Introduction

Population: 16.2 million 1
Human Development Index (HDI): 161 of 169 2
Life Expectancy: 53.7 years 3
Medical care: 5 doctors per 100,000 inhabitants 4
Prevalence of blindness: 1.4 % 5

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world with few institutional donors directly addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. As a priority country for both LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and Austrian Development Cooperation, Burkina Faso provides real opportunities for joint working.

In 2009, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD decided to build on the success of the Burkina Faso programme by creating a country office.

The country office will play a crucial role in supporting partners and in growing LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S work in Burkina Faso from a group of independent projects to a comprehensive programme designed to foster inclusive development and to help create an inclusive society.

It sets out where LIGHT FOR THE WORLD can add real value to the work to achieve an inclusive society. The strategy has been developed following a comprehensive process of situational analysis and broad consultation with key stakeholders in Burkina Faso and in Europe between April 2010 and May 2011.

2 Ibid
3 Ibid
The guiding framework of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD'S overall strategy

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S overall strategic objective is an inclusive society, where all persons can participate equally in their social, political, economic and cultural environment.

Our work is based on human rights: the principles of non-discrimination, participation, empowerment and accountability.

Our support fosters effective development in our partner countries. We are committed to locally owned development strategies and align our work accordingly. We co-ordinate and network our initiatives with other stakeholders.

The core work areas of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD are:

Eye health/prevention of blindness:
we aim to remove the physical, social, cultural and communication barriers that prevent equal access to high-quality eye care services for all, especially for those living in poverty.

Rehabilitation and inclusive education:
we aim to use comprehensive and sustainable intervention systems to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and ensure that they can use their potential, skills and abilities to participate fully in society.

Inclusive development and the rights of persons with disabilities:
we aim for inclusive development cooperation that ensures the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We plan to develop a comprehensive inclusive programme in Burkina Faso by 2015.
Towards an inclusive society in Burkina Faso: Fostering inclusive development 2011–2015

Eye Health / Prevention of Blindness

The National Plan for the Prevention of Blindness identified the major causes of blindness in Burkina Faso as cataract (65%) and trachoma (15.5%). Our work to prevent blindness and promote eye health in Burkina Faso faces a number of challenges including a public health system dealing with many competing priorities, a lack of ophthalmologists and other specialists, especially in rural areas, insufficient cooperation and coordination among stakeholders as well as a lack of baseline data.

Working within the National Plan and focusing on areas with existing rural CBR projects, the country programme will support the development of effective eye departments that deliver eye care services accessible to their communities and, in particular, poor patients.

In addition to direct support to all pillars of eye health, coordination and cooperation with other stakeholders will be vital. The eye health programme has four key objectives:

Access to expanded comprehensive and affordable eye health services is improved, with a focus on persons living in poverty

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:

- Development of primary eye care in community based rehabilitation (CBR) areas.
- Placement of ophthalmologists whose training has been supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in hospitals in rural areas.
- Establishment of comprehensive eye services in those hospitals.
- Capacity development of current public partners in quantity and quality of services, access for poor patients and financial sustainability.
- Complementary services by private partners with specific regard to sustainability.

Training and skills of eye care staff in Burkina Faso are increased to improve quality eye care for all

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:

- Partnership with the Ministry of Health for the ongoing specialisation of general doctors in ophthalmology.
- On-the-job training for ophthalmologists.
- Strengthening the capacity of other paramedical staff such as ophthalmic nurses.
Strategy to address uncorrected refractive errors/low vision in Burkina Faso has been developed
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
• Situational analysis and development of strategy in cooperation with potential stakeholders to handle uncorrected refractive errors/low vision.

Strong standing of eye health in general health achieved, as well as good coordination and cooperation of all stakeholders in prevention of blindness
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
• National eye care coordination & coalition under the Ministry of Health.
• Informal NGO-forum to share plans and establish common position on prevention of blindness policy issues and implementation of Vision 2020.
• Networking with NGOs and international coordination groups in West Africa to achieve more comprehensive eye care services in Burkina Faso and for future regional development in francophone West Africa.

Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education

Rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, including economic empowerment
There is quite a number of rehabilitation and economic empowerment services in Burkina Faso but these are mostly inaccessible small, private initiatives in big cities like Ouagadougou. The government has developed a number of rehabilitation policies and efforts have been made to coordinate the various initiatives and stakeholders. Despite this progress, both coordination and services remain insufficient, however. Currently, for example, only one orthopaedic surgeon is available and training possibilities for orthopaedic surgery do not exist. A systematic approach to include persons with disabilities in general livelihood and economic empowerment activities is also yet to be established. The programme in Burkina Faso therefore aims to promote mainstreaming and cooperation as well as to strengthen in-country community based rehabilitation (CBR) capacity and sustainability. This strategy will work towards increased cooperation with the public sector such as with training institutions as well as continued support to CBR programmes of the Catholic Church, and has three key objectives:

Gerard KIENDREBEOGO,
CBR Project Manga
Access to rehabilitation services is improved for persons with disabilities in the current CBR areas in the dioceses of Diebougou, Kaya, Koupela and Manga

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
- Development of certain elements in CBR programmes including the involvement of Disabled Persons’ Organisations (DPOs), micro-financing, advocacy and vocational training.
- Improvement of medical rehabilitation including the support of one centre to establish orthopaedic surgery.
- Reinforcement of local ownership and enhancement of cooperation within the sector of current CBR-projects.
- Clear economic empowerment concept developed with CBR programmes/DPOs integrating all available actors.

CBR is integrated in the public system of the Social Ministry (MASSN)

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
- Training of social workers and at least one new CBR initiative driven by the public sector that includes all stakeholders, especially DPOs.

Efficient coordination and exchange between CBR actors in Burkina Faso and the region

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
- Establishment of a national CBR network or forum
- Linkage of CBR programmes in Burkina Faso to other West African francophone initiatives to contribute to a regional CBR network and training.

Education for persons with disabilities, including vocational training

Education for children with disabilities does exist in Burkina Faso, but is limited geographically and often takes place in special schools for children with a specific type of disability. Inclusive education remains a new and vague concept and its adoption is hampered by both limited resources and capacity. The programme in Burkina Faso aims for inclusive education to be seen as an integral approach in basic education and has two key objectives:

Inclusive education is accessible to children with disabilities in rural areas, where the current CBR programmes are active and in Ouagadougou & Bobo Dioulasso

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
- Understanding of the concept of inclusive education in all CBR programmes and the linkage of children with disabilities to their local schools.
- Establishment of one inclusive school per CBR region (minimum four schools).

Fatacé, CBR Project Manga
• Improvement of quality of education by current partners.
• Mainstreaming inclusive education in basic education on national policy level (e.g. the introduction of accessible school construction as standard in Burkina Faso)
• Development of teacher training for inclusive education.

Vocational training initiatives are accessible to persons with disabilities in rural areas, where the current CBR programmes are active and in Ouagadougou & Bobo Dioulasso
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
• Current partner’s cooperation with mainstreaming training initiatives and stakeholders to develop inclusive vocational training

Promotion of Inclusive Development and Rights for Persons with Disabilities

Burkina Faso has a legal and policy framework to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and an inclusive society. However, implementation of the legislation and policies is not guaranteed, there is a significant gap between the national level and services on the ground, and there are low levels of rights awareness and participation.

The current momentum created by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the growing network of NGOs and DPOs provides a real opportunity for the country programme to contribute to the push for an inclusive society.

The programme has three key inclusion objectives:

Persons with disabilities in Burkina Faso have better access to and are taken into account by national mainstream health, education and social services and programmes, as well as in country programmes of donors
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:
• To analyse and develop a clear strategy on how to mainstream disability into bilateral country programmes as well as to explore possibilities with Austrian Development Cooperation and the EU-Delegation and other interested donors to include persons with disabilities in their country programmes.

Henry KONE, DPO Advocacy Group
Implementation of further parts of the UN Convention on a national level through the cooperation of civil society and the Ministry of Social Affairs:

1) The disability pass is introduced and reviewed
2) A coordination mechanism including all ministries is functional
3) The action plan for implementation of the Convention is available
   (including CBR as a national strategy)

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:

- Exchange with and technical support of national and international experts as well as contribution in planning and implementing the UN Convention.

Participation and representation of persons with disabilities on government/policy level is improved and strengthened

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support will include:

- Coordination, exchange and training for DPOs and involvement in advocacy activities on rural level through CBR partners.
- Linkages and exchange between local and national-level initiatives.
- Improvement of partner knowledge of how to use legislative frameworks.
- Development of new advocacy initiatives on the national and legislative situation.

Other areas of work:

As well as the core areas highlighted above, other issues within the particular context of Burkina Faso such as HIV/AIDS, harmful traditional practices (including Female Genital Mutilation) or violence against persons with disabilities may also require attention. We will ensure we have the flexibility to respond to urgent need and to include such issues as part of a broader programmatic approach by a project partner. We will also ensure that disaster preparedness and relief can be included within the broader programme as and when the need arises.
Making the Burkina Faso Strategy a Reality

Based on the principles of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD of Subsidiarity, Ownership and Effectiveness, a number of different resources are needed to implement this strategy. The most important role in the successful implementation is with our local partners.

Partners

The following is a list of partners (in alphabetical order) who are implementing a project supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD at the time of this strategy going to press. A detailed and updated list of the projects supported can be found in the annual activity report of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD available at www.light-for-the-world.org:

- Union Nationale des Associations Burkinabé pour la Promotion des Aveugles et Malvoyants / Ecole des Jeunes Aveugles
- Association des Amis des Jeunes Sourds et Malentendants du Soum
- Centre d’Éducation et de Formation Intégrée des Sourds et des Entendants
- Centre Hospitalier Régional de Koudougou
- Centre Hospitalier Régional de Ouahigouya
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sourou Sanou de Bobo Dioulasso
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Yalgado Ouédraogo de Ouagadougou
- Centre Médical avec Antenne Chirurgicale de Nouna
- Centre Médical Protestant avec Antenne Chirurgicale SCHIPHRA
- Commune de Garango
- Institut des Jeunes Sourds du Faso
- Ministère de l’Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale
- Ministère de l’Education Nationale et de l’Alphabétisation
- Ministère de la Santé
- Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité, Secrétariat National
- Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité, diocèses de Diébougou, Kaya, Koupéla & Manga
- Secrétariat National pour l’Enseignement Catholique

In addition we also have long-standing relationships with a number of other networks and associations, including:

- Cadre de concertation Informelle des ONG internationales intervenant dans la Santé Oculaire au Burkina Faso
- Fédération Burkinabè des Associations pour la promotion des personnes Handicapées including their member organisations as well as other Disabled Peoples’ Organisations not being member of the federation
- Fédération Nationale des Ecoles de Sourds du Burkina Faso
- Association Nodde Nooto
Réseau du Cadre de Concertation des ONG internationales Intervenant dans le domaine du Handicap
Réseau pour la promotion de l’éducation Intégratrice
Université de Koudougou / Ecole Normale Supérieure de l’Université de Koudougou
Société Burkinabé d’ophtalmologie / Ordre des Médecins du Burkina Faso / Association des Attachés de Santé en Ophtalmologie

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’S support structure

The LIGHT FOR THE WORLD country office is the first contact point for partners and will play a vital role in supporting them in implementing this strategy. Its main responsibilities are:

- project monitoring and improving project quality;
- facilitating learning between partners;
- consulting partners on management and governance issues;
- identifying new/potential project partners;
- promoting disability mainstreaming through training;
- advocating and networking on the objectives of this strategy;
- providing country input for the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD confederation.

National and international experts have successfully provided support to our work. We will continue to closely work with these experts in a structured way. We will also tap into expertise within other LIGHT FOR THE WORLD programme countries in south-south exchange.

To maximise effectiveness and avoid duplication, support for the Burkina Faso programme will be led by the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Austria desk for Burkina Faso and will include:

- supporting and administering finances and programme activities;
- establishing links to experts and international development cooperation/actors/trends;
- serving as the main contact for confederation partners’ programmatic requests;
- supporting and developing the programmatic approach;
- fostering co-funding through establishing relations with donors; and
- facilitating the peer review of the programmes.

Financial Resources:

In 2010, the total expenses of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Burkina Faso came to approximately 1 million EUR. Given continued positive income growth and the fact that Burkina Faso is an important priority country for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD this support will be maintained or slightly increased.

Detailed figures are published in the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD annual activity report.