

Visit to Goumsin, November 2016

During our visit to Burkina Faso, we were joined by our sports comrade Thomas. An ideal addition, since Thomas had a lot of technical knowledge. He repaired some cars and fixed some wheelbarrow for us. For our project "Fountain and Water Tower, his know-how was very helpful.

Our first meeting and discussion with the members of the cooperative was a little discouraging. Two young men left the village and two other members retreated. We had bad luck with miscarriages in the pig-breeding and the hand-dug well did not supply sufficient water for the whole vegetable garden. Water had to be towed out of about 900 meters and everyone can imagine that after a day on the fields the a 20 L bucket can get very heavy and water started to spill.

Nevertheless, 18 young pigs were running in the pigsty and chili peppers were already carrying large pods ready to be harvested. Water was the dominant issue in the discussion among the cooperative members.



Vegetable garden 800m²

Sponsorship opportunity

I was touched by a topic which is still to this day a huge problem in Burkina. A baby was abandoned on the roadside and a mother from our cooperative was commissioned by the Council of Elders to provide care. Since this mother has daily struggle with the nutrition of her own children, she turned to us, whether we could influence the decision by the Elders. We decided to help their family in the short term with a sack of rice (costs about 28 Euros.). Our goal is to find a sponsorship for this family. The cost for this family to survive would only be 120- 170 Euros a year.



We would also like to provide two children of this family with a sponsorship. The cost of attending school together with a small meal during lunch time, the books for the school and the school dresses come to a cost of Euro 120.- / child per year. 10 Euros a month can change a life and enable a child to pass graduation of the elementary school after 6 years of attendance.



School class with 67 children in Goumsin.

The Water "Task"

Back to our main task "Water". Georges, who flew to BK a week before, had already conducted preliminary negotiations and organized the drilling carried out on 66 m successfully, a few days before we (Thomas and Ulrich) arrived. During the next 9 days everything else had to be negotiated, paid, delivered and assembled. Pump, locksmith work, solar panel including electric motor, electric wiring, pipe installation, cut a roadside ditch for the pipes and electrical wrings.



Truck with drill



Thomas at the pump



Water tower



first water in pigsty

During these 9 days, ditches for the water and electrical (about 150 meters) were relocated to the pigsty, the garden and the farm house. The pump with flywheel and electric motor was installed and the first water was pumped into the water tower.

On Friday, December 2, 2016, the first water from the water tower flowed out of the water faucet / tap, with thunderous applause. The goal for the cooperative is to accommodate further members and to earn enough money during the next 4 to 5 years to improve the nutritional situation in the village, particular at school. In addition, the financial situation of the members is intended to ensure survival, to enable them to acquire necessary medicines and to build up reserves. So, parents will need fewer children to ensure their own survival.

We can't help everyone in the village at once, but I would like to briefly describe a second event in order to create interest and some urgency in some of my colleagues.

A father moved to the capital with some children, in the hope of a better life, or even to ensure the survival of his family. Unfortunately, as so often, without any success. He sent the children back to the village. The mother could not cope with this situation, the only male left in the family to help support is now the grandfather. In the precarious situation, the school contributions of the two boys of the family were not paid. The school contacted us to see if we could help. The two boys were hired by our project manager, for about three days to work for 10, - Euro to earn the school fee of Euro 7.50 per child. For this school year we have settled the matter, that also lunch, books and writing material are available. Going forward we are looking for godparents for these two young boys Laurent and Nathanael Sam. Euro 120, - per child / year would pay for their schooling, lunch, books and school material. A small contribution for us, a change of life for a child in Burkina Faso.



We can assure you that every penny arrives in Burkina Faso and will be used towards helping families in need, supporting the infrastructure so that these families can get more self-sufficient down then road and remain less dependable on our funds. Please support us with a one-time money transfer or a permanent sponsorship). Any donation qualifies or a donation receipt, which we will gladly issue.

Burkina-Aktiv e.V.

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It is still a lot to do, why wait...

Every donation will save lives...

Thank you



