

HEALTH CENTER PROJECT

How will the project become a success?

The villages and the surrounding homesteads can participate in building the medical centres. This way they will be included in the process of setting up a new health system for themselves and will accept the advantages of it.

It is highly important now to teach the population medical awareness. Not only are the people to know about severe illnesses such as AIDS but also will they be taught in matters concerning alimentation, pregnancy and the early diagnosis of certain symptoms and how to treat them. Medical awareness will over long lead to the general avoidance of certain illnesses by applying precautions and to a higher life expectancy rate. The contentment and effectiveness of the people will improve.



Medical awareness and precautions can save lives!



Schulbausteine für Gando e.V.



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HEALTH CENTER PROJECT

»Laafi lâ boumbou« - Health is the most important



HEALTH CENTER PROJECT

Health is the basis for all!

Why do we have to set up medical centers?

In Burkina Faso health is an especially important topic because if a person falls ill the chances of surviving there without the help of others are very small. The family has to support the sick person psychologically and financially. Not only doctor's bills and medicine have to be paid by the families but they also have to provide food, drink and bedclothes for the patients. If a person falls ill the community of a village does not only have to do without the sick person but also without those who look after him/her. Thus the manpower of the entire village is diminished and the direct family of the patient earns less although it would have to earn more in order to be able to pay for a stay in hospital and compensate the lack of two working hands.

This often causes that ill persons cannot be cared for by a doctor and thus die of their illness. They do not only die of AIDS, Malaria or undernourishment. What also causes death are often little infections that grow worse because they are treated in time.

The health network is by far not fully developed and not accessible for everybody. In some cases the next hospital is simply too far away. Since in rural areas there is no public transportation system and the people do not own cars, in very few cases they have a bike, ill persons sometimes have to walk more than 10 kilometres to reach the next doctor.



Woman pouring water, a scarce resource

The life expectancy rate in Burkina Faso is one of the lowest, the infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world.

How can the project be realized?

We have to make sure that all people have access to medical care. In order to do so the next place where medical attendance can be given must not be too far away from each village. Medical treatment has to be made affordable to all. Moreover, the people should be educated in matters of health care. By teaching them about hygiene and which precautions to take certain illnesses could be avoided.

Not every single village can be given a medical center; but in certain intervals medical facilities for routine treatments such as giving injections and first aid in emergency cases could be set up. To be able to transfer severely injured or ill persons to a hospital the medical centre should be equipped with a means of transportation such as a car. We were successful in providing the village with a moped and a sidecar.

Mobile medical attendance teams could visit the surrounding villages on a monthly basis and examine children, pregnant women, old and ill people. This way a health care system that is available to all can be established.



Medicine is expensive and hard to get a hold of

Which problems could arise?

Choosing the location for the medical center will surely cause some problems since a few villages will undoubtedly be put at a disadvantage by having to walk farther distances in order to reach the medical center than others. To those discounts can be given on medical treatment and transportation to the next hospital. In urgent cases patients from villages farther off can be picked up by paramedics of the medical station.

The funding of the medical treatment also causes problems. Over 90 % of the villagers cannot afford being medically treated; to be able to meet the costs most families have to sell an important farm animal or part of their crops. In the future only through sponsors health care and medical education especially for the people in rural areas can be secured.



Injections prevent that illnesses spread