

Position Paper

General Information

Name of Country: Burkina Faso

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The country of Burkina Faso feels that the issue of improving education for the indigenous population is important because:

The education for the indigenous people in Burkina Faso is important for the committee because they have the lowest index of general education in the world, with a .23 score out of 100. Burkina Faso has the world's lowest literacy rate since only 23% of its adult population can read. This topic is important to the government of Burkina Faso because they want all the people of this country to have the right to education and, above all, we are concerned about the education for indigenous people since they live in the most unfavorable conditions. To improve this index of education would be a good step to help the indigenous escape out of poverty. The government wants to work with NGOs and the UN on common projects of improving the education of indigenous people. The principal threat is the lack of a common language since lessons are taught in French, the country's official language, which is many children's second or third language, especially in rural areas. There are many factors that threaten the indigenous children being able to go to school: the distance, the few schools that exist, the lack of teachers, the lack of books and teaching materials, and the high number of student absences due to illnesses that aren't cured since children don't have access to health care.

The government of Burkina Faso has dealt with the issue of education on a national level by:

The government has progressed very much in the aspect of the education, but there still remains great need to improve educational access and quality for the indigenous people. Burkina Faso passed The Education Act, which makes school mandatory for children ages 6 to 16, but the government doesn't have enough money to support the schools so children must pay fees for supplies. Many indigenous children do not have money for the supplies and therefore cannot go to school. The government has distributed free books, has given free matriculations to different departments, has increased the level of participation of girls in schools, has built and rehabilitated schools, and they have created campaigns to train teachers. Problems still exist, for example, the legal class size is 65 students per teacher, but in rural areas there are more students per each teacher.

The government of Burkina Faso has dealt with the issue of education on an international level by:

The MEBA will summon an annual meeting with all the financial collaborators on the condition of the education and will present information updated on the indicators and the application, identifying the problems as well as the programming for the following year. Burkina Faso has asked collaborators and other countries to lend money and resources to improve the education in its schools. The government has signed the Decennial Plan of Development of the Basic Education (DPDBE), the Education For

All (EFA), and has a commitment with the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO. It's member of the UN and of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Burkina Faso will increase its yearly budget for basic education from 26 to 38 billion Francs CFA in 2005.

The country of Burkina Faso encourages the committee to:

Burkina Faso recommends the other United Nations member countries excuse Burkina Faso's foreign debt so Burkina Faso can focus on spending more of its yearly budget on improving education instead of on repaying debt. Also it asks for help for the formation of teachers and advisers. Burkina Faso recommends the other United Nations member countries help lend Burkina Faso money and materials to finance projects that improve the quality of education and the access of the education by the construction of schools. We want to build more schools in rural areas, since the poorer students in rural areas are often the indigenous students. We want to give these students the required school materials that they cannot buy themselves, and then they will also be able to go to school. Also, Burkina Faso asks for help training teachers and administrators, so it can make sure there are enough schools and teachers for all students ages 6 – 16. More teachers and more schools will help lower class sizes to less than 65 students per teacher and the education for indigenous children in Burkina Faso will improve.