

# Djigi

BURKINA FASO  
QUATERLY

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Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**<sup>®</sup>  
in Jesus' name

# Leadership Remarks

**Dr. Issaka KIEMTORE**  
National Director



Dear readers,

We are grateful to release a new issue of **DJIGUI**, the **Quarterly Magazine of Compassion International Burkina Faso**, reflecting our constant commitment to the well-being of the children, youth, and communities we support across the country.

Throughout these pages, you will discover the achievements of fiscal year 2025 first quarter, from July to September 2025. **Faithful to our mission**, we are working every day for holistic child and youth development, in close relationships with church partners and community actors.

We open this issue with a presentation **about Compassion**, with data on sponsorship and a reminder of our areas of focus. You will also find a focus on our intervention on the domain of **water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH)**, which are key to guaranteeing healthy development to children and their families.

Through strategic dialogue with national church leadership, we reinforced our shared vision of a united ministry serving child, youth, and community development. The "My Talent" segment highlights the creativity and perseverance of young participants, while our youth empowerment initiatives demonstrate the power of investing in the potential of the young generation.

This quarter was also marked by several **key actions**:

- **Youth camps** organized by church partners from clusters Excellence, Charis and Bobo-North, real training springboard for resilience and excellence.
- **Leadership training** for fifty young program participants to build future leaders with positive influence.
- **Courtesy calls with the Ministers** in charge of Youth and Culture, strengthening institutional partnerships.
- Participation in national educational events, including the National Orientation Week and the **Round Table** on Christian Education an.

In the **Community Relations** section, we look back at International Youth Day 2025, celebrated in the spirit of unity and inspiration.

Through these initiatives, Compassion International Burkina Faso continues to affirm a strong commitment to compassion transforms thousands of lives for a better future.

Together, let's continue this beautiful adventure of love, service, and lasting impact ■



## ABOUT COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL BURKINA FASO

Compassion International - Burkina Faso is a Christian organization dedicated to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' Name. Present in the country for several years, it supports more than **119,000 children** and **young people** through various targeted interventions.

### **Sponsorship: a concrete commitment**

Sponsoring a child makes it possible to finance:

- Access to education and school supplies
- Health Care and Nutrition
- Spiritual, physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development
- Psychosocial support

Thanks to this mechanism, each child benefits from a customized follow-up that promotes his or her development and autonomy, while creating a lasting bond with his or her sponsor.



Christ-Centred



Church Driven



Child-Focused

## FOCUS FIELD AND KEY RESULTS

### **FIELD 1: Child Protection**

Prevention and response to violence, abuse and exploitation (i)

Child Health and Welfare (ii)

Education and Leisure (iii)

### **FIELD 2: Food Security and Livelihoods**

Promotion of food security and resilient livelihoods (i)

Protecting the livelihoods of households in crisis situations (ii)

Provision of productive means in emergency contexts (iii)

Technical and organizational capacity building (iv)

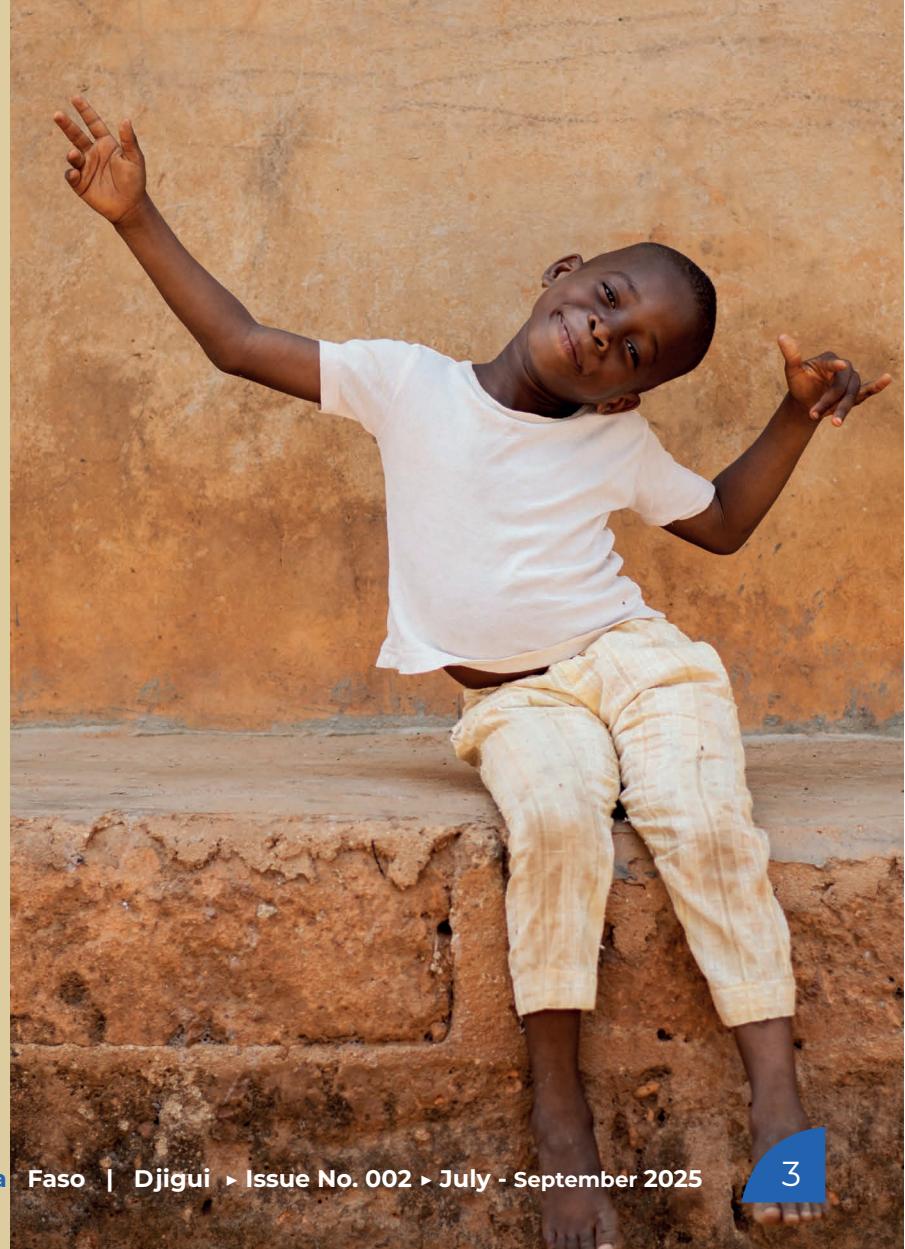
### **FIELD 3: Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)**

Improving access to drinking water for children and communities (i)

Strengthening hygiene practices and sanitary conditions (ii)

Construction of solar-powered boreholes (iii)

Construction of adapted sanitation facilities (iv)



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# Youth Empowerment: Investing to Develop Youth Divine Potential, Building the Future

In a context where unemployment and precariousness affect a large part of the youth, Compassion International Burkina Faso relies on a concrete approach: to train, equip and inspire the youth to become actors of sustainable change. Through its vocational and socio-professional insertion programs, The organization provides opportunities to thousands of young people to transform their passion into a profession, and their talent into a driver of community development.

## From dependence to autonomy: a sustainable change of course

For Compassion, empowering the youth is far beyond giving them a mere training. It is a matter of equipping them with the means to believe in their dream and fulfill them. Youth vocational training integrates technical and entrepreneurial skills with personal development to break the cycle of poverty; transforming one life at a time..

«Before, I felt like I had no future. Today, thanks to my training in pastry, I not only have a job, but also a vision,» says Awa, «20 years old, a Participant from the Nando Region. These programs equip the youth with essential values of discipline, creativity, and leadership, to help them become successful role models in their various communities.

## Promising trades for a concrete impact

Compassion's initiatives cover a wide range of promising trades, chosen according to the market requirement:

- Agricultural trade: agriculture, livestock, agri-food processing
- Technical trades: electricity, plumbing, solar energy, refrigeration, and air conditioning
- Crafts and creative trades: sewing, hairdressing, decoration, pastry, dyeing, carpentry
- Digital and communication trades: IT, phone repair, photography, robotics

Thanks to these trainings, thousands of youths can now generate their own income, contribute to the local economy, and support their families.



## An investment in the future

From July to September 2025, Compassion International Burkina Faso invested **XOF 589,825,000** to train **2,720 youth** in 28 trades. This initiative was conducted across four major areas of the country, namely the Kadiogo, Guiriko, Gourma and Yadega Regions in partnership with local churches and training centers. The most committed youth received installation kit to launch their business and become autonomous. As a result, most of them are starting their own businesses, thus, training additional youth and actively participating in the development of their region.

## Stories that inspire a generation

Today, I know how to repair motorcycles. Tomorrow, I will open my workshop to help other youths learn like me,» says Joël, 22, from Yadega Region. His testimony, like the one of hundreds of youths, illustrates the deep transformation that youth empowerment can bring in the life of one youth at a time, helping him to become a pillar in his community.



## Faith, Resilience and Leadership: The Keys to Change

Youth empowerment is also a matter of mindset shift. Therefore, Compassion International Burkina Faso integrates Christian leadership, project management, and personal development modules into vocational trainings sessions, to help each participant grow holistically. A fulfilled, confident, and responsible adult is not just a mere skillful worker, but he is a peacemaker for an entire country..

## Together for a better future

Compassion International Burkina Faso is building foundations for a stronger, more innovative, and more supportive Burkina Faso through youth empowerment. Each youth trained is a promise of a bright and hopeful future, a seed of change planted in the fertile land of resilience and faith.



# Partnership for Youth and Culture: Youth and Culture: CIBF strengthens its links with key ministries

As part of its commitment to youth development, Compassion International Burkina Faso has undertaken a series of high-level engagements with national authorities. At the heart of these meetings is the common desire to empower the youth, promote talent and strengthen strategic collaboration between government and development actors.

## Courtesy Call to the Minister of Sports, Youth and Employment

The Minister of Sports, Youth and Employment, Mr. Anuyirtole Roland SOMDA, granted a Courtesy call, on July 10, 2025, to the National Director of Compassion International Burkina Faso, Dr. Issiaka KIEMTORÉ, together with his colleagues.

This meeting was held as part of the final stages of the 2nd edition of the «My Talent» competition, an initiative led by Compassion International Burkina Faso to reveal program youth sport, cultural and cognitive talents across the country.

Dr. Kiemtoré thanked the Minister, chairperson of this edition, for his personal and institutional commitment to youth development.

«We came to take stock of the organization with the chairperson of My talent Competition and request for his presence at the opening of this national tournament,» he said. Minister Anuyirtole Roland Somda have welcomed the relevance of the initiative and appreciated Compassion International Burkina

Faso for the constant commitment for youth development in Burkina Faso. He reaffirmed his availability to support all actions promoting employment, sport, and personal development.



## Courtesy Call to the Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts, and Tourism

In the same dynamic, the Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism, Mr. Pingwendé

Gilbert Ouedraogo, also received Dr. Jedida Sempore, representing the National Director of Compassion International Burkina Faso.

This meeting was helpful to reinforce the collaboration around the promotion of youth and culture as drivers of development. Dr. Sempore has recognized the essential role of the Ministry in promoting creativity and presented the «My

Talent» competition as a space for expression, training, and inspiration for Burkina Faso youth talents. Minister Pingwendé Gilbert Ouedraogo, congratulated Compassion International for its concrete intervention on behalf of children and youth, he also reaffirmed his department's support for initiatives combining culture, education, and citizenship.

# 2025 Annual Consultation: Compassion Burkina Faso and Evangelical Church Leadership United for Children's Future

From July 24th to 25th, 2025, Compassion International Burkina Faso (CIBF) held its Annual Consultation with national evangelical denominations leadership at the Azalai Hotel. This strategic accountability framework made it possible to assess the achievements of fiscal year 2025, to analyze the challenges encountered and to outline the perspectives for strengthening the impact of the Holistic Child and Youth Development Program.

**D**r. Issiaka KIEMTORE, National Director of Compassion International, reminded the spirit of this collaboration in the following terms: «We are moving forward together in unity, prayer and action to release children from poverty in Jesus name.»

Discussions focused on the quality of program implementation, the mobilization of local resources, the integrated approach to child and youth development, and the common missionary vision. Concrete recommendations emerged for reinforcing the

dialogue between national Church leadership and various child and youth development centers, improving the monitoring of activities, documenting outcomes, and measuring spiritual and social impact of the Program. Special emphasis was laid to human resources management, particularly on the preparation for social workers employment termination and the adoption of integrated payroll software for greater transparency.

Another key subject is Program alumni mobilization. A national

brainstorming workshop and the creation of a multi-level monitoring platform is planned to reconnect with alumni and encourage their community engagement. A strong spirit of unity marked this meeting. It has consolidated trust between Compassion International and the National Church Leadership. Together, they reaffirm their commitment to release each registered child from physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, and spiritual poverty.



# 2025 Holidays and Careers Camps: **CIBF's Church Partners empower the youth through Youth Camps**

**In September 2025, Compassion International Burkina Faso Church Partners have organized two major youth camps to promote Program youth development in a healthy environment, deepen their faith, and sharpen their professional skills.**



## **The 12th Youth Camp of Cluster Excellence: «Success, the fruit of the decision we make»**

From September 16th to 22 th , 2025, the Baraka Professional Center in the Guiriko Region hosted the 12th Youth Camp of Cluster Excellence, bringing together representatives from 14 CYDC around the inspiring theme: « Success, the fruit of the decision we make» drawn from the Holy Scriptures (Job 22;28.)

The official opening, chaired by the Partnership Facilitator Zacharie Ouedraogo, evoked that true success is established from firm decisions rooted in faith. According to him, «God lightens the way of those who walk according to His will, and true success emerges from perseverance.»

### **Faith and capacity building at the core of the camp**

The biblical teachings, led by Speaker François Banao, was helpful for the youth to distinguish divine success from human success. The devotional laid an emphasis on perseverance, dependence to God, and living out exemplary faith.

Moreover, the youth capacity was built through vocational workshops, various trade including tie and dye «Koko Dunda» fabrics together with natural juices production and conservation. These trainings have contributed to promoting creativity, discipline, entrepreneurial spirit, and essential values for resilient youth.

The entire Camp was punctuated by times of prayers, praise, and community services (cleaning, cooking, drafting reports), creating a climate of discipline, unity, and fraternity.

The camp was closed in a climate of gratitude, with renewed resolutions, new skills learned and strengthened faith.





## «My Dream Job» Holiday Camp: Empowering the Youth to build the future

At the same time, from September 17th to 20th, 2025, five CYDCs from Charis and Bobo North Clusters organized a holiday camp on trades in western Burkina, under the theme: «My dream job».

The event brought together 150 young people, under the supervision of their pastors, Church Governing Committee members and Partnership Facilitators in a friendly and educative atmosphere.



## Reflection, inspiration, and responsibility

The main objective of this camp was to help the youth reflect over their future professional career, to get to know themselves better and project themselves into working life.

On the program: conferences, panels, vocational workshops, awareness-raising, and community service activities.

The various speakers encouraged the youth to:

1. Exercise discipline and faith for their dream to become a reality.
2. Avoid being trapped in drug addiction which has awful repercussions on their physical, psychological, and social well-being.

## Inspiring encounters

The camp was also a framework for enriching meetings and engagements around a panel led by experts from various professional backgrounds to share their inspiring testimonies and insights with the youth. Therefore

- Captain Magloire Somda, representing the Security and Defense Forces, spoke of discipline and the sense of duty.

- Mr. Ismaël Pare, Journalist at RTB2, the national media outlet, testified about his passion for information and public service.
- Dr. Michel Kohoun, maxillofacial surgeon, described the demanding but rewarding path of the medical doctor profession.



The youth conducted community activity by offering a ton of cement to contribute to Faso Meebo presidential initiative. This gesture symbolized their civic commitment and their spirit of solidarity.

They also participated in decoration and artistic expression workshops, revealing hidden talents and strengthening friendships.

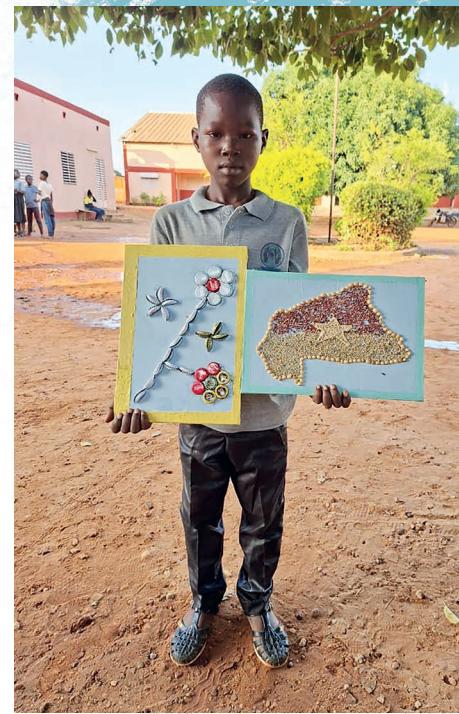
Another highlight of the «My Dream Job» Holiday Camp was the presentation of the «My Plan for Tomorrow» tool to the campers, to help each participant plan their career path and follow their goals step by step.

## Encouraging outcomes

At the end of the camp, the youth felt motivated, inspired and better prepared to embrace their future. They discovered new professions, understood the demands of professional life, the harmful effects of drug addiction. They also developed their creativity, their faith, and their sense of service.

Through these two complementary camps, the Church Partners of Compassion International-Burkina Faso keep sticking to their commitment to achieve success in holistic child and youth development. By combining spiritual formation, professional learning, and civic education, they are contributing

to shape a new generation of responsible, competent, and hopeful adults for Burkina Faso.



# Education and holistic development

**D**uring the first quarter of fiscal year 2026, Compassion International Burkina Faso (CIBF) participated to two major events of the national educational stage including the 10th edition of the National Week of Information and Orientation (SIO), held from July 15th to 20th, 2025, and the National Round Table on Christian Education, organized from September 16th to 19th, 2025 in the Kadiogo Region.

These events enabled Compassion International Burkina Faso to reaffirm its leadership in holistic child and youth development through a network of more than 490 Development Centers serving more than 119,000 participants throughout the country.

During the SIO, 100 Compassion Program participants who passed their Advanced Level Certificate in July 2025 attended the orientation sessions organized by the Ministry of Higher Education, to learn more about making the right

choice for higher education based on their skills and market demands. The youth have been empowered through customized coaching and orientation sessions.



## National Round table on Christian Education

**A**t the National Round Table on Christian Education, Compassion has joined more than 200 education and church actors, including 100 youth from 50 church partners, around the theme «Meeting together the educational challenges in Burkina Faso by 2050». This meeting was chaired by the Alliance of Evangelical Schools and Universities in Burkina Faso (AESEB). The event was helpful to strengthen the bonds between churches and educational institutions, harmonize strategies for sustainable Christian education and promote a common vision for holistic development. Through these two

conferences, Compassion Burkina Faso has contributed to:

- promote academic excellence and professional success,
- strengthen the faith and ethical values of the youth,
- promote their socio-economic integration,
- build a generation of community leaders committed to change.

These initiatives are part of Compassion's overall vision **to empower, inspire and release children and youth from all forms of poverty for a future of hope.**



# Youth leadership



## Training a Generation of Servant Leaders in Burkina Faso

As part of its partnership with Development Associates International (DAI) Burkina, Compassion International Burkina Faso (CIBF) is launching an ambitious initiative: the training of 50 young people aged 17 to 22 in Servant Leadership. This program targets young people enrolled in the Development Centers for Children and Youth (CDEJ) and is part of a process of strengthening human capital and social transformation.

### Values at the heart of training

The training is based on core values: service, responsibility, humility and personal transformation. The aim is to give young people the tools to become leaders who can positively influence their communities, prioritizing ethics, solidarity and commitment to serving others.

### Learn to serve and lead better

Beyond theoretical skills, the program emphasizes the practice of servant leadership. Young people learn to listen, guide, and make sound decisions while keeping community service at the heart of their actions. Each participant is encouraged to



reflect on their personal mission and the concrete impact of their actions in their environment.



### Invest in Burkina Faso's future

Through this program, Compassion International Burkina Faso reaffirms its commitment to young people, convinced that the future is built by training responsible, empathetic young people capable of transforming

their community. Here, leadership is not a privilege: it is a service to others, guided by integrity and passion.



### A vision for change

This initiative is part of the organization's overall vision: to raise young people who can change their communities, uphold the values of justice and equity, and inspire future generations. Each young person trained becomes a vector of social transformation, ready to take up the challenges of tomorrow.



# “MY TALENT”:

## Revealing, Inspiring and Empowering Burkina Faso Youth

### A National Platform to Showcase Youth Potential

Initiated by Compassion International Burkina Faso in partnership with evangelical church partners, the «My Talent» platform is a biennial national program that identifies, values and promotes the talents of program youth in music, arts, sports, entrepreneurship, and more.

### A Second Edition Marked by Strong Participation

The final phase of the second edition, held from July 1st to 19th, 2025, brought together more than 800 youth from all over the country, under the patronage of the Minister of Sports, Youth and Employment, Anûuyirtole Roland Somda. The event was enriched by an intergenerational dialogue around the theme “From dream to impact”, led by Charles Kaboré and Hugues Fabrice Zango, symbols of success and perseverance.

### A Celebration of Diverse Talents

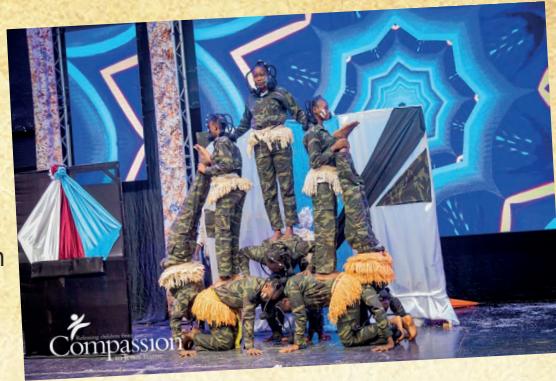
During three weeks, thirteen disciplines were highlighted: football, handball, sprinting, dance, slam, karaoke, music, entrepreneurship and biblical knowledge. The finalists were honored during a grand closing ceremony, featuring awards and certificates of appreciation.

### A Catalyst for Holistic Youth Development

Far beyond competition, “My Talent” serves as a springboard for sustainable transformation. Youth participants strengthen their leadership, self-confidence and practical skills, while benefiting from strong spiritual and professional mentorship.

### Building a Generation of Inspired Leaders

Through this initiative, Compassion International Burkina Faso and Church partners support the emergence of a generation of young leaders marked by integrity and creativity—youth capable of contributing actively to community development and to building a resilient, hopeful Burkina Faso.



# International Youth Day 2025: celebrating the potential and engagement of the youth

On August 12th, 2025, Burkina Faso, celebrated International Youth Day under the theme: "Pact for the Future: The Burkina we want – The role of the youth in a peaceful and sovereign Burkina". This commemoration was an opportunity to highlight the crucial role of the youth in the social, economic, and cultural development of the country.



Commemorative activities were organized across the country to promote youth creativity, leadership, and civic engagement. Training workshops, sports competitions, public speaking, exhibitions of innovative projects and cultural performances punctuated the celebration. The youth were able to share their ideas, demonstrate their talents and strengthen their professional and social network.

## Compassion International Burkina Faso's flagship actions

As part of this day, Compassion International Burkina Faso remind its commitment to supporting youth development through :

- Vocational training: 2,720 youth were trained in 28 promising trades, ranging from sewing to electricity, IT, pastry, robotics, etc. to promote their autonomy and professional insertion.



- «My Talent» competition: an initiative that highlights the potential of the youth through sport, culture, and innovation, with local and national phases.
- Coaching and mentoring programs: young participants receive customized support to develop their skills, start micro-enterprises, and actively contribute to the transformation of their communities.

## Valuing the impact of the youth in society

Young entrepreneurs, artists and athletes were honored for their remarkable contributions to their communities. These testimonies illustrate how the youth can become drivers of sustainable change if they are supported and empowered.

## A call to action and commitment

International Youth Day 2025 reminded everyone that the youth are not only the future of the country but also the actors of the present, to build strong and supportive communities. Thanks to Compassion International Burkina Faso initiatives for youth development, every youth become an agent of transformation, capable to translate their ideas into life changing actions.



# MAXIMIZING IMPACT:

## The National Life

### Transformation Platform

#### A New Participatory Vision for Community Development

Compassion International Burkina Faso (CIBF) is rolling out the Life Transformation Platform (LTP) nationwide. Already tested by 48 church partners, this participatory approach revolutionizes program planning: interventions are now designed with children, youth and communities, rather than for them.

#### Starting With Listening: A Data-Driven Approach

The process begins with listening. In western Burkina Faso, churches conducted community data collection to assess the real needs of program participants. This information is now guiding the three-year strategic planning of child and youth development centers, with clear priorities: vocational training, access to education and child protection.

#### Voices That Shape the Future

According to Pastor Marcel, this new method “gives everyone an opportunity to voice their ideas and makes it possible to truly measure the impact of interventions.” Ibrahima, Project Director, adds: “Decisions are now made based on reliable data and ideas shared by the whole community.”

#### Youth and Families at the Heart of the Process

Participatory workshops bring together local committee members, caregivers, youth and religious leaders. For



16-year-old Ida, this engagement is transformative: “I feel respected and listened to. Our ideas can make a real difference for children and youth.”

#### Early Results: Strengthened Skills and Opportunities

The first outcomes are already visible: many youth are receiving training in sewing, hairdressing, beadmaking, sports and other areas, strengthening both their skills and economic autonomy.

#### Towards a Nationwide Rollout

CIBF plans to extend the platform to all church partners. The vision is clear: **listen before acting, plan together, and sustainably transform communities** so that every child in Burkina Faso grows up in dignity, faith and hope.

# WASH : the water of life for children and youth

**O**n August 23rd, 2025, the communities of four localities in the Nazinon Region celebrated, in an atmosphere of joy and gratitude, the inauguration of four boreholes in the Child and Youth Development Centers (CYDC). These infrastructures, resulted from the partnership between Compassion International Burkina Faso and the local Churches, to reflect a strong commitment for sustainable access to drinking water and the well-being of children.

## A project that brings hope and life

Water as the source of life is now a daily reality for more than **800 children and youth participating** in the program and their respective communities.

These boreholes meet a vital need in these communities where fetching water was a daily challenge for many families.

With a total cost of more than **XOF 65 million**, the project also integrated



an environmental component through tree planting in each CYDC, in order to reinforce ecological sustainability and create green spaces conducive to child development.

## A Community Celebration of Gratitude

The official ceremony brought together more than **500 participants** : administrative, customary and religious authorities, children, youth and caregivers. In a festive atmosphere, songs, dances and prayers followed with the expression of communities gratitude to Church partners and Compassion International Burkina Faso.

«These boreholes are not only water points, but sources of hope for our children,» said a community leader, moved by the immediate impact of the project.

## Tangible benefits for children and families

Beyond the supply of drinking water, the effects are multiple:

- Significant curb in waterborne diseases.
- Improvement of hygiene in CYDCs and households.
- Saving precious time for children, who are now freed from long water chores.
- Promoting a healthier and safer environment.

According to Church Partners, access to drinking water has already improved children's attendance rate and strengthened the youth motivation to participate in Program activities.

## A model of collaboration for sustainable development

This project is a perfect example of the tripartite partnership model between Compassion, local churches and communities. Everyone played an active role: the church partners mobilized church members, communities participated in the completion of the work and the protection of the facilities, while Compassion supported with technical and financial coordination.

This participatory approach ensures local ownership of the project and strengthens community responsibility for borehole management and maintenance.

## A day of joy and unity

The day of August 23, 2025, will remain engraved in communities memory. Following opening speeches and prayers of blessing, a snack

was shared to symbolize unity and fraternity of all stakeholders. Children are elated because from now, they are able to access drinking water from the boreholes, a simple gesture but with a lasting impact for generations.

**«These boreholes represent more than infrastructure: they represent an investment in the future, for a healthy, safe and hopeful environment»**







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