



Raising voices for African **education**
Porte-voix pour l'**éducation** en Afrique

IDAY Project Bank

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION THROUGH ENHANCED NUTRITION AND MALARIA CONTROL

Country: **Burkina Faso**

Beneficiaries: **3 570 pupils and 290 teachers in 17 schools**

Duration: **36 months**

Promotor: **IDAY-Burkina Faso and member organisations**

Total Cost: **€ 79 690**

External funding: **€ 66 457**

Summary

Context

Food security in Burkina Faso is fragile. Malaria and intestinal parasitosis are widespread.

School gardens are a vehicle for innovations in terms of agricultural techniques, nutrition and improving the health condition. They allow the pupils to acquire skills that they can transfer to their family and community.

With regards to malaria, the conventional drugs (polytherapies) are inaccessible to a large section of the population due to their high cost and problems of availability, especially in remote areas. The plant *Artemisia annua* has been used in China for over 2000 years to treat malaria. The plant's efficacy has been confirmed in several African countries, and a number of schools and companies using it have recorded reductions in health expenses by up to 80-90%. Experience also shows that the introduction of the plant is correlated to significant improvements in academic performances.

Project description

The project consists in creating 17 school gardens over 3 years with highly nutritious crops and *Artemisia annua* which is used against malaria and other debilitating infectious diseases. The gardens are cultivated by the pupils, thereby creating an opportunity for learning about agriculture, environment and health. The beneficiaries will in turn assist in disseminating seeds, cuttings and cultivation techniques to other schools.

Investments include the selection of schools, awareness raising among the targeted population, medical tests prior the project, field preparation, training in the cultivation of the chosen crops, creation of income generating activities, technical assistance by youngsters from other African countries with experience in cultivating these crops, exchange of good practices with the rural environment and other schools, advocacy with the government for scaling up the project at national level, and follow up and evaluation in particular with regards to academic results, health impact and health costs.

Participating schools will set aside 10% of the cultivated areas to produce seed and seedlings for other schools willing to join the scheme. The number of participating schools is expected to grow from 2 in year



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1 to 7 in year 2 and 17 in year 3. Thereafter, IDAY-Burkina expects to convince the government to extend the approach to most schools of the country.

Objective

- Reduce the incidence of malaria and intestinal parasitosis in schools
- Raise the nutrition status of pupils in primary and secondary schools
- Raise the quality of the learning conditions by reducing disease-related school absenteeism and improving the pupils' physical and cognitive conditions

Expected results

- 17 school gardens are in place
- 3 570 pupils and 290 teachers are trained in the cultivation techniques of *Artemisia annua*, its use to prevent/treat malaria; they have been familiarized with the principles of a balanced and nutritious diet thanks to the plants grown in the school gardens.
- The surrounding communities are sensitised to the benefits of *Artemisia annua* and of a number of highly nutritious plants.
- Malaria and intestinal parasitosis incidence is reduced by 80% in the project schools.
- Health expenditures for malaria and intestinal parasitosis are reduced by 70% in the project schools.
- The nutritional level of 3 570 pupils is raised.
- The provincial and national authorities are sensitised to the added-value of *Artemisia annua* and highly nutritious plants in terms of both education and health, and to the relevance of promoting school gardens throughout the country.

Contact

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