



A VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT IN BURKINA FASO

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in volunteering in Burkina Faso. We can promise you a warm welcome as well as plenty of hard work if you do decide to join us at one of our projects.

Part of what motivates us at Transform Burkina is the belief that Burkina Faso can be a blessing to the world. So we are confident that you will receive every bit as much as you give to this wonderfully hospitable people of this country.

We welcome enquiries from both individuals and groups and look forward to welcoming you to the 'land of upright men'.

What might a placement look like?

No two placements will be the same as we try to individually tailor each one to those volunteering. Much will depend on how long you can go for (we ask for a minimum of two weeks) and the kind of skills that you bring.



As well as working at one of our projects, there will also be opportunities to spend time with the local community and to relax.

To help you, these are the kind of skills that are in demand:

- Skilled or manual work in teams involved in with well drilling, other building projects and solar panel installation
- IT set up and development.
- Teaching English as a foreign language
- Teaching vocational course in IT, plumbing, building, sewing etc.
- Helping with teaching in primary and secondary schools.
- Medical support in clinics (clinical practitioners will need to ensure they are cleared to practise by their professional bodies).
- Working in orphanages.

However, if you have another skill that you think may be useful, please talk to us about it.

What will it all cost?

The total cost will depend on how long you go for, where you come from and the location of your project in Burkina Faso. However, we have provided the below, to help you to calculate a likely cost, which we will work with you to confirm as your plans develop.

What we will arrange	What you will need to arrange
UK support for orientation / debriefing.	Travel insurance, injections / personal medical equipment and passport / visa costs. (Transform Burkina will offer support for your trip, but individuals and groups are responsible for making their own travel and insurance arrangements. Please ensure you have copies of any travel insurance documentation, which must include appropriate levels of cover for a trip such as this.)
In country travel, food and accommodation. (Costs can vary, but we will advise you of any change as your plans develop)	Out of pocket expenses in Burkina Faso including gifts etc. (This is your own spending money for the purchase of personal items, gifts for home etc. Talk to us about suitable things to take as gifts for the places and people where you will be volunteering)
In country support from our local partner.	Flights to and from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and any UK travel for your trip, orientation and debriefing.
	10% donation to local project as a thank you for hosting you (We encourage you to decide, with local people during your stay, what this gift will be spent on.)

Cost calculator

ITEM	COST (£)
Travel insurance. (Although we do not anticipate anything going wrong, a comprehensive policy, including a medical evacuation clause, is essential. We will need to see a copy of your insurance before you travel.)	
Injection and personal medical equipment, mosquito net etc. (For advice on what is required visit your local GP or go to http://www.nathnac.org/ds/c_pages/country_page_BF.htm for the UK.)	
Visa costs. (Visit http://www.burkinafasovisa.co.uk/consul/ for the UK.)	
Out of pocket expenses in Burkina Faso including gifts	
Flights to and from Burkina Faso and UK travel. (See http://www.airfrance.co.uk or www.brusselsairlines.com as carriers with regular flights from Europe to Burkina Faso)	
UK support and orientation	£100
In country travel, food and accommodation – £60 per day	
Add 10% for donation to local project	
TOTAL	

Questions?

Language



French is the nationally recognised language and widely spoken alongside local languages. Whilst our partners usually speak some English and translation can be provided, a working knowledge of French would be an advantage.

Safety

Burkina Faso remains a predominantly safe and peaceful country. However, because of its proximity to areas of conflict, current advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is against travel to the north of the country and therefore it will not be possible to visit or volunteer in projects in this area. See <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/burkina-faso> for current travel advice. As with all travel abroad, we would recommend taking sensible precautions with personal valuables and heeding the advice of our partner staff when in country.

Groups including children must consider Child Protection issues and obtain appropriate DBS / Scottish PVG clearance for any adult

who will be, or could be seen to be, in a position of responsibility for any of those children at any time during the trip. Please ensure you have evidence that you have carried out appropriate risk assessments and DBS / Scottish PVG checks prior to departure. Clearly this does not apply to family groups where parents will be solely responsible for their children.

Staying in contact

Communication is not as reliable and comprehensive in Burkina Faso as perhaps we are used to in the UK. However, there is Internet access in larger towns and widespread and rapidly increasing mobile coverage in other places. You should be able to contact home regularly but we will also ask you for details of your travel and medical insurance and contact details for family members at home. We will be in regular contact with our partners and will be able to pass on messages if, for whatever reason, you cannot get hold of people in the UK.

Local culture

Attitudes and assumptions can be different in Burkina Faso to those which we are used to in the West. People will be welcoming and forgiving of mistakes that visitors may make but please take advice from our partners and don't be afraid to ask them if you are not sure how to behave or what is going on. Our partners are Christian organisations and religion plays a far more



central role in Burkina Faso than in the UK. Whilst we welcome volunteers from all faiths and none, we would ask you, when in Burkina, to respect the beliefs and practices of those you meet. For our partners this would normally include, for example, an assumption of attendance at church on Sundays and prayer will normally be part of any meeting or event.

Fundraising

You may wish to undertake fundraising to cover the cost of your trip and we would be very happy to help with ideas, publicity, etc. to enable you to do this.

How do I sign up?

If you would like to join us on this adventure then please email info@transformburkina.co.uk with your name, address and contact details so that we can discuss your individual plans and ideas. If, having talked more, you want to go ahead, we will ask you to confirm that in writing, together with a deposit of £100.

We very much hope that you can join us.

