitizations**: Theatrical performances, caravans, and sociocultural events transmit key messages on road security, such as citizens’ legal rights and obligations and how to work with law enforcement;
- **Manuals on Fighting Corruption**: Police and gendarmes contribute to manuals on how to fight corruption, which are housed in their offices.

Alongside pilot initiatives, regional activities bring together security sector actors from Senegal and Burkina Faso to share knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned on collaborating with civil society, combatting road insecurities, and fighting corruption. Considering the trans-national nature of security challenges in the Sahel, increased regional coordination and information-sharing are essential to improving citizen security, and assuring prosperity and stability for all.

### Youth Engagement

Reducing the high levels of mistrust between citizens and law enforcement requires a multi-faceted approach, which is why Roadmaps has a strong youth engagement element. Pilot initiatives have mobilized youth participation in activities, including school visits from law enforcement, youth days on how youth can improve road security, and friendly soccer matches with the security sector. Through showing that youth can make important contributions to their security and future, Roadmaps is cultivating the next generation of leaders.

National buy-in and support

High-level security sector stakeholders in Senegal and Burkina Faso have already appropriated Roadmaps’ into national plans and priorities. For instance, Burkina Faso’s next National Security Policy and the Senegalese gendarmerie’s road security strategy will adopt Roadmaps’ expanded concept of road security, as something that goes beyond traffic accidents; and Roadmap’s approaches to increasing collaboration between law enforcement and civil society.