

WATER AND FOOD FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE KORSIMORO REGION IN BURKINA FASO



PROJECT LOCATION

Region: Center-North

Province: Sanmatenga

Municipality: Korsimoro

Villages: Korsimoro and Basra

Population: 17,149 inhabitants

General context and justification of the projects

In Burkina Faso, the resurgence of attacks by armed groups has aggravated the phenomenon of population displacement. People are afraid and violence continues to force families to leave their homes. Korsimoro, a rural commune in the north-central part of the country, is home to 570 displaced and refugee people, fleeing jihadist and intercommunity violence.

The food donation as well as the gift of two boreholes took place in two (02) villages in the Center-North of Burkina Faso, these are Korsimoro and Basra. Korsimoro is located 70 km north of Ouagadougou, the capital, and has 14,149 inhabitants compared to 1,854 for Basra. Every day, dozens of people are added to the number of displaced people living in camps or host communities, forced to flee to the interior of the country, severely affected by the attacks and general insecurity in Burkina Faso. According to the UNHCR, more than 800,000 people have been displaced due to insecurity in Burkina Faso. Those who fled the violence testify to attacks on their



villages by extremists who often forcibly recruit male residents at gunpoint. They kill those who resist. Terrified by these attacks, the residents abandoned everything. In search of safety, many of them joined Korsimoro and other host villages such as Basra. Lack of water, food, housing, are all difficulties that these people have known since their flight.

More than 570 women and children have settled since the beginning of February 2019 in the village of Basra on a site given

by goodwill. These displaced remain traumatized. Women and children have seen their husbands, children and relatives killed before their eyes. These are stories of men, boys, sometimes even children killed by these jihadists ... (stories) of raped women.

Habibou is a young woman from Dablo, one of the many martyred villages in the province of Soum. On January 20, 2020, a column of 15 to 20 motorcycles burst onto the market. At least 32 people have been murdered. Habibou was at the market with his two sons, 10 and 12 years old. Her husband sold cattle at the market. She said: *"We were sitting near the road that goes through the market. That day, 10 minutes after the passage of a military convoy, the terrorists arrived. As they were wearing military uniforms, it was first thought that they were part of the military convoy that had just passed. But when we realized it was not the army, it was too late. They didn't say a word and they opened fire on us. My husband and 2 children were killed. Habibou escaped and fled to Kaya, then to Korsimoro in the Centra-north. "I am very sorry. I think my situation is worse than that of my husband and my two deceased children. My daughter and I really live in precariousness. We have no water, no food, even less shelter. I would have preferred to die this day. My only comfort is my daughter", she added.*



These population movements and the large number of internally displaced persons add additional pressure to the resources available in the reception areas and have a considerable impact on the humanitarian situation of the displaced and host populations. As a result, the



capacity to provide access to basic social goods and services for government and local authorities is limited, thus affecting their capacity for resilience. With the sudden increase in the population in the town of Korsimoro and the village of Basra, the mayor says that he has difficulty managing these displaced persons. Water and food were the limiting factors

in the lives of people and displaced people, which affected their health, mainly that of children under the age of 5. The population obtained water from traditional ponds dug by hand. There were often physical altercations. They survive by feeding on roots and wild leaves mixed with a little beggar corn flour.

Touched by the suffering of these internally displaced people and in response to the call for help from the government of Burkina Faso, **Envision** decided to donate 30 tons of corn and millet and to carry out 2 boreholes of drinking water for the benefit of these vulnerable people. Tuesday, May 26, 2020 we went to Korsimoro and Basra to attend the food donation and the dedication of these boreholes which will facilitate access to improving living conditions and access to drinking water and hygiene.



"If food and water are the source of life for the displaced, they are now a source of hope and social cohesion," said the mayor of Korsimoro during the ceremony of handing over food and drilling to the beneficiaries.

The food and boreholes will not only provide food and clean water for the displaced but will also save their children's lives from hunger and diseases related to unsafe water, said Etienne the senior pastor.

These vulnerable populations will still need livelihood assistance, especially now that the lean season has started. In the medium term, food insecurity is expected to worsen for the displaced.



Thank you to those who, thanks to this food and these water projects, helped wipe the tears of widows and orphans. The displaced will have food for a few weeks and will have access to drinking water for years to come, blessing God's intervention in their lives!



