



November 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

Congressional support for U.S. foreign assistance programs is on the chopping block due to the U.S. deficit and long-run debt. [Development experts](#) are concerned about the survivability the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), one of the world's most innovative, results-oriented foreign aid programs. The MCC, established in 2004, dispenses foreign aid on a non-political basis to developing countries that adopt sound economic and social policies. It grants assistance to pro-growth projects that meet objective criteria and high standards of viability. These projects must be conceived, designed, and managed by host country nationals.

There are similarities between the MCC model and the structure and approach of FBF Projects. Our outreach program puts a premium on building institutional capacity and collaboration with Burkinabé. It welcomes local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to submit project proposals. Funding decisions are made on a competitive basis; that is to say, on the quality of the proposals, the applicant organization's adherence to our [guidelines](#), and the availability of resources in the FBF Project account.

In 2011, FBF deepened ties with three Burkinabé NGOs: 1) NEEED (*Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Développement*) in Ouahigouya, 2) APRODES (*Action de Production pour le Développement Economique et Social*) in Kongoussi, and 3) NOWON (*Association Nowon*) in Koudougou/Ouagadougou. Accomplishments achieved and programs developed by these organizations are described below:

Without the **Lambs Project**, few village girls in the Ouahigouya region of northern Burkina Faso would have the opportunity to go to school. FBF's support of NEEED's Lambs Project this year enabled 300 girls to be enrolled in first grade in 15 village primary schools. Every year, a modest \$80 investment enrolls a girl in the program,. Over the past nine years, 83.2% of Lambs Project girls passed exit exams from primary school compared with 64.5% of all primary school children in the region. As a testament to FBF's mission to create a sea change in Burkina in the area of girls' education, the last two years, FBF has offered scholarships to Lambs project girls graduating from secondary school to go on to teacher training, nursing, midwifery and the university (to study law and medicine), thanks to the generosity of two of our partners. Just as the MCC model focuses on the return on investment (ROI) of its projects, we too feel that the successes we've witnessed in Ouahigouya represent ROIs beyond our wildest expectations! If we can keep up our

support for NEEDED's innovative and self-sustaining program as we've done the past ten years, what will another 20 years bring to these girls' families and their communities!?

NEEED's **Noon Meal project** pays for lunches for children attending the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié in Ouahigouya. The middle/secondary school students walk, on average, 6 kilometers to and from school and have no other source of food during the day. This year, enrollment increased to 850 students.

APRODES's **garden projects** in villages adjacent to Lake Bam enable the women who belong to cooperatives in Koumbango, Loulouka, and Darigma to expand production of onions, tomatoes, and green beans. In 2011, increased vegetable production improved the nutritional intake and status of family members. It also increased overall household income of the cooperative members. The cooperative in Loulouka was particularly successful. Annual earning per coop member from tomato sales in was \$250, largely due to exports to China.

NOWON's **mill project** in the village of Tiogo was funded this past spring. Shortly thereafter, the mill was installed. It is now being used to grind millet into flour, relieving women of a burdensome task. It is also being used by 60 women belonging to the Zuna Dwa cooperative to transform karité nuts into shea butter which will be sold on the open market.

Much of our ability to do so depends on many supporters, supporters like you who make donations year after year to our projects fund. In these challenging economic times, we understand that there are many competing and worthwhile priorities for your charitable donations. But we still request that you find a way to continue to help us sustain our efforts. We've already shown what we can do with \$80 (which supports a village girl's education in Ouahigouya for 13 years). So trust us when we say—no amount is too small to make a difference! And finally, don't forget: Every dollar donated directly to FBF Projects is sent to the field—another return on your investment about which we, as an organization, are particularly proud.

Many thanks in advance for your generous support! Your donations will ensure that we continue to support community-initiated development projects in Burkina Faso in 2012.

Cordially,

Tom Vollrath
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

Please remember that 100% of project contributions made directly to FBF via our website or through the mail are sent overseas, thanks to our members who keep their \$15 annual membership fees up-to-date. FBF does not levy a tax on incoming funds to cover the organization's overhead expenditures or to pay salaries. To make a direct gift to FBF Projects use either the attached contribution form or our PayPal facility by clicking one of the "donate" buttons after going to <http://fbf.tamu.edu/donations.html>