



International Service
Ireland

Sharing Skills to Combat Poverty

Investing in People. Addressing Local Needs.



UPDATE on Income Generation in Burkina Faso

“We now have money to eat proper meals three times a day. Other women in the village come to me now to join the local credit scheme. I feel much more respected.” Salamata Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso.

Addressing Local Needs – Generating Income in Burkina Faso

Dear friend,

Despite the global downturn, at International Service Ireland (ISI) we have been busy supporting our local partners, paying particular attention to helping them generate vital income for their families. By placing professional development workers within disabled people's organisations, ISI provides the training, tools and resources necessary to enable these organisations become more effective and self-sustainable. We also provide seed funding for income-generating activities that improve standards of living and allow people play an active role in their communities.

In this Update, we feature projects in Burkina Faso, a country of striking contrasts. Rich in culture and diverse in languages, yet almost one in eight people have some form of disability due mainly to the presence of polio and meningitis. This staggering statistic is compounded by the fact that according to the UN, Burkina Faso is the second poorest country in the world. Thankfully there is hope. Our work in Burkina Faso reaches out to and helps almost 9,000 people with disabilities and their families. Irish Aid and our UK office finance our core costs. Electric Aid, Cavan County Council and the general public have also been very generous, without whose support these projects would be impossible. We are very grateful to all our donors and look forward to your continued support!



Aidan Leavy, Director, ISI



Wheelchair making and metal work

Two of the biggest obstacles facing people with motor disabilities in Burkina Faso are mobility and lack of access to employment opportunities. This project aims to address both of these problems by providing a small grant to the Association of People with Disabilities in Comoé, Southwest Burkina. It provides training and employment for five people in the manufacture of wheelchairs, crutches, metal furniture frames, windows, doors and carts. Market studies, current demand and financial projections show that this workshop will be self-sustaining after just 9 months.

Total investment = €7,175.00

Community Solar Power Generation

Kéné Dougou in southern Burkina has little running water and no electricity other than that provided through generators. People currently have to travel more than 100km to the nearest town for the simple act of recharging batteries and buying battery acid. To address this, a small grant for our local partner, the Association for People with Disabilities of N'Dorola (APHN) will use green technology to create a battery charging facility using solar power. They will also sell battery acid for engine batteries. In addition to providing a source of income to the employees and the organisation, this project provides a valuable service to the local community.

Total investment = €4,830.00



“This will change the way we are seen in the community. Everyone is asking when will the power generation be up and running. There is great demand locally and even more anticipation.”

Abou Drumane Traoré (above right) a survivor of polio aged 33, whose disability prevented him from working for much of his life.

Chicken Farming

Despite the high consumption of eggs in Southwestern Burkina, there are hardly any local egg producers and most are imported from Ghana and Ivory Coast at significant cost. Through the provision of a small grant of just under €5,000 from ISI, our local partner COPAPH is setting up an egg production centre and has purchased 500 chickens. We provide basic training in how to manage them and also to help them market the new produce. A total of nine organisations will benefit from the profits generated by this new small business.

Total investment = €4,830.00



See their website at
www.tigoungnooma.com

Above: Donal Toolan, Chair of ISI, visiting members of Tigoung Nonma.

Arts & Crafts production

Our partner Tigoung Nonma ("Strength through Unity") has many skilled artisans that produce high quality arts and crafts such as briefcases, wallets, batiks and clothing using leather and organic cotton. However, they have been unable to meet all requests for their products due to the small scale at which they currently operate and because artisans often have difficulty buying materials and tools in advance of an order. Through a grant from ISI they can now buy raw materials, such as leather and cotton, increasing their production and allowing them to meet demand. They will also receive training in how to diversify their product range, helping them reach out to new markets.

Total investment = €4,720

Seeds and Cereals

Run by women with disabilities for women with disabilities, Djigui Espoir (translates as The "Hope" Foundation) is located in the capital city of Ouagadougou. It operates a small business selling concentrated foodstuffs and processed seeds and cereals. Through this project and a grant of €4,830, the women have accessed seeds and cereals in bulk which greatly reduced their costs. We have also helped them improve packaging and marketing of their products which has already led to a significant increase in their profits and the standard of living of the women.

Total investment = €4,830.00



Making the Most of Your Money - Many of our partner organisations operate on a purely voluntary basis. Therefore a percentage of the profits generated by all of these projects are fed back into their organisations to cover basic running costs like food for volunteers, transport and printing. ISI do charge an administration fee of 5% on all monies fund-raised to cover some of our own administrative costs.

A little help goes a long way...

Now that you know how we support people with disabilities in the developing world, why not help us do more. You can do so in a number of ways. Here are some ideas to get you started...



Send ISI a cheque by post

Send a check or postal order to International Service Ireland (ISI), Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Freepost 4611, Dublin 7.



Donate On-line to ISI

Donating online is simple and secure – we have partnered with MyCharity.ie to make sure. Log onto www.is-ireland.ie, select the Donate Now button and choose the amount you would like to donate.



Organise your own fund-raising event

Don't be shy – we'll help you! Call us and talk to us about your idea. You can also register it on www.mycharity.ie/charity/isi so that lots of people can find out about the event and contribute to it.



Become an on-line volunteer

If you have skills to share and time to spare why not become a cyber volunteer. It's easy and very rewarding. Go to www.onlinevolunteering.org, register your details, search through the thousands of volunteer positions and get volunteering!

Maximize your donation!

ISI is a registered charity in Ireland and also has CHY2 status with the Revenue Commissioners.

This means that donations to ISI are tax effective. See our website or call us today to find out more.

Contact Us

If you want to know more about these and other projects, contact **Aidan** or **Orla** in International Service Ireland (ISI), Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.
T: 00353-1-8746007, E: info@is-ireland.ie, W: www.is-ireland.ie



ISI is grateful to the following for their support for our overseas projects.

