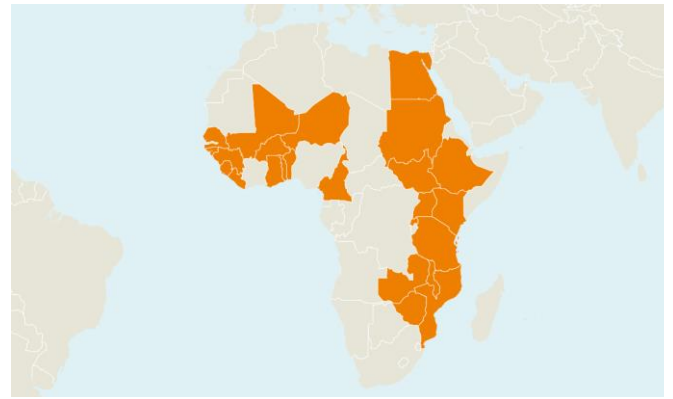


# ANNUAL UPDATE BURKINA FASO

## NAMENTENGA



**Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Namentenga. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.**

Addressing the ongoing crisis in Burkina Faso was a priority. Empowering children and young people with access to education, either formal or through vocational training, was a key initiative.

Supporting young people—especially women—to establish financial security was also important, and the creation of new Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) helped pave a path toward economic independence.



**18,947**

VSLA members raised awareness of issues like girls' education



**1,050**

Internally displaced people supported with food assistance



**50**

Young people trained in income-generating activities

**“I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP THAT MOTIVATED ME TO WORK HARD IN SCHOOL. I THANK PLAN FOR WHAT THEY DO.”**

Florentine, 17-year-old Sponsored Child





**NAME: MOHAMADI**

**AGE: 15 YEARS OLD**

**DREAMS TO BE: A  
TECHNICIAN**

**“THIS TRAINING HAS MADE ME FEEL USEFUL AND READY TO WORK TO MEET MY OWN NEEDS AND THOSE OF MY FAMILY.”**

## Meet Mohamadi

**Like the child you sponsor, Mohamadi is making steps towards achieving his goals and building a stronger future for himself.**

After poverty and Burkina Faso's political instability cut short Mohamadi's formal schooling, he accessed vocational training and entrepreneurial support. Now, he is on a path toward economic independence.

## Learning In Times of Crisis

Burkina Faso has been experiencing a security and humanitarian crisis since 2015. The deteriorating situation has had a devastating effect on educational access for young people.

Mohamadi's dreams were shattered when he left school and his parents could not afford to enrol him in vocational training. He saw himself as many of his older brothers and relatives who were forced to earn money through activities such as gold panning—dangerous work vulnerable to terror attacks.

Yet with perseverance and training, Mohamadi is now on a safer, more secure path. Through an educational empowerment programme, out-of-school children in Burkina Faso are able to access a more stable future.

## On the Path to Success

The project empowers youth with resources and connections to learn and thrive. Over 800 pupils earned scholarships, and more than 500 out-of-school youth are training in trades from mechanics to market gardening.

Now an expert on cell phone repair, Mohamadi plans to open his own repair shop with the support of his trainer and the installation kit. He is also helping other youth achieve their dreams. He says: “I would like to see children in the same situation as me being looked after. I have a cousin who is going to work with me as my first apprentice and I am confident things will go well.”



*Mohamadi learnt repair skills through vocational training*

# OUR PROJECTS IN NAMENTENGA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



64% of the population in Burkina Faso is underemployed, especially in rural areas. Through vocational training, youth learn skills to develop their own businesses.

## ACCESSING EDUCATION



**Many families in Namentenga struggle to access education for their children.** Youth living in vulnerable situations often drop out of school, drastically limiting their chances for an economically stable future.

This year, a key initiative focused on facilitating access to quality education for at-risk children. For example, school fees were paid for 45 internally displaced children, so they could continue their studies.

Empowering youth with marketable skills, as well as opportunities to develop plans for their future, was vital. Vocational training engaged young people, who gained skills in welding, beadwork, phone repair, and mechanics, and who were supported with installation kits to start their own small businesses. With education, training, and income-generating activities, youth are now better positioned for a more stable and secure future.



## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



**In Burkina Faso, 40% of the households live below the poverty line.** Many jobs, such as gold mining, are dangerous and exploitative. Faced with these challenges, local initiatives are emerging to promote entrepreneurship as a springboard to self-employment in rural areas, helping to improve the economic situation.

Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) offer a path toward economic independence. This year, 38 new VSLAs were created, providing members with effective, secure tools to save and invest. The VSLAs also serve as a platform for education and awareness-raising for over 1,000 women on a range of issues, from financial education to the importance of girls staying in school.

“My mother gave me money so that I could join their savings group, which I did. This enabled me to pay for a lot of things, including school supplies, a nice sports outfit and also to help pay my school fees.”

– Awa (17) from Namentenga



# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Namentenga.

- Only 4.5% of the population aged 16-64 has received vocational training. Initiatives, such as the creation of new Village Savings & Loan groups, will promote the economic autonomy of women and young people.
- In times of crisis, children are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Resources, such as emergency shelters and strengthened child protection units, will support communities as they address these dangers.
- Crisis regions have limited access to clean water. Drilling boreholes will increase the availability of drinking water for households vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity.

Thank you for your continued support.



“The full social, economic, and cultural development of vulnerable children and their communities is made possible thanks to the contributions of the sponsors.”

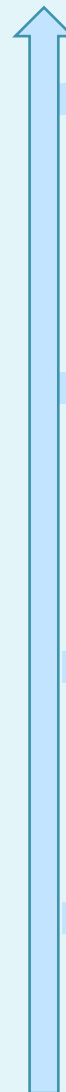
**Aminata Rabo**  
Programme Area Manager

## THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change—providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

## THE LAST 12 MONTHS



**JANUARY**

**50**

Internally displaced children supported with school fees



**FEBRUARY**

**100**

Displaced families assisted with emergency shelter



**APRIL**

**1,140**

People joined Village Savings & Loan Associations



**JUNE**

**7**

Young people trained in mechanics and welding

