

CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

IMPACT STUDY

Promoting the rights and protection of children
affected by conflict in Burkina Faso



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production of this impact report was a collective effort from many individuals. We would like to express our deep appreciation to all those involved. In particular, we would like to recognize Children Believe's Burkina Faso team, our local implementing partners, our translators, DMCI Consulting and our project partner, UNICEF.

Children Believe, 2022



Front cover image: Young children playing in a child-friendly space in Burkina Faso. This important space was created as part of Children Believe and UNICEF's efforts to provide prevention and protection services to children in emergencies.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCED	Association Cris de Coeur pour l'Equité et le Développement (Cris de Cœur Association for Equity and Development)
CBHW	Community-Based Health Worker
CHR KAYA	Centre Hospitalier Régional de Kaya (Kaya Regional Hospital Centre)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSPS	Centre de Santé et de Promotion Sociale (Centre for Health and Social Promotion)
CST	Community Support Technician
DGMEC	Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat Civil (Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status)
EDS	Enquête Démographie et Santé (Demography and Health Survey)
EMC	Enquête Multisectorielle Continue (Continuous Multisectoral Survey)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INSD	Institut National des Statistique et de la Démographie (National Institute of Statistics and Demography)
MFSNFAH	La Ministre de la Femme, de la Solidarité nationale, de la Famille et de l'Action Humanitaire (The Minister for Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PESU	Protection de l'Enfant en Situation d'Urgence (Child Protection in Emergencies)
PNDS	Plan National de Développement Sanitaire (National Health Development Plan)
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SNEC	Stratégie Nationale d'Etat Civil (National Civil Status Strategy)
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

FOREWORD

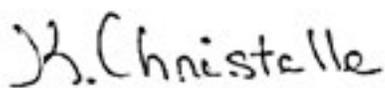
For the past seven years, Burkina Faso has endured a humanitarian crisis, sparked by unprecedented insecurity that has affected the entire country. Despite the intrinsic difficulties of this context, Children Believe, in partnership with UNICEF, has delivered humanitarian assistance to thousands of vulnerable children and their families, especially those displaced by conflict. “Resilient” now best describes our proactive operating approach, the attitude of our staff team and, above all, the adaptability of the communities with whom we collaborate. And it’s that resilience—honed in the midst of adversity, uncertainty and tragedy—that has equipped us to persevere and fueled our determination to strengthen Children Believe’s expanding programs in child protection, education, gender equity, and health, hygiene and nutrition.

As the security situation deteriorated, Children Believe initiated humanitarian assistance projects—a new component in our 35-year record of community development work in Burkina Faso. Responding to the needs of internally displaced children and women is the best proof of our solidarity with them. With UNICEF’s technical and financial support, we have already implemented significant activities in the Centre-North and East regions. I reaffirm our heartfelt gratitude to UNICEF for standing by us as, together, we overcame the challenges inherent to this complex humanitarian emergency.

This report reflects the clear commitment and the complementary, synergistic approach of Children Believe and our partners in assisting vulnerable populations in a country mired in constant violent upheaval. I remain confident that, with the active involvement of all, we will leverage the lessons learned and collaborate even more effectively in the future as we stand with communities devastated by this crisis, for it is with a spirit of solidarity that we will succeed.

In our fragile and fragmented country, as long as Burkinabé children continue to dream of a brighter future, Children Believe stands ready to help them achieve their full potential.

Sincerely,



Mavalow Christelle Kalhoule
Director – West Africa, Children Believe

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Burkina Faso has been experiencing an unprecedented security crisis, particularly in the East and Centre-North regions, with the spread of the conflict in Mali. Women and children are the most affected by the insecurity risks, which are exacerbating incidences of violence.

As of January 31, 2022, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at 1,741,655—53 percent of whom are women and 52 percent whom are children under the age of 15.

Children Believe with UNICEF have implemented projects in Burkina Faso since 2018 to address these protection issues through a multisectoral, integrated approach. The purpose of the study is to highlight the achievements of the projects, analyze and share evidence of program success sustained by quantitative and qualitative data, and offer testimonials, real-life stories and photos. The report is also a learning tool that demonstrates the importance of investing in the protection of children in emergencies and the work undertaken by Children Believe in partnership with UNICEF.

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the rights of children globally, to help meet their basic needs and promote their full development. The organization builds on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and works to ensure that children's rights are part of a social ethic and an international code of conduct. In Burkina Faso, UNICEF supports the government in its development efforts, particularly in the area of children's and women's rights. It also works with civil society organizations to achieve its objectives. UNICEF strives through its country program in Burkina Faso to ensure women and girls have equal rights with men, and supports

their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

Children Believe works with children and communities across the globe to provide the tools, training and opportunities needed for young people to access education and support community empowerment to overcome barriers. This is achieved through four (4) Pathways of Change: supporting thriving communities, advancing child rights and protection, promoting equality for girls, and partnering with children for change. The organization began its operation in Burkina Faso in 1987.

From 2018 to 2021, UNICEF worked with Children Believe in three (3) areas of intervention, namely:

- 1) Building community consensus to end child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against children in the East region.**
- 2) Contributing to the improvement of the civil registration system and particularly supporting the birth registration of vulnerable children in the Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions.**
- 3) Providing protection services to internally displaced children and host communities affected by the security crisis in the Centre-North and East regions.**

UNICEF provided Children Believe with financial and technical support in the implementation of these three projects. It helped ensure that the interventions contributed to national priorities and remained aligned with global priorities in accordance with Burkina Faso's international commitments, namely as a State Party to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Main results of the projects

- By supporting the registration and production of birth certificates, the project enabled 8,000 children and 1,991 adolescents in the East, Centre-East and Centre-North regions to have a legal existence, be counted in the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system, and fully enjoy their rights, especially their rights to education and health.
- 119,439 children, including 62,905 girls, benefited from supports, such as psychosocial assistance, reuniting with their families and carrying out income-generating activities. Care was extended to 3,020 IDPs (2,154 women and 886 men) through the distribution of emergency kits and cash transfers.

A total of 2,154 internally displaced women received support, enabling to carry out income-generating activities that improved the living conditions of their families.

- The projects were based on the child protection system and strengthening the skills of the actors involved to give communities a greater chance to sustain the achievements. Thus, the actors included 40 mentors/Community-Based Health Workers (CBHWs), 1,760 community leaders (including imams) and 24 Community Support Technicians (CSTs). Knowledge about the dangers of child marriage, FGM and female genital cutting (FGC) was shared and learned. This knowledge was useful for immediate roles in the communities and at the individual level.
- On the demand side, the project helped improve the knowledge of a large number of people on various topics such as gender-based violence (GBV) (21,286 women and 10,739 men), child protection in emergencies (21,974 women and 8,359 men), life skills and gender-sensitive parental education (123,785 people). Surveys conducted by UNICEF

among members of different local communities (multi-country formative evaluation of the Child Rights Promotion and Protection Program Country Report - Burkina Faso, 2017 - 2019) show that 92 percent know at least one consequence of FGM, and 94 percent know at least one consequence of child marriage. Eighty-eight percent of adolescent girls say they know the consequences of FGM and child marriage.

- Child marriage and FGM are no longer taboo, the project has created a critical mass of 2,000 community leaders who position themselves as defenders of girls' rights and openly condemn child marriage and FGM.
- Public declarations of abandonment of harmful practices following a participatory and consultative process of community mobilization is a testimony of commitment and ownership.

Key recommendations

- Strengthen the skills of watchdog units, and customary and religious leaders to better exercise their roles and functions to protect children.
- Improve the capacity of local implementing partner organizations in monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure qualitative and disaggregated data are available, and the high quality of interventions.
- Strengthen the consideration of the specific needs of children living with a disability.
- Accelerate the integration of child care and protection into communal and regional development plans through strong collaborations with relevant stakeholders.
- Improve the visibility of the technical and financial partnerships, and communication of project results (capitalization, documentary film production, etc.).

INTRODUCTION

Children Believe, as part of its partnership with UNICEF, implemented three projects on child protection and education in the Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of Burkina Faso over the 2018-2021 period. In this collaboration, UNICEF provided financial and technical support, ensuring that interventions were aligned with the country's international commitments as a State Party to the CRC. Children Believe carried out operational activities in the field in accordance with budget, planning, good project management and monitoring practices.

These projects were designed to address development and human rights issues, as well as humanitarian emergencies. The areas covered include:

- Child protection (particularly civil status), child marriage, female circumcision, violence against children and care for children in emergency situations
- Education
- Health, hygiene and nutrition
- Peace and social cohesion

Implemented in a fragile context with increasing insecurity, the results of the projects were significant in terms of quality, access to education and child protection. To capitalize on the results, Children Believe, in collaboration with UNICEF, hired a consultant to conduct a project impact study.

Study objectives

The purpose of the study is to analyze and share evidence of the program's success, supported by quantitative and qualitative data, real-life stories and photos. The report will also serve as a learning tool, showing the importance of investing in the protection of children in emergencies and the work undertaken by Children Believe in partnership with UNICEF.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Present the impact of UNICEF-funded and Children Believe-implemented projects, highlighting success factors, challenges, best practices and lessons learned
- Present the most significant changes brought about by UNICEF-funded and Children Believe-implemented projects by linking data to human stories through key interviews.
- Identify success factors, including working with key stakeholders, especially children, to achieve better results.

Scope of the study

This impact study covers three projects:

- 1) **Community consensus project to end child marriage, female genital mutilation and child abuse in the East region/Zemse/Dagindi:** The objective of the project was to contribute to the protection of child rights and the abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)/female genital cutting (FGC). This 18-month project was implemented from June 2018 to November 2019 in the East region and had an overall cost of 510,361,359 CFA francs.
- 2) **Project to improve the civil registration system, particularly for births in the Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions:** The objective of this project was to contribute to making birth registration universal in the targeted regions. The effort involved creating a more favorable environment and making services more accessible to the population with enhanced interoperability with health, including for the reporting of statistical data with mHealth-civil status. The project also aimed to engage community leaders to increase demand and strengthen accountability. The project ran in a single phase from July 2019 to December 2020, with a cost of 334,896,050 CFA francs.

- 3) **Project to provide prevention and protection services to children in emergencies:** At a cost of 938,596,795 CFA francs, this project aimed to respond to the humanitarian crisis of vulnerable children and families in sites for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by providing psychosocial care and supervision. It was implemented in four six-month phases from January to December 2020 in four provinces in the East region (Tapoa, Gourma, Kompienga and Komandjari) and in the province of Sanmatenga in the Centre-North region.

During the first, second and third phases, the projects focused on humanitarian aid, but the activities of the third phase integrated COVID-19 prevention and the themes of peace and social cohesion. At the fourth phase, the project changed its name to “Project for the provision of quality prevention, protection and education services to children affected by emergencies, including strengthening their rights to birth registration in the Centre-North and East regions”. This phase integrated actions on birth registration, juvenile justice, gender-based violence, capacity building of actors, education services adapted to children in emergency contexts, and mental health and psychosocial support.

See Appendix 5 to 7 for summary sheets describing the details of each project.

Methodology

The methodology of the study consisted of a documentary analysis and individual interviews with actors or beneficiaries.

The literature review included various activity reports and project documents. A total of 62 reports and project documents were analyzed (Appendix 2). This analysis aimed to identify the main achievements and impacts, factors that enabled the achievement of results, challenges, best practices and lessons learned.

The interviews were conducted with actors involved in the implementation of the projects at the level of Children Believe, local partners, UNICEF, Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) and beneficiaries (see Appendix 1 for a list of implementation actors interviewed). The interviews were conducted in person or remotely in February 2022 using an interview guide and helped to elucidate the data from the literature review, as well as clarify some of the findings.



Young advocates for the protection of child rights with Children Believe’s West Africa Director.

CONTEXT, ISSUES AND PROJECT RELEVANCE

Context and issues to address

Burkina Faso's demographic structure, dominated by women and young people, calls for significant investments in the social sectors:

Estimated at 20,487,979 inhabitants in 2019 (INSD, 2019), Burkina Faso's population is characterized by its rapid growth (about 2.8 percent per year) and by its large youth population.

The population growth rate for Burkina Faso is about 2.8 percent annually and more than 77 percent of the population is under the age of 35.

Women represent 51.7 percent of the population and those under 15 years old represent 45.3 percent. This relatively high proportion of women and youth requires that the government pay special attention to them by planning substantial long-term investments in the social sectors.

Despite the worrying national and regional security context, combined with the grim circumstances of a global pandemic, economic growth was maintained. However, the growth remained insufficient, seeing both humanitarian and food crises:

The country's economic growth recovered slightly after a slowdown following a socio-political crisis that the country experienced between 2014 and 2015. It recovered around 6 percentage points, with an increase over 2016 to 2018 from 5.9 percent to 6.6 percent in 2018. For the 2019 to 2023 period, the African Development Bank's economic outlook shows a slight contraction in growth: 5.5 percent in 2020, then 5.1 percent in 2021 to 2022, and predicts 5.2 percent from 2022 to 2023. The upward trend in the wage bill (62.4 percent of tax revenues in 2020), if not controlled, could significantly reduce the fiscal space needed to finance domestic investments.

Burkina Faso is experiencing an unprecedented security crisis:

Long spared by armed groups active in the Sahel, Burkina Faso was affected by the spread of the conflict in Mali with the first bloody attack in the Centre of Ouagadougou in October 2015. The country has been facing a spiral of violence with an increasing number of attacks: 38 in 2016, 66 in 2017, 173 in 2018 and 349 in 2019 (OFPRA Information, Documentation and Research Division, June 2020: security situation since 2019).

As of January 31, 2022, the number of IDPs was estimated at 1,741,655 people, 23 percent of whom are women and 61 percent of whom are children (of which 52 percent are under age 15). According to official figures, 3,405 schools were closed, affecting 525,000 students. In addition, 160 health facilities were closed and 339 were operating at minimum capacity, affecting 1.95-million people.

The East and Centre-North regions are among the most affected:

The number of IDPs is estimated to be 152,000 in the East region and 627,000 in the Centre-North region. Combined, this is 45 percent of all the IDPs in Burkina Faso. These two regions have 1,225 closed schools, which represents 36 percent of the number of closed schools in the country. More than 160,000 students do not have access to school facilities due to the insecurity issue. In the health sector, 44 facilities no longer provide services and 132 operate at minimal levels.

The deteriorating security situation has a significant impact on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, with an increase in their protection and livelihood needs.

Women, along with children, constitute the majority of IDPs and victims of extreme violence, including separation, deprivation of liberty, rape, abduction and sexual abuse.

¹ General Census of Population and Housing

The situation is worsening the conditions for recording and producing civil status documents in Burkina Faso, particularly in regions facing major security challenges and risks of increasing violence against children. According to the latest available information, the birth registration rate of children aged 0-11 months at the civil registry increased slightly from 56 percent in 2018 to 56.5 percent in 2019. Registration of births completed within legal deadlines also increased by 0.7 percent from 53.7 percent in 2018 to 54.4 percent in 2019. Although up, rates remain average compared to the 100 percent target.

To improve on this indicator along with civil status indicators, the government adopted the National Civil Status Strategy (SNEC), which aims to bring civil status services closer to the population by creating secondary centres in all health facilities. Births are registered in the first moments of birth. The monitoring of CBHWs makes it possible to capture births outside health facilities. The closure of 3,045 health facilities was a blow to the ability to register births in communes and communities.

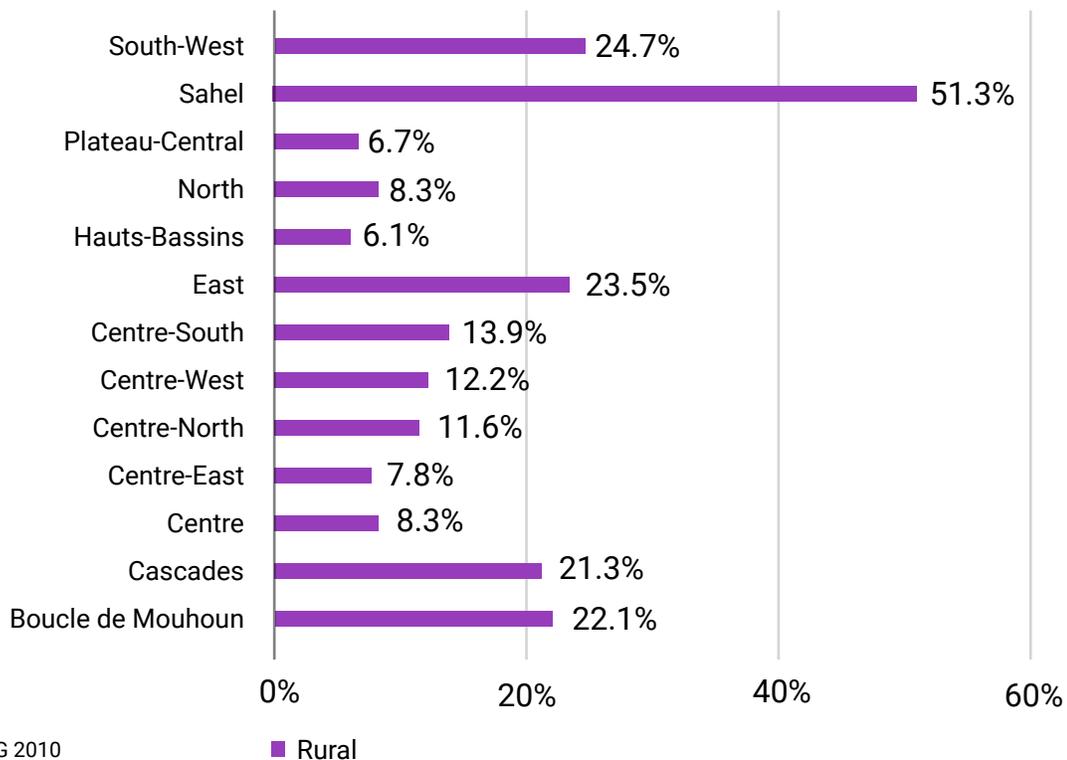
Insecurity risks are exacerbating violence against children:

According to the 2015 Continuous Multi-sectoral Survey (EMC), the prevalence of FGM at the national level is 11.3 percent for children aged 0 to 14. It is still very high, particularly in rural areas.

In rural areas of Burkina Faso, the prevalence of female genital mutilation is 12.1 percent, compared to 5.9 percent in urban areas.

With respect to child marriage, the same source (EMC, 2015) indicates that at the national level, among women aged 20-24 years who are married/live as concubines, 51.3 percent were married before age 18 and 8.9 percent were married before age 15. The East region, one of the two regions covered in this evaluation, is one of the top three regions where the proportion of married girls aged 15 to 17 is very high, particularly in rural areas (Chart 1).

CHART 1: PROPORTION OF 15-17 YEAR-OLD MARRIED GIRLS IN RURAL AREAS OF BURKINA FASO, AGGREGATED BY REGION



Source: EDS/MICS-BG 2010

The national study on violence against children in Burkina Faso (January 2019) showed that the prevalence of violence varied according to age group, type of violence, place of residence, living environment, etc. The study also showed that the family home was the main place where violence against children was practiced, with both parents being the perpetrators of up to 75 percent of incidences, and the school being the second place with a little over 20 percent.

Project relevance

It was with the intention to address these protection issues affecting children and women in the Centre-North and East regions that Children Believe (formerly Christian Children's Fund of Canada) developed three projects with the support of UNICEF. The different themes addressed in the projects line up with national priorities defined in sectoral and national policies and strategies. The main issues are prevention and protection of children in emergencies, civil/birth registration, and ending child marriage, FGM and violence against children (psychosocial and physical violence).

In general, these projects align with two strategic objectives of the National Health Development Plan (PNDS):

- **SO.2.1** – promote population health and accelerate the demographic transition.
- **SO.2.4** – promote decent employment and social protection for all, especially for young people and women.

The projects are also aligned with the new national child protection strategy (2020-2024), which aims for Burkina Faso to have “a strengthened institutional, community and family environment that ensures effective social protection for children.” Moreover, these projects are in line with UNICEF and Children Believe's areas of intervention.

With regard to the geographic locations chosen, these are locations with high security challenges in which the educational and protection needs of children have increased. Indeed, exchanges with the actors and the results of the documentary analysis show that the intervention themes met the priority needs of the populations. Most critically, the results achieved by the project brought about qualitative changes in the lives of the communities, in general, and of girls and boys, in particular.



Women from a village savings and loans group supported by Children Believe and UNICEF participate in a training session.

OVERALL RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE PROJECTS

Overall results

Production of civil status documents for children and vulnerable persons: By supporting the registration and production of birth certificates, the project enabled 8,000 children and 1,991 adolescents in the East, Centre-East and Centre-North regions to have a legal existence by being counted in the CRVS system.

Legal identity is proof of age and facilitates access to essential rights and services, including social protection, voting rights, health care, education and financial services.

In addition, the project has also contributed to reducing gender inequalities in the intervention areas. The registration and production of civil status documents helps eliminate inequalities by protecting women and girls against child marriages, guaranteeing their inheritance rights and a fair divorce, and facilitating their access to political participation and modern financial services.

Strengthening the civil registration system: While stimulating the demand for civil status, the project worked to strengthen the supply; services were brought closer to people and action planning was strengthened. By providing support for the development of regional plans for improving civil registration systems, the project enabled the three intervention regions to establish a framework that unified all actions, set out the main priorities and defined the framework for collaboration among stakeholders. The regional plans are now the framework for the work of the actors, which can produce interesting synergistic effects, and are also a tool for advocacy with authorities and partners.

Thanks to the project, 232 secondary civil status centres were created and are functional within the Centres of

Health and Social Promotion (CSPSS). Now, people register the birth of their children in the village CSPSS and no longer travel long distances to get to the main centre of the commune. This reduction in travel can be seen as savings on time and transportation costs for the household, to which the project contributed.

Child protection in the humanitarian context: Faced with multi-faceted violence suffered by children and women, the project developed an intervention to capture the dimensions of children's problems: care and skills building. Survivors of GBV and other types of violence received project support. A total of 119,439 children, including 62,905 girls, benefited from supports, such as psychosocial assistance, reuniting with their families and carrying out income-generating activities. Care was extended to 3,020 IDPs (2,154 women and 886 men) through the distribution of emergency kits and cash transfers to IDPs. One of these people was Ima Awa, a 34-year-old mother of 8 children who came from Yandga (Barsalogho) in the province of Sanmatenga. To read her full story, see Box 2 on page 24.

“UNICEF and Children Believe supported me with funding to start raising sheep. In the past, I used to practice this activity in the village, in addition to my housework. It is an activity that can yield enough income to enable my husband and I to rebuild our lives and prepare for the future of our children. I also help families with their house chores to make additional income to support my family and take care of feeding our livestock.” – Ima Awa, project beneficiary from Yandga, Sanmatenga

Specific support actions in the context of COVID-19 enabled the continuation of the project activities. The project helped people regain their happiness and build a new life for those who had lost almost everything.

System strengthening: The projects were based on the child protection system and strengthened the skills of the actors involved to increase the chance of sustaining the achievements. Thus, actors included 40 mentors/CBHWs, 1,760 community leaders (including imams) and 24 CSTs. Knowledge about the dangers of child marriage, FGM and FGC was shared and learned. This knowledge was useful for immediate roles in the communities and at the individual level.

Raising public awareness on various topics: The project helped strengthen parenting skills and awareness of child protection as it relates to various topics, such as GBV (21,286 women and 10,739 men), providing prevention and protection services to children in emergencies (21,974 women and 8,359 men), life skills and gender-sensitive parental education (123,785 people). Surveys conducted by the evaluation team among members of different local communities show that 92 percent know at least one consequence of FGM, and 94 percent know at least one consequence of child marriage.

Eighty-eight percent of adolescent girls say they know the consequences of FGM and child marriage. In addition, more than 97 percent of the respondents believe that the FGM is a bad practice. These sensitized men and women relayed the messages to their networks.

Child marriage and FGM are no longer taboo in the intervention regions. The project has created a critical mass of 2,000 community leaders who position themselves as defenders of girls' rights and openly condemn child marriage and FGM. At the end of the participatory and consultative process of community mobilization, several public declarations to abandon harmful practices were made.

Fight against COVID-19: Children Believe with UNICEF provided internally displaced populations with hygiene kits. The kits included face masks, sanitizer and soap. Education on protection measures was also provided for 7,303 parents and 40,230 children aged 5 to 17.



Children with the structures they built in a child-friendly space. The child-friendly spaces provide children with protection and resources to engage in play and support their education.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT IMPACT

The projects implemented are shown to have had positive impacts on the lives of the target area populations, in general, and on the lives of children, in particular. These impacts were made possible by the strategies used, as well as internal and external factors.

In the following sections, each individual project and its impact is discussed in detail. The photos and testimonials included were taken from various project reports. Some of the comments were from recent discussions with stakeholders and beneficiaries of the projects.

A) COMMUNITY CONSENSUS PROJECT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD ABUSE IN THE EAST REGION/ZEMSE/DAGINDI



A group of community leaders who received training as part of Children Believe and UNICEF's project in the East region of Bukina Faso.

Implementation strategies

The strategies focused on:

- ✓ Information and guidance meetings at the level of identified villages to take ownership of the activities and, above all, ensure community involvement in the project.
- ✓ Reinforcement of the project activities to systematize actions and prevent violence.
- ✓ Establishment of spaces for young girls and boys, and to provide them with public services, and available supports and references.
- ✓ Advocating to community decision-makers for more commitment and strong action on the ground.
- ✓ Gender mainstreaming through a socio-cultural context analysis of the project implementation area to take into

account the specific concerns of men and women, as well as girls, boys and people with disabilities. Gender mainstreaming also included capacity-building for women and girls, and social rehabilitation.

- ✓ Child participation through the establishment of spaces for girls and boys (children's club).
- ✓ Consideration of COVID-19 to avoid the cessation of project activities. The implementation of the activities continued in this context, applying COVID-19 prevention protocols.

"This project has been very beneficial because parents have understood that forced marriage is not good. Also, today many girls are able to say no to child marriage and manage to get by in the small trades they have learned with the support of the project." – Tamdamba Elizabeth, project beneficiary.

Success factors

- ✓ Delivering a project socialization workshop to increase awareness and ownership of project activities by stakeholders during the start-up phase.
- ✓ Identification and training of community leaders to conduct community mobilization activities.
- ✓ Use of CSTs who, after receiving good training, interfaced between the project and the different communities in the villages.
- ✓ Establishment of spaces for girls and boys.
- ✓ Establishment of committees/monitoring units.

Lessons learned

- ✓ The support of community leaders in planning for the arrival of CSTs to conduct the child census was a key

element in the success of the project. Community leaders were undeniably pillars of community engagement.

- ✓ When the sons of the village take leadership to lead the activity, there is more impact.
- ✓ The commitment of administrative authorities favor the commitment of community leaders and, therefore, the whole community.

Best practices

- ✓ Identification and training of community leaders who do the work – when the population moves, the leader moves with it and the activities can continue.
- ✓ Synergy with other partner projects – this synergy enabled referencing and care of children in other projects. The project's achievements are, thus, supported by the other projects, or the effects of the projects reinforce each other.
- ✓ The integrated dimension of the project is a multi-faceted approach to the various problems of the communities, such as civil registration, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Recommendations

Based on the above analysis, it is recommended that Children Believe:

- ✓ Anticipate activities through scoping meetings before the start of activities.
- ✓ Increase the duration of this type of project from 6 months to 2 years as it is not possible to create social norm change in the short run. Although the project was extended over successive phases, the time between phases sometimes resulted in a loss of human resources (departure of teams) and lower engagement of community resource persons.

BOX 1: IMPACT STORY – THIOMBIANO YOULAPOUMBA

Unfortunately, in 2022, child marriage still takes place. Worse, it continues to make its way into the very makeup of our societies and remains a scourge that destroys children, who had their futures before them.

Native of Fada, in the East region of Burkina Faso, 16-year-old Thiombiano Youlapoumba has never been to school. At this age, when she should have been thriving in the company of her peers and getting the support she needs to realize her dreams, her freedom and physical integrity have taken a serious blow. Promised in marriage to a man she had never met, Youlapoumba faced dark days.

“I had never felt so unhappy until the day my parents decided to give me away in marriage. There were times when I felt that death would be a great relief for me because I couldn’t imagine getting married at such a young age.” – Thiombiano Youlapoumba

She had made her opposition to marriage clear to her family on many occasions. This insubordination very quickly caused tensions between her and her mother. Her mother, outraged by the behavior of her daughter, went to the extreme of refusing her daily food.

Youlapoumba eventually found relief when her case was alerted to the project team in her town involved in providing prevention and protection services to children in emergencies (PESU, financed by UNICEF and implemented by Children Believe and its partner OCADES). Thanks to the exchanges between Children Believe and her parents, the marriage was finally abandoned and Youlapoumba was immediately enrolled in a child-friendly space where she benefited from the supports provided and follow-ups with her family.

In the child-friendly space, she received training in knitting and today, she manages to make a bit of income from the clothing she knits. “I have a small

income thanks to the knitwear and contribute to paying for expenses at home. I can buy some clothes and also save some money to finance my job.”



Youlapoumba, a 16-year-old girl, holds up clothing items she learned to knit in a child-friendly space created by Children Believe and UNICEF. The space provided her with support to prevent her from being married as a child and gain a skill for income generation.

After having been sensitized, Youlapoumba’s parents now encourage her to promote her activity. “My mother, who was very committed to my marriage, has finally changed her mind. Children Believe and UNICEF, besides saving my life, have allowed me to create a better future for myself through knitting training.”

Youlapoumba does not want to stop there; she wants to become a professional knitter. To achieve this goal, she has started saving money to pay for advanced training in the field. For the immediate future, she needs to equip herself to fulfill the orders of her customers. “Currently, I would like to have a machine for knitting. Thus, I will be able to meet the multiple demands.”

This young girl, who has regained the upper hand over her life, is full of gratitude. “I can only say thank you to Children Believe and UNICEF for changing my life. I would be in an unknown place with an unknown man, without their help.”

B) PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY FOR BIRTHS IN THE CENTRE-NORTH, EAST AND CENTRE-EAST REGIONS OF BURKINA FASO



A capacity-building session in progress to support the improvement of the civil registration system.

Implementation strategies

- ✓ Creating a more favorable environment for the registration of civil status events, like births, by bringing civil status services closer to the population and strengthening the skills of civil status officers and delegates.
- ✓ A system approach, consisting of strengthening the existing administration system to facilitate ownership and the sustainability of the project's achievements.
- ✓ Involvement of community leaders to increase demand and strengthen accountability and community engagement.
- ✓ Gender mainstreaming through capacity building and skills development for women and girls.

Success factors

- ✓ **Advocacy through workshops:** Diagnosing bottlenecks in relation to civil registration to commit town councils to allocate additional budget and integrate a gender analysis. A gender analysis was used to determine the challenges of participation for women, young girls and young boys, and how to better involve women in birth registration.
- ✓ **The involvement of local administrative authorities, community leaders, decentralized and central technical services, local communities and populations, including children and women, was a key success factor:** Involvement was attained through workshops setting up regional steering committees at the beginning of the project, which served as an advocacy framework.

- ✓ **Capacity building:** Civil registrars and registrar delegates received capacity building on the harmonized national manual of procedures on civil registration and production. Members of Community Child Protection Networks, and customary, religious and other local leaders were also empowered on: (i) interoperability between health and civil status; and (ii) the involvement of CBHWs. The Directorate-General responsible for civil status provided important technical support to the training process.

“We welcome capacity-building training, which allows us to fully play our role as a community leader in the field of civil status, and hope that it will be extended to all women’s organizations in the region. We thank Children Believe and its partner UNICEF for providing it.” – General Secretary of a women’s organization in the Zabré region.

Lessons learned

- ✓ **With limited financial resources, the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) is unable to cover a large number of actors through training activities:** By adopting a system approach, the project provided a solution by strengthening the capacity of the DGMEC, which steers the SNEC and stakeholders in the civil registration chain. Such a reinforcement of competencies placed the DGMEC in a good position to fulfill its responsibilities.

- ✓ **Birth certificates for women are of great interest:** Civil registration and filing help address inequalities by protecting women and girls from child marriage, ensuring their inheritance rights and a fair divorce, and facilitating their access to political participation and modern financial services. Experience has shown that women are the most interested in registration, as they have been able to use it for the establishment of other official documentation, such as the National Identity Card, which facilitates their movement and access to additional services.

Best practices

- ✓ Collaboration is key between civil status officers (councils, CBHWs, CSPSs), as well as the interoperability between health and civil status.
- ✓ Technical support provided by the DGMEC leads the implementation of the SNEC.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis, the following recommendations are made to Children Believe and UNICEF:

- ✓ Scale up the project and extend its duration by at least 3 years, where possible, to sustain the achievements and increase the impacts.

C) PROJECT TO PROVIDE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES



Child-friendly spaces in Kaya, Burkina Faso. The spaces were created as part of Children Believe and UNICEF's efforts to provide prevention and protection services to children in emergencies.

Implementation strategies

- ✓ Supporting the system through partnerships with relevant government structures to facilitate ownership and sustainability of project achievements.
- ✓ Identifying unaccompanied and separated children, and placing them in foster families or other appropriate structures through social welfare services.
- ✓ Mobilizing the communities concerned to prevent and combat violence, exploitation, and abuse of children and women, with the support of community leaders.
- ✓ Establishing safe environments for children by creating and animating child-friendly spaces, which allows their participation in the project.
- ✓ Providing care and psychosocial support to children facing psychosocial distress and stress.
- ✓ Gender mainstreaming through capacity building and skills development of women and girls, and financial contributions to improve empowerment through relief kits and money transfers to the most vulnerable households that include women.
- ✓ Documentation of cases of serious violations for purposes of tracking and learning.

Success factors

- ✓ **Collaboration:** Fruitful collaboration with government structures (agreement with the ministries of social welfare, education, youth and vocational training) and local civil society organizations that facilitated the implementation of activities.
- ✓ Establishment of the **emergency relief nexus, and strengthening the resilience and response** of populations. This reduces the heavy dependence of IDPs on humanitarian aid.
- ✓ **Animation sessions in child-friendly spaces with trained facilitators** for internally displaced children and host communities, taking into account the age and specific needs of each child. This offered reassurance to IDPs and encouraged good participation in the various project activities.
- ✓ **Capacity building for institutional and community actors:** Animators and facilitators benefited from several skill enhancements in various areas (child protection in emergencies, GBV, animation techniques). The trainings enabled them to be more efficient in their work and provide a better response to the children. Capacity-building sessions were also conducted for social welfare officials in charge of humanitarian action in the project's intervention zones.
- ✓ **Taking care of the specific needs of unaccompanied or separated children, orphans, children that were sick, injured, living with disabilities, neglected or survivors of GBV and other types of violence:** The supports were based on the needs of each child and consisted of food, clothing, sanitary/hygiene support, emergency kits and cash transfers. This effort helped restore confidence and build resilience.

Lessons learned

- ✓ The better equipped and trained the actors are, the more appropriate and greater quality of their response in the field, which is why it is always necessary to have **refresher courses and continuous training**. This

strengthening also concerns local organizations/ implementing partners for a better response to child protection issues.

- ✓ **The integrated dimension of the project made it possible to provide a holistic solution to the problems of populations in protection and WASH.** Intersectorality and integration of the project's activities and themes with other activities and projects, guaranteed relevance, efficacy and performance.
- ✓ **Training girls in jobs reduces their vulnerability and prevents their exploitation through, namely, domestic work.** Parents had removed girls from child-friendly spaces and placed them in families as domestic servants. However, training enabled many girls to escape this form of exploitation. Those who received training were able to train their parents in turn and because of that, many of the girls set up small businesses with their parents in markets to earn their living. The training was focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), entrepreneurship and leadership, which also enabled the girls to improve the quality of their lives and their community involvement.
- ✓ GBV survivors become more and more resilient when given a little more means. This support helped them regain their self-confidence to undertake and rebuild their lives.

“When you consider the case of GBV survivors, for example, most of the time these are IDPs who have lost everything. Working with UNICEF, we initially planned to give them 20,000 CFA francs to pay for dignity kits. However, we realized that by giving more helped these women become more resilient. The experience is that many women who received cash transfers were successful in setting up income-generating activities (IGAs) and better managed to care for their families.” – Julien Ouédraogo, project manager with Children Believe.

- ✓ The involvement of the communities guaranteed the ownership of the interventions and the sustainability of the project's achievements.

“This is a very good project that has had very good results and we were involved throughout the implementation phase.” – Traoré Adjima, head of TODIMA, local NGO in the East.

- ✓ The provision of handwashing kits and awareness raising on COVID-19 were powerful ways to get children to adopt good hygiene practices (e.g. children wash their hands regularly and always wear face masks during activities). That led to the passing on of information and practices, as the children helped raise awareness among their peers and the community.

Best practices

- ✓ **The establishment and animation of child-friendly spaces** provides a secure environment and integrated programs (games, recreational and educational activities, healthcare, life skills development, and information on services and supports available to children who experienced trauma due to the security situation). In addition, children play an important and active role in the fight against COVID-19 through the practice of hand washing and other prevention efforts that they pass on to their peers and families.



Children engaged in an activity in a child-friendly space supported by Children Believe and UNICEF.

- ✓ **Household support through cash transfers** are valuable to meet the identified needs of children.
- ✓ **Setting up village savings and credit groups for women** helps them receive cash transfers and enables them to mobilize resources.
- ✓ **Meeting quarterly with the project monitoring committee** to ensure the continued efficacy of activities.

Recommendations

Based on the above analysis, it is recommended that Children Believe:

- ✓ Support the establishment of village savings and credit associations in the other project intervention areas.
- ✓ Strengthen or improve the visibility of the financial partner, notably UNICEF, through the interventions implemented.
- ✓ Highlight the roles and contributions of the implementing partner associations in achieving the results.
- ✓ Strengthen the skills of local organizations.

“We have a good partnership with Children Believe on projects funded by UNICEF and implemented by Children Believe. In terms of collaboration, we have good relationships and good communication between us. Financial sustainability means that we cannot finance longer projects, but projects are carried forward based on results. Children Believe does a good job and the results are very satisfactory. However, there is opportunity to strengthen/improve the visibility of the funder, and highlight the roles and contributions of the implementing partner associations in achieving results. One of UNICEF’s expectations is that Children Believe, as an international organization, should strengthen the skills of local organizations.” – Karim Sankara, child protection specialist with UNICEF

BOX 2: IMPACT STORY – MRS. IMA AWA

Ima Awa, a 34-year-old woman, is married and has 8 children – 7 of whom are her biological children and one (1) 17-year-old adoptive child. She is an internally displaced person from Yandga (Barsalogho) in the Sanmatenga province.

Mrs. Ima Awa currently lives with her husband and co-wife in District 5 of Kaya, and has had to face verbal and emotional abuse from her husband. Whether her husband did it consciously or unconsciously, the recurrent violence, involving insults, denigration, reproaches, accusations, blackmail and other things, eventually had repercussions on Awa. She ultimately developed psychological disorders and psychosomatic illnesses that affected her ability to breastfeed. No one comes out unscathed after having been subjected to violence of any kind, since the result is the destruction of the victim's identity. Thus, Awa's sense of self gradually deteriorated over time, while her stress and anxieties grew.

The pressure that weighed on her was beyond her strength, and if that was not enough, she had to watch helplessly as her eldest daughter suffered from severe earaches.

Given the urgency of her needs and her vulnerable situation, emergency psychosocial support was provided. In addition, as she was struggling from a high degree of impoverishment, she was registered with Social Action and National Solidarity of Kaya and received food aid (e.g. a bag of maize). Awa quickly benefited from the health and food support.

As for her daughter who suffered earaches, she was able to receive medical care at the Kaya Regional Hospital Centre (CHR KAYA), thanks to Children Believe and UNICEF. Then her daughter joined the group of children in the local child-friendly space, where animators of the PESU project continued to monitor her.

To help Awa with her income, Children Believe and UNICEF's PESU project supported her in the

establishment of an income-generating activity (IGA). She received two sheep (one male and one female) to start a livestock business.



Awa, a mother of 8, in front of her home with her sheep. Her sheep, two of which she received as part of Children Believe and UNICEF's PESU project, are an important source of income for her family.

“UNICEF and Children Believe supported me to start raising sheep. In the past, I used to practice this activity in the village, in addition to my housework. It is an activity that can yield enough income to enable my husband and I to rebuild our lives and prepare for the future of our children. I also help families with their house chores to make additional income to support my family and take care of feeding our livestock.” – Ima Awa

Awa contributes greatly to the family's expenses and her children can now have at least two meals a day. Three of her children who had dropped out of school have since re-enrolled. In addition, the family now lives in a good atmosphere and Awa is no longer mistreated by her husband. She confided to us that he has stopped his verbal abuse and does not hesitate to talk to her on a daily basis to find out more about her health.

For Awa, she has regained her confidence, happiness and a sense of hope, and she is grateful for it. “Without the support of UNICEF and Children Believe, it would have been difficult for me and my husband to overcome this ordeal.”

BOX 4: IMPACT STORY – MONIQUE

Monique, a 34-year-old mother of 4 children, is one of the women who benefited from Children Believe and UNICEF's cash-transfer, and it helped her regain hope after a painful experience with armed opposition groups.

Married to a man from the same village, Monique lived a normal household life and dreamed of a better future for her children. However, she and her family had to flee persecution from gunmen who had targeted their village. Armed men attacked their village for several days, causing fear among the population. The village was prey to public infrastructure burning, property looting and physical violence, and was emptied and forsaken.

"We used to do farming activities in the rainy season and grow off-season crops thanks to the water reservoir in the village. We never imagined leaving the land of our ancestors for any reason. This life has been shattered and we are obliged to start all over again." – Monique

After the umpteenth attack, the young woman's family, like other families, decided to leave their village for the regional capital Kaya. Little did they know that in their flight they would once again suffer at the hands of gunmen. Caught on the road between Dablo and Kaya, they were dispossessed of the rest of their property, including civil and other important documents. Already weakened from walking a great distance, hunger and thirst, Monique was severely beaten with whips in front of her children. This left her with scars that are still visible today. After they were released, her family continued walking for three more days to reach their destination. When they arrived, Monique and her family, along with several other families, were welcomed and housed in the IDP site at the Regional Stadium.

Monique shared, "We were put in touch with a social worker from Children Believe, UNICEF's partner in the implementation of the PESU project in Kaya. During a

medical consultation, we were given an appointment for care procedures. We received medical care and dignity kits made up of soaps, loincloths, sanitary napkins, blankets, mats, as well as food. It was a great relief. That was followed by meetings with a psychologist who helped us overcome our ordeals and think about the future with hope. Our children, who used to have fearful outbursts, have now regained their strength and composure."

Thanks to Children Believe and UNICEF's PESU project, Monique also received funds to start a small business. She started selling fried fish and a month later, she added attieke, a traditional dish made from cassava.



Monique, a mother of 3, gained stability with the help of Children Believe and UNICEF's PESU project in Burkina Faso.

She confided to us with a slight smile that she makes a profit and contributes with her husband in the family expenses. "My husband and I were able to find a cottage to house us at 5,000 CFA francs per month. It is small for our children and us, but we are constrained and it is also the one we can afford. If we cannot return to our village, I will work on building a shed to serve as a restaurant. Thanks to the help we have received from UNICEF and Children Believe, there is a glimmer of hope and I intend to seize it with courage for the future of my children."

BOX 3: IMPACT STORY – HABIBOU

Habibou is a 25-year-old mother of 3 children, married to Mr. Sawadogo Souleymane. She is one of many internally displaced persons from Dablo in the Sanmatenga province.

The young mother was abducted from her home in November 2021 while she was doing housework. Looking at the ground she told us how her abduction happened: “One day I was sitting with my children inside the house cooking and a few moments later a stranger came, asking about my husband. I told him that my husband had travelled. Despite my answer, he insisted with an authoritarian tone that he wanted to see my husband. Since he was carrying a weapon that I have never seen, I complied in the face of his demands. After threatening me with death, he kidnapped me, forcing me to follow him 15 km outside the village.”

For two days, this young mother was separated from her children, raped and beaten by unidentified armed men. It was a terrible shock to this mother. When she was released, she found her way back to her family and they fled the village, which was in an area under attack. Habibou and her family were able to reach the town of Kaya, along with several other people from her village.

After being identified by aid workers, Habibou was quickly given medical care, including psychological support. Her family also received food, clothing and counselling through the Children Believe and UNICEF’s PESU project. In addition to this support, she received financial assistance to set up an IGA through the cash-transfer system initiated by the project.

Currently, Habibou is trying to rebuild her life with her husband and mother-in-law in District 6 in the Centre-North region. She earns a decent living by selling doughnuts, cakes and recently, spices, and helps her husband to provide for the family.

“Since her arrival, she has had insomnia problems. Every night she remembers the violent acts. Things have improved and it’s wonderful to see her getting back on her feet.” – Program facilitator

Her health is now stable and the sale of her spices allows her to cook for her children, pay for some of their clothes and take care of their health. She is a great support to her husband in helping earn enough money to take care of their family.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



An adolescent girl learns to weave a basket. Developing the skills of young people has helped build their confidence and support income-generation.

The impact study of the projects implemented by Children Believe in partnership with UNICEF in the fragile context of Burkina Faso revealed that all three projects were useful, met the priority needs of the communities and are in line with national guidelines related to the issues addressed. Impact was made on several levels:

- **At the level of the project implementation actors:** It can be noted that the enrichment, training and lessons learned will be very useful for future projects.
- **At the level of the beneficiary communities:** Greater awareness of the harmful effects of various forms of violence and other practices detrimental to the health and well-being of children and their mothers. A strong commitment was made to put an end to these practices and create an environment conducive to the realization of children's rights.
- **For adolescent children:** Child leaders have emerged and their self-protection capacities were strengthened through training, dialog spaces and self-esteem building activities.

These changes were achieved through the overall project strategy, which was based on partnership with government technical agencies, administrative and municipal authorities, women, adolescent girls and boys, and community leaders (traditional, religious and other). To the factors that led to changes, it should be noted that Children Believe's long-standing presence in the intervention areas, its community-based approach and values centred on the quality of services provided were contributing factors. During the interviews, the UNICEF staff member in charge of the project affirmed that Children Believe is an organization that provides quality services with experienced and committed teams. He reported that he learned a lot from Children Believe's programs, including providing prevention and protection services to children affected by emergencies. Children's participation, gender mainstreaming and advocacy at all project levels were also successful.

Overall, the following recommendations are suggested for Children Believe and UNICEF to further advance their work:

- Strengthen the skills of watchdog units, and customary and religious leaders to better exercise their roles and functions to protect children within their communities.
- Improve the capacity of local implementing partner organizations in monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure qualitative and disaggregated data are available, and the high quality of interventions.
- Strengthen the consideration of the specific needs of children living with a disability.
- Accelerate the integration of child care and protection into communal and regional development plans through strong collaborations with relevant stakeholders.
- Improve the visibility of the technical and financial partnerships, and communication of project results (capitalization, documentary film production, etc.).

ANNEX

ANNEX I: LIST OF IMPLEMENTATION ACTORS INTERVIEWED

No	Organization	Surname	Given name
1	Children Believe	Tamboura	Djibilirou
2	DGMEC	Konate	Oury
3	Children Believe	Ouedraogo	Julien
4	TODIMA	Traore	Adjima
5	ACCED	Kabore	Augustin
6	Children Believe/MGF Supervisor	Ouali	Emmanuel
7	CST/Children Believe (FGM project)	Tamdamba	Elisabeth
8	UNICEF	Sankara	Karim
9	UNICEF	Sawadogo	Ali
10	UNICEF	Decker	Marite Charlotte Marie

ANNEX II: LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

No	Author	Publication date	Title
Project to improve the civil registration system, particularly for births in the Centre North, East and Centre East regions of Burkina Faso			
1	Djibilirou Tamboura	January 2021	FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT July 2019-December 2020
2	Djibilirou Tamboura	08/05/2021	Standard quarterly progress report Q1
3	Djibilirou Tamboura	07/10/2021	Standard quarterly progress report Q2
4	Djibilirou Tamboura	10/07/2021	Standard quarterly progress report Q3
5	Djibilirou Tamboura	07/31/2021	Children Believe Burkina Faso Monthly Progress Report Template
6	Djibilirou Tamboura	08/01/2021	OCT-DEC 2020 ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT
Project to provide prevention and protection services to children in emergencies—Phase 1 (PESU1)			
7	Silvia Chiarucci	07/29/2019	Humanitarian Report HR JULY 29, 2019
8	Silvia Chiarucci	10/14/2019	Humanitarian Report HR of activities for August 2019
9	Silvia Chiarucci	09/12/2019	November 2019 Humanitarian Activity Report
10	Silvia Chiarucci	10/16/2019	September 2019 Humanitarian Activity Report
11	Silvia Chiarucci	11/26/2019	October 2019 Humanitarian Activity Report
12	Patrice Zongo	1/16/020	Project summary sheet - Civil status

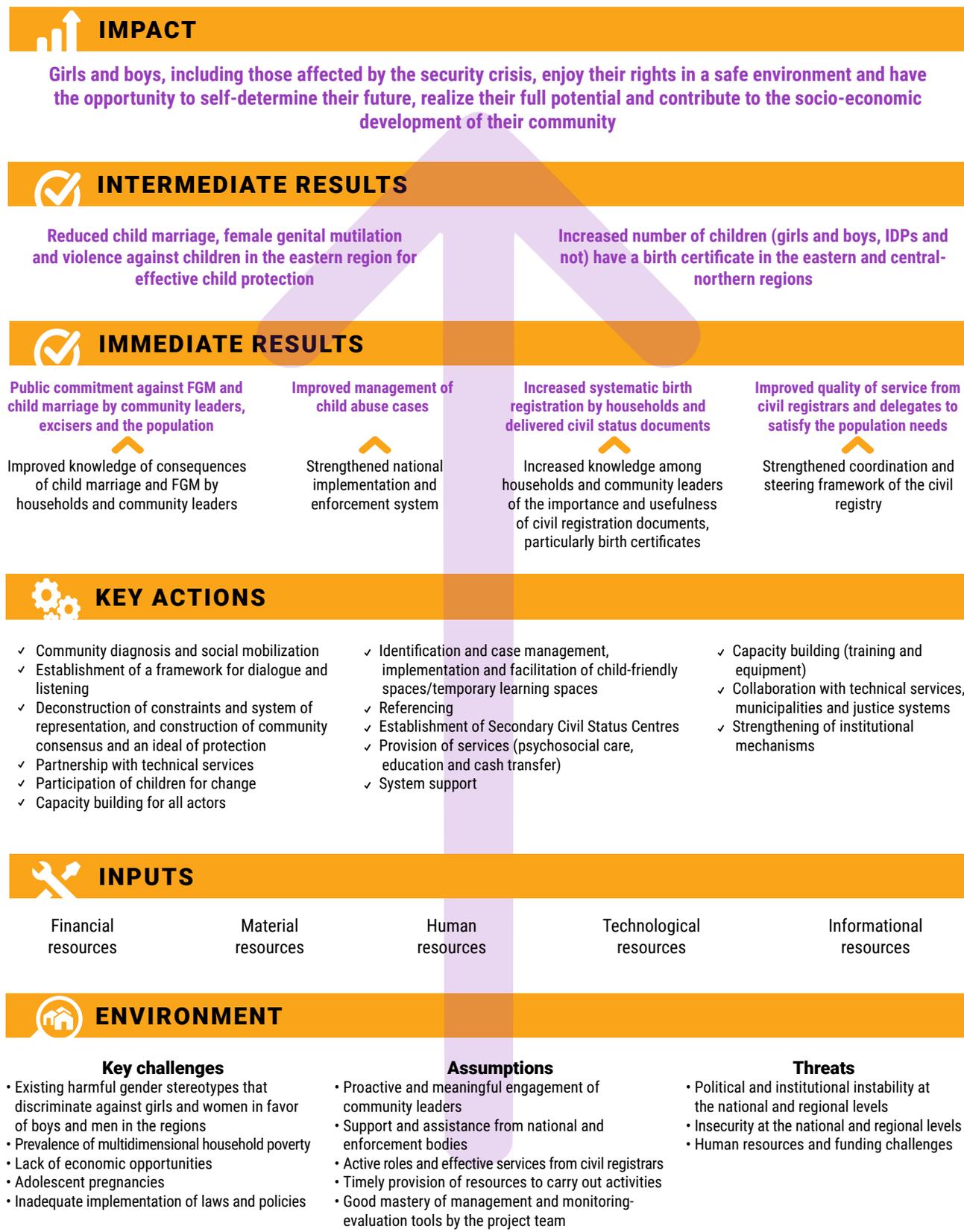
ANNEX II: LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSULTED (CONT'D)

No	Author	Publication date	Title
Project to provide prevention and protection services to children in emergencies (PESU)			
13	Silvia Chiarucci	07/29/2019	Humanitarian Report _July 29, 2019
14	Silvia Chiarucci	14/10/2019	Humanitarian Report _of August
15	Silvia Chiarucci	10/16/2019	Humanitarian Report _for November
16	Silvia Chiarucci	10/16/2019	Amended Humanitarian Report _for September
17	Silvia Chiarucci	11/26/2019	Humanitarian Report _for October
18	Silvia Chiarucci	07/14/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_June_2020
19	Silvia Chiarucci	06/12/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_May_2020
20	Silvia Chiarucci	05/12/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_April_2020
21	Silvia Chiarucci	03/31/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report February _2020
22	Silvia Chiarucci	03/04/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_January_2020
23	Silvia Chiarucci	08/14/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_March_2020
24	Silvia Chiarucci	01/27/2022	HPD-CB Humanitarian Program Documents
25	Silvia Chiarucci	09/05/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_August_2020
26	Silvia Chiarucci	11/06/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_July_2020
27	Silvia Chiarucci	12/28/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_November_2020
28	Silvia Chiarucci	11/20/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_October_2020
29	Silvia Chiarucci	10/07/2020	CB-Humanitarian Report_September_2020
30	Lucienne Kontogam	07/02/2021	Final report of the PESU project
31	Silvia Chiarucci	01/04/2021	Reporting template December 2021 PESU
32	Silvia Chiarucci	11/03/2021	October PESU Project Reporting Framework
33	Silvia Chiarucci	08/30/2021	Reporting template August 2021 Children Believe
34	Silvia Chiarucci	12/01/2021	Reporting Framework November 2021 PESU
35	Silvia Chiarucci	09/30/2021	Reporting template September 2021 PESU
36			Humanitarian Program Document signed
37			Humanitarian Program Document – Children Believe
38	Lucienne Kontogam	07/02/2021	Final report of the PESU project
Community consensus project to end child marriage, female genital mutilation and child abuse in the East Region/Zemse/Dagindi			
39		09/19/2018	Summary activity report Month of May, June, July 2018 Q1
40	Sib Desire	09/11/2019	Summary activity report Month of November-December 2018 and January 2019 Q3
41		11/05/2018	Summary activity report August, September and October 2018
42	Ouédraogo Julien	06/16/2019	Quarterly partial progress report March-April 2019 Q4
43	Ouédraogo Julien	08/28/2019	Progress Report June-August 2019
44	Project team	11/12/2019	Progress Report October 2019
45	Project team	02/25/2020	Progress Report November 1, 2019 to February 15, 2020

ANNEX II: LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSULTED (CONT'D)

No	Author	Publication date	Title
46	Project team	12/31/2020	April-May 2020 Progress Report
47	Project team		Remaining Zemse report-Children Believe
48		01/27/2022	CB Doc pro Social Standards 2019-2020
49	Project team	05/15/2021	Zemse Report February-April
50	Project team	10/05/2020	Quarterly Report Nov-Jan 2021
51	Project team	10/05/2020	September 2020 Technical Report
52	Project team	01/27/2022	August 2020 Technical Report
53	Project team		Zemse Final Report 2020-2021
54		01/27/2022	CB-PSEA-FGM
55		01/27/2022	Children Believe Formulation of a final review of partnership-PCA civil status
56		04/23/2021	Formulation of final partnership review December 2020
57	Jean Pierre Paratore	05/13/2020	VP CB Project report Zemse_April 2021
58		01/16/2020	Report Programmatic Visit CB_Fada_23092021
59	Patrice Zongo		Project summary sheet - civil status
60	Patrice Zongo	03/02/2020	Project summary sheet - PESU
61	Patrice Zongo	09/23/2021	Project summary sheet - Zemse
62	Ouédraogo Julien	10/07/2020	PESU Project Result

ANNEX III: THEORY OF CHANGE



ANNEX IV: ANALYSIS OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE

If the planned human, financial, material, informational and technological resources are mobilized in a timely manner, and the project team demonstrates a good mastery of management and monitoring-evaluation tools, then the following actions shall be carried out:

- Community diagnosis and social mobilization
- Establishment of a framework for dialogue and listening
- Deconstruction of the constraints and system of representation, and construction of a community consensus and an ideal of protection
- Partnership with technical services
- Children's participation for change
- Capacity building for all actors
- Identification and management of cases, implementation and facilitation of child-friendly spaces/temporary learning spaces
- Referencing cases
- Establishment of Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC)
- Provision of services (psychosocial care, educational care and cash transfer)
- Capacity building dialog (training and equipment)
- Collaboration with technical services, municipalities and justice systems
- Strengthening institutional mechanisms

In addition, if the engagement of community leaders in the area of intervention is acquired (assumption), the following effects will be achieved:

- Households' awareness of the consequences of child marriage and female circumcision and of the importance and usefulness of civil status documents, particularly birth certificates, will be a reality
- The national implementation and enforcement system will be strengthened
- Public engagement of community leaders, female circumcisers and the general public against female circumcision and child marriage would be effective
- The handling of cases of violence against children would be improved
- The systematic and voluntary registration of civil registration, including births by households, will be effective
- The services of civil status registrars and delegates would be appreciated by the population

This will contribute to the following intermediate effects and impact:

- ✓ Child marriage, female circumcision and child abuse would be reduced in the East region for the effective protection of children
- ✓ IDP and non-IDP children (girls and boys) would each have a birth certificate
- ✓ Girls and boys, including those affected by the security crisis, would enjoy their rights in a safe environment and have the opportunity to self-determine their future, realize their full potential and contribute to the socio-economic development of their community

ANNEX V: SUMMARY SHEET – PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY FOR BIRTHS IN THE CENTRE-NORTH, EAST AND CENTRE-EAST REGIONS OF BURKINA FASO

Project title	Project to improve the civil registration system, particularly for births in the Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of Burkina Faso
Background	<p>In Burkina Faso, civil registration is still inconsistent, thus hindering the production of reliable data on births, deaths and their causes, and simultaneously hampering the monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development goals.</p> <p>According to the 2015 EMC/EDS, the proportion of children under age 5 registered in Burkina Faso was 78.5 percent for girls and 77 percent for boys. In the East region, the registration rate for children under 5 was 59.5 percent. The efforts of the government and its partners led to a 9-point increase in the birth registration rate in less than a decade. However, bottlenecks like insufficient coordination between actors, insufficient interest from parents in civil registration and a lack of capacity of civil registration actors have prevented the achievement of universal civil registration.</p>
Implementation area	Centre-North, Centre-East and East regions.
Overall objective of the project	The general aim of this project is to contribute to making birth registration universal in the targeted regions. This would be achieved by making the environment more favorable and services more accessible to the population with enhanced interoperability with the health sector, including reporting of statistical data with mHealth-civil status. It also aims to engage community leaders to increase demand and strengthen accountability.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Result 1: By December 2020, Vital Statistics Governance in targeted regions and communes is strengthened for the implementation of regional plans to improve the vital statistics and CRVS > Result 2: By December 2020, secondary civil registration centres (CECS), including those in all functional CSPSs, are able to register births in communities and health units within the legal time frame and report statistical data through the technological solution adopted by the government > Result 3: By December 2020, community leaders are committed to greater use of vital statistics services and regularly report on population satisfaction

ANNEX V: SUMMARY SHEET – PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY FOR BIRTHS IN THE CENTRE-NORTH, EAST AND CENTRE-EAST REGIONS OF BURKINA FASO (CONT'D)

Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of a workshop to set up the regional framework for steering civil status activities and finalize the regional action plans/advocacy for the generalization of CECSs in the CSPS • Provide equipment support for the main and secondary civil registration centres • Training of registrars, officers and delegated civil registrars in the registration of FEC and the use of mHealth in vital statistics • Training of Health Officers on civil registration and the use of mHealth on Vital Statistics for CBHWs training • Monitoring, establishment and operation of mobile birth registration teams • Organization of a capacity-building workshop for community networks for the protection of children and traditional, religious and other local leaders for their enhanced commitment to civil registration • Training of community leaders on the monitoring and accountability mechanism (monitoring and community reporting on civil registration performance) with the RapidPro solution dedicated to civil registration
Beneficiaries	<p>Direct: Newborns</p> <p>Indirect: Population of 85 communes and 2,253 villages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 425 Community leaders - 850 Agents and registrars - 2,000 CBHWs - 460 CSPS health workers - 22 RCPEs (Communal Child Protection Networks)
Project duration	18 months (September 2019 - December 2020)
Partners	Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat Civil Association of Municipalities of Burkina Faso (AMBF) Regional Health Authorities (RHAs)
Financial partners	UNICEF
Budget	334,896,050 CFA francs

ANNEX VI: SUMMARY SHEET – COMMUNITY CONSENSUS PROJECT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD ABUSE IN THE EAST REGION/ZEMSE/DAGINDI

Project title	Community consensus project to end child marriage, female genital mutilation and child abuse in the East region/Zemse/Dagindi
Background	<p>Child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) remain widespread in Burkina Faso and Africa, in general. According to the Continuous Multi-sectoral Survey (EMC 2015), the national rate of female circumcision is 11 percent for children aged 0-14. In the East Region, 1,616 girls were genitally mutilated before the age of 15 (1.5 percent). As for child marriage, 51.3 percent of women aged 20-24 nationwide were married before age 18 and 8.9 percent before age 15 (EMC 2015). The two most affected regions are the Sahel (87 percent) and the East region (67 percent). A study of 609 adolescent girls aged 12-19 in 50 villages in the East region showed that the average age when married was 14.9. Of all married women surveyed, 46.2 percent reported being victims of abduction or forced marriage (they were given in marriage) - UNFPA 2015.</p>
Implementation area	<p>Region: East Provinces: Gourma and Tapoa Communes: Fada, Madjoari, Pama, Matiacoali, Namounou, Kantchari, Bottou, Tansarga, Tambaga, Tibga, Diabo, Diapaga, Diapangou, Yamba, Logbou and Partiaga Number of villages: 303</p>
Overall objective of the project	<p>Broadly speaking, the project aims at carrying out social mobilization activities through an effective approach of information, communication and advocacy to contribute to the protection of child rights and the abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation.</p>
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide and strengthen life skills and information about their rights to people in 303 villages in the East region by October 2019 > Create positive social standards to help promote child protection and accelerate the abandonment of child marriage, female circumcision and violence against children by October 2019
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Result 1: By October 2019, adolescent girls and boys, religious and community leaders, and communities in targeted villages have enhanced capacities to maintain community consensus in favor of ending child marriage, female circumcision and violence against girls, boys and adolescents

ANNEX VI: SUMMARY SHEET – COMMUNITY CONSENSUS PROJECT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD ABUSE IN THE EAST REGION/ZEMSE/DAGINDI (CONT'D)

	<p>> Result 2: By October 2019, project implementers and beneficiary communities are better equipped to establish functional protection mechanisms for integrated management, surveillance and monitoring and evaluation in targeted villages</p> <p>> Result 3: By December 2020, at least 18,000 adolescent girls are supplemented with iron-folic acid, have been dewormed and have received nutritional advice</p>
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for adolescents in life skills and on child marriage, FGM and violence against children in safe spaces for young girls and boys • Set up educational groups of married men and women to discuss issues of child marriage, female circumcision and violence against children • Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) at the community level to shift the age of marriage or union and facilitate the emergence of communities committed to the abandonment of child marriage and female circumcision • Advocacy for community decision-makers (traditional and religious) through regular community dialog sessions to strengthen community engagement and change social norms (age of marriage/union, harmful practices to girls' health, etc.) • Identification of girls and boys at risk or victims of right violations in intervention villages and referred, where appropriate, to technical services for needed care • Training of 303 religious leaders on the use of the Preaching Guide • Nutrition awareness and deworming of 18,000 adolescents aged 10-19 with iron-folic acid
Beneficiaries	<p>Direct: Adolescents ages 10-19</p> <p>Indirect: Parents of adolescents, populations in intervention villages and communities throughout the East region</p>
Project duration	May 2018 - April 2021
Partners	Catholic Organization for Development and Solidarity (OCADES) Eglise Evangélique/Société Internationale du Missionnaire (EE/SIM)
Financial partners	UNICEF
Budget	510,361,359 CFA francs (over 2 phases)

ANNEX VII: SUMMARY SHEET – PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES IN THE CENTRE-NORTH AND EAST REGIONS

Project title	Provision of prevention and protection services to children in emergencies in the Centre-North and East regions
Background	<p>Since January 2016, Burkina Faso has been facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis linked to a sudden increase in violence, including abductions, ambushes, assassinations and destruction of private and public property. Armed groups spread terror in the Sahel, North, East, Centre-North, Mouhoun Loop regions. More than 200,000 people have been forced to leave their homes, with 95 percent of these internally displaced people (IDP) being accommodated in host communities.</p> <p>Children and youth are the most numerous in IDP camps, and these children are vulnerable due to the weakening of traditional protection mechanisms. Girls are exposed to child marriage, FGM, sexual abuse and lack of education, while boys are threatened with recruitment into terrorist groups, school dropout, juvenile delinquency, begging and unemployment.</p> <p>The government has established emergency assistance for displaced persons. This is organized by the Ministry of National Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, supported by other ministries, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society organizations, traditional and religious authorities, etc.</p> <p>It is in this context that a partnership between UNICEF and Children Believe Burkina Faso has resulted in the funding of a project to assist (IDPs) entitled, “Provision of prevention and protection services to children in emergencies in the Centre-North and East regions”.</p>
Implementation area	<p>Region: East Communes: Fada, Bilanga, Piela, Kompienga, Namounou, Kantchari, Matiacoali, Gayéri, Tibga, Diabo and Diapaga</p> <p>Region: Centre-North Communes: Kaya, Barsalogho, Pissila, Pensa, Namissigma, Kongoussi, Rollo and Bourzanga</p>
Overall objective of the project	<p>The overall objective of this project is to respond to the humanitarian crisis by providing psychosocial care and mentoring for vulnerable children and families affected by the crisis in the IDP camps in Fada, Matiacoali, Bourzanga, Kaya, Pensa and the surrounding host villages.</p>

ANNEX VII: SUMMARY SHEET – PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES IN THE CENTRE-NORTH AND EAST REGIONS (CONT'D)

Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Establish safe environments where children are cared for, including those most vulnerable in the host communities > Identify all unaccompanied and separated children, and place them in foster families or other appropriate structures in the intervention areas > Mobilize affected communities to prevent and combat violence, exploitation and abuse of children and women, while improving existing systems to meet the needs of GBV victims > Provide psychosocial care and support to children in the face of psychosocial distress and stress > Document cases of serious violations in the project area > Provide first aid kits and cash transfers to the most vulnerable households
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Safe environments are in place and children are cared for, including those most vulnerable in the host communities > All unaccompanied and separated children are identified and placed in foster families or other appropriate structures in the intervention areas > Affected communities are mobilized to prevent and combat violence, exploitation and abuse of children and women > Existing systems to meet the needs of GBV victims are improved > Children receive psychosocial support to cope with psychosocial distress and stress > Serious violations are documented in the project area > Families of children are provided with a first aid kit and will be sensitized on the prevention of family separation, and violence against and abuse of children. The basic parenting manual will be a tool for discussions with parents
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training facilitators and supervisors on the care and protection of children in emergencies • Training social service providers on the protection of children in emergencies • Establishment of 70 child-friendly spaces for psychosocial care and socio-educational activities for children • Distribution of emergency kits to 1,125 households

ANNEX VII: SUMMARY SHEET – PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES IN THE CENTRE-NORTH AND EAST REGIONS (CONT'D)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of cash transfers to 1,700 households (i.e. 35,000 CFA francs per household) • Production of education-focused radio programs
Beneficiaries	119,439 children ages 0-17 and 50,000 adults affected by the emergency and highly vulnerable households (cumulative for all phases)
Project duration	June 2019 - March 2022 (all phases covered by the study)
Partners	Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action (MFSNFAH) National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR)
Financial partners	UNICEF
Budget	1,351,606,027 CFA francs (for all phases)



Children Believe works globally to empower children to dream fearlessly, stand up for what they believe in — and be heard. For 60+ years, we've brought together brave young dreamers, caring supporters and partners, and unabashed idealists. Together, we're driven by a common belief: creating access to education — inside and outside of classrooms — is the most powerful tool children can use to change their world.

A member of ChildFund Alliance, Children Believe is part of a global network of 12 child-focused development organizations working to create opportunities for children and youth, their families and communities. ChildFund helps nearly 23-million children and their families in more than 70 countries overcome poverty and underlying conditions that prevent children from achieving their full potential. We work to end violence against children; provide expertise in emergencies and disasters to ease the harmful impact on children and their communities; and engage children and youth to create lasting change and elevate their voices in decisions that affect their lives.

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