

Acknowledgement

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For and through the Almighty.

Abstract

Burkina Faso, in its current period of financial and security crisis, is facing serious governance issues, which can lead to corruption. In its desire to have an "open government," the Burkinabe government aims to improve its good governance by promoting the practice of transparency in the country's political and economic life. The purpose of this study is to investigate how French NGOs, when intervening in Burkina Faso, can contribute to the success of a development project, aiming to improve the country's politics through transparency.

Through qualitative research, this study assesses at which levels the intervention of French NGOs can contribute to the political and economic development of Burkina Faso. Using secondary data, such as grey literature and journal articles, the study digs into and interprets an issue involving multiple institutions, including a government and NGOs. The results showed that NGOs' implementation of technological tools helps the government fight corruption. Similarly, the education provided by NGOs helps to make transparency more effective while increasing the trust level of citizens towards the government.

These results suggest that the technological and educational aspects provided by NGOs make the implementation of the Burkinabe political and economic development project effective. Assisting politicians and citizens in implementing and using technological tools ensure that the resources allocated to them are used correctly, allowing the "effectiveness" of the transparency project. In addition to optimizing the use of the platform, NGOs allow citizens to check budgetary policies and review the trust level granted to their political representatives.

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1. Introduction

The relationship between France and the Sahel has been longstanding and is due to a significant event in human history. Starting in the 16th century, colonialism is a political, economic, social, and cultural system by which a civilization occupies and exploits a foreign territory (Pervillé, 1975). France actively contributed to colonialism in its world conquest, notably in the 19th century, when the movement reached its climax (Bancel et al., 2007). The exploitation of people and raw materials in Africa was the foundation of the French colonial project (Agathe, 2019). The country conveyed an ideology that enslaved peoples should be assimilated and shaped according to their own model, which they perceived as the best (ibid.). In this manner, at the beginning of the 20th century, the country controlled 1/10th of the world, being the second world power behind Britain but the first in Africa (France, 2020; Survie, 2006). France founded a whole African empire in which several Sahelian nations were included (Bancel et al., 2007).

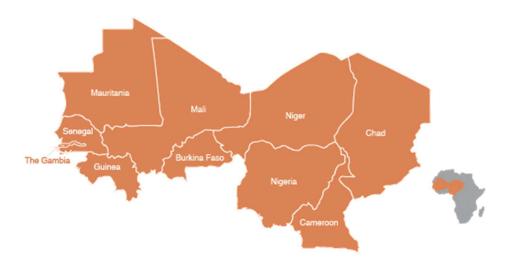


Figure 1: Sahel countries (UN, 2020)

Separating the Sahara Desert from the tropical savannas, the Sahel is an area comprising ten different states, according to the political and institutional approach: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal (UN, 2020; Tikum, 2021). Most of the countries in this region, having experienced democratic changeovers and peaceful transitions, are still perceived as having biased democratic systems due to their instability (Tikum, 2021). This instability is due to structural causes, on the one hand, but also to the

recurrent conflicts occurring in the region and their devastating effects on the political, economic, and social levels (Osman, 2021; Sissoko, 2021). As the region has been dealing with armed jihadist groups for several years, the Sahelian states needed to focus on the security aspect. These countries' economies are monopolized by military spending at the cost of the social and developmental aspects, which the region requires just as much (Osman, 2021). In this context, the Sahel, which depends on external support, is the African area that receives the most official development assistance (ibid.).

Given the security and development challenges encountered, five Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad), which are among the poorest and worst-ranked countries on the United Nations Human Development Index, decided in 2014 to join together in creating the G5 Sahel (G5S) (Châtaigner, 2019). These five countries have thus created an institutional structure for regional cooperation and coordination on development and security policies (G5 Sahel, 2020.). Among its goals bearing a security and development dimension, the G5S aims to "Guarantee conditions for development and security in the space of member countries" and "Combining development and security, supported by democracy and good governance in a framework of regional and international cooperation for mutual benefit" (G5 Sahel, 2020.).

To achieve these goals, the G5S focuses on strengthening peace and security in its area and establishing conditions for better governance within the member countries (ibid.). Although the G5S results from an exclusively African initiative, it remains dependent on international partners, particularly France, as very few developments and peace operations can be financed and led by African states themselves (Leymarie, 2019). Favorable to the principle of official development assistance to the least developed countries, including all the G5S countries, France monitors the evolution of political and development capacities in the Sahel countries (Châtaigner, 2019). The French Republic's solidarity with the Sahelian countries has always manifested in "the assertion of an active development diplomacy" based on support and advice policies (Châtaigner, 2019, p.129).

Founded in 1941 during the Second World War, the AFD (French Development Agency) is the oldest global development institution (AFD, 2018). As a financial institution supervised by the

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, AFD finances and supports projects to improve the living conditions of Southern populations (Aides Territoires, 2022). The AFD implements France's development and international solidarity policy through its public sector financing activities, the intervention of NGOs in needy areas, its training, and its awareness-raising role (David et al., 2022). AFD's activities in the public sector, expressed in the design and implementation of public policies abroad, are based on support and advice. AFD has teams involved in more than 4,000 projects in 115 countries, mainly with the collaboration of technical cooperation agency, and several NGOs (AFD, 2019).

NGOs take part in resolving global conflicts due to their role as field actors and their expertise in this regard (Perroulaz, 2004). Working for the benefit of populations in countries where they carry out their programs, NGOs act as a real link between populations, international institutions, and states (Cité de l'économie, 2020). International institutions, as well as the states themselves, often use them as intervention officers in the development field (Shehu Greamaud, 2012).

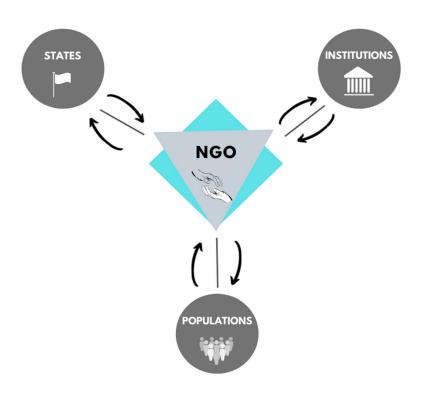


Figure 2: NGOs link (Own illustration)

Their efficiency has been proven over the decades, where they have shown themselves to be bearers of hope, to the point of being trusted by the populations targeted in their programs (Perroulaz, 2004). Local populations are more sensitive to international NGO interventions due to the effectiveness of their services, unlike the state, which may not provide the services needed by citizens, making the relationship of trust between the populations and Sahelian states delicate (Châtaigner, 2019). Political trust between citizens and their states is based on the relationship between government performance and the political demands of citizens (Balme et al., 2003). Due to their limited capacities and means, Sahelian states cannot effectively deal with the population's needs and expectations, particularly in Burkina Faso, thus justifying the presence of NGOs (European Commission, 2021).

As a key country in the area, "ensuring a cultural and geographical continuum between the Sahel and coastal countries", Burkina Faso is a nation whose stability is essential for the regional one (European Commission, 2021.). As a landlocked Sahelian country and one of the poorest in the world, Burkina Faso has to deal with significant demographic growth, with a population that has doubled in less than 25 years to 18 million and is expected to reach 27 million by 2030. This situation impacts the country's economic growth, requiring finance to prevent public infrastructure and services from being overwhelmed (AFD, 2020). NGOs were already present there in the early 1960s before independence and experienced a great increase with the droughts of the 1970s and 1980s (Enée, 2015). The Burkinabe state welcomes NGOs, which have a leading role in development aid in view of the country's needs, while also acting as a bridge between the population and the public authorities (ibid.).

With the security situation worsening since 2015 with the rise of jihadist movements, and still facing many challenges, especially in terms of governance in several areas, the country's political context offers opportunities to NGOs (Bourdillon, 2022, European Commission, 2021). Political opportunities are opening up to stabilize the country and implement effective policies through necessary reforms (ibid.). Today, confusion and instability prevail in the country, where the government is criticized by the population due to its reluctance in decision-making and the fight against jihadists (Bourdillon, 2022.). The inability of Sahelian countries' leaders to deal with the jihadists has led to numerous riots, including in Burkina, wherein 2015; the inhabitants massively invaded the capital Ouagadougou to put an end to a military *coup*

d'état they considered illegitimate. Nevertheless, a military coup occurred seven years later, in January 2022, for the same reasons, due to the government's inability to manage jihadist conflicts and the population's distress. (Malagardis, 2022). These elements highlight the country's political instability and the citizens' frustration.

As Burkina Faso's partner for over 60 years, AFD supports local development programs in sectors that help structure the country's economy and society, for example, by providing financial and technical support to the State, education, and skills training (AFD, 2020). AFD seeks to integrate elements addressing the country's crisis by implementing financing for public actors to strengthen institutions and provide better services to the population (AFD, 2020).

Seeking to improve its governance, Burkina Faso will, in 2017, join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The OGP aims to bring governance improvements to states, notably through the application of data transparency and the use of technological means (AFD, 2017). In seeking to develop its governance, Burkina Faso wishes to incorporate transparency in public policy through technological means. AFD supports Burkina Faso in this development project and, therefore, send two NGOs to assist and ensure smooth implementation (ibid.).

Governance is the practice of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a country at all levels and includes the processes and institutions through which citizens can express their interests (IRAM & IIED, 2006). It is a term that legitimizes the intervention of external actors to contribute to social change in Southern countries, including the G5S (Atlani-Duault, 2005). Within this context, NGOs intervene in the Sahel to bring a concept of "good governance", allowing better resource management to solve collective problems through transparency and responsibility (IRAM & IIED, 2006). This good governance allows the constitution of anti-corruption measures (OHCHR, 2020).

These development aspects involve a political and economic dimension in which France supports Burkina Faso through AFD, more particularly, NGOs. The governance crises Burkina may encounter can explain the failure of development policies and, therefore, the need for

international assistance in this area (Atlani-Duault, 2005). It is in this context that the main research question will be the following:

"How do development processes articulated by french NGOs contribute to Burkina political and economic development?"

In order to better address this research question, this study will use the following subquestions:

"How do NGOs, through the development of governance practice, enable the country to fight corruption and citizens to have greater trust in their state? "

"How do NGOs, through their educational role in technology, enable Burkina Faso to optimize its "Open Government" development project?"

Before answering the research questions, we first need to focus on some existing terms in development policy that NGOs will use to carry out their development programs.

2. Definition of terms

2.1 Trust

Trust is a feeling that is experienced when one can rely on someone or something, ensuring that the things we depend on from others turn out well (Marzano, 2010; Chernet, 2016). A moral value exists when trust is granted, as it is based on commitment and reliability (ibid.). It allows one to keep commitments to others and not disappoint (Chernet, 2016). Trust then results in feeling secure in the relationship, whether with relatives or authoritative figures involved in daily life, including politicians (ibid.). Without trust, development projects over time would not be possible, as it allows democracy to operate and sociality to develop (Marzano, 2010).

The trust exists then in a political concept, simply known as 'political trust'. It is the trust that citizens have in their governmental instances and thus the core of a reciprocal relationship between the governors and the governed (Lalot & Quiamzade, 2021; Balme et al., 2003). Political trust results from 'the alignment between the citizens' expectations and the governmental authorities' performance' (Balme et al., p.435, 2003). It implies that political trust is essentially based on the relationship between government performance and the political demands of citizens (ibid.). The population's assessment of their government as being trustworthy due to its integrity and non-corruption is representative of the political trust level of citizens towards their state (Lalot & Quiamzade, 2021).

The efficiency of the measures taken and the speed with which a government implements them are essential factors for establishing this trust relationship in the long term, as political trust is not stable over time (Lalot & Quiamzade, 2021). It is sensitive to the different situations encountered and needs regular reinforcement and improvement; otherwise, it can be lost (Chernet, 2016). Political trust can turn into mistrust in the case where politicians cannot solve the problems encountered, which generates disappointment, as in the cases of Burkina Faso, discussed later (Balme et al., 2010).

2.2 Governance

The term governance is not a new term used recently; it is a system that has been applied in society since the dawn of time (UNESCAP, 2014). In general, when talking about governance, it refers to the practice of political, economic, and administrative authority, managing a country's affairs at all levels (IRAM & IIED, 2006). Governance is concretely the process by which decisions are made and how decisions are implemented or not (UNESCAP, 2014). Beyond decision making, governance implies how entities are directed and controlled at their top and imply responsibility and control (Governance Today, 2021).

Different types of governance exist depending on the field: firstly, there is 'corporate governance' in business management; secondly, 'urban governance' in public management; thirdly, governance in development policies; and lastly, 'global governance' referring to the coordination of the transnational actor's behaviors (Atlani-Duault, 2005). This study will focus

on the third governance type, involving development aid institutions and agencies, specifically in the South (ibid.). International agencies such as the World Bank, the OECD, and the UNDP define governance as "the exercise of authority or power in order to manage a country's economic, political and administrative affairs" (UNESCO, 2016).

Although the government is one of the governance actors, other stakeholders exist and can be involved in this system, such as research institutes, associations, and NGOs (UNESCAP, 2014). The use of this term in the development context legitimizes the intervention of external actors, who use it to ensure accountability, transparency, stability, the rule of law, equity, and inclusion, in order to contribute to social-political changes in the South (Atlani-Duault, 2005; UNESCO, 2016).

"Good governance" is a recurring term in the development literature, especially among donors, who promote this term as a necessary precondition for creating an environment for sustainable human development (UNESCO, 2016).

2.3 Good governance

Adding normative and evaluative attributes to the governing process, good governance is responsive to society's present and future needs (OHCHR, 2020; UNESCAP, 2014).

Good governance has eight characteristics presented in Figure 3: transparent, responsive, equitable & inclusive, effective & efficient, follow the rule of law, participatory, consensus-oriented, and accountable (UNESCAP, 2014).

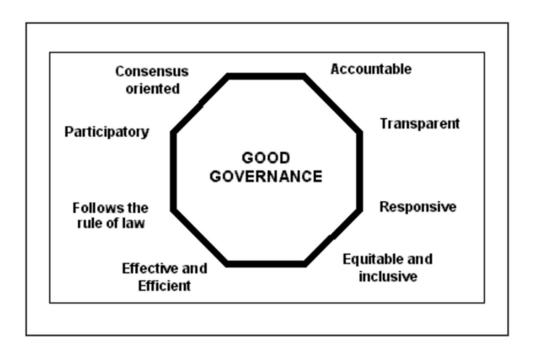


Figure 3: Characteristics of good governance (UNESCAP, 2014).

These features ensure that corruption is reduced, that the most vulnerable in society are included in decision-making processes, and that minorities are taken into account in these processes.

"The true test of 'good' governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights." (OHRCR, 2020).

As a matter of fact, when talking about good governance, we are referring to political and institutional processes and outcomes, being indispensable to achieve development projects and their goals (ibid.). Nevertheless, it is challenging to apply all the good governance principles in society; only a few countries succeed in achieving it in its totality. However, it is crucial to strive for actions that make this ideal a reality in developing societies (UNESCAP, 2014).

3. Methodology

3.1 Philosophy of Science

The philosophical decisions that affect the research results must be known and understood to ensure that the social science research is correctly interpreted (Moon & Blackman, 2021). These decisions are based on specific philosophical, social science principles (ibid.). In the section below, the paradigm choice, based on social constructivism, will be discussed.

The same goes with the ontological choice, following the paradigm and thereby being constructivism, as this study describes what is observed, considering the context, NGOs, and central-Sahelian states. The epistemology discussed follows interpretive philosophy as the research seeks to understand the social phenomenon of NGOs' role in the political and economic Sahelian context.

3.1.1 Paradigm

Scientists' set of beliefs in a specific discipline is known as a paradigm (Bryman, 2012). These beliefs influence what is to be studied, how research is conducted, and how results are interpreted (ibid.). Therefore, the paradigm is the way in which we frame what we know, how we know it, and what we can know (Sheppard, 2020). Many paradigms exist in social science, each with its own ontological and epistemological perspectives, of which there are five as shown in Table 1 (Sheppard, 2020).

Paradigm	Emphasis	Assumption	
Positivism	Objectivity, knowability, Deductive logic	Society can and should be studied empirically and scientifically.	
Interpretivism	Research on humans	People interpret their social roles in relationship, which influences how they then give meaning to those roles and the roles of others.	
Social constructivism	Truth as varying, socially constructed, and ever-changing	Reality is created collectively; social context and interaction frame our realities.	
Critical Paradigm	Power, inequality, and social change	Social science can never be truly value-free and should be conducted with the express goal of social change in mind.	
Postmodernism	-	Truth in any form may or may not be knowable.	

Table 1: Social Scientific Paradigms (Sheppard, 2020)

Since the research question has to be addressed considering the varying views of different social actors, such as institutions, governments, and citizens, it seems most appropriate to use the social constructivist paradigm. This paradigm, believing that truth varies, is socially constructed and everchanging, unlike positivists who seek a single reality (Sheppard, 2020). Reality and truth vary according to the viewpoint of the actor concerned, and the perception of reality changes continuously according to individuals' interactions with each other (DeCarlo, 2018). The social constructionism paradigm considers the world to be socially constructed, complex, and constantly changing as we create reality ourselves through our interactions and interpretations of it (Tuli, 2010; DeCarlo, 2018). The concepts used in this study can only be understood if we seek to understand how social actors perceive these concepts (Baert et al., 2011). Since social life is creative and has a purpose, it can only be explained by an interpretive understanding, supported by social constructivism (ibid.).

The paradigm limitations do not characterize social science as fundamentally biased; during the research process, researchers must be aware of and address these biases.

3.1.2 Ontology

Ontology is the study of what can be known about the world (Al-Saadi, 2014). Ontology refers to how the world is perceived and helps the researcher about the nature and existence of what he/she is studying the legitimacy of what he/she perceives to be true (Moon & Blackman, 2021). Ontological matters in the social sciences concern the nature of reality, and in this case, the reality this study seeks to explore is how NGOs contribute to France's political and economic position in Central Sahel Region.

There are two different ontological positions: objectivism, arguing that there is a reality independent of actors, and the second, constructionism, arguing that reality is the product of social processes (Tuli, 2010). Objectivism supports the idea that social phenomena and their interpretations exist and are independent of the social actors involved (Sheppard, 2020; Bryman, 2012). On the other hand, constructionism asserts that social actors continuously produce phenomena and the interpretations they give to them (ibid.).

The world is believed to have come into existence through social interaction as NGO's contribution in Central Sahel Region is seen as something depending on the people living the process, both by NGO actors and Sahel population. Constructionism implies that social phenomena are constantly revised and produced by social interactions (Bryman, 2012). It is then a process of describing what is observed by taking into account the context and the people involved (Cousi, 2022). Constructionism allows the researcher to consider social realities as being entirely the product of social actors and not as realities that go beyond them (ibid.).

3.1.3 Epistemology

Epistemology is related to the issue of knowledge insofar as it questions how we know what we know, includes our understanding of that knowledge, and asks what can be considered knowledge (Sheppard, 2020; Al-Saadi, 2014; Tuli, 2010). Epistemology deals with the knowledge's nature, scope, and legitimacy (Al-Saadi, 2014).

Two philosophies arise from epistemology, positivism and interpretivism. Positivism advocates using natural science methods to study a social phenomenon, while interpretivism wishes to collect data sensitive to the studied context, allowing to obtain numerous and rich descriptions of a phenomenon (Bryman, 2012; Tuli, 2010). Interpretivism emphasizes a better understanding of the world, holding the view that people face many realities that need to be understood in their context (Tuli, 2010; Klenke, 2016). Knowledge will therefore be gathered from every actors involved in the research: NGOs, citizens and country. The use of secondary sources will be critical to this learning process. Understanding how social actors use language, symbols and construct their social practices is essential to describe the social world (Klenke, 2016).

Using an interpretive epistemology allows for descriptive analysis, emphasizing a deep and interpretive understanding of a social phenomenon, such as the role of NGOs in the political and economic Sahelian context. There cannot be any objective knowledge given that knowledge and its meaning are matters of interpretation, which is why the data analysis will not be objective due to the topic's understanding and interpretation.

The social reality that is explored in this study is how to gain knowledge about the processes used by NGOs to assert France's political and economic position in Burkina Faso. Since social realities are investigated, interpreted, and described, qualitative research is used. The researchers' construction of knowledge is a matter of interpretation and will then use qualitative analysis, which will be discuss in the next section (Cousi, 2022).

3.2 Research Strategy

Two types of research are conducted in social science, quantitative, which is based on numerical data, and qualitative, which is non-numerical and therefore text-based.

Qualitative research involves the researcher in language-based research and interpretation to understand behavior, beliefs, and so on, in a particular context, and can also be used in the process of theoretical development (Walliman, 2006a; Bryman, 2012.). The qualitative method is based on an interpretive epistemology and a constructionist ontology, fully following the philosophy of science choices. When this method is used, there is a continuous interaction between data collection and analysis, allowing a progressive growth of understanding (Walliman, 2006b). As this study wants to understand as well as to describe the trust that NGOs can bring to local populations, where there is still little knowledge on this subject, the use of qualitative research seems relevant as it seeks to gain understanding at the individual or group level, primarily when little is known about a specific issue.

Qualitative research allows data collection and analysis to continuously adapt as new ideas emerge, leaving the door open to new issues not yet explored (Bhandari, 2020). This research may therefore lead to new perspectives that have not been exploited by existing actors and raise new questions involving NGOs, countries, their citizens and policies.

On the other hand, qualitative research is not replicable as the researcher decides what to consider and what not to consider when collecting and analyzing data; therefore, another piece of research with the same data on the role of NGOs in the Sahel can differ significantly (ibid).

3.3 Data collection

Data collection is used to collect elements from various sources to obtain information and answers (in which quality is essential) to answer the research question (Egnyte, 2021; Bryman, 2012). Primary data collection methods allow information to be obtained directly from the source, for example through interviews. On the other hand, secondary data collection methods collect information from already existing data (Egnyte, 2021.).

While various sources exist on NGOs activities in the South, and others deal with the position of Sahelian citizens in their countries, few, if any, resources combine the two, nor do they exist on the notions of trust that can be generated between states and their citizens, via NGOs. Different sources, such as journal articles or grey literature, will be used to increase the scope and ensure an adequate validity level. However, defining a source as valid is not obvious; therefore, this study will take several criteria before collecting information on sources, such as its intended purpose and audience, design, and writing quality (DeCarlo, 2018). For instance, this research will use journal articles written by scholars, addressed to researchers interested in a specific topic such as "Conflict and nation building challenges in Africa", or books containing important scholarly information about the political situation in the Sahel (ibid.). What is defined as 'grey literature, i.e., research and information from government agencies, policy organizations, and institutions, are sources to be considered in research on international phenomena involving several states and institutions, and will be used in this research as it can explore the impact of NGOs in a given area (Bhattacherjee, 2022).

Doing an analysis based on secondary data will allow one to spend more time analyzing and interpreting the data rather than collecting it as it is time-consuming (Bryman, 2012). On the other hand, the data may not necessarily be collected scientifically and, therefore, unsuitable for scientific research as it may have been collected for reasons other than the research purpose (Bhattacherjee, 2022). For instance, the sources used could include information about French support in other parts of the southern world or NGO activities in Europe.

3.4 Research method

The qualitative case study is a research methodology allowing the exploration of a phenomenon in a specific context (Rashid et al., 2019). The case study is used when it can reveal knowledge about a phenomenon, whereby information could not be accessible otherwise, as it analyses and describes in detail a phenomenon, process, or event (Merriam, 1998; Reboli, 2013). Therefore, this case study is the descriptive understanding of a particular case and its analysis, which in this research deals with the relationship between Sahelian citizens, their governments, external actors, and the development procedures set up by the latter in a context of insecurity due to war and corruption. This research methodology is suitable when the researcher has little or no control over the events described, taking place within some real-life context, as is the case with the events taking place in the Sahel, which are beyond the researcher's capacity for action, as are the measures taken at institutional and governmental levels (Rashid et al., 2019).

This case study is considered an exploratory case study as it investigates a phenomenon with no prior research, where data on the topic is limited, and where the research environment limits the methodology choice (Mills et al., 2010). The phenomenon studied is chosen not because of a representative sample but rather as it is unusual and striking, in a dynamic relationship between Sahelian actors in a development context, where lack of trust is as present as doubts about government procedures. The main research question of this study is suitable for the exploratory case study as this methodology allows for the containing questions 'how,' as the actors in the context studied cannot be influenced by the researcher, and the contextual conditions wanted to be covered as they are judged relevant (Reboli, 2013).

This study involving the role of NGOs in the Central Sahelian development context is related to the exploratory case study in the sense that it will help define questions and hypotheses for future research development. Exploratory case studies are suitable for process research, seeking to describe a context discovering the extent to which a program is implemented, as in the case of trust, governance, and decentralization (Merriam, 1998).

Nevertheless, the flexibility of the exploratory case study regarding, for instance, the data collection methods and its lack of prior theory-based assumptions can be considered as weaknesses (Mills et al., 2010). Similarly, its lack of representativeness and the bias introduced by the researcher's subjectivity, discussed in the validity and reliability section, must be known by both the author and the readers as they may affect the final product (Merriam, 1998). Furthermore, this method is time-consuming, especially as a considerable amount of time is devoted to gathering data that can be used in this research, given that little information exists on the development processes in Burkina Faso, where French NGOs are actively involved. Thus, more time may be spent collecting the data than analyzing it.

3.5 Research Design

The criteria for evaluating social research are related to research design. "It is, therefore, a framework for the generation of evidence that is suited both to a certain set of criteria and to the research question in which the investigator is interested." (Bryman, 2012, p.45). The choice of a research design provides a framework for data collection and analysis (Bryman, 2012)

3.5.1 Type of Study

Exploratory research is carried out when little or no scientific knowledge exists about a group, process, or topic, but there is reason to believe that relevant evidence can be discovered (Stebbins, 2001). Given that the research aims to gain more knowledge about the links that NGOs have with states, institutions, and local populations within the development processes in Burkina Faso, the resulting trust and empowerment outcomes, this study considers using the exploratory research type. This choice of study type can be explained by the fact that there is no pre-existing knowledge in this subject, which has specific questions that this study will try to answer. Exploratory research can also be used if a researcher is curious about a topic and wants to obtain general ideas (DeCarlo, 2018).

It is worth bearing in mind that collecting information on a topic with little or no previous exploration can be challenging and that the results may be biased due to the lack of pre-

existing knowledge (George, 2021). Nevertheless, adopting this study design can serve as a guide for future research and is also very flexible, open-ended, and cost-effective, allowing for the process to be carried out in the manner that seems best to the researcher (ibid.).

3.5.2 Reasoning

There are two traditional approaches in research, the first, inductive, based on observations in order to generate a general conclusion, or the deductive, starting from a hypothesis, tested by data (Mitchell, 2018). However, a third, less common approach exists, abduction.

Using abduction, research "grounds a theoretical understanding of the contexts and people he or she is studying in the language, meanings, and perspectives that form their worldview." (Bryman, 2012, p.401). Abductive reasoning uses observations to predict better reality or even a new theory (Mitchell, 2018). This approach is still close to the inductive, by making logical inference, and deductive one as it can construct theories (ibid.). It differs, however, by being able to change and develop the theoretical framework before, during, and after the research process, by moving back and forth between hypothetical inductive settings and deductive ones, attempts to verify hypothesis (CIDOB, 2015). Hence, this study will often connect the analysis of the situation of NGOs, development, and trust in Africa with the chosen theories.

	Deduction	Induction	Abduction
Logic	In a deductive inference, when the premises are true, the conclusion must also be true.	In an inductive inference, known premises are used to generate untested conclusions.	In an abductive inference, known premises are used to generate testable conclusions.
From/To	Generalise from the general to the specific.	Generalise from the specific to the general.	Generalise from the interactions between the specific and the general.
Use of data	Data collection is used to evaluate propositions or hypotheses related to an existing theory.	Data collection is used to explore a phenomenon, identify themes and patterns and create a conceptual framework	Data collection is used to explore a phenomenon, identify themes and patterns, locate these in a conceptual framework and test this through subsequent data collection and so forth.
Theory	Theory falsification or verification.	Theory generation and building.	Theory generation or modification; incorporating existing theory where appropriate, to build new theory or modify existing theory.

Table 2: Comparative approaches (Dudosvkiy in Mitchell, 2018)

Abduction is mainly applied when the phenomena to be explored contain a few theories that can be applied in the research (Friedrichs & Kratochwil, 2009). As theories on how an NGO from a particular country intervening abroad can strengthen its country's position, or on the trust between organizations and citizens of southern countries, do not exist, this research will have to rely on theories that can be applied to the investigated phenomena.

Therefore, the study's reasoning will be at an intermediate level, rather than inferring propositions from facts, as is the case in induction or abstract theoretical templates as in deductive reasoning (Friedrichs & Kratochwil, 2009). The abductive approach is relevant when research wishes to discover new insights, as it is the case with this topic, knowing little or no previous analysis about NGOs as a link between citizens and their government in central-Sahel on a political and economic level.

3.6 Validity & reliability

The validity, which is about the accuracy, and reliability about consistency, are key aspects in social research evaluating the research's quality and allowing other researchers to find it credible and trustworthy (Sheppard, 2020; Brink, 1993).

To enable greater validity, it is appropriate to ensure that the methods used in the research are clearly defined. Indeed, if the researcher presents a vague research design, the research may be seen as invalid and unreliable; therefore, each methodological strategy must be described (Brink, 1993). Furthermore, it is advisable that the data collected is valid in the research context; this is called content validity. The researcher must ensure that the information collected from the different sources is suitable for use in the research (Drost, 2011). As qualitative research is exploratory, research bias is a frequently encountered issue due to its openness. It will be essential for the researcher to ensure that the perspectives and views of the researched topic do not alter the way the research is conducted or how the data collected is interpreted. The researcher's views on political, economic, and trust issues related to Africa and in particular, the Sahel region need to be acknowledged as they may affect the research findings. Reflexivity emerges at this point and ensures that the researcher is even more aware of their beliefs and controls their biases through critical self-reflection on any biases they may have about the conducted study (Cypress, 2017).

Subjectivity is also present in qualitative research, guiding the choice of subject matter, the selection of methodology, and the data interpretation (Ratner, 2002). It guides the researcher's interests and concerns, in this case, the presence of former settlers in their former colonies and the political and economic influence they cultivate. Subjectivity considers essential decisions in data selection, whether it is meaningful, reliable, or not (Bumbur, 2016). The researcher may, for example, favor data from international institutions rather than from a researcher who has knowledge in the field but does not affect the area under study.

Reliability is the ability of a method used in a study to produce similar results on comparable research (Brink, 1993). It requires the researcher using a method to obtain the same or comparable results on the same topic stream (ibid.). According to social constructionism, since reality is produced by social actors and is seen in different ways, the outcomes of studies may be different, in addition to the fact that it is accepted that there is no right or wrong. The issue of generalization also arises, where the analytical generalization supports the extent to which findings in a given study can be generalized to another one with the same theoretical considerations (Leung, 2015). This raises the question of whether this study can be replicated with other former colonial countries and their former colonies based in an area with Sahel-like conditions. Nonetheless, former colonizers did not necessarily have colonies with the same settings in terms of geography, history, and political position as those of France and thus Burkina Faso.

3.7 Limitations

Due to the use of secondary data analysis, the data collected could be inapplicable in a scientific context as it would be collected for a different purpose and therefore not suitably deal with the research questions (Bhattacherjee, 2022). It may be the case when researching the role of NGOs in development, which may occur in a different context to this investigative research, whether it is on another type of development or another continent. In addition, much time can be spent collecting data and sorting it to apply them to the research questions (Gaille, 2018).

Researcher bias will also be a limitation of this research as in qualitative research; the bias can affect the data treatment and later the conclusion (ibid.). The choice of theories can also

influence the researcher's field of vision, and thus the treatment of the research questions, following analysis, and the outcome (Bhattacherjee, 2022). This is all the more explainable in this research as the theories used may not give adequate explanations for the phenomenon studied, where only a little information exists.

4. Theoretical consideration

Development has many forms and various approaches (Halperin, 2018). It is defined as a multidimensional process involving significant changes affecting national institutions, social, political, and economic structures and processes (Antwi, 2019). Most theories related to development are mainly about economic development with the state as the basis thereof, trying to understand and explain its role in this process (Halperin, 2018). In this study, the actor studied is not only the state but also the institutions linked to it, the NGOs.

Trust is a paramount aspect within a society; without it, the foundations of a community and society can fall apart (Kwon, 2019). It is the willingness to depend on a party other than oneself without absolute security; such a party can be any entity as an institution or a person (Kavanagh et al., 2021). Therefore, social trust is a key factor in social and economic development, making it multidimensional (Kwon, 2019). Although society is made up of individuals, it also has institutions, organizations, and structures; therefore, trust can flow from a citizen to an institution, called institutional trust (ibid.).

Both theories can be applied in a context of development inspiration from the South towards the North, and although fundamentally different, they complement each other, especially as they both emphasize political-economic aspects that may be relevant to this research context.

4.1 Modernization Theory

Following the Second World War, Modernization theory emerged, focusing on how states emerging from European colonization shaped their economies and, to a lesser extent, their policies (ibid.). French-speaking West African countries, including Burkina Faso, fit into this dimension and find their place in studies containing this theory. The modernization theory

tells how Western countries « limned a path to a universal modernity that all other countries can follow if only they implement a few well-understood policies and principles. » (Gilman, 2018, p.133).

The theory highlights the leading role of western countries in this development process, which France, in the context of this study, should therefore have in the central Sahel (Kyianytsia, 2021). A distinction is then made between two types of countries, those of the southern world considered as 'traditional,' and the western ones as 'modern.' Traditional societies impede their development as norms, beliefs entangle them, and values thus need to adapt to a modernized lifestyle (Antwi, 2019). The economic aspects could be transformed in Burkinabe policies only if they adapt to a modern living style, similar to the Westerners, through a change in governmental procedures. The developments proposed by the West concern the military branch, social & political structures, and bureaucratic institutions (Gilman, 2018). This theory claims that once in contact with western societies, developing countries would be driven by modernization to achieve political, economic, and social characteristics similar to the western ones (Halperin, 2018).

The modernization theory seeks to improve the living conditions of developing countries by boosting their economies by implementing more modern economic strategies and technologies (Antwi, 2019). The main difference between societies regarded as modern and traditional is the secular science and philosophy instead of religion and the importance of industrialization compared to basic agriculture, opposite concepts in technology (Kyianytsia, 2021). This dimensional difference can take another form, on the political aspect between decentralized governments in the West and centralized governments in Africa, or those that no longer seek to be so.

Modernization theorists consider underdevelopment as a stage in developing countries, which may be due to capital problems (Halperin, 2018). In this theoretical framework, economic development facilitates political development, emphasizing that the emergence of democracy occurs alongside economic growth (Klinger, 2019). The political flaws in Burkina, due to security and governance problems, make it difficult to see a viable democracy and a sustainable economy. The modernization theory emphasizes that the transformation of

political ideas and institutions goes hand in hand with economic and social change (ibid.). It remains necessary to clarify that the modernization process works and operates in the long term, as it is an evolutionary change and not a revolution, which is why several decades will have to pass before any impacts can be seen (ibid.). Such is the case in this research due to the procedures that French and international institutions wish to implement.

Modernization theory has been used in research over the last few decades, with several waves of researchers reviving it, illustrating that this theory adapts over time (Stockemer & Sundström, 2014). The classical approach applies a theoretical construction with a high level of abstraction, while the more recent approach considers concrete case studies given in a historical context, which is why this study is closer to the latter approach (Reyes, 2001). Furthermore, the classical approach neglects external factors and conflict, whereas the new approach pays great attention to it, allowing for a better consideration of the context in which the G5S members find themselves (ibid.).

A strength of modernization theory, as it is used, for example, in psychology and politics, is that it can adapt to multiple contexts and extend into various spheres (ibid.). Moreover, it does not only want to consider and develop past events but also aims to predict what might happen in the future (Inglehart, 2017). Nevertheless, it has disadvantages, such as that it mainly concerns the economic aspects, less the political ones. As a result, the political aspect of this research can rely less on this theory, while the development principles studied are mainly political. Furthermore, it emphasizes that southern countries have to accept the development process from western societies (Antwi, 2009). This theory neglects southern countries' social and cultural structures and creates their dependency on western ones (ibid.). It fails to acknowledge that developing countries are structured differently from Western ones and, therefore, need an appropriate form of modernization (Halperin, 2018).

4.2 Institutional trust

Institutional trust is the confidence citizens have in institutions, holding expectations regarding efficiency, fairness, and ethics to their assigned roles (Kwon, 2019). It is based on evaluating the institutions' performance or the people in charge of them. Therefore, if

institutional practices are not appropriate for local people, distrust may arise. When citizens find that institutions are efficient, competent, fair, honest, and transparent, a high level of trust is present and influences the feeling of safety and security (Angino et al., 2021). Given that Burkinabe citizens are in a period of conflict, it doesn't seem easy to assess a positive trust level towards their government. The ethical behavior of politicians, in addition to their integrity, is perceived positively, especially when they put the citizens' interests before their personal interests, including corruption (ibid.). The higher the level of corruption, the lower the institutional trust will be, triggering a vicious circle in which distrust breeds more distrust (Kwon, 2019). A national culture of distrust in institutions can then develop while at the same time making society dysfunctional, which the G5S countries seek to avoid through support from external countries and organizations. Once a member of society violates the latter's norms, it finds itself sanctioned, as can be the case for members of corrupt governments, being frowned upon by citizens, whether in developed or developing countries (ibid.).

Allowing for optimal governance when its level of trust is at its highest, the institutional trust allows political institutions to be seen as legitimate and effective by members of a society (Angino et al., 2021). The institutional theory emphasizes that all institutions when they have a coordinated and multidimensional approach, allow for better social and economic development, as should be the case between NGOs and the Burkinabe government (Kwon, 2019). By encouraging the implementation of new policies, NGOs encourage better economic management and thus better economic development. Better economic policies go hand in hand with better social policies and, combined, increase institutional trust. Citizens have freer association and participation in social and political activities in democratic countries and smaller political power gaps, aspects that Central Sahelian countries could improve to increase their institutional trust. A nation's citizens likely have a sense of vulnerability, distrust, and powerlessness against government decisions when a significant power distance exists (Angino et al., 2021). Moreover, trust in policies will only be high if trust in institutions is also high (Kwon, 2019).

The advantage of institutional trust is that it is perceived as positive since it can improve the functioning of institutions and the trustworthiness of personnel in charge (Kwon, 2019). Moreover, it is central when discussing social settings in a country and comparing different

nations (ibid.). It is linked with Modernization theory as there is a comparison between western societies and southern ones. Institutional trust differs between countries as they have different settings (ibid.). However, the weakness of this theory is that it enhances that institutional trust is only about the ability of government to fulfill its role without taking into account the role of citizens, for example, in understanding that events may occur that prevent governments from taking specific actions. Such events can, for example, be a terrorist attack or an attempted coup d'état.

5. Analysis

Recognized at the creation of the United Nations as private organizations whose activity is to relieve suffering, provide basic social services, and promote the interest of the poor & marginalized, NGOs have from the outset been requested to participate in international institution's activities such as the EU or the UN itself (Corsini, 2011; Ezeoha, 2006). NGOs also aim to bring long-term structural changes according to the situation, as is the case in the Central Sahel (Corsini, 2011). Non-governmental organizations promote social and political stability and the rule of law, enforcing appropriate principles of transparency and laws themselves; within a principle of good governance, which in this study shows it wishes to be applied in Central Sahelian states, specifically in Burkina (Ezeoha, 2006). They allow the development of economic prosperity in a State by promoting democracy and stability (ibid.). Moreover, NGOs can develop, interpret and apply norms that can be submitted to the states in which they intervene (Ferey, 2021). These organizations can do this while they have examined the policies, rules, and procedures that a State is planning to set up or has already set up, still within a governance framework (Ezeoha, 2006). NGOs play an essential role in reducing incentives for corruption and providing a voice for unheard interests (ibid.). They are also important field actors because they benefit the population and are interlocutors for the international institutions and states with which they intervene and negotiate (Cité de l'économie, 2020).

In their role of development assistance, NGOs act as agents of the state or sending institution, as is the case in French NGO intervention in the development of foreign government policies,

as in this research in Burkina Faso (Shehu Gremaud, 2012). The modernization aspect is shaped by the fact that a Western organization takes a leading role in the development policy process of a southern country. These organizations, perceived by the West as strong allies and trust agents, can favorably influence relations between the West and southern countries, including African countries, making dialogue between several institutions possible in a mediating role (Ezeoha, 2006). Indeed, NGOs can link institutions and states throughout the whole development project cycle, from the proposal to the close-out stage, as they ensure the smooth running of the project. The mediating role does not end there, as they seek to care for the marginalized, advocating their inclusion in the political picture (Ezeoha, 2006). Although the actions of NGOs can be seen as anti-government in that they review current laws, propose new ones, and seek to include new actors in the political debate, the institutions and states sending NGOs abroad must ensure that their exercise is for the benefit of the targeted populations (ibid.). It should be noted that there is no question of adversity in this research, as it is the members of the G5S themselves, including Burkina Faso, that have called on France's financial support and the skills of its NGOs. Intervention measures and associated solutions must be co-constructed with all actors, including citizens, allowing for better development as all are included in the debate, thus allowing for the increase of citizens' trust in all institutions involved, including their government (Thioune, 2015).

NGOs are key intermediaries between public authorities and the population, collecting field information and reporting it to governments (Cité de l'économie, 2020). They enjoy great prestige among the population in view of their role and effectiveness in their field; they are seen by them as bearers of hope (Perroulaz, 2004). Since they are often in contact with the poorest and most marginalized, they are better able to help them by identifying their situations and needs (Ezeoha, 2006). They can enable the participation of local people in debates while bringing to bear their local knowledge and expertise (ibid.). Given their role, these organizations propose and implement political and economic policies for the benefit of the poorest at the local, regional, and even national levels (Ezeoha, 2006). Given their oppositional status and antipathy towards the government that pays little attention to them, poor and marginalized citizens need alternative structures such as NGOs to relate to their governments, consult them, and express their needs (Ezeoha, 2006). This process can enhance institutional trust, as it can ultimately improve the institution's functioning and efficiency.

NGOs are recognized as much for their concerns as for their level of expertise (Corsini, 2011). Their operational practices and innovations they wish to bring into the countries they operate, in a modernization spirit, by bringing in Western processes and visions, allow them to have influence and put pressure on state actors one (Ryfman, 2020). Alongside their fieldwork, NGOs have an advocacy role by providing expertise and denouncing situations (Corsini, 2011). They enrich the empirical literature by presenting their viewpoint, as in the case of the NGO Transparency International, which produces an annual report on corruption on a global scale and has become an essential reference source (ibid.).

In Africa, foreign NGOs can play an inspirational role for local institutions in setting up structures to control corruption at the national level (Ezeoha, 2006). This is seen as a call for modernization through inspiration, with a transfer of knowledge and know-how from North to South.

Through their advocacy role, Western NGOs need to acquire and provide knowledge to argue for government transparency in Africa so that their operations are made public and no longer secret (Ezeoha, 2006). Because of the youth of African states following decolonization, foreign NGOs are welcome and can contribute to local development through the various measures implemented (Thioune, 2015). Moreover, it is in sub-Saharan Africa that most NGOs play an advocacy role, as governance concerns are chronic but also prone to crises, making the G5S's desire to act for better governance in its territories all the more pertinent (Ezeoha, 2006.). Due to their expertise in development projects for African populations, foreign NGOs are popular and particularly respected by the locals (ibid.). These foreign organizations are gradually substituting the state in their development role, with African institutions becoming comfortable with this situation, as they believe that external actors' intervention is cost-free (Thioune, 2015). They become like the branches of the state, which then no longer cares about obtaining the necessary finances to provide a qualitative and accessible service for its citizens throughout its territory, making it difficult for citizens to trust them (ibid.). Whatever process is applied in Africa by governments or foreign NGOs, it must be adapted to its own context of action, and in this research, to the situation of Burkina in its desire to improve its governance.

It is on this development issue that this analysis focuses on; the first seeks to fight corruption through transparency and technology, while the second will focus on NGOs educating role.

Each of these points will be addressed, focusing on Burkina Faso and the methods used by NGOs to achieve them. This research uses various secondary data such as journal articles and institutional and state documents; being relevant as a connection is created between what is wanted to be investigated and how it will be investigated. Student papers will also be used to take into account what has already been produced and dig into a topic where more knowledge production is needed. However, the primary resources remain journal articles and institutional documents.

5.1. The Burkinabe context

The NGO Transparency International, in its Corruption Perceptions Index report published in 2021, ranked Burkina Faso 86th out of 180 countries worldwide (REN-LAC, 2021). Burkina Faso has faced a decline in the ranking for three consecutive years (ibid.). Corruption occurs when a public official breaks the law for their personal interests (Khan, 2006). Corruption comes in different types (money, position, power), has different methods (embezzlement, bribery, future employment), and targets different aspects (legal or regulatory application, procurements, laws, and regulatory design) (Kenny, 2017). According to various reports published over the years, corruption in Burkina Faso can be seen at all these different levels, especially at the political and economic levels (AJB & CCPR, 2020). For example, the state lost 10 billion CFA francs in embezzlement and cash shortages in 2017 and expenses that were not documented (ibid.). Corruption by state officials is the most damaging form in developing countries, where officials use political power for their own interests, in a context where citizens suffer from a lack of finances and assets and are in need (Khan, 2006). When institutional practices are not appropriate for local people, distrust arises, as is the case in Burkina Faso. When reported, Burkina Faso's corruption cases involve people close to the ruling government (AJB & CCPR, 2020).

In the period of crisis and insecurity that Burkina Faso is experiencing for a couple of years, an ethical renewal must be carried out, with a significant fight against corruption, especially since corruption and insecurity go hand in hand (ibid.). When corruption is systemic in a country, where the level of institutional trust is low, corruption is a collective action problem; therefore, all parts of a state, including citizens, must be involved in the fight against

corruption by taking different actions (Menocal et al., 2015). The country's goal is then to address its fragile situation on different levels and contribute to its stability, as it faces critical governance challenges at political, institutional, economic, and administrative levels (EU Commission, 2021). In terms of economic governance, new initiatives are welcome to strengthen the fight against corrupt practices and budget transparency. Furthermore, the poor management of public spending limits the capacity of the Burkinabe government to implement public policies (ibid.). These shortcomings are reflected in local governance, which hinders development at this level (Loada, 2007). New management and better economic policies can also increase institutional trust.

Good governance at both central and local levels has become a priority in the development of public policies, despite the limited state resources, which does not allow for an effective fulfillment of citizens' needs and expectations (EU Commission, 2021). France and its NGOs have an intense commitment in this field in Burkina Faso, aiming at peace, social cohesion, local development, and good governance (EU Commission, 2021). Partnerships between the Burkinabe state and French NGOs are multiplying in implementing development programs, with NGOs taking the lead role in this local development assistance (Enée, 2015).

A few months before 2017, Burkina Faso expressed its willingness to be part of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) (AFD, 2017; Expertise France et al., 2019). The OGP aims to modernize a state at the service of its citizens and ensure the accountability of its activities through open data and new technologies (AFD, 2017). Within the OGP framework, France is committed to supporting all french-speaking countries in their desire for transparency and has therefore been asked by Burkina Faso to support the implementation of reforms and encourage experience sharing and innovative tools (Expertise France, 2019). Indeed, the OGP promotes transparency and the support of new technologies for the opening of data and accountability (Expertise France et al., 2019). Looking to modernize its state, Burkina Faso seeks to borrow policy ideas and solutions from France, highlighting the leading role of a western country in the development process of a southern one. It is within this framework that the french government, with funding from the French Development Agency (AFD), implemented the "Support Project for Open french-speaking governments", more commonly known as PAGOF (ibid.).

PAGOF aims to support and assist the Burkinabe state in implementing transparency and accountability through new technologies (Expertise France, 2019). For its implementation, AFD, which is financing the project, is working in close collaboration with two French NGOs deployed in Burkina Faso: Expertise France and the French Agency for Media Development (CFI). This project, which has been running since October 2017, is dedicated to good local governance, accountability; and involves state agents, citizens, and new technologies (AFD, 2017; BFC International, 2022). The accountability principle allows citizens to recognize that the relationship between authorities and locals is equal, allowing the state to re-launch a positive image among its population and thus strengthen trust.

PAGOF aims to support and assist Burkina in developing transparency of public activities, access to data, and the use of new technologies (Expertise France, 2019). The PAGOF is therefore strengthening Burkina in these areas, in a reform process, and in promoting the networking of government data. This includes technical assistance provided by the two NGOs involved, targeting both administrations and citizens (AFD, 2017). Expertise France and CFI then assist the country in disseminating information, which is essential for citizens to understand and track local policies (BFC International, 2022). They also support elected officials and local authorities in transparency and accountability to citizens in the management of public affairs (ibid.). Each citizen will then be able to access public information provided by the government, allowing them to follow the actions and evolution of local democratic decisions (Expertise France et al., 2019). The modernization theory is felt when acknowledging that Burkina, as a southern country, perceives itself as traditional and seeks to adapt to a modernized lifestyle, approaching the western country's lifestyle (Antwi, 2019). Various measures are being implemented by French NGOs, including the design of digital tools and platforms linking citizens and policymakers in disseminating information (ibid.). The development of a technological civilization allowing state agents to make government information more accessible and citizens to increase their knowledge of local politics is also discussed (ibid.). In this respect, modernization theory emphasizes the use of technological strategies to improve the living conditions of developing countries. Training is, therefore, an essential issue in this new process, providing knowledge and skills to the different actors involved in this project.

Nevertheless, the PAGOF has obstacles in its implementation, including the low educational level of local populations, possible language barriers, and difficulties in internet access (Expertise France et al., 2019). The potential refusal of government officials to release official documents may also limit the project (ibid.). Furthermore, the results will not be visible immediately but over the long term.

5.2. Technology and transparency

The use of technology is a PAGOF commitment in its desire to support and guide the Burkinabe State in improving transparency and accountability to its citizens (Expertise France, 2019). Data accessibility for citizens through new technologies is a modernization of the State, which, by developing its digital transparency, improves access to information and its governance (AFD, 2017; Expertise France et al., 2019). In terms of disseminating information through technological means, this evolution allows for the modernization of Burkinabe government procedures, leading to a shift in political policies.

Technology provides powerful platforms for transparency, promoting information access on governmental decisions (Coley-Graham, 2019). The very concept of transparency is to provide access to information, and when it is institutional, allows citizens to form an opinion on the implemented actions and processes (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010). This transparency enables Burkinabe citizens to obtain relevant information on government decisions affecting them and form an opinion on these decisions, which may or not affect their trust level in the government (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013). Therefore, the use of the internet is essential in disseminating governmental information. The government can release information more easily and can be reached by any citizen having internet access (ibid.). This is referred to as computer-mediated transparency, a modern transparency model, in this case, promoted by Western NGOs for a southern country, allowing it to improve its effectiveness in terms of good governance. Computed-mediated transparency is a citizen's ability to observe an institution's operations to have better insight into them (Meijer, 2009). It is a tool to improve governance by reducing corruption and enhancing accountability to citizens (Meijer, 2009). The promotion of

computer-mediated transparency by two Western NGOs makes Burkinabe methods more modern and adapted to a lifestyle close to the Western one (Antwi, 2019).

Within the PAGOF framework, French NGOs promote the dissemination of financial documents using an online platform, where public revenues and expenditures for a current period and forecasts for future periods are recorded (CFI et al., 2019). In line with the modernization theory, the transformation of political and institutional methods, which in this case is technology-driven, goes hand in hand with economic and social change, in which Burkinabe citizens are involved (Klinger, 2019).

In technological transparency, two forms confront each other, "push effort transparency," which aims to use technology to amplify the voices of the citizens by disseminating their demands, and "pull effort transparency," where institutions share information with citizens intending to improve their performance (Avila et al., 2010). "Technology solutions in pull projects aim to provide an accessible information pool from which the public can pull relevant information to better inform their demand for improved governance " (Avila et al., 2010, p.6). This approach is akin to the pull and push factors used in demography, although different since they are factors of attractiveness or repulsiveness of a destination (Géoconfluences, 2018). For example, the attractiveness idea of the pull factor is transformed, in this case, into a government act, allowing the attraction of citizens favor. Unlike the push technology principles, the PAGOF project follows a pull effort. In seeking to gain the trust of their citizens, government officials must provide information that is accessible, useful, and understood by citizens to prove their efficiency in the flawless functioning of governance. Through the PAGOF and in a pull effort, government officials are accountable for the management of public finances, providing citizens with budgetary information and data (CFI et al., 2019). Citizens are enlightened about their local representatives' operations, who, by transparently explaining the management of a municipality's budget, allow citizens to see that no financial actions are hidden. This transparency allows for better regulation of the information transfer between citizens and officials, enabling the former to monitor the latter for potential corruption (Bauhr et al., 2019). This ties into principles of institutional trust, indicating that citizens evaluate their government officials according to their institutional practices, in this case, according to their financial disclosure capacities and content (Kwon, 2019). Potential abuses can be detected

more clearly through this digital transfer of information, and if corruption does occur, citizens can ask for accountability (ibid.).

However, transparency aims to bring positive changes in the notion of trust by reinforcing government agents' credibility (Park & Blenkinsopp, 2011). The implementation of this technological transparency, in pull effort transparency, allows for the inward observability of citizens. Indeed, citizens, being external actors to the government, can monitor activities, performances, and decisions undertaken within the government (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013). Citizens' trust in their leaders and governments also depends on the latter's performance. By having an overview of the government's performance, citizens can better form an opinion on the government's effectiveness and thus adjust the trust level in them according to their satisfaction. Citizen satisfaction and trust are achieved through the publication of government results and the visibility of process making. Transparency of decision-making processes is relevant as it allows citizens to assess why the decision outcomes in a given way (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013). It complements the citizen's inward observability, as it allows them to understand why, how, for what purpose a financial measure is adopted and how it may affect citizens. Decision-making transparency also allows Burkinabe citizens to understand better the situations in which politicians may find themselves when important financial choices are made, allowing a form of empathy towards them (GFOA, 2017).

A positive influence is triggered on trust and accountability, as transparency allows citizens to monitor the public service and its actions (Park & Blenkinsopp, 2011). Government officials are encouraged to respect its principles as much as possible to increase the trust that citizens have in them in the insecurity context in which they find themselves. Indeed, a citizen cannot feel secure if the government's actions are concealed, as he or she will believe that political and economic operations that may or may not harm them are carried out without their awareness (Lonstein, 2021). Transparency, therefore, becomes an essential tool to ensure that, in Burkina Faso's insecurity time, citizens can feel a certain trust in their government through the information transmitted, providing them a security feeling. Again, transparency and trust play crucial roles in formulating policies to satisfy citizens and reduce corruption (Park & Blenkinsopp, 2011). The relationship between citizens and authorities then evolves

when transparency is applied, influencing the Burkinabe government, seeking to fight corruption and improve trust, to disclose more information about its budgetary actions and policies (Park & Blenkinsopp, 2011).

PAGOF's implementation of technological processes, enabling better communication between government and citizens, is characteristic of civic technology. Civic technology is described as technology engaging together the citizen with the government and facilitating communication between them. By applying good governance through transparency, it allows the Burkinabe government to curb tendencies toward corruption. Allowing a shifting towards open government principles, civic technology advocates that the internet enables the government to be more accountable to citizens through the dissemination and accessibility of different information (Rumbul, 2016).

By opening up data about their actions and allowing citizens to understand what they are doing, public officials make themselves accountable for their actions (NewTactics, 2011). Transparency, in this case under civic technology, allows Burkinabe public officials to be responsible for their actions or inactions towards public policy and citizens, which can positively or negatively influence the trust level granted to them. Their actions concern the dissemination of budgetary information, which on the one hand, must be smoothly accessible, but also understandable for every citizen wishing to obtain information (BFC International, 2022). French NGOs are moving in this direction by providing tools to *popularise* the budgets to be published, the financial resources, and the expenses incurred; by specifying the role of the actors involved, the channels, and formats of distribution (BFC International, 2022).

Popularisation makes scientific knowledge understandable and accessible to the lay public (Scharrer et al., 2017). Data, which citizens may consider challenging to understand, becomes more comprehensible. By understanding the data and using a language adapted to them, citizens can improve their judgment of published information. Disseminating information is one thing; making it usable is another. Understanding the information disclosed is key to adequate transparency, as information disclosed can be opaque and, therefore, lack real transparency (Rumbul, 2016). It is appropriate for authorities to disseminate information, being intelligible, allowing citizens to better understand their actions. The purpose of transparency in this exercise is to enable the citizen to understand public policy so that the

level of trust, through understanding, can rise, giving credibility to the government. Thus, by popularising published data, every citizen can better understand the terms used when information is issued and how the budget system works. It also allows them to assess the actors managing public expenditure and to appreciate the transparency at this level, which can increase institutional confidence, recognising the efforts made by each of these actors, and the government more generally. French NGOs make budget information more accessible and understandable to a local population in a southern country, developing a political and economic strategy linked to technology, highlighting the leading role of a western organization in a southern development process (Antwin 2019; Kyianytsia, 2021).

However, although citizens perceive information publication positively, too much information flow could lower trust in institutions (GFOA, 2017). Disclosing information is a good step, but it is not enough, as the information disclosed may not be helpful for citizens. Indeed, releasing information under the guise of modernization is not effective if the user cannot make appropriate use of it. Too much data released can make the information released by the government unusable, preventing the citizen from identifying the relevant information (Rumbul, 2016). Overloading information can make the shared content incomprehensible, thereby disserving the citizen and, at the same time, the Burkinabe state, as this dissemination effort is seen as ineffective by citizens. By overloading information, citizens can misunderstand or not perceive indicators, possibly hiding details revealing possible corruption at a given point.

By encouraging technological transparency and as external actors in the country where the project occurs, French NGOs can put governmental actors in a vulnerable position (Rumbul, 2016). NGOs indirectly make Burkinabe government officials vulnerable, even weak, to the project that is being implemented, especially when they are likely to use corruption. This vulnerability, as they have to make every financial decision public, could be an argument for them to use transparency consistently to reduce this practice. The availability of government financial information makes it less likely that government officials will engage in corruption (Bauhr et al., 2019). In this sense, technology can be an added value in the fight against corruption, making public sector information more transparent while influencing the behavior of government officials (Coley-Graham, 2019).

When they have a collaborative approach, technology transparency projects are more likely to be effective, as discussions and feedback mechanisms occur between the different project actors (Avila et al., 2010). As presented in the introduction, the function of the NGO, being the link between different actors, allows the PAGOF project to be more effective, as its capacities link the actors together, influence the performance of the project's state agents, and provide technical expertise. All of these factors ensure that all the elements for the project's success are present. It has already been seen that transparency becomes cultural after its implementation in institutions (Cawley, 2020). Therefore, there is the possibility that, following the PAGOF's performance, a culture of transparency will be created and shape public policy in Burkina Faso, which will ultimately reduce corruption, the very aim of the project. Much bias and ambiguity about corruption elements can be removed through this culture of transparency (Cawley, 2020). Some decisions become more explicit, and changes in society can be better understood through published information. The more citizens understand government actions, the more they will be able to trust that government officials are honest in publishing public policy processes.

By allowing government information to be more accessible through technology, a signal is sent to citizens that the government values its openness, honesty, and integrity (GFOA, 2017). Institutional trust emphasizes that the integrity of policies, coupled with their behavioral ethic, is perceived positively by citizens, particularly that through the PAGOF's actions, the government seeks to reassure its citizens (Angino et al., 2021). Although not every citizen will systematically consult the information published, they may take comfort in knowing their availability (GFOA, 2017). Making information available reassures citizens and meets the principles of open government. Indeed, by being transparent in managing political and economic affairs, local authorities are accountable to the citizen for the management of public affairs (CFI et al., 2021). Local authorities gain a positive perception among citizens and see institutional trust evolve positively by putting citizens' interests forward. The interests of the citizens lie in that they are more included and have a better view of political affairs. In this project, the government's interest is then focused on the citizen's interest, as it allows the government to gain their trust. Hence there is a two-way government-citizen interest.

However, to ensure that transparency can alleviate corruption, the information disseminated through technology must be accessible and received by the target public, the citizens of Burkina Faso (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010). The likelihood that transparency will be effective then depends on how the information is disseminated and received by the citizens (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010).

Barriers preventing or limiting citizens' access to government data exist and must be acknowledged by all stakeholders (CFI et al., 2019). First, the effectiveness of the civic-tech implemented by the PAGOF depends entirely on the willingness of the government to operate. If the Burkinabe government representatives are not willing to disseminate all the data, the project of publishing information will be deficient and considered a failure (Rumbul, 2016). The government is the key to this project; it must be willing to share the information; if it does not, the users (citizens) will not have content and will not trust the platform either. This could disadvantage the Burkinabe State, which would give reason to its inhabitants not to trust it, as it would not be able to respect the implementation and the good functioning of a new transparency policy intended for its citizens. A further obstacle is that public officials may be unwilling to publish information if it would be detrimental to the government as the data is not in its favor. Public officials might be embarrassed to post information, causing embarrassment or causing trouble for the government (Rumbul, 2016). A new obstacle then faces the government side, which is the apprehension of public officials, who, in serving the interest of the citizens while fighting corruption, may be subject to reprimand if the published information backfires. If corrupt officials are exposed through publicity, tensions could erupt both internally and publicly, making the government less credible in managing public finances and, therefore, unfavorable in the citizens' eyes.

Still, on the government side, it could be that officials do not want to or cannot publish information in electronic format. Therefore, it is essential to circumvent this obstacle by providing them with technological education to carry out the task of transparency, thus enabling them to become more competent in governance and to satisfy the citizens' perceptions and opinions. The State retains the main power in this project since its success depends solely on its agents, who will disseminate or not all the information on public decisions while managing the quality of these.

Obstacles arise not only from the government but also from the citizens. To best serve citizens, the technology used should be cheap, sustainable, and user-friendly (NewTactics, 2011). The implementation of a technological system must be adapted to Burkina Faso's context, as it does not have the same resources as Western countries, where the NGOs operating on its territory come from. Its NGOs, perceived by the locals as institutions with modern means and methods, must adapt to the field reality Burkina Faso faces in its access and understanding of technological tools. The technology used via the platform does not necessarily have to be sophisticated but needs to be designed intelligently and with an eye toward the local context (Avila et al., 2010).

Limited access to the internet and poor connectivity is also an obstacle to the implementation of the technology platform (CFI et al., 2019). Indeed, according to World Bank data, in 2017, when the PAGOF project was set up, only 17% of the Burkinabe population had internet access, one of the lowest percentages in Africa (World Bank, 2022). Therefore, there is a risk that the platform will not be properly used by citizens living in the most remote areas who do not have the possibility or means to access the internet, thus decreasing the project's impact.

The technology implemented by the two French NGOs must be easy to use for citizens who are not necessarily used to using technological tools. Popularisation, a point addressed earlier, is necessary as it may be challenging to understand the publication of budgets and should be translated into local languages if necessary (Expertise France et al., 2019). Although French is the official language, three other national languages exist, 'mooré', 'jula', and 'fulufé', spoken by 70% of the population and taught in the Burkinabe education system (Yoda, 2010). The level of education and technical skills of the citizens are essential points in the understanding of the political data disseminated, and therefore key elements in the success of this transparency project (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010). Each citizen has different levels of education and technology, with some being more digitally engaged and academically educated than others, which is why French NGOs will have an educational role in this project, which will be discussed in the next section.

5.3. Educational role

The integration of technological tools into a country's transparency policy significantly reduces corruption when the government and citizens are trained to use these tools (van Manen et al., 2021). Accessing technological tools and learning how to use them allows Burkina to reduce corruption. Indeed, politicians are likely, through the PAGOF, to implement technological solutions to reduce this practice. Education is provided to public officials, enabling them to implement technological tools increasing the transparency of public economic policies. Education is also provided to citizens in identifying the indicators of corruption. Technological access and education on both sides ultimately reduce the motivation of those involved in corruption. With its skills and flexibility, an NGO can support the government in developing innovation and education (Volmink & van der Elst, 2017). French NGOs fulfill this role perfectly in the PAGOF, providing modernization of public policies, innovative technological tools, and training to use them. The South perceives the innovation brought by the North as modernization of its public policies and the technical means that go with it, allowing them to improve their living conditions by implementing modern technologies (Gilman, 2018).

The ability to innovate and provide solutions to problems related to education is one of the most significant contributions of Western NGOs when operating in the South (USAID, 2003). When operating in Burkina within the PAGOF framework, French NGOs provide not only technological means to develop the country but also modern educational solutions adapted to local conditions. Since the PAGOF project in Burkina Faso has to adapt to local realities, the NGOs provide educational solutions and innovations linked to the country's problems, particularly against the practice of corruption. An innovative and modern education takes place, in which both the government and the citizens learn the use of technological tools to solve the local problem, developing transparency. The educational contribution of the NGOs in this project involves teaching practices that will ultimately reduce the problem of corruption in the country. By intervening in an innovative way to address the problem, NGOs enable Burkina Faso to improve its governance through transparency and the citizens to increase their trust in the government if the principles and skills taught are respected.

In many North/South projects, Western NGOs provide Southern countries with educational resources in technical, leadership, and governance skills (USAID, 2003). In the PAGOF, French NGOs provide educational expertise in the tools and means employed to make the project efficient. NGOs provide technical skills and practices for government officials to follow in order to practice good governance by making budget information transparent. The technical skills are linked to technology, including modern western practices, enabling the Burkinabe government to modernize its budgetary policies. Using technological means from the North, Burkina develops its policy by assimilating Western methods and adapting to a modern governmental mode (Antwi, 2019).

NGOs have a role in technological education from a technical perspective to make budget information presentable and understandable for both government officials and citizens. To ensure the effective dissemination of budgetary information, French NGOs provide and teach local authorities to use computer applications to produce and present budgetary information (CFI et al., 2019). Training for government officials includes, for example, computer education on the production of graphic information (CFI et al., 2019). The technical tools taught to Burkinabé officials are part of a modernization of the government's communication tools, enabling more efficient dissemination of data and a greater appreciation of government transparency. These modernizing communication tools allow citizens to understand better the information disseminated and, if positive, reduce negative feelings towards the government, increasing the trust given to them.

Making budget information clear and transparent is part of the training that government officials receive (BFC International, 2022). The educational dimension is present here, where French NGO representatives will train local elected officials to publish government information in a transparent and popularized manner so that citizens can understand the disseminated information. These NGOs train them to use technological tools in a modernization dimension on the political level. Another type of assistance is provided to government officials and local administration through the presence of a guide, allowing them to follow the instructions to make information accessible, promoting access to information to citizens (CFI et al., 2019). To ensure a continuum in the education and effectiveness of the technological processes of the PAGOF, French NGOs assist the official public and provide a

guide for the proper functioning of transparency. In addition to being seen as an education form, the provision and use of this guide can be seen as a means of assistance and development from the North to the South. This guide underlines the aspect of modernization theory, emphasizing that Western institutions lay out a path of modernity that can be followed by the South if the policies and principles outlined are followed (Gilman, 2018). Burkinabé government officials can then follow the principles through the guide provided by French NGOs.

Establishing a new political system must integrate and train both government actors and citizens, which is occurring in the PAGOF implementation (Bratton, 1994). The country's development through new political systems allows citizens and government actors both to be involved, although their roles are different. As discussed earlier, the PAGOF interest and the training provided is in the benefit of the citizens and government agents, enabling them to appreciate the country's development through the implementation of a new policy, involving the citizen and government training in this new system. The mutual training in this project, enabling them to make the PAGOF effective, allows the citizens to appreciate the willingness of the government to do its best, allowing the increase of institutional trust.

Awareness-raising and education activities on understanding budget data are organized by French NGOs for citizens, enabling them to monitor local budget policies (BFC International, 2022). This method allows citizens to understand the data shared by the authorities and rely on it as they continuously monitor them. By gaining an understanding of the data disseminated, citizens can see that the modernization impacting the country politically and economically also affects them positively, as they gain understanding skills through technological tools. Understanding budgetary data and playing a role in monitoring public policy allows citizens to see the effectiveness, or not, of elected officials and, therefore, the government, allowing them to increase their trust in them. By gaining an understanding of an established policy, and the associated procedures, citizens become more engaged in their country's political life. (Ross, 2012). By understanding their country's political and economic concepts, Bukinabé citizens gain knowledge of institutional procedures, including the PAGOF, to be active in observing transparency practices, reducing corruption, and, thus, the willingness of leaders to make a new political system effective. While modernizing the

country's budgetary policies, French NGOs, by educating citizens on the various political and economic aspects of the PAGOF, help to make the government's accountability to citizens more effectively. These elements enhance the aspect of modernization theory asserting the leading role of western institutions in the development process of southern countries (Kyianytsia, 2021).

NGOs can mobilize the communities they work with to support national imperatives by providing effective engagement in national development and governance through education (Volmink & van der Elst, 2017). By being close to the population during the project's implementation, NGOs influence the engagement of Burkinabé citizens to increase their interest in participating in the successful implementation of the PAGOF. The education provided to citizens enables them to better engage in the country's good governance by learning about the transparency that the government must implement and how to analyze it. The various knowledge acquired by the citizens allows them to contribute to the national development, having the possibility to make the project effective through the development of knowledge, skills, and education level on the topic. Education plays a significant role in the relationship between Burkinabe citizens and their government, as it enables citizens to appreciate the availability and transparency of government information.

The education level is a mediating factor between citizens and politicians in government information transparency and publication (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010). Technological education is a form of modern education in which citizens are trained, allowing them to maintain a close connexion with their government and get closer to the budgetary information concerning them. This close relationship is not primarily a positive one, as its necessity arises from the government's budgetary failures in financial management and the resulting corruption. Starting from a negative impulse, this relationship between citizens and government can only turn positive if the factors of transparency and dissemination of information are deemed effective by the citizens, increasing, in the long run, the government's good image and the trust given to it. The relationship and closeness between the two sides, via the PAGOF, is then only possible through modern education involving the use of technology. By improving its technology, access, and learning, through the PAGOF, Burkina Faso can progress from being a "traditional" to a "modern" country (van Manen et al., 2021). Burkina includes technology in

its political life to implement an economic strategy that reduces corruption through the use of a good governance method. The implementation of the PAGOF, and the government's efforts associated with it, allow the country to move away from methods considered traditional to methods considered modern, as they are similar to western ones (Halperin, 2018). Improved access to technology thus allows for the modernization of policy, reducing corruption through transparency, and allowing the government to improve the trust given to it. Each educational intervention of an NGO toward a population is carried out in a specific context (Park, 2006). The intervention of French NGOs is done in a unique context, reason why the civic and political topics taught are specific to the Burkinabe context and cannot be reproduced in another country, whether in similar conditions or not. Therefore, Burkina Faso's citizens have a personalized education, which corresponds to their needs and the reality they are confronted with, allowing them to assimilate better the information transmitted and be more objective in their positions. Hence, citizens will be better able to assess government processes related to the PAGOF and evaluate the trust given to government actors.

To be able to hold leaders accountable and put pressure on their actions, decisions, and management of resources, citizens need to inform and educate themselves on access to information and transparency tools (Chêne, 2011). Therefore, by receiving training on technological tools, Burkinabé citizens are better able to understand the different tools used and the data shared, so that Burkinabé representatives feel pressure to make transparency effective and efficient. Citizen education leads to pressure from leaders, who are not necessarily used to having their citizens instructed in political and economic aspects, especially through the use of technological means. They must then ensure that the management of public finances is efficient and appropriate to the citizens. If citizens do not feel the efficiency, pressure on leaders will increase, and suspicions of corruption will grow along with the distrust towards them.

Transparency, an effective means of addressing political and economic governance problems, allows citizens, when educated about it, to increase their trust in their government (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013). By understanding Burkinabe government processes, citizens are better able to trust them. The use of transparency tools for citizens allows them to understand the processes that officials go through in order to make financial decisions that

affect them. Similarly, citizens learning to use the technological tools for the PAGOF can observe the obstacles and difficulties that government officials may encounter in the budget management process. Data literacy education is necessary for citizens to become informed about government actions (CFI et al., 2019). By providing education on data popularisation, French NGOs ensure that citizens can understand the data provided, to make the implementation and use of the PAGOF more effective. NGOs play their role as a link between the state and its citizens through education.

In the PAGOF framework, NGOs teach citizens to analyze budget information and how financial resources are allocated (CFI et al., 2019). By explaining to its citizens how the communal budget and decision-making processes work, the Burkinabe authorities are demonstrating accountability. This accountability used through technological means, following the education obtained in this field, allows citizens to reassess their level of institutional trust, given the government's willingness to make government data open. Citizens are sensitive to the budgetary information disseminated, permitting them to judge the government through transparency (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013). Feeling that their wellbeing depends on their government, Burkinabe citizens, thanks to the education they receive, are particularly sensitive to the information disseminated, as it directly impacts their lifestyle. Regarding local financial management, the information shared directly impacts the citizens' state of mind towards the government, as it reflects the financial means set up for the population's life. Influencing the citizens' attitude, the shared information will have a considerable role in the trust level granted to the Burkinabe institutions. By providing education to citizens, NGOs enable people to become empowered in terms of knowledge and skills, allowing them to take greater responsibility for improving their lives while contributing to the state's modernization (USAID, 2003). French NGOs, therefore, have a development role beyond the implementation of policies, empowering the Burkinabe population. With the knowledge of the technological tools implemented and the skills to use them, Burkinabé citizens can improve their living conditions by actively contributing to the fight against corruption. The skills acquired enable them to better understand and analyze local financial management by accessing budget data. Citizens are empowered in terms of local financial knowledge, deterring corruption as it is easier to detect, thus enabling them to improve their living conditions. By putting into practice the skills acquired through NGO education,

Burkinabe citizens take responsibility for improving their lives by fighting corruption. Educating citizens on transparency processes enables them to scrutinize public officials' decisions and performance, influencing the frequency of fraudulent practices and making citizen education a force against dubious practices (Bauhr et al., 2019). The PAGOF involves training locals to observe and analyze government financial movements, making transparency, through education, an effective means against dubious activities. Education in technological transparency is a modern form of education, benefiting citizens and, more generally, Burkina Faso, which can avoid financial losses to its population.

Nevertheless, obstacles in Burkina Faso's citizen education may diminish PAGOF's effectiveness. The citizens' education level influences the success of anti-corruption transparency (Lindstedt & Naurin, 2010). If the educational level of Burkinabé citizens is low, they will have less capacity to expect corruption's reduction, and therefore its level will not decrease significantly. If citizens are not instructed at the institutional level regarding budgetary procedures and their dissemination, citizens will have less possibility to scrutinize the information disseminated and less influence on government officials not to use corruption. Therefore, it is crucial for PAGOF that citizens are highly educated on the different levels that the project applies to reduce corruption better. Moreover, the possibility of education in technological tools depends on the accessibility of the devices (van Manen et al., 2021). Technology education in general, and PAGOF more specifically in this case, requires the availability of several elements. For example, without computers, citizens do not have the means to learn the systems being set up for them or even to train or practice the actions required to use the platform effectively. Modernization must also be carried out regarding the equipment made available to citizens to ensure that the technological tools can be used to implement the knowledge acquired from French NGOs.

Access to digital education depends not only on the goodwill of French NGOs when operating in the country but also on the accessibility of computing devices. These devices are essential elements for digital education, and although they are becoming less and less expensive, not all Burkinabe citizens can afford them, reducing their possibilities for technological education. If every citizen does not have computing devices, they cannot maximize the effects of the PAGOF. Therefore, they cannot benefit from a modernization of the country's political system,

nor can they review the level of trust that can be granted in their leaders through the PAGOF. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 20% of the population owns smartphones and computers with internet access (Krönke, 2020). Being familiar with these devices allows people to know how to use the internet, which is the basis for digital literacy. At this level, Burkina Faso has only 8% of its population accessing these two devices, enabling them to access the internet. This very low percentage can be explained by the high cost of these devices compared to the inhabitants' living standards, the poorly developed network bands, and, therefore, the difficulties of accessing the internet. This meager percentage reflects the level of IT ignorance in the country (Krönke, 2020). It does not encourage citizens to make the most extensive and effective use of the platform promoted by the PAGOF.

Since most citizens do not have internet access at home, technological education is challenging, reflecting the high level of IT ignorance in the country (Ogbuagu, 2009). French NGOs are dealing with citizens who are ignorant of technological tools, slowing down the country's development process since all citizens need to have a reasonable literacy level to use the technological tools available to them. The low level of technological education can make difficult the good use of the platform and thus the projects' efficiency. The illiteracy level of a country can block citizens from learning how to use technological tools. (Ogbuagu, 2009). According to World Bank statistics, 61% of adults in Burkina Faso are illiterate (Worldbank, 2021). In fact, the illiteracy level of Burkinabé can hinder learning how to use the PAGOF platform, which can compromise the project's effectiveness.

6. Discussion

In this research, questioning "How do development processes articulated by French NGOs contribute to Burkina's political and economic development?"; various points have been raised in the analysis. Within the different aspects studied, correlations and relationships can be found among the data.

There is a strong correlation between the digital awareness level of a country and education. When a country has a low level of digitalization, both in government and among its citizens, digital education cannot effectively occur as technological systems are not widespread.

If local capacity in terms of digitalization and technological tools is weak, the associated education will be weak too. This weak capacity prevents learners, either government officials or citizens, from using tools correctly and efficiently. The level of digital knowledge, education, and thus the country's modernization is at the same level of weakness, slowing down the modernization of the country's operations in the present digital era.

Education is then linked with the modernization of technological tools because if the use of technology does not evolve and therefore does not modernize, education at that level cannot evolve either. If a country's technological knowledge is approximate because digital use is limited, education in this area will be equally approximate. By importing knowledge from the North, French NGOs must also provide education to enable local people to develop their technological knowledge.

Using a good governance method, by applying a transparency system in the country's budget management, Burkina Faso improves its democracy. The components of good governance, including transparency, aim to reduce corruption in Burkina Faso, thereby improving the country's functioning through a healthy democracy. The transparency process applied in the PAGOF makes political representatives accountable to the citizens. The accountability of government officials towards the citizens is part of good governance and improves the democratic aspect of the country while allowing for the increase of citizens' trust when their tasks are perceived to be effective. In responding to the current and future needs of the country, the Burkinabe government, by implementing good governance, contributes to the political and economic development of the country and its democracy.

By assimilating procedures proposed by the West to develop the country, Burkina Faso is moving toward a healthy democracy of the Western model. The education of citizens on civic life and the PAGOF allows them to assess the country's democracy, the practice of new governance procedures through the transparency included in the project while showing their interest in participating in the country's development. In participating in the country's development, citizens can better assess its evolution, the trust they have in the project, and

the government as the implementation of the project grants them a form of inward observability. The inward observability studied in the technological part joins the solutions evoked in the educational part, allowing the citizens to judge the government better thanks to the provided transparency and to reassess the level of distrust. Allowing rights to its citizens by allowing them to participate in the transparency system by observing the budgetary processes, the government grants its population participation in the country's political life while optimizing corruption prevention. Thus, by participating in the country's project and development, citizens can better perceive the efforts made by their government to make information more transparent. These elements allow citizens to experience a system valuing a healthy democracy and to develop trust in government officials.

Theories included in the analysis, modernization and institutional trust theories, have both shown their compatibility with this study. By incorporating them into the PAGOF, they allow the introduction of a new perspective into a development project taking place in a Sahelian country. The integration of western processes considered by the South as modern allows the evolution of Burkina Faso in the technological, political, and economic aspects through a good governance tool, symbolized by transparency. The implementation of technological means and processes allows Burkina Faso to adapt to a digital system, contributing to the country's modernization. Educating local populations on the effective use of technology allows citizens to modernize their knowledge of western tools. Using a suitable governance method promoted by the project allows Burkina Faso to develop its public policy and thus modernize its democratic system. Implementing the modernization of Burkinabé policies by involving citizens in their government and decision-making processes allows for an increase in institutional trust.

In a post-colonial era where Sahelian countries have been independent for some 60 years, the intervention of the former colonizer, France, is still necessary in many areas to ensure the proper functioning of these countries. For example, as mentioned in the introduction, Burkina Faso requires the intervention of the French military power to deal with the security situation following the appearance of terrorists in the north of the country. This intervention is also observed in this study with the involvement of french NGOs in the development of public and economic policies. Importing a technology and methods related to it, France instills a political

development in Burkina-Faso, which can raise the question of neo-colonialism from a developmental point of view. Indeed, the question of a state's dependence on its former colonizer may arise, given that Burkina Faso is dependent on France for the development and modernization of its policies. A political-developmental neo-colonialism can then be questioned in this study. This political-developmental neo-colonialism is reflected in establishing a new political system integrating good governance and in modernization by implementing technology. It allows, as a result of the proper functioning of these different elements, the evolution of the institutional trust of citizens towards the Burkinabe government.

Investigating the development process that French NGOs integrate in Burkina Faso, this study contributes to a clearer understanding of several points. The role of an NGO when it intervenes in a country is better understood as we observe its mediation link between a country and its citizens. It also provides more insight into the political and technological development aspects that NGOs import from the North to the South and their know-how. The technological modernization of a country is thus included, as well as its contribution to local public and economic policies. The educational role of Western NGOs when interacting in the South is also becoming clearer, especially when it comes to technological aspects that need to be taught to politicians and citizens. The outcomes of this educational role are noted, notably in the proper use of a technological tool, the increase of institutional trust, and the effectiveness of a project in general. The obstacles that NGOs may encounter in a development project are also highlighted. Some obstacles may exist that are not under the control of the intervening NGOs due to the economic reality of Burkina Faso.

The Burkinabe system needs to get results now that the project is implemented. Therefore, transparency should not only take place within the project itself but also in its performance. Tracking outcomes of the project should be set up, allowing the evaluation of its efficiency and thus the two NGOs' intervention in Burkina-Faso. Future studies should consider the project's long-term impact, as well as the issue of neo-colonialism in development policy mentioned earlier.

7. Conclusion

By analyzing NGO's contribution to Burkina's political and economic development, this thesis has shown that implementing transparency in the Burkinabe daily life through technological means allows for fighting the prevailing corruption in the country. This study also shows that the education provided by NGOs to government officials and citizens, aimed at making transparency more effective, helps raise the trust level of citizens towards the government.

This study provided insights into how Burkina Faso can fight corruption and enable its citizens to increase their trust in government by developing governance practices. By integrating, developing technological tools and facilitating their use, Burkina Faso's government can improve its transparency and accountability policies. Once learned and effectively implemented, these tools subsequently enable citizens to increase their trust in government, as they have inward observability of budget data.

In addition, some answers emerged regarding the optimization of "Open government" project development through the educational role of NGOs in technology. The education provided by NGOs allows citizens to evaluate government officials' performance and thus assess the level of trust in them. By incorporating a technological transparency system to overcome corruption, the trust that citizens feel towards their government can be re-evaluated.

Using technological tools in public policy processes, incorporated by the North, allows for the modernization of Burkinabe policies and citizens' lifestyles. Training in modern tools enables the improvement of good governance, making the government more efficient in this area, thereby increasing the citizen's institutional trust.

Within the PAGOF framework, the two French NGOs sent to Burkina Faso allow the implementation of technological tools for the government and citizens to improve the country's good governance. These technological tools promote the transparency of budgetary data for the benefit of communes and, by extension, citizens. As a technology implementation is taking place in a country with low IT literacy, education in technology tools is essential. Enabling the government to optimize the management of technological tools, the education

provided by the two French NGOs allows the government to better manage the financial transparency and make it accessible to citizens. Once they access and are trained using the platform, this good governance approach allows citizens to access their local budget and acknowledge government processes. Citizens are then more engaged in their country's political life and have the required knowledge to analyze the budget.

Possessing the necessary information to read and analyze local budget data, citizens can have expectations of government officials and ensure that financial resources are properly allocated. In addition to reducing the motivation of some officials to engage in corruption, this process leads to the government's accountability for correctly conducting the transparency process. Hence, citizens can assess officials' willingness to develop the country in terms of governance. The available resources and the willingness of government officials to make the project effective allow citizens to reassess their level of institutional trust. By using technology to improve transparency, both government officials and citizens contribute to the country's development and its policies. The established transparency, allowing to overcome corruption, improves the country's governance. Therefore, Burkina Faso is experiencing political and economic development by involving its government officials as well as its citizens in the use of technological tools implemented by French NGOs. These NGOs educate each project actor on the appropriate use of these tools, ensuring the project's overall effectiveness.

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Appendix

Table 1: Social Scientific Paradigms (Sheppard, 2020)

Paradigm	Emphasis	Assumption
Positivism	Objectivity, knowability, Deductive logic	Society can and should be studied empirically and scientifically.
Interpretivism	Research on humans	People interpret their social roles in relationship, which influences how they then give meaning to those roles and the roles of others.
Social constructivism	Truth as varying, socially constructed, and ever-changing	Reality is created collectively; social context and interaction frame our realities.
Critical Paradigm	Power, inequality, and social change	Social science can never be truly value-free and should be conducted with the express goal of social change in mind.
Postmodernism	-	Truth in any form may or may not be knowable.

Table 2: Comparative approaches (Dudosvkiy in Mitchell, 2018)

	Deduction	Induction	Abduction
Logic	In a deductive inference, when the premises are true, the conclusion must also be true.	In an inductive inference, known premises are used to generate untested conclusions.	In an abductive inference, known premises are used to generate testable conclusions.
From/To	Generalise from the general to the specific.	Generalise from the specific to the general.	Generalise from the interactions between the specific and the general.
Use of data	Data collection is used to evaluate propositions or hypotheses related to an existing theory.	Data collection is used to explore a phenomenon, identify themes and patterns and create a conceptual framework	Data collection is used to explore a phenomenon, identify themes and patterns, locate these in a conceptual framework and test this through subsequent data collection and so forth.
Theory	Theory falsification or verification.	Theory generation and building.	Theory generation or modification; incorporating existing theory where appropriate, to build new theory or modify existing theory.

Figure 1: Sahel countries (UN, 2020)

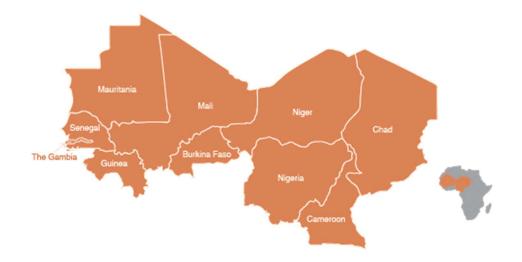


Figure 2: NGOs link (Own illustration)

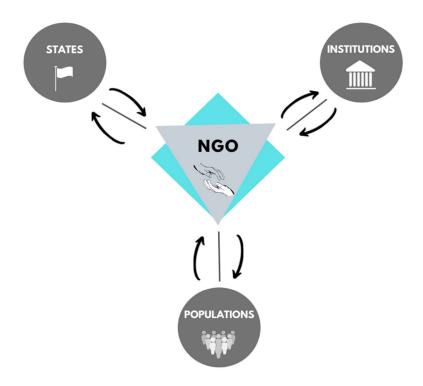
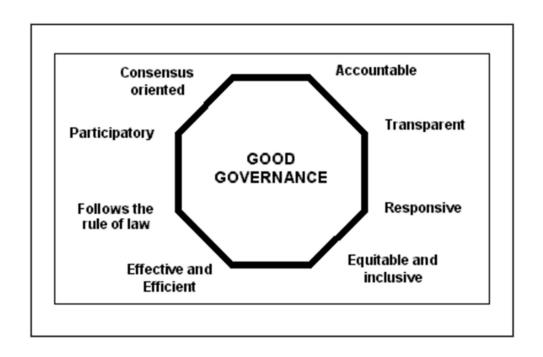


Figure 3: Characteristics of good governance (UNESCAP, 2014).



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