

GABERA FOUNDATION

---

# Building prosperous people, businesses, and communities together



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

---

Gabera Foundation  
Niamey, Niger  
Arrêté N° 001089

T +227 70979226  
E [info@gabera.org](mailto:info@gabera.org)  
[www.gabera.org](http://www.gabera.org)

# WELCOME

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are excited to share our first annual report with you. What an incredible journey these first year has been! We worked with communities, universities, government, and corporate partners to solve issues around educational challenges, lack of digital skills and job opportunities in Niger.

We laid the groundwork for Gabera's operations while launching our Fellowship program, welcoming 48 talented individuals in software development and industrial IT. In collaboration with our corporate partner, Witron Logistik + Informatik GmbH in Germany, our fellows become international IT specialists, fostering a cycle of knowledge that benefits global enterprises, local talents in Niger, and the community at large.

In just 12 months of dedicated effort, we achieved a milestone: the launch of a School Management Platform. This innovative tool aims to combat corruption, support educators and staff, and empower parents and students.

Operating in a fragile setting, in one of the world's least developed countries, is undoubtedly challenging, but the impact is immeasurable. It requires partners with unwavering determination. None of our achievements would have been possible without the remarkable support of generous partners and donors. As we express our sincere gratitude for their support, we eagerly anticipate many more years of shared learning and growth.

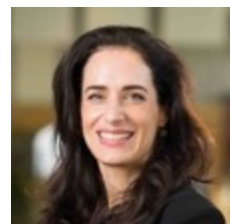
With heartfelt thanks,



**Issaka Ardaly**  
President



**Zeynab Jacob**  
Treasurer



**Alice Nägele**  
Board Secretary

## Table of Contents

About us .....	02
Projects .....	03
Financials .....	13
Team .....	15
Partners .....	17
Looking ahead .....	18

# WHO WE ARE

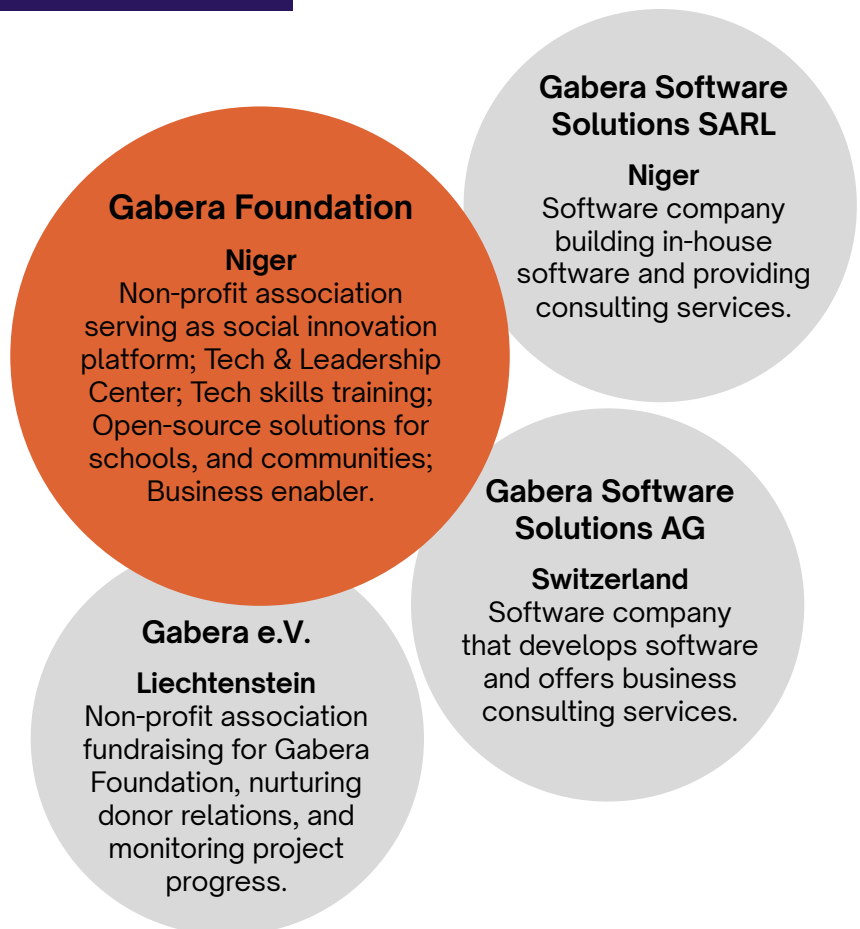
## We are tech freaks, collaborators, changemakers

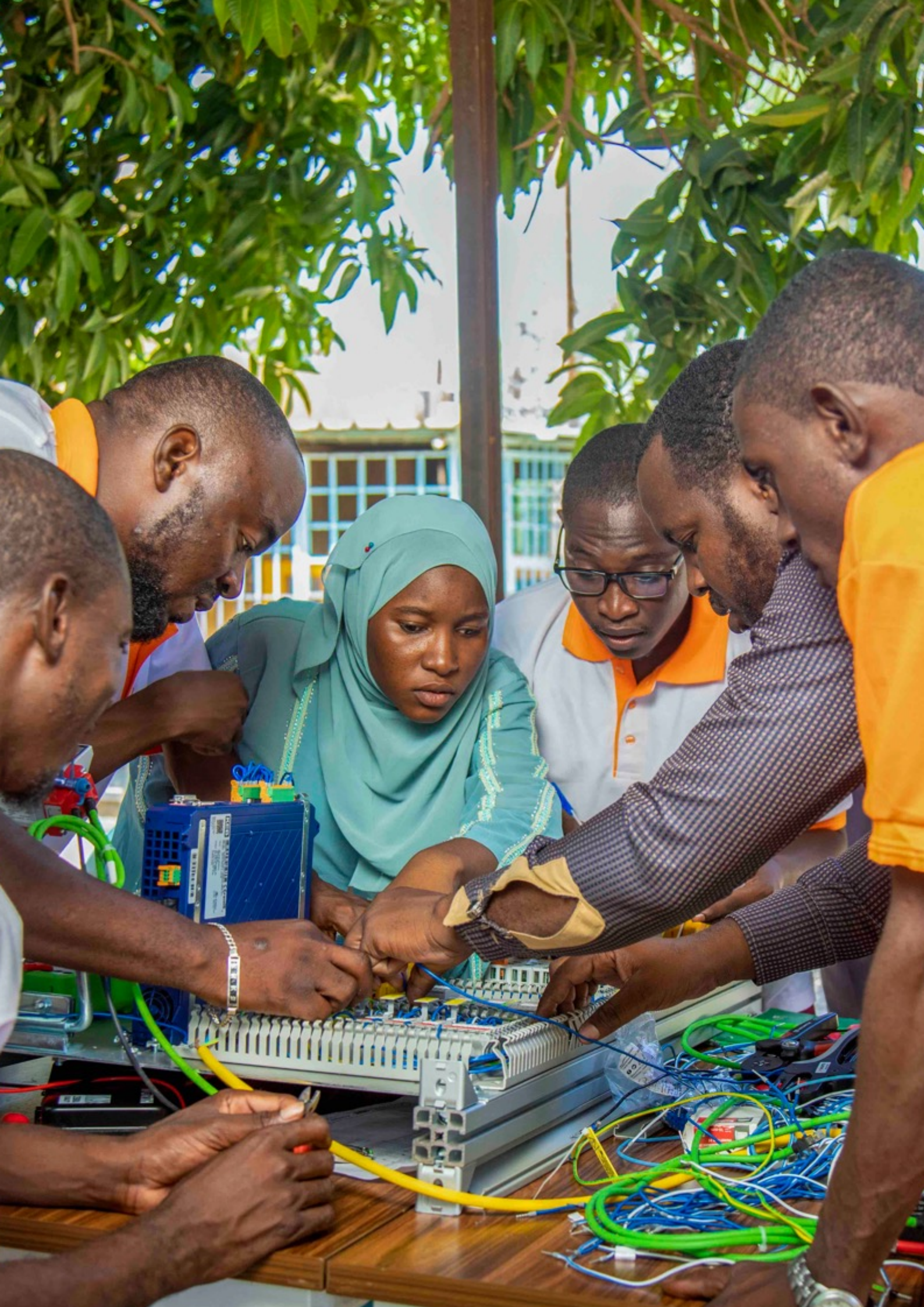
We are a social impact platform in Niger using technology and collaboration to innovate and scale solutions that benefit people and the planet. We equip people, communities, non-profits, businesses, and governments with tech skills and networks to drive progress for a more equitable and sustainable future.



## How we operate

Gabera Foundation is a joint venture of the two software development companies, **Gabera Software Solutions SARL (LLC)**, Niger and **Gabera Software Solutions AG** Switzerland, both contributing resources and part of their profit to support the foundation's projects. The foundation generates income by providing IT staffing services to companies in Europe and by receiving donations from European foundations via **Gabera e.V.** in Liechtenstein. All four entities together form **Gabera Group**.





# PROJECT OVERVIEW



Project #1

## Tech and Leadership Hub

48 young graduates joined our 2-years market-oriented Fellowship Program in Niamey. They work on real international customer projects in advanced software development and industrial IT.



Project #2

## Integrated School Management System

Together with school principals and parental committees, we developed a first version of a school management platform to boost efficiency, communication, and transparency.



Project #3

## Coding & Robotics Days

We piloted Robot Days at Nigerien schools and universities to bring young people, in particular women, into coding, while developing leadership skills.



Project #4

## Traditional earth building meets smart technology

In Niger, raising temperatures are urging a departure from the concrete industry, pushing for a fusion of traditional earthen construction with new technologies. Together with partners, we aim at piloting new innovations.

**Train-the-trainer  
program in Germany  
with our corporate  
partner Witron**



# TECH & LEADERSHIP HUB

48 Fellows have joined our 2-year on-the-job Fellowship Program. Engaging in real international customer projects in advanced software development and industrial IT, the program offers an immersive and practical experience, fostering valuable connections with Nigerien and international business partners.

The program offers advanced training in three areas:



**Advanced Software Developer Training**  
C#, Python, Database, Web, App, Robotics



**Industrial PLC technician (Programmable Logic Controller) Training** in partnership with EMIG-Niger and Witron



**Leadership development**  
Focus on whole-person growth, influence and lead meaningful impact

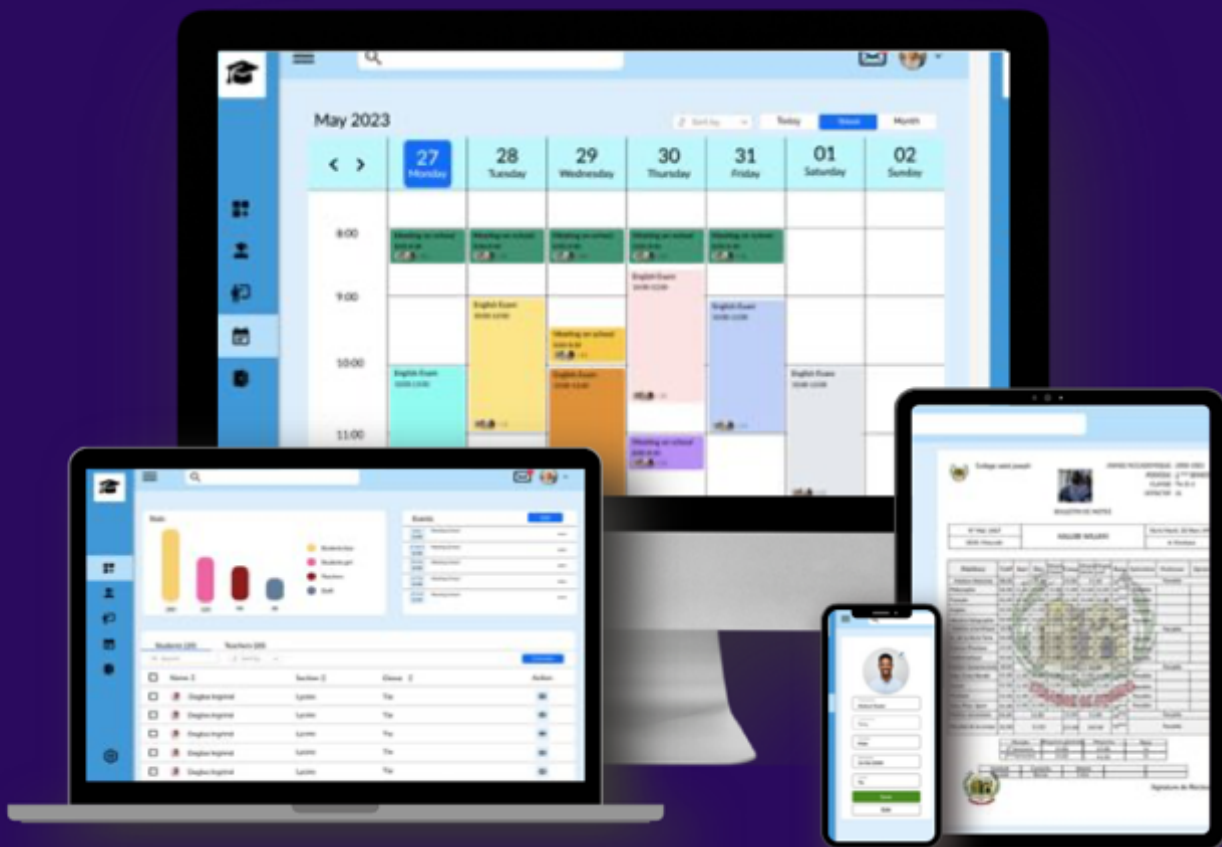
## Piloting a new circular talent flow model



Witron, a global leader in intralogistics, faces a demand for PLC specialists in its USA project. Despite efforts to train specialists in the USA, the skills shortage persists. Hence Witron and Gabera train Nigerien PLC specialists to work on short-term assignments on US construction sites while remaining resident in Niger. Simultaneously, they train the next generation of specialists in Niger.

**By creating highly attractive jobs in Niger, the concept of circular migration ensures the prevention of brain drain.**

Co-designing a powerful school management software with teachers, school principals, and parents.



Coded with  by Nigeriens for Nigeriens



# INTEGRATED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## Niger's education system crisis

Niger faces a persistent learning crisis, with an adult literacy rate of only 38% and around 88% of 15-year-old students performing far below the minimum competency level in literacy and numeracy skills (UNESCO, 2023). The current challenges from issues like inefficient and complicated teaching administration, and a lack of transparency. Administrators of the average Nigerien school with 2,000 students spend several weeks annually manually preparing class enrollment lists. This manual workload consumes valuable time and adversely impacts student learning success.

## Co-designing a tool with teachers, school principals and parents

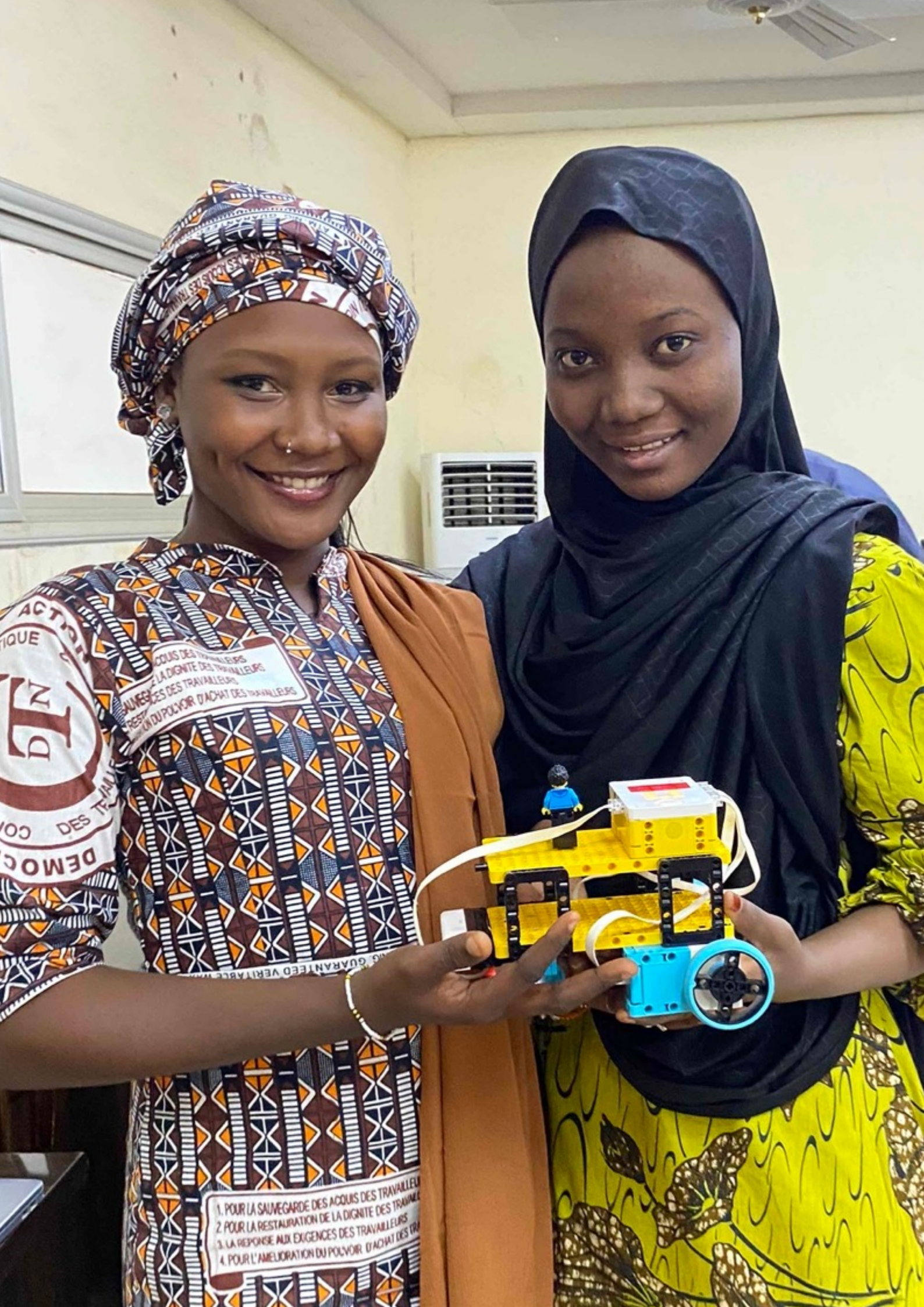
We built the first version of a free, open-source and modular school management and learning platform to reduce corruption and increase student learning outcomes. In a pilot phase we worked with 10 schools with a total of 20,000 pupils.

Gabera Foundation focused on delivering the digital product by co-designing it with teachers, schools principals, local governments, and university students, supported with apt user insights. Users' involvement was ensured through a comprehensive research and engagement process.

## Official Product Launch

On October 22, 2023, we launched the first version of our School Management Platform. Representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technological Innovation were present as well as our project partners, including 25 school principals and 10 representatives of parental committees.





# CODING AND ROBOTICS DAYS

We have conducted 4 Robotics Days at Nigerien schools and universities to bring young people, in particular women, into coding, while developing tech and leadership skills. These skills education days and experiential learning opportunities are designed to broaden the view of young people and help them develop skills they will need for their future professional lives.

50+ students participated in a full or half day of age-appropriate experiential, hands-on, and fun learning journey geared toward technical skills, in particular coding, and soft skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, social and emotional skills.

Gabera Foundation provided expertise, ICT equipment, training materials, and professional guidance for the participants.



## Enabling digital skills for all

We believe that innovation and technology should be accessible to everyone. Our efforts to bridge digital divides include skills building and user-friendly software designed for all, including those with limited literacy, enabling individuals and organizations to chart their own purposeful future.



The images on this page were AI-generated using imagine.art

# TRADITIONAL EARTH ARCHITECTURE MEETS SMART TECHNOLOGY

## Buildings make up the world's largest source of CO2 emissions

Niger, one of the world's hottest countries, grapples with regions that are already barely habitable today. The indoor climate in conventional concrete buildings is excessively hot and uncomfortable. Globally, the construction sector contributes 40% of the CO2 emissions. New pathways must be envisioned to enable comfortable, climate-adapted, and eco-friendly living.

## Embracing Earth as a sustainable alternative in construction

Exploring alternatives to the prevailing unsustainable model, one promising option is harnessing earth and other traditional materials. Earth is a cheap, 100% natural and 100% recyclable material that has the unique capacity to naturally cool down indoor spaces, minimizing reliance on air conditioning.

## Combining earth buildings with new technology and afro-futuristic feel

In Africa, earth architecture suffers from an image problem. It is perceived as "primitive architecture for the poor". This image is hard to shake. We believe that two key factors can redefine the allure of earth buildings: First, integrating new technologies into the construction process to ease work. Second, embracing a modern design approach and elements of tech-savvy, smart housing.

## Embarking on a tech-smart earth building pilot

Collaborating with interdisciplinary partners, we aim to develop a new model for the earth sector in Niger. We start by piloting a tech campus in Niamey, envisioned as a model for the region., that includes also aspects of circular economy, solar panels and net-zero.

### Pilot project: Constructing an afro-futurist Tech Campus with earth

- Location: Niamey, Niger (Karey Gorou, Tillabéri)
- Planned opening: 2027
- Size: 5 hectares (land purchased in 2022)
- Status quo: Conception, research and analysis phase, partnership building, fundraising



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Transparency and Accountability

At Gabera Foundation, we pledge to be effective in our mission of empowering communities through technology by being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.

## Financial Audit

The annual financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the West African OHADA accounting standards. The foundation is independently audited by **Madougou Hassane, IM Consulting**. Full Financial Reports and auditor’s reports are available at [www.gabera.org](http://www.gabera.org). Audited statements for 2023 will be available in March 2024.

## How we work

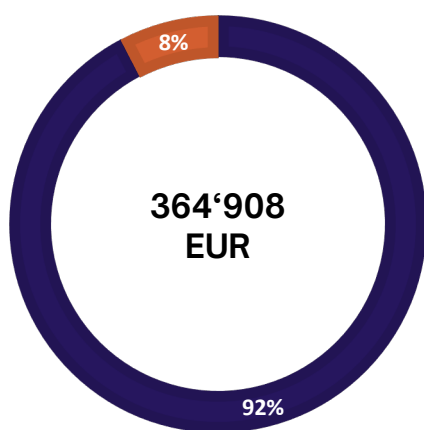
The board and members of Gabera Foundation worked on a voluntary basis and are not paid. All our project were

implemented by our corporate partner Gabera Software Solutions SARL (Ltd.) in Niger through a formal contractual agreement. Gabera Software Solutions SARL provided at least one quarter of its services pro bono enabling the development of socially focused software for Gabera Foundation.

## Potential conflicts of interests of the Board

Issaka Ardaly and Alice Nägele serve as members of the Board of Directors at Gabera Foundation and are also part of the executive board at Gabera Software Solutions AG in Switzerland. Additionally, Issaka Ardaly holds a majority share in Gabera Software Solutions LLC. To address any potential conflicts of interest, robust checks and balances have been implemented.

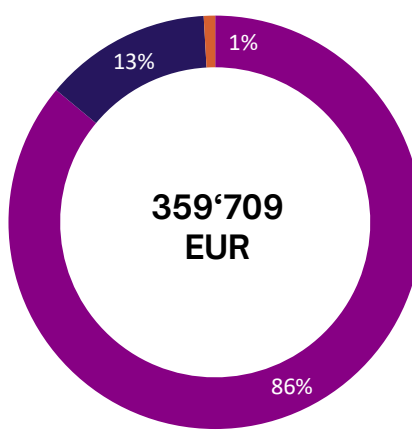
## Source of funds



### Source of funds

- Service provision, 92%
- Donations, 8%

## Use of funds



### Use of funds

- Direct Program Services, 86%
- Office and administration, 13%
- Communication and Fundraising, 1%

## Statement of Operations

Year ending December 31, 2023

In EURO

	<b>2023</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Income from providing services to enterprises	336'905
Income from philanthropic donations	28'003
<b>Total income</b>	<b>364'908</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Direct program services	309'504
Office and administration	47'001
Communication and fundraising	3'204
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>359'709</b>
<b>Net financial profit / loss</b>	<b>5'199</b>

Nota bene:

- Work donated by Gabera Software Solutions SARL and Gabera Software Solutions AG, Switzerland, is not included in the financial statement.
- In-kind donations, contributed goods, such as hardware, equipment and services are not included in the financial statements.
- This version of accounts has some different classification to the audited financial statements.





# OUR TEAM

## Gabera Foundation

### Executive Board

Issaka ARDALY, President  
Zeynab JACOB, Board Member  
Alice NÄGELE, Board Secretary

### Active Members

Mohamed M. ABARI

### Audit Committee

Mahmoudou HAMIDOU  
Hamani ARDALY

### Fellows in Software Development and Industrial IT

Abdoul Aziz M. BAKO  
Abdoul Karim HAMZA ASMA  
Abdoul Malik A. DANDAKOYE  
Abdoul Nasser A. TANKARI  
Abdoul Razak A. GOUZAYE  
Abdoulaye D. YOUNOUSSA  
Abdourahamane DJINAIDOU  
Affizou BOUBACAR BAKO  
Ahmadou ABOU SALHA  
Ali MARWANA  
Aminata M. HASSANE  
Bachir MAHAMANE IRO  
Balkissa M. ISSOUFOU  
Bello M. LAWAL HIMA  
David IBRAHIM MIKO  
Djaffar ISSA SIDO  
Doulla ISSIFI BOUBACAR

Fourera SALOU BONKANO  
Hama HAMADOU HAMA  
Hannassi H. HAROUNA  
Haouaou MOUSSA DJIRE  
Harouna SEYDOU  
Ibrahim AHMAD SEYNI  
Ibrahim BOUWEY ALLEY  
Ibrahim CHAIBOU M.  
Ibrahim MOUSSA ISMAGUEL  
Ismahil A. ABDOULAYE  
Issa ALIO KANE  
Mahaboubou A. M. LAOUALI  
Mahamadou J. O. SALAOU  
Mahamadou MOUSSA GADO  
Mansour O. DAOUDA  
Marou IDRISSE HAMADOU  
Massaoudou H. TAHIROU

Mohamed HASSAN ABDOU  
Mohamed OUSSEINI DJIBO  
Moubarak A. YACOUBA  
Moustapha GARBA K.  
Nana H. SAHIROU M.  
Nana Zainam ADO M.  
Nassirou MAMANE O.  
Ramatoulaye M. BACHIR  
Salahou-diine B. MOHAMED  
Sandi SOULEY OUSMANE  
Soumana B. SEYNI  
Toudiani MOUSSA SEYDOU  
Toukour A. MOUSSA  
Youssif ABOUBACAR  
Zakou BIRMA HASSOUMI  
Zalikatou M. KIMBA

## Gabera Software Solutions SARL, Niger

Abel Agbedekpui,  
Tassiou ALIO SOLI  
Issa AMADOU SEYBOU  
Lantana ANGO  
Attaher HABOUBACAR

Ali ISSAKA MAMAN  
Zeynab JACOB  
Moamed MAINA ABARI  
El Hebib MOUNKEÏLA BABI  
Ibrahim M. ISMAGUEL

Mazou SALOU NIANDOU  
Abdallah YACOUBA  
Zouberou YACOUBA

## Gabera Software Solutions AG, CH Gabera e.V., Liechtenstein

Issaka ARDALY, CEO & CTO  
Alice NÄGELE, COO  
Rubén SCHOCH, CIO  
Nadja DEMONT, board member  
Philipp SELE, board member  
Flavio DI NICOLA, CFO, board exit 2023

Alice NÄGELE President  
Maria BIEBERSCHULTE, Board Member  
Rubén SCHOCH, Board Member  
Nadja DEMONT, active member  
Philipp SELE, active member

Potential conflicts of interest of board members are detailed in the financial section, p. 13.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to our incredible partners and supporters who stood by us during our startup phase. We are grateful for the support of our customers, partners, philanthropic foundations, higher learning institutions, community entities and individuals whose support has enabled us to work towards positive social change. We also have been fortunate to receive generous in-kind support from partners, including Witron.

## **Corporate Partners**

Witron Logistik + Informatik GmbH, DE

## **Public Sector Partners**

EMIG – Higher Institute of Mining, Industry and Geology, NE

Collège / Lycée CEG Couronne Nord, NE

Collège / Lycée CES/FA/ Lazaret 1, NE

Collège / Lycée CES/ CEG4, NE

## **Knowledge, Research, and Innovation Expertise**

University of Liechtenstein, School of Architecture, Urbanism and Society, LI

Stiftung Lebenswertes Liechtenstein, ZirkuLIE, LI

## **Philanthropic Foundations**

Mariano Stiftung, LI

## **Individual advisors and subject-matter experts**

Aminata Maiga

Flavio Di Nicola

Baboubakar Assoumana

Rudolf Batliner

Maman Sani Boubakar

Brigitte Batliner

Dr. Ganda Hassane

Othmar Oehri

Dr. Mahamane Yahaya

Luis Hilti

Dr. Ali Mounkaila

Hansjörg Hilti

Stephan Gstöhl

## **Special thanks**

Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Technological Innovation, NE

Swiss UMEF University of Niger, NE

Technopark Graubünden, CH

Technopark Liechtenstein, LI

Liechtensteiner Business-Center, LI

# STRATEGY 2024-27

We aim to scale our impact by supporting corporate enterprises, talents and disrupt disadvantage through cross-sector collaborations leveraging our expertise, services, and products.

## Objectives

**Empowering individuals:** Expand educational and job prospects in software development, industrial IT and leadership skills and by partnering with the corporate partners.

**Technology ecosystem:** Build and scale key innovative digital product that grow into a technology ecosystem to create an irreversible transformation and systemic social change.

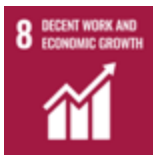
**Collaborative impact:** Cultivate and foster strategic partnerships for collective impact to disrupt existing disadvantage. Share our insights and learnings to better inform, connect and empower our partners.

**Sector capacity:** Strengthen the abilities of business and the public sectors in Niger, amplifying their positive impact in the community through the sharing of technology and knowledge.

## Our focus areas



**Quality vocational education** in software development, industrial IT, and community leadership development.



**Job creation**, in particular in software development and industrial IT.



**Tech and social innovation**, through developing key innovative digital platforms, e.g. GovTech Edu solutions.



**Sustainable building and climate protection**, software for earthen architecture, sustainable tech campus.



# PARTNER WITH US

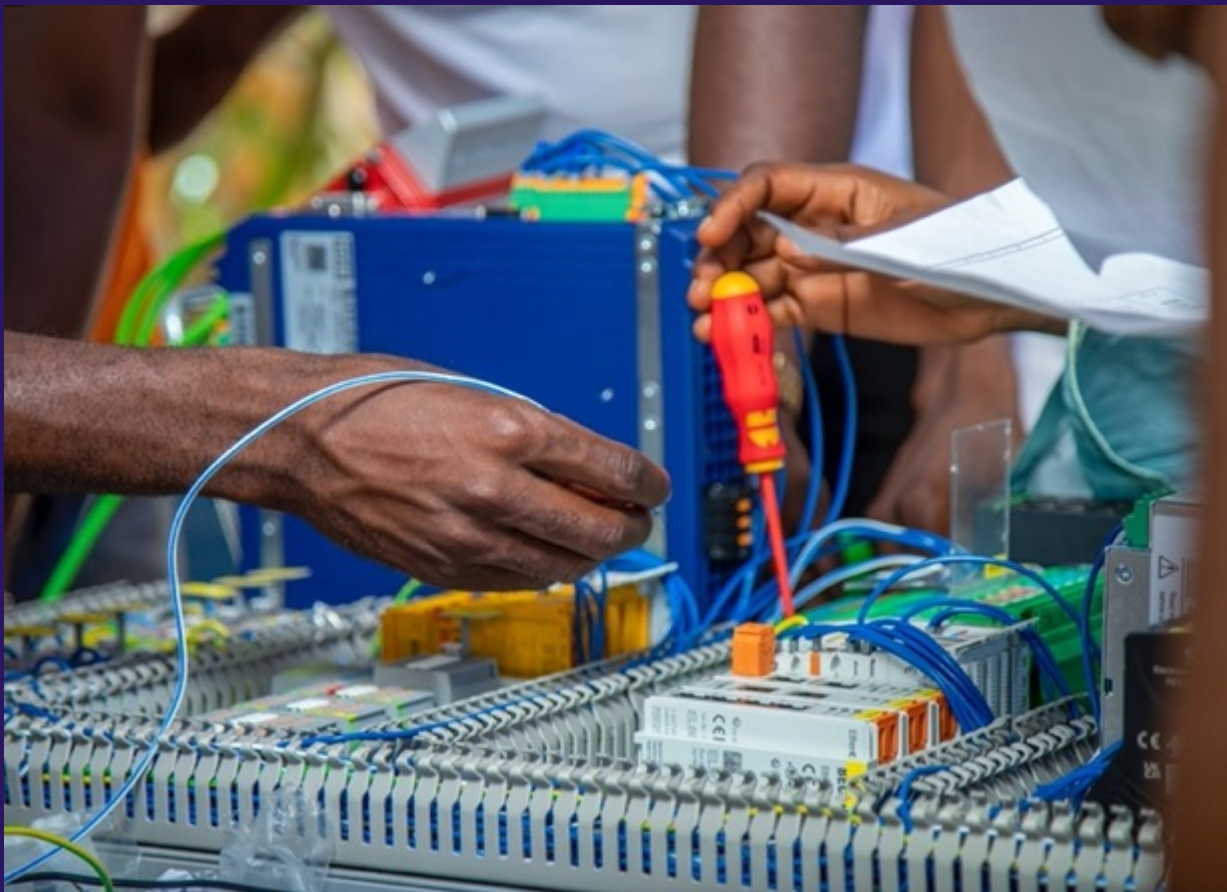
Gabera Foundation is the ideal partner for companies, foundations, academia, educational institutions and engaged individuals seeking to invest sustainably and responsibly in West African communities. Together we can strengthen people and communities through innovative and creative technology.

**Donate** to empower communities

**Share** your knowledge and expertise

**Sponsor** equipment, a project, or an event

**Volunteer** with us or provide training



## Contact

**GABERA FOUNDATION**, Niger  
Kubia, behind the police station  
P.O. Box  
NE-8001 Niamey  
T +227 709 79 226

**GABERA e.V.**, Liechtenstein  
Alvierweg 12  
LI-9490 Vaduz  
T +41 78 840 73 63

info@gabera.org  
www.gabera.org

