

SOS EDUCATION PROJECT REPORT 2022



May 2022- August 2022

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I- Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the Nielson family and to the Social Change Innovation grant as awarded by the Lewis and Clark College's center for Social Change and Community Involvement that made this project possible. Furthermore, we want to give a special thanks to Mr. Simplicite, inspector and alumni of Tanlalle, to Mrs. Rwamba, director of Tanlalle, to the Friesen family, to the Savadogo family and to all the members of Tanlalle Primary School.

II- Background

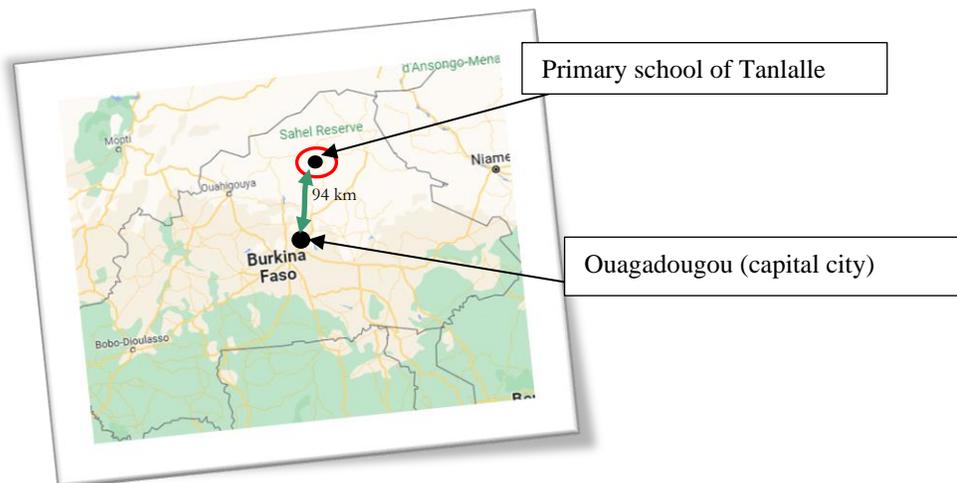
Burkina Faso is known as a developing country with a weak and corrupted educational system. Thousands of primary schools especially in the rural areas lack of basic educational materials such as proper buildings, desk chairs and school supplies. Besides, schooling stays low in the rural areas.

Seeing this situation everyday saddened me deeply and led me to undertake a project named SOS EDUCATION in 2020. The project aims to improve education in the primary school of Tanlalle (where I received my first mathematics class) by supplying adequate furniture and empowering the villagers to school their children, especially girls.

This is a long term project and the cherished dream is to expand the project in other rural areas of the country.

III- Geographical location/ context

The primary school of Tanlalle is located in one of the Northern villages of Burkina Faso named Tanlalle. The village is approximately 94 km far from the capital city and is very inaccessible during the raining season (May-September).



IV- Partners and Stakeholders

a- Partners

- Simplicite Sawadogo
- Mrs. Rwamba
- Sidi Mahamadi Savadogo
- Mrs. Savadogo

b- Stakeholders

- Chief of Tanlalle
- Chief of Tiweega
- Marcel Sawadogo
- Adamou Ouédraogo
- Sibiri Ouédraogo
- Mr. Kabré
- Students of Tanlalle
- Students' parents, alumni and inhabitants of Tanlalle

V- Goals

Since 2020, I fundraised \$1000, which was used to buy 15 desk chairs last year. The donation was well appreciated but the need was huge and requires a lot of funds.

Our goals this year are:

- Donate thirty (30) desk chairs
- Renovate three (03) classrooms of the schools (the school has six (06) classrooms in total)
- Donate some school supplies like copy books, pens and chalk.

Those goals changed after my visit at the school on June 26th 2022. I noticed new urgent needs which are summarized on the table below.

Table summarizing the urgent needs of the school

<p>6 damaged chalk boards (each class has two chalk boards; one in front and one at the back)</p>	
<p>Devastated, non-hygienic and inconvenient canteen</p>	

3 damaged roofs	
Rescinded/inexistent garden	 <p data-bbox="548 793 1373 856">https://youtube.com/shorts/Ir37etSxsck?feature=share (video showing the garden of tanlalle)</p>
Lack of “compendium métrique”(metric system)	
Insufficient shelves/cabinets to keep the books	
Lack of chairs for teachers	
Devastated solar power	
Insufficient mini-boards (the mini- boards are used for group studies)	
Insufficient desk chairs	

The new goals are:

- ❖ Repair all the destroyed chalk boards
- ❖ Buy 01 complete “compendium métrique” (metric system)
- ❖ Repair the power
- ❖ Buy 10 desk chairs
- ❖ Buy 10 mini-boards
- ❖ Buy 2 more cabinets
- ❖ Repair all the roofs
- ❖ Restore the garden

VI- Budget and Achievements

i- Budget

We received \$5000 from the Social Change Innovation grant, which includes the transportation fees from the United States to Burkina Faso. Additionally, the Friesen family, lovely and compassionate friends of mine, donated \$1200 to support the project. Hence, the total budget amounted to **\$6,200**.

ii- Achievements

The transportation fees from Burkina Faso cost \$1237.49, and the rest of the budget (\$4962.41) was used to achieve the following results from June 30 to August 10, 2022.

✓ **Six (06) new chalk boards → \$560**

All damaged chalk boards have been renovated with better and higher quality material compared to the old ones.



✓ **Ten (10) desk chairs → \$700.55**



✓ **Eight (08) chairs → \$289.86**



✓ **Fifteen (15) mini- boards → \$350.62**



✓ **One (01) “compendium métrique” (metric system) → \$655**

The “compendium métrique” is a French metric system style.



✓ **Two (02) new cabinets → \$299.45**



✓ **Solar power** → \$2000

Our goal was to restore the power in all the classrooms, but the cost was very high (around \$4000). As a result, we decided to repair the power in three (03) of the classrooms as power is an urgent necessity for the school.



✓ **Twenty (20) plants** → \$90

Our goal was to refurbish the garden with resistant fences and to plant some trees but the budget was insufficient for that. Therefore, we decided to plant twenty (20) trees because we care about environment and we believe that it is crucial to teach the kids how to save and protect our environment.



See below a video of all the achievements mentioned above.

<https://youtu.be/1sZLL6TjfO4>

i- Evaluation

1- Impacts

The project has positive and valuable impacts on the educative and social plan of the village. It improves the quality of education by providing adequate and missing school resources. For example, the power will allow students to study at night as the school is the only place with light in the village. With the restoration of the power, Mrs. Rwamba, director of Tanllale, said that she will resume night classes for students who need more tutoring and conduct some writing classes for illiterate villagers. This is amazing and increases the level of education in the village. Additionally, the project promotes equal education. We organized a “closing event,” during which we sensitized the villagers on the advantages of schooling. We demonstrated to the villagers how important schooling girls is through my own testimonies and as myself being an example. The kids have been empowered and many of them shouted that they will study hard because they want to “**be like me.**” The chief of Tanllale and all the parents present on the day promised that they will send all their kids to school. All of the positive feedback from students and parents testify that there is a mentality change which will lead to better education in the village. Furthermore, the teachers and the director of the school testify that the project is a motivation and an incredible help for all of them.

The project also has some impacts on my personality. It taught me to be more compassionate and responsible. I also realized that there is more joy in giving than receiving. The way the parents and the students welcomed me back in the village, their

joy and respect gave me goosebumps. Leading this project is more than an honor for me today.

2- Challenges

One of the biggest challenges of this project is the insecurity and the “broken/inexistent roads”. Due to terrorist attacks across the country, rural areas are very insecure nowadays. Adding to that, the village does not have access to proper roads and those “roads” are flooded when it rains. We were obliged to postpone our work a lot of time due to the rain.

3- Critiques/remarks

We failed to completely achieve all the goals. Three of the classrooms still lack of lighting and cabinets. The roofs and the canteen stay damaged. Besides, more desk chairs, chairs, mini-boards and school supplies are needed.

ii- Conclusion

The project improves the quality of education and promotes equity of education, which is one of the valuable causes that leads to big changes and to sustainable development. Not does this project add a plus in the quality of education, but it also empowers other parents to send their children to school and to believe in the power of education. I have been personally impacted positively and I can say that this project has become a part of me.

Even though this project impacted the community a lot, the school still needs more resources. The battle is not yet done and we welcome new partnerships, grants and funding.

iii- Appendix

Below are some pictures of the “closing event” of the project conducted on August 10, 2022.





Photos taken by Marcel Sawadogo at Tanlalle Primary School on August 10, 2022.