

## Introducing... Family Profile

Sponsored child name:	Wenemi Zidouemba	Sponsored child number:	0188 - 076040
Sponsored child date of birth:	01/01/2000		
Sex of sponsored child :	Female	Community name:	Dargo
Religion of sponsored child:	a local religion	Community code:	643

I am happy to greet you and would like to welcome you to Plan Burkina faso on behalf of your new sponsored child, Wenemi Zidouemba. My name is Zambende and I work as a community volunteer in Dargo, where Wenemi and her family have lived for as long as they can remember. Together with other community volunteers I help with communications between sponsors and the families in Wenemi's community. I'm sure that you have already glanced at the attached photos. Don't worry about the serious expressions on their faces. A photo is a very serious thing here - on the very few occasions their photos are taken, the villagers make a real effort to express their dignity. I recently visited the family and talked with Pakidimba, Wenemi's father. Now I would like to introduce all the family members to you.

### Introducing Wenemi

First of all, let us talk about Wenemi. She is a shy little girl whose favourite games include playing with dolls. Her father tells me that Wenemi always says that when she is older she would like to be a medical worker. In this part of the world children grow up fast and all must play a part in the family's progress and survival. Although they still have time to play they must also help with the daily chores. Wenemi, of course is still too young now but as she grows up she will be expected to play her role.

Wenemi spends most of her time with Boureima and Mamounata who are her best friends. She does not attend school because she is too young. Children who are too young to go to school spend the day around the homestead, playing with other small children and being looked after by older siblings or neighbours.

Wenemi is not able to write to you herself yet, however, I am eager to write to you on her behalf. They are keen to learn more about you, your family and the country in which you live. Although children in this community are very shy about writing to someone in a different country we will encourage them to communicate with you in their own personal way, perhaps through a small drawing. It is also very exciting for them to receive a letter or a photograph from a friend abroad and so I hope you will be able to find the time to send Wenemi and her family a message occasionally. I have seen the wide smiles which this can bring to a child's face!

### Introducing Wenemi's family

There are 5 family members living together with Wenemi. I would like to introduce them to you.

Pakidimba (40), who is Wenemi's father. At the moment he is working as a peasant farmer.

Sibidbila (30), who is Wenemi's mother. At the moment she is working as a housewife.

Hawa (13), who is Wenemi's sister.

Lamoussa (10), who is Wenemi's sister.

Nikiema (3), who is Wenemi's brother.

At home the family speaks their local language, Moore.

### **Wenemi and her family's health**

Pakidimba told me that Wenemi has been in good health during the past six months. This means that she was one of the fortunate ones as still, many children suffer from diseases that could be prevented. Nikiema is currently participating in a growth monitoring program which will help to highlight a possible lack of nutrition and thus ensure healthy development. If Wenemi or any of her family is sick, they can go to the dispensary, a journey of about forty five minutes. If there were an emergency case, the family would have to travel about two hours to get to the nearest hospital.

### **Where Wenemi and her family live**

Wenemi's family lives in a small house made of unfired mud bricks with an animal manure, mud and clay roof. The house is owned by the family without a legal title. Whilst showing me their home, Pakidimba told me that the house is in a fair condition. Wenemi's family does not have their own latrine and have to use an open field or public area for their needs. This creates a lower level of hygiene and increases the incidence of disease, particularly amongst the children.

In many areas of Plan's work a lack of access to clean safe drinking water all year round is a real problem and can cause an increase in common water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. Throughout the year Wenemi's family get their water from a borehole with a hand pump that is less than 1km away. There is sufficient water during both rainy and dry seasons. The water is safe for the family to drink at all times.

Wenemi's family uses an open fire to cook their daily meals and their main fuel is wood. Collecting firewood is usually the work of women and children and a very time consuming task. For lighting the house the family uses kerosene lamps. Pakidimba says this ends the day early as the lack of light makes it difficult to work or do household chores in the evening. Wenemi's family, like their friends and neighbours have a very small income and it is a struggle to be able to meet their basic needs. However, the families in the Dargo community have a rich social life. During their spare time, Wenemi's family loves talking with friends and listening to the radio. Sitting together with friends and neighbours around their little radio and listening to the news and music is one of the great pleasures of their hard life.

### **My message to you**

I hope you have enjoyed reading about Wenemi and her family. The following pages will give you more information about their community and the way of life there. Hopefully this will give you a better idea of the problems they face, their expectations and their positive attitude. Life is not easy and the economic situation can make it even harder. However Plan will be working with Wenemi's family and all families within Dargo to identify their most basic needs which may be in health, education, housing or income. Each individual will play a role and contribute what they can in terms of manual labour, local materials, technical expertise or financial contributions to ensure a brighter future for Wenemi and other children like her.

We hope that your friendship with Wenemi will be an unforgettable experience and that it will give you the opportunity to learn more about another culture far away. Your contributions will allow our team here to create opportunities for the family and their village community to help them solve some of their serious problems. Next year you will receive an Annual Progress Report, and we hope that we will then be able to show you some of the first proud achievements which Wenemi's family have made. Until then, thank you for giving Wenemi a chance!

Zambende Singbeogo  
community volunteer/ms