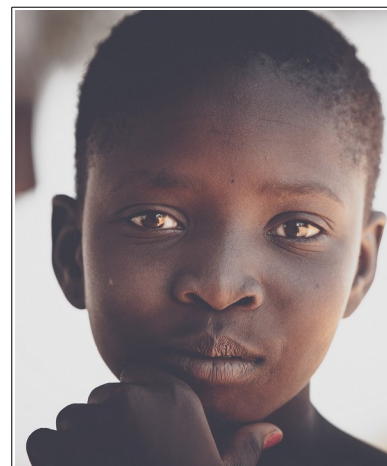




JANUARY 2017 REPORT
WEND BE NE DO
BURKINA FASO



**FOLLOW UP VISIT OF THE TIENDA ASILO FOUNDATION
OF SAN PEDRO, CARTAGENA, SPAIN**

We the co-workers María SÁNCHEZ-SOLÉ, Carlos LLANO FERNÁNDEZ, Dimas FRÍAS ORTEGA and Aurelio SANZ BAEZA are making this report on our follow-up visit to the WEND BE NE DO (WBND) Project in Bam, Burkina Faso, from 9th to 19th of January 2017.



The joy of finding ourselves at the WBND project has afforded us hope and strength in our commitment as volunteers and co-workers, and the task of the team has helped us to be part of the life of those who this year have undertaken this follow-up visit to Burkina Faso. It has been an important experience of teamwork and of harmony for us, and being together with the local project team has been a real gift. For this reason we wish to state all that follows.

I A project that charms



WBND was born of a united spirit between Burkina Faso and Spain by means of the Charles de FOUCAULD fraternities. To go to the last, to be with them, to work for them, to place ourselves on the periphery of the comfortable world in which we live day by day, is a challenge which the Tienda Asilo Foundation of San Pedro de Cartagena has taken on seriously since 2005 and, likewise, all the people, organizations, institutions and parishes who

have helped and continue to help us to carry on the project that charms, that makes you feel that it is worthwhile working for the people of Burkina Faso and especially for the children, adolescents, youths and adults of WBND in the area of Bam, who are affected by HIV-AIDS. We can see that the project is spreading, that it is growing that the people are getting better, that it is like a big family that leaves nobody out. It is a human space where you don't feel foreign even if our skin betrays that we are Westerners.

II What is WBND?

Our project is directed, organized and managed by the Wend Be Ne Do Association in Bam, with Suzanne OUÉDRAOGO as coordinator and a team of people, some of them clients of the project itself, that serve a total of 608 people affected by VHI-AIDS, of whom 267 are adults and 341 children and adolescents – orphans affected by VIH-AIDS or at risk –, and also has a welcome for those who seek in WBND to be heard, understanding



and help. The care is sanitary, socio-psychological, nutritional and, in the case of children and teenagers educational. The business takes place in offices, in a reception centre, a depot and multi-purpose centre that the Foundation built in Bam, along with the Diocesan Medical Centre, which is where clients meet in groups to communicate with each other, go for treatment and spend the night if they have to stay over for medical appointments or tests, as they come from some 50 villages, some of them 80 kilometres from WBND.



The Tienda Asilo Foundation of San Pedro is the organization that most helps the upkeep of the project, with 95% of its costs. Chrétiens pour le Sahel, Plan International, and OCADES are organisations that also work with WBND. The Foundation looks for resources of every sort in Spain and coordinates their procurement in the West, and the involvement and training of volunteers.

III The achievements we have seen

It has been a source of satisfaction for us in the team that visited the Project to note the improvement in the health of most of the clients, their renewed and hopeful spirit, the progress in the education of the children and adolescents. Four of the first children we got to know in WBND at the beginning of the project are now studying at university, Two are in the major seminary of Ouahigouya, several are studying in the technical training centre, three have been taken out of child labour in the gold mines and have gained their work qualification thanks to Susana's direct work with them. The experience of the work of the local team gives us reassurance for the



smooth running of the project, and to this is linked the dedicated contribution of some of the clients as volunteers in the activities of emotional and psychological, social and human support, work with children, monitoring their progress in school, in the cleanliness of facilities and their work in the kitchen when groups meet at the multipurpose centre for their usual meetings or festivities.

From the beginning of the project we have met many problems, and many difficulties, but to see these people happy, taking charge once more of their lives and their rights, and overcoming their fears, more than makes up for it.

IV Human warmth

Burkina Faso is a very poor country, but rich humanly due to its people, who are always so warm and welcoming. We continually meet people who welcome you and give you what they have. Although as benefactors of the project we are laden with materials, and provide all that is needed from the Foundation to run WBND, we receive far more than we ever give, of our time or efforts, whether during our visit there or in our own country.



We have had a very deep encounter with the people in the various activities. It was moving to visit Bouba's grandmother in Kongoussi, a widow for the past year, and to hear her words of thanks, her experience of serenity and peace, her closeness to these foreigners who had gone to see her, and who looked after her nephew. Bouba's grandmother showed us the heart of a wise and humble person.

The children's party on Sunday, 15th January, was, as every year, the encounter of greatest intensity, between them and the team, with the participation of all in a day that is unforgettable for them, the joy they show us, sharing among all the importance of WBND in all our lives. Dimas made a report with his excellent photographic equipment installed in a drone. We all enjoyed it as it was the first time that WBND was filmed from the air, and this experience was unforgettable in the children's and adults' memories. The games, dances, music and the shared meal and gifts and especially, the people, made for a truly



simple celebration without the social trappings we have in the West.

Our meeting in Ouagadougou with the WBDN Administrative Council and Cardinal Philippe OUEDRAOGO on January 18 served to take stock of the project and the new challenges that its expansion pose for us. This direct contact between the Foundation and the Council coordinated by Susana proved most interesting,

listening to each other and gathering the concerns voiced by both sides.

V Our possibilities

The reality of a country like Burkina Faso, an old French colony until 1960, and currently politically stable following difficult stages building up a democracy, impel us to continue opting as a Foundation for WBND. We know we will never lack the support of the people of Spain and the organisations that assist us. The work of Carlos in Madrid, with his NGO Childhood Smile, the help of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the



backing and economic support of the Municipality of Cartagena, the Zakatiki Association of La Ribera de Valencia, parishes, especially the Parish of St. James the Greater in Madrid, communities, colleges – with special mention for the Colegio Alborxí of Alzira, Valencia – groups, families that are with us in this endeavour, give us joy and encouragement, since we know that cooperation for development work is not possible without help and the human factor of solidarity is a value against

the counter-values of our society and our system. Thanks.

As a Foundation, of four projects (The Formation Centre, The Occupational Workshop, Torre Nazaret and WBND) that frame its objectives in the work for Human Rights, humanitarian work, the restoration of damaged or lost integrity to the person, the effort to recover impaired health or the getting of a job, we know that not all is done and that more and more we have to be demanding of ourselves. For this reason, we move ahead trying to create around us not an appeal to give alms, but for solidarity, so that future generations may have a more balanced reality, a world at peace eliminating inequality.

VI We can dream

WBND is not a paradise where things always have a happy ending, but it is a human space where one can search for the solution to problems and anticipate the appearance of others. This year Carlos got the Real Madrid Foundation to sponsor a project for WBND of a football camp, with trainers, and from some colleges he got books of French literature for the children, amounting to a small library for school use. An attempt was also made, though unsuccessfully for technical reasons, to install Wi-Fi at the project.



We know the best we can do for a better world is to prepare the children and adolescents to face problems, to study, to live together, to have a decent job in the future, Child labour – especially in the gold mines – is a huge problem in Burkina Faso, and at times the only means families have to get resources. WBND is fighting to ensure that children study, to shape their own field of possibilities so as to reach adulthood with their own rights and duties.



That is why the Foundation and the co-workers who visit the project put all our efforts into seeing that these children and adolescents do not suffer the consequences of the grave injustices and inequalities of our world.

We want to prepare them to be masters of their own dignity, and to this end it is vital that they study, that they don't drop out of school, and that after they continue educating themselves in centres of technical formation or at university. The medication that is offered to them in WBND is most important, as is the food, the school supplies, schooling, and future human and professional formation.

Difficulties are many and the conditions in the country do not make this task easy, but the support of others, our own personal convictions and the desire and energies to work convince us to follow this path with these perspectives. Our thanks to all individuals, groups and organisations who put part of your heart into WBND.





Rapporteurs:

María SÁNCHEZ-SOLÉ ROSIQUE, Cartagena, nurse, Torre Nazaret volunteer; *Carlos LLANO FERNÁNDEZ*, Madrid, economist and sportsman, founder and president of Childhood Smile; *Dimas FRÍAS ORTEGA*, Palma de Mallorca, photographer, musician and drummer of the group L.A.; *Aurelio SANZ BAEZA*, Cartagena, priest, patron of the Foundation and volunteer at Torre Nazaret.



Foundation Tienda Asilo de San Pedro, Cartagena, SPAIN
Fraternité Charles de FOUCAULD, BURKINA FASO
Association WEND BE NE DO, BURKINA FASO



www.wendbenedo.es
www.fasanpedro.es

+ (226) 707170 20 Burkina Faso
+ (34) 868 085701 Spain
+ (34) 968161656, 968122461 Spain

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