

## TRANSFORM BURKINA BURSARY REPORT – JANUARY 2018



*Bursary students at Bethel School, Gourcy with their parents*

Thanks to the support of both individuals and trusts we have been able to support a further 25 students to attend school through our bursary scheme this year.

Each student is selected by local bursary committees, who decide the most effective way of offering such support.

Whilst there are no firm selection criteria, committees will prioritise:

- Pupils of primary or secondary school age who live within walking distance of one of the schools we support.
- Families where parents are either unemployed or day workers / subsistence farmers with very low incomes
- Families where the parents have not been to school.

Again support can take many forms, but tends to be offered in the form of:

- Direct finance support to cover, for example, school and exam fees.
- In kind support, for example the provision of uniforms, books and food for school lunches.
- Family support, e.g. livestock or loans to allow the family to start to earn their own income.

Pupils are regularly visited and their progress and results monitored to ensure they are getting the most out of the education on offer.

Typical of those we have been able to support this year is Jedidia Balima.



*After a tragic accident left her father paralyzed and unable to work, the future appeared bleak for Jedidia (pictured with her Mum).*

*In a bid to feed her daughter and two sons, Jedidia's mother took on casual cleaning jobs alongside caring for her family. But there was never quite enough to go round and certainly no chance of finding the money for school fees, uniform etc., despite the fact that Jedidia was desperate to learn.*

*Neither of her parents had the opportunity to go to school and it looked as if the same would be the case for their 13 year old daughter. However, things have now changed dramatically; Jedidia now attends a school 1 km from her home in Ouagadougou, thanks to her participation in the Transform Burkina bursary scheme. The bursary pays all her school fees, provides uniform and books and also pays for a daily nutritious school lunch.*

*Jedidia, who lists maths and athletics as her two favourite things at school, is thriving and actively planning what she will go on to do with her education.*



During 2017, we have undertaken a review of the bursary scheme with AEAD, our partners in Burkina Faso. Providing the opportunity for an education to those who would otherwise be unable to go to school is undoubtedly transforming lives and we are aiming, from 2018, to expand and develop the scheme. Our aim is to at least double the number of children we are able to support as well as enhance communication with our UK supporters.