



BURKINA CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



2018 VOL. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

BOOSTING FOOD SECURITY

P. 3 

POST-EVACUATION UPDATES

P. 5

FULANI-FRENCH SCHOOL OPENS

P. 7

KICK TERRORISM OUT OF BURKINA UPDATE

P. 8

TIGOUNG NONMA UPDATE

P. 8

PCBF

LEGACY BOOK

P. 9

PEOPLE-CENTERED INTERNET

P. 10

VILLAGE GIRLS ROCK IN EDUCATION

by Suzanne Plopper, '67-'69



A new school for Bourbo and three post-secondary scholarship recipients

Every year has been a stellar year for the education of village girls in northern Burkina Faso since Friends of Burkina Faso (FBF) began lending our support to Association NEEED's girls' education projects in 2002. This past year is no exception. We have much to be proud of the accomplishments of the young girls and young women whose educations we have supported, and continue to support, in partnership with Assn NEEED.

Lambs Support Girls' Education Project

Over the past 14 years, on average, 84% of village girls enrolled in primary school through the Lambs Support Girls' Education Project have passed the national exit exam at the end of primary school, qualifying them to continue on to middle school, compared with 64% of their peers throughout the northern region. And it keeps getting better. 2016: 86.3%; 2017: 87.1%. In 2018, 89.6% received their Certificat d'Etudes Primaires, compared with 58.8% of students in the province, 56.1% of students in the region and 61.6% of students nationally.

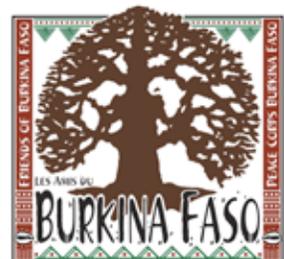
This year, FBF is supporting 75 village girls entering primary school. That brings the total to 3,995 girls FBF has supported in this project to date.

Lycée Modern de l'Amitié

Of the 400 girls from indigent families enrolled in the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié in the 2017-2018 school year, 394 passed year-end national exams to go on to the next class, and six will repeat their last year. 98.5% success.

72.5% of students in their final year of middle school passed their year-end exams (the BEPC exam) compared with 43.9% of their peers in the region.

Continued on next page



VILLAGE GIRLS ROCK IN EDUCATION Continued from p. 1

The highest year-end test scores in the northern region were achieved by five girls in the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié.

To see a very brief video on the school lunch project supported by FBF, visit our project page on GlobalGiving.org.

Post-secondary Education for Girls

All but three of the 155 scholarship recipients this project supported in the past eight years have either graduated from their training programs and are working or are currently in training: 98% success! These include:

- University education: 20
- Nursing training: 13
- Midwifery training: 16
- Primary school teacher training: 103

This year, FBF is able to support post-secondary scholarships for 18 young women (three for university education and 15 in primary school teacher training) out of approximately 200 who applied for these scholarships. In the photo on page 1, (from left to right), Risnata will study English, Amandine geography and Rachida biological science. All three are graduates of the Lycée Modern de l'Amitié; two come from farming families and one comes from a single-parent family.

There remains a huge gap between the number of scholarships we can give and the number of young women who need scholarships to access postsecondary education.

As a scholarship recipient in teacher training, Risnata and a fellow student gave up half of their scholarship funding to another student, an orphan who scored slightly lower in scholarship qualifications. The spirit of generosity and camaraderie among scholarship recipients is amazing!

Primary school construction

Thanks to generous donors this year, FBF undertook funding for the construction of a primary school in the village of Bourbo. The school is now complete. Note the amazing contrast in the before/after photos below!



Before and after: A new school for Bourbo is complete!



To see a very brief video of Risnata, a graduate of this project, visit our project page on GlobalGiving.org.

For additional information about these girls' education projects, visit www.friendsofburkinafaso.org or FBF's Projects page on GlobalGiving.org.

These three projects are fantastic investment opportunities for those interesting in investing in girls' education!

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THE 2018 FUNDRAISING LETTER!

FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO
ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

Please return this page with your contribution to:
Suzanne Plopper
FBF Treasurer
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Chester CA 96020

Name _____ Date _____
Mailing Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
City _____ E-mail _____
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My contribution to support FBF projects in Burkina is \$ _____

Of my total contribution to the FBF Project Fund,
 I would like to designate \$ _____ to be "unrestricted"
Unrestricted funds are used to support projects as recommended by the Projects Committee and approved by the FBF Board of Directors.
 I would like to designate \$ _____ to the Post-Secondary Education for Girls Project run by Association NEEDED.
 I would like to designate \$ _____ to the School Lunch Project at Lycée Moderne de l'Amitié (a girls' middle/secondary school) run by Association NEEDED.

To use our PayPal facility online, click one of the "donate" buttons after going to: <http://www.friendsofburkinafaso.org/donate>

TOTAL amount of your check to FBF: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of Burkina Faso
• Thanks for your support! •

Friends of Burkina Faso is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

OR CLICK HERE TO READ IT NOW!

300 FARMERS BOOST FOOD SECURITY THROUGH AIVDPL PROJECT

by Leslie Berger, '81-'83



The Project Manager, Patrice, with healthy corn crop.

FBF has provided \$12,000 for a second year of funding to support the AIVDPL team of agricultural extension officials in south central Burkina in their work providing training to farmers on improved crop management techniques. The aim of this project is to reduce poverty and food insecurity by improving the agricultural potential of poor households.

This year, the AIVDPL team set out to provide training for 300 vulnerable farmers across 15 villages in Binde, Manga and Gogo in south central Burkina Faso. As in the first year, the team is paying particular attention to training women farmers, with women being more than 50% of the total number of farmers selected for training.

After discussions between AIVDPL and the FBF project committee, agreement was reached to continue providing support in the same region for a second year to test how much farmers were adopting the new technology. The project team has provided excellent documentation on progress and have participated in meetings with FBF Board and Projects Committee members over the past six months. The team has been extremely responsive answering all questions raised by FBF's Projects Committee regarding project implementation.

Project Methodology

Farmers are encouraged to collect manure from their own animals for use on their crops to restore soil fertility. Training is provided on methods for digging manure pits, collecting

Continued on next page

AGROECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70

The AIVDPL approach to increase agricultural production and alleviate food shortages by educating small farmers aligns with the thinking of professional specialists working for the World Food Programme and at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Representatives of more than 70 countries recently gathered in Rome to discuss an approach to agricultural production that combines innovation and tradition that could transform the way much of the world grows food. At this conference, José Graziano da Silva, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, called for "transformative change toward sustainable agriculture and food systems based on agroecology." Agroecology is based on science and on-the-farm experimentation, with its roots in the practices of farmers who know their land and crops and the scientists who work with them to improve their sustainable agricultural practices to grow food while preserving the environment.

"Hungry in the Sahel: the Forever Famine" is the title of an article in a recent edition of [The Economist](#). It references a recent report from the World Food Programme in which "climate change, advancing deserts, and low-tech farming all play a part in the hunger that is widespread within the region." There are some obvious remedies. One "would be for governments and aid agencies to fund research into new seeds and farming techniques to improve yields and make crop less vulnerable to drought."

FBF looks forward to AIVDPL's 2018 final report, due at the end of the harvest season. It will highlight the success of its farmers in following its program designed to boost agricultural productivity and fight food insecurity, as well as lessons learned. Critical to the success of the AIVDPL program is its ability to secure the support of village leaders who, in turn, inspired, recruited and selected farmers to participate in the program. Also instrumental are the regular training sessions about recommended agricultural practices that the team holds with program participants.





AIVDPL farmers survey demonstration plots. Crops on the right had no manure applied. Crops on the left had manure added. The crops on the left are taller and thicker, boding well for yield.

and storing manure, and distributing it across the field. The team sources and distributes to farmers improved seed varieties for corn, rice, soybeans and cowpeas. Crop management training is provided to all participants on how to maximize production potential using these improved methods.

This year, the 300 new farmer participants are receiving training in the classroom and alongside 10 new demonstration plots. The AIVDPL team will take yield measurements in 20 fields following harvest to assess how well the new techniques are working.

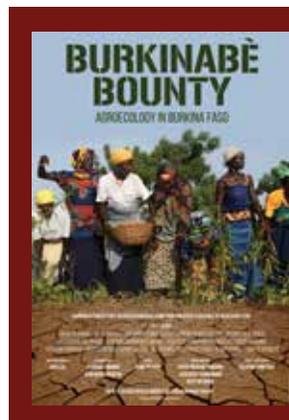
Yield measurements will also be taken on 24 fields from the group of farmers trained last year to evaluate the uptake and success of the improved crop production techniques. This will be a good test of how well AIVDPL has been able to change farmer behavior through training and engagement, and how far the new techniques go in improving yields and farmer livelihoods. The FBF project committee will be reviewing this yield data to determine how effective this project has been over the two years, and based on these results, will consider future funding.



Two women farmers have joined the team of AIVDPL farmers participating in the program.

Project Highlights

- By the end of May, participating farmers had produced 375 tons of manure. Other neighboring farmers also began collecting manure as they observed their neighbors new practices.
- In addition to crops management techniques, the training sessions include discussion of keeping farm accounts, and have introduced the concept of the farmers valuing all their inputs, including the cost of their own time. Farmers have been encouraged to compare their cost of production to the sale price of crop to determine their gross margins and profitability. This is a new concept for many.
- Mayors have visited training sessions in some of the villages, providing encouragement to the farmers to improve their technical skills and praising them for providing a benefit to the whole village. Additional farmers asked to join in the training in some of the villages.
- Photographs have been provided by the AIVDPL team showing corn crops in the demonstration plots. The crops treated with manure appear to be healthier and taller.



DOCUMENTARY FOCUSES ON BF FARMERS

Showcasing activist farmers, students, artists, and leaders in the local Slow Food movement, *Burkinabè Bounty* looks at how the Burkinabè people are reclaiming their land and defending their traditions against the encroachment of corporate agriculture. *Burkinabè Bounty* shows the creative tactics people are using to take back control of their food, seeds, and future. For more information or to watch the trailer, visit the Cultures of Resistance Films website.



When the Peace Corps Burkina Faso program closed in September 2017, it left a newly sworn-in group of volunteers and those entering their second year of service with the unexpected question of what their next steps would be. Read about the different paths of two such Burkina RPCVs.



POST-EVACUATION: GLOBE-TROTTING THROUGH GRIEF

by Jennica Betsch, '16-'17

While life in the Peace Corps can be a roller coaster, at the very least it does offer you a sense of stability—two years of knowing where you'll live, two years of loan deferment, two years of the hardest job you'll ever

love. When I got the email at 8 p.m. that said to pack my bags and be ready for pick-up the next morning, it felt like someone had yanked the rug out from under me, plucking me from my favorite life lived so far.

After our week of makeshift COS in Ghana, my next move was to take a plane to Thailand with a fellow RPCV. No better way to mourn than with a two-month vacation around Southeast Asia on Uncle Sam's dime.

When we arrived in gorgeous Bangkok, we were fully unprepared to greet the world, with unplucked eyebrows, ridiculous tans, and no shoes other than a dirty pair of neon yellow flip flops that matched those of my best friend back in village. The next two months, we hopped from place to place, deciding our next trip at the very last minute based on our bucket lists or friends and Workaways that offered us a bed. One of my strongest memories from that period is at a beach on Cat Ba Island, Vietnam, a beautiful beach with stone islands in the distance and the clearest water I've ever seen. I was playing with the little fish at my feet—really the most tranquil scene you can imagine—when a wave of grief overwhelmed me, and I started crying for my lost life back in Burkina. That was a pattern during our travels, great distractions until the sadness crept up again. It certainly wasn't an easy time, but I believe it was the best transition we could have given ourselves.

I finally arrived back in the States on Halloween, which almost helped with the transition; with everyone dressed up in costume and nothing as it seemed, it was okay that I was also feeling so bizarre and out of place.

After months of grief, anxiety and adjustment, I flew to Greece and then Morocco just after New Year's to start a new job with Cross-Cultural Solutions. CCS is an international volunteering organization that advertises itself as a "short-term Peace Corps." I appreciate coming into this job after Peace Corps, giving me the experience of true grassroots, on-the-ground

efforts combined with immense cultural sensitivity and appreciation. Short-term volunteering is a tricky business, but thanks to the Peace Corps, I trust myself to know what is and what isn't constructive when working for others.

Most recently, I was transferred to CCS's gap year program, Thinking Beyond Borders, which moved me from Morocco to Guatemala. TBB is an amazing program where our students follow an intense curriculum that seeks to answer the questions, "Who am I?" and "What is development?" They travel to five countries and live with host families to learn alongside them by farming, teaching, and working at local health centers together. The biggest adjustment for me has been switching from the French of Burkina and Morocco to my low, low level of Spanish.

It's been a year since evacuation, and I really can't believe how much has happened in the year that I was supposed to be finalizing our various community projects back in Kaibo, Zoundweogo. I've traveled to 11 countries, had two jobs, and celebrated Ramadan with mint tea and chebakia instead of with Fanta and rice with tegedege [peanut]sauce. Thanks to another RPCV, I have a reminder on my phone that goes off every three days when the market is in village and, once every couple of months, I set a half day aside to call all my favorites back in village. Being plucked from my favorite life was devastating, but Burkina will always be on my mind, and I am counting the days until I once again touch down in Ouagadougou.



POST-EVACUATION: FROM BURKINA TO COMOROS

by Miriam Cahill



My first experience in Peace Corps started in June 2017 when I was training to be a TEFL volunteer in Burkina Faso. The day of swear-in was the same day our Emergency Action Plan was activated; two weeks later, we were all evacuated.

It was a whirlwind of emotions and unbelievable events that left me feeling lost and terribly sad when I returned to the United States. I just couldn't believe it had happened, and the absolute worst part was we were never able to say goodbye to our host families or to the staff. However, we were offered an expedited process to reapply to Peace Corps, so I immediately started working on that.

I decided I wanted to start my service all over again (including another training), giving myself almost a year to come to terms with what had happened in Burkina and to ready myself for another very different experience. I spent the following 10 months living with my sister and brother-in-law in San Jose, California, working as a substitute teacher.

As my departure date for Comoros approached, I was anxious yet ready. Many people wanted to hear comparisons of my two trainings as well as my evacuation story, both of which were exhausting topics for me. Those conversations finally lessened, and I felt able to experience Comoros fully, without any comparisons.

Training was tough in some ways. I felt much more experienced than my fellow trainees and, therefore, it was hard to relate at times. It was very comforting to reach out to my fellow Burkina volunteers also going through training again and share our experiences. The day of my second swear-in came, but I couldn't believe it was really happening until I moved to my village. Since then, what an amazing time it has been!

I have now been at site for almost three months, and my trainings feel like ages ago. Though evacuation from Burkina was heart-wrenching, the time leading up to Comoros was full of doubt, and my second training left me feeling isolated and stressed, finally being at site has me realizing it was all worth it. I am

beyond happy here and so thankful to be surrounded by such loving and welcoming people. I still have most of my clothes from Burkina and wear them often, which usually sparks conversation about where I got them.

I mention Burkina to people in my village, though I don't think they believe me when I say I lived there for three months. Even though it was a short time, it will forever hold a special place in my heart, especially the relationships I formed there. And for now, I am just grateful I am finally able to live out my dream of being a Peace Corps Volunteer in this beautiful country I can now call home.

WWW.FRIENDSOFBURKINAFASO.ORG



FULANI-FRENCH SCHOOL HOLDS FIRST CLASS

by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70



As a young lad living in Zabre, Désiré Bansé's dad introduced him to Father Maurice Oudet, an itinerant missionary who worked in many villages in Burkina Faso. Father Maurice knew Désiré's father through a common friend, Michel Grandmougin, who was a French volunteer and mathematics teacher at the College de la Salle in Ouaga during the late 1970s. Throughout the ensuing years, Désiré, his dad and Michel maintained contact with Father Maurice because of the relationship Désiré's family had established with the priest's efforts to promote social well-being in many parts of Burkina Faso.

Two years ago, Father Maurice was surprised when Fulani women in Signoghin, a pastoral zone in southeast BF reserved for herders, approached him expressing their desire to have a school built for their children. He urged the women to mobilize interest in Singoghin. Shortly thereafter, the women, together with their husbands and tribal leaders, approached the local Inspector of Primary Education. The Inspector pledged that, if the primary school were to be built, the government would provide it with teachers.

In response to these expressions of interest, Father Maurice, a proponent of bilingual education, committed resources to help finance construction of a school in Signoghin through SEDELAN, the non-profit organization he leads, located in Koudougou. SEDELAN publishes and disseminates newsletters, dictionaries in local languages, and other tools that are used by literate and quasi-literate rural villagers and farm organizations to learn and exchange information with each other.

As an active member of FBF, Désiré informed members of our Projects Committee about the interest of the Fulani elders in educating their youth in Signoghin and Father Maurice's efforts to secure funding to build a bilingual school for them. Shortly thereafter, we received a proposal providing details of the project. FBF Projects Committee members liked the prospects of providing Fulani children with an opportunity to be educated in an environment adapted to the local culture. Students benefit from being in schools where both the local language and the national language are spoken and literacy taught.

At the recommendation of the Committee, the FBF Board approved awarding money to fill the funding gap for the initial construction phase of the bilingual school at its meeting last February. School construction is nearing completion. The government has assigned an instructor to the school, fulfilling the pledge of the Inspector of Primary Education in Bittou. The first set of Fulani students began attending class at the start of the 2018-19 academic year.

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KICK TERRORISM OUT OF BURKINA CAMPAIGN

by Kristen Combs-Bicaba, '98-'01

Following the August 2017 terror attacks in Ouagadougou, FBF collaborated with the Association of Burkinabé living in Washington D.C. (ABURWA), creating a GoFundMe campaign to help those affected by the attacks.

The campaign met its goal to raise \$3000. However, connecting with a local organization in Burkina to ensure that funds were received by the families was a challenge.

Friends of Burkina Faso was pleased to be able to put raised funds directly into the hands of families and individuals impacted by the August 2017 events.

FBF was extremely grateful for the support of Association Panissé and its organizer, Madame Tamini, without whom it would have been difficult to ensure the proper handling of the donated funds. In addition, the Board would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Membership Chair, Sali Greeley, whose personal contacts in Burkina helped to make this a successful campaign.

Eleven families received around \$300 each in a ceremony held on September 17, 2018. FBF Board President Faissal Ouedraogo was in Burkina at the time and able to meet and listen to the stories of the families. The families expressed gratitude and humility that people so far from Burkina would support them.



Eleven families impacted by the August 2017 terror attacks received donations from FBF/ABURWA during a September 17, 2018 meeting.

MAJOR MILESTONE FOR TIGOUNG NONMA

by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70

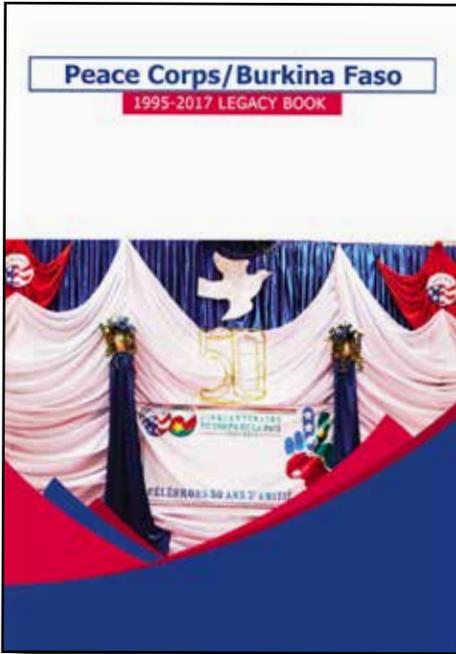
This summer, while in Burkina Faso conducting research for her graduate degree, FBF Project Committee member Anne Spear met Zoenabou Savadago, President of Tigoung Nonma, and other members of this artisan cooperative for the physically disabled. [The good news](#) received is that TN was able to realize one of its dreams. It purchased a plot of land containing a courtyard and a small building in Nonghin, on the outskirts of Ouagadougou, which they proudly showed Anne. The cost of this purchase was approximately \$30,000. The organization had conscientiously put all contributions received from donors over the past several years into an escrow savings account, enabling it to make this acquisition. Congratulations to Tigoung Nonma for this major accomplishment!

The cooperative has not yet received a permit from the government allowing its members to inhabit the facility. Once obtained, the cooperative will need to retrofit the building to accommodate its members. It is important that the doorways be widened and appropriately sized latrines be built so that its members can gain access and navigate the facility with their wheelchairs. TN also aims to transform part of the building into a storefront to display members' art work and handicraft items and to modify the kitchen for its catering services.



PEACE CORPS BURKINA FASO LEGACY BOOK

by Kristen Combs-Biaba, '98-'01



With the closing of Peace Corps Burkina Faso, U.S. Embassy and Peace Corps Burkina Faso staff worked to collect and record achievements of Peace Corps Volunteers in Burkina, culminating in the creation of a *Peace Corps Burkina Faso Legacy Book*.

The Legacy Book "aims to show that in the case of Peace Corps/Burkina Faso, cross-cultural collaboration coupled with local inspiration, imaginative partnerships and desire can indeed turn dreams into realities. In addition to strengthening capacity and building skills, Peace Corps is also founded on the principles of building world peace and friendship through person to person dialogues and exchanges."

The Legacy Book documents many achievements in which volunteers and their counterparts played an integral role, including guinea worm eradication, computer lab construction, micro-enterprise development, food security, and more.

FBF is happy to have been able to partner with many volunteers over the years, providing funding for the implementation of grassroots programs which continue today.

The *Peace Corps Burkina Faso Legacy Book* can be viewed and downloaded in from the [Peace Corps Burkina Faso webpage](#).

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State Representative candidate and RPCV-BF Kate Larose pictured here with her son Jaxon, Senator Bernie Snaders, Gubernatorial candidate Christine Hallquist, and friends, campaigning on election day in St. Albans, Vermont.

Kate lost a tight race by 30 votes. "Our local race felt like democracy at its finest, and it gives me hope for the year ahead for all of us."



A MODEL FOR INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN AFRICA

by Désiré Bansé

This article was edited and reprinted with permission from the author. For the original article in the People-Centered Internet newsletter, visit <https://peoplecentered.net>.

Africa is an example of rapid change that is centered on access and measurable change. For example, Google is building an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Laboratory in Ghana. Cote d'Ivoire has brought online its supercomputer in its 'Centre National de Calcul', following the success we saw in South Africa, with Senegal in line for the third implementation. Through massive infrastructure projects, digital skills training for millions and investments into the African startup ecosystem, Google is tackling the problems with infrastructure and last mile connectivity. Other companies such as Microsoft, Uber, Facebook are present or planning to be integral partners as well. There are many initiatives such as the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Project from the World Bank.



Burkinabé President, Roch Marc Kaboré, presides over the first national conference of diaspora.

Let's take a look at Burkina Faso. In 2002, we were paying 1.78 USD for one hour in cybercafé, mainly to utilize Yahoo Mail, or chat on MSN. We knew how to change the clock of the computer to mess with the 60 minutes countdown. In 2005, we were exchanging MP3 files via infrared on early smartphones. In 2012, with Friends of Burkina Faso, we funded a Computer Technology Center in Koudougou, run by Peace Corps Volunteer Ethan Heppner. The kids impressed us by truly taking advantage of the opportunity. They soon were making money by refurbishing computers, mastering system administration, building website. Today 500Mb of data costs about 5.35 USD, a tenth of the average monthly wages, used to access Facebook, Gmail, YouTube and others. The cost is going down, but it's still a long way from being affordable. Most people use global access to the internet

via their cell phones. In response, the Burkina Faso government has launched a mobile platform to pay taxes online, which demonstrates a desire to grow more accessibility options for the average person.

In July 2018, the Government of Burkina Faso invited me to its first forum on the diaspora and how it can bring innovation,

change and participation to the efforts of developing the country. The President, the Prime Minister, the ministry of finance, ministry of commerce, ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of African Integration and the diaspora welcomed 300 participants from dozens of countries. About 50 Ambassadors joined also. Discussions resulted in a document signed by the participants that included a list of action items. During that meeting, internet connection was free and performed quite well.

"People-Centered Internet (PCI) is an international coalition of positive Change Agents created to ensure that the Internet continues to improve people's lives and livelihoods and that the Internet is a positive force for good with helping people achieve their goals and aspirations." Dr. David Bray is the

Executive Director and he's leading Change Agents who are working to forward Internet in a better way.

A people-centered approach to the Internet is vital on a global scale and much needed in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ghana, and Rwanda. In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development conducted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, determined which Information Communication Technologies (ICT) have great potential to accelerate human progress.

Mei Lin Fung, Co-Founder at PCI, describes it perfectly: "PCI's strategy is for people to work in learning networks of communities where people learn from others to improve their own communities. Breakthroughs by any one community or team or person can spread rapidly across the network and be adapted to the local situation, by local people who then contribute back their learnings."

To reach our goals, we will have to think fast together and come up with an economic engine to support the internet as a commercial enterprise in developing countries. In addition to grassroots innovation and policy development, people are the fundamental focus. What is the incentive for a young school girl in a remote village, for the farmer in the South-East, for a merchant, a businessman in Bobo-Dioulasso?

Continued on next page



ABOUT US

Friends of Burkina Faso is a 501(c)3 nonprofit affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. We maintain a **network** of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) and friends of Burkina Faso. We provide funding and assistance to **support projects** in Burkina Faso. We strive to **improve social interaction**, communication and information exchange. We **educate** others about the country and culture of Burkina Faso.

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INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Continued from p.9

Internet can mean quality time with family abroad, it also means connectivity that enables telemedicine, government services, mobile banking, precision agriculture, smart cities, public safety services, e-commerce and so much more. It will be a force for change and social good that can touch everyone. If it is affordable, open, available and accessible, this puts on equal footing with the educated upper echelon with uneducated and underserved populations. We disseminate the knowledge and provide mechanisms to deliver information so that people are encouraged to go out there and ask the right questions and offer solutions in order to live better lives.



Forum participants

Desiré Bansé is a member of FBF's Project Committee. He leads Prometheus Computing LLC's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Innovation Group.

PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The FBF Projects Committee held its most recent meeting on September 30 at Ambassador Kolker's home. Seven members attended in person Mead Over,



Tom Fox, Drissa Dao, Anne Spear, Desire Banse, Jimmy Kolker, and Tom Vollrath. Jimmy provided those of us present a delectable African meal which included lamb brochettes, fonio, and a sundry of other delicious dishes! Following nourishment, the group connected virtually via Skype with Leslie Berger in England and Suzanne Plopper in California.



Travelling to Paris soon? Be on the lookout for this portrait of Thomas Sankara which now adorns a building of the city Pierre-et-Marie-Curie, at 100 Hoche Street, Ivry-sur-Seine.

This 108 foot mural in tribute to the Pan-Africanist was completed by the mural artist named Vince and dedicated thirty-one years almost to the day after Sankara's assassination during the coup led by Blaise Compaore.

