



Lewis and Clark College
"Better Health for Internally Displaced Burkinabé"
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June - August, 2024
Kaya, Burkina Faso

"This initiative strives to advance peace, encourage inclusivity, and solidarity by addressing the educational needs and healthcare requirements of individuals impacted by terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso. It significantly contributes to enhancing public health in the region by raising awareness, providing screenings for chronic diseases like hepatitis and cervical cancer, and making vaccinations available to internally displaced individuals, thus reducing the impact of disease in the country."

About ATK-BF

Association Télé Karaongo Burkina Faso (ATK-BF) is a nonprofit organization I founded in 2022. In my native language, Mooré, "télé" signifies support, and "karaongo" represents education, reflecting our core mission of "supporting education. One of our central missions is to champion enhanced and inclusive education in Burkina Faso. We achieve this by supplying rural schools with essential educational materials, offering sponsorship for internally displaced children, and advocating for the improvement of educational environments and infrastructure.

This year, our aim is to broaden our mission to encompass vaccination and screening for cancer, and chronic diseases like diabetes, and hepatitis among internally displaced families. Our approach draws significant inspiration from the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We firmly believe that sustainable economic growth commences with equitable education, access to health care, and achieving these goals is inseparable from fostering peaceful and inclusive development.

Context

Burkina Faso, located in the Global South, grapples with significant educational access and health care challenges especially for rural children who have been displaced by enduring terrorist attacks since 2015. Many primary schools, particularly in rural regions, face a shortage of fundamental educational resources, including adequate buildings, desk chairs, and essential school supplies. The nation has been enduring terrorist attacks since 2015, leading to over a million internally displaced Burkinabé, with more than 3 million individuals presently requiring assistance. Furthermore, the nation is currently experiencing a political crisis, and the entire economy has been profoundly impacted. As a Burkinabé and a champion for sustainable economic development, this situation profoundly concerns me. That's why I am committed to addressing the immediate needs of internally displaced individuals by providing basic vaccinations and health screenings. In the words of Gro Harlem Brundland, "Health is at the heart of human development," and access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. Those who have been internally displaced did not choose their circumstances, and any one of us could find ourselves in a similar situation tomorrow. The history of the world reminds us that nobody is immune to conflict, and I firmly believe that solidarity is one of the crucial elements in overcoming challenging times like these.

Partners



For this project, our collaboration involves key individuals and institutions: Mr. Savadogo Sidi Mahamadi, responsible for safety and health management at IAM Gold ESSAKANE; Mr. Moumouni Bande, director of the regional health department of Kaya (DRA-Kaya); Dr. Abdoulaye Soulla; the Hospital Center of Kaya (CHR-Kaya); the International Medical Care of Kaya (CMI-Kaya); and Pharmacy SAMNA Sarl. CHR-Kaya will contribute 5 midwives, while CMI-Kaya will provide 2 midwives and 2 nurses. Pharmacy SAMNA Sarl, a reputable regional pharmacy, will supply all required medical provisions and vaccines upon purchase. Additionally, we are fortunate to receive support from APZ-BF, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating gender-based violence.

Project Description, Goal, and Impact

This project will take place in Kaya, a city in northern Burkina Faso with the highest population of internally displaced individuals. The beneficiaries of this initiative are the internally displaced people of Camp C in Kaya, consisting of approximately 100 families, primarily composed of women and children. The anticipated number of participants ranges between 300 to 350 individuals. This is a 4-day health and educational campaign project focused on conducting workshops on cervical cancer and hepatitis B, offering screenings for cervical cancer, and administering Hepatitis B vaccinations. Certified nurses and midwives from our collaborating partners at CHR and DRA Kaya will oversee the workshops, screenings, and vaccination procedures. They will host an extensive workshop on hepatitis and cervical cancer on the initial day, followed by three(03) days dedicated to screenings and vaccinations. My team members and I will oversee logistics, maintain records, aid in workshop facilitation, and further understand their challenges for future projects.

To encourage participation and aid the participants' food insecurities, the project aims to provide each participant with essential support by distributing a 10 kg bag of rice and a 1-liter bottle of oil.

Through this project, we expect participants to :

- Demonstrate knowledge of cervical cancer and hepatitis
- Acquire immunity against hepatitis B
- Develop better health outcomes

The overall goal of the project is to improve the health status of the internally displaced individuals of Camp C of Kaya. Most of them come from rural areas and can't afford basic services.

Project sustainability

This project maintains sustainability through the administration of the Hepatitis B vaccine, which offers lifelong protection, aiding in the prevention of liver disease among participants. Those identified with cervical cancer and hepatitis during this project will be referred to the Tengando University Health Center (CHUT). Additionally, we intend to engage with governmental bodies and private investors to secure funding for their support and closely monitor project progress.

We plan to raise additional funds to replicate this initiative in other internally displaced camps across the city, contributing to re-establishing peace in Burkina Faso and promoting inclusivity. As a dedicated non-profit organization, we aim to expand our efforts to various cities within the country.