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COUNTRY REPORT

Millennium Village Kongoussi – Burkina Faso





MDG 1: Traditional way of sun-drying okra



MDG 2: Preparation for their future at school



MDG 1: Flour mills simplify the daily work

Millennium Village Kongoussi – Burkina Faso

Green gardens in the Sahel

In Fénéguéné, one of the six locations making up the Millennium Village Kongoussi, around 20 women are patiently waiting their turn with their babies at the community centre. In the middle of the freshly painted room there are some weighing scales with a baby sling hanging from the ceiling. In the sling lies Valentine Ouedraogo's one-year-old son, wriggling impatiently. For the babies, this procedure is tiresome – for their mothers, however, the monthly baby weighing sessions are immensely important, as here they find out whether or not their child is suffering from malnutrition. “Luckily, my son is fine; he’s put on weight again,” says the mother of four. Here on the edge of the desert in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, under- and malnutrition constitute one of the major problems facing the population.

The fact that today her son and her three other children have enough to eat is due to the numerous life-changing measures implemented by the 5,000 households of the Millennium Village Kongoussi. One such measure is the joint preparation of bouillie, a millet porridge which the women enrich with nutrients in order to keep their babies and children well nourished. Before, they had to buy bouillie in the village of Nassaré, which is eight kilometres away. Today they have a new corn mill and produce the porridge themselves in Fénéguéné using their own ingredients. “We women meet up every day at

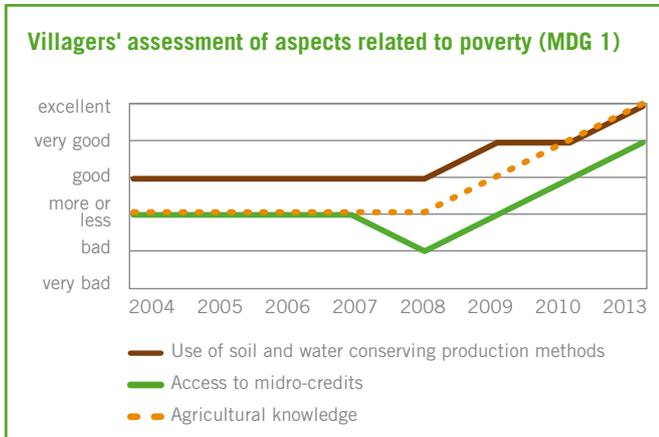
our new community centre and prepare the bouillie together. We chat and have fun together while we’re working,” says Béatrice Sawadogo, 29 years old and mother of three children. Valentine adds “Thanks to the new mill, that’s no problem. Now we can grind the millet a lot faster than with our traditional corn mill.”

This is just one of the many ways in which the people of Kongoussi are making their everyday lives easier and more efficient. Most importantly, they have built new wells. First and foremost, this helps the women and children, who are traditionally responsible for fetching fresh drinking water. They no longer need to walk a distance of several kilometres to Lake Bam in the dark early hours of the morning to draw poor-quality water. Today, when they press down the metal pump levers at the new wells in the village, fresh drinking water gushes out of the pipe directly into the brightly-coloured water canisters. As many families consist of ten or more members, the women still fetch water several times a day. However, it is now only a few hundred metres to the nearest well, the drinking water they draw from it is germ-free, and the procedure is less time-consuming.

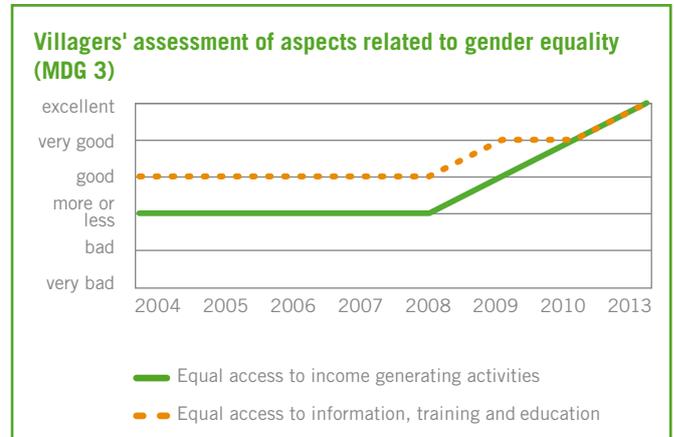
Thus the women save valuable time every day that they can put to better use: for learning to read and write, for breeding and selling cows, goats or hens, and for producing millet beer for

 <p>The number of people with access to credits has tripled</p>	 <p>The school enrolment rate has incredibly improved, especially for girls</p>	 <p>The majority of the population have their own vegetable garden</p>	 <p>Due to vegetable gardening and micro credits, women received new opportunities</p>	 <p>93 % of the population uses clean drinking water</p>	<p>40%</p> <p>of the women actively participate in community meetings</p>
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„Thanks to the new mill, that's no problem. Now we can grind the millet a lot faster than with our traditional corn mill” says 32 years old Valentine Ouedraogo.



Source: Welthungerhilfe 2015



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selling. They also plant vegetable gardens and orchards in order to supplement their daily diet with valuable vitamins and to sell the surplus.

The gardens where mango trees, onions and tomatoes are grown and the fields in which the small-scale farming families cultivate maize, millet, sorghum and beans can also be irrigated on a regular basis. The families have dug a two-kilometre-long irrigation ditch to nearby Lake Bam, from which they water the fields by means of pumps. This is another measure which has made everyday life easier and increased the yields, as it allows the small-scale farmers not only to provide a better water supply for the crops, but also to cultivate a larger area.

The future here on the edge of the desert looks green and flourishing, thanks not least to the improved resources in schools, where the next generation is being far better prepared for life than their parents ever were. It is in the vicinity of the

schools that the new wells and community centres have been installed. They have been jointly built by the village inhabitants and the Burkinabe non-governmental body “Association Zood Nooma pour le Développement” (Zood Nooma Development Association), the local partner of Welthungerhilfe. As a result, education for all, not least for adults, has become an issue of key importance for village life. At school, people learn how to increase their agricultural yields and expand the crop cultivation acreage – and the women learn what foodstuffs they need and how best to use them for preparing healthy family meals on a daily basis. Nowadays, it is not only the boys who attend school, but increasingly the girls too, like twelve-year-old Andrea Ouedraogo. “I’m very happy at school,” she says beaming. “My parents have bought me a lamp so that I can learn in the evenings too. Last year I was even fourth best in my class.”

	Burkina Faso 2009	Burkina Faso 2015	Germany 2015
Population	15.8 m	18.4 m	80.6 m
Population Density	57 p/km ²	67 p/km ²	231 p/km ²
Gross Domestic Product per person & per year	402 €	497 €	33,606 €
Life Expectancy at Birth Men	51 years	52.8 years	78.6 years
Life Expectancy at Birth Women	54.9 years	56.9 years	83.3 years
Total Fertility Rate	6.28 per woman	5.93 per woman	1.38 per woman
Infant Mortality Rate	8.44%	7.68%	0.3%
Literacy	21.8%	28.7%	99%
Labour Force in Agriculture	90%	90%	1.6%
Global Hunger Index	20.4 – alarming	19.9 – serious	-
Human Development Index	0.389 (rank 177/182)	0.388 (rank 181/195)	0.911 (rank 6/195)
World Risk Report	11.58% (rank 29/173)	9.62% (rank 41/171)	3.01% (rank 147/171)
Gender Gap Score	0.6081 (rank 120/134)	0.6500 (rank 110/142)	0.7780 (rank 12/142)

Source: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft/UNU-EHS, CIA, IFPRI/Concern/Welthungerhilfe, UNDP, Worldbank, World Economic Forum

