

Progress report on the construction of Bobo-Dioulasso city school compounds



Inauguration ceremony, Minister of Education of Burkina Faso

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For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection

Introduction

The ongoing political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire provoked a massive return of Burkinabes (mostly women and children) to their country, Burkina Faso. Bobo-Dioulasso, a city located in the western part of the country, is one of the destinations for returnees and, as a result, the number of children attending its schools increased due to the influx of children back from Côte d'Ivoire. Some public schools even have classes of 200 students in the first cycle. In order to relieve the schools of Bobo-Dioulasso, UNICEF Burkina Faso received funds for the construction of two school compounds in the city, in agreement with the Ministry of Basic Education and Alphabetization and the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity.

1. Construction of classrooms

The project consisted in the building of two schools with six (6) classrooms each in the Colma and Sarfalao neighbourhoods. Each school included a director's office and a supply room. The construction of the buildings is now completely finished and the regional office of the Ministry of Basic Education for the Bobo-Dioulasso region proceeded to the preliminary acceptance of the works on August 31, 2006. The construction of the classrooms is completely finished.



One of the new school buildings with 6 classrooms.

2. Construction of daycare centers (Bisongo) for small children

Forecasts called for the construction of 3 Bisongos, two on the sites of each school compounds (Colma and Sarfalao) and a third one on the site of Bobo-Dioulasso's Maison de la Femme. Each Bisongo consist of a building with a room to supervise small children and a kitchen. Construction of all three Bisongos is now completed and attendance started at the beginning of the 2006 school year.



A new daycare center for small children (Bisongo)

3. Construction of latrines and washbasins

Each school compound was equipped with washroom facilities providing 4 latrines and washbasins each for girls and boys. These facilities were completed at the end of July 2006 and will be available for the next school year.



New latrines and washbasin.

4. Drilling for the installation of water pipes and pumps

Drilling was planned to provide each school compound with a water supply system. Drilling on the Sarfalao school compound is now completed: drilling on the Colma school compound had to be momentarily interrupted during the winter and will resume in November.

5. Providing furniture for each school

Once construction works was completed, the school furniture (consisting of tables and stools for each students, and desks and chairs for each teachers) that had been ordered for each classrooms were delivered and installed. The supplies required for the supervision of small children in the Bisongos (stools and games) will be delivered soon.

Conclusion

Construction of the school compounds is now completed. Some drilling work remains to be done and will be completed as soon as winter ends in Burkina Faso, in mid-October. Inauguration of the school compounds took place on November 6, 2006.



The school in Sarfalao – inauguration ceremony, November 6, 2006.