



FOTO: MAIKEL SAMUELS

**Liliane
Fonds**

open the world
for a child
with a disability



BURKINA FASO

GARANGO, BURKINA FASO, TOWN FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



In Burkina Faso, the practice of inclusive education is based on the Education act of 1996. Even though different ministries are responsible for the implementation of the laws, a Directorate for the Promotion of Gender and Inclusive Education (DPEIFG) has been created to better address inclusion and gender issues in schools.

Unfortunately, there are no official statistics on the number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. It can, however, be said that children with disabilities in urban areas have more opportunities than those in rural areas. According to UNICEF, 5518 children with disabilities were enrolled in school in three school provinces.¹ This represents only 3% of the total student population in these provinces. Despite the obvious willingness of actors to implement inclusive education, many challenges remain, such as: negative perceptions about disability, lack of physical access to the school facilities, lack of teaching and learning materials, and lack of knowledge of teachers and other education staff on how to cope with children with disabilities in the classroom.

Nonetheless, there are also successes. Looking back to ten years ago, very little attention was given to the schooling of children with disabilities, and

even less to inclusive education. Today, we can see considerable achievements, such as the recognition of the educational rights of children with disabilities, the creation of increasingly favourable conditions, and the existence of private initiatives confirming that inclusive education is possible.

Inclusive Education in Action

Organisation Dupont pour le Développement Social (ODDS) is the Liliane Foundation's Strategic Partner Organization in Burkina Faso. The Liliane Foundation partly² funded a successful pilot project on inclusive education in Garango, which was implemented between 2012 and 2015. The aim of the project was to show that with an improvement of the current system to take into account the special needs of the children with disabilities, they can be accommodated in mainstream public schools in the same way as other children. The project targeted the municipality of Garango which has two education districts with 52 public schools. The project included children with physical and sensory disabilities as well as epilepsy.

¹ UNICEF report on the state of the world's children - children with disabilities (2013)

² Other funders were CBM and Light for the World



ODDS contributed to this project by bringing together several technical and financial partners, focusing on the 'Rehabilitation, care and support' component. This is a crucial aspect to the inclusion of children with disabilities in school. The other partners covered adaptation of the environment - such as the establishment of transitional classes of inclusion and construction of ramps - and training and supervision of the teachers. The government was actively involved in staffing the schools, the organization of the annual conference of teachers, and in technical supervision.

As a result of the project, schools have been provided with transitional classes of inclusion, and 357 teachers have improved their skills in the supervision and teaching of children with disabilities. Parents and community members have also become more aware on the importance of education, and empowered to make informed decisions for the education of their children. This has all led to a total of 580 children with disabilities who have become enrolled into inclusive mainstream schooling (473 children with disabilities at primary school and 107 in preschool).

The achievements of the project are currently being consolidated. The approach and lessons learned will be shared with other municipalities in Burkina Faso. The ambition is to expand the approach to other regions, step by step, with continued involvement of state actors, until the whole country offers accessible inclusive education.



**ORGANISATION DUPONT POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
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ABOUT THE LILIANE FOUNDATION

The Liliane Foundation contributes to a world that is open to everyone and in which poor children with disabilities can develop and use their talents. Together with local organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, we make children stronger and their environment more accessible.

The Liliane Foundation supports children with disabilities and their families in the fields of health, education, social contacts and work and income. Through our local partner organizations nearly 60,000 children with disabilities annually get access to education.

Achieving Inclusive Education

For the Liliane Foundation, inclusive education of children with disabilities is one of the most important components of its strategy. Inclusive education offers high quality formal and informal learning opportunities for every child within a mainstream system that adapts to the needs of all learners. In order for children with disabilities to attain meaningful inclusive education, Liliane Foundation considers four general principles: acceptability, availability, accessibility and adaptability.

- › **Acceptability** requires from the government minimal standards on the curriculum and quality of teachers. The school is a safe place to learn.
- › **Availability** means that for every child there is a school or learning opportunity close to their home. The school has qualified and trained teachers and appropriate resources and equipment for children with and without disabilities.
- › **Accessibility** means (implementation of) inclusive policies and legislation, acceptance from teachers, peers and other school staff. The school, classrooms including the toilets are accessible.
- › **Adaptability** means that the education system is flexible and the curriculum can be adapted to the needs of each individual learner.

Contact us

If you would like to know more about Liliane Foundation's approach to inclusive education, you can contact Marije Koeman at our International Partnerships and Programmes Department (mkoeman@lilianefonds.nl, +31(0)73 - 518 94 21).

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