



Reseau MARP, Burkina Faso



September 2009

Christian Aid needs your help to bring food security to 158,000 people in Northern Burkina Faso. Every £1 donated by Christian Aid supporters will be matched with £3 by the European Commission – *quadrupling your gift.*



Photo credit: Christian Aid/Sarah Filbey

Northern Burkina Faso lies firmly in the Sahel: a vast area of scrub and grassland. These days the average annual rainfall is just 70cm, so little that most of the last 30 years have been classified as droughts. Tragically, when rain does fall it can be as harmful as drought – water pools on the dry land and the resultant floods destroy crops, wash away valuable top soil and are too ferocious for most farmers to harvest or store.

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, seventh from bottom of the Human Development Index. More than 80% of the population rely on farming or fishing to feed their families; the increasingly violent cycle of drought and flood has left them less and less able to do so.

In the winter of 2007/8 10,000 hectares of arable land in the Zondoma and Nahouri Provinces (marked with an arrow on the map overleaf) were destroyed by severe flooding. It is in this context that Christian Aid is asking for your church's support. Reseau MARP are working in 4 communities in the disaster affected area. The project aims to make 158,000 people less at risk of food shortages. And by giving through the

Church Partnership Scheme and pledging to raise £5000, the money you donate will be quadrupled by the European Commission.

Reseau MARP will:

Restore flooded land: young men receive 2 meals a day and be training in water and soil conservation, soil drainage as they assist the regeneration of the flooded land. Reseau MARP will provide tools and technical know how.

Develop "inland-valleys" for rice and the perimeters market gardens. Reseau MARP will be on hand to negotiate land rights, purchase and distribute building materials and provide training.

Establish a soil-replenishing tree nursery: with seeds, saplings and tools provided; trees planted around the plots will act as fences that also stabilise the soil.

Enable skills-sharing: by organising a cereal fair in the project area; exchange visits to other communities and livestock fairs.

Set up seed banks: seed banks will be established, stocked with drought resistant varieties and managed by the communities.

Help farmers access micro-credit for income generating projects: helping people with few assets access loans means they can take the first step to working themselves out of poverty.

Assist farming diversification: demonstration farms will be established to teach farming techniques. Selected community members will be trained and equipped as village vaccinators for poultry and livestock.

Improve nutritional practices by establishing agreements with the health centres, who will train designated community health volunteers in basic nutrition. These volunteers will then run nutrition sessions for each of the communities.

Christian Aid has worked in partnership with **Reseau MARP** for almost 20 years. They are experts in helping farming and fishing communities adapt to climate change. They also work on education, advocacy and campaigning.

Money Matters

By pledging to raise £5000 your church will be contributing to Christian Aid's overall target of £199,000¹. The project is due to finish in September 2011 and in order to pay for the materials and training money needs to reach Christian Aid by June 2011. **Remember your money will be matched 3 to 1 by the European Commission!**

What your money could pay for:

£5 could pay for a wheelbarrow for a market garden. When matched with £15 from the European Commission your £5 has paid for 4.

£20 could pay for water level measurers – 4 with money from the EC.

£755 could pay for a motor pump which will be used to irrigate a market gardens – 4 with the EC.

What feedback will you receive?

Supporting churches and groups will receive updates every 3 months from September 2009, until the work is complete. But if there's anything in particular that your church wants, you should ask for it. Christian Aid is in constant contact with Reseau MARP and can provide you with photos, posters or presentations – whatever you think will help your fundraising efforts.



If your church would like to become a church partner – supporting ODE – please let Kat Birch know, either by emailing kbirch@christian-aid.org or calling on 020 7523 2015.

Christian Aid – London: PO Box 100, SE1 7RT. **Belfast:** PO Box 150, BT96AE. **Cardiff:** PO Box 6955, CF15 5AA. **Edinburgh:** PO Box 11, EH1 0BR. **Dublin:** 17 Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2. www.christianaid.org.uk UK registered charity number 1105851. Company number 5171525

¹ We hope £100,000 will come from churches – the rest will be from foundations and Island governments.