

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Education as a key driver of hope in Sahel

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Education as a key driver of hope in Sahel
	<i>Partner:</i>	In Burkina Faso: CNEPT and UNERIZ. In Niger: ROTAB and ASO-EPT
	<i>Country:</i>	Burkina Faso and Niger (WAFregion)
	<i>Period:</i>	2022 - 2025

**CHANGE**



Oxfam and partners in the Sahel region have achieved remarkable results related to financing for education and advancing gender transformative education in compulsory education and technical vocational training. TVET. Financing has increased both in Niger and Burkina Faso, ranging from 5% in Mogtédou to 76% in Nagraéoungou and local civil society groups have achieved to ensure education as a priority in the local budgets which cover for education. This change is remarkable given the challenging conditions for civil society in the two countries.

**CONTEXT**

Conflict and insecurity prevail in both Burkina Faso and Niger. In Burkina Faso, the project is implemented in the Centre-North region and in Niger in the regions Tohoua and Maradi. Both countries are challenged by armed groups and banditry. Moreover, in the project areas in Burkina Faso, the project face a massive influx of internally displaced people and severe cuts in services, including closure of 4,280 TVET institutions. In Niger in the aftermath of the coup d'état in 2023, the economy and services are suffocating due to sanctions from ECOWAS.

**CONTRIBUTION**

Oxfam has contributed with financing of local partners' projects and technical support to the design and implementation. Local partners have mobilised citizens groups in the two countries to campaign for increase in taxation and spending on education. Partners such as CNEPT and ASO-EPT has worked with authorities and supported competence development of teachers and strengthening gender transformative education. In TVET, partners have contributed to building models for young women's access to training and skills development.

IMAGES		
	Billy Ouattara	Billy Ouattara

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

Key activities have centered around training of citizens on public budget processes and identification of opportunities for influencing these through campaigning for taxes. People need to understand the importance of taxes in order to be willing to pay tax. The project has engaged with stakeholders to raise the priority to education in local budgets. A central activity for the project partners has been continuous and conflict-sensitive collaboration with government. While seeking to advance gender equity in general education in Burkina Faso and Niger, the project has promoted that government run teacher training on gender sensitivity and child centered approaches. The local partners have engaged with parents and mothers' committees in the 35 and 50 schools in Burkina Faso and Niger respectively to promote the importance of girls education. Likewise, support to schools' clubs have yielded result, as girls become active role in school life. Moreover, the project has facilitated that young women have been allowed to engage in vocational training and skills building.

### LESSONS

More tax payers accept to pay their taxes once they understand how the funds are managed and how the wider community benefits from communal funds. The training in budget monitoring and principles of transparency in public financing processes contributed to willingness to pay taxes. Close engagement with parents' groups was key to positively promote the engagement in advocacy for education. It required time and efforts to build consensus and a sense of urgency among participants. Cultural norms remain a barrier for parents to allow their young girls to access TVET. However, the projects in Burkina Faso and Niger have shown that initiatives of protection and income-generating activities for young girls can facilitate more support to young girls attending education.

### EVIDENCE

Awareness training among citizens and their increased understanding of district budgets led to their active engagement in promoting tax payment which again allowed for the opportunity to increase financing of education. The understanding of the importance of education and in particular that of girls' access to education is a result of long standing commitment by the project, raising awareness and promote norm change and thus achieving backing by the government and the community. Ensuring young women access to vocational training in conservative contexts is a significant achievement, however ensured by strong protection mechanisms and as well ensuring economic returns, serving the interest of the families for increase in income. The results are presented and substantiated in narrative reporting, with photos and videos and other means of verification.

### DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	X
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-