



**WEND BE NE DO, Burkina Faso**

**Tienda Asilo of San Pedro Foundation,  
Cartagena, Spain**

**REPORT OF JANUARY – FEBRUARY  
2018**



Follow-up report of the project carried out by the aid workers Concepción MARTOS GARCÍA, Carlos LLANO FERNÁNDEZ and Aurelio SANZ BAEZA during their stay at WEND BE NE DO (WBND) in Burkina Faso, from January 29th to February 8th, 2018.



To be at WBND once more is a privilege for our lives. We shared a reality that engages us all year from afar, but which on the ground bolsters and renews us in the work. What is important is to interact with the people, small and great, to listen and to be heard.

### **I A project with a future**

Since September 2004, the possibility of a project that might meet the need for comprehensive care for people with HIV in the area of Bam in Burkina Faso began to be studied. We worked in union with the Tienda Asilo of San Pedro Foundation (FTASP) of

Cartagena, Spain and the fraternity of Charles de Foucauld in Burkina Faso. In 2005 initial steps were taken as a project with small realities where children, adolescents and adults might have a support in their lives. This assistance was made possible with the coordination of Suzanne OUÉDRAOGO, who made contact with people affected in the 70 villages of Bam, gathered a very small group of volunteers and, with the support of FTASP in all aspects, the project was



becoming a reality. The Wend Be Ne Do Association was established with the existing team

and the beneficiaries themselves, and it is currently the Association that manages the project's programme and works to achieve its aims.

WBND has not stopped growing, retaining an importance that we would never have thought at the beginning twelve years ago, as a landmark project for the whole region, as a human group like a great family. Many people and institutions have helped us and help us to sustain WBND. The 612 beneficiaries at this moment in time recognize and are grateful for this support that comes from a country, Spain, which they know is very far away, but because of that and the effort to be with them near or far, have expressed to us their admiration for our fidelity.

## II WBND in the heart of deepest Africa

Above all the project covers health, nutritional, socio-psychological, spiritual and human needs. Besides, for children and adolescents, it covers schooling and technical and university education. Not all have access to this entitlement, because of the remoteness of some villages and the lack of nearby centres of formation. WBND does everything possible to make the right to education reach the maximum number possible. We know that pursuing this aim will mean that men and women won't have to emigrate, can manage their lives and their families, emerge from extreme poverty and have the health to live off decent work. It is not easy in a world where the lack of resources and



the cultivation of human values means that there are no great social changes. In WBND we fight for these rights in the deepest Africa of Burkina Faso, and we continue to commit ourselves, as a foundation – and with it supporting organizations and groups – and as the Wend Be Ne Do Association, to welcome, accompany, support and help these people who steal our hearts and motivates us to not leave things as they are, either there or in our own country.

## III Progress to date



During our stay we have enjoyed the welcome of a good number of clients who made us feel at home. Also, at the Group of the Word, when they meet to speak – without fear – about their lives, their situations, as a mutual- support group. Surprised at noticing a smaller number of people than in other years. The cause: many of them were working, with the improvement of their health. We have been to villages visiting sick; In schools, where the children of

WBND study, and in a dress-making training center at Kaya, where several girls are doing their technical training. We participated with the local team – Suzanne, Thomas, Francine, Jacques – at their regular meeting and listened and were listened to. Marc was missing, he was ill. On our last day in Burkina Faso



we met with the Board of Directors of WBND, in Ouagadougou, and reinforced our ties and fidelity.

Preparing and celebrating the Children's Party was one of the most rewarding moments of the visit. With great delight we noticed that malnutrition has been overcome, that the vast majority of the children are well, growing, advancing, in good spirits, with their bodies dancing and a smile on their faces. We were no strangers to them, nor were they staring at us because of our white skin, as in the early years. For this occasion, the WBND team worked so that everything might go well, and the children have an extraordinary morning, and be able to



share a meal as friends. We had gifts for everyone and they gave us the best gift with their appreciation and closeness. This celebration, together with the Celebration of Excellence in the month of September, are the most important moments of encounter between them and an incentive to study, care for their health and to express what they feel. The games, dancing and music, help to join in the party from their perspective.



#### IV Bouba, still with us

Bouba's grandmother greeted us in Kongoussi with great affection. The day before she sent us some peanuts which, when they come from like that, there is nothing more appreciable. This woman purifies our hearts unwittingly, and we remember Bouba, who so marked us positively in our work for WBND. We bought paint and the following day went to fix up his tomb. It was a very



important moment

for us and, despite the sun and the suffocating heat, we painted Africa in Bouba's memory and we thanked him for we had learned from him, of his littleness, of the simple things that only the simple people give. Today Bouba would be twenty-one years old already and perhaps would be a good animator of WBND, like other boys and girls who were young when the project started



and who are helping today. We have no doubt that he encourages and continues to motivate us.

#### V WBND progressing

At this moment in time there are 612 users of WBND. There are 271 adults, who receive

the comprehensive attention that the project provides (nutritional aid, health treatment – consultations, medicines, analytics, hospitalisations), socio-psychological, spiritual... And 341 children and adolescents, with the same attention, of whom 150 are in primary education, 50 in secondary – some in internships (boarders) – , 13 in technical training, one at university, two in the major seminary of Ouahigouya, and one working in the police, after his training.

The effort in the struggle to get children out of work in the mines is and has been very important. Some of them are working in decent jobs or training in technical specialties, such as mechanics or administration. We all encourage them to continue training, in the study, in the responsibility. We encourage them all to continue their own training, in studies, in responsibility.

Many adults receive micro-credits, which must be paid back after a set period, to make improvements in their lives, in forms of work or small enterprises or care for and raising cattle. This has meant that there is a greater awareness of the use of resources and of the possibilities of



self-management in their economies. Despite all the difficulties, – the situation of generalised poverty – Burkina Faso being the third poorest country in the world – the consequences of climate change that affect crops and favour increasing desertification in almost all the Burkinabe regions, the foreign debt, and dependence upon the external help of NGO's, the difficult political balance, – we continue to opt for Burkina Faso and the WBND project. The



group of seven local volunteers and the team of five workers, and the more than 40 volunteers in Spain, we trust to continue progressing.

## VI The good people who are with us

FTASP, in its area of international cooperation, receives the support of various institutions and organisations in Spain that make the running of WBND possible. Every quarter we have to deal with the costs of the project and for this we rely upon agreements and the help of the Municipality of Cartagena; Childhood Smile, Madrid, of Carlos LLANO; the Congregation of Religious Sisters of Reparation of the Sacred Heart, the Parish of St James the Greater, Madrid, the Zakatiki



Association, Valencia, colleges such as Alborxí of Alzira, families, generous parishes and persons who provide us not only with money, but also with their spirit of solidarity and trust. This year we were able to pay for the new car and 95% of the costs of the project.



WBND also receives local support from Ocaes (Caritas Burkina), Plan International and Chretiens pour le Sahel, an organization based

in Luxembourg. To all, thanks, a thousand thanks.

**This report was made by:**



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**WEND BE NE DO  
TO BE WITH**

(Thank you very much, dear Liam O'CUIV for the translation to English)