

NEWSLETTER - IN THE WORLD - MARCH 2020

TAKING ACTION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



**mission
inclusion**

A NEW NAME FOR
THE LÉGER FOUNDATION

THE COURAGE OF WOMEN IN BURKINA FASO

Behind their discreet smiles and shy voices, the women of Burkina Faso hide an iron will. Inside, they carry the strength to break down barriers and build a better world. Unfortunately, in a country grappling with a drawn-out geopolitical crisis and the devastating effects of climate change, they struggle to move forward and better their lives.

In the cities in particular, girls are in a distressing situation, as more than half are unemployed and live on the margins of a still very traditional society. Facing entrenched stereotypes and without female role models to guide them, they have trouble accessing education and the labour market.

In rural areas, which are undergoing desertification and land degradation, thousands of women are in a situation of food insecurity. With no voice or economic resources to access factors of production, they cannot take part in agricultural activities and have to stay at home.



Local organizations are therefore mobilizing to ensure women's safety and promote their social and economic integration. By supporting these organizations, **Mission inclusion** is helping women to build their confidence and empower them to take their place in society. You can learn how by reading the success stories in this newsletter.

When they have the resources to realize their full potential, women become the most powerful agents of change. They are our foremost allies in reducing poverty and inequality, and fostering world peace. This is why **Mission inclusion** is putting women first and making respect for women's rights a key part of its advocacy.

Thank you for believing, as we do, in women's potential and power!

Charles Mugiraneza
Program Manager - Africa
International Programming

GOING OFF THE BEATEN PATH WITH ATTOUS

To improve the living conditions of young women from underprivileged areas, the Association tout pour tous (ATTOUS) teaches them traditionally male trades that offer excellent job prospects.

For example, the Centres féminins d'initiation et d'apprentissages aux métiers (CFIAM) trains women not only in sewing but also in automotive electricity, bodywork, sheet metal work and painting, electronics, and the mechanics. They also offer assistance services to graduates, such as grants for driving courses, help finding internships, and support during the hiring process. Some students can even take their training further and become teachers!

Beyond technical training, female students get psychological support to strengthen their self-esteem and help them find their place in this male environment. CFIAM also organizes awareness activities for the government and the public. Through sketches, documentary films, music videos and radio programs, they aim to break down prejudices and promote women's social and professional integration.

In 2018, over 300 young women were trained at a CFIAM. Among the women who finished the program, 75% found a job and 25% created their own micro-business.

IMSA PROJECT CULTIVATING THE FUTURE



Mission inclusion has been active in the food security sector in Burkina Faso for over a decade by providing financial and technical support to the Union des groupements pour la commercialisation agricole de la boucle du Mouhoun (UGCPA-BM), Association pour la Formation, le Développement et la Ruralité (AFDR), and Action pour la Promotion des Initiatives Locales (APIL).

Launched in April 2015, the food security innovation and mobilization (IMSA) project reinforces the coordinated food security actions of our three partners who work throughout the north of Burkina Faso. The project aims to increase the production capacity and income of communities and, above all, to train producers to master their craft and become self-sufficient. So far, producers have doubled their yields and quadrupled their monthly revenues.

Other tools aim to promote the participation of women, who are often excluded from agricultural activities. These include a day-care centre during training hours and access to agro-ecology fairs, as well as specific training on public speaking and women's leadership. These initiatives are bearing fruit, as 61% of the 7800 producers reached by the IMSA project in Burkina Faso are women.

In addition to being able to provide for themselves and their families, working women are respected by husbands and communities as contributing members of society. Their confidence grows and they assert their place in society. Fewer conflicts and improved relationships between men and women increase social cohesion and stability.

"I was born in 1992. I took the body shop training at the CFIAM. It wasn't easy: I didn't think that a woman could do this job. After holding two other positions, I currently work at FORTUNE MOTO as a painter and manager of the painting shop."

"For the past three years, I have been helping my father pay for school for my little sister. I also contribute to the cost of food while saving money for my own projects. The CFIAM training radically changed my life, because I now excel in a profession I would never have dreamed I could work in, and I am really making a living at it."

- Zida Aguiratou



AID TO DISPLACED POPULATIONS



Burkina Faso continues to contend with a regional crisis affecting its borders with Benin, Niger and Mali due to violence caused by armed or terrorist groups. These groups attack both civilians and those in authority, which results in the abduction and killing of innocent people.

To keep their families out of harm's way, many people have fled their villages to safer provinces nearby, such as Yatenga. As of July 2019, there were 220,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) in northern Burkina Faso, the majority being women and children. The IDPs who flee violence have to leave everything behind and cannot meet their basic needs.

Given this alarming situation, **Mission inclusion** is working with the Association Formation-Développement-Ruralité (AFDR) to respond quickly to the food and hygiene needs of populations affected by

insecurity in Yatenga province and to help them with economic recovery activities. Families get certified seeds and plots of land so that they can farm independently and pursue their livelihoods. These actions therefore aim to get people actively involved in getting back on their feet.

Mission inclusion is able to support these projects thanks to the generosity of its donors.

You too can contribute to the emancipation of women in Burkina Faso and help them realize their potential!

Giving to **Mission inclusion** Means...



ENCOURAGING TRUE PARTNERSHIP

Mission inclusion relies on the practical expertise and knowledge of its partner organizations and maintains an equal relationship with them.



GETTING RESULTS

Mission inclusion supports concrete and sustainable projects and ensures achievement of result through a rigorous accountability process.



INCREASING IMPACTS

Mission inclusion supports the management and work of its partners so that they can expand their initiatives to help as many people as possible.

Your donation goes further than you think!

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Legal Deposit – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2020 – PP 40036970

Mission inclusion is a name legally used by the Jules and Paul-Émile Foundation.

Register charity number: 118923689 RR 0001

