






Burkina Faso




Number of projects

 70
Funded projects

Type of projects

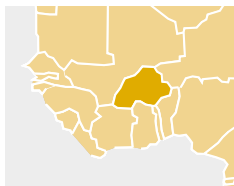
 11 Construction/reconstruction
 13 Means of transport
 10 Mass stipends

 19 Emergency aid
 1 Media help
 1 Bibles & books

 8 Training of priests
 4 Subsistence aid
 3 Formation of faith

Head of Section

Kinga von Schierstaedt



Around 55% of Burkina Faso's 21 million inhabitants are Muslims and around a quarter of the population are Christians.

For many years, the West African nation was regarded as a model of interreligious harmony, but since late 2015, its northern and eastern regions have become a hotbed of religious conflict. Burkina Faso is now the country most affected by terrorism in the world. With the help of ACN, the Catholic Church supports the suffering population.



Father Urbain
Kiendrebeogo
teaching catechism
in Ouagadougou.

A Catholic boy from Ouagadougou.

The local cattle market in Ouagadougou.



Terror continued to hold Burkina Faso firmly in its grip in 2024. Two-thirds of the country is now affected by violence. In 2019, believers and churches were targeted by terrorist attacks for the first time. Since then, Burkina Faso has become the hotspot of a violent conflict waged by Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State throughout the Sahel region. Across the country, roads are blocked by terrorists, some two thousand schools are now closed and more than two million people are internally displaced.

The situation for the local Church continued to worsen throughout the reporting year. In many places, Christians are being killed or kidnapped. People have been forcibly expelled from many parishes, while church work is severely restricted in others. Our local project partners report that priests, religious and the faithful are increasingly targeted by jihadists and that the frequency and brutality of attacks are increasing. Catechists, priests and dedicated laypeople are especially

vulnerable, with men being particularly targeted for murder. A Christian name or a cross pendant on a necklace is often enough to justify a murder.

In areas under terrorist control, women and girls are forced to wear full veils, regardless of their religious background, in order to avoid becoming targets of attacks and kidnappings.

Nevertheless, the local Church also has some good news to announce: despite the extreme violence in the country, the number of religious vocations increased in the reporting year. Our help is therefore needed even more urgently than before. To this end, we supported the training of priests and religious and secured the livelihood of priests through Mass stipends. We also helped with the purchase of vehicles for pastoral care and provided emergency aid for Christian villages where the local population has had to flee under the pressure of terrorists.

>> When you get up in the morning, you don't know whether you will still be alive in the evening. <<

Father Bertin Namboho
from the Diocese of Nouna