

Burkina Faso: PRO-Enfant

Implementation of Children's Rights

The challenges

Burkina Faso has a predominantly young population. Those under 18 years of age represent more than 51.79% of the population (RGPH 2019).

Many children are involved in "hazardous work", i.e. "work that is likely to be harmful to the health, safety or morals of the child" (Article 3 of ILO Convention 182). The incidence of child labour at the national level is 40.03 per cent, i.e. 44.4 per cent among girls and 36.4 per cent among boys. This incidence increases with the age of the children and rises from 33.1% in children aged 5 to 12 to 56.6% of children 16 to 17 years. Children living in rural areas are more involved in child labour (46.3%) than those living in Ouagadougou (20.3%) or other urban areas (26.5%); (According to a National Survey on Child Labour (ENTE-BF) carried out in 2022 by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Protection, with the support of the International Labour Organization and UNICEF; Data published during the validation workshop of the ENTE report in Burkina Faso, on March 29, 2024).

Child marriage is widespread, with 8% of girls and 1.2% of boys aged 12 to 17 married.

Child marriage and insufficient sexuality education contribute to a high number of teenage pregnancies. The consequence of this is that adolescent girls contribute 11% to overall fertility. Young mothers often do not have the opportunity to continue their education.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prohibited by law in Burkina Faso and the prevalence of this harmful practice has decreased throughout the country. Nevertheless, the number of girls under the age of 14 affected by the practice stands at 9 per cent. Although the Burkinabe government is aware of the importance of the phenomenon, the allocated budgets as well as the infrastructure of services and networks available remain insufficient.

The protection of children has even become more important as violence against civilians has risen, which has led to the phenomenon of internally displaced persons (IDPs) made up mainly of children of both sexes (58.50%) (as of March 31, 2023, there were

1,206,607 internally displaced children in Burkina Faso, including 130,909 in the East and 61,976 in the South-West).

Our approach

The approach of the PRO-Child programme consists of directly involving the main partners (government services, CSOs, local authorities) in the implementation of activities and the identification of the various measures, implementation and follow-up - with the advice of the programme's experts.

The main fields of action:

1. The capacities of municipal and decentralized decision-makers to plan gender- and context-sensitive measures to protect children from gender-based violence are strengthened;
2. The professional and didactic capacities of social workers for gender-sensitive psychosocial support for children who have experienced gender-specific violence are strengthened;
3. The capacities of civil society to protect children from gender-based violence by focusing on the child and taking into account the gender dimension are strengthened;
4. The anchoring of learning experiences on the protection of children against gender-based violence in the German Cooperation in Burkina Faso has been strengthened.



Program Name	PRO-Child Program: Implementation of Children's Rights in Burkina Faso
Principal	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Executing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Intervention area	The East and South-West regions of Burkina Faso
Supervisory body	Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family (MSAHRNGF)
Total duration	01.01.2022 – 30.06.2025
Financial volume	€5,000,000



Left photo: View of the children of the Sainte Thérèse Catholic School (July 2017)

Right photo: Sport for Development activity with the No-Biel association (Diébougou: May 2023)



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Left photo: Training session of the RCPE of Fada by a Technical Advisor of PRO-Enfant in 2021

Photo on the right: training of partners on digitalisation. (Ouagadougou ; July 2023)

Our activities and results:

- Establishment of 18 community child protection units (CCPE). 90 members, including 24 women, of these CCPEs have been trained on the system for the identification and transfer of cases of violence against children);
- Support to the CCPEs that have enabled awareness-raising activities on child protection and GBV in their community. About 10,939 people, including 91 girls and 48 internally displaced boys, participated in the various sessions;
- Awareness raising sessions organised by partner associations in schools and vocational training centres. More than 5,889 students and learners, including 2,601 girls and 2,924 boys, including 290 IDPs participating;
- Organisation of inter-school competitions on child protection and GBV. More than 5,098 people were affected;
- Sensitization of 1,429 people, including 209 girls and 10 boys, on the issues of female genital mutilation, child marriage, abduction, early pregnancy and migration;
- The organization of press caravans by the journalists/media networks and media awareness-raising activities (radio games, interactive programs) reached about 156,974 and 123,559 people respectively, for a total of 280,533 people.

... and in fact

Through awareness-raising activities, communities are increasingly sensitive and active in the fight against child protection issues in their locality. Thus, we are witnessing more and more denunciations of cases of violence against children.

Thanks to the educational talks that have benefited a hundred children and young people, girls and boys, in school or not, have become actors who act on a daily basis both in schools and in the professional environment in raising awareness and combating violence against children in the municipalities of intervention.

The children in the municipalities where they intervene are more aware of their rights and are committed to defending them. Those who are victims of violence receive better care.

The deployment of the CPIMS+/Primero (Child Protection Information Management System) tool, which is a case management tool that rigorously monitors child victims of all forms of violence) in social services, allows the improvement of the care system through a digital monitoring of the management of cases of child victims of violence.

Awareness-raising campaigns and the involvement of customary and religious authorities in the defence of children's rights have led to a change in the behaviour of the population.

Four (04) of the six (06) Municipalities of the intervention areas have adopted a financial deliberation policy for the protection of children thanks to the support of the project. These deliberations will enable each of the municipalities to mobilize their own resources for the implementation of actions to protect and promote the rights of children.

Implementing partners:

- Municipal social services;
- Communal Child Protection Networks;
- Representatives of schools;
- Civil society organizations ;
- Community Child Protection Units ;

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