

Community Profile

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world and nearly every international indicator for human well being and economic development shows this country at the bottom or near it. Over 80 % of the population lives in difficult conditions in rural areas as subsistence farmers. The country is situated in West Africa in the "sudanese" climatic zone.

Your Sponsored Child's Village

Your Sponsored Child and family live in a rural village in the Province of Namentenga. The Plan office is located at Boulsa, the capital city of the province that is located about 200 kms from Ouagadougou the capital city of Burkina Faso. Most of the people belong to the Mossi, Peuhl Bella and Sonrai ethnic group and speak Moore, Fulfulde, Tamacheque and sonrai. Very few if any, people in the community understand French and this number is growing with Plan's Extensive School Construction. A handful of community members are literate in Mooré one of the three national languages of Burkina Faso.

Public services such as electricity, post office, telecommunication and transportation are only available in some main towns. Bicycle is the main means of transportation for the community. Water for daily use is obtained from bore holes equipped with hand pump and traditional wells. Water is drawn or pumped by hand and carried home in large earthenware pots balanced on women's heads. Few families have latrines, thus Plan actively promotes their construction and their use. School and primary health center are available in the bigger village. Therefore, traditional healers are widespread and many diseases are prevalent.

This area of the country records two main seasons in the year: the rainy season from June to September and the dry season with mild temperatures from October to January and really hot ones from March to May. It is covered with semi arid grassland and savana and only scattered trees such as acacia, karite and baobab. Hare, hedgehog and partridge are generally the wild animal that can be found in the area. The fertile soil consists of sand and clay and is the base of the agro pastoral economy. The main agricultural products are millet, sorghum, maize, peanuts but also sesame and soybeans. The main livestock consists of pigs, goats, sheep, chicken, cows and guinea fowl. But these animals are seen as savings and they are only consumed on special events like holy ceremonies or visits. Plan Burkina Faso through various activities is working to improve the living conditions of the people.



The Family and Home

Families range in size from an average of 20 or more people. Almost all are extended families and include grand parents, co-wives, half brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins. A typical village may have 100 families spread out in "quarters", which are actually hamlets. Several hamlets make up the village. Family compounds consist of thatched-roof mud huts all joined together and enclosed by a circular wall. In terms of religion, in this village three main religions can be found. There are Muslims who celebrate their holy feasts of 'Ramadan' (holy month of fasting) and 'Tabaski' (feast of sacrifice), Christians who celebrate Christmas and Easter, and Animists, believers in the traditional African religion of the power of nature who worship their ancestors and hold ceremonies with animal sacrifices. Nakkobo, Basga,

Zambende and Kiougou are the main animal sacrifice for ancestors and are celebrated each year. There are few rectangular, tin-roofed buildings. The family granaries stand just outside the compound walls. There are few, if any, furnishings, besides some mats and pots. The family's livestock roam the countryside during the day and are kept inside the compound at night. The staple foods are millet and sorghum, and to a much lesser degree, corn and rice.

Daily Life

The day begins around 5 or 6:00am. Co-wives normally share household chores such as cooking in rotation. Those not cooking will cultivate (during rainy season) their own farms for an hour or so in the morning. Traditionally each woman's field provides her children's second meal during the dry season. During the dry season, women in this village are occupying for gardening and gold washing activities. The men are responsible for clearing the family fields but everyone helps with sowing, weeding and harvesting. They use a traditional short handled hoe, called a "daba" for all cultivation work. Animal husbandry, gold washing and handicrafts are the main activity of men during the dry season. In this area, traditional leaders are widespread and people sometimes rely to their authority. The family will rest and eat in the middle of the day. Meals usually consist of "sagabo" and a sauce of baobab leaves, okra, or peanuts. Work will finish around 6:00pm. Women will fetch water and prepare a second meal. They will normally keep some sauce from the midday meal for the evening meal. Children usually help their parents in domestic and agricultural activities. They look after younger siblings, fetch water and firewood, take care of family animals and help during the harvest. The day ends around 9:00pm.

Situation du BURKINA en Afrique



BURKINA FASO

Zone d'intervention PLAN



Siège du projet



PROVINCE DU NAMENTENGA

Villages PLAN

