

Multi-stakeholder approach towards Inclusive Education in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso - OcaDes Tenkodogo, Light for the World

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The aim of this project, initiated by OcaDes Tenkodo in the community of Garango and supported by Light for the World, is to offer an inclusive environment whereby children with disabilities and other vulnerable children can attend a school close to their hometown. A multi-stakeholder approach is supported in order to involve local partners and thus contribute to a systematic collaboration between local NGOs and national ministries. The Garango project is a pilot project that will serve as a model for the National Strategy of Inclusive Education in Burkina Faso, which is currently being developed by the Ministry of Education, one of the project partners. Additionally, this project is part of an international initiative of similar Inclusive Education programmes that are currently implemented in five countries (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, India, and South Africa) across three continents.

“For an inclusive community, let’s get together!”

—Abbé Denis Sandwidi, OCADES Caritas Burkina

FACTS & FIGURES

- The project identified 675 children in the community with a severe or mild disability
- 55 primary schools in the municipality of Garango are now able to identify and provide for children with disabilities
- In 2014, 350 teachers were trained in special education for children with disabilities

PROBLEMS TARGETED

In Burkina Faso disability is often regarded as a malediction or a contagious phenomenon. Thus, children with disabilities have little opportunity to go to school, and most are victims of prejudicial social perceptions that impede their full participation in society.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The project is designed to strengthen the rights of children with disabilities and other vulnerabilities and to further promote the importance of Inclusive Education in combination with a community-based rehabilitation approach through the following activities:

- As a first step, awareness-raising on the local level, the identification of children with disabilities, consultations, and physical rehabilitation are undertaken in order to let the children with disabilities join the inclusive schools of Garango.
- Through the involvement of all related stakeholders on the local level (the Catholic organization OCADES, local education authorities, and disabled people's organizations) and on the national level (Ministry of Education), Inclusive Education for all children is implemented by specific teacher-training modules.
- Inclusive sport activities fostering the social inclusion of people with disabilities are also conducted.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The project's innovative approach to systematically engage and network with other stakeholders in the community to promote Inclusive Education has been shared with other projects and can be duplicated within other regions of Burkina Faso – and in other national contexts. Based on the efficiency and success of the Gargano pilot project, a National Strategy for improving the quality of Inclusive Education through community involvement will be finalized by the end of 2015.

Photo: YES

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