



# FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO LES AMIS DU BURKINA FASO



November 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

Are you as tired as I am of the word “unprecedented”? As the coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold around the globe, 2020 has been described in many ways, but I would venture to say that unprecedented might be the most common. Closed schools, working from home, borders shut, mask wearing, temperature checks – these are all the new normal, even though nothing about them feels normal at all. And in Burkina Faso, the continued security crisis and resulting humanitarian impact has left many to note the situation as unprecedented in a country that has long prided itself on tolerance and cross-cultural understanding.

So, while it seems we can't escape the word, today I want to offer a different – and profoundly grateful – perspective on it. This past spring, just as the pandemic was fully emerging, your FBF Projects Committee made an urgent recommendation to the Board of Directors that FBF needed to respond to the growing crisis in Burkina in a real and tangible way. An emergency humanitarian relief fund and a call for proposals were swiftly launched, and the results were inspiring. **In just two short months, members and friends like you donated \$60,000.** Five nimble and dedicated local organizations received grant funds that they deployed quickly to address hunger, hygiene, and gender-based violence in some of the most hard-hit areas of Burkina.

While FBF has a solid track record of supporting projects and good work in Burkina, this was the first campaign of its kind, and the generosity of our members and friends personally astounded me. **It was, in a word, unprecedented.**

I am writing to you today in the hopes that we can make this another kind of new normal. The needs in Burkina are great, to say the least, and now is the time for FBF to double down on its effort to truly be friends of Burkina Faso. The Projects Committee is committed to responding as holistically as possible to needs on the ground and to that end has recently decided to expand its projects' guidelines to include *both* community development and humanitarian assistance initiatives. A call for proposals has been launched, and we look forward to hearing from interested groups with applications shortly. **Your generous contributions are needed so that FBF can support vetted projects in either category for funding in 2021.**

In addition to the humanitarian assistance campaign, allow me to give you brief highlights of how your contributions supported FBF projects this year:

- The bilingual school (Fulfulde/French) in Singoghin continues to expand. FBF provided \$6,000 to SEDELAN (Service d'Édition en Langues Nationales) to add a third classroom and a teacher workroom. A lighting system is anticipated to be installed this month. Despite security concerns, enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is strong.
- The agricultural project in Zoundweogo province to train rural farmers on using improved crop inputs and crop management techniques is going strong. FBF was able to provide \$10,000 to AIVDPL (Appui aux Initiatives pour la Valorisation Durable du Potentiel Local) to expand the project to nine new villages and 225 farmers, with nearly 60% being female farmers. This project is gaining notoriety with interest from other regions about scaling it in their communities.
- Long-time FBF partner Global NEEDED (formerly Association NEEDED) continues to prioritize girls' education as a tool for development. With FBF funding support, scholarships were provided to 13 young women studying midwifery, primary school teaching, civil engineering, English and modern literature. We were also able to fund essential school lunches to 183 students at the Lycée Moderne de l'Amitié in Ouahigouya.

**Will you help FBF continue to support worthwhile projects such as these in 2021? Our impact relies on you.**

There are two easy ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

1. Complete the enclosed donation form along and mail it along with your check to our treasurer.
2. Contribute online through the [FBF website](#).

In times such as these – yes, I'll say it, unprecedented times – I'm profoundly grateful for the FBF community and for our shared love and commitment to *la terre des hommes intègres*. Thank you for your generosity.

With hope for the future,



Caroline Chambre Hammock  
Chair, FBF Projects Committee

PS: Your gift by December 31 will allow FBF to respond quickly to project proposals in the new year.

*FBF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.*