



BURKINA FASO

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THE PROJECT

Project Location: Penzan, Tuy, Burkina Faso

GPS Coordinates: Latitude:11 17.225 N Longitude:003 20.384 W

People Served: 474

Report Presented To: St. Timothy Lutheran Church

THE COUNTRY

According to the 2009 UNDP report, Burkina Faso is ranked 177th out of 182 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index. Poverty is pervasive throughout the country, and recent challenges such as outbreaks of meningitis, yellow fever, and cholera, as well as civil conflict in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire have only added to the extreme vulnerability of the Burkinabe people.

Only about 72% of Burkina's primary school-age children are enrolled in primary school due to the costs of school supplies, insufficient infrastructure and teachers, and opportunity costs of sending a child to school when he or she could earn money for the family. The landlocked nation has few natural resources and a weak industrial base. About 90% of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, and therefore vulnerable to periodic drought.

OUR WORK IN BURKINA FASO

The country has an abundance of valuable water sources, but most pumps are either in some state of disrepair or altogether non-functioning. As a result of the lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation throughout the country, there is a persistence of waterborne illnesses like diarrhea and cholera. The most cost-effective and efficient way for Living Water International to affect change for Burkina Faso's thirsty is to rehabilitate these water sources, replacing hand pumps, repairing broken parts, sealing open wells—doing whatever is necessary to restore clean water sources to the people who need it most.

Burkina Faso is one of Living Water International's newest country programs. In 2009, Living Water facilitated two well rehabilitations for a missionary in Burkina Faso; in 2010, that same missionary became an implementing partner, rehabilitating wells primarily in the southwestern regions where the indigenous Dagara people live. The program hopes to expand to reach 60 villages with 2011 and 100 villages in 2012. With the help of the implementing partner on the ground and donors around the world, the Burkina Faso program will provide clean, safe water to thousands of people in the name of Jesus for years to come.

THE DATA

Population: 15.2 million

- 28% without access to an improved water source
- 87% without adequate sanitation services
- 46% living below the poverty line

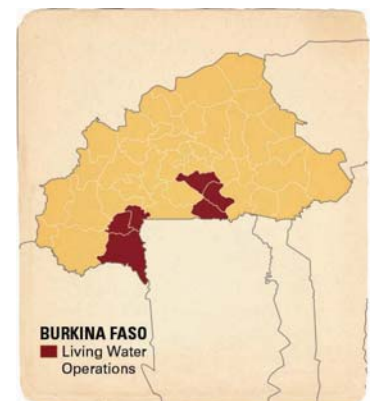
Life expectancy: 52 years

Infant mortality rate: 85 per 1000 live births

GNI per capita: \$480 USD

Sources: World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, CIA World Factbook

Official statistics often understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large margin. Insufficient resources for monitoring population and/or coverage as well as varying definitions of coverage and access contribute to statistical variability.



GENERAL INFORMATION

A LWI Burkina Faso team member shared, "From the moment we entered this village it took our breath away. Our hearts sank to see people using a very filthy shallow well where animals were lying around. The local church showed up in force and gave us much courage to complete the rehab. Their participation and their singing and dancing made for a very lively occasion. Seeing fresh water flow again elated everyone in the crowd and more singing broke out as we walked to a nearby family compound. There we were greeted with many thanks and refreshments, and even our first goat as a gift (chickens are the norm, goats are special!)." When the team arrived, community members were dependent on an open, contaminated well located one kilometer away from the community, to meet all of their water needs. Because of this and the community's practice of informal defecation, community members were suffering from dysentery, malaria, diarrhea and severe dehydration. During the team's stay, community members assembled a water committee consisting of three men and two women who assisted the team with the water project whenever possible and provided food for the drill team. The majority of community members sustain a living by subsistence farming and the nearest school is located 10 kilometers away from the community. Before leaving the community, the team provided community member, Winyere Some, with a LWI Burkina Faso contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.

TESTIMONY

The team had an opportunity to meet with thirty year old community member, subsistence farmer and church leader, Wie Some, who stated, "When you came to help us with the repair of this pump, we asked that everyone in the village pray for you and give you many thanks for repairing this well. We want to thank the people of the United States for taking money out of their pockets to help us. We thank the church leaders from Nakar for their help also. We pray that God will enable you to protect our pump for all the years to come so that we won't have to suffer without water."

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELL

Project Details

Altitude	276 m
Total depth	39 m
Static level	3 m
Diameter of casing	125 mm
Casing material	PVC
Pump type	Vergnet
Depth of cylinder	22 m
Well yield	20 liters per minute

HYGIENE TEACHING

The LWI Burkina Faso team shared an introductory hygiene lesson with community members gathered around the well site. During the hygiene education, the team addressed how to take proper care of the pump and how to keep the water clean.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

The church in Penzan began in 2008. It was started by members of the church in Sombian some 10 kilometers away. Today there are more than 100 baptized members, and it is said that when the church meets, people from every house stop and come to worship God. In Penzan, they have built their own church building completely by themselves and in the shape of a cross. They also have started a church-based literacy program to teach each other how to read God's Word in their own language. Penzan is a happening church and the LWI Burkina Faso team was fortunate to be able to establish a relationship with the church who will continue to cultivate community members after the team leaves the area.

PHOTOS



Previous water source.



Previous water source used by community members and livestock, to meet all of their water needs.



Project in process and community members assisting the LWI Burkina Faso team with the water project.



Community children pumping clean, safe drinking water from their new and reliable water source.



Community members pumping clean, safe drinking water provided by LWI Burkina Faso. This community will no longer be forced to share a water source with their livestock and have a sealed off water source to prevent the well from debris and other contaminants.



Water committee responsible for maintaining the well and who were provided with a LWI Burkina Faso contact number in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.



Completed water project and community members enjoying their new, safe water source. After completing the water project, the team shared an introductory hygiene lesson with community families gathered around the well site. The team also had an opportunity to share God's Word with these families who are already being cultivated by the local church.



Community member, Wie Some, interviewed by LWI Burkina Faso and who stated, "When you came to help us with the repair of this pump, we asked that everyone in the village pray for you and give you many thanks for repairing this well. We want to thank the people of the United States for taking money out of their pockets to help us. We thank the church leaders from Nakar for their help also. We pray that God will enable you to protect our pump for all the years to come so that we won't have to suffer without water."



Community members assisting the LWI Burkina Faso team.



Community members made food for the drill team every day. These women expressed their immense gratitude for the team helping provide them with a clean, safe water source.



The community gave the LWI Burkina Faso team a goat to thank them for helping provide them with clean drinking water. This is a great honor in this area and it is uncommon for communities to provide such gifts. Typically the team receive chickens, if anything as a way of saying, "Thank you."