

Poverty and Hope Appeal

October 2017 update from Burkina Faso



Improving food security in the face of increasingly unpredictable weather.

Partnered with Christian Aid working through ODE (Office de Développement Eglises Evangéliques), support by the Poverty and Hope Appeal since 2015.

Testimony of a market gardener in the village of Tollo located in the commune of Samba, Burkina Faso

- 1. What is your name?** My name is Odette KONKOBO
- 2. How old are you?** I'm 52 years old.
- 3. Do you have children? If yes, how many? How old are they?** I have 7 children - 5 girls and 2 boys. The girls are respectively 31, 25, 22, 15 and 12 years old. The boys are 27 years old and 18 years old.
- 4. Can you describe what it is like to live here? What makes life difficult? What is the best way to live here?** Poverty and food insecurity are the biggest challenges facing our village. Still, we get along very well.
- 5. How were you involved in this project?** I have benefited from plot in the market garden due to my commitment to the development works. Before the development of this site, I already had a small vegetable garden in a neighbouring village. When the site development work began, I actively participated. That's why I got a piece of land that I use.
- 6. Can you describe the work of the partner?** ODE agents are always present in the field to help us with technical advice and training. They supervised all the work in the market garden. They provided us with the inputs and materials needed to start production. They also involved the agricultural officer (a state official) in our technical staff so that even after the end of the project, we continue to benefit from this framework. We are satisfied with their work.
- 7. What did this / your involvement in this project bring as a change in your life?** Before the development of the market garden, I sold dolo (local beer made from sorghum). The preparation of dolo is a difficult job that takes three days and consumes a lot of wood (fuelwood is used as a source of energy). In addition, the price of sorghum (the main raw material for dolo) is often increased due to periods of drought or, sometimes, flooding, which drastically reduces yields. Sometimes sorghum comes from other places, and the cost of transport makes it too expensive. Every time I was preparing

dolo, in the best of cases, I could have around 2,000 FCFA as a profit. Sometimes I made a loss and ended up in debt.

On the other hand, vegetable production is far better. Even though, last year I did not have enough money, because I only made 14,000 FCFA. It was my first production on this site whose soil was poor. I could not get enough organic manure. In addition I did not know good technical practices. It was a year of learning. However, I can assure you that this is an activity for the future. The proof is that this year, I grow onions and African aubergines. The onions are not yet mature, but I have already sold some African aubergine for more than 20,000 FCFA. And I know that onions and the rest of the aubergines can bring me at least 25,000 FCFA. In total, I estimate my profit for this year will be at 50,000 FCFA, much better than the 14,000 FCFA I made last year. Next year, if I do more, I can make even more.

The money I earn allows me to contribute significantly to the different needs of my family, such as food purchases, school fees for children, and participation in certain socio-cultural events such as funerals, weddings, etc. All this allows me to guarantee my dignity and a certain esteem in society. I'm proud of that.

9. What are your dreams for the future? Or, what do you think life will be for you in 2-3 years' time? I dream of buying a new bike and I know that if it pleases God I will be able to do it in 2 or 3 years.

10. Do you have anything to say to the people who support Christian Aid? I would like to thank all those who contributed to making this site a reality. You cannot imagine how vital it is to us. It is a source of hope and dreams for us and our children. A lot of other women and even men are still in extreme poverty and would wholeheartedly want to benefit from plots to grow vegetable crops. But so far these people are still in despair because the 2ha site is not large enough. The site management committee has broken it down so that many people have plots. We are currently 49 producers (23 women and 26 men), each with a plot of approximately 400 m². Still, it is not enough. This is not to say that what has been done is small - on the contrary it is enormous. It is rather our needs that are much.

My prayer is that God helps them to be able to help others.

For every £1 you raise for this project, the European Union contributes £10. Christian Aid uses 85% of the funds raised through Community Partnerships to support the projects, and 15% to support the work of all of our teams based both in the UK and overseas. This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Christian Aid and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. This information is reproduced with the permission of Christian Aid.





DELHI BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY

7 Court Lane, Delhi-110054. INDIA

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Programmes

Education
Pre School
Primary School
Inter College
Prabosh Bal Niketan
Non-formal School

Vocational Technical
Training Centre

Street & Working Children

Night Shelter

Brotherhood Boys Home

Childline (Kayanpuri,
Shahdara and East Zone)

Caruna Bal Vikas

Centre for Children of Sex
Workers

Deenbandhu Development
Centre

Gender Resource Centre

GRC - Extension Centre

Women Empowerment
Mahila Panchayat
Women Helpline
Self Help Group &
Micro-financing

Recreation Centre for
Elderly

Old Age Home - Narela

HIV/AIDS (Targeted
Intervention)

Agriculture Project

Development
Communication Centre

Abhishiktananda Centre
for Interreligious Dialogue

General Relief and Work for
leprosy patients

Ministry to the Foreign
Citizen in Transit Home

1st November 2017

To
Poverty & Hope Appeal Fund,
Rochester Diocese
U.K.

Greetings in the Name of Lord Jesus Christ!

First of all, we express our gratitude to Almighty God from whom all goodness, blessings and wisdom emanates. He is the source of our inspiration and our mission among oppressed women of Delhi. We are indeed very grateful to the USPG who have enabled us and introduced us to the Poverty and Hope Appeal Fund, Diocese of Rochester to give a positive response to the cry and suffering of the women of the East Delhi. The Delhi Brotherhood Society is helping in many ways in East Delhi and Women Helpline is one of the most important works of the Society. This would not have happened without the support and prayers extended by you.

Today thousand of women whose case histories have been sent to you have been liberated and rehabilitated to the new environment because of constant support of your high generosity. We thank and pray that Poverty and Hope Appeal Fund may grow in all blessings and in mission.

Last but not the least, I am grateful to all the staff of the USPG who have continually making the bridge between us and Poverty and Hope Appeal Fund, without this team work, this work couldn't have been commenced.

May God continue to inspire you to be supportive to this cause of the humanity.

Yours in Service of Christ,

Fr. Solomon George, BAC

