



# BURKINA FASO

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## THE PROJECT

**Project Location:** Kobar, Ioba, Burkina Faso

**GPS Coordinates:** Latitude:10 59.517 N Longitude:003 04.117 W

**People Served:** 551

**Report Presented To:** Amanda Fly through the Bell Family Foundation

## THE COUNTRY

According to the 2009 UNDP report, Burkina Faso is ranked 177<sup>th</sup> 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

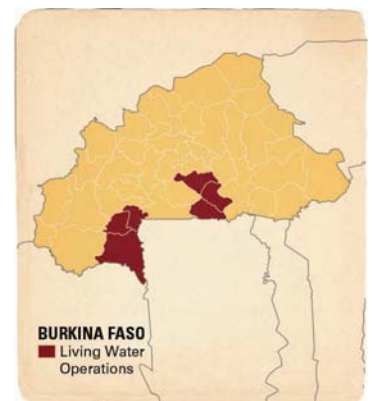
Life expectancy: 52 years

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

This well rehab was the first time the LWI Burkina Faso team had been in this community. The team conducted a village interview two weeks prior to the team arriving and the village chief gave the LWI Burkina Faso team permission to repair the community's well. There was no church in the community, and the team that came from Oak Hills Church shared the Gospel, the love of God and the good news of Jesus with community families. LWI Burkina Faso team members Amanda and Jessie were, stated by a LWI Burkina Faso team member, "Super stars and super servants with a smile always on their faces. It was so powerful. Many of these villagers were hearing the stories of Jesus for the very first time." The particular parable of the Soils, which was shared by the team, was something that the farmers could relate to. Most of these children had never even seen colors and crafts and had to be shown how to use them. When the team arrived, community members were dependent on a river located two kilometers 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. Most community families survive by farming and during the team's stay, these farmers took time away from their work to assist the LWI Burkina Faso team with the water project. Before leaving the community, the team provided a LWI Burkina Faso contact number with community member, Baimwin Hien, in case their well were to fall into disrepair, become subject to vandalism or theft.

## TESTIMONY

The LWI Burkina Faso team had an opportunity to meet with forty-two year old community member and farmer, Baimwin Hien, who stated, "The big problem here is the lack of water. There hasn't been water at this well for more than 3 years. During the dry season there is no work except the work of gathering water because we had to search for water 5 kilometers away in one direction, and 4 kilometers away in the other direction. During the rainy season, we draw water easily from the low lying areas, but the water is not clean. There are a lot of people with intestinal problems who are sick and some who have had to have surgery because the water was so dirty. This was our problem, but today there is clean water! We want to thank God for the gift you have given us. This clean water will diminish our suffering and give us peace. We ask God to find a day in Kobar where we can talk and hear the Word of God. Then we will worship together and thank God for what He has done!"

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELL

### Project Details

Altitude	309 m
Total depth	22 m
Static level	6 m
Diameter of casing	125 mm
Casing material	PVC
Pump type	India Mark II
Depth of cylinder	18 m
Well yield	20 liters per minute

## HYGIENE TEACHING

The LWI Burkina Faso team shared an introductory hygiene lesson with community members gathered at the well site. During the hygiene education, the team addressed: How to take proper care of the pump, how to keep the water clean, good and bad hygiene behaviors and clean hands and clean hearts.

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Since this is a new outreach area for the church, the combined water well rehab along with the stories from God's Word provided an excellent seedbed for faith in God. It was a powerful demonstration of love, and a moving proclamation of the Word. The door is wide open for the church to come in. In fact, the chief of the village said that if the team wanted to come and start a church to speak more about the teachings of Jesus, they would be very happy. Pray now for the neighboring village churches of Yobagane and Baufor to come in and take advantage of that invitation for God's greater Kingdom and glory!

## PHOTOS



Previous water source left idle, forcing community families to seek alternate and contaminated water sources to meet their water needs.



Project in process.



Project in process and community members gathered to observe and assist the LWI Burkina Faso team.



Close up of plaque on completed water project.



Community members pumping clean, safe drinking water from their new and easily accessible water source.



Community water committee established by the community and who are responsible for helping maintain 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 plaque on pump.



Community member, Baimwin Hien, interviewed by LWI Burkina Faso and who stated, "The big problem here is the lack of water. There hasn't been water at this well for more than 3 years. During the dry season there is no work except the work of gathering water because we had to search for water 5 kilometers away in one direction, and 4 kilometers away in the other direction. During the rainy season, we draw water easily from the low lying areas, but the water is not clean. There are a lot of people with intestinal problems who are sick and some who have had to have surgery because the water was so dirty. This was our problem, but today there is clean water! We want to thank God for the gift you have given us. This clean water will diminish our suffering and give us peace. We ask God to find a day in Kobar where we can talk and hear the Word of God. Then we will worship together and thank God for what He has done!"



Community members giving their thanks to the Lord for His provision of clean, safe drinking water.



The community was very excited to hear the Gospel and learn stories about Jesus Christ. The community chief asked the team to return and help plant a church.



LWI Burkina Faso team sharing oral Bible stories with community families.



The LWI Burkina Faso team shared hygiene education and oral Bible stories with community members and children who had never seen or been introduced to the idea of crafts. The community children had to be shown how to use the crafts before they could participate in the hygiene education activities.



Community members participating in acting out oral Bible stories.



LWI Burkina Faso team members and community members gathered at the well site, at the completion of the project.



LWI Burkina Faso team and community members gathered for a picture before the team left the community.