



# Association Burkina-Canada

Our mission is to improve the educational opportunities of orphans and vulnerable children in the province of Sissili, Burkina Faso.

Association Burkina-Canada (ABC) is a private foundation charity whose aim is to improve the lives of Burkinabe children through education.

Burkina Faso is a small landlocked country in francophone West Africa. The country is extremely poor, with an average GDP per capita of US \$1213, and approximately 71.8 per cent of its population surviving on less than US \$2 per day (HDR 2007/2008). In 2008, the country ranked 176<sup>th</sup> out of 177 countries in terms of its Human Development Index (HDR 2007/2008)<sup>1</sup>.

The province of Sissili is located in south-central Burkina Faso. Léo, the provincial capital, is located 165 kilometers away from national capital, Ouagadougou, and 13 kilometers north of the Republic of Ghana. As with the rest of the country, Sissili is riddled with unemployment and underemployment. It is also fraught with a high incidence of HIV infection, which results in a large number of AIDS orphans.

Due to rampant local poverty and the lack of income-earning opportunities, caretakers are frequently unable to satisfy the educational needs of their dependants. The high poverty rate translates into a large number of children in Sissili not attending or dropping out of school, and into an absence of educational support for orphans and vulnerable children. The poor living conditions of these children oblige them to abandon a formal education, leading to a high incidence of street children and unemployed youth in the area.

Our objective is as follows:

- To assist orphans and vulnerable children in Burkina Faso in receiving a formal education and improving their technical skills.

## EDUCATION

*THE HOPE OF A NATION LIES IN THE PROPER EDUCATION OF ITS YOUTH*

*-ERASMUS*

Education is the backbone of development, as it affects all other systems in the country. Education allows people to know their rights, improve their health and hygiene, engage in economic opportunities, earn self-esteem, and meaningfully participate in their democracy. Research in Burkina Faso has shown that attending school (even if only at the primary level) helps women in all aspects of their life; allowing them to negotiate better prices for their products and to earn more respect from their male counterparts. In Burkina Faso, receiving a formal education is a privilege, and parents generally strive to send their children to school to give them possibilities they themselves have never had.

ABC's targeted clientele consists of orphans and vulnerable children in the town of Léo, who are in financial need, and who have enough encouragement and drive to benefit from the schooling. As we aim to develop a long-term relationship with each child, we want to support children who are likely to remain in school for a number of years.

Our aim for the 2008-2009 academic year is to provide funding for 20 children - 14 of whom will be grade one students (7 boys and 7 girls) and 6 grade seven students (3 boys and 3 girls) - to attend school.

ABC is committed to providing the following forms of support to each of the students it sponsors : tuition fees, one meal per school day, uniforms, school supplies, as well as mentorship. We feel that each of these interventions is important to ensure the students' success.



### BURKINA FASO AT A GLANCE

Population.....14 million  
 Capital City.....Ouagadougou  
 Official language.....French

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Human Development Index Ranking: 176 of 177 countries
- Adult Literacy Rate
  - Men: 29.4%
  - Women: 15.2%
- Average GDP per capita 1213US\$
- Life Expectancy 44 years
- Public Expenditure on Education (% of GDP) 4.7
- Net Primary School Enrollment Rate 45%
- Net Secondary School Enrollment Rate 11%

\*Facts taken from UNDP Human Development Index Report 2007/2008

<sup>1</sup>The Human Development Index provides a measure of a country's development in terms of a combination of three indicators: education levels, average life expectancy, and GDP per capita, expressed as purchasing power parity (PPP) in US dollars.