



Burkina Faso: A blessing to the World

Welcome to the July 2020 Transform Burkina newsletter. We hope you find inspiration and encouragement as you read on!

Covid-19

Like most other countries in the world, Burkina Faso has been affected by Covid-19. The official figures for the country are that there have been 847 cases and 53 deaths. However, the lack of testing means that the actual numbers are almost certainly higher than this.

The country had a national lockdown similar to that in the UK for several weeks with restrictions now starting to ease. Schools were shut for several weeks, but have now re-opened and the academic year has now been extended into August so the school year can be completed.

There were travel restrictions within the country, which caused a slowdown in some of the projects we're involved in, but these restrictions have now been lifted.

Many of the guidelines for managing the virus are similar to the UK with frequent handwashing and social distancing the key to bringing down the rate of reproduction.

Burkina Faso may have avoided the impact that has caused such high death rates in other countries, but attention is now turning to the economic cost of the lockdown with Oxfam estimating that 33 Million new people across West Africa could be at risk of hunger.

We support the Bethanie Health Centre, located in an informal settlement on the outskirts of the capital Ouagadougou.



The Centre has introduced several measures to try and limit the spread of Covid-19, including compulsory wearing of masks, compulsory hand washing and social distancing.

They have also started a programme on raising awareness among the population through educating anyone who visits the centre.

It is pleasing to note that their most recent report to us didn't mention anyone actually being treated for Covid-19 at the Centre.

Security

The security situation in Burkina Faso is showing no sign of improving. The most recent extremist attacks have been carried out in the north and east of the country with latest estimates suggesting that 850,000 have been displaced and a further 2 Million require humanitarian assistance.

Staff Changes

We're pleased to announce the appointment of Jonny Wooldridge as our new Executive Officer.

Jonny lives in York and is married to Anne with two grown-up children. He's taken over from Kevin Lawrence who's moving on to new challenges after several successful years at the helm.



Education

As pupils start to return to school after the lockdown in Burkina Faso, we're pleased to report that the students we support directly through our bursary scheme are progressing well with school fees and some basic supplies for their families provided directly by sponsors. The scheme has grown with an extra pupil being supported and several more in the pipeline.



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Ruth, one of our sponsored pupils, with her Father and their donated basic supplies.

MAD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC030576

The MAD Literacy Project in Zougo and Dundoudougou has started after a delay caused by the Covid-19 lockdown.

The project teaches basic literacy and numeracy in the regional Moore language to groups of 30 to 40 learners in each village and then gives them an opportunity to use their new skills in a practical way, such as in buying and selling agricultural produce or obtaining micro-credit.

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