

## The Parenting Skills Program in Burkina Faso, 2022

The social protection of children in families in their communities provides a reliable basis for the survival and healthy growth of all children and for their learning. It should be remembered that the main factors and conditions for success in education and good health for children depend on the treatment and education practices of parents, caregivers and communities.

In order to improve the practices of caregivers, the NGO Save the Children in Burkina Faso has undertaken to roll out the ICDP parenting skills programme as part of the project "Combating child poverty and vulnerabilities in the regions of the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre North, East and North, through Child-Sensitive Social Protection". Through these four regions, the project intervened in 11 municipalities: 4 in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, 3 in the Centre North, 2 in the East and 2 in the North.

The programme was able to proceed despite the precarious security situation in these areas. Some displaced parents were able to benefit from the programme at their host site and they actively participated.

From 2021 to the end of 2022, a total of 323 groups have been sensitized on the parenting skills programme in the 11 municipalities, reaching 4141 people, of which 2508 were women.

The changes are perceptible and very remarkable, we can mention the rapprochement of parents with each other first, then parents with children, also the improvement of children's academic results. Joy and happiness developed within beneficiary households. In some communes today, husband and wife can sit and talk together, whereas in the past this was not possible. Testimonials to illustrate the changes achieved by the parenting programme:

- **A woman from the village of Kogossablogo in the north-central commune of Dargo** said: *"For 20 years of marriage, it is only now that my husband buys meat at the market for me. »*
- **A group of children on the IDP camp in Kaya in the North Centre** : *"The parents show us that they love us through the advice they give us... When we do the right thing too, they congratulate us and motivate us with words of encouragement and congratulations."*

- **A girl from Dédougou in the Boucle du Mouhoun region:** " *My parents tell me that they love me especially when I work well ."*
- **A group of parents in Boromo in the Boucle du Mouhoun region:** "*The education of children differs from now. Before when your father spoke, his word was paramount, it is this that mattered and not the opinion of the child. He would even beat the child, forcing the child to do what he wants. Often the child would run away from the house - but now this is no longer the case. We have adopted a different way in education which is to advise the child and discuss things together, taking into account taking into account the child's point of view because. The child has rights. "*
- **A group of internally displaced parents in Kaya in the North Central region :** "*Our values are now important and are different from those we have experienced before, there is a very big change. We were educated by the whip, by privation of food; the punishment was to sleep outside if one lost a goat from the herd - but now, it is no longer done. Now one does not insult the child, does not hit, does not deprive the child of food. That's how we were shown and asked to do in the programme and we adopted it, we changed."*
- **A group of parents in Korsimoro in the North Central region :** "*Thanks to the knowledge gained through this programme, we interact freely and without taboos with our children. Before we used slapping in our exchanges with the children."*



*A group of parents during a meeting with ICDP trainer; and a group of parents with the facilitators and the trainer after a meeting in the village of Commune of Kossouka, Northern Region, under the supervision of Boulmiougou Peulh, Commune of Dargo, Region of the North Centre.*

These changes within the beneficiary households were observed by neighbours and community leaders who have closely followed the progress of the activities. There is a strong demand from them to participate in this awareness raising parenting programme.

The project is coming to an end, the beneficiary parents were advised to form an ICDP group in the village in order to continue sharing their experiences and to see the possibility of raising awareness among potential applicants. We will try to support them as much as possible during the facilitation of their meetings.

Aubin Sanou, ICDP trainer